

# Valley Angler Any Fishing Yet? by Bill Thompson

It is that time of year again when the phone never stops ringing and the voice on the other end always has the same question: “Any fishing yet”? Unfortunately, to date, the answer has been, “Not yet”.

We have had our scouts out and the reports that have been filtering back have been dismal to say the least. Monday evening I was over to Gilford to attend a meeting. As I passed through Meredith there was just enough open water for one small boat to maneuver around to troll. I had a little time to kill before the meeting so I drove out to Governor’s Island. Generally you can always find some intrepid angler under the bridge, but not this year.

On Tuesday Janet stopped in Meredith, on her way home from Hanover. She reported only one lone fisherman casting from the docks. She had stopped by Charlie Pool’s Fly Shop in Bristol to visit for a few minutes. According to Charlie the fishing on the Newfound and Pemigewasset Rivers was poor to none due to high water.

Wednesday I called the good folks down at Wolfeboro Bay Outfitters to get a fix on what was happening there. The picture wasn’t much brighter there. Very few fish have been caught to date and there was only enough room for four or five boats to troll in front of the docks. They did seem to think that by the weekend significant numbers of fish should be in. The only good news was that the fishing in Alton had picked up and was probably the bet.

A quick trip to the outlet of Ossipee Lake showed promise. The flow was still quite high, however it is now possible to get across the bridge at the dam.

As of this Saturday we are only six days from the opening of the trout ponds. Janet and I had a bet with some friends predicating the date of ice out on our favorite trout pond. A few weeks ago I was confident that we would have an early ice out, however it is now obvious that we have lost the bet. We will need some very warm days this week to be able to fish this pond; as of now it is still impossible to get in the access road.

As usual patience is a virtue in the “North Country” especially when it comes to beginning a new fishing season.

On a side note I came across an interesting article in one of the fishing tackle trade magazines. According to an article in Tackle Trade World Wal-Mart, in its ongoing effort to be more “Green”, has announced a willingness to pay more for items that are friendly to the environment. In particular items sold in the fishing department have come under scrutiny. It would seem that soft plastic lures, so popular with bass fishermen, are loaded with PVC. When you consider that these baits are tossed into sources of public drinking water and often left there is a potential

problem that effects all of us.

Rubber worms and other such lures account for an estimated \$300 hundred million in sales each year. This translates into around one hundred million bags of soft plastic lures sold each year accounting for nearly 20,000 pounds of PVC entering the water system. It is a highly plasticized PVC material that makes these lures soft and flexible.

Just for the record if you are a fly fishermen and think that you are “Greener” than your fellow bass angler consider for a moment what goes into your fly lines. Yep, the same PVC that keeps those plastic worms soft is what keeps our fly lines flexible.

There is hope and several lure manufactures are already making baits without PVC. This year Airflo fly lines are coming through with little stickers on the box announcing that they are 100% PVC free.

I can't say that I am always a big fan of Wal-Mart, but in this case my hat is off to them. In the end though, it is you and I who will make the difference. If we all take a moment to look what goes into a product and base our decision to buy on how “Green” a product really is.

If you have not purchased your tickets for Saco Valley Anglers Trout Unlimited please do so as soon as possible. We will take your money at the door, but if you could please let us know you will be attending in advance it will be very helpful. You can do this by calling me at 356-6000 from 9 to 5 PM. We have already amassed some great items for the auction. We have several fishing trips promised, lots of rods and reels and all kinds of other very interesting items.

See you on the river.