



First Coast FLY Fishers

February 2011

Flies to Fool the Shad

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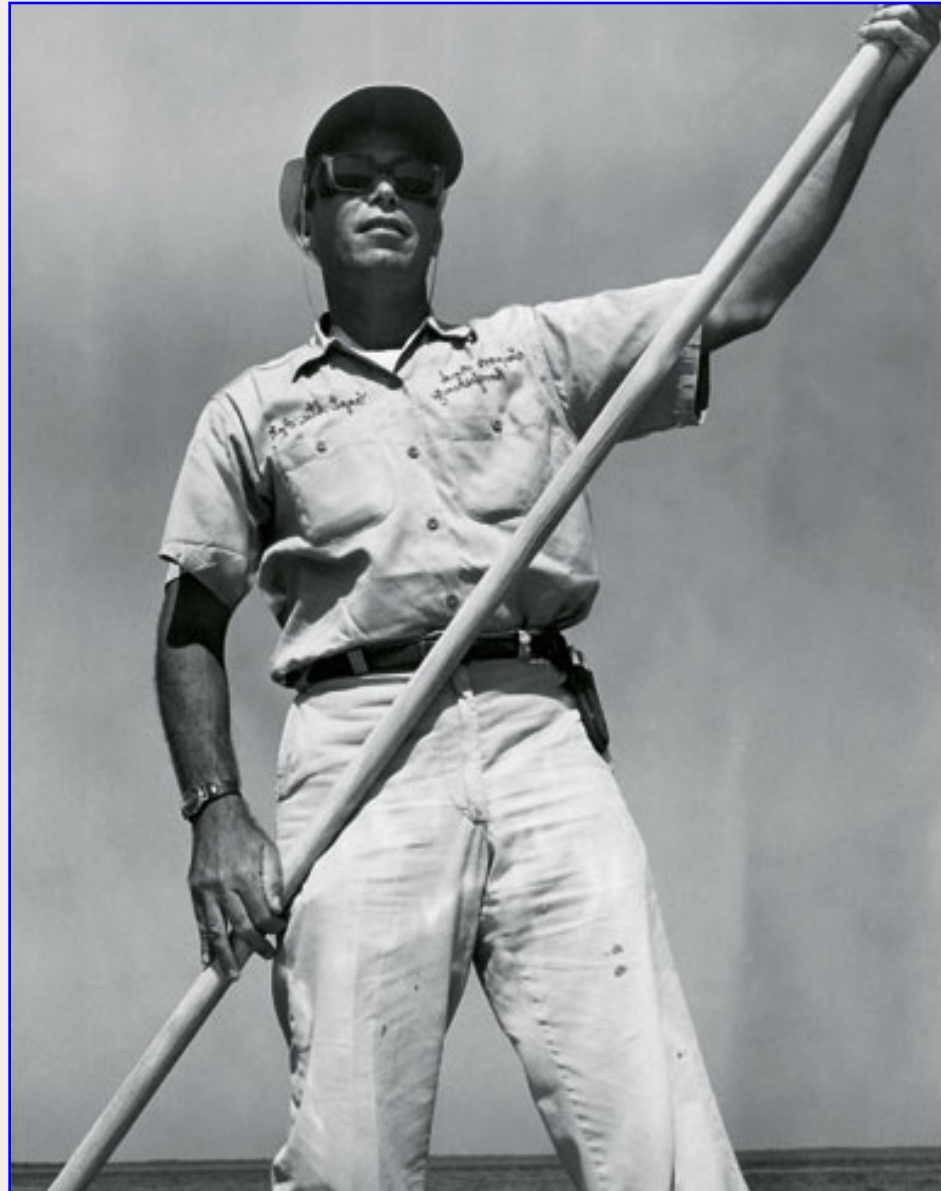
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LAST

The Great S



*by Jason C. Sheasley,
past FCFE president*

World renowned fly fisher Stu Apte will regale us with fly fishing memories at our First Coast Fly Fishers' 2011 Banquet, Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Southpoint Marriott. Stu is an early pioneer of saltwater fly fishing. He holds multiple fly fishing world records and is the first person to catch a tarpon over 150 pounds on a fly rod. And he's featured on a United States postage stamp. This is a unique opportunity to meet and spend time with a true fly fishing legend.

