

**TROUT OF SUNAPEE LAKE.**

*Editor Forest and Stream:*

I was much interested in your article announcing the discovery of a new species of trout in Sunapee Lake, and after thinking the matter over for a while it occurred to me that while I was a member of the New Hampshire Fish Commission we had planted the *Salmo ogassa* in that lake, and I accordingly wrote to my former colleague, Mr. A. H. Powers, of Grantham, N. H., a town very near the lake, to ask him about it, as he was the superintendent of the State hatchery from the beginning, until Mr. Hodge succeeded him on his resignation of his commission.

Mr. Powers writes me as follows: "On June 3, 1879, I planted 4,000 *ogassa*, or blue-backed trout, in Sunapee Lake, and these *Salmo sunapee* (?) may have come from that plant; they have a look like the fry, as I remember them. But could they have multiplied so, and grown to such monsters? I have no doubt that some of those we saw, for I was with Mr. Hodge at the time, would weigh from eight to ten pounds; we caught some of six pounds, and saw much larger ones. Now these fish are lake spawners. Not one of them came up the brook I planted them in, while the landlocked salmon of about the same weight did so. In Maine it was said that they were small, about one-quarter pound weight, and came into the river to spawn Oct. 10 to a day. That is as I remember it. Now the question is, could they change from minnows to whales and from river to lake spawners in so short a time?"

Now I am equally puzzled with my friend Powers. We know that the landlocked salmon which we placed in Sunapee Lake, from eggs procured at Grand Lake Stream, have attained a weight of over twelve pounds, though the Grand Stream fish seldom go over two or three pounds, and the same season's fry distributed in Squam Lake have gone up to fifteen or sixteen pounds.

This I attribute to the fact of their finding plenty of fresh-water smelts for food, for one reason, as well as to the fact that we usually find the size of the fish to correspond in some degree with that of the water from which they are taken.

This discovery is a very interesting one, and having found a possible *raison d'être* for *ogassa* trout in Sunapee Lake, I send it you in hopes that some other correspondent may be able to throw some light on the matter, and solve Mr. Powers's queries as to the possibility of such rapid growth and apparent change of habit.

SAMUEL WEBBER.  
CHARLESTOWN, N. H., Feb. 2, 1886.

**A WINTER CHAT.**

*Editor Forest and Stream:*

"Little Sandy" is sad, and why not? Information has just reached us that the Legislature has repealed the State law to prevent seining, etc., in the waters of Kentucky.

For years we have been trying to effect a change in our community by distributing some of the wholesomest teachings of FOREST AND STREAM to show up the evil effects of seining and kindred devices for catching fish. The State passed a law to prevent seining, and though badly enforced, it had a good effect. Last spring we appealed to the ever gallant and generous Dr. Henshall to furnish us, through your columns, with a description of suitable fly tackle, by which our sport might be heightened and made more interesting. We were congratulating one another a few days ago as a small nucleus of the "new fangled fishermen" (as we are sometimes ironically called) had met around a glowing fire to talk over our first year's experience in the most delightful of sports, *i. e.*, fly-fishing, when the sad news reached us of the action of the Legislature. While we grieve we have much to be thankful for.

Acting upon Doctor Henshall's suggestion last spring we sent for a pair of seven ounce lancewood fly-rods, reels, lines, flies, fly-books, and leaders, which came by express in a few days, and were secreted under lock and key so that no unhallowed eyes might pry into those precious packages, for it had already been noised about that my friend Skill (may he soon be released from his snow-bound situation and find a fair market for his mules) and I were going to use horse flies and gnats for our fishing baits instead of minnows the coming season. That night we were children again, it reminded me of the Santa Claus days. We put the rods together and praised their fine proportions, spring and workmanship. How we longed to be in some secluded nook on Stoner or Strode's Creek, where we might rig our first cast just to see if what we had been told was really true, "that fly-fishing was well enough up North or out East where fish are plenty, but fish had too much sense to bite at a feathered hook in Kentucky."

The rods are laid aside, a bundle of leaders receive but a passing glance, then the Orvis reels; these (at first) look awkward compared to a No. 1 Meek, of which the spool is not more than one inch in diameter, but then it takes up line very fast, and the perforated plates allow the line to dry without removing it from the reel. Next come the fly-books which are very handsome and well made. "What is this by the side of the little green box marked flies?" asked my friend. "Fishing with the Fly; Orvis-Cheney collections, a present." A hurried glance at the index shows articles from the pens of a host of writers of whom we had long ago become familiar through the pages of FOREST AND STREAM.

