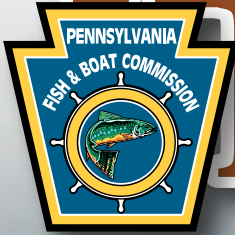


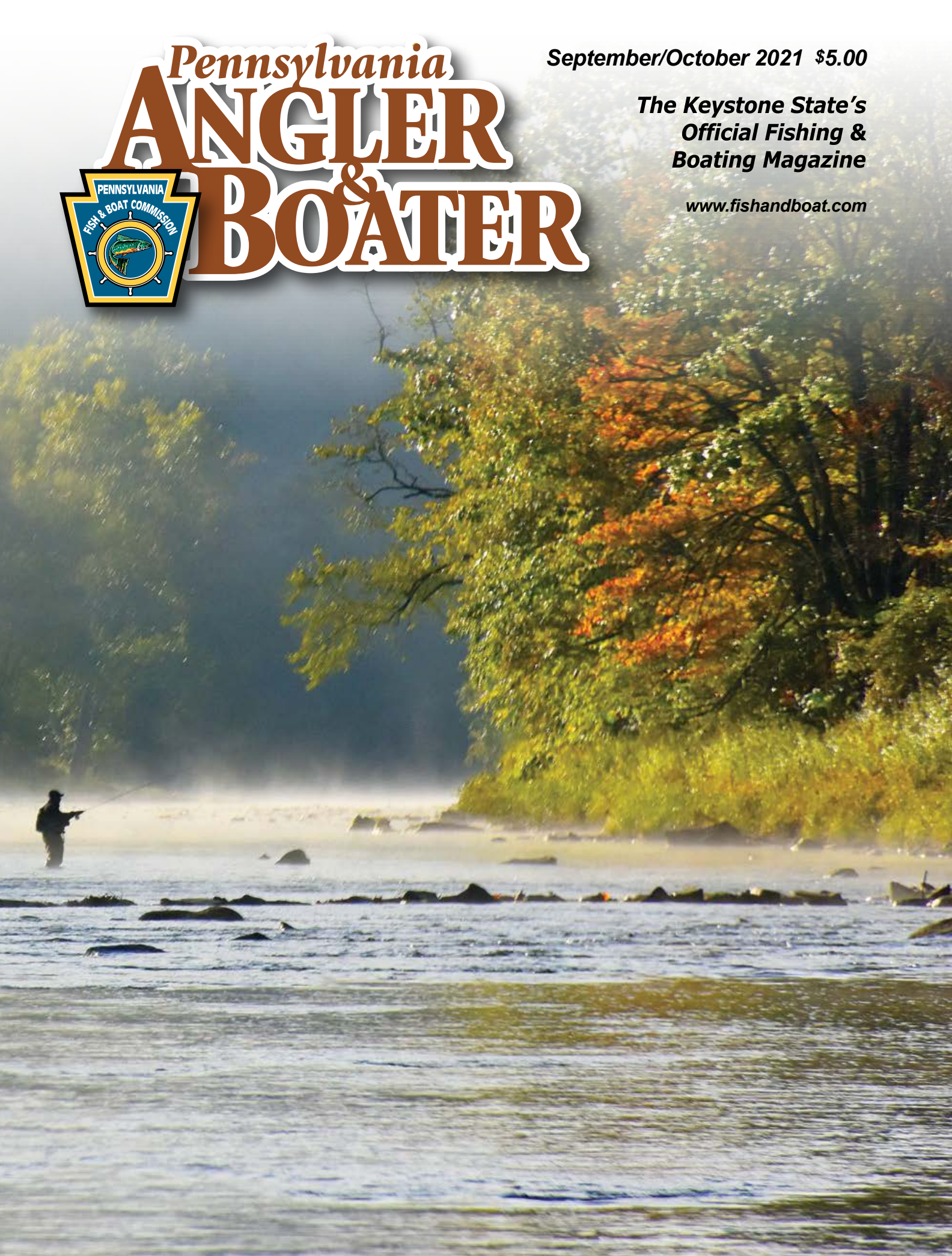
September/October 2021 \$5.00

*The Keystone State's
Official Fishing &
Boating Magazine*

www.fishandboat.com



Pennsylvania **ANGLER & BOATER**



2021 VOLUNTARY PERMITS

LICENSE YEAR

Voluntary Permits are designed to help maintain funding levels for several key fishing-related programs. Revenues generated from the sale of these permits will be reinvested into their respective program.

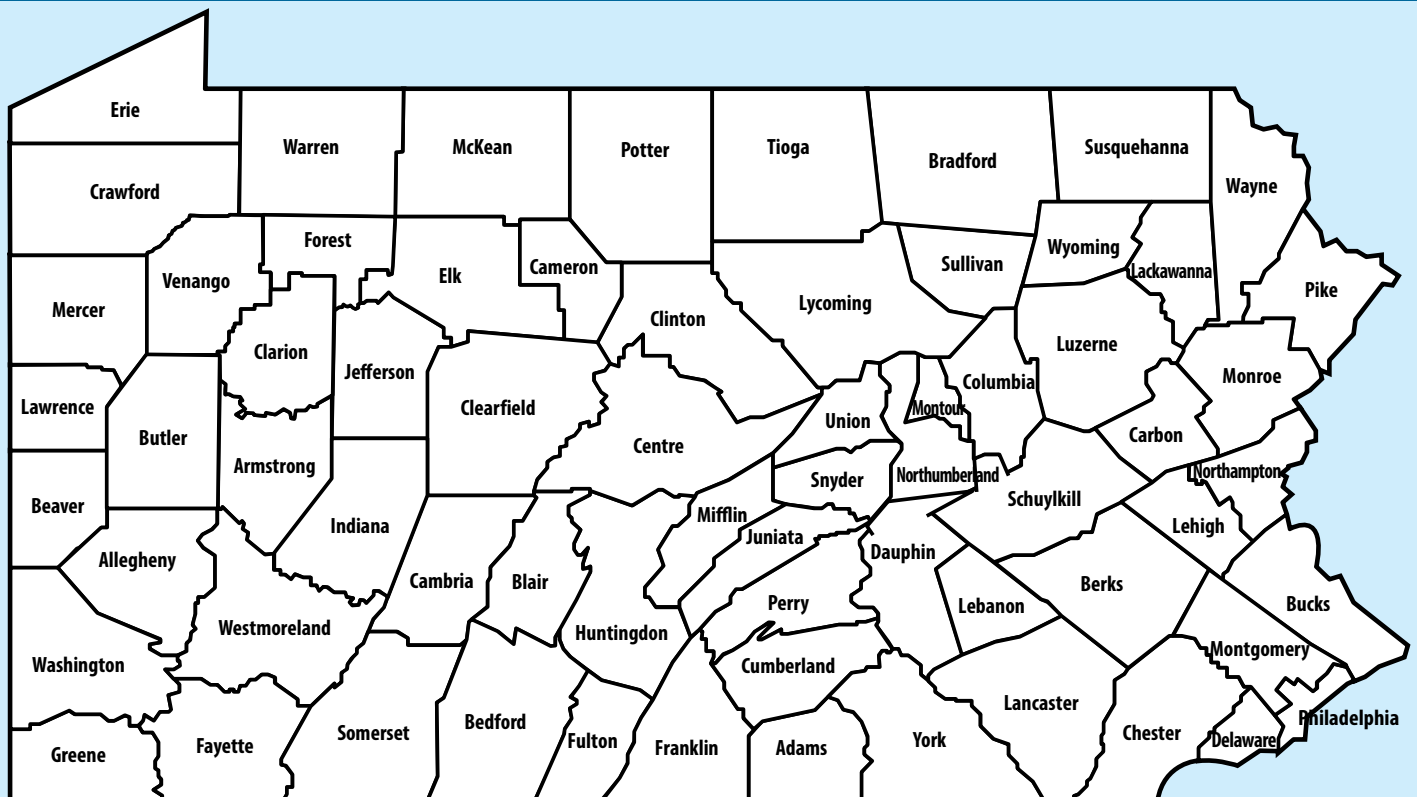


Code	Type of Voluntary Permits	Age	Cost*
073	Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$11.97
077	3-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$31.97
081	5-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$51.97
085	10-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$101.97
071	Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$11.97
075	3-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$31.97
079	5-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$51.97
083	10-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$101.97
070	Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$11.97
074	3-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$31.97
078	5-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$51.97
082	10-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$101.97
072	Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$26.97
076	3-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$76.97
080	5-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$126.97
084	10-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$251.97

* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee.

www.fishandboat.com

Pennsylvania County Map





Tom Wolf, Governor

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Richard S. Kauffman, *President*
Leesport

Robert B.J. Small, *Vice President*
Mechanicsburg

Rocco S. Ali
North Apollo

Donald K. Anderson
Meyersdale

William C. Brock
St. Marys

Charles J. Charlesworth
Clarks Summit

William J. Gibney
Honesdale

Eric C. Hussar
Lewisburg

Richard Lewis
Gettysburg

Daniel J. Pastore
Fairview

Boating Advisory Board

Loren Lustig, *Chairperson*
Biglerville

Scott Ballantyne
Fleetwood

John Mahn Jr.
Charleroi

Michael Murray
Philadelphia

Elizabeth Winand
Wrightsville

Ex Officio Members

Timothy D. Schaeffer, *Executive Director*;
Laurel L. Anders, Director, Bureau of Boating;

Ryan Dysinger, *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*

Magazine Staff

Editor—Spring Gearhart

Graphic Design—Andrea Feeney

Circulation—Ashley Nikles

Regular Contributors

John Allen	Tyler Frantz	Ralph Scherder
Vic Attardo	Chris Gorsuch	Christian A. Shane
Darl Black	Carl Haensel	Deborah Weisberg
Marilyn Black	Jeff Knapp	Jeff Wolesslagle
Charles Cantella	Marshall Nych	Nathan Wolesslagle
Rob Criswell	Ross Robertson	Alex Zidock Jr.
Braden Eisenhower		

Pennsylvania Angler & Boater adheres to the American Fisheries Society's style guide and the 7th edition of *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico* in keeping with the capitalization of the English common names of fishes as well as singular and plural fish name usage. In addition, *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* recognizes the standards established by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

Pennsylvania Angler & Boater (ISSN1093-0574) is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, 1601 Elmerston Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9299. ©2021 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Nothing in this magazine may be reprinted without the written permission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Subscription rates: one year, \$20.97 (includes transaction fee); three years, \$48.97 (includes transaction fee); single copies are \$5.00 each. Periodicals postage is paid at Harrisburg, PA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* Circulation, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000. For subscription and change of address, use above address. Please allow 6 weeks for processing. Send all other correspondence to: The Editor, *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000. Editorial queries and contributions are welcome but must be accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Material accepted for publication is subject to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission standards and requirements for editing and revising. Submissions are handled carefully, but the Commission assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of submissions in its possession or in transit. The authors' views, ideas, and advice expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinion or official position of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission or its staff. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission receives federal aid in sport fish restoration. Under appropriate federal acts, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire more information, please write to: The Office of Equal Opportunity, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.



Subscription Inquiries

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

September/October 2021
Volume 90 Number 5

Pennsylvania ANGLER & BOATER

The Keystone State's Official Fishing & Boating Magazine

Feature articles

Hills Creek State Park: Tioga County's Lake with a Legacy by <i>Linda Stager</i>	5
Lake Erie's Post Labor Day Walleyes by <i>Jerry Bush</i>	8
Hickory Creek Wilderness by <i>Ralph Scherder</i>	10
Fishing Escape to the Pennsylvania Wilds by <i>Don Feigert</i>	12
One More Outing Before Winter by <i>John Allen</i>	18
Fall's Shoreline Trout by <i>Vic Attardo</i>	22
The Lowdown on Snags by <i>Marshall Nych</i>	24
River Fishing Carp by <i>Nathan Wolesslagle</i>	26
Unconventional Blades by <i>Jeff Knapp</i>	28
Downsizing for Muskellunge by <i>Braden Eisenhower</i>	30
Canadohta Lake—An Overlooked Gem of Northwestern Pennsylvania by <i>Darl Black</i>	34
Art Weiler Bamboo Rod Reproductions by <i>Alex Zidock Jr.</i>	36
Busting Bullheads by <i>Jeff Wolesslagle</i>	38
Capital Area Kayak Fishing Paddle and Spin the Middle Susquehanna by <i>Tyler Frantz</i>	40
Women's Adventure Club by <i>Charles N. Cantella</i>	42
Getting to Know those Obscure Carpsuckers by <i>Rob Criswell</i>	56

Special features

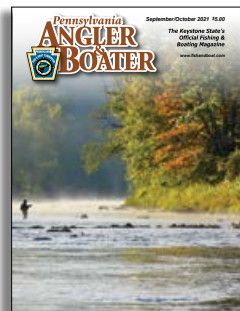
2021 Voluntary Permits.....	2
2021 Fishing Licenses.....	32
Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation by <i>Emma Barrett</i>	44
Fall PLAY Newsletter by <i>Chad Foster</i>	45
2021 State-Fish Art Contest.....	52
23rd WCO Class Graduation.....	54

Regular features

Process Improvements by <i>Executive Director Timothy D. Schaeffer</i>	4
Your Fishing Field Guide by <i>Carl Haensel</i>	15
Tying Together by <i>Christian A. Shane</i>	16
Notes from the Streams.....	20
Currents.....	57
Angler's Notebook by <i>Jerry Bush</i>	60
Fishin' from the Kitchen by <i>Wayne Phillips</i>	60
Cast & Caught.....	63

On the cover

An angler enjoys a beautiful fall morning fishing Oil Creek, Venango County. Photo by *Ralph Scherder*.



The PFBC social media and mobile app:
www.fishandboat.com/socialmedia

Process Improvements

by *Timothy D. Schaeffer*

Executive Director

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

On June 25, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission was proud to welcome six new Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) to our ranks. Every time we welcome a new staff member in any part of the agency, it is an exciting day—for both the individual and the entire organization.

The event was held at our Centre Region Office (CRO) in Bellefonte, just a short drive from the H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety along Spring Creek, where the new WCOs spent the previous 6 months learning and honing the skills needed to be ready to assume their duties in districts across Pennsylvania.

What made the day extra special was that the Commissioners and several of the staff in attendance remained at the CRO for the afternoon following the graduation ceremony to participate in the first in-person committee meeting of our Board of Commissioners in over a year since the onset of COVID-19 restrictions.

If you have been following how the Board has done business since March 2020, you will know that our quarterly Commission meetings and related committee meetings were held remotely using Webex with Facebook livestream options for interested individuals. The meetings were all conducted in compliance with public notice and participation requirements, including the ability for people to submit comments ahead of time, even though they could not be in the room. We were able to achieve a lot under the entirely virtual format, and our staff and Commissioners did an incredible job of utilizing technology to the most efficient extent possible.

However, only meeting remotely without the intangible benefits of being face-to-face was not the same.

Which is why we were thrilled that the June committee meeting was followed one month later on July 26 by the first in-person quarterly meeting of the full Board of Commissioners at our Harrisburg headquarters since January 2020. It was great to be able to be with everyone again and to do Pennsylvania's anglers' and boaters' business together in one room.

Looking back at the calendar, it came to mind that fully half of the Board of Commissioners meetings I have had the privilege to participate in while in this job were conducted remotely. That is hard to believe, but then again, a lot of what we all went through together in the past 18 months was unbelievable. Here's to hopefully tipping the scales in favor of in-person quarterly meetings this October!

We are grateful to be back in person, but it is significant to acknowledge that the limitations of the past year and a half did result



photo-Andrea Fenney

On July 26, 2021, the first in-person quarterly meeting of the Board of Commissioners since January 2020 was held at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Harrisburg headquarters.

in several process improvements that will enhance the way we interact with our customers and other stakeholders, even as the Board resumes in-person meetings. Two of these improvements are particularly notable.

One feature we added to our website in November 2020 is a Regulatory Tracker. The goal of this tool is to provide a “one-stop-shop” for those looking to view the status of Commission regulations and to increase public participation in the regulatory process. Although notices and regulations are published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, it can be time-consuming and tricky to navigate for those who are unfamiliar with the publication.

The Regulatory Tracker explains the Commission's rulemaking process; provides links to the Bulletin, existing fishing and boating regulations, meeting minutes and agendas, and other helpful resources; contains a link to submit comments on proposed rulemakings; lists all pending rulemakings; and has a handy thermometer graphic that quickly identifies where the proposed regulation is in the regulatory process. To make it even more accessible and transparent, we now notify the availability of public comment periods on social media.

As far as meeting frequency, the Board expects to continue conducting more committee meetings throughout the year in between the quarterly business sessions that typically occur in January, April, July, and October. In the past, we would occasionally have committee meetings off cycle, but the tradition had been to largely restrict meetings to when the Board met in person four times a year. By convening more between the quarterly Commission meetings, we will be able to keep the Board and public better informed, move business throughout the year, and maximize the efficiency of the quarterly meetings.

As summer draws to a close, please remember that fall fishing and boating opportunities abound in Pennsylvania. Even though you may be able to return to the football stands or your favorite fall festival, please consider hitting the water before the days get too short to experience the year-round fun and relaxation that Pennsylvania's streams, rivers, and lakes have to offer. A ticket only gets you into one game or event, but your fishing license is good all year long and supports conservation, regardless of the season.

Have fun, be safe, and remember to always wear a life jacket.

Hills Creek State Park: Tioga County's Lake with a Legacy



by Linda Stager

photos by the author

Ask anyone in Tioga County about their memories of Hills Creek State Park, and they will smile. It is that kind of place.

Many see Hills Creek State Park as the location of childhood visits to the swimming beach. Others have camping stories to tell. Some enjoy hiking and share their experiences on the two well-known walking paths that snake through parts of the park. And, the fishing stories? The lake's legacy shines.

Mike Youmans, Tioga County, remembers growing up near Hills Creek State Park. "In the 50s and 60s, the lake was great fishing. I remember music played on the outside speakers at the Redwood Restaurant, and we loved their frosted root beers. Pictures of big muskies were posted on the bulletin board at the Redwood. An example of a large musky that was caught in the lake is at the park office. Those were the good ol' days," said Youmans.

Hills Creek State Park, located midway between Mansfield and Wellsboro, is in a quaint lake basin created by the dam built there in 1953. It punctuates the surrounding farmland with its oasis-like draw. Its 137 acres of water

stretch from the concrete-faced dam breast and spillway past the beach and boat launches to the wetlands of the northern end of the lake. The dam is only 34 feet high and 400 feet long. The highway to the park crosses the breast of the dam.

Hills Creek Lake was one of the first recreation areas in Tioga County, which accounts for its popularity in local residents' memories. Kelly's Swamp was filled when Hills Creek Lake was dammed. The resulting lake was stocked with a variety of fish. Picnic pavilions dotted the shorelines, and people gathered there for the day or the weekend. Popular restaurants and housing developments sprung up on the hillsides surrounding the lake.

Hills Creek Lake has staying power as a recreational destination and that has come from the continuing evolution of camping and outdoor opportunities at the park. The park's staff kept up with people's interests over the last nearly 70 years.

Hills Creek State Park is one of the busiest places in the area when it comes to outdoor community events. Bird walks and



A kayaker paddles Hills Creek Lake in the morning.

educational presentations take place regularly. Every Saturday throughout spring, the park provides volunteer-led, guided walks by birding experts.

In addition, Step Outdoors often holds their events here. Step Outdoors is a unique chronic disease prevention program created by a working partnership between Wellsboro Parks and Recreation, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania State Parks, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Each partner encourages use of its public outdoor recreational facilities as a way of improving whole family active lifestyles. The group's motto is "Where Health Meets Adventure."

The annual "TRYathlon," usually held every September, is a popular event at the park. This race is built on the principles of a triathlon but emphasizes the "TRY" part of the event. It is all about trying, not necessarily winning. It is open to all athletic levels. The race is set up to encourage novices, but it is also challenging enough for those who have traditional triathlon experience. Both team and solo participation is welcome. The scenery is fabulous as the course works its way around the perimeter of the lake.

A Step Outdoors Springfest event is traditionally held on the third Saturday in May. This event has been scheduled for over 10 years and includes a variety of free, family-friendly outdoor activities. Some equipment and materials are provided for free for the day. Paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, water safety games, and children's crafts are usually planned. Fly tying skills and fly casting techniques are included activities. Free tackle and bait are also included, so folks can try out fishing. Visitors can hike, bike, and picnic in the park, too.

