

The Thames River Angler

"NEWSLETTER OF THE THAMES RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION"

Spring
2005

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Northern Bonefish!



They are brutishly strong; they are super selective; they are everywhere; they have the highest I.Q. of any freshwater fish and are revered as a food fish by the majority of the world's population. What's not to like about carp?

"Man, I thought it was the mother of all brown trout. Then the bugle lips showed up at the end of my line. Bummer."

How many times have you heard or said a variation of this statement?

Has anyone ever put any thought into why we say these things when the heroic battler at the end of the line ends up being the plentiful and plucky carp?

What would you do if it ended up being a 10-lb. Brown? Bonk it on the head and live on trout sandwiches

for the week? Keep it alive as long as possible so you could weigh it for a line class record? Take a picture for posterity and bragging rights?

Well here's the deal: You just fooled a fish with twice the I.Q. and the survival instincts of a brown trout. You subdued one of the toughest and adaptable hombres in freshwater. And lastly, he thinks you're freakin' ugly too!

Remove the hook gently and thank that carp for the fun he provided.

A Newsletter for the TRAA by the TRAA

Editorial Paul Noble

You can learn a lot doing this newsletter for a number of years. There's always more going on within the TRAA than the casual observer notices or at times, cares to notice. Take the newsletter for example; until someone occasionally points it out, nobody really misses it. Does the newsletter still have relevance in today's TRAA?

It would be interesting to take a poll of TRAA members asking if the newsletter is a significant part of their membership experience. If it isn't, I would be inclined to say, "Why go to the work and expense of publishing?"

Realistically, I still think everybody likes to get their copy of the newsletter. Even emailed or downloaded from a Website. There's something fundamentally human about getting something that is somewhat unexpected, wrapped up like a gift out of nowhere with your name on it. Even when you open it or print it and start reading it, getting lost in its pages for a little while

helps you get away from the everyday pressures and responsibilities.

Without getting too Freudian, I think folks just like getting stuff about stuff that interests them.

TRAA members like to be updated on what 's going on in our organization through the Committee Reports.

Everybody likes a smidgen of humour to spice the dry reporting of TRAA news items.

Most of you like lots of pictures and illustrations sporadically interspersed throughout the newsletter.

I can't think of anyone who has complained about the "TRAAtoon", the "Fishy Recipe" or "The Quotable Angler".

So, I guess that's why I'm back doing this "Editor thing" again. I like sitting back, after the flurry of printing and mailing, with the final product, reading each word and smiling at each turn of the page.

When you belong to an organization like the TRAA, this stuff just writes itself.

A Note from the New Pres'

President's Report by Doug Jarman

After many consecutive terms, Randy Bailey has understandably stepped aside to allow some new blood into the top spot. As of the March Annual General Meeting, Doug Jarman is now the President of the TRAA.

At this time I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as this year's TRAA president. For those members who are not too sure of who I am, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Doug Jarman. I have been a member of the club for about four years. I have been involved, to a lesser degree than I would have wished, primarily in the trout hatchery and re-hab work.

The skills that I bring have mainly been developed from my work experience in the environmental field as a wastewater plant manager.

During this transition period, I would like to thank Randy Bailey for his immeasurable help in trying to get me up to speed on the many issues that will face us all during this coming year.

It is my hope and wish that we will be able to continue forward with as few bumps in the road as possible.

Again, thank you for your support and I look forward to working with everyone during this upcoming year.

TRAA General Meetings are at 8:00 PM, Every 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Be at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London Ontario on the following dates:

April 13th May 11th June 8th

The July and August meetings will be, as usual, fishing meetings.

Come out and be a part of these lively and informative get-togethers.

For more information, email us at traa@anlrs.org or call a TRAA Executive member.

Fun on Ice – Shakin’ but Nothing Stirred!

Social Committee by Rick Ornato ('04) & Angelo Paino ('05)

The title of this piece is actually misleading as it only applies to the first ice fishing outing. This occurred on February 5th at Wildwood Reservoir near the town of St. Marys. About six hardy souls made the trek out on the hard water with only a single manual auger between them. This auger was borrowed from TRAA member Scott “Heimer” Roulston, as he was unable or too smart to come along.

