

Fishing log records the ones that didn't get away

By Lem Meese
staff writer

I see by my fishing log that it was some years ago last Friday that I caught my biggest fish — a monstrous, whiskered carp that took 15 minutes to land and 90 seconds to sell to a guy on the Detroit riverfront for \$2.50 and a 16-ounce bottle of E&B beer.

Fishing logs are useful, usually for something different than remembering carp — although when I read the terse entry in the log I remember that fish quite clearly. I can see it gasping on the rocks, seaweed growing on its scales.

But I also know that if some mid-July I want to catch huge carp, I should try a nightcrawler about 30 yards off Memorial Park just toward sundown. For walleye, I can turn to any of multiple log entries on multiple places, including crude maps showing rocks, currents and drop-offs. For trout, I know at a river landing whether the best water is upstream or down, what hatches occur on that river at what time, and what mean, surly brown trout evaded me last time but will not be permitted to do so again.

Even if you only fish sporadically, a log can be useful. They're fun to read years later, and the simple act of com-

outdoors

mitting your fishing experiences to writing makes you think about what you do did, whether it worked — or didn't — and why.

Where you keep the log is unimportant. You can use a five-cent Big Chief writing tablet, if you can find one. Whatever you use, keep it in note form in some kind of sealed baggie while you're on the water, then transfer it to

a more permanent record when you get home.

Ideally, you should keep track of places, baits or lures, times of day and season of year, air and water temperatures and other weather factors. It is not necessary to record bottles of E&B beer, although if you can find one, please write and let me know.

LAST WEEK'S overwhelming response to the U.S. Air Force "Could You Survive?" No. 45 convinced me to introduce you to "Could You Survive?" No. 46, even though it doesn't have the same ring to it.

This week's question: You're backpacking and you need to drink water without first purifying it. Is your best source: A.) Water from a free-flowing stream moving rapidly over a sandy bottom, B.) Water from a free-flowing stream moving rapidly over rocks or gravel, C.) Water from a spring where it comes out of the ground, or D.) Water from a deep pool in a stream regardless of bottom conditions?

Correct answer is C, spring water. Yes, water running rapidly in the sunlight over sand or gravel tends to become decontaminated, but only of bacteria growth. PCB, PBB, DDT, 2,4-D, and the rest of that ilk isn't affected.

SCHEDULED for near-term nature lovers are:

An early morning nature walk at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23, in the Nature Center of Kensington Metropark near Millford. The 1½-hour will be conducted by naturalist Julie Cerbus. Bring bug juice, and register in advance by phoning the nature center at 685-1561. You're free for this thing, but your car costs \$7 for an annual permit, \$2 daily and \$2 for seniors.

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