



# Keystone Select STOCKED TROUT WATERS



*by Tyler Frantz photos by the author*

It had been weeks (if not months) since I last wet my fly line, and an insatiable yearning to do so pulled me to the wintertime waters. As I plodded through the slush of a recent snowfall toward one of my favorite fishing holes, a freshly affixed egg and midge tandem bounced in parallel cadence to the 5-weight swaying by my hip, the bottom hook pressed firmly into the rod's cork handle.

As I rounded the bend, I found another angler already thigh deep at my intended fishing destination. He appeared to be having a great time, catching one trout after another. I slipped down into the chilled streambed about 60 yards below him, freed my flies and line and roll-casted toward the opposite bank.

While retrieving my latest pitch, I glanced upstream to see the nearby angler now hooked up with a hefty fish—a large trout that cleared the water and slapped the surface with a splash. The lengthy battle that ensued prompted me to offer a hand in netting the large fish.

At this exchange of words, I realized the mystery angler was an acquaintance I knew for several years. He gladly welcomed my offer to help haul in the beautiful Rainbow Trout. Bringing the trophy to hand, we marveled at its size and snapped a few quick photographs before returning the healthy fish to the creek. It seems my friend also lists this fishing hole among his personal favorites.

What is unique about this story is that it took place outside of the traditional trout season in a special regulations Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) section also designated as Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters.

The Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program provides anglers with an opportunity to fish for larger trout than most other fishing scenarios. These designated locations exist at 22 prime locations around Pennsylvania.

Under the program, approximately 6,500 large trout, 2-to 3-years-old and measuring between 14- to 20-inches, are distributed among these select waters under DHALO special regulations.

This means anglers may pursue these trout year-round, with fishing permitted on a 24-hour basis. There is only a three trout creel limit (minimum size of 9-inches) from June 15 through Labor Day, with no harvest permitted the remainder of the year.

That means many of the fish that are stocked in the spring survive to provide quality fishing year-round. Twelve of the 22 Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters also receive fall stocking since they are considered destination fisheries that tend to provide better fishing opportunities this time of year.

I have fished Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters around the calendar and have found success many times with memorable hookups occurring in all seasons. My best trout last year was caught in late July, when high water kept temperatures low enough to fish, and a 23-inch fish gobbled a scud fly rolled on the bottom.

All Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters follow DHALO regulations, meaning fishing may be done only with artificial lures or constructed of metal, plastic, rubber, wood or with flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials fished on spinning or fly fishing gear. Live bait is prohibited and a current trout/salmon permit is required.

These special streams may get more attention—especially right after stocking as the weather improves in early spring. But, Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters provide an opportunity to fish when other streams are off limits or fizzle out. Best of all, you can catch impressive, good quality fish.

After my friend and I parted ways last winter, I eased closer to the quality run he abandoned. I took my time letting the water settle again. Then, I carefully drifted my tandem rig through the best seam. I was rewarded with the feisty strike of a beautiful Brown Trout, my first of the year, brought to net and released again.

I caught Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters trout close to home, and Pennsylvania anglers can have the same opportunity. ☐



*This Brown Trout took an egg pattern at one of the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters close to the author's home.*

## Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters Locations

For an interactive online map of the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters, visit [www.fishandboat.com/keystoneselect.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/keystoneselect.htm).

### ARMSTRONG/BUTLER COUNTIES

#### Buffalo Creek

3.7 miles; from Little Buffalo Run downstream to 0.6 mile above SR 4035 in Craigsville

### BERKS COUNTY

#### Tulpehocken Creek

##### Section 6

1.94 miles; from Blue Marsh Dam downstream to SR 3008 Bridge (Rebers Bridge Road)

### BERKS COUNTY

#### Tulpehocken Creek

##### Section 7

1.84 miles; from SR 3008 (Rebers Bridge) downstream to T-921 covered bridge

### CAMBRIA COUNTY

#### Chest Creek

1.8 miles; from the northern Patton borough line downstream to the SR 4022 bridge at Thomas Mills

### CHESTER COUNTY

#### Middle Branch

#### White Clay Creek

1.67 miles; from SR 3009 (Good Hope Road) downstream to the confluence with the East Branch

### DAUPHIN COUNTY

#### Wiconisco Creek

0.74 mile; from the western edge of the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art Walking Bridge downstream to the power line crossing located 1.7 miles upstream from the mouth

### FAYETTE COUNTY

#### Meadow Run

2.2 miles; from the SR 2011 bridge (Dinner Bell Road) adjacent to the Ohiopyle St. Park office downstream to mouth

### FULTON COUNTY

#### Big Cove Creek

0.93 mile; from 200 yards downstream of the SR 0928 Bridge downstream to the lower Buchanan State Forest boundary

### LACKAWANNA/

### WYOMING COUNTIES

#### South Branch

#### Tunkhannock Creek

0.99 mile; from SR 6 downstream through Keystone College campus

### LAWRENCE COUNTY

#### Neshannock Creek

2.67 miles; from the base of the Mill Dam in Volant downstream to the covered bridge on T-476

### LEBANON COUNTY

#### Quittapahilla Creek

1.1 miles; from Spruce Street Bridge on T-398 downstream to the SR 0934 Bridge

### LUZERNE COUNTY

#### Harveys Creek

1.7 miles; from Jackson Road (T-812) downstream to Pavlick Road (T-497)

### LYCOMING COUNTY

#### Loyalsock Creek

1.49 miles; from the Lycoming-Sullivan County line downstream to Sandy Bottom

### LYCOMING COUNTY

#### Lycoming Creek

1.3 miles; from the SR 0015 bridge (Old Route 15) near Haleeka upstream 1.3 miles to the first overhead utility line crossing upstream of Powys Curve

### McKEAN COUNTY

#### Kinzua Creek

2.29 miles; from SR 219 at Tallyho downstream to Camp Run

### MONROE COUNTY

#### McMichael Creek

1.66 miles; from a point 0.71 mile downstream of the bridge on Turkey Hill Road (T-416) downstream to Glen Brook Rd. (SR 2004) bridge

### POTTER COUNTY

#### First Fork

#### Sinnemahoning Creek

1.67 miles; from mouth of Bailey Run downstream to a bend above Berge Run Bridge

### SNYDER COUNTY

#### Middle Creek

1.2 miles; from the bridge on SR 4007 (Pine Swamp Road) to the downstream boundary of State Game Lands #188

### SOMERSET COUNTY

#### Laurel Hill Creek

2.33 miles; from 200 yards downstream of the T-364 (Countryman Bridge) downstream to the T-364 Bridge upstream of Laurel Hill Lake

### TIOGA COUNTY

#### Pine Creek

1.06 mile; from Darling Run downstream to 0.1 mile downstream of the confluence with Owassie Slide Hollow

### VENANGO COUNTY

#### Oil Creek

1.55 miles; from bridge at Petroleum Center downstream to railroad bridge at Columbia Farm

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY

#### Loyalhanna Creek

1.67 miles; from SR 711 downstream to SR 2045 (Two Mile Run Road)