Winterfest, another Step Outdoors event, is usually held in mid-January every year and features

family-friendly activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, children's crafts, and demonstrations. Again, skis, snowshoes, and skates are available on a limited basis to use for free that day.

Throughout the winter, weather permitting, park trails are groomed for cross-country skiing. The lake is one of the first to freeze every winter, so the ice fishing is some of the best around.

A sandy beach is open for swimming from 8:00 a.m. to sunset from Memorial Day until after Labor Day. Bathrooms and a concession stand are available during the summer months. The concessionaire often offers kayak rentals and fishing bait. There is no lifeguard, so swim at your own risk.

There are two picnic areas at the park. One is located near the breast of the dam. The other is north of the swimming area near a cove.

Picnic pavilions may be reserved.

A visit to Hills Creek State Park does not have to be a day visit. A campground just to the east of the lake sports its own boat launch in a quiet cove. The campground offers 102 camping sites located in a mixture of open grass fields and hemlock-filled wooded areas.

Camping cottages that sleep up to five people are available to rent at the park. Two-bedroom furnished cabins are also available. But, the most unique camping experience comes by way of the two resident yurts at the park. A yurt is a round-walled tent on a wooden platform. The camping cabins are available all year round. The cottages and yurts are available during the traditional camping season—April to October.

All campsites and cabins are in high demand, so potential campers should plan to get their reservations confirmed far in advance of a visit. Organized group tenting is also available.



One of the yurts at Hills Creek State Park.



Visitors watch Comet NEOWISE over Hills Creek State Park in 2020.

When Comet NEOWISE made its nightly appearance in 2020, visitors could be seen sitting in the darkness, enjoying the spectacle almost every evening late into the night.

So, how is the fishing here? Hills Creek Lake is classified as a warmwater fishery. Local anglers speak of abundant panfish, perch, Largemouth Bass, and Smallmouth Bass. Anglers also night fish for catfish.

But, there is also talk about the elusive Muskellunge and Walleyes that used to live in the lake. Old photographs show plenty of successful anglers for these species. Are these fish still here? Some folks think so. You will have to decide for yourself when you visit.

Hills Creek Lake is a shallow lake with the water depth being the deepest near the dam breast and spillway, where it is about 20 feet deep. Much of the lake depth ranges from 4 feet to 12 feet. According to www.tiogacountyfishing.org, there is a variety of natural fish habitat including stumps, timber, weed beds, and lily pads.

Joe Crossley grew up in the Hills Creek area, moved away, and has just returned. "I lived and breathed that lake since I was a kid. I lived a stone's throw away," said Crossley. His opinion is that since natural reproduction is so good in the lake, stocking there does not happen anymore. "Hills Creek Lake is a great little lake, because it is shallow enough to hold oxygen year-round, so fish may spread out. The lake does have a good amount of weeds and lily pads and sometimes people complain, but it is good for a lake that is small. It gives fish plenty of cover to breed and live," said Crossley.



The Lake Side Trail follows much of the perimeter of the lake.

There is plenty of shoreline from which to fish. The Mid State Trail and the Lake Side Trail share the same path part of the way around the perimeter of the lake. The trails make it easy to access the shoreline most anywhere along the lake. A fishing pier for people with disabilities is at the Pines Boat Launch.

The lake also provides ample opportunity for boating. Boating is limited to electric motors only.

Charlie Ouellette, Tioga County, who holds decades of memories as an avid angler at Hills Creek State Park adds, "A boat certainly gives anyone fishing an advantage over land. Many spots that hold big fish are not accessible from shore, and casting to shore is a much better advantage if fishing for big fish. Lady luck certainly plays a huge part in fishing, but boat fishing is 95% better if given a choice."

Ouellette has so many great memories to share of his time on the lake. He watched a variety of wildlife, from ospreys to eagles and deer to bears, while fishing here. And, he witnessed a unique phenomenon one day when huge swirls appeared on the lake surface and perhaps hundreds of out-of-the-water fish fins engulfed his boat.

Folks who want to physically see a specimen of the elusive Muskellunge that legends are made of only need to stop at the park office, where Brian Laudermitch and his friend's record musky hangs on the wall.

These kinds of experiences are all part of this lake's legacy for making great memories over the last 68 years. That is a good portion of a lifetime of family fun, whether its fishing, camping, birding, picnicking, swimming, boating, winter sports, or the year-round festival events.

Consider visiting Hills Creek State Park to make your own memories too. ☐



Lake Erie's Post Labor Day Walleyes

by Jerry Bush

photos by the author

Many Pennsylvania boaters seem to think of Labor Day as the limit of access to Keystone State lakes. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes and subject to quick, violent changes as winter approaches. However, it may be a mistake for Walleye enthusiasts to decommission a vessel before fall's official arrival. Deep freezes are still well in the future, and some of Lake Erie's best Walleye fishing occurs after Labor Day by anglers who understand the dynamics of the lake and its ensuing effect on fish.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries Biologist Mark Haffley, with Lake Erie Research Unit, explained some of the forces at work. "A dense thermocline forms during summer, separating warm water from cooler water. Thermocline can be thought of as structure that brings Walleyes together. Walleyes suspend in preferred temperatures above the barrier, shielded from the cold water below. As fall approaches, cooler evenings cause the upper level to chill, bringing the temperatures above and below the thermocline closer together, and the thermocline becomes less significant. A storm with strong winds can turn over the lake and mix the nearly equal temperatures together, effectively removing the thermocline. As a result, Walleyes scatter.



This Walleye fell for a bait towed behind a Dipsy Diver.

After Labor Day, Walleyes are impossible for fanatics to ignore. Generally, Walleyes will be the largest fish taken from Lake Erie's waters during the entire year. "Last September's Walleyes were the best-looking fish we saw at Vision Quest, with nearly all displaying pot bellies," said Captain Alex.

If you locate late-season Walleyes and place reasonable lures in the strike zone, you will catch fish. "Walleyes instinctively

Some Walleyes find other structure and preferred temperatures with food sources," said Haffley.

"September starts a migration back to the west basin for many Walleyes, and the areas we call 'the trenches' again grow in importance," said Captain Pete Alex, who has over 30-years of experience at the helm of Vision Quest Charters. "Anglers will not find large congregations of Walleyes in 40 feet of water. Now, we get the lead out. We use 18# Stealthcore, lead core, fishing line with deep diving plugs and often add 2- to 4-ounces of weight to troll the strike zone. We use wire line and diving disc setups with spoons or 5-inch stick lures," said Captain Alex.

Captain Steve Skrypzak, Waterbok Charters, also goes deep fishing after Labor Day, "Walleyes will no longer be in their summer spots, but will predictably be lured at 55- to 65-foot depths in 70- to 80-foot of water. Dipsy Diver rigs will be set to the deepest settings, and specialized lead core line becomes critical," said Skrypzak.

Trolling anglers may need to let out 200-feet of line or more. Successful trolling means knowing exactly how much line is placing lures in the strike zone and repeatedly duplicating the amount. Reels equipped with line counters are critical gear.

Seasoned, deep-water trollers may notice I have yet to mention downriggers. Downriggers are made to fish deep, but these expensive gadgets are not as popular for Walleye fishing as in the past. While downriggers will put lures in the strike zone, an increasing number of anglers believe downrigger weights can startle Walleyes.

gorge themselves as they prepare for survival through the winter months, when their metabolism will slow to conserve energy," said Captain Skrypzak. "Late-season Walleyes often regurgitate baitfish as they are hoisted from the depths, and what and how much these fish ingested becomes increasingly apparent during the preparation process," said Skrypzak.

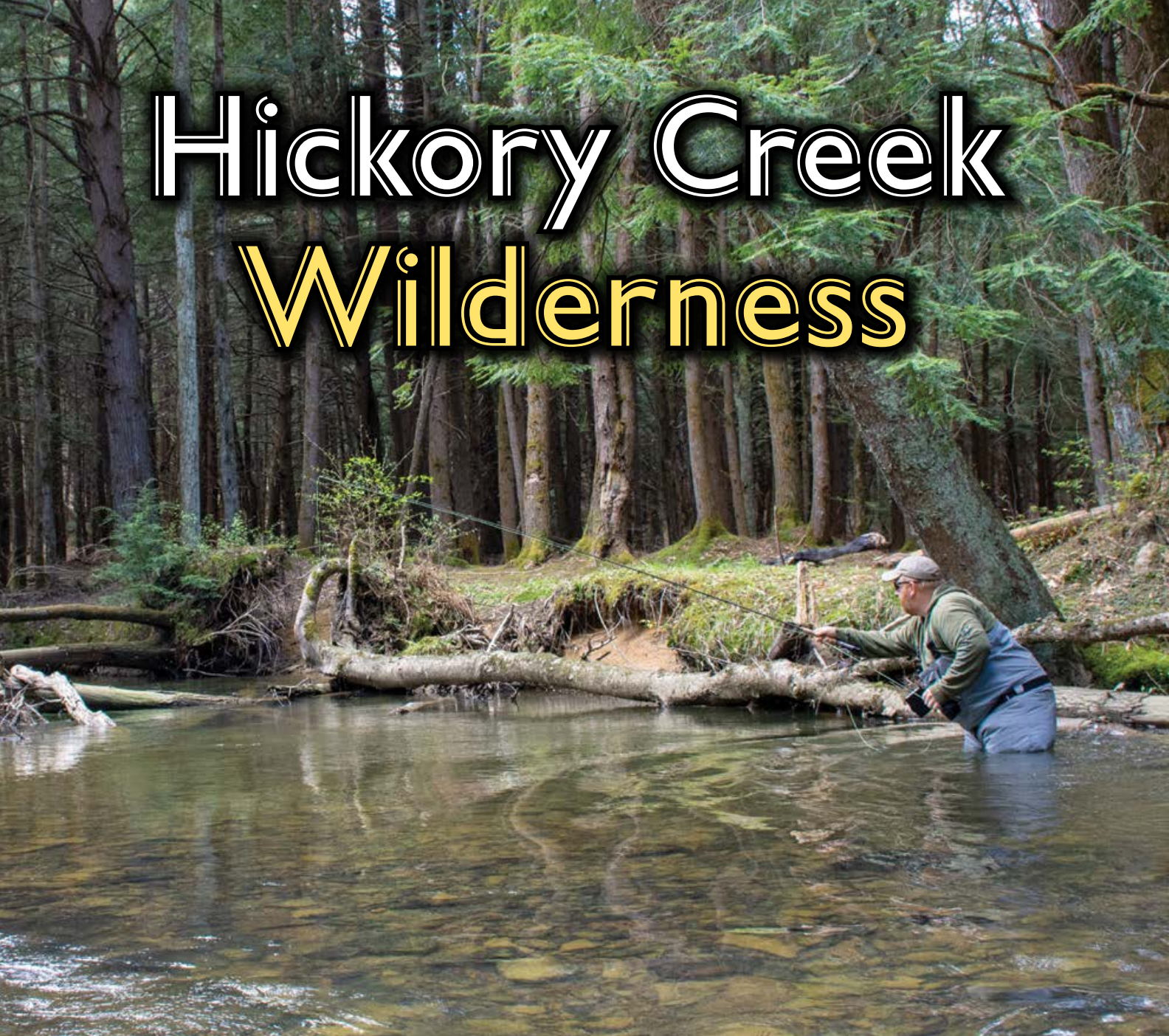
This is not the time to request discounts from charter services. When you consider the opportunity to catch the largest Walleyes of the year, the specialized equipment to catch Walleyes, and the fuel burned to reach areas where Walleyes are still congregating, it is easy to assume the opposite would be true.

"Understandably, charters key on the few areas where large numbers of Walleyes congregate, but most of the fish that were predictably in 40 feet of water will actually be scattered closer to shore. You can bet hungry Walleyes will be wherever favorable water temperatures and food sources exist. This is when Walleyes are going to feed on Round Gobies and nearshore baitfish," said Haffley. It may require more effort to catch large quantities, because Walleyes are scattered, but the fish will be here.

Lake Erie always deserves respect and more so now. Be sure your vessel is worthy of safely navigating conditions that could change quickly. Watch weather conditions. Boaters must resist the temptation to "stick it out" while enjoying success when conditions worsen. Expect outings to be cut short on occasion.

It may be wise for Walleye anglers to postpone winterizing their vessels. After Labor Day, Lake Erie's Walleye fishery can be incredible. ☐

Hickory Creek Wilderness



by Ralph Scherder

photos by the author

In 1984, the United States Congress designated 8,663 acres in northwestern Pennsylvania as the Hickory Creek Wilderness, Warren County. The purpose of this designation is to preserve and protect lands that have not been altered by human encroachment. Here, there are no modern conveniences or facilities, only forest, and through it all runs a network of pristine streams ripe for exploration.

Hickory Creek Wilderness is bound by Forest Road 119 to the south and State Route 2002 and State Route 3005 to the north. Within the wilderness, you will find the headwaters of one of my favorite little trout streams, East

Hickory Creek. East Hickory Creek is stocked with trout by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

Numerous named and unnamed feeder creeks enter East Hickory Creek throughout the wilderness. The main ones are Camp Run and Jacks Run. Also, a little over 2 miles upstream from Forest Road 119, Middle Hickory Creek joins East Hickory from the east. If you continue exploring up Middle Hickory Creek, you will find more small feeder creeks, such as Coon Run.

None of these streams receive a Class A designation from the PFBC, but that does not mean wild trout are not present. Many of these streams have never been surveyed by biologists.

In my experience fishing here, it seems wild trout populations fluctuate quite a bit depending on water levels and other factors. For instance, during drought



The display board at the trailhead is full of need-to-know information to make your trip to the Hickory Creek Wilderness enjoyable and safe.

years (such as the summer of 2020), some of these small feeder creeks dry up, so most of the trout move down into the main stem. But, as water levels come up again in the fall and throughout winter, wild trout are found almost anywhere throughout Hickory Creek Wilderness.

The main key to success when fishing the Hickory Creek Wilderness is stealth. Fishing pressure is minimal, so the trout are sensitive to any intrusion. When approaching potential holding water, keep low and creep within casting distance. It is helpful to get into position and then wait a few seconds before making a cast to observe what is going on in the pool.

East Hickory Creek and Middle Hickory Creek have plenty of quality trout habitat. There are lots of undercut banks and deep pools with woody debris and structure. If you are patient, and lucky, sometimes you may catch a nice trout feeding in a part of the pool that is accessible. On numerous occasions, I was able to cast close enough to a structure and a good-sized trout came out from under it to take my fly. Of course, a good-sized trout in these streams may be only 7 inches long.

Hickory Creek Wilderness can also be accessed by one trailhead located along State Route 2002 near the Hearts Content Recreation Area. There a designated parking area with a well-marked map of the wilderness as well as a display board with various notices and items of interest. One poster includes a quote from the Wilderness Act of 1984 and reads, "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

The hiking trail throughout the wilderness is a 12-mile loop with minimal signage and is only moderately maintained. If exploring the trail, bring a paper copy of the trail map or have a GPS on hand. Do not rely on your cell phone. Cell phone reception in this area is poor. Also, carry a few survival items, such as matches and an extra set of clothing, just in case the unexpected happens. Always let someone know where you are going beforehand.

A great overnight trip to Hickory Creek Wilderness is to pack some light camping gear and hike in from the trailhead. The trail loop intersects several creeks that you can camp near and fish. No permit is required to enjoy Hickory Creek Wilderness. Leave no trace behind when you leave.

There is also a small camping area near the trail head, at the Hearts Content Recreation Area. Picnic tables and shelters are also available.

The Hickory Creek Wilderness has piqued my sense of adventure. Each time I fish or hike the trails, I find enough to make me want to return. In this time of technology and fast-paced living, it is important to "unplug" and return to the forest where life moves at its own pace. ☐



The 12-mile loop through the wilderness is perfect for hikers, backpackers, cross-country skiers, and anyone looking to enjoy nature in a pristine setting.

Fishing Escape to the Pennsylvania Wilds

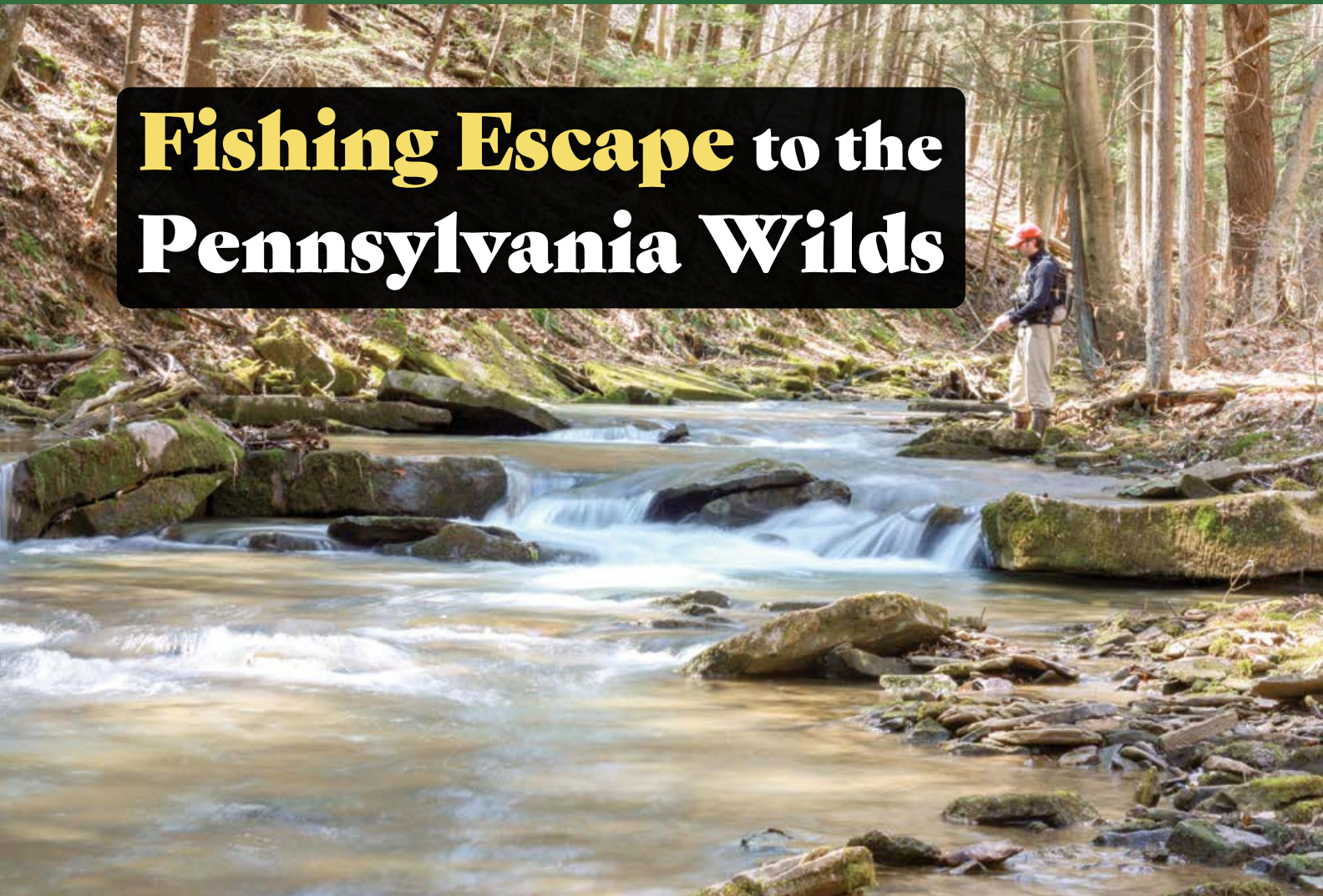


photo-Todd Puleo

by Don Feigert

Sometimes a person needs to get away—from work, from people, from busy tasks around the house—and travel up to the hills, hollows, streams, waterfalls, boulders, and wildlife of the northern Pennsylvania mountains. I go fishing for wild Brook Trout where the scenery beckons—the fish lie in the riffles and pools and answer my casts with multiple bites, and beautiful fish land in the thick shade of the big hemlocks and white pines overhead. I packed a one-person tent and planned to sleep out under the clear, black night and summer stars on private land owned by a good friend in Warren County.