We should have taken the hint when the bait shop never opened to sell us minnows. However we went anyway, armed with a few mealworms left over from other fishing days.

The first hole was drilled in a matter of seconds; the ice was at least 10 inches thick. The second hole was barely underway when the auger suddenly appeared to lose its functionality. A quick inspection confirmed that an Allen screw had loosened and had found its way to the bottom of the reservoir, effectively rendering the auger ineffective. After a healthy round of calling Heim every name ever conceived for heartily disliked fellows, another friendly group of hard-water anglers happened by and allowed us to use their auger.

Having drilled a number of holes, we set about to crouch over these newly formed portals to the fishy world below. “Fishless” world below would have been a better description. Randy Bailey was the only lucky one to have a perch bump into his hook. This 5-inch behemoth ended up being the only taker on an otherwise enjoyable, sunny day.



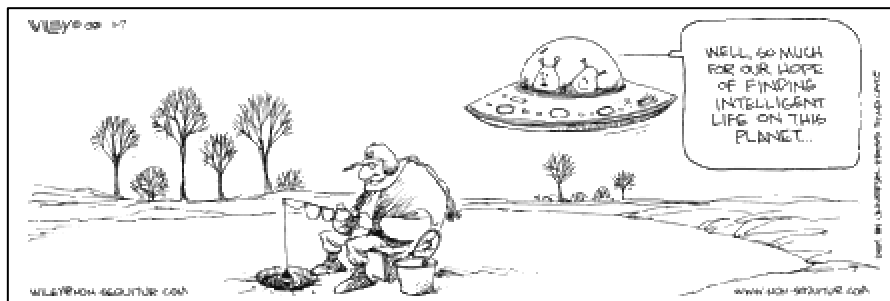
The second ice fishing day found us at Sharon Creek Reservoir near the town of Delaware. This time the bait shop was open and minnows were available. However, we waited in trepidation for someone to arrive with an auger! We just don’t seem to learn. John Jackson showed up with a rusty-bladed auger that he had just purchased at the Sportsman’s Swap.

Moments later Ken Armstrong and Mike Caron arrived with the repaired auger from the first outing. It was a good thing they did, as John’s was too rusty and dull to do much but remove snow.

It turned out that the minnows did the trick. Just about everyone was catching perch. John Jackson spent half an hour setting up his son’s rig and his fish finder only to find out that his son was in no way amused with the cold, regardless of how much fun staring at an ice hole appeared to be to us. John then spent another half and hour putting it all away.

After John left and the echoes of John Jr.’s howling subsided, we resumed catching perch. Rick “Ramble-on” Yeadon seemed to have the best location and/or technique, as he seemed to have one on every 5 to 10 minutes. Randy Bailey ended up drilling so close to Rick’s location that the two holes formed a figure “eight”.

Special mentions go to Leo Jeffries who stuck it out wearing running shoes, to his dad Dave who removed most of the structure (branches) and to Ken Armstrong who managed to catch the only fish that wasn’t a perch – a pretty little crappie. Again, a fun and sunny day.



A Day on the Thames

The View from Here by Angelo Paino

Ah, the Thames River. Its waters conjure up days spent battling feisty smallmouth, coaxing wily rainbows and searching out elusive walleyes.

The Thames' pools and banks are home to more than fish and that makes your time on the water a complete outdoor experience.

DUCKS: Most ducks you encounter on the river are skittish wild stock and take to the air soon after you spot them. However, if you fish the areas around Springbank, Gibbons and Harris Parks, you'll soon have to deal with bolder nuisance ducks that will hound you for food.

Every person that approaches the riverbank is a potential target. The first "plunk" of your cast has them thinking that you are tossing them goodies. Suddenly, you are surrounded from all sides by militant mallards. Your best bet is to wait them out. Under no circumstances are you to toss them a bread crust and hope that they'll leave you alone. Like gulls, if you feed one, dozens more will appear out of nowhere. Especially avoid the ones who have little signs around their necks saying "Will Dabble for Food."

