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VOLUME 11, NO. 2
SPRING 2002
Fur Market Outlook
Random Casts
Wild Turkeys in NS

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**

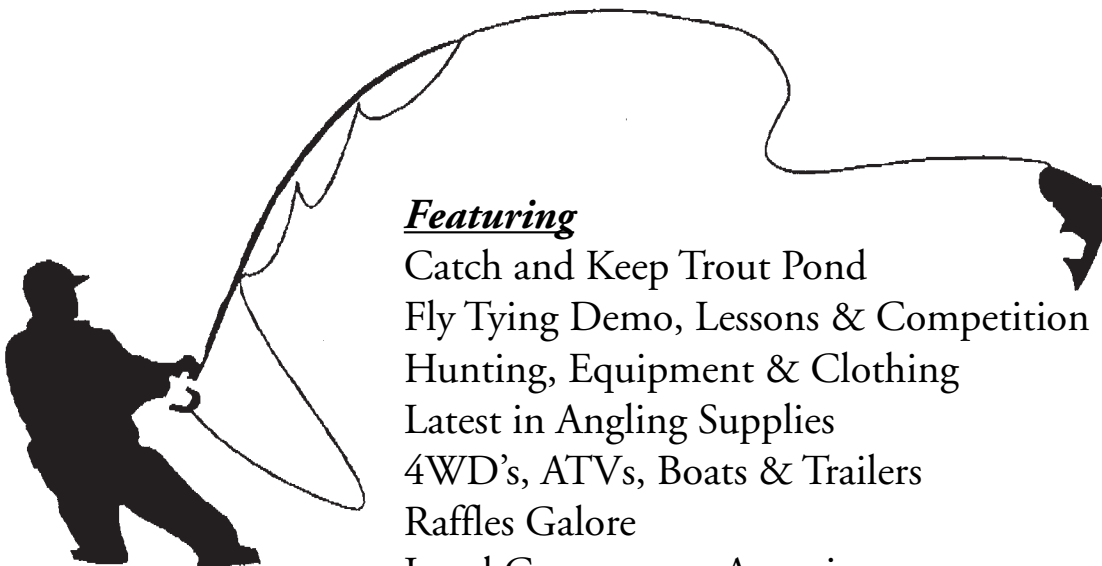
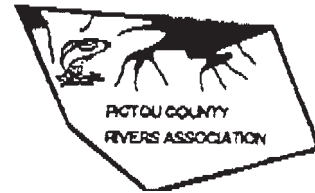


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message <i>by Bob Bancroft</i> _____	4	Golf With A Shotgun <i>submitted by David Bauld</i> _____	15
Executive Director's Voice <i>by Tony Rodgers</i> _____	5	A Walk In The Woods <i>by Don Cameron</i> _____	16
Fur Market Outlook <i>by Mike Larade</i> _____	6	Wild Turkeys in Nova Scotia <i>by Bob DeBaie</i> _____	17
Broken Rivers <i>by Bob Bancroft</i> _____	8	Kejimkujik National Park <i>submitted by Tanya Taylor White</i> _____	18
Guns and Crime in Canada: A Quiz <i>by Gary Mauser</i> _____	11	Spring Trout Stocking <i>by Darryl Murrant and Mike McNeil</i> _____	19
Random Casts <i>by Don MacLean</i> _____	12	More Nova Scotia Than Ever _____	20
Shad Bag Limit is Welcome News <i>by Ed Coleman</i> _____	14	N.S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters Order Form _____	21

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To place your ad in the next issue (Summer, 2002) of *Nova Outdoors*,
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Nova Outdoors

Official Publication of the
Nova Scotia Federation
of Anglers and Hunters



Vol. 11, No. 2
Spring, 2002
**STATEMENT
OF PURPOSE**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is interested in all aspects of the out-of-doors and is dedicated to the fostering of sound management and wise use of the renewable resources of the Province. We want to ensure that their economic, recreational and aesthetic values may continue for the benefit of this and all future generations.

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President's Message

Join the Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition!

As my last cast from the President's Column, I'd like to encourage each of the 34 associations in our Federation to join the Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition. Provincially-owned (Crown) land in Nova Scotia has a history of forest plunder for



Bob Bancroft

private gain, through political considerations that often ignore ecological underpinnings. Low prices for clearcut wood off Crown lands have undermined prices for private woodlot owners. Many folks want serious modifications to this monopolistic stranglehold over public land.

The Coalition believes that public lands should remain wild lands for a variety of reasons:

- to provide habitat for salmon, moose, owls and other wildlife
- to keep air and water clean;
- to maintain the beauty, solitude, and adventure of the back country;
- to offer residents and visitors unparalleled outdoor recreation experiences;
- to provide new economic opportunities for Nova Scotian communities;
- to ensure that future generations of Nova Scotians will never have to wonder what was lost.

Public lands deserve better. The primary role of public lands should be conservation. Sooner or later the unresolved treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq will become a consideration on Crown lands. To sustain wildlife populations, we need more

than seasons and bag limits. We need long-term maintenance of habitats that fish and wildlife - and their food chains - require for their survival. With each passing day Nova Scotia loses options to chart a new direction for public lands.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is one of several dozen organizations around this province that have joined the Coalition. More direct voices will add to the push for change. The Halifax Wildlife Association is a founding member. The list includes the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, many naturalist and river/angler groups, and folks like the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS). We need more hunting, angling, trapping, and conservation groups to sign on. Please consider it!

Your group can join by contacting me, or the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax. My address is Box 111, RR#7, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L4. Tel: 902-386-2501; Fax: 902-386-2517; Email: bancroftreed@auracom.com.

The Ecology Action Centre address is 1568 Argyle St., Suite 31, Halifax, NS B3J 2B3. Tel: 902-429-2202.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President over the past two years. Thanks go to Tony Rodgers, the Executive, all Directors and to John Fraser for your positive attitude and hard work. The Halifax Wildlife Association deserves special mention for running the office while Tony was recovering from surgery.