It felt like a dream traveling to the Pennsylvania Wilds in my old 2005 Jeep rambling northeast on Route 62 through Mercer and Venango Counties on my way toward Warren County. We followed the beautiful Allegheny River northeast, with State Game Lands 86 on the

west bank to my left and Allegheny National Forest (approximately 517,000 acres) to the east. The river runs wide and shallow at this spot, reflecting wooded hills on both sides and winking at me, sparkling in the sun. I accelerated up the highway and gazed at the roadside greenery—lime, forest, and olive drab in the hillside hemlocks, pines, and ferns. This scenery eased my mind and calmed my back and shoulder muscles as I drove.

There is something about the outdoors, I told myself. I read about the effects of leafy green woodlands on the human heart and mind. They flash you back to ancient, primitive days, when the forest meant shelter, haven,



photo-Derek Sals

A wild Brook Trout caught while fishing a mountain stream.



A view from an overlook of the Allegheny River.

food, fuel, a place to fish and hunt, and hide. Kind of like what it meant to me that day, on my weekend of escape. The sound, sight, and smell of flowing rivers and streams bring a similar relief, and sometimes take us back in time as well.

We were packed up tight with provisions and gear, that old Jeep and me, cruising in the noonday sunshine, both of us old and ugly, rusted out, beat up, our parts unreliable and in need of repair, but neither of us caring at all. We felt happy in the forest on the river under the sun. I surprised myself then by stopping at a hatchery-stocked stream, I do not know why. I guess to go fishing for a while. I fish for wild trout 90% of the time. However, every year, I make a few trips to a stocked stream to

catch a few fish. I knew this one stream, Horse Creek, Venango County. It reminds me of a larger wild trout stream, 20- to 30-feet across, high gradient down the hillsides above the river, spotted with waterfalls, riffles, and deep pools where fish hide.

I pulled into a small parking area and carried my fly rod down to a big pool just below the bridge. I decided to test some caddis imitations and beadhead nymphs just for fun. I tried the beadhead nymphs first, casted several times, got a good hit, and played a nice stocked Brown Trout to the shoreline. I took a good look at the trout, figured it was about 1-foot long, larger than the wild Brook Trout I catch on the little creeks. Its body was larger and heavier than the wild Brook Trout, and

the head was not as oversized. Then, I tried some caddisflies for a short time, before packing up my rod and gear and heading back to the Jeep. I wanted to pursue wild trout for the rest of the trip.

Later, I crossed into Warren County and arrived at my buddy's property. I picked a good campsite near an old, abandoned railroad bed just above the river on the west bank and set up my tent and gear. A mountain creek ran nearby on its way to the river, with pure green waters splashing into riffles and small waterfalls, making easy music over slate rock, sandstone, pebbles, and clay. Looking upstream, I spotted a bend in the stream—a



Casting upstream to bring the lure down into the feeding zone.



Mountain streams often tumble down near vertical slopes.

dark little waterway where a deep pool formed at the curve. I knew a wild Brook Trout must be finning in the off-current, waiting for a red worm, mayfly, or a crippled minnow to come tumbling downstream.

I stood silent for a moment and took it all in. Then, I crept to the edge of the pool, examined the waters in front of me, flipped my line upstream, and let the black Woolly Bugger drift naturally into the feeding zone.

An 8-inch Brook Trout zipped out from the cutbank, attacked the bait, and dashed back toward sanctuary. I set the barbless hook, worked the thrashing trout to the water's edge, and released it quickly into the deep green pool, handling the hook but not touching the fish at all. I have caught many wild

Brook Trout over the years, but each time I experience it, I feel a sense of something new—the fish, the woods, myself. I worked the stream for more than an hour and caught four more Brook Trout, each between 6- and 8-inches, all on wet flies.

Later, I grilled venison at my campsite. Afterwards, I strolled down to the river and sat on a flat-topped boulder. The shallow shoreline waters eddied colorlessly around the rocks in front of me in the onset of dusk. Farther out, I could still see the dark current, as the river rushed on.

I sat quietly for a while and watched the bats flutter above the riffles in the twilight and listened to the carp splash in the slow pools near the shoreline. I smelled the fishy, watery scent of riverside life and felt the great pull of the river as it sent its millions of gallons downstream. Then, I headed back to the campsite.

I placed kindling—strips of grapevine bark, twigs, and dry leaves from the ground—into the campfire and added the strike of a match. I sat and stared at the flames and a peace descended upon my shoulders.

I knew that I would sleep a deeper sleep that night than my other self, my city-dwelling workaday self, could ever imagine. A breeze lifted from the ground and delivered a mix of pine needle, fern, and leaf mulch to my nose. ☐



The Pennsylvania Wilds offer exceptional trout streams.

Tying the Half and Half



by Carl Haensel

photos by the author

Big fish like to eat big prey, especially during fall. Two top patterns for chasing large predatory fish on the fly are the Clouser Minnow and the Deceiver. The Clouser Minnow, developed by Bob Clouser, Dauphin County, on the Susquehanna River, does a stellar job of imitating a fleeing baitfish or crayfish, and gets deep with weighted eyes. Renowned angler Lefty Kreh developed the Deceiver differently, using feathers to undulate softly in the current, triggering finicky fish by imitating a wounded baitfish. The Half and Half combines some of the best aspects of both flies. Heavy eyes help the fly move up and down quickly when stripping. This jigging action consistently triggers fish. The saddle hackle feathers move well, and I often use craft fur that adds significant durability to the fly in place of some of the deer hair in the pattern. The Half and Half produces well in the fall, especially when hefty bass, muskies, and pike are the quarry. Even trophy Walleyes take this fly from time to time.

Fishing the Half and Half is simple, though small changes in presentation may make a big difference in how many fish you hook. Carry a variety of sink-tip extensions to add on to the end of the fly line to get the fly down to the correct level, where the fish are holding. Tie these flies using eyes of a wide variety of weights. This helps target fish in many feeding situations. If the fish are holding on shallow flats, you can often fish the fly using a floating line. If you are targeting fish that are hanging 4 feet or deeper, a variety of sink tips will help get you on the fish. Larger gamefish can often be more finicky than anglers realize and may refuse to move outside the feeding zone. If you are fishing one of Pennsylvania's many reservoirs, use sonar to pinpoint where fish are feeding, then work your fly on that level. Often, you will need to change sink tips and fly weights to find

the best combination. However, the results are phenomenal. ☐

Tying the Half and Half Materials

Hook: Size 1-3/0 streamer or saltwater hook

Thread: Olive 6/0

Eyes: Painted dumbbell eyes, ¼-inch

Underbody: White bucktail or craft fur

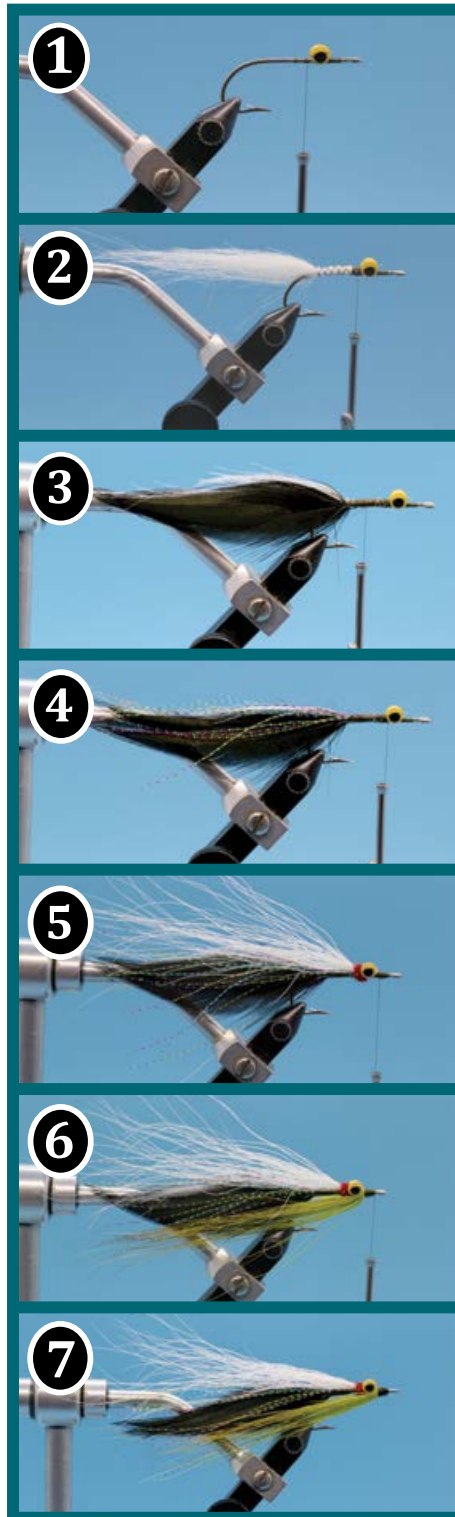
Tails: 4 saddle hackles in dark color of choice

Flash: Krystal flash in color of choice

Belly: White bucktail

Collar: Accent dubbing in orange or red

Back: Dark bucktail in color of choice



- 1 *Begin your fly by placing the hook in the vise and attaching the thread. Secure the dumbbell eyes, leaving plenty of space to finish the fly.*
- 2 *Attach the white underbody of the fly behind the eyes on top of the hook, securing it along the length of the shaft.*
- 3 *Attach the paired sets of saddle hackle feathers on either side of the hook. Then, wrap your thread forward to just behind the eyes.*
- 4 *Add the krystal flash on either side of the fly, securing it along the shaft of the hook.*
- 5 *Tie in the white bucktail for the belly of the fly in front of the eyes. Then, secure it behind the eyes. Add the collar or accent dubbing behind the eyes at this time as well.*
- 6 *Tie in the bucktail for the back of the fly using a dark color such as olive or tan. Do not crowd the eye of the hook.*
- 7 *Build up the thread at the head of the fly. Whip finish the fly just behind the eye of the hook, and add a drop of cyanoacrylate or UV cured glue to secure the wraps. Your fly is finished and ready to fish.*



Shadow-manders: Teaching Children to Tie Salamander Fly Patterns

photos-Christian A. Shane

by *Christian A. Shane*

“Pennsylvania has 22 species of salamanders representing five families and 11 genera. There are seven different families of salamanders in North America.” The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s (PFBC’s), Salamanders page at www.fishandboat.com.

On a recent creek-stomping adventure with my two children, we noticed several species of salamanders. This led to a science fair project for my second grade daughter and a developing fly pattern idea. My oldest son and I started to design fly tying instructions for what we identified as the Northern Two-lined Salamander and Eastern Red-backed Salamander. Since there are not many salamander fly patterns, this prompted some great experimentation on the vise and on the stream. During the COVID-19 pandemic’s social distancing guidelines, we took a few outdoor fishing trips on our own to test these fly patterns. We tried out the “Shadow-manders,” my son’s nickname for these patterns, to find the flies were effective for early season trout, summer bass, and even Bluegills.

During the design phase, we considered the thin profile of salamanders, the way salamanders swim, and its coloration and camouflage. Thus, the Shadow-mander series began. With just a few tying materials, the Shadow-mander captures specific features of real salamanders. First, observe and then create these

patterns with your young tier to imitate a salamander's skin and colors in your local watershed.

Researching and finding salamanders

It is great for children to investigate salamanders before matching salamanders on the vise. The PFBC’s Activities & Education Portal and the Salamanders of PA page online at www.fishandboat.com offer great background knowledge on salamander species. PA Herps (paherps.com) is another online educational tool for the public to help identify reptiles and amphibians throughout Pennsylvania.

Once children have this knowledge, they can begin the search for salamanders. On a damp day, locate



Kids love to hunt for salamanders by turning over rocks in creeks and damp logs on land.

salamanders under rocks, dead logs, and leaves. What may look like a worm sometimes turns out to be a salamander. Look for the telltale upper and lower legs, which worms do not have along their bodies. In the creek, find a shallow spot and slowly turn over rocks. Having a dip net is also helpful in carefully catching these elusive creatures. Sometimes, a plastic container of some kind allows you to study the amphibian up close. Our family rule is always return the specimen quickly and safely to where it was found.

After taking digital pictures of the salamander, children may take their new-found knowledge and evidence back to the vise and try out their own versions of Shadow-manders.

Shadow-mander specifics

This pattern incorporates articulated movement to imitate the salamander swimming in the water. Since this is an advanced technique for young tiers, you may need to prep materials ahead of time such as cutting the front hook and having your tier tie the pattern in two stages with the trailing and lead hook designs. See the November/December 2019 issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*, "Tying Together". Many times, I have young tiers start with the trailer hook, which includes the tail and body. Then, we use monofilament line to connect the trailer with the lead hook. Last, we tie in the lead hook with the body and eyes.

To create realistic bodies, we chose different colors of chenille and the variegated technique to

blend the materials together. For the Eastern Red-backed Salamander, we mixed two strands of red and black chenille. For the rare and threatened Green Salamander, we mixed green and black chenille. These colors can also be purchased as Mottled Chenille. However, I find the kids enjoy creating their own two-toned color schemes, and it is an easy way to involve them in the decision-making process. For the Northern Two-lined Salamander, we used brown chenille and draw in two lines with a black permanent marker.

Shadow-mander eyes

To mimic a realistic head with eyes, we added barbell eyes in red, green, and/or black. The eyes weigh down the pattern quickly to the bottom of the stream, where aquatic salamanders usually reside. Tiers should tie the barbell eyes in using figure-eight wraps, securing the eyes firmly to the hook shank. To add extra weight to the head, we tied in some lead wraps on the front hook shank to mimic it diving to the rocks. This allowed us to fish it almost like a jig.

Shadow-mander tail

Marabou feathers come in handy as tail material due to their length and movement in the water. When wet, the feathers fold back down behind the trailing hook into a tail-like shape, capable of undulating in the current like a salamander attempting to swim.

Allow young tiers time to explore and develop their eco-awareness about the salamander species in your local watershed while tying up some Shadow-manders. ☐

photos: PFBC archives



Northern Two-lined Salamander



Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Northern Two-lined Shadow-mander

Hook: 3X long, #8-12 streamer

Thread: Black 3/0 thread

Weight: .025-inch lead wire (on front hook)

Tail: Marabou (on trailer hook)

Body: Brown chenille (use black permanent marker to draw lines)

Connector: 10- to 20-pound monofilament line

Red-backed Shadow-mander

Hook: 3X long, #8-12 streamer

Thread: Red 3/0 thread

Weight: .025-inch lead wire (on front of hook)

Tail: Marabou (on trailer hook)

Body: Red mixed with black chenille (mottled)

Connector: 10- to 20-pound monofilament line



One More Outing Before Winter

by John Allen

photos by the author

As another summer of fishing fun ends and the school year begins, fishing tends to take a backseat in life for kids until the next spring. If your kids are like mine, they are always looking for another opportunity to go fishing. While the fall can be a busy time, finding a little time for one more outing can be done. You may find yourself scratching your head a bit as you think about possible fishing options. In the fall months, there are still plenty of fishing options for kids. You just need to know where to look.

As a kid, my fishing season never ended. It always seemed like no matter what we did in the fall, there was always a body of water nearby that could offer a quick fishing outing. Whether it was the “extra-long” dentist appointments that involved a quick stop at the local youth fishing area that had just received a fall stocking or spontaneous picnics to a nearby lake, my parents always found a way to get me on the water in the fall. While the fishing is not as productive as during the summertime peak, it can be just as satisfying to soak in those last few

days before the air turns cold again. As I am now a parent, I find myself replicating many of the same tactics and visiting many of the same waterways, no matter the time of year.

Children/Disabled Fishing Areas

There are 21 bodies of water that are designated as “Children/Disabled Fishing Areas.” Twenty of these areas are designated to allow children under 15 years old to fish. Many of these waterways are stocked with trout several times per year including the fall. These waterways offer an excellent opportunity for kids to fish for trout one more time without having to worry about crowds. In many cases, the areas that are not stocked in the fall do not see much fishing activity in the summer months. This often leads to anxious holdover trout that are eager to bite.

The fall holds many annual traditions for my family. Two of these traditions, scouting for hunting season and our annual fall camping trip, lead us to cross paths with two such streams. As my kids become more involved in outdoor activities, stopping at these two streams is quickly becoming a part of the fall tradition. We always seem to find a few trout willing to make things interesting.



The author and his son with his son's first bullhead.

River access points

Fall is one of the best times to fish rivers in Pennsylvania. The fish are extra aggressive, gorging before the winter months set in. There are many access points on a river that are friendly for youth fishing. The Capital Area Greenbelt Trail, along Front Street, Harrisburg, or the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, Pittsburgh, both offer easy access points for young anglers. There are few trees and plenty of space to fish. I generally have my kids target Smallmouth Bass since the strikes are more aggressive, and they can be encouraged



The author's daughter observing a rainbow over Holman Lake, Perry County, during a fall outing.

to cast and retrieve as often as they want. Using live bait and requiring the bait to stay in the water can sometimes be a daunting task when fishing with kids. If your kids do not have a problem with casting and "letting it sit" then live bait is excellent for just about all species that call these rivers home.

Lakes

Most lakes in Pennsylvania have excellent access points and are terrific places to take children fishing. The most difficult aspect in the fall can be locating fish. Often, the fish have vacated summer haunts close to the bank, so you may need to move around a bit. Once you find fish, more will be nearby. There are many lakes that have docks or areas set up to make the accessibility of the lake easier, especially for children. This time of year usually sees lower fishing pressure, so when you do find fish, the bite is usually good enough to keep a child's attention. Many lakes in Pennsylvania see a fall stocking of trout. This can add to the "fishability" of the lake as well.

My kids and I usually try to locate a creek channel as these areas tend to consistently hold fish in the fall. A simple worm under a small bobber rig is all that is needed as we are normally just focused on panfish. Anything else we may catch is a bonus.

This year as the air becomes cooler and the opportunities to take a child fishing begin to dwindle, know that there are still plenty of options available. It is not necessarily the prime time for fishing, but being able to get out once more to do something you and your kids enjoy is far more important. ☐



A simple worm and bobber rig allowed the author's son to catch his first crappie.



NOTES *from the Streams*

Worth it

When a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission trout stocking truck heads to Armstrong County, I do not have to worry about stocking all the fish by myself. Stocking volunteers are a dedicated group of people who come out—rain or shine—to make sure the trout get into the water. Most of the time, these volunteers are retired men and women who love to dedicate their time to stocking fish. They carry the buckets like they are teenagers again.

Occasionally, I do get a younger volunteer. During preseason stocking of Cowanshannock Creek, I was fortunate to have a father and son team for the longer carries across the fields along the creek. This young man carried buckets of trout that probably weighed half his own weight. To the stream he went. Then, he ran back to the stocking truck to get another bucket.

At the end of the day, I talked to the father and son to thank them for their hard work and ask if they planned to do any trout fishing this season. While talking to the young

man, I noticed he was covered in mud from head to toe, as it just rained hard the night before. I asked the boy why he was so muddy. He quickly responded, “I slipped down a few of the banks, but it was worth it to stock those trout.” As the father and son headed back to their car his dad said, “My passenger seat in the car does not agree.”—*WCO Dorian Seibel, Western Armstrong County.*

Unique opportunity

While patrolling Loyalhanna Lake, Westmoreland County, I received a phone call from an informant. He was upset on the phone and told me he was watching numerous fishing violations, but he could not reach anyone to report the violations. I told him I was on duty and would handle it. He started laughing and said, “Well, by the time you get there, they will not be there. This is happening in Erie.” He explained that he was watching a live webcam from Uncle John’s Elk Creek Campground, Erie County. I pulled up the webcam and started to watch the live stream. He told me to pull up camera #4 and that

I would see five people on it. They looked like they were swimming, but they actually had a gill net and only came out of the water to bring fish out. He also told me they had fish in the bucket by the dogs and some of the fish were more than 12 inches long. I thanked him for the information and told him I would call him back. Then, I called Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) Daniel A. Nietupski and explained what was relayed to me. WCO Nietupski said he was close and would respond with backup. Within 10 minutes, WCO Nietupski called me back and asked if I was still watching the webcam. I called back my informant and ensured he was also watching the live stream as well since WCO Nietupski was about to approach the individuals. WCO Nietupski found that the five individuals had multiple violations resulting in 18 citations being issued. I have been able to help with numerous violations in my career, but none while being in a completely different region at the time of the event.—*WCO Matthew A. Kauffman, Northern Westmoreland, Southern Armstrong, and Southern Indiana counties.*

Lost and found antenna

Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer (DWCO) Dave Eichler and I participated in a detail held at Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County. We were going to be separated for most of the day and I recall turning to DWCO Eichler and handing him the spare keys to patrol vehicle F87. I let him know, in case we did not meet up at lunch time, that he could use the vehicle to eat lunch. After the detail was completed, we all met at the ranger station to go over the day’s events. After the meeting and while driving back to our district,



illustration—Andrea Feeney

my radio was receiving calls, but DWCO Eichler's was silent. He looked at his radio and noticed the antenna was missing. We pulled into a parking lot and checked under his seat with no luck. I asked if he sat on the driver's side, and he replied that he did not. After dropping him off at his residence, I returned to my district office and did a more thorough search under the front passenger side of the vehicle. Still no antenna. Since some of the equipment DWCO's carry is cost out of their own pocket, I drove to Blue Marsh Lake the next day to look for the antenna. I checked the patrol boat he was in and checked the field area where we met for the detail. Finally, I checked the ranger station room. No luck. DWCO Eichler called later to let me know he purchased a new antenna, so his radio was fixed.

