Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Richardson Chest Fly Boxes
Re: Richardson Chest Fly Boxes
Author: : mcneishm
Date: : 2011/9/1 12:46:48
URL:

Lonewolve - As difficult as it may be to believe that the area of central PA around Osceola Mills had any amount of decent trout water, the streams you named, especially Cold Stream and the Black Moshannon, were the streams I grew up fishing and the ones where I learned to fly fish. I caught the first trout I ever caught on Cold Stream, above the Philipsburg Resevoir in an area then,as probably now, only had wild brookies and required a hike of what seemed to be 10 miles to my 10 year old legs but was probably no more than 3/4. I caught my first trout on a fly (that my dad tied) on the Black Moshannon.

That area took a heavy, heavy hit from the soft coal mining industry. There were a number of places where you could look to the horizon in any direction and see nothing but the spoil piles from the strip mines. It looked quite a bit like the moon. The number of beautiful streams that ran red with acid mine drainage from the strip mines, the drift mines, and the deep mines was and remains a crime, and I found it difficult to understand that anyone would have been allowed to do that. The stream that runs through Osceola Mills, aptly named the "Red" Moshannon, has been red at least since the end of the 19th century. A lot of the "moon" was cleaned up after the Surface Mining Act was passed and the area was re-stripped, contour back filled, and planted. That also cleaned up some of the acid mine drainage tho not nearly enough of it. The area is now in the thrall of the Marcellus shale natural gas rush and the land will likely be raped yet again, for the third time.