The activities begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, when Stu and Don Reed (Saltwater Fly Tyers) present a fly tying and rigging seminar at the Marriott.

LAST DAY FOR TICKETS, MONDAY, FEB 7

Stu Apte at Feb 12 Banquet

Stu will discuss how he developed several of his tarpon flies while Don demonstrates how they are tied. Stu will also discuss rigging and fighting big fish. The seminar is free and open to all members of the First Coast Fly Fishers. This is a great opportunity to learn from one of the pioneers of our sport.

The banquet begins at 6 p.m. Saturday. It's an event folks will be talking about for years and will include Stu regaling us with stories and tales of a life time of fly fishing and guiding. Stu will no doubt provide us with a glimpse of what it is like to guide and fish with such celebrities as Hall of Famer Ted Williams, Dick Butkus, Curt Gowdy and General Norman Schwarzkopf.

Members will have an opportunity to purchase copies of Stu's new autobiography *Of Wings and Tides*, which Mr. Apte will gladly autograph. There will also be an opportunity to purchase a print of Vaughn Cochran's brand new portrait of Stu. This will be the first time that copies of the print will be made available to the public. The proceeds from both the book and the print will benefit the Club. A limited number of books are available. If you haven't reserved your copy be sure to do so by contact Jim Fallon at fallontest@comcast.net.

Once again this year the Club has amassed several thousand dollars in fly fishing merchandise, gear

and guide trips which members will have an opportunity to bid on or win. The Banquet will mark the Club's first-ever Indoor Fishing Contest. Everyone who attends the banquet will have an opportunity to decide whether they want to be the fish or the fisherman and win a \$250 iPod Classic – Fishing Edition, guaranteed to improve your fishing experience. Additionally, Members in good standing will be given a chance to win a custom, redfish engraved, 6-7-8 weight Tibor Backcountry CL Wide reel.

Tickets for this year's event are \$35 per person, which includes entry into the banquet, your choice of dinner entree and chances to win a Tibor Backcountry reel and an iPod Classic. We expect a large turnout this year. However, the number of tickets is limited. The Monday, Feb. 7 Club meeting will be your last opportunity to purchase tickets.

Raffle, silent auction and guide trips

- Sage Flight 790 4-piece 7-weight fly rod
- Werner 240 cm Kayak Paddle
- Ross Fly-1 Fly Reel
- Fly boxes full of flies tied by Club Members
- RIO Intermediate Fly Line
- Pescadore 6-inch Pliers
- ExOfficio clothing
- Fishpond packs
- Saltwater Fly Tying Kits
- Dr. Slick fly tying tools
- Scotty Fly Rod Holder
- Orvis Clearwater II 5-Weight Rod
- Patagonia Clothing
- Polarized Sunglasses
- TFO Axiom 5-weight fly rod
- Simms Rod Tube Humidor
- Cortland Precision Fly Line
- Renzetti Fly Tying tools
- Royal Robbins Clothing
- ...and many more items

**Trips from: Capt. John Bottko • Capt. Larry Miniard
Capt. David Borries • David Lambert, MCI
Capt. Rich Santos • Capt. James Dummas**



Fashion Fusion

A Smart, Cheap Epoxy Substitute

by Casey Smartt
www.caseysmartt.com

Every now and then I come across an unusual material at a craft or department store that looks like it might work for tying flies. Most of these non-traditional materials end up disappointing me because they really aren't intended to be dunked in saltwater and chewed on by fish, but sometimes one turns out to be genuinely useful and definitely worth writing about.

