



Single Haul

The Newsletter of The Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

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'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas , when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring , not even a mouse.
The hooks in the vice were looking undressed,
In the hope that St. Nick would see to the rest.

The anglers were nestled all snug in their beds,
While the trout did the same..... asleep on their reds
And mom in her kerchief, and I in my cap
had just settled down ...to tie for the swap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what's the matter.
Away to the window I flew with some flash,
tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new- fallen snow,
gave the lustre of midday to the objects below,
when, what to my wondering eyes did appear ?
.....but a "toon" boat in tow by six
young reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively
and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St
Nick.
More rapid than eagles, his coursers they came,
With oars and with files and with rods made of cane.

Now Dasher! now Dancer!
Now, Prancer and Vixen!

On! Comet! , On! Cupid!
On! Donner and Blitzen!.....
To the top of the porch..... to the top of the wall!
Now cast away!cast away!
.....Cast Away All !!!!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky
so, up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
with a sleigh full of fly lines and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
the prancing and pawing of each little hoof
As I drew in my head and was turning around
down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
.....(in some excellent material for tying to boot!)
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back
and he looked like Bill Spicer opening his pack.



His eyes - how they twinkled! His
dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose
like a cherry!
His mouth was drawn up and well full
of scotch

And the beard on his chin reached way
down to his crotch. The stump of a pipe he held tight in
his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a
wreath. He had a broad face and a round little belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

IWFFC

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He was happy and smiling, that jolly old elf,
but I lurched when I saw him, being well oiled myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
unloading his videos..... then turned with a jerk!
and laying his finger aside of his nose,
and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
With a scotch in each hand, he still made the whip bristle.
....but I heard him slur words'ere he drove out of sight....

" Happy Christmas to alland to all
a goodnight!" Ed



A Front-Row Seat to Trout Evolution at Your Local Stream - a species is splitting into two camps.

Kenneth Kidd

The first thing to know about baby brook trout is that they are not devoted viewers of Disney. Not for them all the massed choreography of Finding Nemo, where entire schools of tiny fish move as one, virtually no member distinguishable from any other.

Brook trout, it turns out, aren't like that at all. From the earliest age, they start acting differently, a diversity of lifestyles that could have serious evolutionary implications. So varied are their behaviours, that brook trout might even be in the nascent stage of separating into two distinct species — one timid and sedentary, the other bolder and more active. Scientists could end up with front-row seats to this evolution.

"The level of diversity of behaviour, and in their diets that we see associated with that behaviour, are amazing things that I would never have expected when I trained," says Robert McLaughlin, a biology professor at the University of Guelph. Back when he was a student, the prevailing wisdom included something called optimal foraging behaviour. This was a kind of Darwinian fitness test, and the result was that animals all get to some point where they derive the most

energy from their environment in the most efficient fashion available.

If you studied the habits of a single animal, in other words, you could safely assume the other members of this species in that particular place behaved in pretty much the same way. Except, this isn't always the case in the field. So, scientists have since been moving to notions closer to game theory, which allows for much greater diversity and competition between members of the same species. Which is where brook trout come in — or brook charr (to use the traditional British spelling favoured at Guelph), since brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, aren't technically trout.

Along with Alexander Wilson, one of his former graduate students, McLaughlin studied 89 wild brook charr in seven still-water pools along the west branch of the Credit River. Not just brookies mind, but virtual newborns. Although the fish hatch in mid-winter, they remain in the river's gravel bed, feeding on their yolk sac, until they start emerging in very late March and April. This is more or less when McLaughlin and Wilson started studying the fish in the spring of 2004, although their paper has only just been published in the journal Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology.

The brookies were tiny, measuring just 2 or 3 centimetres in so-called fork length — the distance between their snout and the middle of the fork in their tails. But even at that young age, the fry split into two camps, with a few undecided in between. A lot of the fish acted like riverbank couch potatoes. They stuck very close to the bank, and ended up mostly feeding on tiny crustaceans. Yet others were soon foraging well away from the riverbank and in the upper portion of the water, where they largely fed on midges and flies.

