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BOATER**



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## Graphic Key

The icons below represent specific article topics.



Family Fishing



Fly Fishing



Ice Fishing



Lakes



Paddling



Rivers



State Parks



Tackle

The tags below categorize fishing and boating skill levels related to an article.

BEGINNER

INTERMEDIATE

ADVANCED

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Elizabeth Brandon, Crawford County, caught this Black Crappie on Lake Nessmuk, Tioga County, during a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat

Commission Women's Intro to Ice Fishing Program.



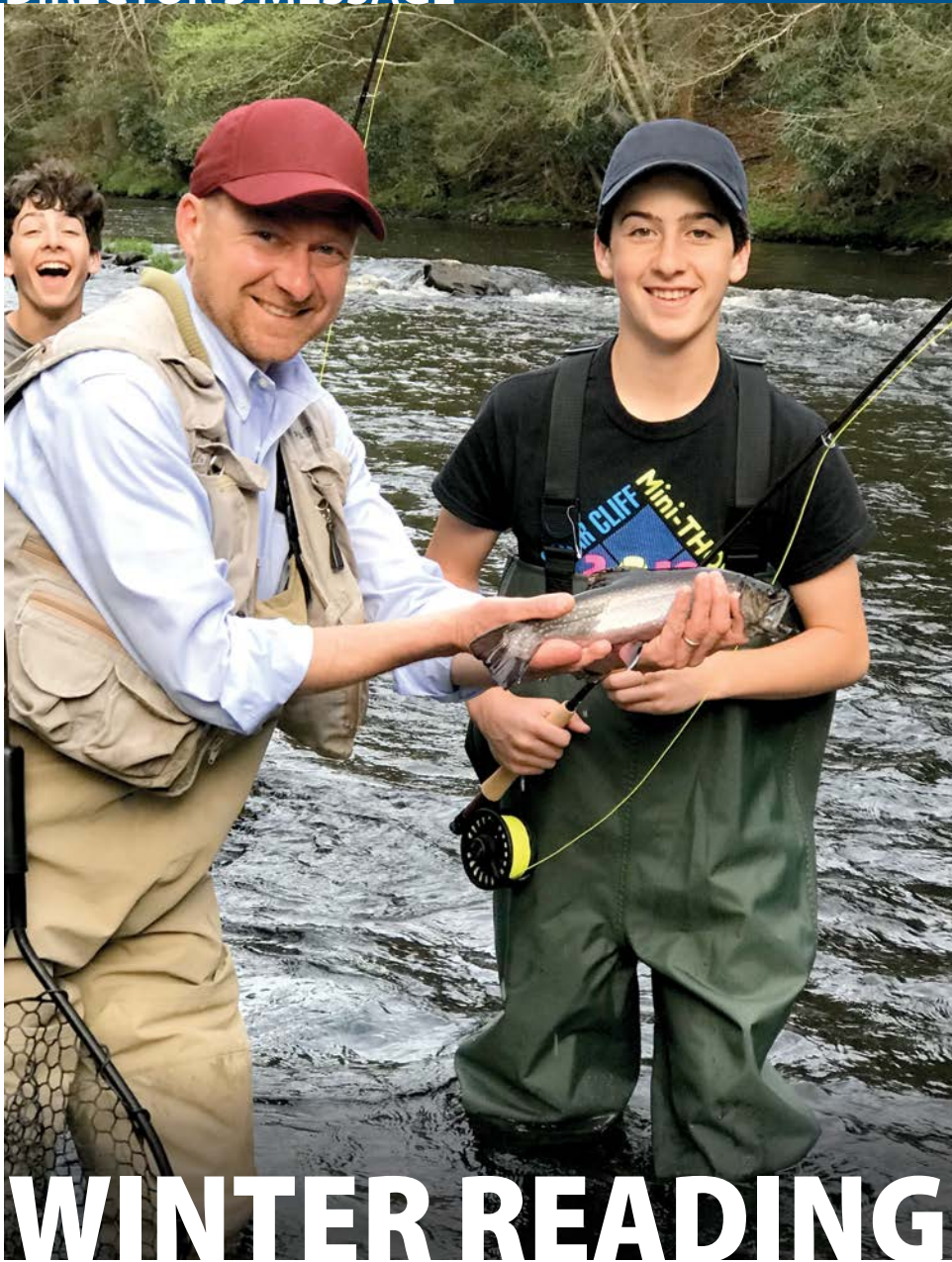


Photo courtesy of Timothy D. Schaeffer

## WINTER READING

*by Timothy D. Schaeffer*  
*Executive Director*  
*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission*

**P**ennsylvania Angler & Boater always seems to have an even more special appeal this time of year. With less daylight to pursue the passions we love outdoors, it feels like there are more hours in which to slow down a bit and read more often. Hopefully, this issue of our magazine will fit the bill for you as you settle into your favorite reading spot.

There are two articles in particular that will likely leave you smiling and thinking about one (in my case, two) of the things that makes fishing so special—kids.

“The Magic of Mentoring” (page 26) and “Fishing Through the Eyes of a Child” (page 34) are sure to tug at your heart and remind you about what got you started on your path as an angler and how you may have shared the fishing bug.

The memories are especially meaningful to me as my wife and I spend the first fall and winter alone in our house since our twin sons were born. We dropped them off at college in August with the predictable mix of smiles and tears. When asked what it is like without the boys in the house, the first thing I relay is that we run the dishwasher and do laundry a lot less often!

A little over 2 weeks into the semester, I received a text from our son Kurt. There was no message. Just a copy of the photograph shown here.

It was really telling that the image he shared when thinking about the comforts of home

as he adjusted to college life was a picture of us fishing together. It shows the joy of landing the first trout he ever caught on a fly rod and is a memory he frequently recalls. Yes, his brother Erik (who also connected on a fly rod for the first time that day) is making a goofy face in the background, but that just adds to the genuineness of the photo. We were having a ball, and the picture truly is worth a thousand words.

For an 18-year-old to channel an understandable and expected pang of homesickness through a simple picture of a special memory on the stream says it all.

So, turn on the lamp after the early sunset, and enjoy this edition of the magazine. We hope it will spark similar fond images and inspire you to take someone fishing and build memories that will last a lifetime. And, maybe help a kid feel connected to home when they are living four hours away for the first time.



# SWINGING FOR STEELHEAD

*by Carl Haensel*

*photos by the author*

**A**s the leaves of autumn drop into the rivers of northwestern Pennsylvania, fall steelhead enter from Lake Erie. Healthy and full of energy from a summer of feasting on baitfish in the big lake, steelhead are often aggressive and willing to strike. Target big fish by swinging flies. Swinging for steelhead refers to casting a streamer fly down and across the current of a river or stream. The angler allows the current to take the fly, effectively “swinging” it through the water to a point downstream. This action keeps the line tight, with the angler in direct connection with the fly at all times. Takes by steelhead attacking the fly are often aggressive and sudden. If you are not firmly holding your rod, you may have it yanked out of your grasp.

## When to swing

Swinging for steelhead is best when fish have just moved into rivers from the lake or are moving from one location to another, usually when the water is higher after recent rains. Good numbers of fish are common in both fall and spring. Steelhead will likely be in riffles and runs. When steelhead are in deep, slow holes or water conditions are low, it is more challenging to swing flies effectively.

## Gear for swinging

Many anglers swing with spey-style fly rods. Spey rods often run from 11- to 14-feet in length and cast long distances. Spey-style fly rods are longer than needed on most Lake Erie tributaries and best suited for large waters like Elk Creek or fishing where rivers enter the lake. Shorter switch rods for standard fly tackle and swinging gear perform more effectively over the range of locations and conditions found along Pennsylvania’s steelhead waters. Shorter 9.5- to 11-foot models are useful in line weights from 6 through 8. On most area waters, 9-foot rods may be used, offering beginning swingers the opportunity to catch steelhead before buying specialty gear.

Some anglers use a spey line, designed specifically to shoot line and swing flies. Others use a standard floating fly line. A key feature for swinging flies is a sink tip. Run flies just above the bottom of the river, and carry a variety of sink tips to match flow conditions.

## Swinging techniques

Use roll casting or spey casting methods. The first goal of a good presentation is fly location. Steelhead often hold close to the bank. Make sure your cast lands near the far shore for full coverage of the river. Next, be aware of the fly depth. While adding or changing your sink tip, keep your flies running just above the rocks of the riverbed. Third, fly speed is important. If your fly is moving too fast during its swing, mend your line upstream to slow its progress. Conversely, you can mend

downstream as well to increase fly speed in slower flows.

When your fly is swinging, keep your rod tip low and tight to the water. At the end of your swing, continue to hold the rod tip low for a few seconds, pointed downstream. If you pause for a few moments, fish will sometimes hit your fly at the end of your cast.

## Swinging the Erie tributaries

Choosing a good location to swing is vital to success. While there are many small steelhead streams around Lake Erie, the larger ones offer better swinging opportunities. Beginners should look for long, moderate depth runs. Larger streams like Elk Creek and Walnut Creek are good first choices. Areas without bedrock often perform more reliably since the streambed will have more boulders that allow fish to hold for longer periods in faster, broken water. Swinging at river mouths is also effective as fish prepare to enter the streams from the lake. ☐



*This steelhead fell to a swinging fly in a shale-bottomed Lake Erie tributary in northwest Pennsylvania.*

⬇️ *The mouth of Sixteenmile Creek, Erie County, is a great location for swinging streamers into Lake Erie. Swinging in the lake can also pick up Smallmouth Bass during the warmer months of the year.*

## Swinging flies

Flies for swinging are generally streamer patterns. Some imitate baitfish. Others are colorful, fanciful creations that fish well in off-color water. Swinging flies are usually tied with little weight and brought down toward the bottom by a sink tip on the end of the fly line. Since fish often nip at the tail of the swinging fly, it is common to have a single hook positioned at the rear of the pattern, often attached by a piece of line. The intruder style patterns shown below are effective at catching Lake Erie steelhead.



*A selection of intruder style flies that are effective while swinging.*



### Map Legend

- PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH RAMPS
- CITIES
- 🐟 FAIRVIEW STATE FISH HATCHERY
- ▭ MAJOR HIGHWAYS
- ▭ STATE PARKS

