

Pennsylvania

February 1986/80¢

ANGLER

The Keystone State's Official Fishing Magazine



Straight Talk

COAL

The state's bituminous coal industry was born about 1760 on Coal Hill, now Mount Washington. Here the Pittsburgh coal bed was mined to supply Fort Pitt.

In two centuries, over 10 billion tons of bituminous coal have been mined in Pennsylvania, peaking in 1918, when 177 million tons were produced by 181,000 men. There are presently 1,036 active surface coal mines in Pennsylvania, and 121 active deep mines, and last year they produced about 74 million tons, of which approximately half came from surface mines.

Employment in the bituminous



Ralph W. Abele
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

industry, considering production, is not split equally. Deep mines employed 13,280 persons, while surface mines employed only 7,650 miners—about one-third of the total. Bituminous coal industry employees are among the best trained and highest paid workers in the Commonwealth, exceeding employees involved in durable goods, food products, textile products, printing and publishing, petroleum and coal products, stone, clay, and glass products, primary metals, machinery and chemical products.

The coal industry became the focus of much more attention during the oil crisis in the 1970s, but one could say that the coal industry in Pennsylvania is depressed, especially in western Pennsylvania.

There is no question that coal is important to Pennsylvania and to the nation, but we submit that its production and use give us more problems than they should.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission initiated 46 prosecutions in 1985 for pollution, siltation and other difficulties from mining activities. Many offenders were repeat offenders, and many have not been brought to task as required by the Surface Mining Act of 1970 by the Department of Environmental Resources, whose duty that is. Thousands of acres of pre-Act mines are still unreclaimed in spite of federal and state monies available for such reclamation. They still pollute over 2,500 miles of Pennsylvania's 45,000 miles of streams. The most extensive users of coal in Pennsylvania are the electric utility companies. That, of course, gives us problems with acid precipitation and deposition.

The coal industry in Pennsylvania

has a disproportionate amount of influence, considering its employment of less than 23,000 employees out of a total work force of almost 5 million.

In the 1960s, the strip miners were paid in \$2 bills to call attention to their importance in the economy. That effort failed because almost no one noticed.

At current levels of production, Pennsylvania has more than 250 years of coal reserves remaining in the ground. By method of mining, Pennsylvania would have a 546-year reserve base for underground mining, and a 48-year reserve of surface mineable seams at present production rates. When citizens and agencies affected adversely by mining methods and practices attempt to set aside (by law) areas as unsuitable for mining, one can count on a great cry from the industry that it needs every pound of coal it can get out of the ground, and as fast as it can get it.

The federal agency responsible for regulating strip mining is a spectacular failure that cannot be saved by anything short of a massive management overhaul. The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is incapable of enforcing the law or carrying out court orders. More than half of the 4,000 orders that the OSM has issued to halt mining abuses have simply been ignored. The number of unabated cessation orders has actually increased and not decreased since the first court order in 1982.

In Pennsylvania we have stricter enforcement, but it is far from what it should be.

We are appalled when high-level officials in DER advocate that their mining inspectors "dare to be pro-coal."

Ralph W. Abele

Pennsylvania Fish Commission

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POSTMASTER: Send 3579 forms to Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. *Pennsylvania Angler* (ISSN0031-434X), © 1986, is published monthly. Second class postage paid at Harrisburg, PA. Subscription rates: one year, \$6; three years, \$16; single copies are 80 cents each. For subscription and changes of address, contact *Angler* Circulation, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. Address all other correspondence to: The Editor, *Pennsylvania Angler*, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. Editorial contributions are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Submissions are handled with care, but the publisher assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of submissions in its possession or in transit. The authors' views, ideas, and advice expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinion or official position of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission or its staff.

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The Cover

Family ice fishing can be lots of fun, and anglers interested in making the most of this special aspect of the sport will want to scan the article that begins on page 14. This month's front cover, photographed by Joe Workosky, shows a family ice fishing scene at Lake Somerset, Somerset County, where the action was for northern pike. Still, there's a drawback to this kind of family fun. A 20-incher must be returned immediately to the water, of course, even though it's still a nice fish. So when the kids are screaming with excitement when so-and-so pulls that 20-incher up, dad dutifully says, "Okay, now, we have to put it back right away." All the kids look at him like he's nuts.

The photo on this month's back cover was taken by DWCO Don Carey at Harvey's Lake, Luzerne County.

Caring anglers gear their fishing to certain principles. Here are some of those ideas.

Are You a Conservationist-Angler?



*by Art Michaels
photos by the author*

Our ideas are changing on just what a "sportfisherman" is. We all like to catch a lot of fish, and perhaps when we've done that enough times, we consider ourselves "sportfishermen." Or maybe we think we become true sportsmen when we land the largest fish of a species we've ever caught, or perhaps when we own a certain dollar amount of fishing tackle and equipment, or when we know the thrill of a big fish on every cast, or own a big boat.

Still, conservation is the vital aspect of our outdoor ethics, and for the most part, we all understand that conservation measures must be part of our ideas on fishing. We know that as anglers we have a responsibility to be conservationists, but translating this notion into action, with all we may know about the practical aspects of catching fish, is easier said than done.

Here, then, are six ideas on what a conservationist-angler does.

1 A conservationist-angler returns most of his catch to the water.

Caring anglers keep fish only when they plan to make a meal of them, or perhaps they have that once-in-a-lifetime enormous specimen mounted. Otherwise, they release their catches.

Conservationist-anglers also know the proper way to release fish

unharméd, and they gear their fishing to this practice. For example, they don't exhaust a fish they're fighting that they plan to release. You can revive a fish and set it free after a long fight, but a fish battled to the point of exhaustion will likely belly up downstream within 24 hours.

Contrary to popular belief, using the lightest possible pound-test line or leader is not always an act of sportsmanship, because an angler has to play a fish longer on the lightest tackle. Thus, a caring angler uses the heaviest possible lines and leaders so that he can play and release fish quickly.

In addition, conservationist-anglers touch fish as little as possible, they keep their hands out of a fish's gills, and they get their fish back in the water fast. Caring anglers always wet their hands before handling fish. The slippery coating on fish protects them from some diseases, and wiping this coating away could endanger the fish's health.

Releasing fish unharmed is more easily and quickly accomplished with barbless hooks. On some waterways, the use of barbless hooks is mandatory, but why not fish with barbless hooks more often, when it's not required by law? A fisherman can "go barbless" with a regular hook

simply by bending the barb flat against the hook shank with pliers, which is legal on Keystone State waterways where barbless hooks are required. Of course, barbless hooks are available commercially in some hook styles.

When a conservationist-angler lets a fish go, he lowers it gently into the water. He doesn't toss the fish back into the water with a plopping splash. That rough treatment could harm the fish, as can letting it flop around on shoreline rocks or on the bottom of a boat.

When a conservationist-angler hooks a fish deeply, he simply cuts the line close to the fish's mouth, leaving the hook in place, and releases the fish. The fish's digestive juices can "melt" hooks away, and in some cases, fish successfully butt rocks and other objects to free themselves from hooks embedded in their jaws.

Thus, caring anglers fish in ways that make it easy to release fish, but when they hook fish deeply, they don't just give them up for dead.

2 A conservationist-angler avoids littering, and he picks up litter when he sees it.

Specifically, leaving only footprints when you leave an area is sound advice, and caring anglers save cans, pieces of fishing line, and food



wrapping for the proper place on shore or at home. They keep small receptacles in their cars, campers, tackle boxes, and boats, and they empty them from time to time in a trash bin.

In addition, conservationist-anglers who own motorboats keep their boat engines tuned and in good condition so that no gas or oil enters the water because of their neglect.

3 A conservationist-angler is informed on environmental issues, and he knows and heeds the current fishing and boating

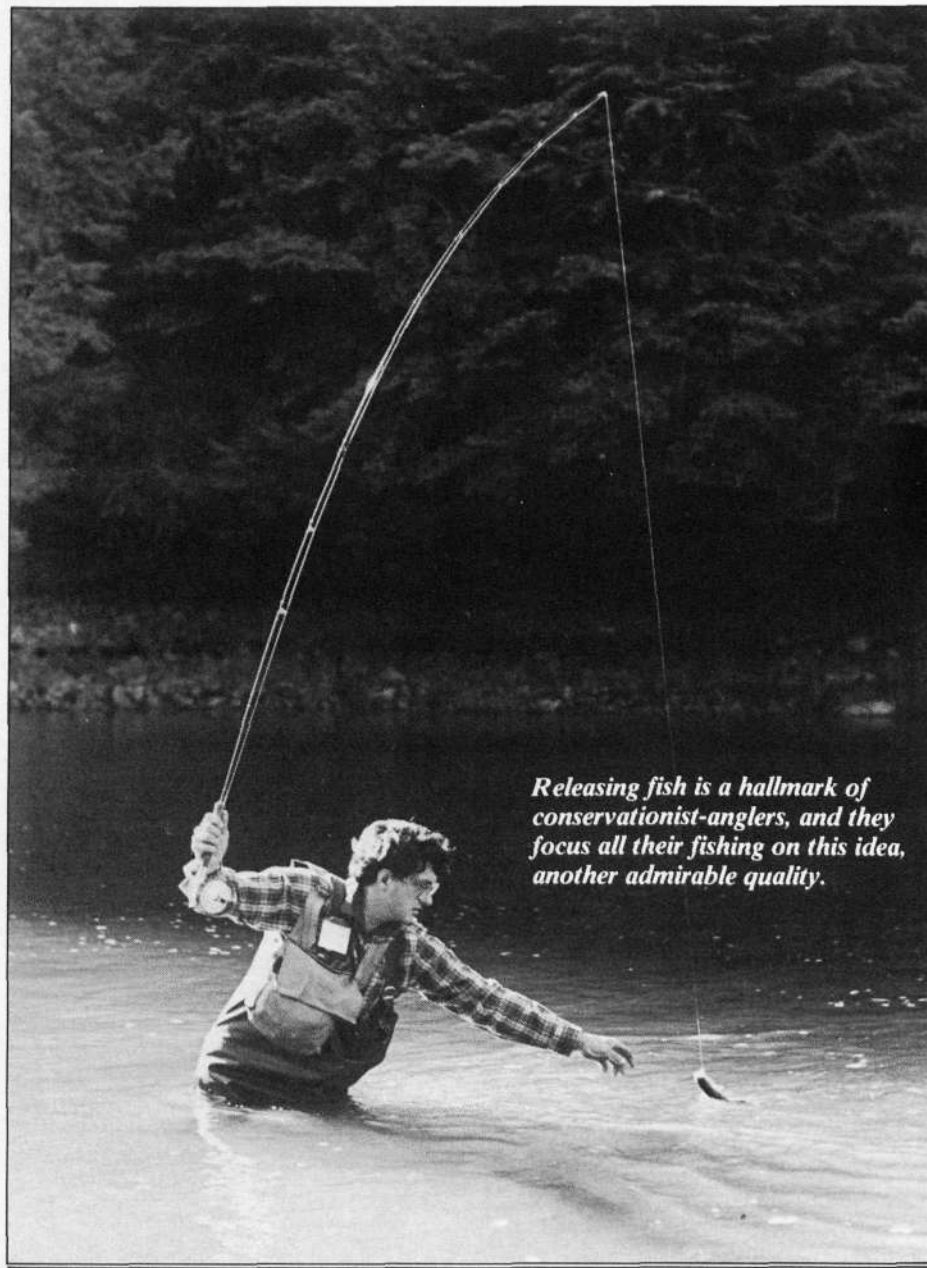
regulations for the waters he fishes and for the species he's after.

Conservationist-anglers don't take the law into their own hands, so they report to the trained, proper authorities what they think are likely to be violations of the fishing and boating laws that they see. In our state, this idea means contacting the nearest Fish Commission law enforcement regional office, all of which are listed on page 51 of the 1986 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws, or the Commission Law Enforcement headquarters in Harrisburg.

Boating conservationist-anglers tune their engines and perform appropriate motor and related-equipment maintenance. In this way, no gas or oil enters a waterway because of their neglect.

Caring anglers value learning highly among fellow sportsmen. In most cases, arrests are viewed by law enforcement officers and by conservationist-anglers as the final step in the education process.

Furthermore, the Fish Commission operates a toll-free 24-hour pollution



Releasing fish is a hallmark of conservationist-anglers, and they focus all their fishing on this idea, another admirable quality.

hotline. It should be used by those who see signs of dead or dying fish along Keystone State waterways. Callers should provide the date and time they first noticed the pollution, the name and county location of the waterway, and the suspected type of pollution. Callers need not give their names, but doing so lets the Commission return the call if additional details are needed. The hotline phone number is 800-854-7365.

4 A conservationist-angler maintains active membership in conservation organizations.

There are many groups that have fine educational and legislative programs. In addition, joining a group

can help an angler become a more successful fisherman, and membership provides an avenue through which he can keep well-informed on the issues that most strongly affect his favorite fishing. Furthermore, through the political action of conservation groups, a caring angler's voice can best be heard and his vote can carry maximum weight.

5 A conservationist-angler invests in the future by helping to teach the young and others new to the sport.

Not everyone goes out and teaches a youngster how to fish, nor does everyone want to. Even so, a conservationist-angler contributes to conservation education in a way that

best suits his capabilities.

For instance, there's the straightforward notion of teaching someone to fish, which in itself can be a series of valuable conservation lessons. But there's also volunteering one's time for other activities that are part of the conservation organization's educational programs. Giving money to educational efforts by conservation groups is another way of helping.

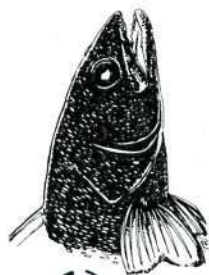
Similarly, in Pennsylvania we have the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, which finances a great variety of nongame wildlife and wild plant research and educational programs. These projects are undertaken by the Fish Commission, the Game Commission, and the Department of Environmental Resources. Pennsylvania's state income tax return provides a space for donations to the fund from a portion or all of the state tax refund, and direct contributions can be made. For complete details, contact: Wild Resource Conservation Fund, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

6 A conservationist-angler views the outdoors with respect, and with each fishing trip he learns something new and deepens his commitment to conservation through the sport of fishing.

