

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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MAGIC FOR THE WALLEYE FISHERMAN

A ROSE FOR THE WORLD

Pale pink, five-petaled wild roses, fragrant with the essence of early summer, grow in a prickly tangle along railroad tracks and in upland pastures. Great festoons of rambblers, Paul's scarlets, silver moons, and Doctor Van Fleets, beds of hybrid teas and polyanthas, hedges of *Rosa hugonis*, banks of the white froth of *Rosa multiflora*, the sweet, pale-pink old-fashioned cabbage roses in an old farm yard, a spiny, cantankerous Persian yellow rose in the eloquent spot where a pioneer cabin once stood—these all mean June.

Casually, the buds of roses open. They are fresh and new as the morning of the world. They spread their unique perfume to the sun and the butterflies. It is June in Iowa and our roses bloom, but over the whole northern hemisphere, from China to England and from Sandwich to Seattle, other roses bloom. Although England claims the rose for its national emblem, the rose belongs to the world.

The rose is believed to be the oldest cultivated flower; it was grown because people liked it and for no other reason. Rose culture, therefore, marked a high point in man's own culture, for only among people with time for the gentler pursuits are roses grown. Two thousand years ago in Athens it was crowned the queen of flowers and it has been reigning ever since. Even before that, Solomon spoke of the rose; so did Isaiah and Homer and Sappho, and Herodotus in 450 B.C. spoke of King Midas' rose garden where there were fragrant roses of more than sixty petals.

Since wild roses seldom or never attain sixty petals, it is to be assumed that even in those remote days there were gardeners who painstakingly developed double roses from accidental doubles found in the wild. Gardeners down

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WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW TO CATCH WILEY YELLOW PIKE-PERCH



Walleyes have become abundant in the Mississippi River, especially below the channel dams. Winter fishing from boats has become very productive.

By E. T. Rose
Fisheries Biologist

The name walleye is incorrectly spelled, M-A-Y spells walleyes.

After short winter rations, the rigors of reproduction, and the early spring scarcity of food, the walleyes are hungry as wolves. Even a rank amateur can catch an occasional walleye now, but it is the expert that makes the killing and does it consistently throughout May and June.

Who are these expert walleye fishermen anyhow? Most of them are good Joes, who will give advice freely and accurately, but for some strange reason it doesn't help the beginner much. Gain the friendship of one of these halo wearing experts though, and, mister, you've got somebody worth coddling up to. You can learn more about walleye fishing by spending a few hours with a master in actual fishing than by years of reading and undirected efforts.

However, as in any type of fishing, there are a few principles that we can pry into that are worth knowing. The primary principles are **where, when and how**.

Perhaps equally important is the matter of proper tackle and the ability to use it. You don't find a skilled cabinet maker using a sledge hammer and an axe to build a fine piece of furniture, and by the same token, the expert fisherman who fishes for recreation has naught but disdain for any tackle less than the finest for his handiwork.

Where

Obviously, you can't catch walleyes where there aren't any, so we'll consider the first principle mentioned, the where. First of all, Iowa has a limited number of areas where the walleye thrives. The following lakes and streams are classified with a rating of One and Two, which will serve as a guide to some of the best walleye waters

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SMALLMOUTHS IN SMALL STREAMS

By William Harold Tate
Iowa Cooperative Fisheries
Research Unit

Many of Iowa's best smallmouth bass streams of yesteryears now yield little but carp and catfish. This depletion is the result of a change in the character of the streams. The smallmouth black bass is particular about where he lives and prefers clear, cool, rocky waters. Many of Iowa's streams have become sluggish and muddy with few rocky riffles and few sheltered pools. They no longer resemble the bass habitat in which our fathers fished.

The smallmouth black bass is a member of the sunfish family, which includes crappies, rock bass, warmouth, largemouth black bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, and several others. The male of the sunfishes builds a nest and protects the eggs

and young.

The smallmouth constructs a dish-like depression in the gravel where the stream is one to three feet deep. After the female deposits the eggs and the male has fertilized them, he tends the nest, driving off the female and smaller fish which might otherwise eat some of the eggs. By the fanning action of his fins and tail he sweeps away silt and other debris which might settle on the eggs.

High water generally occurs in the larger Iowa streams in May and June when the bass spawn, and for this reason very few bass are raised in large streams except during those years when rainfall is below normal. If you were to stand on a gravel bottom in the current of a flooding river and feel the barrage of sand and gravel

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TROUT STAMP FOR IOWA?

Proposal for an Iowa trout stamp law, made by some of the northern Iowa sportsmen's clubs prior to the current session of the state legislature, apparently received little attention in the law-making mill. Trout stamps, licenses or fishing fees, utilized in some states to raise additional revenue for trout hatchery work and restocking, have been proposed in Iowa at various times. Many trout anglers feel they would be willing to pay an additional fee to get more trout, especially of the larger sizes, into the streams.

A glance around the trout fishing scene, however, soon shows that the problem is by no means confined to areas like the Hawkeye state. Michigan is one of the states with plenty of natural trout water. Thousands of miles of streams, including some of the best known



The brook, brown, and rainbow trout of northeast Iowa are practically all hatched and raised to legal size in state-owned hatcheries. Most trout fishermen want more and larger trout. Jim Sherman Photo.

trout waters of the nation, and many cold, clear lakes, place this state in front rank of trout fishing areas. By the same token, of course, the pressure on trout waters is heavy. Michigan, therefore, has a current program of one million legal-size trout from hatchery sources. This, together with trout stream improvement work cost the state more than \$400,000 last year.

In Michigan, if you go after trout, you purchase a trout stamp which is attached to the general fishing license. Even so, the "take" from the trout stamps only represents about one-half the amount expended for trout stocking and stream improvement. Checks show that from one-quarter to one-third of the Michigan trout catch is made up of hatchery reared trout. In states like Iowa, of course, the

percentage will be much higher. Missouri, one of the "in between" trout states, has a program of state park stream fishing with a 50 cent daily fee, in addition to the regular fishing license.

Missouri, by the way, is one of the states that gives definite figures on trout stocking costs. That department states that every trout the angler takes from park streams costs the state a trifle more than 37 cents. With Missouri resident fishing license \$1.50, and 50 cent trout stamp, a daily limit of six trout from one of the state-stocked streams brings the angler out about 22 cents ahead of the state treasury. And, for another 50 cents, he can try it again the next day. If he hooks the limit again his lead increases to \$1.72.—Davenport Times.

