

LET'S GO FISH·ING — SOME·TH·ING A·BOUT BAIT

DO not **de·spi**se the earth worm. **Sci·en·tist**s tell us that with·out this crea·ture's work in **pre·par·ing** the soil, but lit·tle of the earth's sur·faCe would **be** fit for cul·ti·va·tion. To its vol·un·tary ef·forts **we** owe our sup·plies of veg·e·ta·ble food, but not sa·tis·fied with this, **we** use it to **help** us to catch fish.

Some boys, and men too, **make** hard work of get·ting worm **ba**it, but in this, a^s in e·very·thing **else**, it all **de·pend**s on how one goes a·bout it.

If **you** are **go·ing** fish·ing in the mor·ning, se·cure your **ba**it to·night. Worms **are** noc·tur·nal, and they come out of their **hole**s at night, pro·vi·ded it is not too dry on top. The **i·deal** time for scoop·ing them in is a·bout dusk, af·ter a long warm **ra**in. Get a lan·tern and with it carry your **ba**it can half filled with wet moss or soft moist earth. **You** will find, if the con·di·tion^s **are** right, swarm^s of worm^s a·long the edge^s of **bea**·ten paths, or in the short grass a·long·side. **US·u**ally

the worm has one end of its **body** in a **hole**, and as it is ver·y a·lert, **you** must catch it **be**·fore it has **time** to think, per·haps **I** sh·ould **say**, to act. For this pur·pose the **bait** gath·er·ers will do bet·ter in pairs. One **hold**s the can and lan·tern, **while** the o·ther **sei**·zes the worm. **Al**·ways grab the worm at the **plac**e just a·bove the earth.

Worms, **I** mean **bait** worms, **are** not all of one fa·mily, nor is **each** fa·mily **e**·qua·lly in·vi·ting to fish. The red, fat fel·lows ne·ver come a·miss, but the **light**, flab·by kind a·fford **no** **great** lure for **even** the hungri·est sort of a fish. The worm that **keep**s its **tail** a·wigg·l·ing af·ter he is on the **hook**, is just the **th**·ing. The ma·nure worm, the **marsh** worm, and a worm found at the root of the **sweet** flag, all **make** good **bait**; but the best of all is the **night**·craw·l·ing earth·worm.

ANG·LE WORMS

Ang·le worms **are** best kept in a tin box in which a num·ber of **hole**s **are** pier·ced to ad·mit air, but they must not **be** **so** **large** as to let the worms out. Moist, but not too wet wood or o·ther moss is bet·ter than earth as a nest for worms, if they **are**

to **be** kept some time. **Keep** your bait box in a cool, damp place, and when·e·ver **you** want worms, lift the moss and **you** will find the worms hanging to it.

Soap suds or luke-warm water, if poured **o·ver** a place where there **are** worms, will bring them to the surface. If at the same time **you** pound on the ground, it is said their e·gress will **be** ha·stened.

SLUGS

The hell·gra·mmite, a black, ugly slug to **be** found un·der stones in sum·mer streams, is the most temp·ting bait **you** can of·fer a black bass. Af·ter a time the hell·gra·mmite comes to the surface and **take**s to the air as a bee·tle, but in that state he in·terests the na·tur·a·list ra·ther than the fish·er·man.

GRUB WORMS

Grub worms **are** the lar·vae of bee·tles, and may **be** found a·bout ma·nure heaps and in rot·ten logs. They **make** good bait for trout, bass, perch, cats and o·ther fish, and they may **be** kept, but

not for long, in the man·ner **de·scri**bed for wormS.

GENT·LES

Gent·leS or the grub of the blue·bot·tle fly, **are** an ex·cel·lent **ba**it for trout, though they **are** not good to look at nor plea·sant to han·dle. These can **be** cul·ti·va·ted by pla·cing offal in a tin can, and keep·ing it where it will **be** safe from ratS or mice and in·o·ffen·sive to the nos·trilS of pas·serS·by. In this the blue·bot·tles will **lay** their eggS, which will soon **de·vel·op** in·to gent·leS. They can **be** kept in a box filled with moist sand or bran. If kept too long they will start off aS flies.

