



## WATCH FOR THIS TEEN FISHING PHENOM

*photos-courtesy of Jan and Dinata Stiner*

*by Linda Stager*

**W**atch this 15-year-old cast a long line, and you will want to know his name—he is that good. Meet Colegan Stiner, Tioga County. And, if he catches his dream, you will someday know him well.

Colegan lives (and loves) to fish. “I fish almost every day. The number of days I do not fish in a year I can count on two hands,” said Colegan. Colegan’s dad, Jan Stiner, teases his son, “I would say 355 days of the year you are on the water someplace. He is not a fair-weather angler.”

It feels like it has always been that way with Colegan. “One year, when he was about 9-years-old, we went to the top of Rattler Mountain to one of his favorite fishing spots. It was a huge sluice pipe, and he would sit on top of it. He loved the native trout there. Just the way he held the fish and the way he took them off the hook, he was very passionate. He had a special love for fish,” said Colegan’s mom, Dinata.

Colegan remembers how this passion started. “Ole Bull State Park is where I really got into trout fishing. We would go there the first weekend after I got out of school for the summer. I always thought of it as a reward for completing the school year.”

Over time, his fishing world expanded. His favorite spots are anywhere he can cast a line into water. Slate Run, on Pine Creek, is a favorite spot. He enjoys the other anglers, the camaraderie, and of course, those trophy Brown Trout in the stretch on the Pine.

At age 15, Colegan’s favorite skill is center pinning. This old-school, new-style, no-drag technique, which is more popular in the western states and among older anglers, uses a long 11-foot rod and a special ball-bearing spool with a center pin to cast at longer distances than usual. “When I use a center pin, I can really get it out there past where you can usually



*Colegan Stiner as a young child, showing gentleness with a fish he caught.*



*Colegan Stiner fishing Pine Creek, Tioga County.*



*Colegan's dad, Jan Stiner, shows Colegan fishing techniques on Pine Creek.*

cast, and I present it to the fish in different ways than just a fly bouncing off the bottom. I present it floating suspended in the water. I can hit the right angle for the fish. And, I can catch more fish," said Colegan.

That's Colegan's goal—to catch more fish. He is a catch-and-release angler and believes firmly in protecting the fish. It goes back to that early gentleness his mom saw in him and his father's mentoring. He has a sound attitude about fishing.

In 2020, Colegan's goal was to catch 1,000 trout. He did that easily. In 2021, he caught 1,900 trout.

Wellsboro High School has a school-sponsored fishing team. Colegan will get his Letterman's jacket for the sport of fishing when he is a Junior. He and his team also attend bass fishing tournaments and are currently ranked in the top 10 statewide.

In his spare time, Colegan works after school at the local hardware store. Then, he studies fishing techniques by the great masters. And, he fishes.

Colegan is working on a YouTube channel of fishing stories and videos with a friend and is looking to go to college on a fishing scholarship. He hopes to one day become a Bassmaster.

Watch for his name. Colegan is going places. 🏠

**Follow Colegan on Instagram**  
[@colegan\\_on\\_the\\_pin](https://www.instagram.com/colegan_on_the_pin)



*Colegan with a Striped Bass.*