GEESE: Geese will give you more slack than ducks, unless you approach a nesting pair. Unfortunately, many geese like to nest around some of the better pools on the river.

When wading near nesting geese, either one or both of them will swim out and persuade you to leave. At first, they will just honk. If you get closer, they will honk and hiss. If you still don't get the message, you'll also get some wing, which is the goose equivalent of "flipping you the bird."

Don't expect geese to give up like ducks. They won't rest until you leave or die – they really don't care which. And, rest assured, wearing waders doesn't ensure that the gander will back off until you've been properly "goosed."

BLUE HERONS: Everyone loves to wade around a bend in the river and come upon a blue heron. Unfortunately, they don't feel the same way about you. In fact, they feel the same way you do when someone encroaches on one of your favourite fishing spots. At first, they'll freeze, hoping you'll wade on past. After all, they're fishing too; only they are better at it.

If you end up getting too close, the heron will give you an evil yellow eye, croak loudly and fly off in a huff. If it circles around and flies overhead, make sure you're wearing a hat. They may look like a stork, but they

won't be dropping babies.

MUSKRATS: Muskrats, or "beavers" as many people like to call them, are large, industrious rodents that like to build dams. They will generally avoid you if they know you're around. The only time they get irritated is when you wander too close their homes, much the same way many people react when they find TRAA members hanging around their homes.

Muskrats show their displeasure by swimming around the entrance to their dams and then diving with a loud splash to frighten you off. My advice is to move on and give them their peace, as they will continue to smack themselves silly until you do, and you don't want a punch-drunk muskrat hanging around your new waders.

One word of caution – if you see a v-shaped wake heading toward you in the twilight and it suddenly dives and disappears about twenty feet in front of you, don't automatically assume that it's a harmless muskrat. The stories you've heard about baby alligators being flushed into the sewers may not be entirely false.

HORNETS: Hornets love to build their football-sized nests in trees that overhang the river. It's often necessary to wade under such trees to avoid going over your wader tops or to retrieve flies and lures that end up there. Hornets live for these opportunities. It's a nice break from constantly working at keeping up the nest, feeding the queen, etc. So it doesn't take much to excite them into action.

If a wasp bite feels like a poke from a hot needle, then a hornet bite feels like a stab from a red-hot 10-inch fillet knife. They are more aggressive than wasps, too, and your only escape from a swarm is to run or dive. And don't bother trying to breathe through a straw – anyone who's seen enough Bugs Bunny cartoons knows that hornets always drop a stick of dynamite down the straw, no matter what diameter it is.

TRAA MEMBERS: Sooner or later, everyone who visits the Thames will end up fishing near some TRAA members. This is a good thing, as this conscientious bunch works hard to improve the habitat on the Thames and many of its tributaries. They are happy to share their knowledge with others who are concerned about this watershed.

If you really want some good tips, try offering TRAA members some doughnuts and coffee. Just look for the anglers who are wearing the little signs around their necks that read "Will Offer Tips for Tim's." These will be card-carrying members. But remember, they are also like gulls, and if you feed one, many more will appear out of nowhere.

De-brushers & Chainsaws & Pitchforks – Oh My!

Rehabilitation Committee

Tim Jokela Jr.

“So this is a silt trap,” exclaimed Randy Bailey as he struggled to free himself of the black muck that threatened to swallow his hip waders, if not he, himself. A rake handle was extended from bank side just as Randy’s struggles threatened to mire him even deeper into the inky depths.

“Wow that was close,” wheezed Randy through laboured breaths.

“Yeah,” said Tony Vaessen, his rescuer, “the de-brusher almost got wet.”

The strap of the de-brusher was quickly re-adjusted and Randy, with both breathing and pride recovered, stepped back into the water. It had become obvious that he would have to keep his footing in the main channel where the current washes away the silt, leaving a solid base of sand, gravel, and stones.

