

Fly Fishing Central Pennsylvania

The Keystones To Success

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A bit about me:

- ❖ Lock Haven, PA
- ❖ Résumé :
 - ✓ Alaska
 - ✓ Idaho
 - ✓ Montana
 - ✓ West Virginia/Maryland
- ❖ When I'm not fishing :
 - ✓ Gardening
 - ✓ Hunting
 - ✓ Tying Flies
 - ✓ Thinking about fishing
- ❖ Volunteer with TU on sampling projects, surveys, and events
- ❖ Favorite species:
 - ✓ Bull Trout



Keystones to Success in Pennsylvania

- ❖ Seasonal Changes
- ❖ Peak Times
- ❖ Hatches & Forage
- ❖ Water Type
- ❖ Flows



Seasonality and Temperature Trends

Winter

- Water temps plummet
- Long durations of very cold water
- Slow creep upwards until breakup

Spring

- Increase in water temperatures
- Spring spawning
- Increase in aquatic life activity
- Spring rains & high water
- Fast acceleration towards summer

Summer

- Hot... humid...
- Low & Clear
- Summer storms

Fall

- Cooling water temps
- Fall spawning
- Fall rains & high water
- Plummeting water temps

Winter

Water Temperatures Consistent in 30s and 40s

- Fish Low & Slow
- The Fish Still Have To Eat
- Nymphing

Exception of Tailwaters and Spring Influenced Streams

- Some streams may stay in the mid-upper 40s

Weather Patterns

- Pressure Shifts
- Cold Fronts

Fishing Can Be Great & Less Crowded

- Great way to get outside to shake off cabin fever
- Bring a camp stove and make a hot meal creek-side



Spring

Water Temperatures Fluctuate

- 30s to 40s in early Spring in some regions
- 40s to 50s through early mid-Spring
- 50s to 60s by the end of Spring
- “Pass-through” water temp transition

Transitional Periods

- Temps may rise rapidly
- Spiking metabolism
- Increasing energy demands
- Aquatic life “explosion”

Runoff, Breakup, Spring Rains

- Systems flush out in the Spring
- High muddy water

Hands Down, Best Season For Trout

- Lots of food
- Good flows
- Comfortable temperature



Summer

Spring Creeks, Tailwaters, Cold Mountain Streams

- Water temps in 50s and low 60s
- Possibly cooler in some regions

Freestone Streams

- Generally* approach upper 60s and 70s

Over-summering Habits of Trout

- Looking for cooler water (groundwater seeps)
- Safety in structure & shade
- Oxygen

Summer Storms

- Rapid pressure changes
- Cool rainwater & increased flows
- Temporary relief from intense heat

Exploring New Fisheries

- Find a limestone stream or spring creek
- Explore an alternative to trout fishing



Fall

Water Temps Recover

- Fall temps can still be too warm early on
- Drop from 60s to 50s rapidly
- Drop into the 40s by middle or end of the Fall

Transitional Periods

- Fish will move away from over-summering areas
- Metabolism increases again
- Energy demand increases again
- Preparing for Winter
- Daylight reduction triggers feeding and spawning

Fall Spawning

- Generally* brown trout and brook trout spawn in late Fall
- Between 42° and 52° (varies by river system & day length)*
- Be cautious of redds – tailouts and alongside pools and runs
- Observed brown trout spawning as late as January

Weather Pattern Changes

- Fall rains trigger runoff and recharge flows
- Pressure shifts and cold fronts



Penns Creek

Centre & Snyder County, PA

- ❖ Spring influenced with limestone and freestone features
- ❖ Wild Brown & Brook trout
- ❖ Stocked Rainbow trout
- ❖ Prolific Hatches
- ❖ Thermal Influence
- ❖ Year-Round Opportunity



Penns Creek Notes

Notable Hatches & Invertebrates

- ❖ BWOs
- ❖ Midges
- ❖ Black Quill
- ❖ Hendrickson
- ❖ Grannom Caddis
- ❖ March Brown
- ❖ Golden Stoneflies
- ❖ Giant Stoneflies
- ❖ Sulfurs (7 known sub-species)
- ❖ Green Drake
- ❖ Slate Drake
- ❖ October Caddis
- ❖ Scuds
- ❖ Sowbugs

