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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Same creek + different stretch of water = completely different fish behavior

Re: Same creek + different stretch of water = completely different fish behavior

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/10/15 14:37:27

URL:

Yeah, you think a lot like a scientist. I do the same.

I'd disagree with jdaddy that your first trip was more of an accomplishment. Well, not disagree, but not agree either. I have no way of knowing, and you probably don't either. Personal success or failure is measured against the typical or expected result. We do have different expectations for each respective water, but I have no idea what those expectations should be for this particular stream.

So if the fertile environment was expected to turn up 5 fish while the less fertile one was expected to turn up 20, and you got 3 and 25, then the less fertile one was the greater accomplishment.

I have streams where I'm disappointed if I only catch 30 and others where I'm thrilled if I catch 5. But merely meeting my "expectation" ranks the same to me on the personal achievement scale.

The real achievement in all of this wasn't what you caught. It was realizing the difference, and beginning to think about WHY.

Some guys are masters of a technique. This guy's a great dry fly fisherman, and this one's a great nymph, etc. That's all fine and dandy. But the guy who's CONSISTENTLY successful understands WHY, and thus can make good decisions based on where and when and how, and thus consistently put himself in the right place at the right time with the right technique to beat everybody's standard "expectation" for a given stretch of water. That's my personal definition of being a "good fisherman". Doing that while perfecting a technique defines a "great fisherman". Too many try to become great but ignore becoming good.

Some streams fish best when high and muddy. Some when low and clear. Some in summer, some in spring, others in fall or winter. Some are evening streams, some are morning streams, and some are best at midday. Some are dependent on a hatch, in which you have to time. Others are not. And conditions are not always the same for all streams. Tailwaters, of course, tend to hold back water and be low when everything else is flooding. During a rain, a forested stream generally gets high, but stays clear, while a farmland stream goes chocolate milk quickly. After a rain, a small stream or a true spring creek drops quickly, while the big, long rivers stay up for a long time.

There's just a million variables, and none are isolated, they all depend on each other. It's an incredibly complicated sport that can never be fully understood, but there are degrees of understanding. Understanding it better will enable you to more often be in the right place at the right time using the right technique. Others will call it luck and say "yeah, I had a day like that on that stream once, it was just your day". But some people seem to have an awful lot of lucky days.

Good job, and you're well on your way.