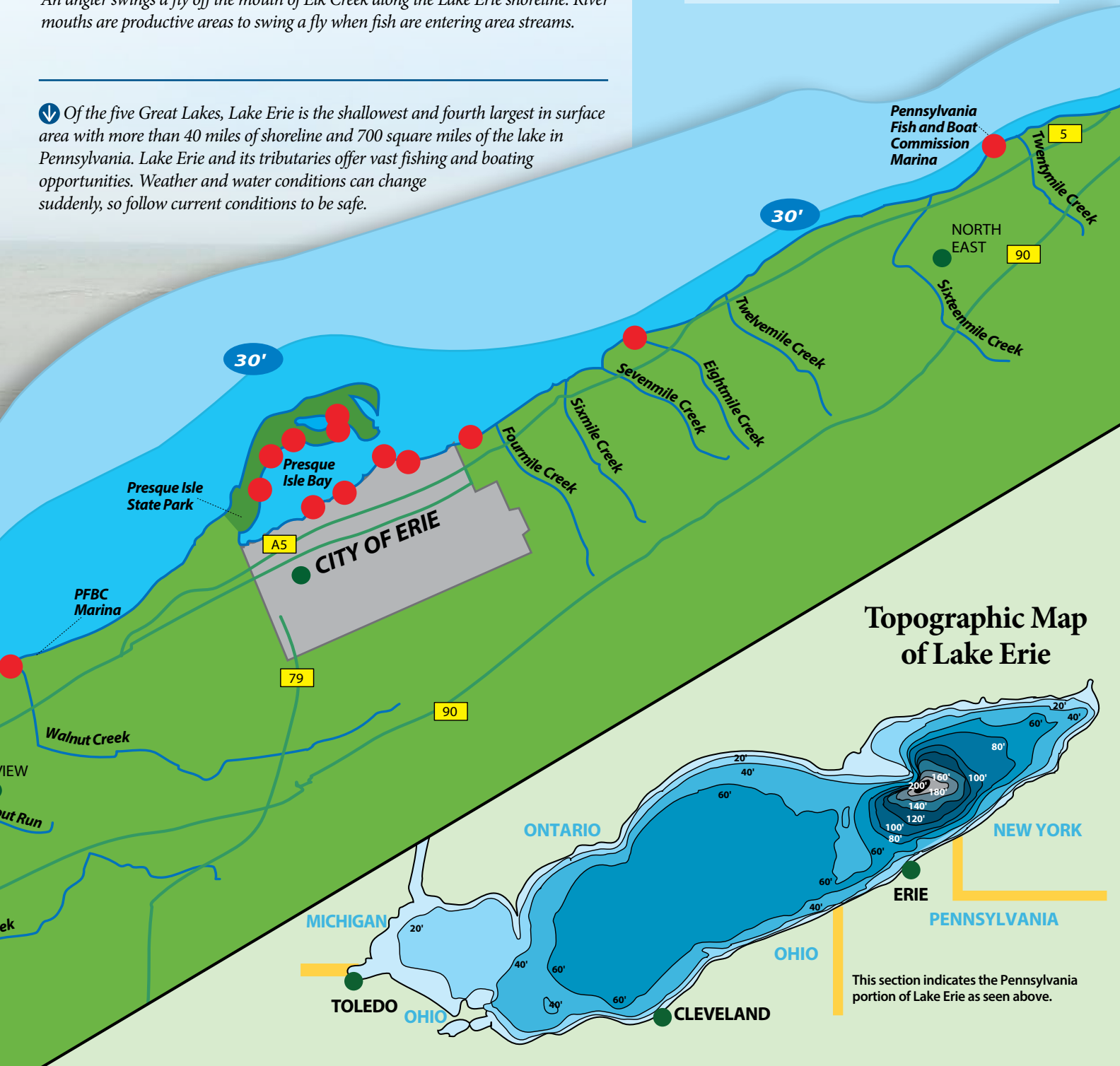


An angler swings a fly off the mouth of Elk Creek along the Lake Erie shoreline. River mouths are productive areas to swing a fly when fish are entering area streams.

## While You Are Here

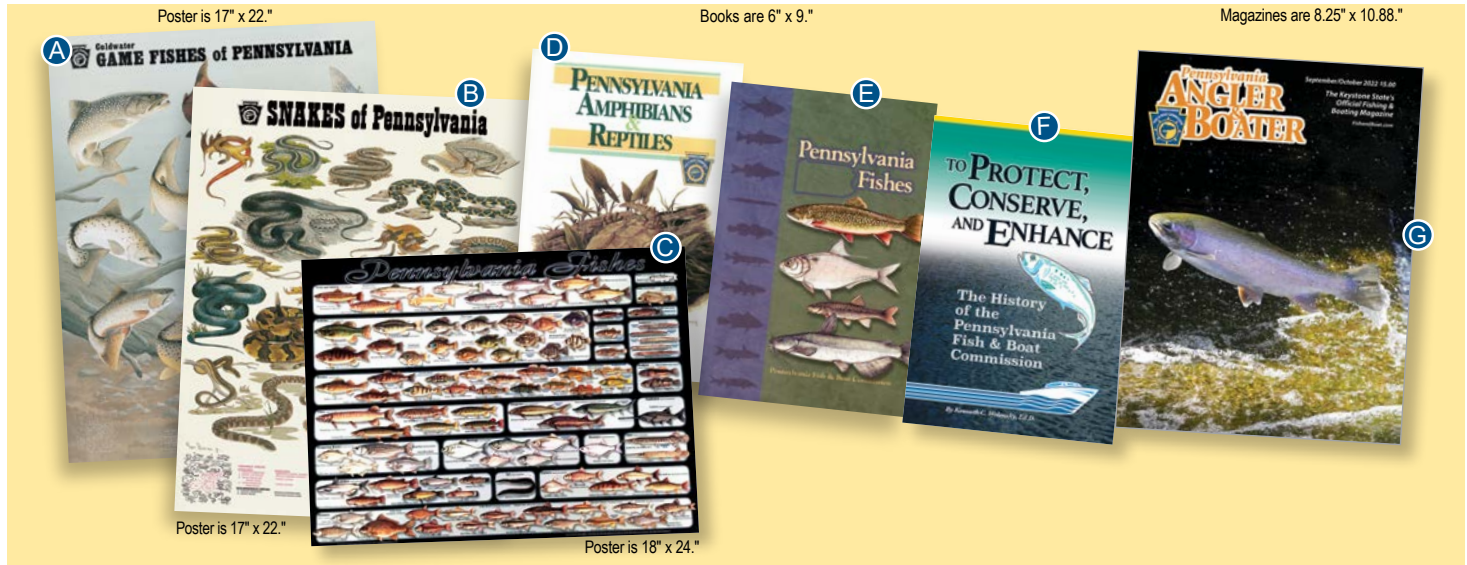
Take a short road trip to Linesville State Fish Hatchery, Crawford County. Venture to French Creek, the 2022 River of the Year, Crawford, Mercer, and Venango counties, to experience the beauty of late fall by kayak or canoe. Or, experience the Upper Shenango River Water Trail. It runs from Pymatuning State Park's Pymatuning Reservoir dam, Crawford County, downstream to Shenango River Lake, Mercer County.

⬇️ Of the five Great Lakes, Lake Erie is the shallowest and fourth largest in surface area with more than 40 miles of shoreline and 700 square miles of the lake in Pennsylvania. Lake Erie and its tributaries offer vast fishing and boating opportunities. Weather and water conditions can change suddenly, so follow current conditions to be safe.



## Topographic Map of Lake Erie

This section indicates the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie as seen above.



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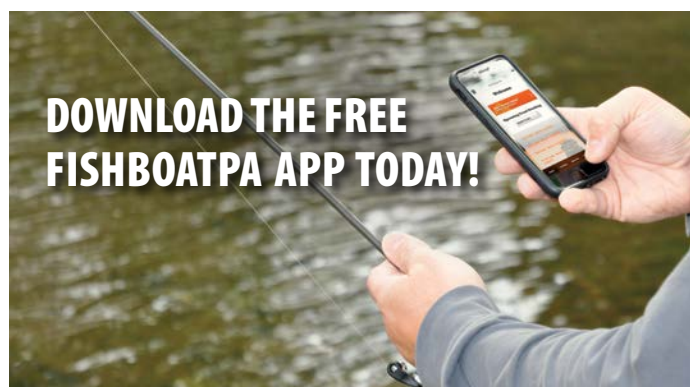
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# NOTES *from the Streams*

## Lessons learned

As I prepare for upcoming trout stocking seasons, I often reflect on past stockings.

One such memory was during my first year in the district, fresh out of the training school.

It had been a long winter with ice remaining into March.

As I approached the first stop on Big Wapwallopen Creek, Luzerne County, I saw the majority of the creek was still iced over, adding an additional challenge to the already long day of stocking ahead of me.

As I got closer, I could see the ice was thick in spots but was open several yards downstream as it approached some riffles. However, that section was too shallow to effectively stock trout.

I decided to walk onto the ice to determine the best spot to stock fish and whether stocking would require the use of an auger to drill a hole.

I remember telling myself, "I should probably put on some cleats before heading out." However, I then thought, "only going a few feet, I should be okay."

There were about 24 people present that day to help stock fish, and it was very cold.

I stepped on the ice, lost my footing, and slid down the frozen creek approximately 25 feet before ending up in open water.

After verifying the only thing injured was my pride, I rose to a crowd of onlookers obviously amused at the rookie mistake and laughing at the now soaking wet Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) standing before them. Thankfully, I had a change of clothes in my patrol vehicle.

I am periodically reminded of that day from some of my regular stocking volunteers. We have a good chuckle, and I can only shake my head. Lesson learned.

I now wear cleats every time I step onto the ice.—WCO Aaron B. Lupacchini, Southern Luzerne and Columbia counties.

## Caught on camera

One day, I was patrolling a section of Tobyhanna Lake, Monroe County. Tobyhanna Lake in Tobyhanna State Park notoriously gets ice early, typically by the middle of December. However, it is not usually safe to ice fish that early. When I pulled into the park, I noticed a vehicle in the lot and an individual standing about 30 yards offshore of the lake. I found this odd, as I did not think there could be any more than about 2- to 3-inches of ice. The individual walked over to my truck to make sure it was okay to fish here. As he walked over, I noticed he was talking to himself. When he got closer, I could see a camera mounted to his hat. It became apparent that he was making a video of his fishing trip. I never saw this individual before, and he was not from the area, so I did not think much of it. We talked for a few minutes, and we determined that the ice was safe before going back to his day of fishing.

A few months later, I received a message

from a fellow WCO with a link to a video. I opened the link and quickly remembered what I was watching. It did not take long for me to notice that the interaction I had with this gentleman made his homemade fishing trip video, which was posted online.

Working in law enforcement, it is not uncommon to be filmed, but this was a nice variation to being caught on camera.—WCO Matthew B. Deitrich, Southern Wallenpaupack.

## Who is counting?

Finally, some good ice for fishing. It had been a while in the southwest part of Pennsylvania. I loaded up the ice fishing equipment, and my daughter and I headed to the lake. We found our spot, unpacked all the equipment, set up our shelter, and drilled some holes. The bite was slow at first. Then, the fish started cooperating. We practice catch and release, so I was not counting who was catching what fish. But, guess who was counting? And, guess who had to hear about who caught the most fish all the way home? Yep, she outfished me again!—WCO Jeremiah D. Allen, Beaver County.





# How to Build the Perfect Steelhead Fly Rig

by *Bob Frye*

Fly fishing for steelhead is one of the most exciting forms of fishing in Pennsylvania. Targeting big fish in small water with light tackle is fun, but it can also pose many challenges. One must perfect the rigging of flies, weights, and strike indicators. Since steelhead are heavily pressured, they can be a bit wary of things that look too unnatural. While much of the fly rig is centered on stream clarity, weather, and time of year, there are a few techniques and strategies that anglers should consider.

For most situations in Pennsylvania, a 7½-foot leader is plenty. For deeper holes, a 9-foot leader may be more appropriate. At the end of the leader, tie on

a tippet ring that will serve several purposes. As you retie throughout the day, the leader will not lose its length. The tippet ring provides a nice spot to add weights and stops the splitshot from sliding down too close to your flies. From the ring, tie about 12- to 15-inches of tippet to your first fly. The size of both the tippet and leader will depend on the water clarity, but usually a good selection of 0X-4X will cover any stream condition you may encounter.

At this point, you will have your leader attached to the fly line, a tippet ring at the end of the leader, and a section of tippet tied from the ring. Your first fly will then be tied onto that section of tippet. For this rig, anglers should tie on a heavier fly at the end, called the point fly. The heavier fly, such as a stonefly or weighted streamer, will add

extra weight and limit how much external splitshot is needed. From the point fly, tie another 12- to 15-inches of tippet either off the bend of the fly or from the eye of the fly. On that second section of tippet, tie a lighter, smaller fly such as an egg pattern, caddis, midge, or other attractor nymph. When looking at the rig from the tippet ring down, you should have 12- to 15-inches of tippet going to the point fly, then 12- to 15-inches more of tippet going down to the smaller trailing fly. Some anglers opt to add a third fly. However, it may make things problematic for steelhead, because it is one more set of knots that may go bad and increase the number of foul hooks due to the size of the fish.

Your indicator should always be set deeper than the water you are fishing. Nymphs should be at or near the bottom. Setting a rig too shallow will cause the flies to drift through the incorrect water columns. In a shallow riffle, the indicator may only be set 3 or 4 feet above the first fly, whereas in a deeper hole the indicator may be 6 or 7 feet above the first fly. Judging the water depth may be difficult. If you are unsure of the depth, make a few casts with your indicator set from the last spot and see what happens. If you hang on the bottom every single drift, you may be set too deep, and your indicator should be made shallower. If no cast comes close to ticking bottom, make the setup deeper by sliding the indicator up the leader.

Weights are the last piece of the rigging puzzle. The tippet ring makes an excellent anchor point. If you are not bouncing on or near the bottom, and you have already adjusted the indicator depth, add another small weight. If your rig is dragging on the bottom, then take some weight off. Fast, deeper water requires more weight than shallow, slow water.

