



Editor's Eddy

In early July, my family made a pilgrimage to southern California to visit in-laws. I had been looking forward to the possibility of getting in some trout angling in the greater L.A. area. The region, however, is in the third year of a severe water shortage, and many of the drainages are suffering badly. Most parts have received about ¼ of their annual precipitation, and reservoirs are getting low. I've never seen the landscape so parched. The authorities claim that the situation isn't critical – but I have a strong sense that the (false?) optimism is mostly due to the upcoming mid-term elections.

Anyway, the drought, coupled with the prospect of some healthy drives through not-so-healthy L.A. traffic in even less healthy smog, made me decide to leave the fish alone. But I did some good research into places for the next time around. Licence prices are reasonable, although there aren't a lot of destinations. Actually, most flyfishing by southern Californians seems to be done in Mexico and Alaska, or in the salt. The northern part of the state, however, is a totally different story.

In our own region, we've certainly had our share of the "dog days" of summer. Indeed, this July was the second hottest on record, after 1999. Water temperatures on the upper Credit have reached as high as 25°C, well beyond the safety range for brook and brown trout. Yet, some anglers continue to go out in the heat of the day, paying little attention to conditions. Near the end of July, I found a dead 15-inch brown trout that I'd wager was killed by a careless catch & release angler. The Grand has been more fortunate. A wet, cool spring and the bottom draw of Belwood Lake have maintained good water temperatures through the heat waves, although at times things have been a bit stretched.

We encourage catch and release anglers to practice a bit of common sense in times of heat. Try trout fishing early in the morning. Measure the water temperature before you start and monitor it hourly. If it rises to over 20-21°C, quit. Or go late in the evening and wait until the temperature falls to a safe level. If it doesn't, go fishing for bass, pike, panfish or gar. Go paint the house. Paint a picture. Under warm conditions, it's a safe bet that fishing for trout will be poor at best, anyway – so why bother?

Even if conditions are fishable, play and release your fish sensibly and with respect. You know the drill.

Bob Kuehnbaum, August 15, 2002

Conservation Update

Bob Kuehnbaum, Conservation Chair

Sligo Workday, July 14

This TUC-sponsored project consisted of re-organizing and anchoring the woody debris (log jams) in an area of the Credit River just downstream from Sligo Bridge. This was a day of hot and heavy work, and we thank the 13 volunteers who participated. Thanks are also due to Credit Valley Conservation for in-kind support in the persons of Dave Beaton (the organizer) and Bob Morris (also IWFFC member.) Six other volunteers are IWFFC members, including Roy de Guisti, Brian Greck, Brian Morrison, Carlos Quevedo, Bruce Rattray and Mike Warrian.

Grand River Progress

The Grand River Fisheries Management Plan Implementation Committee consists of members from a variety of government and non-government organizations, namely: Ontario Steelheaders, OMNR (including the Lake Erie Management Unit), OMNR – Exceptional Waters, Grand River Conservation Authority, Ontario Streams, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, Six Nations, and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Club member Jack Imhof represents TU Canada as their national biologist. Special appreciation is deserved by Gary Allen who represented both IWFFC and TUC on the fisheries management plan and continues in the same capacity on the implementation committee.

There are numerous projects under way and under consideration by other subcommittees and working groups for:

- the tailwater fishery below the Shand Dam. Club members Bill Christmas and Vic Cairns are on this committee, Bill representing IWFFC and Vic representing Fisheries & Oceans.
- the placement of large cover for brown trout over-wintering and the creation of riffles for spawning below the low level bridge in the Elora Conservation Area
- public access improvements at Brant Park and Caledonia dam
- the creation of a large wetland/lake complex from an existing clay excavation on a

property between Dunnville and Port Maitland, owned by IMC

- migratory species. Interestingly, this group has agreed that a barrier at the mouth of Whiteman's Creek may not be required.
- signage and public information (publicity)
- recovery and protection of reidside dace (now in the implementation stage)

In addition, the Exceptional Waters group (Paris to Brantford) examined six reaches in the exceptional waters area. The work is helping to understand large river hydraulic habitats in conjunction with hydraulics/fish species interfaces.

The riparian working group is pursuing the development of an Ontario-wide program that will offer incentives to riparian landowners that maintain or establish stream buffers.

