

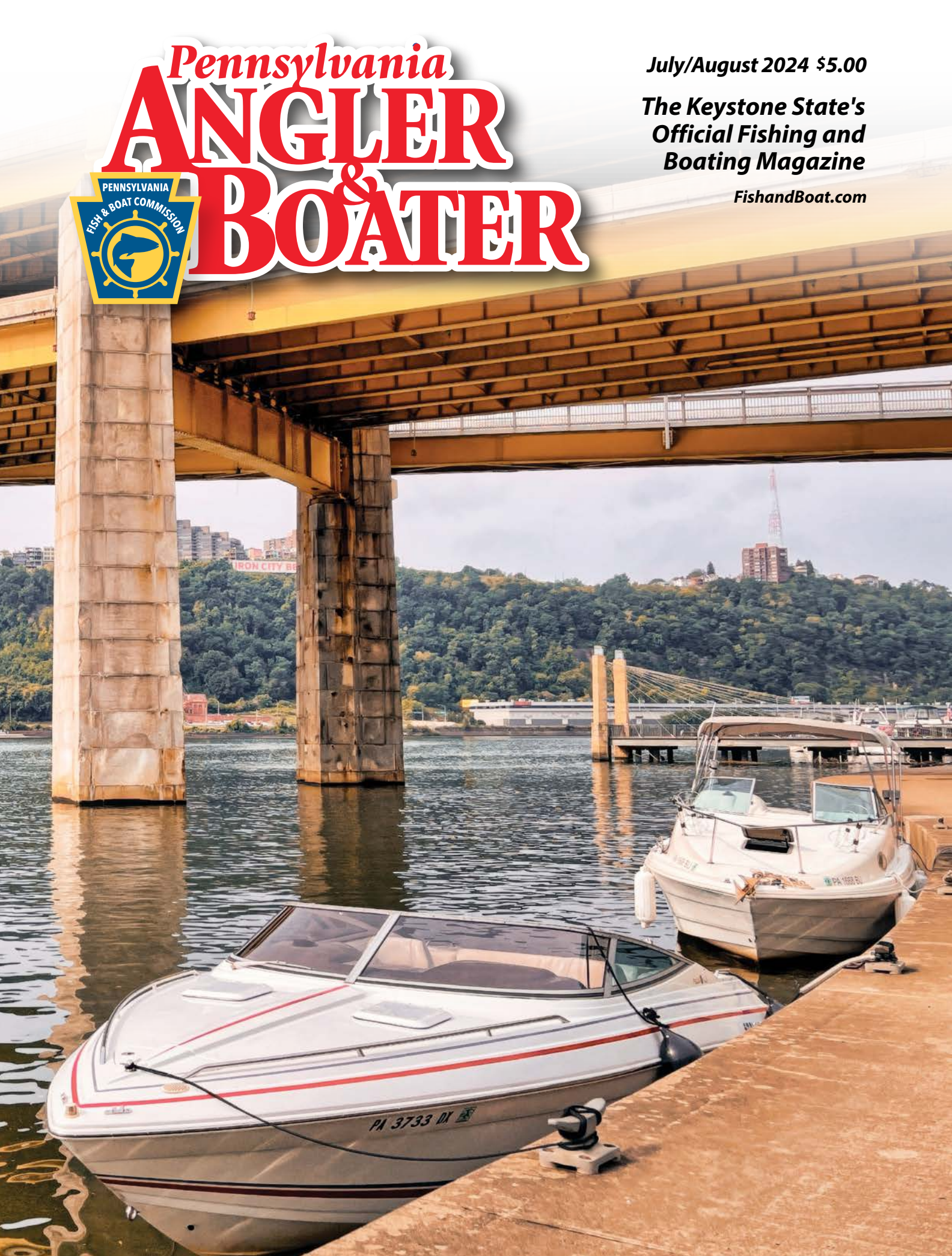
# *Pennsylvania* **ANGLER & BOATER**



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

*FishandBoat.com*







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Boating



Catch and Release



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Family Fishing



Fly Fishing



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Lakes



Paddling



Rivers



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Streams



Tackle

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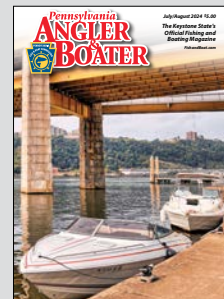
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## On the cover



The Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a 33-mile National Recreation Trail in the Pittsburgh region providing access to the city's neighborhoods, river town business districts and local attractions. Anglers and boaters enjoy stunning views of the city's bridges and great fishing. From access points, paddlers can launch kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. This is Fort Duquesne Bridge. In the background is Point State Park.  
*Photo by Linda Stager*







# THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

photo-courtesy of Pennsylvania Senate Democrats

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

↑ (Left to right) Senator Jim Brewster, Governor Josh Shapiro, Executive Director Tim Schaeffer and Senator Greg Rothman celebrate the signing of Act 1 of 2024, benefitting participants in programs that use the healing power of fishing as therapeutic recreation.

Act 1 of 2024—that has a nice ring to it. Senator Jim Brewster first sponsored the bill in March 2019, and it was considered in each of the last three legislative sessions. Along the way, the various senate bills saw identical companion legislation in the House of Representatives. With each introduction, there were multiple bipartisan co-sponsors. Each time it came up for a vote in committee or on the floor, it received unanimous support. It was a bill that everyone liked, but the clock just ran out before it crossed the finish line.

Now, the wait is over. Thank you to Senator Brewster for his persistence, his fellow Game and Fisheries Chairs Senator Greg Rothman and Representatives Anita Kulik and David Maloney, the entire Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, and Governor Josh Shapiro for coming together to make it possible for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to permit participants in programs that use fishing as therapy to not have to possess a fishing license.

There are about 60 such events across the Commonwealth each year, and they really do deserve the courtesy and dignity of having their participants be able

to fish for the day without a license. Programs include, but are not limited to, those that benefit the mental and physical recovery of veterans who sustained injuries in battle, women who are recovering from breast cancer, and individuals suffering from various other forms of developmental, traumatic and physical ailments.

As you enjoy Pennsylvania's waters this summer, consider how you may use the soothing benefits of fishing, boating or simply enjoying a view from a bench along a lake, stream or river to help you or a friend recharge your batteries or take a long-overdue deep breath. We all seem to be busier than ever and often feel like we cannot escape the constant bombardment of our cell phones and other devices.

The water is there to help you cope, heal and reconnect with nature in a way that few other things can. So, do everything you can to find time for your own water-based therapeutic recreation this summer. You will be glad you did.

And, if you do so from a boat, please wear your life jacket. ☐





# NOTES *from the Streams*

## Surprise

One of my favorite things about patrolling as a Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) is finding challenging walk-in fishing locations. These places require at least a 30 minute hike. People may go to these spots to avoid other anglers or a WCO.

I recently hiked to a fishing location where I suspected anglers were fishing at a posted section of a lake that was off limits to fishing. On this sunny day, the temperature was perfect and fishing was likely good. About an hour into my hike, I found two anglers. I approached the anglers to check their creel and licenses. They looked surprised to see a WCO and knew they weren't supposed to be fishing at this spot. One of the anglers didn't have a fishing license and was issued a citation for this offense.—*WCO David Raulfs Jr., Wyoming and Southwestern Susquehanna counties.*

## A stream of consciousness

It was shortly after opening day of trout season. I was patrolling a small, stocked trout stream in my district and noticed an angler. I parked my patrol vehicle close to the fishing hole in a small pull-off along the roadway and exited my truck to check the angler. As I exited my vehicle, I noticed the man walking up from the stream towards me. He appeared a bit nervous, and he was fumbling around with his wallet. I stood at my patrol truck as I greeted him and asked how the fish were biting.

Still fumbling with his wallet, he replied, "Well, I got one or two on a stringer by the creek." I asked him if he had a current fishing license and trout stamp to which he replied he did, but he was nervous, because he couldn't find his license. I simply stated, "If you can just turn your head to the right, I can check your license." We both laughed—he didn't realize his license was pinned to his hat. I checked the license and the

fish he had on the stringer and told him to have a good afternoon and enjoy the fishing. He laughed again and thanked me.

The angler told me before I left that the reason he approached me to show me his license and fish was because he wasn't always "on the right side of the law," but he was now on the right path in life. I thanked him for his honesty and told him I was proud to hear of that change. I reminded him before I left that his license was on his hat and not in his wallet. We both had another laugh.—*WCO Frank J. Mehalko III, Blair and Huntingdon counties.*

## Lost sunglasses

I was working a boat patrol detail in Pittsburgh with a couple of other officers. As we made our way down the Allegheny River near PNC Park, I noticed a man on a personal watercraft flagging us down. I was pretty sure he was going to ask what time the fireworks started—a common question in Pittsburgh this time of the year. We stopped our patrol boat and hailed him over to us. He approached our boat in a t-bone manner going too fast. I reached down over the transom to stop him from crashing into our boat. From leaning down and the impact of stopping his watercraft, my sunglasses slid off my face into the

Allegheny River, slowly sinking to the bottom. After telling him what time the fireworks started, we reminded him that boats don't have brakes.—*WCO Jeremiah D. Allen, Beaver County.*

## Catch of the summer

On a warm summer day in August, I was patrolling the West Branch Susquehanna River in Williamsport. I walked to Hepburn Street Dam to check for anglers. It's a popular fishing location for Smallmouth Bass and other species. The summer fishing at the dam was slow for weeks with little angler success.

As I walked down to the river, I encountered a few kids fishing along the dam and decided to chat with them. I explained that most anglers weren't having much success recently due to drought conditions. While in the middle of talking to one young angler, he suddenly got a bite and caught a nice 17½-inch Smallmouth Bass that made his face and mine light up with excitement. We were both in shock as it was a slow day fishing the river.

I told the young angler to be proud of it, because it was a trophy bass. After carefully releasing the bass into the river, we wrapped up a great time. This catch made my day. The young angler told me that catching the bass with a WCO was his best catch of the summer.

I always enjoy spending an extra few minutes getting to know young anglers while I am patrolling and seeing them have success. It's one of my favorite parts of being a WCO.—*WCO Charles H. Shoemaker, Lycoming County.*



artwork—Andrea Feeney





# Yough River Trail Fishing

by Bob Frye

Being labeled “contrary” isn’t necessarily bad, but it does suggest you’re a nonconformist. The Youghiogheny River is Exhibit A.

It stretches 132 miles, starting high on the Eastern Continental Divide along the Maryland-West Virginia border, entering Pennsylvania in Fayette and Somerset counties and emptying into the Monongahela River near McKeesport, Allegheny County.

Mostly, it flows north. The exception is where it makes a “U,” turning abruptly south to get around Ferncliff Peninsula Natural Area in Ohio State Park before quickly returning northbound.

Consequently, early natives, the Algonquians, christened it the Youghiogheny, which roughly translates to “stream flowing in a contrary direction” or “in a roundabout course.”

But, don’t take the river for a curmudgeon. It’s actually quite accommodating, thanks to water quality improvements like those evident in the 26 river miles between Connellsville, Fayette County, and West Newton, Westmoreland County.

Pete Cartwright of Smallies On The Yough Guide Service, [smalliesontheyough.com](http://smalliesontheyough.com), fishes that section extensively and ranks it second only to the larger Allegheny River as the best Smallmouth Bass water in western Pennsylvania.

“On any given day, as far as numbers go, in the summertime we average 20 fish for every 4 hours on the river,” said Cartwright, who grew up fishing the river in McKeesport. “That’s a lot of action.”

“Fish of 13 to 15 inches and 1 to 2 pounds are common, but many clients catch their personal best Smallmouth Bass from the river,” said Cartwright. His largest was 22½ inches long and 6 pounds.

“The Yough has come a long way from when I was a child. It’s getting better all the time, every year,” said Cartwright.

He catches most of his bass on finesse baits—tubes, swimbaits, plastic worms and hair jigs with soft plastic trailers—in natural colors fished on the bottom with 8-pound fluorocarbon line.

Elsewhere in this stretch, anglers catch trout stocked by local clubs. West Newton Sportsmen’s Club released \$15,000 worth of trout this year in three stockings between mid-March and mid-April.



SW  
PA!

photo-courtesy of Storm Steinkopf





photos-Bob Frye

The Yough River is wadeable in most places between Connellsville and Cedar Creek, and it is easily accessible to paddlers, too, with a number of launches along that stretch. The official river trail map outlines all those places.

“That’s almost 1,000 pounds of fish for every stocking” said Bob Patrick, who leads the effort and runs the group’s Facebook page. “And, they are nice-looking trout, too. We stock Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and golden Rainbow Trout, from 12 inches to 20 inches,” said Patrick.

Some fish are tagged for prizes, available to anyone who buys a “Stock the Yough” button from merchants in town.

