



TAILWATERS

The Newsletter of the Upper Delaware & Beamoc Chapters of Trout Unlimited

Published April, June, August & October

Editor Mark A. Rando June 2008

Human Pride is not worthwhile; there is always something lying in wait to take the wind out of it.
Mark Twain

The President's Pool

Spring is taunting us with episodes of warming sun, buds, blossoms, scattered showers, and the thrill of rising trout. The Shad Bush, also known as Downy Serviceberry or June-berry *Amelanchier canadensis* is in full bloom. The abundant white blossoms are synonymous with the anadromous shad's return to the river of its birth. In the mid-Atlantic tributaries as it is here on the Delaware River, approximately fifty percent of these spawning shad will survive. Those that do survive the upstream run and spawning act will turn around and head back downstream. Less than ten percent of these downrunners, as fishermen refer to them, will ever return to spawn again. The Delaware River's record shad was an eleven pound one ounce, seven year old virgin.

Beamoc's Manny Zanger did a fine job soliciting and coordinating our chapter's efforts to help with some trout stocking of local streams. We were able to muster up work parties on three different occasions and assisted in stocking the Beaverkill, East Branch Delaware, and West Branch Delaware with many fine looking one and two year old brown trout. Many thanks to Manny and all those who found time to participate in this venture. New York State DEC stocks 31,000 miles of stream with 1.7 million brown trout, 415 thousand rainbows, and 143 thousand brook trout. As you can imagine, this is no easy task and we're happy to make our small contribution to this effort. There will be another stocking of the Beaverkill toward the end of May. Anyone interested in helping please contact me personally or email postmaster@upperdelawaretu.org for further details.

On May 3rd we gathered on the banks of Hankins Creek and planted a portion of the willows that were collected over the winter months and propagated under the expert care of Tom Brown in his basement. There will be more subsequent plantings as we continue to survey streams in **Cont. on Page 2**

UDCTU 2008 Calendar of Events

JUNE	
7-Jun	NYSTU Gen'l Council - Roscoe
8-Jun	Farmers Market Tractor Parade
28-Jun	Chapter Meeting + Fishing Outing
JULY	
6-Jul	Farmers Market
19-Jul	Chapter Meeting **
26-Jul	Callicoon Street Fair
27-Jul	Narrowsburg River Fest
AUGUST	
3-Aug	Farmers Market
23-Aug	Chapter Meeting
31-Aug	Farmers Market
SEPT	
6-Sep	Grahamsville Youth Expo
20-Sep	NYSTU Gen'l Council -TBA
20-Sep	Road Clean Up
OCT	
4-Oct	Stream opening, meeting, picnic
NOV	
15-Nov	NYSTU Gen'L Council Pulaski
Nov	Vibert Boxes
DEC	Willow Slip Cutting
	All meetings @ Long Eddy Firehouse Rt. 97 Long Eddy, NY 12760
	** Road clean up after meeting- volunteers welcomed

Presidents Pool Cont.

need of restoration. Thanks to all for the fine turn out and enthusiasm.

Pam Reinhardt, our Secretary and member of the Western Sullivan Library System Board, presented the concept of having fishing rods and tackle available for loan at the local library. This tackle is now available to children between the ages of eight and fourteen at the Jeffersonville, Callicoon, and Narrowsburg branches. We are delighted to join with Catskill Delaware Outdoors, the Kiwanis Club of Callicoon, and Tom's Bait and Tackle Shop as sponsors of this worthwhile endeavor. Children will be provided with a fishing pamphlet, spinning reel, rod, tackle box, and a coupon for free bait. Special thanks to Val Reinhardt who will maintain the tackle and keep the reels spooled and ready for loan.

Karol Sundholm our vice president and membership chair has taken our newly designed website online and it can now be accessed at <http://www.upperdelawaretu.org/> This site will display current information and happenings.

Thanks again for your kind support. Look forward to seeing you at our upcoming June 28th meeting starting 9:00 AM at the Long Eddy Firehouse. Afterwards there will be a chapter fishing outing. Please make time to attend a meeting or event and keep those raffle purchases coming.