A caring angler understands the consequences of misusing the outdoors, but he also knows that conservation spawns an increasingly richer overall quality of life for everyone. Thus, a conservationist-angler loves experiencing the outdoors and learning about it. He wants to know more and more about conservation, and he incorporates this knowledge into his fishing and outdoor skills.

Because a conservationist-angler is a learner and a grower, he values sharing information on what he believes are important conservation ideas. For this reason, these considerations aren't the only traits that a caring angler possesses, nor are they the last word on what's right or wrong.

All in all, a conservationist-angler wants the outdoors to win. Through the specific sport of fishing, he seeks to attain greater understanding of the unity in nature and clearer insight into the natural world's workings. PA

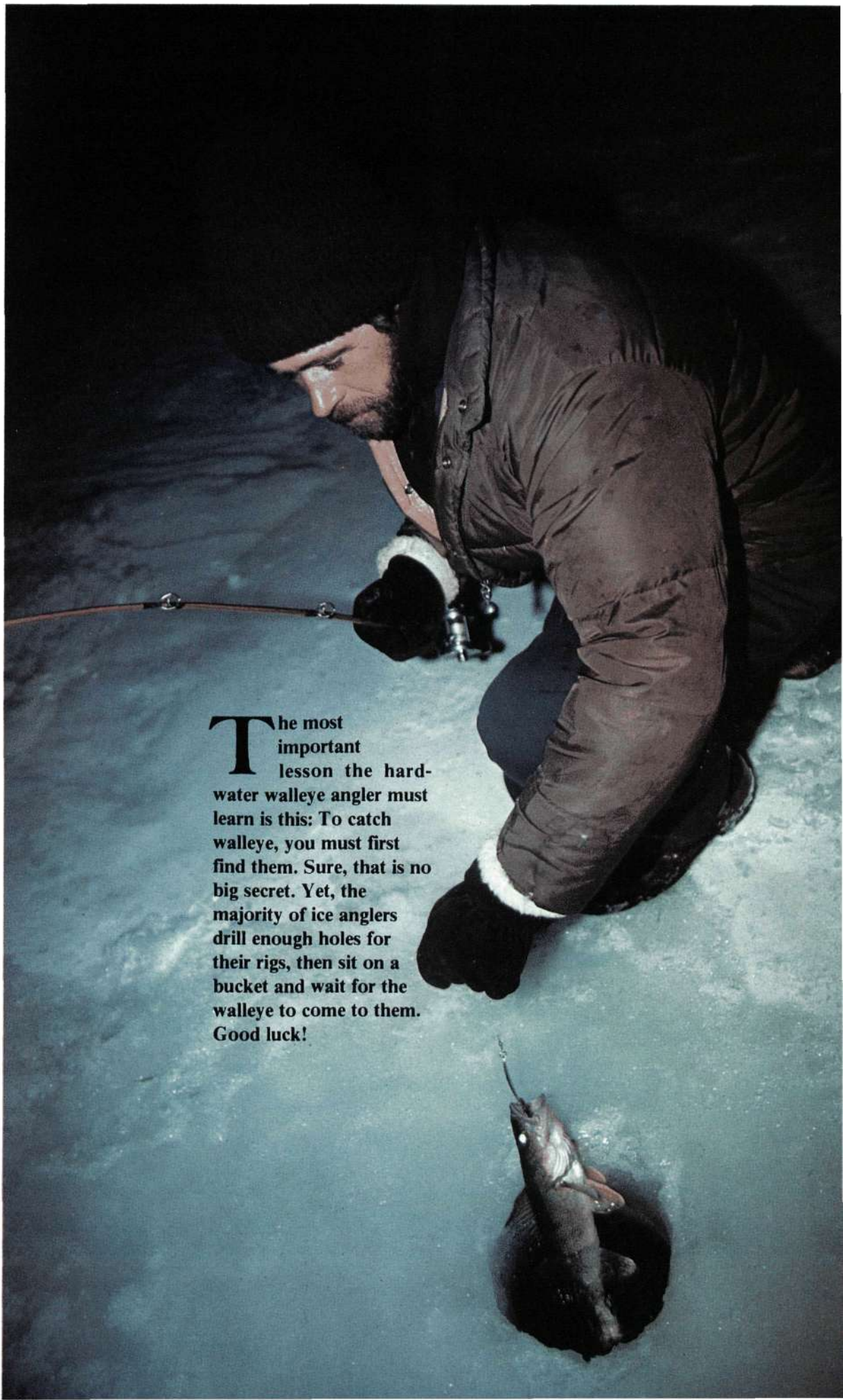


Chasing Walleye Under the Ice

by Mike Bleech

photos by the author

The most important lesson the hard-water walleye angler must learn is this: To catch walleye, you must first find them. Sure, that is no big secret. Yet, the majority of ice anglers drill enough holes for their rigs, then sit on a bucket and wait for the walleye to come to them. Good luck!



Walleye feed actively during the winter. Wait long enough in one place and you may catch walleye in a good lake. But the anglers who are consistently successful have learned to chase the walleye down. There are a few tricks that tilt the odds for success in the angler's favor, but the one inescapable fact is that this game requires a lot of work. So sharpen your auger blades and limber up your legs and shoulders for a lot of walking and a lot of drilling—and a lot of success.

Tackle



The first order of business is to gather all the required tackle and equipment in a portable package. The basic "finder rig" is a jigging rod and reel, jigs, and some small minnows to add flavor to the jigs. In addition, another rod for bait fishing and a few tip-ups, hooks, and splitshot are handy, to be used when you find a concentration of walleye. All this gear can be carried in a 5-gallon plastic bucket, if it is packed efficiently. A large plastic jar with a waterproof screw-top lid, to carry the minnows, solves the biggest problem. Then, when you find reason to spend some time over one particular hole, you can sit on the bucket. An ice angler's depth finder, which is just a chunk of lead molded to an alligator clip, is usually clipped to a flap on the jacket or one-piece suit.

My jig assortment includes size 7 and size 9 Rapala jigs in an assortment of colors, a few jigging spoons such as the Swedish Pimple and Hopkins Shorty, and some lead heads dressed with various plastic bodies. Colors in the arsenal include white, yellow, chartreuse, silver, gold, orange, green, and combinations of these colors and fluorescents.

The jigging rod is spooled with 6-pound to 10-pound limp mono line. The tip-ups are spooled with braided line with a 10-foot mono leader.

Augers



The good auger with sharp blades is a must. By mid- or late winter, the ice may be more than 20 inches thick. At Kinzua, for instance, I have drilled through about 32 inches of ice! You could be drilling two or three dozen holes in a day of fishing, which is a lot of work, even with sharp blades.



Ice hole hints: Drill your holes about 10 feet to 15 feet apart, and don't waste time jigging in an unproductive hole. If a hole doesn't produce in 15 minutes, move on.

Auger blades should be changed every two or three outings, depending on how many holes it takes to find the walleye. Always carry a fresh, extra set while you're on the ice.

It is also important to learn how to get the best performance out of your auger. The blades of some augers, for example, must often be shimmed to achieve the most efficient cutting angle. Ease of changing blades, ease of sharpening blades, and cost and availability of replacement blades should be carefully considered when shopping for an auger.

Power augers are great, but even the lightweights are bulky and heavy to tote around the ice. An ice sled or a group of walleye anglers working as a team can solve that problem. Some groups of anglers also share the cost of the power augers.

The next order of business is deciding where to start fishing. All nifty sounding formulas aside, the easiest way to get a general idea of where to find the walleye is by checking at a local bait shop. At Kinzua, for example, I have caught, or seen caught, walleye just about everywhere. This includes spots where the water is five feet deep and where the water is 90 feet deep. It also includes places with bars, breaks, shelves, and other indelible bottom structure.

New ice



As ice is forming on a lake, the best fishing is often under the newest ice. You may be able to fish new ice for two or three weeks on some larger lakes.

During summer, anglers look for

walleye under reduced light conditions. However, during winter, the light is already reduced by the angle of the earth to the sun, and by the layer of ice over the water. For this reason, anglers look for walleye under ice with the most light penetration. Experienced ice anglers look for "black" or "blue" ice—ice with few interior blemishes. The dark color is a result of relatively little sunlight reflection. Such ice usually forms fast during very cold weather and on calm water.

Once warm weather hits the ice, it becomes pockmarked and cracked, and loses its dark color. It takes on a white color because it is reflecting more light, letting less light through. Thus, the idea of looking for new ice.

New ice will also have less snow cover, and snow cuts out much more light than does ice. Some anglers go so far as to carry a snow shovel out onto the ice, to clear the snow off a section of ice. Though this may seem far-fetched, I have seen cases when it apparently put extra walleye on the stringer.

Ice fishing success generally falls off by mid-winter, when there may be no "hard" ice left and snow blankets the ice. It appears certain, nonetheless, that the walleye are still very willing to hit a jig or bait. The fall in angling success may be primarily due to reduced walleye movement.

One of my fishing partners theorizes that in mid-winter the walleye spend a lot of time in one

place. To catch them, he reasons, you must drill a lot of holes, and he spurns the idea of setting out tip-ups when walleye contact is made, because there will seldom be more than two or three walleye close enough to any individual hole to be caught. His results make his thoughts on the subject hard to dispute.

Ice holes



Holes need not be drilled far apart, say 10 to 15 feet, and don't waste too much time jigging in an unproductive hole. About 15 minutes is plenty. In actual practice, even a productive hole seldom gets more than 30 minutes of attention. Mark productive holes inconspicuously, and work these holes on the return walk. Apparently, fresh walleye move in to fill vacancies in favorable spots.

A trick to be used when working the productive holes the second time around is to change jigs, or at least jig colors. I also like to fish a different jig after a hole has given up a big walleye. On the chance that another big walleye is in the same area, the time and effort to change jigs is certainly justified. Anglers usually make the assumption that the fish are hitting whatever lure or color they caught their first fish of the day on. Actually, all that means is that the first fish was willing to hit that lure. There may have been other fish in the area that were not even tempted.

Such an aggressive approach to ice fishing for walleye has a counter-productive side effect. Anglers tend to jig their lures too fast, and to be impatient. This strategy is not intended to be a fast-moving method. Jig the lure slowly, and give each hole a fair shake. It would seem a shame to spend more time drilling a hole than fishing through it, but I have watched it done.

Chasing walleye under the ice is one of the most physically demanding sports the Pennsylvania angler may encounter. Let's hope that you will be greeted by active, moving walleye on every ice outing. But if not, keep your gear light and your auger blades sharp.

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Let your jig assortment for walleye action include lures that are white, yellow, chartreuse, silver, gold, orange, green, and combinations of these colors and fluorescents.

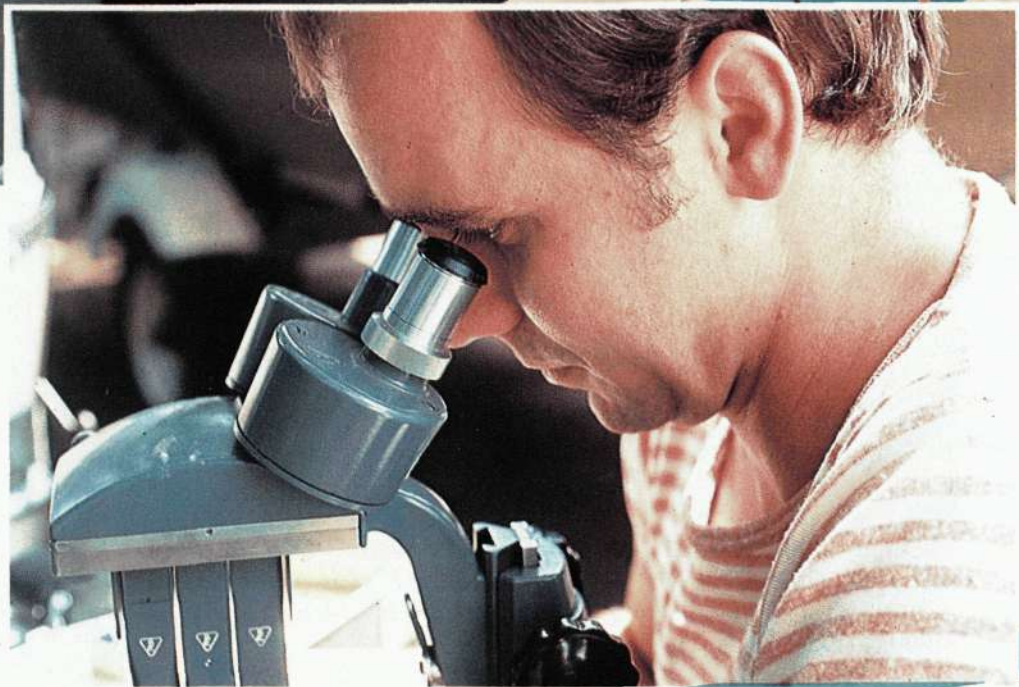
Outdoor writer-photographer Mike Bleach hails from northwest Pennsylvania.