IT'S THE LAW

(Editor's Note: For the next few months, under the above head, we will carry sections of the state law under which the State Conservation Commission operates. Readers who wish to have sections interpreted may write to the Conservation Commission, 914 Grand Avenue, Des Moines.)

Section 107.21—Divisions of Department. The department of conservation, herein created, shall consist of the following divisions:

1. A division of fish and game which shall include matters relating to fish and fisheries, waterfowl, game, fur-bearing and other animals, birds, and other wildlife resources.

2. A division of lands and waters which shall include matters relating to state waters, state parks, forests and forestry, and lakes and streams, including matters relating to scenic, scientific, historical, archaeological, and recreational matters.

3. A division of administration which shall include matters relating to accounts, records, enforcement, technical service, and public relations. (Code of 1946.)

Section 107.22—Political Activity. No member, officer, or employee of the commission shall, directly or indirectly, exert his influence to induce any other officer or employees of the state to adopt his political views, or to favor any particular candidate for office, nor shall such member, officer, or employee contribute in any manner, directly or indirectly, any money or other things of value to any person, organization or committee for political campaign or election purposes. Any person violating this section shall be removed from his office or position. (Code of 1946.)

Section 107.23—General Duties. It shall be the duty of the commission to protect, propagate, increase and preserve the fish, game, fur-bearing animals and protected birds of the state and to enforce (Continued on page 132)

IOWA STATE-OWNED LAKES

MEANDERED LAKES*

County	Lake	Acreage
Allamakee	Kains Lake	200
	Lansing Big	679
	Mud	164
	New Albin Big	200
Buena Vista	Pickrel (Clay County)	176
Calhoun	North Twin	569
	South Twin	600
Cerro Gordo	Clear	3,643
Clay	Dan Greene Slough	285
	Elk	261
	Round	450
	Trumbull	1,190
Delaware	Silver	45
Dickinson	Center	264
	Diamond	166
	East Okoboji	1,875
	Lower Gar	
	Upper Gar	
	Minnewashta	
	Hottes	312
	Jefferson Slough	100
	Little Spirit	214
	Marble	175
	Pleasant	82
	Prairie	136
	Silver	1,058
	Spirit	5,684
	Swan	371
	Welch	75
	West Okoboji	3,939
Emmet	Cheevers	341
	Four Mile	219
	High	467
	Iowa	308
	Mud	421
	Tuttle	981

	Twelve Mile	290
	West Swan	1,038
Hamilton	Little Wall	273
Hancock	Crystal	283
	Eagle	906
	East Twin	193
	West Twin	109
Harrison	Nobles (Pottawattamie County)	160
Johnson	Babcocks	58
	Swan	44
Kossuth	Goose	103
	Swag	46
Lee	Green Bay	272
Louisa	Wapello (Klum)	212
Monona	Blue	918
Muscatine	Keokuk	511
	Muscataine Slough	237
Osceola	Rush	359
	Iowa	116
Palo Alto	Five Island (Medium)	945
	Lost Island	1,260
	Rush	460
	Silver	638
	Virgin	200
Pocahontas	Clear	187
	Lizard	268
Sac	Black Hawk (Wall)	957
Winnebago	Duck (Harmon)	72
	Rice (Worth County)	612
Woodbury	Browns	840
Worth	Brights	122
	Silver	318
Wright	Cornelia	285
	Elm	463

*A meandered lake is one which at the time of the original government survey was so surveyed as to mark, plat, and compute acreage of adjacent fractional sections.

ARTIFICIAL LAKES

County	Lake	Acreage
Carroll	Swan	130
Clarke	Osceola	12
Davis	Lake Wapello	287
Fayette	Echo Valley	12
Franklin	Beeds Lake	130
Guthrie	Springbrook	27
Hancock	Pilot Knob	15
Hardin	Pine Lake	63
	Upper Pine Lake	70
Johnson	Lake Macbride	138
Lucas	Red Haw Hill	72
Mahaska	Lake Keomah	82
O'Brien	Mill Creek	25
Tama	Union Grove	110
Taylor	Lake of Three Fires	125
Van Buren	Farmington	50
	Lacey-Keosauqua	30
Warren	Lake Ahquabi	130
Wayne	Allerton	106
Other Lakes		
Carroll	Artesian Lake	40
Fremont	Forneys Lake	680
	Riverton	200
Hancock	Dead Man's Lake	5
Lucas	Lucas Forest	10
Pottawattamie	Lake Manawa	660
Sac	Arrowhead	30
River Lakes		
Butler	Beaver Meadows	30
	Heery Woods	50
Delaware	Backbone	125
Hardin	Steamboat Rock	10
Linn	Coggon	20
	Palisades-Kepler	125
Mitchell	Pioneer (Brownsville)	50



During June and July the big bluegills and largemouth bass move into the shallow waters along shore. Jim Sherman Photo.

SUMMER FISHING IN RESERVOIRS

By William M. Lewis

Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit

After warm weather has really set in, bluegills and largemouth black bass provide most of the fishing in the reservoirs and state-owned artificial lakes of southern Iowa. To catch these fish in mid-summer sometimes requires different tactics than are used earlier in the season.

During June and July the big bluegills move from the deep water into the shallow water along the banks. At this time they are spawning and, if abundant in the lake, they may cause quite a commotion in the shallow water areas. If the fly fisherman approaches these areas quietly, preferably in a boat, and drops a small, cork-bodied, black bug or a small wet fly in the middle of the confused fish, strikes will be numerous, and it is often easy to take a limit.

Even though a fly rod is the most effective way of taking bluegills under such conditions, the worm fisherman who approaches quietly and fishes near the point of activity may also make good catches.

At first it would appear that taking the bluegills during their spawning activity would be a poor conservation practice. Research has indicated it is almost impos-

sible to overfish bluegills, therefore, it is actually desirable to reduce the number of bluegills by fishing and thereby promote more rapid growth and more successful reproduction on the part of those which remain.

As the season progresses, the commotion along the banks becomes greatly reduced. The females tend to move into deeper water, but the males remain along the bank where they may be caught by the fly fisherman's cork-bodied bugs throughout the summer.

In July and August the bluegill fisherman who uses worms and grubs really comes into his own. A casting rod, cane pole, or fly rod equipped with a light line, a six-foot nylon leader of six-pound test or lighter, a size four hook, and a couple of BB shot sinkers is the ideal rig for getting the bluegill from the deeper water. A boat is almost an essential.

