

Fin, Fur and Feather



By William J. Robbins Jr.

Before continuation of the Legislative article I would like to divert briefly and discuss the outcome of stocking with trout.

There are many angles which have been overlooked by those in charge. To me it is a beginning of a stocking program that can either be successful or a complete failure. For my basis of such contentions I have but to recite that Dr. Gordon Trembley who was in charge of the survey stated that the food elements of the lake were very poor. If this be the case why are fish being stocked that will starve to death? Another angle overlooked is the species of fish being planted. Rainbow and brook trout are not deep water fish and many will migrate to the shores of the lake to find the outlet and eventually wind up in the Susquehanna river if not taken in the outflowing waters of the lake.

If such a stocking program is to be success, continued plantings will have to be carried out over a period of many years, and this, I doubt, is the Commission program. Fish the size of those installed cannot be produced year after year in view of the high cost of experienced labor, foods, and management.

Many sportsmen are delighted and feel this is a beginning, that they will take their cereal limit on opening day,—but many will be disappointed for the few thousand fish placed in a lake the size of Harveys can only be considered an "embryo stocking."

Bills that were proposed by the Pennsylvania Federated Sportsmen's Clubs are listed as follows.

- H-18, twelve commissioners on Fish and Game. Two from Senate, Two from House.
- H-198, special trappers license with money for research and propagation.
- H-306, registration of firearms.
- H-598, State Forest Commission.
- H-1495, postpone present pure streams enforcement law.
- H-1734, propagating license for fur beavers to Department of Agriculture.
- S-155, Joint State Government Commission investigation.
- S-192, permitting the legislature to fix bag limits.
- S-322, fingerprinting of individuals owning firearms.
- S-659, rattlesnake bounty to be paid out of game funds.

S-516, pure streams delay.

S-919, regular hunting license or a special regulated shooting ground license of \$1.35 daily.

S-920, adding the wild turkey to the list of birds permitted to be taken on regulated shooting grounds up to February 28th.

Eight bills that centered on the sale and use of Flobert or air rifles were fought vigorously by the PFSC and were: H-279, H-384, H-503, H-527, H-582, H-1038, and S-791.

Other measures were fought that would provide free hunting and fishing licenses to persons of various classifications. Many other bills were opposed by this same group. Some for the good and some for the worse.

Bill H-565 provided a sum of \$8500.00 for persons unable to pay for vaccine when bitten by a rabid animal. (should have passed). Another, H-570 was for compulsory inoculation of dogs, and H-571 placed a sum of \$1.00 top veterinary fee for inoculation. Both should have been made law.

H-1352, was for increasing dog license from \$1.00 to \$1.50; and S-214 would prevent hunters in closed counties from hunting in open counties.

May bills on motor boat rights at Lake Pymatuning were knocked down before they reached the Legislative branch of the State Government.

Bills that were enacted into law and under which sportsmen will operate this coming season are:

- H-45, now act 173, providing penalties for the killing of game in cemeteries or burial grounds.
- H-484, act 54 making semi-automatic shotgun a legal weapon to take small game, predators and unprotected birds.
- H-535, act 151, extending the time for possession of game to July after the season closes, without a permit.
- H-739, act 249, removing the county abrogation clause in the taking of antlerless deer and permitting the sale of special licenses, number to be determined by the Game Commission, costing \$1.19 each—60% sold by the County Treasurer and 40% by the Department of Revenue.
- H-931, act 230, extending dog training season by opening July 31.
- H-1173, act 423, permitting disabled veterans to hunt from car.
- S-273, act 24, more liberal interpretation (Continued on Page Nine)

SAFETY VALVE

STREAMS STOCKED

Sweet Valley, Pa.
April 1, 1952

Dear Editor:

The following is a list of streams in Luzerne County that have been already stocked with trout, or will be stocked with trout prior to April 15th.

Arnolds Creek, tributary to Huntington Creek—brook trout—open from Rt. 115 to mouth.

Main Branch Bowmans Creek, tributary to North Branch Susquehanna River—brook, brown, rainbow trout—open from Mountain Springs to Luzerne-Wyoming County line.

North Branch Bowmans Creek, tributary to Bowmans Creek—brook trout—open from headwaters to mouth.

Harveys Creek, tributary to North Branch Susquehanna River—brook, brown trout—open from West Nanticoke to Ceases Mills and from point about 1 1/2 mile above Bryants Dam to Harveys Lake.

Main Branch Hunlocks Creek, tributary to North Branch Susquehanna River—brook trout—open from mouth of stream up to the forks or about four miles.

West Branch Hunlocks Creek, tributary to Hunlocks Creek—brook trout—open from mouth to Gregory's Corners.

Huntington Creek, tributary to Fishing Creek—brook, brown, rainbow trout—open from near mouth of Lick Branch upstream to bridge (Rt. 40068—Sprag Hollow) about 1/2 mile closed above this bridge, balance of stream open to Rt. 115.

