

'Fishing Fever' Will Reach Epidemic Stage Saturday

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LOOK OUT TROUT...



—Peter Jones Photo

WHEEEE, IT'S FISHING TIME

LOCAL OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN and Herald columnist Fred Darby is off and running to his favourite trout stream as hundreds of local anglers will be doing this Saturday morning when fishing season starts. The extreme rains will stand on bridges and along river banks Friday night waiting for their washes to hit twelve.

Area Guide for Fishermen

CREDIT FORKS	Water Con	Weather	Bait
	High	Cool	Spinners, lures, worms, streamer flies, wet flies, flies, minnows
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry - Streamer Flies, Spinners, Worms
LOWER CREDIT	High	Cool	Worms, Minnows, spinning lures, Streamers
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry Flies, Worms
NOTTAWASAGA R.	High	Cool	Salmon Eggs, Worms, Spinners, Streamers
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry - Streamer Flies, Worms
PINE RIVER	High	Cool	Same as Nottawasaga
	Low	Warm	Same as Nottawasaga
MAD RIVER	High	Cool	Same as Nottawasaga
	Low	Warm	Same as Nottawasaga
BOYNE RIVER	High	Cool	Salmon Eggs, Worms, Spinners, Streamer Flies
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry - Streamer Flies, Worms
BEAVER RIVER	High	Cool	Same as Nottawasaga
	Low	Warm	Same as Nottawasaga
LAKE EUGENIA	High	Cool	Flies, Spinners, Minnows, Worms
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry - Streamer Flies, Worms
ERAMOSA RIVER	High	Cool	Flies - Streamers, Worms, Spinners
	Low	Warm	Wet - Dry - Streamer Flies, Worms
SYDENHAM RIVER	High	Cool	Flies - Streamers, Worms
	Low	Warm	Flies - Streamers, Worms
BIG HEAD RIVER	High	Cool	Flies - Streamers, Worms
	Low	Warm	Flies - Streamers, Worms

FISH TIPS

CLEAN NOW
Clean fish meant for eating as soon as possible after they are caught.

Too Much Water, Spoils Taste
Never wash fish with excessive water. Wipe with dampened cloth. Then wipe dry. Shake on a little salt.

Fish Keep Better
You can keep fish for quite a while if you clean as mentioned above, wrap in wax paper, cover with newspaper, then in newspaper and place out of sun's rays.

Wet Line
Always wet a single filament

Sun Shade Fish Catcher
Cut strips of sheep-skin from an old hat or coat collar and sew it around the crown of your hat, along the brim. The strips will hold securely in the wool, but can be pulled out easily when needed.

Small Hatchets Not Useful
When camping belt hatchets are seldom used to the camp. Take a 2" or 3" lb. axe, with short handle if preferred.

No. 2 or No. 4 Hook
These hooks are found best when fishing rainbows. Short forged hook turned down eye, turned out hook.

Worms in Early Season? Not for This Fisherman

by George Hoare

Were you ever asked "what did you catch it with?" If you have done much angling, you must have been asked that question. Perhaps your reply was a fly, a worm, a spinner, a nymph, or "maybe a half a squirrel" or a whole one. Perhaps a duckling, attached to some hooks for a muskie. It would depend on the species of fish caught what your answer would be. I don't always tell the truth when asked, "Why? Because most of the time they will not believe you anyway."

Here's the reason for this sound off. Last week my friend Fred Darby, "the Fred" in his column "Sportsmen Outdoors" made a statement that worms were the best in early season. Personally I detest using worms, and I detest having to use frogs more so. In fact I won't use them anymore for bass. Hooking a frog through the lips, and having to watch it claw at the hook with its front feet, is more than I can stand. Mother Nature is more cruel of course.

Speaking of fishing techniques reminds me of a particular opening of the trout season some years ago. The place — Chellenham dam — the time — daylight and a cold frosty morning, which caused ice in the rod guides. Conditions prevailing — rarer a little above normal, cold and clear. One local angler advised us it wasn't much use — they just weren't biting — water too cold of something. My brother Charlie and Bill Ritchie were my companions. We decided to give it a try. I was using a drab colored bucktail with two split shot on the leader to make it sink. Out of three tries I had a pair of Browns, both over 2 lbs. The local angler shook his head and said he would come back after he went home and thawed himself out, and perhaps to root

a drab coloured fly from the tackle box.