“This is exactly the way we need to get this whole section to look,” he said as he started the de-brusher with a quick pull of the cord. He began the deliberate process of selectively removing the tangles of wild grape and willow that represented obstacles to the normal flow of the “ditch”.

An entourage of TRAA members followed his progress, diligently raking, pulling and lifting the resulting loosened debris up onto the bank side.

Paul Noble pushed ahead with the chainsaw, clearing out willows that had matured beyond the capabilities of the de-brusher and the trees and large branches that had fallen into the water. Again, a posse of TRAA members followed, pulling out the debris and piling it along the snowy roadside.



Except for March 13th, times spent on the Lansdowne “drain” were exceptionally cold but the hackin’ & wackin’ warmed us quickly!

This was the scene at both work parties out at the Lansdowne drains. The first one, scheduled for January 23rd was cancelled due to the incredible amount of snow that fell in the days before. The one scheduled for January 30th was well attended and quite a lot was accomplished. Another took place on February 13th and the job was pretty well completed.

The purpose of these clean-ups on the Lansdowne “drain” was to preclude the need for the township to dredge and channelize this tributary of Komoka Creek. Paul Noble met Jim Reeve, the Drainage Superintendent for Middlesex-Centre at the work site. Jim pointed out a few areas that required a bit more work. Another work party on March 13th addressed these issues.

Lunker Bunkers

Have you ever noticed that fish, especially trout, tend to seek undercuts in the bank, the underside of fallen trees or the inside of a radial tire? Well the reason is that they feel and are protected under these structures.

That was the reasoning behind the development of lunker structures. They are simple “shelves built from wood and anchored in the stream, up against a bank. The tops of these structures are then covered with rock, gravel and other natural items with the hope it will become visually seamless with its surroundings. This creates a wonderful refuge area for a fish seeking a safe resting spot.



The lunker structure in the foreground sits as it would in the stream; the other in behind shows the “fish-eye” view.

Float Tubing – *Bobbing the Lake Fantastic*

Techniques

by Paul Noble

With a Counterpoint by Tim Jokela Jr.

PN: It was early morning and the big fish that eat the little fish were still in close to the lake's shoreline, shallow enough to be reached with a floating fly line. The motor was cut about 40 yards from the boat's intended destination. The anticipation was high, the rods held at the ready. The wakes caused by large muscular bodies zigzagged across the bay pursuing hapless baitfish flinging their quicksilver bodies into the air in a fruitless attempt to escape predation.

The small boat glided silently into position, only to be echoed by an equal but more disturbing silence. Where'd they go? The only life to be seen was baitfish, seemingly thankful for the intrusion.

Switch to a float tuber, pushing himself slowly but deliberately along the early morning shoreline. The challenge is gaining position without getting *too* close to make a presentation to the large fish swimming along with you.

You won't find watercraft more suited to small lakes, ponds, slow moving rivers and protected bays than the float tube.

Most folks can sit down in a float tube and start manoeuvring enough to fish in a matter of minutes, without instruction. Except for a homemade raft, it may be the most economical way to access those hard-to-get-to places.



With the backrest and headrest, you have to be careful that you don't "nod off"!

Chances are, there is a float tube designed just for you and the places you fish. Make sure you "test drive" as many as you can. Be sure to consider accessories very carefully. Breathable waders do not fair well in a belly boat. Lightweight, non-binding chest waders that have a high rise to the shoulders are best. Fins should fit well, preferably float, and be easy to get on & off. You should also seek fins with the best combination of propulsion and manoeuvrability.

Being in a float tube gives you the sense that you are closer to the fish and their world. It's because you are!

TJ: I've only spent a few hours in a float tube. Mine is the U-Boat version, open at one end, instead of the standard O-shape. She was a good boat, but she only saw water once: float tubes seem like a clever way to explore small lakes but they aren't.

