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**ANGLER
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Official Fishing and
Boating Magazine**

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MENTORED YOUTH TROUT DAY
March 28 (Statewide)

TROUT OPENER
April 4 (Statewide)

FISH-FOR-FREE DAY
May 24



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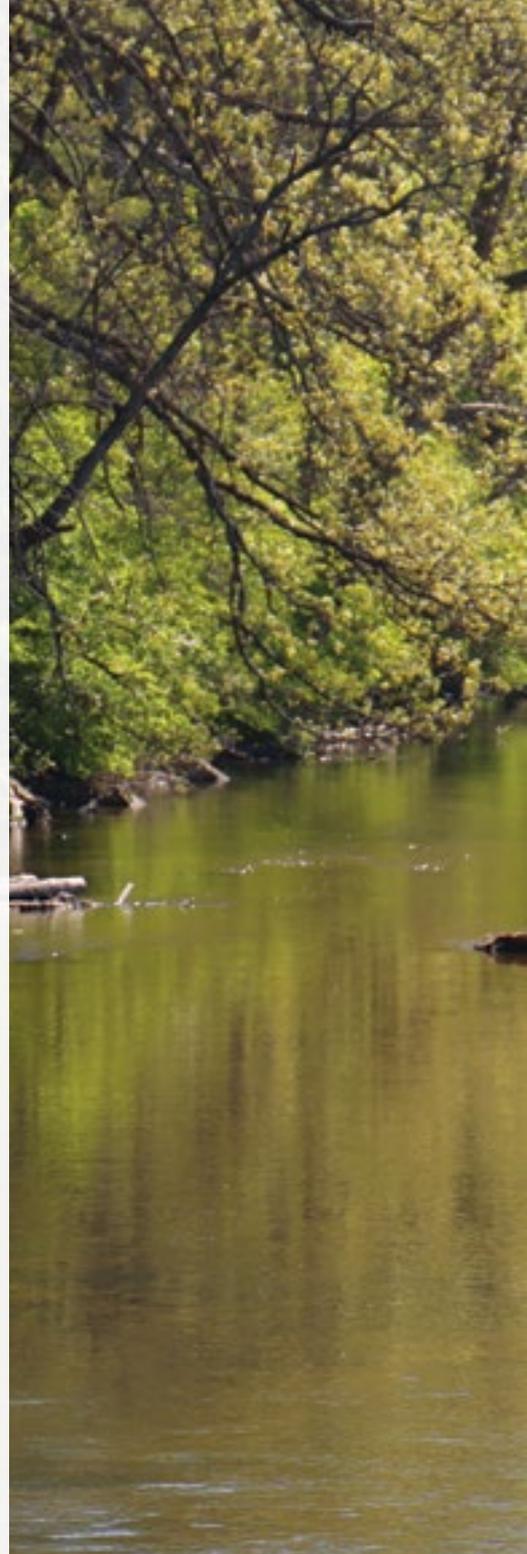
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Covers



Front cover: An angler fishes in the aquatic vegetation on Big Spring Creek, Cumberland County.
Photo by Carl Haensel.



Back cover: Kayakers enjoy a day of paddling on Edgewood Lake at Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.
Photo by PFBC archives.



Subscription Inquiries

717-705-7835 • E-mail: ra-pfbcmagazine@pa.gov

SPRING INTO ADVENTURE

by *Timothy D. Schaeffer*
Executive Director

I love winter but recognize that the faster pace and shift to spring's new growth is more of most people's speed. Even though March usually starts cold, the anticipation of a new season inspires the desire to get out on the water. It's a great time to get your fishing sea legs back under you and wade for panfish (pages 10-11) or take advantage of early season hatches (pages 12-14). As April approaches, our agency eagerly anticipates the joy of sharing the love of fishing on Mentored Youth Trout Day (March 28) and the thrill of the first catch of the season on the trout opener (April 4).

Up the enjoyment of your fishing experience by sharing it with someone

else. Fynlee has the right idea (page 5). Read about her willingness to share her secret spot with another young angler. The selfless act made that day of fishing more enjoyable for her new friend and everyone who was there to witness it. Or, share your knowledge by becoming a Fishing Skills Instructor (page 40). Learn about the enriching experience of helping others catch fishing fever.

Before you know it, the water will be warm enough to get out and paddle, too. You have time now to plan a few outings on the water. We've got some great suggestions in this issue including the Lehigh River Water Trail (pages 22-25).

So, grab a rod and your life jacket, get outdoors and spring into adventure. ☑

PFBC ON THE JOB

Jason O'Brien
Fish Production Manager

As a Fish Production Manager, I oversee the propagation of warmwater, coolwater and coldwater fishes across the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. When most people think of state fish hatcheries, they picture the "Great White Fleet" delivering and stocking trout throughout the Commonwealth.

Some of my most cherished memories are of trout season with family and friends. I remember early morning breakfasts, the excitement of getting to the stream before daylight and racing to our favorite fishing spot on the creek. The day wasn't complete without some well-earned bragging about the biggest fish caught.

While trout stocking is a major part of what we do, our warmwater and coolwater hatchery contributions are often overlooked. These facilities play a vital role in building and sustaining fishing opportunities by stocking multiple life stages of juvenile fish to

create, support and enhance Pennsylvania's fisheries.

In 2025, our warmwater and coolwater hatcheries cultured 19 different fish species for stocking. From the mighty Muskellunge to the delectable Walleye.

Each species we raise presents unique challenges during the production cycles, which may mean refining techniques to improve survival or developing new methods to successfully culture a new species. At every stage of production, our hatchery staff work hard to ensure we deliver healthy fish that support diverse fishing opportunities.

A sincere shout out goes to the staff at Linesville, Fairview, Corry, Tionesta, Oswayo and Pleasant Mount state fish hatcheries for everything they do to support anglers. The hard work and dedication of our fish culturists, foremen, managers and clerical staff to support the PFBC mission is truly appreciated. Thank you for all you do! ☑



photo-courtesy of Jason O'Brien

Graphic Key

These icons represent specific topics.



Amphibians and Reptiles



Boating



Catch and Release



Conservation



Fishing



Fly Fishing



Ice Fishing



Lakes



Paddling



Rivers



State Parks



Streams



Tackle and Gear



SHARING SECRETS

by Tyler Frantz photos by the author

A favorite fishing hole is a well kept secret. No one wants to spoil their most reliable trout stretch by letting everyone in the world know about it. Occasionally, it's rewarding to share, especially when you know it'll bring joy to another angler.

Last year, during Mentored Youth Trout Day, I took my 5-year-old daughter, Fynlee, to one of our playfully termed "secret spots" along a narrow, stocked trout stream in Lebanon County. Picking our way through the brushy streambank, we were pleased to discover we'd have the best section all to ourselves. The creek held plenty of eagerly feeding fish, and Fynlee easily caught a limit of two healthy Rainbow Trout.

Snapping a few photos, we noticed a little girl fishing downstream with her parents. My daughter didn't hesitate to call out and invite her to come fish where they were biting.

Her parents, total strangers to us, explained they hadn't caught anything up to that point and tried another creek earlier without any luck. The little girl was delighted to see my daughter's fish wriggling on the stringer. Both girls giggled and admired their pink and polka-dot flanks. Fynlee pointed to the long pool before us and announced, "There's a lot more in there!"

We gave the family some of our bait and a few tips, and Fynlee's new friend offered a big hug in exchange. It made my day, and hopefully, we made that little girl's day, too. As we walked back to the vehicle, I told my daughter I was so proud of her big heart and willingness to share with others, even though our "secret spot" wasn't so secret anymore. ☐



Cumberland Valley Spring Creeks

photo-Jade Thomason

by Carl Haensel

Anglers looking for excellent fishing adventures will find plenty of opportunities to explore in the Cumberland Valley. Spring creeks often offer consistent stream temperatures and clear water early in the season, providing good fishing regardless of the weather. Numerous streams rise from the limestone bedrock in southcentral Pennsylvania. These are a few of the streams offering good fishing opportunities in the region. Special regulations are common on these fisheries, so check the regulations before you hit the water.

Letort Spring Run

This classic wild Brown Trout spring creek was brought to the forefront of the fishing community decades ago by fly fishing legends Vince Marinaro and Charlie Fox. Marinaro's seminal fly fishing books, "A Modern Dry-Fly Code" and "In the Ring of the Rise", were largely photographed and written on the stream. In recent years, a variety of conservation work and land acquisitions on the stream increased access and fishing opportunities on the Letort Spring Run, Cumberland County. The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy acquired the headwaters of the East Branch or "Bonny Brook" to protect the spring headwaters. A variety of parks, rail trails and protected land owned by Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited provide access both upstream and downstream

of Interstate 81. Downstream, Bryan Chikotas, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Area Fisheries Manager, reports ample large wild Brown Trout below the United States Army War College at Post Road. While access is more challenging, trophy wild Brown Trout in this Class A fishery are a strong draw. Even the bottom end of the stream at Letort Falls Park in Conodoguinet Creek occasionally hosts some large trout that have left Letort Spring Run to feed on the ample baitfish and other forage in the larger creek.

Big Spring Creek

A stunning historic watershed, Big Spring Creek, Cumberland County, continues to provide plenty of trout for anglers to chase. Since the hatchery closure in 2001, the stream offers fishing in a greater variety of areas. Habitat work conducted between 2010-2012 was designed to improve Brook Trout recruitment and retention in the stream. Chikotas reports that the top end of the stream hosts a mixed fishery of around 70% Brook Trout and 30% Rainbow Trout. The large, chunky wild Rainbow Trout are challenging to land, and Brook Trout may get as large as 12- to 13-inches long. Brown Trout are limited in the upper creek. More wild Brown Trout are found downstream in the Class A section below the Laughlin Mill Dam, Newville. Anglers may also want to check out nearby Green Spring Creek, Cumberland County. Tight with challenging casting, it hosts some large trout for the intrepid angler.



photo-Jade Thomason

A young, wild Rainbow Trout on Big Spring Creek.

⬆️ *The author casts on the upper end of Big Spring Creek, Cumberland County.*

Yellow Breeches Creek

Anglers looking for miles of quality water with both wild Brown Trout and stocked trout will find good fishing on Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County, from Mount Holly Springs downstream through the Boiling Springs and Allenberry areas, all the way to and below US 15/ Gettysburg Pike. Improving wild Brown Trout recruitment in this reach provides anglers with a chance at quality wild fish. Try fishing the area around the confluence at Boiling Springs downstream toward Allenberry. While it's uncommon to find yourself alone in this classic fishing area, the wading and fishing are superb throughout the year.

Falling Spring Branch

Rising in the meadows east of the historic town of Chambersburg, Falling Spring Branch, Franklin County, offers trout fishing in a variety of special regulation areas. While upstream wild trout fishing has diminished, stocked trout fishing in the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only and areas managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations provide anglers with fishing opportunities all the way down to the confluence with the Conococheague Creek. ☐



photo-PFBC archives

The Letort Spring Run, Cumberland County, looking downstream on Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited property.



photo-Jade Thomason

A great blue heron searches for trout in the run above the confluence with the Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County.



photo-Carl Haensel

The historic water wheel on the lower end of Falling Spring Branch, Franklin County.



FISHING AND FORAGING

by Michael Kensinger

Most often, my fishing adventures carry me into prime foraging habitat. As both an angler and a forager, the damp slopes and creek bottoms where I travel are also some of the best places to encounter wild ramps and the ever-elusive morel mushroom. For me, the essence of spring lives in the layered flavors of these foods when sautéed in butter and paired with a fresh trout fillet. Equally rewarding, though, is the journey to find them—often by happenstance—beneath beams of sunlight filtering through an April canopy. Sycamores, elms and what remains of our ash trees always signal that I'm in a good place.