Since that night our fondest anticipations have been realized, and though we had entertained some fears that the light rods, in inexperienced hands as we were, might in a well-contested battle fail, yet victory on victory gave us more confidence, and at the end of the season have sustained their reputation. The flies, too, we ordered first (from names only) proved very successful, and that the notes taken from the different writers on the "most killing flies" were not made in vain. We have caught fish of all the representatives of our streams with the fly, excepting the sucker, and we can well afford to leave him to those who are willing to take their seats on the muddy and slippery bank, in February and March, at a place previously baited with dough balls, and fish with the humble "wum" for bait. Anglers as a rule are incredulous, and hold to the doctrine that "seeing is believing." One among my first essays was in company with a friend who thought "minnows were good enough." But it happened on one of those likely evenings previous to a shower, with a good breeze, and as it took me some time to rig my cast, he baited his hook with a minnow and commenced fishing down stream from the bank.

When I got ready I waded out in the middle of the creek, and cast right and left in his wake; he caught one bass, while I was getting a rise at nearly every cast, and at last he reeled up his line and said he "would rather watch me than to fish himself, it was so novel." I made a convert right there. This is not the only instance, for to-day we have

quite a number who are devotees of the fly-rod and have enjoyed its seductive pleasures. I received a letter from your correspondent "Vox," from Mt. Sterling, a few days ago, saying that "I have just received a split-bamboo fly-rod. I want a few instructions. Come up and spend a day with me. It would be like an experience meeting of old Methodists."

On the following day my genial friend E. P. B., treasurer of the Bourbon Gun Club, met me. "What say you on going to Mt. Sterling to-morrow?" "I can be ready by 8 o'clock." The next morning turned out to be one of those cold, disagreeable, misty days, the ground all covered with snow and slush, but just right to talk fly-fishing. We arrived at Mt. Sterling early, and as we sauntered into the office we found "Vox" in his little workshop at the end so busily engaged that he was unaware of our presence. I knocked on the door, and turning he hid something which to me looked like a fly-book. And with that whole-soul smile which characterizes him above all good fellows, "hail friends well met," introduced us to the Rev. Mr. S., formerly Fish Commissioner of Tennessee. After a hearty greeting he informed us that they had just been engaged in a conversation on the subject of fishing. Ceremonies were cast aside. My friend B. excused himself, having some business in town, which left the happy clover leaf in its glory. The rods were brought out and I soon ascertained that "Vox" had it bad. Fortunately the "weather conditions" were such that it kept all the toothache patents at home, which often prevents one of those pleasant *à-tête* chats that we enjoy so much, and then it gave us full sweep of the room.

The office was hardly high enough to make the overhead cast *comme il faut*, but taking off the butt joint we managed to lay out (an imaginary) line fairly well. Thrice the dinner bell rang before we could find a convenient stopping place. After dinner followed a long discussion on the action of legislators, which closed with the hope that the Senate would be awake to its duty and surely "kill the bill." We cast our eyes across to the court house clock whose hour hand already pointed a little after five and bade our friends a reluctant *au revoir* with the promise that as soon as the water was in right condition when spring has asserted her rights again I would telephone them when they would meet me to try the result of our meeting.

As we drove homeward through the falling mist and rain I could scarcely think of anything but the pleasant day spent with genial companions when everything was present but the fish.  
LITTLE SANDY.  
NORTH MIDDLETON, Ky.

**ANOTHER WAY TO CARRY A LANDING NET.**—Centralia, Pa., Feb. 6.—Any plan or arrangement that adds to the pleasure or comfort of a sportsman's "outing" I think should be common property, so let me tell of a contrivance that helps to keep this necessary but cumbersome article out of the way while always ready for quick use. I take it to be the invention of a friend, one who can entice more fish into his net with the gentle persuasion of his springy greenheart rod than any other fisherman I know: Fastened securely to the short handle of the net is a loop of say four feet of the very best elastic web, three-quarters or one inch wide; this is worn around the neck and when not in use is thrown so that it hangs down the back; when wanted and your fish is ready to be landed taking the handle the web will stretch as far as you can possibly reach; when the two pounder is taken care of a toss puts it back over your shoulders ready for the next one. In my early fishing days I was sorely bothered with the corkscrew twist that was always in my six foot leaders as I took them out to replace one that my largest fish had carried off; it was only after some minutes drawing through the water and making every trout in the pool think more about a water snake than of the white winged coachman, that it straightened out for business; now when starting on my trips I take a common tin oval tobacco box, one that can be handily carried in the pocket; then dampen a heavy piece of cotton flannel that has been cut the width of the box and twice its length; laying it in I place the leaders on it then fold the end back over them; very soon they are as soft and pliable as if they had been soaking in the water and are ready for immediate use. Both of these plans may be nothing new to most of your readers, but perhaps it may to some one of them save a tangled line or another fish for his creel.  
—SPICEWOOD.

