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“Want Good Fishing?
—Obey the Law”
A surge of mottled green and red, line cutting the water as a speckled king of the swift current battles skill of the angler. Trout fishing time is here.

Of seasons for game fish, trouting-days justly hold first rank. Natural beauty of streams haunted by the speckled kings, opening of buds on the trees, bird life in the thickets chirping, breaking into song, a soft, mellow touch in the air - springtime has all of these and springtime in Pennsylvania is the season when the speckled kings call to mountain and meadowland. Cares and worries of business and winter months spent indoors are obliterated by just one day on a trout stream.

In conveying his best wishes for a successful trout season to anglers of the state, Oliver M. Deibler, Fish Commissioner, expressed hope that something of the spirit of the season and good, clean sportsmanship astream, will mark the trout season opening April 15.

The Fish Commission, he said, has made every possible effort to provide exceptional fishing in trout streams this year. In 1931, over one million brook trout, above legal size, were distributed, and distribution during the winter and spring months of the speckled beauties was heavy.

Nature played a vital part in the spring stocking program. Heavy snow and rainfall in the trout country served not only in restoring many of the underground streams, but provided excellent cover and food advantages for trout released from state hatcheries.

Barring heavy rainfall just prior to the opening of the season, water conditions should be ideal for early fishing. A great many anglers, some of whom rely on artificial flies later in the season, will use bait, angleworms, minnows, grubworms, and pine sawyers in their initial invasion of the haunts of the speckled kings. In the worm category, red worms hold high place in the bait fisherman's esteem. Pink garden worms are also favored, and grubworms take good catches, although they are so soft that it is difficult to fish them in swift water for a prolonged time.

If flies are killers, the balance rests in favor of the sunken wet fly, retrieved by short jerks.

Predictions on just how heavy the opening day catches may be, will depend in no small part on the weather. To repeat, the Fish Commission has distributed hundreds of thousands of trout to streams approved in the survey. Taking them rests with the fishermen. Go to it!
ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION
OF THE YELLOW PERCH
IN PENNSYLVANIA

By C. R. Buller, Deputy Commissioner in Charge of
Propagation

Editor's Note: In this installment of Mr. Buller's article on the yellow perch,
hatching of the perch eggs is explained.

The work of collecting perch eggs is kept up until the batteries or
incubators are filled to their utmost capacity, at the different state hatcheries.
When the eggs are brought from the pond, those not required for filling up the home
battery, after replenishing the ice chambers, are shipped to the other stations in
shipping cases.

These cases are provided with a space between the trays and sides of
the box for insulation against heat or cold. This space is thoroughly filled with
crushed ice and a chamber resting upon the top egg tray also filled with crushed ice.
The eggs are then removed to the hatching house, a distance of several miles.

Yellow perch eggs are hatched on a battery. A battery consists of
a number of parallel troughs placed one above the other with space between of about
five inches. Each trough is fourteen inches wide and fourteen inches deep, the
length of each trough and number of troughs high depending upon the number of jars
to be used. At the Wayne Hatchery there are two batteries, each six troughs high
and thirty feet long with a capacity of four hundred jars. While in use a constant
flow of water is kept running through the troughs. The water intake is at one end
of the top trough and the water flows from one to the other until the bottom trough
is reached. The water is then conducted through pipes to the fish storage tanks.
At about every twelve inches in the series of troughs a one-half inch spigot is
placed. Below each spigot, and resting on the next lower trough is a small shelf.
On this shelf under each spigot rests a glass hatching jar. The hatching jar is
cylindrical, fourteen inches high and six inches in diameter. The bottom of the jar
is rounded in such a manner that the water, striking the center of the bottom, will
distribute the upward current of water equally in all directions. At the top of the
jar is a small snout which, when the jar is in operation, extends well into the
trough acting as an overflow.

The eggs are now removed from the shipping cases and by careful
measurement a certain number placed in each jar. The actual number of eggs placed
in each jar will depend upon the age of the eggs when gathered, as allowance must
always be made for expansion. In order to get accurate measurement no harm is done
by separating the string of eggs in several places.