As members of this Federation, we face a great many challenges. I particularly want to thank all members who have given their time and become involved in the cause of wildlife conservation.

My very best wishes! 🐟

Bob Bancroft

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Executive Director's Voice



Each and every one of us is responsible for our own personal safety, and looking out for the safety of others. Our safety in the work place is protected under provincial law, obeying safety rules on the highways by drivers is the cornerstone for using the system. So why would universal safety while hunting be an issue for a native or non-native?

I guess I would not get an argument from anybody in the native community on the need for work place safety and highway safety, but there is a minority who would disagree with me on hunting safety, making a case of protecting native hunting rights.

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has recently upheld the conviction of Allison Bernard Junior of Eskionia for hunting at night with a light. In my view a safety issue.

Shooting at night has always been an indication to me that the person committing the act had little skill as a "hunter" and required a light in order to to gain an advantage over the animal. People who know me will tell you that I'm fiercely protective of the terms hunting and hunter. So people who jack, are not hunters by anyone's definition.

By definition in the Wildlife Act, hunt is described in many terms. But they all respect the capture and possession of wild animals; none of these terms mentions blinding the animals with a light before killing it.

So many thoughts run through my head on this subject. Respect for the animal, respect for other hunters, respect for the non-hunting population are not served when someone uses a light. Jack lighting, jacking or whatever you want to call it, is for the weak.

Jacking is not solely a native issue. Far more non-natives jack in Nova Scotia than natives. Our population is larger. But two wrongs don't make a right. All forms of jacking must end. At one time in this province the local jacker was sometimes looked upon as a folk hero. Well times have changed, he's just an unskilled gun carrier looking for an easy way to brag. But even the bragging doesn't get

to enjoy the light of day, when it starts off with "I switched on the Light".

Hunters who have respect for themselves and want to pass on the true meaning of fair chase hunting on to their sons and daughters, don't start off the fall hunting season with the words, ... now remember, you can't tell anyone we used a light.

Safety is also compromised when the jacking takes place on or near provincial roads and highways. If the beam, especially if the jacker's light is a high candle power light, should catch a vehicle driver in the eyes it may cause the driver to leave the road or drive into oncoming traffic. People are put at risk, property is subject to damage, all because someone from the native community wants to exercise a right or an unskilled non-native has to break the law in order to bag a deer. Please, native harvesters or non-native poachers, safety first, conservation second, - leave the lights at home. ▶

Tony Rodgers
tony.rodgers@3web.net

Safe Hunting



Hunting is a safe sport thanks to the many volunteer instructors like Bill McLaughlin (right), seen here receiving the Hunter Education Instructor of the Year award from Minister Ernest Fage. Always remember to practice safety when hunting, whether with a firearm or bow. For more information about Hunter Education please visit our website at: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/hunting.htm

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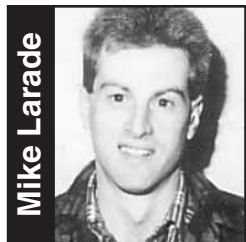
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Fur Market Outlook

The first sales of the year were an overwhelming success, taking into account the current financial markets around the world. Clearances in all articles was strong and the demand high.



Mike Larade

As of printing, fur reserves are low. Many articles saw increases of 10%-30%, while some dropped such as beaver. This is a direct result of the happenings of September 11 in New York, as the largest buyers of beaver are the American buyers.

The early mild weather of this winter could change the amount of fur that will be available for the February auctions, but forecasters still predict that the demand will be high and that prices should remain stable in favour of the trapper. Although prices are high, the amount of trappers remains stable as well. This means that there is little new blood coming into the trapping fraternity.

Find below, the averages and high prices paid for the articles that affect N.S. trappers. The first numbers are the prices obtained through Fur Harvesters Auction and the latter through North American Fur Auctions.

- **Beaver:** Demand was good but the prices didn't favour this article because of the uncertainty of New York buyers. Forecasters predict that interest should return for the later auctions. Averages: \$25.53-\$30.21
Highs: \$71.91-\$107.44
- **Raccoon:** Demand was very high: Averages: \$20.41-\$22.66
Highs: \$39.78-\$36.34
- **Muskrat:** Again demand was high with low inventories. Averages: \$4.73-\$5.62
Highs: \$8.41-\$9.88
- **Coyote:** The trim trade for this article is improving, and as ranch fox prices continue to climb, this article should find willing buyers. A good forecast is



Raccoon photo courtesy of Department of Natural Resources.

- that coyote numbers in the Province seem to be rising. Averages: \$25.93-\$41.60
Highs: \$52.02-\$53.72
 - **Otter:** Demand and prices have eased off slightly for this article, yet the prices still remain relatively strong with the Chinese providing the main interest. Averages: \$58.03-\$103.60
Highs: \$94.86-\$139.04
 - **Red Fox:** the star performer of this year's markets to date. This article saw a 30% increase compared to last year. Averages: \$43.00-\$40.51
Highs: \$65.79-\$71.10
 - **Bear:** Averages: \$199.95-\$122.48
Highs: \$344.25-\$347.60
- The following items were only sold at the sale for the Fur Harvesters Auction.
- **Wild Mink:** The demand for this article remains suppressed as it has been for about ten years, and forecasters expect it not to change much for the foreseeable future. Averages: \$19.12
High: \$26.01
 - **Bobcat:** Demand continues to grow for this article as furriers around the world

are beginning to see many uses. That demand and interest is expected to continue upwards. Average: \$28.98
High: \$55.08

Upon reflecting on the prices, one is bound to notice the wide variances in the averages and high prices paid for each article. Upon approaching the auction houses, you will get many reasons why. One will claim that the averages of one auction house are inflated, and the politics fly back the other way. All I can say about the issue is, and I'm no economist or financial expert, that one auction attracts the larger groups of buyers. When you have 70 buyers bidding on fur and you have the other auction house with between 100-200 buyers bidding on their offerings, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the more competition for your product, the higher the price on most articles. When you sell your fur, take all market variables into account and ship your fur where you feel you will get the most dollars for your work. 🦉

Mike Larade is a licensed trapper from Halifax, NS.