**ADIRONDACK FISHES.**—I will again appeal to the kindness of friends and ask them to send me such notes on the fishes of the Adirondack region as they may have. The few hundred copies of my "Memoranda" for Mr. Colvin's forthcoming Report of the Adirondack Survey, which were issued in advance of his report, are nearly exhausted, and it is proposed to extend the report on fishes. The following note, which is just at hand, explains it: "Albany, Feb. 4, 1886. Mr. F. Mather, Dear Sir: I think that you can rely upon having fully six months in which to get in all the addenda. I shall use every effort to make your report as perfect as possible, even if we have to cut the electrolyte plates. Sincerely yours, VERPLANCK COLVIN, Supt." My collecting tour was a hasty one, and it is very probable that I missed some species; in fact, I inserted the "Miller's thumb," *Uranidea*, on the authority of Dr. Merriam, as I could not find it. Some of the sticklebacks may also be found there, and then we want specimens of those "Morse Lake minnows," and "Seventh Lake minnows," which are mentioned, but which, owing to their decayed condition, could not be identified, and which Prof. Jordan thought might be new. Had it not been for the good friends who helped me out in making out the list of the distribution of species this portion of the work would have been omitted. This is a very important portion of the work and is not complete, and all volunteer help in the work will be thankfully received.—FRED MATHER (Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.).

**FLORIDA FISH KILLED BY COLD.**—St. Augustine, Fla., Jan. 31.—I have just returned from a fishing cruise to the head of Matanzas River. The sight that I saw was enough to make the heart sick. Hundreds of large sea trout and channel bass were lying dead along the shore, killed by our last cold snap. One can understand how the sea trout were caught in the shallow water and frozen. But my surprise was great when I saw many sheepsheads among them, as they are fish which usually seek deep pools and channels. The buzzards are so full they will hold no more, and such a mass of decaying fish certainly will not be conducive to the health of the country. In spite of this wholesale destruction I had very good sport with rod and reel. And many a fine fish was replaced in his native element for fear of killing more than I could use. The nights have been rather cool of late, and I have been glad while sleeping in my boat to have my second sleeping bag around me.—WINDWARD.

**BISBY CLUB.**—Utica, N. Y., Feb. 3.—The eighth annual meeting of the Bisby Club was held here to day, and the following trustees chosen: Gen. R. U. Sherman, Hon. H. J. Cookinham, H. Lee Babeock, O. J. Childs, Thomas R. Proctor, A. G. Brower. At a subsequent meeting of the trustees the following officers were elected: President, Gen. R. U. Sherman; Vice-Presidents, Christopher Roby, W. W. Snow, D. W. Cross, Thomas R. Proctor; Secretary, Henry H. Thompson; Treasurer, S. F. Sherman; Legal Counsel, Hon. H. J. Cookinham. The club passed a resolution declaring against floating for deer, favoring the limiting of the shooting season beginning Aug 15 and closing Nov. 1, and advocating hounding from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

**NOT AN UNCOMMON CASE.**—"Got any fish?" "Nary fish." "Got any bites?" "Nary bites." "Got any bait?" "Nary bit." "What are you doing there?" "Fishin'."—*Texas Siftings.*

**Fishculture.**

**THE FULTON CHAIN HATCHERY.**

*Editor Forest and Stream:*

At the annual meeting of the Boonville Sportsmen's Club, held at the Hurlbert House, Boonville, recently, the following officers were elected: President, L. W. Fiske, Boonville; First Vice-President, S. T. Miller, Constableville; Second Vice-President, H. G. Emms, Turin; Treasurer, C. W. Colton, Boonville; Secretary, G. A. Willard, Boonville.

