LARGE TROUT **FOR 2004**

I UI	200	Maria Company
Steven Sosleiser	Germany	9.00 lbs
Jens Holf	Germany	8lbs 12 oz
Bernard Marchand	Austria	8.00 lbs
Philip Comber's friend	Canada	6.00 lb
Ueli Seiler	Switzerland	5lb 10 oz
Hartmut Kugel	Germany	5 lb 8 oz
Tom Sintoben	Holland	5 lb 6 oz
Peter Mussle	Germany	5 lb 2 oz
Hartmut Kugel	Germany	5.00 lbs
William Howlett	England	4 lb 1.5 oz
Max Eschler	Switzerland	3 lb 14 oz
Giovanni Nava	Italy	3 lb 09 oz
Giovanni Nava	Italy	3 lb 04 oz
Antonio Canonevilli	Italy	3 lb 02 or

1ST TROUT ON

CORKIB			
Robert Groot	Holland		
Filip Demets	Belgium		
Edi Wienen	Germany		
Keon Groot	Holland *		
Alex Jahn	Austria		
Eloy Andriessen	Holland		
Jacob Sjogvist	France		
Alan Laffont	France		
Antonio Cappuccilli	Italy		
Jan van de Bovenkamp	Holland *		
Fabritizo Altobelli	Italy.		
Peter Felder	Austria		
Lutz Klinkhammer	Germany		
Mark Angeli	France.		
Pattu Sprenkeler	Holland		
Donal Cassidy	Ireland		
Mark Kogels	Holland		
Thomas Ewald	Germany		
Giovanni Nava	Italy		
Vincent Stuften	France		
G. de Brun	Holland		
Herbert Koschier	Austria		
Goris Kogels	Holland		
Evellina Jousola			

LARGE PIKE 2004

(85 0	CM +)	
Michael Canney	Ireland	113 ст
Paul Malepaard	Holland	108 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	168 cm
Jan Eggers	Holland	108 cm
Bernard Hermouet	France	107.5 cm
Bjorn Wienen	Germany	107 cm
Jan Zoontjens	Holland	105 cm
Tom Sintobin	Holland	104 cm
Rudi Kolbe	Austria	104 cm
Jan Eggers	Holland	103 cm
Fabritizo Altobelli	Italy	103 cm
Patrick van de Wygerd	Holland	103 cm
Bjorn Wienen	Germany	103 cm
Henk Engelgeer	Helland	102 cm

Austria 102 cm Ron Loef Holland 102 cm Robert Micheau 102 cm France Ron Stoorvogel Holland Giovanni Nava Italy Mischa van den Berge Holland Michael Canney Ireland Bjorn Wienen Michael Canney Ireland Nam-Hoon Boots Holland Michael Canney Ireland Jan Pepping Holland **Bjorn Wienen** Germany Ron Loef Holland Robert Micheau Michael Canney Ireland Ron Stoorvogel Holland Rudi Kolbe Austria Michael Canney Ireland Jeffrey Herbert England Florian Muller Germany Bernard Hermouet

102 cm 102 cm 102 cm 102 cm 101 cm 101 cm 101 cm 101 cm 100 cm 100 cm 100 cm 100 cm 100 cm 99 cm 98 cm 98 cm 98 cm 98 cm. 98 cm 98 cm.

Germany Holland England Holland Germany Holland Holland Germany Ireland Holland Ireland England Germany England Italy Holland Ireland England Holland Italy Germany Ireland Holland

Lorenz Hock Bart Bullinga 97 cm Gerry Wynne 96 cm Ron Stoorvogel 96 cm Stefan Sporer 95 cm Jap Van Grinten 95 cm Pat van de Wygerd 94 cm Florian Muller 94 cm Michael Canney 94 cm Jan Zoontjens 94 cm Michael Canney 94 cm Jeffrey Herbert 93 cm Peter Mussle 93 cm Jeffrey Herbert 93 cm Robert Micheau 93 cm Marzio Valtorta 93 cm Jan Pepping 92 cm Robert Storey 92 cm Jeffrey Herbert 92 cm Peter de Bruingn 92 cm Antonio Cappuccilli 92 cm Victor Wienen 91 cm Lorraine Storey 91 cm Ton Hempenius 91 cm Jeffrey Herbert 91 cm England Bjorn Wienen 91 cm Germany Ron Loef Holland 91 cm **Bjorn Wienen** 91 cm Germany Peter Loch 91 cm Austria Bjorn Wienen 91 cm Germany Frans de Smit Holland 90 cm Yan Eggers Holland 90 cm Jeffrey Herbert 89 cm England Victor Wienen 89 cm Germany Tom Sintoben Holland 89 cm

