

## Valley Angler Opening Day by Bill Thompson

The day has finally come at last, today is the opening day for trout ponds in New Hampshire. The day is more symbolic than anything, but important none the less for winter bound anglers. Up until now there has been some fishing available, but nothing much for those of us who live in this neck of the woods. Now, at last, there is some real fishing to be had until the local rivers are ready to be fished.

I can tell you that after the events of this last winter I am more than ready for a day's fishing. I can assure you that Janet feels the same way. We are not planning anything special just an hour or so on our favorite pond. Just to be able to make a few casts will be enough. It is always nice to catch a fish or two, but it is only an added bonus and not all that important.

Unlike last year I think we are going to have an excellent early season. Last year many of the area ponds were still iced in right up until a day before the season opened. This year ice has been out for some time now. This is important if the ponds are to be stocked. At present many of the trout ponds in the area have already received their initial stockings.

I haven't done a whole lot about getting my gear ready. I guess I will have to start soon. You would think that someone in the fishing business would be more organized. Most of my stuff is spread somewhere between the shop and the house. I have enough tackle in both places to be able to put something together, but likely as not some favorite reel or rod is always in the wrong place when I am ready to go fishing. I am not alone in this. Janet acquired a new rod over the winter and is hot to try it out. At the moment she is looking for a special reel to go with the new rod that somehow has managed to have been mislaid. No doubt it was put somewhere safe. I'm reasonably sure that it will show up. Friday night we will both be still be trying to get organized.

Judging by the number of fishing licenses I have filled out this week I am guessing that a lot of anglers are looking forward to the day as well. I think that a lot of folks will be fishing this year. It could be that a lot of us are looking for simpler pleasures these days.

See you on the river.