Fast forward one year later as I was driving on a bumpy road, the vibration caused my Bluetooth device to fall out of my ear. I pulled into a parking lot and checked under the driver's seat and spotted the device. Reaching under the seat, I felt a roundish long thing. My first thought was that I must have dropped a pen and forgot about it. I pulled the object out—it was an antenna. I immediately looked at my radio to see the antenna was still attached. I thought for a while and started to laugh a bit.

I called DWCO Eichler a little later and asked, "Are you sure you did not sit in the driver's seat that day at the detail?" He replied, "No." I asked again, "Are you sure?" I received the same response. I informed DWCO Eichler that I found his antenna under the driver's seat. There was a moment of silence on the phone. Then, DWCO Eichler remembered he may have eaten lunch in the vehicle. We met up later, I handed him his lost antenna, and we both shared a laugh.—WCO Joseph S. Underdonk Sr., Northern Lancaster County.

Attack swan

One of the cool things about being a WCO is getting the opportunity to work outside in a variety of habitats and being able to see a variety of wildlife. Recently, while on a wetland disturbance site along a pond, I noticed two swans feeding in the water. A few weeks later, I returned and noticed only one swan was in the water. After looking for a few seconds, I spotted the other one perched on a nest in the weeds on the far side of the pond. The male swan was swimming the perimeter of the pond, constantly keeping guard over his mate and the nest. If anyone got too close to the edge of the water, the male swan would charge with his wings puffed out, but usually stopped a few feet shy of coming out of the water.

We began to do some testing of the soil and I soon forgot about the overprotective male swan swimming only a few feet behind us. While kneeling and speaking with a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection biologist, I heard some close footsteps in the mud behind me. I stood up and instantly felt a solid thump across the back of my calf. I turned in time to see the male hit me with a hard part of his wing. He seemed proud of himself as he strutted back to the water, constantly maintaining eye contact with what appeared to be a superior look on his face. I told the swan that he could go to jail for assault, but he swam away and joined his mate at the nest. Everyone who was present had a good laugh, and we appointed one of the nearby kids as the official swan watch. We did not have any more encounters with the pair.—Alec S. DeLong, Lackawanna, Wayne, and Susquehanna counties.

No vacancy

Periodically, we get calls to relocate venomous snakes that people discover are residing or passing through yards and

landscapes. I received one of these calls in August 2020. The individual called the region office and provided photo documentation that it was in fact one of the three venomous snakes in Pennsylvania. I arrived at the residence. Based on the wooded and rocky setting, I was not surprised to see an Eastern Copperhead. The residents showed me a small stone wall that was laid up without mortar, and there in front was the snake. I used the snake hook to place the snake in the bag for relocation. I offered a few suggestions as I was leaving, mentioning that it may not be a bad idea to remove the stone wall and to keep the landscaping trimmed since there were likely more snakes in the area. I released the snake nearby and snapped a photo.

In May 2021, I received another call from the region office. It was the same resident with another snake. I arrived back at the address and found the stone wall half dismantled. The resident said they decided to eliminate the wall, and in the process of taking it apart, they found another Eastern Copperhead. I bagged the snake up and relocated and snapped another photo. Evidently, that stone wall was a popular destination for the Eastern Copperheads.—WCO Zachary M. Rudd, Northampton County.



Eastern Copperhead

photo: WCO Zachary M. Rudd



Fall's Shoreline Trout

by Vic Attardo

photos by the author

An angler I did not know was sitting about 15 yards south of me on the banks of Tobyhanna Lake, Monroe County. I saw him shimmy up to the edge of his chair and hunch over one of his rods pointing out to the water. From where I was waiting, I could see his float disappear under the surface. Then, the angler lifted the rod, and there was a trout thrashing on the surface.

About 3 minutes later, my 7-foot spinning outfit, set with holders in a prone position, flexed to a strike. However, instead of immediately yanking hard, I pulled up slowly and began steady reeling. Fortunately, I experienced a similar thrashing as a trout struck the circle hook and bait, and I gained a firm connection. The Brook Trout battled to the beach. I released the fish, hoping it would still be around for ice fishing season.

Certainly the circle hook worked, but what was also evident was the fact that trout in lakes often school and circulate. If you see someone catch a fish, it is possible that the school will swim to you. This shoreline tactic is one of the things I count on while enjoying a break from more vigorous river and stream fly fishing, to soothe my shoulders, and ply a relaxing day of fishing trout from shore.

There are subtle tricks you can employ when sitting or standing from shore to catch more trout.

First, I always go with at least two rods—using a combination of live bait and artificial lures, maybe even a fly rod if I know the shoreline is open for casting.

When shoreline fishing, you may startle trout away with too much commotion, either walking back and forth or repeatedly casting and splashing. For this reason, I keep a spinning outfit strung up with an appropriate lure. After making a few casts away from my baited rod, I put the rod down. I do not cast again for 15 minutes or longer, hoping the circulating trout have returned when I do.

If I caught a trout with the initial lure casts, I may keep the same lure on, but I usually switch lures so a schooling trout that was reluctant to strike the first time around sees something different and hits hard. Often, I am changing between small spoons, spinners, and suspending stickbaits. The decision is based on the water depth—with spoons requiring the greatest depths—also wind speed and direction. If the wind is blowing stiff towards shore, a balsa floater/diver does not reach far and may get blown back.

I work as much of the shoreline as I can without interfering on another angler's territory. When I am finished, I go back to waiting at my baited rod.

I am fond of using a drop shot rig with a circle hook about 2 feet above the sinker. The weight is usually 1/8-ounce and the circle hook from 1/0 to a 10 depending on the bait size. Since I often use a medium shiner as opposed to a small Fathead Minnow, my normal hook choice is a 1/0. If I set up a second baited rod, I forego the minnow and use a cured salmon egg on a tiny egg hook. Often, trout will hit an egg sitting 5 feet or so away from an active minnow. When a small school swims by, this trick gets the reluctant fish.

Some shore anglers like using bobbers. I generally do not. However, when there is no breeze rumpling the surface, a slip bobber, preferably a slim stick, will cause light hits. I mostly watch the line below the rod tip to signal a strike, not the tip itself. If the line goes slack, it is probably a striking fish. If the line tightens and the rod tip thumps, there is a trout moving away with your bait. With a circle hook, you lift the rod from the holder and slowly reel, raising the rod tip at the same time.



An assortment of stickbaits, spoons, and spinners are useful lures when fishing trout from shore.

Working from shore to catch trout is relaxing. I am happy to play the game. ☐



On calm days, live bait worked from shore will produce beautiful fall trout.



photo-Marshall Nych

The Lowdown on Snags

by Marshall Nych

For every villain there is a hero. In times of darkness, we most appreciate the light. There would be no concept of a high without an understanding of a low, nor could we measure success without experiencing the sting of failure. Nowhere are such ends of the spectrum more vividly illustrated than fishing. Unforgivingly affixed to one end are snags, while joyfully hooked to the other is our targeted quarry

leaping from the water. The rock bottom is a snag (sometimes literally), which helps anglers appreciate the rare and perfect cast rewarded by a fish.

The following are my personal experiences with the sundry of hang-ups lurking somewhere within our passion. Some encounters ended with triumph; others resulted in loss of a ¼-ounce jig and my dignity.

Stony snag

Typically, a rock face catches the hook. Such a hang-up requires minimal effort to defeat. Often, a

simple tightening of the line followed by an abrupt opening of the bail as the pinnacle of tension is reached will do the trick. While rough surfaces often free the lure, the line often frays. Periodically check fishing line after each stony snag.

An overhang-out

Be it a tree limb, wire, or other above-water obstacle, the key is patience. Retrieve the lure until suspended in midair. Hopefully, the line is not wrapped around the obstruction and the offering is free floating. Reel in to about the halfway point between the water surface and the overhang. In a swift motion, twitch the rod to “jump” the snag.

Lunker lumber

If an underwater snag feels to be giving, it is possibly affixed to a flexible tree branch. Based on how long the tree has been submerged, you may be able to simply break free with increased pressure. If not, consider the loss of lure a gain in knowledge of underwater features. Avoid rod damage. A lost plug is preferred to a broken rod every time. Since you know where the snag is located, fish it.

Ouch

Even the experts, typically due to wind speed or non-experts, suffer the occasional hook somewhere on their bodies. Bodily injury can be minimized with proper care. All anglers should pack a first aid kit. If only the point or minimal amount of barb is beneath the skin, carefully reverse the shank the same way you would remove it from a fish’s mouth. However, if the barb is deep the angler may have

to push it through, exposing the barb out of the exit hole. Pinch the barb with pliers, making for a smooth removal. Properly disinfect the wound immediately.

Fish on

Be honest, it happens to all of us from time to time. You masterfully reel in a hard-fighting fish only to realize it is snagged. First, try to free the fish from the foul hook as soon as ethically possible. Often, sweeping the rod or abrupt pressure does the trick. If not, land the fish and quickly remove the hook. Immediately release the snagged fish. It is unlawful to purposely catch or keep foul hooked fish.

Go fetch

Do not overlook various brands of lure retrievers. I have enjoyed great success with sturdy telescopic models, particularly in lakes, ponds, and other still-water situations.

Shoreline fiasco

I am amazed how often I discover expensive lures while hiking river shorelines or lakeside docks. I assume the angler forced the break, either miscalculating the snag or simply not wanting to be inconvenienced to beach the boat and stroll the length of their cast. In fact, anglers aboard my boat are surprised when I am willing to paddle in a canoe or beach a river boat in the name of rescuing a lure.

Soup or salad

Lily pads, milfoil, and other aquatic vegetation can accumulate. If left unchecked, it can not only affect enjoyment level but also break off a plug or weaken a knot. Be aware of the balance between thickness of plants and strength of line.

The cowboy

Whether a shoestring at one’s foot or a braided variety tied to the end of an anchor rope, removing hooks from rope can be simple. At the site of the snag, compress the rope. In most ropes, this creates networks of tiny gaps. Carefully tease the hook through the threads.

Full throttle

I witnessed a fishing line get wrapped into a trolling motor. Such an avoidable tangle took precious fishing time to unravel. Do not continue motoring. Cut the power as soon as possible. Then, use a pair of pliers to unwind the mess. The worse the mess, the greater the likelihood of having to open the casing with a screwdriver or other tool to get to the tangle.

During the next fishing trip, when you find yourself snagged, be patient and assess the tangle. Then, promptly try to get back your lure. ☑

Photo-Dee Fisher



Even the experts, typically due to wind speed or non-experts, suffer the occasional hook somewhere on their bodies.



River Fishing Carp

by Nathan Woleslagle

photos by the author

Common Carp are as common as their name indicates. From rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams, Common Carp call a majority of Pennsylvania's waterways home. Fishing for carp in Pennsylvania's large rivers can offer sizable fish and hearty fights.

I consider Common Carp to be one of the hardest fighting fish in Pennsylvania, especially when targeting them within rivers. The anatomy of a Common Carp proves just how powerful it can be. Its large tail, strong pectoral fins, and streamlined body allows the Common Carp to gain considerable speed when fighting against anglers. Common Carp may also cut through river current and change direction at a rapid pace.

Common Carp within rivers can grow to be quite large. While fishing the Juniata River, it is of no surprise



The author with a carp caught while river fishing.

to regularly catch Common Carp in excess of 20- to 30-pounds. I prefer to target Common Carp within Pennsylvania's rivers because the average size I catch tends to lean towards 30 pounds.

Common Carp have predictable habits, which is advantageous to anglers who are choosing to target these fish. Common Carp are a schooling fish, so where you find one, you will often find many. Look to find large, deep pools in rivers or slow backwater eddies in the fall and summer months. Carp are typically bottom-feeders, so this fish species chooses to school in slower sections of water, where it can comb the bottoms of a river with its mouth to consume prey.

When fishing for Common Carp in the spring, I target deep riverbanks with overhanging bushes. Common Carp are often found near the bank and in backwater areas of rivers in the spring during spawning. This is a spectacle to watch and can also be heard. Common Carp frequently leap out of the water and thrash about when spawning. I have even seen carp slide out onto the riverbank. In addition, I target riverbanks with overhanging bushes, because some bushes may be dropping berries, which carp eat. These berry bushes may be hidden gems for anglers to discover.

As far as bait selection for Common Carp, it is nothing overly complicated. Common Carp love nightcrawlers, dead crayfish, hellgrammites, and corn. Chumming for carp with corn is also effective in rivers, as many may be familiar with the practice typically taking place in ponds and lakes. For fishing

line selection, I lean on the heavier side—15- to 20-pound monofilament line is my go-to. When fishing for carp in low and clear water during the summer, I switch to 12-pound fluorocarbon line as a leader, and 30-pound braided line as my main line. Carp can be “line shy”, as its eye sight is quite impeccable.

A sturdy rod is a must, and I often choose a medium-heavy or heavy spinning rod. Secure your rod in a rod holder, as a Common Carp's

initial run after being hooked can be powerful. I have witnessed several fishing rods fly off of boats or docks and into rivers as a carp surges away with an entire angler's fishing setup. Take this advice with serious consideration, and keep your rod secured as you wait for that initial bite.

When you hook a large carp in a river, your natural reaction may be to loosen your bail and let the fish run. This will not work as it does in lakes or ponds. Letting a carp get down river of you is never a good idea, because it may be brutal to try to reel it back upstream. Instead, opt to use heavier line paired with a heavier rod. This will grant you more control to maneuver the carp out of the current and into your net.

A unique opportunity to note for fly anglers, who may want to get in on the river carp action, is the annual white fly hatch that occurs on many Pennsylvania rivers. Common Carp will rise to consume the masses of spent adult white flies that land on the river's surface. Target slow pools, where you see carp rising with a mayfly cluster pattern. You may get lucky and have a carp take your offering.

Fishing for Common Carp within Pennsylvania's rivers is an underdiscussed and underappreciated endeavor. While Common Carp may not be the most sought-after fish species in Pennsylvania, I will argue that large river carp may be one of the hardest fighting species we have in Pennsylvania's rivers. Grab a sturdy rod, a can of worms, and hit the river. A Common Carp is waiting to challenge you to battle in the river's currents. ☐



Unconventional Blades

by Jeff Knapp

photos by the author

The three-day trip to northeastern Ohio's Mosquito Lake had become an annual fall Walleye-seeking tradition for my friend Sid Brown and me. During previous trips, we had success targeting Walleyes in 20- to 25-foot deep creek channel cover with vertically presented blade baits.

During this trip, however, our results had been marginal. We were getting some Walleyes (and lots of quality-sized crappies) but not quite what we expected. It was time to try something else.

After relocating to a hump that topped off in 12 feet of water—one located just off the main creek channel—I fired out a cast with the ½-ounce blade bait. After it

reached bottom, I began a lift/drop retrieve. Halfway back, the cadence was interrupted with what turned out as a nice, 22-inch Walleye and then another one. Sid soon joined in on the action. Before things settled down, we put six, 20-plus-inch Walleyes in the livewell and had several of the “local” boats creeping in, trying to figure out what we were up to.

Physically Mosquito Lake is reminiscent of Pennsylvania's Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford County, located about 30 minutes to the east. Many fishing tactics work on both lakes including this one.

While blade baits—compact metal vibrating baits the likes of the classic Silver Buddy and Heddon Sonar—are not marketed specifically to be fished vertically, that is how many anglers use them, particularly during the fall when fish such as Walleyes are often deep. Exploring presentation options beyond the conventional vertical approach provides additional means for this remarkable lure to put Walleyes in the boat.



An assortment of painted blades and blades with reflective decals.

As touched upon at the outset, one of these blades is a horizontal one, casting and retrieving the blade along the bottom with a jigging motion. However, when compared to the action typically employed with a classic Walleye offering like the jig-n-minnow combo, which calls for subtle “lifts” in the jigging motion (to prevent tearing the minnow free), I impart more energy into the blade. Using a 9 o’clock to 11 o’clock range of motion, give the blade a sharp, upward snap to hop it off the bottom (and activate the lure’s vibrating motion) 6- to 12-inches. Then, allow the lure to drop back to the bottom on a semi-slack line as slack is gathered up with the reel. The snap jigging retrieve is repeated as the lure is brought back to the boat. When it is under the boat, and just off the bottom, give it a few conventional vertical jigs before winding in for the next cast.

Walleyes hit horizontally fished blade baits differently than jig-n-minnow or jig-n-plastic combos. With the latter category, it is common to feel the tick of a bite as the leadhead jig is on the fall. With blades presented in this manner most hits occur when the lure is on the bottom. Many fish will just “be there” when you go to make your next upward snap. When a Walleye is detected on the upswing, continue to sweep the rod upward while rapidly reeling to get the hooks set.

I have used the horizontal blade bait presentation successfully, too, on rivers such as the middle portion of the Allegheny River. In the case of rivers, I had days when cast-and-retrieve blades took Walleyes that ignored the

jig-n-minnow. Also, it does not hurt to apply a viscous scent attractor like Smelly Jelly or Pro-Cure to the blade.

Another unconventional blade tactic for fall fishing is slow trolling the lure in a lake setting. On one of my favorite fall lakes, big Walleyes and Smallmouth Bass set up in deeper water, usually around 30- to 35-feet in the case of Walleyes, around 20- to 25-feet with Smallmouth Bass. Typically, fish are not found in specific spots but rather wandering in these two depth ranges.

In this case, an electric steer bow-mount trolling motor (as opposed to a cable steer) coupled with a good electronic map on your chartplotter increases your efficiency.

You may use the map to keep the boat in the targeted depth zone and the motor to maintain your preferred course and speed.

If there is any wind, I set up my “trolling” pass at the downwind end of the pass, so I am working into the wind. I qualify the term trolling, because you are working at a snail’s pace, roughly .3 to .5 miles per hour. Any faster and you will need to let out too much line to maintain the just-off-the-bottom position of the lure. A line angle of approximately 60 degrees behind the boat is about right. If your line angle exceeds 45 degrees, you need to slow down. I use ½-ounce blades nearly exclusively.

As the boat creeps along, every 5 to 10 seconds give the blade an upward snap of 6- to 8-inches, then allow it to fall back down. Since the boat is moving forward, there will not be a lot of slack in the line. You may feel a hit on the fall or as the lure is hanging between snaps. Occasionally, drop your rod tip back enough, so the lure hits bottom. If it does not hit bottom, let out more line until it hits. Line out adjustments are also needed when the boat moves into deeper or shallower water.

While slow trolling a blade is a slow process, the lure is in the strike zone all the time. When a particular section of a pass is productive, focus in on that area, which also maximizes efficiency.

Blade baits are highly effective lures, particularly during the cooler months when fish are often in deeper water. Combining conventional and unconventional blade tactics this fall will let you get the most out of these lures. □



Downsizing For Muskellunge

by *Braden Eisenhower*

photos by the author

Muskellunge sit atop the freshwater food chain with good reason. With their steadfast reputation of dominance, elusiveness, and mystery, no other fishing experience compares.

Muskellunge rarely come easily to the angler. Only those willing to endure 10,000 casts of agony reap the rewards. On the hook, fights are brief, powerful headshakes blurred in the chaos. Grip-and-grin photos divulge little of the story.

The sport is not about the catch but the journey. Grueling hours spent tossing absurdly large lures, some of which weigh 1 pound, adds to the mystique. Big baits foretell big fish.

However, expectations and reality often run parallel without ever colliding. Sometimes, wielding giant lures is detrimental to success. There are situations when small offerings tempt the largest of predatory fish.

Time of year and forage

One reason to downsize is to match the forage size. The shift to smaller prey occurs on a seasonal basis. Downsizing is at

an extreme level and requires lures under 6-inches, typically intended for other species.