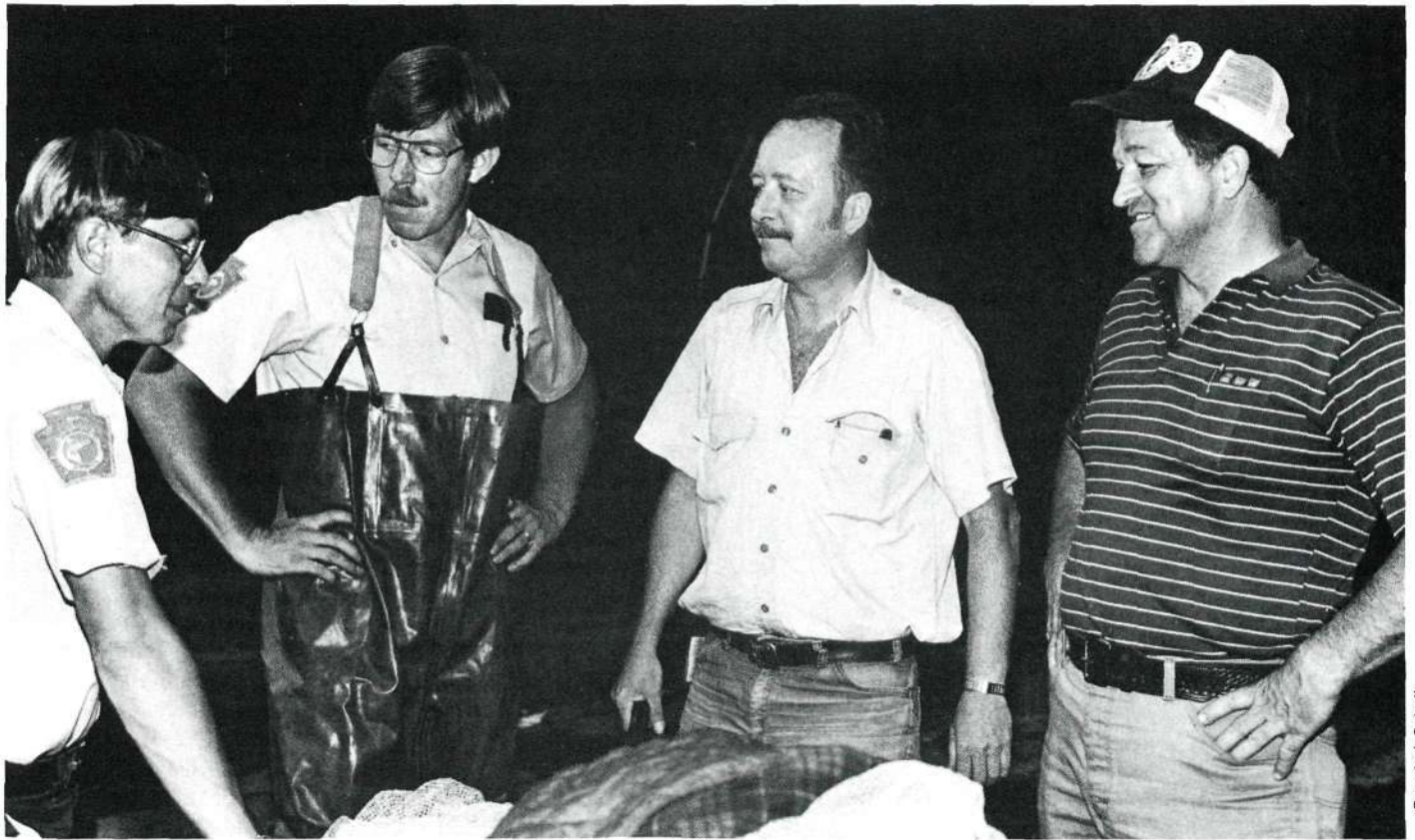
SHAD RESTORATION



by
Dennis J. Scholl

The Fish Commission's Van Dyke shad rearing facility on the Juniata River is the only shad rearing hatchery in the United States. These photos show the variety of activity there.





Dennis J. Scholl

American shad restoration is not new to Pennsylvania. On March 30, 1866, Commonwealth Governor Andrew G. Curtin signed into law an act that called for the construction of fish passageways on Susquehanna River dams and weirs that impeded the shad's annual spring spawning migrations.

In 1867, thanks to the perseverance of the state's first Commissioner of Fisheries, James J. Worrall, a fishway was constructed on a dam that traversed the river at Columbia, PA. Constructed in the 1830's, the dam limited the shad's migrations into the Susquehanna to the river's lower 45 miles. But the passageway failed to provide the shad upriver access, and several subsequent attempts at Columbia were also unsuccessful.

From 1904-1932, four hydroelectric dams were built on the river's lower 55 miles—at Conowingo, Maryland, and Holtwood, Safe Harbor, and York Haven, Pennsylvania. State-of-the-art fish ladders were incorporated into the Holtwood facility, but they also failed to pass fish, and no further passageways were required to be built in the lower river.

The future did not look bright for shad restoration in the Susquehanna, which was once esteemed as the greatest shad river on the East Coast. In lieu of fish passage construction, the utilities that owned the dams agreed to make annual payments to the Fish Commission, but that didn't help the shad reach their ancestral spawning grounds, which extended as far north as Binghamton, New York.

The Lehigh and Schuylkill

Circumstances were much the same on the Lehigh and Schuylkill rivers, where shad at one time provided subsistence and livelihoods for many people.

Left to right, Craig Billingsley and Leroy Young of the Commission, Dave Chiles of the Lehigh River Preservation, Protection and Improvement Foundation, and Joseph Miller of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plan their seining strategies. Experimental shad restoration efforts were conducted by the Fish Commission as early as 1973-76, and in 1980-82, Area Fisheries Manager Craig Billingsley conducted a variety of research efforts on the Lehigh.

The Lehigh's shad, which were once able to make their way into present-day Carbon County, were cut off from the river in 1829 when the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company constructed a timber and rock crib at the Lehigh's confluence with the Delaware. A passageway was not even considered.

The Schuylkill's annual migrations came to an end when the Falls Dam was constructed in Philadelphia in 1810. In 1818-19, two more dams, the Fairmount and Flat Rock, were added to the Schuylkill. The Fairmount is located below the Falls Dam and the Flat Rock, above. Again, fish ladders were not a part of the projects. The Falls Dam was inundated by construction of the Fairmount Dam and no longer functions as a dam.

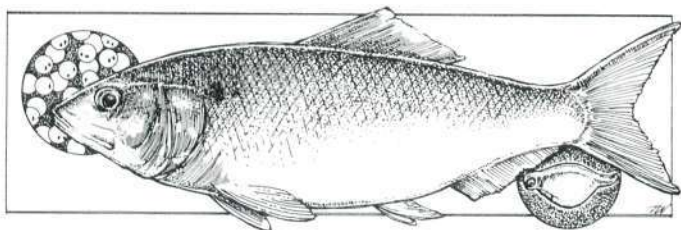
The three rivers have not experienced natural migrations of shad in more than 150 years, and the Schuylkill's drought of anadromous fish is even longer. Attempts have been made to provide shad access to the upper Susquehanna and Schuylkill, but success has been very limited.

On the Susquehanna, an experimental fish trap and lift were added to the Conowingo Dam in 1971, and in 1979, a fish passageway opened on the Fairmount Dam in Philadelphia, the first modern passageway built in the



Dennis J. Scholl

Delaware River American shad like this one are terrific fighters on light tackle and make excellent table fare.



Commonwealth. Unfortunately, relatively few shad enter the Schuylkill because there is no hereditary reason to do so. They prefer instead to migrate in the nearby Delaware, the river to which they were imprinted as newly hatched fry and fingerlings.

And the lift at the Conowingo Dam does work to a certain extent, but the river's run of shad is so depleted that in most years the number of fish that are caught there and trucked upriver is negligible in terms of offering a base for creating a new stock of Susquehanna shad.

But the Fish Commission hasn't been deterred by this barely marginal success. While negotiations are under way with Philadelphia Electric Company to provide improved passageway facilities at Conowingo Dam, the Commission has already joined with the Department of Environmental Resources to install a state-of-the-art fish ladder on the Samuel W. Frank Memorial Dam on the Lehigh River in

Allentown, and work is now in progress toward the installation of two more passageways on that river and at least one more on the Schuylkill.

In the meantime, the Commission has been annually stocking millions of juvenile shad in the Susquehanna, and for the first time in 1985 placed about 600,000 juveniles this year in the Lehigh River and some 251,000 in the Schuylkill River. Fingerling shad, originating from the spring fry stocking, were recovered in the Schuylkill by Commission biologists at Royersford in September 1985.

LRPPIF

Experimental work was done by the Fish Commission as early as 1973-76 to study the feasibility of shad restoration in the Lehigh River. This work included stocking 80,000 eggs at 10 sites from Glendon to White Haven, as well as water quality and aquatic invertebrate studies. In 1980-82, Area Fisheries Manager Craig Billingsley conducted additional social, physical, biological, and chemical inventories. Still, the restoration efforts haven't been limited to work by the Commission. In fact, the Lehigh's juvenile shad project was initiated in 1982 by the Lehigh River Preservation, Protection and Improvement Foundation (LRPPIF), a small but hard-working sportsmen's group headed by President Dave Chiles of Bethlehem.

The LRPPIF, which receives technical assistance from Fish Commission personnel and Joseph Miller of the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative, first transported adult shad and shad eggs from the Delaware to the Lehigh four years ago.

The adult shad were caught in May 1982 by members of the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association. The fish were placed in a large, home-made aerated transfer tank, and then trucked to the Lehigh, where they were released at the Tri-Boro Sportsmen's Club in Northampton. The several hundred thousand shad eggs the group obtained from the ripe Delaware fish were placed in 12 LRPPIF hatch boxes and set out at various locations in the river. In August 1983, the LRPPIF seined the Lehigh below Bethlehem and came up with several 3½-inch juvenile shad, the first in the river since the 1820s.

LRPPIF members have carried out similar adult and egg programs every year since, although river conditions hampered juvenile success until last summer, when more than 15 young shad were caught.

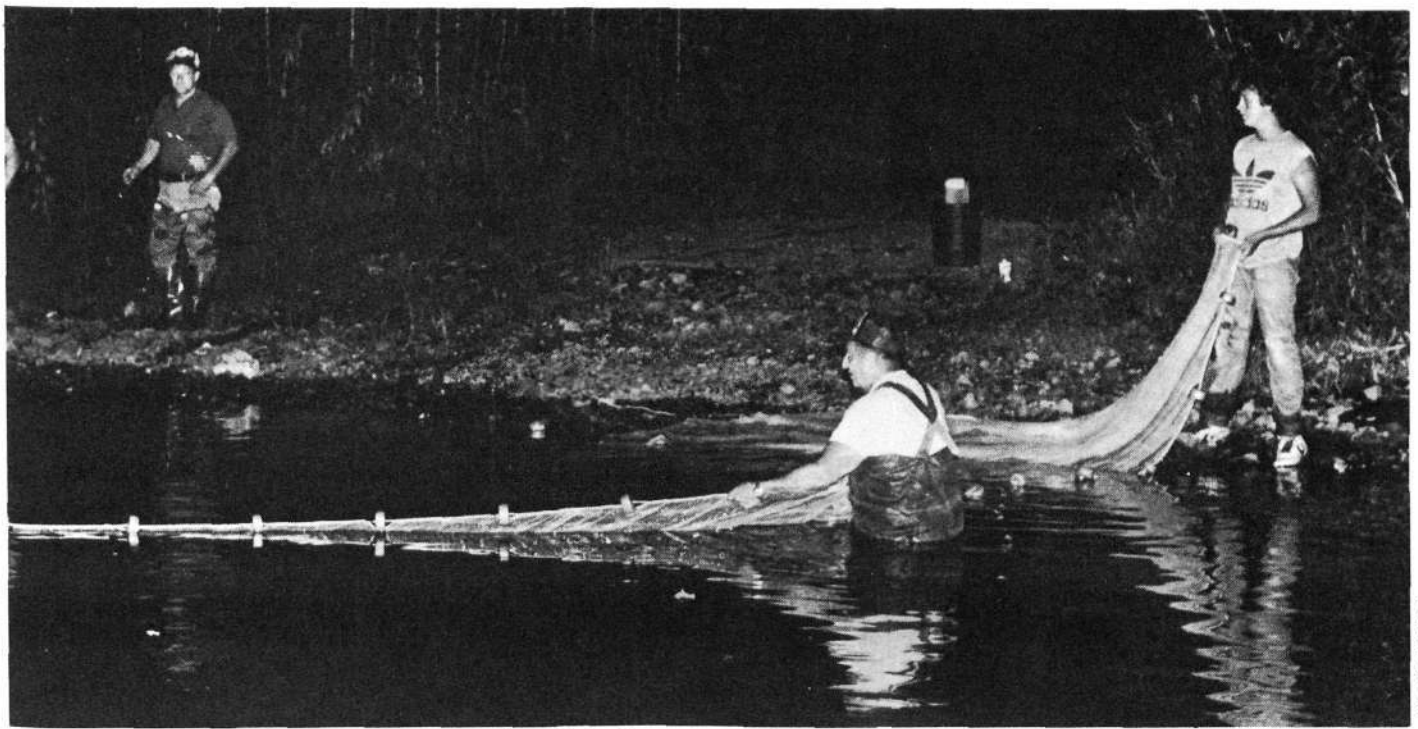
The group's work shows that the Lehigh is clean enough and contains sufficient food to support a shad population.

The LRPPIF's efforts are now aimed at convincing the Pennsylvania Senate to fund construction of passageways on Lehigh River dams at Easton and Glendon. The Senate will soon vote on a bill, H.B. 383, that has \$3.3 million earmarked for the two projects. H.B. 383 has already passed through the State House of Representatives and is part of a supplemental capital budget appropriations bill.

Should the bill meet with Senate approval, the door will be opened for migratory shad to enter the Lehigh once again, and restoration will be complete in at least one Pennsylvania river.

Leroy Young, a Fish Commission fisheries technician who has been monitoring the LRPPIF's work, is encouraged with the Lehigh's potential.

"I'm optimistic about the Lehigh," Young says. "Its water



Dennis J. Scholl

quality is good enough right now for restoration. If shad can get through the Delaware in Philadelphia, they can get through the Lehigh. It's ready to go."

Young is also working on the Susquehanna's restoration project and is optimistic about its future, too.

Transfers and stocking

The restoration program on the Susquehanna River is a cooperative effort which, in addition to the Fish Commission, involves the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and four private utility companies. The power companies provide most of the financial support for the program.

For the past five years, the Commission has been involved in transferring 3,000-5,000 adult shad to the Susquehanna from the Hudson and Connecticut rivers, and stocking them at Tunkhannock on the river's North Branch. An additional 800-970 adults were trucked upriver in 1982 and 1985 from the fish lift at Conowingo Dam.