The fisherman trolls along slowly about twenty feet off the bank, letting his bait run at various depths until he runs into a concentration of bluegills. After once finding a concentration, it is most profitable to troll back and forth over the area. In this type of fishing, the fly rod fisherman will find the smallest size daredevil weighted with one or two BB's an excellent trolling bait.

In July and August the bluegills rise to the surface in schools late in the afternoon and sometimes early in the morning. A person in a boat, by observing these rises and easing his boat within maximum casting distance, can often obtain exceptionally good fly fishing. One should use a small wet fly preferably with considerable white in it. In these situations a person will often catch a mixture of crappies and bluegills.

Down south the natives use another method of fishing for blue-

gill which is well adapted to still or bank fishing. (So active a sport as rowing a boat is frowned upon.) The tackle used consists of an extra long cane pole equipped with light test casting line, a size four hook, one BB shot sinker, and a goose quill float. The line is the length of the pole. The worm is hooked only once or twice through one end, leaving the other to stream and flutter as it descends in the water. This rig is fished off the end of a pier or off a bank over deep water by continually throwing out the line and allowing the bait to drift slowly to the bottom and then lifting it and repeating the process. It is obvious that this is similar to trolling since the bait is more or less continually in motion.

Every bass fisherman has his own favorite techniques. Bass are generally taken by one of three methods: bait, plug, or fly fishing. There is no question but that all three methods are excellent. Under any given set of conditions, however, one or another method is likely to produce best results. A creel census on Red Haw and East Lake at Chariton last summer indicated that fly rod fishing produced more bass per hour than bait or plug fishing.

For bait fishing the rig includes a cane pole or casting rod, a size 1/0 to 3/0 hook, and a bob. A sinker is undesirable. For bait a four or five inch chub hooked through the back above the back bone is ideal. This rig is still-fished at the edge of the weed beds with the bob set at from one to four feet. This method, although requiring skill as do all types of fishing, is a matter of out-waiting the bass and keeping the hook supplied with live chub as the occasion demands. Some successful still fishermen work slowly along the bank, dropping their live bait gently in all likely-looking spots.

There is no need to elaborate on plug fishing since the standard equipment is well known. The lures are many and, as a rule, no particular one is at all times a "sure killer." The splasher, plunker, and certain deep runner types have at one time or the other proven quite effective.

The accepted method of plug

fishing for bass is to work a boat slowly along the shoreline about a hundred feet off the edge of the weed beds, making short, easy casts to the edge of the weeds. The retrieve for practically all plugs should be slow and, for at least part of the time, the retrieve should be stopped and interspersed with jerks.

Until the advent of cork-bodied lures, a fly rod could hardly have been considered an outstanding rig for largemouth bass fishing. Now, however, it is one of the best.

For bass fishing a nine-foot bass-action bamboo or steel rod is desirable. The standard leader is a six-foot, six-pound test nylon. For lures nothing better can be recommended than cork-bodied popping frogs and bugs. These come in a great array of sizes and patterns. The hook on which they are built should be about size 1/0, which gives a lure from one to two inches in length, including the hair or feathers used as tail or legs. Poppers may be fished either from the bank or boat. They are fished at the edge of the weeds where they are dropped lightly, allowed to be still for a few seconds, and then slowly retrieved by a series of jerks and twitches.

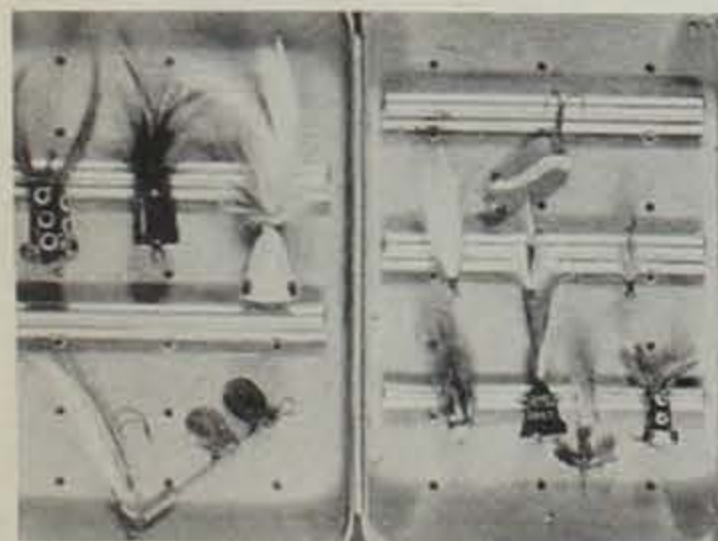
Hair frogs, bucktails, large streamers, and large wet flies equipped with spinners are good fly rod lures for largemouth, but in general it is not an error to stick to poppers.

If you have never tried a fly rod for largemouth bass, give it a try this summer. You may find more sport than you guessed from a "warm water" fish.