First of all, float tubes move at the speed of cold tar. Just about anything is more efficient in the water. A log raft, a beach ball, or a styrofoam cooler will all move much, much faster. I was passed by driftwood. Turtles swam circles around me, mocking me with their speed. The lack of mobility becomes particularly interesting if nature calls and you are more than fifty feet from shore - experienced float tubers don't wear waders.

Secondly, I don't know if it was the design of my float tube, or if I exceeded it's weight limit, but I found myself sitting at an angle, tipped forward, feeling like I might slide out at any second. The thought of having to swim for it, *with chest waders full of water*, kept me somewhat edgy. Thirdly, propelling oneself with kick fins requires the use of muscles in your feet, ankles, and legs that you seldom ordinarily use. These muscles do not take kindly to such abuse, and react by cramping up. This cuts your speed in half, so you better not have any pressing appointments that afternoon, or that evening.



Some tubes are designed for speed; this one's built for stability and to turn on a dime.

Lastly, casting a fly is much easier atop a river bank than waist-deep in a lake. Being the most mediocre of flycasters, I found myself ticking the surface on every backcast, unable to get any sort of distance, and hitting myself in the head with the fly even more than usual.

All of the above, of course, can be corrected with a bit of time and effort. However, my heart belongs to clear, sparkling trout streams, so my float tube stays in the closet.

Hatchery Health – Inconsistent, Contradictory & Disheartening

Trout Committee by Randy Bailey ('04) & John Jackson / Dave Jeffries ('05)

One of the most difficult things that I have to do as the Trout Committee Chairman is to make the decision to pull the plug on a batch of trout fry. Such was my lot this past fall when we experienced our first catastrophic loss since the days of the “weir”.

The “weir” was the manner in which we used to maintain a “head” of water to generate flow into the hatchery from the spring source. This was found to be a source of problems that included a deadly lack of dissolved oxygen, choking silt levels, a breeding ground for parasitic fungi and noxious chemicals generated by the decomposition of plant matter.

The weir was removed and a new spring source was installed that maintained a fresh, turbulent (oxygenated) source of water for the trout hatchery.



The new spring source is a cleaner set-up allowing easy access for maintenance. Note the increased distance of turbulence to the source pipe for oxygenation.

We had great success with the brown trout eggs of 2003 and the rainbow trout eggs that we collected ourselves in the Spring of 2004. All those involved in the Trout committee felt both a sense of relief and of pride with our accomplishment.

The euphoria quickly wore off with the batch of brown trout received in the Fall of 2004 from the MNR's Normandale facility. The eggs were received “eyed-up” and were hatching mere days after they were introduced to the hatchery trays.

It seemed as though they all hatched at exactly the same moment. This caused a great deal of grief for the members of the trout hatchery rotation as the egg casings completely covered all of the screens, causing the water to overflow onto the floor. This was not as big a deal as one might think because the sac fry were still oriented to the bottom of the trays. The biggest difficulty was cleaning out all of the casings and the quickly forming fungus without

damaging the sac fry at the same time. This, along with an unprecedented cold snap over the course of two days, seemed to spell the demise of this unfortunate batch of brown trout. A month or so after the fry were “flushed”, successive cold weather caused the source pipe to completely freeze and fracture. Since that unfortunate “flushing” of the remaining trout fry into Komoka Creek, there has been a great deal of discussion about what else could have been done. Most of these conversations seemed centred around issues of control. Controlling how the eggs “come off”; controlling the egg casings, debris and the growth of fungi; controlling ambient and water temperatures; controlling proper up-welling flows of fresh water. We looked to past successes and found the answer.



The TRAA has experienced an over 90% success rate with the simple up-welling box pictured above. There are some who say we should go back to this venerable design.

The old up-welling box that the TRAA utilized before the enclosure was built served us well and gave us unbelievable rates of success. The concept was abandoned because our new mandate was education and the process was more easily viewed in a tray style set-up. What proponents of the up-welling “camp” are suggesting is that if the up-welling system is constructed of clear Plexiglas, the viewing experience will be even more enhanced. While this is a great idea for the control of what happens within the hatchery walls (except ambient air temperature), we are still faced with the challenge of the source water pipe and its vulnerability to the outside elements. In the meantime it is obvious that we will not be hosting a batch of rainbow trout for the Spring of 2005. However, we look forward to the exciting summer of change and improvement in anticipation of another batch of brown trout for the Fall of 2005.

