

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, March 1 Meeting

Location The Legion Hall,
Westboro Branch - 389
Richmond Road, between
Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues.

Parking is on neighbouring streets.

Start time – 7 pm.

Coming Club Fishes

NONE!

NADA!

RIEN DU TOUT!

NO MO'

MARCH MEETING Legion

THURSDAY, March 1 – 7 pm

What Are We Doing In 2008?

- 1. Meet & Greet – Grip & Grin**
- 2. RADICAL Club Fish Schedule Proposal**
- 3. Other Issues**

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

RADICAL CLUB FISH SCHEDULE

Yes, here I am again, muttering about the Club Fish Schedule.

In a spirit of bonhomie or camaraderie or whatever, let us show up at 7 PM, ready for the good old “grip and grin” or “meet and greet”, if you prefer.

Following this eminently worthwhile “bonding” session, let us focus the little grey cells upon the matter at hand.

It will not come as a shock to anyone if I say that the attendance at the 2006 events was abysmal, if not worse.

Our hardworking executive (worth every bit of the high salaries) has been cogitating on the matter.

Whether or not we have come up with the solution to the problem (if there was a problem) we have at least shown signs of life – possibly not intelligent life, but that’s debatable.

In any event, we look forward to a stimulating and vigorous debate, fueled by a bit of John Barleycorn. Is it all worth it? Hard to say.

Radical Reasoning

Note: This is my story and I'm sticking to it.

Over the past number of years, I've been involved in trying to draw up a Club Fish schedule each year. I've come to the conclusion that this is a mug's game. First, you have to take account of the various season openings (not a big deal). Then you have to choose a location that reflects the possibility of coming into contact with whatever species has just come into season. You have to work around Mother's Day, Father's Day, various public holidays, and also allow for competition from various other fishing clubs. The weather can make an otherwise ideal choice of date and location a flop. Gas prices play a part. Travel to the east is farther for an equivalent distance than travel to the west of Ottawa (this is my observation having listened to all sorts of comments over the years). Finally, it has been noticed that Wednesday events are far better attended than weekend events.

OK. My proposal is basically that every Wednesday there would be a Club Fish at Reeve Craig. Once a month there would be a weekend Club Fish somewhere (not at Reeve Craig). The location and date would be determined at the Club meeting of that month. So, where this weekend event will be in July will be determined at the July meeting. Those who attend the meeting will get to choose. Those who don't attend will be advised by email or phone. The Wednesday events would be dropped at or before Mid-September (it gets dark earlier then).

Benefits: Reeve Craig is not in the east. Wednesday reduces weekend pressures. The weekend event location can reflect the latest knowledge of the members as to attractiveness.

This reduces the current mish-mash of Wednesday and weekend events that people don't attend anyway.

Finally, no need to think apart from – Gee, it's Wednesday, I'll think I'll go fishing, and no need to wonder where.

My Note:

Grand Exalted High Poobah is working out an actual schedule following these basic principles. There are some detail questions in which the devil resides, but I have great faith that Jim will prevail.

The Telephone Business

NOTE:

I just wanted to make it clear that Jim, Skip, and I have retired from the telephone business and so it isn't what it used to be. The following story is really history.

The Golden Telephone:

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. So he bought a plane ticket for Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North.

On his first day, he was inside a church, taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read, "\$10,000 per call."

Intrigued, he asked a passing priest what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. He thanked the priest and went on his way.

The next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign. He wondered if this was the same as the one in Orlando, so he asked a nearby nun. She assured him that it was indeed possible to reach heaven and talk to God for only \$10,000.

He had the same experience in Indianapolis, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York. He wrote to friends in Europe and got the same answers, adjusted for exchange rates.

To broaden his sample of churches, he decided to travel to Canada.

When he arrived in Ottawa, he went to the nearest church. There was the same golden telephone, but the sign read, "40 cents per call."

Astonished, he talked to the local priest.

"Father, I've traveled all over the United States and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in the US, it's \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled benignly at him and answered, "Bless you, my son, you're in Canada now. It's a local call."

'Nuff said:

NOTE: This is an interesting (to me) article since it shows that fishing literature should be taken seriously. There's hope for the OFC Newsletter yet!
I've edited the original to make it fit the space available.

Fish tales

By WILLY ZIMMER

Star-Tribune staff writer March 04, 2004

Since ancient man caught his first fish, telling the story has been almost as important as the catching. To confirm this theory, just ask any angler about his or her last catch -- then pull up a chair. Given that tendency to embellish, once *homo sapiens* developed language it was inevitable fishing literature would develop as a genre. And judging by the collection of rare fishing books at the University of Wyoming's Toppan Rare Books Library, a fine genre it has become.

