

Valley Angler

Long Weekend Promises to be Good for Anglers

by Bill Thompson

It would seem that all the planets are lined up in their proper order and we should be in for a banner week of fishing. The weather for this weekend is predicted to be sunny and warm. Water flows on our local rivers and streams are just about perfect. Water temperatures couldn't be any more perfect. Last, but not least, the Fish and Game Department personal have been out stocking. What more could any angler ask for?

This past weekend we had several reports of good fishing on the Ellis River. Unfortunately, I have had to rely on second hand information. With the wedding of the century coming up in August, my son is getting married, Janet was out on a wedding dress consult this past weekend. As a result I was unable to test the waters personally.

On Tuesday my Mother returned from her annual hiatus in Florida and Janet had the pleasure of picking her up at the Manchester Airport. I would have done this myself, but it seems that mothers and grandmothers of grooms must also have dresses and so they took the opportunity to visit some dress stores while they were in the big city. On Wednesday Janet took a personal day. Something she said she won by virtue of being the employee of the year for 2007 at the North Country Angler. I thought that the only perk was the reserved parking space. So as you can see I have had to rely upon the kindness of others for my fishing information.

The Saco River should be fishing well by the weekend. The first good hatches should be starting any time now. A customer, only a few moments ago, came in the shop with an interesting mayfly that he had just picked up on the Ellis. The captive mayfly is in a box next to my lap top and I have two insect identification books open trying to get a proper I D on the little fellow. Right now my best guess is that he, or she, is a pale Evening Dun. We are probably another week away before we start to see some Gray Drakes on the Saco.

Those who have been fishing the local ponds are still having the best luck. With the absence of any real hatches to date soft hackle wet flies are still one of the best producing flies. If you like to troll flies my first recommendation would be a Black Ghost. A close second would be a Gray Ghost.

Of course the black flies and misquotes have started to come on strong. Someday it would be worth while for someone to write down all of the various concoctions that people have come up with to repel these pesky critters. I am willing to bet that any real Mainer or New Hampshirerite has a secret family recipe for bug dope.

I have been experimenting with a little device called a "Mosquito Annoyer". We have stocked these things for about a year now. Every so often someone asks the question: "Do these things really work"? Up until now I have had to answer truthfully: "I don't know, but the salesman ensured me that they do".

If you are not familiar with these things they are a small box like device that gives off a very high pitch whine. Not loud enough so as dogs start barking or anything like that. They are solar powered so you don't need to buy a hundred bucks worth of batteries at Wal-Mart. The whine is supposed to sound like a sexed crazed male mosquito. The theory is that the female mosquito will avoid the sound at all costs thus having no desire to stick around and bite you. You know how woman will do almost anything to get away from sex crazed males. Makes you wonder how the whole singles bar thing works.

Well the thing, so far, has shown some promise. The manufacturer says that it will eliminate around 95 to 98% of all bites. I have no proof that this is true, but it does seem to help and unlike most bug dopes it hasn't eaten my fly line.

See you on the river.