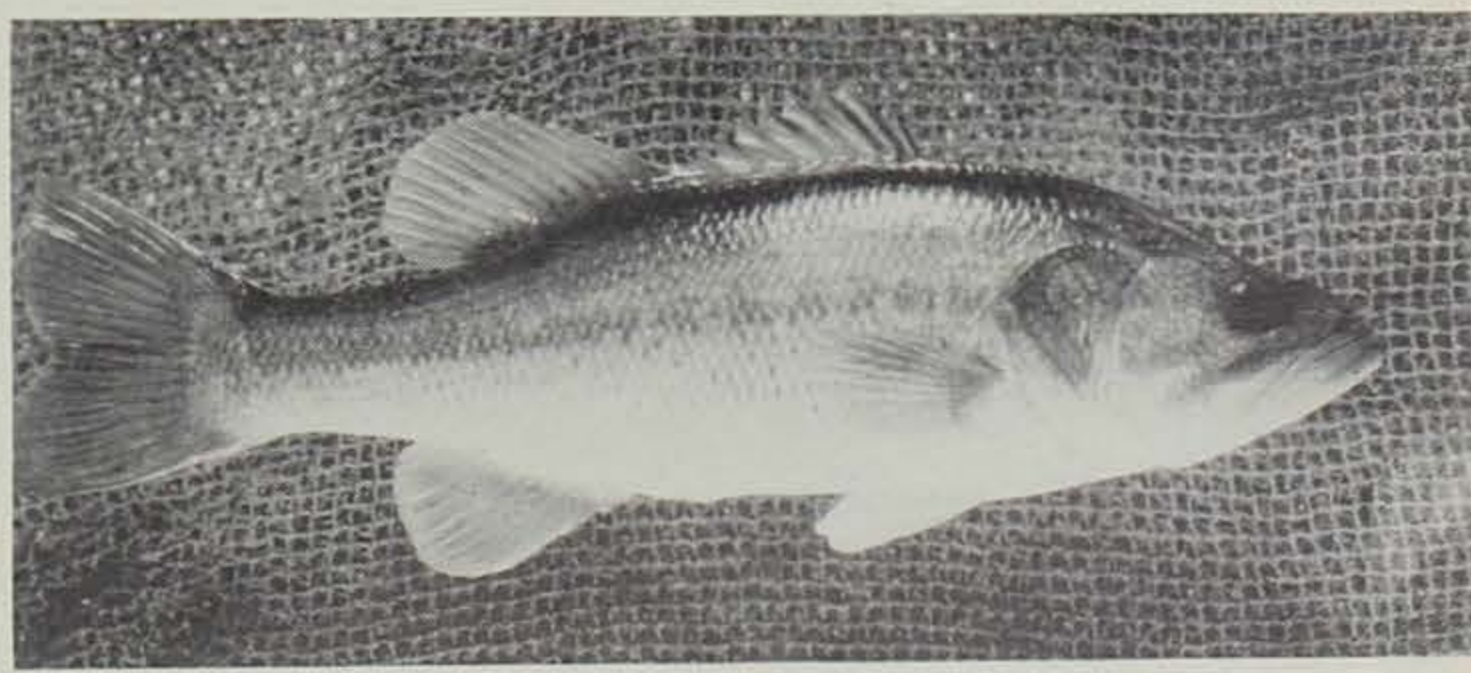
DUCK STAMP SHOULD HONOR DING

No finer tribute could be given to Ding Darling than to use his likeness on next year's duck stamp. Iowans certainly should honor him for his untiring work in urging conservation and the up-building of wildlife in Iowa.

Sportsmen are urged to contact the Conservation Commission members and urge such a move while Ding is still active in the program. How about it, men?—Ogden Reporter.



A collection of Biologist Bill Lewis' favorite fly rod lures. Wm. Lewis Photo.



This pound and a half largemouth black bass weighed half a ton on a light weight fly rod. Wm. Lewis Photo.

Our Fishing is Worth a License—Even to the Women

The Iowa State Conservation Commission has come under considerable fire recently because of a proposal to require women to buy fishing licenses in Iowa. They have been accused of being too greedy for an extra dollar. They have even been accused of a deep, dark campaign to drive our women anglers from the creek banks.

Why should such a howl be raised over a proposal such as this? The women get just as much enjoyment out of fishing as the men do. They must or they wouldn't be there. They occupy just as much space on the bank and they scare just as many fish as the male angler does. And usually they wind up by catching just about as many fish as the average male fisherman. For all these privileges the male fishermen in Iowa are glad to pay a dollar and a half each year for a license. Up to now the women have not been required to pay anything.

Decorah's trout fishing is as appealing to a woman as any type of

fishing possibly could be. It is a rare day when an average angler returns without any trout after a day of the sport in northeastern Iowa streams.

If the proposed law would tend to discourage our women friends from fishing we would say kill the law immediately. After all, there are still enough streams and enough fish to provide sport to everyone—man, woman or child. But the law won't work that way. More likely, it will induce the ladies to fish more, to take advantage of their licenses.

The proposed law would, however, bring in more revenue to the Conservation Commission. This is all to the good if the money is spent as it is supposed to be spent—for the preservation and improvement of our sports and resources. In spite of the efforts of politicians to make a football out of conservation work, the average sportsman gets his dollar's worth out of the Commission.

When women were first exempt-



Rain or shine, the gals go fishing and they usually wind up by catching just about as many fish as their men folks. Jim Sherman Photo.

ed from buying fishing licenses there were very few female an-

glers. That has changed now and the sport should be worth the cost of a license to every adult that enjoys it.—R. L. The Decorah Journal.

Law . . .

(Continued from page 130)
by proper actions and proceedings the laws, rules and regulations relating thereto. The commission shall collect, classify, and preserve all statistics, data and information as in its opinion shall tend to promote the objects of this chapter; shall conduct research in improved conservation methods and disseminate information to residents of Iowa in conservation matters. Upon the issuance of such data and information in printed form to private individuals, groups or clubs, the commission shall be entitled to charge therefor the actual cost of printing and publication as determined by the State Printer. (Code of 1946.)

IS THIS HORTICULTURE?

There is something feminine about a tree. It does a strip tease in the fall, goes about with bare limbs all winter, gets a new outfit in the spring, and lives off the sap all summer.—Illini Horticulture.



Goldeneyes are featured in the design for the 1949-50 duck stamp by Roge E. Preuss. This stamp is number 16 in the duck stamp series. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Photo.



Where and how the boat is to be used naturally determines what type of used boat to buy. Once a definite decision is reached, the prospective buyer should shop about carefully to find a good boat of this type and not waver when he sees another good boat that

does not, however, come up to his individual requirements.

A boat should be judged carefully for what it is, rather than for what the new owner-to-be wants it to be. A boat should never be judged in the water, but should be hauled up on drydock and inspected.

If the bottom is plastered with patchwork repairs, or is half eaten away with worms, further inspection is not necessary and it is better to look for another boat.

Any spots devoid of paint should

be checked for evidence of moisture. A knife blade comes in handy to test the condition of the wood. Soft spots indicate future repair and cost should be estimated.

The frame, planking and fastenings should be sound. The frame—including the keel, ribs and other structural parts—should be checked to be certain it is not cracked, split, twisted or rotted. Planks should be sound and not warped, split or sprung. (Defects in the planking usually show up at the garboard plank and along the keel at the bow.)

Short sections of planking indicate that a patch job has been made. Seams that have been tarred or patched with metal sheathing may indicate constant leaks. On lapstrake boats, seams should be tight. If the planks are loose, the entire boat may have to be re-fastened.

Paint jobs should not influence a sale too much, since a beautifully painted boat may have major defects, while a boat that has had paint literally slopped on may be highly seaworthy.

However, if a boat shows evidence of not being painted when needed, the hull may need a thorough wooding before it will ever be smooth again. Peeling on hull sides sometimes results from the use of an inferior grade of paint, a poor bond, due to the lack of proper priming coat, or paint applied under adverse weather conditions. Peeling might also be caused by excessive sweating or dry rot. Light pressure with a knife point will tell the story. A poor paint job isn't serious if good wood lies beneath, for all that the boat may need is a scraping and a new coat of paint. — Outboard Boating.