Lehigh River, tributary to Delaware River—brook, brown, rainbow trout—open from mouth of Choike Creek to Lehigh Tannery.

Linesville Creek, tributary to Lehigh River—brook trout—open from mouth to near headwaters.

Little Wapwallopen Creek, tributary to North Branch Susquehanna River—brook, brown, rainbow trout—open from mouth upstream to where township road H-392 crosses stream.

Nescopec Creek, tributary to North Branch Susquehanna River—brook, brown, rainbow trout—open from point about two miles below St. Johns to upper reaches of State Game Lands 187.

Oley Creek, tributary to Nescopeck Creek—brook trout—open from mouth to upper reaches of State Game Lands 187.

Phillips Creek, tributary to Huntington Creek—brook trout—open

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Very truly yours,
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ONLY YESTERDAY

From The Post of ten and twenty years ago this week.

From the Issue of April 10, 1942

Air Warden mobilize for Victory Bond Campaign, collaborating with civilian defense workers all over the country.

Special registration is held in Dallas in advance of May primaries.

Boyhood pals, William Simpson and Alfred Lamoreaux, both from Lehman, have met in Australia. Both of them are Air Force mechanics, private first class.

Dallas Firemen battled five forest fires within forty-eight hours Monday and Tuesday.

From the Issue of April 8, 1932

Clark Wilson, former Harveys Lake Houseboat owner, noted evangelist, dies at 97.

George A. Augherton, Fernbrook, former vice-president of the Dime Bank, Wilkes-Barre, has been appointed to Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Washington.

Roy Blizzard, two years old, was drowned in Bowmans Creek Monday Bids on the new school building in Kingston Township are in order.

Mrs. Thomas Reese has died of pneumonia.

Chocolate drops, 10 cents per lb; rice 3 lbs. for 10 cents; butter 2 lbs. 47 cents; dry lima beans, 5 cents per lb; pineapple, two large cans for 29 cents; tomato juice, 5 cents per can.

Boston Graduates From Great Lakes

Among those who graduated from the Naval Machinist's Mate School, Service School Command, U.S. Naval on April 4, was Theodore J. Boston, Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., fireman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Boston of Route 2, Dallas.

Boston, who entered Naval service August 28, 1951, received recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. He is a graduate of Laketon High School.

Students at the school are taught to install, operate and make repairs to ship's engines and all mechanical equipment.

KEEPING POSTED

MOLASSES AND HONEY

EDWARD H. KENT

During the late lamented and talked of depression in the thirties, I was having lunch with some friends and chanced to remark that I would love to have some black-strap molasses to put on pancakes.

Jack Haddock, a generous friend, said, "I know where to get it and will send you some". Three days later a big truck rolled up to my house at Huntsville and unloaded a barrel containing fifty-four gallons of black-strap molasses, the kind one feeds to cows to keep them from thinking that they are cows.

That night when I returned home and saw the barrel, I started to do some figuring. Fifty-four gallons equals two hundred and sixteen quarts, which in turn equals six thousand nine hundred and twelve ounces, and at half an ounce per cake the barrel of molasses could take care of almost fourteen thousand pancakes.

The next day being Saturday, I persuaded a husky friend to help me roll the barrel up on to a couple of logs. We then put in a spigot, just as one would in a cider barrel. All went well until we hit the spigot a wallop to drive it in, having forgotten to turn the thing off. There was a magnificent squirt, perhaps a cupful, some on me, some on friend, some on the garage floor. We both jumped right into the mess and while we were recovering, the dark beautiful amber liquid was slowly flowing on the floor.

We finally turned off the spigot and I took a cup of molasses upstairs to show Mrs. Kent what a wonderful present we had received. She was in the living room and did not seem so impressed. And my eye—when she discerned that I had tracked molasses plus dirt on the floor, on the rug, on the steps—was there an explosion! Finally she consented to taste the stuff, and the verdict was, "Awful, terrible, bitter, and fit for nothing."

I tried to explain that it was delicious, but no soap. In no uncertain terms I was told to run off a gallon for my own consumption and give the balance away, and to start pronto cleaning up the living room rug, floor, and garage. I thought, "If I could only get hold of Haddock, I would run molasses in his hair."

Remember, all this happened twenty years ago when kids were glad to have black-strap molasses on pancakes. Word got around that the Kents were giving it away. The line formed on the right. It was a slow process, being winter, and cold on the garage floor. Jugs and bottles and pails were left, the spigot was never turned off, and in two shakes of a goat's tail the molasses had disappeared. Peace reigned once more in the home.

Today, in the roaring fifties, I am up against another proposition of (Continued on Page Nine)

Barnyard Notes

Steel industry paralyzed, telephones tied up across the nation, McGrath fired and still folks call up asking how to keep the rabbits from chewing off their crocus bulbs.

It's a bedlam in this office mornings with customers tying up both telephone lines to find out who has lost an English setter or if we know anybody who has found a Doberman pincer.

