



Editor's Eddy

Unlike prestigious weekly newsmagazines, this circular doesn't formally require its Editor to fill this column – or even to have the column, for that matter. It just happens to look a heck of a lot neater. Regardless of its size, every editorial needs motivation from an incident, a conversation, a pet peeve, or perhaps a stray thought that gels. So, what has inspired your scribe this month?

Actually, very little, now that the fishing season has wrapped up. But there is some good news / bad news.

Some good news is that the Special Regulations that have applied to parts of the Credit River and Whiteman's Creek for many years have been showing, scientifically, positive benefits for trout populations (see *article on page 2*). This data release is timely since MNR is scheduled to hold a stakeholders' meeting on proposed changes to regulations on the Credit on November 18th. I only hope that the diagrams accompanying the article don't give the impression that this is a technical magazine; we wouldn't want to have to change the name of the *Single Haul* to *Canadian Journal of Flyfishing Sciences*.

There is also some disappointing news (to us) that Bill and Helen Christmas have moved from the banks of Bronte Creek to Caledonia on the Grand River. Because of the great distance, we can't expect to see too much of Bill at meetings, and he has already made arrangements to hand over his long-standing, unofficial role as IWFFC's "keeper of upper Bronte Creek." At the 2002 Forum, Bill was made one of the club's few life members in recognition of the enormous role he has played in IWFFC, so he can't leave us even if he should want to! I'm sure that all of you will join me in wishing good luck to Bill and Helen in their new surroundings.

It's nice to see some articles by relatively fresh faces, namely: Ken O'Brien and Mike Rowan. In previous issues, there were a couple of nice mood pieces by Sharon Cook. Maybe articles like Mike's and Sharon's, which are anything but technical, will inspire you to create your own angling travelogues. It's up to anyone who doesn't sign his or her name with an "X" to keep the stream of verbalizing flowing so that we can hold our annual target to about ten issues. You've got my number.

Bob Kuehnbaum, November 10, 2002

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Quotable / Notable Quotes

...some men seem to "think like fish" more than others. They are the smart ones who can take one look at a pool or a riffle and sense immediately where to pause and plop their sloppy, ill-delivered casts, when all the while we Fancy Dans are posturing grandly over there, unerringly sending out long whistling dramatic casts over the favorite lies of old tomato cans.

- Robert Traver, *Trout Madness*

Some act and talk as though casting were the entire art of Fly-fishing, and grade an angler solely by the distance he can cover with his flies. This is a great mistake and pernicious in its influence. Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and within its reach. It is merely placing food before a guest. The selection of such food as will suit, and so serving it as to please a fastidious and fickle taste, still remain indispensably necessary to induce its acceptance.

- Henry P. Wells, *Fly-Rods and Fly-Tackle*, 1885

IWFFC Membership Grows

Congratulations! To Sophie & Andrew Roberts who are pleased and excited to announce the arrival of their daughter Emily Lavinia on October 23. All is well at the Roberts' homestead. Emily weighed in at about the same as a 28 inch brown (7 lb 14 oz).

Like it or not, Emily, since your parents have a family membership, you are automatically one of us. You can't escape! There'll be a tree planting day next April 19th.

Grand River Trout Stocking

For those of you who know that the Fergus – Elora area of the Grand River is stocked with brown trout, but are totally unaware of the numbers, here are some facts. Friends of the Grand report that, in 2002, they stocked 23,872 1-year-plus browns in the main Grand, as well as 16,500 in Carroll and Swan Creeks (tributaries). The average size of the 40,372 fish was 71.7 grams, and the average length about 7 inches. *(Some of them will some day be 20- to 28-inchers - which I likely will not catch! – Ed.)*

Special Regulations – After 15 Seasons

On October 15, OMNR Biologist Jim Bowlby gave a presentation at our general meeting of the analysis of data collected since 1988 on Special Regulations waters in southern Ontario. We thank Jim for not only coming a long way to make his presentation, but also for forwarding his diagrams and some comments for inclusion in this article (which he also reviewed). It is the first time that this information has been made available to the public.