The Grand River Legacy Project was initiated to hire a project coordinator to a build agency capacity and develop partnerships to implement the "best bets" priorities of the GRFMP and focus on the marketing of the GRFMP and the Legacy Landmark program. Funding models and partnerships are being considered.

The GRFMPIC are also considering the establishment of a River Watch program in the Exceptional Waters area, similar to the existing program on the Grand River below the Shand Dam.

Transfers of Aquatic Organisms

In January, 2002, the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers released a document entitled "National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms." The Code was developed to deal with the introduction and transfer of aquatic species into Canada and within and between provinces and territories. There is a delicate balance between trying to create new recreational angling and commercial aquaculture opportunities, and the concern over the potential ecological impacts of non-native organisms.

There is an 18-month review and comment period (beginning January, 2002) and IWFFC has been invited to comment on the Code. Your executive feels that this is an important issue and will undertake a review. If you are interested in examining the documentation and providing some feedback, please contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684 for a copy. We'd like to have your comments.

Passings

In the last while, the flyfishing community has lost a few bright stars. Most recently, Ted Williams, the illustrious Boston Red Sox outfielder who was the last major leaguer to hit over .400 in a season, died in July. He owned a cabin on the Miramichi and fished for Atlantic salmon there regularly.

H.G. "Tap" Tappley, a long time columnist in *Field & Stream*, died in March in Wolfboro NH. His articles were titled "Tap's Tips."

Gary LaFontaine, well known writer and enthusiast, succumbed to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in January at the young age of 56. He was an innovative fly tyer, and developed new caddis patterns (including the famous "sparkle caddis") after watching emerging pupae from the trout's point of view – underwater. He published more than 100 articles on flyfishing and authored five books including *Caddisflies*, *The Dry Fly*, *Trout Flies*, *Proven Patterns* and *The Dry Fly: New Angles*. He coauthored several others.

Quotable / Notable Quotes

"The Green Drake nearly spoiled me rotten. During its hectic presence I became careless about my casting, about my position, about whether or not the trout took me for a cow or thought they were making huge plump herons this year - and mostly it did not matter. If a trout had the sweet tooth for a drake, if it seemed so determined to risk its skin to get one, I could understand: I feel that way about duck-liver pate, country style."

-- Nick Lyons

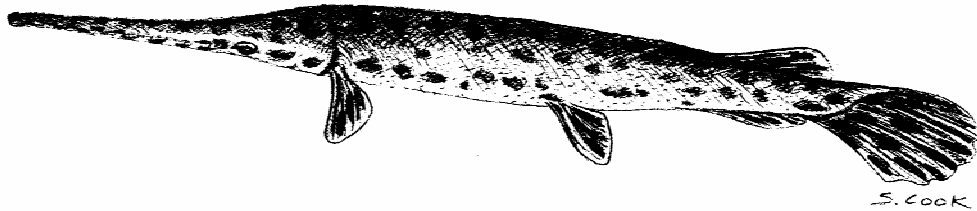
To me heaven would be a big bull ring with me holding two barrera seats and a trout stream outside that no one else was allowed to fish in and two lovely houses in the town; one where I would have my wife and children and be monogamous and love them truly and well and the other where I would have my nine beautiful mistresses on nine different floors.

-- Ernest Hemingway

(Ernest was quite ambitious. How many of us – at least those of us over a certain age - would happily settle for the private trout stream full of Lyons' hatching green drakes for, say, 50 days a year? – Ed.)

Fishing with Ol' Longmouth

Sharon Cook



We nickname the summer bass that we fish for either “smallmouth” or “largemouth”, but I have also named the gar “longmouth.” Technically, of course, these fish are known as the longnose gar or, if you prefer the Latin, *Lepisosteus osseus*. But the mouths of these boney fish are after all, like their noses, long and pencil thin. In fact, you could almost mistake them for primeval bird beaks with their rows of needle-like teeth. Such an old, exotic-looking, prehistoric scaly relic with crocodilian, maybe even dinosaurian inspired markings!

Fly fishing for these longmouths is often an act of optimism, practiced with a kind of barbless faith. But mostly it is unexpected discovery. I don't know if their curious ways and mysterious behaviour are a result of the group itself being scientifically classified as being alone in its family tree, with no close relatives. Be we – that is, Ken Geddes and I – can attest to some unusual episodes.

