

## EDITORIALS

## The art of the catch

Herbert C. Hoover called it "the great occasion when we may return to the fine simplicity of our forefathers."

Izaak Walton considered it "an art worthy of the knowledge and patience of a wise man."

We must agree, fishing is just divine.

The opening day of trout season last week brought back some of the fondest memories of old times for many of us. Remember dragging your first fishing rod out to the lake? It was light as air, but taller than you were. And the walk from the car to the water - which was really only a few hundred steps - seemed like a great trek, miles long. What an accomplishment to make it through the brush without tripping and without getting caught on anything.

Yes, if the trip required the use of live bait, we squirmed at the site. Yes, once the sun set, it got mighty chilly out in the wilderness (even if we were protected by the "wilderness" at the state park). And yes, sometimes we went home empty-handed.

But it didn't matter.

Half of the joy of the whole experience was listening to the birds chirp overhead and hearing the sweet slosh of the water as it gently swished over the rocks. Perhaps the other half, whether we knew it then or not, was standing next to our brothers and sisters, rods in hand, all lined up along the shore. Come to think of it, opening day of trout season may have been of the few times were all quiet. There's something about fresh air, water and sunshine that can calm even the most savage of beasts almost as well as one of Beethoven's symphonies. (In some cases, it works even better).

Whether our earliest fishing memories are accurate or not, they're all ours. They are thoughts of the "great occasions when we returned to the simplicity of our forefathers."

So pack up the minivan with kids and snacks this weekend and head for your favorite watering hole in the Back Mountain. Even if it's been years since you've gone, the fine art of fishing won't disappoint.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



The events following a collision between a Chinese fighter jet and a U.S. spy plane may seem confusing to mere mortals, that is all of us who aren't privy to the curious ways of international diplomacy. It all seems so simple: U.S. plane flying at the edge of international airspace is repeatedly buzzed by hotshot Chinese pilot, who cuts it a little too close on one pass and knocks off part of the U.S. plane, which then barely makes a safe landing at the nearest airstrip, which happens to be on a nearby Chinese island. We're glad our guys and gals are safe, the Chinese are sad their pilot dies when his plane crashes, we exchange pleasantries and go home. That's the simple way.

But dealing with foreign powers isn't so facile. No, in these cases, the side that caused the problem must leap into high dudgeon and proclaim the meanness and guilt of the other party. When a desirable piece of the opposition's equipment is sitting on your property, it's also advisable to prolong the incident as long as possible while you check it out. In this case the Chinese wanted a closeup look at our plane. A few years ago, when a Cuban pilot defected with his Mig, we took a good, long look, too. Since it's customary to return the other nation's property, we did so, by sending it back in crates.

Once the initial stage has been passed, it's time to negotiate a return to normal relations by finding an acceptable statement that allows both sides to save face. In this case, the Chinese wanted us to say "Uncle," and we responded with something approximating "Mother's brother." Along the way, countless commentators of various persuasions try to make the case that their side doesn't need the other and should send in the troops, or hang onto the captives, depending which side they're on. But in the end, the desire for world peace and profit triumphs, as the Chinese accept that without Citigroup they won't be able to get a bigger limit on their Visa cards, and we realize that the price of jeans would skyrocket if we take too hard a line.

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Spring has sprung. Photo by Monica Marzani



Carol King

In celebration of National Library Week, April 1-7, the Northeast Chapter of PaLA (Pennsylvania Library Association) awarded \$50 grants to two library employees: Marilyn Rudolph, Coordinator of Children's Services at the library, and Janet Bauman, Children's Room Assistant.

The grants will be used toward a first-year membership in PaLA. Membership in the Association gives library employees a voice in Harrisburg and the opportunity

## Grants awarded to library staff members

for professional development and continuing education.

## Luncheon deadline extended

The committee for the 13th Annual "Luncheon with a Special Author" has extended the deadline for reservations to Friday, April 20. The luncheon is being held on Thur., April 26, at The Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas, with hospitality at 11:30 a.m., luncheon at noon, and the program at 1:15 p.m. The speaker is Catherine Gourley, award-winning author. Call 675-1182 by Friday to make your reservations.

## Thanks to volunteers

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 20-28, Martha Butler extends thanks on behalf of the library to "the wonderful volunteers who give of

their time, talents and selves to the Back Mountain Memorial Library, including the Book Store volunteers, the Auction Committee and volunteers, the Friends, the weekly library volunteers, the computer class instructor, students, and community service volunteers".

## Auction

There are still a few spaces left for craft vendors at the auction July 5-8. Vendors must be able to stay all four evenings. For more information contact the library.

Spring cleaning? Bring items in good condition to the library for the Odds and Ends Booth and the Book Booth. Also, sign up at the front desk to volunteer for the auction.

## Librarian's report

In March Martha Butler attended a meeting about marketing at the Osterhout Library. The District plan for 2001 includes providing money to promote the Luzerne County Library System. Several possibilities were presented, such as making a video for group presentations, designing hand-outs, and writing several news releases.

Several Scout groups made visits to the children's room in March. Becky Love, Den Mother, visited on March 13 with eight boys who needed to know the functions of the library. On March 26, a group of Daisy Scouts and their leader, Tammy Schnabel, toured the library. In addition, an LIU class of six high school students from Lake-Lehman came for a tour and library cards.