Thanks to everybody for their hard work and faith in the Trout Committee.

Toting Tackle – Taking it to the River

Gear Pig by Paul Noble, Rick Ornato, Tim Jokela, & Randy Bailey

Paul: When I hit the river, I subscribe to the KISS theory – Keep It Simply Simple. The ubiquitous vest was my favoured tackle conveyance until one 90-degree day I asked myself if I really needed to carry a lifetime of tackle purchases on my shoulders. Subsequently (and from then on), a “World Famous” canvas shoulder bag that was lying around the basement was pressed into service. It is lightweight, it forces me to constantly edit my on-river inventory and I always know which compartment the split shot is in: there *is* only *one compartment!* It is washable, always fashionable and is extraordinarily durable. Even if it did wear out, I could buy ten for the price of a cheap vest. Sure there’s fancier bags, but I find that a lot of the features that cost the extra bucks on the fishing-specific bags just irritate me.



*The canvas bag:
Less than \$7.00 at a
surplus store near you!*

Rick: I like the way the Clear Creek bags are laid out because I know where everything is and I don't have to go fishing around the bag when I need something (pun intended). The tippet pockets on the front are great because I go through a lot of tippet and leader material when I'm fishing the bottom and the banks of the river. All the things I use most often are easily accessible without opening the bag: floatant, split shot, nippers, forceps, etc. The strap allows me to swing the bag around my back when casting so line doesn't get tangled up in it. It also has a strap that allows me to convert it to a chest pack. Inside there are more compartments where I keep my license (haha Paul) pike tippet and tapered trout leaders if the situation calls for it. The compartment for fly boxes holds 2 medium and 1 large fly box (usually more than I will need). There is a fold down tray in the front that serves as a working tray/fleece patch. The back has a pouch that I keep indicators (read bobbers for the Scottish guy), spare tippet spools, tape measure and miscellaneous tools. All in all I can take every thing I need for a day of fishing in a compact, easy to access bag that measures 10" w X 6" h X 4" deep and weighs very little. It's also 1000 denier cordura so it's rugged as hell and doesn't absorb water. What's not to like about that. Everyone should have one.



*The Clear Creek Hip Pack:
Versatile, rugged and good
looks too! (Sounds like a
singles ad' – Ed.)*

Tim: I started with the standard 450-pocket fly fishing vest, because that's what fly fishermen wear, right? I realized quite quickly (two seasons) that it was hot and heavy, and who the hell needs 450 pockets? I had stuff in there I don't even remember buying.

So I started looking for something simpler, with not so many pockets. I fell in love with a shorty-style Filson vest, big pockets left and right and not much else, and just enough space for all the really important junk. It has a perfect olive colour and is comfy, with a cool semi-military look to it. However, my back still ached after a long morning of fishing, so I'm now field-testing a Filson fanny pack. It holds two bottles of water and all the small gear - tippet, nippers, forceps, sharpener and shades. Small fly boxes go in a shirt/jacket/wader pocket. There's no room for lunch, but I'm not one for four-course meals streamside. It seems to work well so far; further testing will commence the moment trout season opens.



*Filson's Waist Pack:
Shoot from the hip with
a modern classic.*

Randy: I'm a vest fisherman, as you know. I usually haul enough stuff to sink a ship. I carry the following items for all occasions as well as a spinning rod and float rod. Leader line - 3 & 4 lb fluorocarbon; ball bearing swivels and snap swivels; an assortment of floats and tubing; round split shot (3/0, bb, and b); thermometer (very important to determine where the fish will be located); good polarized glasses; two pair of fingerless gloves, in case one set gets wet; tailing glove; tape measure (The Bailey Special- 1", 2" 5" 9" - you know!); complete assortment of yarn flies; complete assortment of Flat fish and Kwikfish; complete assortment of spinners; hooks in two sizes (Mustad #10 & 12); camera; plastic bags for fish and garbage; license; gum and chocolate bars to cure what ails ya; screwdrivers and pliers (for fixing broken reels); haemostats; stone for sharpening hooks; worms and spawn; assorted jigs with 3" curly tails; TOILET PAPER FOR THE ALL IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THE WATER - GOTTA GO!!!!!!!