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Broken Rivers

By Bob Bancroft

Once upon a river there were emerald-faceted pools. Their depths flashed gold and silver with the flitting movements of Atlantic salmon and sea trout. Stream banks were sheltered with towering trees. Massive root systems armoured the fertile soils against the ravages of ice and high waters, like great fingers holding the earth. Huge trunks and limbs offered cool shade while casting off a shower of leaves, needles and insects. They became important nutrients to the groundwater and direct food for life in the river. As older trees on the banks died and eventually toppled into the stream, their hulks became imbedded in gravel. Sparkling high water plunged over them, reshaping the bottom, maintaining pools and providing shelter for insects, fish and other animals.

Wide and shallow, hot, polluted and with low water levels, many Atlantic rivers today have been transformed into sewers to the sea. Victims of our ignorance and greed, they've gradually been degraded to mere drainage ditches. Efforts to deal with this major ecological disaster have proven grossly inadequate. Acclimated to only the last chapter of a 300 year horror story, the average person today has never read the book and considers such rivers normal. There are solutions. Hope lies in restoring and rehabilitating our waterways.

Several hundred years of land "development" commenced with the arrival of white settlers along eastern North

American shores. Most land clearing was done with meagre thought to how rivers function. Land clearers ignored the role played by large living tree roots in holding riverbanks intact. They also neglected to note the subtle importance of the river's winding or meandering habit, which serves to slow and absorb the energy of the water's downstream flow. Consider the earth's gravitational pull as felt by downhill skiers. Descending a hill in a straight path generates maximum speed. On the other hand, winding back and forth across and down the slope, a skier's trip becomes longer, and speed is reduced. Rivers and streams, for reasons of geology, hydrology and other natural forces, usually adopt this meandering, slower way, with a "pool - shallow riffle - and turn" sequence repeated until an interruption - such as a rock outcrop - rearranges the pattern. Turns actually function as energy absorbers.

Pre-settlement rivers and streams in eastern North America tended to be more deep and narrow, and longer due to this meander pattern. They were also gradual in slope. Their channels carried less water because historically, when snow melt poured off hillsides into valleys, rivers topped their banks and spread over the surrounding grassy or wooded flood plain. This vegetation on the valley bottom slowed that water, causing water-born sediments to settle out. In early times

valley bottoms acted as giant sponges during floods, soaking up water into underlying gravel seams and organic layers. When droughts occurred, these reservoirs of cool, pure water could seep back into rivers to augment flows and maintain fish habitats.

The accumulating soil richness from this process rendered flood plains attractive for agriculture. Farms gradually replaced forests. In the days before electricity, barns were built beside brooks for watering livestock. They are still there, leaching manure. In the woods, logs and pulpwood were cut, hauled and piled along shores over winter periods - to be driven downstream on the high water every spring. Rivers were channelized (straightened) into log "highways" interspersed with dams. By the late 1800s, mill wastes clogged many river channels. Land clearing, drainage projects, channelization and other human endeavours have continued to the present day to erode, flush and straighten rivers, increasing their slope and speed and decreasing their ecological health.

Without trees, riverbanks are more vulnerable to high water and ice. Doubling the speed of a river's flow allows it to erode four times as much bank material and to carry 64 times the amount of material downstream. Widened river channels contain more flood water, capturing the water that once jumped more

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narrow banks and was then slowed by vegetation and forest cover. Mounds of rapidly eroding bank material now pile up in the channels, diverting flows to the sides, exerting more pressure upon denuded riverbanks during heavy rains or spring run-off. When high water in a fast-flowing, channelized river finally arrives at a turn and slows down, the rubble carried by the current settles to the bottom, eventually plugging the existing channel. This causes increasing pressure on adjacent banks until a new channel bursts through and carves its way across the val-

ley floor, tearing out trees, topsoil and boulders.

Humans have been clearing land to the water's edge for years, for farming, forest harvesting, homes, cottages, and businesses like golf courses. Heavy rains that used to soaked slowly into flood plain forests now develop hit-and-run patterns over cleared lands. Flooding becomes more common. River beds were raided in the past for gravels to build such things as the Trans Canada Highway. Rivers without riparian zone (shoreline) protection can suffer yet another consequence.

Weak-banked and widened, some become ice factories. When winter descends during low water conditions, wide, shallow rivers sometimes freeze to the bottom. Imagine what that does for the insect life, young salmon and trout hiding in spaces between rocks. When thawing occurs, water begins to flow over existing ice. As temperatures

drop below freezing, new ice layers form on top of the ice. Successive layers accumulate with fluctuating weather until thicknesses of more than six feet (2 metres) sometimes develop! That thick ice is finally wrenched off the bottom after a spell of warm weather. An enhanced form of riverbank bashing then begins. Often these mega-blocks fetch up on bridge abutments, creating ice dams, and flooding neighbourhoods. Newspapers proclaim that nature and the river have run amuck. Humans, albeit unintentionally, have derailed nature's forces to create the more raging, ice-clogged flood situation.

Farmers found that having flood plain water close to the ground surface meant poor root growth for planted crops. They ditch or install drainpipes - often with taxpayers subsidies - to flush water out of the valley floor. This exacerbates the effects of both high and low water. Forest clearcutting in watersheds also produces faster, higher runoff after rains. Humans magnify flood effects even more by emptying storm drains directly into streams and rivers, instead of discharging the water onto flood plains, where it could

Continued on next page


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seep in and enter the watercourse gradually.