Think globally, act locally
Frank Salt

Didymo In the Delaware

The presence of an invasive microscopic algae *Didymosphenia geminata* has been confirmed in both the East and West Branches of the Delaware as well as the mainstem down as far south as Callicoon. Also referred to as didymo or "rock snot" it is actually a freshwater diatom which is a type of single-celled algae unique for their silica (SiO₂) cell walls. When excessive growths occur, it can smother river beds with mats as thick as eight inches. It is reported to have a feel and texture similar to wet cotton and is not slimy like the types of river algae we normally encounter. It is generally brown, tan or yellow in color.

The native distribution of *D. geminata* is reported to be the cool temperate **Cont. on Page 3**

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Meeting Reminder

June 28, 2008 – 9:00 AM
Long Eddy Firehouse
Route 97
Long Eddy, NY 12761

Didymo cont.

regions of the Northern Hemisphere, including the rivers of northern forests and alpine regions of Europe, Asia and parts of North America. In June 2007 didymo was discovered in the Connecticut River near Bloomfield, Vermont. This was the first recorded discovery in the northeastern United States. The sighting was reported by a fishing guide and confirmed by a Dr. Sarah Spaulding, a noted expert on didymo. Its presence in a river system can have a drastic impact to river ecology affecting both aquatic insect populations and native stream vegetation.

The spread of didymo can be facilitated through fishing equipment; notably waders, boots and boats. Live cells can be transmitted in a single drop of water. There are a variety of recommended techniques for disinfecting both porous and non-porous surfaces. Apparently absorbent surfaces such as felt soles on wading boots need extended soaking periods of 30 to 40 minutes in very hot water with detergent to be sure all living cells have been killed. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has a good fact sheet and a map of the impacted areas available at the following link:

http://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/habitat/ans/didymo/faq_didymo.htm

While following some of the recommend ways to disinfect gear may be a good precaution, it might not be a bad idea to keep a separate pair of waders for use on the impacted stretches and keep them out of any contact with a clean pair. Folks this is a potentially very serious threat to our waters so I would encourage everyone who fishes the upper Delaware system to become educated on the issue. We have been talking about some ideas about possibly setting up cleaning stations at access areas. I saw an article where the Maryland Department of Fish and Game was doing the same on the Gunpowder where didymo has also been found. As more information becomes available we'll try our best to pass it on.

M.A.R.

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Post Flood Hatches & Fishing

In talking to other chapter members and local fisherman in our area we have heard a variety of predictions and opinions on what impacts the recent flood events in our area would have on our local fishing waters. These have run across the full spectrum of possibilities. Complete gloom and doom forecasts of totally scoured stream bottoms with little insect life left behind represent one extreme. The glass half full guys say the extra heavy flows cleaned out overly silted and weed-choked bottoms and will have a liberating effect on the aquatic insect life. While none of us know for sure what the longer term impacts will be, one thing I can happily report on is that the early season fishing reports from around our area are very encouraging. The word from fishing friends and the local shops are tales of heavy hatches and good numbers of large fish. Many who have fished over the Hendrickson hatch on the Beaverkill for example say it was the heaviest hatch seen in many years with lots of nice fish in the 18 plus inch range being caught. The guys at the Beaverkill Angler were very bullish on what they and their customers have seen thus far. My fishing on the lower Beaverkill and Jaws section of the East Branch bears this out also. Some heavy Hendrickson hatches, respectable numbers of blue quills, blizzards of Shad Caddis and early March Browns often with good numbers have been the norm. There were even some good concentrations of Grey Foxes with some early Sulphurs mixed in recently. Both nymphing and fishing up top have been good with a nice mix of rainbows and browns. It seems the lower Beaverkill has more and more rainbows each year. On the lower reaches I often experience a near 50-50 mix. You can usually tell almost immediately when you have a rainbow. Set the hook and all #@\$! breaks loose almost immediately. I have had a few this season that I had to chase down the bank to stay hooked up. This is all very encouraging and it will be interesting to see what develops throughout the rest of the season.

M.A.R.

UDCTU Membership

Interested in joining us?
Contact any one of the officers
listed on page 2 for details

Fishing Tandem Fly Rigs Sage Advice from Chuck N. Hope

When it comes to subsurface fishing, Chuck N. Hope says two flies are better than one. Now keep in mind that Chuck was not always a nymph and wet fly fisherman. Many moons ago Chuck was an ardent dry fly man and seldom fished wet. But over the years Chuck found that too much valuable fishing time could be lost waiting for rising fish and fishing dries blind while pounding a dead lifeless surface can sometimes get old fast. Additionally, Chuck readily admits he is not a lucky fisherman when it comes to lining up his fishing time to coincide with a good hatch period. He has to fish when he can. In fact, Chuck told me that if they ever put a picture in the dictionary of the guy that should have been there yesterday it would be him. We'll at least he has a good sense of humor and in the process a nymph and wet fly fisherman was born and let me tell you that Chuck brags heartily about his ability to fish a piece a water that seems as lifeless as a midwinter day and still catch fish; lots of fish according to him.