THE KAT·Y·DIDS

Kat·y·didS which **raise** such a rac·ket from the treeS, par·tic·u·lar·ly at night and af·ter the mid·dle of July, **are** ra·ther hard to get, but they **pay** for the trou·ble, par·tic·u·lar·ly if **you** want to tempt pike or pic·ker·el.

BLACK CRIC·KETS

Black cric·ketS **are** al·wayS a·bun·dant in pas·ture fieldS, and **are** temp·ting to all kindS of fish, but

par·tic·u·lar·ly to bass and trout. They sh·ould **be** kept in a roo·my box with chip^s and stone^s to hide un·der at the bot·tom; o·ther·wise, they will kill and **eat** each o·ther.

THE GRASS·HOP·PER

The grass·hop·per is near·ly as good as the cric·ket, and it is **ea·si·ly** cap·tured and kept. They will live for some time in a box filled with green grass.

FROGS

Frog^s if not t^oo **large**, **are** a stan·dard **bait** for **pike**, sa·lmon, pic·ker·el, and bass. Frog^s **are** best caught with a net, but they will **take** a small hook **bai·ted** with a bit of red flan·nel, or they will **bite** with·out the hook. **Be** care·ful in fas·ten·ing the frog to your hook not to in·jure it **so** that it can·not swim. The hook through the web of the **hind** **feet**, or through the skin of the back, is, **I** think, the best **way**.

"LIVE" MIN·NOW

Min·now^s **are** **ea·si·ly** pro·cured, and, on the **whole**, they **make** the most re·li·a·ble **bait**. A

small, fine-meshed net, fashioned like a sieve and hand-led by two, is one of the best means of collecting minnows. They should be kept in a bucket and taken out with a scoop made of meshed wire, and the water should be frequently changed.

CRAW-FISH

Crawfish are found under stones in many shallow brooks. They make a good bait. Keep them in a box filled with wet moss or aquatic plants.

By dead bait is meant bits of pork, fresh beef, or even other fish cut up into tempting morsels for "skittering"; that is, where you cast your line with a sinker, and then haul it in over the water, usually by lifting the pole, walking back, or reeling in; a dead frog or a dead fish is just as good as a live one.

Boys, as a rule, prefer to fish with bait, leaving artificial flies to the seniors. Any small live creature will answer for bait; even mice have been used with good effect, and cheese, if it can be kept on the hook, is eagerly swallowed, in

bot·tom fish·ing, bY carp and cat·fish. When **I** was a boy we **u**sed to string our cat·ches, through the gills, on a cut switchh, but if it can **b**e had, a fish bas·ket is bet·ter.

FISH·ING TA·CKLE

Ta·ckle comes in man·y forms, from the bent pin fas·ten·ed to a string, and the string fas·ten·ed to a stick, which most of us **b**e·gan with, up to the e·la·bor·ate and cost·ly rods, reels and flies of the weal·thy sports·men. Boys, who sel·dom **u**se reels, will find the bam·boo, which is sold cheap, the lig·htest and stron·gest rod for ge·ner·al **u**se.

Hooks are of end·less size and var·i·e·ty, as are fish·ing lines. These must **b**e bought with re·gard to the kind of fish they are to **b**e **u**sed on, and of these, boys on the ground are the best ju·dges. But let me urge this: When the fish·ing sea·son is o·ver do not throw your pole, line and hooks care·less·ly to one side, but **c**lean them, wrap them, and put them a·way in safe·ty for an·o·ther sea·son. The boy who does not take good care of the tools that give him plea·sure is ma·king a bad pre·pa·ra·tion for the ser·i·ous buSi·ness of life.