

# Notes from the Streams



## Wear it

While you are boating on Commonwealth waters, regulations require that adult life jackets (personal flotation devices or PFDs) be readily accessible. Children 12 years of age and younger must wear a life jacket while underway. While patrolling on the Susquehanna River near Middletown, I recently witnessed poor boating safety practices. The boater was operating his boat with all life jackets in a compartment that was locked. I was told the key to the lock was in his truck a mile upstream. Please check all your safety equipment before you launch. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission encourages everyone to wear life jackets. It may save your life or the life of someone you love.—WCO Douglas L. Deppen, Lebanon and Southern Dauphin Counties.



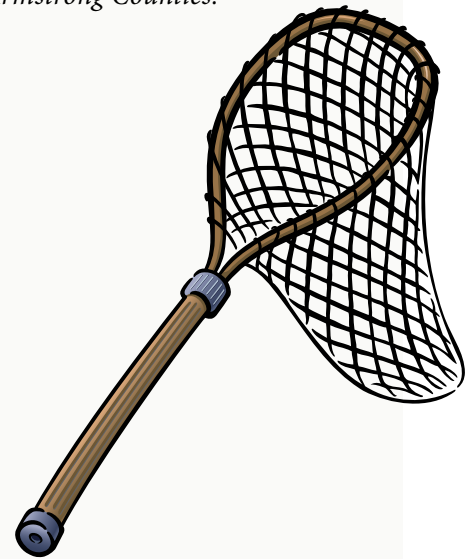
## Upset parent

While working on Fourmile Creek, a group of teenagers were fishing. They seemed to be having fun, and we did not see anything wrong. As we were leaving, a gentleman was looking for the teenagers. We told him that there were some teenagers down in the fishing hole. He seemed a little upset, and we said there are far worse things teenagers can be doing than fishing. If more teenagers went fishing, we may have fewer problems on our city streets.—WCO James M. Smolko, Eastern Erie County.

## Good luck?

As a Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO), I frequently come upon anglers who haven't had any luck. Often times as I approach, they coincidentally hook a fish. For whatever reason, they generally credit me for bringing them good luck. I simply smile and don't tell them that there isn't a crystal ball manipulation class at our training school. Last May, I watched two anglers standing side by side hook two bruisers (one a large trophy golden trout and the other a rainbow trout over 20-inches long). They had a large landing net leaning against a chair. The fights lasted for what seemed like minutes. I approached to offer my assistance. Before I could speak, their lines crossed and both fish broke off. Some expletives ensued and both frustrated anglers

watched their trophies swim off. When they turned and noticed me, one angler said, "Boy, I wish you could have been here a minute ago to help with the net." I didn't tell them that I was attempting to offer my assistance, but was too late. It would not have made them feel any better. I shrugged and kept those comments to myself, so much for bringing good luck.—WCO James M. Vatter, Northern Westmoreland, Southern Indiana and Southern Armstrong Counties.



## Moving day?

As a Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO), I can never say I've seen it all, because as soon as I do, something comes along to prove otherwise. While patrolling Shaffers Run with WCO Deputy Don Anderson on the opening day of trout season, we came across a large moving van parked in a camp spot along the creek. We thought this was a little odd. "Were you moving and decided to fish," I asked one of the men around the camp. He replied, "No, we are using the moving truck as a camper to sleep in and to haul all our gear." I think U-Haul could have a new trout season pitch for renting trucks.—WCO Dan McGuire, Somerset County.