Shad eggs for the Susquehanna River program are obtained from the Delaware, the James and Pamunkey rivers in Virginia, and the Columbia River in Oregon. They're stripped from ripe females, fertilized, and then taken to the Commission's Van Dyke Hatchery at Thompsontown on the Juniata River, and 18 days after hatching they're placed into the Juniata, which flows into the Susquehanna near Clarks Ferry.

Starting in 1985, the young fry were immersed in a bath containing oxytetracycline (OTC) before their release. This chemical becomes incorporated in the otolith, one of the fish's inner ear structures. When examined under ultraviolet light, OTC gives off a fluorescent glow. During autumn collection of juvenile shad migrating out of the river, biologists will be able to examine the fish and determine by the presence of the OTC whether they are of hatchery origin. If OTC isn't discovered, the shad may be progeny of a transplant from another river system or even from a fish trucked north from Conowingo.

A haul seine on the lower Lehigh River is pulled in. Two juvenile shad were caught in this haul, the first two of the 1985 year class stocked in the river. This activity took place in August 1985.

From studies such as this, the Commission hopes to determine a method of arriving at an index of abundance, so it can compare from year to year which stocking procedures result in the most fish moving downstream.

The juveniles that have been stocked in the Susquehanna, Lehigh, and Schuylkill will migrate out of the river systems in October and November, and will reach their respective estuaries by December.

Once out of the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, the juveniles will join up with schools of adult and pre-adult shad migrating south from their summer feeding grounds in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. Three to six years later, they'll return to their home streams to spawn.

Whether the Susquehanna, Lehigh, and Schuylkill fish then gain access to the rivers is contingent on the progress that's been made on the streams' passageways. Still, progress can only occur if money is available, and a spirit of cooperativeness continues between the Fish Commission and the utilities maintaining the rivers' dams. PA

Dennis Scholl is a sportswriter for the Globe Times (Bethlehem, PA), and he is president of the Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association. For information on this conservation organization, contact him at 501 Magnolia Road, Hellertown, PA 18055.

For their technical assistance with this manuscript, the author thanks the following: Robert Hesser, Fish Commission fishery resources biologist; Craig Billingsley and Mike Kaufmann, Fish Commission area fisheries managers; Leroy Young, fishery resources technician; Dick St. Pierre, Susquehanna River coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Joseph Miller, Delaware River coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ice Angling with Small Fry

by Joe Workosky
photos by the author

"I wouldn't think of taking my kids ice fishing," the angler stated, "not until they're, say, 12 or 13. Heck, all they do is squirm and complain they're cold, hungry, or bored."

This fisherman was geared up for a full day of hard-water angling. He had a power auger, a bucket full of live minnows, a pile of tip-ups, and two fine jigging rods.

It was plain to see from the assortment of fish he had on the ice that this guy was proficient, but he failed to understand why his kids were squirming, complaining, and bored of ice fishing.

Maybe he was a bit too concerned with how many and how big his fish were, instead of how much enjoyment his children were getting. The sad thing is that by the time his children are 12 or 13, they may be far too interested in television winter sports to accompany their parents for a day on the ice.

To derive the fullest benefit from any outdoor activity, you should start your youngster early, and age five or six isn't too young for ice angling. But you must do some homework to ensure their success. Here are a few guidelines.

Where to fish

One of the most important ideas is always to fish in an area you've previously scouted and have taken fish in. It's equally important to pick your days carefully. Watch the weather reports the evening before your trip, and fish only when conditions are moderate.

There's nothing worse than spending a frigid day moving your gear and your family from place to place, hoping to luck into some action. Of course, the number of fish caught should not be the measure of a

successful day, but a few fish on the line does much to keep a youngster's interest up.

Also, stay away from the trophy trips. Sure, everyone would like to latch on to a husky musky, but a 10-inch perch is almost a sure thing and may get a little one hooked on ice fishing for good.

My children, Jenny and Julie, ages six and nine, both enjoy catching panfish on their own jigging rods. Small lead spoons have accounted for dozens of their fish, and they have developed confidence in their techniques.

Julie, however, used to hate to see me bait the tip-ups with big shiners. She thought that this was low-percentage fishing, and she was not interested in flag-watching. Her negative attitude was caused in part by my failure in picking good areas for larger gamefish.

This past winter, though, we used a line of tip-ups along with our jigging holes, and the combination worked well.

By experimenting with various areas, I found a spot where the pike like to cruise, and in one afternoon we caught and released 11 northerns in the 22-inch to 24-inch class. My girls were thrilled with racing to the tip-ups, and now this technique helps break up a day of constant jigging. Julie now also understands that patience plays a big part in being a successful ice angler.

Another reason scouting missions are so essential to a small fry ice excursion is that you will be hauling a large amount of gear. You won't want to move too often with the equipment suggestions that follow.

Equipment, clothing

Because keeping warm and dry is

vitaly important, a good, sturdy seat is vital. I don't mean an upside-down bucket, which seems to be standard on most Pennsylvania lakes. We use full-size, lightweight, folding lawn chairs, even though we get our share of strange stares from other fishermen. I like them because they don't tip over easily and the kids won't slip off. We don't use the tiny camp stools, either. Dressed in bulky coats and pants it's hard for youngsters to get on and off these things.

Clothing is also a big factor in spending a comfortable day outdoors, and when you're on the ice, you really can't bring too much extra.

Gloves, hats, scarves and socks are items that definitely get soaked but can be changed without much trouble. Wet clothing must be monitored closely to avoid frostbite, and to help guard against it, bring along a jar of petroleum jelly. Applied to hands, nose, cheeks, and ears, this thin layer of insulation helps prevent frostbite and chapped, wind-burned skin on both adults and youngsters.

Keeping warm is the main objective for ice anglers, so a shelter of any kind can be a welcome addition to your gear. Whether it's just a tarp or plywood deflector or an actual ice shanty or tent, these enclosures extend the amount of time you and your family can spend on the ice.

During the past two seasons, we have been using a small tent, and in addition to the big benefit of blocking the wind, it also absorbs the sun's rays, making the interior 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the outside air.

Chow

Another consideration on cold days is warm food, and my kids love hot chocolate and hot dogs. A small



of flag-watching, especially when eating, cooking, and warming up in the tent. It seems as if nothing much ever happens until one of them is settled comfortably in her chair, with food and drink in hand. It's always then that the flags start flying. PA

propane stove has become a top priority on our ice fishing list along with a kettle, frying pan, and more instant cocoa than you think you'll ever use. My two daughters go through this stuff like it's free.

This kind of food is fast and easy to prepare, and will fuel a body to deal with the cold temperatures. We've even brought along pre-cooked hamburgers, chili, and home fries, and these meals are often the highlight of the day.

To transport all this stuff, we use sturdy plastic toboggans, and when the fish don't bite, you can always use these sleds for their intended purpose.

Julie and Jenny each have their own lightweight toboggans, and on our trips they're expected to get them from the car to the ice and back. Each sled is loaded with a small duffle bag filled with their clothes, plus hand warmers, hot seats, snow shovels, and fishing equipment.

Aside from cutting holes and unhooking fish, they're expected to set up their own area, keep track of all their gear, and catch their own fish.

I usually set our tip-ups in a straight line perpendicular from shore with the jigging hole closest to shore. This set-up helps the kids, because a glance in one direction is all they need to check all their baits at once. This also allows the baits to be set in progressively deeper water. When

action regularly comes from one tip-up, the others can then be set at similar depths.

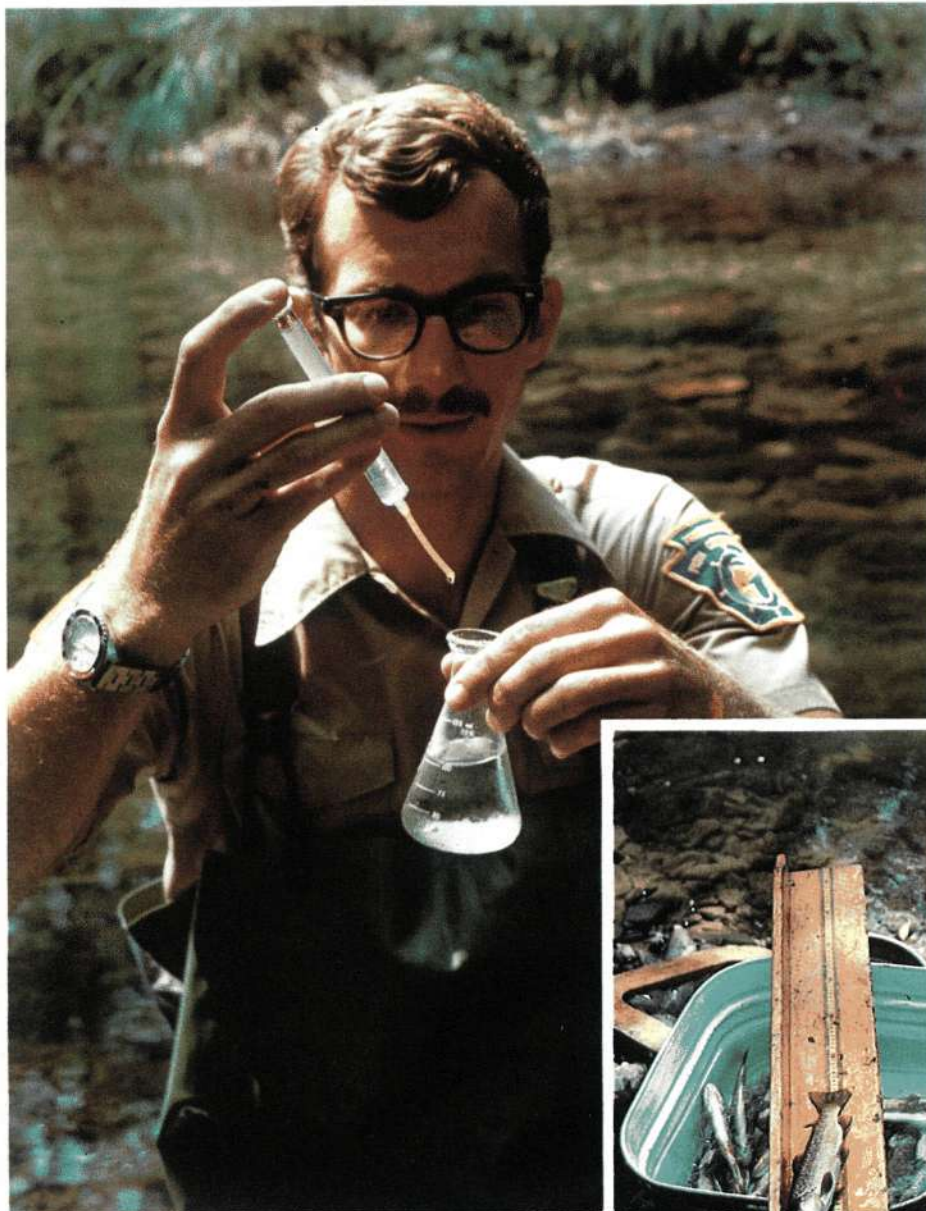
My children now get a real kick out



A full-size, lightweight folding lawn chair looks a little out of place on the ice, but it doesn't tip over easily. The kids won't slip off them, and children can be reasonably comfortable in them.

What Is an “Area Fisheries Manager”?

by Richard A. Snyder



Area fisheries managers—who are they and what do they do? Within the Fisheries Management Section of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission there are seven fisheries biologists (with over 100 years of cumulative service) who are charged with the responsibility of managing the Commonwealth’s fishery resources, which encompass thousands of miles of streams and rivers and hundreds of lakes. Each biologist is referred to as an area fisheries manager (AFM) and is assigned a fisheries technician who is often the “backbone” of an area office, contributing his technical expertise and service in assisting the AFM in managing the water resource.

Each AFM is responsible for the fisheries in an assigned region or area, often including several watersheds. Rather than differentiate fisheries areas on a county basis, especially because flowing waters do not necessarily ad-



Above left, AFM Mike Kaufmann samples a stream’s water for analysis. Above, the author conducts a survey of trout.



AFM Blake Weirich uses a pH kit to test the water in his area.

here to county lines, major drainage basins and then subbasins are defined to delineate areas of responsibilities. For example, Fisheries Management Area 5, one of the easier defined areas, contains the Delaware River upstream of and including the Lehigh River and all tributaries therein. That takes in all or parts of 10 counties.

Such coverage is not unusual in Pennsylvania. In some states with larger conservation agencies but perhaps less independence due to receiving general tax monies, an AFM might have only one or two counties. Because Fish Commission management areas are so large, there is a good chance that the general angling public may have relatively little knowledge or contact with this group of Commission field employees.

The map shows the seven management areas and the headquarters for each area office. Attempts were made to locate the offices at other Commission facilities, especially where mechanical and electrical support services would be available. Three offices (Tionesta, Huntsdale, and Pleasant Gap) are located at Commission fish culture stations, and two others (Somerset and Sweet Valley) are located at regional law enforcement offices where Commission maintenance personnel are also headquartered. The remaining two offices are located by themselves, the Bushkill office in a building owned by the National Park Service near the Delaware River in Monroe County, and the Revere office in a building owned by

the DER Bureau of State Parks in Nockamixon State Park, in Bucks County.

Ideally, the AFM, within the Commission's overall mission, monitors the well-being of fish populations, initiates action to provide for protection and enhancement of the resource, provides programs (stocking and regulations included) for varied and continued angling opportunity for Commonwealth anglers, evaluates results from previous recommendations and action, and informs the angling public and others who may in some way have an impact on the resource, of the quality and

quantity of the fisheries in the Commonwealth.