The fish didn't look markedly different, nor was it a case of the bigger ones being the more aggressive. "They don't differ a lot in morphology, at least externally, but they differ a lot in behaviour," says McLaughlin. The reason for the varied lifestyles, or at least a clue to the ultimate reason, lies in their brains. After the behaviour of an individual fish was recorded, it was captured and sent to the lab for detailed measurements. It turns out that the telencephalon, the part of the brain linked to movement and spatial abilities, was relatively larger in the fish that went foraging away from shore, where they would have to recognize underwater landmarks to navigate and avoid becoming prey themselves.

But this raises other questions. Were the fish reacting to their environments differently, and developing separate behaviours in consequence? A study now being completed by another of McLaughlin's former students, points in that direction. The brook charr that hugged the bank have higher

levels of the hormone cortisol, which is associated with stress, so perhaps worry keeps them home.

Still unanswered, though, is whether the foraging fish do so because they have bigger telencephalons, or whether they end up with bigger telencephalons because they are foraging. The brain, as we now know, is fairly plastic, responding almost like a muscle to exercise, striving to meet the demands placed on it. Hence the adage, use it or lose it. Then again, the presence of larger telencephalons could simply be a genetic endowment, in whole or in part, which the foraging fish take advantage of. At least with brook charr, the answer still awaits further study. "That's the direction we'd like to move in," says McLaughlin. "We have some candidate genes we want to look at there." By which point, we may have a clearer idea of just how much evolutionary change is now at play on the outskirts of the city.

Wilderness Trout Fishing On a Low Cost Budget

Terry Newman

Forty three years ago my parents took me on a fly fishing and sightseeing trip to Jackson Hole Wyoming, home of the Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone National Park. In those days, there were no crowds, you didn't need a licence to fish in the parks, and the trout were more than willing to hit almost any dry fly pattern. Much has changed since those grand old days. Now, the parks are jammed with traffic, the streams next to the highways are swamped with fishermen, and yes, you have to purchase a licence to fish in Yellowstone Park.

But, what most people don't realise is that even today, if you are willing to park your vehicle, put on your boots, and walk away from the highways, the fishing is still great and other fishermen are almost nonexistent. Since retiring in 2003 I have been fortunate enough to spend about 2 to 3 weeks each year in this trout fishing paradise. In 2010, thank goodness I have a very understanding wife; I was planning a little longer trip of about 4 weeks. On this trip I was to be accompanied by one of my Steelhead buddies who had never fished the crystal clear waters of Wyoming and Montana. So it was, on the 3rd of August, with much excitement, and a deep desire to escape into the wilderness, we set off on our long journey to trout nirvana.

Our first stop was to be Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This famous western cowboy town sits on the banks of the beautiful Snake River in the shadows of the Grand Teton Mountains. Not wanting to waste a minute of available fishing time, we drove straight through to Wyoming before we finally stopped to catch a few hours sleep and

a hot shower. Next morning, we were up before daylight driving hard to reach our destination in time to get in a few hours of fishing before dark. On this trip we had planned to stay in National Forest Wilderness Cabins, but Jackson Hole is one of the few areas where none are available. For that reason, on this first leg of our trip, we chose to stay in a tent with our sleeping bags and cots.

Our choice for a camp site was a beautiful campground located on the banks of Pacific Creek, a medium sized trout stream that flows into the Snake River. This campground was located at the end of a 10 mile gravel road and we saw no others camper during our entire stay and had the whole area to ourselves. After pitching our tents we were off like a flash to fish Crystal Creek, a beautiful mountain stream that empties into the Gro Ventre River. The Jackson Hole area is famous for its "Fine Spotted Snake River Cutthroat Trout" (see pic) and August is a great time to fish with large foam hopper patterns. So it was that on this leg of our journey we spent many hours tossing #6 - #12 hoppers to willing cutthroats in crystal clear waters. From our base camp in the Jackson Hole area, we fished Crystal Creek and Pacific Creek, as well as the Buffalo, Gro Ventre, and Snake Rivers.