The transition from winter to spring is so gradual that you're nearly blind to it. Winter's gray still lingers in

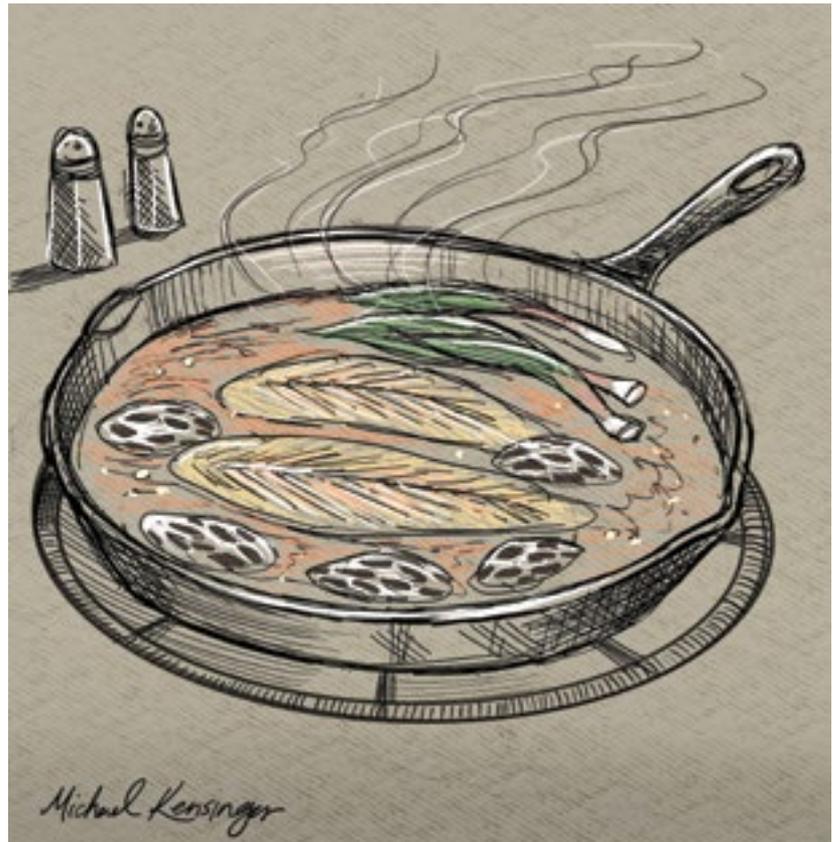
the biting air, yet snowmelt slithers down hillsides and trout streams find their voices again—whirling and churning into scenes that fill a trout angler's dreams. With eyes focused downstream, every cast carries the possibility of something memorable, and visions of trophy trout creep into my thoughts. Up on the bank, a wildflower, a harbinger of spring, dots the greening grass. Nearby, the sleek leaves of wild ramps in a shaft of sunlight catch my eye, and I instantly feel the pull of two spring traditions unfolding together—fishing and foraging.

On slow fishing days, moments like these often save the day. When the fishing is good, it can be harder to pry myself from the stream, but I always do. I always make time to snoop around. My taste buds insist on it.

The same warming rains that wake Spring Peepers also stir trout and life

on the forest floor. Following a cold-water stream winding through budding hardwoods often leads to more than rising fish. Wild leeks emerge with broad green leaves, and fiddlehead ferns curl beside spring seeps. With careful observation, a morel may appear among last autumn's leaf litter. Though each is distinct, none feel separate. They belong together. They are to spring what marshmallows are to hot cocoa in the winter—an essential part of the season's story.

Along the bank, a Louisiana Waterthrush has returned to one of my favorite Pennsylvania rivulets after a long migration north. Teetering on a gnarled sycamore branch, the bird snaps up insects flushed from the water's edge, refueling after its journey. Nearby, trout rise as well, taking advantage of the same hatch. The song of the waterthrush is a sure sign trout season has arrived—every bit as convincing as an opening day whistle.



Brook Trout have a way of humbling me. These jewel-like fish make me feel as though I'm borrowing the stream rather than owning it. Their presence is a reminder that I'm only a brief visitor in the long story of these places. Small, shaded mountain streams—where clean, cold water still runs beneath hemlock boughs—have a way of putting things into perspective. With warming temperatures, habitat loss and competition from non-native trout threatening their future, every wild Brook Trout I catch goes back into the water. Watching one slip into the current feels better than keeping it ever could.

When I do bring a fish home, it's usually a stocked Rainbow Trout or Brown Trout from a larger, managed water. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's stocking program allows anglers to responsibly harvest fish, easing pressure on fragile wild populations while still providing a local, sustainable meal. It's a compromise that feels honest. In some streams, it even feels like removing competition for Brook Trout, which never sits poorly with me.

Whether talking about trout or ramps, I take little. A single leaf from a cluster, leaving the bulb intact and able to grow. In some places, ramps have suffered from overharvest, and restraint becomes part of the practice. With something so delicious, restraint might even be considered a superpower. Sautéed gently in butter, ramps add a bold, earthy note to trout cooked over a camp stove. Their aroma capturing April better than any photograph.

Farther from the creek, as mayapples unfurl and tulip poplars push new buds, I slow my steps even more. This is morel country. They don't announce themselves like the belted kingfisher rattling overhead. Their honeycombed caps blend perfectly with leaf litter, easy to overlook or even step on. That challenge is part of their appeal. Once your eyes lock onto one, patience often reveals others nearby. Finding one feels earned. Finding several feels like a small miracle.

When cooked, and they must be cooked, morels take on a rich, meaty flavor that pairs naturally with trout and ramps, as if spring planned the

meal all along. Identification matters, as it always does with foraging, and learning from experienced mentors is as important as learning to cast or tie your first fly.

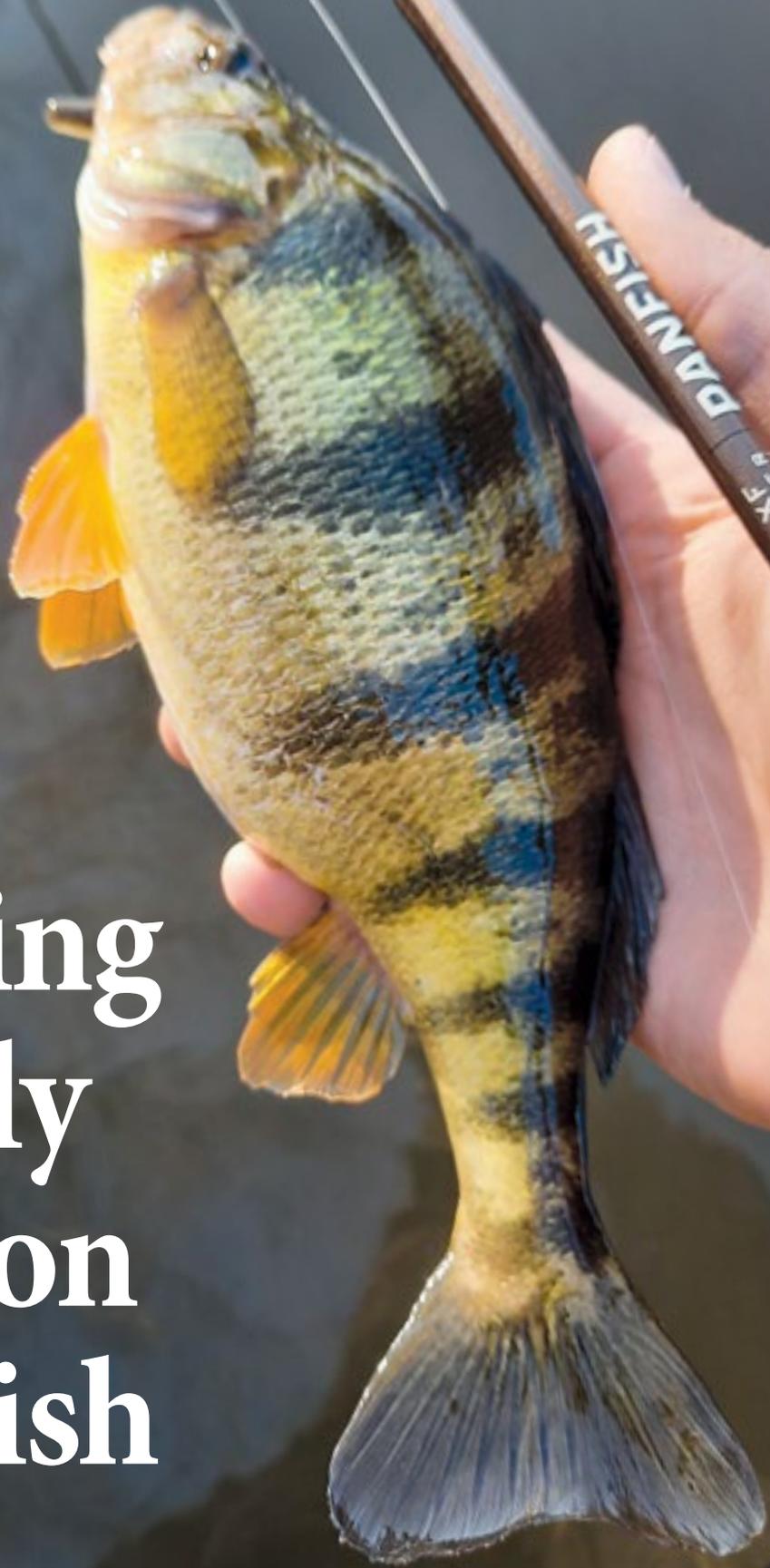
Fishing and foraging share the same ethic—take only what you need and leave plenty behind. Healthy trout streams and sustainable wild foods depend on restraint, awareness and respect. I try to tread lightly, packing out what I bring in—and often what others leave behind. Anything buggy or overripe stays, often claimed by Woodland Box Turtles that seem to appear with the mushrooms.

By evening, when the gear is stowed and the woods settle back into themselves, a simple meal of trout, ramps and morels offers a quiet satisfaction. It isn't abundance that makes it memorable; it's connection. Each flavor reflects a season that never lasts quite long enough.

Spring gives us more than recreation. It offers renewal—quiet, fleeting and deeply rooted. Sometimes, all it takes is a fishing rod, a forager's eye and a little gratitude to see just how connected it all is. ☐



Wading Early Season Panfish



When word gets out about a hot panfish bite, you need to take a number to get a spot from shore. Boats remedy this problem—almost. A sliver of daylight separates the end of the workday and nightfall early in the fishing season. Who has the time to fuss with boats and trailers?

It only takes a few minutes to slip on a pair of waders to escape the crowds.

Water temperatures are around 50 degrees F when I begin wading. Even on warm spring days, a chill creeps in if I stop moving. Neoprene waders keep me the warmest. I also wear a base layer and heavy wool socks.

Panfish push shallow after ice out for a feeding binge. I never wade deeper than hip level, and I rarely go more than a few yards from shore. This is adequate for a good casting angle, where waters dip from 1- to 3-feet deep.

When wading, safety is always the priority. The still water in reservoirs masks the dangers and gives a false sense of security.

Over time, a layer of sediment develops from leaves and vegetation that decomposes on the bottom. This muck makes it difficult to get secure footing. Sometimes, it pulls you in like quicksand.

While current may not pose an apparent threat, its absence makes it difficult to see sudden depth changes and submerged hazards like boulders, stumps or fallen trees and limbs.

I cautiously measure each step by scanning ahead before touching down. These graceful movements are also helpful for sneaking within casting range of shallow fish.

The key to catching early season panfish is in finding the warmest water. A good starting

point is small backwater areas that receive plenty of sunlight. At times, wind is the determining factor. Wind piles the warm surface water and plankton to a particular shoreline, creating feeding activity.

When targeting Bluegills or Yellow Perch, I look for places where soft bottom transitions to hard bottom on large flats. I can easily feel these spots when wading. It may also be possible to see changes in vegetation as it will not grow on hard substrates.

If I'm after crappies, I try to find a depth change, no matter how slight. Depth changes occur around structural elements like creek channels, points or shoals.

Any form of cover from timber or vegetation—even if brown—is worth investigating.

Although I find benefits in technique-specific tackle, it's best to stick with one rod when wading. My choice is a versatile, 7-foot, light-power spinning rod that can handle floats, jig-plastic combinations or hard baits.

I like small baits that linger in the strike zone early in the year. The coldest waters usually require a float to suspend waxworms, redworms, tiny marabou hair jigs or scented soft baits. Bobbers are also useful for executing long casts.

Tiny suspending jerkbaits are another favorite of mine. A few twitches followed with a long pause is a technique for success. Just keep the twitches gentle to avoid overworking these baits.

No panfish arsenal is complete without a jig-plastic combination. Early on, that's a lightweight jig and straight-bodied, "no-action" plastic lure.

With the proper emphasis on safety, wading opens a world of shallow water ripe with panfish fishing opportunities. □



My favorite wading baits for panfish fit into a wader pouch or shirt pocket.



Finding the warmest waters is pivotal for early season success, and an inexpensive, portable thermometer removes the guesswork.



SEASON'S FIRST SIP— Strategies for Early Spring Hatches

by *Christian A. Shane*

“The streams and rivers of Pennsylvania have an abundance of insect activity; hatches appear on the water throughout much of the fishing season. Some years, you can begin the season with a hatch like the Quill Gordon, Blue Quill, or Hendrickson in April and end the season in October with a Slate Drake or Blue Dun.” Charles Meck, “Pennsylvania Trout Streams and Their Hatches.”