This year was the club’s 50th stocking of the river. Smithton Sportsmen’s Club—which put in another \$12,000 worth of trout of the same species and size, spread over four stockings, just upriver—has done it for 53 years.

“All of those trout move, upriver and down, depending on conditions,” said Mike Hazy, chairman of the Smithton Sportsmen’s Club stocking program. “But, that’s okay. Exploring offers the chance to tie into something even bigger.”

Richard E. Nicholson, Fayette County, caught Pennsylvania’s state-record Walleye—18 pounds, 1 ounce—from the Yough in Fayette County in 2021. Hazy, who’s lived within 300 yards of the river for decades, wasn’t surprised. While that fish was exceptional, the Yough holds plenty of big Walleyes and more.

“I’ve seen some monster muskies,” said Hazy. “One of these days, someone’s really going to get into a big one.”

Cartwright agrees. He maintains a database of every fish he’s caught, under every condition, everywhere he’s been, back to 1994. Over those years, he’s seen the Yough—a Class I river,

navigable by even beginner paddlers, though he wade fishes—turn into something special.

“That river has really come a long way. You never know what you may catch,” said Cartwright. ☐



Weekends see a lot of paddlers on the Yough.



INTERMEDIATE





# SUMMER SNAPSHOTS AND CICADAS

by *Christian A. Shane*

*photos by the author*

The chirping of the cicada song grew louder and louder as we drove into the valley of the Laurel Highlands. Signs of cicadas approaching the north were evident in West Virginia and southern Ohio. It was only a matter of time before they arrived on the Youghiogheny River near the Pennsylvania border, where we would put in below the confluence. At the confluence, cicadas should be slapping the water with aggressive takes to follow.

Having tied a quantity of cicada patterns, I filled up two tin containers and had prepared for the event like a kid waiting for the sands of summer. This time around, would we once again have an epic trip?

We began the float at daybreak with Zebra Midges and ISOs, hoping the cicadas would come out and play as the sun rose higher. As we drifted by the low-lying areas, sections of cicada static hummed in an encouraging way. We all tied on our different versions of the bug. Peter tied on the Utah cicadas that rode higher in the water. Chub attempted the \$4 Spruce Creek specials, a surplus he bought a couple of years ago. I tested a smaller version with spent wings and monofilament melted eyes. Both big and small bugs had no effect on the bite. By lunchtime, the cicadas still didn't make their presence known on the water to the fish, but the Slate Drakes emerged as we had some alternate surface action. Still, we enjoyed the day, hooked fish and patiently waited for the cicada action.

I pointed out one lone cicada fluttering in an eddy, the first we observed on the water. We rowed over and sat there for a bit to watch it struggling in the water film. Its wings spread out fully, twitching and jerking, though the orange and black bug was not eaten. I leaned over, allowed the bug to crawl up on my hand. Making note of its glowing orange eyes, I pulled out one of my patterns to match. It took off in the wind and headed for the trees. There was still time for the cicadas to start flying, but we were running out of time. We floated cicadas all afternoon in slow eddies and fast runs, not one trout came up to investigate.

By late afternoon, statements like "You shoulda been here yesterday!" and "Maybe, they'll be here tomorrow!" snuck into our brains like so many other mistimed fishing adventures. I recalled the time we camped along Penns Creek, Centre County, for the Green Drakes and witnessed the females swarming overhead at dusk, never to mate with the males and drop. Or, the time we tried to hit the Chinook Salmon on the Kenai River in Alaska and caught the tail end of the run.

Three quarters of the way through the float, the sun lowered between the hills, the coolness of the river air swooped in, and

the cicada static slightly died off. We knew we would have to try another day and time. Silence filled the entire valley.

From the back of the raft, with his own ideal timing, Peter murmured, "Remember last summer when we hit the Tricos on the Big Hole? That was crazy." How could I forget? We had the river to ourselves with pods of trout responding to every cast of our spinner imitations; the big ones ever so subtly slurping our patterns and leaving us with jaws wide open.

"Yep, you caught that monster brown at the take-out." I still owed him a fishing shirt for the last-cast bet.

Then, the memory floodgates opened to the past outstanding trips we encountered. On the Green River, Utah, the caddisflies were so thick the fish gulped mouthfuls. Or, our trip to the Madison River, Montana, when we thought we missed the salmon flies, but they were hunting below Quake Lake. And, the trek through the Powder River canyon in Wyoming. The Cutthroat Trout took every bug we offered.

So no, it wasn't the momentarily timed trip that we had planned, but the micro-moments themselves were perfect—watching the bald eagle battling the mergansers and her babies for space on the river, observing the Slate Drakes buzzing overhead, laughing at the beefy Brown Trout that nearly pulled my rod in. These are the moments we would remember that day.

Often, the photos of our adventures display us holding the final reward, but the moments in between bring us back to the water. ☐

## Hoov's Cicada

**Hook:** Mustad 3906B, #4, Tiemco 2302, #6

**Thread:** Danville Flat Waxed Nylon in black, 210 Denier Nylon in black or orange

**Under body:** Awesome 'Possum dubbing in orange

**Over body:** Fly Foam in black (1/8-inch thick)

**Wing:** Krystal Flash (25-30 strands of pearl and orange)

**Legs:** Centipede legs (medium in speckled orange)

**Thorax:** Orange Awesome 'Possum dubbing



*Hoov's Cicada*





## Destination Middle Creek— *Kayaking, Birding, Herps and Wildflowers*

photo-Tyler Frantz

*by Tyler Frantz*

**A**s the blades of our kayak paddles sliced through the lake water, a bald eagle soared overhead. Green herons hopped along the rocky shoreline hunting fish. Eastern Painted Turtles sunned themselves on exposed logs, and a watersnake scuttled across the water's surface toward vegetative cover.

Back near the launch area, where eastern tiger swallowtails dined on common milkweed just paces from the boat ramp, a great blue heron stood watch while a young boy pulled a wriggling catfish to shore on his dad's fishing rod—a fine way to spend a summer day.

Nestled within the rolling agricultural hill country of Lebanon and Lancaster counties, this true gem of nature awaits exploration. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC's) Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, located at 100 Museum Road, Stevens, is comprised of more than 6,000 acres devoted entirely to supporting numerous wildlife species as well as their native habitats including species drawn to water, wetlands and native grassland prairies.

For the naturalist who also happens to own a kayak, Middle Creek serves as an excellent day-trip destination to

paddle, picnic, fish, and observe herps, birds, pollinators and wildflowers in one location.

The main lake's 40-acre fishing area is open to non-motorized boating from May 15 through September 30 and features a well-maintained parking lot, restroom facilities and boat launch near the lake's dam breast. Signage and markers indicate the portion of the lake that is restricted access. This section is off-limits and devoted to wildlife.

A quality pair of binoculars can provide excellent opportunities to view distant waterfowl and other water-loving species from shore, but you can also get a closer look by paddling quietly and maintaining a respectful buffer between wildlife and the well-marked sanctuary boundaries.

After a good workout on the water, enjoy a picnic lunch at the Red Rock Picnic Area just off Millstone Road or cool off at the Visitors Center, where a gorgeous view of the lake is enhanced by a songbird feeding station. There are also several educational and interactive displays that enlighten visitors about our state's flora and fauna, as well as the PGC's Conservation Heritage Museum.

Pick up a wildflower or bird species checklist at the information desk and head back outside to one of the





numerous recreational hiking trails to try your hand at some species identification. Middle Creek supports more than 300 individual species of birds throughout the year and even more species of plant life. During the summertime, when wildflowers are in full bloom, a host of pollinators and birds are attracted to the area.

While participating in the “Wildlife Drive” tour, we had to momentarily mute the speakers of the radio’s audio tour, which is very informative and runs on channel 1620 AM, when we spotted an eastern meadowlark perched atop a tall stalk of milkweed. The bird’s gorgeous song only added to the stunning views of wild bergamot, blue vervain and black-eyed Susan appearing in a colorful patchwork, drawing countless butterflies and bees across the native meadow.

Middle Creek provides something for every nature lover. From anglers, boaters and hunters to naturalists, hikers and birders, consider a day trip to this one-stop shop to enjoy everything wild. ☑

### More information:

[middlecreek@pa.gov](mailto:middlecreek@pa.gov)

717-733-1512

photo-Tyler Frantz



Blue vervain grows wild among the cattails in a damp drainage, attracting a wide range of bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

photo-Tyler Frantz



In addition to Middle Creek’s kayaking opportunities, there are expansive tracts of native grasslands and wildflowers that can be viewed from both hiking trails and driving tours.



photo-Tyler Frantz

photo-Tyler Frantz



photo-PFBC archives



The Visitors Center offers several educational displays that can enhance a day trip to Middle Creek.





# Brownies on the Swing

by Michael Kensinger

To my delight, March 12, 2024, was warm and sunny. It was a welcome departure from the cold, severe rain and wind that had made it impossible to get out on the trout stream. Luckily, the first wave of feathered spring migrants is arriving including hordes of grackles, red-winged blackbirds and robins. Coltsfoot beginning to bloom is a signal that winter's jarring cold will soon come to an end.

After a long day of sitting at the computer, resting my weary eyes on the Little Juniata River was a real treat. As I approached, the air was filled with birdsong, midges and what appeared to

be Blue Winged Olives coming off the water. It was exciting to finally see some flying insects hatching, though no trout were rising to take the winged tidbits. So, I tied on a Walt's Worm, one I had tied myself garnished with an orange collar. This pattern worked before when the trout were feeding more under the water as they appeared to be today.

Traditionally, I have only fished with spinners and a 5-foot ultralight rod, so traveling through the brush with my 9-foot fly rod was a challenge. Navigating the streamside through brambles and thorns, while trying not to startle any trout, was enough to work up a sweat and a bit of frustration.

Finally, I found an opening where deer had slid into a shallow portion of

the river to cross. And, perhaps not as gracefully as a deer, I slid down into the river. Below me, I saw an area where the river cuts under the bank, but I thought it best not to waste my time at that location. I knew the leaves and sediment I stirred up in the stream would likely startle any trout in that hole.

I continued across the stream where I noticed the boughs of a mighty rhododendron dangling just over the water. Beneath the surface, I detected a long piece of wood with my polarized lenses. The surface water movement, combined with ample shadowy hiding places, told me this may be a good place to try my luck. The water, running high and clear, put





my balance to the test. Meanwhile, a small flock of birds known as golden-crowned kinglets flitted in the branches overhead. These dainty delights were taking full advantage of the insects coming off the water.

I made several casts, sometimes clumsily, but as my nymph drifted downstream behind me each time, I learned to let the current “load” my line for the next cast. This time, the cast was better. My nymph and my line were in the same lane of current until they drifted below me. I intended on letting the line load again, and I watched it swing down and drift behind me. I went to make another cast. Suddenly, there was a tug on my line. A flash of gold told me immediately that I had a

Brown Trout, and it took the swing. This is precisely what happened to me weeks prior with the first trout I caught on a nymph.

After a brief fight, the golden beauty made it to my hand for a quick photo. It sparkled in my palm as I slipped the barbless hook out of its jaw. One last look, and I sent it back into the water to catch another day. The trout measured about 12 inches long as it darted back under the bank.

I fished the remainder of daylight but only managed to catch a beech tree, a shrub of some kind and my fishing net before I finally decided to call it a day. Now, having landed two fish on flies I tied, I knew there were better days ahead. ☐







# LATE SUMMER BASS FISHING

photo-Amidea Daniel

by *Braden Eisenhower*

Parents and students anxiously await the start of the new school year as other anglers look forward to backsliding temperatures that will bring fantastic fall fishing in the coming months. But, late summer still has something to offer—spectacular Smallmouth Bass fishing.

Mid-summer fishing is a grind. We sweat through tough daytime bites in June and July with slow-moving presentations—tubes hopped and dragged across the bottom or suspending jerkbaits with plenty of hang time between twitches. Meanwhile, oversized Smallmouth Bass seem tight-lipped outside of prime conditions.

By August, conditions begin to swing in our favor with shorter daylight hours and milder air temperatures. After several weeks of drought, we may experience rain, which brings good fishing ahead of that front. Overall, water temperatures dip below 80 degrees F.

In this transitional period, a bass's strike zone expands. The same is true for our lure options. Under temperate conditions, a bass will chase moving baits. A productive lure style is a wake bait.

Wake baits look like crankbaits, yet fish like topwater lures due to the steep angle of their bill or lip.

Many anglers select crankbaits in terms of diving depth. More specifically, which lure tracks along bottom contours and ricochets off rocks. Wake baits, however, don't dive more than 12 inches and work best when bulging the surface, running so shallow that its rocking motion creates a disturbance on the surface.