The prospective buyer should shop about carefully to find the boat that fills his need, and not waver when he sees another good boat that does not come up to his individual requirements.



Angling has become a major sport in America. It is a healthful sport and one which pays dividends far in excess of the fish caught. Mason City Globe Gazette Photo.

SCATTERED OPINIONS

Why Americans Fish

Angling has become a major sport in America, with more actual participants than baseball, football, and basketball can total. It is a healthful sport, one which pays dividends far in excess of the fish caught. Ask any fisherman. He knows.

All the fish caught by the average fisherman could be bought at the market for less than the cost of a license. It goes deeper than that, much deeper.

What is so rare as a day in June—or July or August? And what is so rare as the adventure of sitting on a shady bank, feet overhanging a stream while a limp line points the way to a lure for challenging a sunny? What is so rare as the scenery along lake, stream, or seashore?

Perhaps the greatest dividend of fishing is the opportunity to think clearly and effortlessly. The thinking a man does while he dangles a pole from a river bank would be worth—in his opinion—a hundred dollars if done in the office of his employer. It's generally straight thinking too. Many an idea has come to a fisherman which increased profits of his business when put into effect the next day. The plant head may get an idea for solving some labor crisis.

Preachers have composed sermons, authors have outlined books, engineers have invented new appliances—all while handling a fly-rod or poking a bait-casting rod over the edge of a rowboat.

Perhaps that's it. Most anglers fish for ideas, not fish.—**Texas Game and Fish.**

West Okoboji is the deepest lake in Iowa with a maximum depth of 132 feet. The deepest lake in the world, Lake Balkal in southern Siberia, has a maximum depth of 5,600 feet.

ANGLER'S REVEILLE

Then come, my friend, forget your foes, and leave your fears behind, And wander forth to try your luck, with cheerful, quiet mind.

—Henry Van Dyke.

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT

(Editor's Note: The following was written by Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, after a tour of North Africa, Palestine, Syria and the Near East. During this trip, Dr. Lowdermilk visited the sites and viewed the ruins of ancient cities and civilizations. According to the author, these desert areas were man-made, because man mis-used the land.)

"Thou shall inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease or be destroyed from the face of the earth."

COLD NOSE HOT YARN

Speaking of cold trackers, and who was? Jim Gage tells about a coon hound he had once that was a wonderful cold tracker. It seems this hound started cold tracking one afternoon and about a week later he finally barked treed. What do you suppose he had up the tree? Up in the first crotch was the skeleton of a coon that had been there over two years. Ever hear of a better coon hound than that?—**Maquoketa Community Press.**

TRAMPING OUT TROUT

By Everett Place

Sometimes I wonder if it is at all worth while to give anybody advice or to tell anybody the correct methods whereby to do a thing. But I am still an optimist—probably I'll go on until my dying day endeavoring to help the fellows catch fish when every evidence points to the fact they don't care whether they catch fish or not.

The fact in point is about fishing for trout. Last Sunday was opening day, and the water in Elk Creek was just a little cloudy. We were at Ellis Park at five o'clock all ready to make our bid for trout.

We were not alone. We counted more than thirty cars on that muddy, slippery, narrow, treacherous trail along the creek. From two to five persons were in every car. I think there were at least one hundred trout anglers somewhere along Elk Creek last Sunday morning at five o'clock.

For the most part, those trout fishermen carried approved trout fishing equipment. Most of them had on boots, many of them carried creels, practically all had garden worms for bait. They used gut and nylon leaders, the right size hooks, and they employed line weights of the correct type.

I had been along Elk Creek the day before opening day, had checked the pools and water runs, and there were plenty of good-sized trout—I saw many trout that would go up to five pounds. But on opening day less than one fisherman in five caught his limit, and probably half the fishermen caught no trout at all.

We visited at least five pools from five o'clock to nine o'clock opening morning. I gave more attention to the methods employed by the fishermen than I gave to the trout. Believe me when I state that not one angler in ten was doing the job in a manner that would catch him a mess of trout. First,

not one angler in twenty was putting the worms on the hook as the job should be done—there is a right and a wrong way to bait a hook for trout.

Second, not one angler in twenty was using the right kind of worms. For the most part, the anglers were offering the trout huge baits of nightcrawlers—and trout are simply not interested in channel catfish baits. I grant that starved trout will strike at most anything that is food, but creek-free trout that have access to natural food are not easily fooled by a huge gob of night-crawlers.

Third, practically every fisherman on Elk Creek was a bank stomper. Clomp, clomp, clomp—they paraded up and down the creek, making more rhythmic commotion than would a herd of a thousand steers. Trout are driven frantic by such rhythmic noise.

Fourth, most of the trout fishermen approached the pools with about the same caution a fellow shows when he tells off the umpire at a baseball game. Now, trout are just not taken that way—unless they have been starved into frantic submission in advance.

At that first pool above the deep pool in Ellis Park I listened to three fishermen damn the Conservation Commission to perdition, insisting there were no trout in Elk Creek. I was fishing on the south side of the pool—in their vehement indignation the three anglers sat themselves down in a quiet for a few minutes. Then it happened that I caught a two-pound brown from right under their noses. Then declared one of them, as he wagged his head negatively, "I don't understand it. I've walked from one end of this creek to the other and haven't caught one trout, and here is a guy who stands like an Indian in one spot and catches trout from under my feet. Why, oh why, wasn't I born a sheepherder instead of what I am."

It is excellent practice to stand still—very still—at a trout pool. If you bait properly and wait long (Continued on page 135)



"Practically every fisherman on Elk Creek was a bank stomper. Clomp, clomp, clomp—they paraded up and down the stream."



Biologist Earl Rose with a fine female walleye ready for stripping. Jim Sherman Photo.

Walleye . . .

(Continued from page 129)

in the state of Iowa. In the Number One category, I place the following areas: Storm Lake, Okoboji Lakes, Spirit Lake, Clear Lake, and the Mississippi River from Clinton to the Minnesota border. The Number Two category includes Silver Lake at Lake Park, Mud Lake at Wallingford, Lost Island Lake at Ruthven, the Des Moines River from Humboldt to Fort Dodge, and the Little Sioux River from Linn Grove to below Peterson. There are other areas that are also good producers occasionally but must be ranked lower than the above.

When

Now let's consider the **when** principle. Dates and time of day are of the utmost importance in walleye fishing. You might find a lake full of walleyes, but if the time is wrong you won't catch them, and for very good reasons.

