

The Thames River Angler

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You can still find Walleye lurking in the Thames River. There is no question that the number of walleye pickerel are going down in the Great Lakes region, but it's always nice know that they are not gone yet. Lucky for this fish, that TRAA member, Ian James was on the other end of the line. The fish lived to breed another day.

Finding Nemo (or Bambi II)

By Paul Nobel

Every Friday evening my daughter Carley, wife Kim and I order a pizza or some other nutrition-free tasty delight for dinner. We then plunk ourselves down in front of the television and fire up the VCR with the latest mindless pap that Hollywood has to offer. Hey, our minds are challenged all week and it's a well-known fact that the mind needs a bit of downtime too.

Well, when *Finding Nemo* took over my family room, my traditional *I-don't-wanna-think-I-just-wanna-eat-junk-and-watch-junk* reverie was broken by some unpleasant concerns.

Most people my age and older remember the impact that *Bambi* had on the collective psyche of a couple of generations. The timing was right. The population was moving away from country living into the suburban sprawl that continues to this day. The concept of hunting and killing an animal became more and more alien to people as they isolated themselves from nature. When the movie *Bambi* came along, it reinforced a new generation's ignorance of their country roots and the fundamental concepts of environmental conservation that go along with these traditions. At the time, those watching the movie *Bambi* with their kids probably didn't consider that this way of thinking would ever gain a foothold in our society. Now we have a word for it: *Bambi-ism*.

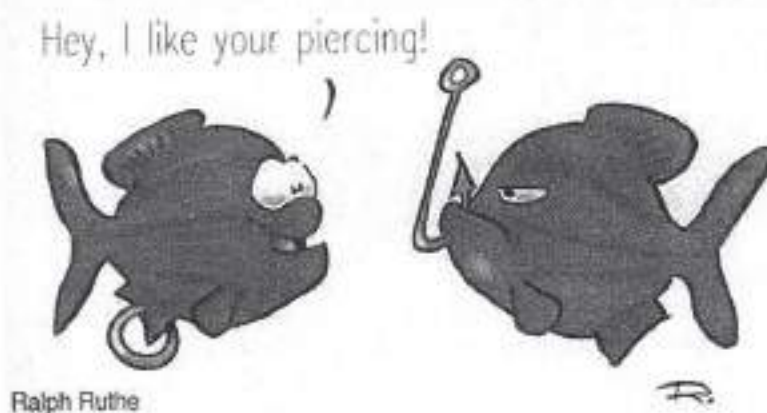
Those of us who hunt are feeling the heat; there's no doubt about it. Angling is the next arena of natural sport to be accosted by the self-righteous flocks that call themselves the animal rights movement.

The baseless misinformation machine that is the animal rights movement is ploughing through our way of life and our conservation efforts like suburbia does to the natural landscape. They do this in concert with an onslaught of unrealistic depictions of the natural world produced by a media machine that is based in one of the most wasteful concentrations of corporate greed on the planet: Hollywood.

Finding Nemo is an entertaining movie. However, there are some aspects of this flick that may require discussion – not during the movie, but perhaps on the next fishing or hunting trip with your kid(s). It's easier to put things in perspective when you're in a setting that is natural and beyond the manipulative influences of Disney and its ilk. Your family can see that fish and animals do, in fact, react differently to situations than do humans. They will come to understand that it is unlikely that sharks would have vegetarian support groups, that angel fish talk to whales, that clownfish have a sense of humour or that manta rays make very good teachers for sea turtles. Show your loved ones what truthfully threatens the real natural habitat. Give them the information they need to make intelligent decisions and points of discussion when they are confronted with the baseless rantings of the animal rights movement.

The key to being successful in helping your family remain centred on these issues is to refrain from sinking to the level that has been established by the animal rights fanatics. The simplest method is to avoid trying to deny the idiocy of their claims and simply stick to the facts, as you know them.

Enjoy the moment when you're watching the movie – a vegetarian support group for sharks is funny – just be sure to take the opportunity to yak about it with your kid(s), later.



Meeting Updates

Sunday, January 11, 2004

TRAA Rehabilitation Work Party & Party Party

Members will continue working on Komoka Creek upstream of the hatchery to remove deadfalls and other debris caused by the recent high wind events. This is the third in a series of 4 work parties scheduled to clear obstructions as far upstream as possible. Chest waders, hip waders or rubber boots are all appropriate footwear as the water levels are fairly low at this time of year. Work gloves are a good plan (especially waterproof ones) as well as the appropriately layered clothing for the weather.