As winter turns into spring, anglers turn to the streams to focus on emerging bugs and willing fish. Keen fly anglers prepare for spring hatches by stocking the necessary patterns, observing the hatch timing and applying fishing strategies to unlock these early Pennsylvania hatches.

Embracing the Blue Winged Olive

The blue winged olive mayfly spans the reaches of Pennsylvania's watersheds. Blue Winged Olives should be a staple in an early season fly box. The distinctive blue-gray wings, dark to light olive shades and diminutive size allow for fly pattern representation in all four stages of the hatch (nymphs, emergers, dun adults and egg-laying spinners). Represented in smaller hook sizes of #16 to #22, Blue Winged Olives can be tied to tippet sizes of 4x, 5x and 6x for the best presentations.



photo-Christian A. Shane

For Blue Winged Olive nymph patterns, try Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Tungsten Paragons or Flashback Beadhead Hare's Ears. For emergers, try WD-40s, RS-2s, Split Case Blue Winged Olives or CDC Emergers. For duns and spinners, try traditional Blue Winged Olives, Blue Winged Olive Parachutes, Blue Winged Olive Wulffs or Rusty Spinners. To cover various aspects of the blue winged olive life cycle, create a two-fly setup with some of these patterns. For instance, pair a weighted nymph such as a Hare's Ear with a CDC Emerger to cover varying depths of the water column. Combine a Blue Winged Olive Parachute #18 with a Blue Dun #20 trailer to create a contrast between the two patterns.

Since these mayflies often appear in cloudy, rainy and stormy conditions, spring anglers should be prepared for a spontaneous hatch during a change in the weather with multiple versions of the Blue Winged Olive.

Exploring the Quill Gordon

Named after its creator, Theodore Gordon, the Quill Gordon (or Gordon's Quill) pattern is possibly the "Father of the Dry Fly" since subsequent patterns like the March Brown, Light Cahill and Royal Coachman had similar proportional and materialistic qualities.

With its mottled appearance, this Catskill-type dry fly provides a large profile on the water's surface. At the first sign of forsythia blooming in spring, these larger mayflies will begin to appear. Nicknamed the "Gentlemen's Hatch," quill gordons will often emerge from about 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon, a convenient time for the angler to arrive to the stream.

Try Quill Gordon Duns and Red Quill Spinners for on the surface fishing, and try dead drifting weighted Gold Ribbed Hare's Ears or swinging Quill Gordon Wets for fish in the subsurface.

Emerging with Caddis

On the varying end of the life cycle spectrum lie caddisflies. From tube-case makers to net spinners and free living caddis, they mature their way through the water column, and anglers represent these stages with patterns that span the cycle. During caddis metamorphosis, anglers can dead drift weighted patterns, swing wet flies for emergers and target egg-laying females with surface patterns. Some of the notable early season



photos-Christian A. Shane

Keen fly anglers prepare for spring hatches by stocking the necessary patterns, observing the hatch timing and applying fishing strategies.

caddis hatch patterns include the Little Black Caddis, Little Olive Caddis, Grannom Caddis, Trude Wing Caddis and Peacock Caddis.

Daily weather patterns can also predict how the timing and duration of early hatches can occur. In a complimentary book to Meck's called "Pocketguide to Pennsylvania Hatches," Charles Meck and Paul Weamer suggest that anglers should be alert to flower and tree blooms, which correspond to the hatches themselves to provide clues for what's to come. Fly anglers who put all the puzzle pieces together may find themselves enjoying the early spring hatches of Pennsylvania. ☐



As winter turns into spring, anglers turn to the streams to focus on emerging bugs and willing fish.

About the Author

Christian Shane has been a teacher for more than 30 years and is currently teaching 7th grade Life Science. He loves fly fishing and fly tying for trout and steelhead and has participated in Trout In the Classroom for 19 years.



"It's just been awesome, because it matches so well with my curriculum. It's rare that you get a chance to see eggs hatch into fish."

Mayfly Imitations

Blue Dun or Little Blue Winged Olive

Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Medium to dark gray hackle
Body: Gray muskrat or poly
Wings: Gray mallard or hackle
Hook: Dry #18-#20



photo-Nick Cobler

Quill Gordon

Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Dark dun hackle fibers
Body: Stripped peacock quill
Wings: Wood duck or dark gray hackle
Hackle: Gray hackle
Hook: Dry #12-#14



photo-Nick Cobler

Rusty Spinner

Thread: Dark brown
Tail: Grayish brown hackle
Body: Brown poly, ribbed with tan thread
Wings: Pale gray poly
Hook: Dry #18-#20



photo-Nick Cobler

Caddis Imitations

Little Black Caddis

Thread: Black
Body: Black poly, dubbed
Wings: Deer hair dyed dark gray
Hackle: Dark brown
Hook: Dry #16



photo-Christian A. Stone

Grannom Caddis

Thread: Black
Body: Dark brownish black poly, dubbed
Wings: Dark brown deer hair
Hackle: Dark brown
Hook: Dry #12-#14



photo-Christian A. Stone

Peacock Caddis

Thread: Black 8/0 Uni
Body: Peacock herl
Wings: Deer hair
Hackle: Brown and grizzly
Hook: Dry #12-#16



photo-Christian A. Stone



NOTES *from the Streams*

Not in this River

I was doing my morning patrol along the Monongahela River on a foggy day that made everything look mysterious, especially the Jessop Boat Club, just south of Rices Landing, Greene County. As I walked toward the bank, I spotted a grandpa and his grandson. The boy's tiny fishing rod was bent so far I thought he hooked a big one. I said, "Good morning, folks." Before I could say anything else, the kid yelled, "Pap! It's a monster!" The rod almost fell out of his hands, and the grandpa grabbed the back of the boy's coat like he was reeling in a 60-pound Flathead Catfish. Whatever they hooked was fighting hard. Then, the kid shouted, "If I go in, save the fish!" Grandpa smiled, "If you get wet, your Gram will be angry at me." Finally, with a backward stumble, the boy dragged the fish onto the bank. It was a tiny Bluegill, but the boy looked at the fish like he just landed a river monster.

Grandpa said this was his grandson's first fish. The boy proudly held up the fish and said, "Officer, is this a record?" I said, "Absolutely, it's the biggest Bluegill caught on this stretch of river today." Grandpa smiled and the boy beamed. The Bluegill was released back into the river.

As I walked away, I heard the boy say, "Pap, next time, I'm catching a shark." His Grandpa replied, "Not in this river, you're not."—WCO Logan T. Opfer, *Greene and Southern Washington counties.*



A New Excuse

Everyone seems to have an excuse for not having a fishing license while fishing. Usually, the excuse is they forgot it at home. But, one day while on patrol of the Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County, Sergeant Furlong and I had an angler tell us a different story. When I asked the angler for his fishing license, he said he didn't have it on him, and we wouldn't believe his reason. We asked why he didn't have it, and he said, "Because my daughter ate it." That was not the excuse I expected. Apparently, the day before, he noticed his young daughter chewing on something. He realized it was his fishing license. I don't think that is an excuse we will ever hear again.—WCO *Dustan A. Luzier, Cumberland County.*



Last Name

While on patrol along the Schuylkill River, I observed a father and son fishing. When I approached the anglers, I said, "Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Officer Fish." The father laughed in disbelief and asked if I was lying about my last name. I informed him that my last name truly is Fish. While I was checking for fishing licenses, the father pulled out his phone and called his father to tell him that he met a WCO named Fish. When the phone call ended, he asked if he could take a photo with me and his son. As I walked back to my truck, I realized that I will be getting remarks about my last name for the rest of my career.—WCO *Andrew D. Fish, Eastern Schuylkill County.*

Foul Hooked

WCO Tereschak and I passed through a small boat access when we observed a juvenile fishing from a distance. We drove over to see how he was doing and saw a cast net deployed from a person obscured by the bushes. Upon arrival, we noticed that both anglers were juveniles, and one seemed to be fumbling with something near his chin. When his mother came out to see our identity, the boy said he had a hook stuck in his lip. His mother thought he was kidding, to which we confirmed he was not. There was a 2½-inch lure hanging from his lower lip. We offered assistance with first aid, but his mother declined and said she would take him to get it removed.

The conversation shifted back to us stopping in, so we explained that we were there due to the cast net. The young man shook his head (lure included) acknowledging why we came over. WCO Tereschak looked in the bucket and spotted a Yellow Perch. The young man said he didn't know he had a Yellow Perch in his bucket, at which point, his mother chastised him, saying he needed to be honest. She explained he was an avid angler and knew exactly what species of fish he had in his possession. Again, he shook his head acknowledging his mother. As his mother got the car keys to leave, she said her son knew a lot about fishing, and he should have been honest. I offered up a parting suggestion to secure the lure, so it didn't pull on his lip every time he shook his head.

We aren't exactly sure how this happened, but according to the boy, his dog was somehow the reason the lure was stuck in his lip.—Sergeant *Zachary M. Rudd, Northeast Region.*



CLASSIC LURES—Suspending Jerkbaits



by Darl Black

photos by the author

With sport fishing interest skyrocketing in the 1960s, Rapala's Original Floating Minnow from Norway exploded across the United States after a 1962 article in *Life Magazine*. An American lure company, Rebel, quickly followed with the Rebel Minnow made from a newly developed hard plastic. Referred to as jerkbaits, these artificial lures floated to the surface as soon as the retrieve stopped.

But, anglers wanted a realistic minnow bait that would suspend in the water column like actual prey rather than pop to the surface like a bobber. Bass anglers began wrapping lead solder onto hooks of the Rebel Minnow while Walleye anglers drilled balsa wood Rapala lures to embed splitshot, creating the first neutral-buoyant lures representing hovering stunned or wounded baitfish.

Today, manufacturers offer multiple suspending jerkbait models with subtle differences in triggering action and sizes for targeting bass, crappies, pike and trout.

Tackle

For jerkbaits, try a moderate-fast action spinning rod or casting rod with 10-pound braided fishing line and an 8-pound fluorocarbon leader about 8 feet long. Use lighter rods and lines for smaller trout baits. Suspension depth depends on the diameter of line and diving lip size. Most models suspend in the 2- to 6-foot range, while a spoonbill-style lipless crankbait may reach 10 feet.

Presentation

Suspending jerkbaits are particularly effective in the spring and fall. Crank it down, pause, then nudge it, twitch it, jerk it, snap it or rip it depending on the water temperature. Incorporate pauses in the retrieve—a 3- to 30-second pause, based again on water temperature.

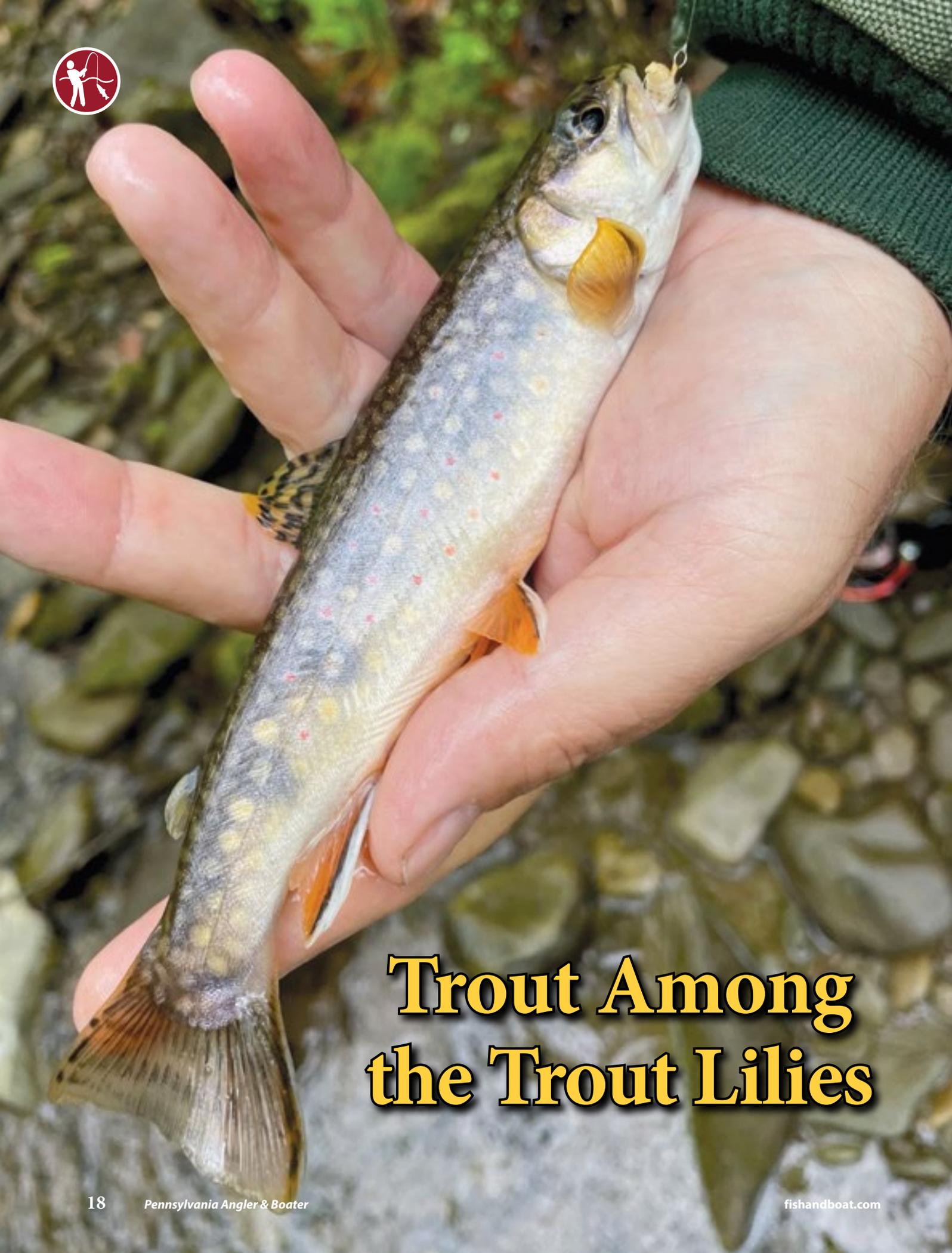
Slower, less aggressive presentations produce in the early spring for bass, pike and Walleyes as each species stages near their preferred spawning areas. Gradually increase the pace of jerks and shorten the pauses as fish move shallower. In early fall, expect a good jerkbait bite for hybrid Striped Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Walleyes as these species follow baitfish into shallow water. Start with a fairly aggressive presentation and slow things down as water temperature cools into the 40s. □



