



Preseason and preparations

Everything in nature has a preseason—a time when the animal prepares for a period of major activity, like spawning, increased feeding and growth. We anglers have a preseason, too—a time when we get ready for the trout season and a long period of open-water fishing. This issue is packed with trout season's preliminaries.

Turn to page 7 for the Commission's list of expanded fishing opportunities. This feature was usually a one- or two-pager in past issues. This year it's three pages of new and expanded fishing opportunities. Be sure also to read the new Wild Brook Trout Enhancement Program regulations in this article.

On page 27 you'll find the 2004 Inseason Stocking Schedule—eight pages of must-know details for trout anglers.

Part of many anglers' preseason includes helping stock fish in March and April. If you plan to help stock fish, be sure to read the important information **on page 56**.

Check page 24 for reminders on how to catch trout with worms, and **on page 20** Linda Steiner provides practical details on how to wade safely and effectively.

On page 10 Mike Bleech explains how to pick just the right creek for opening day. Consider this information carefully because it might help you discover new, productive places. And **on page 36** Vic Attardo weighs in with effective fly fishing tricks. One of his strategies for catching more trout is to work different styles of the same fly, instead of changing flies to different patterns. Check out how he keeps the trout tricked.

On page 18 Charles R. Meck shows how to tie a Black Caddis, which works especially well early in the season, April and May, and **on page 35** Carl Haensel describes how to score with a Floating Minnow (a streamer).

March is part of our "season" for sport shows, so visit the Commission's exhibit at the shows listed on the Commission's web site. At Commission sport show exhibits you can buy a license, purchase products and publications, renew your subscription, and ask questions and get answers.

Good luck opening day! See you on the water!—*Art Michaels, Editor.*

THIS MONTH IN PFBC HISTORY

1866. A convention was held in Harrisburg to investigate pollution, bad conditions in mountain lakes and streams, and the stopping of spring shad runs by dams. This convention led to Governor Andrew J. Curtin's signing the law that named James J. Worrall Pennsylvania's first Commissioner of Fisheries.

1915. An act of April 21 gave fish wardens and their deputies powers to make arrests.

1970. On March 9, the brook trout was named Pennsylvania's official state fish.



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