Targeting steelhead with a fly rod should be fun, not frustrating. Having the appropriate rig setup ensures your experience is fun. ☐



photo-Babe Frye

*Understanding your rig and executing it makes all the difference on steelhead streams.*



photo-Janette Howard

Go to [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com) for information on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Women's Intro to Steelhead Fishing Programs.



*Tying  
Together*

# NEW YEAR, NEW FLIES

## Time to Organize Your Tying Space

*by Christian A. Shane*

*photos by the author*

*“Maybe it’s best to say that you should get as organized as your character allows you to be, and then just tie your flies.”* John Gierach, *Good Flies*, 2000.

**F**rigid temperatures have settled in, and Jack Frost has iced over your favorite steelhead tributary. During the fishing season, your tying bench saw patterns come and go, with flies that were made for a tremendous day on the water. Create a New Year’s resolution to unclutter your tying space and prepare for next year’s fly assortment. Use these tips to start organizing your tying station.

### Inventory

When your tying station begins to look like the section of a retail store, it’s time to take stock. First, lay out all your fly tying materials

and tools. Decide if there are materials and tools you have not used in a while or never used. You may be surprised by how many turkey feathers or pheasant tails accrued over the years.

### Categorize

Sort your tying supplies into distinct categories: keep, giveaway, swap, sell, or trash. Creating these categories places supplies into a hierarchy of importance and keeps similar materials together. Have your young tier assist with this process.

### Spaces and places

Some tiers find it easier to spread out; others must use limited space for their tying purposes. Decide how much room you have for storage and tying space. Then, designate how you will utilize it best. How will you incorporate



*Use transparent plastic storage bins to store your tying materials.*

your young tier's space at the vise? Will the tier have a spot as well? At minimum, always leave enough room on the bench or table to house your vise, tools, and fly necessities.

## Storage bins

Bins and containers allow for fine-tuning your organizational space. Transparent plastic bins come in all shapes and sizes to fit your tying area. Large shelves that hold bins provide storage for larger supplies such as feathers and longer items. Fit the storage to your needs and available space.

## Plastic zipper bags

Plastic zipper bags serve multiple purposes. One-gallon plastic zipper bags work well for storing a particular fly pattern or material within the bigger storage compartment and can be labeled on the outside. You can also easily transport them from the bin to the vise and back.

## Label

With proper identification, finding your materials is easy. Designate a specific name for

what's inside each bag with a label maker or permanent marker. Label each bag based on the material inside or individual fly pattern.

## Tool storage

Designate a space where you can store tools such as a mason jar, fishing mug, or tool caddy.

## Organize

When following fly instructions, have all your materials and tools in a convenient place. Utilize your time and workspace effectively. I like to place my materials in a clockwise motion according to the pattern, so the materials match the order. Then, follow the steps from beginning thread wraps to the whip finish.

## A little bit, every time

With a little organization, continuity, and consistency each time, your tying space can become as customized as you wish. Go at your own speed and chip away to create a tying space that you and your young tier can enjoy together. ☐



*Start the organizing process to go from a tangled mess (left) to an organized tying station (right). With a little organization, continuity, and consistency, your tying space can become as customized as you wish.*



# Junk Fly Junkie

by **Ralph Scherder**

*photos by the author*

**M**op Flies and Squirmy Wormies are often referred to as junk flies. They are not fancy, and they are simple to tie, but everyone agrees that junk flies work.

Unlike many other types of nymphs and dry flies, junk flies are not meant to match any type of hatch. In fact, that is perhaps when they work best—when no mayflies are hatching, and trout are not looking for any particular insect. In recent years, Mop Flies and Squirmy Wormies have become staples in the fly box, but it was not always the case.

For instance, in 2014, the United States Youth Fly Fishing Team won the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships with Squirmy Wormies as the cornerstone of their arsenal. In fact, teams from several other countries credited Squirmy Wormies as the reason for the win and sought to have the fly banned from future events. Team USA proved them wrong by winning again the following year even though by then their competition was using Squirmy Wormies, too.

Fly anglers have always enjoyed debating the virtues of what constitutes a “real” fly. Last spring, I was fishing Little Sandy Creek, Venango County, and four teenagers circled a large pool downstream from me. One of the young men was catching considerably more fish than the others. Finally, someone asked what he was using. “A chartreuse Mop Fly,” he replied. To which one of the other boys grumbled, “That’s not fly fishing. You may as well just use bait!”

Many junk flies imitate worms, both terrestrial and aquatic. During thunderstorms, worms get washed into the streams and create a feeding frenzy. Worms also live in the sand and gravel of some stream beds. Crane fly larvae closely resembles waxworms and butterworms popular with many bait anglers.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of junk flies is that they are as easy to tie as they are to fish. That can be an obstacle for traditionalists who believe that fly tying is supposed to be complicated. One of the appeals of fly fishing, after all, is that it is inherently more challenging than fishing with bait. Then, along comes the junk fly junkie with their box of Mop Flies and Squirmy Wormies to prove that fly fishing is not nearly as difficult as it is made out to be.



*Mop Flies and Squirmy Wormies are year-round producers for trout and steelhead. They are easy to use, easy to tie, and catch fish.*

Mop Fly literally consists of pieces from a microfiber mop. Many fly shops sell pre-cut lengths of Mop Fly material, generally overpriced, or you can purchase several yards of mop chenille and cut it to length yourself. A lifetime's worth of Mop Fly material can be bought from any local hardware store or online retailer for a fraction of the cost.

To tie the Mop Fly, slide a small bead snug against the eye of the hook and secure a strand of microfiber from a mop or bathroom rug behind it. Almost any color will catch fish, but pink, white, and chartreuse are common favorites. Ice fibers or hareline dubbing can be added to cover the connection between the material and bead and add sparkle. The tail of the Mop Fly has plenty of lifelike action akin to a big, juicy grub floating in the current. I make the tails of my Mop Flies approximately twice the length of the hook shaft.

Squirmy Wormies are just as easy to tie. In appearance and design, Squirmy Wormies are direct descendents of the San Juan Worm. The distinguishing feature between the two flies is the material used to create the body, in this case silicone rather than chenille. Cut a 4-inch length of material and place it on the hook shank, leaving about



*A collection of Squirmy Wormies in various colors.*

1½ inches as a tail. Secure it with a few loose wraps of thread. Advance the thread just behind the bead on the hook. Then, wrap the silicone material toward the front. The most difficult part of tying this fly is the fragile material. The thread can slice through it, so you have to be gentle when tying off the thread and not cinch it too tight. Also, lacquer head cement will eat through the material, so use water based head cement. My favorite colors for this fly are red, fluorescent green, and earthworm brown.

Next time you are on the water and trout are not cooperating, give Mop Flies and Squirmy Wormies a try. They may lack the aesthetic beauty of classic patterns, but there is no doubt junk flies catch fish. ☐

# Dangers to Wild Brook Trout



by Don Feigert

There is nothing I enjoy more than journeying upstream along a tiny creek on public land and experiencing the trees, boulders, flowing waters, and tug of wild Brook Trout on the line. But, threat to the environment presents a challenge to future Brook Trout survival.

## Loss of hemlock canopy

Hemlocks shade and cool every trout stream I fish and prevent soil erosion. But, in recent years, they have come under attack from an accidentally imported pest from Japan, the hemlock woolly adelgid, which kills or injures hemlock trees by the thousands. The United States Forest Service has been applying insecticides and natural enemies to the adelgids, with limited success. Northern Pennsylvania has one advantage in this battle—the adelgid has trouble surviving prolonged or bitter cold.

## Air and water pollution

According to the United States Forest Service, “Air pollution has been a serious problem for the forests of northland United States, which are downwind from our

industrial heartland.” Acid precipitation can damage trees or make them vulnerable to disease. The United States Forest Service is implementing various applications of fungi and bacterial remedies, but the problem persists.

## Fracking

Risks from hydraulic fracking can be minimized with strict regulations and safety procedures on drilling companies. But, accidents and polluted waters have occurred. There is also an impact on water conservation since each well may use millions of gallons of water over its lifetime.

## Competition with Brown Trout

There is concern in the trout fishing community about the risks of mixing Brown Trout with wild Brook Trout since Brown Trout are larger and more aggressive, allowing them to outcompete wild Brook Trout for food and habitat. A Brown Trout's life span is also longer than a Brook Trout. In Warren County, near my hunting and fishing camp, Conklin Run has been our best trout stream for years. In the past few seasons, we have caught fewer Brook Trout and more Brown Trout upstream. This creek flows into the Allegheny River, which harbors Brown Trout near cold water outflows,





photo-Terry Malloy

allowing them easy access upstream to spawn. However, Antler Run, Warren County, a historically average Brook Trout stream, is maintaining its Brook Trout population. At the point where it enters the Allegheny River, there is a large culvert and a waterfall, preventing fish from advancing upstream. Despite Brown Trout being found in the lower reaches of Connelly Run, Warren County, we never catch Brown Trout in the areas we fish, and the Brook Trout are still here.

## Overfishing

Overfishing is not a problem in most areas since many anglers do not want to walk a mile upstream for a 7-inch trout, and there are other streams that offer larger, stocked Brown Trout. But, more anglers have been showing interest in pursuing wild trout. Wild Brook Trout streams can handle more fishing pressure if anglers practice catch and release and leave the resource as pristine as they found it.

## Solutions

Practice good conservation methods wherever you wander in forests and streams. Join Trout Unlimited, Wildlife Forever, or other conservation organizations. And, frequently participate in outdoor conservation projects. ☐

photo-Derek Isles



A scenic waterfall, where Brook Trout may thrive.

photo-Brad Isles



An angler fishing a currently healthy trout stream. However, our environment presents threats to future Brook Trout survival.



# Time to Tie Jigs

*by Darl Black*

*photos by the author*

**W**ith our unusually brief ice fishing season in recent years, perhaps you are looking for something to do during the winter months. Try tying jigs.

It is extremely satisfying to catch fish on a lure made from a combination of feather, hair, fur, wool, and a few strands of Flashabou—all held together with thread.

Hungry fish will take whatever they believe to be the appropriate food. Creating a jig that, when wet, looks similar to a baitfish, nymph, crayfish, leech, or other aquatic critter and then executing a retrieve that imitates a specific prey is a dinner invitation for a predator.

Follow a pattern tied by someone else or develop your own design. Don't worry if it isn't as neatly tied as store-bought jigs.

Commercial tiers want to catch anglers; home tiers want to catch fish. An illusion of prey is all that is needed—not a perfect replication.

I tied my first jig over 50 years ago, went on hiatus from tying in the 1990s, using instead a variety of jigs from other makers I met while wandering the United States. COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 provided lots of at-home time, so I decided to tie again. With a stockpile of Walleye and bass hair jigs, I decided to focus on  $\frac{1}{32}$  and  $\frac{1}{16}$ -ounce jigs to use with a bobber for White Bass and panfish.

This basic marabou and chenille pattern came from Crawford County's legendary angler Ed Gray, known for fishing his hand tied jigs from French Creek to Pymatuning Reservoir in the 1950s and 1960s. When I met him in the mid-1980s, Gray was regularly fishing this pattern, the Ed Gray Special, to catch everything from Walleyes to crappies. Mastering the steps in this basic jig is the doorway to creating more elaborate patterns with different materials. ☐



Small, lightweight jigs suspended below a bobber imitating swimming prey such as minnows are deadly on all species of panfish as well as other fish.

## Tying the Ed Gray Special



## Tying the Ed Gray Special Materials

**Hook:** Painted leadhead (Gray favored a white head. Experiment with chrome, purple, and pink leadheads.)

**Thread:** Red thread in a bobbin (for the collar).

**Tail/Body:** White marabou and silver sparkle chenille

- 1** Secure the leadhead in the vise at the hook bend. Secure the thread to the hook shank by wrapping the thread up, then back down the shank, ending with the thread positioned at the start of the hook bend.
- 2** With the thumb and forefinger, strip a small amount of white marabou about 1½ inch long from the quill. Holding the marabou on the shank of the hook with the thumb and forefinger of one hand, use your other hand to secure the marabou to the hook with thread wraps, leaving a ¾- to 1-inch tail.
- 3** Take 3- to 4-inches of sparkle chenille and secure it to the hook shank with thread, where the marabou was secured. Advance the thread up the hook shank to the collar immediately behind the head.
- 4** With the tag end of the chenille in the hackle pliers, wrap the chenille up the shank, back down the shank, and up again to the collar to create a thick body.
- 5** Secure the chenille with several wraps of thread, then carefully trim the excess chenille. Do not cut the thread. Begin overlaying thread to create a thick ¼- to ⅝-inch long red collar.
- 6** Finish up with three half hitches over the collar thread. Use a bodkin to apply several drops of head cement. Let dry thoroughly before cutting the thread.