Routine field work might involve a stream survey collecting fish (via electrofishing), testing water with electronic meters and chemical solutions, and examining in the field and perhaps later microscopically in the office lab the invertebrate or stream bottom life collected by nets and by hand-picking rocks and instream vegetation. The size (width) of the stream would also be determined, as well as the degree of bank erosion, bankside vegetation, stream bottom composition, and shade over the stream channel. Then back at the office, perhaps after a visit to the county courthouse to review tax map ownership of the stream banks, ownership and accessibility can be determined.

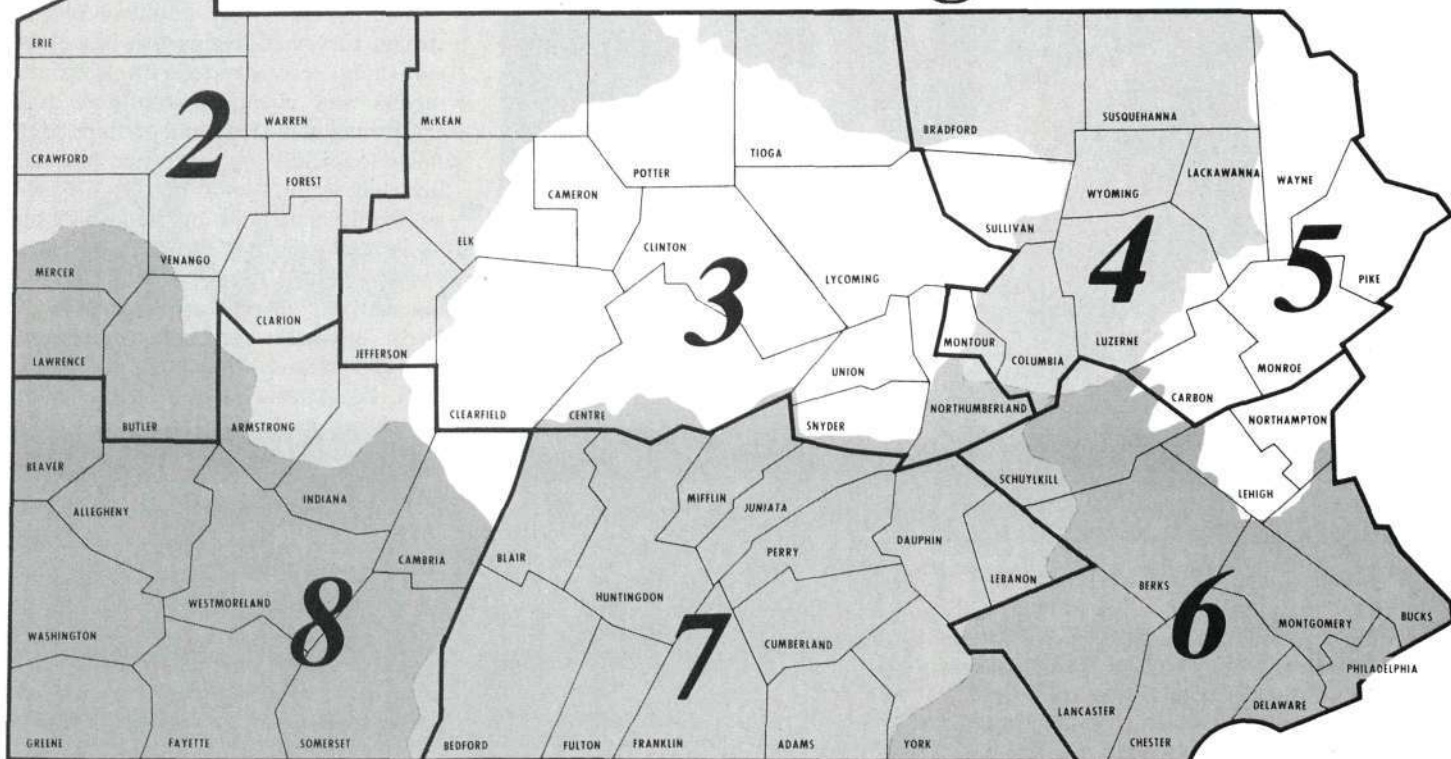
Monitoring water quality

Following such an examination on the lower reaches of Letort Spring Run at Carlisle, for example, the AFM determined that an improved sewage system was enabling the water quality to improve to the point where a trout fishery seemed possible. Following the survey, a recommendation was made to establish a trout fishery through stocking. Consideration of stocking catchable-sized trout was viewed as unwise because of the immediate angling pressure often following such management and that access was restricted (mostly major highways) along the stream. Rather, maintenance stockings of fingerlings were recommended, and



AFM Bruce Hollender and Fisheries Technician Robert E. Wilberding survey a stream in their area.

Fisheries Manager Areas



Pennsylvania Fish Commission Area Fisheries Managers

Area 2: Ronald Lee, Box 1, Route 2, Tionesta, PA 16353.

Area 3: Bruce A. Hollender, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823-9616.

Area 4: David W. Daniels, Box 88 Sweet Valley, PA 18656.

Area 5: Craig W. Billingsley, PA Fish Commission, Bushkill, PA 18324.

Area 6: Michael L. Kaufmann, Box 556, Revere, PA 18953.

Area 7: Lawrence L. Jackson, RD 5, Box 393, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Area 8: Blake C. Weirich, RD 2, Box 39, Somerset, PA 15501-9311.

photos by Russ Gettig



AFM Ron Lee surveys a lake-run steelhead at Presque Isle Bay's Niagara Access ramp.

some 3,000 fall-stocked fingerling brown trout were stocked.

According to follow-up electrofishing and reports from area anglers, the maintenance stocking of fingerlings is providing a worthy recreational angling program for the area.

Special regulations program started

In Washington County, for new Cross Creek Lake, the AFM initiated a stocking program to provide for a largemouth bass and sunfish population, which, with the excellent habitat and fertility, should provide a fine sport fishery. The potential for a really good fishery encouraged the AFM to develop special regulations (high size limit on the bass and reduced creel limit on the panfish) to give anglers a fishing spot offering more than the average often found where conventional regulations are imposed. The project also included an angler survey the first year to monitor catches and to access angler attitudes toward such management.

Tending nets at night

Diagonally across the state, an AFM and crew spent several spring nights tending nets in the Delaware River during the shad run. By the light of gas lanterns, netted shad were then spawned, with the eggs (some 6 million) being transported to a Commission fish culture station. Resulting fry and fingerling shad were then stocked as part of the Commission's shad restoration effort in the Schuylkill, Lehigh, and Susquehanna rivers.

Reviewing proposals

Another AFM, involved in the review of a proposal for rebuilding a dam on a small trout-stocked stream in Chester County, studied the merits of maintaining a free-flowing stream, weighing pros and cons of re-establishing a small lake fishery on a stream in a watershed prone to experiencing considerable siltation. The projection of the quality and quantity offered by both types of fisheries was considered.

One of the unpleasant but necessary aspects of the AFM's job is to participate in the investigation of fish kills and the legal proceedings that follow. Obviously, we would prefer that such incidents don't occur, but when they do, the investigation can become equally frustrating.

Sharing information

On the other side of the coin, welcomed activities sometimes include attending sportsmen's meetings or shows where information can be shared with fellow anglers. Having fishermen accompany an electrofishing crew often results in someone shaking his head and saying, "I had no idea that so many stocked trout were left in the stream two months after opening day."

Imagine the desire of an area fisheries manager to show anglers nice fish on a recent electrofishing of French Creek in northwestern Pennsylvania when no one was around to see four muskellunge (two legal-sized ones), a walleye weighing over 11 pounds (33 inches), five northern pike (one of 30 inches), and several smallmouth bass (one over 17 inches long)—all taken in a short stretch of stream!

Gathering data

All AFMs spend considerable time collecting information on the social, chemical, physical, thermal, and biological components of every stream section stocked with catchable-sized trout. The resulting information, representing over 5,000 miles of flowing water, took seven years of field work and is now used (with updates) in the trout stream classification system. The information is constantly referenced by the AFMs to determine positions and courses of action for numerous environmental activities, such as mining, bridge construction, pipeline routing, and other encroachments.

Other specific activities for an AFM in a busy week might include electrofishing and chemical analysis of data relevant to the fish population, advising a homeowner of the legalities involved in treating (herbicide) a farm pond for weeds, formulating a television program on a stream survey, and testifying before a joint legislative committee regarding the effects of acid precipitation.

Knowledge gained from formal course work, plus that gained through years of experience, is put to good use. Textbook information is useful, but many things, such as how to mend a gill net or field repairs of electrofishing generators and outboard motors, are learned on the job.

Even after a week of trapnetting and electrofishing, and handling sometimes thousands of fish, several of the group

think nothing of grabbing their personal fishing gear and heading for some favorite spot. After all, having an interest in fishing contributed to their pursuing a career in conservation. Depending on the fisheries in their respective areas, some pursue a variety of fishes. One enjoys spring shad fishing with occasional trips for panfish and walleye, another is an avid brook trout/flathead catfish angler (talk about a unique combination!), and a third is learning to be a successful striped bass angler at Raystown Lake. The important aspect is that, like the worker in an automobile factory, an AFM has the opportunity to "test the water" on a fishery he may be managing.

Cooperating with others

AFMs also interact with representatives of a host of agencies at the federal, state, county, and local levels to see that activities by these groups are in harmony with the resource. The AFM might be involved with other Commission personnel, representing engineering, boating, hatchery, cooperative nursery, law enforcement, habitat improvement, administrative, and information efforts regarding fisheries in his area.

Answering inquiries

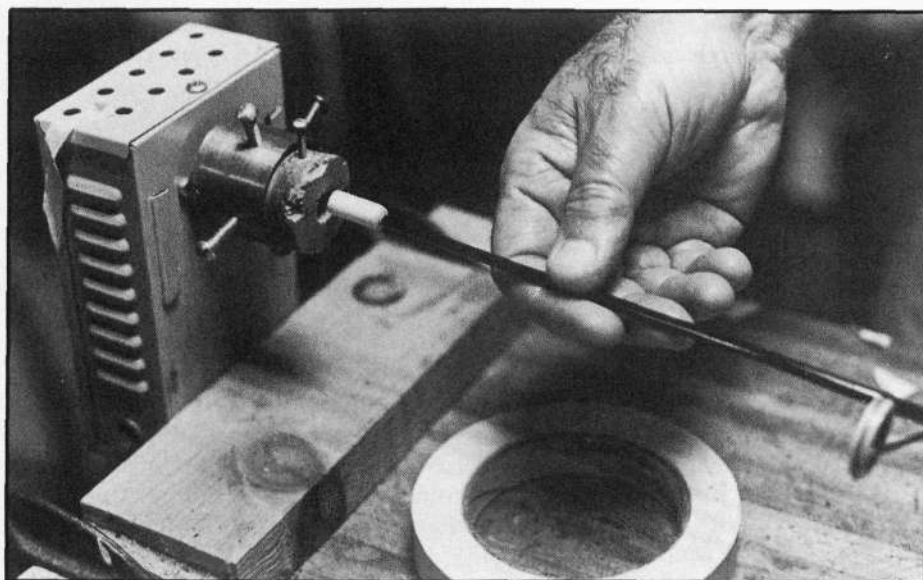
Considerable time is spent answering phone and mail inquiries from the general public. Topics range from how to identify a strange-looking fish washed up on the shores of Harvey's Lake (it turned out to be a dead shark illegally discarded from someone's recent deep-sea trip) to "tell me everything there is to know about fishes in the Susquehanna River," to "when are you stocking stream X?"

The chicken and roast beef banquet circuit involves the AFM and is another way contact with the angling public is fostered. Some have programs with college and universities for utilizing students in an intern program in which the student actively works in a fisheries setting while earning college credits at little or no cost to the Commission.

All in all, Pennsylvania's seven AFMs are biologists whose varied work contributes much to the goals of the Fish Commission. PA

Richard A. Snyder is chief of the Commission Fisheries Management Section in the Division of Fisheries. He supervises the area fisheries managers.

A HOMEMADE ROD GUIDE WRAPPER



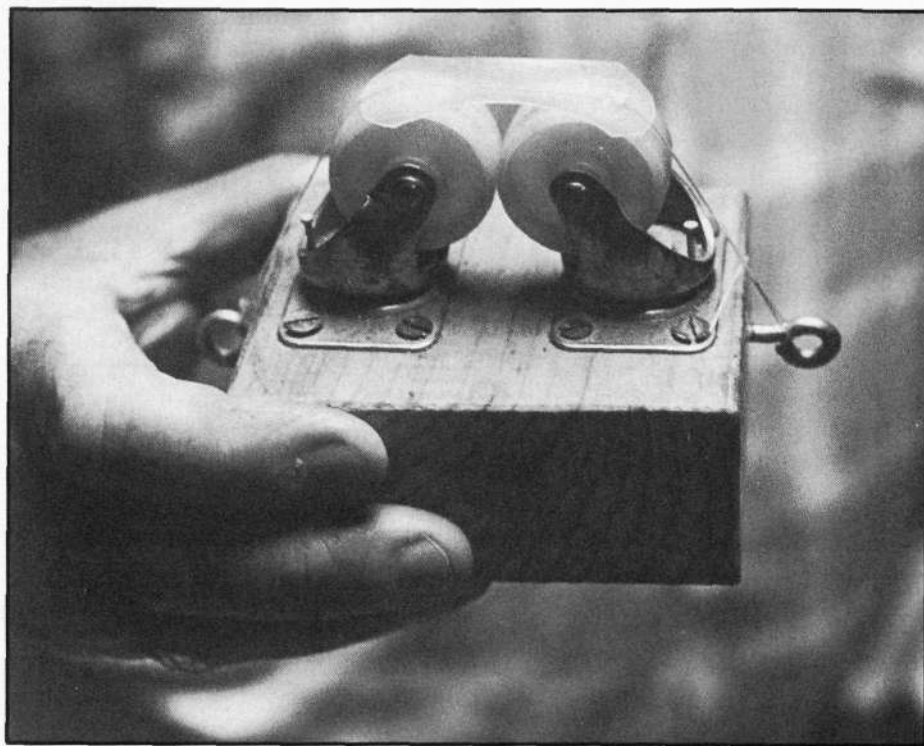
BY SAM EVERETT

photos by the author

Landng a big fish with a home-made custom-built rod is a greatly satisfying venture, and one part of this experience is wrapping the guides and applying finish to the rod. Here's how to build an inexpensive device that easily lets you wrap the rod guides and apply a professional-looking finish every time. You could also use this setup for repairing a rod's guides.