Shallow running lures are at home on the famously unnavigable lower section of the Susquehanna River. The river level determines how the angler accesses the water. Although jet boats rule the roost much of the year, it may take a kayak or canoe to see the nooks and crannies. During extreme low water, wading is often the best modality.

Low flows in July and August allow bass to scatter and inhabit many areas. This does not necessarily mean locating or catching them in late summer is difficult. Current will continue to play an important role, and we find Smallmouth Bass in predictable spots, many of which provide casting to visible targets.

Riffles, pools and runs comprise the three parts of a river. Smallmouth Bass avoid riffles that are shallow and fast. However, expect to find them where the water has a





Smallmouth Bass

photo-Braden Eisenhower



A lure's physiology determines its diving depth. The wake bait is on the left. Its line tie is at the chin, and the lip has an angle near 90-degrees. In comparison, the crankbait on the right is poised to dive several feet due to the lip angle, which is closer to 180-degrees. Its line tie is on the lip.

photo-Braden Eisenhower



Under sunny skies, trigger reaction strikes with fast retrieves and bright paint jobs.

few feet of depth, and there is cover—often boulders—to break swift current.

The head of the pool that forms immediately below the riffle holds the most active fish. Less active bass lurk in the downstream sections of a pool and along the current seams where fast water merges with the pool. Smallmouth Bass in these areas position to ambush prey, so expect quick results.

Further downstream is a section of deep water with slower current called the run. Runs convey the sense of a loaf area, though Smallmouth Bass may relate to subtle changes in current or depth that permit feeding opportunities. A wake bait passing overhead is unlikely to ring the dinner bell, but it may provoke a reaction strike.

Weather influences fish activity and fishing style. Smallmouth Bass are usually active on cloudy, windy days. Be prepared to cover water. On sunny days, the best bite is often around low light hours of dusk and dawn. Expect lethargic fish under bright conditions from mid-morning through late afternoon. Fast-moving retrieves to trigger reaction bites are often the solution. Hold in place and make repeat casts. Even though the lure moves quickly, it still pays to be thorough.

The final weeks of summer can be hectic. If time allows, find some peace on a nearby river with a good population of Smallmouth Bass. ☐



painting-Jim Kent

## OPENING DAY OF BASS

June 8, 2024





# SOMERSET COUNTY'S COVERED BRIDGES

by *Linda Stager*

*photos by the author*

Step back in time and imagine when horse-drawn carriages or early automobiles traveled old-time country roads and crossed the covered bridge before you. Listen to the creak of the wooden planks underfoot, the sound of water flowing beneath the bridge and the scent of old-aged timbers.

This is the feeling of Somerset County's 10 covered bridges. Pick any of them to visit; pick all of them—it's a fun visit for everyone in the family.

While you are at it, bring your fishing gear. There are fish, too, in Somerset County.

Somerset County's covered bridges were built between 1859 and 1891. Initially, they served as part of our old

highway system. Now, they stand as examples of advanced craftsmanship, civil engineering and romantic symbols of an earlier time in history.

Grab a map and guide for the Somerset County Covered Bridge Tour when you visit. It's a self-paced 55-mile driving route that lets you see the county's bridges in an organized manner. Enjoy the bridges, and take some time to visit the nearby towns and attractions.

**Packsaddle Bridge** (also known as Doc Miller Bridge): The Packsaddle Bridge is in Fairhope Township in the southeastern part of the county. It is well worth a visit.

This single-span bridge is the county's shortest covered bridge, only 48 feet long. But, its location on Brush Creek is unique. It sits atop a natural waterfall.

This red king post truss bridge has complete vertical plank siding and sits on large stone abutments. Sometimes, Brush Creek has a low water level and may not have a lot of water flowing over the falls. However, it's always picturesque.





*Packsaddle Bridge, Somerset County*

*photo-Linda Stager*

The falls can't necessarily be seen from the bridge since they sit directly under the bridge, but trails along the creek can access them. Be careful getting to the creekside and do not trespass on private property.

During summer, folks may be swimming in the large pools below the falls. But, the pools also hold bass and trout, so they're popular for fishing, too.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks Brush Creek. Several times each year, volunteers help Waterways Conservation Officers stock Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and golden Rainbow Trout in the waters near the bridge. Bring a valid fishing license, follow stocked trout waters regulations, and remember, "Trash in, trash out."

**Barronvale Bridge** (also known as Barron's Mill Bridge): The longest bridge in the county, this Burr truss bridge is younger in age and may have been built as recently as 1902. It is 162 feet and 3 inches long. Since the bridge is less than 14 feet wide, it is open to foot traffic only. It crosses Laurel



*Barronvale Bridge, Somerset County*

*photo-Donna Mohney*



*Glessner Bridge, Somerset County*

*photo-Donna Mohney*

Hill Creek, part of the Laurel Highland Trout Trail. Laurel Hill Creek carves through an old-growth hemlock forest, perfect for off-the-grid fishing.

**Glessner Bridge:** Glessner Bridge is on Stonycreek River, near Shanksville. The Stonycreek River has been stocked with catchable trout for decades. This is a great year-round fishing opportunity for Brook Trout and Rainbow Trout.

Take a few days to visit these quaint bridges from a simpler time and do some quality fishing in Somerset County. There is lots to do here for everyone! ☺

### More information:



[somersetcounty.chamber.com/product/covered-bridges-of-somerset-county](https://somersetcounty.chamber.com/product/covered-bridges-of-somerset-county)

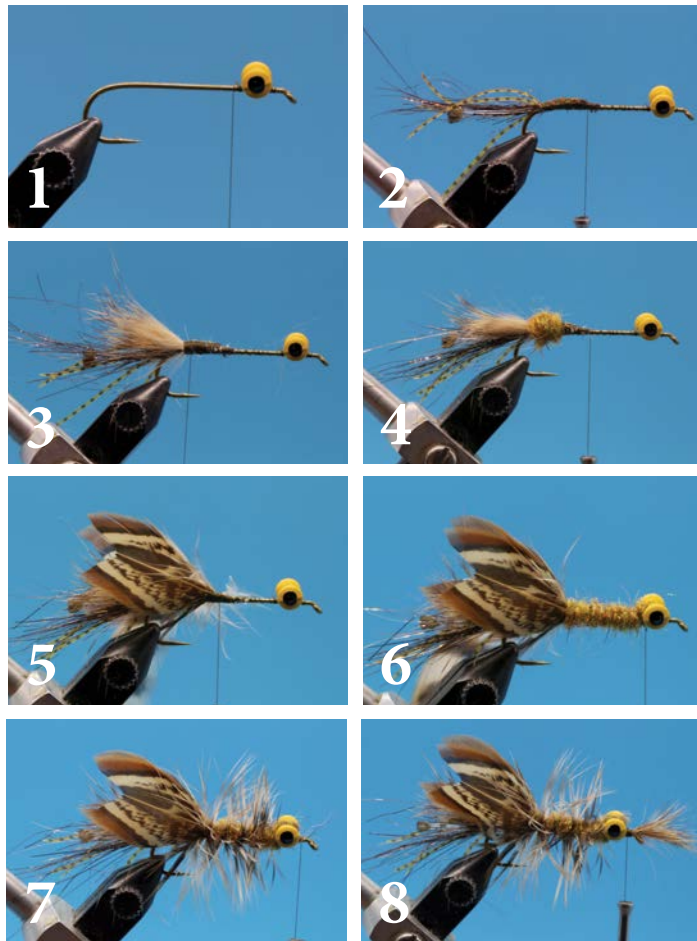




# Tying the Near Nuff Crayfish

by Carl Haensel    photos by the author

For anglers chasing Smallmouth Bass during the summer, the Near Nuff Crayfish is an excellent pattern that performs well on waters in Pennsylvania. Created and originally tied by the late Dave Whitlock, this innovative pattern has proven itself effective in a variety of colors and sizes. Take a look at the crayfish in your local stream or river, and use tan, olive, orange or rust-colored materials to match the forage that the fish on your home waters pursue. Tie the pattern with a variety of differently weighted dumbbell eyes to provide options for shallow or deep fish. This pattern fools big trout as well, and the large trout rivers in Pennsylvania are great places to try it. With a great deal of materials going into this pattern, new tiers may find it easier to use a few less items. The fly usually fishes fine without the monofilament eyes and flash. ☐



Crayfish are a favorite summertime food for Smallmouth Bass, trout and other predatory fish in Pennsylvania.

## Tying the Near Nuff Crayfish Materials

**Hook:** Size 4-10, 3x long nymph hook or similar

**Thread:** Tan UTC Ultra Thread 210 or similar

**Dumbbell Eyes:** Medium to small non-toxic in color of choice

**Eyes:** Stiff nylon, melted

**Antennae:** Sili Legs in pumpkin and flash in brown or orange

**Dubbing:** Dave Whitlock SLF Crayfish golden brown, orange or similar

**Claws:** Pheasant body feathers or grizzly hen hackle

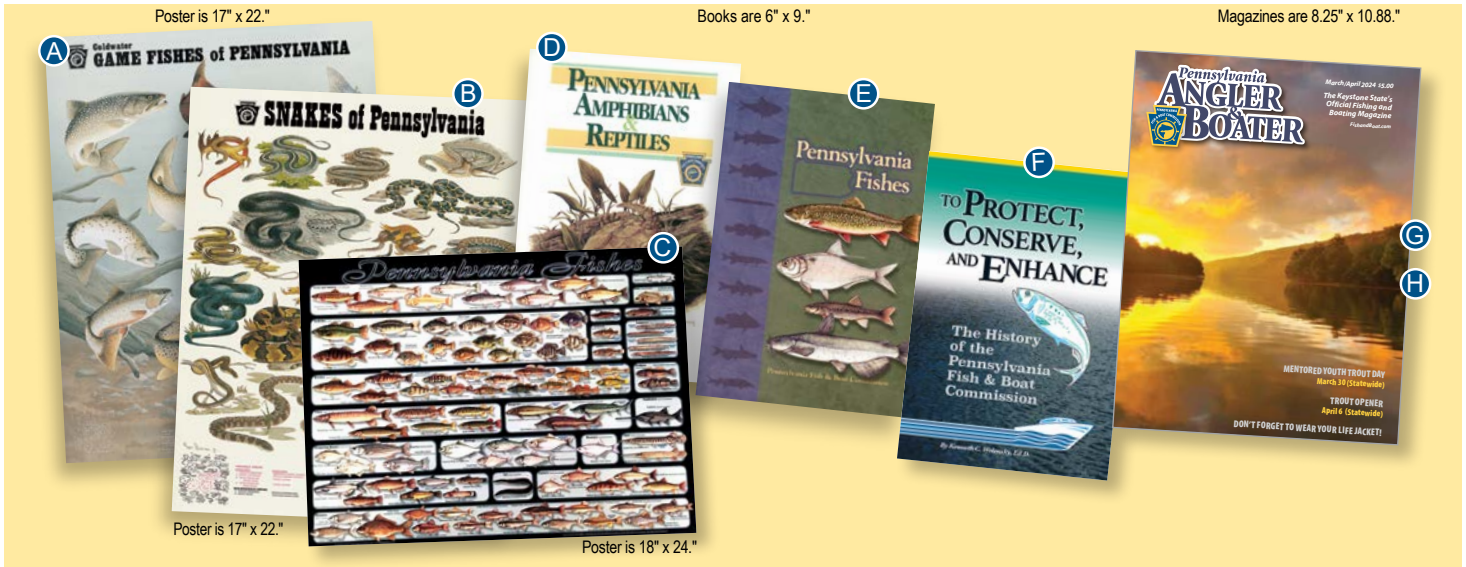
**Legs:** Tan barred marabou or saddle hackle

**Tail:** Rabbit fur

**Glue:** Cyanoacrylate

- 1 Place the hook in the vise, wrap on the thread, and attach the dumbbell eyes.
- 2 Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook, and tie in the monofilament eyes, rubber legs and flash.
- 3 Attach the rabbit fur tuft at the bend of the hook, allowing it to encircle the shank. The eyes should stick out beyond the fur.
- 4 Create a large ball of dubbing in front of the fur tuft. This is the thorax of the fly.
- 5 Tie in the pheasant body sections as claws. Trim to shape the claws. Tie in marabou or saddle hackle to palmer up the body.
- 6 Wrap the body with dubbing, tapering up to the dumbbell eyes.
- 7 Palmer the hackle up to the dumbbell eyes. Then, add in additional dubbing over the dumbbell eyes to cover the thread wraps.
- 8 Tie in a small piece of fur for the tail of the crayfish, facing forward over the eye of the hook. Glue your wraps near the eye, and your crayfish is ready to fish.





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<b>D</b> Pennsylvania Amphibians & Reptiles Book (172 pages)	\$14.34	_____	_____
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# Big River Summertime Walleye Tactics

by Jeff Knapp photos by the author

There's an understandably strong connection between Walleyes and rivers. After all, the Walleye is by nature a river fish, naturally maintaining its numbers in many of our larger flowing waters, most notably within its native Ohio River drainage basin.