Spring

Many bass, Walleye, and panfish anglers routinely dispel the myth that big baits equal big fish. These anglers commonly bump into trophy-class Muskellunge while pursuing other species each spring. This comes as no surprise as shallow, black bottom bays welcome a multitude of fish going through feeding or spawning cycles.

Pint-sized panfish and shiners are on the menu, making traditional Muskellunge lures less effective. Meanwhile, others pursuing pre-spawn bass with horizontal presentations like spinnerbaits, crankbaits, swim jigs, and jerkbaits (begrudgingly) find the Muskellunge.

Summer

Muskellunge are opportunists. During periods of warmer water, some Muskellunge nestle into dense cover and await easy meals. Such was the case of my first Muskellunge, which ambushed a hollow-bodied frog. Weedless swimbaits, Texas-rigged plastics, and spinnerbaits also excel around vegetation.

Water temperatures exceeding 80 degrees F are unsafe due to the increased likelihood of delayed mortality.



Downsizing does not always necessitate extreme measures. Note the profile difference between a large and standard-size soft plastic. Simply scaling down one size in a manufacturer's lure line may produce tremendous results.

Fall

We also see this in fall when Muskellunge relate to suspended schools of baitfish offshore. Smaller lures imitate this prey and, anecdotally, seem to have greater appeal than large offerings fished through the same space.

While Midwesterners heave outsize lures each fall, the Muskellunge in those parts are gorging on ciscoes, preparing for spawning. Instead, open water baitfish and panfish schools draw the attention of eastern Muskellunge. Lures representative of the forage appeals more than traditional offerings fished through the same space.

Equipment

The challenge to extreme downsizing is having equipment light enough to present lures properly, yet stout enough to handle Muskellunge without causing undo harm.

Heavy-duty bass tackle best fulfills these requirements. This setup is comprised of a heavy power baitcasting rod, quality reel, and 50-pound-test braided line. It is completed by using a 6- to 10-inch solid wire leader, rated at 124-pound-test, with quality components. This leader prevents bite offs without deadening the action of lightweight lures.

Conditional downsizing

Another perspective on downsizing is on a conditional basis. In this sense, downsizing would be gradually scaling back to smaller versions of the same lure. Conventional musky tackle is suitable.

Unfavorable weather

Conditional downsizing is often necessary during unfavorable weather patterns like cold fronts or periods of high barometric pressure. Muskellunge are visibly inactive and may suspend or hunker down around cover.

The remedy is often slow-moving lures that linger in the strike zone. Muskellunge also prefer smaller meals that require less effort to obtain. When Muskellunge snub a large plastic, tossing it a standard-size counterpart may receive a favorable response.

Pressured waters

Another call to downsize is on pressured waters. Pressured waters may provoke skittish fish that are reluctant to take traditional lures. Alternatively, it may be favorable simply for the sake of differentiating from other anglers. A single-bladed bucktail, for example, emits a different vibration, has a different profile, and runs deeper than a large, twin-bladed bucktail. Additionally, it takes less effort to fish smaller lures erratically or at high speeds. Both presentation styles trigger reaction strikes.

Tiger muskellunge

Tiger muskellunge are known for preferring smaller lures. That is not to say tiger muskies do not go for large baits. Rather, it is advantageous to cap lure size to around 7 inches, especially on waters stocked exclusively with tiger muskellunge.

Fish size and water size

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission also stocks Muskellunge and tiger muskellunge in small lakes and tributaries throughout Pennsylvania.

The expectation, though, certainly not the rule, is that smaller waters will house a population of undersized fish. By downsizing, an angler is ultimately appealing to the majority of the Muskellunge in that water body.

Another point would be the dominating presence of large lures in a narrow space. Particularly on tributary waters, where an angler may be able to cast across its width, traditional lures become overwhelming. Scaling an 8-inch crankbait down to a 6-inch version seems to better suit the surroundings.

Muskellunge cannot be force-fed. If traditional tactics fail to produce, consider experimenting with smaller offerings. ☐

2021 FISHING LICENSES

LICENSE YEAR

Annual licenses are valid from Dec. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021. WHILE FISHING, your license must be upon your person and provided upon the request of an officer.



Code	Type of Fishing License or Permit	Age	Cost*
101	Resident (Annual)	16-64	\$22.97
104	Senior Resident (Annual)	65 & up	\$11.97
105	Senior Resident (Lifetime)	65 & up	\$51.97
108	1-Day Resident (not valid March 15-April 30)	16 & up	\$11.97
102	Non-Resident (Annual)	16 & up	\$52.97
113	Non-Resident PA Student (Annual)	16 & up	\$22.97
106	1-Day Tourist **(not valid March 15-April 30)	16 & up	\$26.97
103	3-Day Tourist	16 & up	\$26.97
107	7-Day Tourist	16 & up	\$34.97
110	Voluntary Youth Fishing License (Annual)	Less than 16	\$2.97
109	Mentored Youth Permit	Less than 16	\$0.00
150	Trout Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
033	3-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$25.97
053	5-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$41.97
063	10-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$81.97
151	Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
152	Combination Trout Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$15.97

* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee. Excludes the 109 Mentored Youth Permit.

** Includes Trout and Lake Erie permits, not valid March 15-April 30.

2021 MULTI-YEAR FISHING LICENSES

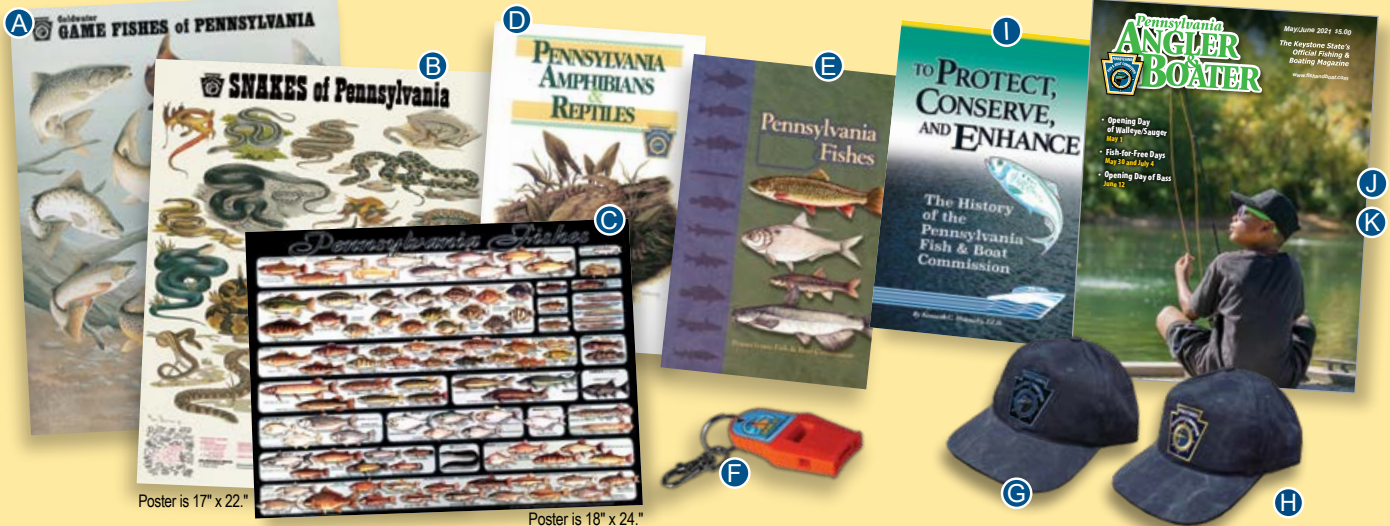
Code	Type of Fishing License or Permit	Age	Cost*
150	1-Year Trout Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
151	1-Year Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
152	1-Year Combo Trout Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$15.97
030	3-Year Resident	16-64	\$64.97
031	3-Year Non-Resident	16 & up	\$154.97
032	3-Year Senior Resident	65 & up	\$31.97
033	3-Year Trout Permit	16 & up	\$25.97
034	3-Year Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$25.97
035	3-Year Combo Trout Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$43.97
050	5-Year Resident	16-64	\$106.97
051	5-Year Non-Resident	16 & up	\$256.97
052	5-Year Senior Resident	65 & up	\$51.97
053	5-Year Trout Permit	16 & up	\$41.97
054	5-Year Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$41.97
055	5-Year Combo Trout Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$71.97
060	10-Year Resident	16 & up	\$211.97
061	10-Year Non-Resident	16 & up	\$511.97
063	10-Year Trout Permit	16 & up	\$81.97
064	10-Year Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$81.97
065	10-Year Combo Trout Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$141.97

* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee.

Poster is 17" x 22."

Books are 6" x 9."

Magazines are 8.25" x 10.88."



	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
A Set of: Coldwater Fishes, Coolwater/Warmwater Fishes, Migratory Fishes, Miscellaneous Fishes, Panfishes, Forage Fishes (6 posters)	\$13.99	_____	_____
B Set of: Frogs, Salamanders, Snakes, Turtles (4 posters)	\$12.11	_____	_____
C Set of: Pennsylvania Fishes Wall Charts (2 posters)	\$ 9.16	_____	_____
D PA Amphibians & Reptiles Book (172 pages)	\$14.34	_____	_____
E PA Fishes Book (172 pages)	\$14.34	_____	_____
F "Wear It!" Safety Whistle	\$10.22	_____	_____
G Denim Blue Hat with Blue Logo - <i>non-taxable</i>	\$18.56	_____	_____
H Denim Blue Hat with Color Logo - <i>non-taxable</i>	\$18.56	_____	_____
I To Protect, Conserve, and Enhance Book (400 pages)	\$25.02	_____	_____
Taxable Merchandise Subtotal			_____
Non-Taxable Merchandise Subtotal			_____
Merchandise Subtotal			_____
PA Residents Add 6% State Sales Tax (Taxable Merchandise Subtotal) Unless All Items Ordered are Non-taxable.			
Merchandise Total			_____
Processing and shipping/handling charges are included in the prices.			

J Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine One-Year Subscription (6 issues) (64 pages)	\$20.97	_____	_____
K Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine Three-Year Subscription (18 issues) (64 pages)	\$48.97	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL (Found above your name on your address label)			
Account # _____			_____
Magazine Subscription Total			_____

Complete the information below. Please print clearly.

Name _____

Phone (include area code) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (optional) _____

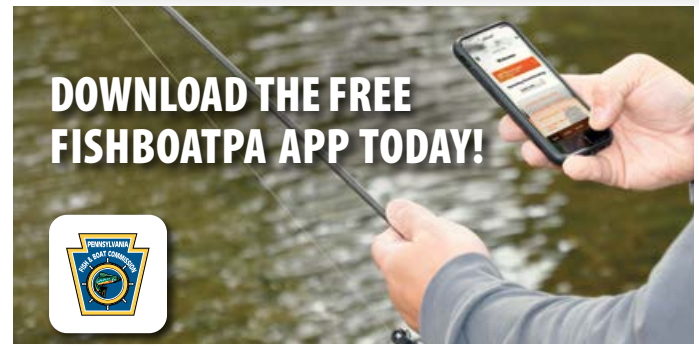
Please mail entire form to: **PA Fish and Boat Commission, Media Productions, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.** Use check or money order made payable to: PA Fish and Boat Commission. For credit card orders, use the form below. **DO NOT SEND CASH!** Prices subject to change without notice. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Credit Card Purchase: VISA Mastercard Discover

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____



For more products and to order fishing licenses and boat registration renewals, visit www.fishandboat.com

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT \$
 (Merchandise Total + Magazine Subscription Total)

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS DO NOT INCUR SHIPPING FEES OR SALES TAX. PROCESSING FEE INCLUDED IN PRICE.



Canadohta Lake—

An Overlooked Gem of Northwestern Pennsylvania

by *Darl Black*

Northwestern Pennsylvania boasts several nationally-acclaimed fishing waters. With large, well-known waters to choose from, it is easy for a small lake off the beaten path to go almost unnoticed by anglers traveling to the region. However, 168-acre Canadohta Lake in northeastern Crawford County is not overlooked by the community surrounding this natural lake or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), whose biologists utilize this natural lake as a Muskellunge brood stock lake.

“Being a brood stock lake is a big thing,” said Jerry Van Tassel, owner of *Timberland Bait* located within the Canadohta Lake community. “It tells anglers that our lake has strong self-producing musky population—strong enough that the PFBC is comfortable in stripping eggs and milt from some of our fish to grow fingerlings in the hatchery for stocking throughout the region. It also implies we have some very large muskies swimming in the lake—which we do. The PFBC nets reveal 40- to 50-inch muskies each year, and I heard of one 56-inch fish a few years back,” said Van Tassel.

Van Tassel opened *Timberland Bait* in 2000. He expanded it to a full-service tackle shop with an impressive selection for anglers including musky lures. Van Tassel helps to promote Canadohta Lake by hosting both a kid’s fishing derby and picnic in August. The long-running annual Canadohta Lake Ice Fishing Tournament is held in February. According to Van Tassel, during ice fishing season you see what this lake has to offer in terms of big fish. Contestants routinely catch eye-popping Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Walleyes, and occasionally a huge Black Crappie.



photos-Darl Black

Timberland Bait Shop caters to anglers fishing for a wide variety of species. In addition to fully stocked new merchandise, the shop also offers a selection of lightly-used popular lures from the past.

When I mentioned to Van Tassel that I had never caught a crappie on my sojourns to Canadohta Lake, he put me in touch with Kenny Oaks, a 25-year-old angler who grew up in the lake community. Oaks invited me to join him and his

girlfriend Kati Frontera for an outing in the maze of canals on the north end of the lake known for early spring crappies.

A PFBC access with ramp and limited parking is located on the west side of the lake. While boats can enter the canals from the lake, we fished from shore with permission of property owners.

"My family lived in the lake community my entire life. I began fishing with my dad when I was only 4 or 5 years old. So, many of my childhood memories are about fishing for crappies in the spring in the Canadohta canals and lagoon," said Oaks. "When I met Kati, she became interested in the outdoors, and we spend our spare time fishing and hunting in the lake area," said Oaks.

Oaks focuses on crappies in the spring, and Walleyes in the summer. "Hair jigs or soft plastic body jigs tipped with a minnow and suspended below a float are my go-to crappie presentations. Most of the ones we catch are 10- to 11-inches long, although we also get some in the 12- to 14-inch range," said Oaks.

In mid-June, Oaks will start trolling for Walleyes using a locally-made willowleaf worm harness adorned with a nightcrawler. Summer Walleyes are usually positioned from the deep edge of the weeds out to about 17 feet of water. The largest Walleye he caught from the lake was 27½ inches long.

Although he has seen some large muskies swimming in the lake, including hooking and losing one now and then, Oaks does not target Muskellunge.

However, the search for big muskies beckons a select group of non-local anglers to the lake each season. It was that search for a toothy trophy that first brought me to Canadohta Lake years ago. But, I was only hunting for a



photos-Kenny Oaks

Kati Frontera with two Black Crappies she caught while fishing at Canadohta Lake, Crawford County.

photo and a story about musky fishing. My host on that trip was Bill Logan, Venango County, who developed a severe case of musky fever.

Besides acquiring a wild assortment of oversized lures, Muskellunge hunters are bound together with tales of huge, sinister-looking shadow fish following their baits. Logan recently told me that 42-inch and smaller Muskellunge continue to ravage his lures on Canadohta Lake, but a true trophy still evades him—although he did catch a glimpse of a monster following his bucktail jig to the boat on two different outings last October.

Brian Ensign, PFBC Area 2 Fisheries Biologist, cannot verify whether Muskellunge of legendary proportion reside in Canadohta Lake, but netting surveys reveal a good Muskellunge population with above normal growth rates.

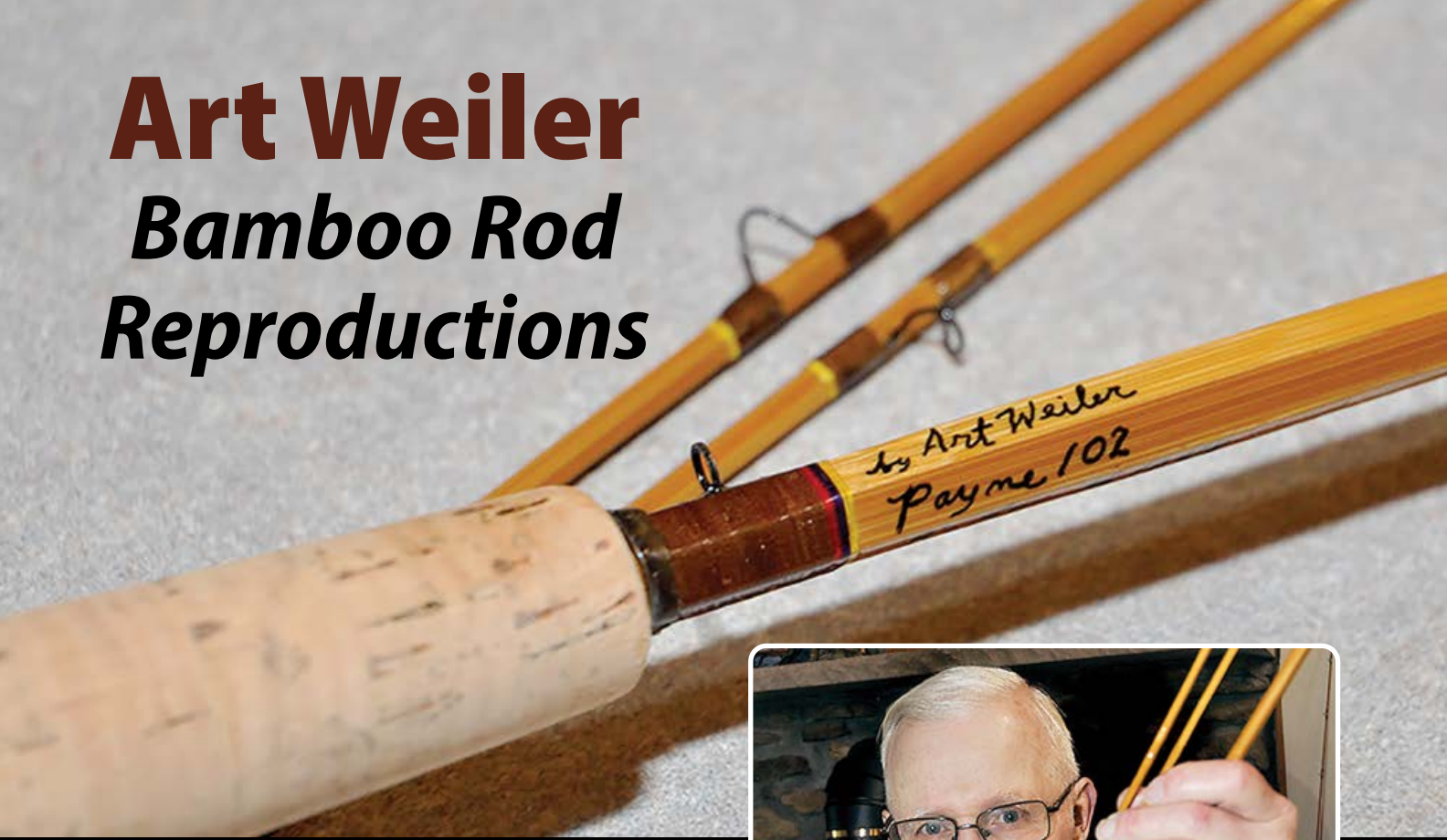
Ensign's work on Canadohta Lake also indicates strong Black Crappie, Bluegill, and Pumpkinseed populations, along with some very nice-size Rock Bass. The Walleye population looks decent for a small lake. In addition, netting conducted by Union City State Fish Hatchery for spawning pike reveal nice Northern Pike specimens. The Largemouth Bass population is not as strong as some lakes in his district. An angler occasionally reports catching a Smallmouth Bass, but Ensign has not encountered any while trap netting or electrofishing. □



photo-Darl Black

Kenny Oaks gets low to fish under an overhanging tree in the canals.

Art Weiler Bamboo Rod Reproductions



by Alex Zidock Jr.

photos by the author

In a shop at his woodsy home near Kunkletown, Monroe County, Art Weiler manufactures reproductions of classic bamboo fly rods. Weiler is most known for his Everett Garrison Reproduction rods in lengths 6½- to 8-foot and line weights from two to seven. But, you will find reproduction bamboo fly rods initially designed by James Payne, H.L. Leonard, Lyle Dickerson, and others on his website.

