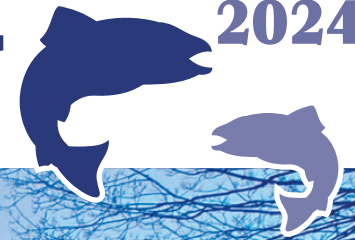


FISHING GUIDE 2024



Schools of Trout

Walton students participate in spring trout stocking

Reelin' 'em in

Time-tested spincasting gear and tips

Catch vs. Release

& More!

Bryce Bracchy of Delhi fishes the west branch of the Delaware River using a Phoebe lure.

Lillian Browne/The Reporter



Schools of Trout

Walton students participate in spring trout stocking



Alyshia Korba/The Reporter

Seventh grade students Madilyn Russell and Kendall McDonald help advisor David Bursnworth feed the juvenile fish.

By Alyshia Korba

WALTON - Walton Central School's (WCS) seventh grade class has been caring for unique classroom pets this school year — a few hundred trout eggs. The activity is part of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, an international effort to connect students in the U.S. and United Kingdom to their local watersheds.

In New York, the program is administered through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) which provides brown trout and/or brook trout eggs to participating classrooms.

Students care for the eggs until they grow into fingerlings at which point they are released into rivers and streams throughout the watershed. Eggs are generally given to the teachers around October and released in the spring.

David Burnsworth, social studies teacher and seventh grade advisor, took over the WCS trout tank from the agriculture class when he started at the school five years ago. He started doing the program while working at Unadilla Valley Central School after learning about it at a Trout Unlimited meeting.

"I just thought that that was an awe-

some idea to bring something that I like in," Burnsworth said. "I can share my knowledge and passion with the kids about fishing and conservation."

Students help with tank setup and maintenance, monitoring the health of the fish and feeding the fish. The WCS tank received 200 brook trout eggs and 100 brown trout eggs, and approximately 150 made it to the fingerling stage.

Throughout the year, students learn about and practice water testing to monitor pH, nitrates, nitrites and ammonia in the tank. They are also taught about the life cycle of a trout and get to observe the first few stages of development.

Seventh-graders Kendall McDonald and Madilyn Russell said witnessing the development of the trout has been their favorite part of the project so far.

"They go from that little orange egg to laying in a jail cell, not moving, doing nothing, to like now they're out and swimming around," McDonald said, referring to the protective mesh "jail cell," or egg basket, that the trout are kept in during the egg and alevin stages.

The students said one exciting moment in this activity was when they returned from the holiday break to find the trout had grown enough to swim out

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Seventh grade student Westin Torres observes the trout as they prepare to leave their egg basket.



Alyshia Korbal/The Reporter

Social studies teacher, seventh grade advisor and fisherman David Burnsworth encourages students like Kendall McDonald to be involved in the trout care and tank maintenance.

of their “jail cells”.

“It was just weird how they were like in a ball and now they’re like real,” Russell said.

The program is especially targeted to schools in cities where students otherwise would not have the opportunity to engage with their watersheds, but Burnsworth said it is just as important for students in the watershed.

“It’s an easy thing that kids can grasp to understand the importance of protecting their local waters,” Burnsworth said. “It’s a fun way to kind of sneak in some learning without them even really knowing it.”

The tank was previously sponsored by the Oneonta chapter of Trout Unlimited, but was dropped from the chapter for “unknown reasons,” Burnsworth said. The school did not have a tank last year as a result, but it has been reestab-

lished with the help of a grant from the O’Connor Foundation.

Students were slightly delayed in getting their eggs because of the funding issue, Burnsworth said, and received them in December rather than October, but the trout will be ready for release in April nevertheless. The class is partnering with the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum and the DEC Catskill Fish Hatchery to coordinate the release with their stocking schedule. Burnsworth said he expects that they will be releasing the fish into the Beaver Kill.

