Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : A Lancaster County Brookie Stream
Re: A Lancaster County Brookie Stream
Author: : afishinado
Date: : 2008/10/3 7:38:15
URL:

Jack wrote: “I have a thought: let Mother Nature determine the characteristics of the creek.”

Jack,

I agree with you in principle, but we (humans) have messed things up so much on this planet, sometimes it may be necessary to intercede to try to rebalance nature. The problem is that, since I’m not a fish biologist, I have no idea if what I’m doing is hurting or helping the stream. As far as anglers, one thing I can tell you is that 100% of the creek chubs are released, while many 7”+ trout are legally kept by anglers. If this goes on day after day, with respect to the fish population make-up, what result would you expect in such a stream?

I won’t even venture a guess as to how many streams have been altered by dams, runoff, the removal of riparian trees and plants, mining, development, etc., thus resulting in a falling population of wild trout and booming population of fish such as creek chubs.

I fished the Saucon in the Lehigh Valley two weeks ago. It is a wild trout stream in the section I fished, and is under Trophy Trout regulations. I saw very few trout, yet there were areas that the bottom was black with chubs and suckers. They are all released by anglers, while the trout, supposedly only the bigger trout, are kept. I some forked sticks propped along the bank, no fewer than 5 styrofoam bait containers along the stream, and two empty packs of snelled hooks (I picked them up and disposed of them properly).

Like I said, I do not have enough knowledge to know if helping to reduce the population of creek chubs in a stream is a good thing…….but common sense will tell ya??