After the work party the party will move to Rick Ornato's house for another party. Rick and Cindy have graciously offered their home as a venue for a casual get-together for TRAA members and their spouses. *If you intend to attend, please e-mail the TRAA or call a TRAA Executive member at your earliest convenience as a courtesy to your hosts.*

****We had a great turn out for the work party and the planned work was completed in no time. I'd like to Thank Rick and Cindy Ornato for opening up their home and for the wonderful Chili lunch. Thanks to all who showed up this weekend and in past weekends to help make the job smaller. Keep up the great effort.*

Wednesday, January 14, 2004

TRAA General Meeting

We will be meeting at 8:00 PM (as usual) at Grosvenor Lodge (as usual), 1017 Western road, London, Ontario. Our meetings are cool! Want to know why? First of all we meet in a big old mansion that is a designated Heritage Property. Secondly, the meetings are "casually structured", meaning that there is a loose protocol and format, but there is still room for comments and a few laughs. Often we have guest speakers, presentations, demonstrations and other planned activities in addition to the regular TRAA business. See you there!

Sunday, January 18, 2004

TRAA Rehabilitation Work Party

Yep, this is the last in a series of 4 work parties scheduled to clear obstructions on Komoka Creek as far upstream of the hatchery as possible. Chest waders, hip waders or rubber boots are all appropriate footwear as the water levels are fairly low at this time of year. Work gloves are a good plan (especially waterproof ones) as well as the appropriately layered clothing for the weather. If you haven't made it out to any of the previous work parties, it's time to drag your carcass off of the couch and get involved. Breathe some fresh air instead of the recycled atmosphere of your home HVAC system!

Committee Reports

To date no reports have been forwarded on to me for printing. So it's adlib.

Warm Water. There is ongoing discussion and work to be done with regards to the future of the Walleye Hatchery at Fanshaw. I hope to have more to report by the next issue.

Cold Water: The hard work that went into the Trout Hatchery last year, to raise O2 levels in the water has paid off. Ian and Randy collected the 40,000 Brown Trout eggs that were put into the tray a few weeks ago. The WATCH is on. Members volunteered to keep watch, pick out fungus and dead eggs and keep an eye on the operation. The eggs hatched almost three weeks ago. They are now at the free swimming stage and have been transferred out of the tray and into the large circular tank. As of Sunday Jan 11, feeding had not yet commenced as the fry still have some yolk sack to absorb and have not shown an interest in food yet. The feeding will probably be underway as of this printing. They will grow fast now. The watch is still on until the fish are ready to be released into the creek.

There was a very intense wind storm a few weeks ago which brought down a lot of debris and trees, choking the creek in several sections. Work had been underway for several weeks to clear that up so the creek is ready for the new Brown Trout and for the spring spawning runs. There is still some work to be done but we're almost there. Way to go!!

Here is an article you might find interesting. There is certainly more to come from Groups like PETA so be prepared.

Trout Trauma Puts Scientists On The Hook?

Tuesday, 17 June, 2003

Who are we to believe and what are the consequences for the future?

By Alexander Schwab

Early this year a study by Dr. James Rose, University of Wyoming, concluded that it is impossible for fish to feel pain since fish do not have the brain structure for the experience. Then hardly half a year later came the fanfare from Edinburgh: according to scientists from the Roslin Institute (remember Dolly the first sheep clone?) and the University of Edinburgh fish can feel pain. What are anglers to make of this confusing contradiction? Who are we to believe and what are the consequences for the future?

The first thing that struck me was the timing. Hardly had the ink dried on Dr. Rose's study when the world's newspapers were full of headlines about fish feeling pain. For the anti-angling lobby there couldn't have been a more timely moment for an attack on angling (also right at the beginning of the season in the northern hemisphere). I have no evidence that the timing was anything other than coincidental, but I wouldn't be at all surprised if such evidence were to emerge. After all the Medway report (1979) and the Utrecht study (1988) on which anglers rested their case so far, are a bit worn out and don't carry much conviction anymore.

At first glance punctuation and style of presentation aren't of major importance in scientific issues. Nevertheless there is a point worth noting. There have been several official press releases from the institutions involved in this new study. Interestingly enough the headlines differ: "Trout trauma puts anglers on the hook?" is one version and the other is without the question mark. In either case it's an excellent headline for selling a story - full marks to the PR-department. It wouldn't have gained half the attention with the original title of the study by Dr. Lynne U. Sneddon, Dr. Victoria Braithwaite and Dr. Michael J. Gentle:

Do fish have nociceptors: evidence for the evolution of a vertebrate sensory system

Question marks are, however, not the only knotty points in a study which is hailed as a shining example of clarity proving "hook, line and sinker that fish feel pain."