Newer members may not be aware that the original reach of river in Ontario with special trout angling regulations applied to the Trout Unlimited – landowner agreement waters, known as the Sligo reach, on the Credit River. In 1988, MNR was impressed with the success of Sligo and, with a little persuasion from TUC and IWFFC, applied the same regulations on a test basis to the Credit River from Brimstone to Charleston Sideroad. Those regulations are: a possession limit of one brook or brown trout which must be at least 50 cm in length, all other brook and brown trout to be released; use of artificial lure with single de-barbed hook only. The same regulations have applied to brown and rainbow trout in the Apps Mill reach of Whiteman's Creek.

MNR, with local conservation authorities, originally intended to study the impacts of the special regulations by doing habitat assessment, annual fish population studies, annual spawning surveys and creel surveys. At Whiteman's Creek, two non-regulated control reaches (Rest Acres and

Mill Street) were established, as well as the test reach. On the Credit, three test reaches in the regulated zones were set up: the TUC waters and Brimstone to Cataract (brown and brook trout) and; Cataract to Charleston Sideroad (brook trout); the control reaches were Forks of the Credit Road and Forks to Brimstone (brook and brown trout) and the Charles Sauriol Conservation Area (brook trout).

Unfortunately, this phase was only well funded until 1991. In 1993, money was provided by IWFFC, TUC, CVC and others, and in 1994 funding came from MNR and DFO. In 1998 and 1999, there was only a little funding. During this period, there were many staff changes at MNR, and the project wasn't a big priority. Most importantly, there was no provision to seriously *do* something with the data. However, MNR Science staff in London did not give up on the project. Finally, in 1999, Jim Bowlby was given the task of population analysis.

Many problems were found with the data from both Whiteman's Creek and the Credit. The spawning survey data were suspect, and the creel censuses were unusable; the habitat assessments were about half-done. Fortunately the fish population (biomass) data, determined by electrofishing surveys, were adequate, although differing methodologies and some lost data forms meant that populations couldn't be calculated very accurately for the Credit after 1990. Nonetheless, Jim was able to put together a picture in five consecutive periods from 1989-90 to 1993-94.

