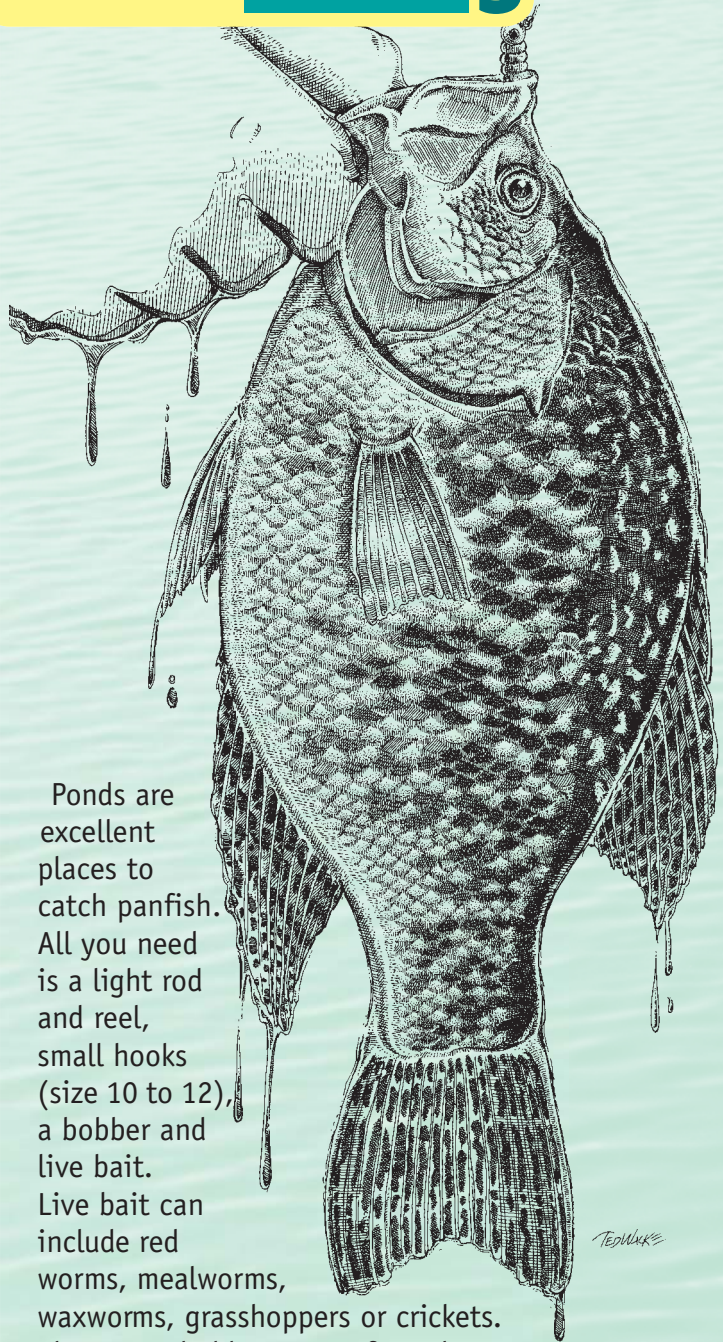


PONDS

Focus on Fishing

Ponds are small, shallow waters, with mud or silt bottoms. Some are small, not much bigger than a basketball court. Some are larger, about the size of your school grounds. No matter how big they may be, they are shallow, less than 12 feet deep. You can find ponds all over Pennsylvania. Most were made by humans to provide water for livestock or crops, or to supply water for putting out fires. A few in the northeast part of the state were left tens of thousands of years ago by melting glaciers.



Ponds are excellent places to catch panfish. All you need is a light rod and reel, small hooks (size 10 to 12), a bobber and live bait. Live bait can include red worms, mealworms, waxworms, grasshoppers or crickets. Place your bobber 2 to 3 feet above the hook, bait your hook, and cast out around the lily pads or other nearby structure. Hang on to your rod! Panfish love the shade under lily pads, but take care not to hook them when you cast. Hooking lily pads may result in your losing your bait, and it will spook the other fish. Casting fly-rod poppers in these spots can also be fun, especially on summer evenings.



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