

Fish Tales

I am very fortunate to be a Maine guide. I get to spend my summer doing what I love to do most, and I meet interesting people nearly every day. One of my favorite aspects of guiding is to observe the effect that fishing has on the human psyche. Clients often arrive with their internal clocks wound tightly from the demands of our modern world; but after just 4 or 5 hours on the water, I see a whole new person emerge. I'm convinced that fishing is a better stress-reliever than any drug or therapy program on the market. Hopefully, you can find some time in 2010 to test out my theory for yourself !!



2010 NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2009 Maine Fishing Recap
- Hosted travel trips to Belize and Steelhead Alley
- May Trout / Salmon Fishing is Top-Notch
- ESPN Fish 50 / 50
- Speaker for Banquets and Seminars

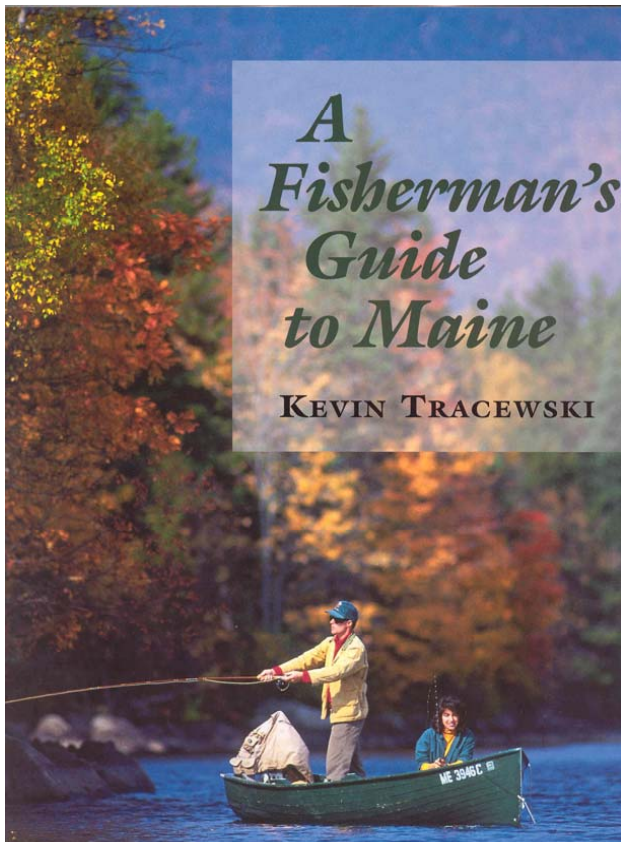
2009 MAINE FISHING RECAP

2009 was our 3rd consecutive very cold and snowy winter. We had great ice conditions, and good fishing right until the end of March. Moosehead Lake produced double-digit catches of togue in February for the Ron K. and Rob S. parties. The largest togue of the season (7 pounds) was caught by Bill C. on East Grand Lake. Al K. caught the largest salmon of the winter season (22") on Cold Stream Pond. And Dylan W. caught the largest whitefish (19"). We did 3 Northern Pike trips in the Belgrade Lakes region, and

Continued on page 3...

SIGNED COPIES OF A FISHERMAN'S GUIDE TO MAINE

Inscribed and signed copies of *A Fisherman's Guide to Maine* are available on our website. Gift certificates for guided trips, fly fishing instruction and fly casting lessons are also available. Please try to give me a couple of weeks lead time for books intended as gifts.



BOOK REVIEWS

A Fisherman's Guide to Maine is an informative and highly entertaining book that was masterfully organized and meticulously researched. It promises to take its place among the most beloved books about the Maine outdoors.

~ V. Paul Reynolds, President, Maine Outdoor Publications

After reading 20 pages of *A Fisherman's Guide to Maine*, I was hooked. After 40 pages, I was entranced. And long before I finished its 160 pages, I thought, 'I wish I had written this book' about a thousand times. Not once, however, did I come across anything that I would have changed, or could have done better. If you read only one fishing book this year, I'd recommend this one highly.