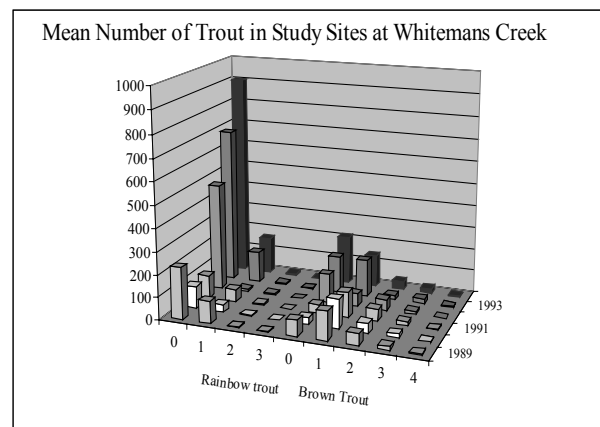
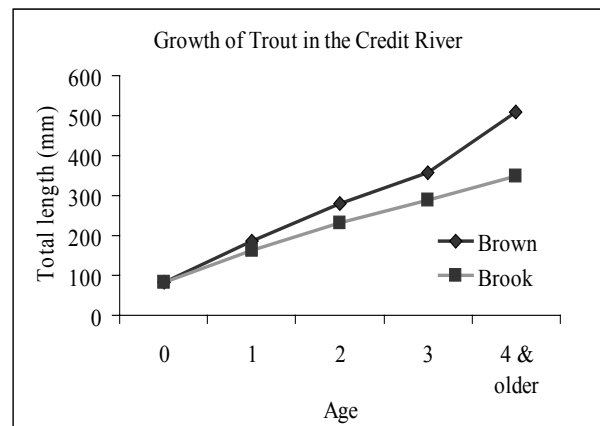
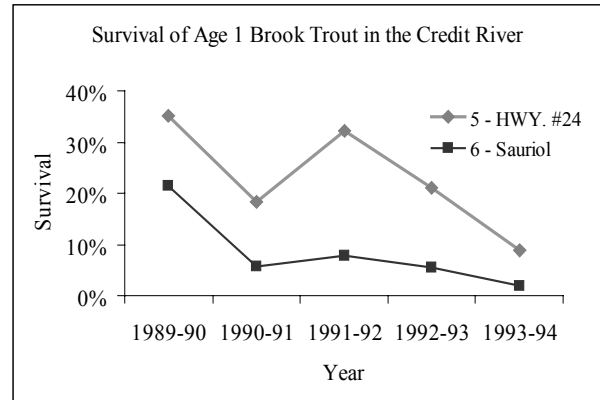
During that period, it is clear that the limited Special Regulations had a beneficial effect on the trout populations of both rivers. Brown and brook trout survival rates were higher in the four test sites compared to the reference sites. The first figure shows this clearly for the Credit River for years 1 and 2 brown trout, and the second figure demonstrates it clearly for brook trout above Cataract. Survival rates for brook trout were not good in 1993-1994, a year of stressful conditions, suggesting that Nature may have more influence than anglers on year-to-year populations. Nonetheless, limiting or eliminating the taking of fish is one thing that humans can control to offset our own impact on the environment.

The trout growth rate is somewhat higher in Whiteman's Creek. Three-year brown trout averaged about 410 mm (16") in length, whereas Credit River brown's averaged about 360 mm (14"). The average size of four-year plus trout was very similar (about 530 vs. 510 mm, respectively). On the Credit, a 7-8 year brown is old indeed; growth rate for brook trout is lower (3rd figure), and only a few live longer than 4 years (6 maximum).

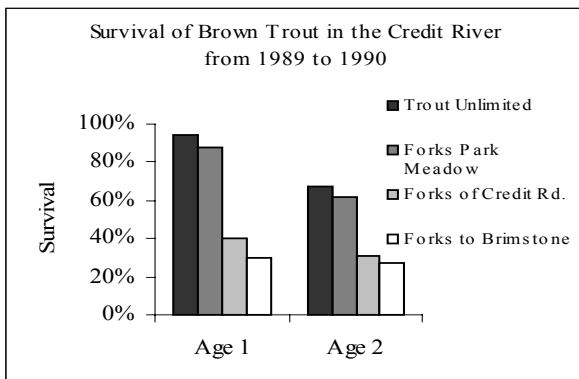
The final figure demonstrates that brown trout populations from 1988 to 1994 increased in Whiteman's Creek, despite the proliferation of rainbow trout (steelhead). This does not mean, however, that the brown trout would not have fared even better had there not been competition - but we'll never know.

River fecundity due to mankind's waste is not restricted to the Grand River. The good rate of fish growth in Whiteman's Creek, Jim feels, is due to agricultural fertilizers – like the Grand. The Credit River is prolific amongst southern Ontario trout streams because of nutrients from the Orangeville sewage treatment plant – also like the Grand. But the Credit and Whiteman's benefit greatly from the addition of spring water, whereas the Grand relies on the Bellwood Lake bottom draw.