There are a host of other problems. Draining and infilling swamps, marshes, and other wetlands destroys their ability to absorb and moderate flood water, to produce clean water and to release flows during low water conditions. Crop irrigation extracts water during critical summer periods. Runoff from fields frequently contributes a witches' brew of fertilizers, silt, pesticides and manure. Years of stream bank trampling by cows and other heavy domestic animals renders streams wide, shallow and polluted. Towns extract drinking water and return sewage.

Not surprisingly, aquatic life has fared rather poorly. Even headwater streams serve as nurseries for speckled trout. Most older dams were not equipped with functional fish ladders, which prevented migratory populations of Atlantic salmon, trout, sturgeon, gaspereau and smelt from reaching spawning grounds. Culverts and bridges are also common impediments. Pools that are so important for adult salmon and trout tend to fill in and disappear. Too much distance between pools means that trout and salmon will no longer move up and through the waterway. Acid rain alone has rendered many rivers devoid of salmon in Nova Scotia. Other airborne, heavy-metal pollutants like mercury are seriously affecting fish-eaters like loons. Wide and shallow channels absorb more summertime heat. Cool water contains the extra oxygen which salmon and trout require. As water temperatures exceed 20° Celsius these fish weaken. At 25° C, trout and salmon begin to die. Many rivers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia now reach 30° C.

Degraded rivers are repairable. Nature is slow to heal them without large dead trees. So human help can make a vital difference. The standard cure for river banks made unstable by humans is to place large rock "rip-rap" along them. This requires the use of heavy machinery, and puts sections of the river in a straight jacket. It's a high priced antidote

for mismanagement. There are softer restoration technologies, proven more cost effective, and used by fish and game groups and river associations across the Maritimes. These include digger logs, deflectors, and rock sills to narrow and create pools in channels, and tree planting on riverbanks! Restored waterways exist in Atlantic Canada, but funds are scarce and the agents of habitat destruction are still active.

The jurisdictional framework for managing lands along waterways tends to be an overlapping quagmire of municipal, provincial/state, and federal government departments. The federal government's "no net loss" of aquatic habitat policy languishes largely unheeded. Government departments, with agriculture, forestry and other specific mandates, frequently exist to serve clients like farmers, forestry folks, miners, and so on. Each department is run by bureaucrats with scant ecological understanding or background. With economic and accounting blinders on, they tend to serve industrial/business rather than public/environmental interests. The idea of sound, sustainable, ecological underpinnings for their policies is a buzz-word farce. Individual department policies facilitate new development and frequently conflict. As a biologist, I was hired by a provincial government to help volunteer groups restore freshwater habitats. Concurrently, the same government was subsidizing farmers and others to inadvertently destroy fish habitat. One step for-

ward, three steps back. Universally accepted, sensible environmental guidelines for development are a long way off with this chorus line of myopic perspectives and four year mandates.

It is possible to farm, selectively harvest forests, build dwellings and roads, live and have recreational pursuits in harmony with rivers, lakes and wildlife. Instead, we continue to take a river like the Cornwallis in Nova Scotia, and add the pig-manure-equivalent of sewage from a city of 250,000. We then extract water for irrigation and other purposes until 120% of the available water is spoken for in permits. What about fish, beaver, otter and others? Water for one town returns as sewage in volumes that are sometimes equal to the flow in the river - 50% water/ 50% sewage, and when sampling determines that the river is too contaminated to irrigate strawberries, the solution is to cut the funding for the monitoring! Implicated farmers point to towns. Towns in their turn, blame farmers. When will we wake up? A blessed few look in the mirror, see themselves as part of the problem, and begin to do something positive.

Our rivers, streams and lakes could use more of these people. ♣

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Guns And Crime In Canada: A Quiz

By Gary Mauser

- The typical murder victim in Canada is a woman killed by a firearm.
a) True b) False
- Have gun murders increased or decreased since the federal firearms registry began operations in 1998?
a) Increased b) Decreased
c) Stayed the same
- How many women are killed with firearms each year in Canada by their husbands, boyfriends, ex-husbands, or ex-boyfriends?
a) under 30 b) around 50
c) around 100 d) more than 200
- Have fatal firearm accidents increased or decreased in Canada over the past twenty years?
a) Increased b) Decreased
c) Stayed the same
- How many fatal firearm accidents occur each year in Canada?
a) under 50
b) between 50 and 100
c) over 100

- How many suicides involving firearms occur each year in Canada?
a) under 500
b) between 500 and 1,000
c) between 1000 and 1,500
d) over 1,500
- When Canadians decide to commit suicide, they usually use a gun.
a) True b) False
- A rural Canadian household is more likely to have a firearm than an urban Canadian household.
a) True b) False
- Homicide rates are higher in urban Canada than in rural Canada.
a) True b) False
- When were handguns first registered in Canada?
a) 1930s b) 1940s c) 1950s d) 1960s


Answers to Guns and Crime in Canada

- False. The typical murder victim is a man. Guns are only involved in about one out of three murders.
- Increased. Gun murders have risen 21

- percent; handgun murders now account for almost 60 percent of firearms murders.
- a) under 30. Twenty-four women were killed by a current or former lover with a gun in 1994, the last year statistics are available.
- Decreased. From almost 100 fatal firearm accidents each year in the 1980s to under 50 in the 1990s.
- a) under 50. In 1998, the most recent year statistics are available, there were 31 firearm accidents.
- b) between 500 and 1,000. In 1998, the most recent year statistics are available, there were 818 firearms-related suicides.
- False. Firearms are involved in less than 25 percent of suicides.
- True.
- True.
- a) 1930s. Handguns were first registered in Canada in 1934.

How did you do? Give yourself one point for each right answer.