~John Holyoke, Outdoor Editor, Bangor Daily News

If there ever was a fishing book about more than just catching fish, *A Fisherman's Guide to Maine*, is it. Seasoned anglers and rookie piscators alike can glean plenty of useful technical information, along with a good dose of entertainment, from the 160 pages of this book.

~Nate Lindsay, Editor, Penobscot Times

ESPN FISH 50 / 50

One of the highlights of my 2009 season was being invited by Jeff and Taylor Turner to be part of their Fish 50/50 program. They are a father and son team who wanted to share an epic adventure together before Taylor moved away from home to attend college. So they set off to fish 50 trophy waters, in 50 states, with 50 top guides, **in 50 consecutive days**. And they did it!!

They fished a timed, four-hour session in each state, and received pledges from sponsors for each fish that they caught. They have a great website (www.fish5050.com) and posted daily updates on their progress. Their trip turned into a real media and internet event that was followed by thousands of people around the country.

Jeff and Taylor fished with me on Day 43 and caught 69 smallmouth bass (in 4 hours) on a Penobscot drift boat trip. That shattered their previous record (of 50 fish) caught on Day 31 in North Dakota. It was heartening for me to see that our Penobscot smallmouth fishery compared so favorably with all the other places that they fished around the country. It was also inspiring for me to spend time with a father and son who really had their act together. Thanks to Jeff and Taylor for letting me be part of their adventure!!



2009 MAINE FISHING RECAP continued.....

caught at least 2 pike on each trip.

Fortunately, we had another warm and dry April, so by early May, all of our local trout streams were in prime condition. I did lots of small stream trout fishing in 2009. As usual, I started the season in the Down East region, fishing the trout and salmon streams that criss-cross this vast and lightly populated area. We caught our first rising trout on May 8; and Bob W, Dennis K, David S (and others) all had double digit days using dry flies on small streams in May. May is the most under-utilized month on the Maine trout fishing calendar; so in 2010, I hope to get more clients to come and experience the joys of fishing small streams 'when the alders are the size of a mouse's ear'.



**Landlocked Salmon
Dylan W – Orono, ME**

The Nahmakanta area ponds provided outstanding trout fishing again in 2009. Lou and Dick B caught trout (up to 18") on dry flies all day long on May 18. And on June 13, Ed G told me that he hadn't had dry fly fishing this good since he fished above the gates at Parmachenee in the 60's. Nahmakanta keeps boats on more than a dozen backcountry ponds, and in some, it isn't unusual to catch 25 – 30 trout on dry flies in an afternoon. Other ponds are more popular with spin fisherman. All of these ponds, however, contain healthy populations of brook trout and provide a great Maine outdoor experience for the people who visit them.

We had a cool, wet summer, which kept most trout streams in good condition until early August. As a result, I did more late-season, small stream brook trout trips (mostly in the Moosehead and Nahmakanta areas) than ever before.

From late-June through September, I did a lot of float trips for smallmouth bass on the Penobscot. The river offers solitude and the chance to see Bald Eagles and wildlife



**Nahmakanta Area Pond – Brook Trout
Lou W - Massachusetts**

everyday. The summer rains kept the water at a good level for floating all summer long, and we caught more than 50 bass per day on more than half of our float trips. We also guided more largemouth bass trips than ever before, and Anders J, Tom M and Rick S each caught the biggest largemouth bass of their lives in 2009.

We got virtually no rain from early August until mid October, so on many streams, the late season landlocked salmon runs didn't materialize until after the season closed. Therefore, most of my September fishing was focused on pond brook trout. Fall provides a wonderful combination of nice weather, no bugs and great foliage, and is one of the nicest times of the year to fish in Maine. I feel really blessed to have an opportunity to fish as much as I do, and to share these experiences with so many great people. Please come and join me for a day on the water in 2010.