Chuck says his success with the subsurface domain is based on a few basic tenants; fish as short a line as possible, stay in touch with your flies throughout each drift, use both upstream dead drifts and downstream swing drifts at various angles, give the fish a few choices with a tandem fly rig, use fly patterns that incorporate materials that promote lifelike motion and translucence or flash and fish each stretch of water as thoroughly as your patience can stand. Do these things and Chuck swears you'll catch more fish. Chuck feels that once good nymph and wet fly fishing skills are developed, the use of tandem fly rigs will add many more fish to one's scorecard. I asked Chuck to elaborate on that a bit more. He went on to tell me that variety is the spice of life when it comes to both fishing and women. Asking him to stick to the fishing part he went on to explain that presenting combinations of flies such as one dark and one light, small and large, gaudy and plain, weighted and unweighted etc. will simply show the fish more possibilities and cover more feeding lanes and fish moods with each drift. This should naturally result in more strikes. Chuck said, think of it like this; if your out in a bar buying rounds of drinks for several ladies instead of just one your odds should improve but he admits that very often it just means he spends his paycheck that much faster. I said I get the picture.

Chuck has experimented with different fly pairings and has found that certain combinations seem to work better than others. One favorite is to fish a weighted nymph pattern of the prevailing hatch as the point fly and add a size 16 or 18 Starling and

Herl soft hackle wet fly as the tail fly. Chuck explained that the lighter wet fly tailing behind the weighted nymph will ride higher in the water column and seems to draw a lot of attention; especially when Caddis are hatching. Hatch matching nymphs that have worked particularly well for him include March Brown and *Isonychia* patterns. He'll sometimes use an emerger of the same pattern for the tail fly behind the nymph. An effective general searching rig he favors utilizes a lighter shade Hare's Ear or Matt's Fur nymph on the point and any peacock herl bodied nymph such as a Zug Bug or Prince Nymph as the tail fly. Still another favorite is combining pairs of soft hackle wets which he is very fond of fishing such as a Partridge & Orange and a Partridge & Yellow. He sometimes even fishes a brace of 3 soft hackles like the old time wet fly anglers used to do. He also likes to employ beadheads and flashbacks on occasion especially a beadhead pheasant tail nymph.

Although there are numerous ways to setup a tandem fly rig, Chuck usually sticks with two basic rigs. The first is created simply by using an improved clinch knot to add a 12 to 18 inch length of 4x or 5x leader to the hook bend of the first fly called the point fly which is knotted as usual to the end of the main leader. The tail fly is then knotted to the end of the leader segment that was knotted to the bend of the first fly. Split shot or match stick wrap weights can be added above the first fly on the main leader as needed to get the flies down to the required level. Make sure lead is legal in the waters you are fishing or use a substitute if needed. Chuck explained that he can detect strikes based on an inexplicable zen-like awareness and does not need or like strike indicators personally but says one can be used with these rigs if desired. I saw no point in probing the zen-like thing further for the record.

The second rig Chuck favors is similar to a "hi - lo" type rig used in saltwater fishing. Start by placing an overhand knot at the very end of a 24 inch tippet. Then tie a short 3-4 inch dropper loop 4-6 inches above the overhand knot. A second dropper loop is added anywhere from 12 to 20 inches above the first. A fly is tied to each dropper loop and split shot are added as needed just above the overhand knot which keeps them from slipping off. He favors oval split shot. Chuck says this rig is useful for fishing flies at different levels in the water column or fishing very fast pocket water and does not hang up as often. He assured me either rig casts well with a minimum of fuss and reemphasized the need to fish short lines. Chuck concluded by telling me you'll seldom see him sitting on a bank waiting for risers, no sir he'd rather

Chuck N. Hope Cont.

fish. Chuck also told me that on occasion he gets a double header. I said two trout on one cast sounds a bit far fetched to me. He just looked at me and smiled and said well yeah, sometimes that happens too.

