

The Artist's Almanac

April 2006

As no man is born an artist, so no man is born an angler.
Izaak Walton

Two things get a small boy up before dawn. One is Christmas; the other is going fishing.

The fishing bird sings in April. However forgotten was its song in dead of winter, it is unmistakable in early April. The truant officer is busiest now.

Creeks are sparkling and the lusty high fins run upstream to spawn. Their fine bones make the eating of them a picky process. Yet fishing is not about food; it is about nature most glorious and how we connect with it.

Its essence is mystery. The fluid gracefulness of a school of minnows at the head of a riffle invokes our awe, as does the dread of the bow wave of the bass aimed towards them from downstream.

The sun dances across the sparkling ripples hiding the mysteries below. The first bob of the cork send shivers of anticipation of the unknown and unseen.



First Catch – Bill Puryear, Artist

Perhaps artists and fishermen are the happiest men alive. Never are their passions fully spent, and theirs are the most innocent of pleasures. Neither of them is ever fully learnt, Walton, the gentlest Englishman who ever wrote, allows, in The Compleat Angler, *Good company and good discourse are the sinews of virtue, adding, I love such mirth as does not make friends ashamed to look upon each other next morning.*

Perhaps it is no accident that our Lord chose as his first companions Peter and his fellow fishermen or that he proved his bodily resurrection on the lakeshore one morning by eating a breakfast of fish.

Upcoming Events

The Harding Show – An Exhibit & Sale of Fine Art Presented By Harding Academy, 31st Annual Show, 170 Windsor Drive, Nashville, 37205-3794, Opening 5 PM Thursday May 4th through 4PM Saturday May 6th.