According to all of the fish census work done in Iowa, the dates during which most of the walleyes are caught are from May

15 to July 1, and again from September 15 to November 30. Why are these dates best? The reason is obvious if we think about it.

Fishing is generally good in the spring primarily because of the shortage of natural foods. The walleyes are hungry and will take almost any suitably presented lure during this period. After July 1, or thereabouts, all of the other fishes in the water have reproduced, and the lake or stream is crowded with the young fishes which are the natural prey of walleyes and other predatory fishes. Until these young fishes have grown beyond the forage size, or until they have been thinned out by the walleyes, northern pike, bass and other predators, fishing is bound to be poor. This accounts for the normal decline in catches from around the first of July to September.

In 1948, only 876 walleyes were caught from Spirit Lake. Boat livermen and anglers were very much concerned. We informed them as to what was going on. A monstrous hatch of yellow perch in 1944 filled the lake with ideal forage, and, of course, the few walleyes caught were all fat as butter and their stomachs packed with the young perch. These perch served as walleye food through 1945. In 1946, the surviving perch were too large for forage, and the walleyes became hungry. As a result, we recorded 19,508 walleyes from Spirit Lake, caught by fishermen in 1946, and everybody was happy.

Walleyes apparently feed most of the time; however, they are on different feeding grounds during various hours of the day and night.

During daylight hours trolling with the old reliable "June-Bug-Spinner" and minnow combination around rock reefs and just off the bottom in deep water is an efficient method. Also, small weight-



Don't overlook the lee shores of lakes during and after a blow. The wave action stirs up immense quantities of natural food and many species of fish make these shores their cafeterias. Jim Sherman Photo.

ed plugs fished deep and cast from a boat anchored on or near rock piles is often effective. Trolling with plugs and spinner-fly combinations is effective, but not generally used by Iowa anglers.

Towards evening, the schools of adult walleyes usually move towards the shallow shoal areas to feed on the young game and forage fishes that inhabit these regions. Trolling in deep water then is a waste of time. This is the time, though, that the fancy-pants fisherman gets in his best licks.

Spinning rods with their extremely light lures, fly rods with streamer flies and light-line casting rods with small plugs are used most effectively. Most of this tackle is used along shore regions by wader clad anglers. Inlets of lakes or flowage regions from impoundments of streams are also ideal for this type of fishing. Don't overlook lee shores after a heavy wind on lakes. This is a favorite spot for walleyes, especially in the evening. Here the accumulation of food made available by wave action has special attraction for these and other fish.

Walleyes have become abundant in the Mississippi during the past several years, and many excellent catches have been taken, especially from the regions below the channel dams. Winter fishing from boats using live minnows has been very effective in taking them.

How

A few cardinal rules on how hold true over most of the Iowa waters, and I don't believe too many experts will disagree with them.

First and foremost, whether you are fishing with artificials or trolling live bait, the lure must move slowly, and ordinarily very close to the bottom.

Walleyes like their meals served

gentle like, so remember to move your lure just as slowly as possible and yet retain the desired action. Where weeds or other obstructions don't interfere with the lure, I like to keep it just bumping along the bottom occasionally. With deep running plugs the best speed is the slowest it will travel and yet maintain good action. Regulate the depth, if necessary, by adding a small weight about six inches ahead of the lure.

Quite frequently in fishing shoal areas at dusk and night you will find the walleyes right near the surface, feeding on emerging insects such as shad, caddis or stone flies and also schools of small fish. The fly-rod with streamer-fly fished on the surface is a real killer here, and limit catches are the rule. Some exceptions will occur in this, especially during a very heavy hatch of shad flies, in which event the walleyes "can't see the forest for the trees" and your fly will go unnoticed and unwanted by the ravenously feeding fish.

To angle for surface feeding walleyes by starlight is, in my estimation, the ultimate in piscatorial pursuits. You hear the characteristic "swish-swish" of a walleye feeding on top and then quickly flip the fly in the general direction of the disturbance. A series of short, slow, jerky retrieves, and then the strike. You never know from that first solid tug whether it's an old lunker or a young "hammer-handle." They all hit with a vengeance. However, if it's a good one, you'll soon know it, for a husky walleye from three to six pounds will test the skill of any angler using the light tackle.

Caudal Peduncle (tail's end)

Don't infer from the above that it is necessary to carry around a sporting goods store full of equip-

(Continued on page 136)



Two-day catch of walleyes from Clear Lake, taken by an expert, night fishing in the shallows.



"Iowa's state flower, the wild rose, symbolizes with its simple beauty our sovereignty and strength, our Christian faith and tolerance. It represents our fields and streams, our churches, schools and factories, our summer sun and winter snows. It represents our singing birds and laughing children. In short, the blossom speaks of Iowa, beautiful land."—From the narrative of the movie, "Spring Comes to the Woodland." Jim Sherman Photo.

A Rose . . .

(Continued from page 129)

the ages have continued in that pursuit, until today's roses are marvels of perfection.

In Queen Elizabeth's time there were only about a dozen roses grown in England, among them the Damask rose, the flower brought back by the Crusaders from Damascus; there were the ancient cabbage roses Pliny knew, moss roses, the Austrian yellow brier, the York and Lancaster, and the *Rosa mundi*, and several more. But when the trade with the Orient opened, roses which had been grown in China and Japan for thousands of years came to Europe. France had a favorite climate for roses, and here the rose hybridizers did some of their best work, but it was not until the time of the Empress Josephine in the early 19th century that rose culture really made great headway. The Empress liked roses, and in her extensive gardens at Malmaison she ordered planted every rose known which would grow there—and there ultimately were 250 species. She encouraged the hybridizers, and in making roses fashionable, Josephine started a trend which to this day only increases with the years.

The family in which the rose finds itself contains some of the most illustrious and most useful plants the world has ever known. In the Rosaceae there are the apples, plums, pears, peaches, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, blackberries, and spiraeas, the haws, and many more. Supreme in beauty, however, the rose stands

alone. There is no flower like it, none more highly developed for the pleasure and inspiration of mankind, nor cultivated for that purpose for a longer time by the loving hand of man.—**The Living Museum.**

Tramping . . .

(Continued from page 133)

enough in quiet patience, you'll catch trout. But if you are one of those fellows who takes about thirty seconds at each pool, then tramping up and down searching for the trout so hungry they will grab at whatever is offered, you are doomed to return home with an empty creel and criticism of the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission has actually stocked Elk Creek even beyond its ability to support trout. Of course, the excess trout will be removed within a few weeks, but Elk Creek is still amply stocked for heavy fishing. And what is true of Elk Creek is true of other Iowa trout streams. The empty creels are because the fishermen will not learn how to fish for trout.