The device consists of two parts: a rotisserie motor that's specially adapted and a block steadier that lets the rod blank turn smoothly and evenly.

1. The rotisserie motor attached to the end of the workbench. Tape the rod blank end with masking tape to protect it and to hold it better in the cork.

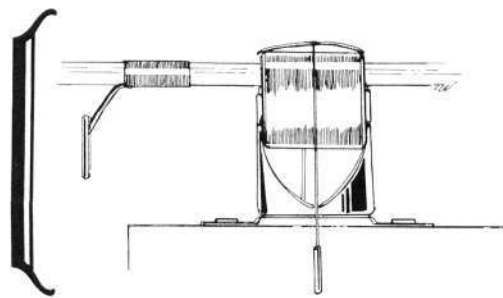


2. Here's the device for steadying the rod blank while it turns. Two one-inch wheels are mounted on a piece of 2x4, and the plastic cut from a six-pack holder keeps the rod gently in place.

Set up the rotisserie motor first. You'll need to use one from an old rotisserie or from a grill with a rotisserie attachment, because finding just a rotisserie motor is difficult. When you get one, check its speed to determine its usefulness. One that makes a revolution in about 10 seconds works fine, but if you're not yet a skilled rod wrapper, find a rotisserie motor that moves

slower, closer to 14 seconds per revolution, a gadget-minded friend may be able to slow a fast rotisserie motor for you, so look into this prospect if your motor is too quick.

Another alternative with a fast motor, especially if you find them hard to get, is practicing so that you master the rod wrapping techniques with greater speed and dexterity.



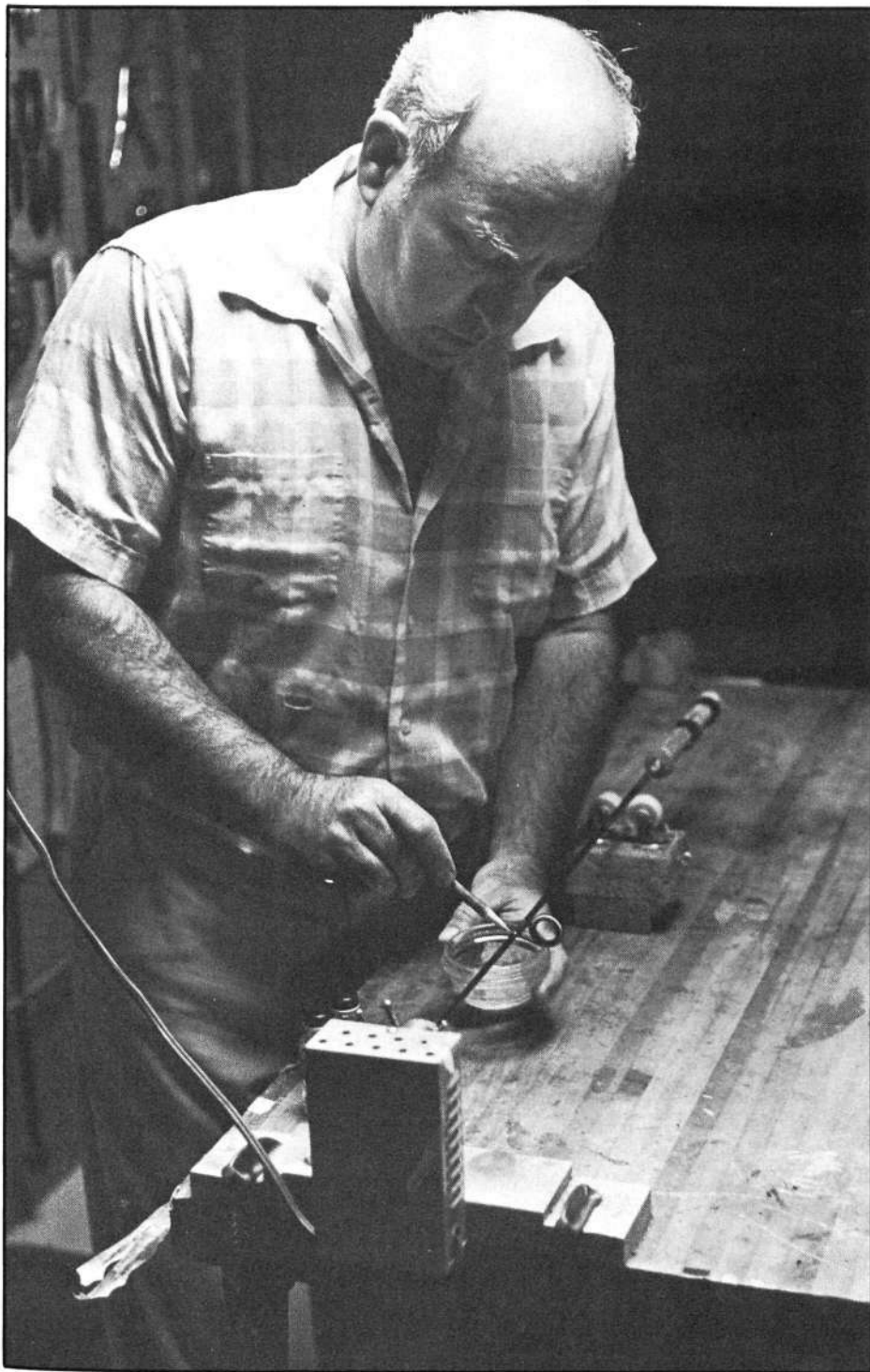
Mount the motor on the end of a rock-steady workbench. You'll need a foot-long 1x3 furring strip. Bolt the motor to the wood, and attach it securely to the workbench with two 4-inch C-clamps. I beveled off the ends of the furring strips to set the C-clamps lower. This step is optional. In this way, when you need your workbench for other things, you can easily remove the device and re-attach it.

I also fitted the turning part of the rotisserie motor with a 1½-inch diameter hood in which I mounted four one-inch size 8 bolts. These bolts hold a cork in which I place the rod blank. I wrap the blank with masking tape to protect it and to ensure a steady fit while I work on it (see photo 1).

I use the rotisserie motor in combination with a holder that keeps the other end of the rod blank steady. Start with a 3-inch or 4-inch 2x4, and drill a half-inch hole through the middle, but don't drill completely through the middle to the other side. Then pour molten lead in the hole, let it cool, and seal the end with plastic wood compound. This weight steadies the holder. On top, mount two movable wheels, like those you'd buy for light tables and benches.

One-inch diameter wheels are fine. Screw them to the wood, but use finishing nails to brace the wheels in one position. Mount the wheels so that they just barely touch, and be sure to line them up evenly. On both sides of the block, screw one-inch eye bolts. To hold the rod blank firmly on the support, but also to let it turn freely, I use a piece of plastic cut from a six-pack holder, and I attach it to the wheels with 12-pound-test mono (see photo 2).

Photo 3 shows the device in operation. I can wrap guides on just about any rod blank with this setup. I simply let the rotisserie turn the rod until the glue is dry. It uses hardly any electricity, and because the rod is moving constantly, the wrap is smooth as can be.



3. Here's the whole thing in operation. Apply glue to the rod wrappings with a quarter-inch dowel that's been honed in a pencil sharpener.

PA

County Features

Carbon and Monroe Counties

by Andrew Toms

Carbon and Monroe counties are located in the heart of the Pocono Mountains and provide a varied, year-round fishery that includes brown, brook, rainbow and lake trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, American shad, muskellunge, chain and redbfin pickerel, channel and white catfish, walleye, perch and panfish.

Monroe County

Brodhead Creek

Many angling historians consider the Brodhead to be the cradle of American fly fishing. Originally called the Analomink by Delaware Indians who inhabited the Pocono region, the stream was renamed in the 1730s after Captain Daniel Brodhead, a settler who purchased 1,500 acres in the Analomink Valley from the sons of William Penn.

Twin hurricanes Connie and Diane dumped more than 14 inches of rain on eastern Pennsylvania in 1955 and completely changed the nature of the Brodhead and many other Monroe County streams. Aquatic life all but disappeared from the Brodhead for several years, stream channels were altered, and the creek was widened and re-channelled in the town of Stroudsburg, where flood damage was considerable.

The Brodhead has rebounded during the last three decades, and fishing has improved, although the best section of the stream is under private ownership. Fishing above Analomink is strictly limited to members of various rod and gun clubs. Below Analomink, the Brodhead is open to public fishing for approximately 8½ miles. Although there is not one particular road that parallels the stream, access to the Brodhead can be gained by following Route 191 north out of Stroudsburg.

The Brodhead's public waters are relatively fast-flowing and contain a diverse aquatic life with mayflies, stoneflies, and caddises all present. Brown and rainbow trout are annually stocked by the Fish Commission, and fishing is best from the beginning of the season through May and again from mid-September through February. A lot of trout are taken during the winter.

Bait fishing with fathead minnows is particularly effective, although worms and spinners also produce. Fly hatches are sporadic. The Brodhead is not considered to be good trout water below Stroudsburg because of effluents released from three sewage treatment facilities that raise water temperatures. The Brodhead empties into the Delaware River about two miles below Stroudsburg. Standard trout fishing tackle and ultralight gear is good here.

Bushkill Creek

Originating in Pecks Pond in Pike County, the Bushkill flows southeast into Monroe County before entering the Delaware River at the hamlet of Bushkill.

Undoubtedly one of the most aesthetic streams in eastern Pennsylvania, the Bushkill flows through forests of hemlock and pine and contains many good pools and swift runs.

There are two 6-mile sections of the stream open to public fishing. One is located north of Resica Falls, a picturesque cascade of water located on a large tract of land owned by the Boy Scouts of America. Resica Falls is located along Route 402, approximately 8 miles north of Marshalls Creek.

Fishing in the six-mile stretch above the falls is limited to fly fishing only. From opening day, try Mickey Finns, Muddler Minnows, and black-nose daces. Wets are also good. A black stonefly, light Hendrickson, Hare's Ear, and blue Quill in sizes 12-14 (try the blue Quill in size 16) are good bets. Fishing is not permitted 200 yards above or below the falls.

The other six-mile portion of the Bushkill can be reached by taking Route 209 north out of Marshalls Creek. You can pick up the stream at Bushkill and follow its meandering course on local roads.

The Bushkill is strictly a seasonal trout stream. When summer arrives, the creek's trout enter cooler tributaries or migrate downstream to the deeper Delaware River. Rock bass, eels, and redbreast sunfish become the main fare in the lower Bushkill during June, July, and August.

The best trout baits are fathead minnows and worms. A variety of stoneflies, mayflies, and caddises are present, as well as a good population of hellgrammites. Fly fishing is popular on the Bushkill's lower and upper stretches in the spring and fall.

McMichael's Creek

Relatively wide and not particularly fast, McMichael's Creek is open to public fishing from Sciota to Stroudsburg, where it empties into the Brodhead under the Interstate 80 bridge. Much of the stocked portion of the stream is not paralleled by roads, but access can be gained from Route 209 at Sciota or Route 33 at Snydersville. The creek above Sciota is mostly under private ownership.

Thanks to a fair amount of aquatic life and good water conditions, some natural reproduction of brown trout takes place in the McMichael's, but the majority of fish caught there are the result of pre-season and in-season stockings.

A variety of baits and lures works on the McMichael's, but the most popular trio is salmon eggs, worms, and spinners, particularly Mepps, Rooster Tails, CP Swings,



American shad are available in the Delaware River every spring. These superb light-tackle battlers offer a unique brand of fishing.

and Flicker spinners. The best times of the year for fishing are spring and fall.

Pocono Creek

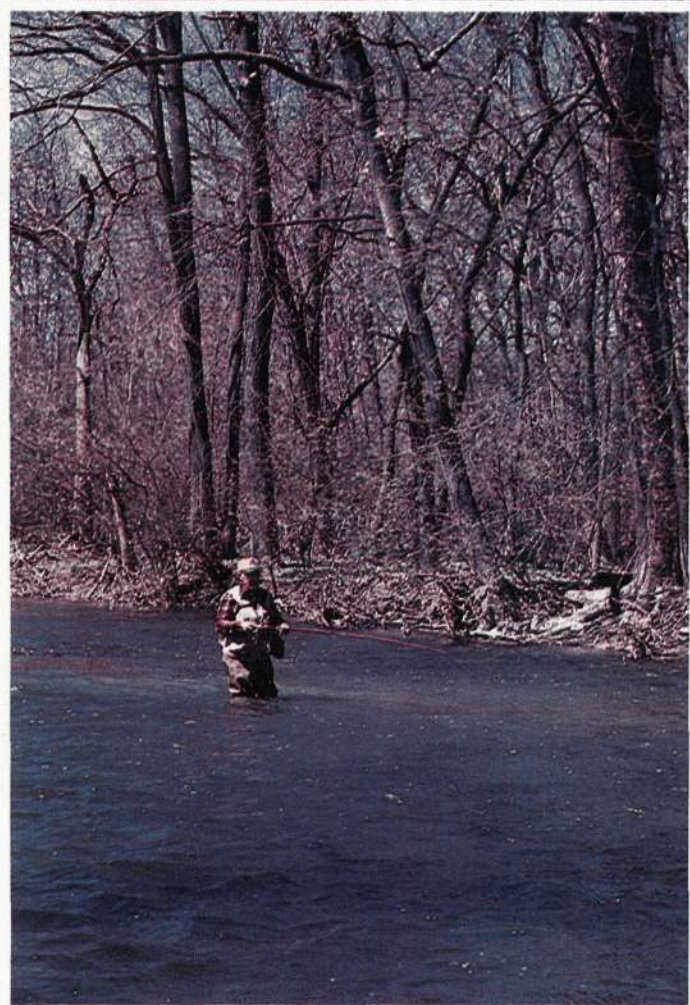
Originating in the forests of Camelback Ski Resort, Pocono Creek flows southeast toward Stroudsburg and contains excellent trout fishing in certain locations. Although it is stocked only in the vicinity of Stroudsburg, the Pocono contains wild brown and brook trout populations around Tannersville. Access to the stream, which flows into McMichael's Creek in Stroudsburg, can be gained along routes 715 and 611.