- 0 - 3 You know less than you think.
4 - 7 Not bad. Give yourself a pat on the back.
8 - 10 Congratulations! You know way more than most Canadians!



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Random Casts

By Don MacLean

Streamers and Bucktails - The Big Fish Flies

Famed American fishing writer Joseph Bates coined the phrase, "The Big Fish Flies" for streamers and bucktails. There is no question that these flies, which imitate small fish, are very effective in catching large trout. The reason for their success is quite simple, big trout get that way by eating a lot, and since it takes a lot of nymphs and mayflies to make a meal, the preferred food of big trout is smaller fish such as minnows. While strictly speaking a streamer is a fly tied with a feather wing, and bucktails use deer hair, today both types of flies are generally referred to as streamers.

Fishing streamers is very simple, no long casts required. Simply cast and let the current carry your fly downstream. Trout will often follow and take at the end of the drift. If they don't, retrieving it with short strips will often entice a fish to strike. We often make the job of picking the right fly more complicated than it has to be. While trout picking mayflies off the surface of stillwater can be pretty fussy, trout living in fast water have to make their minds up pretty quick whether they want to eat the food going by. If



they are too fussy, they won't eat. As long as the fly resembles something they usually eat you should be OK. This means trying to match your fly to the common food that is in the river when you are fishing. In Nova Scotia, in early spring, this means rainbow smelt, and a lean looking fly with a silver body can be deadly if fished when smelt are spawning in the streams. Later on in the season the preferred minnows may be killifish or dace, so a bulkier fly in silver or gold would be a better choice. The muddler minnow is tough to beat.

While the current will do much of the work for you when fishing moving water, if you are fishing lakes or stillwaters you have to provide the movement. This means casting, and retrieving the fly. If the fish are deep then consider using a sink tip line to get your fly down to them.

A small split shot will also do the trick. A popular Nova Scotia bucktail that is both easy to tie and effective is the Mickey Finn.

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 4-10

Body: Silver tinsel

Wing: A small bunch of yellow bucktail, over which is a small bunch of red bucktail, and covered with another bunch of yellow bucktail.

Head: The original was black but I like red.

This fly is deadly on trout, perch, bass and shad. Tied on a bigger hook it is also a great fall salmon pattern.

Tight Lines 🐟

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Don MacLean is the Assistant Director Inland Fisheries Division for Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in Pictou, NS.

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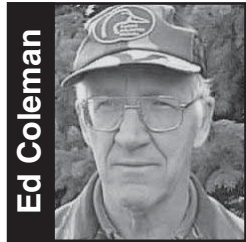
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Shad Bag Limit Is Welcome News

News item: New rules announced in January by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the 2002 recreational angling season included a daily bag limit for shad.



Ed Coleman

You may not have heard it because of the dampening effect of all the snow that fell recently, but I'm sure a huzzah sounded when the bag limit for recreational shad angling was announced. Some anglers cheered silently but the daily bag limit of five fish per day was welcomed by everyone who fishes shad with rod and reel.

Such a limit was a long time coming, by the way, and most certainly long overdue. Angling for shad with rod and reel has been popular in the Annapolis Valley since the early 1970s; in the last three decades regulations governing shad angling were non-existent and fishermen were pretty well left to police themselves.

I can tell you from experience that the lack of angling restrictions and a hands off approach to shad angling by the authorities - the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Department of Fisheries, for example - led to all kinds of abuse of the shad fishery.

When I first began to angle for shad on the Annapolis and Nictaux River in 1970, jigging was common. Perhaps one or two anglers out of 10 spin fished or fly fished in those days; the rest of the "fishermen" used lead weights and treble hooks and attempted to take shad by foul hooking. At this time waste was also rampant. Great numbers of shad were often left to rot on the banks; the objective of most jig fishermen seemed to be to haul in as many shad as possible and never mind if there wasn't any use for them.

Over the years anglers discovered that catching shad with rod and reel was a challenging and satisfying sport and jigging disappeared. Gradually shad angling became popular across the province. It took a while but eventually shad were recognized as an excellent sporting fish.

While this was happening, there were

many calls for shad angling regulations. I've been pushing for shad angling regulations in this column and in various magazine article for 30 years, but it was like doing you-know-what into the wind. I've stated many times as well, that shad should be given game fish status and elevated to the same class as trout and salmon.

The establishment of a bag limit for recreational anglers is the first step in officially recognizing that shad are a magnificent game fish. The once great spring runs of spawning shad have been declining in recent years and the bag limit is a necessary conservation measure. 🐟

Ed Coleman is a well known outdoors writer who lives in Annapolis Valley,

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters



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Golf With A Shotgun

Submitted by David Bauld, member of Nova Sporting Clays Club

SPORTING clays is often referred to as golf with a shotgun. It does have a great deal of similarities, usually consisting of 10 stations, generally participants keep score and choices are required as to gauge, choke and shot size.

Golf, however, requires fine weather and can only be done in the finer months.

Depending on the crowd and club you could be shooting sporting clays in pretty well any weather and all year.

The sporting clays club that I belong to, Nova Sporting Clays Club, located in Stewiacke has a very keen membership. These guys shoot rain or shine, and all year! This winter, even with the snow, they have committed to keeping the range open for Sunday shooters. Sporting clays shooters are generally bird hunters or trap and skeet shooters who have seen the light!

Each station at sporting clays gives a different presentation. Depending on the distance from the stand, the speed and angle of flight of the target, shooters scramble to figure out whether to use 7, 8 or 9 shot and improved cylinder, skeet or cylinder choke tubes. Doubles complicate the choices even further as the first and second target are in the air at the same time. Usually the second target in a pair is farther out and falling, requiring a different shot and choke selection. We have all levels of shooters at the club, ranging from fun (happy to get your gun off) to serious (attend all the tournaments).

