



East Branch

Newsletter of the
Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club

March 27, 2017

Volume 22, Issue 2

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Did You Know?

Tiger Trout result when female Brown Trout and male Brook Trout spawn

Tiger Trout are sterile and do not spawn

The world record Tiger Trout is 20lbs 13oz caught on August 12, 1978



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

** Attention BTCC Members **

All 2016 Memberships will expire on March 31, 2017!!
Please include or update your email address when filling out your 2017 membership form.

B.T.C.C. Kids Fishing Clinic

This years Kids Fishing Clinic was held at the Moose Lodge in Downingtown on March 18th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We had a decent turnout and all of the kids were able to pick a raffle prize at the end of the event. There various fishing bags, push button rods, spin cast rods, little shorty rods, as well as various gear that can be used to fish the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek and Beaver Creek

Joe Petrella started off the Kids Fishing Clinic with his power point presentation and kept the kids interested with his vast knowledge of fishing the East Branch. Joe's photo's are awesome and they help keep the kids interested in learning about the club, the trout we stock, as well as good spots to fish along the East Branch.

PF&BC Water Conservation Officer(WCO) Bob Bonney was able to stop by and talk to the kids about fishing regulations as well as taking care of the stream, and always take you trash home with you when you are done fishing.

Vince Talucci was up at an early hour and headed to a local trout club and was able to catch a few trout for his presentation. Vince showed the adults and kids how to field dress or filet your catch if you plan on keeping a trout ot two for the dinner table.

B.T.C.C. Kids Only Trout Rodeo

On Saturday April 15th participant registration will begin at 8:00 am for the 8th annual BTCC Kids Only Trout Rodeo. The rodeo will begin at 9am and will end at 2:00 PM. This event will be free to children 15 yrs of age and younger, but we ask for a small donation to the club for our efforts. BTCC Junior memberships will also be available at the event for \$10.00.

Average size Trout along with some Trophy Trout will be stocked in Kerr Park from the Lions Pavilion upstream to the Buttonwoods. The kids involved with the rodeo should do their own casting and landing of fish with limited help from their parents. This event is for the kids to learn the basic skills of angling and to help them gain a sense of accomplishment and pride.

BTCC members will be available to lend parents and children a hand with casting, baiting of the hook, landing of Trout, and any other help that may be required. Fish cleaning will also be available for a small donation.

Our club has very few junior members and as most of you know, and valuable outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, are not being included into their lives. Our club aims to promote not only fishing, but also encourages respect and responsibility for the natural world.



President's Message by Frank G. Swamer III

There was a nice turn out for the Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club's general meeting on January 26, 2017. It was nice seeing everyone again and it was a pleasure meeting some new members as well as seeing a few new faces. Some just joined the club recently and others just moved into the area and are looking to learn the East Branch of the Brandywine and help the club out when we have our work days.

Bob Bonney gave us an update on the local streams and we are very lucky to have Bob as our Water Conservation Officer. Bob does a lot more than people realize. For instance, last season a long stretch of French Creek below the covered bridge was not going to be stocked or open to fishing this season because the landowner is tired of people not caring about having the privilege to use his property, littering, and being flat out rude to his face. Bob took the time out of his very busy schedule to talk to the landowner and was able to change his mind about posting his property and closing it to stocking and fishing. This is just one example out of many of the things that Bob does to help us fisherman and women so we can have an enjoyable time on the stream with friends and family. The next time you see Bob, please thank him for all of his hard work and time spent patrolling our local waterways!!

The fish in our Kerr Park hatchery look great this season. These fish are feisty and are ready to run the stream. They have been eating very well all winter long and as soon as the water temperature rises a few degrees, I'm sure they will start to pack on some more weight and grow another inch or so. As always there are a variety of sizes due to varying growth rates, but the majority of the Trout are thick, 10"—12" long, with a few larger fish in the mix. We have quite a few Brown Trout this year since the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission wasn't able to give us any Brook Trout. The Brown Trout grow the slowest over the winter, but they are nice and fat and will gain some more length and weight as the temperature warms up.

Myself and the board members decided to shut down one of our other hatcheries do to loss of fish over the years. This combined with the amount of time that needed to be spent to take of the hatchery itself was a growing burden on the members that volunteered to help. Closing this hatchery down has allowed the club to save some money which will be put towards buying trout to make up for the numbers of trout we previously raised at this hatchery. We will be able to buy some Brook Trout since we did not receive any from the state, and we might be able to get some Tiger Trout to stock. Some of these Tiger Trout and Brook Trout will be held over for next year so they can grow to trophy trout size.

