



The Reel Thing

The Newsletter of the Scarborough Fly & Bait Casting Association

January 2013



SFBCA Seasonal Shindig Old Friends, New Members and Tall Tales

The promise of lots of food, limited physical activity and fallacious fish stories brought Scarborough Fly and Bait Casting Association members out of their man caves on Dec 18 for an evening of festive noshing and tall tale swapping.

The evening was held at our new, larger casting facility at the Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies (720 Midland Ave.).



Keeping it in the Family: Brian prepares son Quinn to continue the family tradition of dominating the club casting tournament (see page 4 for tourney details)

As per tradition, the Club Trophy for biggest fish caught at the Fall trip was awarded by Club President **Gord Deval**. This year's winner, in a very close contest, was **Gabe Farrugia**. Unfortunately Gabe was minding the nets for his hockey team and was unable to attend, but dad Brian (who was one of the runners-up) accepted the award on his behalf. Nice going Gabe (better luck next year Brian). Congratulations also to young Wesley for being brave enough to bring his lovely partner Jaclynn to the party (Along with **Sheila Deval** they added a little beauty to an otherwise beastly bunch).

Contact Us!

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!! New members welcome!!

Current members tolerated



Tedy's Tall Tales: Tedy (in lady's sweater) shows SFBCA members Lee (left), Jurgen (centre) and Leon (right) how big his recent Brown Trout was (28" to be exact).



David and Sheila share a quiet word at the Club party.



Casting. . . Why Bother?

More than 75 years of fishing and 60 years of competitive tournament fly and bait casting, long ago have had me convinced that there is a great deal more to fishing than just catching fish. If one can only find sport pleasurable when the fish are biting – then why bother? After all, the fish are entitled to a little say in the matter. All fishermen will agree that their prey occasionally seems to completely disappear, or does it simply just take a little time off?

Neophyte anglers investigating the sport of fishing for the first time will often question the necessity of having to learn how to cast at all, let alone cast correctly.

"Why bother," they ask, "when all you really have to do to catch fish is toss a worm with a hook and a bobber, or troll a lure behind a moving boat?"

There is, of course, a certain amount of validity in their question, so let's examine their comment in depth, in order to properly assess the remark and respond to "Why bother?"

Still-fishing, "Tossing a worm on a hook and bobber out," is certainly a time honoured method that has been employed since man first discarded his spear after inventing the hook. Whether a worm, or other live bait is used, still-fishing can, at times, be not only a relaxing pastime in itself, but a simple and efficient method of filling your stringer.

However in terms of satisfaction, interest and pure pleasure, the difference between still-fishing and casting, could be compared to hitting a pail of golf balls at the driving range instead of playing 18 holes on a regulation course, or perhaps hanging up a number painting, rather than an oil painting, done by oneself, of your favourite view in the country.

In both the preceding examples there is obviously considerably more expertise required in order to be able to achieve the results in the latter situation than simply going through the motions of the easier exercise. Of course, casting also requires substantially more efforts than either still-fishing or trolling, which can be a turn-off in itself for a few sedentary types.

To become a truly skilled caster without the proper guidance and instruction could take a lifetime, but adhering to properly described and illustrated fundamentals, as discussed and illustrated in "Casting About", could reduce that time to a few hours of study and practice. The Pleasures that can be derived from your time spent on the water will then be increased ten-fold. There is tremendous satisfaction to be obtained in the 'apparently simple' act of casting your lure exactly where you would like it to plop, regardless of the distance, while accomplishing this with no more effort than swatting a pesky mosquito.

To be able to comfortably cast a gracefully, tight loop of fly line with a gossamer monofilament leader and tiny trout fly, dropping the tiny artificial morsel delicately, forty – fifty, even eighty – one hundred – one hundred fifty feet away, is reward enough. Never mind whether the trout are displaying any interest, or suffering one of their periodic bouts of lockjaw.

Bass can often be taken by still fishing with a frog, crawfish, or other live bait impaled on a hook, but the rewards in catching them through casting, then working an artificial lure through lily pads and stumps, far surpasses the unsophisticated act of catching a fish on live bait. When a frog has a hook stuck through its lip, it actually attempts to remove the barb, using its front legs - like human hands!

It's certainly far more aesthetically pleasing and gratifying to be able to float an artificial, (piece of cork, or balsa wood) frog-coloured bass bug eighty or ninety feet through the air, using a shooting taper or bass bug fly line on a nine foot fly rod, then watch as the surface explodes when a large bass strikes at your imitation frog alighting on the water. There is a variety of thrills to be experienced in the preceding illustration.

In springtime, when the lakes finally shed their mantle of ice, trout can be lured from along their shoreline haunts with accurately placed casts. In these circumstances, a spinning or fly rod in the hands of an expert fisherman and caster, will regularly out-fish a trolled lure or still-fished live bait. Remember, too, the fellow poking along in his boat or canoe, accurately laying cast after cast into the pockets between the shoreline cover, is at least enjoying himself and keeping busy, even though the fish on occasion may be refusing to display interest in his casting skills and offerings. **(Continued on page 4)**

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Winter Yurting: Like Camping, But Without the Frostbite

By Geoff Chambers

Anyone who has done winter camping knows it can be a lot of fun but also a lot of work. An easier solution for experiencing Canada's winter wilderness is to rent a yurt.