Trout in the Classroom at WCS may be expanding in the future, Burnsworth said, as several teachers in the Townsend Elementary School have expressed interest in starting their own tank. He said he is planning to apply for another grant to get a tank for the elementary school.

Trout season opens April 1

1.9 million trout stocked statewide

The spring trout fishing season begins April 1. There are excellent angling opportunities thanks to DEC’s extensive stocking program and wild trout fisheries. DEC stocks nearly 1.9 million trout in waters statewide, beginning in March and lasting until early June.

Trout Regulations

For decades, April 1 was the traditional “opening day” of inland trout fishing season. Now the date marks the opening of the harvest season after year-round fishing was greenlit on most streams in 2021, with the implementation of an Oct. 16 to March 31 “artificial lures only, catch-and-release” season.

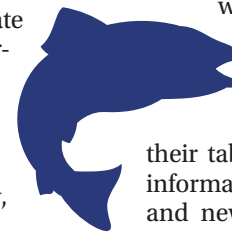
Trout Stocking

Beginning in March, DEC trout stocking is in full swing with 1,884,756 catchable brook, brown, and rainbow trout stocked in ponds and streams across the state. “Stocked-Extended” streams, listed in the Inland Trout Streams Regulations section of the freshwater fishing regulations guide, will receive fish every other week for two months to enhance season-long opportunities for angler success. Most streams will also receive a seeding of larger stocked trout. Spring trout stocking lists, including the week of stocking for trout streams, can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30465.html

Trout Stream Fishing Opportunities

Last year, DEC added a new feature to

its official HuntFishNY app called The Tackle Box. Fishing regulations, boating access, and stocking information are all available in a map-based interface from the convenience of a smart phone. Other features include driving directions to state boat launch sites and an offline feature that allows users to access information when cell coverage isn’t available. The HuntFishNY app,



which includes the Tackle Box, is free of charge and available through the App store (iOS) and Google Play (Android) for anyone to download on

their tablet or smart phone. For more information on the HuntFishNY app and new Tackle Box feature visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html

The popular Trout Stream Fishing Map on DECinfo Locator is also available. Anglers can view trout stream reaches, color-coded by management category, and fishing access associated with those reaches. Links to the Trout Stream Fishing Map and a User Guide are available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/122444.html Anglers are encouraged to check these valuable resources when planning their next fishing trip.

2023 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide

A digital version of the new guide is available to download on the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html Hard copies of the guide are available wherever sporting licenses are sold.



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UDC seeks river and shoreline cleanup proposals

NARROWSBURG – The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) is accepting applications through April 19 for its 2024 River & Shoreline Cleanup Grants Program.

Since 2014, the UDC has disbursed a total of \$48,403.13 in support of its member municipalities to organize cleanups in the river and along the banks of their localities to help maintain the pristine quality of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

The UDC's 13 bi-state members - the New York state towns of Hancock, Fremont, Delaware, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, and Deepark; and the Pennsylvania townships of Berlin, Damascus, Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall - are eligible to submit proposals.

Priority is given to projects that get adult and youth volunteers involved, show local investment, and reflect a commitment to become self-sustaining. Respect for private property rights is paramount during cleanups.

Interested towns must submit a letter to the UDC describing their project, an estimated budget with a breakdown for materials and services, the funding amount requested, and contact information for a project leader.

The UDC's Operations Committee will review applications at its April 23 meeting and the full council is expected to vote on the awards May 2.

Successful applicants will have until Sept. 10 to complete their projects and submit a request for reimbursement.

The UDC non-profit organization opts to share with its membership a portion of its federal operational funding that the National Park Service (NPS) allocates in the form of mini-grants for river sweeps and technical assistance projects.

The River & Shoreline Cleanup Grants Program began in 2014 after the NPS discontinued its direct contributions to municipalities for trash removal.

For more information, contact UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie at 845-252-3022 or laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org



Lillian Browne/The Reporter
Emelia McGraw, at age 2, tries her hand at fishing Wakeman Brook in Walton.

