

CALLOUGH'S LAKE, CARRIGALLEN

10 years of trout fishing

TONY FAHY



John O'Reilly with his son Gary. In the background is Claran O'Rourke



Johnny Fyfe and Sean Ruane



Johnny Kiernan and Liam Fahy

1994 SEES CALLOUGHS LAKE, Carrigallen, celebrate 10 years of trout fishing. Jack and Greta O'Neill will issue over a hundred permits, with a good proportion of these going to the youngsters of Carrigallen. The first Sunday of May will see an avalanche of boats take to the water.

Johnny Fyfe, one of the first members explains, "Each fisherman is allowed to catch 6 trout. Most of those fishing on the first day, collect the bag limit, often before dinner time. Many of the young lads around, are out there learning from the fathers and the wives too. Its a real family day."

Michael Hackett was the force behind the stocking of Calloughs Lake. In 1983 Michael made his first impressions on the Central Fisheries Board. By 1984 his efforts met success. "We had 50 members in that first year" Michael explains. "Today we have over 6 hundred. Rules were laid down then that haven't changed. These covered the bag limit and the method of fishing allowed. The Carrigallen Development Association were right behind us from the beginning. Canon Young, our local parish priest, suggested that some funds would be made available. Initially an iron grid was put on the outlet stream. The local fisheries board removed the pike and other coarse fish. Eventually the Central Fisheries Board agreed to give us the first 500 brown trout free of charge. This encouraged the first meeting of the Carrigallen Trout Angling Club. With the yearly stocking, now reaching 2000 trout, we've progressed well." Two of the members, Eugene Doherty and Pat Flynn recently died RIP and are greatly missed. Eugene's sons, Michael and Gene carry on the tradition, and Pats brother Mickey is a conspicuous figure on the lake! Larry Williams, another stalwart of the club has been there from the onset!

Johnny Fyfe has the last word "The first Sunday in May is a day no fishermen around here will miss! I caught 58 trout last year, between May and the end of September and its just as exciting as fishing for wild trout. The trout on Calloughs range from a pound or two to specimen size that give you a great fight! Eugene Doherty caught one at 14 lbs. And with the true tradition of the sportsman, it went straight back into Calloughs!" And its still there waiting to be caught!

Below: 9am Sunday morning May 2nd finds Jackie McManus with his sons Shane and JP, Sean Heslin, Sean and Mary Nash, Rich Nixon, Cecil and Peter and Michael Hackett, all stalwarts of the club, having their first casts



Larry Williamson and Pat Flynn RIP



Liam Grimes and Michael Doherty



Sean Reilly



The O'Reilly family