After the desired amount of eggs are in each jar they are placed on
the shelves directly under the spigots, the snout of the jars or overflows extending
well into the troughs. A cylindrical one-half inch glass tube is then inserted in
the jar with one end nearly touching the bottom of the jar, and the other end at-
tached by means of a short length of rubber tubing, to the spigot.

The water is now turned on with sufficient pressure to supply the eggs
with the necessary amount of water to prevent them from smothering, but not sufficient
pressure to wash the eggs out of the overflow. From this arrangement the water is
discharged at the bottom of the jar, flowing upward through the mass of eggs and
discharged at the overflow snout into the trough next lower down from that of the one the spigot is in.

The period of incubation of the eggs is from eighteen to twenty-one days. During this time the eggs on the battery must have constant attention. The flow of water over the eggs must be the right amount. If the flow is insufficient, the eggs will smother, if too great the eggs will be washed out of the overflow snout into the troughs, hence entering the other spigots and stopping the flow in the jars.

In the handling and the transportation of the eggs, the loss will be very little, and owing to the large per cent. of fertilization very few poor eggs will appear. In some instances a portion of a string of eggs will turn white during the incubation period, showing that they are dead. These dead portions are pinched off of the string and removed from the jars.

After about ten days, little black spots, or the eyes of the fish, can be plainly seen. Later the shape of the tiny fish can be distinguished. At this period the mass of eggs has become greatly enlarged, and the little fish can be seen trying to break through the shell of the egg. As the little fish break through the shell, oftimes owing to the large amount of membrane surrounding the egg, their passage through the mass to the overflow will be shut off. At this time attendants are constantly on the alert, helping the little fellow to escape from the jar by gently moving the mass with a feather brush. The little fish is carried by the upward current of water in the jar out of the overflow snout into the trough. It then follows the water current through the series of troughs and hence into the fish storage tanks.

When the yellow perch are first hatched they are very tiny creatures, almost microscopic in size and nearly transparent. These tiny creatures are retained in the storage tanks by screening the overflows with very fine copper screen having one hundred meshes to the inch. They will appear in such numbers in the storage tanks that the water will appear milky.

BOYDEN PREDICTS HIGH WATER FOR TROUT OPENING

While streams in Tioga, Potter, and Lycoming counties will, in all probability, be high for the opening day of the trout season, April 15, Warden Horace P. Boyden, Wellsboro, tells Pennsylvania Angler, this high water does not mean that they will be muddy, or even murky.

Boyden has received many queries recently from anglers who want to know just how water conditions will be on the opening day. That question, he writes, may be answered a week in advance of the angler's red letter day. Streams in that section of the state are almost invariably above normal flow on April 15, owing to melting snow in the mountain country. Unless a heavy downpour of rain should occur just prior to the opening, the mountain trout streams run clear even in very high water. When trout streams pass through cultivated land, of course, they become murky or even muddy if high.

"How can I get to good fishing over improved roads?" is another frequent query of fishermen planning for the first day on the famous waters of Tioga, Potter, or Lycoming counties.
"Route 6, paralleling Pine Creek, is one of the best answers," Boyden writes. "Pine Creek is a fine natural trout stream that has been stocked heavily by the Fish Commission during the past few years with brook trout of legal size and over. And by the way, you may also almost make a safe bet that any stream of fair size crossing route 6 from Ansonia to Coudersport is a trout stream. A number of these streams have been stocked by the Fish Commission in recent years and will be helped later in the season by fish that work into them from Pine Creek."

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A GROWING TROUT MUST HAVE FOOD

Just to illustrate the fact that voracious appetites are not confined to bass and pickerel, Roy Wootten, deputy game protector, of Sugar Notch, comes along with this account of catching a seven-inch brook trout.