"A Leonard rod is different than a Payne rod, and they are both different than a Garrison rod," said Weiler. "Each maker had his own particular taper that he liked to use. They each used specific thread color and their own guide styles and handles. They are quite a bit different from each other in appearance and they fish differently," said Weiler.

When you buy a bamboo fly fishing rod from Weiler, you are getting a Weiler-built rod but one built to the exact specifications of a proven product. "What I like to do is deal with a known quantity for a rod. I like to build Payne, Leonard, and Garrison rods. So, if you are buying a rod from me, you know exactly what you are getting. You are not just getting a rod. You are getting a reproduction that looks and fishes like a Payne, Leonard, or Garrison, or one of the others I build," said Weiler.

Weiler began building bamboo fly rods more than 40 years ago while fishing the South Branch of the Raritan River, New



Art Weiler is best known for his reproduction of Everett Garrison bamboo fly rods. This 8-foot rod for 6-weight line has the Garrison style handle and traditional thread to match the color of the bamboo. Each Weiler rod comes with two tips.

Jersey, while on break from teaching eighth-grade students Physical Science. He admired the bamboo rods some older anglers were using but could not afford one.

"I told them I was going to make my own. They laughed and told me it would take thousands of dollars to gather the tools to build a bamboo rod. But, I bought some bamboo, made my own planing jigs, and built my first bamboo fishing rod, and then continually perfected my technique from there," said Weiler.



Art Weiler planes a bamboo section held in the steel form he built. Measurements of tapers from original bamboo rod makers are used to manufacture his reproduction fly rods. Set screws on both sides of the jig allow precise adjustments.

Weiler makes fly fishing rods from Tonkin (Chinese) bamboo tree trunks shipped to him in lengths of 12 feet. He manufactures many of his own tools and devices.

To my surprise, Weiler told me that the raw bamboo trunks have to cure for at least 5 years before he can even begin to make a rod. "After it is cured, you split it in half. Then, you split each piece in half, and then into three pieces. The 12-foot pieces are then arranged on horses, and I select where the rod will go. You do not want nodes near where the ferrules are going to be placed, because the nodes are weak spots," said Weiler.

"Once you lay the rod out and know where everything is going, you cut across the six pieces and then sand down the nodes. Then, you have to start splitting the pieces again into butts or tips," said Weiler.

"You cannot begin to plane the bamboo to the taper you want until it gets heat treated," said Weiler. Weiler takes each six-piece set of pieces and wraps the sets with thread down one way and back the other in an overlapping design. The sets are put into an oven he built from a 50,000 BTU heater.

Then, the individual bamboo pieces are placed into a steel die he built for planing to size and taper the rod. "I work on planing three rods at a time and end up with 18 pieces. All are precisely planed to within one-thousandths of an inch. It is a lot of very fine planing. This past winter, I worked on 25 rods and lost 15 pounds just planing," said Weiler.

The process continues with more intricate work when the six pieces for each rod section are fastened together with special glue. The handles Weiler builds are unique to each rod and then applied and shaped. Guides are exact replicas except



Art Weiler reproduces classic bamboo fly fishing rods in many sizes. He makes a strong 8½-foot Atlantic Salmon rod, and made the Leonard Fairy that takes a "0" weight line. This is the tip of the Leonard Fairy compared to a typical ballpoint pen.



These bundled pieces of split bamboo are ready for heat treatment.

the new guides are made with stainless steel. "Many times when you are lucky to find an old bamboo fly rod made by one of the masters, the guides are rusted," said Weiler.

After the ferrules, the guides are mounted with the specific color thread matching the original product. Then, the rod gets three or four coats of marine spar varnish.

"When someone wants to buy one of my rods, I have to talk to them first. I have to find out what kind of fishing they are going to do. I have to know if they are experienced with bamboo rods or if they are coming from graphite to bamboo," said Weiler.

"I always have 20 to 25 different kinds of rods available, and I know what each rod can do. I fit the rod to the type of fishing the buyer likes to do. I even have people come here and maybe try five or six rods out before they buy one. For example, one dry fly angler wanted a fast rod, and I sent him a fast rod. He said it was too fast, so I sent him another, and he was happy," said Weiler.

"My bamboo fly rod reproductions start at about \$1,000, but you get two tips. You should use one tip one day and the second tip the next day to not overstress the tips. I take a lot of time to work with my buyers, because I do not want them to have a rod that is not right for them," said Weiler. ☐

Art Weiler Rods
www.artweilerrods.com



BUSTING BULLHEADS

by Jeff Woleslagle

photos by the author

It was a beautiful evening, and the lake was still. A good friend and I sat in camp chairs along the bank of a nearby state park lake, enjoying the smell of the water and the reflection of the crescent moon on its surface. We each had two rods that rested in forked sticks that we drove into the ground along the waterfront. We waited for the first twitch of a rod tip that would indicate a bite. A bullfrog bellowed its “jug-o-rum” call nearby and was accompanied by the evening chorus of katydids and crickets. It was not long before my friend’s flashlight showed his rod tip bounce. He slowly picked up the rod, reeled in the slack, and set the hook. The fish made a few wide runs, and I was ready with the net as he brought it in along the shore. It was our first bullhead of the night, and it was a good one, measuring over 13 inches long. Although these fish

are excellent table fare, we were not in a fish cleaning mood, so the bullhead was carefully unhooked and quickly released. This particular lake has both Yellow Bullheads and Brown Bullheads. By the time we were ready to pack up our gear, we caught and released over 12 Yellow Bullheads and 2 Brown Bullheads. A great evening for sure, but I have seen nights when action was so steady it was almost impossible to keep two baited rods in the water.

The great thing about an evening of fishing for bullheads is its simplicity. Bullheads are easy to target from shore, and you do not need a lot of fishing gear. Two light or medium action spinning rods spooled with 6- or 8-pound-test monofilament line are perfect. Use ¼-ounce egg sinkers held in place with a small splitshot and size 4 or 6 bait holder hooks. Bullheads are fun to catch on light line and are strong fighters. Great baits include nightcrawlers, small sections of cut bait, live and dead minnows, and dead crayfish. Store bought offerings such as bacon, chunks of hot dog, and cheese may be effective as well.

Like all catfish, bullheads have a well-developed sense of taste and smell. This allows the fish to easily find and eat an angler's offerings. However, it also means an angler is wise to avoid unwanted scents. Research has shown that bullheads can detect and will avoid even small amounts of gas, oil, insect repellent, or sunscreen.

Bullheads have single, thick, sharp spines at each of the leading edges of the pectoral (side) and dorsal (top) fins. When alarmed, bullheads firmly extend these spines, which may easily pierce the skin. Be careful when handling bullheads. To avoid the sharp spines when removing hooks, securely wrap your hand around the fish, in front of the dorsal spine on top, and with fingers behind the gills and the pectoral spines and fins on the sides of the body. Needle nose pliers or hemostatic forceps help with hook removal.

Bullheads often hold onto bait before taking it, so pause when a strike is detected, and set the hook as soon the line starts to move away. Bullheads frequently travel in schools, so it is common to get successive bites.

Look for bullheads in shallow, weedy areas of lakes, rivers, and streams. Bullheads seem to prefer slack water areas rather than steady current, which makes lakes and ponds ideal places to target fish. In rivers, bullheads are commonly found in places with current breaks, backwaters, and other slack areas. Bullheads often spend the day deep in weedy vegetation and roam shallow flats to feed at night. Places with mud bottoms often have lots of insect larvae, which attract fish. Bullheads will bite during the day, but an angler will usually find more consistent action after the sun goes down. If you are not getting bites in an area after about an hour, change locations until you locate the fish. Once you find productive spots, look for bullheads to be good year after year. Late summer and early fall often provide steady bullhead action.

Bullheads can be difficult to clean, as the skin may be hard to remove prior to filleting, but the reward is worth the effort.

If a leisurely evening along the water sounds good to you, now is the perfect time to get out there and bust some bullheads. ☐



Bullheads are fun to catch, but anglers should handle fish with care.



Nightcrawlers are a highly effective bait for bullheads.

Capital Area Kayak Fishing

Paddle and Spin the Middle Susquehanna

by Tyler Frantz

photos by the author

Rumored to be a mile wide and a foot deep, the Susquehanna River not only offers plenty of historic and natural scenery but excellent fishing opportunities too—both of which can be leisurely enjoyed by kayak.

In fact, some of the best fishing occurs where the river's relatively docile middle section meanders through Pennsylvania's Harrisburg capital area, presenting prime float and fish outings for mid-state kayakers eager to wet a line.

Two ideal entry-level sections are from the Halifax Borough Access downriver to the Clarks Ferry Bridge, near the mouth of the Juniata River; and from the Fort Hunter Boat Launch to the West Fairview Boat Launch, located at the mouth of the Conodoguinet Creek upstream of City Island. It is best to take out here to avoid the low-head dam downstream.

Both stretches have fairly flat water with minimally challenging obstacles along the way. For the most part, it is relatively carefree paddling with good fish-holding habitat such as intermittent riffles, rocky structure, grass flats, and densely vegetated islands.

The upper section is slightly longer and seemingly more diverse in structural composition while the lower

stretch is a shorter, less rocky float, presenting more open water with weed-lined pools but also some manmade structures where fish gravitate.

Anglers are likely to compete with eagles and ospreys on either outing. While passing McCormick Island, just south of Interstate 81's George N. Wade Memorial Bridge, paddlers are treated to the fascinating sights of one of the highest



The flat water upstream from Harrisburg makes for a relaxing kayak fishing experience.

concentrations of wading birds in Pennsylvania.

The river holds good numbers of Channel Catfish and Smallmouth Bass, with opportunities to also catch Flathead Catfish, Walleyes, carp, and even Muskellunge. By far, though, the most likely species to catch in this section of the river are Channel Catfish and Smallmouth Bass, which both have thriving populations and trophy fish.

Inline spinners, swimbaits, tube jigs, finesse plastics, diving crankbaits, and topwater lures all have a place in a Susquehanna River kayak angler's tackle box, as each is effective depending on water conditions and feeding behaviors.

Pre-rig at least two different rods prior to launch, so both rods are easily interchanged as the situation requires. Have multiple lure styles readily available in a secured tackle box nearby. It sometimes takes a bit of trial and error until the hot lure of the day is discovered, but once you find it, the fish key in on it, with multiple catches transpiring in close succession. The use of a snap swivel also helps in simplifying the task of switching out lures while the kayak is in motion.

Take advantage of the river's rocky composition as both catfish and bass will hunker down in the seams created by protruding boulders and hard-bottom drop-offs. Generally, you will want to fish close to the bottom to target catfish, ticking along with a well-weighted rig, but not too heavily that you get yourself snagged in the rocks.



The middle section of the Susquehanna River offers excellent fishing and scenery, and its overall composition is ideal for fishing by kayak.

Catfish will hit a swimbait, soft plastic tube, or spinner if it is in the feed zone, but natural baits such as shrimp, worms, minnows, and cut baits are even more effective. Either way, you need to get it down to the fish.

For bass, offer your presentations a little higher in the water column. Target the protective water immediately on the downstream side of exposed rocks, as well as the seams that run along any vertical structure, such as banks, sunken logs, or bridge supports, as bass often hold here waiting for an opportunistic meal.

Work a light-colored swimbait or a black spinner horizontally through these seams or drop a weighted soft plastic into the pocket, where bass will often strike upon the fall. Topwater poppers and eye-catching diving crankbaits can also elicit aggressive takes later in the day when worked through long open runs.

It may be tricky to navigate your kayak and fish at the same time through rougher water, but do not overlook trailing a weedless tube jig through the riffles, as the oxygenated water can be an attractive location for Smallmouth Bass to hunker down, especially on warm days. Some fine bass can be picked up in these areas.

On any kayak outing, be prepared. An unexpected storm may blow in, low water may force you to get out and wade through the shallows, or you may suffer a minor injury requiring basic first aid. Plan and pack accordingly, avoid high water events and dangerous obstacles, fish with a partner, and always wear a life jacket.

The middle section of the Susquehanna River offers excellent fishing and scenery, and its overall composition is ideal for fishing by kayak. So, grab your gear and give capital-area kayak fishing a try. You will not be disappointed. ☐



The author caught this impressive Smallmouth Bass while kayak fishing near the Clarks Ferry Bridge, Dauphin County.



Women's Adventure Club

by Charles N. Cantella

"For the times, they are a-changin'" Bob Dylan, The Times They Are a-Changin'

Traditionally, the outdoor sports of hunting, fishing, and hiking have been the domain of men, with women relegated to limited, if any, participation. But, as Bob Dylan sang back in 1964, "For the times, they are a-changin'." Every year, more and more women are discovering the great outdoors and the enjoyment and relaxation that may be found when one is not surrounded by walls. Unfortunately, the antiquated outdoor tradition of fathers introducing sons to the great outdoors has left many women without a mentor or other means of introduction to the outdoor lifestyle.



photos-courtesy of Women's Adventure Club

The Women's Adventure Club rafting.

Enter Lindsay Gibson, who founded the Women's Adventure Club (WAC) in 2019. Her move to the greater Pittsburgh region from Anchorage, Alaska, gave her quite a culture shock for she had learned to embrace and



Nordic skiing at Wilderness Lodge, Wattsburg, Erie County.

engage in various types of outdoor recreation during the years she spent in Alaska. As a beginner, she would not have learned to ski or snowshoe, among other things, without a mentor to loan her some equipment and guide her. After experiencing the thrill and adventure of participating in outdoor activities, she found herself in Pittsburgh thinking, "Now that I know this, I cannot keep it to myself. I want to share it with other women. I want to build a community that helps women push past their boundaries and emerge stronger and happier, with their own amazing stories to tell." Thus, the seed for the WAC was planted. The WAC is a Pittsburgh-based community of women who want year-round outdoor experiences. With members ranging in age from college-aged women to an inspiring 83-year-old, the club offers a variety of adventures and challenges for a variety of experiences and skill levels.

But just as "no man is an island," it is also true that no organization is built with just the skills and talents of one person, and the WAC is no different. The WAC was, and continues to be, built upon the hard work and

dedication of many people. After settling in Pittsburgh, Gibson was eager to find hiking and Nordic skiing trails in her new environs. A chance encounter at a Recreational Equipment, Inc. class led her to meet the instructor, Joe Triebsch. His vast outdoor experience and countless connections with other local outdoor organizations have been instrumental in growing the WAC to what it is today. Others contributing their talents to the WAC include Lisa Minn, Elements PT Yoga. Minn assists in yoga and yoga hikes. Another member lending her talents to the club is Colleen Crivello, Zen Center of Pittsburgh, who leads the group in a monthly tai chi/qigong class.

A sample of some of the activities the group offers include biking, hiking, and outdoor yoga.

Monthly "bigger" adventures include kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddleboarding, skeet shooting, mountain biking, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, snowshoeing, and long day hikes in the Laurel Highlands.

If you noticed that a lot of hiking takes place, you are correct. The club hikes year-round. They offer a "relaxed" hike for those looking for a gentle hike without

excessive distance or elevation. More ambitious day-long hikes throughout western Pennsylvania are frequently scheduled. At the time this article was being put together, the leadership team at WAC was planning to hike the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail from mile marker 0 at Ohiopyle to mile marker 70 in Seward, near Johnstown.

So ladies, whether you are a veteran of the outdoor experience or a newbie curious to heed the call of the wild, this group may be just what you have been looking for to experience the outdoors. ☐



For more information

www.instagram.com/womensadventureclub
www.womensadventureclubwpa.com

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

by Emma Barrett

I applied to the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation as an incoming senior in high school. Sure, I only had one year to create a positive impact, but that one year helped me expand upon one of my life goals—to be a masterful steward of Pennsylvania ecosystems.

As a child growing up in northeastern Pennsylvania, I had an abundance of pristine creeks, lush forests, and the Appalachian Mountains as my playground. My parents are Monroe County transplants—they were as new to the outdoors as I was during this time. We explored our new world together, slowly gaining familiarity in a new territory. I flipped logs in the woods and found salamanders, searched for frogs in the nearby lake, and starry-eyed walked through the local bog. I knew I loved the outdoors, but I did not develop the initiative to protect it until I was older.

Throughout my younger years, I began noticing how individual actions impacted larger ecosystems. My local lake experienced many problems—litter, eroding banks, and the presence of harmful bacteria, which all had negative implications to the water quality. This influenced me to shift my efforts



photos-courtesy of Emma Barrett

Emma Barrett conducting stream samples on the Buckwha Creek, Carbon County.

towards becoming more eco-conscious. That, too, was not enough. I began to realize that “not hurting” the environment is too little. We need to actively protect the environment.

From there, I joined my high school's Envirothon team, where I learned about aquatic species, invasives, and habitat management techniques. I also worked with my county's Penn State Extension, Master Watershed Steward Program, on outreach efforts concerning responsible water management. I developed the knowledge and confidence through these programs to apply for the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.

As a council member, I filmed a Cold Weather Life Jacket public service announcement and drafted a letter about antlerless deer licensing to a state representative. I met other conservation-minded students from all over Pennsylvania. Although my tenure was short, the opportunities were endless.

I am leaving Pennsylvania for college, but I will never be anything less than grateful for growing up in Pennsylvania. I not only grew up in nature, I learned how to care for it. I love the environment, and I love caring for it even more. ☑



Emma Barrett holding the 1st place trophy at the 2019 Monroe County High School Envirothon Competition.



Emma Barrett recording a cold water life jacket PSA for the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation at Preacher's Camp Boat Launch, Carbon County.

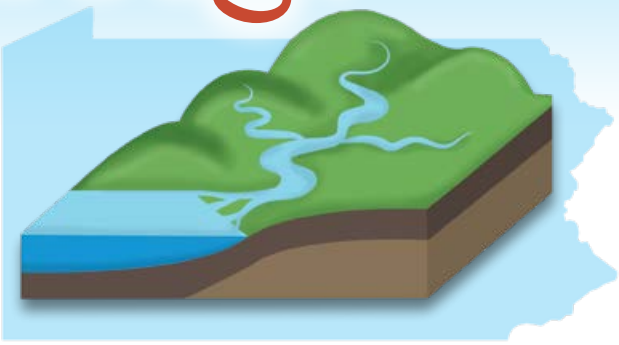
PLAY



Fall
2021

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

Rivers Run Through Pennsylvania



If you ever stood along the shores of a large river, you were probably in awe of its large size and the amount of water it carries. Rivers have a beginning. Inland streams carry water from the land. Streams flow into larger streams, and larger streams unite to form rivers. Rivers eventually flow into lakes, bays, estuaries, or oceans.

From a bird's-eye view, a river system looks like a tree. The streams are like branches. The river is like the trunk.

Continue reading to learn more about the ecology of rivers, threats, and how you can help.

Vocabulary (Watch for these words!)

- **Abiotic** - nonliving parts of an ecosystem
- **Biotic** - living parts of an ecosystem
- **Carrion** - dead and decaying animals
- **Detritivores** - animals that eat detritus and carrion
- **Detritus** - dead and decaying plants and woody debris
- **Emergent vegetation** - plants that grow on the edges of a river, roots are submerged while the stem and leaves grow out of the water
- **Food web** - all the interacting food chains within an ecological community
- **Primary consumers** - animals that eat plants
- **Producers** - plants that animals eat
- **Secondary consumers** - animals that eat plant-eating animals
- **Submerged vegetation** - aquatic vegetation that lives attached to the bottom of a river and is completely underwater
- **Tertiary consumers** - top level predators

All About Rivers

Abiotic Parts of Rivers

Abiotic is a nonliving part of an ecosystem that shapes its environment.

Abiotic parts of rivers include temperature, light, and water.

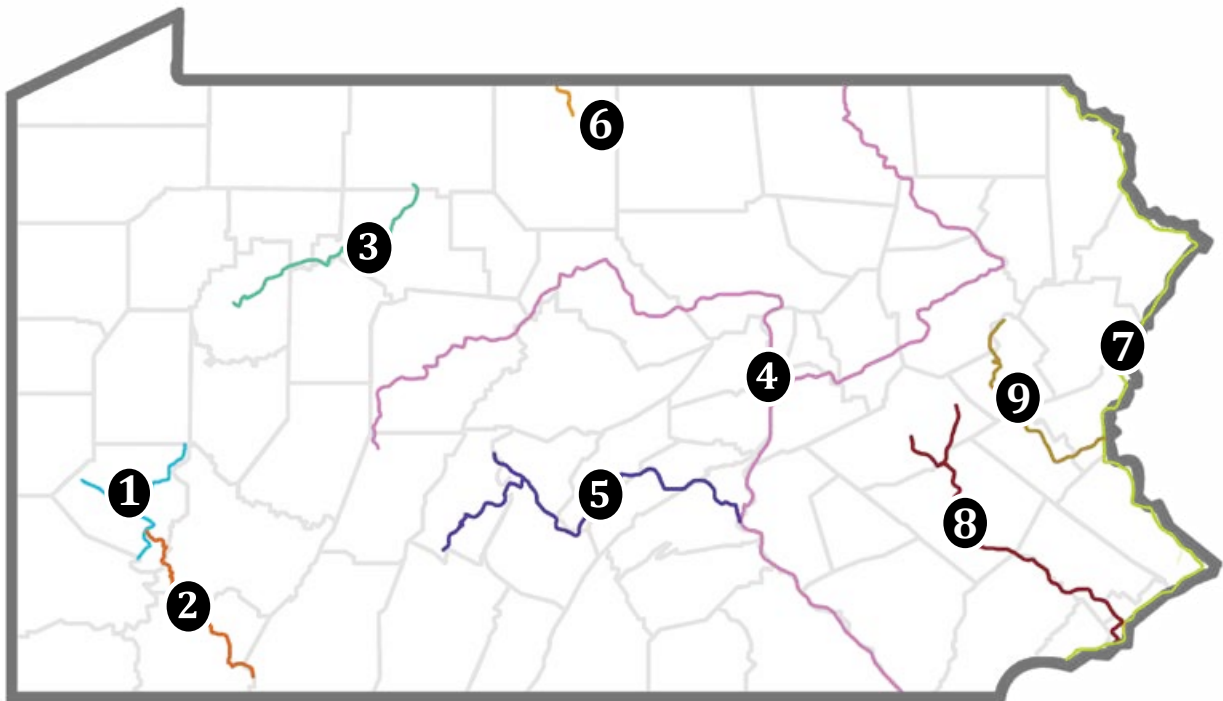
Rivers come in all shapes and sizes. Some rivers are small and flow fast. Other rivers are large and flow slowly. Smaller tributaries feed rivers. The lower reaches

of these rivers are often wider, deeper, and warmer than upstream tributaries.

As rivers flow downstream, riffles, rapids, runs, and pools are formed. Riffles and rapids are locations where rocks break the surface water. Runs are deep, fast-moving water. Pools are deep, slow-moving water below the runs.

Major Rivers of Pennsylvania

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| ① Three Rivers (Allegheny River, Monongahela River, and Ohio River) | ④ Susquehanna River (including West Branch Susquehanna River) | ⑦ Delaware River |
| ② Youghiogheny River | ⑤ Juniata River | ⑧ Schuylkill River |
| ③ Clarion River | ⑥ Genesee River | ⑨ Lehigh River |



Learn more about how waterways change from source to end: www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/AquaticHabitat/Documents/riverruns.pdf.

River Habitats

There are many different types of habitats that are found in a river system, which provide the food and environment

needed by aquatic plants and animals. Below are some different types of habitats found in a river system.



- ① Gravel, cobbles, boulders, and rocky ledges
- ② Islands
- ③ Silty or sandy river bottoms
- ④ Log and debris jams
- ⑤ Undercut banks
- ⑥ **Emergent vegetation**
- ⑦ **Submerged vegetation**



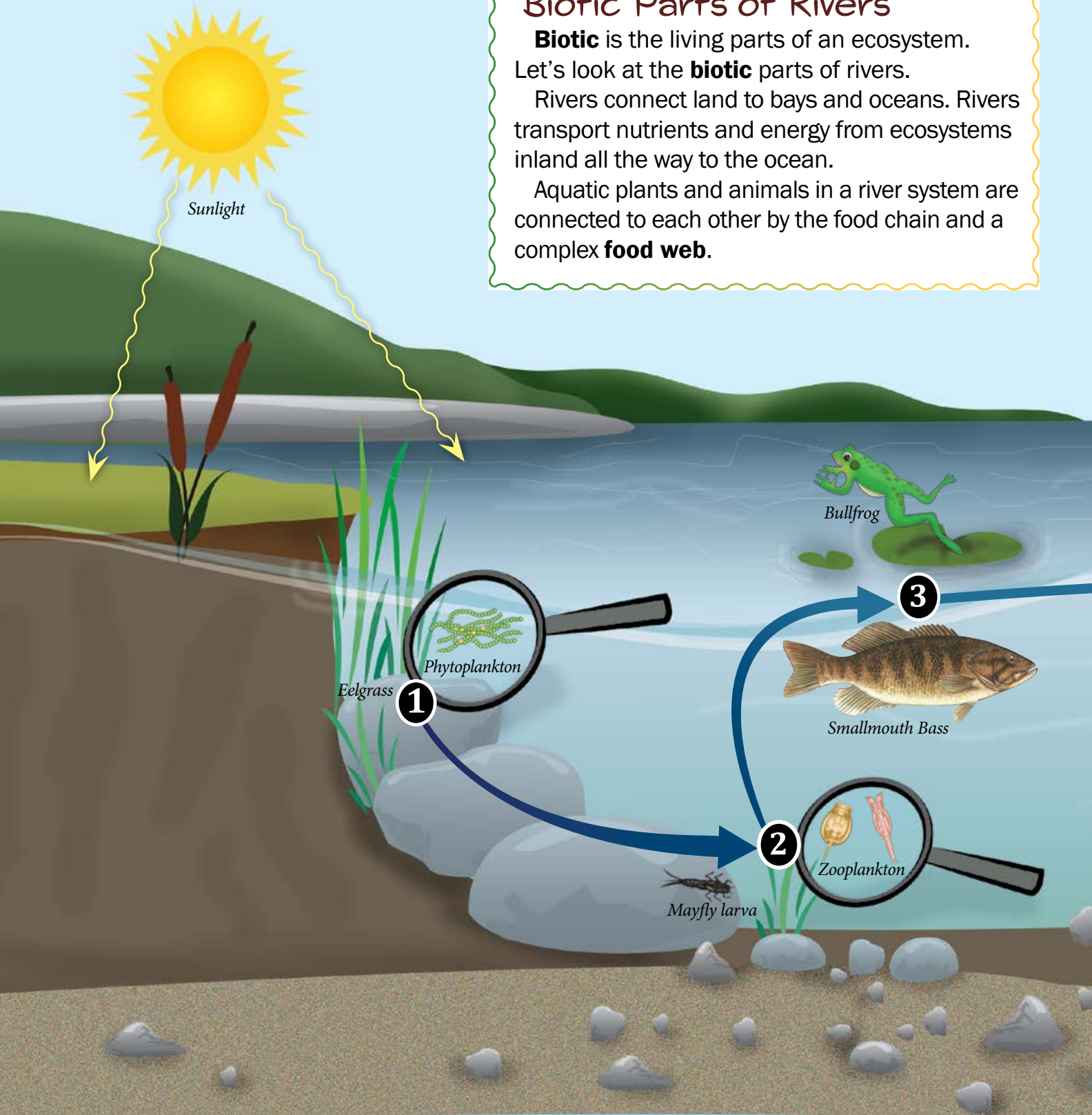
River Food Web

Biotic Parts of Rivers

Biotic is the living parts of an ecosystem. Let's look at the **biotic** parts of rivers.

Rivers connect land to bays and oceans. Rivers transport nutrients and energy from ecosystems inland all the way to the ocean.

Aquatic plants and animals in a river system are connected to each other by the food chain and a complex **food web**.



④ Tertiary consumers

Tertiary consumers are top level predators such as Muskellunge and great blue herons.

③ Secondary consumers

Secondary consumers are animals that eat plant-eating animals. Examples of secondary consumers are bullfrogs and Smallmouth Bass.

② Primary consumers

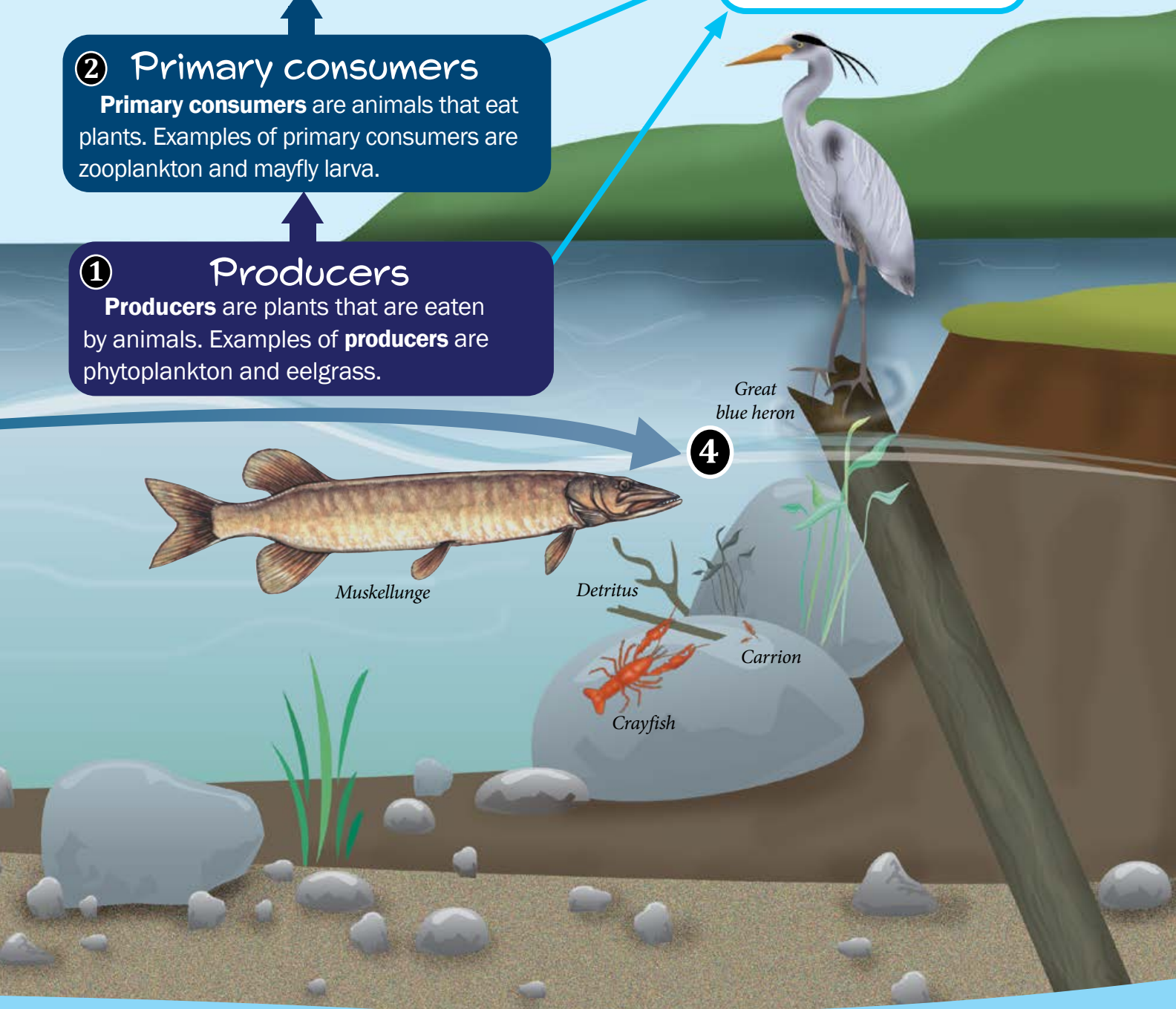
Primary consumers are animals that eat plants. Examples of primary consumers are zooplankton and mayfly larva.

① Producers

Producers are plants that are eaten by animals. Examples of producers are phytoplankton and eelgrass.

Detritivores

Detritivores are animals that eat dead and decaying plants and woody debris called **detritus**. Detritivores also eat **carrion**, which is dead and decaying animals. Examples of **detritivores** are crayfish.



Rivers of Life

Benefits to Healthy Rivers

- Drinking water
- Irrigation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation like fishing and boating
- Transportation
- Floodwater transport
- Hydroelectricity
- Nutrient transport to estuaries



Threats to Rivers

- Invasive species - outcompete native river species
- Climate change - temperature changes and large weather events cause flooding
- Litter - garbage from roadways and urban areas
- Nonpoint source pollution - pesticides, herbicides, sedimentation, and acid mine drainage that run off from abandoned mines, developed areas, and farms
- Point source pollution - chemicals and pollution from factories, refineries, and transportation accidents
- Shoreline erosion - soil that erodes from river shorelines during high water events
- Channelization - collects or consolidates and moves water during high water events, causing damage to downstream areas



Round gobies are an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

A Helping Hand for River Conservation

Join or become involved with one of these organizations:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation www.cbf.org
- Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers www.pawatersheds.org
- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful www.keeppabeautiful.org
- Various Riverkeepers networks such as www.lowerusquehannariverkeeper.org
- Pennsylvania BASS Nation www.pabassnation.com
- Muskies Inc. www.muskiesinc.org

Pennsylvania Rivers Word Search

Find these river-related words in the following word search.

Word List

ALLEGHENY
CARRION
CHANNELIZATION
CLARION
DELAWARE
DETRITUS
GENESEE
JUNIATA
RIVER
SCHUYLKILL
SUSQUEHANNA

(Hint: Some words may appear backwards.)

D A O R Q K C R L G G K N R N
N O I T A Z I L E N N A H C O
W D L K H T N R A V B F J Q I
Q A G K L R O F H R I M L B R
U N T V Q V Z N W R I R F A R
X N S M I J H C E S K O A L A
X A N R A X P A V E J L N L C
A H F D E T R I T U S D Y E G
I E W G A U J A N L E E G G C
F U P W P F T I N L R C N H Y
Y Q C A T A X Z A O C T S E R
Y S U U I H O W A M T Q C N G
R U P N O O A B B R M U F Y F
U S U O L R D P W T W L V K T
Y J I K E L L I K L Y U H C S

**Produced by: the Bureau of Outreach,
Education, and Marketing**

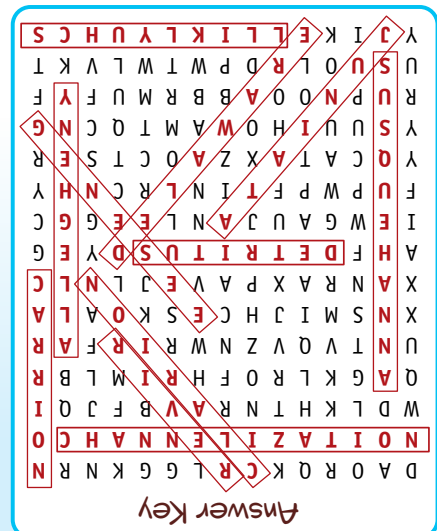
Written by: Chad Foster

Editor: Spring Gearhart

**Design and illustrations: Andrea Feeney
and Ted Walke**

**Photos: Chris Calhoun, Andrea Feeney,
Spring Gearhart, Terry Malloy, Andy Shiels,
and PFBC archives**

© Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission





The Pennsylvania winners of the 2021 State-Fish Art Contest are:

Fish Habitat Writing Award Winner – 3rd Place

Alyssa Zhang

“Protect All the Bodies of Water!”
Grades 4-6

Aarav Nagarkoti

“Brook Trout”

Kindergarten-Grade 3

Alyssa Zhang

“Humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa”

Grades 4-6

Karthikeya Vattem

“Atlantic Cod”

Grades 7-9

Jaidyn Helmbold

“Bull Trout”

Grades 10-12

Protect All the Bodies of Water!

It is important to protect the rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastlines because a big quantity of source water is used for drinking water. Protecting these waters sources can reduce health risks and save fish species. This is very beneficial to the environment because it helps all the animals and organisms to survive.

The first reason I think it is important to protect the rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastlines is because these water resources are highly valued for their water supply qualities. These highly valued water sources are especially important to keep “alive” because it is beneficial to our health. All the rivers, lakes, and estuaries provide a huge amount of drinking water for all living creatures each year. Without these water resources, no organism would be able to live because the body needs it for every process. So, this shows how important rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastlines are.

The second reason I think it is important to protect the rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastlines is because they produce a warm and cozy home for a bunch of aquatic animals. These big bodies of water ensure that dolphins, sharks, goldfish, California golden trout, seahorses, etc. have a cozy place to stay. This is important because we can not only make sure that current species of aquatic animals stay alive, but there is a chance that these aquatic animals may be able to produce new animal hybrids! So, this means that protecting bodies of water can help all living organism live a happy and healthy life.

Alyssa Zhang, Grades 4-6



Aarav Nagarkoti, Kindergarten-Grade 3

Wildlife Forever announced the winners of the 2021 State-Fish Art Contest in May. Included were the works of five Pennsylvania winners.

Wildlife Forever is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preserving America’s wildlife heritage. Pennsylvania is a partner in the contest. The contest requires students in grades kindergarten through 12 to depict any officially designated state fish. Students in grades 4 through 12 must provide an essay related specifically to the fish’s characteristics, habitat, behavior, or conservation needs.

Art contest rules and regulations appear on page 53.

For the entry form, winning artwork from all states, essay winners from all states, and additional information, visit www.wildlifeever.org. 📄

HOW TO ENTER CONTEST

Completed entries must be postmarked no later than March 31 of each year.

Entries must include:

- A completed entry form.
- Artwork of any state fish.
- For students in grades 4 through 12, an essay about any state fish, its habitat, behavior, or conservation needs. The essay must include the student's name, grade, and state on the back. Do not attach your essay to your art.
- If the entry is mailed, forms must be completed, signed by a parent, guardian, or educator, and affixed to the back of the artwork with a clear glue stick.

Completed entries should be mailed to:

Wildlife Forever
5350 Highway 61 North, Suite 7
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

For more information, e-mail
FishArt@WildlifeForever.org.

RULES & GUIDELINES

- The State-Fish Art Contest is open to people in grades K-12 in any public, private, or home-school, any youth group, after-school program, youth camp, scout troop, art class, or any individual who wants to enter. Only one entry per student will be accepted.

- The artwork must depict any officially designated state fish. Pennsylvania's state fish is the Brook Trout. The fish must be depicted in its natural habitat.

- All artwork must be the contestant's original, hand-done creation and must not infringe upon any copyright laws. Photographs and computer-generated artwork will not be accepted.

- All artwork must be between 8.5"-9" tall and 11"-12" wide, up to ¼" thick without mat or frame. Orientation must be horizontal. Vertical entries will be disqualified. Art techniques may include oils, scratchboard, pointillism, chalk, pastels, charcoal, colored pencil, acrylics, dry brush, watercolor, crosshatch, lead, collage, linoleum printing, tempera, or crayon. If contestants use chalk or pastel, they should seal the artwork with a fixative.

- The design should NOT have the artist's signature, initials, or name on the front. Other writing is allowed as long as it is part of the art's design (for example - name of a boat or pier). Any artwork not following this guideline will be disqualified and eliminated from the competition.

- Completed entries for students in grades 4 through 12 must include an essay not to exceed one side of one page in length. The composition must include the student's name, grade, and state on the back.

- For updates on rules and guidelines, visit www.wildlifeforever.org.



Alyssa Zhang, Grades 4-6



Karthikeya Vattem, Grades 7-9



Jaidyn Helmbold, Grades 10-12



23rd WCO Class Graduation

Six members of the 23rd Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) class graduated from training during a commencement ceremony held June 25 in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Centre Region Office, Bellefonte.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Burrell, the PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE), was Master of Ceremonies. Executive Director Timothy D. Schaeffer, PFBC, and Colonel Clyde N. Warner, PFBC, delivered the keynote addresses. Paul Swanson (BLE, retired), was the guest speaker. Tyler M. Crooks spoke on behalf of the graduates. Presentation of diplomas and recognition awards followed, presented by Richard Lewis, PFBC President, Board of Commissioners, PFBC Executive Director Schaeffer, and Colonel Warner.

The Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award was presented to Connor G. Dobransky for maintaining the highest grade point average during training. The Sergeant Brook R. Tolbert Firearms Excellence Award and a Lifesaving Award were presented to Tyler M. Crooks. The Resident Staff Officer Award was presented to WCO Daniel J. Wilson, for his leadership while counseling the 23rd WCO class during their training.

Graduates completed 21 weeks of municipal police officer training with the Pennsylvania State Police. This training

Graduate	Assigned To
Tyler M. Crooks	Northern Somerset
Connor G. Dobransky	Butler
Brian T. Guenin	Greene/Southern Washington
Frank J. Mehalko III	Eastern Berks/Western Montgomery
Christian W. Trauger	Northern Wayne
Kyle A. Wirick	Franklin/Eastern Fulton

included all aspects of police work, basic law, investigation techniques, first aid, CPR, firearms, patrol vehicle operation, crimes code, and unarmed self-defense.

In addition, graduates completed conservation officer training at the Commission's H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety in Bellefonte. The conservation officer training curriculum included boat operation, boating-under-the-influence detection and apprehension, accident investigation, fish, reptile, and amphibian identification, water pollution investigation, public speaking, standard operating procedures, Pennsylvania fishing and boating laws and regulations, federal fish and wildlife law, and field training. The WCO training program is nearly a year long.

There are about 100 commissioned officers throughout the Commonwealth. To become a WCO or for more information, contact the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission at 717-705-7861, visit the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com, contact the State Civil Service Commission at 717-783-3058, or visit the State Civil Service Commission's website at www.scsc.pa.gov. ☐

photos-Andrea Feeney



The 23rd WCO Class



Tyler M. Crooks spoke on behalf of the graduates.



Pictured are (left to right) Colonel Clyde N. Warner; Kyle A. Wirick; Connor G. Dobransky; Tyler M. Crooks; WCO Daniel J. Wilson; Christian W. Trauger; Brian T. Guenin; Frank J. Mehalko III; Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Burrell; and PFBC Executive Director Timothy D. Schaeffer.



The Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award was presented to Connor G. Dobransky for maintaining the highest grade point average during training.



The Sergeant Brook R. Tolbert Firearms Excellence Award and a Lifesaving Award were presented to Tyler M. Crooks.



The Resident Staff Officer Award was presented to WCO Daniel J. Wilson, for his leadership while counseling the 23rd WCO class during their training.

Getting to Know those Obscure Carpsuckers

by Rob Criswell photos by the author

Aside from an accidental catch, stumbling onto a spawning run, or membership in the small group of anglers who actually targets these fish, few folks are aware that three species of carpsucker ply Pennsylvania's waters.

Carpsuckers draw its ignominious name from its superficial likeness to the Common Carp. The genus name, *Carpoides*, literally means "carp-like." In fact, the scientific name for the River Carpsucker, *Carpoides carpio*, is an example of scientific redundancy, which means "carp-like carp."

As the name implies, carpsuckers are true suckers, belonging to the Family Catostomidae. Carpsuckers are handsomely colored, sporting bright silver sheens on its sides that may be suffused with hues from gold to mint green, with colors grading from darker (dorsally) to lighter (ventrally). Carpsuckers are stout fish with a long dorsal fin base. Carpsuckers are deeper-bodied than most of Pennsylvania's other suckers. The forward rays of the dorsal fin are much longer than the rear rays, earning names like Highfin Carpsucker and Quillback.

As with most suckers, the mouth is ventrally positioned for a diet gleaned by feeding along the bottom and consisting mainly of plant materials, insect larvae, gastropods, and ooze. Two species have an unusual nipple-like projection on the lower lip that aids in identification.

Two of Pennsylvania's species are confined to the Ohio River. The Highfin Carpsucker has not been confirmed in Pennsylvania since 1900 and is presumed to be extirpated. The River Carpsucker is a bit of an enigma. The only confirmed early record is from 1880. However, in a testament to the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act of 1972, this species is now common in the impounded section of the Three Rivers. The standards developed under this Act, establishing water quality criteria and regulating the discharge of pollutants, permitted an explosion of carpsuckers (and many other fishes) in our western rivers in the 1990s.

The Highfin Carpsucker has been given the local name of "Sailing Sucker," because it often swims just below the surface with its high dorsal fin exposed like a sail.

The most familiar of Pennsylvania's carpsuckers is the Quillback. It is common in the Delaware, Ohio, and Susquehanna river systems and the Lake Erie drainage. Appropriately named, the elongated front dorsal fin rays may reach nearly to the tail. Adults generally attain lengths from 12- to 24-inches and may weigh up to 7 pounds, but large Quillbacks are uncommon. River Carpsuckers are similarly sized, but Highfin Carpsuckers are much smaller, seldom reaching 1 foot in length.

Carpsuckers dwell in rivers and large streams, as well as impoundments and the Great Lakes. These fish are not finicky,



Highfin Carpsucker (*Carpoides velifer*)



River Carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*)



Quillback (*Carpoides cyprinus*)

being found in a variety of situations in both clear and cloudy waters. Carpsuckers become most evident in spring from late April to early June, when some populations invade medium-sized tributaries in large spawning aggregations. A female may produce more than 60,000 eggs, and the hatchlings initially feed on bottom ooze and algae. Those who survive to adulthood may live for 8- to 12-years.

Although there is little interest in carpsuckers by anglers, a few dedicated anglers target these fish with doughballs, grubs, and small worms on size 8 and 10 hooks. The best locations are around brush piles and other cover, and below dams. Carpsucker flesh is reported to be white, sweet, flaky, and quite tasty. Its lack of popularity is due to the numerous small bones that make dining on one a challenge. A small commercial fishery existed for a time in the Mississippi River, and if efficient techniques for processing and preparing carpsuckers could be developed, carpsuckers would become much more popular and well-known. ☐

July Commission Meeting Held

During the July Commission meeting, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) gave preliminary approval to a proposal to establish a single, statewide opening day of trout season beginning annually in 2022.

Under the proposed rulemaking, the regular trout season would begin the first Saturday of April each year. The practice of holding a single, statewide opening day would become standard, and a separate regional opening day for Pennsylvania's 18 southeastern counties would no longer occur.

Under this proposal, all language within regulations referencing the opening day of trout season would be changed to the "first Saturday in April" or "opening day of the regular season for trout," where applicable.

A single, statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day will continue on the Saturday one week prior to the opening of the regular trout season.

To accommodate an earlier statewide opening day of trout season, stocking operations will also need to occur earlier. Aside from an exception made during the 2021 season due to the pandemic, trout stocking has traditionally begun annually on March 1. This date coincides with regulations that define March 1 as the start of the closed season for trout fishing on lakes and streams designated as Stocked Trout Waters (STW). Under a new proposal, the PFBC would begin trout stocking operations approximately 2 weeks earlier, which would require changes in language within various regulations. The Board approved a notice of proposed rulemaking. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendments will go into effect January 1, 2022.

In addition to amending 58 Pa. Code § 69.12a (Special Regulations applicable to Lake Erie Tributary Streams) related to the opening day of trout season, the Board also approved a proposed amendment to 58 Pa. Code § 69.12 (Seasons, Sizes, and Creel Limits—Lake Erie, Lake Erie Tributaries, and Presque Isle Bay including Peninsula Waters) that would modify the start of the opening day of trout season as well as daily creel and minimum size limits for both Rainbow Trout (steelhead) and Lake Trout. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendments will go into effect January 1, 2022.

In other action:

- The Board approved the publication of proposed rulemaking pertaining to establishing a Trout Slot Limit program. Given the success of an experimental slot limit regulation program that resulted in the presence of larger wild Brown Trout on Penns Creek, Section 03, Centre and Mifflin counties, the PFBC recognizes potential opportunities to utilize an official regulation of this type at other suitable wild trout waters. The Trout Slot Limit program will have two subprograms under the PFBC's Special Fishing

Regulations (58 Pa. Code § 65): All-Tackle Trout Slot Limit and Artificial Lures Only Trout Slot Limit. If approved on final rulemaking at a future meeting, the new regulation will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

- Commissioners adopted an amendment pertaining to 58 Pa. Code § 65.26 (Extended Trout Season). This amendment improves trout stream fishing opportunities to meet the preferences of anglers while providing additional protection to wild trout during the extended season. The amended regulation will provide increased protection and additional fishing opportunities in stream sections managed for wild trout that are downstream from STWs. The amendment will go into effect January 1, 2022.
- The PFBC intends to add more detailed information about STWs to its annual *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook* beginning in 2022.
- Commissioners adopted amendments pertaining to All Tackle Trophy Trout and Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only fishing regulations. Both regulations allow for the harvest of two trout, per day, greater than or equal to 14 inches in length, from opening day of trout season through Labor Day, with catch and release fishing for the remainder of the year. Under the amendments, anglers will be able to harvest only one trout per day greater than or equal to 18 inches from opening day of trout season through Labor Day, with catch and release fishing for the remainder of the year. These amendments will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
- Commissioners also approved the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking pertaining to black bass regulations. Current Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations require catch and immediate release of black bass from 12:01 a.m. the first Saturday after April 11 to 12:01 a.m. the first Saturday after June 11. Under this proposal, all references to the "first Saturday after April 11" would be changed to the "second Saturday in April," and references to the "first Saturday after June 11" would be changed to the "second Saturday in June." The Board approved a notice of proposed rulemaking. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendments will go into effect January 1, 2022.
- Commissioners ratified changes made to fishing regulations at the Upper Pond (Group Camping Area Lake) at Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County. This ratification follows action taken by the Executive Director to temporarily lift all seasons, sizes, and creel limits for all species at the lake effective July 17, 2021. This action was taken in anticipation of the Pennsylvania Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources' plan to drain the 7.9-acre Upper Pond during fall 2021 to begin a floodplain restoration project, which will result in the removal of the pond. A fish salvage operation will also occur at the pond.

- The Board elected Richard S. Kauffman, Berks County, as President. Kauffman, who served as Vice President and District 8 commissioner, replaces Commissioner Richard Lewis, Adams County.
- Robert B.J. Small, Cumberland County, was elected as Vice President. Small, who serves as District 6 commissioner, replaces Kauffman as Vice President. Both Kauffman and Small will serve through July 2022.

photos-PFBC archives



Richard S. Kauffman



Robert B.J. Small

- The Board announced that fishing license fees will remain the same for the 2022 season.
- The Board voted to adopt amended regulations pertaining to authorized devices for ice fishing. The amendments will allow for legal use of devices such as the JawJacker, Automatic Fisherman, Easy Set Hooksetter, Sure Shot Hooksetter, and Brocraft Ice Fishing Tip-up. The new regulations will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
- The Board approved the removal of 17 streams from the list of Refuge Areas. Refuge areas have been used to extend stocked trout fishing opportunities by placing all, or a portion, of a stream's trout allocation into these areas and denying angler access to these sections from March 1 through June 14. For a list of streams where the refuge area designation will be removed, visit www.fishandboat.com. These changes will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
- The Board approved the designation of three stream sections to the list of Class A

wild trout streams. The board also approved the addition of 25 new waters to the list of wild trout streams. These additions will go into effect upon the publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. A list of waters proposed can be found at www.fishandboat.com.

- Commissioners voted to remove Colyer Lake, Centre County, and Lake Nessmuk, Tioga County, from the Catch and Release Lakes Program and add the waters to the Big Bass and Panfish Enhancement programs. This designation will go into effect January 1, 2022.
- The Board approved a notice of proposed rulemaking related to boating regulations at Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County. Regulations would be amended to address confusion over the use of water ski devices. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
- The Board authorized the acquisition of two easements that will increase public access to waters with significant steelhead fishing opportunities in Erie County. These easement acquisitions are funded using special Lake Erie fishing permits.
- In Conneaut Township, Erie County, the PFBC will pay \$86,000 for an easement for public fishing, boating, and riparian fishery management on 5,980 linear feet along Conneaut Creek.
- In Fairview Township, Erie County, the PFBC will pay \$14,000 for an easement for public fishing, boating, and riparian fishery management on 930 linear feet along Walnut Creek.
- The Board approved a resolution in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This legislation was developed to dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program.

For the complete press release, go to www.fishandboat.com—click on “News”.



photo-Janelle Howard

During the July Commission meeting, Commissioner Richard Lewis was recognized for his past service as Board President. Pictured are (left to right) Board Vice President Robert B.J. Small, Board President Richard S. Kauffman, Commissioner Lewis, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Timothy D. Schaeffer.

Award Presented During the Boating Advisory Board Meeting

photo-Spring Clearhart



During the Boating Advisory Board (BAB) meeting on June 14, 2021, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission recognized Mary Gibson, BAB member, for outstanding leadership and dedication while serving on the BAB from 2007 to 2020.

COLD WATER KILLS!



WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

Boaters are **required by law** to wear a life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak, or paddleboard during the cold weather months from **November 1 through April 30.**

Life jackets save lives year-round!
The Commission strongly encourages all boaters to wear their life jackets at all times on the water.

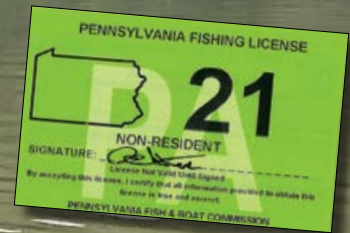


WEAR IT
National Life Saving Council
Pennsylvania

www.fishandboat.com

Back on Campus?

Buy Your Non-Resident PA Student License Today!



www.fishandboat.com



photo-Karen Pillat



Angler's Notebook

by Jerry Bush



photo-Jerry Bush

Steelhead are migrating toward Lake Erie's tributaries, but most will not enter until mid-October, after heavy rains and cooler temperatures affect the streams. In the meantime, steelhead may be caught in marinas and offshore if the lake is calm. Wade near the outflow of a tributary, and let the flowing water work for you. Cast a large, bright bobber or strike indicator into the current and allow it to drag marabou jigs or streamers to staged steelhead. A plain marabou jig will often outproduce a bait-tipped jig.

Bass are aggressive as winter approaches, but a 5-degree change in water temperature interferes with its senses. Target fish in 10 feet of water, where the average temperature will be less subject to quick changes. Boating anglers should locate the 10 feet depth and cast parallel to land protrusions that poke into a lake's main body. The outcroppings represent structure and provides a visual aid for anglers to keep lures in water at the desired depth. Casting perpendicular to protrusions toward shallower water at this time translates to reeling lures aimlessly and only momentarily through the desired strike zone.

Inland lake Walleyes are seeking to add protein before winter arrives. Hungry Walleyes move into shallows at dark or during low light conditions to feed on schools of baitfish that grouped together when the water was still warm from the daylight sun. Throughout the night, the shallow water will cool, and the baitfish will slowly move into slightly deeper water, meaning the Walleyes will follow the baitfish. Fish are shallower in the evening than during early morning hours.

For Pennsylvania fly tiers who are also white-tailed deer hunters, there is an item equally beneficial to both activities. Studies show white-tailed deer notice the ultraviolet reflections of dyes used to create depth in camouflage garments and the chemicals used by many commercial detergents to enhance color. An increasing number of hunters are purchasing special detergents for cleansing hunting clothes and then using ultraviolet lights to test for ultraviolet reflection. That same light may be used by fly tiers to activate head cements that require exposure to ultraviolet light to harden. Conversely, if you purchased an ultraviolet light for tying flies, that same instrument can be used to scan hunting garments for ultraviolet reflection.

A fly fishing guide suggested I purchase or tie some traditional fly patterns with purple added in. Unable to think of any insect or creature that was purple, I assumed he was joking. He then tied an Adams Dry Fly with a purple abdomen to my tippet, and it quickly produced a trout. Though I caught several fish with that fly, I still may have attributed it to luck, until I found the same advice in a favored fly fishing manual. Apparently, I overlooked the sage advice when I first read the manual, which advises that trout notice colors of the blue spectrum. Match the hatch when fish are hitting naturals, but be ready with purple when trout desire something different.

Fishin' from the Kitchen

Baked Steelhead Crusted with Flavored Fresh Breadcrumbs

by Wayne Phillips

Baking steelhead under fresh breadcrumbs keeps the fish moist and adds more flavor to the dish.

Ingredients for four servings:

- 4 6-ounce boneless steelhead fillets
- 1 clove garlic, diced
- 4 slices fresh bread, broken into pieces
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 small onion, diced
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil (divided)
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Procedure

Add bread, onion, garlic, and thyme to a food processor. Pulse until the bread consists of crumbs. Season with salt and black pepper. Add 2 Tbsp. olive oil and pulse once more. Heat the oven to 350 degrees F. Rub the bottom of a baking dish with the remaining olive oil. Carefully press the breadcrumb mixture onto one side of the fillets. Place the

fillets in a baking dish, crumb side up. Bake for 15- to 20-minutes until the fish is cooked through and the topping is golden brown.

Serve

Ideal sides are macaroni and cheese and a green vegetable like broccoli, sugar snap peas, or asparagus.

Tips

Adding a bit of oil to the breadcrumbs helps the breadcrumbs get crisp and brown. Using whole grain bread gives the dish a nutty quality. Using different breads adds even more flavor to the fish. Artisan breads like sourdough bread are perfect. Pretzels may be added to the breadcrumb mixture. Consider adding dried herbs like tarragon or oregano. Orange, lime, or lemon zest also add more flavor.



photo-Wayne Phillips

Dunham's

SPORTS

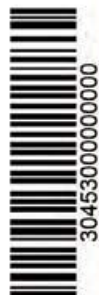
Big Names....Low Prices!

20% OFF*

Regular Price Of Any One Item In Stock With Coupon

*Exclusions may be mandated by the manufacturers. Excludes firearms, ammunition, licenses, Nike, Perception, select TaylorMade, select Callaway, Carhart, Costa, Merrell footwear, Oakley, Ray-Ban, New Balance, Terrain Blinds, Under Armour, Yell, Columbia, Garmin, Tennis balls, Titleist golf balls, GoPro, Nerf, Lego, Leupold, Flitbit, arcade cabinets, bats and ball gloves over \$149.99, shanties, large bag deer corn, GPS/fish finders, motors, marine batteries, motorized vehicles and gift cards. Not valid for online purchases. Cannot be used with another offer, coupon, current sale or clearance item. Only one coupon per customer. Not valid on previous purchases. Void if copied. Not for resale.

Dunham's Coupon Expires December 31, 2021



Dunham's Rewards

Receive money saving coupons and more.

www.dunhamsrewards.com



Sportsmen Club

Are you a member of a Sportsmen's Club with 25 or more members?

www.dunhamssports.com/sportsmen



20-P-220

We invite everyone from everywhere to come "Experience Bradford County!"



Kayaking & Hiking

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES
BRADFORD COUNTY, PA
 Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency | 1 Washington Street, Suite B, Towanda, PA 16848

570.265 • TOUR

www.visitbradfordcounty.com • Follow us on



Crawford County, PA



As the water temperatures start to fall and the boat traffic lightens, the gamefish come out to feed. Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, and even Channel Catfish are biting! Check out our website for **Darl Black's Fishing Report** to see what is biting and where. Find your new favorite fishing spot on one of our eight lakes or cast a line in French Creek or one of our other streams. Relax in all fall has to offer right here in northwestern Pennsylvania.

PA VisitCrawford.org



Visit www.fishinpa.com for the 2021 Pennsylvania Fishing Regulations and Laws



www.PaBestFishing.com

Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters is a program established by the Commission, using the expertise and knowledge of its fisheries biologists, to highlight statewide locations for different categories of fish to assist anglers in knowing the prime fishing hotspots. Confirmed by survey catch rates and the availability of public access, the program waters offered are provided to help increase anglers' success and convenient access to this information.

You deserve the best!

CAST & CAUGHT

For the "Cast & Caught" column, send only prints (no larger than 8"x10") and a completed "Model Release form" available at www.fishandboat.com/Transact/AnglerBoater. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your photograph returned. Persons 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**



TAKE ME FISHING



Caroline Lightner, age 10, caught this Bluegill while fishing Bixler Run, Perry County, with her family.



Hunter Simon, Pleasant Gap, caught this Brown Trout while fishing in the rain at Bald Eagle Creek, Centre County.



Holly Bressler, Duncannon, caught this Common Carp while fishing in Marysville Lions Club Pond, Perry County. She was using canned corn as bait.



Roman Italia, age 11, caught and released his first pickerel while fishing at Colyer Lake, Centre County.



Giovanni Italia, age 9, caught and released this 18-inch trout while fishing Spring Creek, Centre County.



Jon Hansotte, Butler, caught this 2-pound, 16-inch crappie while fishing at Lake Oneida Dam, Butler County.



Raymond J. Welsbacher, Imperial, caught this 18½-inch Rainbow Trout while fishing Tionesta Creek.



Marc Christian Graffius, Loysville, caught this 3¼-pound, 20-inch, Rainbow Trout while fishing Buffalo Creek, Perry County.