Use of self-adhesive, removable zinc weights can be used to make adjustments to imperfect suspending lures, which may be too buoyant. Multiple weights of this type can turn a floating minnow lure into a shallow suspending one.



Diving lips on suspending jerkbaits provide insight on how deep lures can be cranked down before imparting action.



Trout Among the Trout Lilies

Trout lilies are indicators of clean and healthy environments.



by Jeff Woleslagle photos by the author

As I worked my way along the bank of a favorite stretch of a local stream in the early morning hours, I looked down at my feet and saw a large expanse of small, surfboard-shaped leaves poking up through the rich soil. They were speckled, similar to the markings on the trout I was chasing. These delicate little lilies are always something I enjoy finding. They are a clear indication that spring has indeed sprung. I love the fact that in southcentral Pennsylvania, they are often found along streams, and they are typically out at the beginning of trout season.

Trout lilies are known as “spring ephemerals,” which means they rush to grow, bloom and set seed before the forest canopy fully emerges. They tend to form dense colonies over time and an individual plant may take up to 7 years to produce a first flower. When you see a large patch blooming along your favorite stream, it’s safe to assume it’s probably quite old. They spread by underground stems called corms and runners. A single patch along a stream may actually be thousands of genetically identical plants. The peak bloom for trout lilies is normally the first two weeks of April, which coincides nicely with the trout opener. Fascinatingly, their seeds are covered in a fatty coating called an elaiosome, and ants love them. They carry the seeds underground, devour the coating and then leave the seeds to germinate. Trout and trout lilies thrive in clean, cool environments, so seeing a healthy patch of these special flowers usually means the nearby water is also in good shape. Other wildflowers that

anglers can look forward to seeing are bloodroot, spring beauty and hepatica. But, to me, nothing signals the arrival of trout season as much as the mottled petals and vibrant yellow blooms of the trout lily.

When I look for trout among the trout lilies, I carry two, 7-foot light action spinning rods with the appropriate size reels spooled with 4-pound-test monofilament or fluorocarbon line. On one, I tie a small 1/8- or 1/16-ounce inline spinner with a silver or gold blade. I fan cast any pool or likely looking spot with it first to find any active and aggressive fish. On the second rod, I have a size 10 baitholder hook with one or two BB sized splitshot about 18 inches up the line. Ideally, you want just enough weight to get a natural drift for the flow of the stream. For bait, I start with a pea sized ball of paste bait known for being good for trout. It comes in many colors, but I’ve always found yellow and pink to be the most effective. If that doesn’t draw any takers, try two waxworms, a small redworm or a piece of nightcrawler on the hook. Small, live minnows and salmon eggs are also great choices in early spring. By offering a variety of baits, an angler will be more likely to find what the fish are most interested in taking.

Look for spring trout near undercut banks, brush that extends into the water, large rocks that create current breaks and near the head and tail of large pools. Often, when pursuing trout among the trout lilies, mornings are cold and the fishing can improve around mid-day when the sun is on the water.

The blooming of the trout lilies signals the start of trout season across much of Pennsylvania. Lucky for us, great trout fishing will continue long after these amazing flowers fade. □



The Lehigh River— *A Valley of Innovation*



by Brady J. Crytzer

There is a river in the heart of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. One that not only gave the region its name but charted its destiny.

Long before highways traced its course and tractor-trailers thundered across its bridges, the Lenape called this waterway Lechawuekink, “where there are forks.” Their canoes once slipped along its bends with the ease of a people who viewed the river not as an obstacle but as a path.

In the late seventeenth century, the Lehigh Valley's first great transformation began with a

creature no larger than a house cat—the beaver. A booming European demand for felt hats triggered a scramble into the interior. Traders trekked from New Amsterdam and New Sweden, moving inland from the Delaware Valley in search of the prized pelts. By the time William Penn arrived to establish his Quaker colony, a network of trappers and traders was already operating deep in Lenape country.

Among the most prominent of these figures was John Hanson Steelman¹. Born in what is now Philadelphia's Grays Ferry, Steelman was the son of a Swedish cavalryman sentenced to colonial exile for cutting down trees in the king's orchard.



Undetermined photographs. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

This 1882 photo of Saeger's Mill along the Lehigh Canal shows a sign advertising the use of anthracite coal, which the Lehigh Canal transported.

After serving his term on a tobacco plantation, Steelman's father reinvented himself as a respected settler, and his son followed suit. By the turn of the eighteenth century, John Hanson Steelman was a fur trader of considerable means, fluent in native languages and equally at home in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He even helped fund the Old Swedes Church, a still-standing landmark of early colonial life.

It was Steelman's expansion into the Lehigh Valley, however, that caught the eye and ire of William Penn. The proprietor demanded that Steelman secure a proper Pennsylvania trading license, a requirement the trapper seemed in no hurry to satisfy.

When Penn learned that Steelman was pushing beyond the Forks of the Delaware (modern Easton), he issued a stern letter on April 12, 1701, ordering him "to stopt thy goods to Lechay...till thou come hither thyself." That brief reference to "Lechay" is the earliest known written form of what would become "Lehigh." How long the word had circulated before Penn set it to paper remains a mystery.

As Steelman aged and drifted westward, eventually dying nearly penniless in 1749, new men with new ambitions set their sights on the river. William Allen—merchant, judge and future namesake of Allentown—dreamed of transforming the Lehigh River into a trading route that would funnel northern furs to Philadelphia. But, the river itself resisted. Shallow, snarled with rocks and unpredictable in flow, the Lehigh River refused to become the commercial artery Allen envisioned.

That would change only when the young nation stared down its first energy crisis. By the early 1800s, Philadelphia had burned through its supply of cheap firewood while rich seams of anthracite coal lay far to the north. Entrepreneurs Josiah White and Erskine Hazard proposed a daring solution—tame the Lehigh. Legislators laughed them off, granting permission to "ruin themselves" as they pleased.

Undeterred, White and Hazard constructed the so-called "bear trap" dams—ingenious wooden structures that released sudden torrents powerful enough to sweep coal-laden arks over the river's shallows. The system worked, though only just, and soon gave way to a more permanent answer—the Lehigh Canal.

But, industry came at a cost. By the twentieth century, the Lehigh River bore the scars of heavy manufacturing. Today, to the casual observer, the river looks scenic once more—whether it stays that way remains an open question. Like the valley it shaped, the Lehigh River's story is still being written. □

*Brady J. Crytzer teaches history at Robert Morris University. The author of eight books, his work has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. He lives and fishes outside of Pittsburgh.*

1. Alternative spellings include John Hans Steelman, John Hance Steelman and John Hansson Steelman.

Lehigh River *Water Trail*

NE
PA!

SE
PA!





The southern section of the Lehigh River Water Trail offers calm, Class I paddling and plenty of nature.

by Bob Frye photos by the author

The more dire the suffering, the deeper the well of despair, the harsher the circumstances, the more epic the salvation—if it comes to pass.

There are no guarantees. Sometimes, ashes are just that—the sooty embers of what once was rather than the seeds of a phoenix.

Fortunately, for anglers and boaters, the Lehigh River in eastern Pennsylvania has risen.

It was, until 1967, the nation's only privately-owned river. Pennsylvania's legislature gave it to the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to build a series of locks and dams between Easton and Jim Thorpe and later White Haven in the 1820s. The idea was to provide a way for moving anthracite coal from northeast Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, New York City and elsewhere.

“It was characterized at one point in history as black flowing lava from all the coal silt that was coming down,” said Chris Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy President.

Then, things got worse.

The wastewater from developing communities and other industries along the river—most famously steel—together with acid mine drainage further fouled it. By the time the state took ownership of the river back, it was pretty much devoid of life.

Redemption, though, has followed transgression.

Cleanup work remains to be done, but it's cleaner today than at any point in the last 150 years. It's now viewed as a community resource rather than something to be avoided. The popularity of the 72-mile Lehigh River Water Trail speaks to that achievement. Stretching from White Haven to Easton, it draws paddlers and anglers in numbers once unimaginable.

What those visitors can expect depends on where they go. The Lehigh River is, in many ways, two rivers in one.

The Lehigh River Water Trail's 41 northernmost miles—28 of them part of Pennsylvania's Scenic River System—are wild, rugged, rough and tumble. Starting at White Haven, almost immediately entering Lehigh Gorge State Park, and running to Lehigh Gap, the river moves fast, racing between steep-sided, forested, canyon-like



One highlight of paddling the lower Lehigh River Water Trail is passing what remains of the stacks from the Bethlehem Steel plant. The plant was once the second largest steel maker in America.

walls. There are regularly scheduled whitewater and “fishing enhancement” releases from the United States Army Corps of Engineers-owned Frances E. Walter Dam, Luzerne County.

The 31-mile southern section of the water trail is calmer, beginner-friendly Class I water. It flows through the “metro wilderness” of Allentown, Bethlehem—with the remnants of its hulking steel mill on river right—and Easton.

“The differences in the two sections allow boaters of all skills to experience the river,” said Kocher.

They also let anglers target their fishing.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) annually stocks the northernmost section of the river with adult trout at several points and has even put fingerlings in on occasion. Other groups, notably the Lehigh River Stocking Association, add more.

“There are so many stocked trout in that river,” said Cooper Barshinger, PFBC Fisheries Biologist. “But, as you move up, you get into some better quality habitat and colder water, where trout are going to be holding.”

It’s not necessarily easy fishing; even wading the river can be tricky. And, warm water often cools the fishing by early June.

But, it’s good enough for long enough to support multiple outfitters offering guided trips.

Interestingly, the northern section is not the only place on the Lehigh River to find trout.

Some of the larger Class A wild trout streams in this part of the state—Saucon Creek, Lehigh and Northampton counties, Monocacy Creek, Northampton County, and

Little Lehigh Creek, Lehigh County—empty into the river. Their fish, mostly Brown Trout, show up in places you wouldn’t normally expect from winter through spring. The stretch of river from Allentown to Easton is one example.

“They’re not there in large numbers. As water temperatures start to rise, they go back to the creeks,” said Barshinger. “But, some of these fish stick around in the larger river system for a while. They’re another option for anglers.”

The wild trout can get big, too. It’s not uncommon to find some 20-inches long or longer.

“They’re not the biggest fish to be had, though. The PFBC stocks muskies in the Lehigh River and follow-up surveys have revealed fish 40-inches long and longer from Northampton downriver,” said Barshinger.

“So, that’s another interesting aspect to the Lehigh River we see,” said Barshinger.