Good fishing is available right behind Stroudsburg High School, where the stream harbors surprisingly good mayfly populations. The high school lot can be used for parking. Fishing is best in the spring, but fall angling also produces good catches of brown trout. Worms, minnows, and spinners are good bets, as well as salmon eggs and flies.

Pohopoco Creek

The Pohopoco originates in the forests of Monroe County but follows a westerly course before entering Beltzville Lake in Carbon County.

Although it is strictly a trout water north of the lake, below the impoundment, the Pohopoco contains walleye,



Monroe and Carbon counties offer several waterways with special regulations that provide special trout fishing experiences. Consult the 1986 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws for the location of these places, beginning on page 14.

Carbon and Monroe counties are in the heart of the Pocono Mountain area. The counties provide year-round fishing for trout with good action for warmwater species. Both counties received about 130,000 trout in preseason and inseason stockings in 1985.



channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and an occasional tiger muskellunge, as well as brown and rainbow trout stocked by the Fish Commission. The "oddball" species in the Pohopoco are the results of water releases from Beltzville Lake.

The portion of the stream above Beltzville Lake is managed as wild trout water at landowner request. An excellent variety of aquatic life is present there. This portion of the Pohopoco can be reached by following Route 209 north out of Kresgeville. Route 209 also crosses the creek just east of Gilbert. The flow in this section of stream is moderate.

Below Beltzville Dam, the Pohopoco picks up speed below entering the Lehigh River near Lehigh. Because this portion is regulated by water releases from the dam, cooler water temperatures can be maintained, and as a result, the Pohopoco supports a good year-round trout fishery. A lot of large brown trout are annually caught in this section. Twenty-inch fish, some of which have come out of Beltzville Lake, are not uncommon.

Bait fishing is the best bet in the Pohopoco's lower stretch, with minnows and worms accounting for most of the fish that are caught. The upper section of the creek, above Beltzville, is excellent for fly fishing.

Tobyhanna Creek

Six miles of this beautiful stream are open to public fishing, from its source in Tobyhanna Lake to Gamelands 127. The creek is accessible by following Route 423 southwest of Tobyhanna.

Tobyhanna Creek is larger than most freestone streams in the county, but it does not support trout on a year-round basis. When warm weather arrives, the creek's trout head for smaller tributaries like Frame Cabin Run and Kistler Run, where excellent aquatic life affords good fly fishing.

In the spring, fall, and winter, however, Tobyhanna Creek offers top-notch trout angling, particularly in

Gamelands 127 where anglers must walk in to find fish.

The last mile of stocked water is under delayed-harvest regulations and is posted as such. Anglers should check the summary of regulations and laws for all the particular rules. There is a good brook trout population in Tobyhanna Creek, so a variety of lures can be used to catch fish, including minnows, salmon eggs, worms, and spinners. Artificial-lures-only is the rule in the delayed-harvest section.

Delaware River

The Monroe County portion of this top-notch waterway begins at Bushkill and ends at the Delaware Water Gap, a distance of some 15 river miles.

By far the most popular type of angling in the Delaware is shad fishing, which usually begins in Monroe County in the last week of April and continues through June when the fish are spawning in many of the river's pools and riffles.

Shad fishing reaches its peak in Monroe County around the 10th of May, but good fishing can be enjoyed until the end of the month, when the shad begin to enter their spawning stage.

There is one public boat launch in the county, located about three miles north of Shawnee-on-the-Delaware at Smithfield Beach. A large site, Smithfield Beach is fully equipped with bath houses, picnic areas, a swimming beach, and a two-lane launch ramp. There is parking available for more than 100 cars. The site is maintained by the Department of the Interior as part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Shad fishing is best between daybreak and 10 a.m., and again from 3 p.m. until dusk. But when the fish are migrating, they can really be caught at any time of the day. During their spawning period, however, the best fishing is in the late afternoon and very early morning.

To catch shad, try shad darts of any color combination or small spinners such as CP Swings and Flicker Spinners.

Gold is a must when choosing the blade color.

The Delaware is also home to many other species, including walleye, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, eels, white catfish, carp, white suckers, and trout.

The Fish Commission stocked 1.2 million walleye fry in Monroe County waters of the Delaware in 1984 (60 million in the river overall) and the results should begin to show up in another year or so. There are already walleye in the river, but they have proven to be difficult to catch. The deep pool at the Water Gap has produced 9-pound specimens in recent years, and Wallpack Bend also yields an occasional trophy catch.

By and large, walleye are a tough number in the river. The best times of the year to try for them is spring and also fall and winter. Juvenile lamprey eels and stonecats are the top two baits, but nightcrawlers and live shiners work well, too. Jigs and trolled Rapalas are good artificials.

Musky fishing is best in the winter, when only the true die-hard attempts to navigate the Delaware's icy waters. The general area above and below Smithfield Beach has produced some 50-inch specimens in recent years, and the stretch at the Water Gap has also yielded a few monsters. The best baits are large shiners, creek chubs, or suckers.

Artificial lures include large Rapalas, Rebels, or Swim Whizzes. Inadvertently, a few muskies also fall prey to shad darts during the shad season.

Smallmouth bass fishing is best in the river's faster stretches, particularly in eddies on the flanks or rapids. No particular spot holds more smallmouth than another, although a good number of fish are annually taken in the fast water below Wallpack Bend.

Trout can be caught in the spring below the mouth of Bushkill Creek and also at the mouths of other tributaries like the Brodhead. With the advent of warmer weather, however, the trout seek the coolness of the tributaries or find deeper holes in the river. Trout fishing is not one of the river's biggest attributes in Monroe County.

Catfishing begins in late March and early April, takes a break when the river warms up in the summer, and picks up again in the fall. One of the best spots is at the point of the Water Gap, almost in line with a lookout marker located along Route 611. The best baits for the river's channel and white cats are stink baits and live minnows.

Brady's Lake

Brady's Lake lies 2½ miles off Route 940 between Blakeslee and Mt. Pocono. The 229-acre lake averages six feet in depth although there are dropoffs that go down to 15 feet. No one species dominates the fishing there, but more largemouth bass are probably caught than any other fish. Yellow perch, pickerel, and black crappies are other available species. This lake was one of the first in Pennsylvania to be stocked with tiger muskellunge, although very few are caught.

The lake's water is naturally tannic. Only electric motors are permitted.

Gouldsboro Lake

Located in Gouldsboro State Park, Gouldsboro Lake is home to largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, bluegills, black crappies, and bullheads. The lake is owned by the Fish Commission but leased to the Department of

Environmental Resources, which maintains a boat launch, swimming beach, and picnic area.

Gouldsboro Lake is scheduled to be drawn down during the upcoming summer in order that DER can repair the dam spillway and its boat mooring facility. Launching a boat may be difficult. Electric motors only are permitted on Gouldsboro Lake.

Gouldsboro Lake can be reached by taking the Route 507 north exit off Route 380. Proceed to the village of Gouldsboro and look for signs to the state park.

Snow Hill Dam

Snow Hill Dam can be reached by following Route 447 north out of Stroudsburg until you reach Snow Hill Dam Road, which you follow until you see signs directing you to the 4-acre impoundment. This Delaware State Forest Lake is stocked annually with brook trout, which can be caught with spinners, corn, salmon eggs, worms, and cheese. Snow Hill Dam also contains populations of pickerel and pumpkinseeds. A picnic area is available for family outings.

Carbon County

Aquashicola Creek

The Aquashicola originates in Monroe County and flows west along the Blue Ridge Mountains before entering Carbon County. It does not parallel any road until it crosses underneath Route 248 several miles south of Lehighton. It empties into the Lehigh River at Palmerton.

The Aquashicola is an excellent trout stream and harbors many large trout from its confluence with Buckwha Creek, southwest of Little Gap, to its headwaters. Fishing along the stream is very difficult, however, because of dense vegetation on both banks.

Because its bed is composed mostly of sand and gravel, the Aquashicola contains a diverse population of aquatic life, which in turn supports a healthy stock of wild brown trout. Mayflies, stoneflies, caddises, midges, and mosquitoes are all present. Lots of blacknose dace also dwell in the stream.

Although trout fishing is good year-round, the best times are spring and fall. The Aquashicola receives only a pre-season trout stocking. Redfin pickerel also inhabit the Aquashicola, which is not a wide stream but is deceptively deep at spots.

If you're looking for good fly fishing, this is the place to go, but bait and hardware fishermen can also work their magic here, too.

Buckwha Creek

The Buckwha Creek originates at Saylorburg, near the Carbon-Monroe County border, and flows through Kunkletown before meeting the Aquashicola.

Buckwha Creek receives pre-season and in-season stockings of brown trout and supports some natural reproduction. If water temperatures were lower during the summer, Buckwha Creek would be a good year-round fishery. As it is, however, the stream is good for trout only in the spring, fall and winter. Mayflies, stoneflies, and caddises are present, but fishermen would do best to try traditional trout baits and spinners.

Lizard Creek

A freestone stream like all others in Carbon County, Lizard Creek rises in the foothills of the Blue Mountains and flows east to the Lehigh River, which it enters at Bowmans. It parallels Route 895 for most of its length.

Lizard Creek is strictly a stocked trout water, receiving both pre-season and in-season allotments of fish. Like Buckwha Creek, Lizard Creek supports some mayflies, stoneflies, and caddises, but fly fishing takes a backseat to the use of bait and spinners.

Mahoning Creek

This stream is very similar in nature to Lizard Creek. It flows just north of Lizard Creek along Route 443 and empties into the Lehigh River south of Lehigh. It receives pre-season and in-season stockings and is best fished with live bait and artificial lures, particularly spinners.

Hickory Run

Located in Hickory Run State Park in the county's northern tier, Hickory Run originates in the park's vast boulder field, flows into and out of Hickory Run Lake, and continues on a southwest course until it meets Sand Spring Run and becomes somewhat larger.

The upper section of the stream has a low pH and is not conducive to trout fishing. But below Sand Spring, the creek begins to acquire a certain degree of alkalinity and trout become abundant. There is a 1.5-mile catch-and-release section located below the state park office that is restricted to the use of flies and artificial lures. Rubber worms and live bait are not permitted.

Part of Hickory Run isn't stocked by the Commission but is rather managed as a wild trout stream under Operation FUTURE. It is a fast stream with a very steep gradient. Minnows are not abundant although there are some black dace present. Mayflies and caddisflies comprise the majority of the creek's aquatic life.

Two other streams located near and in Hickory Run State Park that are worth mentioning are Hayes Creek, which supports a good wild brown trout fishery, and Hawk Run, a tiny, crystal-clear creek that holds surprising numbers of native brook trout. Hayes Creek is located just south of Lehigh Tannery while Hawk Run is in the confines of the state park.

Lehigh River

The Lehigh's headwaters are located north of Carbon County, but a good portion of the river flows through the county's mid-section.

Flowing out of Francis E. Walter Dam on the Carbon-Luzerne County border, the Lehigh is a swift, wide stream that is stocked with brown, brook, and rainbow trout. The river's water quality is very good until it meets downstream with Nesquehoning Creek, which carries (coal) mine acid into the Lehigh. The water quality improves somewhat in the vicinity of Jim Thorpe, where the Lehigh supports populations of rock bass and redbreast sunfish.

Rafting and canoeing are very popular along the river, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cooperates with recreationists by staging occasional water releases from Walter Dam. The Fish Commission has initiated a brown

trout fingerling program in the river, but surveys indicate that the results are as yet inconclusive.

Most of the river between Walter Dam and Nesquehoning is inaccessible by car. But it can be reached by taking the Route 534 south exit off Interstate 80. Follow the road to Lehigh Tannery, where you can gain access to the river.

Trout fishing on the Lehigh is a well-kept secret. But anglers can usually pry open the mouths of tackle shop owners in the area if they press the issue.

Beltzville Lake

The best days for this 947-acre lake may still be ahead, although it has already provided some top-drawer fishing since it was created in 1970.

With depths of up to 120 feet, Beltzville Lake was stocked in 1985 with 55,000 brown and rainbow trout fingerlings as well as 12,000 lake trout fingerlings. Toss in an additional 6,000 adult rainbow trout and 3,000 musky fingerlings, and mix in the lake's already present walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, yellow perch, and channel catfish populations, and you've got a pretty good fishery.

Trophy-sized brown trout have been caught there for several years by anglers employing downriggers equipped with lures that resemble alewives that are said to inhabit the lake.

Walleye up to 8 pounds are caught there on occasion, and a 53-inch tiger muskellunge was discovered two years ago after it had died and washed up on the lake's shoreline. Beltzville Lake has great potential.

Fed by three streams—Pohopoco Creek, Wild Creek, and Pine Run—the impoundment can be reached by following Route 209 east out of Lehigh. The lake has two boat ramps, Preachers Camp and Pine Run, and is open to craft with unlimited horsepower. The lower end of the lake, near the dam breast, is where most of the trout and smallmouth bass are caught, but there is also good trout fishing at Pine Run Cove. Trolling at depths of 40-60 feet in the summer and 20 feet in the fall seems to be the key to catching trout. The walleye are tough to find, as are the muskies, but they are there. Big channel catfish are caught in the middle portions of the lake on stink baits and live minnows.

Beltzville Lake also offers excellent ice fishing, although it is one of the last lakes in the area to freeze because of its great depths. The Preachers Camp area and the section of the lake underneath the power lines are good places to chop a few holes.

