

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Your largest wild/native trout?

Re: Your largest wild/native trout?

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Date: : 2011/1/23 10:30:25

URL:

I'm not sure. Been lucky to catch my fair share of browns and rainbows up into the mid 20 inch range but am not sure all were wild - most of these fish were from the Cumberland Valley or Spring Creek. I think when fish get large, especially brown trout, telling wild from hatchery fish is mighty tough. I have never caught nor seen what I would regard as an *honest* 30" trout in PA (have seen or caught a few in the upper 20s).

I'm confident in saying that as far as wild brookies go, the biggest I have ever caught was a tick over 11" - this is in over 30 years of fishing small streams. Perhaps a dozen, probably less... 10 inch mountain brookies have come to my hand in that time. Setting aside Big Spring Creek as a separate case in point where I've taken multiple wild brook trout up to 15+" with most of these in the last 3 years.

Now, those darn smallmouths? They always top out at 19.5" for me. 😊