Gaff and Gun by Fred Luks



Wilderness, stream news

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Things to get excited about: Schools of fish seen thrashing on the surface of Croton Lake last fall, were lake trout according to the consensus of vigilant observers.

By "lake trout" we mean just that and not rainbows, brookies or browns. Some of the forktails seen would go four of five pounds indicating they are the stock planted in the reservoir by the state four and five years ago.

Look for some interesting catches to be made this spring.

Things not to be taken too literally: Widely-accepted data says two inches of ice will support one man. Three inches can hold a group and seven inches will hold an automobile.

But don't count on those measurements. Springs and currents tend to weaken the surface. What appears to be two inches in one place may only be a half inch.

You tip-up fisherman, keep it in mind as the ice fishing season comes to an end.

Things to weep about: Stripers Unlimited, a Massachusetts-based conservation organization, quotes a government report that there are 20,000 tons of PCBs loose in the air. Over 30,000 tons exist in the water.

PCB's, short for polychlorinated biphenols, are the toxic wastes that have rendered Hudson River fish unsafe to eat. The PCB's have been poured into the river by an upstate manufacturer of insulators and capacitators.

Question: Why is this country lagging behind Japan which outlawed PCB products as far back as five years ago?

Things to ponder: A major fallacy of gun registration was exposed in remarks by Congressman Steve Symms of Idaho. Symms noted that as a result of the Haynes decision by the Supreme Court in 1968, criminals are not legally obliged to register firearms since it amounts to selfincrimination.

So, in actuality, only honest citizens are required to register. Does it make sense?

Anent registration, some hunters are indulging a bit of satire with bumper stickers carrying this message: "Register matches. Prevent forest fires."

Things you probably didn't know. The Southern N.Y. Fish and Game Association, headquartered in White Plains, is 56 years-old. The organization has available to members, hunting lands in Ulster and Columbia counties.

It also offers facilities for archers, fly fishing enthusiasts and target shooters. Memberships in the SNYFGA are truly the greatest bargains: five dollars per year for adults and two bucks for youngsters.

Meetings take place at the County Center each second Wednesday of the month.

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