The 2017 Chester County Trout season should be a great one although we have below average water flow this year. The lack of snowfall this winter will definitely have an effect on water temperature and overall water flow during spring and into summer. Early Spring cold water temperatures mean you will have to slow down your presentation and you will have to fish closer to the bottom in order to get a reaction from lethargic Trout. It might be a good idea to sleep in on opening day and head out in the afternoon in order to take advantage of the warmer air temperature which will help to raise the water temperature. Also, downsize your line, bait, or lures for a more stealthy approach in the low clear water.

The Members Only Rodeo will be a two day event held on Saturday May 6th From 8am - 8pm and Sunday May 7th 6am - 4pm. There is some work that will be necessary prior to the rodeo and I would like to ask any and all of you to volunteer some time to help your club. I would like to ask those of you that help to please do not build any dams that negatively effect our stream improvement work or impede fish movement.

Also, the biggest complaint from landowners every year is trash on their property. Please take care of our local streams!! If you pack it in, pack it out!! Fishing on someone's property is a privilege, not a right. Even if the trash isn't yours, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. If you see someone littering please call the necessary authorities.

BTCC "Get Together" Nights

New for this year, the BTCC will be having "Get Together" nights once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. These "get together's" will be held at Downingtown Borough Hall in their meeting room which is across from the Downingtown Police Station. These nights are to get to know other members, tie flies, work on your reel, organize your fishing gear, etc... Non Members are welcome to these get together's as well!! Hope to see you there!!

**** B.T.C.C. Members Only Rodeo ****

The Members Only Rodeo will be a two day event held on Saturday, May 6th from 8am - 8pm and Sunday, May 7th from 6am - 4pm. Tickets for this years event will be \$25 for adult members and \$10 for junior members. Tickets are good for both days. Guest passes will be available for \$30 per day. Guests must be sponsored by a 2017 BTCC member. Anyone 16 years old and over must have a valid 2017 fishing license and trout stamp.

Tickets will be available to 2017 BTCC members through the mail. Applications for tickets will be available after April 1st. Please check the BTCC website for updates. We will also have applications at the park during work days at Kerr Park.



B.T.C.C. Club Report

2017 BTCC Officers

President - Frank G. Swarner III

Vice President - Barry Hines **Treasurer** - Rich Lutz

Secretary - Ted Nawalinski

Membership Chairman - Ted Nawalinski

Nursery Manager - James Gilpin

Stocking Manager - Vince Talucci

Junior Stocking Manager - Daniel Grant

Newsletter & Website - Frank G. Swarner III

Reminder

**2017 BTCC
Membership
Renewals are due**

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Trout Fishing Bait: Bait Tips for Every Season By Trevor Kugler

When it comes to trout fishing certain baits are more productive than others at certain times of the year. In this article I will outline which trout baits are most effective during which seasons, and some tips for using them. This information has been learned during more than 25 years of trout fishing from Pennsylvania to Alaska.

Are these baits the only trout baits that can be used during each season? Of course not, but they are the baits that have been the most successful in my experience. Use this information to your advantage and you will be a much more successful trout angler. I think it's important to point out that the best [trout fishing tips](#) in the world is to spend as much time on the water as you can. There is simply no substitute for experience. With that being said, let's get down to business, shall we?

1. **Spring Trout Fishing:** The spring is when trout season begins in many areas of the United States. At this time of the year many times rivers and streams are running high and fast making fishing for trout quite difficult. The best trout bait when fishing for trout in the spring is probably salmon eggs. This is when many species of trout spawn, making eggs the perfect trout bait.
2. **Summer Trout Fishing:** The summer is the season when most anglers start thinking about trout fishing. Summer is a great time of year to throw small spinners and spoons. As the weather gets warmer and warmer, trout become more and more active, making small spinners and spoons the perfect trout bait. Varying the speed of your retrieve is a great tip to trigger strikes from hungry trout.
3. **Fall Trout Fishing:** The fall is the best (and most overlooked) time of the year to catch trout. While many anglers are thinking about football and hunting, serious trout fishermen are thinking about fishing for trout. This is also the best season for catching large trout. In my experience the best trout fishing bait for most seasons is the good old live worm, and this is especially true during fall trout fishing. A live worm rigged on a set of gang hooks and allowed to flow naturally through the current of your favorite trout river is an extremely effective technique.
4. **Winter Trout Fishing:** The winter is the most difficult season to catch trout, especially in really cold area's. As water temperatures cool to extreme temperatures trout become much less active, making them difficult to catch. During the winter season you want to downsize your bait, making maggots and meal worms a good trout bait choice. This is also a good time of the year to add scents to your bait in order to make your offering even more attractive. These bait tips will make you a more effective trout angler during every season. Remember, these aren't the only baits that can be used during each season; they are simply a good place to start and the trout baits that have been most effective for me.