After 8 days in this beautiful mountain setting, we reluctantly set off on the next leg of our trip to explore the remote South west Area of Yellowstone National Park. In addition to Park, we planned to fish the also Henry's Warm Fork and Rivers located just across the border in Idaho. This was also our first stay in a Wilderness National Forest Service Cabin. Having only seen pictures on the internet, we really didn't know what to expect for \$40 per night.



Pulling up to our cabin, after a 50 mile drive over a rough gravel road, we were pleasantly surprised to view a beautiful cabin located in a large meadow surrounded by thousands of acres of wilderness. Upon unlocking and opening the door, we were presented with a very clean two room cabin, with 3 bunk beds, and a wood cooking stove. In addition to the two large rooms it also had an attached shed full of wood just waiting to be burned. For heat in the sleeping area, it contained a wood burning heating stove that proved great at knocking off the chill after a long day of fishing in the mountains. In the

kitchen area there were several cabinets loaded with all kinds of pots, pans, plates, and other kitchen goods that might be needed. For eating, the cabin contained a large table and chairs for 6 people. All in all, this was a great deal for only \$40 per night.

While staying at this cabin we fished many days on the Falls River just inside Yellowstone Park. To reach the meadow area of this river we drove about 20 minutes from our cabin to a trailhead and hiked along a well marked trail for about 2 miles. This part of the typical fishing with bows and riffles deeper moving falls river trail for miles. This river was meadow lots of ox fast flowing separating slow pools. The contains Cutthroats, Cutbows, and Brook Trout and all were willing to rise to a well presented Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis. On two days we took a longer drive and ventured further up river to an area loaded with rapids and waterfalls. It was in this area, about ¼ mile below a falls, that my partner caught over 20 fish from a single pool. Besides the Falls River, we also fished the Henry's Fork and Warm River in Idaho and the Belcher River in Yellowstone Park. To top off our stay, on our last day, we hiked about 3 miles to Beula Lake, the headwaters of the Falls River, and had a fun day catching willing Cutthroats on a remote high mountain lake.



The next stop was to be a cabin located on the Taylor Fork of the Gallatin River about 30 miles from West Yellowstone. We had booked a cabin located about 8 miles out of West Yellowstone but then had to change as it was not available due to a last minute refurbishing project in that time period. This meant, we had a longer drive to some of our fishing destinations, but it was still a good deal at \$35 per night. As a result of getting moved the Forest Service also gave us two nights for free to help offset the additional driving. The cabin on Taylor Fork was much smaller than our Falls River Cabin, but it too was very clean and we made out just fine. On this leg of our trip we fished the Gallatin River both inside and outside Yellowstone Park. We also fished the Madison River outside the park and the Yellowstone River inside the park. This was my first time fishing the Yellowstone River in the Black Canyon area but it will definitely not be my last. Before our trip I had spent many hours researching this remote area of the river on the internet and with local fly shops, and it really paid off. We spent two days fishing the Canyon area, which is accessed by a very short ¼ mile walk on good trails and

an easy crossing of the Lamar River. This area of the Yellowstone River is home to large willing Cutthroat Trout who have no problem rising to #6 - #10 foam hoppers or #8 - #12 stimulators. As the weather was not great, and the fishing was good without a long hike, we never made it to an area that is known for it 20'+ Cutthroat. Next time I fish this river I will definitely take the time and fish it in several locations and visit many more remote areas.

After a wonderful time spent in beautiful surroundings, we were off again to our last destination. This part of our trip was to be spent in another \$35 Forest Service Cabin located at the end of a gravel road on the West Boulder River. This was a new area for me that I had learned about from other fisherman several years ago. On arriving at the cabin we were surprised at how nice it really was. The cabin had three large rooms, a large covered porch, a separate shed for wood and a new outside toilet. The cabin also had running water and contained electric lights, stove, and refrigerator. As well, a 10 yard step out the back door took us only 10 yards to the West Boulder River or a well marked trail to its beautiful upper meadow area. Needless to say this is about as good as it gets for a dedicated trout fisherman. On this final leg of our journey, the weather took a dramatic change, as we had frost at our cabin location and snow in the mountains every day of our stay. Since it was the last week of August we probably should not have been surprised. Under these conditions we still caught fish and experienced some beautiful country. While at this location we fished the meadow area of the West Boulder and the main Boulder River and although we didn't try the West Branch of the Boulder, it looked really good with lots of fish.