63rd annual Two-Headed Trout dinner

ROSCOE - The 63rd annual Two-Headed Trout dinner, sponsored by the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce, will take place at the Rockland House April 6 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Guest speakers include Carolyn Summers, founder of The Flying Trillium, nationally renowned pollinator advocate essential to the health of fly fishing trout and a vibrant outdoor sporting environment; 2024 Joan Wulff Excellence in Fly Fishing Award recipient Nancy Zakon; and inaugural 2024 Golden Trout Com-

munity Service Award recipient Harris Funeral Home, Roscoe.

There will be raffles, a silent auction and \$1,000 in prizes.

Socialize, eat, drink and dance the night away. Acclaimed local musicians "Shades" will perform before and after dinner.

Tickets are \$80 per individual; \$640 per table for eight.

For more info and to purchase tickets visit: roscoeny.com

2024 Free Fishing Days

New York has designated Free Fishing Days for 2024. On the following days, the state's fishing license requirement is waived for freshwater fishing:

- June 29-30
- Sept. 28
- Nov. 11

The Free Fishing Days program began in 1991 to give people the opportunity

to fish at no cost. It encourages people to try a new hobby and potentially buy a New York State fishing license which supports conservation.

To purchase a fishing license visit: dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/fishing-license

5th annual service couples fly-fishing experience contest

Sponsored by Friends of the Upper Delaware River and Trout Unlimited

When: Sunday, June 2 through Saturday, June 8

Complementary six-nights lodging at the beautiful West Branch Angler Resort in Deposit. Four days of fly-fishing instruction, guided wade fishing, and float fishing on the Upper Delaware River, one of the finest wild trout habitats in North America.

Free day Wednesday, June 6, for exploring, hiking, birding, kayaking.

All fishing gear is provided. Fly-fishing experience is helpful, but not required

Open to couples representing the military, fire, emergency medical service and law enforcement (first responder) and frontline medical communities.

The event is FUDR's and TU's way of saying thank you for the service you have given to the community, and for the support your partner has given to

you in your service.

For an application visit mcusercontent.com/4aac2335f264c89d0c019eec1/files/f8c154d2-e8f2-bfbf-2fe0-adf99644a926/Application.01.pdf

For a schedule of events visit mcusercontent.com/4aac2335f264c89d0c019eec1/files/10b3ba4d-bfc3-90cb-0b6b-a1c89cdb0dc5/Schedule_of_events_for_guests_2024.pdf

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Government investment boosts efforts to protect the Upper Delaware River trout fishery

By Jeff Skelding

The Upper Delaware River watershed is an important part of the long and storied history of trout fishing heritage in the Catskills and includes great angling waters like the East Branch, West Branch, Beaverkill, and Willowemoc. Along with its Catskills counterparts like the Esopus and the Schoharie that drain to the Hudson River, it's the area renowned as the birthplace of American fly fishing.

The construction of the New York City Delaware River basin reservoirs in the 1950s and 1960s created a world-class wild trout fishery below those dams ("the tailwaters") on the East Branch, West Branch, and mainstem of the Upper Delaware River. Further down the watershed, the Neversink River, fed by the Neversink Reservoir, also offers world-class trout fishing.

At the local level, there have been many efforts over the decades to protect our trout streams and preserve and promote our angling history. These include approaches like the development of trout management plans, special regulations for "catch and release," angling and conservation education efforts, and a growing reliance on stream protection and restoration efforts that improve trout habitat and water quality.

These efforts got a shot in the arm in 2017 when the federal government finally recognized the need to institute a program - the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program - that could provide the Delaware River watershed with a reliable source of funding to implement measures to protect water quality, habitat, and trout streams. Since the inception of the program, more than \$5 million has come into the watershed for on-the-ground stream protection and restoration projects.