As the title indicates the study is about nociceptors. Nociceptors are receptor cells for noxious stimuli and the job of these cells is nociception i.e. detecting noxious stimuli. The authors claim that "relatively little attention has been paid to nociception" and "to date, little attention has been paid to potential pain perception in fish." Now that leaves me absolutely flabbergasted considering that it was exactly the point of Dr. Rose's work to scrutinize the relation between nociception and pain - and there is no doubt that nociception does not equal pain. In fact Dr. Rose's work isn't mentioned at all, as if it didn't exist! Is this a deliberate insult and an attempt to hush up his findings lest anglers get to know them? And "relatively little" in the academic world usually means there are already hundreds if not thousands of dissertations on those particular or related topics: nociception is not terra incognita! Why pretend otherwise?

The reason for which Dr. Rose's work isn't even mentioned in the new study is probably the fact that then the authors would have had to be explicit about neurophysiological aspects and their assumptions about awareness in fish. Skipping the central issue of awareness and replacing it by vague assumptions and hints their findings in no way warrant their conclusions - which is putting it politely.

The study is full of suggestive remarks like: "The polymodal nociceptors found here in the trout have similar properties to those found in amphibians, birds, and mammals including humans." Aha, I always thought there was a little trout in me. This similarity between trout and man has been worked out long ago by folk wisdom hence the expression "green around the gills". But seriously, what does similarity mean? How much horse is in a man whose laugh is similar to neighing?

So far so good but where the trout trauma is definitely thrown off the rails and getting itself into a hopeless tangle is in the discussion human pain and animal pain. Human pain so it is acknowledged has an emotional dimension and requires awareness. Of animal emotion (awareness?) the authors say: "It is impossible to truly know if an animal has an emotion since we cannot measure emotion directly. What an animal 'feels' is possibly nothing like the experience of humans with a more complex brain structure, however the animal's experience may be unpleasant or cause suffering and their discomfort is no less important in terms of biology or ethics." These last few words could be straight from Regan, Singer or other animal rights philosophers.

Besides that, what can one make of it? Doesn't "it is impossible to truly know" mean "we can't know" and if so why not say so? Can emotion be measured indirectly? And think about this: they unmistakably say that human experience and trout experience are not the same. Yet it should be assumed to be the same and taken as the basis for ethical considerations: all trout are cute little humans with scales and fins. Again, a crystal clear distinction is drawn between animal experience and human experience however in the same breath (a few lines further) the authors conclude: "If a noxious event has sufficiently adverse effects on behaviour and physiology in an animal and this experience is painful in humans, then it is likely to be painful in the animal." I don't think it possible to get more confused and incoherent.

The hard facts of the experiments conducted are not for the faint-hearted. Injections

of acetic acid and bee venom in the lips of one group of trout and sucking the brains out of the other (under anaesthetic). So the latter group isn't of interest to the fisherman because the fish they catch aren't brain amputated. Of the former group it is said that the injections resulted in anomalous behaviour whereas a control group that had been injected saline behaved normally. The anomalous behaviour was "rubbing the injured area" and "rocking behaviour reminiscent of the stereotypical rocking behaviour of primates that is believed to be an indicator of poor welfare" ("reminiscent" like "similar" is a suggestive term - and what a bold leap from fish to primates).

Alright, but how does this anomalous behaviour prove that fish feel or experience pain and, in this particular case, are outraged (emotion) at the injustice of being experimented on? If I shoo away a wasp, does the wasp "understand" the implicit threat in my gestures and does it maybe "feel" rejected? If after rain the worms are out and I accidentally step on one it surely reacts but that reaction doesn't constitute an experience in the human sense. Reactions and responses of animals don't per se signify awareness or experience!!! That injection of a massive dose of bee venom and the trout's speedy recovery from it does not show that fish feel pain but rather that they are practically insensitive which is consistent with the anglers observation of the same fish being caught twice or three times in succession. It also confirms another commonly made point by anglers: if the fish would feel pain when hooked then it wouldn't run but would swim towards the angler.

Perhaps more enlightening than their study as such is the guideline they go by: "Assessing the subjective experiences of animals plays an increasingly large role in animal welfare" and in this they refer to authors like Broom and Dawkins (both committed to animal rights). They are not just an inch away from the tenets of animal rights - they're there firmly planted in the animal rights camp.

The last sentence of the study encapsulates the style, spirit and content of the study perfectly: "Future work should examine the cognitive aspects of noxious stimulation to assess how important enduring a noxious, potentially painful event is to the mental well-being of this species." In other words now that they believe fish feel pain they're going to torture and mutilate thousands of trout to find out just how badly it affects their psyche. That's very strange, to say the least, coming from a team, which decided to limit their experiments with venom to six rainbow trout for "ethical reasons".