Most Sundays

we have between 10 and 15 shooters, not a large group but always jolly and keen to improve their shooting skills as well as help the newer shooters improve theirs.

I love to bird hunt and have found sporting clays a great way to improve my ability to determine ranges and cleanly harvest birds when hunting. Lately we have had some younger shooters coming out. This pleases me, as without new young shooters our hunting and shooting sports will probably become things of the past. I recently read an article that discussed the decline in waterfowl hunters. In 1978 there were 524,946 licenses sold to waterfowlers. In 1999 only 197,584 licenses were sold, less than 200,000 people in all of Canada. Without some young blood I feel all the shooting sports are in trouble. The members at Nova Shooting are trying to do their part, why not do yours. Come out, bring your gun and a young shooter, and try a round of golf with a shotgun, any Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Call our club line for details (902) 639-2843. 🦅

Nova Sporting Clays Club fund-raising Shoot dates for 2002

- Saturday, May 11, IWK Childrens Hospital fund-raising fun shoot
- Sunday, June 16, NS Federation of Hunters and Anglers fund-raising fun shoot
- Sunday, July 14, Eastern Flyway Gun Dog Club fund-raising fun shoot
- Sunday, Sept. 8, Nova Sporting Clays Club Championship and fun shoot
- Sunday, Sept. 22, Ducks Unlimited fund-raising fun shoot
- Sunday, Sept. 29, NS Sporting Clays championship and fun shoot

In addition, we shoot every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. until May when we shoot at 10:00 a.m. Our club tel line is (902) 639-2843, location West Shorts Lake Road, Stewiacke.

Any questions call David G. Bauld: Tel -902-895-1641; Fax -902-893-0460.

Licence Of A Lifetime Lottery



Licence Of A Lifetime Lottery, Department Of Natural Resources. Natural Resources Minister Ernest Fage and Tony Rodgers, executive director of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, recently drew two names in the licence of a lifetime lottery. The winners are Jeannine Strong of Scotch Village, Hants Co., and Gregory Barrett of Bedford, Halifax Regional Municipality. They will each receive licences for deer and small-game hunting and fishing for the rest of their lives. The lottery is an annual fund-raiser for the Federation of Anglers and Hunters. The licences are provided by the departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Fisheries.

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A Walk In The Woods

Re-establishment of Fisher is working in Nova Scotia

"Management, to be successful, must be founded in a deep appreciation of the forest, its origins and structure and of the complex interrelationships of all its component parts."

—John Holloway

One of the largest members of the mustelid family in Nova Scotia is the fisher. Fisher are furbearing terrestrial carnivores, that can be found throughout Canadian boreal forests. Other members of the mustelid family include mink, otter, marten and skunk. They are usually dark brown to black with silver-tipped hairs on the back. One unique aspect that kids especially love to hear about is that the fisher has the ability to kill and eat porcupines.

According to provincial harvest records, 14 fisher were exported out of Nova Scotia in 1919. However, it is generally accepted that the animal had disappeared from the province by the early to mid-1930s. In 1947-48, 12 ranch-raised fisher were released in the Tobeatic area of south-western Nova Scotia; in spite of this, there were no fur exports of fisher pelts until 1960-61. A second attempt at introducing the species took place between 1963 and 1966, adding 92 wild fisher from Maine to the north-eastern part of the province. In all, 104 fisher have been introduced into the province to try and re-establish the species in their historic range.



Don Cameron

After limited legal harvest in the 1980s, the fisher season was officially closed in 1988-89 and remained closed until 1995-96. During the closed season, it was mandatory for trappers to turn in all accidentally captured fisher to their local DNR office. In the early 1990s, there was a substantial increase in the number of fisher turned in - this stimulated interest from DNR and the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia in a relocation program.

As a result, 13 animals were captured in north-eastern Nova Scotia (where they seemed to be thriving) and released in Lunenburg County during the fall and winter of 1994. It was hoped that this would help to provide a link between the western and eastern fisher populations, while at the same time increasing the generic diversity of the western population.

This relocation program differed from the previous two introductions because the fisher were supplied from within Nova Scotia. There is some speculation that the ranch fisher which were released in the Tobeatic Game Sanctuary during the late 1940s may not have been as viable as the wild stock which were released in the north-east and because of their geographic isolation, the genetic makeup of the two populations has remained separate and distinct. In fact, the difference between the two populations is so pronounced that DNA testing could be used to differentiate between them.

In 1998, with support from the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia, the fisher relocation program was resumed. The trapping season for the year remained open in the north-eastern counties of Pictou, Cumberland, and Colchester for resident trappers only. The remainder of

the province had a closed fisher season. This was necessary to give all the released fisher the opportunity to settle into their new surroundings by reducing trapping pressure in and around the release sites. A large closed area is necessary to allow for dispersal of individual animals, some of which travel great distances after being released in new areas. All fisher which were relocated were marked with a chemical called Tetracycline. This makes it possible to identify these animals if they are turned in to a DNR office. To date, only 2 of the 13 fisher that were marked and released in 1994 have been returned.

Over the past three years, there have been annual relocation of fisher. The process includes trapping the animals in Cumberland and Colchester Counties, transporting them to the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park where they are fitted with radio collars, and then relocating them to different parts of Hants and Lunenburg Counties. DNR staff have been tracking these fisher via radio telemetry by foot, motorized vehicles and aircraft. The objectives of the tracking activities is to ultimately determine if the fisher population is increasing in numbers and range, while observing their movement patterns, habits and habitat preferences.

If you ever have the good fortune to spot a fisher in the wild, savour the moment. It is a rare opportunity. ♣

Don Cameron is the Information Officer for the Nova Scotia Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

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Wild Turkeys In Nova Scotia

By Bob DeBaie

In November of 2000 the National Wild Turkey Federation formed two chapters in Nova Scotia. One of these chapters is in Dartmouth, the other in Truro. The Bluenose Longbeards are in the Halifax Metro area and are a part of NWTF Canada, a private and non profit conservation organization working with the American Wild Turkey Federation, based in Edgefield South Carolina, founded in 1973.

