

# Fly fishing made easy

In Norman Maclean's classic autobiography and what was adapted in the popular movie, "A River Runs Through It", the author recalled the days when his father, a man of the cloth by profession and a stern disciplinarian in nature, taught him and his brother, Paul, the art of casting a fly with the assistance of a metronome.



Mike Hayakawa

As unorthodox, but effective an approach that might be, the sport of fly fishing is not meant to be that complex.

George Cheng, proprietor of Angling Specialties, a Scarborough and Concord-based tackle store that specializes in fly fishing equipment, notes the challenge offered from the sport can be made far more enjoyable by taking a simplistic approach.

"You don't have to be an experienced angler to get started in fly fishing," he said with assurance.

Before going out and attempting to wave that magic wand, Cheng suggests it's critical for anyone starting out in this recreational activity to assess what species of fish they intend to pursue the most with a fly rod.

"It's not like spinning, where you might buy one outfit and fish for whatever," Cheng says of the sport, which saw a surge in popularity once the movie version of "A River Runs Through It" came out before levelling out in recent

years.

Native trout, panfish or bass can be enticed with lighter tackle while fish bigger in stature like a migratory steelhead, salmon, pike or saltwater game like a tarpon, redfish or snook requires heavier paraphernalia.

Once you've established your targeted species, it then becomes paramount to purchase a properly balanced rod, reel and line.

Unlike other forms of fishing where the weight of the lure can determine how far you throw your line, fly fishing is based on the premise that the weight of the line delivers your bait. Thus, it's imperative to have a proper line size that matches your rod.

Purchasing a line that has weight forward characteristics is the easiest route for piscatorial neophytes to take.

"A weight forward line is far easiest to cast," Cheng points out. "Almost 70 per cent of the line we sell is of the weight forward variety."

With the variety of outfits that are on the market, the sky is the limit as far as costs are concerned. Cheng notes from his observations fly fishing enthusiasts can spend upwards of \$200 to \$300 for a good outfit.

"But there's \$150 outfits that are of reasonable quality that are available," he adds for those who might be cost-conscious.

A lot of the guesswork in the selection of tackle can be eliminated by knowing someone who is a seasoned veteran in this discipline and can offer some insight.

Learning to use your outfit is like any other discipline in that practice makes perfect.

"It takes time to get the feel of your outfit and in hooking a fish," Cheng points out.

An open field or a body of water with a controlled environment, such as a private or stocked pond with plenty of room to manoeuvre your fly, provides an ideal setting to work on your skills before heading off to some river.

Without the assistance of having someone who can offer some pointers in casting, some tackle stores might be able to provide information for people wishing to take up the sport.

Angling Specialties offers fly fishing courses at various times during the year. They can be reached at (905) 660-9707.

# Gibbons motors to second-place finish

For the third time in the last five CASCAR eastern tour races, Peter

Gibbons and his Canadian Tire Racing Team settled for a second-place finish in Sunday's feature event at the New Brunswick International Speedway in Fredericton.

Setting a qualifying record to take his third pole position in the last four races, the Stouffville resident went head-to-head with Al Turner of Barrie through the first 160 laps.

Late in the race though, Gibbons' Monte Carlo picked up a push and Gibbons could not hold off the hard-charging Turner as he would lead the next 40 laps and take the checkered flag.

"I tried hard to fight him off, but the push in the car was too bad," said the defending national champion. "We have to figure our car out a little better on the long runs so we can be in a much stronger position in the end. I want to win races, second place means nothing to this team."

The next stop on the CASCAR eastern tour circuit is this weekend in Chicoutimi, Quebec.



PETER GIBBONS

Finishes second for the third time in last five races

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Pearce third at Bromont

Stouffville equestrian rider John Pearce and his mount, Demeure, finished third at the L'International Bromont show jumping tournament last week in Bromont, Quebec.

Pearce and his seven-year-old grey Holsteiner mare, Demeure, completed the modified jumper competition course with no faults and in a time of 40.05 seconds. Isabelle Lapierre, of Breakyville, Quebec and her mount, Diaka de Semilly, won the competition with a no-fault ride in a time of 37.88.

### Raiders robbed by Bandits

The Markham Raiders bantams suffered its first loss of the Central Ontario Minor Football League season when they came out on the short end of a 29-22 decision to the visiting North York Bandits on Sunday.



Alex O'Gleam, Jordan Harper and Geoff Dyer each scored one touchdown for the Raiders, now 2-1 on the season. Don Singh added two two-point converts.

The Raiders return to action Monday on the road against the Burlington Stampede.

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