Talking of ethics and tactics: Dr. Sneddon is reported to have said that she had no problem with anyone who caught and quickly killed a fish for eating. Now angler's beware! Catch and release anglers of all kinds are implied which leaves the catch and eat anglers in the game. Not for long though because "quickly" is a flexible term and will eventually be construed as "the fastest possible" which obliges again all anglers to fish with broomsticks and abseiling ropes. So piecemeal wise we're all going out of business on the basis of ethics. Whichever way you look at it: ethics is the central theme in all this.

The ostensible aim of the research was to examine nociceptors as "evidence for the evolution of a vertebrate sensory system". I am not an expert on the matter but some evidence might have been found and this might throw new light on some aspect in evolution. Most of the study is, however, quite simply focused on the question of pain in fish. The frequent inroads into related subjects like animal welfare, ethics or psychology and the way the study was handled on the PR side

generates more than a little suspicion about the purpose of the study.

Conclusion: Once more anglers are faced with wild anthropomorphic (attribution of human characteristics to non-human beings) speculation and accusations based on what gives me the impression of being in large parts incomplete, muddled, half-baked, animal rights tainted and all highly speculative. This new study is in no way a challenge to the work of Dr. James Rose yet for years to come anti-anglers and animal rightists will cite it as a conclusive. Be prepared! The research might have found new nociceptors but essentially the number of nociceptors doesn't say anything at all about what happens with the information in the fish brain. There, the matter of pain is decided and, fish, says British scientist Dr. Bruno Broughton, "literally don't have the brains for it".

Biglen, Switzerland, 31 May 2003

Sources:

Do fish have nociceptors: Evidence for the evolution of a vertebrate sensory system, Lynne U. Sneddon, Victoria A. Braithwaite and Michael J. Gentle, Roslin Institute, Welfare Biology, Roslin Midlothian, EH25 9PS UK and Division of Biological Sciences, Ashworth Laboratories, University of Edinburgh, EH9 3JT UK

The Neurobehavioral Nature of Fishes and the Question of Awareness and Pain, James D. Rose, Reviews in Fisheries Science (10)1: 1-38, CRC Press LLC

For a full discussion of pain, cruelty, animal rights etc. see Hook, Line and Thinker - Angling and Ethics, Alexander Schwab, Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow, England.



Morning comes on the Thames. Karla Sheaves tries for Chinook.

Randy's Rant

This letter has been written in response to the two major spills that recently occurred in the Thames River Watershed. The Thames River is noted for having one of Canada's most diverse fisheries and is one of few watersheds that has received Canadian Heritage River status. Countless hours have been put forth by many dedicated people to reach these goals.

The Thames River Anglers Association has spent years rehabilitating spawning and nursery habitat for trout as well as selectively introducing, rainbow trout, brown trout and walleye from two separate hatcheries into the Thames River Watershed. The TRAA has also successfully supplemented smallmouth and largemouth bass populations in the Thames River Watershed through fish transfers. It is therefore a shame to see catastrophic spills like these occurring with increasing frequency. Hopefully the investigation into why these spills happened will help prevent further incidents.

A crime has been committed and the victim suffers silently. Let us all hope, for the sake of our local aquatic eco-system, that the punishment will fit the crime.

Randy R. Bailey

President, Thames River Anglers Association

Editors note : Randy Bailey continued to send similar letters on an on going monthly basis pressing for action and accountability with regards to this river spill. One would have to assume that it was this continued pressure that finally resulted in the following:

On the Front Page of the London Free Press this morning. (January 13, 2004) in an article, as it appeared, by

JONATHAN SHER, Free Press Reporter

2004-01-13

04:10:05

Labatt charged in Thames River fish kill

The brewer expresses regret for 'inadvertent' 2002 discharge.

Labatt Brewing Co. Ltd. has been charged with discharging a lubricating soap into the Thames River in August 2002 and with failing to notify authorities. The discharge is said to have killed "hundreds, perhaps thousands" of fish from Horton Street to more than 1.5 kilometers downstream.

Officials at the plant, who were served yesterday with a summons, expressed regret.

"We accept responsibility for what we'd call an inadvertent discharge . . . and we very much regret the negative impact," said Bob Chant, Labatt's Toronto-based director of public affairs.

The soap, called Vector 100, is used to lubricate conveyer belts. How it ended up in the Thames was the apparent result of two errors, Chant said. He said someone had used an air pump rather than a displacement pump to move the lubricant from a truck to a storage tank, creating foam that spilled onto the floor.