A few months ago I stumbled onto an unusual bottle of glue in the sewing dept. at Wal-Mart. The glue was called Aleene's Fabric Fusion and the label on the bottle said, "Non-toxic, permanent, dry cleanable, fabric adhesive." Upon closer inspection of the bottle, I noticed the glue was clear and syrupy (like epoxy). I was intrigued because most water-based glues are milky and runny and I have yet to find any that can hold up to the kind of soaking and abuse inflicted on saltwater flies. In spite of better judgment, I tossed a bottle of "Aleene's" into the cart. A few days later I started experimenting with it.

The first thing I noticed when I squirted some Aleene's onto a toothpick was that it looked EXACTLY like epoxy. It was viscous, crystal clear, and it rolled and sagged easily around the pick. But unlike epoxy, the Aleene's had no noxious fumes and did not require any mixing. I put some drops of Aleene's on a white sheet of paper to test how long they took to dry and how tough they were once they hardened. To my surprise, the drops dried in several hours. The drops shrunk slightly as the water in the glue evaporated, but the solids left behind were crystal clear and extremely tough. They weren't "glassy-hard" and brittle, but more like clear plastic or vinyl. I was impressed and ready to try Aleene's out on some flies.

The first flies I used Aleene's on were Surf Candy patterns. The body portions of these flies are traditionally made by soaking synthetic-fiber flies with epoxy and rotating them on an electric turner as the epoxy cures. The epoxy penetrates the fibers and

creates a juicy translucent appearance. Surf Candies are relatively easy flies to make, but the epoxy stinks, it's messy, and I pity the poor guy who accidentally gets it in his eyes. Unfortunately, besides expensive UV-activated acrylic resins, epoxy has thus far been the only adhesive that really works for these flies.

I tied up a few raw Surf Candy patterns, coated them each with a liberal glob of Aleene's, and stuck them on a turner. An hour later, I removed them and was quite pleased with the result. The Aleene's had penetrated the fibers of the fly and smoothed out to a shiny clear finish. The fly bodies were translucent and fishy-looking. I stuck eyes on each of the flies, added a second coat of Aleene's, and put them back on the turner. The next morning I removed the flies and was thrilled with how they looked. The Aleene's on each fly had shrunk slightly from its original volume, but the flies were smooth and translucent... exactly like traditional Surf Candy flies.

Next, I tried Aleene's as a substitute for epoxy on beaded eyes for shrimp patterns. These eyes are made by stringing pairs of tiny glass beads (usually black/red or black/orange) onto a strand of monofilament. A drop of epoxy is placed on each pair of beads, fusing them to the mono and optically blending the beads together. The result is a wonderfully lifelike crustacean eye that can be used on shrimp and crab patterns. I was anxious to try out Aleene's Fabric Fusion on the beaded eyes so I strung up a few sets and placed a large drop of Aleene's on each where I would normally place epoxy. Several hours later each had dried to a beautiful finish. A second coat added additional bulk and the eyes smoothed out nice and round.

I couldn't help but wonder what Aleene's was made of, so I got online and pulled up a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet. It turns out the adhesive is a water-based polyurethane. It has a specific gravity of 1.08 (slightly heavier than water), and it conforms to the ASTM D-4236 standard as a nontoxic material.

The dried glue is super tough and will not crack or discolor. I did have several Surf Candy flies turn milky after accidentally staying closed up in a wet box for several weeks, but that was an extreme condition and a mis-



take on my part. So far I have used Aleene's Fabric Fusion in all sorts of applications.

It works great as a protective coating, an underlayment, a penetrating resin, or a general adhesive. It can be thinned if needed with a few drops of water. Best of all, there are no fumes and cleanup is a snap. Dried Aleene's is very slightly flexible, which is good because it won't crack. But, this probably makes it unsuitable for the standard rigid spoon-fly made from epoxy-coated Mylar tape. For this reason, and the fact it shrinks slightly as it dries, I don't consider Aleene's to be a complete replacement for epoxy but it's close.



If you have a youngster learning to tie flies Aleene's would be a great glue for him/her to use. It has the same consistency as epoxy without the nasty side. Likewise, if you spend much time working with epoxy or other adhesives, I highly recommend you pick up a bottle of Aleene's and experiment with it. You can find it at Wal-Mart and most craft stores. A 4-oz bottle costs around five dollars. It's great stuff.