To report fishing law violations

PF & BC - Southeast Region
WCO Bob Bonney 610-637-6398

To report an incident of water pollution or a fish kill

WCO Bob Bonney
610-637-6398



Conowingo Dam Area Shad Fishing, Conowingo, MD by Frank Swarner

It's about that time of year when the Hickory Shad and American Shad, or "White" Shad, are making their spawning run up the Susquehanna River and the Delaware River. Although the water is still cold this time of year, the early running Shad typically show up around the same time, give or take a week. The problem is the water is not around the 50 degree mark which seems to be the magic number for them to get into a "biting" mood.

Since I have not fished the Delaware River for Shad so this article will be focused on the Conowingo Dam and areas downstream. Conowingo Dam is about an hour away from Downingtown, PA and is a nice day or half day trip to catch some fish and watch the Eagles and Osprey's soar. After you cross the dam make your first left onto Shuresville Rd and then make your next left onto Shures Landing Rd which is about 1 1/2 miles down the road. This will take you to the dam area and fishermans "wharf". This entire area is a great stretch to fish if it is your first time in the area. Lots to see and plenty of people will be fishing near the dam. The entire stretch is good below the wharf if you are able to "rock hop" the big rocks and get down to a safe spot near the water.

A medium action spinning rod about 7ft long with 10lb or 8lb test is fine. I typically have 10lb on the reel then tie on a small swivel then add a 3ft piece of 8lb mono or fluoro. I tie on a small 1/8th or smaller shad dart. At the swivel I tie on a piece of 10lb mono about 3"-4" long then add a 1/4 oz shad dart that acts as a weight to cast further and also acts as a "downrigger" the gets the smaller dart down into the zone.

Cast straight out in front of you or downstream, and work the darts back towards the shoreline. It can be a good idea to get the line tight and just twitch the rod tip without even reeling until the darts get close to the shoreline. Chartreuse, Orange, Red and White, and pink darts are great as well as various single hook willowleaf shad spoons.

Fly Fishing can be a little tough at the dam since their isn't much room for a back cast, but if you can roll cast 15ft to 30ft you will be in the game. 6wt or 7wt rods 8ft or longer combined with a long "leader" which can be a straight piece of mono, 10lb or heavier about 8ft to 10ft long. A 3 piece leader is all you need if you want more of a "traditional" leader. Heavily weighted flies or small shad darts get the job done. It's not pretty fly fishing, but it is fun.....especially if you hook a 6lb White Shad!! But remember.....no Shad and or Striped Bass may be kept at this time. Also, Striped Bass are not to be targeted from the dam down to the Lapidum Boat Ramp during their spawning season.

If you plan on giving shad fishing a try, make sure you purchase your Non Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport License for \$22.50 for the season or \$12.00 for a 7 day license. Also make sure to get your free Saltwater Registry thru the PA-SARP program. It's a lot easier to do this at home since their aren't any "fishing stores" around. Just convenience stores and such that sell licenses and have a few fishing items.

Please be sure to sponsor your Trophy Trout no later than Monday March 27, 2017 to make the poster deadline



How to Fool Early Season Trout **by Joel Fawcett**

Early spring trout fishing in the northeast is no walk in the park. High, discolored water, swift, often torrential flows, cold water temperatures, floating debris and/or occasional chunks of ice in some streams, freezing drizzle and teeth-chattering air temperatures are typical of the conditions early-season trout fishermen must endure when they visit their favorite trout stream. It's not easy to entice a trout into striking, but some skillful anglers manage to put a good catch of fish in the creel by adapting their fishing techniques to the conditions.

With water temperatures hovering around 40 degrees Fahrenheit, most anglers use bait, but I never cease to be amazed at the inappropriate tackle some anglers employ on early-season outings. Rods are more suitable for winching bass out of the weeds. A 10-pound-test line, oversized hooks and a jumbo bell sinker frequently seem to be the rule rather than the exception on opening day.