Once on the floor, the material passed down a drain that officials mistakenly had assumed was connected to a sanitary sewer line that discharged to a treatment plant.

The drain was later found to be connected to a storm sewer.

Chant said Labatt mistakenly assumed the drain was hooked to the sewer line because a decade-old survey of storm sewers in the area of the plant didn't show its location.

He said a closer look showed the survey didn't cover the entire facility.

Accordingly, said Chant, Labatt didn't contact authorities because it believed the lubricant -- comprising several litres -- was headed for the treatment plant.

Labatt learned of the discharge after being contacted by Ontario's Environment Ministry.

"Had we realized it had been a storm sewer, we would have acted immediately to pump it out and notify the (ministry)," Chant said.

Since then, the brewer has spent \$165,000 to do an audit of its drains and reroute the problematic drain and two others to a sanitary sewer line.

"We co-operated fully and took steps to fix it," Chant said.

The company changed its procedure for moving the lubricant to better ensure that the right type is used.

Chant said Labatt will plead guilty to the charges, although it will ask the court to consider the mitigating circumstances.

The Labatt plant at 150 Simcoe St. was fined \$200 in 2001 after an employee dumped a bucket of pollutant into a storm drain. Chant said the drain was pumped and the river wasn't affected.

"We have a very good environmental record," he pointed out, noting that Labatt reuses bottles at least 15 times.

He said Labatt also made contributions last year -- and will do so this year -- to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

On conviction, the discharge offence carries a wide range of penalties -- from nothing to \$6 million, while the notification offence has a maximum penalty of \$100,000.

Prior history and the seriousness of offences are among factors taken into account, said Jim McRorie, regional supervisor of investigations and enforcement for the Environment Ministry.

A court hearing is scheduled March 1 in London but Chant is hopeful a settlement can be reached before then. *Emphasis: TRAA Editor*

The spill killed suckers, bass, carp, catfish and darters, as well as crayfish, leeches and other aquatic creatures.

City regulations prohibit connecting internal building drains to storm sewers.



FISH ON!!! Fishing behind Labatt Breweries, Deb Freele has some fun with a Quillback Carp Sucker. Life is returning to the effected area.

OPENING DAY

by Rick "the Gear Pig" Ornato

I open the truck door and step out. I feel the cool damp air on my face and I know it won't last long. The forecast says it's going to be hot and muggy today. It's 5 am and it's muggy now, but I'm safe from the heat for a couple of hours anyway. Dressed in quick dry shorts and shirt I feel cold but it's tolerable. The goose bumps on my legs are only partly from the cold. I'm anxious to be on my way.

