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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : PA Prodigal son returning for fly fishing trip

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Hi there - 😊

I'm brand new to this place and just surfing around it seems like exactly what I'm after. I'm an Air Force officer stationed in Las Vegas who grew up in Pennsylvania (Philly area) and didn't get into fly fishing until recently. While I enjoyed a lot of coastal bait fishing as a kid, it's almost sickening to finally learn to fly fish as a 30-something and realize how much great water it appears I missed as a kid and young adult. That said, it's time to make up for lost time and see some of Central PA while I'm at it.

My mission: to make a mid-week, 1-day trip in or around Clinton County into a scenic, worthwhile fly fishing trip for wild trout.

Reason: I'm home for a wedding in Philly in mid-October and will have a day to spare to drive into the mountains and try some small water opportunities. My sister attended Lock Haven University and I never got the chance to see that area as I was away at navigator school back when she was attending. It's a must that I get to see the PA mountains in Fall once again.

The pictures I have seen show some beautiful country and reading the PA guides shows a lot of public access in the woods around the school.

The plan: look at all of the options in Clinton County for wild trout, throw a dart at one and see what the day brings. I love exploring and finding new places to go out on my own. The way I see it, any creek will do, provided I have public access.

I really need some help selecting gear and flies. Right now, I have zero clue what bugs I should pitch during that early/mid-Fall timeframe. As of now, all of my fly fishing has taken place in Nevada, Utah and Colorado, and mostly stillwater at that. As for rods, I presently own the following rod/line (all of which are probably too long for the wooded areas, but I'll make due):

8'6"/3-weight (full float line only)

8'6"/5-weight (full float, sink tip and full sink line available)

9'0"/6-weight (full float and Scientific Anglers GPX Hover hybrid line)

If you could pack just two of those, what would you take? In general, what fly options are best for that part of the state around that time? I know there are a ton of variables, but I'm looking for generalities here. An alternative option I considered is picking up a cheap, 6' Temple Fork 2-weight rod, a spare spool for the Ross Flyrise reel presently on my 3-weight rod and slapping them two together for a relatively inexpensive tight brush solution.

What are your thoughts on these options and thanks for your help!

