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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : How long will it take?

Re: How long will it take?

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

I'm very familiar with both streams, but especially the Tionesta. We have a camp on German Hill and I have fished it all my life, probably consider it my "home" stream. Most familiar with the lower end, from say Blue Jay down to Kelletville.

Bug life is pretty caddis centered. Mayflies have been making a very noticeable comeback the last few years. But it doesn't have near the bug life of nearby streams like Oil Creek. I've seen sporadic risers at times, and done well on wet flies during what passes as a "hatch" there. But generally I do best with "non-bugs" there. They stock mostly bows in the early stockings and I do the best by far with egg imitations. Later in the season they stock mostly browns, and woolly buggers and streamers in general do best. Also, the stream has a ridiculous number of crayfish. Late in the season as brown trout fade to smallies, you can do well for both on crayfish imitations.

It is very cold in the early season, sometimes making fishing tough. The old "it's the direction of change, not the actual temperature" holds pretty well, if the weather is on a warming trend things are good, cold fronts put it off. And it warms quickly, transitioning to bass water in late May/early June. But it's stocked heavy, it's big and long and the people spread out, and thus fishing can be very good for a few weeks there. The whole system is also loaded with small wild brookie streams, which fish best in June right as the Tionesta is transitioning to warmwater. Plus, umm, Oil is within striking distance, with better hatches, more dry fly opportunities, and the cool water/good fishing typically holds on longer, into early July on a cooler/wetter year.

As far as how long it takes to catch fish. I transitioned from bait/spin fishing, which was a big help. I already had most of the skills in regards to knowing when and where and with what to fish, reading water, etc. I was catching a few after only 2-3 outings. And I progressively got better from there. It still took me 4 or 5 years, and probably around 500 outings, to get to the point where I was outfishing my old bait fishing self. You gotta have fun with the learning process, or else you'll inevitably quit and go back to bait where the catching is often easier.