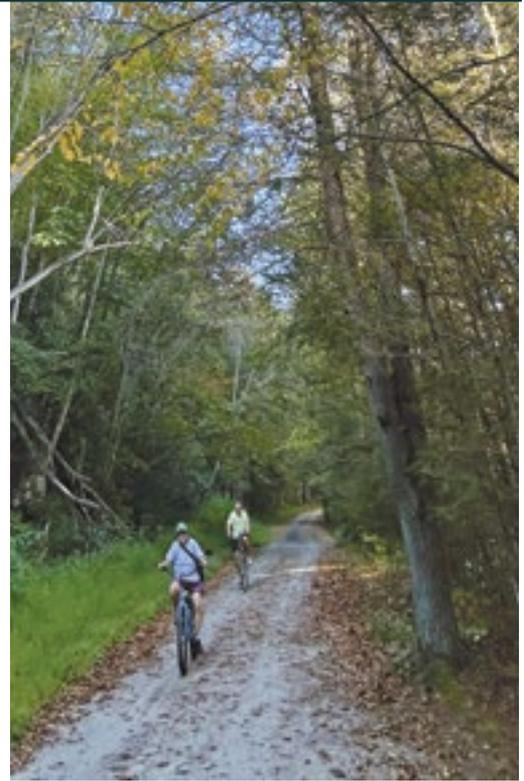
Meanwhile, the Lehigh River’s Smallmouth Bass—the most abundant gamefish in the river and the most widespread—offer what some call “sneaky-good” fishing. They’re more numerous than big, with 12-inch bass typical. But, some larger ones are caught.

“You can catch Smallmouth Bass throughout the Lehigh River, pretty much all the way up to the headwaters of the river,” said Barshinger.

Anglers and boaters can get on the river and see what’s available, north or south, in lots of places. The Lehigh River Water Trail supports 22 accesses. Some have been specifically improved with anglers in mind. Others are located near sections of the old Lehigh Canal that still hold



Paddlers launch on the Lehigh River Water Trail and head downstream from the Sand Island access in Bethlehem, Northampton County.



Bikers on the D&L Trail near Rockport Access on the Lehigh River, Carbon County.

water. It's possible for paddlers to park in one spot and paddle the canal upriver and float the river back down or vice versa. Still, other accesses are located along the Delaware River Water Trail and Lehigh River Water Trail, meaning people—on their own or using a local outfitter—can go up or down the river on the water and return by walking or biking the trail.

“That all gives folks a lot of options and opportunities to get out on the water and experience nature firsthand in the Lehigh Valley,” said Kocher.

That any nature still exists, ironically, is attributable to that which almost eliminated it.

“Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company’s ownership of the river protected much of the land around it,” said Kocher. It was bordered by a railroad on one side and by the canal on the other side.

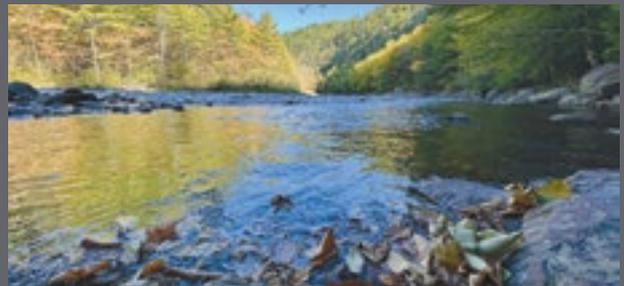
Land that may have otherwise been developed now supports wildlife such as eagles, ospreys, deer and ducks, all common sights along the river corridor.

“You can be on pretty much any section of the Lehigh River and kind of lose yourself a little bit,” said Kocher. “Even between Allentown and Easton, in the heart of the Lehigh Valley, you can float and see a lot of nature, catch a lot of fish and not even realize you’re in the city limits.”

“And, we wouldn’t have this natural, wonderful corridor had it not been for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company owning the power of the water for so many years. It’s one of the best comeback stories as far as water resources, clearly in Pennsylvania if not in the country.” ☐

More Information:

- For information on the Wildlands Conservancy and the Lehigh River Water Trail, visit wildlandspa.org.
- For the United States Army Corps of Engineers 2026 schedule of Lehigh River water releases, go to nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Francis-E-Walter-Dam/Flow-Management-Plan-Schedule/.
- For Lehigh Gorge State Park, explore pa.gov/agencies/dcnr/recreation/where-to-go/state-parks/find-a-park/lehigh-gorge-state-park.
- For the Lehigh River Stocking Association, see lrsoa.org.
- For information on the D&L Trail, check out delawareandlehigh.org.



The Lehigh River flows through Lehigh Gorge State Park, Luzerne and Carbon counties.



PENNSYLVANIA FROGS AND TOADS



Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog
Lithobates kauffeldi



Coastal Plains Leopard Frog
Lithobates sphenoccephalus utricularius



Cope's Gray Treefrog
Dryophytes chrysoscelis



Eastern American Toad
Anaxyrus americanus americanus



Eastern Cricket Frog
Acris crepitans



Eastern Spadefoot
Scaphiopus holbrookii



Fowler's Toad
Anaxyrus fowleri



Gray Treefrog
Dryophytes versicolor



Mountain Chorus Frog
Pseudacris brachyphona

photos: PFBC archives

Candidate=Candidate Species Endangered=Endangered Species Special Concern=Species of Special Concern Threatened=Threatened Species



New Jersey Chorus Frog
Pseudacris kalmi



North American Bullfrog
Lithobates catesbeianus



North American Green Frog
Lithobates clamitans



Northern Leopard Frog
Lithobates pipiens



Pickerel Frog
Lithobates palustris



Spring Peeper
Pseudacris crucifer



Upland Chorus Frog
Pseudacris feriarum



Western Chorus Frog
Pseudacris triseriata



Wood Frog
Lithobates sylvaticus

LET THE WATER
TAKE YOU FAR.

Keep going.



The adventure doesn't stop with a fishing license on a beautiful spring day. Buy your license, boat registration or launch permit online at HuntFish.PA.gov.

ExplorePAWaters.com

photo-Linda Stager

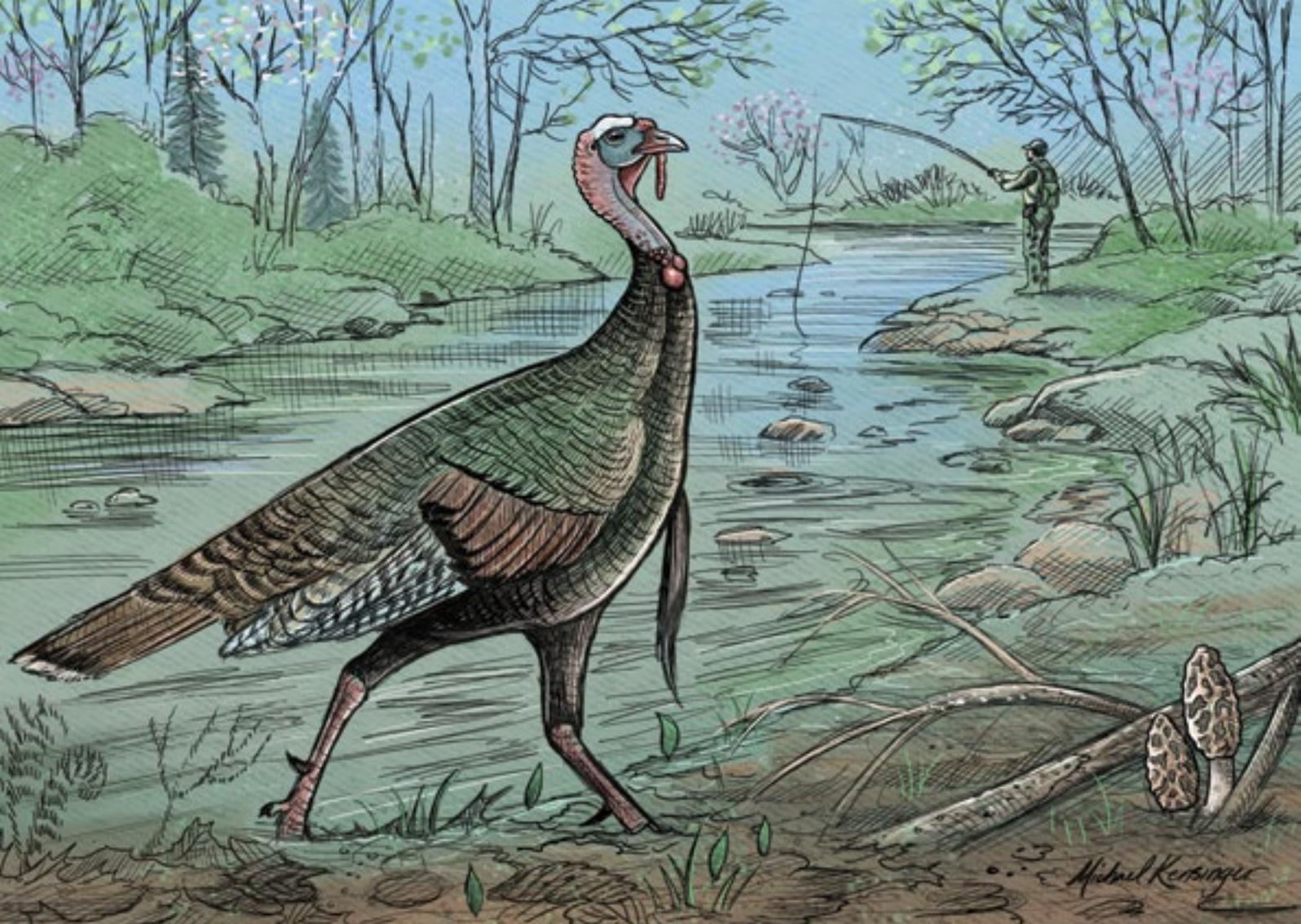


Take the kids on a fishing adventure for Mentored Youth Trout Day on March 28, 2026 (Statewide).

photos-Linda Stager



Create lasting memories this spring by bringing your camera on a hike to capture a variety of amazing Pennsylvania wildlife.



GOBBLERS AND TROUT

With busy lives it can be difficult to find time for even one activity, let alone two. But, what if you could both cast to trout and call to gobblers for a month?

Pennsylvania's trout season begins the first Saturday in April. But, trout stockings continue through May, with approximately 10% of the 3.2 million adult fish annually stocked that month.

Pennsylvania's spring turkey season, meanwhile, allows hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to noon from May 2-16 and from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from May 18-30.

So, if you want to chase trout and turkeys, there's a month-long overlap when you can make this happen during the same trip.

"Some of our best mayfly hatches occur in May, and with water temperatures warming up, you have fish more actively feeding," said Nate Walters, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Coldwater

Unit Leader. "Yet, the water's still cool enough to provide suitable trout habitat. That leads to really good fishing conditions."

Gobblers are generally plentiful and widespread. Annual spring harvests average about 36,000 birds. Hunters tag turkeys in all 22 of the state's Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), too, though some really shine.

The top 10 for overall spring harvest in 2025 were, in order: 2D, 2C, 3C, 2A, 2G, 1A, 1B, 4D, 3B and 2E. Looked at another way—turkeys harvested per day of effort—last year's top WMUs were 2B, 3C, 1A, 2E, 5B, 2C, 2D, 4D, 4A and 5A.

"Some WMUs—1A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 3C and 4D—make both lists," said Reina Tyl, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Biologist. "Therefore, these could be considered the top places to hunt gobblers."

When posed with the option to fish or hunt this spring, do both. ☐

Trout Stockings:



Trout Streams:



WMUs:



photo- Pennsylvania Game Commission

Trout fishing and turkey hunting are great opportunities for parents and other adults to introduce children to the outdoors.



photo-PRBC archives

A wild Brown Trout



3.2 MILLION REASONS TO FISH

That's how many **adult trout** we will stock in **2026** in **684** streams and **130** lakes.

Average size: 11 inches



2.3 Million
Rainbow Trout



698,000
Brown Trout



128,000
Brook Trout



18,000
Golden Rainbow Trout
(75% stocked before opening day)

Plus, **1.1 Million** trout stocked by **cooperative nurseries.**

72,000

trophy-sized Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Brook Trout.

Trophy size: 14 to 20 inches
(70% stocked before opening day)

FishandBoat.com



Fishing and Boating in Maurice K. Goddard State Park

NW
PA!



photo-Darl Black

by Marilyn Black

Maurice K. Goddard State Park, Mercer County, pays tribute to the late forester and 1955-1971 Pennsylvania Secretary of Forests and Waters. The 2,856-acre state park is located in Sandy Lake and includes 1,680-acre Lake Wilhelm.

“At any state park, employees feel responsibility to the public. What is perhaps heightened here is recognition of Doc Goddard’s vision—the vital importance of conservation and outdoor recreation combined with the belief that every Pennsylvania resident should have a state park within 25 miles. It’s an honor to be a part of this legacy,” said Mark Scarpitti, Park Manager.