BEAMOC Chapter News

Greetings to all our Beamoc members and friends; finally, spring has arrived. While the early season fishing was kind of slow, things have picked up and I look forward to the warmer weather and multiple hatches of June. This has been a busy Spring for our members and also for those of the neighboring Upper Delaware chapter. I would like to thank Frank Salt and the Upper Delaware chapter for their participation in assisting with the trout stocking recently done by Region 4 on the lower Beaverkill and East Branch of the Delaware. Their help sure made things easier.

Doc. Alan Fried and friends from the BOCES planted numerous trees and shrubs on the banks of the Willowemoc; a project that Doc.is involved with every year. Our chapter member Manny Zanger also acquired stream culled willows and silky dogwoods to be planted for stream bank restoration. Manny had communicated with some folks that had properties which experienced severe bank erosion as a result of the flooding near Rt. 206 this past Summer. Our chapter supplied them with planting stock and they would like to pass on their thanks to our chapter for getting involved and helping out.

With the help of teachers and students of the Livingston Manor School, over 400 shrubs were planted on the banks of the Willowemoc creek. On April 26 we conducted a river clean up on Rt.206 in Colchester, Delaware County and I would like to thank Doc., Carl Braun and Dave Plummer from upper Susquehanna chapter for a successful clean up event.

The Beamoc chapter will be hosting the State council meeting on Saturday June 7, at 9:00 at the Rockland House in Roscoe. Hope to see you there Have a GREAT summer !

MZ

BEAMOC Meeting Dates

- Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum at 6:30pm
- June 5th
- July 3rd
- August 7th
- September 4th
- October 2nd
- November 6th
- December 4th

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Evan Lavery

The Gift of Fishing

One of the greatest rewards in fishing is in finding ways to share it with others. A wonderful idea is being tried out at the Western Sullivan Public Library. Fully equipped fishing outfits are being made available at each branch that can be borrowed just like a book by children between the ages of eight and fourteen. A complete fishing rod and reel with a small tackle box can be checked out at any one of the branches in Callicoon, Narrowsburg and Jeffersonville. A brief pamphlet about fishing and a coupon for free bait from Tom's Bait and Tackle Shop or Catskill-Delaware Outdoors is also included. The original proposal for the program was put together by our very own Pam Reinhardt who is a member of the Western Sullivan Library Board. Her husband Val put together the tackle box selections and researched which fishing outfits the sponsoring members should donate. He is also the ongoing tackle administrator assuring that the kits are kept up in good order. The fishing outfits were donated by the Kiwanis Club of Callicoon, Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Tom's Bait and Tackle Shop. For further details call 845/482-4350.

UDCTU Raffle Reminder

Please remember to return raffle tickets sent last month

Storytellers Corner - The Crazy Dutchman and Those Guys from Jersey

Fishing had been slow all morning on a stretch of the lower Beaverkill below Peakville; tough water but sometimes it gave up a larger brown or an electric Delaware rainbow. Besides, I usually had it to myself in those days and enjoyed the solitude. With college finals behind me, the peace and quiet of being on the river was a most welcome break. Making my way downstream, I noticed another fisherman on the opposite bank down perhaps a 100 yards from me; so much for the solitude I thought. Impatience had invaded by being as no strikes had come to my flies that morning and continued blind fishing could no longer keep my interest; nymphs, streamers, dries nothing was working. Now moving downstream more quickly I could see that the other fisherman was casting intently. Curious to see what had his attention I hurried my pace and was not even casting anymore. As I grew closer, two things caught my eye. He had fish rising and he was a beautiful caster. One or two sharp false casts and his line sailed across covering perhaps three quarters of the river's width with an almost trancelike ease. He was fishing in front of a group of small river homes and I could see that there were some risers both in front of him and some distance above him.