Although TUC and IWFFC were instrumental in the formation of Special Regulations on the Credit River and Whiteman's Creek, there had been, until recently, virtually no emphasis on the creation of more of the same on resident trout waters since this modest but, we feel, highly important beginning 14 years ago. Earlier in 2002, however, IWFFC made a proposal to MNR to apply reduced catch limits and other changes on the Credit River upstream of Inglewood. Jim's data should scientifically underscore the importance of what we anglers already know. And TUC intends to have no-kill regulations in the Sligo agreement waters in place for 2003. Considering the angling pressure that the waters of this province receive and the constant rumblings we hear of the plummeting of all types of native fish stocks, Ontario seems to be behind many other North American jurisdictions in the application and promotion of catch-and-release angling – a policy which has been largely led by the fly fishing community – and severely reduced catch limits. IWFFC can do much in this end. It has been IWFFC's policy to promote and support catch-and-release angling, rather than stocking to supplement declining populations.



Diagrams courtesy of Jim Bowlby, OMNR



Approaches for Hard-to-Catch Trout

Ken O'Brien

Finding fish is a fly fisher's challenge, but catching them once located can be more problematical. All species of trout that are regularly fished over become more difficult to catch as the season progresses. Newly stocked Grand River browns are easy to fool on Hendrickson dry flies in

May, but they may later refuse Cahill dries in July. Yellowstone River cutthroat trout at the popular Buffalo Ford access are easier to fool at the beginning of the season in July than in September. Even the accommodating spring-time brook trout of the upper Credit become more discriminating later in the season. While there are no magic bullets in fly fishing, there are numerous tactics available that will improve your odds in these situations.

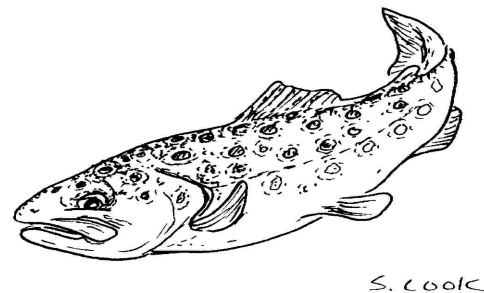
The first tactic is to fish *when* others don't. As spring proceeds to summer, the hatch times move from midday to the low light periods of early morning and evening. The spinner falls that occurred in early evening in spring may now occur at night in mid July. Diurnal invertebrate drift, the twice daily drift of nymphs, further promotes fish activity at dawn and dusk. In some cases species competition will cause trout to be active at different times. Young rainbow trout, which often feed in the cover of riffles during the day may cause the browns to feed at times when the rainbows are less active. Finally, persistent fishing pressure may cause trout to change their behaviour to feed during times of less active angling. Yet, despite the changes in hatch times and fish activity, fishing traffic tends to be very light at dawn and taper off quickly with the approach of darkness. Brook trout seem to favour early morning periods; brown trout favour evenings, often becoming nocturnal. Fish tend to lessen their sense of caution in low light – possibly because of the decreased risk of natural predation. They are not as concerned about your presence and may feed surprisingly close by, often in very shallow water. At the same time, visibility is more limited, and fish are less discriminating about fly selection and tippet size. They'll use their lateral lines to sense what's happening around them and are more likely to investigate sounds and vibrations such as from a bulky streamer, mouse or beetle pattern.

Consequently, there are a number of advantages to fishing during low light periods, even though it presents its own set of challenges in moving around, changing flies and casting. There is a culture of night fishing in Michigan during the Hexagenia hatch, but late night angling is not common in our region and may represent a significant opportunity for enterprising anglers to explore.

The second tactic is to fish *where* others don't. Fish subjected to less fishing pressure are easier to catch than those that receive more fishing pressure. You can improve your odds if you distance yourself from the crowds. A fifteen to twenty minute walk from your access point will often put you beyond the limits of most anglers. Another

approach is to fish a reach more thoroughly. It's easy, especially when fish are feeding on top, to become distracted by select sections of a reach or to become habituated by previous success, thereby overlooking other holding spots. The fish that live in the less obvious or more challenging sections of a reach probably see fewer flies and may be easier to fool than fish living in the choice sections. I'm often surprised at the locations I bypass where I'm told bigger fish live.