DOWNSIZE FOR TROUT

Spring trout may not be as wary as they will be a few weeks down the road, but they are not about to commit suicide, either. The heavy monofilament quickly stiffens in cold water, often rising to the surface where you don't want it. Neophyte anglers tie on an oversized sinker, which anchors the bait near the bottom where the trout are located. It also causes the bait to stop and flop about in the current in one place, something no natural bait can do in the spate flow of spring.

A more appropriate rig is an ultralight rod, a 4-pound-test monofilament line, a No. 6 or 8 bait hook, and one or two split shots fastened 10 or 12 inches above the hook. Adjusting the weight is necessary to keep the bait moving in the current by adding or subtracting split shots as needed. In the spring, trout lie about a foot or so above the bottom, so baits should drift along just above the stream floor or slightly below the rate of the stream flow. If the split shot is ticking the rocks along the bottom, and occasionally hangs up, your bait is just about where you want it. However, if you snag on the bottom rather frequently, you are probably using too much weight, and it's time to lighten up. If the bait stops, set the hook immediately. At least half the time you will be snagged on a rock, but the other half you will likely be hooked into a hungry trout.

Light lines are hard for trout to see. This becomes important in the bright and clear water of summer, but light lines also pay off in the high roily waters of spring because it causes less drag than does heavy monofilament. Four-pound-test monofilament is practically drag-free, and makes it much easier to detect the soft strikes typical of trout in frigid water.

SPRING TROUT LURES

Under some conditions, bait is the best way to put a good catch of spring trout in the creel, but lures have their advantages, too. An angler, skilled in fishing artificials is able to put his lures in front of more trout than the bait fisherman can, and thus will often catch more trout than the bait angler.

In order to become accomplished in catching spring trout with spinning tackle and artificial lures, it is important to know which lures are best under spring water conditions and where and how to fish them for best results. (Before fishing for a trout stream or pond this spring, check the open water fishing regulations very carefully. Some waters may allow artificial lures only, while others may have a single pointed hook, artificial lure regulation.)

If I had to pick one lure for spring trout, it would be an in-line spinner. A flashing spinner imitates a small minnow, the major forage of big spring trout. A properly designed spinner triggers strikes by its flash and sound. The wide, slow-revolving, Colorado-type blade is preferred to the thin, fast-turning willowleaf-type blade because the wider blade emits more flash and sound for the trout to home in on, an important consideration in discolored or roily water. Carry spinners in 1/32- to 1/8-ounce sizes and in several blade colors for spring trout.

Under most conditions, a silver spinner will match the silvery hued minnows trout prey on, i.e., dace, silver shiners, alewives and smelt. In discolored and/or turbulent water, gold, chartreuse and copper spinners are also effective. Spinners dressed with a hackle or hair trailer seem to produce more strikes than a bare hook spinner.



129 Pottstown Pike
Uwchland (Eagle), PA 19480
610-458-5153

Please visit
www.fish.state.pa.us
for more up to date
stocking information,
locations, meeting
places, and times.

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Upcoming Events

March 18

BTCC Kids Fishing Clinic
@ the Moose in D'town

March 25

PF&BC Mentored Youth
Fishing Day

March 25

PF&BC Mentored Youth
Fishing Day

April 1

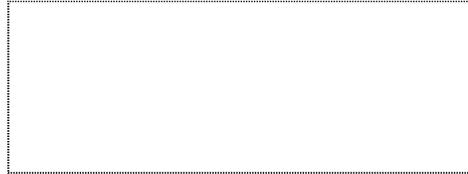
Regional Opening Day of
Trout Season 8:00 am

April 15

Regional Opening Day of
Trout Season 8:00 am

April 15

BTCC Kid's Only
Trout Rodeo



B.T.C.C. Membership & Trophy Trout Sponsor Form

Check one : Renewal New Member

\$10.00 Junior (under 16)

\$40.00 Family Membership - list each name for individual cards

\$25.00 Adult

\$10.00 Lifetime Senior {over 65 and member in good standing for 10 yrs.}

Trophy Trout Sponsor: I wish to Sponsor _____ (#) Trophy Trout @ \$25.00 per

"East Branch" Stream Map \$2.00 each

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Make Checks payable and mail to :

B.T.C.C., P.O. Box 32, Downingtown, Pa. 19335

Join Today—Support the Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club

"PASS ONE ALONG TO A FRIEND"