Roy was fishing in the Big Wapwallopen with minnows. The seven-incher struck the bait, taking it. Putting on another minnow, he cast and the trout struck again without hesitation. This time it was landed. Wootten, on examining the trout, said that he found the first minnow in its mouth, a large bug and baby crawfish in its throat - and - get this - in its stomach a number 5 hook, the gut from which was protruding at the mouth of the fish.

In addition, Roy tells Pennsylvania Angler some pickerel facts. A friend of his, he writes, while fishing in Hawangola Lake last year, hooked a big pickerel, which broke his line. A few minutes later, the fisherman noticed the pickerel splashing about in some weeks and lily pads. The line had become tangled in the lily pads, and the fisherman caught the fish "that got away." A few days later, this same angler, fishing spoon in the lake, had a strike, missed the fish at the mouth but hooked it in the tail.

To top his fishing contribution Roy tells of landing a 12-inch brook trout in Toncanna Creek, Pocono mountains, on a Royal Coachman fly, after it had struck four times.

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SNAKE SWALLOW SUCKER AS CAMERA RECORDS PROCESS

Listed as an arch-enemy, not only to trout but to other fish in Pennsylvania streams, is the watersnake. Just how a watersnake may swallow a fish almost its equal in weight is told by Harry Van Cleve, assistant chief of the Bureau of Predatory Animals in the Game Commission. Camera snapshots were taken on this occasion. The incident occurred on Spring Creek, Hershey.

The camera was brought to the scene just after the snake had half swallowed the sucker which it had captured a short time before. In taking larger fish, water snakes often attach themselves to their quarry and are dragged about in the stream by the fish until they are near enough to shore to secure a tail hold. After that, the struggle is all snake-sided.

On this occasion, Van Cleve says, the elastic jaws of the water snake had expanded to accommodate the size of the sucker. So slow was the process of swallowing, however, that when about three-quarters of the sucker had disappeared,
it was thought advisable to catch the snake before it made its getaway. A catching rod and noose were employed, but the first attempt to capture it failed. Disturbed at its meal, the snake partially disgorged its prey, until four-fifths of the sucker was ejected. An attempt was made to change the position of the reptile to photograph it at a different angle, and this disturbance resulted in total ejection of the sucker.

The snake was finally captured, and placed in a cloth with the sucker. Combined weight of the killer, its prey, and the cloth was 8 ounces. When placed on the scales separately, the cloth was found to weigh 2 ounces, the fish \( \frac{27}{2} \) ounces, and the snake \( \frac{37}{2} \) ounces.

"From the result, found," Van Cleve said, "if the average man would eat at one meal the same amount of food in proportion as that consumed by this water-snake, he would consume five-sevenths of his own weight in food. One may judge that this particular snake might eat thousands of young game fish to satisfy its reptilian appetite, and we might say, at one meal."

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**LANDS BIG SUCKER IN YELLOW BREECHES**

Even though trout fishing right now holds first place in the minds of many anglers, the catching of a 21-inch sucker in Brandtsville dam on the Yellow Breeches, Cumberland County, is well worth telling about. The big fish, weighing 4 pounds and 6 ounces, was caught by Milton P. Deardorff, of Dillsburg, during the latter part of March. Mart Myers, of Williams Grove, Cumberland County, reported the catch to Pennsylvania Angler the other day.

According to Mart, however, Deardorff's catch is out-rivalled by that of P. E. Comfort, of Dillsburg, a few days ago. Fishing at the same place, Comfort caught two suckers at the same time, one of 4 pounds, the other 5 pounds - in other words - nine pounds of fish. And Mart backs the fact a six-ounce fly rod did the work.

Mart closed his fish yarn by telling of R. E. Richwine, Williams Grove. Richwine, he said, reversed the order of things by catching a ten-inch brook trout by the tail in a trap set for muskrats.

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**STREAMS IN PIKE HEAVILY STOCKED**

Heavy stocking of brook trout in Pike county streams, during the autumn and spring stocking programs of the Fish Commission, should insure fine sport in waters of the county this trout season, according to Frank Brink, fish warden, at Milford. Although streams, in most instances are high, Warden Brink tells Pennsylvania Angler, prospects appear bright for good catches on April 15, the opening day.