Penobscot River Float Trip

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

Each winter I teach fly fishing / fly casting classes, and give talks at sportsman's shows throughout New England. As a spinoff from these endeavors, I also offer Powerpoint presentations and short seminars for fishing clubs, corporate groups and banquets. Topics range from travel talks about fishing in Alaska, Wyoming or Mexico, to technical programs on entomology (I have BS and MS degrees in entomology) and fly casting. I also offer a talk that is loosely based on my book called, *Discovering Maine's Top Fisheries*.

Presentations can be tailored to meet the needs of your group, so please contact me to discuss what you have in mind.



HOSTED TRAVEL -- BELIZE / STEELHEAD ALLEY

IF YOU EVER WANTED TO FISH FOR BONEFISH, TARPON OR PERMIT, NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT. Because of the poor economy, several top lodges are offering incredible off-season deals on trips until the end of 2010. I will be hosting a trip to Belize in November at a lodge that is offering 2-for-1 all-inclusive package pricing. This lodge is an ideal place to bring a non-fishing spouse or companion, because in addition to getting great fishing, a beach front room, and 3 swimming pools; this place also provides lots of non-fishing activities like sea kayaking, great snorkeling and diving, jungle tours and zip-lines, and visits to Mayan ruins.

Last year, I hosted a very successful trip to 'Steelhead Alley', where we fished the western New York streams that flow into Lake Erie. I plan to host a similar trip (also in November) this year. This is a much more 'hard-core' fishing trip than Belize, and is best suited for a small group of anglers who's only interest is in battling chrome-bright steelhead from dawn to dusk.

Please contact me by phone or email for more information on either of these trips.



Belize Bonefish



Belize Sunset



November Steelhead

MAY FISHING IS TOP-NOTCH

PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TROUT AND SALMON FISHING SHOULD BOOK MORE TRIPS IN MAY!! Sure, June is an excellent month to catch trout and salmon in Maine, but some of my best fishing occurs in May.

The smelts run in May, the suckers spawn in May, the Hendrickson's hatch in May. These are all significant events that hungry fish who have just endured a long Maine winter are very tuned into. So I struggle to understand why so many people insist on waiting until June to fish in Maine.

Maybe it's because everyone thinks things are still frozen solid here in May. Trust me, they're not. The large main stem rivers are swollen with runoff in May, so I don't do drift boat trips at this time of year. And the weather in far northern Maine usually runs 2 or 3 weeks behind the rest of the state, so I wouldn't take you on a trip to Aroostook County. But the small trout and salmon streams in my area are usually in prime condition beginning around May 10.

One of the other perks of fishing in May is that the fish tend to be most active during the warmest (middle) part of the day. So unlike the summer months, you don't have to get up at dawn, or fish at dusk, to be successful. There is also a lot less competition from other fishermen.

I fish a lot in the vast and sparsely populated Down East region of Maine in May. Typically, we drive logging roads and park the vehicle within fairly close proximity to the spot on a given stream where we will fish. So we frequently have the opportunity to fish 3 or 4 different streams in a given day; and often fish for both trout and salmon (in different streams) on the same day as well. The fishing in remote ponds can also be outstanding in May, even with dry flies.

I am affiliated with several nice lodges that offer May packages that include a comfortable waterfront cabin, meals, etc. Please call or email me to discuss all of the fishing options that are available in the most under-utilized month of year (May).



2009 BRAGGING BOARD

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Lure</u>
LANDLOCKED SALMON			
Jan. 27	Cold Stream Pond	22"	Live Smelt
May 21	Grand Lake Stream	21"	Soft-Hackle Emerger
BROOK TROUT			
June 3	Nahmakanta Area Pond	20"	Black Gnat
SMALLMOUTH BASS			
August 9	Penobscot River	20"	Heddon Torpedo
STRIPED BASS			
July 23	Piscataqua River	30"	Sluggo