Peak Conditions

- ❖ March - June
- ❖ September - November
- ❖ Flow: 300 - 700 cfs
- ❖ Temp: 46° - 62° F
- ❖ Color: Chalky Green

Penns Creek Notes

Forage Species

- ❖ Sculpins
- ❖ Dace
- ❖ Glass Eels
- ❖ Leeches
- ❖ Fallfish
- ❖ Suckers
- ❖ Stonerollers
- ❖ Crayfish

Common Tactics

- ❖ Nymphing
 - ❖ Drop-Shot
 - ❖ Euro
 - ❖ Right-Angle
- ❖ Streamers
 - ❖ Jig
 - ❖ Standard
 - ❖ Hop & Drop (Double Rig)
 - ❖ Swinging
- ❖ Dry Flies
 - ❖ Dead Drift
 - ❖ Skating
- ❖ Dry - Dropper
- ❖ Wet Flies
 - ❖ Swinging



Average Trout Size: 14 – 16”

Rural & Scenic Views



Spring Creek

Centre County, PA

- ❖ Spring/ limestone creek (chalk stream)
- ❖ Wild Brown & Rainbow trout
- ❖ 3,000 fish per mile
- ❖ Prolific Hatches and Forage
- ❖ Thermal Influence
- ❖ Year-Round Opportunity



Spring Creek Notes

Notable Hatches

- ❖ BWOs
- ❖ Blue Quill
- ❖ Light Cahill
- ❖ Midges
- ❖ Tan Caddis
- ❖ Green Caddis
- ❖ Sulfurs
- ❖ Scuds
- ❖ Sowbugs

Peak Conditions

- ❖ February - November
- ❖ Flow: 150 – 250 cfs (@ Axemann guage)
- ❖ Temp: 46° - 62° F
- ❖ Color: Chalk Gray/Blue

Spring Creek Notes

Forage Species

- ❖ Sculpins
- ❖ Dace
- ❖ Glass Eels
- ❖ Leeches
- ❖ Suckers

Common Tactics

- ❖ Nymphing
 - ❖ Euro
 - ❖ Drop Shot
- ❖ Streamers
 - ❖ Jig
 - ❖ Standard
- ❖ Dry Flies
 - ❖ Dead Drift
 - ❖ Skating
- ❖ Dry - Dropper
- ❖ Wet Flies
 - ❖ Swinging



Average Trout Size: 10-12"

Urban, Rural & Scenic



Big Fishing Creek

Clinton County, PA

- ❖ Spring influenced with limestone and freestone features
- ❖ Wild Brown & Brook trout
- ❖ Stocked Rainbow trout
- ❖ Prolific Hatches
- ❖ Thermal Influence
- ❖ Year-Round Opportunity



Fishing Creek Notes

Notable Hatches & Invertebrates

- ❖ BWOs
- ❖ Midges
- ❖ Black Quill
- ❖ Hendrickson
- ❖ Grannom Caddis
- ❖ March Brown
- ❖ Golden Stoneflies
- ❖ Giant Stoneflies
- ❖ Sulfurs (7 known sub-species)
- ❖ Green Drake
- ❖ Slate Drake
- ❖ October Caddis
- ❖ Scuds
- ❖ Sowbugs

Peak Conditions

- ❖ February – June
- ❖ September - November
- ❖ Flow: 2-3 ft gauge height
- ❖ Temp: 46° - 62° F
- ❖ Color: Chalky Green

Fishing Creek Notes

Forage Species

- ❖ Sculpins
- ❖ Dace
- ❖ Leeches
- ❖ Fallfish
- ❖ Suckers
- ❖ Stonerollers
- ❖ Crayfish

Common Tactics

- ❖ Nymphing
 - ❖ Drop-Shot
 - ❖ Euro
 - ❖ Right-Angle
- ❖ Streamers
 - ❖ Jig
 - ❖ Standard
- ❖ Dry Flies
 - ❖ Dead Drift
 - ❖ Skating
- ❖ Dry - Dropper
- ❖ Wet Flies
 - ❖ Swinging