After the adoption of the federal program, New York state began to turn its attention to the Upper Delaware River trout fishery like never before. In 2018, the New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) partnered with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on a three-year fisheries investigation study that lays the foundation for a first-ever wild

trout management plan for the tailwater fishery below the Cannonsville and Pepacton dams. In 2020, the state of New York included a line item in the state budget to fund a comprehensive watershed-wide action agenda that will boost efforts to protect trout streams throughout the New York portion of the Upper Delaware River watershed. And in 2021, NYSDEC categorized the Upper Delaware River tailwaters as a "wild premier" trout stream affording it the highest levels of protection in the first-ever New York State Trout Stream Management Plan.

All of this progress couldn't be timelier. We've reached a crossroads as increasing pressures in the watershed present ecological challenges that threaten native and wild trout throughout the Catskills. Trout need cold, clean water, and healthy aquatic habitat in the river to thrive. Climate change impacts can lead to rising water temperatures and more frequent and severe storms that cause habitat impacts that are unfavorable to trout survival. Forest fragmentation, sediment disturbance, increasing sewage, and stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces are all outcomes of growth that need to be planned for and managed properly.

There have been numerous watershed protection plans developed over the decades in the upper Delaware watershed both above and below the New York City dams often targeted at a sub-watershed level. Many of these plans have led to measurable improvements in flood mitigation, water quality, habitat improvement, and recreational enhancements. But the upper Delaware River in New York has never had a comprehensive plan that lays out a vision for water resource management for the entire watershed. New York state's investment has created an opportunity to put in place a watershed-wide action agenda that recognizes existing plans, helps advance their goals and objectives where needed, and fills in gaps where

no plans exist.

Over the past two years, Friends of the Upper Delaware River have worked with dozens of partners representing a wide variety of watershed stakeholders to launch a first-ever watershed stakeholder engagement process that will inventory the entire watershed, identify its most pressing challenges, and make recommendations for how we can adapt and adjust to these changing times. The fish will appreciate it. The action agenda focuses on water quality, habitat protection, climate change, and recreational opportunities.

To ensure the action agenda is top notch, we need everybody to participate. One of the key constituencies that need to engage with us are anglers. An-

glers know the river and understand the importance of keeping it clean. Anglers tend to be on the front of lines of conservation stewardship. Their love of fishing and fish enhances their understanding of the sensitive balance of the natural world.

The action agenda is a living document subject to regular modifications as environmental conditions change. We need anglers to tell us what you want in the plan and make suggestions that will improve the angling experience in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

For more information and to become involved in the implementation of the Upper Delaware River Action Agenda, contact Friends of the Upper Delaware River at info@fudr.org or visit fudr.org

Jeff Skelding is the executive director of Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) based in Hancock. Since 2017, FUDR has spearheaded a grassroots effort to generate more than \$6 million in federal and state investments in Upper Delaware River watershed protection.



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Fishing For Stream Trout

With thousands of miles of streams across the state, there are ample trout fishing opportunities in New York. Each year the DEC stocks around 2.3 million catchable-size brook, brown and rainbow trout in almost 300 lakes, ponds and roughly 3,100 miles of streams across the state. Many of these streams support wild populations of trout as well.

Brook or Speckled Trout

Brook trout are native to the state and are New York's official state fish. Brook trout generally live in small-to-moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cool (below 72 degrees Fahrenheit) water is available. They tend to prefer colder water than rainbow and brown trout, and they are often found in the headwaters of streams. The DEC stocks around 151,000 brook trout each spring.

Brown Trout

Brown trout were brought over from Europe in the 1880s and can now be found in waters all across New York. Browns can be found in streams, rivers, ponds and lakes and can tolerate higher water temperatures than brook trout. Many anglers feel that brown trout tend to be more wary and challenging to catch than brook or rainbow trout. Spring stocking include 1.8 million brown trout, 89,000 of which are two year old fish that average thirteen inches.