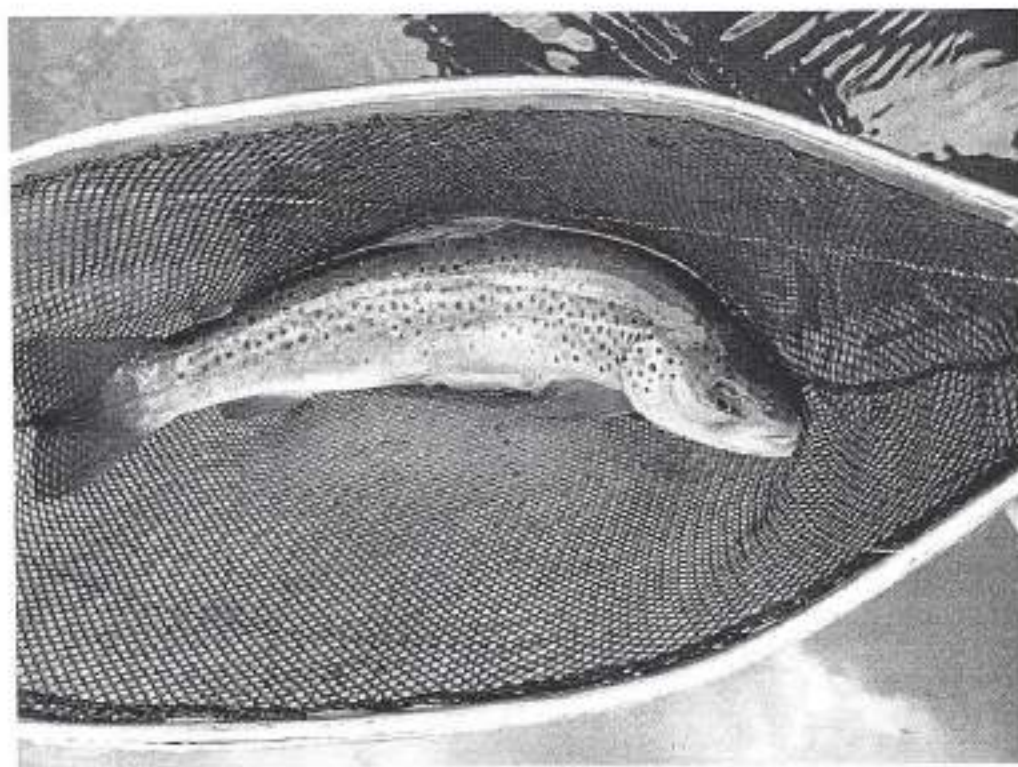
Opening the tailgate of the truck I begin the ritual of taking the rod out of its case. Assembling the pieces; slightly off center and twisting them until the guides are aligned. My movements are quick but not impatient. It is a practiced quickness. The rod is set aside. Sitting on the tail gate, I replace my shoes and socks with wading socks and shoes. One pull of the quick lace system and I am done. A small caddis lands on my leg. After a quick inspection it flies off to do whatever caddis do. I take it as a good sign. A quick inventory of my gear bag assures me I haven't forgotten anything. It is looped over my shoulder and I reach in the truck for my hat and polarized sunglasses. A quick wipe and they are ready for service. I pick up the rod again and begin to thread the line through the guides. It's a floating line. I think I'll start with a little Nymphing. I reach into my gear bag and remove a spool of tippet. I carefully remove about 8 ft. The nippers attached to the bag are found without looking. The spool is returned to my pocket and I search for the end of the tippet in the half light of morning. I have to hold it up away from the dark of the cedars lining the river bank. A small perfection loop is tied and joined to the butt section of the fly line. I reach into the gear bag again and extract a fly box. There is only one. No guess work here. I choose a favourite searching fly and proceed to tie an Improved Clinch. It should be a Palomar but old habits are hard to break. The fly is placed in the hook keeper and the rod tucked under my arm. A last check to make sure nothing is forgotten and the tailgate is closed.

The gravel crunches under my feet as I make my way to the guard rail of the bridge. I swing a leg over and I'm surprised by the cold touch of steel against my thigh. Gingerly, I swing the other leg over. The walk down the bank is slow and deliberate. The gabian baskets used to support the banks under the bridge can be treacherous. Care is needed here.

There's frantic insect activity around the stagnant water just under the bridge. It's another good sign. This is Bridger territory though. A mile downstream is the place to be. The first step into the river is cold but I'm soon acclimated. The heavy growth along the river necessitates wading the edges. More care is needed here. The river is replete with grapefruit sized boulders. It's a long walk home with a twisted ankle. The wading is slow and deliberate, being careful not to cause a wake. The fish are further downstream but it's another habit that's hard to break. The walk gives me time to survey the surroundings. All the sights are familiar, yet different. The river goes through many changes through the seasons and I make a mental note of the ones I notice. Changes mean new fishing opportunities and I try to stay observant. I stumble on a boulder and a blue heron takes flight and moves another hundred yards downstream. He is cautious but still curious. Looking up is not a good idea when wading I suppose.

The sound of a shallow riffle rises above the other noises. I am at my first destination and my wading is more cautious and deliberate. I cross the river 20 meters above the riffle to gain the ideal position. The sun has yet to rise so I am not worried about shadows. Position is first and foremost. I rub my hands together to warm them slightly. I will fish the small run below the riffle first. The fly is removed from its resting place in the keeper. I carefully peel off about twenty five feet of line from the reel. Fifteen feet are pulled through the tip and the rest coils in the water at my feet. A slight flash of white at the tail of the run gives me my target. I watch the water to make sure. I spot a second flash, then a third. I gauge the speed of the current and take a guess at the depth. My target is 10 feet above the flash. No conflicting currents make this an easy drift. The back cast is slow and deliberate, no need to shoot line here. The forward stroke is made, a slight acceleration, the rod tip is stopped above the target line and the fly is sent on its way. The line traces a graceful arc through the air. The fly lands with a slight plop and the drift begins. The rod held high in the right hand, the left hand retrieving line to keep pace with the current. The strike can't be seen and this heightens the anticipation. Another flash in the water and the line stops. A gentle lift of the rod tip and the dance begins. The frenzied tug is felt to the elbow. Not a trophy but a respectable fish. The fish is played quickly and brought to hand. A firm grasp of the lip and the hook is removed. A second to admire and quickly returned to the water.