# The Great Late Fall Allegheny River *Smallmouth Bass Bite*



*by Jeff Knapp*

*photos by the author*

**F**all may be the best fishing season. That's when Allegheny River Smallmouth Bass gather in identifiable locations, often in large numbers. Of course, quality and quantity fish depend on weather and river conditions.

As water temperatures decline into the 50 degree F range, the majority of the river's Smallmouth Bass have abandoned the shallower, faster current areas for deeper, more sheltered areas. A lot of fish squeezed into a comparatively small space often bodes well for anglers, particularly when the fish feel the instinctive need to aggressively feed as a prelude to

the approaching winter. It is also notable that the same environmental factors apply to other species. Muskellunge, Northern Pike, and Walleyes commonly add to a mixed bag.

Late fall Smallmouth Bass habitat ranges from extra large pools stretching a mile or more to much more intimate spots. The former is most common within dredged holes that exist in Forest, Venango, and Warren counties. Large pools, commonly called eddies, feature relatively deep water and mild current on the Allegheny River. Such eddies are usually located below a current-deflecting structure like rock/gravel bars near creek mouths.

Boulder strewn banks, especially ones located on the outside of river bends, are another type of habitat to explore. Outside river bends usually feature deeper water. Boulders embedded along the riverbank create



slack water pockets, which serve as feeding areas for Smallmouth Bass. Here, bass can intercept food without expending excess energy.

Though late fall Allegheny River Smallmouth Bass will be relating to deep water, it doesn't necessarily mean they will be holding in deep water. When actively feeding, bass are often found along shallow edges such as tailout sections of large pools, on shallow flats and points adjacent to deeper water, and against the bank in a few feet of water. Shallow fish are usually feeding, so target these areas first with appropriate presentations.

Frequently, fish are less active and require plying deeper zones. And, not all fish are doing the same thing at the same time. The difference between fishing shallow and fishing deep is a matter of fish being up against the bank at the end of your cast or under the boat at the end of your retrieve.

As noted, weather and water conditions influence the late fall river bite. It's usually late October or early November before water temperatures drop to into the low 50s. Once the water temperature dips below 40 degrees F, Smallmouth Bass become lethargic, and though catchable, catch rates tend to plummet.

Within reason, higher fall flows tend to further concentrate fish and improve action. Flow rates on the Allegheny River are up a bit due to increased discharges from the Allegheny Reservoir/Kinzua Dam. In my experience, flows more than 8 feet at the United States Geological Survey, Franklin, PA, gauge and 7 feet at the Parker gauge place the river in the blown-out category. Floating dead eelgrass and leaves can detract on the Allegheny River and varies by season and day.

In terms of lure and bait selection, use bottom-oriented jig-style baits, suspending hard bodied jerkbaits, and metal blade baits.

Jig-style baits include tube jigs, Ned Rigs, twister tail grubs, and hair jigs. Full size 3- to 4-inch tube jigs will catch fish, though finesse-sized tubes such as Z-Man TRD TubeZ may provoke more bites on a day-to-day basis. Ned Rigs consisting of 3-inch finesse worms fished on light jigheads are excellent options and account for more Allegheny River Smallmouth Bass than other options. Grub style offerings such as the locally produced Galida's Grubz are classics and continue to excel, particularly in the Golden Shiner and Top Secret Midge patterns. And, though not as popular as the others, hair jigs consisting of bucktail or rabbit fur are effective.

Jig weight is sometimes overlooked but important. Regardless of jig style,  $\frac{3}{16}$ -ounce jigs are best. If it is windy or if you are plying deeper water, upping to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce jigs may be necessary.

Suspending jerkbaits like Rapala Rip Stop, Megabass Vision, and Lucky Craft Pointer are excellent choices for working shallow flats. Bass holding on such structures tend to be active, willing to move for bait. Blade baits are necessary for working deeper water such as 10- to 20-foot holes, edges of drop-offs, and current seams.

Regardless of lure type, slowly work jig-style baits along shoreline areas with gentle hops. Slowly work a jerkbait with lengthy pauses of a few seconds and the depths with a blade bait with subtle 6-inch pumps.

As good as the late fall fishing is on the Allegheny River, the resource deserves respect. Smallmouth Bass are vulnerable, so handle them with care. Release bass, so they will be there next spring, ready to provide more sport. ☐

## While You Are Here

Visit Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania's only national forest, with more than 500,000 acres. It spans the western end of the Pennsylvania Wilds and offers many places to explore:

- Longhouse National Scenic Byway
- Allegheny Reservoir/Kinzua Dam
- Allegheny River (a National Wild and Scenic River)
- Allegheny National Forest ATV Trails
- Zippo Case Museum
- The Trails at Jakes Rocks
- Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center and Sky Walk

## For more information



[pawilds.com/landscape/allegheny-national-forest-surrounds/#!directory/map/ord=rnd](https://pawilds.com/landscape/allegheny-national-forest-surrounds/#!directory/map/ord=rnd)



# MORAINES STATE PARK

by *Charles Cantella* photos by the author

**N**estled among western Pennsylvania's rolling wooded hills, Lake Arthur glimmers in the sun, the jewel of Moraine State Park, Butler County. At 3,225 acres, Lake Arthur sports 42 miles of shoreline and is surrounded by a 16,725-acre park with overnight cabins. Over a million visitors annually explore the park to fish, boat, picnic, hike, or bike. The 7-mile paved Multi-use Trail from the bike rental to Davis Hollow Marina is popular with bicyclists and hikers. Rent a pontoon boat, kayak, or canoe. Play on the 18-hole disc golf course, bird watch, or swim at the beach or with an organized open water swim organized by Get Fit Families. The park also

hosts an annual Moraine State Park Regatta, a Striped Bass fishing tournament, an ice fishing tournament, Largemouth Bass fishing tournaments, and kids fishing tournaments. There is something for everyone to do here.

The lake is fertile, with relatively shallow depth allowing good vegetation growth, which provides prodigious amounts of nutrition and habitat for a solid population of fish to thrive. The fish in Lake Arthur can grow large.

Species in the lake include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Striped Bass, hybrid Striped Bass, Walleye, and panfish. There is always potential for a big fish. But, that doesn't mean that the fish will be easy. A multitude of coves, inlets, submerged structure, and weed beds provide cover to allow the fish to hide and thrive. Local angler Steve Weaver chases Striped Bass among other species. Weaver believes fish movement and activity are usually triggered by water temperature. Temperatures in the 55- to 65-degrees F range produce the best results. The fish also seem to be more active at night. If you are on the water at night, have your boat equipped with the correct running lights.

James Swearingen, who targets toothier fish like Muskellunge and Northern Pike, suggests using big lures for big fish. Swearingen believes that many anglers new to chasing the "fish of 10,000 casts" do not fully comprehend the size and strength of fish in the *Esox* family. "Have patience and be persistent. Keep plugging along and keep casting. The success will come with being persistent," said Swearingen. Swearingen suggests targeting weeds and weed beds where fish may hide and wait to ambush passing prey or, hopefully, your lure.

**For more information on  
Get Fit Families:**

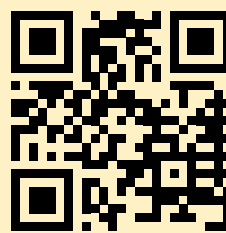


[visitbutlercounty.com/services/get-fit-families](http://visitbutlercounty.com/services/get-fit-families)



*James Swearingen, who targets toothier fish like Muskellunge and Northern Pike, suggests using big lures for big fish.*

### For an ice thickness chart:



FishandBoat.com

### For more information

Moraine State Park (Lake Arthur)  
225 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Portersville, PA 16051-2031  
724-368-8811

Overnight Reservations:  
888-727-2757 (888-PA PARKS)

Bicycle Rental:  
[www.morainepreservationfund.org](http://www.morainepreservationfund.org)

Moraine State Park Regatta  
[www.morainestateparkregatta.org](http://www.morainestateparkregatta.org)

North Country Trail Association  
[www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org)

Angler Ryan Ireland likes to ice fish at Lake Arthur, because the slower pace of ice fishing allows him the opportunity to hit the ice with good friends. Ireland says ice fishing presents anglers with even greater challenges than open water fishing. For starters, you only fish the water column under the hole in the ice, so the location is much more critical. Ice safety is always a priority. Also, the presence of, or lack of, snow on the ice will affect light penetration. When I talked with Ireland, he just finished a “successful but fishless” day. The puzzled look I gave him must have cued him to explain, “Catching fish is great, spending time with your friends is even better.” ☐



*When ice fishing, you only fish the water column under the hole in the ice, so location of the drilled hole is critical.*



*Cabin at Moraine State Park, Butler County*



# STRAIGHT DOWN TECHNIQUES IN COLD WATER



*by Marilyn Black*

**L**ike other outdoor activities, your fishing methods need to adjust to seasonal changes if you want to continue catching Smallmouth Bass, Walleyes, White Bass, catfish, and crappies, even when fishing lakes in the cooler open water season.

As water temperatures drop from the high 40s into the high 30s, gamefish on many lakes follow bait into deeper water that has been enriched with dissolved oxygen after the fall turnover. The definition of 'deep' varies with the waterway. On Pymatuning Reservoir in November, crappies are generally found between 15- and 22-feet down, while on Conneaut Lake during the same time, crappies are typically between 20- and 40-feet below the surface.

To maximize lure time in the fish zone, vertical jigging techniques with heavy metal become the shortest distance between two points—a straight line allowing maximum exposure.

Once the depth finder locates fish near the bottom, release the line from your reel, letting the weight of the lure fall to the targeted depth. Then, use a rod pumping action to move the lure upward and flutter down repeatedly, adjusting the pace and amount of vertical lift to suit the lure.

Jigging spoons are the classic lure for straight-down fishing. A jigging spoon is a fairly flat, oblong metal slab in either chrome or a reflective finish, ranging in weight from ¼- to ¾-ounce and about as long as a baitfish. Lighter weight spoons (¼- or ⅜-ounce) work well down to about 20 feet. Half-ounce or ¾-ounce spoons work better in deeper water. Since a ¾-ounce spoon is only about 2 inches, it is readily hit by all species.

Blade baits are fin-shaped with line attachment in the center back and weight on the bottom edge of the fin. A cross lock snap is tied to the line; the snap is then clipped into the attachment hole on the blade. In cold water, do not rip a blade upwards hard. Raise it from the bottom until you can feel the blade vibrating through the rod. Then, lower it back to the bottom under semi-tight





photos-Darl Black



The left-hand column shows blade baits; the center column includes two rattle baits and two vertical jigging swimbaits; the right-hand column shows vertical jigging spoons.

line. If you allow it to free fall, you may have tangled hooks. Examples are Heddon's Sonar, Reef Runner Cicada, and my favorite, the Silver Buddy. Blades are available in silver, gold, reflective tape, and painted finishes.

Weighted rattle baits from Rat-L-Trap, Rapala, and Yo-Zuri each have two treble hooks and produce a tight wobble built into the design. You can sense the wobble through the rod and reel. On lakes in November and December, most anglers utilize a lift-and-lower presentation within a band of 18- to 24-inches in height, close to the bottom but not digging into the lake floor.

Vertical jigging swimbaits are the oddballs among the straight-down category of lures with their protruding single hook extending from the nose and another single hook on the tail. There is a treble hook suspended from the belly. Use caution when handling these lures, which are designed to swim in an elliptical path as they are slowly pulled upward and slowly lowered back down. Vertical jigging swimbaits are not intended as bottom bumping baits.