It must be explained that you fish “with” them and not “for” them. Sometimes, the gar we have encountered appear to be curious or even nonchalant about us, and do not hesitate to hang around us as we are fishing. Maybe they will learn that we are supposed to be fishing for *them*. Maybe not.

One such gar episode took place at one of our favourite fishing spots. This is a place where the Trent River spreads thinly over loose boulders and where large limestone shards are stacked sideways in broken pieces. The walk in can be treacherous, so I try to pick out a path once and stick to it. Of

course, every year the river rearranges things and a new way through the recently renovated obstacle course needs to be charted. A challenge met or, really, the perfect prelude to gar fishing, like a sort of mental pre-game fitness exercise. But once past these clattering stones, the river widens into a small bay, much easier for wading.

Here, on bright summer days, the old willows that hang over the water's edge hide the darkest places. And it is from these shadows that we have often seen groups of gar floating under the long, silver-green boughs. From a short way out, though, you would barely notice the fish. In the clear water, their slender forms coincide perfectly with breaks along the limestone terraced bottom.

One particularly hot day, while I was sitting on a rock under one of the trees, resting with my legs hanging in the water, a small gar swam towards me. It paused just a few feet away, just in front of my legs, keeping an eye on me. Under the willowy reflections, it made a fine summer picture, with its yellowish cast, brown spots, and fins and tail pulsing. With large eyes, it watched me a little longer.

Then it moved off and positioned itself a little to my right, almost out of view.

What was unusual about this? I had to look very hard at this fish. It seemed to be exactly the fish I had caught the other day. And when I walked out towards the middle of the bay to make a few casts, I looked behind. There was the fish, ten paces back. It was ... *following me!*

A Couple of Streamers

Steve May, representing Grand River Trout-fitters, was the club's guest tyer at our early April general meeting. Steve is a wickedly good production tyer who moves through the steps so quickly that's it's hard to keep up with him. Fortunately, he left behind some copies of his patterns which are given on the preceding two pages.

We thank Steve for permission to use his originals.

The Gartside Bug

Bob Lundy

For many of you, this will hardly be an introduction. The Gartside Bug, in many variations has been around fly fishing for a few years, the product of Jack Gartside's ingenuity. In fact, it was the creativity behind such creations as "the Bug", and the Soft Hackle Streamer that led the Club to present Jack with the Jack Sutton Award for creativity and innovation in fly tying at this year's Awards Banquet.

IWFFC Past-President Ken Geddes introduced me to this fly three years ago, and I've been a fan ever since. It has all the qualities that I look for in a fly: tied of economical materials, easily tied, tied of economical material, fishes well, tied of economical material, casts, easily, and so on. Oh, and it is tied of economical material (is there an echo in here?).

For the past year and a half, I've been tying my Bugs on Mustad's Signature series hooks. Specifically, C525-BLN, primarily in Size 1. Since I use this fly mostly for largemouth bass, this is almost a perfect hook. I also like to use Monocord for tying these flies. I believe the broader profile of this thread does not cut through the closed cell foam as easily as thinner standard tying thread. Closed cell foam? You can find this in sheets at a craft store, in a wide variety of colours. I have had my best luck with yellow, green, black and red. For large flies, I cut strips about 6 to 8mm wide (that's about 1/4" or so) using a cutting board, straight edge and hobby knife.

Mount the hook in the vise, dress it with thread in the usual manner, and end up with the thread near the start of the bend of the hook. If you use weedguards, now is the time to install this.

Build a tail of marabou (colour to suit), and return the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in a large piece of soft saddle hackle, by the tip, near the bend of the hook. This will be used later. Advance the thread to the front (eye) of the hook.

Hold a strip of foam over the top of the hook shank. The "front end" should be back from the eye a distance about equal to the length of the eye of the hook to give you room to work later. The "back end" should be overhanging the vise with several inches (or even more centimetres). This back end will form the shellback. Pinch the foam down both sides of the hook shank and wrap the thread in 5 or 6 open spiral wraps to the bend. Then wrap the thread forward to the start in another 5 or 6 wraps. Neatness is probably not critical, but it is satisfying. So I try to have a symmetrical pattern of thread X's along the length of the body, creating a nice, segmented effect.