Yes, we got our limit—had 'em before seven o'clock. They ran from eight to fourteen inches—we put back a good many that were unhurt and under eight inches. We could have taken fifty trout had we been so minded. I would have enjoyed seeing other fishermen get their limits, too—but it seems they simply will not employ the correct methods. So it follows they must return home with only alibis.—**The Hopkinton Leader.**

FLY ROD EASY TO MASTER

There was a time when fly fishing was considered beyond the realm of many anglers, but such is not true today and those using the fly rod have discovered a new interest and greater pleasure in fishing.

It is true that the thrills of fly fishing and the smoothness of its operation give fly fishing a background of artistic accomplishment, but it is not true that the sport demands long practice to master it. Anyone can learn—easily and quickly—and enjoy the sport to its fullest.

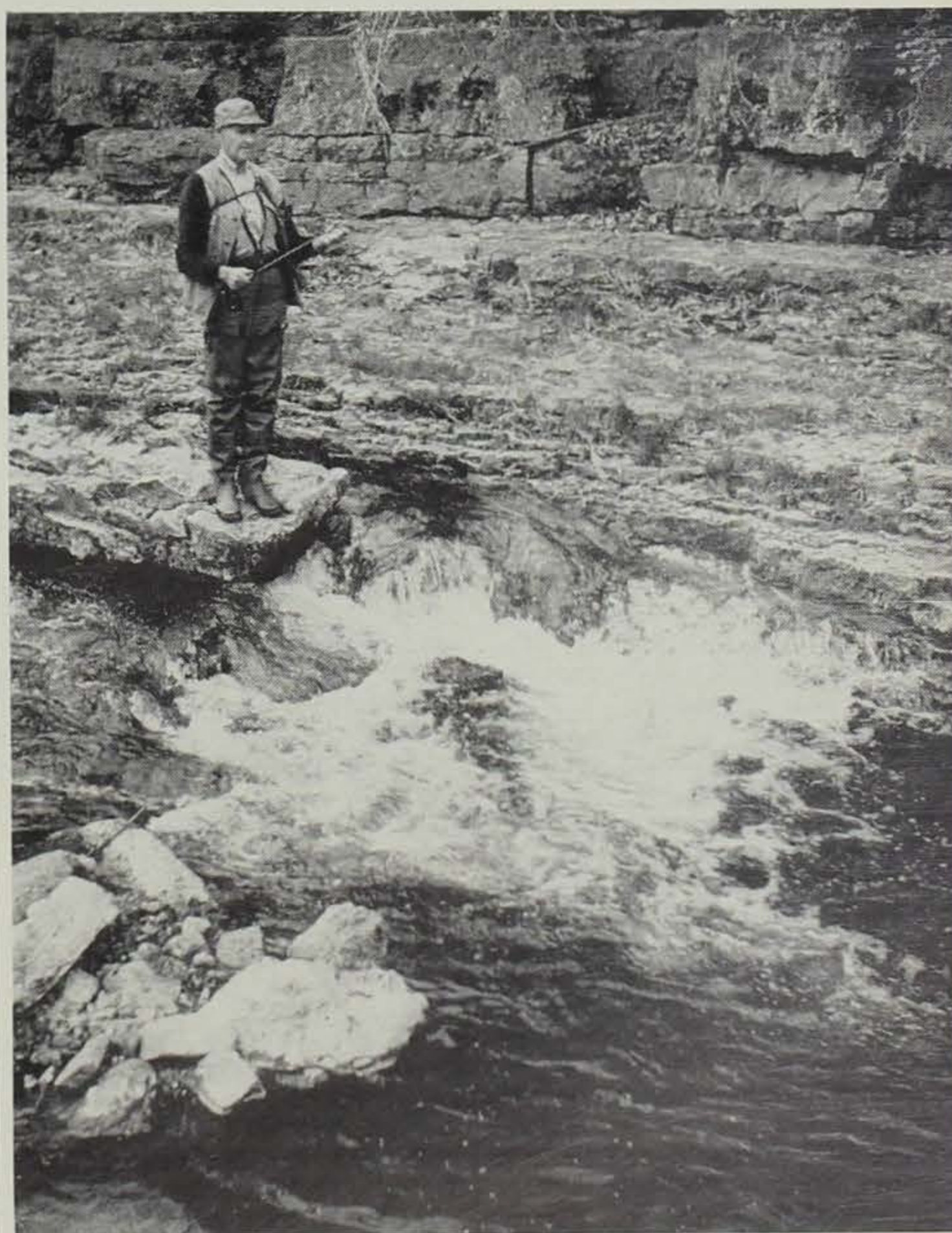
It is not necessary to have personal coaching. To our way of thinking it is just as easy to master the fundamentals by reading one of the instruction booklets being distributed by the various fly rod equipment manufacturers.

We believe the important matters to keep in mind when beginning are: 1. The rod is to be considered only as a means of propelling the line; 2. The reel is merely a spool or container for storing the line and is the reverse case as in bait casting; 3. The fly weighs nothing and will in no way assist the caster in carrying line to where you wish it to go; 4. Timing is the most important asset to acquire.

We advise those interested to buy an outfit rather than to borrow one as we find that many times some are discouraged because they can't seem to get the "hang" of it due mostly to improperly fitted tackle. Accordingly, it is an excellent idea to consult with a salesperson acquainted with the art of fly fishing and preferably one who himself is a fly rod man.

We will not go into too many definitions, as to wet and dry flies and which is the better. Suffice to say that a wet fly sinks in the water while a dry fly floats on the surface. Our personal preference is dry fly fishing as we never seem to tire of the sight of a fish swirling and striking at the fly, but we will admit that there are many times when a wet fly might have produced better results.

It is an excellent idea to learn fly casting from the very excellent booklet directions and after inculcating yourself with the principles to go out in the back yard for your practice sessions. Any object such as a good sized piece of paper will serve as a target and don't be discouraged too easily at first. We know many fellows and women, too, who have mastered the fly rod fairly well in less than four hours time. — **Burlington Hawkeye Gazette.**



There was a time when fly fishing was considered beyond the realm of many anglers. Men, and women too, now master the fly rod fairly well in four hours or less. Jim Sherman Photo.



Although many of our streams have been destroyed for smallmouth bass by erosion, pollution, and floods, good bass fishing may still be found, particularly in the northeastern sections of the state. Jim Sherman Photo.

Smallmouths . . .