Planning my strategy, I would need to go back up the bank and walk the road a bit to a point below him where it was shallow enough to cross and then walk the far bank up past him to get to those other risers. I should be able to do that without interfering with his fishing I thought, so I quickly began to execute my plan. After fording the river I started back up the bank the other fisherman had been casting from. Looking up, I noticed that he had stopped fishing and was now sitting in an old wooden chair placed ten feet or so from the water's edge eyes gazing intently out across the river. As I approached his lie, he was still sitting in the chair and I made it a point to keep my tracks in the stream proper as close to the bank as I could, not wanting to disturb him nor walk on what I figured was his property. Seeing him close up for the first time it became readily apparent that this guy was as old as the hills. He had pale blue eyes deeply sunken below his forehead and a ruddy, vein studded complexion punctuated with a faceful of deep cracks and fissures. Sitting there twisted and slumped forward, he looked like he had had a really tough life; a laborer's life with large knobby hands, well spotted awkwardly gripping what looked to be a pretty nice bamboo fly rod. He was wearing a faded black crusher type fishing hat, well worn red flannel shirt and an old pair of canvas bootfoot waders liberally patched.

At first he didn't even seem to notice me. But all of a sudden his head shot straight up reminding me of an angry cardinal almost losing his hat he ranted loudly "what the heck are you doing"? Startled at first, I didn't quite know what his issue was being fairly certain I could get to my intended spot in a way no reasonable person would consider rude. This was not the issue though as he quickly made things clear to me. "You can't come here. This is private property. We never sold our fishing rights to the state at this end of the river", he proclaimed in total defiance of my presence. Not knowing quite what to say or do, I searched my unsettled brain for a reasonable response. Quickly thinking things through and not really sure whether he was right or not I simply apologized and told him I thought it was OK to fish there. I guess I must have said the right thing as his demeanor quickly softened and he explained to me that it really wasn't he I had to worry about; it was his neighbor the crazy Dutchman next door I would have to deal with; citing a large nasty dog and shotgun, both on the ready to keep guys like me away. I thought to myself is this guy for real, *Crazy Dutchman*? Not wanting to risk ruining a nice day I conceded to myself that it would be best to just leave.

Stating my intentions were to do an about face and head back not wanting to test the legend of the crazy Dutchman, I was just about to do so. Then for reasons unknown he did a complete reversal and said "ah heck you can fish here if you want to. The Dutchman isn't here right now anyway". Not knowing whether he was feeding me to the lions or simply overcome with a sense of Waltonian camaraderie for a fellow brother of the angle, I replied "well that's really nice of you. There seem to be some really nice looking fish rising up there a bit." "Sure they're nice" he retorted. "I'd go fish them myself if I could" he lamented. "Why I use to walk this whole river from Roscoe on down when I was a young lad like you" he continued now smiling. "The fishing must have been pretty good back then " I said wanting to console his memory and keep him in a hospitable mood. "Christ, I used to catch trout with spots the size of nickels out of every pool up here. That was until those damn guys from Jersey come up and clean out all the rivers up here". Oh no, here it comes I thought. He had every old-time codger phrase known to mankind lined up and ready to go and was going to ask me where I'm from. Not wanting to seem too eager to get past him and also to keep my New Jersey origins concealed, I opened up one of my fly boxes and offered him a few Hendrickson dries; freshly tied by the Dettles of Roscoe. I thought of it as a peace offering given with the hopes of repaying part of the debt owed by legions of thoughtless Jersey brethren who came before meand hopefully to get on up to those still rising trout. At first he refused then changed his mind and said I could always use a few more flies. I handed him two and he smiled. Continuing my walk up, I pictured lines of cars with Jersey plates driving down the route 17 quickway with garbage cans full of trout tied to their rear bumpers; tails sticking out with spots the size of nickels. **M.A.R.**

The Editor's Post

You hear it reported from many fronts that the numbers of fisher-people plying our waters is thinning out each season. Nearly every state that tracks fishing license sales is reporting this trend. I personally find this a sad thing. I think this trend is a good barometer of a society that continues to lose touch with the natural world; instead favoring artificiality spawned through the computer revolution and other high tech gadgetry. The simple act of fishing for sustenance dates back to the earliest times of man. Modern day sport fishing is an extension of that primitive behavior perhaps driven by an innate desire to reconnect with our ability to fend for ourselves as our ancestral hunter-gatherers did. For many who continue the fishing traditions within our very uncertain and fast changing modern day world, the sport provides a stable framework to live a good life within. Although it is quite a different world today than what Izaak Walton knew when he wrote the Compleat Angler, the basic message he embedded within that text still applies today. That is to live a good life, you must stay in touch with the simple pleasure of the earth and the natural world.

