



Photo courtesy of Timothy D. Schaeffer

WINTER READING

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Pennsylvania Angler & Boater always seems to have an even more special appeal this time of year. With less daylight to pursue the passions we love outdoors, it feels like there are more hours in which to slow down a bit and read more often. Hopefully, this issue of our magazine will fit the bill for you as you settle into your favorite reading spot.

There are two articles in particular that will likely leave you smiling and thinking about one (in my case, two) of the things that makes fishing so special—kids.

“The Magic of Mentoring” (page 26) and “Fishing Through the Eyes of a Child” (page 34) are sure to tug at your heart and remind you about what got you started on your path as an angler and how you may have shared the fishing bug.

The memories are especially meaningful to me as my wife and I spend the first fall and winter alone in our house since our twin sons were born. We dropped them off at college in August with the predictable mix of smiles and tears. When asked what it is like without the boys in the house, the first thing I relay is that we run the dishwasher and do laundry a lot less often!

A little over 2 weeks into the semester, I received a text from our son Kurt. There was no message. Just a copy of the photograph shown here.

It was really telling that the image he shared when thinking about the comforts of home

as he adjusted to college life was a picture of us fishing together. It shows the joy of landing the first trout he ever caught on a fly rod and is a memory he frequently recalls. Yes, his brother Erik (who also connected on a fly rod for the first time that day) is making a goofy face in the background, but that just adds to the genuineness of the photo. We were having a ball, and the picture truly is worth a thousand words.

For an 18-year-old to channel an understandable and expected pang of homesickness through a simple picture of a special memory on the stream says it all.

So, turn on the lamp after the early sunset, and enjoy this edition of the magazine. We hope it will spark similar fond images and inspire you to take someone fishing and build memories that will last a lifetime. And, maybe help a kid feel connected to home when they are living four hours away for the first time.