The Toppan Library, which is in the American Heritage Center, hosts an assortment of rare fishing titles equaled by only a few collections in the United States. From Izaak Walton's groundbreaking "Compleat Angler" to contemporary titles by well-read authors like John Gierach, the history of fishing is chronicled in print. The Frederick Willcox Toppan Collection, to which Walton's works belong, has nearly 500 "highly-valued angling titles," according to curator Anne Marie Lane. An estimated 200 titles are also held in the LaFontaine Collection, which was established to honor fly-fishing author Gary LaFontaine after his death in 2002.

The lineage established by the collection appropriately begins with Walton's 1653 classic. "Compleat Angler" combines practical information with angling folklore -- all in archaic English in the early versions, hence the unusual spelling of "complete." Modern anglers rarely have sing-alongs on the river, but songs were apparently important to Walton and his mates. To accommodate anglers in a boat, he placed sheet copies of songs side-by-side but opposed to each other, so two seated anglers could read and sing while facing each other.

The collections continue with works from subsequent years, many with valuable engravings. "The Accomplisht Lady's Delight," a 17th-century guide for the Englishwoman includes a chapter on fishing along with advice on cooking, distilling and making medicines, and a chapter on fishing. "Among all these things a woman should know to do there is a chapter on fishing and a picture of her bringing home the bacon," said Lane.

Perhaps the most valued work for Western fly anglers is "Dry Fly Entomology" by Frederic M. Halford. He pioneered dry fly-fishing in the late 19th century in England, then helped introduce it to America. "Dry Fly Entomology" has 100 flies included in the book -- real flies tied by Halford, rather than pictures. "We've lost the color of course," Lane said of the flies. "A lot of them will say something blue, or something red. But if a

grandparent has talked about a particular named fly, you can come in and see how that is done."

20th century authors are well represented, some with very familiar names. Cloistered deep in the stacks, graduate student Scott Carleton eagerly pored through the pages of an aged book easily mistaken for a Western if one just read the credit. "I've just got to read these Zane Grey books," Carleton enthused. "I didn't even know he wrote books on fishing." Grey, who is best known as a writer of Western thrillers, actually wrote three fishing books -- "An American Angler in Australia," "Tales of Freshwater Fishing" and "Tales of Tahitian Waters. Each work is available in the Toppan collection. During his fishing adventures Grey set numerous deep sea, all-tackle records and is pictured in Tales of Tahitian Waters with "a strange green fish." According to UW Flycaster faculty advisor Ed Schmidtmann, "to this day it hasn't been identified."

A contemporary work soon to become part of the collection is "Under Cottonwoods" by Laramie author Stephen Grace. Grace's work is described as a "novel of friendship, fly-fishing and redemption," and is one of those listed as one of Lyons Press' hot books. Grace said a copy of his work will be donated to the LaFontaine Collection, and he is proud to be carrying on "a distinguished tradition." "I definitely intend to come back," he added. "This is great. I could spend a lot of time in here."

Schmidtmann said Lyons Press is one of the library's many benefactors, and contributes several books a year to the LaFontaine collection. Some of its more recent contributions include: *One of 25 numbered copies of "Good Flies" by Gierach, signed by the author and Nick Lyons. *One of 55 copies of "Fishing Bamboo" by Gierach, signed by the author. *One of eight numbered copies of "Hemingway On Fishing," a comprehensive collection of Ernest Hemingway's writing on fishing, edited by Nick Lyons. The University of Wyoming Flycasters also donate works on an annual basis.

UW alum Clara Toppan, of course, began the Toppan Collection in 1966 when she donated the substantial library of her late husband, Frederick .Lane said Clara ensured the library was permanently endowed in her will. Which makes Lane excited about protecting the lineage that stretches from Walton to Grace -- and beyond. "What I'm seeing is that there are a whole lot more people interested in the subject than I had any idea," Lane said. "When I first saw that fishing and hunting collection I thought 'Who will ever come in?'" "... The experience of handling a book from the 17th-18th century is remarkable. I used to be an archeologist and these are artifacts from the past."

Toppan Rare Books Library

where: University of Wyoming American Heritage Center, Laramie

hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

information: (307) 766-2565

On the Net: Toppan Rare Books Library: www.uwyo.edu/ahc/depts/toppan/toppan.htm

University of Wyoming Flycasters: www.uwyo.edu/flycast

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Harvesting Wood In Newfoundland

I have the feeling that there's something wrong with this picture but I can't put my finger on it.
Maybe it's the weather – it seems too pleasant for the Rock.



Here is a picture of an alleged "blue pike" (a kind of walleye)