

Valley Angler

Not A Lot To Report

by Bill Thompson

All and all things have been kinda slow the past week or two. Not that the fishing is all that bad. On the whole, from what I hear, the Saco has been fishing quite well. Those ambitious fellows willing to forego their beauty rest have been having pretty good luck early in the morning. Those of us who prefer to be more gentlemanly and fish the evening rise have had a fair amount of luck as well.

One early riser, from Rhode Island, has been doing very well just below First Bridge the past few mornings. He claims that swarms of flying ants have been coming off like clock work each day. These ants are in the size twenty range and have a black/brown coloration. He said he had the whole thing figured out for a few days when the hatch started to come off a little later in the morning. Unfortunately the latter time coincided with canoe hatch.

The funny thing about the canoe hatch is that the trout become so accustomed to it that it rarely bothers them. The problem is laying your cast down between them without snagging the six packs that they drag behind them. Hooking and landing someone's stash of beer can cause trouble. A fellow last week told me he had hooked a trout no more than a foot behind a kayak. Apparently the beer was in the boat. I asked if he was trying for the kayaker. He replied that it had been an accident as the fellow in the kayak had suddenly backed up rather than continuing on downstream. Ah well the good news, at least for us fishermen, is that they most of them will depart the "Valley" by the end of next week.

A week or so ago Rick Davidson and I made a trek up to the Magalloway River below Azischohos Lake in Maine. It was a beautiful day and the river was running at about 360 cfs which should have been just about perfect. As it turned out it was far from it. Total tally for the day was one small salmon. Of course the purpose of the trip had nothing to do with the catching of fish. On the ride up and back we just about solved all the worlds' problems and we stopped for a great dinner on the way home.

Normally the Magalloway fishes much better and makes for a great day trip if you live anywhere near the "Valley". Travel time is a little over an hour in a half from North Conway. We generally stop and get a one day license in Errol before crossing into Maine. If you're smart you can do this on line the night before, but its fun to look around L.L. Cote's.

The Magalloway is a tail-water fishery so it keeps fairly cold water all summer long. I failed to remember to take the water temperature that day so I you will just have to take my word for it. The power company releases water for kayakers on weekends so be sure to look up the flows before you go.

Janet and I fished Conway Lake the other evening. Turned out to be another "none trip";

“none to many fish”. Janet, of course, out fished me. I managed one small bass while she hooked and released several large toothy pickerel and a perch. Conway Lake is a lovely place to spend an evening fishing. We launched our pontoon boats, The Rachel and the Pequod, at the southern end of the lake and fished till about sundown. We listened to the loons and watched a beautiful sunset. Our son met us at the take out where we enjoyed a beverage before continuing home.

So like I said not a whole lot to report this week, but fall will soon be upon us and things should speed up a bit.

See you on the river.

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