Lorraine Storey

Dirk van Hove

Jeffrey Herbert

Bjorn Wienen

Marco Gillolli

Nam-Hoon Boots

Jan Pepping

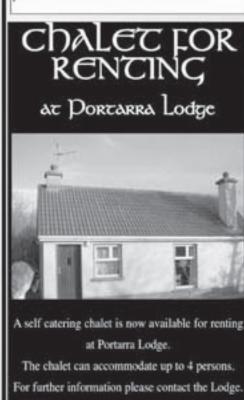
John Weir

Hermen Buchberger

Leo Biermain Austria Dirk van Hove Holland 86 cm Marzio Valtorta Italy 86 cm Lorraine Storey Ireland 85 cm Jan Eggers Holland 85 cm Marzio Valtorta Italy: 85 cm Eloy Andriessen Holland

Pike Catch Down Due Weather Bad Conditions.

2004 saw for the very first time a fall in the number of Pike caught by anglers at Portarra Lodge. In all my years I have not seen such bad weather and in one instance we had 10 continuous very windy days. At 354 fish the number was down by a massive 232 on the 2003 figures. However it was not "all bad news" as the number of large pike (85 cm) and over) was up by one fish from 86 to 88. On the overall count this meant a rise, in the ratio of large Pike, of over 60% on the 2003 figures. In other words one out of every four pike was between 85 cm & 113 cm.



The Ganney Family wish you all a Merry Christmas & Leace, Realth & Rappiness in 2006 when we hope to see you again.

PLEASE SHOW THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOUR FRIENDS AND/OR GIVE THEM OUR WEBSITE



Political Will discharge of untreated waste from the paper &

Needed To Tackle Pollution

Dollution can be tackled and eradicated if I there exists the political will to do so at Government level. This fact was proven to me when in June 2004 I was invited to fish the lakes & rapids in Central Finland. It was mainly spinning with small lures and there was plenty of trout to be caught both wild & stocked. One could only kill the stocked fish as there was a programme in existence to allow the wild ones to propagate with a view of having wild fish only in the near future. I was witnessing what can only be termed in angling circles as a "miracle". In the middle to late 1960's those lakes & rapids were almost void of any fish due to

pulp factories. Finnish Government, whether it was due to the advent of the E.U. (then the E.E.C) and it's accession conditions, took appropriate action to start cleaning up its water courses by locating and eradicating the pollution. Now over 30 years later those water are clean once more and abound in fish life. People can now also drink the water directly from those rivers

& lakes without it being chemically treated. The opposite is the case here in Ireland. In the mid 1960's we had clean water which was safe to drink - now the vast majority of our rivers & lakes are polluted and we are top of the list in Europe as the Country with the worst environmental record.



Author with a wild Finnish Trout

There are E.U. Directives on Water Quality in existence for more than 30 years and little or not action taken by the Government. We must take most of the blame ourselves as we elect those politicians. Always remember "the greatest power that a person possesses is the power to choose."

Immediate Action Needed To Save Lough Corrib.

The general bad state of water quality throughout this island of I Ireland is a legacy of Government inactivity and supervised neglect. This fact has been brought home to us here in the West of Ireland by the latest reports on the state of Lough Corrib and more important, if that is possible, the presence of algal growth on the Owenriff river in Oughterard where the angler's trout hatchery is situated. The importance of this river cannot be over emphasised as not alone does it produce our brood stock of wild brown trout to seed the hatchery, but the water from the very same river services the hundreds of thousands of ova on an annual basis. Pollution on Lough Corrib can have many sources such as Forestry, faulty and sometimes almost non-existent sewage treatment plants, Agriculture, malfunctioning and out-dated septic tanks etc. However as regards the Owenriff River the sole culprit has to be the culture of Conifer Forestation in its catchment. The aerial

application of fertiliser (slow release rock phosphate etc) in mid July 2000 is by far the prime cause for the appearance of the algal growth in the river over the last two years. This fertiliser will continue to leach into the system and as a result will lower the Ph levels in the river. "PH level of lower than 4.5 will deactivate the enzyme chlorionase which dissolves the egg case and this prevents the hatching alevin from escaping". The existing pH readings in the Owenriff Riser are bordering on the critical level and should they reduce further the Anglers Hatchery at Oughterard will no longer be able to operate and the trout stocks in Lough Corrib will drop dramatically.

It has just been officially announced that DORCARRA Lodge is the Provincial Winner (Connacht) of the Rural Tourism Awards 2004 in the Farmhouse & Country Houses Holidays Category.