ALEEN'S HAS MANY OF THE HYDROSTATIC CHARACTERISTICS OF EPOXY BUT NONE OF THE SMELL OR TOXICITY.



USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Maps Available Free Online

The screenshot shows the USGS Map Locator website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the USGS logo and the tagline "science for a changing world". Below this is a banner for "The USGS Store" with a search bar and a "No Items in Basket" notification. The main content area is titled "Map Locator" and includes a search bar with "jacksonville, fl" entered. A table of search results is displayed, listing two maps: "South Ponte Vedra Beach" (7.5x7.5, 1988, 13437 KB) and "Jacksonville" (30x60, 1980, 13955 KB). A map of Jacksonville is shown with a red pin on the city. To the right of the map, there are instructions for using the site, including "STEP 1. SEARCH" and "STEP 2. SELECT AND GET YOUR MAPS". The bottom of the page features a "FREE DOWNLOAD" section for "TerraGo Desktop" and a footer with links for Accessibility, FOIA, Privacy, and Policies and Notices.

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Name	Extent	Date	Map File	Size
South Ponte Vedra Beach	7.5x7.5	1988	order download	13437 KB
Jacksonville	30x60	1980	order download	13955 KB

Map Satellite Hybrid Topo

Clear Markers Reset Map
Show "DigMaps - Beta"

FREE DOWNLOAD
TerraGo Desktop
Formerly known as
The optional free TerraGo Desktop provides more ways to interact with USGS topographic maps.

STEP 1.
SEARCH: [Search Help](#)
jacksonville, fl
Search Type:
OR
FIND A PLACE ON THE MAP [Navigation Help](#)
FIRST, NAVIGATE around the map: double click to re-center, click and drag to pull the map around, zoom in and out.
THEN, MARK POINTS on the map: click on a place to add a marker
NOTES:
You can switch between Navigate and Mark Points at any time.
The following [map footprints](#) appear when you are in the Mark Points mode:

STEP 2.
SELECT AND GET YOUR MAPS
FIRST, click on the marker to see an information bubble showing maps available.
THEN, click on "order" and/or "download"

Accessibility FOIA Privacy Policies and Notices

by Jason C. Sheasley, P.G.

Topographic maps are essential for any outdoorsman. There once was a time when you could walk into any sporting goods or outdoors store and pick up copies of the US Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles for the places you are planning to hunt, hike or fish. However, in this age of digital media it seems like paper copies of these maps are hard to come by. Paper maps appear to have gone the way of canvas tents and fiberglass fly rods.

Recently, the USGS made high resolution PDF (portable document format) versions of their 7.5-minute topographic maps available for download free of charge through their web site <http://topomaps.usgs.gov>. On the left-hand side of the page click the link "Finding and Ordering USGS Topographic Maps." This will take you to the USGS Store. Once there, click the link "Download Topo Maps Free!" on the right-hand side of the page. This will open up a Google Maps-based applet.

The Google Maps applet allows you to either pan or zoom to your point of interest; do a key word search or do a search based on a specific address. Once the point of interest is identified

and marked, simply download the zip file containing to your computer. Step-by-step instructions are to the right of the map window on the web-page.

The downloadable maps are in a special PDF format known as GeoPDF, which may be viewed using the ubiquitous Adobe Reader (available for free at www.adobe.com). However, when you download the free Adobe plug-in TerraGo Desktop, the functionality of the GeoPDFs becomes apparent. The link to TerraGo Desktop (www.terragotech.com) is on the USGS's webpage. After installing TerraGo Desktop, you will have a new toolbar in Adobe Reader that will work with the GeoPDF files and allow you to:

- Measure distances and areas;
- Zoom to specified coordinates;
- View different coordinates and projects;
- Connect to a GPS device, and import GPX files;
- "Google Map" specific coordinates; and
- Annotate maps with text, lines and polygons.