Average Trout Size: 12 - 14"

Rural & Scenic Views





Juniata River

Trophy Smallmouth Fishing
Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata County, PA





Size Range: 12 – 20”+

Time of Year:

- ❖ Pre-Spawn (March – Early May)
- ❖ Spawn (May – June)
- ❖ Post-Spawn (June – July)
- ❖ August – November





Other Legendary Streams

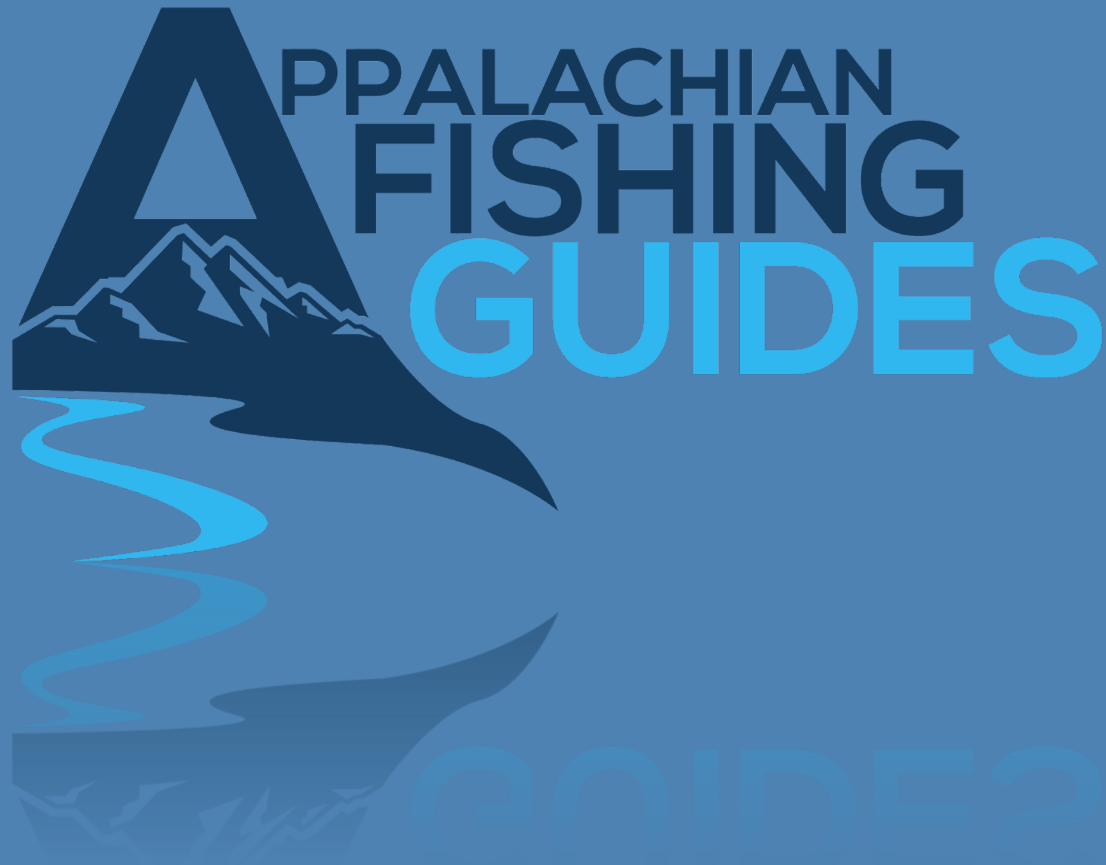
Pine Creek



Bald Eagle Creek



Thank You For Having Me!



- ❖ Feel free to ask questions or discuss after the meeting
- ❖ **Winter Special (5 Hours)**
 - ❖ Guided Fishing on Penns, Spring, or Fishing Creek
 - ❖ Hot Lunch!
 - ❖ Now until end of Feb.
 - ❖ 2 Anglers - **\$300**