PETER MUESSLE PARTY DINE IN STYLE.

Every May since we opened Portarra Lodge we saw the return of Peter Muessle and his party of anglers - eight in all this time from the 14th to 21st. Peter has to come to Corrib in May both for the fishing and also to celebrate his birthday. However should his stay not actually include the date of his birthday - in Peter's own words " the date does not matter as long as you make a nice party and everyone enjoys themselves". On his arrival, per usual, Peter will always come to me and say " Michael I have a question for you". Peter's question could be anything from where to keep the "dead-

bait" to the provision of an extra bedroom should one of the party be a master at snoring. It was different this time. Peter produced two pieces of metal with spikes on them and I just could not understand what they were. Peter then explained that they were used to secure meat for a Bar-bque. I was then instructed to get a stainless steel rod on 5 to 6 feet long with a handle on one end and the bore suitable to take the metal pieces that Peter had shown me. Young James Donnellan in Oughterard made the stainless steel bar for me and also cut a barrel in two and all was ready to cook the lamb. Peter and his gang provided the "oil & herb" mixture which was continousely painted on the lamb during the

Ireland

Austria

Holland

England

Germany

Holland

Ireland

Holland

Italy

89 cm

88 cm

87 cm

grilling process. It was the first large Bar-B-Que for us here at Portarra Lodge and going by the wonderful experience it will not be



Peter Muessle checks the lamb to see if it's ready

Mrs. Rapala

Bows Out.

For some 30 years Sirpa Glad-Staf has been keeping the Rapala

Corporation to the fore as the world's most famous fishing bait/lure manufacturers. In recent times the Rapala Corporation expanded greatly by acquiring both Blue Fox and Storm. Sirpa was more than able to face up to and manage her tasks in the expanded Corporation in the fields of Marketing, Exporting and general Public

I first met Sirpa Glad-Staf at the inaugural meeting of the Irish Pike Society in Roscommon Town in February 2000. Both my wife & I invited her to come to Portarra Lodge for good pike fishing. Sirpa took up the offer the following August and arrived with two foreign angling journalists on a Rapala promotion trip. Their visit was not in vain and the party caught plenty of fish including a Perch of over 1 kg and a pike of 1 meter 27 cm. The very next month, September 2000, Sirpa brought Jan Eggers "The Pike Ferret" to Portarra Lodge and ever since they are regular and very welcome anglers to our

Sirpa left the Rapala Corporation as her office was moved to Helsinki and at the same time she was offered a very attractive & challenging job. Her new position is Project Manager of Fishing in Central Finland. People who would like to know more about fishing in Central Finland and other outdoor pursuits (incl. Elk Hunting) can contact Sirpa directly at sirpa.glad-staf@pp.inet.fi

SWISS ANGLER LANDS

BEST TROUT ON THE FLY.

Max Eschler and Ueli Seiler came to

Portarra Lodge on the recommendation

of my good friend Sven Kapp, a Swiss

national now living in Oughterard and

a great supporter of our trout hatchery.

Max & Ueli have been coming to fish

Corrib in the Oughterard area for many

years and they decided to try their luck

around this area. They were so happy

with their stay here that they reserved

their 2 weeks for May 2005 before

leaving. It is the policy of both men to

release trout under 40 cm (almost 16

inches). The honours this year went to

Ueli with a trout of 5 lb 10 oz.

ITALIAN GUEST CREATES A DOUBLE



Giovanni Nava with his *Dream

Around the 3rd week in June Giovanni Nava from Italy, on his first ever visit to Ireland, was advised by his tour operator - A Pesca Con Noi - to fish Lough Corrib from Portarra Lodge. On his arrival we had a chat about the type of fishing we wished to do. "Pike fishing and maybe some trout fishing" was his reply. On "Day One" I saw the conditions were very suitable for dapping the Grasshopper and the decision was made to go after the trout. At 5.15 pm we had 9 nice trout boated and on our way back to the Lodge I stopped for a short drift between two islands and our catch increased by two more. At

day's end we accounted for 11 trout for a total weight of 24.5 lbs. This was the best bag of trout taken by two anglers at Portarra Lodge for 2004. It was the first time for Giovanni to try dapping and he featured very well taking 6 of the 11 fish. The next day the weather conditions were the exact same - did Giovanni want to go trout fishing? NO. He wanted to catch a big Pike. He told me his two dreams were to have a Ferrari Car and catch a Pike of 8.0 kg. Lough Corrib is not a great place for pike fishing in June so I decided to take a boat & engine from the Lodge and try out our luck on Ross Lake - the largest of the 11 small coarse fishing lakes around Moycullen. "Day Three" on Ross Lake and the 2nd part of the dream of Giovanni was realised - he landed a beautiful Pike of 8.78 kg (19.50 lbs).