Warden Brink assisted last autumn in stocking 100 cans of legal and above legal size trout in the Big Bushkill Creek. Forty cans were released in the Little Bushkill, 80 cans in Sawkill Creek, 20 cans in Swamp Brook, 20 cans in Raymondskill Creek, 80 cans in Shohola Creek, 60 cans in Dingman Creek, 60 cans in Indian Ladder Creek, and 40 cans in Coykendall Brook.

Twin Lakes, Walker Lake, Sawkill Pond, Little Mud Pond at Sawkill, White Deer Lake, Billings Pond, Roots Pond, Big Pond or Fairview Lake, Echo Pond, Big Mud Pond, Pecks Pond, Promised Land Lake, writes Brink, were stocked with pickerel, yellow perch, bullhead catfish or bluegill sunfish.
CHARLES V. LONG, special Warden, of East Waterford, Juniata County, told Pennsylvania Angler recently that big catches of suckers are still in order along the Juniata River, and that anglers in his county have made sucker fishing the fad of the day. When fishermen at Port Royal landed six hundred suckers during February, they started something.

Here are some of the sucker catches that Charlie wrote in to tell us about.

"Button" Hack, of Mexico, landed eleven suckers in 45 minutes one day in late March in the Juniata. His fellow townsman, Clair Turbot, holds the record in weight, having caught a sucker weighing 3 pounds, 14 ounces, on March 23. Turbot also caught six other suckers that day.

At Cuba Mills, above Mifflintown, where Lost Croek enters the Juniata, Charlie says two fishermen, whose names he did not hear, were reported to have landed 46 suckers in one day - 25 and 21 fish respectively.

"Good Friday", Charlie says, "was sucker fishing day for Port Royal anglers. Led by Hugh Groninger, chief of the Bureau of Predatory Animals, of the Game Commission, they invaded the sucker haunts on Tuscarora Creek. Some nice catches were reported made."

Charlie believes that recent snows in his section, which ranged in depth from 6 to 24 inches, depending on altitude, will make the fishermen work a little harder for trout on the opening day.

"Snow water has flushed the streams to a point where the angler will have to work a little harder and more carefully to fool the speckled beauties," Charlie writes. "And after they are hooked, in high water, they have a better chance to regain their freedom. However, owing to the stocking program of the Fish Commission, and the late flush of the streams, a fine day's sport should be afforded."

Charlie lists Horso Valley Creek, above East Waterford, and Willow Run, also in that section, as promising waters. Both streams, he writes, were stocked recently.

Lost Creek, although not stocked heavily, he says, may afford good catches, and Licking Croek, well stocked, is a favorite stream.

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HERE AND THERE
WITH OUR ANGLERS

Lamprey eels, excellent bait for trolling, may be found at various points along the Delaware River, Warden John Schadt, Lake Ariel, Wayne County, informs the Old Lamprey Fishermen from the Juniata Valley. They may also be purchased from several bait dealers along the river, he says.

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Warden W. E. Wounderly, Reading, has good news for Berks County trout fishermen. Moselem Creek, Northkill Creek, West Branch Creek, and Rouse Run—major trout streams in that county—are in fine shape for the opening of the season, April 15.

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Trout streams in Schuylkill County were bank full on April 1 owing to heavy snow and rain, writes Warden Anthony Lech, of Shenandoah. Prospects for the season are good.

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Trout haunts in McKean County should be in ideal condition for the opening of the season, April 15, writes Robert J. Chrisman, warden at Kushequa, McKean County. "Prospects are that waters will be back to normal this season," he reports.

Three weeks of snow, while helpful, may not be considered entirely responsible for improved stream conditions, Warden Chrisman feels. Steady rains have also had an excellent effect.

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Although high water is the rule in trout streams of Susquehanna County, Joseph Podboy, warden, of Forest City, anticipates a normal, or nearly normal, flow by the opening of the season for the speckled beauties.