With TerraGo Desktop, you can customize your topographic maps to suit your needs. What you could once do with a pen and scale you can now do electronically with a few mouse clicks. More information regarding the topographic maps, GeoPDFs and TerraGo Desktop are available at the USGS (www.USGS.gov) and TerraGo (www.terragotech.com) web-sites, respectively.

If you insist on having your own hard copies of the 20-inch by 27-inch maps they are still available for purchase from the USGS. When using the map applet simply select "order" instead of "download." The maps are printed on demand and cost \$8.00 a piece plus shipping and handling. Allow 7 to 14 days for delivery.

For an overview of topographic maps be sure to check out <http://topomaps.usgs.gov>.

Travers Corners

Classic Stories about Fly Fishing
and a Small Montana Town



SCOTT WALDIE

Waldie's Book Shows Charm & Humor of A Small Western Fishing Town

reviewed by Jason C. Sheasley

Scott Waldie's debut collection of short stories about the fictional town of Travers Corners reminds me of *Lake Wobegon Days*, with a little bit of *Trout Bum* thrown in for good measure. Travers Corners captures the charm, appeal, and humor of a sleepy fly fishing town without the overt romanticism that generally accompanies collections of fly fishing stories.

Waldie introduces a host of characters who give the town its charm, including Jud Clark, a featured character in many of the stories. Clark returns to Travers Corners after traveling the world, to live and work as a fly fishing guide and drift boat craftsman. Henry Albie is Jud's best friend. Both Jud and Henry are descendants of the town's original explorers.

In one memorable story Jud takes an elderly man fishing and puts his client onto fish despite the man's total blindness. In another, an aging rock star moves to Travers Corners, where the town's warmth and charm help him escape the rigors of touring and fame. And there's the tender and bittersweet *Three Yahoos*, a sentimental journey back to the post teen years where Jud and Henry remember a final summer they spent with good friend Donny, who never returned from Vietnam.

Author Waldie likely drew upon his 20 years as a Montana river guide and to breath life into his stories and characters. And he does a top job, but Travers Corners will never achieve the literary stature of *A River Runs Through It*. Still, Waldie's prose effectively draws you in and he captures the tenor of small-town Montana life.

After reading *Travers Corners* a person may be inclined to pick up a map and plan a fishing trip to Travers Corners.

Lyons publishes two other books in the Travers Corners trilogy – *Return to Travers Corners* and *Travers Corners: The Final Chapters*.



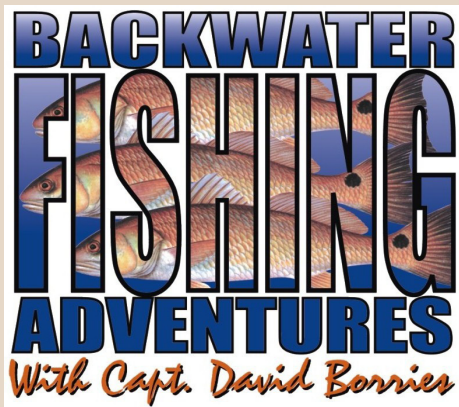
Feb 7 Meeting w/ Shad Biologist Feb 26 Shad Outing To Be Huge Fun