With its Marina Visitor Center opening in 2026, Scarpitti looks forward to a bustling year for anglers and boaters. Added are freshly paved parking lots, year-round heated restrooms, better access for people with disabilities and a new fuel system, which augments the existing docks for season-long boat mooring, the playground, picnic tables and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible fishing pier. The Lake Wilhelm Marina & Snack Shop is open seven days a week, providing bait, tackle, snacks, fuel and boat rentals. Its direct phone number is 724-549-9531.

With a maximum 20-horsepower (hp) motor rating, Lake Wilhelm is well-suited for motorized fishing boats, pontoon boats, kayaks and canoes. ADA-style kayak entry devices

have been installed at most of the seven launch areas. Water skiing, recreational towing, swimming and personal watercraft are not allowed on Lake Wilhelm.

Lake and wetlands west of the I-79 bridge are managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. In this section, only boats propelled by electric motors or paddles are welcome.

Significant fishing enhancements have been made in the past 3 years, stabilizing shorelines, making accessibility improvements and opening more space for casting. This endeavor involved the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Lake Habitat Division, Mercer County Conservation District, PA Lake Management Society and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR). Together, they improved Launches #1, #2 and #3 and sites along Park Road, below Billy Boyd Road, along Creek Road and near Dugan’s Run.

Underwater lake structure was enhanced through projects with PFBC, Friends of Goddard State Park (FRoG), National Fuel, PA Outdoor Corps and park personnel who installed porcupine cribs, short vertical plank structures, felled shoreline trees, turtle basking platforms and other habitat improvements.

Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations apply on Lake Wilhelm, with one exception. This is a Brood Stock Lake. Anglers must release any Muskellunge, tiger muskellunge, Northern Pike and pickerel caught during April and May.



photo-Dart Black

Pontoon boats outnumber other styles of boats at the season-long mooring docks at Lake Wilhelm Marina.

According to the most recent PFBC biologist survey conducted in spring 2024 and noted in the Fisheries Management Area 2 report, “The Muskellunge, catfish and Largemouth Bass populations of Lake Wilhelm are performing exceptionally well. Walleyes offer large and trophy-size fish at moderate density, while panfish provide a high-density fishery with moderate quality.” The report also indicates that 99% of the Walleyes obtained by trap netting and/or electrofishing were at least the 15-inch legal size for harvest. Lengths of the longest individual fish by species gathered were a 29-inch Walleye, 19-inch Black Crappie, 17-inch White Crappie, 22-inch Largemouth Bass, 49-inch Muskellunge, 34-inch Channel Catfish and 29-inch Bowfin. ☐



photo-Merilyn Black

Launch #3 at Maurice K. Goddard State Park, Mercer County, has a traditional concrete boat ramp and an accessible transfer system to assist with safe boarding and exiting kayaks.

For public event details and educational program schedules, contact the park office at 724-253-4833, go to PA DCNR’s online Calendar of Events or visit the Maurice K. Goddard State Park Facebook page. Annual events in 2026 include a birding festival (“Wings Over Wilhelm”) on April 11, a panfish fishing tournament on May 24, “Music at the Marina and Car Cruise” on August 8-9 and “Echoes Across the Water” in October.



photo-Merilyn Black

Anglers on the shoreline of Launch #3 at Lake Wilhelm.

Creating Your Own CUSTOM MAPS

by Jeff Knapp photos by the author

Hydrographic maps reveal subsurface features with the potential to hold fish, the degree to which largely depends on the accuracy and detail of the map. While paper maps are still valuable, electronic maps that display on a chartplotter (sonar/GPS unit) have largely replaced them. Electronic maps are limited to availability. While the list is ever expanding, many of the smaller lakes in Pennsylvania, waters that often provide some of the best fishing, remain unmapped. Also, it may get expensive to purchase the most detailed electronic maps, many of which are not part of built-in mapping. Fortunately, many modern chartplotters have the ability to create their own custom maps.

All three of the major fishing electronics makers offer units that incorporate their versions of custom mapping programs—the Garmin Quickdraw, Humminbird AutoChart Live and Lowrance Genesis Live. Chartplotters record depth and GPS positioning information into a data file that is displayed as contour lines in real time. All programs have the potential of creating highly detailed maps.

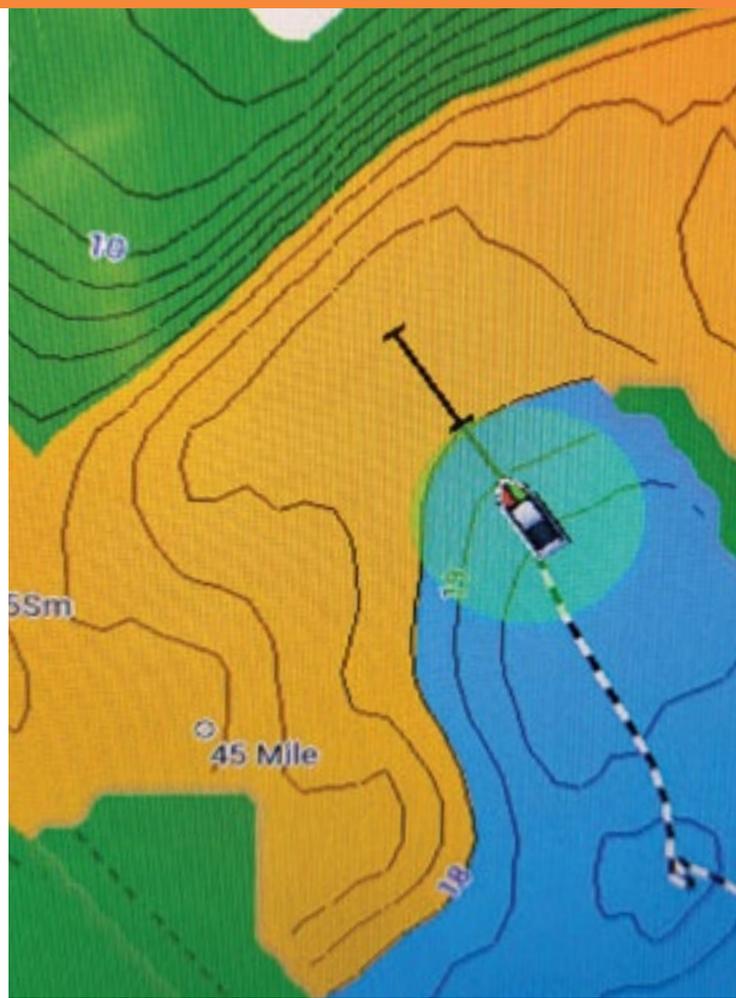
Generally, to start, the recording process is simply a matter of selecting the correct menu/submenu and then clicking on the record feature. With Garmin and Lowrance, you'll first need an SD card up to 32 GB. Humminbird units allow a limited amount of recording to internal memory, but you'll need the Humminbird AutoChart Zero Line SD card for anything over a few hours of recording.

Recording Strategies

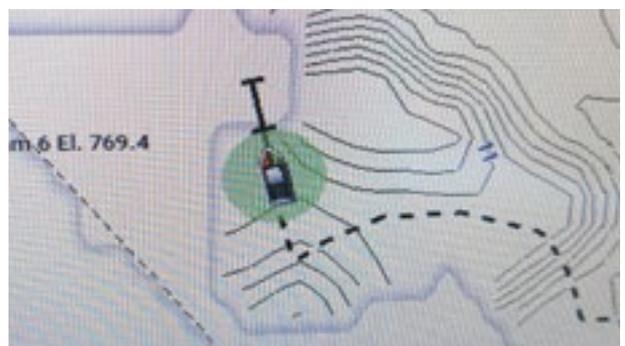
The accuracy and detail of a custom map relies on the effort you make when creating it. On larger bodies of water, initially map prime structures like shoreline points and flats. During each outing, map one or two locations. In time, you'll have a complete picture of the lake's structure.

Smaller lakes, about 200 acres or less, can be mapped in their entirety in a few hours by working your way around the lake in a circular pattern.

The actual process of mapping requires monitoring the screen as the map is created, making subsequent



A chartplotter will have a submenu that allows you to turn mapping on and off and adjust settings.



With the Garmin Quickdraw, a green circle indicates a strong GPS signal and bottom reading.



The ability to assign individual color shades to various depth zones makes weedlines, points, humps and flats stand out.



Place icons such as brush pile markers when discovering potential cover.



If your budget allows, it's helpful to have two units—one that displays mapping and one dedicated to sonar.

passes of the recording swath that slightly overlap prior ones, kind of like cutting grass. For the utmost accuracy, remap a spot from a 90-degree angle, so the transducer can record the bottom from that view.

Boat speed is another consideration. I've done most of my recording with the Garmin Quickdraw, which displays a green circle on the screen when the unit has a solid GPS fix and bottom reading. The circle will turn yellow or red if either is compromised. Generally, I've been able to maintain a green circle at speeds in the 8 to 9 miles per hour (mph) range, which hastens the map making process.

Settings and Map Sharing

Modern chartplotters feature a vast array of menus and submenus to access features.

If a previously recorded map is not showing up, it's probably turned off. Often, it's just a matter of turning it back on or making it "visible" to restore it.

Depth offset is another worthwhile feature relating to mapping. If the lake you're mapping is subject to significant depth changes, use the depth offset option each time you're mapping, so previous mapping and new mapping merge well. Offset also restores accuracy to the depths of the contour lines.

Depth shading is another cool feature, allowing you to assign particular shades to various depth zones. As such, prominent bottom features like points and humps stand out.

Another item to consider is map sharing between units. If you have both a bow and console unit, it's a big advantage to be able to share maps including your custom maps, which are typically created from the console. Not all units share maps, and the ones that do often require a network connection. With the exceptions of sharing and networking capabilities, you can usually copy maps from one card to another, with a computer, using the second card on your bow unit. You can also download maps someone else has made for your own use.

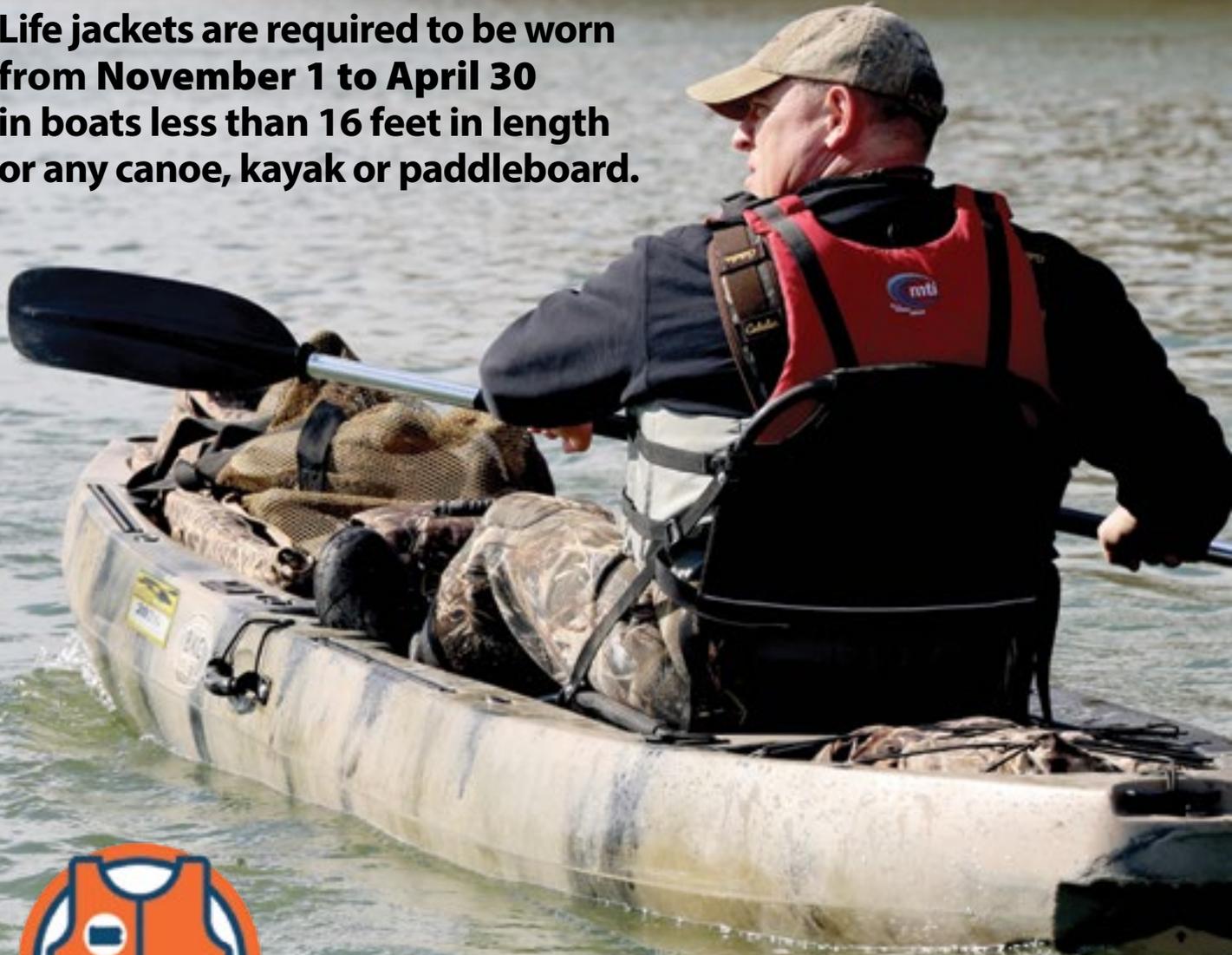
Added Benefits

Mapping takes time and may disrupt fishing. Besides the long-term benefits, you can also find a lot of offshore cover while mapping. This includes brush piles, cribs, foundations, rock piles, stumps, bridge abutments and other cover options you may not have found if you hadn't been navigating the lake with your eyes zeroed in on electronic mapping.