*If you have broad
shoulders you can take
all you own in a vest!*



I find that the vest is an easy way to transport a multitude of tackle while having both hands free.

Lot's of Doubt; More Potential!

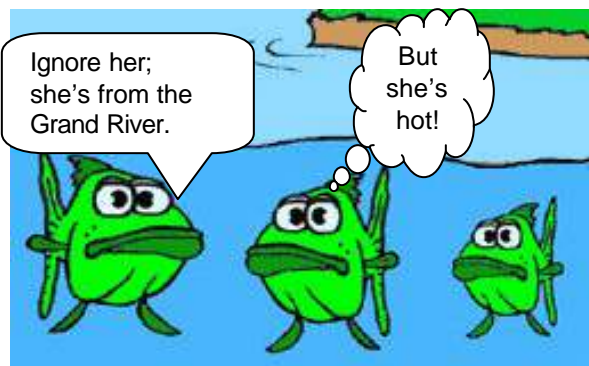
Warmwater Committee by Kevin LeMesurier ('04) & Randy Bailey ('05)

Most TRAA members are probably aware that a Warmwater Committee still exists, but that might be the extent of their recent knowledge. There have been a number of situations that have affected the Warmwater activities over the past year or more.

Kevin Lemesurier has been very busy with the care of his wife. We all support Kevin in his absence and wish Verna the best.

Last year it was finalized that we would not be getting allocations of walleye eggs from the Dunnville Hunters & Anglers Club for the TRAA walleye hatchery. The reasoning for this decision was arrived at by the Lake Erie Management Unit (LEMU) using a theory claiming that the walleye in the Grand River system and those in the Thames River watershed were genetically distinct.

There were many rumours that the reasons for the TRAA being cut off from the Dunnville eggs were purely political but these, of course, could not be substantiated. In the Spring of 2004, the LEMU did try to help us out by offering the eggs from walleye trapped at Jeannette's Creek (at the mouth of the Thames River). They also offered to assist in the collection of the Thames strain of walleye eggs by electroshocking various locations in the London area. All of the eggs at Jeanette's Creek were "green" (pre-spawn) and the electroshocking attempts were met with failure.



After these dismal fiascos, the TRAA attempted to get the various district offices of the MNR that were involved, the LEMU and their counterparts, as well as the Dunnville Hunters & Anglers, all together for a meeting to try to resolve the egg allocation issues. This ploy was met with a great amount of resistance when it wasn't outright ignored. In the end our attempts were met with blunt refusal with no substantial proof of the so-called genetic angle.

Another suggestion was that the walleye captured during the usual research efforts at Jeanette's Creek could be kept in pens if they are still green until such time they ripen sufficiently. Then we race down to grab the collected eggs and milt. Some within the TRAA thought that simply transferring all the captured walleye to the North Thames River might be a better idea. This was met with favour among some of the other stakeholders and is being investigated as you read this newsletter.

Yet another suggestion was to attempt to electro-shock, trap or net the walleye where we would normally fish. They can be located with a halogen flashlight in riffle areas where they would normally spawn.



There have also been discussions at a TRAA club level about possibly moving the walleye hatchery from its current location at Fanshawe Conservation Area to the TRAA trout hatchery enclosure. This would involve redesigning the floor plan and the plumbing in the trout hatchery to accommodate the bell jars and a second circular tank. Nothing has been decided thus far but the debate has become as heated as it is interesting.