Within our ranks we have many differing views on what fishing should and should not be. Over the years the biggest lesson I have learned is that first and foremost fishing should be fun. Having taken the full circle trip from little boy fishing though the trout only, fly fishing only purist stage back to enjoying all forms of fishing as I now do today, I think I finally understand what it means to truly "enjoy" the sport of fishing. As a part time resident in the upper Delaware region I still spend a good amount of time down in New Jersey and fish there as well. During the week, if I can't make a trip down to Raritan Bay or the surf to satisfy the fishing demons, I sometimes fish some of the stocked urban trout lakes nearby my home in Union County. Here I witness a brand of fishing much different than what we would see on our classic trout waters in the Catskill-Upper Delaware region. On a typical trip to Lower Echo Lake Pond what I do see is people of all different ages and races fishing side by side casting everything from Power Bait to worms fished under bobbers the size of baseballs catching stocked trout, panfish and bullheads and having lots of *fun*.

One evening while tossing a spinner and not catching anything I started talking to a guy next to me that was having some pretty good luck. Proud of his success we continued to talk of local fishing both freshwater and saltwater. He especially liked fishing for stripers and blackfish when not pursuing trout. He told me about some of his favorite stretches on the nearby Rahway River where he catches nice trout. Recently retired he was looking forward to fishing some *far away* places. He had never been up our way but plans to come up and try some fly fishing and listened intently to some of my fishing tales. That evening, he was fishing Berkley Power Bait and was eager to share with me why his rig was working so well. He was fishing a two hook setup and explained that Power Bait floats and showed me that by varying the placement of his split shot between the two hooks he could control the distance of how high off the bottom each bait floated. He said this helped the fish find the bait better as the bottom was muddy and clogged with dead leaves. He mentioned on that night, the hook floating higher up was getting all the fish. He also said he favored the Power Bait with the added sparkles as the pond was usually muddy and thought it would be more visible. All this made a great deal of sense to me and he was catching many more fish than anyone else and quite honestly I was impressed. Now some folks amongst our ranks might scoff at this guy and his brand of fishing. We certainly were not discussing the latest BWO emerger pattern that was burning up the river. What we did have here though was someone who was making the very most of the fishing opportunities available to him and pursued them with the greatest of enthusiasm. By my standards, he was a true fisherman by every sense of the word and had a solid strategy behind his fishing that evening that he developed and was proud to share with me. He also clearly loved to fish. I am happy to report that fishing is alive and well in Union County New Jersey.

Within cool flows; before a crashing surf; on a shifting deck; a true believer that I stand ready
Beyond the second breaker; at the edge of a deep drop; nestled in a quiet eddy
The focus of my efforts await a moment of fate that's both as far and as near
As scenes unfold before me all things seem to be within my grasp and suddenly it's all so clear
With each cast we make we move one step closer to an inevitable conclusion if we so dare
The search for a moment that we can never really know until the day our souls lay bare

Sincerely,

Mark A. Rando

Piscatorial Wit & Wisdom

The Angler's Song

Man's life is but vain: for, 'tis subject to
pain
And sorrow, and short as a bubble;
'Tis a Hodg-poch of business, and
money, and care,
And care, and money, and trouble.
But we'll take no care when the weather
proves fair;
Nor will we vex now tho it rain;
We'll banish all sorrow, and sing till to
morrow,
And Angle, and Angle again.

Included in the *Compleat Angler* – Izaak
Walton

We are made to persist. That is how we
find out who we are.

Tobias Wolff

Fun Fishing Facts - Did you know that ...???

- The first edition of *The Compleat Angler* written by Izaak Walton was published in England in 1653. Charles Cotton's part II addition titled *Being Instructions how to angle for a Trout or Grayling in a clear Stream* first appeared in the fifth edition published in 1676. The full title of the book is *The Compleat Angler or the Contemplative Man's Recreation Being A Discourse of Rivers, Fish Ponds, Fish and Fishing*. With the exception of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer it is the most reprinted book ever.

- Nearly everyone who fishes has tried a Mepps spinner at least once. Mepps is actually a French acronym for *Manufacturier D'Engins De Precision Pour Peches Sportives*. In English it translates to *Precision Equipment for Sport Fishing*. A French engineer named Andre Meulnart invented the original Mepps spinner in 1938. Todd Sheldon, a successful tackle shop owner in Wisconsin, first used a Mepps Spinner in 1951. It was given to him by a friend. So impressed with the success of the lure he began to import them and later founded Sheldon's Inc. which today is one of the largest U.S. tackle companies in existence.

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