When seeking Smallmouth Bass, Walleyes, White Bass, Yellow Perch, crappies, and other species in the cold water of late fall, give some of these specialty lures a try. ☐

*Have Fun. Be Safe.*



**REMEMBER TO WEAR  
YOUR LIFE JACKET DURING  
COLD WATER BOATING.**

**Boaters are required to wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak, or paddleboard from November 1 through April 30.**

**Life jackets  
save lives  
year-round!**





# THE MAGIC OF MENTORING

*by Tyler Frantz*

*photos by the author*

Some of life's greatest gifts come in the form of experiences that make the heart happy, and often the gift giver is rewarded more than the receiver.

The gift giving moments can come on an early spring morning spent streamside with kids for Mentored Youth Trout Day (a special day reserved just for them to have fun and catch fish), on a family pond, or at a planned fishing event.

With Mom carefully helping her 2-year-old daughter cast and reel and Dad doing his best to keep his 6-year-old son's rig baited as he catches one fish after another, it's an "all-hands-on-deck" operation.

Scrambling up and down the bank to net and release fish is an exhilarating experience, especially with two excited kids giggling with delight at the pulsating tug of trout on their fishing lines. Both children caught fish including a gorgeous Brook Trout. Lining the nearby streambanks, and across the entire state, other families make similar special memories at stocked trout waters and fish camps near their homes.

The day plants a seed for future fishing adventures. A few weeks later, the young duo is back at it again, taking advantage of a quiet April evening, where two siblings rival for the largest fish, a friendly competition that still resonates well into summer when plying the family farm pond for Bluegills and bass.

Dad fishes too, but barely, as he is more content to watch his kids have fun reeling in the "big ones." He smiles in the simple recognition that his children now love the same pastime he enjoys so much, and he



*Mentored Youth Trout Day provides an amazing opportunity to share the joys of fishing with youth anglers.*



*Veterans fishing events provide carefree, enjoyable experiences that reward our nation's heroes for their service and provide opportunities for them to relax and enjoy the simplicity of time on the water.*

## 2023 Upcoming Fishing Dates\*

**Mentored Youth Trout Day:**  
March 25, 2023 (statewide)

**Statewide Opening Day of Trout:**  
April 1, 2023

**Fish-for-Free Days:**  
May 28, 2023 and July 4, 2023

*\*Dates subject to change by regulation until publication of the 2023 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary.*



*Mentored Youth Trout Day is designed to give youth anglers a jumpstart on the Statewide Opening Day of Trout—a special day reserved just for them to have fun and catch fish.*

is thankful it is an activity that his whole family can enjoy together.

On the same farm, equally satisfying gifts are given in a different pond. Groups of military veterans—some retired, some still in reserves or active duty—are treated to a steak dinner and a carefree day of fishing and fellowship. All tackle, food, and fish are provided as a simple thank you for their service.

They arrive with varying stressors, burdens, or hardships acquired from the difficult job of defending our freedoms. But, in a few short hours, their tensions melt away.

The camaraderie of a day on the water is healing, and it is rewarding to see this magical transformation take place.

The same goes for a veterans fly fishing event in an entirely different county, where a Desert Storm serviceman makes his first fishing attempt with a fly

rod. After negotiating the sharp learning curve of choosing, casting, and presenting a fly, he smiles from ear to ear when a nice Rainbow Trout finally snatches one of his offerings on the swing drift. Moments later, he asks where he can purchase an introductory fly rod setup to continue fishing on his own.

The impact of fishing for a few hours is amazing for both the mentee and mentor. Whether it be a formal event, such as a Youth Field Day, Women's Day, or veterans event, or an informal invitation to fish with friends or family during a Fish-for-Free Day, there are countless opportunities to make a difference.

As the holiday seasons approach, anglers can be ready knowing the greatest gift they can give is sharing their love of fishing with someone else. Consider taking someone fishing, and let the magic of mentoring do the rest. You won't regret it. ☐



# *Float-and-Fly* FOR COLD WATER LARGEMOUTH BASS

by *Braden Eisenhower*

*photos by the author*

**C**old water Largemouth Bass can be fickle. During the cold water months, even the slowest horizontal presentation may be too fast for inactive or neutral bass. Perhaps, this has little to do with the technique and everything to do with the user. A properly tuned jerkbait should suspend and allow enough time for a lethargic Largemouth Bass to warm up to the idea of consumption. Whether I have the patience to see the timely endeavor through is another story.



*To set up a float-and-fly rig with a slip float, affix a bobber stop on the line at the desired depth, followed by a small bead. Run the line through the float, then end with a hair jig.*

deeper water, casting a fixed float is impossible due to the long leader. Here, it is better to use a slip float. This float style moves freely on the line until it reaches a bobber stop, which determines the depth. Bobber stops affix to the line and are small enough to pass through the rod guides to permit unrestricted casting.

During the cold water season, expect to find Largemouth Bass near the bottom. Begin by setting the float (or bobber stop), so the fly is about 12 inches off the bottom. From there, adjust it in 6-inch increments.

Choose jighead weights based on desired rate of fall. The water is typically clear during the cold water months, so quick descents may startle wary Largemouth Bass. Use  $\frac{1}{16}$ - and  $\frac{1}{8}$ -ounce jigheads to target bass hanging along sloping breaklines or mid-depth transition zones. Switch to panfish offerings ( $\frac{1}{64}$ - and  $\frac{1}{32}$ -ounce) in the shallows.

The type and quantity of feathers or fibers also influences the rate of fall. Marabou hackle, kiptail, bucktail, and craft fur are popular tying materials. A few natural tones like black, white, and olive cover all bases.

Many bass anglers fish the fly on its own, allowing the hair to undulate and attract.

My catch rates improved when I ditched traditional tactics in favor of a float-and-fly rig. This rigging method suspends a “fly” at a fixed depth beneath a float. The fly is not something one sees on a fly vise. It is an ordinary hair jig comprised of natural or synthetic materials, crudely resembling a baitfish.

Floats suspend a jig indefinitely, and their visual component keeps me in check. While I often overwork a jerkbait, I find it easy to leave a float rest for extended periods. When I do move the rig, I impart subtle twitches that are less intrusive.

A properly balanced float sits at its waterline without adding shot to the line. It is ultra-responsive to movement, yet unassuming to a biting fish.

Fixed floats are the most sensitive—and the best choice—for lightweight jigs in single-digit depths. When targeting

In cold water, I place a great importance on scent. I often tip the jig with live bait, biodegradable plastics, or scented softbaits. I have even doubled down by lathering the jighead with attractant. Softbaits also slow drop speeds by adding buoyancy and increasing water resistance.

Most medium-light power spinning rods are adequate. Technique specific rods exceed 8-feet, necessary for casting long leaders beneath fixed floats, and carry moderate actions, which flex closer to the midpoint to help prevent breakoffs with light lines.

I use monofilament line, because it tolerates cold weather and has a bit of stretch. Jigs perform best on small-diameter lines, so I use 4- or 6-pound-test line, depending on jig size.

When cold water Largemouth Bass won't commit, slow your approach, and let the fish come to you. ☐



## 412 BAIT COMPANY *and* SCARED FISHLESS TACKLE COMPANY

by Alex Zidock Jr. photos by the author

In 1797 D. Everett wrote, “Large streams from little fountains flow, Tall oaks from little acorns grow.”

In 2009, a teenager in middle school, Joe Blazauski began making a little trout spinner that he first gave away to anglers along his favorite trout streams. His trout lure also captured a following of anglers who spawned a business that, in 2022, lists more than 50 products.

“At first, I just gave the lure away until someone said, ‘These are so good you could probably sell them.’ So, I sold the lure I call ‘The Dude’ on e-Bay and at local craft shows. Scared Fishless Tackle Company blossomed from there,” said Blazauski.

Blazauski’s success with The Dude and following lures prompted him to buy the 412 Bait Company in 2019 and move it from Pittsburgh to his shop in Portage, Cambria County. His retired father, Joe Blazauski Sr., is integral to the day-to-day operation, as well as building and equipment maintenance.

The 412 Bait Company is all plastics except for one spinnerbait. “Those are higher-end baits with more advanced formulas and our tournament series baits. Those baits will tear up easier than

the Scared Fishless stuff does,” said Blazauski. Anglers using the Scared Fishless baits are interested in going out and catching some fish, and they like the baits to last a little longer, so they make them more durable.

“All of our plastic lures are scented with either craw, garlic, or a special mixture for our 412 baits of anise, garlic, and other stuff. They smell like a bad Italian meal, but they work,” said Blazauski.

Blazauski has a lot of ideas for new lures. “We were swamped all summer with spinnerbaits and a new bait we developed called Dusa and a Baby Dusa. It is a spider-style bait. A two-part bait with a soft skirt and a twin-tailed grub fished on a jig head,” said Blazauski.



*The Dude trout spinner and the stone fly nymph.*



Joe Blazauski Sr. (left) with Joe Blazauski Jr. (right) and their new big musky baits, the Big Mutha Grubba.

"Anybody can buy plastic and molds to make fishing baits. But, it takes a long time to make your baits look and work well to attract anglers. And, every mold is different. You cannot shoot every mold with the same speed or hold the same pressure. Then, there are the formulas to develop over time to achieve the desired result," said Blazauski.

"Our 412 Bait Company 5-inch Free Minnow is unique to our line. The SF or standard formula is somewhat buoyant, while the TS or tournament series is super soft and sinking. Free Minnow is an original 412 design, and while it is like a Senko style, it is not. Our Free Minnow has a much thinner tail and has an O-ring indentation. Where you position the hook on the O-ring determines how fast or slow the worm sinks. When we make this minnow in our SF, it is a little tougher and denser, and it floats. Our TS Free Minnow will sink. It is much softer and will tear up a lot quicker, but it has a lot more action. It feels more natural to the fish, so the fish will hold on longer," said Blazauski.

"My goal is to produce lures for all types of fishing. We are not just trout, bass, or musky. We have three new trout lures that came out this summer, and we are developing some massive musky baits like the Big Mutha Grubba, 4 ounces of solid plastic," said Blazauski.

Their website has a good following, and they still do a lot of custom work. Many small businesses also carry their baits. "We are in the process of acquiring some larger outlets, and we do a lot of outdoor shows throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York. Next year, we will be doing some shows in Ohio," said Blazauski. □



The stocked show trailer contains over 50 different baits in different colors and compositions.



412 Bait Company baits are made with a special formulation for tournament anglers.



Scared Fishless Tackle Company baits are made for the general angler who wants baits that are stronger and more durable.

**412 Bait Company and  
Scared Fishless Tackle Company**  
[www.412baitco.com](http://www.412baitco.com)



# RAYSTOWN LAKE

*by Richard Tate*

With 8,300 surface acres, 118 miles of shoreline, and a length of 28 miles, Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County, is Pennsylvania's largest inland lake. Construction of the present dam began in 1972 and was completed in 1974. The lake and surrounding area, managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, provides a myriad of activities for outdoor enthusiasts including camping, biking, and walking. During the summer, recreational boating is one of the lake's most enjoyable activities. Anglers flock to the lake for fishing.

My first experience on Raystown Lake was more than 30 years ago. My son, Bob, had developed an interest in fishing for bass, and I guided him to some exciting outings along area streams. The late Walt Rosser, Blair County's Waterways Conservation Officer at the time, discovered this interest and invited Bob and me on a summer outing. I was amazed by Rosser's ability to navigate the lake in his bass boat. He motored us to

various spots, and switched to a small electric motor to explore the coves and ledges for bass. Over 3 hours, both my son and Rosser caught and released several nice bass. Bob landed a fine Walleye, which was unusual for that time of year.

Anglers target various species of gamefish at Raystown Lake including Lake Trout, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Striped Bass, and Walleyes.

Stan Grove, Blair County, is a longtime Raystown Lake angler. Grove has won numerous bass fishing tournaments and awards, including the prestigious Blair County Bassmaster of the Year Award. Grove noted that anglers can successfully target fish while fishing from the shore at Raystown Lake, but it is advantageous to fish the lake from a boat. Some spots on the lake can be fished from small boats, but having a bass boat is an advantage. Grove fishes from an 18-foot Skeeter. To get from place to place on Raystown Lake, 175 horsepower motors are useful. After arriving at a desired fishing spot, electric motors from 12- to 36-volts help fish along the shoreline. Having a depth finder is helpful in locating fish, as is a temperature





photo-Janelle Howard

gauge. Grove told me that some anglers rely on pH meters to help locate fish.