Now wrap the hackle. I always start with one full turn in place, then spiral toward the front of the hook, usually following the thread. I then finish with another full turn of hackle, tie off and trim.

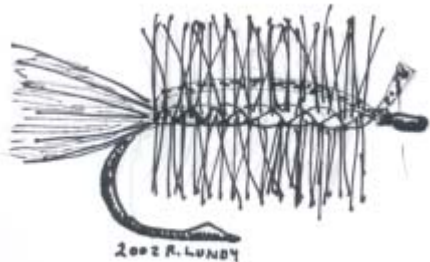
Pick up the back end of the foam strip that is over your vise and pull it forward, over the top of the fly to form a shellback. This will crush some of the hackle on top, which is fine. You will want to experiment with how tightly you pull this shellback. I like to have a bit of a curve, but not too "sloppy". Tie the foam down with several wraps of thread. Whenever you're wrapping foam, make the first few turns just "snug". Follow-up wraps can be a bit tighter. This prevents the thread from simply slicing through the foam.

You can now trim the tag end of the foam off. There are lots of variations here. Trim it off very short and bury it all in a neat little head of tying thread to match the original. Or you can cut it a bit longer like a lip, pointing upwards, and then form a head of tying thread in front of this to keep it pointing up, more like Jack's similar fly: the Gurgler. For warm water fishing I prefer this Gurgler approach.

I take a box of Gartside Bugs up when I go to a cottage, along with my 6-weight, and a short 2X leader, with some 2X and 4 X tippet material. When the rest of the crew are amusing themselves splashing around the dock, I'll row out to one of the nearby quiet side bays and flip a Bug around the weeds, windfalls and other structure. My usual quarry is large sunfish. This is a tremendous fly rod experience that I recommend to anybody who's never tried it. What I am also doing is practicing popping the fly for later.

My "real" experience is when I am able to get out where the largemouth bass lurk. There are several flats covered with water lilies that are just perfect largemouth haunts. Here, I chuck a Bug into a suitable hole among the lilies, and wait. I truly believe that 30 seconds is not too long to wait. It

can be the longest half a minute. Then I just give the Bug a quick, very short "pop". The goal here is to move the fly only about the length of its own body, and to make a distinct "pop" noise. Then wait and repeat (if necessary). Sometimes, repeating is not necessary. I will have created enough of an interest to pull some surprisingly huge largemouths out of the pads. Of course, the next task is to play the fish quickly, and hard. He's going to head into the weeds and sticks. He's going to tangle my line and leader and probably break off. Luckily, the fish will have hit the Bug hard enough to set the hook, so I generally just lift the rod and line and try to skip the fish through the top layer of pads. It doesn't always work, of course.



The Gartside Bug, however, is not just a bass bug. In smaller sizes (down to 18!) you can use it for trout, crappies, whatever. Just size the width of foam to suit the size of hook. The very small sizes, tied in black, with a very short tail, make great beetle impressions, by the way. Or you can tie it larger, perhaps using Fishair for the tail, and fish for pike or saltwater species. This is a great fly: it's simple to tie, it doesn't use exotic or expensive material, it casts well and it catches fish. What more could you want?

More instructions for tying (and fishing) the Bug and its variations are available from Jack Gartside's website (www.jackgartside.com) or his book *Scratching The Surface*.

2002 Conservation Activities

There are only two remaining IWFFC 2002 workday on the Credit River:

September 7th: This is a reschedule of the August 17th log jam emplacement in Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. The wood has been delivered, but there were problems with obtaining some equipment. Note that this date is probable but unconfirmed.

November 10th: Spawning surveys.

Due to landowner conflicts, the IWFFC-sponsored tree and shrub planting at Scotsdale Farm on Snow's Creek has been postponed (once again) until next year.

For updated and more detailed information, check the IWFFC web-site, or contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684. For Bronte Creek workdays, call Bill Christmas at 905-330-7083.