PURISTS WOULD FROWN

Fishing a bucktail deep to imitate a nymph or some under-water bug is not the best in fly fishing. In fact some dry fly purists would frown at the method. But, as Fred says about worms, it puts trout in the creel better from a conservation viewpoint. "Bass" trout can be released much easier unharmed. Fishing with bait in a body of water that has newly stocked trout can be maddening. Once they have swallowed the hook and you want to get the trout back, the only thing to do is nip the leader at the hook or close to the mouth and release it. The digestive juices will dissolve the hook in a very short time. Hard to believe, but true.

One way to prevent small trout from being hooked is to make sure there is an ample supply of bait on the hook at all times. This is a very good practice when fishing for lunger rainbows in the spring. Two dewies is the order of the day. These rivers are full of small rainbows also, and they sure can be a lot of trouble. Once a big one takes the bait, no one would want a small one anyway.

Speaking of conservation and bait, worms are harmless in our virgin trout lakes compared to minnows from other waters. Transporting minnows regardless of how good they are, and using them in our cold clear unpolluted virgin trout lakes, is an inexcusable crime. One lake in particular I am speaking of is Shoo-Fly Lake, northwest of Capreol. One particular day, a twin engine seaplane landed and docked near our camp. One of the anglers, believe it or not, had a bucket full of suckers, which he insisted on us

ing. Of course we all protested, including some of his companions. Finally, after a hot argument, they were dumped out and trampled in the mud.

At that time the only known fish in this lake were specks up to ten or twelve pounds, and as small as 1 1/2" and smaller. It was not uncommon to see schools of small trout fry swimming along shore line. Also present were two types of darter minnows, one a stickle-back and the other a shiner, both small, not longer than 1 1/2".

WATER FLOWS UNDERGROUND

The water in Shoo-Fly Lake is loaded with fresh water shrimp, plankton, and calcium. The latter I believe comes from limestone. We were told there was no limestone within 75 miles of the lake. There is food in the water that they drink. This lake produced six pound speckled trout in five years. Fantastic and unbelievable to say the least. There is no noticeable inlet or outlet in the lake. We believe that the water flows underground from Lake Sandplain, another good trout lake nearby, into the Shoo-Fly and then into the little Shoo-Fly and from there into Oshawong Lake which had lake trout and pike, and is the head waters of the Wanapitei River. The waters in Oshawong is a brownish colour compared to the cool, clear waters of the other lakes.

Lake Wanapitei is almost due west of Capreol. Shoo-Fly Lake is just a series of large spring holes, some 80' deep. All along its 4 miles it is not a wide lake, but long and narrow, with big bays at each end and smaller ones along its shore line. It was quite fascinating to paddle along its shore line and observe the sharp drop-off, almost vertical one could see the big speckled trout on the gravel bottom through the cool, clear water, far below.

Elsewhere along the shore line in shallower water, one could see big speckled trout probably as big as 10 or 12 lb in and around every deadfall. They were seen fish, and not in a striking mood and probably chased from their lair by their stronger, healthier brothers and sisters. Most of them were covered by a white scum substance along their entire length — a pitiful sight to say the least. We found out later,

after a Department biologist made a survey that it was caused by rich food, probably the calcium which effects the liver.

The Dept. of Lands and Forests would never stock the lake because it was like a fish hatchery itself as far as reproducing was concerned.