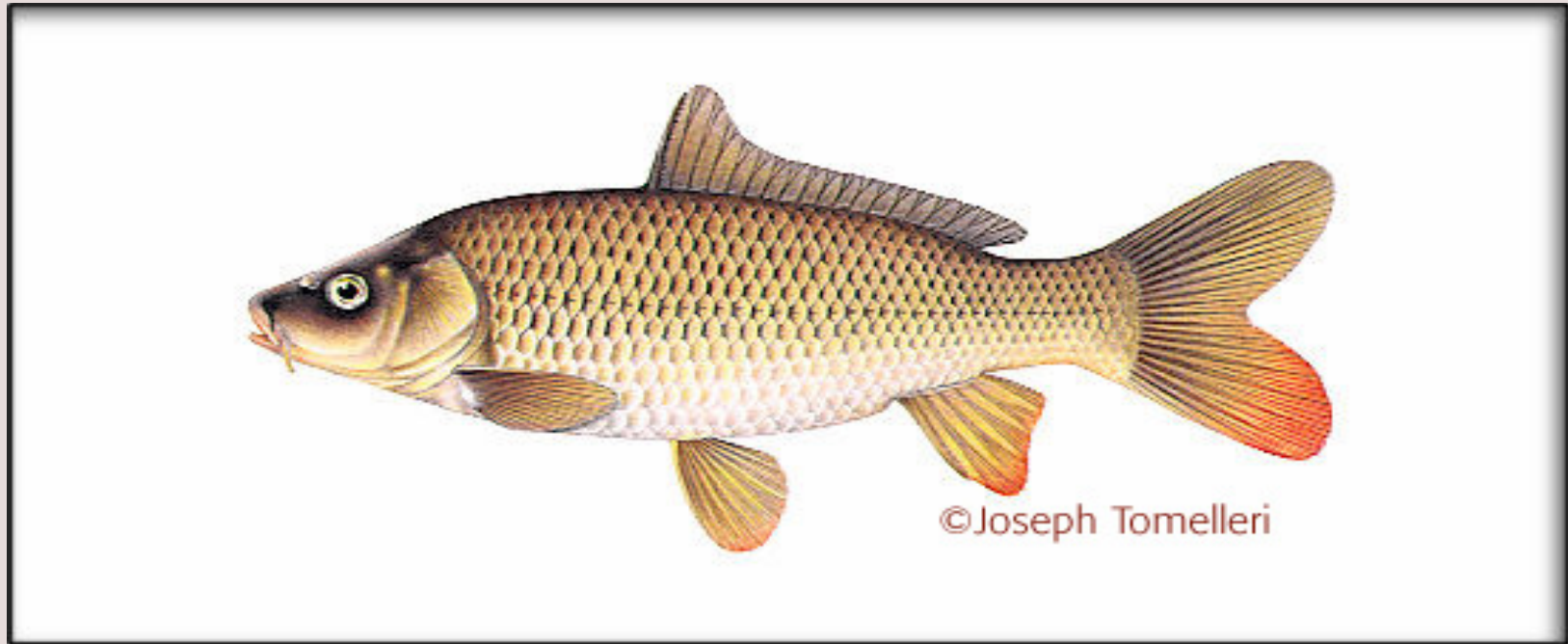
Come hear marine biologist reid Hyle talk about the abundant shad fishery Monday, Feb 7. Then use what you learn on Sat. Feb. 26, Shad Fishing with teh club at Puzzle Lake - Don't miss this outing. This is the strongest shad run in nearly 10 years. Our guys have fished there much of January and they attest to it. Supposed the strongest shad run since 2003. Contact Rob Benardo for info: robert@fcff.org

Top: Puzzle Lake Shad. Top right: Uhhh, Bart, did anyone mention aliens during that photo shoot? Bottom Right: Mike Harrigan's first shad on fly.









The Common Carp

by Craig Springer

If the common carp were a vegetable it would be the Brussels sprout. The dark green plant has been domestically cultivated since the days of ancient Rome. The small ball of leaves appeared in early writings, and took its common name for its popularity on the table in Belgium.

There is no discernable reason to eat the vegetable that smells of sulfur, yet the cabbage cultivar made its way to America in the 1800s with French settlers landing in Louisiana.

You either like Brussels sprouts, or you don't. And so it is with the common carp. It is seen as the greatest fish transplant attempt ever taken on, or the worst of government sponsored ecological disasters. The fish is either a nuisance, or great sport on the end of a line. If you're an

angler, you've probably caught one. These things are certain: it's a naturalized American fish, and the common carp is just that—common.

The Swedish medical doctor, Carl Linnaeus, who named you *Homo sapiens*, also penned the scientific name of the common carp. In his 1758 edition of *Systema Naturae* he called it *Cyprinus carpio* to fall in with other members of the minnow family, the Cyprinidae. The nomenclature comes from the birthplace of Aphrodite, or Cypris, the goddess of love and beauty, the Island of Cyprus.