Mauch Chunk Lake

A narrow, 330-acre body of water, Mauch Chunk Lake is owned by the Fish Commission but operated as a county park. Facilities include a boat livery, picnic area and two launch ramps. The main fare at Mauch Chunk is walleye, although the lake harbors a fair largemouth bass population and also produces some nice channel cats. Trout are stocked for the winter season only. Mauch Chunk Lake offers good ice fishing for all species.

A popular lake, Mauch Chunk is located near the towns of Lansford, Summit Hill, Lehigh, and Nesquehoning. It can be reached by following Lentz Trail Road west out of Jim Thorpe.



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A Special One-Day Conference

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The conference is aimed at helping Pennsylvania sportsmen, farmers, legislators, businesspeople, and other outdoor-oriented citizens who are concerned about the impacts of encroachment of fish and wildlife habitat. Workshops cover what can be done to mitigate these effects and even improve and increase habitat.

Fish and wildlife experts will detail what we know about habitat: its preservation and enhancement, clarifying technical issues into terms which can be understood by all.

This is your opportunity to ask questions about these vanishing living spaces and to learn what you can do to develop and reclaim them.

Dr. Jay Hair of the National Wildlife Federation will be our morning keynote speaker. Following his address there will be a panel discussion on habitat from the public, governmental, sportsmen, agricultural, and industrial perspectives.

The Millersville University staff will be preparing a buffet luncheon and two coffee breaks, which are included as part

of the \$10 registration fee.

Four simultaneous workshops during the afternoon will explore wildlife habitat from the perspectives of "Wildlife in Your Backyard," which will encompass backyard habitat, small pond management, and bird feeding; "Important Spaces for Wildlife," which will deal with woodland, wetland, and farmland habitat; "Operation FUTURE: Fishery Management," which will focus on coldwater and warmwater/coolwater fisheries, and shad restoration in Pennsylvania rivers; "Effects of Toxic Contaminants and Diseases on Fish and Wildlife," will address the problems of rabies, acid rain, and toxicants.

Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, will sum up the day's activities and focus attention on what we can do to preserve habitat.

Register today!

FILL OUT AND RETURN TO:

Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, 2426 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

NAME _____

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I want to attend the following workshop: (Choose *only one* because they occur simultaneously.)

_____ Backyard Wildlife

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A map, conference materials and suggested overnight accommodations will be mailed to you on registration.



Commissioner Green Receives Award

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association has presented Commissioner Leonard A. Green the prestigious Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock Conservation Award. It is the Association's highest honor, given for outstanding accomplishments in conservation.

Association Executive Director Bob Clark said that Green has worked over the past 25 years to build a series of county youth organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

"The Plaque reads, in part, 'For outstanding dedication . . . to conservation, but Lenny's activism in support of a statewide program of youth conservation education and his concern with young people seem to stick in everyone's mind,'" said Clark.

Green, who has been National

Wildlife Federation's Eastern Region Vice President since 1983, served as the Pennsylvania Forestry Association president between 1979 and 1981. He has been cited by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for his many contributions to the state.

Green said he is especially delighted to receive the Dr. Rothrock Award, named in honor of the man who founded the Pennsylvania Forestry Association 99 years ago and who was the state's most respected forester.

Anglers Notebook *by* Sam Everett

To keep your feet warm during ice fishing excursions, wear insulated, waterproof rubber boots over two pairs of wool socks. These boots keep you warmer than insulated leather boots, even for hours in sub-zero weather.

When you venture out during the winter, be sure you keep emergency gear such as sand, chains, and a snow shovel in your car, and be sure you have a full tank of gas before you begin your trek.

Going to a sport show? Lugging around a stack of materials at a sport show without a convenient way to carry them can tire you quickly, so remember to bring a daypack or some other item in which to store catalogs, free items, and product descriptions.

When you retrieve a sinking plug, alternate reeling in fast and then slowly. This makes the lure swim enticingly up and then slightly down during the retrieve.

Look over your favorite ice-locked waterway for signs of open-water sections. These spots often reveal the location of springs. During the hottest part of summer, these areas can hold the biggest fish because the water there will be cool.

Now is the perfect time to brush up on your boating skills and learn new ones. Look for boating courses offered in your area by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, and the American Red Cross, and enroll.

Be sure to check your boat and trailer regularly during the winter. Make sure that your boat cover is secure, and that snow and ice aren't getting into places where they'll cause rust or other damage.

Always go ice fishing with at least one companion. Solo ice fishing is just too dangerous because a nasty fall on the ice, falling in, or car trouble, combined with frigid temperatures, can seriously endanger you. A partner or two is good insurance.



The best bait for catching crappies through the ice is a minnow of one inch to 1½ inches.

illustration — Ted Walke



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Regulation Roundup

by Dennis T. Guise

Most regulations considered by the Fish Commission are routine. They engender little or no public comment or interest. However, from time to time, the Commission considers regulations that it believes may stir considerable public interest. In those cases, the Commission makes extra efforts to garner public input and ideas.

Commission staff is currently examining whether the Commission should consider regulatory changes on fishing tournaments and contests. This process is in its earliest stages, but already the Commission staff is seeking input from interested groups and individuals about regulations that might take effect in 1987 or later.

Fishing tournaments and contests take many forms. One that has gained popularity in recent years is the tagged fish contest. In such an event, an angler pays an entrance fee to participate in an effort to catch a tagged fish. If the

tagged fish is caught, the participant may win a major prize. Often, the sponsors procure an insurance policy to pay the prize if the tagged fish is caught.

Tagged fish contests may already be illegal in Pennsylvania. They have all the elements of a lottery or game of chance. Success is determined by the luck of the participant rather than skill. The Department of Environmental Resources has reportedly barred such contests on state park lakes. One regulation to be considered by the Commission would ban tagged fish contests on Fish Commission property.

Most fishing tournaments involve competitions in which anglers compete to catch the largest fish or to have the highest total weight for a legal creel of fish. Such tournaments are not lotteries as are the tagged fish contests, but they do present some regulatory questions. What impacts do these tournaments, which are quite frequent, have on our fishery resources? How do tournament practices affect the targeted species and nontarget species? Should we have a permit and report system to get more information about the impacts of fishing tournaments? Should we limit the tournaments to particular seasons, or should

we limit the number of tournaments? These are some of the questions that we are reviewing.

Another area of concern is the crowding of Fish Commission access areas that sometimes results from such tournaments. Such crowding by spectators and officials may discourage other anglers who are not contestants from using the facilities for fishing and boating. Fish tournaments are held on some waters just about every weekend during the nice weather months. Is it fair to permit the competitive events to crowd out noncompetitive anglers and boaters?

Right now, Fish Commission staff is exploring these and other issues. If you have ideas or comments about the possible regulation of fishing contests and tournaments, you are invited to share them with the Fish Commission. Just write: Regulations, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. The Fish Commission welcomes your input in the regulatory process.

Dennis T. Guise is the Fish Commission chief counsel.

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"Notes from the Streams"

Hot Pursuit

Last October I assisted West Hempfield Township Police in apprehending four escapees from a juvenile detention center in Huntingdon. They had stolen a car and made their way to Lancaster County where they were pursued by police, wrecked the car, and then scampered into the forest to hide. Several police officers, the State Police helicopter, and I arrived on the scene to join in the search. After receiving instructions from the officer in charge, I made my way to my appointed spot.

Two suspects were captured in short order, but the others were not so easy. I followed the foot pursuit via my car radio. Occasionally, the tracker said that they were going in the right direction due to the sighting of bent twigs, broken grass, etc. Suddenly, one of the suspects was spooked by the helicopter and someone got a glimpse of him. The helicopter called for the nearest unit to go down to the treeline where the suspect was last seen. I looked up and discovered that the helicopter was right overhead. I walked down to the treeline that bordered a creek and teamed up with another officer. We flushed the subject out of the area and captured him.

The suspect had just crossed the creek when we apprehended him. Someone made a comment about his obvious error—he had eluded escape while on land, but he no sooner hit the water than the Fish Commission had him. The fourth suspect is still at large.—*WCO Kim D. Pritts, northern Lancaster County*

Favorite questions

After about two years as a member of the Volunteer I & E Corps, I've been asked hundreds of questions. Of all these, the two I most prefer are, "Will you show me how to do it again!" from a youngster at a PLAY Derby at Little Buffalo State Park, Perry County, and, "What can we do to help?" from a senior citizen garden club member in Franklin County after an acid rain seminar.

Both groups are resources to tap—the youngsters to perpetuate angling, and the mature citizens, whether anglers or not, who are willing to help preserve the environment for the young anglers coming on—and both appear willing to be "tapped."—*Bill Porter, Volunteer I & E Corps representative*

Rescue effort

The Election Day flood along the Monongahela River last November put the river over 12 feet above flood stage in places and cost millions of dollars in property damage all through the valley. But thanks to three Fayette County residents, some of the river's gamefish got a second chance.

John Jenkins, a gas company employee, called me several days after the flood and told me of three young men involved in a rescue effort on the Fayette County side of the river near Naomi. They were taking fish from the pools left by the receding flood waters and returning them to the river via buckets and a very muddy pickup truck. Frank Prokopovitch, Ron Chip-lasky, and Chuck Lloyd, sportsmen of the Monongahela Valley, I salute you and thank you.—*WCO L. J. Haas, Greene County*

Jaws

While investigating a report of a fish kill, I discovered that someone had dumped the remains of several salt-water fish into a stream after filleting them. It reminded me of a similar situation encountered by one of my deputies. He was a little nervous for his first pollution investigation, but as he approached the stream, he became even more disturbed—The first fish he found was a 4-foot shark!—*Kim D. Pritts, WCO, northern Lancaster County*

"Creasy—Wayne Creasy"

DWCO Wayne Creasy and I were manning the Fish Commission exhibit one afternoon at the Bloomsburg Fair last September. A boy of about 8 years old stepped up to Deputy Creasy and asked about PLAY. Creasy explained the program to him as they filled out the PLAY membership application. The boy offered his name and address with ZIP code help from his parents.

". . . and you also get a packet of materials, like this patch."

"What's *your* name," the boy inter-

rupted, smiling devilishly.

"Creasy. Wayne Creasy."

They completed the application, and the boy's smiling parents began to lead him away from the exhibit.

"Bye," said Deputy Creasy.

"Bye, Mr. Crazy!"

"Creasy. Wayne Creasy"

Art Michaels, editor, Pennsylvania Angler and Boat Pennsylvania

At the movies

Soon after assignment to my new district, we apprehended a person for fishing without a license. He never sent in money for the field acknowledgement, so a citation was sent. He never answered the citation, so a warrant for his arrest was issued. We tried for months to locate him, but couldn't find him. One of the officers went to see the movie, "Witness," when it came to Lancaster. The film "Witness" was made in Lancaster County, and you'll never guess who he saw in a lineup *in the movie*. It was the person we sought for fishing without a license. Needless to say, that person was located and the warrant was served. Being a movie star doesn't always pay off.—*WCO James W. Wagner, southern Lancaster County*

School daze

Life as a member of the Volunteer I & E Corps is not without its dangerous moments. For example, a youngster once spilled my tackle box at a program in a Cumberland County elementary school. Lures flew everywhere, including one in my backside through my uniform pants. The teacher was in the process of removing the offending barb when the principal walked by the open classroom door. He turned, walked by again, popped his head in the door, smiled as only principals can smile, and continued his rounds.—*Bill Porter, Volunteer I & E Corps representative*

Cats

Ken Bolich, of Orwigsburg, was fishing in Maiden Creek near a farmer's backyard when he was greeted by the farmer's cat, which sat a few feet away and watched him fish. It wasn't long before Ken hooked a trout of about 12 inches long and pulled in onto the bank. The cat, which probably had some experience in this area, immediately pounced on the fish, and headed for the

barn, tearing off Ken's line in the process. By the time he put on another hook and started to fish, a different cat was sitting at the same spot and watched as the first did. After a time, Ken hooked another fish, this time a 10-inch sucker. A repeat performance ensued when this fish was flipped onto the bank, and the new cat scampered off to the barn with his booty. Ken didn't mind sharing his catch, but was grateful that the farmer only had two cats.—*WCO Fred Mussel, Lehigh County*

Scenes from a marriage

Last year, while patrolling Opossum Lake before the opening of trout season, I saw a man fishing near the dam. I approached this fisherman and he stated something to the effect that, "I think I may have a problem," to which I replied, "that's correct."

"This is probably going to cost me some money, right?" he said, and again I replied, "affirmative."

"I should have known there was some reason why no one else was fishing on a day like this," he commented.

After taking care of the necessary paperwork, I explained that he could still go fishing, but not in approved trout waters. About a week later I received a check to cover the fine and this note from the man's wife: "Just a note to thank you for giving my husband a citation on Sunday. The only reason he went fishing was because he was mad at me! Ha! You made my day!"—*WCO Larry Boor, Cumberland County*

Double your pleasure

On October 6, 1985, Chris Wildt of Bethlehem and Jack Harrington of Freemansburg were fishing at Beltzville Lake in Carbon County. Both were using nightcrawlers while drift fishing from the same boat. Getting hits simultaneously, both anglers landed their catches, or in this case, catch. Both had caught the same fish, a 10-pound, 27½-inch walleye! The fish was officially weighed and measured, and the information was submitted for a joint Angler Award by Outdoor Life Sport Shop in Bethlehem. Included now in the history of the Commission Angler Award program is a "shared" Angler Award—*Steve Ulsh, information specialist, Harrisburg headquarters*



Mettle for metal

The discarded lawnmower pictured above was found by Ohioan Harold Walker with friends while fishing the "Hodge" area of the Allegheny Reservoir, Warren County. While fishing, they discovered a feeding porcupine, and soon after observing the animal, they realized that it was eating the aluminum engine block of the mower. Further investigation by the U.S. Forest Service and the Pinegrove Sportsmen's Club revealed that this same animal has eaten some aluminum signs. District Game Protector Dave Snyder has also observed this same porcupine chomping on the lawnmower.—*DWCO Spear X. Proukou, Warren County (and president, Pinegrove Sportsmen's Club, Russell, PA)*



**You have a fishing
friend in Pennsylvania**