

# The Fishing and Hunting Journal



Reading for the Thinking Outdoorsman

Volume Fourteen

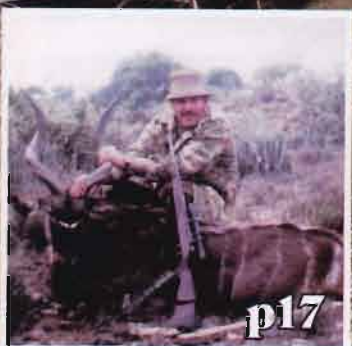
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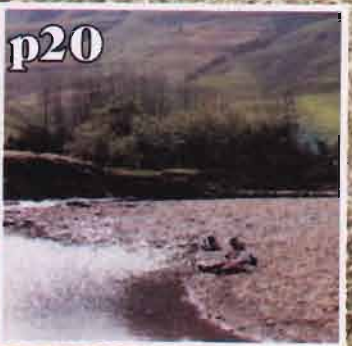
p6

**THE BIG BLANK....  
WELL ALMOST**



p17

**A COAT OF MANY  
COLOURS**



p20

**FISHY TALES**

R29-50 (including VAT)



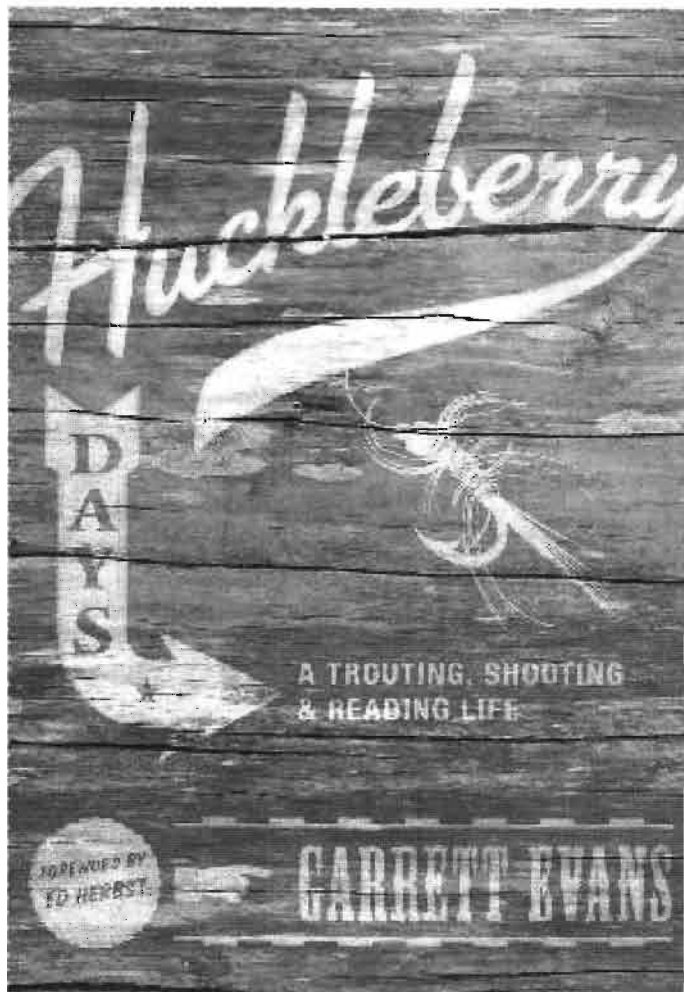
# Book Review

## Huckleberry Days : A Trout, Shooting and Reading Life

by Garrett Evans

I first read *Huckleberry Days* some time back and for various reasons never got around to reviewing it for *The Fishing & Hunting Journal*. Recently, with more time on my hands, I finally got around to completing the promised review. Before I began my own writing, I thought I'd briefly read through a few pages of the book to refresh my memory. Well, half an hour and many pages later I was still going strong – even though this was my second reading, I found it hard to put the book down. *Huckleberry Days* is writing of a quality seldom found within the South African fishing and hunting genre. Frankly, to pigeon-hole this fine work as merely fishing and hunting literature is unfair, as it is far more than that. Garrett Evans, being a university lecturer in English, has a strong background in English literature and the “reading” element of the book is as important (if not more so) than the “fishing” and “hunting” aspects.

Garrett was born in the USA and lived in England and South Africa before finally settling in New Zealand and *Huckleberry Days* is divided into sections related to each of these countries. Apart from the descriptions of trout fishing and wingshooting, there are discussions of literary figures and samples of their work. Virtually all of these figures are considered great writers. Some of them, like Ernest Hemingway and Henry Williamson, are intimately associated with fishing and the outdoors, while others are less so. Nevertheless, they're all somehow linked to the ethos of the book, be it because of their geographical connection or simply because they provide strong bonds to a time in the author's life. *Huckleberry Days* consists of many short pieces, some of them recollections of times, places and people, some of them discussions of various authors and others snippets of poetry or prose. Garrett's writing is deeply personal and offers much insight into the life, work and relationships of the author. I suspect my fumbling attempt at a review doesn't provide a clear picture of what *Huckleberry Days* is all about. Suffice it to say that this is truly a book for the thinking outdoorsman and if



you have a love for literature as well as the outdoors, then, like me, you'll find *Huckleberry Days* something both unique and special. Perhaps the last word is best left to Ed Herbst, who wrote the foreword describing *Huckleberry Days* as “a fascinating kaleidoscope of all that is memorable in field sports writing.”

*Huckleberry Days* retails for R149 and is available from Netbooks. Contact them at [www.netbooks.co.za](http://www.netbooks.co.za) or telephone 021 551 4248

## PHOTO GALLERY

Send us your fishing and hunting experience photo's with captions for the “Photo Gallery”. Email us at [berep@xsinet.co.za](mailto:berep@xsinet.co.za) (add in the subject line: THFJ)

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