I retrieve the line and place the hook back in its keeper. The sun is just above the trees now. I retreat to a boulder by the bank and sit down. The sun is warm on my legs and I take a few moments to revel in it. A mist rises above the river. The anxiousness in me is gone. No need to hurry now. It's opening day and there's plenty of fishing left.



River Humor

Or Jokes you wish you never heard.

Bill, Fred, and John were out fishing. Suddenly Bill caught a huge fish that pulled him off the boat and into the water. When Bill didn't re-surface, Fred dove off the boat and came up a few minutes later with Bill.

Bill didn't look too good so John did mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and commented, "I don't remember Bill having such bad breath!" Fred looked at Bill and said, "I don't remember Bill wearing a snowmobile suit, either!"

Man: "Can I have a fly rod and reel for my wife?"

Fishing Shop Owner: "Sorry sir, we don't do trades."



Dangerous diseases of the bass fisherman

By Don Wirth
BASS Times, July 2003

The SARS epidemic has sent shock waves through the entire world. After seeing the endlessly repeated televised images of helpless SARS victims wasting away in hospitals and terrified citizens breathing through masks to avoid infestation, it's no wonder we're all a bit skittish about catching this disease. But the reality of the situation is, there are plenty of other diseases that bass fishermen should be a lot more worried about.

As a public health service, I've documented some of the deadliest of these for BASS Times readers. Read what follows carefully. If you are exhibiting any of the symptoms listed below, call your doctor immediately. And stay the hell away from me!

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Bassproshopus cabelatosis

COMMON NAME: Bass Pro Shops glazeover

CAUSE: Overstimulation of sensory organs due to excessive shopping at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Cabela's, Gander Mountain or similar fishing tackle megaretailers.

SYMPTOMS: Marked glazing of the eyes and slurring of speech ("Me ... want ... spinnerbait!"). Drooling. Extreme cases can exhibit aggressive anti-social behavior; i.e., scuffling with other shoppers over prized merchandise around the closeout bin on "Bass Bait Bargain Days" and during "2-for-1 Rod Riot" promotions.

TREATMENT: Immediate removal from store. Bed rest. Xanax as prescribed by physician.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Digitalis smashus

COMMON NAME: Rod box thumb

CAUSE: Faulty piston on bass boat's rod storage box lid. Fishing partner stepping on lid while thumb is beneath rod box can aggravate the injury.

SYMPTOMS: Patient's thumb is bruised, lacerated, dislocated or broken due to heavy rod box lid repeatedly falling on it. Intense pain. Loud cursing.

TREATMENT: Bandages. Splints. Ice pack. Trade up to a new bass boat.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Hershyus squirtus

COMMON NAMES: Montezuma's revenge. Green apple quick-step.

CAUSE: Rotten food consumed at bass club tournament banquet.

SYMPTOMS: Frequent trips to bathroom, or repeated trips to shore. Moaning and groaning. Loud crying for "Ralph!"

TREATMENT: No solid food for next 24 hours except for beef jerky. If thirst persists, stay away from livewell treatments and bilge water.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Muscalaturus flippus

COMMON NAME: Torn rotator cuff

CAUSE: Repetitive motion with fishing rod, especially flipping or pitching.

SYMPTOMS: Intense pain in shoulder. Weakness in affected arm. Chronic whimpering.

TREATMENT: 16 Advil every two hours. Learn to flip or pitch with the other arm.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Ocularus distortia

COMMON NAME: Wavy windshield syndrome

CAUSE: Spending too much time behind the wheel of a bass boat.

SYMPTOMS: Distorted depth perception due to watching the world go by through a



warped piece of Plexiglas. May induce hallucinogenic flashbacks in patients who lived through the '60s.

TREATMENT: Remove windshield. Or, leave windshield in place and play Grateful Dead tape while driving boat.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Sinusitis maximus

COMMON NAMES: Allison disease. Bullet syndrome.

CAUSE: Running 90 mph in a high performance bass boat with no windshield or crash helmet, especially on cold, rainy days.

SYMPTOMS: Infected sinus cavities. Distended cheeks. Rolled-back eyelids. Slanted forehead. Chronic cough. Postnasal drip. Bugs in teeth.

TREATMENT: Back off throttle to 85 mph.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Stearnesomyalgia

COMMON NAME: Funky PFD syndrome

CAUSE: Wearing stinky, mold-infested life jacket that was kept for long periods inside wet bass boat storage box.

SYMPTOMS: Headache. Sneezing. Sniffing. Patient constantly inquires, "Do you smell cat pee?"