As of August 15, there were a few remaining CVC electro-fishing days for fish biomass monitoring. There is/was one more "IWFFC day" on August 20 at Terra Cotta. The last opportunity is September 14, generally handled by Peel Naturalists. Nonetheless, consult the CVC website at www.creditvalleycons.com/takingaction/electrofishing.html, or phone Dave Beaton at 905-670-1615 to see if there's still a day left. Remember that, in order to encourage IWFFC members to participate, Bob Morris of CVC graciously donated a Ross Cimarron reel as a prize, exclusively for club members. The draw will be made after the summer. I hope that you had a chance to win.

UCRRI Media Event

On August 13, CVC organized a well-attended media event for the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative. There were representatives from each of the participating organizations (except OMNR), a couple of local councillors and CVC board members.

Mike Warran (TUC Ontario Council and IWFFC member) reviewed the activities which have been done over the last several years. The highlight of the event was a presentation to CVC (the financial operators of the project) a cheque for \$50,613, representing the 2002 contributions from the Trillium Foundation (\$14,500), the Donner Foundation (\$22,113), Upper Credit Trout Club (\$6,000), IWFFC (\$4,000) and OMNR (\$4,000 through CFWIP grants). Bob Thomson (President of the Greg Clark Chapter, TUC & IWFFC member) noted that after the next and final season, there will have been spent approximately \$250,000 on the project.

Quite an accomplishment!

Fly Tyers & Speakers

This is a reminder that anyone who would like to be an intermediate or guest tyer, or give a presentation during the upcoming meeting schedule should contact Ted Armstrong, our Program Chair and Vice-President, by phone at 905-636-2058 or e-mail at tarmstrong@uniongas.com.

Updated Meeting Schedule

This is an updated list with confirmed speakers and events:

September 17. General meeting: Discussions on fishing & club directions. Mike Warrian on fall salmon fishing in New Brunswick.

October 1. Fly tying. Guest tyer: Paul Noble will do the "fire pupa" & others. Intermediate tyer: Bob Lundy.

October 15. Bob Kuehnbaum and Bob Morris with the annual conservation update, and Jim Bowlby (OMNR) on the results of Special Regulations.

November 5. Fly tying. Guest tyer: Rick Whorwood will demonstrate Spey flies. Intermediate tyer: Ken Geddes. At Port Credit Lions' Hall (*this meeting only*)

November 19. General meeting. Jack Imhof (Trout Unlimited Canada biologist) on fly-fishing in Argentina.

December 3. Fly tying TBA

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

January 7. Fly tying TBA

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

February 4. Fly tying TBA

February 18. Swap & Shop Night

March 4. Fly tying TBA

March 18. General meeting: Bob Kuehnbaum on Southern Ontario trout foods.

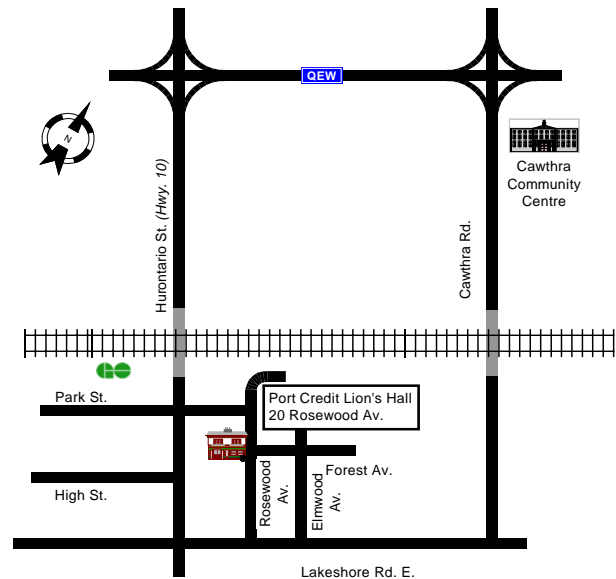
April 1. Fly tying TBA

April 15. General meeting: Ken Geddes & Sharon Cook on flyfishing for gar.

May 13. Fly tying TBA. *Note this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.*

Meeting Venue

Our meetings will be held at the same venue as last year – the Cawthra Community Centre – *except for the November 5th meeting* which will be held at the Lions' Hall, just beside the swimming pool, near the intersection of Lakeshore Road East and Hurontario (20 Rosewood Ave.) The map shows both locations. Keep it for future reference. It will be repeated in a future issue.



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