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Times Argus, The (Montpelier-Barre, VT)

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Section: FEATURES06

Orvis Days will feature fly-fishing authority

DARREN MARCY Staff Writer

MANCHESTER - As one of the best writers casting a line anywhere, John **Gierach** has a reputation for bringing wit and wisdom to his fly-fishing prose. He's described simultaneously as "thoughtful, irreverent, wry, witty, eloquent, entertaining and poignant." Often, he achieves all of those in a single essay - sometimes on a single page.

Gierach has written 16 books about fly-fishing, including the cleverly named "Trout Bum," "Death, Taxes and Leaky Waders," "Sex, Death and Flyfishing," "Standing in a River Waving a Stick," "Dances With Trout," and "Even Brook Trout Get the Blues."

Gierach is known, not only for his humor and one-liners, but for his ability to write about fishing, anglers and life itself at the most basic level.

Gierach will bring that reputation, along with his latest book, "Fool's Paradise," to Manchester on May 10 as part of Orvis Days for a reading and book signing. He is scheduled to appear from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Orvis flagship store, located at 4180 Main St.

The appearance is the only stop in the eastern United States during **Gierach's** month-long book tour in May. "Fool's Paradise," which is scheduled to be released May 6, is a 211-page hardcover with a cover price of \$24.

The great thing about **Gierach** is you don't have to be a fly angler to enjoy his writing. You don't even have to like fishing. Bring a love of the outdoors and wild places and let **Gierach** serve as your tour guide.

Gierach writes strongly about the outdoors, nature, the environment and wild places. He just happens to do it with a fly rod in his hand.

He wants desperately to protect unspoiled wild locations and rails against commercialization and the pressures a growing population puts on the land. But he also understands that by going there, he's part of the problem.

Gierach writes as an angler who is no longer young, but not yet old. He's seen how things were and appears fearful of how they will become, wistfully grasping for the old days and old ways - most of which are gone for good.

Gierach's appearance is a highlight of the Orvis Days events, which began Thursday and continue through May 11.

Besides **Gierach's** appearance, there are a variety of events scheduled for Orvis Days, including demonstrations of casting, hunting retrievers and turkey calling. There will be a chance to cast the fly rod of your dreams or a vintage rod, meet with conservation organizations and learn about the sporting collectibles market.

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There will also be seminars on fishing the Adirondacks, Catskills and small waters of Vermont. A wildlife artist and carver will both be on hand as will Bob Mead, who ties art flies.

For more information about **Gierach's** appearance, call 362-2200 or log on to www.northshire.com. For information about "Fool's Paradise," log on to www.simonsays.com and search for **Gierach's** name.

For more information about Orvis Days, log on to www.orvis.com and put "Orvis Days" in the search box.

Contact Darren Marcy at darren@darrenmarcy.com. His Web site is www.DarrenMarcy.com.

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