

Williams Run Makes 2008 "10 Waters To Watch" List

Williams Run, Venango County, has been added to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan's 2008 "10 Waters to Watch" list for 2008. Thanks to the combined actions of concerned community groups, non-profit organizations, local watershed groups, Native American tribes and state and federal agencies, these waters are being improved by planting stream-side vegetation, removing structures blocking fish from habitat and protecting waterways from the effects of industrial processes, agriculture and livestock.

Williams Run represents waterways across the country, including lakes and reservoirs that are improving through the conservation efforts of the Fish & Boat Commission and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan—a bold initiative to reverse persistent declines in aquatic habitat.

Aquatic habitat in Williams Run has been severely damaged since coal mining activities produced acid mine drainage in the stream.

Water conditions were degraded with a very low pH, no alkalinity, and both iron and aluminum present. This point-source pollution left the stream uninhabitable for brook trout and other aquatic life. With

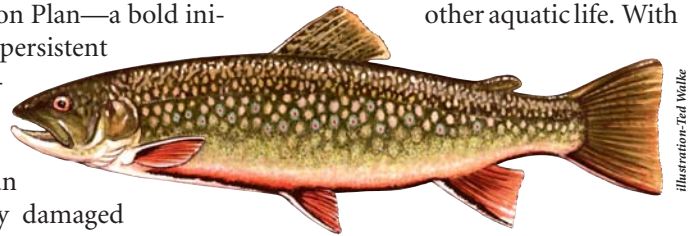


Illustration: Ted Walker

Fishin' from the Kitchen

Lemon Largemouth Bass Pasta Salad

by Wayne Phillips

A lemon-flavored pasta salad is a big hit with the addition of largemouth bass dusted with turmeric.

Ingredients for four servings:

- ✓ Enough boneless, skinless largemouth bass for 4
- ✓ 1-2 Tbsp. turmeric
- ✓ 8 ounces cooked short pasta like fusilli or penne
- ✓ 1-2 lemons, zested and squeezed for juice
- ✓ 1/4-cup extra virgin olive oil
- ✓ 1/2-cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- ✓ 1 cup grape tomatoes, cut in half
- ✓ 1 cup cooked peas
- ✓ 1/2-cup black olives, preferably Kalamata olives
- ✓ Salt and black pepper



Photo: Wayne Phillips

Ingredients together and then let cool. Gently distribute the fish throughout the pasta salad.

The turmeric adds great color to the fish, but not much flavor. Omit the turmeric if you wish. Feel free to add herbs like basil or dill to the pasta salad.

Serve

Serve in large pasta bowls. You can also serve the pasta salad and top with a larger piece of fish instead of attempting to mix the fish into the pasta salad.

Pasta salad is usually served with a mayonnaise-based dressing. For summer, why not use lemon juice and zest combined with a fruity, peppery extra virgin olive oil? It isn't essential to keep this salad chilled. A citrus/oil dressing is perfect for picnics or taking along on boating trips.

Procedure

Dust the largemouth bass fillets with turmeric. Season with salt and pepper. Either bake or grill the fillets until they are cooked through. Once cool, cut them into larger pieces. Cook and drain the pasta. While warm, toss the pasta with lemon zest and juice and extra virgin olive oil. Add the remaining ingredients. Toss to mix all the in-

funding provided through the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the South Sandy Creek Watershed Association is working with a host of other public and private partners to bring Williams Run back to life. Construction in 2008 of a passive limestone bed will provide the necessary treatment to restore water quality conditions to a healthy level and allow aquatic species, such as the brook trout, to return to Williams Run.

This work will provide excellent future opportunities for anglers on public lands managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Nearby Williams Run tributaries are already home to wild brook trout populations, and restoration of the Williams Run mainstem will add another 9 miles of healthy stream habitat. Additional funding is provided by the Office of Surface Mining and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Other key partners include Mineral Township, Allegheny Mineral, Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, PA Senior Environmental Corps, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, which provided monitoring and technical assistance. Construction began this spring and should be finished in the fall of 2008, with immediate benefits to water quality in Williams Run.

For more information, visit www.fishhabitat.org. Williams Run is in southwest Venango County, mainly on State Game Lands 39.