Striped Bass are in the lake, though fishing for them near the surface is effective mainly in the spring and fall.

Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass follow baitfish. The location of baitfish often depends on the temperature of the water. In hot weather, Smallmouth Bass often move to the channels, while Largemouth Bass continue to feed in shallower portions of the lake. Fall often provides better fishing, because there is less boat traffic on the lake.

Use relatively stiff 6- or 7-foot spinning or baitcasting rods when fishing for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass. Eight-pound-test line is effective for fishing with most lures and baits. If targeting Striped Bass, a stiffer rod with 20-pound-test line or heavier is necessary.

Rubber worms, speed baits, crankbaits, and spinners are useful. Topwater lures may provide exciting action in shallower spots. Grove normally has multiple outfits rigged for an outing and often uses two or three different options around one piece of structure.

Raystown Lake is a popular spot for outdoor enthusiasts, especially anglers. ☐



photo-Richard Tate

Though fishing from a boat is best, fish can be caught from the shore at Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County.

## Boat Launches

- Aitch
- James Creek
- Seven Points Marina—main location for recreational boats
- Shy Beaver
- Snyder's Run
- Tatman Run
- Weaver Falls

## Fishing Guides

Various fishing guides and charter services are available at Raystown Lake. To find these services, search "Raystown Lake Fishing Guides" online.



# FISHING THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



by John Allen

photos by the author

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing your children excited to do something they enjoy. When it is something that you enjoy too, it creates a bond that encourages that excitement to flourish. I always hoped that I would bond with my kids over fishing. Fishing with my kids has allowed me to fish in ways that I have not done in 15-plus years.

The most difficult part is finding the happy zone with two kids who have different patience levels. My daughter is fine standing there chatting with me and never catching a single fish, making her an excellent

sidekick for trout and bass fishing. Then, there is my son. If he does not have a bite within the first 5 minutes, he gets frustrated. So, I find myself scrambling to make a bite happen, resulting in a few short outings. Trout and bass fishing was tough with him. I had to completely rethink how to fish with my kids in a manner that would be enjoyable for everyone.

After several failed trout fishing outings that usually ended in a meltdown, I went back to my fishing roots. I bought bobbers, baitholder hooks, and nightcrawlers for the first time in years and went on the hunt for the best bank fishing spots in my area. To start, I relied heavily on the Bluegill spawn. The first outing had us on the shoreline of Pinchot Lake, York County. Once we located a pod of spawning Bluegills, it was on. Few casts didn't result in a bobber diving under the surface of the water almost immediately, eliciting amazing excitement. Top of the lungs shouts, "Got one!" with every fish that hit the bank and giddy laughs came with each hooked fish. I had found that happy zone.

From there, the outings became more frequent as we got to know all the best panfish spots. Every time we caught a different species, it was a bonus to teach about fish and how to properly hold them. It didn't matter how many fish caught, the excitement never faded. On our tenth outing, we found ourselves along the banks of Holman Lake, Perry County. My son hooked an average-sized Bluegill. He began shouting with excitement to the point that a passing kayaker asked me if it was his first fish. I just replied, "No, he gets excited by every fish." Even 2 years later, it doesn't matter how big the fish or how many others he caught, the giddy laughter and excitement from each catch has not subsided.

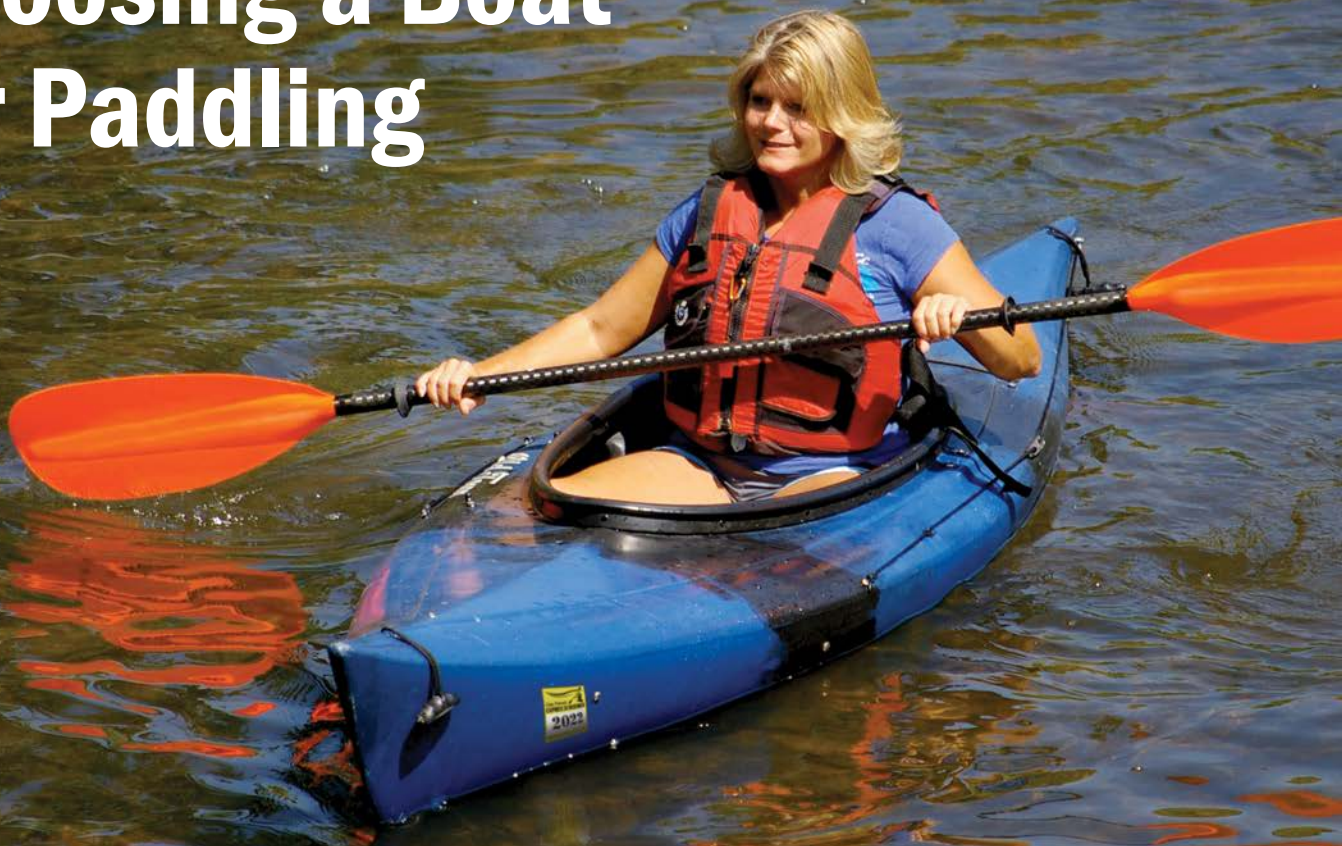
I have been gaining a new appreciation for the fight of a nice-sized Bluegill on ultralight tackle or the surprise that comes from catching a non-targeted species. Fishing for panfish with my kids has changed my perspective on fishing altogether. I now go for species outside of bass and trout, even when I am not fishing with my kids. Opening up to different styles of fishing makes me feel like a kid again. ☐



Quite a catch: the joyful expression on the face of a kid discovering the joys of fishing.



# Choosing a Boat for Paddling



*by Bob Frye*

*photos by the author*

**T**his was the on-the-water equivalent of a classic car show, minus the chrome. Our destination on a beautiful summer weekend was a beach on the bank of the Allegheny River, where paddlers access a state forest camping area. We pulled up, a flotilla of one 16-foot canoe and four kayaks—three sit-in models and one sit-on-top model. Surrounding us, in an array of shapes, sizes, and colors, were 12 to 15 other boats.

Each boat had its fans. Just as muscle car owners argue the merits of their particular hot rod, paddlers extoll the virtues of their canoe or kayak.

However, the craft ideal for one person isn't automatically the best one for another person. Choosing the most appropriate boat depends on many factors.

## Canoes

Canoes are the paddling world's pickup trucks—built to work. The one on our trip, for example, was a tripping

canoe, capable of hauling 1,200 pounds. It is great for paddling with a partner—human, canine, or both—to fish, camp, or hunt.

Recreational canoes still haul plenty—including children too young to paddle themselves—and are shorter and lighter. Solo canoes are smaller but easier to handle.

Aside from size, think shape. Flat-bottom boats are good for beginners, offering good initial stability, meaning they feel secure on calm water. Shallow arch bottoms offer better secondary stability, meaning they roll further without flipping over and cut through wind and waves.

Canoes with a pronounced rocker—the banana-like curve from front to back—are more responsive, turning better in faster water, but do not track, or consistently go straight, as well.

Aluminum canoes are almost indestructible but loud and cold. Composite canoes are lighter but still sturdy. Wooden canoes are beautiful but require regular maintenance.

Finally, if you want to use a motor, square stern canoes are best.

## Kayaks

Kayaks vary widely, with some designed for niches like whitewater running or off-shore touring.



*When deciding which canoe or kayak to buy, think about what kind of paddling you want to do and on what kinds of waters.*

Recreational kayaks are good beginner boats and often the least expensive. Recreational kayaks are typically short—9- to 12-feet—and wide with good initial stability. However, these same qualities make them inefficient to paddle.

Touring kayaks including tandem models are longer—12- to 14-feet—and narrower, with good secondary stability. Meant for longer outings, they usually offer more comforts, like knee braces and better seats.

Both types of kayaks come in sit-in and sit-on-top models. Sit-in kayaks are sometimes harder to get in and out of but sit lower and are warmer and drier. Sit-on-top kayaks are easier to access and sometimes preferred by larger paddlers.

Sit-on-top fishing kayaks, meanwhile, are comparatively expensive. But, if you plan to fish seriously, sit-on-top kayaks are more stable. They are versatile, with room for add-ons like fish finders. Some even come with pedal drive systems, so you can move hands-free.

Then, there are inflatable kayaks. Not necessarily inexpensive—some cost as much as a hard body kayak. If you have little storage space at home, inflatable kayaks are a good option. The better ones are carried like a backpack and feature multiple air chambers.

In the end, it is all about fit. Check manufacturer websites for information on how and where boats perform best. Rent boats from outfitters to see what you like and don't like. Consider where you plan to paddle and what you plan to do.

Then, when buying a canoe or kayak, you will get the best one for you. □



*Tripping canoes are long and typically wide, which allows them to haul larger loads. They may also be used for day trips.*



*Inflatable kayaks are not toys, nor are they priced like toys. The better inflatable kayaks are compact when deflated, making them easier to store and easier to transport.*

# ODD Encounters



*by Jeff Woleslagle*

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**A**ny angler who spends enough time on and along Pennsylvania's bountiful waters is likely to experience a few less-than-normal occurrences. When strange things happen, it makes for some great memories and stories that will be told for years. Some immediately come to mind.

On a humid August night, I was wade fishing on the Raystown Branch Juniata River near Everett. I made a long cast across the river in the darkness. I didn't even turn the reel handle to begin the retrieve of my surface lure when suddenly my rod tip started bouncing wildly. I took my flashlight from

my vest but couldn't see. Once I waded to shore and brought the rod lower to the ground, I could see that somehow on the cast, my line had looped around the wing of a little brown bat. I carefully removed the line. The bat sat for a few minutes on a rock before vanishing back into the night.

It is always neat when two anglers in a boat or fishing near each other along the bank hook fish at the same time. Someone usually proclaims "Doubles!" as the battles ensue. It happened too many times to count over the years, but only once was it a catch of the same fish. My father-in-law and I were enjoying a morning of bass fishing from his boat in a nearby lake. We were throwing wacky rigged stick worms toward the shore and doing well. I must have been daydreaming after I made a cast, and I looked over to see my father-in-law set the hook into a solid bass. I immediately saw my own line jump, so I set the hook, too. "Doubles!" I yelled,



photo-Melissa Madden



photo-Jeff Wolskiagle

*It is always neat when two anglers in a boat or fishing near each other along the bank hook fish at the same time.*



photo-courtesy of PPRC

*Sometimes, fish much larger than you would expect are caught on surprisingly small bodies of water. The more time you spend fishing in Pennsylvania, the more odd encounters you will have to share.*

but after a while, it became apparent that we were fighting the same fish and playing tug-of-war with each other. I opened the bail on my reel to allow line to feed out, so he could land the chunky Largemouth Bass. Sure enough, it had both of our hooks in its mouth. It must have inhaled my stick worm and then swam over and ate his bait. We still tell that fish tale whenever we are sitting around the campfire.