JERK BAITING FOR PIKE

Jerk Baiting is a fairly new form of pike angling introduced to Portarra Lodge. The first anglers I saw using this method were Bart Bullinga and his son Dave in 2002. The success of this method of angling was clearly demonstrated by those two men when in September of the following year they caught 20 pike in an afternoon's fishing. I for one was definitely convinced and asked Bart to give me instructions on "jerk bait fishing". Not only did I receive the instruction but Bart also gave me a jerk bait from his own box. It was a good one and the very next day I tried out the jerk bait method and my first two pike were 104 cm & 95 cm. There is no doubt in my mind that when pike are feeding and on the move - there is no better method of catching them. For those people who want to know more about jerk bait fishing and the proper rods, reels, baits, line, etc. - contact Bart Bullinga at Hengelsport Bart, Hekelstraat 24, 1811 BM ALKMAAR, Holland. Tel 072-53 48 580.

Dutch Men & Stormy Weather - Not Good.

together with Bart Bullinga and nine of his customer friends from Holland. Bart has a fishing tackle shop in Alkmaar. The omens looked good for on the day the party arrived I had been out fishing with Jan Zoonljens, also from Holland who was with the Jan Eggers party in 2003 and came this year with his wife, and we boated 11 pike up to 105 cm. Jan caught 9 (incl. 105 cm & 94 cm) and I got the remaining 2 fish. As "The Pike Ferret" (Jan Eggers) would say - "it is the sign of a good gillie(guide) when the guest catches the fish.'

However things did not work out so well weather-wise and most days we could only manage to fish for a few hours and some days no fishing at all. It was not easy to signal a halt to the fishing when the weather was getting rough - but it had to be done.



I thank both Bart Bullinga & Jan Eggers for doing this very unpopular task when I was not present. When the Weather Forecast predicts stormy conditions the "precautionary principal" is applied here at Portarra Lodge and fishing on the lake stops. It is very stressful on all concerned when people on a fishing trip are grounded by bad weather conditions, but it is nothing if compared to someone been badly injured, or a life lost.

For the limited amount of fishing done the party gave a very good account of themselves. A total of 65 pike were caught & released, 17 were of 85 cm and over and 9 of those were 100 cm up to 103 cm. Photo Patrick,

Bart and his party returned home on Tuesday 21st September and three days later Bart suffered a severe Brain Haemorrhage while working in his shop during lunch hour. Lucky for him there was a customer in the shop at the time and he was rushed to hospital. He underwent major surgery (something like 7 -8 hours duration) the following day. His condition for some weeks after the operation was serious. It is with great joy & relief that I can now tell the Bart underwent another operation on 5th November and latest news is good. Bart is on the "road to recovery". When I first heard of Bart's illness, from his friend Nam-Hoon Boots, I said that should Bart survive the ordeal and on his return to Portarra Lodge next year - there would be "a mighty party" - and there will be a party.

THREE LUCKY FRENCHMEN



The French trio of Robert ■ Michau, Jean luc Allard & Bernard Hermouet booked a days pike fishing on 12 October. As it was their 1st trip on Lough Corrib I went along as their gillie. At the end of the day they had boated 8 pike - five of which ranged from 93 cm to 107.5 cm - Robert catching three 93 cm, 100 cm & 102 cm, while Bernard had two at

Robert Michau & 102 cm Pike 98 cm and the day's biggest at 107.5 cm. I think they will

NICE "DEBUT" FOR FRENCHMAN.



Alan Laffont from Lodge and fished one day try this form of angling

earning how to dap, and we both had a very busy day We rose and missed many trout and at days end we had boated 12 lovely Corrib Wild Trout.

A "First" for Tom Sintobin

October 2004 and Jan Eggers returned to Portarra Lodge with a party six anglers for a weeks fishing. For the first three days the weather was not so bad and the party caught 21 pike. However the remaining three days were not so good and fishing had to be called off on day 5 five, resulting in only 2 pike been boated. Even though only 23 pike were caught for 5 days angling - 11 of the fish were in the "large pike category"- 85 cm to 108 cm.

Not only did Tom Sintobin record a personal best pike of 104 cm, but he also caught a beautiful trout of 58 cm (approx 5 lb

6 oz). The trout season closes October 1st and the fish was duly released unharmed. This is the first time that an angler at Portarra Lodge



trout in the closed season.

Ueli Seiler with large trout