The Nova Scotia chapters are interested in introducing wild turkeys to Nova Scotia with the assistance of the NWTF and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. These turkeys will be the Eastern variety of wild turkey, and present plans are to release them in the Annapolis Valley and Truro areas. These areas have been assessed by biologists and approved as having suitable habitat for release of these birds.

The Bluenose Longbeards are currently conducting a membership drive, and to this end they will be hosting a ban-

quet/auction at the Newfoundland Club in Dartmouth April 26, 2002. All money raised will be used within the program to help defray future costs following the initial introduction.

In addition the NWTF supports hunter safety programs, youth and women's outdoor education programs and other projects designed in support of our hunting heritage.

The NWTF have been instrumental in the introduction of wild turkeys in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec. All of these ventures have met with great success and there is no reason to believe our results would be different.

The wild turkey not only represents a new type of hunting in our province, but could be especially attractive to bird watcher and school groups on field trips. For these many reasons the wild turkey is coming to Nova Scotia in the near future.

We invite all of you readers to drop by our booth at the Atlantic Sportsman's Show being held at the Exhibition Grounds in Halifax in March. Come and learn more about this fascinating bird. Who knows, maybe you will want to join our chapter. See you at the show. 🦃

Bob DeBaie, President, Bluenose Longbeards, NWTF.

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I Have A Permit

Planning a trip to the woods, I have to make two checklists: One for gear and one for permits.

I have a driver's permit and permits on my truck and camper. When I get there I will buy a camping permit and fire permit. I will chop wood in the forest with a firewood permit. My quad has a permit as does the trailer I have it on.

I plan on doing some hunting, so I have a wildlife permit to buy a general hunting permit which I need to buy a permit to hunt deer, a permit to hunt grouse, and a permit to hunt ducks. I also have a permit to carry a *firearm* and a permit to buy shells. My fishing permit is still valid so I will also load my boat and permit, although I still have to get a watercraft operator's permit.

So please God, when I go, I hope I don't need a permit to pass through the gates into Heaven after my wife gets a permit to turn off my life support.

—Anonymous

Kejimkujik National Park And National Historic Site Of Canada

- day-tripping ideas

Submitted by Tanya Taylor White,
Parks Canada

Hike, bike or paddle ... there are so many ways to discover Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada. A unique gem in the Parks Canada system, Kejimkujik protects 381 square kilometres of inland lakes and forests, and 22 square kilometres of rugged Atlantic coastline in its Seaside Adjunct. Kejimkujik is also a national historic site - the first dual national park and national historic site in Canada - commemorating Mi'kmaq occupancy, since time immemorial, including habitation and fishing sites, hunting territories, travel routes and burial grounds. The Park is home to one of the largest collection of rock carvings, or petroglyphs, in North America - sharing the stories of the land and its people.

Kejimkujik is located off Route 8, the Kejimkujik scenic drive, which traverses southwestern Nova Scotia between Liverpool and Annapolis Royal. If you are planning a lengthier trip, there are excellent camping facilities available for families and groups, or try backcountry camping. If day-tripping is on your mind, here are some great things to see and do:

- Walk for half an hour or hike all day on one of 14 magnificent walking trails. We have several trails which are wheelchair accessible.
- Cycle on the sunny parkway or a shady lakeside trail.
- Discover some of the finest canoeing in eastern Canada with quiet river backwaters, ideal for the novice canoeist. A network of lakes and portages are perfect for the seasoned canoeist.
- Bring your own bike, canoe or kayak, or rent one here.
- Discover Mi'maw history with our summertime interpretive activities and daily guided walks to the Petroglyphs.
- Pack a picnic or drop by the beach canteen.
- Play at a large, supervised lakeside beach - perfect for family swimming.
- Get involved in a nature program or explore the park on your own - why not stay late for an evening program at the



Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada - photo courtesy Parks Canada/Dale Wilson

- outdoor theatre? Kejimkujik is perfect for stargazing too.
- Explore lush woodlands bursting with wildflowers and wildlife - birds, turtles and much more.
- See exhibits, displays and programs for all ages.
- Follow your imagination, or drop by the Visitor Centre for some suggestions to make the most of your visit.
- Family fun! Family activities are the order of the day at Kejimkujik. In addition to the exciting programs and activities noted above, the Park offers an adventure playground and several nature trails featuring colourful signs designed to appeal to younger visitors. Special interpretation programs teach children how to make traditional Mi'kmaq crafts.
- Extend your stay ... Jeremys Bay Campground is ideal for family camping and includes beaches and play areas. Each campsite has a fireplace, the perfect setting for evening campfire activities and storytelling. Jim Charles Group Campground will accommodate up to 80 children and is specially designed for the needs and interests of organized youth groups. Contact the park for more information on our camping facilities.
- Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site's Coastal Area —The Seaside Adjunct, approximately a one-hour drive from the main park, is located

off Highway 103, 25 km southwest of Liverpool. The Seaside Adjunct is a wild and isolated stretch of coastline along Nova Scotia's Atlantic shore. Here the scenery includes glacier-carved headlands, expansive, white-sand beaches and secluded, rocky coves. You may choose between two scenic trails to the coast: (1) Harbour Rocks trail (5.2 km return) or (2) the trail which loops around Port Joli Head (8.7 km return). Trail surfaces vary from boardwalk to loose cobblestone; trails are suitable for walking shoes or lightweight hiking boots. During the summer, weekly interpretive walks are scheduled. Please call Kejimkujik for details. 🐾

*For trip-planning information, rates and camping information, etc. please contact Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site at: Tel: (902) 682-2772; Fax: (902) 682-3367
E-mail: kejimkujik_kejiinfo@pch.gc.ca
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We look forward to seeing you in 2002!*

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Spring Trout Stocking Provides Sportfishing Opportunities

By Darryl Murrant and Mike McNeil

Last Spring I had an opportunity to visit a lake I have become familiar with over the years. It was in mid-April, early on a clear but very cool Saturday morning. The lake surface was ice smooth and the frost in my breath added to the icy illusion. Mist hung over the water, obscuring the far shore, making it easy to believe another illusion; that I could cast my line into this pristine water in Nova Scotia's wilderness. I was actually in the parking lot of Albro Lake Park in Dartmouth (HRM). I could see the plume rising above the Tuft's Cove electrical generating station and I could hear the traffic as the City of Lakes began another day.

