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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Fishing small wild trout runs

Re: Fishing small wild trout runs

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URL:

Your experience is all part of small stream fishing, and the tangles, losing flies, and getting stuck in the brush will be present to some degree no matter how much you improve at it.

Make sure you're using the right gear...if you're talking really small, really tight streams (like Kistler) then you probably want a rod 7'6 or shorter. On some larger Brookie streams you can probably get away with a more all around (8'0-9'0) Trout rod, but for the really tight, brushy streams a short rod helps a lot for the compromised kind of casting situations you're in most of the time. No matter what rod you're using, the roll cast is your friend...keep everything in front of you unless you know you have ample room to make the back cast. You don't need a long leader for Brookies...they're not leader, tippet, or drag shy. If you can get into position to get a fly to them without spooking them, they'll eat it.

Definitely try to fish upstream, and stay out of the water as much as possible. Use rocks/boulders and trees to hide your profile when casting, and stay low when approaching a good looking spot. If the water is higher and/or off color, you can be a little more care free in your approach, but in flat, clear water they spook very easily and at quite a distance.

One thing that makes small stream fishing easier IMO is to look for the steeper streams. You can often fish these upstream by fishing a pool, and then standing in it while you fish the next one upstream...the natural gradient of the stream hides you and keeps you from spooking the fish. Steeper streams generally have a taller canopy and aren't as overgrown as lower gradient streams...the exception being ones that are entombed in rhodo of course. Kistler is pretty flat by Brookie/small stream stream standards...if you know about Kistler though, you're looking in the right places to find some of these steeper streams.