If I were a newcomer in this community, the first thing I'd do is get on the Post's mailing list. If you want to find a lost dog, a strayed child or a missing person the best thing to do is call the Post first. Usually Mrs. Hicks or Myra can locate the trouble in no time. Don't depend on the telephone directory or the postoffice to find your dog or locate you.

Somebody just called to ask how to start tuberous rooted begonias. Don't do like Hank Peterson did with his gladioli bulbs and plant them wrong side up. First determine top from bottom. The curved side of the bulb is the bottom side. The top carries the scar of the old stem.

Place the bulbs about three inches apart on top of a layer of peat moss that fills a standard hot house flat. Twelve bulbs, three-inches in diameter, are sufficient for most flats. Smaller bulbs can be started sixteen to the flat. Don't cover the bulbs, just force them down in the peat moss so that the sides are covered. Bulbs should have been started in flats a month or more ago for early season bloom.

Keep the peat moss damp, but not wet. Set the flats in a dark warm place until the sprouts turn green and leaves appear. When top growth is about three inches high, and good roots have developed, transfer the bulbs to pots. No harm is done if the bulbs are allowed to stay in the flats until they become crowded.

To remove the bulbs from the flat, reach deep under them with the fingers disturbing the roots as little as possible and remove them with a ball of peat moss. I sometimes use a kitchen fork for this job.

The first transfer can be made to small pots and later to larger pots, but if the transfer from the flats is close to the time when the young plants can be set out of doors, it will be simpler to transfer them to six-inch or larger pots depending on the size of the bulbs. The smaller pots take up less room if the plants are to stay inside for a considerable period before they go out of doors.

Be sure the pots have sufficient drainage. Place pebbles or broken pieces of pots in the bottom. Cover with a little peat moss and fill the pot to within an inch of the top with a mixture of sand, peatmoss and loam to which a half to full teaspoonful of bone meal has been added.

Just cover the bulb of the small plant. Soak the pot with water, and allow the pots to stay inside for a week or more until the root systems are established in their new homes.

The bigger the bulb the larger and more prolific the top growth. Just cover the rim of the pot with earth from the flower bed, with a little extra around the stem to prevent the plant from leaning or falling over.

Some of the heavier plants will have to be staked. Do this with care. I prefer to have the stems lean against a round wooden plant stake rather than tying them which may harm stem growth.

Biggest enemy to my plants other than too much sun and dryness, is the slug. This night feeder will destroy the foliage. It is therefore necessary to keep all debris, old boards, dead vegetation and flat stones away from the vicinity of the plants. Slugs harbor under them and come out at night to feed on the plants.

I have found that circling the ground underneath the plant with a two-inch wide ring of lime helps to keep slugs away. A weekly night visit to the plants with a flashlight, a stick and a tin can containing a little kerosene oil, and the willingness to brush the slugs off the leaves and into the can will effectively slow up the slug population.

During the heat of summer, it is well to water the foliage with a fine spray during the early evening.

That's all there is to it. Begonias are the easiest things to grow imaginable and their lovely blooms will continue from early in the year until frost.

But don't let frost hit the plants or the bulbs. Bring them in the house and let them continue to bloom until time to dry them off and store the bulbs in a box filled with peat moss for the winter.

It's easy to do this if the bulbs have been sunk in the earth in pots rather than planted directly in the earth.

Each year you will observe that your bulbs have grown larger until some have reached four to five inches in diameter. Any bulb can be divided so long as there are sprouts on each section of the division.

Jane Schooley called me the other day to ask if it could be done, and before the conversation was over she told me she had already divided her largest and choicest bulb with a kitchen knife while she was talking to me.

Thanks to Grace Lee for the inspiration for this week's Notes. If you aren't already a begonia grower, blow a few dollars on some bulbs, buy the best, not the cheapest, and have a whale of a lot of fun making your friends think these beautiful mocking birds of the flower kingdom are hard to grow.

The young begonia root systems can stand a considerable amount of rough handling, it's the top growth that has to be watched. They will snap off if you aren't careful, and the new growth may not come back in time to have much of a plant before the end of summer. The bulb, however, doesn't appear to be harmed by the loss of top growth.

Now that the young plants are established in their pots, find a good location for their setting outside. The north side of a building or a place where the young plants will not be exposed to the direct rays of the sun is best. A location where they get the slanting rays of the eastern or western sun is by far the best. A location near a building protects them from strong winds, which will snap off the stems when they are heavily loaded with foliage and flowers. Remember, despite their love of shade, begonias do best with half a day of sunlight.

I have got best results by sinking the pots in the earth and lousy results by planting the bulbs directly in the ground. Other growers have good results either way. I like best sinking the pots up to their rims in a prepared flower bed where the soil remains moist and there are no weeds or other ground cover.

I sink the pots from five to six inches apart, again depending on the size of the bulb and the expected top growth.

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