While the methods discussed above attempt to address hard to catch fish by focusing on easier to catch fish, we will nevertheless come across feeding trout that are not easy prey - in particular, trout feeding on the surface during a hatch. While for some solving the hatch challenge is the epitome of fly fishing, for many others the initial challenge can lead to frustration. A successful approach I've found is based on the process of elimination.



The first step to solving the puzzle is to get from a position of fish ignoring your fly to fish refusing your fly; a refusal is where a fish makes a pass at taking, or inspects your fly but does not take it. The process begins with making enough observations about what the trout are eating to minimize, as much as possible, your initial fly selection. Capture a specimen with your net if you can, or hunt for one in eddies and spider webs. A specimen will assist with species and size selection, but not necessarily the stage the fish are feeding upon. Consider also the possibility of several species hatching at the same time. During a hatch situation, it's important to observe what the fish are eating. There may be duns parading through feeding fish, but are the fish actually eating the duns you see? Often, hatches are sporadic and don't occur in great numbers in a short period of time. Your knowledge of the hatch chart coupled with observation of flies in the air will guide you towards more appropriate fly selection. You will often not observe exactly what the fish are taking but what you do observe should narrow your choices down. Tie on the most likely prospect and fish it for a while. Change flies and try

again until you get a take or refusal. Getting to this stage can be repetitious and very challenging, often involving long and concentrated inspections of the fly box. The objective is to attract a fish's attention and get a take or at least a refusal. A refusal indicates that you're very close to what the fish is eating and is an important milestone in the elimination process.

If a refusal is achieved, the second step is to refine the presentation by adjusting fly selection, tippet size or location. I've often found that changing the fly size, more often down one size, is all that's necessary. On the upper Bow River in Canmore two years ago I found two feeding browns. I eventually got a refusal on a #12 Adams to imitate a Western green drake, which hatches periodically, and caught the first fish on a #14 Adams on the first good drift. I hooked, but lost the other, bigger brown on the next cast. If changing fly size does not result in a take or, worse, a refusal, you may have put the fish down; cast to a new fish. If no fish responds to the new fly, change back to the old fly and decrease the tippet size. Tippet size is an often overlooked variable. One evening this past August on the Crowsnest River in southern Alberta, we had great success catching rainbows on pale morning dun spinners. But two evenings later, fishing to the same fish on 5X with the same flies, we caught only one. We later talked to a guide who was fishing successfully below us that evening and he advised that 6X was generally a better choice. Furthermore, he added that his girlfriend usually outfished him using 7X. Finally, in the excitement of rising fish, it's easy to become overly focused on the trout you're working on. It's better to periodically move away from a particular area of fish - since your efforts may put them off -and fish a new area.

I find that if I'm persistent the approach usually works. On occasions when I don't have the fly I'd like to try, I've been successful using a similar pattern in the appropriate size in a close but different colour. The approach may take some time to find the working pattern but the results can be very rewarding since the pattern will usually work on many trout. On the Yellowstone River a few years ago, fish began feeding on top in significant numbers. I couldn't see anything on the water but did notice a pale mayfly in the air. I changed from a nymph pattern to a dry fly. I changed patterns a few times until a fish came up and inspected a #14 cream Usual. I changed flies a few more times and finally put on a #16 Usual. A fish ate it immediately and for the rest of the afternoon, I caught a mixture of cutthroats, browns and rainbows about fast as I could land and release them.

Fly Fishing Quiz

1. You are taking a novice caster stream fishing. What is one of the most important casts or techniques you would want to teach this new caster?
 - a. Oval cast
 - b. Palm retrieve
 - c. Horizontal cast
 - d. Mending
2. To recast a sinking line
 - a. Make roll casts to get line to the water surface
 - b. Exaggerate the loading move to break the water tension
 - c. Make an oval cast
 - d. Accelerate your backcast to get the line to the water surface
3. In which case(s) would you direct your forward cast higher than your backcast?
 - a. Slack line cast
 - b. Long distance cast
 - c. In a backing wind
 - d. All of the above
4. If you hear a pop or snap when you begin your forward cast you should
 - a. Speed up your casting stroke
 - b. Wait longer for your line to unroll
 - c. Change you casting angle
 - d. Widen your loop

(by FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor Liz Watson of the Northwest Women Fly Fishers, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire). Answers on page 8.

