

Valley Angler

Fall Pond Fishing

by Bill Thompson

It is beginning to look like the good fishing is never going to come to an end. Mother Nature did through us a curve with some extra rain from the last hurricane and Tuesday's morning's thunder storm added to the mix. On the whole the Saco has managed to hold its own. Despite being a little on the high side Tuesday evening there were still trout rising below First Bridge.

With such good fishing in the rivers it is hard to break away to fish the local trout ponds. Normally at this time of year I would have already been up to Mountain Pond and possibly Sawyer Pond as well. I suspect that both of these ponds have started to turn on.

Mountain Pond has always been one of my fall favorites. The cooler weather usually brings the bigger trout up to feed on the surface. One of the best times to fish is in the afternoon. The sun starts to set a lot earlier now and the trout are accustomed to feeding in the lower light. The insect life also seems to be in tune with the change in light as well. This is good news as it is always a pain to walk out from the pond after dark. Although I must admit even with the earlier conditions I am often tempted to fish later than planned and end up walking out in the dark. It is always a good idea to have a head lamp stored somewhere in your gear bag for just such occasions.

Sawyer Pond involves a longer hike in and requires a little more planning and adherence to a time schedule. It is well worth the effort to fish this pond especially when the leaves have started to color up. In case you haven't noticed the swamp maples have already started to turn.

As soon as it gets a little cooler I start to pay attention to the ponds lower down in the valley. There are some great trout ponds in our area that receive little or no attention in the fall. Oddly enough most anglers turn their attention to other pursuits in the fall and fail to take advantage of the great fishing at their finger tips. There are days when you never see another fishermen when fishing these ponds.

Fall fly selection should include a good number of midge patterns. Probably the most common generic midge pattern is the Griffith Gnat. This simple fly has the appearance of a lot of different bugs. Another good all round fly is the Adams. I am partial to the parachute version, but the traditional pattern works too. It doesn't hurt to have a few streamers with you as well. All time favorite would have to be the Black Ghost.

As much as I like running water there is something special about spending a fall afternoon on a trout pond. The memory of a day's fishing can keep you warm on a cold winter's night.

On a totally unrelated subject, congratulations to the Kennett Eagles football team on their first victory in their new home. All of those who have contributed to making this new stadium a reality should be congratulated as well. My hat is off to you for a job done well.

See you on the river.