It's wise to split the screen, showing both a map and sonar view. Side imaging view is especially useful in this scenario or use two screens at the console—one for mapping and one for sonar. Dropping icons that suggest what the waypoint represents is extremely helpful when it comes time to revisit the spot. ☐

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET.

Life jackets are required to be worn from **November 1 to April 30** in boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak or paddleboard.



WEAR IT
National Safe Boating Council
Pennsylvania

Regulations:

photo-PEBC archives

TICK PREVENTION



by Linda Stager photo by the author

Fishing season will soon be here, but fun times in nature can be hampered by tick-borne diseases. With outdoor activities, it's essential to be aware that ticks are active.

Here are some things to know:

- Ticks live in grassy, brushy or wooded areas. They are frequently found at trail edges, in leaf litter and around tall grass and low vegetation—many of the places we love visiting in nature.
- When you are outdoors, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes to cover your skin. Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to spot ticks before they attach to you. You can also treat your clothing and gear with permethrin, a long-lasting tick repellent that can last for several washes.
- Apply an insect repellent to exposed skin. For children, use products that are safe for their age group.
- After returning from the outdoors, conduct a full-body check for ticks. Also, check your clothing, pets and gear.
- If you find an attached tick, remove it as soon as possible. Clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.
- Consider sending your tick to the Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab at ticklab.org for a no cost tick test. They will send you a report.
- If a rash or flu-like symptoms appear, contact your healthcare provider right away.

A few simple measures when fishing or hiking will help protect us all. ☐

Protecting Production



photo-PFBC archives

by Mike Parker
Communications Director
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Security, in some form or fashion, is around us everywhere we go. From police officers patrolling our communities, to cameras in the grocery store, or even a fence surrounding our backyards, each of these measures are meant to protect people, property or privacy. We've come to expect these basic forms of protection in our daily lives.

As anglers, we, too, benefit from a high level of security that most of us don't even realize is there and has helped lead to some of our fondest memories on the water. At our 12 state fish hatcheries, both physical infrastructure and special procedures ensure that millions of fish produced by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) each year are protected throughout their entire lives from eggs to the day they are stocked.

"When it comes to our hatcheries, we look at them as having several different zones, which we need to keep secure," said Brian Niewinski, PFBC's Bureau of Hatcheries Director. "The first, and

maybe most important zone, is the incubation area, or what we call the 'hatch house,' where eggs and fry are raised. Even without outside interference, the fish are the most vulnerable in those earliest stages of life."

To protect the eggs and young fish, access to hatch houses is extremely limited and often prohibited except to a few highly-trained hatchery staff familiar with strict biosecurity protocol. Before entering the incubation area, all staff and visitors are required to thoroughly wash their hands and step into a disinfectant footbath to reduce the introduction of contaminants or disease from outside the building. Additional protective steps are required for staff who handle fish, eggs and reproductive material during spawning operations.

"There are a number of fish pathogens that exist in the soil or in other waters that can easily catch a ride on our shoes or on our hands that we don't want to bring into our hatcheries," said Niewinski. "Restricting those sensitive areas just makes sense. I compare our egg incubation area to the nursery at a hospital. Not everybody can just walk into a nursery and pick up a baby. In the hatchery, we don't allow just anyone to come in and put their hands in the water, where we're raising fish."

While public tours of most state fish hatcheries remain available, visitors may not be able to enter certain zones depending on the level of activity.

The failure to follow basic biosecurity protocol can lead to loss of fish, potentially impacting hatchery goals and, ultimately, stocking numbers. Under another scenario, when a fish illness is detected within the hatchery population, additional labor and expense can be incurred if disease treatment is necessary.

In the case of trout, once they reach fingerling size of 2- to 3-inches long, they are moved from indoor rearing tanks to the most visible zone at the state fish hatchery, the outdoor concrete raceway area. Once outside, the fish face a new set of threats that they must be protected against. Most notably, all of the raceways are surrounded by netting, intended to protect fish from predatory wildlife. Along with deterring mammals such as raccoons, mink and otters from entering the raceways for an easy feast, overhead netting restricts entry for birds such as red-tailed hawks, bald eagles and great blue herons.

“While the netting is extremely effective, there’s not a 100% way to prohibit wildlife from seeking out that free meal,” said Niewinski. “We’ve had instances where great blue herons will actually swim under the netting to get into the raceway. Birds can also fly over or sit atop the netting and leave droppings in the water, which can potentially contain a pathogen they’ve carried with them from another waterway.”

To further prevent bird activity at the raceways, devices known as “bird lasers” have been installed at several hatcheries. The technology emits a moving laser light throughout the netted canopy, which is harmless to the birds themselves but serves as an annoyance to keep birds from resting on netting, reducing stress and predation on the fish. At several hatcheries, including the Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery, Bedford County, beginning in fall 2026, future security upgrades will include replacing netting with overhead roof structures atop the raceways.

As fish grow in the raceways, clean water is essential. Along with regular water testing for contaminants in source water for the raceways, each hatchery has a water treatment facility to handle fish waste and protect water sources downstream of the hatchery.

“Fish produce waste, and there’s also fish feed that doesn’t get eaten,” said Niewinski. “So, cleaning is constant and goes a long way around the hatcheries. If we don’t regularly clean, it can lead to some pretty nasty stuff. That accumulated waste, as it breaks down, can produce ammonia, which is toxic to fish. Everything from outdoor raceways and indoor tanks, to walking areas throughout the hatchery, to our gear

including nets and waders are cleaned or disinfected on a regular basis.”

With the increased presence of certain aquatic invasive species in recent years, state fish hatcheries have made several adjustments to protect against or contain the threat of infestations. Where New Zealand Mudsnaills (NZM) have been detected in hatchery source waters or nearby streams, alternate water sources have been secured, and additional filtration has been added. At the PFBC’s Bellefonte, Benner Spring, Huntsdale, Pleasant Gap and Tylersville state fish hatcheries, electric barriers at key influent and effluent areas have been successful at deterring NZM movement into the hatcheries.

“You’re never going to completely eliminate the threats we face at our hatcheries, but the goal is to reduce them as much as possible every single day,” said Niewinski.

The procedures and equipment needed to keep our state fish hatcheries safe and secure are ever evolving to protect the resources we’ll eventually enjoy as anglers. From millions of stocked trout and steelhead to Muskellunge, Largemouth Bass, Walleyes, Channel Catfish, panfish and minnows that replenish our lakes and rivers, the protection of each of these species within our state fish hatcheries is funded through fishing license sales, federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and a \$93 million multi-year capital project currently underway. □



photo-PFBC archives

“Bird lasers” have been installed at several hatcheries. The technology emits a moving laser light throughout the netted canopy, which is harmless to the birds themselves but serves as an annoyance to keep birds from resting on netting, reducing stress and predation on the fish.

Building Lasting Friendships by Volunteering



photos-PFBC archives

by Don Kelly

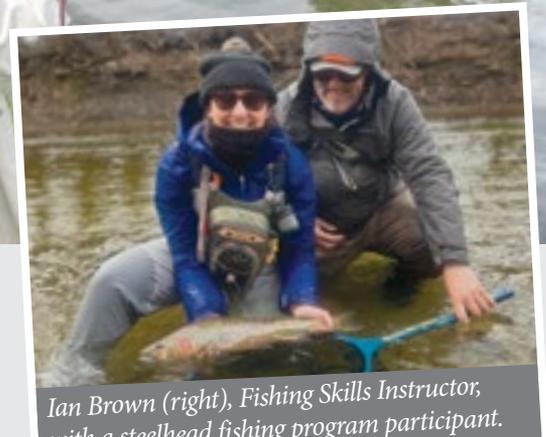
There's something about wading in a flowing waterway that naturally brings people together. We swap stories, share tips and reminisce about the times we've shared on the water. Add in teaching fishing and the experience comes full circle as we learn about fishing from each other.

Volunteering as a Fishing Skills Instructor has a unique way of turning unfamiliar faces into friends. The shared love for the outdoors and the experiences of teaching new anglers reinforces that fishing is as simple and fun, or as complicated and fun, as you want it to be. And, much of the enjoyment comes from the shared time and the places fishing takes us.

Over the years, we've had the opportunity to teach so many amazing people. Now, I'm proud to work with many of them as fellow instructors. We may not talk every day, but when we come together for programs, we easily pick up the conversation right where it left off. Even in the most brutal conditions, the joyous giggles and excitement of catching that first fish or making a perfect cast quickly muffles the rain and wind. It's a special bond formed from a devotion to this great sport and a passion for helping others. Like a well-tied knot, they are friendships built to last. ☑



Fishing Skills Instructors Don and Renee Kelly



Ian Brown (right), Fishing Skills Instructor, with a steelhead fishing program participant.



Renee Kelly (right), Fishing Skills Instructor, with a participant at a fly fishing program.



A Fishing Skills Instructor assisting anglers at a women's mentor retreat.

ROCK & LOG

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Spring is one of the best seasons for trout fishing with your family and friends. Air and water temperatures start to rise, and anglers are eager to go outside for some healthy exercise after the cold winter.



DISCOVERING TROUT WATERS

Pennsylvania provides so many great fishing spots for trout anglers that the biggest problem can be deciding where to go.

Trout Streams:



Springtime Trout Tactics

Choosing baits or lures doesn't have to be complicated. Drift live bait with the stream's current or dangle the bait below a bobber. Cast lures at a slight angle upstream and retrieve them across the current.

Live Bait for Trout

Collect your own live bait or purchase it from a local bait shop.

- Mealworms 
- Red Worms 
- Nightcrawlers 
- Minnows 

Lures for Trout

Lures are available in many shapes, sizes and colors.

- Minnow Crankbaits 
- Spoons 
- Spinners 

Rainbow Trout are the most commonly stocked trout in Pennsylvania.

EXPLORE PA WATERS



Rock & Log:



FishandBoat.com



Picture Crossword

1. Down
2. Down
3. Down
3. Across
4.
5. Down
6.
7.
8.

4. Down
6. Across
7. Across
8. Across

5. Across
5. Down

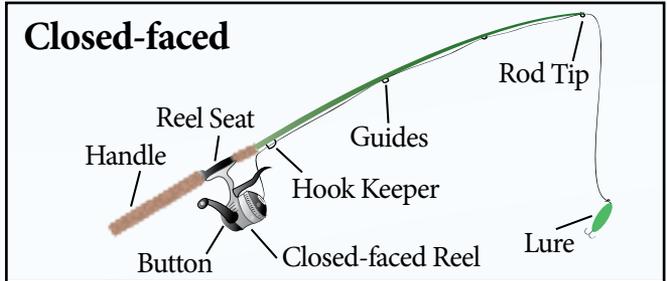
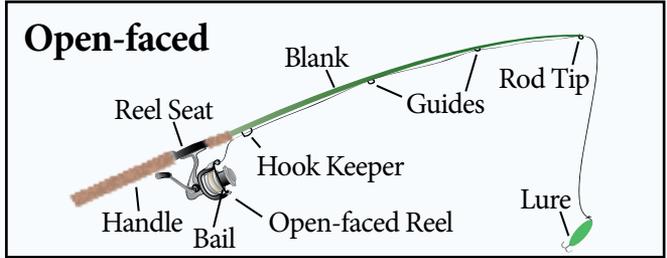
Picture Crossword Answers
Across: 3. Spinner; 5. Rainbow Trout; 6. Minnow; 7. Log; 8. Meatworm
Down: 1. Nightcrawler; 2. Crankbait; 3. Spoon; 4. Log; 5. Red Worm

GOTTA HAVE

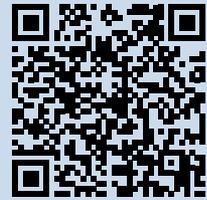
Here's a list of must have items to get ready for that first cast.