He reports nice catches of suckers in his district and some fine catches of yellow perch from Lake Ladore. Starrucca and Middle Creeks provided good sucker fishing.

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Sucker fishermen have been pounding streams on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, A. S. Snyder, warden, of Mifflinburg, reports. Some fine catches were made. While patrolling White Deer Hole Creek recently, Warden Snyder says he saw 25 cars parked in a distance of 500 yards. Several suckers weighing four pounds were taken in that territory. Catches of twelve fish were not unusual.

John Walker, son of M. L. Walker, Watsontown, caught three hundred suckers in White Deer Hole Creek from December 1, 1931, to March 25, this year. He is 17 years old and an expert fisherman.

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Warden Sam Henderson, Greensburg, Westmoreland County, tells Pennsylvania Angler that trout streams in Fayette, Westmoreland, Somerset and Cambria Counties are in fine shape and have been heavily stocked in anticipation of the opening of the season.

Warden Henderson expressed appreciation for the splendid cooperation given him by sportsmen of Ligonier and Waterford in stocking streams.

"Just this morning (March 31) we received 80 cans of trout for distribution," he writes. "We distributed them during a pouring rain, and the boys helped nobly. We placed 20 cans in each of the following streams: Center Creek, Furnace Run, McGinnis Run, and Lynns Run."

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From Warden Lincoln Lender, Bellwood, Blair County, comes word that
he is optimistic over prospects for the trout season in his territory. A truckload
of trout were placed in Bells Run on February 27, Link writes.

Speaking of fishermen, the record on trout and bass of John Weaver,
Williamsburg, is hard to beat. John caught 188 nice trout last season in Penney
and Clover Creeks, Blair County, and over 50 bass in the Juniata River.

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Warden J. H. Simmons, Rochester, expects good trout fishing in streams
of Lawrence, Mercer, and Butler Counties, following a checkup of streams in that
territory. Simmons reports that he saw five fishermen on Brush Creek with over 50
suckers for a total catch.

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Luther Cease, Trucksville, Luzerne County angler, caught two big brown
tROUT, one 24 inches, the other 20 inches, in Harvey’s Creek, last season, according
to Warden Russell J. Womelsdorf, Kingston.

Trout streams in that section are in good shape, writes Womelsdorf,
and fishermen are looking forward to a banner season. Beaver dams, he feels, were
of real help in preserving the speckled beauties during low water.

"I observed some fine trout in these dams," he reports. "And by the
way, some nice catches of suckers were made in our vicinity in recent months."

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Dick Ridgway, Tunkhannock, while fishing in the North Branch of the
Susquehanna on October 15, last autumn made what he claims, was one of the best bass
catches of his life. He was fishing near Laceyville, writes Enforcement Officer
Myron Shoemaker, that place.

"Dick landed three small mouth bass weighing 8 pounds. One tipped the
scales at 3 pounds, one at 2-5/8 pounds, and the third 2-3/8 pounds. He has the
picture of the fish to prove his story."

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"Fishermen who live in Dauphin and neighboring counties will not have
to drive great distances to good trout fishing this year," says Warden Frank Sanda,
of Steelton. "I have checked on streams in this territory and find conditions ideal.
In Powell’s Creek, Stoney Creek, and Clarks Creek, Dauphin County, I saw some fine
tROUT in patrolling. Indiantown Gap Creek, Lebanon County, Gladfelter’s Run, and
Donegal Creek, Lancaster County, should provide real sport for the trout fishermen.
Hammer Creek, Little and Big Chickies Creek also are well worth trying."

Oscar Westhaver, Steelton, Frank tells Pennsylvania Angler, made a
fine catch of suckers recently in the Conewago. He landed fourteen suckers and six
catfish in high and muddy water.

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Warden George James waxes enthusiastic over prospects for the opening
day in Cumberland County. Big Spring, Letort Spring, the Yellow Breeches, Green
Springs, Upper West Branch of the Yellow Breeches, and Cocklin Run are ace-high
tROUT streams in Cumberland.

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Do You Want Good Fishing?

—Obey the Law!