River-dwelling Walleyes get much of their angler attention from late fall through the following spring, when concentrations of fish are found in well-defined areas. However, Walleyes are certainly catchable during the summer months, though fish tend to be widely scattered, from low river levels and warm water temperatures.

Such a scenario is ideal for trolling, a tactic that quickly and efficiently covers the water, increasing chances of putting lures in front of active fish.

## Delivery method

It's been my experience that there's no better way of trolling for river Walleyes than with lead core line. Not that exceptional depths need to be achieved. Most of

the fish I catch on the lower Allegheny River are taken in 14 to 18 feet of water. Lead core line assists in the precision needed to trigger Walleye strikes, keeping the lure within 12 or 24 inches of the bottom. When farther off the bottom, you may catch Channel Catfish and Smallmouth Bass, possibly muskies, but probably not Walleyes.

I recommend 18-pound-test lead core line joined to a 10- to 15-foot section of 10-pound-test fluorocarbon line serving as a leader, terminated with a quality snap for quick lure exchange. While lead core line is color metered every 10 feet, I feel the use of line counter reels greatly increases the level of precision. Moderate action trolling rods in the 7½- to 8-foot range completes the setup.

## Lure choices

Larger rivers tend to be murky during the summer. I've had my best success with visible color patterns, vivid ones that include chartreuse, lime green or orange, often with the inclusion of UV (ultraviolet) in their description. In general, aggressive action lures such as Storm's Hot 'N Tot® and Wiggle Wart® as well as Bandit Lure's series 200 and 300 crankbaits are often the most productive. Their "hard" actions also transmit well back to the rod tip, telegraphing any pickup of bottom debris.



However, don't exclude the more subtle minnow- or shad-shaped profiles like those provided by Rapala Husky Jerks®, Berkley Flicker Shads® and Cotton Cordell Wally Divers.

## Presentation details

Boat control is paramount since it's the boat that is making the presentation. First, troll upriver, against the current. This achieves a couple of things. Speed control is one. The lures described here—particularly the shorter, aggressive-action lures—require at least a modest pace to activate them. When trolling upriver—against the grain if you will—it's easy to accomplish this as both the current and boat movement are fueling lure action. When trolling downriver, with the current, it's often necessary to move at too fast a speed to get the lure to “bite.”

As mentioned, it's important to keep the lure close to the bottom. This is easy to achieve with lead core line. Keep in mind that lead core line sinks. As you let out line, while moving forward at trolling speed, the line will carry the lure toward the bottom. While doing so, occasionally engage the reel momentarily to allow the line and lure to tighten up. Once the lure hits bottom, as revealed by the throbbing of the rod tip, regain line.

With a little experience, you'll quickly come to anticipate the approximate distance. For instance, when trolling upriver at 2 miles per hour (mph), I expect to put out around 60 feet of line to reach 13- to 15-foot depths with a Hot 'N Tot®. Productive speeds generally fall within 2- to 2½-mph.

Be sure lures are tuned and running correctly. Untuned lures plane to the side, potentially fouling with other lines and resulting in nightmarish snarls. I limit trolled lures to two, one on each side of the boat with rods placed in rod holders.

Rivers are not uniform in depth. Expect to regularly let line out, bring it in and adjust it for changes in contour. Also, switching out lures and reading rod tips for evidence of fouled bait is also to be anticipated. Trolling—successful trolling at least—is not a passive tactic.

## Location details

When exploring a river section, consider breaking things down to manageable lengths, a half mile to a mile. Troll upriver to a designated point, motor back downriver, then repeat. Experiment with various depths. Drop waypoints where you catch Walleyes and determine why the fish are at that location. Changes in bottom composition or depth, perhaps?

If mapping is available where you're fishing, use it with your track history to better understand the river bottom, how Walleyes are relating to it and the most productive areas. This information can assist you when scoping out new areas.

Keep in mind that these are nomadic fish, potentially here today and gone tomorrow. But, the challenge of consistently catching Walleyes is a big part of what makes them so attractive. □



*Short, square lures provide an aggressive action that often triggers Walleyes.*



*When Walleyes don't respond to hard action lures, show them less aggressive minnow- or shad-shaped lures.*



*The dingy water of big rivers often lends itself best to brightly-colored lures.*



En español:



[fishandboat.com/About-Us/  
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# Visit SOUTHWEST PA!

photo-Linda Stager

by *Linda Stager*

**B**irthplace of the environmental conservation movement, the 10-county southwest region of Pennsylvania is known for its picturesque rolling hills and rugged landscapes. Pittsburgh is at the heart of this region, which offers a unique blend of urban and rural experiences that the whole family can enjoy.

Pittsburgh is home to world-class museums and renowned universities, making it an excellent destination for those exploring culture and education. Beyond the city limits, the stunning scenery of the Laurel Highlands, with its waterfalls and overlooks, is an ideal adventure for those seeking natural beauty. For history enthusiasts, the region's steelmaking past provides a fascinating glimpse into its industrial heritage, while foodies will find the unique local flavors of the area appealing.

Pennsylvania's 2024 River of the Year, the Allegheny River, is here and offers many opportunities for water activities. The river, along with three other major rivers, six water trails, and an abundance of lakes and reservoirs, caters to beginner and experienced anglers and boaters.

Create your family's next adventure here—fish, boat, hike and bike.

## Treasured trail

**Great Allegheny Passage (GAP):** This trail is a 150-mile-long hiking and biking trail that follows the route of several former railroads and offers stunning views of rivers, forests and mountains. But, it also follows several important water trails and is a dream destination for anglers and kayakers.

A favorite adventure on the trail is the 75-mile section from Point State Park in Pittsburgh to the confluence.

Although known as the GAP, the trail comprises several shorter trails, starting with the Three Rivers Heritage Trail,







*Pittsburgh Riverfront, Allegheny County*



*Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County*

*photo-PFBC archives*

Pittsburgh. Walk the trail or paddle downtown Pittsburgh's serene but urban waters to view the city's riverfront from a unique perspective.

From downtown Pittsburgh, the GAP follows the Monongahela River for 16 miles to the Youghiogheny River. From there, the GAP follows alongside the Youghiogheny River Trail.

It's all fishable waters and beautiful countryside. Fish the river and its tributaries for Muskellunge, Walleye, bass and catfish.

Numerous campgrounds and cabins are close to the trail and offer convenient accommodations. The trail is close to

some fantastic state parks including Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County, considered one of the jewels of the state park system, and Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County, offering stunning views of Laurel Ridge.

## Popular waterways

**Three Rivers:** The Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers are the major rivers that meet in Pittsburgh, but another important waterway in this region is the **Youghiogheny River**, including Ohiopyle State Park, renowned for its whitewater rafting and outdoor adventure opportunities. It is also part of the GAP. The "Yough," as it's locally known, carves a dramatic

*photo-Linda Stieger*



*Waterfalls near Laurel Ridge State Park, Cambria, Fayette and Somerset counties*



*Casselman River, Somerset County*

*photo-Bob Fritz*





*Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana County*

*photo-Donna Mohney*

14-mile gorge within Ohiopyle State Park, and it's a magnet for whitewater enthusiasts,

Beyond the rapids, though, calmer stretches offer tranquil paddling opportunities. Hike along the scenic trails, and visit Cucumber Falls and Ohiopyle Falls.

Bring your fishing license along and throw in your line. The stocked waters are an adventure-in-waiting.

**Prince Gallitzin State Park:** Located in Cambria County, about an hour and a half east of Pittsburgh, the sprawling park surrounds 1,635-acre Glendale Lake with 26 miles of shoreline. Bring the whole family. Many of the park areas are accessible to visitors with disabilities including paved trails, fishing piers, an Americans with Disabilities Act kayak/canoe launch, accessible campsites and ramp access to the swimming area.



**Laurel Highlands Trout Trail:** it isn't a continuous trail but a scenic route connecting 10 trout streams across a 70-mile radius, starting in Ligonier in the north and going southwards to the West Virginia border.

Each stream offers a variety of trout species including Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout. You'll find stocked trout in some places, while other spots offer wild trout populations.

**Stonycreek River:** Its 46 miles of near-wilderness trout waters empty into what is said to be the longest continuous set of rapids in the eastern United States. Scheduled water releases throughout the summer just about guarantee whitewater.

Near Johnstown is also the Stonycreek Whitewater Park, the first artificial set of rapids built in Pennsylvania. Learn whitewater skills or enjoy gentler tubing activities.



*photo-PEBC archives*

*Prince Gallitzin State Park, Cambria County*





Fallingwater, Fayette County

photo-Jesse Kendall

## Points of interest

- Packsaddle Bridge (a.k.a. Doc Miller Bridge), Brush Creek, Fairhope, Somerset County (only Pennsylvania covered bridge that spans a waterfall)
- Cedar Creek Gorge Trail, Cedar Creek/ Youghiogheny River/Great Allegheny Passage Bike Trail, Westmoreland County, features small waterfalls, river views and a pair of swinging bridges
- Hyde Park Walking Bridge, Kiskiminetas River, Westmoreland and Armstrong counties (the longest swinging bridge in Pennsylvania)
- Mount Davis, Somerset County (the highest point in Pennsylvania)
- Staple Bend Tunnel/Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Cambria County (first railroad tunnel built in the United States)
- Mount Assisi Gardens, Loretto, Cambria County (3.5 acres of fountains, statues and landscaping, some of which dates back more than 100 years)

## Best-loved adventures

“Must see” favorites are:

- **Pittsburgh:** This vibrant city is fun for the entire family. Kennywood (amusement park), the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History offer something for everyone. Take a boat ride with the Gateway Clipper Fleet on the Three Rivers. And, don't forget to check out the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium and the National Aviary, too.



- A ride on the Duquesne or Monongahela inclines is a unique experience and offers stunning city skyline views. Time your visit to see the Three Rivers Arts Festival for a celebration of creativity along the waterfront. And, sample a Primanti Bros. sandwich while you're in town.
- Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece in Fayette County, is a must visit. The cantilevered living room extends over a waterfall, and the house is considered one of Wright's most important works. Guided tours are available.
- Somerset County's Flight 93 National Memorial stands as a powerful tribute to the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 that thwarted the plane's hijackers on September 11, 2001. It is a place of reflection and respect; visiting this site is a powerful lesson about courage and resiliency.

photo-Linda Stager



Duquesne Incline, Allegheny County

photo-Linda Stager



Flight 93 National Memorial, Somerset County



- Johnstown, the largest city in Cambria County, is a fun heritage city. Experience the history, geography, culture and ecology of Johnstown at the Heritage Discovery Center. It is home to America's oldest record store and the Steve Ditko Spider-Man Mural.

The southwest region of Pennsylvania has so much to experience. You can fish, boat and enjoy outdoor fun for everyone, from urban environments to the rugged mountainous state parks of the Laurel Highlands.

Enjoy the historical significance of the area and explore its heritage. Discover the pristine wilderness, but be sure to appreciate the conservation efforts of many who have made this area a top-tier destination.

The national environmental protection movement started in this region with the research of biologist and writer Rachel Carson. Today, Pennsylvania's ongoing conservation efforts reflect the theories that were formed from her life's work.

Visit Southwest PA today! ☐



## Channeling Rachel Carson

We owe much of the conservation movement in Pennsylvania to Rachel Carson, a native of the Pittsburgh area. She called us to recognize the importance of our environment and to take actions to protect it.

Some of our most fragile waterway species are amphibians, reptiles and fish. Knowing the threats faced by these critters is the responsibility of everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

Recognizing the roles they play in the ecosystem is a start. Did you know that amphibians are vital insect predators, that reptiles can help control rodent populations and that fish are a crucial part of the aquatic food chain?

Here are some ways to help:

- Support conservation organizations that work to protect these animals and their habitats.
- Minimize human impact on their environments by using eco-friendly cleaning products to avoid water pollution.
- Don't disturb spawning grounds.
- Respect and protect rattlesnakes and other reptiles and amphibians.
- Take the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) seriously. AIS can be spread by fishing equipment, waders, clothing, shoes, boots and boats. Don't transport live fish, bait, plants or water from one body of water to another. Disinfect equipment and use best practices.
- Never release unwanted pet fish, amphibians or reptiles into the wild. They can disrupt the local ecosystem.
- Spread awareness about the importance of these critters and the threats they face.

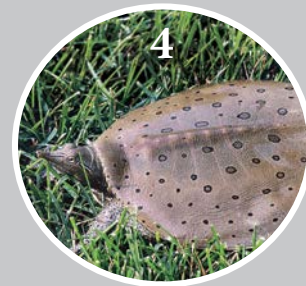
Being conservation-minded means being mindful of our actions and making choices that benefit the long-term health of vital and fragile components of our ecosystem. Let's all channel Rachel.

Written by Linda Stager



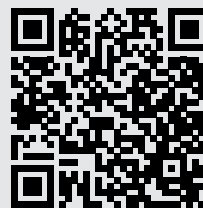
## Southwest PA! Critter Corner

- 1 Seal Salamander, *Desmognathus monticola*
- 2 Eastern Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*
- 3 Eastern American Toad, *Anaxyrus americanus americanus*
- 4 Eastern Spiny Softshell, *Apalone spinifera spinifera*
- 5 Eastern Milksnake, *Lampropeltis triangulum*
- 6 Dekay's Brownsnake, *Storeria dekayi*



photos-PFBC archives

**Protect, Conserve and Enhance:**



[explorepawaters.com/resources/fishing-conservation/](https://explorepawaters.com/resources/fishing-conservation/)



## Popular waterways

### Southwest Region:

- Allegheny River
- Buffalo Creek
- Chest Creek
- Crooked Creek Lake
- Glendale Lake
- Laurel Hill Creek
- Meadow Run
- Monongahela River
- Ohio River
- Youghioghney River Lake



## Pennsylvania state parks

### Southwest Region:

- **Allegheny Islands State Park**, Allegheny Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Hillman State Park**, Washington Co. (fishing)
- **Keystone State Park**, Westmoreland Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Kooser State Park**, Somerset Co. (fishing)
- **Laurel Hill State Park**, Somerset Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Laurel Mountain State Park**, Somerset and Westmoreland counties
- **Laurel Ridge State Park**, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset and Westmoreland counties
- **Laurel Summit State Park**, Westmoreland Co.
- **Linn Run State Park**, Westmoreland Co. (fishing)
- **Ohiopyle State Park**, Fayette Co. (fishing and whitewater)
- **Point State Park**, Allegheny Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Prince Gallitzin State Park**, Cambria Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Raccoon Creek State Park**, Beaver Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Ryersen Station State Park**, Greene Co. (fishing)
- **Yellow Creek State Park**, Indiana Co. (fishing and boating)

### Key:

fishing=fishing, no boating of any type

fishing and boating=fishing and powered and unpowered boating

paddling=unpowered boating

whitewater=whitewater paddling



Point State Park, Allegheny County

Regional designations are based on Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Law Enforcement regions.

artwork-Michael Kensinger

## Popular State Game Lands

- **State Game Lands 51**, Fayette County: With nearly 17,000 acres of mixed hardwoods and some herbaceous openings, there is excellent access for hunters, birdwatchers, photographers and hikers. Mixed succession conditions that favor habitat requirements are maintained for game species such as deer, bears and turkeys, as well as brown thrashers, golden-winged warblers and ruffed grouse. A non-game mammal species of interest is the state-threatened Allegheny woodrat. There is also extensive bat work being done.
- **State Game Lands 203**, Allegheny County: Coming in at 1,280 acres, mainly forested, outdoor recreation opportunities include birdwatching, hiking, horseback riding, hunting and mountain biking. However, the shooting range is its claim to fame. One of the largest and most heavily used firearm ranges on the East Coast, close to 20,000 people a year visit this 50-position rifle and pistol range with 10, 25, 50 and 100 yard stations. A new archery range offers shooting opportunities from 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 yards.
- **State Game Lands 232**, Washington County: Covering just over 5,000 acres, hiking, hunting and birdwatching are popular. Listed as an Important Bird Area due to its exceptional bird habitat and high biological diversity, it is home to many Species of Greatest Conservation Need. More common species found here include deer, beavers, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and turkeys. Stocking of ring-necked pheasants also occurs.



Raccoon

- **State Game Lands 108**, Cambria and Blair (Southcentral Region) counties: Encompassing roughly 22,750 acres, birdwatching, hiking and hunting are popular. Horseback riding and mountain biking are also enjoyed here. Bordering Prince Gallitzin State Park, additional recreational opportunities include waterfowl hunting as well as bear, deer and turkey hunting. It is also the site of the annual SGL driving tour, where participants learn about law enforcement, forestry, prescribed fire, wildlife biology and habitat management.



# Allegheny Valley Conservancy— A Land Trust at Work



photo-Marilyn Black

*by Marilyn Black*

**T**he more than 60 non-profit land trusts in Pennsylvania share a commitment to land protection, stewardship, education and community outreach, typically within a specific geographical area. Land trusts work to protect lands and waters through conservation easements, land ownership, reconveying land parcels to a public agency or another land trust, and promoting responsible land use practices.

Allegheny Valley Conservancy (AVC), formed in 2002, protects natural resources in the Allegheny River and French Creek watersheds. This all-volunteer organization with a six member board monitors conservation easements on 632 acres. It also owns 41 acres open to the public without charge for hiking, camping, kayaking and other recreational activities. Another 190 wooded acres called Buttermilk Bluffs, including 2,000 feet of French Creek frontage, are co-owned by AVC and French Creek Valley Conservancy.

AVC also conducts guided educational programs and events by land trust and partner personnel. By

appointment, students and small groups can take hikes or floats on preserved lands. And, the conservancy is active in streambank stabilization projects to reduce erosion along the river and Mill Creek.

## **Kayak/canoe access and primitive camping area at Dotter**

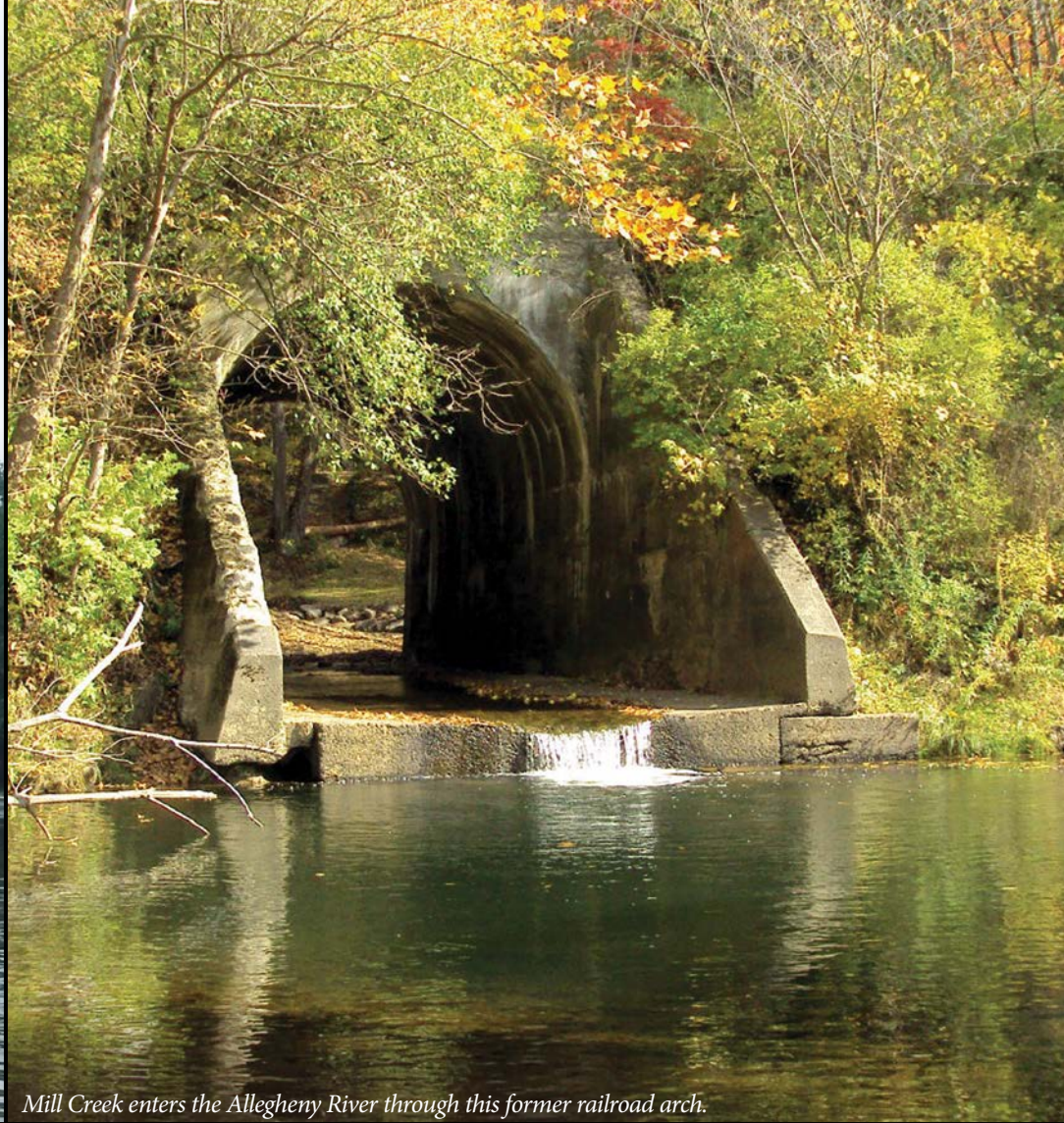
The first shoreline parcel purchased by AVC is located 4 miles north of Emlenton, on the east bank of the Allegheny River. It was obtained to conserve the riparian corridor and river habitat. Dotter Access is situated on Carls Road off Dotterer Road. A small tributary flows through this scenic parcel. AVC enhanced the site for recreational enthusiasts by constructing a pavilion, a picnic table, a fire ring and stairs leading to the river's edge. Free primitive camping is allowed with a maximum 2-day stay. Campers are asked to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics.

## **White Easement**

Bill White, Venango County, signed a conservation easement with AVC for 152 wooded acres. He said, "In my view French Creek is a historically and environmentally unique and important stream. For those of us who own



Sandy Creek Trail crosses the Allegheny River by means of the deck-covered Belmar Bridge.



Mill Creek enters the Allegheny River through this former railroad arch.

photo-Debra Frawley, AVC

property abutting the stream we have a responsibility to maintain and, as best possible, preserve or improve the quality of the stream.”

## Woll-Nathanson Preserve

In 2019, Ed Woll, California, donated land to AVC near mile marker #5 on the Sandy Creek Trail. “I understand that the word ‘landscape’ has two meanings. One is a beautiful place. The deeper meaning is the place itself—a region understood as defined by its character. It’s the landscape we can wander through. What a privilege it is for us to pass along this land to the AVC. Now, given away, it belongs to everybody and to us no less than it ever did.” Woll and his life-long friend Harvey Nathanson, Allegheny County, contributed their adjoining parcels, totaling 25 acres.

## Allegheny River Clean-Up

Each year, AVC coordinates a work session. Volunteers and partner organizations collect and remove litter, fishing line and other undesired items from the shore and main stem of the Allegheny River. The public is welcome to “get dirty, get wet and have fun!” Trash bags and

containers are furnished to participants. Then, the rubbish is carted off for appropriate disposal.

Debra Frawley, AVC President, knows the conservancy’s mission is broad. “While the AVC’s mission involves promotion of good land use and providing public access through the protection, conservation and management of the wonderful natural resource rich land in the watershed, our goals also include connecting with and educating the public. We thank all who have provided support and participated in events to conserve the natural environment while providing places for all to enjoy,” said Frawley.

For more information, go to [avc-pa.org](http://avc-pa.org), or submit questions to [avcinfo@windstream.net](mailto:avcinfo@windstream.net), P. O. Box 96, Franklin, PA 16323. ☐

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***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.” Margaret Mead.***

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# LEWIS AND CLARK— Tackling the West with Pennsylvania’s Best

by Brady J. Crytzer

From May 1804 to September 1806, the United States Army’s Corps of Discovery explored the vast western frontier. Led by Captain Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition was powered by some of Pennsylvania’s finest anglers. From east to west, the Commonwealth played a critical role in the success of America’s most legendary adventure.

After signing the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson assigned Captain Meriwether Lewis to lead a force to the Pacific Ocean. America’s new lands purchased from France totaled 828,800 square miles, and Lewis knew that his men would need to hunt and fish to survive. The Corps of Discovery would begin its journey in Pennsylvania, and the vast Ohio River would be their superhighway west.

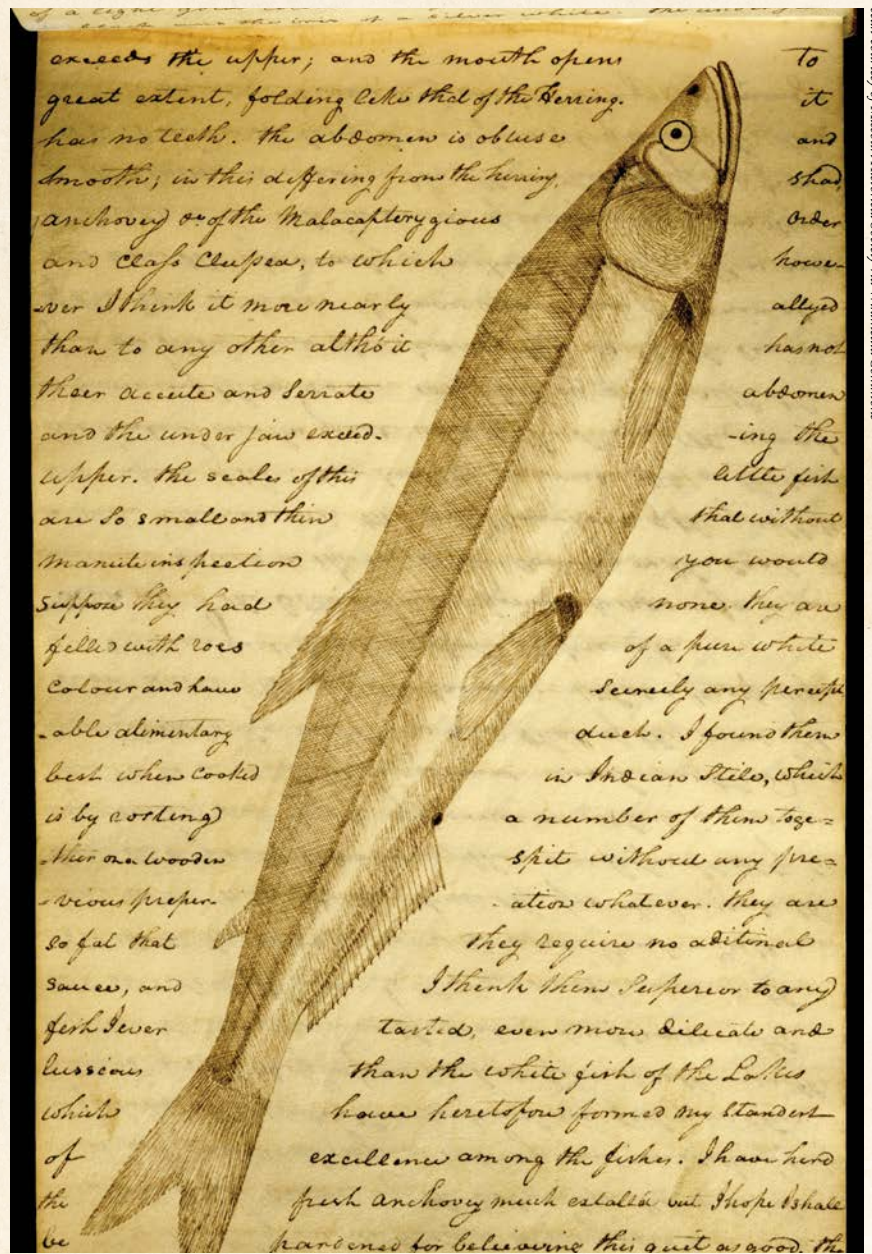
Before setting out for the frontier city of Pittsburgh in the spring of 1803, Lewis stopped at the Old Experienced Tackle Shop in Philadelphia for supplies. The fishing shop was located between Front Street and Second Street downtown. It supplied “a complete and general assortment of all kinds of fishing tackle, for the use of either Sea or River.”

Owned by George R. Lawton, the store had everything that Lewis needed to support his men. That day, Lewis purchased 125 large fishing hooks and fishing lines made of horsehair,



paintings-courtesy of Independence National Historical Park

William Clark (left) and Meriwether Lewis (right) explored 8,000 miles and changed American history.



scan-courtesy of Missouri Historical Society via Wikimedia Commons

➔ An original sketch of a “White Salmon Trout” (Coho Salmon) by William Clark, 1805.



silk, cotton, hemp and “Indian Grass.” He also secured a “sportsman’s flask” and an “8 stave reel.” Besides these essentials, Lawton sold cork floats adorned with goose or swan feathers, fishing rods and artificial flies including moths, hackles, minnows, chubs, grasshoppers, frogs, mice and birds.

In total, Lewis outfitted the Corps of Discovery for \$25.37.

After arriving in Pittsburgh that summer, Lewis began the task of constructing a keelboat suitable for river travel. Although the ship would not be finished until August, Lewis spent the season recruiting Pittsburgh’s best anglers and hunters to join his Corps. As Pittsburgh was a western settlement, its residents were expert outdoorsmen well-suited for the challenges of wilderness life.

Lewis and his men set sail from Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803. As they sailed down the Ohio River, Lewis made careful notes of the places he passed including the sites of modern Ambridge, Conway, Freedom, Rochester, Beaver and Midland, Pennsylvania. Along the way, the Corps picked up a Newfoundland dog named Seaman, a breed famous for its work on fishing boats. William Clark would join the force near Louisville, KY, a short time later.

Over the next 2 years, the Corps of Discovery would use its Pennsylvania anglers and George Lawton’s Philadelphia tackle to snag lunkers of legendary proportion. During their expedition, they sailed up

the Mississippi and Missouri rivers catching catfish, measuring more than 4 feet long and weighing upwards of 130 pounds.

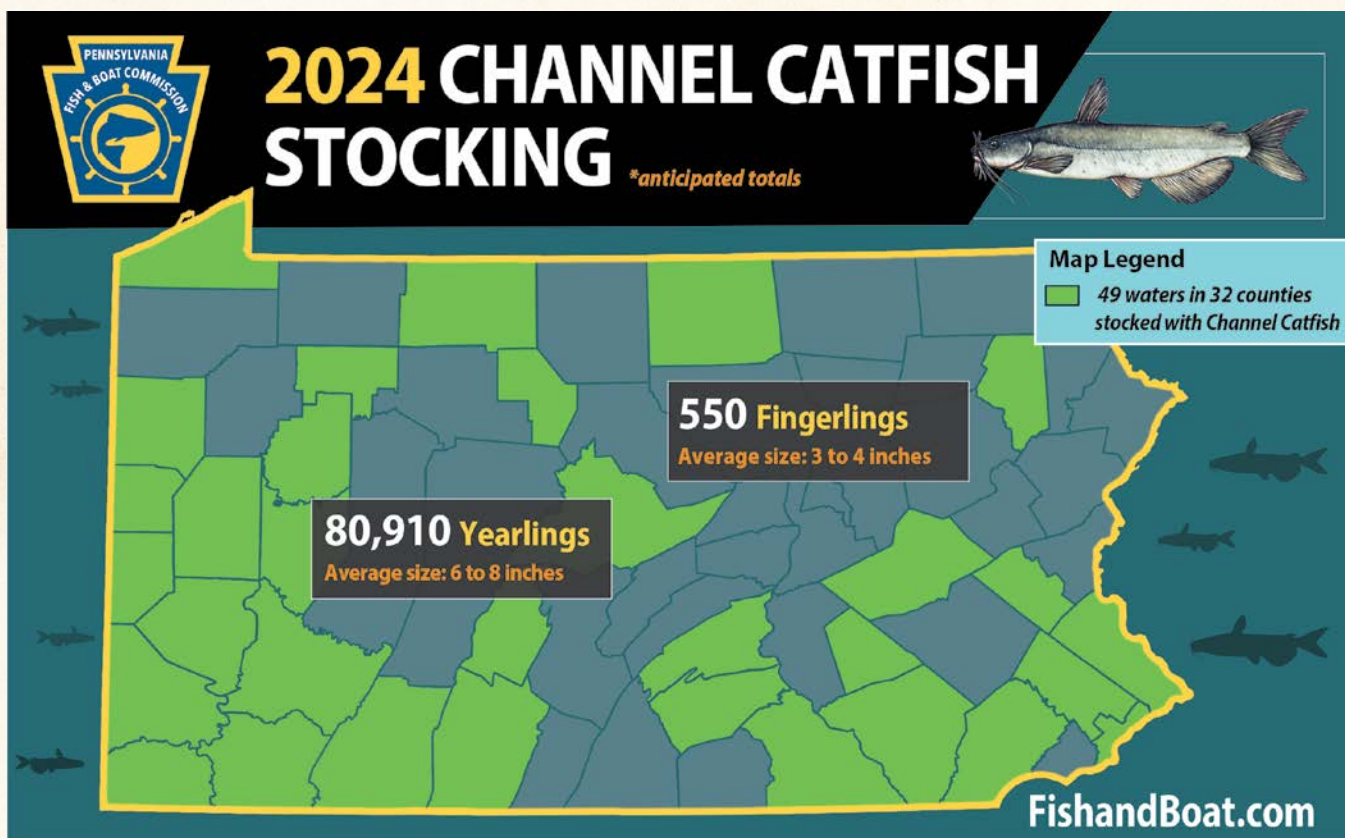
When they dropped their lines in America’s western waters, Lewis and Clark discovered new species including Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and the Westslope Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*), which still carries their names. Lewis described the Channel Catfish as having “eyes Small & tale much like that of a Dolfin.”

During their mission, the Corps of Discovery would eventually reach the Pacific Ocean eating salmon harvested along the Columbia and Snake rivers. Whether fried, smoked, dried or boiled, fish were a critical part of Lewis and Clark’s survival in the backcountry.

Traveling 8,000 miles for more than 2½ years, Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery captured America’s imagination. Their journey to the Pacific and back sparked a spirit of excitement and fueled the dreams of a brighter national future. Their incredible achievements would not have been possible without the frontier anglers of the Keystone State. ☐

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*Brady J. Crytzer teaches history at Robert Morris University. The author of seven books studying the early history of Pennsylvania, he lives and fishes outside of Pittsburgh.*







# What's in My Fishing Bag?

by Kelley Kirsch photos by the author





So, you're heading out to fish, and you need to pack your gear for the stream. Are you overwhelmed with stuff in your bag? Carrying too much stuff you don't need? The lighter you travel, the easier and more enjoyable your trip. Whether you prefer a vest, sling, backpack or hip pack is entirely up to you and may require some experimentation. I've tried everything and have settled into a hip pack. This can be an expensive piece of equipment, but it doesn't have to be. I started out with a hiking hip pack costing \$29.00 and then moved to a waterproof pack. The smaller your bag, the less you will be able to bring along, which is my preference and has made me a smarter packer.

Planning is key to a successful trip. Ask yourself where you are headed, what species you are targeting and the hatches to consider. The answers to these questions will guide you to what flies to include in your bag. I always leave a little wiggle room to add in some "what if" scenarios. Overall, you should be deliberate in your approach. Always have your name and phone number on your fly box just in case you misplace it while fishing. I've seen it happen, and the pleas on social media are all too common. Don't be that person. And, if you do misplace your fly box, hopefully, it will be returned using your contact information.

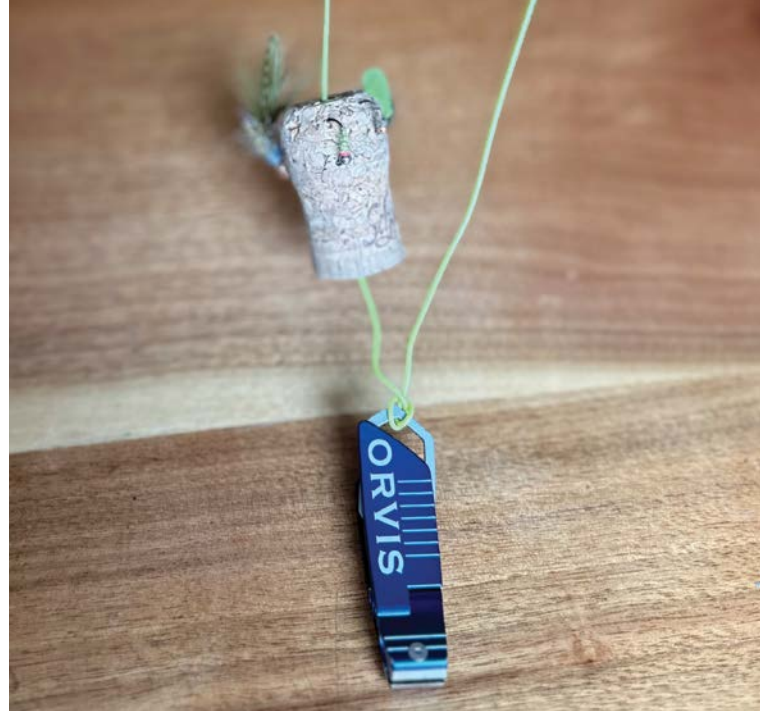
Must-have tools are hemostats and nippers. Some hemostats can be an all-in-one tool, eliminating the need for nippers, but I prefer both. I've learned it's best to secure these tools with a lanyard or bungee cord, so you don't lose them in the stream.

Accessories are important, but don't go overboard. Be realistic about what you'll need. Having a spare leader and extra tippet spools in a few sizes is plenty. If you use indicators, have a small selection in case you decorate a tree or two. Splitshot can make or break the day according to Joe Humphreys, so look for an assortment pack at your local tackle shop. If you are a dry fly angler, you'll need your dry fly floatant ready. One of the more unusual items I carry are tippet rings. These will extend the life of your leaders, and they are small and easy to pack.

Most importantly, don't forget snacks. Without a doubt, having your favorite packable treats to keep you from going hungry is key. Salty and sweet, I am always prepared with high protein jerky, cured meats and snack bars. A wader pocket works well for overflow snacks.

After all the snacks are gone, it may be time to head home. With extra room in your pack, remember to pack out what you packed in. Look around, and on your way back to the car, pick up any trash you can fit into your fishing bag or even your net. If we all do our best to keep our streams healthy, our environment will thrive for years to come.

So, pare back and be intentional in your fishing adventures. Tight lines! ☑



*Nippers are a must-have tool for your fishing bag.*

## Fishing safety

Safety should always be first on your list when you are planning your fishing trip. Here are a few very important tips to remember in order for you to have a safe and fun fishing adventure!

- Always wear a hat, sunglasses and appropriate clothing.
- Point your rod towards the sky when walking. Look around for people and obstructions before you cast.
- Set up a buddy system. Fishing with a buddy is good in case of an accident.
- Make sure that you wear your personal flotation device (PFD) at all times if you are on a boat, on the dock or on the shore.
- Take a first aid kit with medical supplies to deal with cuts, scrapes, bruises, bumps and bites.
- In summer, bring lots of cool water and other healthy drinks, and make sure you stay hydrated. Liquids are important in the winter as well.
- The ultraviolet (UV) light of the sun can do a lot of damage to skin. Make sure that you wear sunscreen. Avoid fishing in the middle of the day, when the sun can be at its strongest.


*Adapted from the F.I.S.H.  
Fishing Is Simple Handbook.*

### En español:



[fishandboat.com/Recursos-en-Espanol/Documents/SeguridadEnLaPesca.jpg](https://fishandboat.com/Recursos-en-Espanol/Documents/SeguridadEnLaPesca.jpg)





# ESCAPING SCREEN TIME— Therapeutic Benefits of Fly Fishing for College Students

photos-George Daniel

*by Zack Andreykovich*

**S**creen time (noun): time spent watching television, playing a video game or using an electronic device with a screen such as a smartphone, computer or tablet.

As technology usage become increasingly essential in everyday life, many people, especially college students, forget to step away from looking at a screen and go outside. Use of technology in education, digital entertainment and communication mean people must spend more time on screens. Outdoor activities, such as fly fishing, offer people the opportunity to disconnect from electronics and enhance their overall well-being.

## **Negative effects and the detriment to overall well-being**

As it stands, college students juggle numerous responsibilities. They must perform at a high level to

complete academic requirements, enjoy a social life and live on their own for the first time. While this lifestyle can cause high levels of stress, adding 6 to 7 hours of screen time a day gives the brain no time to rest. In turn, mental health is negatively affected.

Much has been published about mental health issues and the negative effect of excessive screen time. An article from Forbes Health shows that 36.2% of college students (aged 18-25) have experienced a mental health condition or problem, while only 13.9% of individuals aged 50 plus have experienced a condition. Studies have indicated college students can spend as much as 8 to 10 hours per day on their phones, not including the time spent on computers or watching television.

The negative effects of screen time are not only impactful on your mental health, but they affect your physical health as well. An excerpt from an article on the American Heart Association's website mentions the





*Fly fishing benefits your mental and physical health.*



*Pennsylvania is home to some of the best trout fishing in the world.*

correlation between screen time and increased risks of cardiovascular diseases and obesity. To escape from screen-induced stress, it's important for people to engage in outdoor activities.

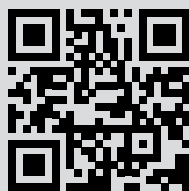
## Get on the water

Get on the water!  
Pennsylvania is heralded as the home to some of the best trout fishing in the world. With around 16,000 miles of wild trout streams, plus lakes and large rivers, there is no shortage of fish to catch or waters to venture into.

## Benefits of fly fishing

Fly fishing is often considered a stress-relieving activity, because it enables you to disconnect from

### American Heart Association:



[heart.org](https://heart.org)

electronics, immerse yourself in nature and avoid distractions from the “real world.” Many have compared fly fishing to meditation over the years, since fly anglers “perform a simple, repeated task, often for hours on end” (Harvard Medical School). This simple repetition allows the mind to focus on one thing. And, studies show fishing, or going outdoors, can be a way to reduce the “mental fatigue” that stems from extensive hours of screen time.

Fly fishing does not only benefit your mental health, it does wonders for your physical health as well. Wading in a stream exercises your legs, core, and back and improves your balance. During the act of casting, you use muscles in your arms and shoulders that you may not typically work in the gym. The low impact nature of the activity is helpful for longevity.

Make fly fishing your remedy for the negative effects of screen time and foster improved mental and physical wellness. ☐





# AWGUL FISHING

*by Alex Zidock Jr.*

Isaac Newton said, “Nature is pleased with simplicity. And nature is no dummy.”

Lure maker and fishing guide Captain Anthony Awgul, Bucks County, said, “I am all about matching the hatch. And, that means I want to throw a presentation that looks very similar to what the bass are eating. So, if I see a shad in a lake, I’m throwing what looks like a shad. If I’m fishing in a pond or a grassy lake and see Bluegills all around, I’m throwing something that looks like a Bluegill. I keep it that simple and don’t worry about 50 different color options. My lure production mimics that philosophy.”

In the 1660s, Newton also formulated gravitational theory after watching an apple fall and asked why the apple fell straight down from the tree.

Like in Awgul’s revelation, the apple didn’t fall far from his family tree. “When I was just 2 years old, my great-grandfather, who was a fishing guide in upstate New York

on Lake George, inspired me to get into fishing,” said Awgul. “I caught the bug at a young age, and it’s all I’ve ever done. Some kids play football and basketball, and all I’ve ever done is build lures and fish.”

“When I was 13 years old, my first bait was craft wire with pipe cleaners, a treble hook and some yarn. I made my own little handmade spinners. Looking back, I can’t believe we caught fish on them. But, from there, I graduated and evolved and made spinnerbaits and buzzbaits that I sold online. We sell jigs, and now, we offer large hard baits, too,” said Awgul.

Keeping things simple works for Awgul, and the proof is in the popularity of his guide service. Awgul professionally guides on Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, his home lake, where he makes about 250 trips a year. “We also offer trips to Lake Wallenpaupack, Pike and Wayne counties; Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County; Beltzville Lake, Carbon County; and Marsh Creek Lake, Chester County. Captain Awgul has found a niche that began with his lure-making business, which led to





photo-Alex Zidock Jr.



photo-Alex Zidock Jr.

*Captain Anthony Awgul's philosophy of keeping baits simple proves effective with his thriving full-time guiding business.*

his guide service and the proving ground for his lure-making business. "I only make and sell lures that work for me and my clients," said Awgul.

For example, his big Grumpy Glide Bait, which has holographic sides and just a couple of coats of gray paint, sells as a Natural Shad and Albino. "We were catching 4- or 5-pound bass, and in their throats were 7- to 9-inch Gizzard Shad. Lake Nockamixon is full of giant Gizzard Shad. That's why I make the big hard bait in just two shades of shad," said Awgul.

Awgul Fishing sells 3/8-ounce Alive Spinnerbaits and Alive Pulse Jigs also in only two options: Natural Shad and Bluegill. However, there are seven varieties of standard jig heads.

"I'm not saying color doesn't matter. I just learned to really simplify my color selection process. I'd rather focus on what style of bait I'm throwing and where I'm throwing the bait. You can throw the wrong color or lure in the right area and still be successful. That's better than throwing the right lure in the wrong area, if that makes sense," said Awgul.

"I'm a bass angler. It's what I'm into, and it's what I specialize in. I've given my life to studying these fish and learning their behaviors, movements, patterns and what lures work," said Awgul.

"It's my passion. It's why I do what I do. I used to be into the competitive side of fishing, but I realized quickly that nothing is more gratifying than making lures that work and getting young people to fish. I really like teaching a father and son how to catch fish.

Then, they can make the most of their time together on the water and make memories," said Awgul. ☐

**Awgul Fishing**  
awgulfishing.com



photo-courtesy of Anthony Awgul

*Awgul Fishing makes spinnerbaits in two colors—shad and Bluegill.*



photo-Alex Zidock Jr.

*This football head jig with a free swinging offset hook was Awgul's first big lure seller. These jigs come in seven color combinations.*





# DELISTED! Turtle Creek's Success Story

*by Mike Parker*  
*Communications Director*  
*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission*

**T**he perils facing polluted Turtle Creek, Union County, have been documented before, but the latest update is a major milestone in a continued conservation success story.

In April, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) joined the Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, and Environmental Protection, and members of the Northcentral Pennsylvania and Chesapeake Conservancies for a celebration to remove, or “delist”, portions of Turtle Creek from the federal Clean Water Act impaired waters list.

The delisting not only shows progress in Pennsylvania’s focused efforts to improve water quality within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed but magnifies the PFBC’s role as a steward of our natural aquatic resources beyond the purposes of recreational fishing and boating.

When PFBC was recruited to the Northcentral Stream Partnership in 2007, it was an initial recognition of the agency’s expertise in the design and construction of instream habitat projects and how it could benefit the

greater good. While habitat projects benefit aquatic life and anglers, the resulting cleaner water benefits everyone, even hundreds of miles downstream. Since 2013, multiple successful projects on private agricultural properties along Turtle Creek have worked to reduce excessive siltation, stabilize streambanks, reduce livestock grazing in the stream and restore an abundant population of aquatic life. The delisting of multiple sections of Turtle Creek is the ultimate recognition that time and hard work pay off.

To date, restoration work along approximately 4.16 miles of Turtle Creek has resulted in approximately 2 miles of stream being delisted.

“Pennsylvania has more streams of this type than any other state in the country,” said State Senator Gene Yaw (PA-23) who is also chair of the Pennsylvania delegation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. “About a third of them have some kind of a need for an upgrade or repair on them. And, this is the type of project that accomplishes those things.”

Projects within the Turtle Creek watershed have been funded through an innovative block grant model using Growing Greener grants and other funds that provide stream improvements to landowners at little or no cost. The PFBC and other partners are able to stretch the impact of projects by focusing on low-cost, high-benefit best management practices for stream restoration.





Turtle Creek, Union County

photos-PFBC archives

Through the partnership with other state agencies, local conservation districts and private property owners, the PFBC has assisted with the design and construction of more than 1,350 instream structures on Turtle Creek including modified mudsill cribbing for overhead cover and streambank stabilization, log vane deflectors to draw current away from the streambanks, and cross vane structures to control grade and produce a downstream habitat pool for aquatic life. Other partners have contributed to the overwhelming success of the project through their areas of expertise including riparian buffer plantings using native Pennsylvania species, streambank fencing and livestock crossings.

To amplify its commitment to projects like Turtle Creek and expand efforts on similarly impaired waters, in 2020, the PFBC created the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Habitat Unit. With the formation of the new specialized unit, the number of staff dedicated to stream rehabilitation work grew from just two to eight, greatly expanding the agency's reach to work on multiple habitat projects at a time and complete larger projects more quickly. Other projects currently underway within the watershed include improvements to Limestone Run, Montour and Northumberland counties, and Little Shamokin Creek, Northumberland County, a Stocked Trout Water.

In Turtle Creek, the positive results are evident in the number of fish, reptile and amphibian species that have returned to the creek in recent years. When surveyed by the PFBC's Division of Environmental Services in 2023, 25 fish species were encountered within the stream including wild Brown Trout, Bluegills, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and various sunfish as well as Margined Madtoms, darters, and several species of minnows including dace and shiners.

"The success story being written here on Turtle Creek is nothing short of remarkable and should inspire us to keep working to conserve, protect and enhance our aquatic resources statewide," said PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer. "We've made the work that we're doing here relevant and meaningful well beyond these farmlands." 🏡



Turtle Creek watershed conservation partners including PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer (fifth from left) celebrate by holding signs that, together, read "Delisted!" to celebrate multiple stream sections being removed from the federal impaired list.



To celebrate the delisting of several sections of Turtle Creek from the federal Clean Water Act impaired waters list, a celebration was held on the farm of Mary Beth and Frank Griffith, Union County. Guests toured the stream restoration project area and visited educational stations highlighting improvements in water quality and fish populations health.