- ✓ Pennsylvania Fishing License
- ✓ Rod and Reel
- ✓ Basic Tackle
- ✓ Baits and Lures

TYPES OF SPIN FISHING RODS



Borrow Gear:



PA State Record Fish

Bass, Largemouth Birch Run Reservoir Adams Co.	11 lb. 3 oz.	Donald Shade Waynesboro, PA 1983	Salmon, Coho Lake Erie Erie Co.	15 lb. 5 oz.	Jack Scheirer McMurry, PA 1985
Bass, Rock Elk Creek Erie Co.	3 lb. 2 oz.	David L. Weber Lake City, PA 1971	Salmon, Pink Elk Creek Erie Co.	4 lb. 8 oz.	David A. Rabatin Bethel Park, PA 1995
Bass, Smallmouth Scotts Run Lake Berks Co.	8 lb. 8 oz.	Robert T. Steelman Havertown, PA 1997	Sauger Susquehanna River Lycoming Co.	4 lb.	Tim Waltz Williamsport, PA 2001
Bass, Striped - Inland Waters Raystown Lake Huntingdon Co.	53 lb. 12 oz.	Robert Price Huntingdon, PA 1994	Shad, American Delaware River Pike Co.	9 lb. 9 oz.	Anthony Mecca Peckville, PA 1986
Bass, Striped - Marine Delaware River Delaware Co.	53 lb. 13 oz.	Donald J. Clark Boothwyn, PA 1989	Suckers Allegheny River Forest Co.	12 lb. 14 oz.	Raymond C. Szalewicz Titusville, PA 2003
Bass, White Conneaut Lake Crawford Co.	4 lb.	Robert H. Hornstrom Meadville, PA 2002	Trout, Brook Fishing Creek Clinton Co.	7 lb.	Vonada Ranck Watsonstown, PA 1996
Bluegill Keystone Lake Armstrong Co.	2 lb. 9 oz.	Tom Twincheck Blairsville, PA 1983	Trout, Brown Lake Erie Erie Co.	20 lb. 9 oz.	Robert J. Ferraro Erie, PA 2020
Carp, Common Juniata River Huntingdon Co.	52 lb.	George Brown Saltillo, PA 1962	Trout, Golden Rainbow Mahoning Creek Schuylkill Co.	13 lb. 8 oz.	Eli Borger Palmerton, PA 2008
Catfish, Bullhead Beltzville Lake Carbon Co.	4 lb. 10 oz.	Ian C. Radler Palmerton, PA 2011	Trout, Lake Lake Erie Erie Co.	31 lb. 13 oz.	Keith Miller Cranberry, PA 2019
Catfish, Channel Lehigh Canal Northampton Co.	35 lb. 3 oz.	Austin E. Roth III Bowmanstown, PA 1991	Trout, Rainbow Jordan Creek Lehigh Co.	15 lb. 6 oz.	Dennis L. Clouse Bethlehem, PA 1986
Catfish, Flathead Susquehanna River Lancaster Co.	66 lb. 6 oz.	Michael Wherley Fayetteville, PA 2023	Trout, Steelhead Walnut Creek Erie Co.	20 lb. 3 oz.	Corey T. Brown Osterburg, PA 2001
Crappie Hammond Lake Tioga Co.	4 lb. 3 oz.	Richard A. Pino Covington, PA 2000	Walleye Youghiogheny River Fayette Co.	18 lb. 1 oz.	Richard E. Nicholson Connellsville, PA 2021
Drum, Freshwater (Sheepshead) Monongahela River Washington Co.	19 lb. 14 oz.	Tim Rogers Finleyville, PA 1994			
Muskellunge Conneaut Lake Crawford Co.	54 lb. 3 oz.	Lewis Walker Jr. Meadville, PA 1924			
Perch, White Delaware River Delaware Co.	2 lb. 1 oz.	Christopher Barrett Mohnton, PA 2024			
Perch, Yellow Lake Erie Erie Co.	3 lb.	Kirk Rudzinski Erie, PA 2021			
Pickrel, Chain Long Pond Wayne Co.	8 lb. 15 oz.	Dave Wilson Honesdale, PA 2002			
Pike, Northern Allegheny Reservoir McKean Co.	35 lb.	Carl Stoltz Bradford, PA 2003			
Salmon, Atlantic - Landlocked Lake Raystown Lake Huntingdon Co.	17 lb. 2 oz.	Brian Keller Altoona, PA 2001			
Salmon, Chinook Lake Erie Erie Co.	28 lb. 15 oz.	Gregory Lasko Erie, PA 1990			

BUY A 2026 FISHING LICENSE BUTTON

GET HOOKED ON COLLECTING VINTAGE FISHING LICENSE BUTTONS




ACTUAL SIZE 1 3/4"

Purchase Here:



BUTTON SHOWN AT ACTUAL SIZE

FishandBoat.com

Linesville State Fish Hatchery Annual Open House

Shake off winter and welcome spring by attending the Linesville State Fish Hatchery Open House on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Explore the hatchery, watch fish spawning demonstrations and talk to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff. Admission is free. After you visit the open house, stop by Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County, to take a walk on the paved Spillway Trail. End your visit in the town of Linesville, where you will find a few local shops and restaurants to round out your day. For more information, contact the hatchery at 814-683-4451. 📧

photo-PFBC archives

NATURAL CONNECTIONS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
IN MARCH AND
APRIL THROUGHOUT
PENNSYLVANIA.

photos-PFBC archives



EARLY CROCUS
Crocus tommasinianus
Blooms in woodlands near
streams during March.



EASTERN BLUEBIRD EGGS
Sialia sialis eggs
Birds begin nesting in April.

MARCH/APRIL *Highlights*



EARLY SPRING STEELHEAD

Did you miss out on steelhead fishing in Erie County this past fall? Then, try to catch steelhead on their way out of the streams. During March and April, steelhead are migrating back to Lake Erie after spawning. Key spots include Elk, Walnut and Twentymile creeks.



Steelhead



AMPHIBIANS AND WILDFLOWERS

Discover vernal ponds teeming with life in early spring as amphibians migrate to mate and lay eggs. Look for education programs at state parks including a night frogging program at Hillman State Park, Washington County, and a vernal pool walk at Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County. Wildflowers also spring to life in April, and Raccoon Creek State Park is known for its wildflower reserve. Look for wildflower programs at the park starting in mid-April. Fishing opportunities abound at lakes, streams and ponds.



A WILD PA ADVENTURE

Spring is a great time to venture to the PA Wilds to hike, fish or camp. On April 22-25, 2026, trek to Ridgway to experience one of the largest chainsaw carving gatherings in the world—Chainsaw Carvers Rendezvous. After watching live carving demonstrations, shopping intricately carved wood sculptures and eating good food, head out to hike Allegheny National Forest or a local state park. Bring fishing gear to dance with native Brook Trout and wild Brown Trout in nearby streams. Visit pawilds.com/asset/chainsaw-carvers-rendezvous.



PANCAKES AND FINS

Experience the history and tradition of Pennsylvania maple syrup production at Shaver's Creek Maple Harvest Festival on March 21-22. The festival features live music, historic and Native American interpretation, syrup grading, live animals and all-you-can-eat pancakes. Continue your adventure with wild Brook Trout fishing along Shaver's Creek. Head a few miles down the road to the Alan Seeger Natural Area to chase wild Brook Trout and wild Brown Trout. Learn more at shaverscreek.org/public-programs-and-events/annual-programs/maple-harvest-festival.



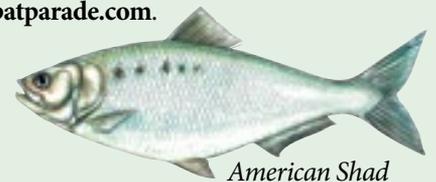
ST. PATRICK'S DAY QUEST

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day  March 14, 2026, in Scranton with lively bagpipers, colorful floats and downtown cheer. Then, escape to the nearby Lackawanna River's Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only section for early season trout fishing. March and April offer prime waters for casting, whether you're a first-timer or seasoned angler. From festive streets to peaceful riverbanks, it's a weekend of fun and fresh air. Discover more at stpatparade.com.



CELEBRATING SHAD

American Shad will begin to migrate up the Delaware River as it warms with the arrival of spring. This migration can take place from late March to early June. American Shad migrate hundreds of miles upriver to spawn over sand and gravel bars. Anglers can try their luck to catch these silver beauties. Celebrate at the annual Shad Fest that occurs in New Hope, PA, and Lambertville, NJ. Discover more at shadfest.com.



American Shad



Register for Our Upcoming Events!



YELLOW TROUT LILY
Erythronium americanum
Blooms along streamside banks in April.



NORTH AMERICAN SNAPPING TURTLE
Chelydra serpentina
The snapping turtle begins to emerge from brumation in April.



WHITE-TAILED DEER
Odocoileus virginianus
Deer antlers begin growing in April.

PFBC ON PATROL

photos-PFBC archives



Pennsylvania's steelhead run draws anglers from all over the United States. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Walnut Creek Access is a popular destination for anglers and boaters during the run. Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) Luke E. Walter, Western Erie County, next to one of the sign boards at the property. WCOs post signs at PFBC properties to ensure anglers and boaters are aware of regulations.



While arriving at work one morning, staff at our Northeast Region Office noticed a domesticated duck isolated on ice that formed on Harris Pond, Luzerne County. WCO Cassidy A. Shawley, Sergeant Scott J. Christman and Sergeant Zachary M. Rudd developed a plan and rescued the duck. Pictured with the duck is Sergeant Rudd.



WCOs also perform conservation work. WCO Derek A. Norman, Clinton and Western Lycoming counties, uses an Aqua Scope to look for freshwater mussels as part of a stocking initiative funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



PFBC Honor Guard members prior to the 26th WCO Class graduation held at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. Pictured are (left to right): WCO Michael E. Johnson, WCO Noah B. Grice, WCO Nikolaus A. Black, WCO Zachary T. Christy and WCO Sarah R. Bartle.



PENNSYLVANIA AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

SPRING PEEPER

Pseudacris crucifer

The Spring Peeper is seldom seen except during its breeding season. However, the recognizable “peep” call makes this one of Pennsylvania’s most familiar frogs. The Spring Peeper has a large, dark, X-shaped mark in the middle of the back. The legs are barred with a dark color, and the body is tan to light brown. Spring Peepers have moderately webbed feet and toes with large, sticky pads. This treefrog is ¾- to 1¼-inches long and primarily occupies wooded areas near water bodies.



MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE

Chrysemys picta marginata

Midland Painted Turtles are widespread aquatic turtles usually seen basking on rocks and logs. The upper shell (carapace) is olive or black, oval, smooth and flattened. Adults reach 4- to 6-inches carapace length with red and black markings on the edges of the shell. The plastron (shell bottom) is yellow or red with a dark blotch in the center. Each side of the head is marked with bright-yellow spots and stripes, and yellow and red stripes are on the neck, legs and tail. This turtle has a notched upper jaw.



SHORT-HEADED GARTERSNAKE

Thamnophis brachystoma

The Short-headed Gartersnake is a Species of Special Concern and found in fields, meadows and pastures of northwestern Pennsylvania. Adults reach 14- to 18-inches long, smaller than the Eastern Gartersnake. A short head, the same diameter as the body, makes it difficult to distinguish where the neck ends and the head begins. Short-headed Gartersnakes are black to dark brown, accented with a light brown or tan stripe down the middle of the back and a stripe along each side near the belly.



CONNECT WITH US



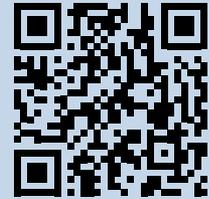
@PAFishAndBoat #FishPA
#PAFishAndBoat #WearIt

Join the Conversation!
Like, share and stay connected.

FishandBoat.com:



EXPLORE PA WATERS



It's bad luck not to name your boat. So, of course, our habitat crew had to name their newest boat. Meet the Silver Bullet, a KANN Barge specifically designed for placing man-made habitat structures into Pennsylvania's waterways. To learn more about the work of our habitat division, visit FishandBoat.com.

**Meet the
Silver Bullet:**



➔ **Abram Moore**, age 12, caught this Rainbow Trout while fishing Lake Pleasant, Erie County, on a rainy Mentored Youth Trout Day.

Explore PA Waters

Share photos of your fishing and boating adventures. Remember to wear a properly fitted life jacket if you're on the water. And, make sure it's fully zippered and buckled.

Share Your Adventure:



