

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : HomeWaters Club- different name, same agenda

Re: HomeWaters Club- different name, same agenda

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2011/1/7 13:16:08

URL:

Quote:

I can understand anger toward the concept of private fishing clubs, but just having some trouble wrapping my mind around the bashing of the clients as somehow sub-par sportsman in either skill or concern for the resource. Neither of those conclusions are warranted, but they are commonly made and likely erroneous.

I take kind of the opposite approach. I don't really understand anger towards private fishing clubs, provided they do their craft legally. I'd prefer the water stayed open to the public. But I support property owners rights and their right to not only post, but post and create a money making attraction out of it if they wish.

Where I get angry is when they take it farther than that, such as SRC does on multiple levels. Navigable water is public and posting public land is obviously wrong (and I've been on record saying I believe many of our streams are navigable). Stocking over strong wild trout populations is wrong. An in the case of Erie, using publicly stocked fish to support your private fishery is wrong. But if a stream is non-navigable, you aren't stocking over wild populations, and you aren't using public funds to create your fishery, then have at it. If your operation is strong enough to get people to pay huge amounts of money to take part, good for you, you have a nice business there.

But people who choose to fish such waters on a regular basis, I do consider them lesser sportsmen. It's like a hunter going to a game farm to shoot domesticated animals in a fence, and paying the owner not to let any competing hunters into said fence. He can't turn around and proclaim his great hunting prowess! If he shoots a trophy, I don't consider it a true trophy, as it got that size unnaturally. If he had fun, fine, but it doesn't show any great skill. Likewise, I don't consider him a conservationist. Because a recreational resource that isn't available to the public isn't a resource at all, in fact, by supporting such a venture, you are helping to prevent the resource from becoming useful.

A true conservationist creates or protects PUBLIC recreational resources. A truly skilled sportsman succeeds where others have equal opportunity to succeed.