The report of the committee on the new fish hatchery just completed on the Fulton chain of lakes, was read by Hon. H. Dwight Grant. The report stated that the hatchery house was located near Cold Spring Camp, on Fourth Lake of the Fulton Chain, on the recommendation of State Fish Commissioner Sherman. The site was selected for the purity of the water and its convenience as a central point for procuring and distributing trout fry. The plans of the building and plant were made and furnished by Mr. Sherman on the most approved methods for hatching. The dimensions of the building are 20x36 feet. It is boarded and battened on the outside, and has a plain, tasty cornice and gabled roof covered with good pine shingles. It is lighted by 8 windows of 12 lights each, 9x14 inches, and has one door. The inside walls are lined with building paper and covered with matched spruce ceiling. The rooms are also coiled overhead with spruce. Water is conducted to the building through a 3-inch main 136 feet in length from a reservoir built for that purpose. The inside reservoirs and hatching troughs are on the ground ready for setting up. Necessary wire cloths for hatching trays has been purchased and the frames are in process of construction. Owing to late commencement of operations on the building and the early forming of ice on the lakes, the managers were unable to transport and set up the hatching apparatus until after the time that the spawn had reached maturity, thereby making it unsafe to remove them from the State hatchery. The committee recommends that the apparatus be set up in early spring and everything be put in order for future use. A better building has been erected than Commissioner Sherman contemplated and it will be better equipped. It has already cost \$572.41, and \$50 or \$60 more will be required to complete it. The report was accepted. The treasurer's report, which showed a balance of \$90.95 on hand, was also read and accepted.

Hon. H. Dwight Grant, Geo. H. Beck, John Brinckerhoff, F. A. Barrett and C. W. Colton were elected managers. L. W. Fiske was delegated to go to Albany to confer with representatives in regard to securing aid for the new hatchery and to voice the sentiments of the club on the proposed changes in the game laws.  
PORTSA.

Utica, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1886.

**BLACK BASS IN GERMANY.**—We have received a pamphlet of eight pages from Herr Max von dem Borne, on the black bass. This gentleman, it will be remembered, has introduced the two species of bass into Germany and has sent us accounts of his success in breeding them. He has called the small-mouth *der Schwartzbarsch*, and the big-mouth *der Forellenbarsch*, *Forelle* being the German word for trout. The great success in breeding these fish, together with their growth and game qualities, causes Mr. von dem Borne to value them highly, and to recommend their introduction into suitable waters in his country.

**The Kennel.**

Address all communications to the Forest and Stream Publishing Co.

**FIXTURES.**

**FIELD TRIALS.**

Nov. 23.—Eighth annual field trials of the Eastern Field Trials Club, at High Point, N. C. W. A. Coster, Secretary, Flatbush, Kings county, N. Y.

**DOG SHOWS.**

March 16, 17, 18 and 19.—Western Pennsylvania Poultry Society's Dog Show, at Pittsburgh, Pa. C. B. Elber, Secretary.  
March 23, 24 and 25.—First Annual Dog Show of the New Jersey Kennel and Field Trials Club, Newark, N. J. A. P. Vredenburg, Secretary, Bergen Point, N. J.  
March 30 to April 2.—Third Annual Dog Show of the New Haven Kennel Club, 8, 10 Heminway, Secretary, New Haven, Conn.  
April 6, 7, 8 and 9.—Second Annual Dog Show of the New England Kennel Club, Edward A. Moseley, Secretary, Boston, Mass.  
April 13, 14, 15 and 16.—First Annual Dog Show of the Hartford Kennel Club, A. C. Collins, Secretary, Hartford, Conn.  
May 4, 5, 6 and 7.—Tenth annual dog show of the Westminster Kennel Club, at Madison Square Garden, New York. James Mortimer, Superintendent, P. O. Box 1812, New York.

**A. K. R.—SPECIAL NOTICE.**

**THE AMERICAN KENNEL REGISTER.** for the registration of pedigrees, etc. (with prize lists of all shows and trials), is published every month. Entries close on the 1st. Should be in early. Entry blanks sent on receipt of stamped and addressed envelope. Registration fee (50 cents) must accompany each entry. No entries inserted unless paid in advance. Yearly subscription \$1.50. Address "American Kennel Register," P. O. Box 2832, New York. Number of entries already printed 3185.

**EASTERN FIELD TRIALS CLUB.**

THERE was an important meeting of the Board of Governors of the Eastern Field Trials Club at the St. James Hotel on Tuesday evening, Feb. 9. The Treasurer's report showing a balance in favor of the club of \$388.60 was accepted. Messrs. J. L. Breeze, New York; C. L. Dick, Pittsburgh, Pa.; O. H. Denny, Pittsburgh, Pa., and J. T. Perkins, Brooklyn, N. Y. were elected members. The conditions of the Members' Stake were changed so as to allow any member to handle a dog owned by another member. The committee on running rules reported several amendments which we shall publish next week. The date of birth of entries for the Derby of 1886 was changed back from May 1 to Jan. 1, the entries to close May 1, with \$10 forfeit and \$10 additional to starters. The stake will be \$700, with \$400 for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third.