Unforgettable stories come when an angler is fishing a surface lure or a crankbait with at least two sets of hooks, and two fish are caught on one cast. I probably had it happen at least six times over the years, but one incident stands out. Fishing from shore at a state park lake at first light, I casted a floating minnow lure into a cove as far as possible. I twitched it once and before the ripples could dissipate, a large bass grabbed it. I began working it toward the bank when suddenly the weight doubled. I was shocked to land not one but two

beautiful Largemouth Bass. Both were in the 3-pound range. Sometimes the competitive instinct kicks in, and an aggressive fish will try to take a bait from another one. Rarely are you lucky enough to land them both.

One evening on a small state park lake, I was fishing a large floating minnow lure made of balsa wood when I was lucky enough to hook a mid-size Muskellunge. The fish made many strong runs and even jumped once, completely clearing the water. As I worked it toward the net, my lure did not look right. When the fish went skyward, it ripped the metal that connects the front and back hooks from the wood body of the bait. I was lucky to land that one, and the lure now sits on my work desk as a fond reminder of that day. Finally, I have found fish much larger than you would expect on surprisingly small bodies of water. The more time you spend fishing in Pennsylvania, the more odd encounters you will have to share. ☐



# Ice Fishing Hot Spots in Western Pennsylvania

by *Jerry Bush*

photo-Janelle Howard

**W**estern Pennsylvania offers many ice fishing opportunities, and some anglers may be surprised to find safe ice nearly as far south as Pittsburgh.

## Erie County

Lake Pleasant is stocked in the spring and the winter with trout. It is a favorite location for ice fishing enthusiasts.

Howard Eaton Reservoir is near Pennsylvania's border with New York. Its expanse of 159 acres is a panfish hot spot. You may also catch Northern Pike and Walleyes.

LeBoeuf Lake, near Waterford, holds Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike. Some large Bluegills are also found in this lake.

No conversation about Erie County's ice fishing is complete without deserved recognition given to Lake Erie's Presque Isle Bay. Species found in Presque Isle Bay include Bluegills, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseeds, bass, crappies, perch, and steelhead. Coaxing one of the larger gamefish through an 8-inch hole in the ice is challenging. Recognizing the current hot spots at Presque Isle is easy. Look for the "tent cities"—an affectionate name describing the conglomeration of ice fishing shelters on the ice.

## Crawford County

With a surface area of 925 acres, Conneaut Lake is Pennsylvania's largest natural lake. Here, perch and panfish are most targeted in winter, but many anglers hope for Muskellunge and Walleyes as well.

With more than 17,000 acres of water, Pymatuning Reservoir is king in Crawford County. Anglers seek Muskellunge, Walleyes, bass, panfish, and perch. Most of the Muskellunge stocked in Pennsylvania are spawned from brood stock from Pymatuning Reservoir. Pymatuning Reservoir is western Pennsylvania's most productive winter Walleye fishery.

## Mercer County

Heading south, we find Mercer County's ice fishing season is a week or two shorter than Erie and Crawford counties, but

safe ice is available most years for 4 to 6 weeks. Shenango River Lake may be the best body of water in western Pennsylvania to consistently catch big Bluegills and large crappies, as well as White Bass.

Lake Wilhelm's 1,680 acres is a fun fishery to collect a mixed bucket of Bluegills, crappies, perch, and a few Walleyes.

## Butler County

Only 40-miles north of Pittsburgh, Lake Arthur holds 3,225 acres of water in Moraine State Park, and most years it provides safe ice fishing for 2 to 3 weeks. Lake Arthur is home to Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, and panfish. Some Muskellunge and Walleyes are also present.

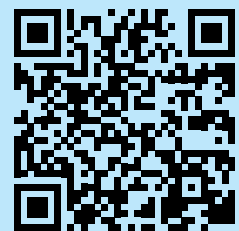
## Gear

Panfish are most often attracted to tear drop jigs tipped with maggots, mealworms, or pieces of red worms. Sometimes, soft plastic grubs of various colors work well. Most catches occur when the jig is bounced a few inches from the bottom.

Larger gamefish prefer a lead head jig tipped with a minnow submerged below a rod and reel or attached to a tip-up device. Use baitfish lures and spoons.

A 2-foot rod and plastic reel with a spring bobber at the end of the pole catches as many fish as other rods. A manual auger is sufficient for most ice fishing anglers, but a motorized auger is desired by true enthusiasts who are constantly on the ice in the most northern counties. ☐

**To check State Park  
ice conditions:**



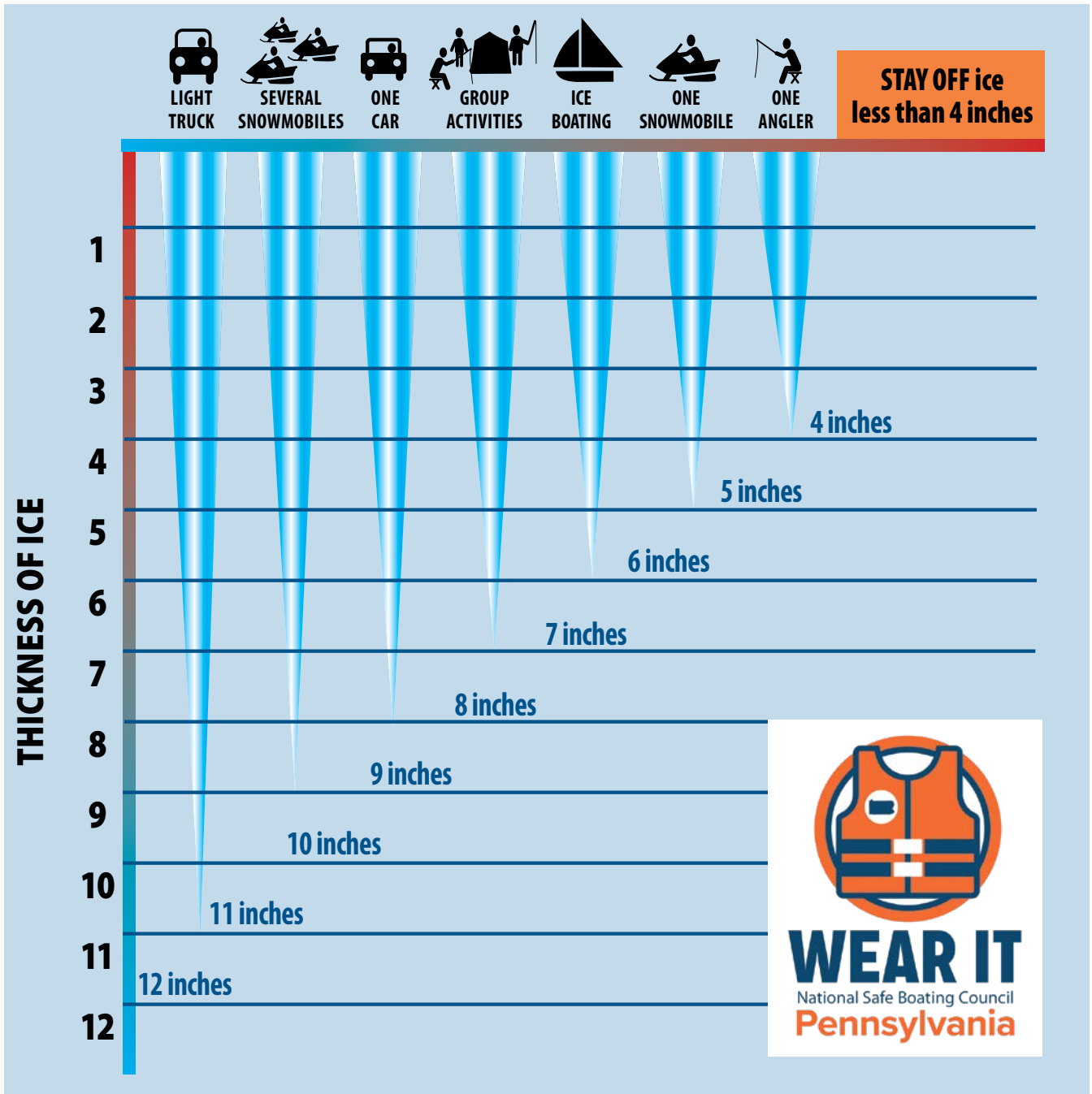
[dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/  
WinterReport/Pages/default.aspx](https://dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/WinterReport/Pages/default.aspx)



# Ice Safety Guide

**Ice is never 100% safe.**

**Minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice.**



There are many factors that influence ice strength including water chemistry, wind, and sunlight. Please note: these are general ice thickness guidelines. Carefully check ice conditions before venturing onto the ice.



# LOST FISHES OF THE COASTAL PLAIN

*by Rob Criswell*

*photos by the author*

Once upon a time, the lower Delaware River and the tidal portion of its tributaries hosted unspoiled pools, marshes, swamps, and ponds filled with organic muck, sand, dead trees and branches, and dense concentrations of aquatic plants. These small ecosystems, fueled by vegetation and invertebrate animals, provided the perfect habitat for a group of small, sedentary fishes content to live their lives in relatively competition-free, if somewhat claustrophobic, conditions.

Five species that required these exact conditions occurred in this narrow, lowland strip and nowhere else in Pennsylvania. They are long gone, victims of the development of the Philadelphia region, and have not been seen here since 1920. These species still occur on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River, where the Coastal Plain is much more extensive.

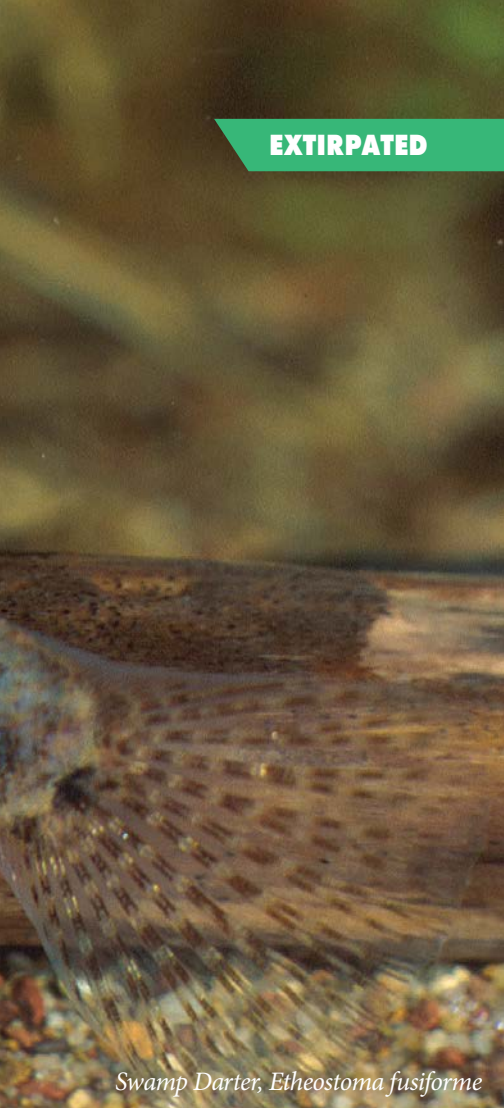
Three are sunfishes—the Banded Sunfish, *Enneacanthus obesus*, and Blackbanded Sunfish, *Enneacanthus chaetodon*, are jewel-like and striking in appearance. The former displays iridescent purple, gold, and greenish flecks over a greenish-yellow

background suffused with six to eight dark bars. The latter sports five or more bold, black vertical bars over a silvery background, somewhat reminiscent of a freshwater angelfish.