Basically a yurt is an insulated tent, hexagonal in shape, built on a wooden platform. More importantly for winter campers, yurts have electricity and electric heat.

This past Christmas, my wife and I rented a yurt for four days in Killarney Provincial Park near Sudbury. Killarney has six yurts available to rent at approx \$90 a day. The Yurts are spacious (approx 16' x16') and come equipped with a table, six folding chairs, two double bunk beds, a propane BBQ with 2 full tanks, a fire pit, picnic table and an outside bear bin to store your food. The park says a yurt can hold 6 people, but I think 4 would be my limit.



Yurt Sweet Yurt: Sleds are provided for hauling in your stuff. The X-mas wreath was my touch.

The yurts are located in a secluded woods about 1 km. from the main entrance (the Killarney website says the distance is 500 m. but that's just to the edge of the yurt area). The yurts themselves are spaced far enough apart that you won't see or hear your neighbours. Since the interior park roads aren't plowed, you have to use the sleds provided to haul your supplies in.



Inside The Yurt: Nothing fancy, but comfortable.

My wife wasn't too big on the unheated outhouses and lack of shower facilities, but if you want to do your business in comfort there are heated washrooms at the main entrance (a 15 minute walk, so plan ahead). Also, there's an indoor hose at the main entrance where you can fill up your water containers.

The small town of Killarney is about 10 kms. from the park and you can purchase camp supplies, food, liquor etc. but be warned they charge top dollar for everything. Gas is especially expensive (about 30 cents a litre more than buying it in nearby Parry Sound).

Finally...yurts book up fast. To book at yurt in Algonquin Park you usually have to reserve six months in advance. To reserve a yurt in Killarney we only had to call a few weeks in advance. To reserve at either location call **1-888-668-7275** or visit **www.ontarioparks.ca**

Some Things to Bring:

- **Small electric lamp.** Yurts tend to have overhead fluorescent lights which can be a bit blinding. A small lamp will give you the light you need without burning your retinas.
- **Extension cord** with multiple outlets. Some yurts have electrical outlets in the strangest places (i.e. the ceiling) which can make boiling a kettle, etc. a bit difficult.
- **Collapsible water bag** for hauling water.
- **Insulated cooler.** Even though the bear bin will protect your food from animals, it won't protect your food from freezing.
- **Large Reflective Tarp.** Can be attached to your yurt's cooking shelter to keep the heat in (otherwise it can take a while for the BBQ get good and hot).
- **Collapsible camp chairs** – for sitting around the fire at night (attach the reflective tarp to the back of your chair to direct the heat from the fire back to your body).
- **Snow shoes and cross country skis** for enjoying the miles of trails in the park

Welcome New SFBCA Friends & Members



Cast of Characters: Brian shows his friend Trevor how not to do the Double Haul cast.



Rays of Sunshine: V.P. Ray Cockburn welcomes new member Ray Kendrick into the SFBCA fold.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 22, 2013 @ 7 p.m.
Club Casting Tournament
Scarborough Centre for
Alternative Studies - Gym
(720 Midland Ave.).

February 7-13, 2013
Cdn. National Sportsmen's Show
Direct Energy Building
Exhibition Place, Toronto

Casting. . . Why Bother? (continued from page 2)

Contrast that image with the chap dozing on shore, while drowning a wriggling dew worm, or two fellows trolling along, arguing over the speed of their boat and their distance from shore. Who is actually having more fun, they, or the angler, casting? It has been stated many times, "even the best of anglers are only lucky enough to actually catch fish in five percent of the time they spend on the water, so why not enjoy the remaining ninety-five percent of that precious time enjoying the pastime to its maximum!"

Another way to illustrate my thoughts on the differences between casting, trolling and still fishing is my standard reply to the oft-asked question directed our way by passing fishermen. Invariably, they inquire,

"How's the fishin'?" - or "How're they biting?"

My answer seldom varies, regardless of the number of fish we have actually caught - or may not have caught.

"Catchin's lousy - but the fishin's great! How're you folks doing?"

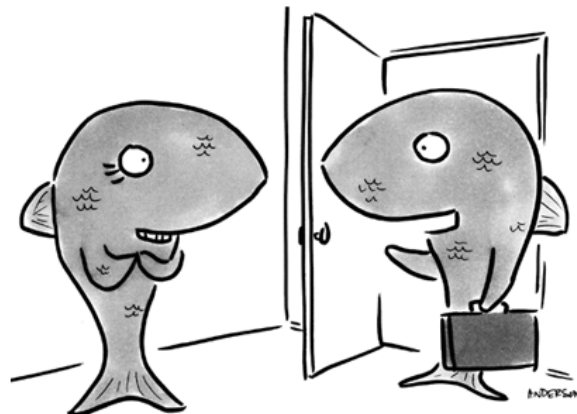
SUBMISSIONS WANTED!!

- *Have an interesting fish story or photo?*
- *Accomplished a unique milestone?*
- *Have some angling advice or tips to share?*
- *Been abducted by aliens?*

Why not share the news in the **Reel Thing**? Send your submissions to Geoff at: g_chambe@hotmail.com

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"Great news! I've been let go!"