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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Smallies Below Conowingo

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Had a chance to fish the rock gardens below (not immediately below) the dam this weekend. A friend of mine has been fishing it for years, and knows, in great detail, where pools are and how deep the water is, etc. He's a spin guy.

We arrived and I promptly caught a nice 11" smallie on about the 5th cast. Beautiful dark green smallies - when you look at the bottom you understand why they are colored the way they are. "Fly guy 1, spin guy 0" I said.

Of course he proceeded to catch a fish about the same size as soon as I opened my mouth. "Looks like is 1 - 1 pal!" I caught another one in the same area just above a riffle shortly thereafter. The fish were pretty much where they were supposed to be.

We moved to his favorite hole, waded out, and he explained where to cast and sure enough on the second cast I landed another 12" fish. 3 or 4 casts later it was on! I know it was a big fish, but when it jumped we both looked at one another with that "holy s\*&t - did you see that?" look. I would estimate it was about 16", maybe bigger, maybe smaller. The jump was like the cover of a Bass Pro catalog - mouth wide open, gills flaring, tail walk...the whole nine yards. He ended up jumping twice before shaking the hook. I suppose I am not accustomed to adding that extra strip set, since I usually fish for small stream smallies. Nonetheless, it was the biggest smallie I have ever hooked.

In terms of flies, the go to fly was a chartreuse crystal bugger, I think size 6. Which was a fly I received in a swap on this very board in 2010! Every fish I caught (5 total, 3 landed in about 2 1/2 hours) was on something with chartreuse in it. Tried white, tried brown, tried olive, tried black. The rule still applies - any color works as long as it's chartreuse!

I will definitely go back and prove that the fly guy always outfishes the spin guy! Can't wait for the fall when the smallies put on the feed bags!