As all good things must come to an end, it was sadness packed up and headed the first of September. On our trip to trout nirvana, we had fished



beautiful streams and lakes, went through over 80 Stimulators, and logged some great memories. In our desire to fish waters that see very few flies, we had seen only five other fisherman on our entire trip, and four of those were on a single stream. If you love the outdoors, and fishing wilderness streams away from the crowds, then I would definitely recommend a trip to Wyoming and Montana. In addition, as the Forest Service has

things must end, it was sadness packed up and headed the first of September. On our trip to trout nirvana, we had fished

hundreds of Cabins low as \$20 located almost all streams, it can be fairly low If you have in these



low cost (some as per night) close to good trout is a trip that done on a cost budget. an interest cabins you

can find them on the internet at <http://www.recreation.gov/welcome.do?topTabIndex=Home>. If anyone wants anymore information just catch me at a IWFFC meeting and I would be more than happy to help in any way I can.

**WORKDAY REPORT
MILL CREEK, CAYUGA**

TROUT UNLIMITED

November 21st, 2010

Our intrepid stream monitor, Wade Dowling spotted new beaver activity at the site of our Beaver Baffle on the Aldridge farm recently. It appeared the intake section was floating above water and not operating as predicted. Closer review showed the "T" bar anchors were failing. Quick repairs were called for, so our crew responded quickly.

Our crew of seven volunteers descended on the site, breaching the newly built dam to lower water levels to access the intake. We tried longer "T" bars, but found that, once the stone substrate was passed, the subsurface clay base failed again. With great foresight, volunteer Matt Eddy had designed and built a unique, pronged, heavy duty improved anchor method.. This proved to be a game saver. Though harder to install, they gripped the 12' conduit securely (after we drilled additional vent hole in the filtered intake to improve their sink rate). It was quite an educational experience and seems to have worked well. We will monitor it regularly. With the substantial flows, it may be that one B/B may not be enough to handle the job. Time will tell.

Our perfect safety record was blemished through a small cut on Matt Burley's hand from some sharp object. Oliver Hlavenka was quick with the first aid kit and Matt never missed a beat. These Haldimand types are really tough, but Matt says he'll put on his work gloves next time before starting. The sledgehammer crew was better than a railroad construction gang. The beavers haven't a chance against these guys!

The secondary purpose of the workday was to retrieve 5 data loggers (two had been done by Wade some weeks earlier), plus the rebuild of the Armstrong site #3 fence. This had been breached for the delivery and spreading of our armour rock on the east bank.

We failed to find two of the D/Ls and will use metal detectors to find them in December. It was gratifying to see the new "Partnership" signs erected by Haldimand Stewardship Council on both River Road and Town Line Road.



While the fence, Annette came buy She was

rebuilding landowner Armstrong to visit.

She was thrilled by the sign and expressed her appreciation for all the work done by our volunteers. She happily posed for our photo of the sign when told our "Grand total" has reached over 934 hours, 308 of which was done this year alone!

Bill Christmas
Project coordinator.
Ted Knott Chapter,
Trout Unlimited

Announcement

Thankyou to Carl Johnstone who has stepped forward to be club Treasurer. Carl is from Edmonton where he was an active member of Trout Unlimited. Ray Desilets has also to be thanked for all his dedicated effort (... will miss our 'all in' trips south Ray) in maintaining the club books despite his work and family responsibilities. Thankyou Ray. The conservation chair has yet to be filled and would be a wonderful gift to IWFFC if someone with that interest could take on the job if only for a short time.

On behalf of the club I'd like to wish all members, their friends and families, a peaceful and healthy holiday and all the best of everything and good fishing for 2011. Ed