## Do yourself a favor, take a kid trout fishing

to take the hook. Even stock trout can be hard to catch if they can see the hook. Casting into favored trout hangouts on a small stream can also be a challenge with overhanging limbs and submerged vegetation. One slip of the wrist can land your line in a tree limb or in a current that will wrap your line around a submerged log.

At any rate, it doesn't take long for anglers to master this beloved sport. Once it is mastered, where do you go from there? Then it's time to teach what you've learned. Whether it's your own child or someone else's, fishing is a great way to bond and teach youngsters things what can not be taught in any schools.

Taking a kid fishing for the first time can be one of the most

rewarding experiences a person can have. Showing them how to tie a line and bait a hook is essential to his or her success while showing them where to cast and why their casting there is information that will last a lifetime. The thrill of them landing their first fish can match that of catching them yourself.

While taking a kid fishing, take your pole, but refrain from using it. If your concentrating on fishing yourself and not focusing on what he's doing it can lead to discouragement. If they see you're catching fish and they aren't, many kids may give up and sit out the day. It may help to hook one for them and then hand the rod over to let them reel the fish in. The smile on their faces and the joy in their hearts as they land their first

trout can be so rewarding.

Once they bring the fish ashore, ask them if they want to keep it or release it. Most kids would want to keep the fish they catch, but some may choose to put them back. If that's what makes them happy let them do it, but be sure to photograph the moment so they can show off their catch to family and friends.

If you decide you want to catch and release your fish, a barbless hook is best. Otherwise the best hooks to use are a #4 or #6 barbed hook while using 4 pound or 6 pound clear fishing line. It is also very important to use black swivels and cover the hook completely with the bait you choose. The most common used trout baits are corn, night crawlers, red worms, grubs and salmon eggs.

## LIFE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

C.D. Denmon

Every year thousands of fishermen from around the area take to Pennsylvania's streams and lakes in hopes to hook some trout. Fishermen and fishermen spend hard-earned money and valued time in the great outdoors fishing for these fish.

Trout can be one of the most challenging breeds to fish for. Whether it's a Rainbow, Brook, Brown or Palomino trout the reward is ultimately getting them



70 Years Ago-Apr. 17, 1931

## MANY FOREST FIRES RANGING IN THIS SECTION

Fire Warden Melvin Hewitt, of Trucksville, Sheldon Whipsell and Fred Turpin, of Dallas, have been busily engaged during the past week in fighting forest fires. Recently they assisted in combating a serious blaze on Maltby Mountain back of West Wyoming. A blaze near Huntsville which covered an area of 15 acres, was discovered and subdued after a hard struggle.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Dallas Rotary Club took place at Fernbrook Park. It is estimated that at least 3,000 eggs were placed in

the different hiding places.

The Dallas Troop of Boy Scouts were on hand early and assisted greatly in making the affair the success it was.

60 Years Ago-Apr. 18, 1941

## CLARK APPOINTED CORPORATION TAX SENIOR EXAMINER

Recognition came to the Back Mountain Region from the Republican State organization with the announcement of the appointment of Peter D. Clark, chairman of the Sixth Legislative District, as Senior Corporation Tax Examiner in the Department of Revenue at Harrisburg.

The appointment carries a salary of \$3,000 and travelling expenses.

Mr. Clark's work will take him into every country of the State, but he will retain his home in Dallas.

50 Years Ago Apr. 20, 1951

## MARIAN COMER WINS GUIDE DOG

Marian Comer, Parrish Street, who won the Pathfinder Guide dog offered by both the Back

Mountain Kennel Club and the Harveys Lake Lions Club, will join the May training class in Detroit for four weeks, learning how to handle her dog and be guided by him. Marian, 28, can distinguish light from dark, and see masses but without differentiation.

She was recommended for the guide dog by Miss Ellen Gibbons, Executive Director for Wilkes-Barre Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.

40 Years Ago Apr. 20, 1961

## FRANK SLAFF IS MAN OF THE YEAR

Frank Slaff, Machel Avenue was honored guest (man of the year) of the Atlantic coast Independent Distributors Association at a dinner held in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. A sterling silver plate inscribed: T.V. Guide honors Frank Slaff for eight years of devoted and outstanding service as a vital member of its organization.

30 Years Ago Apr. 22, 1971

## WERKHEISER NAMED SCHOOL HEAD

On a unanimous vote by Dallas School Board, Dr. Linford A. Werkheiser was named superintendent of Dallas Area School District. Dr. Werkheiser was named to a three-year term filling the unexpired commission of Dr. Robert A. Mellman, present superintendent, who is retiring. Dr. Werkheiser was chosen from among 38 applicants who applied for the superintendency.

20 Years Ago Apr. 15, 1981

## DALLAS APPROVES POLICEMEN

Dallas Township Board of Supervisors approved a list of special fire policemen submitted by Chief Carl Miers during the regular meeting which was held. The list includes 5 men from the Kunkle area, and five from the Dallas area. They are Kunkle-Jack Bernstock, Cory Besteder, Fred Dodson, Conrad Honeywell and William Jones Sr.; Dallas-William Dierolf, Lou Roginski, Edwin Roth, Calvin Tinsley and Robert Cartier.