

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Mountain Freestone/Brookie Streams in Early Spring

Re: Mountain Freestone/Brookie Streams in Early Spring

Author: : troutbert

Date: : 2013/4/1 17:41:28

URL:

Quote:

icyguides wrote:

I just got back from a perplexing 3 day hiking/fishing trip in Shenandoah National Park. Between me and two friends we caught a total of 0 fish on 4 different streams. We didn't even see or spook a single fish.

There was a lot snow melt the entire time, which lead me to believe the reason for our lack of success was water temperature, but after reading this post, it sounds like you had similiar conditions and still caught fish. I did take a thermometer and one stream read 44-45 in a shallow, near shore area. 45 seems warm enough for some fish activity. I saw a handful of quill gordons hatching.

Was the water stratified, making the deeper spots too cold (i know like air, warm water rises)? Do the fish migrate to areas further downstream (we were fishing close to headwaters)?

I don't fish for native brookies often. Any explanation or any tips for fishing these streams early in the year would be appreciated. It was a humbling experience...at least the hiking was nice.

You didn't say what flies you were using. If you were fishing dries, and they didn't hit dries, did you try subsurface flies such as nymphs and streamers?

But as has been discussed already, when the water is in the low to mid-40s, you're not seeing what those streams really have to offer. It's cold!

If you fish the park when the water is in the mid-50s, things will be entirely different.