Winter Tying Strategy

Bob Kuehnbaum

Fly tying can be pleasurable and creative. But for many whose main interest in flyfishing is *the flyfishing*, or whose tying skills are less than finely tuned, the fashioning of flies can be a grind or, at worst, a necessary evil. For most of us, expense precludes the buying of ready-made flies as an alternative, and for anglers matching the fauna of home waters, nothing beats personal creations. But if lacking fun, the task is often put off until just before the next fishing season, at which time it can become very burdensome – to say nothing of hectic. Here are a few suggestions, however, that may make the process a little easier.

If you have some space in your abode that you can call your own, set up your vise and leave it

there. Most of us watch some (probably way too much) TV, so placing your vise strategically in front of one can help catch two fish with one fly. Watch something that doesn't require undivided attention while you fumble with feathers, like the Leafs getting rolled over, or the news (the rest of the world getting rolled over). If listening to music does it for you, turn on the radio. Then discipline yourself to a simple goal: to tie *a minimum of just one fly every day*, starting from the day after you stop fishing. Now, creating one fly might take anywhere from a few to twenty minutes, depending on whether you're doing caddis larvae or bass bugs, but you'll probably spend an average of ten minutes. It's almost inevitable that if you sit down to fix one fly, you'll probably end up doing several. At ten minutes per fly, you should be able to do two or three during the news; at least a half-dozen during a hockey game.

But here's the discipline part: If you tie six one day, the key is not to take five days off, but to sit down the next day and tie *at least one*. Another good approach is to make a list of the number of each type of fly that you'll need for the next season, picking one pattern (e.g. Hendrickson Usual) at a time and sticking to it until you've got your target number. That way, you can keep the appropriate materials at the ready, encouraging you to finish one pattern before moving on to the next. Also, you might try tying the early season flies first and late season flies last – so you don't find yourself with a whole bunch of Autumn Sedges and no blue-winged olive patterns on opening day.

Obviously, there will be days when you can't tie, such as when you're out of town, or if your spouse breaks all of your fingers and gets the blow drier a little too close to your materials. But you should try to catch up for the days you miss. If you can keep up that objective of one per day minimum, you'll be done in advance of the spring – quite possibly by Christmas. That will leave time for either not tying at all, or for trying some experimental or new patterns seen in magazines, at club meetings or at the Forum. As routine as fly tying can be, it's still fun to be creative once in a while.

A pleasant side effect of all this is that you probably won't have to tie much at all during the season when you want to use your spare time to be on the water.

And for all of you who really *do* enjoy fly tying: More power to you, lucky sods!

Salty Walton's Cape Cod Adventures, 2002 Version

"Salty Mike" Rowan

The plan was to meet at 7 o'clock on Friday morning, pick up Ted at his place get to the Duty Free in Fort Erie by 8:30 am and head across the Peace Bridge for the Cape by 9 am. Well, that was the plan.

Ken got to Jim's right on time, or a few minutes early, since he was as keen as the rest of us to get his nose filled with the salt air for the ninth time. They started out on the Don Valley at a bit after 6 am, expecting the traffic to be light. That's where things went off the plan. All lanes stopped with a roll over on the Don Valley south ... road closed. Jim and Ken fortunately bailed one exit early and found a route around the mess. They got onto the QEW west and were off to pick me up. Then event number two happened close to my pickup spot - a bit of road rage right in front of them. Because of a poorly timed lane change, an offended driver cut his car in front of another and slammed on his brakes. Meanwhile, the car behind all this mess tried to stop quickly, and a big 18 wheeler behind him locked his wheels. But it was too late. Ken swerved to miss the mess of flying glass, managed to keep control and got past it. They met me a few minutes late with their hearts pounding; I thought it was because they were glad to see me!