The Banded Sunfish and Blackbanded Sunfish are often found together in watery jungles. In 1883, the naturalist C.C. Abbott wrote that “in such localities, where often the weeds are so luxuriant that a scoop net cannot be drawn, I have found that hundreds of these fishes were passing what I think must be a most monotonous existence. In some places, locomotion must be rather a scramble among the water weeds, than a comfortable swim.” These diminutive (less than 4 inches in length) introverts are content to “graze” on microcrustaceans and insect larvae they pluck from the surfaces of submerged plants and debris.

The Mud Sunfish, *Acantharchus pomotis*, is another story. It grows to 9 inches and is a voracious predator. It lurks unnoticed in the mud, muck, and dense vegetation by day but rises from its lair at night and glides slowly through the water patrolling for prey. It will quickly devour a quarry fully half its size or larger with little effort and no remorse. No wonder its name is “mud.”

Another Coastal Plain obligate, the Pirate Perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus*, was described to science in 1824 based on specimens collected in southeastern Pennsylvania. It is an anatomical wonder with which few fish can compare. This drab, stocky mudlover starts life with all its parts in the normal places, but its

**EXTIRPATED***Swamp Darter, Etheostoma fusiforme*

anus inexplicably migrates to a position under its head, in the throat region, as it matures. Its genus name, *Aphredoderus*, translates to “excrement throat.” It seldom reaches 5 inches and dines on insects, crustaceans, and small fish.

A miniscule (seldom exceeding 2 inches) member of the group, the aptly named Swamp Darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme*, also inhabited the sluggish waters along the Delaware River. It is a bit more likely to venture beyond the protective curtain of vegetation than some of its brethren, searching for small aquatic animals.

It has the somewhat curious habit of looking at its surroundings by turning its head sidewise and upwards, rather than moving its entire body to a new position. It is capable of surviving high temperatures (in excess of 90 degrees F) and low

oxygen levels. For all its adaptive ability, however, most individuals only live one year.

A few other Pennsylvania fish requiring similar habitat also formerly utilized the Coastal Plain strip and can no longer be found at that location. However, these fish survive in similar habitats elsewhere in Pennsylvania. The Ironcolor Shiner, *Notropis chalybaeus*, and Bridle Shiner, *Notropis bifrenatus*, occur further north. They inhabit a Monroe County stream, and the Bridle Shiner is occasionally reported from the Delaware River, but they are both listed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) as endangered species.

The Tadpole Madtom, *Noturus gyrinus*, was once found near the mouths of tributaries to the lower Delaware River. Now, it is restricted to the heavily vegetated sections of Presque Isle Bay, Erie County, and Canadohta Lake, Crawford County. It is also listed as endangered.

The Eastern Mudminnow, *Umbra pygmaea*, does survive in a few southeastern wetlands but is more common in the Pocono Mountain region.

The PFBC occasionally receives reports of Banded Sunfish, but these fish usually turn out to be the similar and much more common Bluespotted Sunfish, *Enneacanthus gloriosus*. Due to the limited extent of habitat, these Coastal Plain dwellers were never really common here. Sadly, there is little hope for the discovery of a population of any of these fish in the Commonwealth in the future, or for their reintroduction or recovery in Pennsylvania. □

**ENDANGERED***Banded Sunfish, Enneacanthus obesus***EXTIRPATED***Blackbanded Sunfish, Enneacanthus chaetodon***EXTIRPATED***Mud Sunfish, Acantharchus pomotis*

# GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation

by *Kaine McFarland*

Every fall, the streams along the shores of Lake Erie swell with the increase of rain and lowering temperatures. With this increase of water flow comes an increase of anglers from across Pennsylvania and the country to chase steelhead. Steelhead provide a great opportunity for anglers due to the variety of tactics to catch them and the thrill of the fight.

Steelhead can be caught on conventional tackle or fly fishing gear. Good baits and lures for steelhead include spoons, inline spinners, egg sacs, minnows, and worms. Popular flies for steelhead include Sucker Spawns, Nuke Eggs, yarn eggs, milking eggs, a variety of nymphs, and a variety of streamers. My favorite flies are the milking egg in orange and orange yarn eggs.

While the fishing is amazing, and it provides a great opportunity to many anglers, the fishery would not remain without the hard work of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Every year, steelhead are netted from Trout Run. These fish are then taken to the Fairview State Fish Hatchery and spawned. The eggs from the spawned steelhead are grown into the next generation of steelhead to be stocked into the tributaries, where they will later return to spawn.



photo-courtesy of Kaine McFarland

*Kaine McFarland*

The larger streams, such as Elk Creek and Walnut Creek, receive the heaviest of the stockings, which is why the streams have high fish and angler numbers every year. Other streams include Twentymile Creek, Sixteenmile Creek, and Conneaut Creek. With so many tributary streams, you never know what you may find at the end of your line. ☐



*Purchasing your fishing license is now easier than ever!*

**NEW!** **AUTO-RENEW**  
Your Fishing License/Permit

In your HuntFish.PA.gov shopping cart, enable the products you want to renew each year and "opt-in" to the auto-renew feature.



HuntFish.PA.gov

## 34 Years of Service

photo-Captain Anthony J. Quarracino Jr.



Congratulations to Captain Alan D. Robinson, Bureau of Law Enforcement Northcentral Region Office, who recently retired after 34 years of service with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

## Life Saving Awards

photo-courtesy of Captain Robert A. Plumb



In special recognition of their life saving efforts on May 23, 2022, John Kane and Liam Kane were presented with Life Saving Awards. John Kane and his son, Liam, were fishing on Lake Winola, Wyoming County, when they observed a boat go under the water with its occupant nearly drowning. Their quick and decisive action to drive their boat toward the victim and pull him onboard was crucial. Liam Kane, age 11, made the lifesaving call to 911 once on shore with the victim. Liam remained on the scene and assisted his father throughout the rescue. Shown (left to right) are Waterways Conservation Officer David Raulfs Jr., John Kane, Liam Kane, and Captain Robert A. Plumb.

## Yellow Breeches Creek Boat Launch

photo-Mike Parker



On September 22, 2022, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) joined officials from the Borough of New Cumberland, Cumberland County, to open a newly rehabilitated unpowered boat launch along the Yellow Breeches Creek. The \$104,000 project was funded with \$47,000 from the PFBC's Boating Facility Grant Program and included replacing a primitive launch with a modern, 15-foot-wide concrete ramp, ADA accessible parking spot and walking path, gravel entrance road, and new signage. The launch, located in New Cumberland Borough Park, is free and open to the public and will be primarily used as a take-out point for kayaks and canoes.

## Pennsylvania Celebrates New State Parks

1. Susquehanna Riverlands State Park, York County
2. Vosburg Neck State Park, Wyoming County
3. Big Elk Creek State Park, Chester County

## National Hunting and Fishing Day

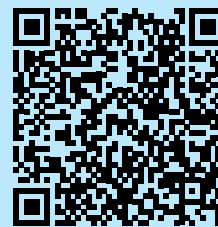
photo-Tessa Gilchrest



Colbie Gilchrest caught this Largemouth Bass on a bobber and worm set-up during a National Hunting and Fishing Day event on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at Middle Creek

Wildlife Management Area. Colbie caught the largest fish of the day, and it was the largest fish she has ever caught.

For more information:



[governor.pa.gov/newsroom/  
gov-wolf-reveals-locations-for-three-new-state-parks](https://governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-reveals-locations-for-three-new-state-parks)



# ANGLER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jerry Bush



photo-Jerry Bush

**W**hen targeting steelhead, the Blood Dot Egg and Sucker Spawn are two of the most productive imitations used by fly anglers. Live minnows or a skein of salmon eggs are often preferred by bait anglers. Spinners with twirling blades and marabou-covered treble hooks are often preferred by anglers using spinning rods and reels, followed closely by spoon enticements.

It may seem counterproductive, but fly anglers who frequently experience broken lines when battling big, hard-fighting fish should use light, 3-weight rods. When forced to anticipate the limitations of light gear, fly anglers may develop and learn to finesse fish rather than overpower them. Fewer breakoffs may be experienced when using heavier rods intended to battle aggressive fish.

Try using a Whirlfish lure created by Thomas Fishing Lures.

The fish-shaped, metal spoon is manufactured with both tail fins bent in opposite directions. Whether jigged or reeled sideways, water crossing the bent tail blades causes the lure to spin or flutter, which triggers strikes.

When ice fishing, a tip-up is used by anglers seeking larger gamefish. Most tip-ups have a cross-shaped base that suspends the unit over a hole in the ice. After bait is submerged to a desired depth, a fluorescent flag on a thin, springy, metal post is bent to clip a sensitive trigger point. The flag pops up when a fish pulls line from the spool.

## FISHIN' FROM THE KITCHEN

### Steelhead Vegetable Frittata

by Wayne Phillips

**T**he combination of steelhead, eggs, and vegetables makes for a memorable meal.

*Ingredients for four servings:*

- 10- to 12-ounces boneless, skinless steelhead fillets
- 8 eggs
- ½ red onion, diced
- ½ red or orange pepper, diced
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 3 mushrooms, sliced
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh or 1 Tsp. dried tarragon
- ¼ cup canola oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste

#### Procedure

Bake steelhead in a 350 degree F oven until fish is cooked. Cool and cut fish into bite-sized pieces. In a skillet with canola oil, sauté red onion, peas,

mushrooms, and red or orange pepper until softened. Lightly beat the eggs. Add tarragon and parmesan cheese. Season with salt and black pepper. Pour the egg mixture into the skillet with vegetables. Cook over medium heat until the bottom is set. Finish cooking in a 350-degree F oven until cooked.

#### Serve

A simple, green salad and crusty rolls go well with the frittata.

#### Tips

Use your family's favorite cheese. Use more cheese if desired. Frittatas are similar to an omelet. Use either fresh or leftover vegetables. Use your favorite herb to give the frittata extra flavor.



photo-Wayne Phillips

# SOCIAL SHORTS

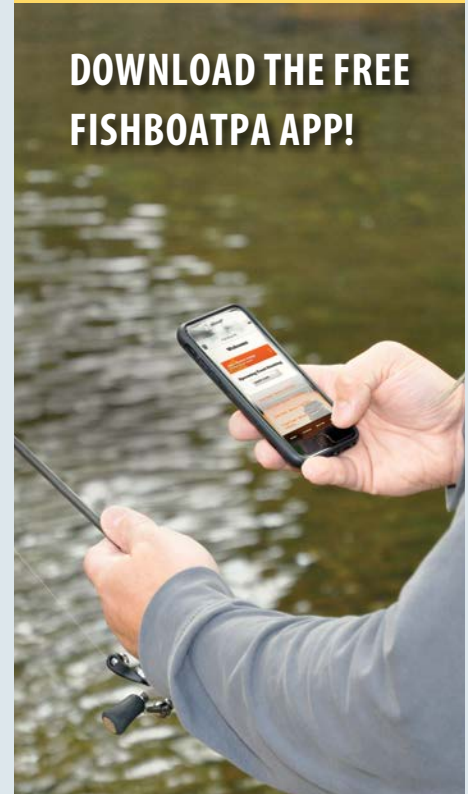
Below are some "Social Shorts" from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC's) social media pages.



Find the PFBC on Social Media



[fishandboat.com/socialmedia](https://fishandboat.com/socialmedia)



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## CAST & CAUGHT



*Alex Evans, Reading, caught and released this Brown Trout while fishing on the Tulpehocken Creek Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only Section, Berks County.*

For the "Cast & Caught" column, send only prints (no larger than 8"x10") and a completed "Model Release form" available at [fishandboat.com/Transact/AnglerBoater](http://fishandboat.com/Transact/AnglerBoater). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your photograph returned. People aboard boats must be wearing properly fitted and buckled life jackets. Mail to:  
**Editor, Pennsylvania Angler & Boater,  
P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000**



*Billy Hunt, age 9, caught this nice trout while fishing in one of the streams around Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County.*



*Chase Eichelberger, age 8, caught and released this 15-inch Rainbow Trout while fishing on the Little Juniata Creek, Perry County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day.*



*Morgan Miller, Middleburg, caught this 8.24-pound, 25-inch, golden Rainbow Trout, and her husband Cody Miller caught a 16-inch Rainbow Trout while fishing Cocolamus Creek, Juniata County.*



*Aiden Grove, age 5, caught this 13-inch Rainbow Trout while fishing with his dad, Nick, at Boyers Sportsmen's Association, Butler County.*