Already a number of older ... excuse me ... seasoned anglers were on the lake, while a few others were casting from the shore. One of these fellows told me he actually used to hike up here as a kid. He and his friends used to take home some nice trout. Once a long walk from the nearest home, this lake is now surrounded by city. All angler activity here is a result of a trout stocking program.

Each Spring, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries stocks approximately 230 lakes as part of its Spring Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program. The Department operates two fish hatcheries; Fraser's Mills Hatchery in Antigonish County, and McGowan Lake Hatchery, in Queens County. While these hatcheries are involved in a number of enhancement activities throughout the year, it is in the

Spring that they are most in the public eye. From early April to mid-June, hatchery staff in distribution trucks, criss-cross the province; from No. 20 Dam Lake in Glace Bay, Cape Breton County, to Everitt Lake, in Digby County, and every county in between. In all, over 250,000 trout are made available for anglers in Nova Scotia. The majority of these 230 lakes are stocked with the province's most popular game fish, Speckled trout, while around 15 sites are stocked with the increasingly popular Rainbow trout.

The rationale for this Spring stocking program is to reduce angling pressure on

wild trout stocks and to provide angling opportunities to people in urban areas who might not otherwise be able to participate. Lakes stocked in this program would not be able to sustain a quality trout fishery without enhancement. Many of these lakes are acid impacted or have other trout limiting factors such as reduced spawning or rearing habitat or the presence of large numbers of competitive species.

The Department also provides trout (some trophy sized) to about 50 fishing derbies. These events are usually sponsored by fish and game associations or other community service groups. Many are put on in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Week-end. Often, these derbies are organized with children in mind; introducing them to a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime.

Each year over 80,000 Nova Scotians enjoy the wonderful outdoors while pursuing their favorite sportfish. In doing so they generate over \$62 million dollars in economic activity. It is doubtful if this level of activity could be sustained without these hatcheries playing a role.

The gentlemen at Albro Lake weren't thinking about these figures nor were the kids who showed up later. They were just glad to be out in the spring chasing some trout. And so was I.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries makes the list of lakes to be stocked in the spring available at many public venues, or it can be obtained by contacting the Inland Division office in Pictou - (902) 485-5056 or from the Department's web site: [http:// gov.ns.ca/nsaf](http://gov.ns.ca/nsaf).



Courtesy of Inland Fisheries Division.

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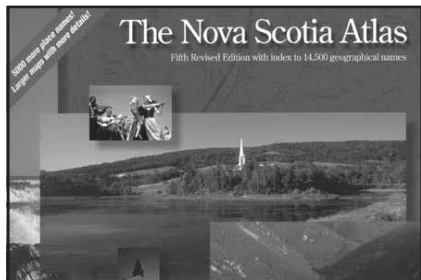
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National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day 2002 Poster Contest: Grades 1-6

American Bird Conservancy and Wild Bird Centers of America announce a nationwide contest to determine the official poster of National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day 2002.

Every year hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed by domestic cats, allowed by their owners to roam outdoors. These same cats are exposed to hazards such as cars, attacks by other animals, diseases, poisons, extreme weather, and natural disasters. National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day, May 11, 2002, held in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day, aims to educate cat owners that both cats and wildlife benefit when cats are kept indoors. ▶

Contact: Linda Winter, Director, Cats Indoors!, American Bird Conservancy:
(p)(202)452-1535; (f)(202)452-1534; E-mail: lwinter@abcbirds.org;
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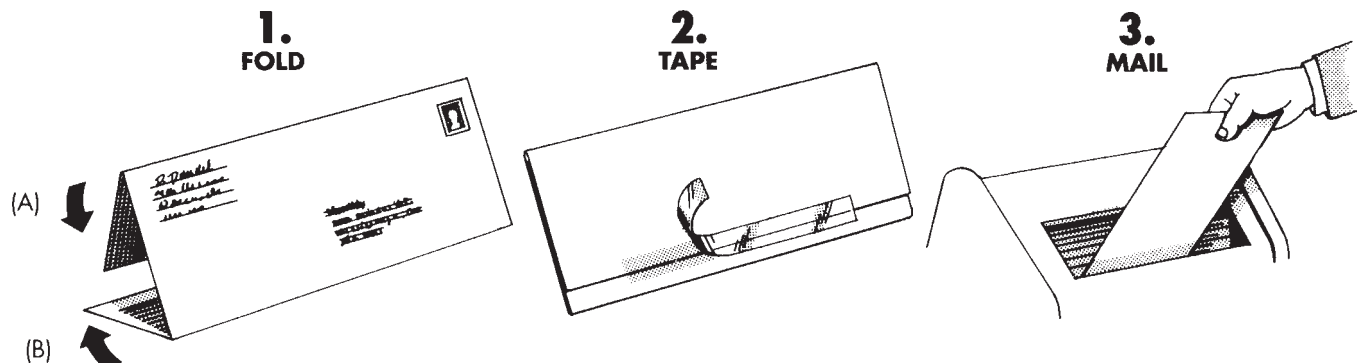


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