(Continued from page 129)

grinding against your boots, you could easily picture what happens to a nest of delicate fish eggs in such circumstances. The discouraged bass, unable to prevent the burying of the nest during a flood, deserts the eggs.

Even if the fish hatch, the floods make it difficult for the young to survive. Many of them are washed along with the flood water. The others have difficulty finding food. Young bass feed upon tiny plants and animals called plankton. During floods, the production of plankton is very low, and even if these tiny animals and plants were present in usual numbers, the young fish would have difficulty finding them among the billions of particles of silt and clay suspended in the water.

Although many of the streams in Iowa have been destroyed for smallmouths by erosion and floods, there is good bass fishing to be found, particularly in the eastern and northeastern sections. The Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit is making a study of smallmouth bass in the area around Manchester and Oelwein. Silting of the streams in this area is not as serious as in some other parts of the state. The streams have a steeper gradient and the period of flooding is usually of short duration.

In the small streams and the headwaters of the rivers, spawning conditions are favorable during most years and there is a good survival of young fish. Investigations of these small streams has shown that there is no shortage of bass but that there is a definite shortage of pool habitat for larger fish. The pools tend to fill with sand during the summer, and the bass are concentrated in the few

remaining pools during the mid-summer period of low water.

The smallmouth feeds chiefly upon crayfish and minnows but will eat a wide variety of other foods. Most any small animal occurring naturally or accidentally in or upon the water may be taken by the smallmouth. A nestling bird and a lamprey were among the more unusual items found in the recent study.

Smallmouth black bass reach the legal length of ten inches in their third to sixth summer of life, depending upon the conditions for growth in the stream or portion of stream where they live. The average growth is about three inches a year in the streams of northeastern Iowa.

Comparatively few large bass were found in the small streams. This scarcity is not due to slow growth rate, but rather to an absence of older fish. All but one of one hundred and four smallmouths taken from seven small streams in northeast Iowa in 1947 were four years of age or less. The older fish are not caught and probably move downstream. It is believed that most of these large bass are never caught. It would therefore be wise management to catch more of the bass while they are in the small streams.

During the season of 1947, sixty-seven bass were moved from one two and one-half mile section of a small stream, and the catch per hour of fishing was higher in September when over fifty fish had already been caught than in July and August. On two occasions, seven smallmouths were taken from one small pool. Although there is little chance of catching a really big bass in these streams, almost half of the one hundred and four bass taken on fly rod lures during 1947 were of legal

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Walt Harvey, conservation officer in charge of Marshall and Grundy counties, writes: "I've kept this yarn to myself for a long, long time. It happened down on the good old Mississippi River when the Green Bay Bottom was in its prime. It was my first year as an officer. I was on early morning patrol in my motor boat and heard some shots over in the eastern bottoms. After I had put-putted down there I heard no more shooting. I eased my boat into some brush and sat there, waiting. In those days some of the game wardens smoked those big corn-cob pipes. I pulled mine out as I sat there, filled it up, and in a minute or two had it going full blast. All of a sudden my corn-cob shattered in a hundred pieces. I flopped to the bottom of the boat and began to think who in the bottoms was good enough to shoot my pipe right out of my mouth, or if maybe they had missed the target. It took several minutes of good hard logic there in the wet bottom of the boat to figure out what really happened. I had scooped up loose tobacco from my jacket pocket and with it a .22 caliber shell. When the old furnace got going real good, the shell got hot and exploded and blew my pipe to pieces. I got back up on the seat of the boat, started my motor, and felt safe again and among friends."

Floyd Morley, conservation officer in charge of Worth and Winnebago counties, writes: "I had received reports that a trapper was poisoning foxes and wolves and that a dog or two in the general vicinity had died under mysterious circumstances. I located this man and watched him through glasses as he apparently followed a trap line. I had heard he was a sly one, and I wanted to get the goods on him, so I followed back over his trail after he had gone. I was well in the center of the section when I saw what looked like a piece of poison meat. As I picked it up there was an explosion and my hand was quite badly burned. I hurried into town and to the doctor, who immediately smelled

size and thirteen-inch smallmouths were not uncommon.

These smallmouth bass evidently did not consult fishermen's timetables, for they were taken at all hours of the day. Contrary to the fisherman's rule of thumb that the best fishing is in early morning or late evening, more fish were taken per hour of fishing between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Some suggestions for catching more smallmouth bass will appear in a forthcoming issue of the "Conservationist."

cyanide gas. Then I tumbled. My trapper was using illegal cyanide gas guns in his trapping profession. The next day I was pretty well over the shock and followed him over his line again and arrested him for using illegal trapping methods. His cyanide gas gun is a little tube that is placed in the ground, loaded with a .38 caliber pistol shell containing cyanide gas. When any animal picks up the piece of meat the shell explodes, blowing the gas into the poor creature's throat, killing him almost instantly. My violator was fined \$400 for the use of these dangerous gas guns. I felt lucky to get off with only a badly burned hand."

Tom Berkley, conservation officer in charge of Winneshiek, Chickasaw, and Fayette counties, formerly worked the Warren-Madison county area. He writes: "One night last summer I picked up two fishermen on the South Coon for running about a hundred hooks. They worked up the river and I was following back in the brush. It was dark as the dickens and I tried to be quiet, but using no light complicated the situation. Finally I stepped out into the river and arrested them. It was a more or less routine event. But three months later I met one of the fellows and he told me his side of the experience. It seems that I made more noise than I thought and one of the fellows heard me and said, 'What is that, Jack?' The other replied, 'Nothing; only a cow. Come on, let's go.' This occurred two or three times as they worked up the river. Finally as I stepped off the bank and flashed my light on them, the first man said to his companion, 'Well, Jack, here comes your cow and she's carrying a flashlight.'"

Walleye . . .

(Continued from page 134)

ment to enable consistently good catches of walleyes. If you prefer to still fish or troll with live bait, your tackle is simple and inexpensive. Casting equipment can and should be of high quality, and in the long run the cheapest is the best you can buy. A half dozen well chosen lures is about all you'll find the experienced walleye fisherman using, but these have been selected from probably hundreds of dollars worth of tried but untrue creations that he satchels up and leaves at home to impress envious friends.

There is only one best time to go fishing, and that is when you have time. And, mister, if you don't have time—take it. The old slogan, "Allah does not deduct from man's allotted time those hours spent in fishing," may not be true but fishing is good medicine and a sure fire balm for urban ulcers.

Iowa is one of the largest manufacturing centers in the world for pearl buttons.