

OUTDOORS



NATURAL RESOURCES

A resource guide to books, Web sites, films, TV programming, activities and events related to the outdoors.

BOOK REVIEW

Outdoor Knots Book
 by Steve Soles (The Mountaineers), \$12.95
 This book is not to be missed if you're an outdoors person. The title is a bit misleading — there's a lot more here than just bending rope. The author, a former gear editor for the fishing magazine *Rock & Ice*, explains materials and methods used to make knots which are best for specific uses and how to store and care for

them. Climbers might be a bit confused by some of the terms used in the section on rope management, but the scope of the book makes it a must-read for fishing enthusiasts. In addition to tying knots, the author describes techniques useful for hiking, camping, climbing and kayaking. The terminology, how to tie them and the advantages and disadvantages of each are covered. The how-to-tie instructions and photographs will soon have you making a double bowline without a hitch.

— Bill Becher

ON THE INTERNET

For as all-around outdoors Web sites as www.wildernet.com covers just about everything from camping to caving and can get you to your destination without any hassles.

www.wildernet.com is notably easy to use considering the vast amount of information offered. A map showing every state is on the home page, where each state is broken down into regions showing 53 specific activities available.

When an activity is selected, the number of descriptions appear next to each state. Here, the search can be narrowed by state, or one can browse posts created by those who have experienced the activity and those who are researching. A nice feature is a link to a user-own-map site. Here, one can choose an area of interest and have a topographic or aerial photo map. Waterproof and glossy maps are available and can be made up to 44 inches at \$20.

— Nate Brown

TV IN

Event	Station
WEDNESDAY	
Outfitter's Almanac	ESPN2
Good Fishing	WGN
In Search of Fly Water	ESPN2
North American Outdoors	ESPN2
Jimmy Houston Outdoors	ESPN2
Fly Fishing American	ESPN2
Spanish Fly	ESPN2
Bassmasters Elite 50	ESPN2
Bassmasters Classic	ESPN2
Yearbook	ESPN2
THURSDAY	
World of Saltwater	ESPN2
Ultimate Outdoors	ESPN2
Under Wild Skies	USA
Babe Winkelman's Hunting and Fishing	USA
Outfitters Almanac	ESPN2
Fishin' Hole	ESPN2
In-Fisherman Critical Concepts	FSW

WHAT TO WATCH

Bitten, twice shy: The San Valley Chapter of Quail Unlimited is sponsoring a snake avoidance clinic for its members June 12-13 at the Ladre Dog Park. The clinic is by appointment only. For more information, call 206-9070 ext. 6715, or e-mail quail@onebox.com.

Wheels in motion: Drivers Ed for women, which is sponsored by the American Bicyclists, will be holding an eight-hour, two-session course by a certified instructor to inform women on how to safely operate a bicycle.

The event is June 5 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3639 E. Los Posas Road, Suite 11, in Camarillo. The course includes instruction on bicycle safety check, fixing a flat, bike skills practice and student crash avoidance techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Students will



A floatplane lands on Spruce Lake in British Columbia. The lake is so remote that anglers can't drive to it. They can only get there by hiking or flying.

Bill Becher/Special to the Daily News

GUIDE'S GUARANTEE

By Bill Becher Special to the Daily News

Goyette says remote lake in British Columbia is sure bet

SALMON and steelhead are the fish that come to mind when anglers think of British Columbia. But there also are plenty of wild rainbow and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden — a colorful species of char similar to brook trout (neither of which is actually a trout).

If that's confusing, Clint Goyette, head guide with Valley Fishing Guides Ltd., in Whistler, can make it all clear.

"We have the salmon runs in the fall, char fishing is very good in winter, rainbows year round," Goyette said. "You get lots of chances at different types of fish."

Whistler is better known for skiing in winter and extreme mountain biking in summer.

But Goyette is out to change that impression. You can catch trout and Dolly Varden in local lakes a short walk from a luxury condo. His company also offers floatplane trips for fly-fishing or helicopter trips that can whisk you to a remote lake for fishing which is nearly foolproof.

"I don't like to use the 'G' word," Goyette said. "But catching fish at Spruce Lake is practically guaranteed."

Getting to Spruce Lake means hiking or flying in. You can't drive there.