TREATMENT: One Clarinex twice daily. Drink plenty of fluids at home, especially Busch. Soak PFD in bleach for 72 hours to kill mold. If PFD has not dissolved by then, air-dry and return to wet storage box.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Vandamus dementia

COMMON NAME: Bass pro delusion

CAUSE: Believing everything you read.

SYMPTOMS: Patients, most of whom are weekend fishermen with only minimal angling skills, suffer the delusion that they can turn pro and get rich by winning tournaments and pocketing huge endorsement checks. Advanced cases may quit their jobs and trade in their 14-foot Bass Tracker on a 21-foot tournament rig.

TREATMENT: Symptoms typically disappear on their own after patient ends up 499th in his first pro tournament and his 21-foot tournament boat is repossessed.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Digitalus illuminata

COMMON NAME: Spike-It disease

CAUSE: Improper use of worm dyes.

SYMPTOMS: Fingers glow in the dark. Tongue and lips may be affected as well if patient consumes sandwich immediately following application of worm dye.

TREATMENT: Wash hands. Dunk only tail of worm or lizard in dye, not entire lure. Treatment may be postponed until after Halloween.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Tetanus

COMMON NAME: Gamakatsu syndrome

CAUSE: Impaling one's flesh with a rusty worm hook.

SYMPTOMS: Lockjaw.

TREATMENT: If patient is a liberal Democrat, no treatment is advised.

(Thanks Jeanette!)



The SQUEALER

I have been fishing the north branch of the Thames quite frequently for smallmouth bass. A week ago on Wednesday I happened upon a pair of so called fishermen. I immediately recognized them from the year before. These two fellows were in the habit of keeping many, many fish. I politely mentioned to them that the legal limit was 6 fish per day and they acknowledged this fact a year ago. This time I happened upon them and stood in silence behind them on the bank hidden by trees. I watched in amazement as they caught 6-8 inch smallmouth one after another. Just when they were pulling up the stringer, I stepped out of the bush and ventured into the water to have a look. Again, I mentioned the creel limit after counting 14 fish on their stringer. They said they had 9 and keep no more than their limit of 6 each. I walked down the river and fished for half an hour keeping an eye on them. When I started back towards them, they scrambled trying to gather up their gear and beat me to the trail. Ha,ha, I was too fast. I took their plate number, description of the car as well as both of the guys and called our local conservation officer. Today I received a call from Dave Beavers from the MNR. He went to Thorndale and spotted the car last night. He waited for the two fishermen to come up. They finally did after a 2 hour wait. Boy, were they surprised!! After all, 18 fish on the stringer for 2 anglers. Well you do the math. Outcome: lost their gear, and a fine of \$500.00 I hope all of you are in the same boat as me. They get what they deserve!!!

Randy Bailey
AKA Squealer!!!!



**I Report Wildlife Crime
Do You?**

Report Poaching to Crime Stoppers

1 800 222-TIPS

Most people are not aware that you can call Crime Stoppers any time to report Poaching activity. The Crime Stoppers program will pay cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of people who abuse our natural resources.

You can always call your local Ministry of Natural Resources Office during Office hours and report such incidents, but now you have a place to pass the information on to outside office hours.

Crime Stoppers is a non profit organization run by citizens to aid law enforcement agencies solve crimes. They are not government run or funded. They operate on public donations and money raised through fund raising.

Most people can not figure out how they can receive money for a tip from Crime Stoppers.

This is how it works

- You call the Crime Stoppers office. You will not be asked to identify yourself or any other information that could identify you. you do not give your name, phone number or any information about yourself.
- You give the information YOU have about a crime. You are given an identification number and asked to call back in a certain length of time (i.e. couple of weeks).
- Your information is passed on to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- They make an arrest and report back to Crime Stoppers.
- You call back, give your identification number and are told you are eligible for a reward and asked if you want it. You say yes.
- You are told the Board of Directors will decide how much the reward will be and you are given a date to call back.
- The determined reward amount, in cash, is put in an envelope and delivered to a pick up location. number on the envelope and told where to pick it up.
- You call back and are given instructions of where to pick up the reward.
- You go and pick it up.
- The Poacher is punished and no one knows where the information came from.

(Crime Stoppers pays for arrests not convictions - this differs from most reward systems)

The Crime Stoppers program has proven itself around the world on all kinds of crime. It has been very successful in many parts of our province in helping Conservation Officers catch people who have little respect for our natural resources. The new Canada wide phone number 1 (800) 222-TIPS has made it easier than ever to make this good program work better.

It is the Conservation Officers job to protect our natural resources and everyone's responsibility.



If phoning in a crime is a little to intimidating for you, you can now snitch on-line at:

http://www.outdoors.on.ca/wildlife/rap_ontario.html