## Stream Habitat Management:



[fishandboat.com/Conservation/Habitat/Pages/Stream-Habitat.aspx](https://fishandboat.com/Conservation/Habitat/Pages/Stream-Habitat.aspx)





# PROTECTING THE LEGACY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

*photo-Sam Fordick*

*by Jessica Aiello*

**A**s a retired environmental education specialist from Greenwood Furnace State Park, Huntingdon County, Paul Fagley has vast knowledge of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the first nationwide conservation program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Fagley also knows that many people don't realize the significant role former Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot had on the CCC.

"Roosevelt planned to have the CCC boys work solely on federally owned lands. But, even before the CCC was a nationwide program, Pinchot created similar camps to fix roads and plant trees. Being friends with Roosevelt, Pinchot's efforts rubbed off, and the CCC—on federal- and state-owned lands—was born," said Fagley.

Rather than focusing solely on federal lands, as Roosevelt originally intended, CCC camps sprung up in state parks and forestlands across Pennsylvania. During the 8 years of the CCC program, more than 150 camps were working across Pennsylvania, making Pennsylvania second only to California in the number of CCC camps. Pennsylvania also led the way in the number of African American camps, having 30 of the 250 camps nationwide. In a Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) newsletter article from Spring 2021, Fagley wrote that Pennsylvania's total Black CCC enrollment was slightly higher

than the state's percentage of the black population at the time, and exceeded 9 percent before the 1935 restrictions (that limited African American camp members to working only in their home state and stopped any new enrollments).

## **How did the CCC enhance outdoor recreation?**

Unlike many other states at the time, Pennsylvania already had a well-established state park and forest system. CCC boys helped grow the system while also working on other lands like the Allegheny National Forest, Soil Conservation Service Camps, Army lands, and local parks and forests. Camp members improved the number and variety of recreational amenities on those lands. They built roadways, bridges, tree plantations and trails. They also built dams to create lakes for fishing, boating and swimming, like the first concrete and stone dam ever built by the CCC, located in what is now R.B. Winter State Park, Union County. In many places, they also built instream fish habitat structures. While CCC architecture is quite different throughout the country, a unifying theme is the use of local and native materials, making structures that blend with their environment.

"When they built on the land, they didn't want their structures to intrude on the landscape. They stone faced the dams with native rock from the area to make them look like



they grew out of the land. There was a natural design philosophy. They didn't want it to just look like a concrete wall," said Fagley.

## Where can you see the CCC legacy?

"Laurel Hill State Park is home to the largest collection of CCC-era architecture in the Commonwealth," said Mike Mumau, the park's manager. "We also believe it may be one of the largest intact collections of CCC-era architecture in the nation. These buildings and structures are a direct link to the cultural history of our area. It provides a tremendous sense of place. The structures have become living symbols of the hard work and commitment of our CCC boys," said Mumau.

On July 28, 2024, Poe Valley State Park, Centre County, will celebrate CCC Legacy Day. Visitors can learn about the CCC, see the dam built by program participants and have a lunch of what they would have eaten in the camps. Other great places to see the long-lasting impacts of the CCC include Whipple Dam State Park, Huntingdon County; French Creek State Park, Berks and Chester counties; Penn-Roosevelt State Park, Centre County; and Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County; as well as the CCC museums at Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County; Promised Land State Park, Pike County; and Parker Dam State Park, Clearfield County.

Forty-five Pennsylvania state parks have CCC features, and many features remain in state forests. Find a full list on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's website.

### More information:



[dcr.pa.gov/StateParks/History/CCCYears/Pages/default.aspx](https://dcr.pa.gov/StateParks/History/CCCYears/Pages/default.aspx)

## What is being done to protect the CCC legacy?

The PPF has partnered in the efforts to preserve these historical resources. PPF has leveraged grants and funding opportunities to support existing preservation work of park staff. For example, PPF helped organize a volunteer vacation for the HistoriCorps, where HistoriCorps staff, PPF volunteers, Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps members and Laurel Hill State Park staff worked cooperatively to restore the mess hall in Camp Tree Army. PPF also received grants and private donations to restore one of the few remaining CCC camp living quarters still in existence, located at French Creek State Park. It will be used for environmental education and events.

"It is impossible to overstate the importance of the CCC boys to the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources and the long-lasting legacy of their work," said Marci Mowery, PPF President. "The rich history of the wonderful efforts of the CCC is worth preserving and sharing, so future generations feel inspired to get involved in protecting our natural world."

Individual state parks are striving to protect their CCC resources, too. Laurel Hill State Park is actively working to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan that will guide the use and maintenance of the CCC structures within the park's historic district for generations to come. Mumau notes that balancing the need for historic preservation with current recreational demands can be challenging, but his staff and partners are prepared.

"All of our CCC boys have since passed away. It is our job as park professionals to ensure their legacy is preserved and protected," said Mumau.


If you want to help ensure that the work of the CCC lives on, learn more about their efforts and volunteer for upcoming events and conservation projects at [paparksandforests.org/our-work/volunteerism](https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/volunteerism). 

photo-archives



Construction of the Jones Mill Run Dam at Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County.

photo-archives



Members of a CCC crew work on the foundation of the dam that created Laurel Hill Lake at Laurel Hill State Park.

photo-archives



Roosevelt's Tree Army had a lasting impact on Pennsylvania including the improvement of water quality through the planting of trees.



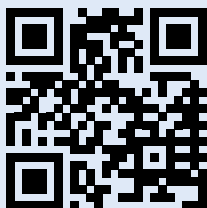
# Add Fishing or Boating to Your Next Vacation

by Ariadne Capotis

From winter ice fishing and spring trout fishing to the fall run of steelhead up Lake Erie tributaries, Pennsylvanians and those who travel here to fish have countless fishing and boating opportunities. Anglers and boaters can use Pennsylvania waterways year-round. Summertime adventures possess a special je ne sais quoi and should not be planned down to the minute. Instead, they should be created with flexibility and leisure in mind.

Adventure to Lake Erie in northwestern Pennsylvania, launch into your favorite boating activity on the Three Rivers in Pittsburgh or reel in big catches along Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of streams and rivers, plus 4,000 inland lakes and ponds. Visit Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's website at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com) for interactive maps, best waterways, activities and points of access. If there's an angler in your travel group who wants to fish for a specific species, search "Best Fishing Waters by Species." And, there's even more at [explorepawaters.com](http://explorepawaters.com) to help plan your next adventure. So, add fishing and boating to your next vacation with these incredible online resources. ☑

## More information:



[fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com)

## Fishing and...:



[explorepawaters.com/  
how-to-get-started/fishing-and/](http://explorepawaters.com/how-to-get-started/fishing-and/)

photo-PFBC archives



**WEAR IT**  
National Safe Boating Council  
Pennsylvania

¡Póntelo!

# ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET.

Boating regulations:



[fishandboat.com/Boating/  
Regulations/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Boating/Regulations/Pages/default.aspx)



You can always spot a safe boater.

Learn more about boating safety at [FishandBoat.com](http://FishandBoat.com)





PFBC PRESENTS

# ROCK & LOG



**COMING TO A WATERWAY NEAR YOU!  
STAY TUNED FOR MORE.**





photo-PFBC archives

# Enjoy Boating this Summer with a Boat Livery Rental

*by Paul Littman*  
*Bureau of Boating Director*  
*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission*

**B**oat liveries are valuable resources for water enthusiasts in Pennsylvania. They provide many benefits such as recreational access, variety of craft, affordability, safety education and regulation compliance.

## Recreational access

Liveries offer easy access to a variety of watercraft (boats), so residents and visitors can easily explore lakes, rivers and other waterways without owning a boat. Boats are usually available on an hourly, daily or weekly basis.

## Variety of craft

Boat liveries maintain a diverse fleet of boats, which often includes motorboats, pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, row boats and personal watercraft (i.e.: jet skis). So, whether you prefer the thrill of speedboats or the tranquility of sailboats, there's something for everyone.

## Affordability

Not everyone can afford to own a boat, especially if you only boat occasionally. Boat liveries allow individuals to enjoy boating experiences without the long-term financial commitment. Renting a boat from a livery is often more cost-effective than purchasing one.

## Safety education

Liveries must provide pre-rental and pre-ride instruction to renters. These sessions cover essential safety topics such as the dangers of passengers sitting in non-designated areas, proper use of engine cut-off switches and safe operation of vessels near people in the water. Boat liveries contribute to safer water experiences by educating boaters.

## Regulation compliance

Rules align with legislative changes and enhance public safety, ensuring accountability and responsible operation.

An entryway for recreational enthusiasts who do not own a boat, liveries provide inclusion and interaction in public spaces. So, have fun. Be safe. And, visit a boat livery for an enjoyable summer boating experience in PA! ☐

**Pennsylvania boat rentals (liveries):**



[fishandboat.com/About-Us/Affiliates/Boat-Rentals/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/About-Us/Affiliates/Boat-Rentals/Pages/default.aspx)

**State park boat rental sites:**



[explorepawaters.com/find-a-waterway/](http://explorepawaters.com/find-a-waterway/)

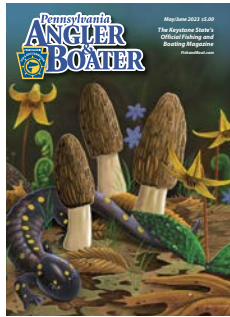


## Magazine Artist Recognized

photo-courtesy of Michael Kensinger



On Saturday, May 18, 2024, contributor Michael Kensinger was awarded the Best Published Art Award by the Pennsylvania



Outdoor Writers Association at their annual spring conference for his "Spring Ephemerals" illustration, which is the cover of the May/June 2023 Pennsylvania Angler & Boater.

## New State-Record White Perch



photo-courtesy of Christopher Barrett

On April 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., Christopher Barrett, age 19, Mohnton, Berks County, caught a new state-record White Perch. It was caught on a blood worm in the Delaware River below the Commodore Barry Bridge, Delaware County. The perch measured 14 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches long and weighed 2 pounds, 1 ounce. The fish's girth was 12 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

## 2024 FISH-FOR-FREE DAY! Independence Day, Thursday, July 4

No fishing license is needed to fish on this day. Introduce someone to the world of fishing. Visit [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com) for more information. Remember that all other regulations apply.

## CAST & CAUGHT



**Cameron Smimmo**, age 8, caught this Rainbow Trout while fishing Bear Creek, Schuylkill County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day.

For the "Cast & Caught" column, send only prints (no larger than 8"x10") and a completed "Model Release form" available at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com). Under "About Us", click on "Angler & Boater". Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your photograph returned. People aboard boats must be wearing properly fitted and buckled life jackets. Mail to:

**Editor, Pennsylvania Angler & Boater,  
P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000**



**Landis Sampsel**, age 13, caught this 27-inch golden Rainbow Trout while fishing Sinking Creek, Centre County.



**Lee Jones**, age 10, caught and released this 22-inch golden Rainbow Trout while fishing Kettle Creek, Potter County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day.



**Skylar Russo**, age 10, caught this 2-pound, 6-ounce Brook Trout while fishing Lackawanna River, Lackawanna County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day.



**Tony Russo III**, age 7, caught this 1-pound, 12-ounce Brook Trout while fishing the Lackawanna River, Lackawanna County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day.



# Have Fun. Be Safe.

**ALWAYS WEAR YOUR  
LIFE JACKET.**



**WEAR IT**  
National Safe Boating Council  
Pennsylvania  
**¡Póntelo!**

American Sign Language  
for Boaters:



[fishandboat.com/Pages/ASL.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Pages/ASL.aspx)



**OPERATION  
DRY WATER**

**July 4-6**

**Boat Responsibly – Alcohol is a leading factor in  
fatal boating accidents.**

**FishandBoat.com**



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**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**  
Apr 14 · 🌐

What's the annual impact of our Walleye stocking program across Pennsylvania?

42 waters. 30 counties.

578 likes · 119 comments · 274 shares

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PAFISHANDBOAT Posts

pafishandboat

1,074 likes

pafishandboat We partnered with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and PennDot to complete a project on Mill Creek in Ligonier near Pittsburgh. Mill Creek is a stocked trout fishery that also supports natural reproduction in the headwaters.

X

For you Following

**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**  
@pafishandboat

Barrett, age 9 from Peters Creek, reels in a whopping catch on Mentored Youth Trout Day – just shy of 24 inches and nearly 6 pounds!

But here's the kicker – Barrett played a part in stocking this trout!

#Trout #FishPA #MentoredYouth #Angler

1 reply · 5 retweets · 36 likes · 1.6K views

YouTube

How to Change a Grease Tube Cartridge

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
4,001 subscribers

63,163 views · May 28, 2021

Peace of mind on the road and water requires preventive maintenance for your boat and trailer. In this clip, Ryan Walsh will show how to properly load a grease cartridge into a grease gun, so you are ready to lubricate trailer bearings and boat motor grease fittings.

@PAFishandBoat  
#FishPA  
#PAFishandBoat  
#WearIt

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fishandboat.com/socialmedia



