

Valley Angler

Trout Season Set To End

by Bill Thompson

Hard to believe that trout season comes to a close a week from this Sunday. True there will be some water open, but for the most part it's all over but the shouting. Any day spent fishing after the 15th is kind of a bonus.

The end of the season always leaves me slightly depressed. It always seems that somehow I have failed to live up the promise of opening day. I know that there are still several fishing trips that I had planned that I just never had the time to fit in this past summer. The problem is that sometime between the end of July and August the fishing slows down a bit. When the cooler days of September arrive and the fishing begins to improve it's hard to get it into gear again and then suddenly it's October and we have to cram it all in with only 15 days left.

The good news for us die hard's is that we can still get our fix in. There are lots of opportunities open to anglers who didn't get enough during the regular season. Last year the Fish & Game Department opened up 94 ponds and lakes for year round trout fishing. Seven-teen of these ponds are located in Carroll County.

Last year White Lake and Chocorua Lake, both of which just happened to be located in Tamworth, were the hot tickets. As the word got out Chocorua quickly became a favorite of local anglers. Chocorua is managed for rainbow trout and to say the least the managers did one heck of a good job. I only managed to get in one afternoon last fall, but what an afternoon I had. Aside from the fact that I managed to hook myself in the forehead it was a banner day. The rainbows that I caught there were spectacular. The wind was blowing fairly strong that day which accounted for the self impaling; fortunately I always bend down the barbs on my flies for a quick release.

The great thing about Chocorua is that it is very easily accessed. Considering the fact that the lake is located right next to Route 16 it is not hard to find. With the exception of a small section of the beach reserved for Tamworth residents the public has plenty of room to find a place to cast a line. The area around the bridge on Fowler's Mill Road is probably the most productive area and should be given careful attention. White Lake was also very good last year. The lake is contained within the boundaries of White Lake State Park; however fishermen will find a small boat launch off Depot Road, just past the State Police Barracks. White Lake is managed for Brook Trout. The lake is quite shallow and it is possible to wade in some places, however any fisherman with a boat will have the advantage.

Crystal Lake in Eaton may be the real sleeper. This lake is managed for Brown Trout. Crystal is heavily fished during the winter months by ice fishermen. Last fall I did spot one lone angler fishing from a small boat. I spotted him on several different occasions

and I figured that he might be on to something. Brown Trout spawn during the fall and they often seek out shallow water. Due to fact that there is an inlet to the lake near the town beech I am guessing that it just might be a good spot to check out.

One thing is for certain with all the opportunities now available after the close of trout season I for one will not be quite as depressed as in past years.

See you on the river.