We picked up Ted and were quickly off to the Duty Free for a few refreshments for the week, and a birthday gift for my wife. There was one planned stop at the Bears' Den fly shop before the 6 pm closing, and then dinner on the Cape and fishing Friday night - all night, since we couldn't get the key to our cottage until 2 pm. I took up a new sport: sleeping on a park bench in the wind and rain...but that's another story for the pub after a meeting.

Yes, we are keen and, yes, we are nuts. But this has come from years of thinking, studying, reading and planning. We have made notes, photos, tapes and maps, and discussed when and where to fish during our scheduled week - sometimes over a few (okay, many) beers.

Unfortunately, knowing the places to cast a line doesn't mean that you're going to catch fish. You have to know things like where to position yourself, how to present the fly, what line to use, what kind of fly the fish will like and what size. Then there are things like moon phases, weather, tides, water clarity and temperature, when to be there and the fish's mood on the day that you're casting at them. Not only does all of that have to be in your

favour, but you're also dependent on the baitfish and what they decide to do. And you have to know trigonometry, calculus and quantum physics. Well, that's a slight exaggeration, but some days when nothing seems to work, you need to ask yourself if you feel lucky! There's one other thing which is most important: spending time on the water. Lots and lots of time - and through the night as well.

This year the fishing was tough. Only a few of the 20+ Canadians that made the trip hit it big. We named a new spot on Barnstable Harbour the "Fox Hole" after John Fox, since he seemed to connect with the magic there a few times. We fished hard and hit all the spots we've learned about over the years. We found fish in West Falmouth Harbour, the west end of the Canal and Cotuit - but only a few and nothing like the 250+ fish days of the past. Nonetheless, it was a good year and we will do it again.

We did get noticed. Jim checked the reports for the week we were on the Cape, and the Canadians got mentioned in the *reel-time.com* fishing report. So much for a low key trip!

Often, we book our trip to the Cape based on when all of my fishing partners can make the trip together, rather on the best time to go fishing. And to that end, we've already set the plans in motion for next year that will mark our tenth trip. Yes, this is now something we all really enjoy and look forward to every year. We are lucky since we all get along and seem to work well together. It is one of the few weeks off that I get away and relax from a high tech, high pressure, high stress job, I and really want to spend most of it fishing. I love to talk and show others how to fly fish, and I spent days with others before the trip to help them plan and learn. But I only want to spend a few of my precious hours sharing that passion during the week while I'm there. Then, it's time for fishing!

To help the next new guy out there who wants to make the trip next year here is some free, charitable advice.

Remember the movie *Grumpy Old Men*? It's probably the best example of good fishing partners gone very bad. We laughed and cried with both grumps over their struggles in sharing tackle, fishing spots, and relationships. Watching those guys was a *déjà vu* experience for most of us who have fished with different partners. Fly fishing relationships are like all other relationships. It can end in someone getting wet! The best advice is to discuss things before the trip, plan and have some guidelines, and - right up front - make a list. Ask each other questions regarding when and where to fish, what to eat, when to sleep, spending plans,

use of guides, meals and so on. A week can be a long time if you're having a hard time with your roommates and the fishing is tough.

Having fished with the guys for several years, I've learned some valuable lessons that I feel obligated to share to help others avoid the pitfalls of relationships.