Some members like the idea of a constantly regenerating source of water at a stable temperature. Others like the convenience of having the hatchery where it is: close to most who look after it and to the release point. As you read all of this, it's easy to see that the Warmwater Committee is a lively and dynamic part of the TRAA right now. If you want to be a part of the many changes and developments that are sure to be happening over the next couple of months, be sure to contact Randy Bailey at your earliest convenience.

Notices, Kneeslappers & Noshes

TRAA Bulletin Board

From the "He's Probably Better Off Dead" Department...

Doreen's husband Matt died suddenly one day. Doreen was asked how she wanted Matt's obituary to read. Doreen asked the undertaker, "What does it cost?" The undertaker replied, "One dollar per word." Doreen then said, "I want it to read: MATT IS DEAD." The undertaker was an old fishing buddy of Matt's and he was disturbed by such a curt obituary, so he offered, "I'll make you a special deal since I knew Matt so well. I'll pay for half of the obituary out of my own pocket." Doreen's face lit up and she replied, "Great. I want it to read: MATT IS DEAD, BOAT FOR SALE."

Annual General Meeting

March 10, 2005

Once a year TRAA members gather to select those intrepid leaders that guide us through the next twelve months.

The following Executive positions were decided:

President – Doug Jarman

Vice President – Tony Vaessen

Chairman – Tim Jokela Jr.

Treasurer – Archie Graham

Secretary – Paul Noble

The volunteer position of Chairman for the various Committees were established:

Rehabilitation: Tim Jokela Jr.

Trout: John Jackson / Dave Jeffries

Warmwater: Randy Bailey

Public Relations: Ian James

Social: Angelo Paino

Memberships: Archie Graham

Email / Phone: Randy Bailey

The Quotable Angler

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."
– John Steinbeck

"In the Yuan period, the hermit fisherman became the symbol of the unemployed scholar..."

The true hermit scholar fished for fish, not fame; others merely pretended to fish while waiting to return to politics."

– Shengmu [1310-1360]

TRAAtoon



Geez
Randy...
Can't we just
ask the guys
out to the
work parties?

Trust me Doug,
after 5 years, I
know how to
motivate TRAA
members.

Fishy Recipe

Indian Candy Smoked Salmon

This is a recipe for what is called Indian Candy. Others may call it Salmon Jerky. It's great whatever you call it.

Brine:

- ✓ 1/2 Gallon of Water
- ✓ 1 Cup Pickling Salt
- ✓ 2 Pounds of the darkest, heavy -molasses type Brown Sugar
- ✓ 1 Cup real Maple Syrup

Slice fillets of salmon (against the grain) into 1/2" slices. Mix brine and soak salmon slices for 1 to 2 days.

To smoke, use a mixture of cherry, madrone (*it is good with alder substituted if you can't find madrone*), and apple in a Little Chief and depending on the weather smoke from 8 hrs to 1-1/2 days (the colder the days the longer the smoke).

Note: Halfway through the smoke, brush the salmon with a mixture of 3/4 Cup honey and 1/4 Cup water.

Tips: Pieces should break easily while retaining their shape. Don't dry out to the point of jerky consistency. This is also great for beef and venison.

Member\$hip Due\$

If you haven't paid your \$20.⁰⁰ 2005 TRAA dues, we respectfully request that you **COUGH IT UP!!**



The Thames River Angler

"NEWSLETTER OF THE THAMES RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION"

**Summer
2005**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NO Note from the Pres'

(The only guy with
a valid excuse)



Committee Reports, NOT



Techniques

No words on this page!



Gear Pig

There isn't one!



The View from Here

Nothing to see!



Other Stuff

No Recipe Cookin'

A Void of Jokes

TRAAtoon is absent

Nothing to Publish!!

Newsletter Editor says, "What Up Wit' Dat?"



*Paul Noble, this year's TRAA newsletter editor has received a total of
– WAIT! gimme a drum roll –
ZERO SUBMISSIONS FOR THE TRAA NEWSLETTER!*

This is what you'll get for the
Summer edition unless those
submissions start-a-rolin' in.

I will be sending out some ideas
within a couple of days to get those
creative juices flowing. In the
meantime, feel free to freelance.