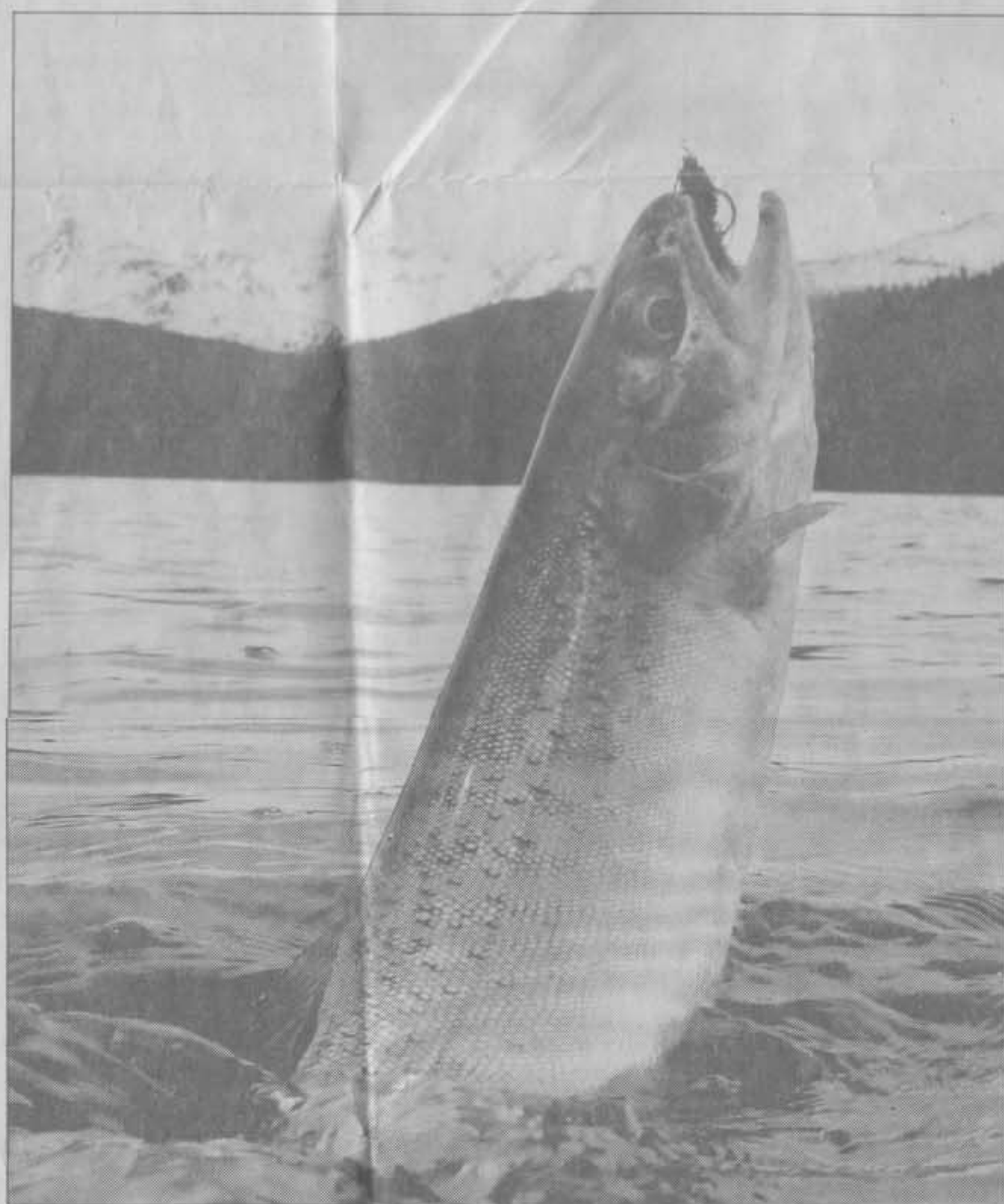
"Why fly to a lake you can drive to?" said Mike Quinn, our pilot.

The bright yellow Whistler Air floatplane took off from Green Lake in Whistler and provided a half-hour of incredible sights, including bears, bighorn sheep, glaciers and snowcapped peaks.

Then it was time to drop into the lake. The plane splashed down and taxied to a dock, where a small rowboat awaited. Goyette sometimes takes in larger groups of anglers who float-tube the lake, but this time we used the boat.

Goyette rowed over a shelf to a drop-off where trout hang out. After a couple of casts, I was attached to a nice rainbow that jumped and tussled until we brought it in and released it. We readily caught fish up to about 14 inches.

Fishing flies bigger than the natural insects they imitate is one



Trout are so plentiful at Spruce Lake that Clint Goyette, head guide with Valley Fishing Guides Ltd., says catching fish is "practically guaranteed."

Bill Becher/Special to the Daily News

technique Goyette favors.

"If you're hungry and there's a pizza in front of you and you have a choice, you take a bigger piece even though it's all pizza," Goyette said.

We were using a green woollybugger and slow-sinking lines, but at times the lake erupts with rising fish and dry flies are the ticket.

"Everything's big in B.C., trees are

big, bears are big, fish are big," said Goyette. "So you can fish a big fly you can see."

One of the advantages to the Whistler area is the variety of fishing it provides. Goyette said each little river or lake has a unique fish for that area. The rainbows from a lake or river fed from a glacier look entirely different than a fish from a tanning lake.

IF YOU GO

- Valley Fishing Guides Ltd. offers year-round action with half-day and full-day drive-in trips, and day and overnight fly-in fishing trips in the Whistler area. Gear can be provided for fly and spin fishing. For information call (877) 85-TROUT or visit www.valleyfishing.com. The Web site has extensive information about local fish and a frequently updated fishing report.
- WhistlerAccommodation.Com offers condo rentals that start at \$150 (Canadian) per night in summer. Visit the Web site or call (866) 905-4607.
- Whistler Air offers sightseeing flights in addition to fly-in fishing with Valley Fishing Guides. Visit www.whistlerair.ca for more information.

Most of the lakes and rivers have wild, self-sustaining populations of rainbow trout. No matter what time of year you're here, you can find a place to catch fish. In the heat of August, you just go up in altitude and find spring-like conditions. In the winter, you can take a break from skiing and fish for Dolly Varden in local rivers.

If you fish on your own, be sure to bring waders and a float tube to access local lakes. Check Goyette's Web site at www.valleyfishing.com for tips and current fishing conditions. Whistler is justifiably famous for its skiing. But it also has summer activities in addition to fishing like canoeing, mountain biking, golfing, rollerblading, rock climbing, hiking, ATV touring, guided hikes, windsurfing, wakeboarding, water skiing, kayaking, white water rafting and camping.

With the U.S. dollar strong against the Canadian dollar, British Columbia is an especially good value for Americans right now.

And catching a fish is almost guaranteed.

Bill Becher covers the outdoors for the Daily News. He can be reached at billbecher@yahoo.com