Fishing:

1. Half the fun of a trip is in the planning. Discuss the upcoming adventure in advance. Make a list of things to bring, food etc.
2. There is a need to share fishable water. By nature, we all want to be able to put the fly on the first fish that shows its face. Agree in advance how you are going to do this. Decide on space and alternating approaches, spotting fish for your mates or sharing casts at a fish may be a way to nurture a fly fishing relationship.
3. Discuss when and where. Check the weather, set a time and place, and get all to agree. If someone wants to sleep, shop or whatever it's okay. If you have only one car, all need to have keys and co-ordinate what to do.
4. If you want to fish with others in the big group, plan it out before the trip - or at least the day before.
5. If you're going to use high tech headsets to communicate, discuss how and when to talk. Noise in the ear at 4 am can get annoying.

All the other issues can be lumped into the catchall Category of "just being human." We are all unique and have our own ways. In other words, we may have to put up with other people's nasty habits, like smokers vs. non-smokers, drinkers vs. non-drinkers, high rollers, chewing, spitting, bragging, whining and cursing. The hardest personality for me to tolerate is the natural-born, accident-prone, gear-breaking, fly-hooking, non-stop-talking slob who never brings any food or flies and always bums them. Sounds just like me! My partners need to be full of mercy, patience and kindness. They also need my money for expense sharing, and my cell phone to call 911 when I injure them or myself! Mutual respect for - or at least patience in the face of - each other's idiosyncrasies, including tolerance of each other's egos—or absence thereof - will prevent bloodshed! It may take several trips to get it right but, when you do, keeping it that way still takes work. If you are tolerant of your angling friend's natural habits, fly-fishing skill level, and techniques,

then you'll live to tell about another day on the water!

Well, that's enough charity work for today. Time to go fishing!



Upcoming Meeting Schedule

December 3. Fly tying. Guest tyer: Dariusz Boron, representing Wilson's, will demonstrate steelhead flies and others. Intermediate tyer: Bruce Rattray.

December 17. General meeting. Mike Zimmer on the results of the Credit River brown trout migration survey.

January 7. Fly tying. Guest tyer: Rob Heal, representing Grindstone Angling & Outfitters. Intermediate tyer: Gord Lindsay from Winter Hatches will do quick and simple spring steelhead patterns.

January 21. General meeting: Steve Copeland, President of Ontario Streams on Flyfishing at Lac Beauchene, PQ, and in Montana.

Great Lakes Fly Tying Expo

The Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is holding the third annual Fly Tying Exposition on Saturday, December 7, 2002, at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, Michigan, a few miles south of Lansing on I-127, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is US\$8 for adults, US\$5 for youth (13 to 18) and no-charge for 12 and under.

Over 100 tyers are anticipated. To nominate a tyer for the event or for more information contact Dennis Potter: <AuSable1@aol.com> or (616) 363-4966.

Exceptional Waters - Epilogue

In late October, this letter arrived from Ryan Plummer whose graduate studies at the University of Guelph on the "Exceptional Waters Project" were partly funded by IWFFC. We congratulate Ryan - now in a teaching position at Brock University - with completion of his Ph.D. Anyone wishing to peruse his thesis should contact your Editor.

Dear Bob,

Accompanying this letter is the final deliverable from the Exceptional Waters Project - a bound copy of my doctoral dissertation titled "Managing Natural Resources Together: The Role of Social Capital in the Co-management Process". I believe this initiative has been tremendously successful in advancing knowledge pertaining to the management of river corridors. As an epilogue to the research, I am pleased to inform you that one group is completely self sufficient and currently undertaking a strategic planing process for their sub-watershed. The other two groups have continued in various capacities with one emphasizing access and the other exploring funding options.

Innovation is only possible through vision, support, and dedication. I would like to express my gratitude for your personal commitment to the Exceptional Waters Project. I also appreciate the support of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club in this initiative. It has been a privilege and personally enriching experience to work with you and your organization. I eagerly anticipate a time when Exceptional Waters is adopted at a provincial or national level.

I look forward to working with you again in the future. Sincerely, (signed) Ryan Plummer

Answers to Fly Fishing Quiz

1(d); 2(a); 3(d); 4(b)

Contacting IWFFC

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