NOW IT'S PICKEREL

Such was Shoo-Fly Lake, a natural, but probably not capable of producing a world record. It is my opinion that the trout did not live long enough to exceed 14 lb. some odd ounces. They grew fast and died young. A 22" trout would weigh from 6 lb. to 9 lb., 4 oz. girls from 16" to 19". Their eating qualities were indescribable. Their flesh was the colour of the setting sun, on the horizon, delicious to eat, but much too big to fry whole. Therefore we had to fillet them, dip the big fiery red chunks in egg batter, roll them in cracker crumbs and fry them in mazola oil. For a side dish we had green peppers one day and mushrooms the next. We only kept what we could eat and never came home with more than our limit. That as a rule was about 3 specks each. We caught most of them on dare-devils 2 1/2" long worked close to the bottom, when the trout came up from the depths to feed in water 10' or 15' deep. That was a little story about a great trout lake. Now what do you know — it's full of pickerel. Was it stocked on purpose to please our pickerel-loving citizens across the border or was it a poor sport dump, his bucket of left over minnows? It has been forbidden by law to use any live bait fish in Shoo-Fly Lake and several other lakes including Foote near Chapleau for several years. A very good law but by all reports, unfortunately, the Dept. of Lands and Forests haven't enough men to enforce it.

In ending this column, I would just like to say when going fishing observe the water conditions, weather, watch for fly hatches, which sometimes occur on opening day, then decide just what technique you will use so you will get the maximum amount of enjoyment out of landing your prize catch. Perhaps you will prize a spinner, a bucktail, a streamer, a dry fly or a small wet fly or maybe you will have to resort to placing a nice jolly worm jacket on that fancy fly — a hybrid worm.

Good luck and tight lines!

Pickerel, Bass,

Trout

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George Hoare

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TR. 7-2885

SPORTSMEN OUTDOORS

BY FRED DARBY



YOUR OLD FISHING HOLE MAY NOT BE FISHED OUT YET

Dept. of Lands and Forests show that many of our old fishing spots aren't fished out as much as we might think. Records show that 130,000 lake trout were stocked in Lake Simcoe.

15,000 Rainbow Trout were stocked in Bass Lake, Humber River, Credit, Boyne, Sturgeon and Coldwater Rivers.

10,000 Large Mouth Bass were stocked in Seneca, Orr, Latta, Fairlan and Warner's Lakes, plus Frenchman's Bay.

4,000 Small Mouth Bass in Bass Lake.

2,000 Maskinonge in Sparrow and Couching Lakes.

90,000 Speckled Trout in headwaters and tributaries of the Nottawasaga, Credit, Humber, Pretty, Sturgeon, and Coldwater Rivers, in Silver, Duffins and Uxbridge Creeks and many other smaller creeks.

This was the stocking carried out during 1962, in 1961 and in 1960. The stocking was similar in numbers stocked and rivers stocked.

I'm sorry to say the records shown that brown trout are not being stocked. This is hoped will be changed in the near future. Pressure is being put on the Department by many hunting and angling clubs as well as the individual fisherman.

Don't give up after trying only one kind of bait.

Try different retrieves, slow, fast, pausing, when retrieving, retrieve high, then low. Fish natural bait with natural drift.

Don't make unnecessary mistakes.

Fish facing sun if possible. Give shoreline of lake, good ground over before moving to deeper water.

Don't introduce strange, live minnows to waters you're fishing.

Remember, the Dept. needs your help to keep our fishing the best anywhere in North America.

Fishing is yours to enjoy and yours to protect.

Barrel Knot Best

A single barrel knot is best and easiest to use when fishing with monofil line.

Best Average Rods

8 1/2 foot, stiff action fly rod, 7 foot, stiff action spinning rod, with sliding reel seat.

Better Too Big Than Too Small

Take landing net that will land biggest fish you may catch.

Better in Pairs

Hook worms on two at a time. When fishing rainbows, don't hook worm too often. Give it room to move.

DON'TS FOR ANGLERS

You Too Can Come Home, With an Empty Creel If You

- Splash your ears when you approach a fishing spot.
 - Rattle your tackle box on the bottom of the boat, or make lots of noise with your feet. Sound travels well through water and fish have a fine sense of hearing.
 - Approach a stream by walking right up to it. Get on the highest bank and wave your rod around. Or, when wading a stream, kick the rocks around and do a lot of splashing.
 - Always cast directly at a fish.
 - Never change baits because fish aren't biting the one you are using.
 - Think fish are stupid, and will bite at anything given to them in any manner.
- In Biblical times the swine full of the devil ran over cliff, not over ood-trains. (Gallinburg (Tenn.) Press.)



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