The common carp is one of hundreds of minnow species worldwide, and among the largest-growing of them all. And it

is certainly the most widely distributed of minnows, if not all freshwater fish species, owing to its natural attributes and the works of people. When Linnaeus set a name to the common carp, it had already been transplanted to Europe for food.

The common carp appears in writing in China circa 500 BCE. Fast forward a thousand years to the Common Era and common carp show up in writing in a circular to government officials in the Ostrogothic Kingdom, circa the year 500. Cassidorus, the secretary to King Theodoric of Ostrogoth, ordered high governing officials over present day southern Europe to advance the supply of common carp for the king's table .

The big minnow had been domesticated by the time the fish arrived in the U.S. The common carp was probably established in the Hudson River basin by 1850. But the decade of the 1880s has been fixed as the most successful effort, one that tipped the scale in favor of the invasive minnow taking hold in American waters.

With Spencer Baird leading the U.S. Fish Commission, common carp flourished. Baird knew that the fish was a delicacy in Germany. He reasoned that the fish would be happily received in the U.S. given that it had been cultivated in the Old World for a good long time. Baird believed that common carp could feed the people— that the fish could be grown for much less cost than bovine or fowl on lands more suited to water than grains.

According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service historian Dr. Mark Madison, Baird was not only a consummate scientist, but also an astute politician (see *Eddies* Special Issue 2009).

Baird cultured common carp in the capital city, in ponds at the base of the Washington Monument. He made fingerlings available to Congressmen to send to their constituents back home. Railroads veined over the landscape and sent common carp overland in Fish Commission railcars. The fish may have been suitable for the king's table in a far-off land, at a time far removed from 19th century America. But the populace in this republic resisted. Even recipes published by the Fish Commission couldn't sway sentiment. Common carp never gained favor.

Throughout the country now, common carp swim just about anywhere there is water, be it flowing or flat, clear or polluted, a farm creek in the Midwest, or a reservoir in the South. They live in every state in the continental U.S., that ubiquity due not only to the desires of Baird and the conformity of the early state fish commissions, but to the fish itself.

Warm and muddy waters are what common carp like. If they invade clear water, they will soon turn it off color. They make a living by rooting and wallowing in the bottoms looking for food, aided by the barbels in the corners of their mouth. And they eat anything, living or dead. What they don't eat gets coated in mud, which makes the fish a nuisance. Fish eggs suffocate in silt and important aquatic insect habitats are ruined. Native fishes that live by sight, like the to predators, can't see so well in the muddied water.

The common carp gains a competitive edge in that a mature female produces about two million eggs. They are spring spawners. Usually by May in the South both sexes gather in the shallows of streams or lakes where they

roil en masse in weedy bays or the big river backwaters. Pods of a few males fertilize eggs of one or two females at a time. Their fertilized eggs stick to vegetation and hatch in a week, and the young set about eating microscopic plants and animals. Their diet soon turns to plants and roots, mollusks and bugs, small fish, eggs, and carrion, and they muddy the waters as they go along.

Granted, not every egg is fertilized and not every fertile egg grows into a mature fish. But this much is true, young common carp are fast-growing and can out-compete young native minnow and sunfish species for food and space.

Something else to chew on: what would the American palate be without Brussels sprouts? Well, there are those who see no reason to have the vegetable on the plate. What it lacks in taste, though, it makes up for in nutrients. American waters would be vastly different had the swimming nuisance not become so common. But a fish that grows to 90 pounds, lives 38 years, and is surprisingly wary has its adherents of ardent anglers who take the fish by bow, fly, gear, or spear.

In the end, the success of the common carp in American waters is a testament of what not to do. Don't spread fish around. Arguably, though, the common carp has become an American fish.

Craig Springer is editor of *Eddies*, the magazine of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For the latest issue of *Eddies*:

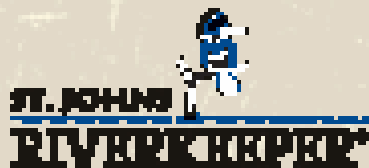
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