Rainbow Trout

Rainbows are native to the Pacific coast and were introduced into New York waters in the 1870s. Rainbows are found in streams, rivers, lakes and ponds. Like brown trout, they can tolerate higher water temperatures than brook trout. Around 392,000 rainbow trout are stocked each spring into

streams and lakes.

Spin Fishing Equipment

Though any fishing rod and reel will work for stream trout, choosing equipment appropriate to the size fish you are after will improve your success. Light and ultra-light spinning rods from 4 1/2 to 8 1/2 feet in length work well. Shorter rods are easier to handle when dealing with overhanging trees and branches found along many trout streams, but are usually more difficult to hook fish with. Longer rods, however, are usually better for hooking and playing fish and for increased casting distance. Match the rod with a small to medium sized spinning reel spooled with four to eight pound monofilament line.

Lures and Baits

Good artificial lures to try are small spinners, spoons, jigs, stickbaits, and plastics (like 1-2" tube jigs and twister tails.) If using spinners and spoons, a small ball bearing snap swivel will help avoid line twist.

Natural baits that work for trout are worms, fish eggs, grasshoppers, salted or live minnows, corn, maggots and small marshmallows. Check current fishing regulations as some areas restrict the use of natural or live bait. Worms should be hooked once or twice, leaving a trailing tail that undulates in the water and helps attract fish. However, if fish are just nipping off this tail section, try a smaller piece of worm. Good hook sizes range from size 6 to 10, depending on the size of the bait being used. Use as little weight as possible; you want your bait to drift along naturally and just tick the bottom. Carry a few different sizes of small, removable split shot so you can adjust your weight. When fishing deep pools or long runs, try suspending your bait under a float (or bobber).



A third bait option is the artificial baits that are made of natural ingredients. They are biodegradable and available in a variety of shapes and styles such as worms, nuggets, maggots and twister tails. A nice thing about these baits is that they need no special care like natural baits do, and they stay on the hook well when casting.

Fly Fishing Equipment

Fly Rod

A good fly rod for stream fishing would be a 7½ to 9 foot 4 to 6 weight rod. Match this with a disc drag or single action fly reel spooled with 50 yards of Dacron backing; along with a weight forward floating line (matched to rod) with a 9 to 12 foot tapered leader with a 4X tippet.

Flies

A good all-around starter fly assortment for much of New York would be:

Dry Flies: Adams, Elk-Hair Caddis

Wet Flies: Royal Coachman, Black Gnat

Nymphs: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, Prince Nymph

Streamers: Muddler Minnow, Wooly Bugger

Fishing Methods

When fishing for trout in streams, it's best to work your way upstream (against the current) whenever possible. This is especially important when fishing for wild or spooky fish. Trout usually face into the current and will be less likely to see you approaching from behind. Wear camouflage clothing or "natural colors," and try to avoid brightly colored clothing and hats. Move slowly and disturb the water as little as possible. Polarized

glasses will aid you when wading and for seeing fish and fish-holding areas. A good option is to fish your way upstream with a fast moving bait like a spinner and then fish back downstream with a slower presentation like a worm or small jig. The faster bait allows you to cover water quickly and to catch aggressive fish. The slower bait works well for fish you may have spooked on your first pass or fish that are less aggressive.

When fishing for trout you will usually be fishing stream pockets, pools and runs.

Stream Etiquette

At times, the fishing pressures can be heavy and stream etiquette can go a long way in making everyone's day pleasurable. Elbow room to fish is a common courtesy. The stationary or slow moving angler should be given room by overtaking them noiselessly out of the water and reentering as far away as practical. Wading right up to another angler could disturb a pod of feeding fish, and no one appreciates this type of conduct. Pleasant conversations are OK, so long as you don't disturb other anglers. Remember, elbow room to fish is a common courtesy.

Catch and Release

There's nothing wrong with keeping some fish for the frying pan. Fish are delicious and eating a few fresh fish is a great way of capping off a fun day of fishing. If you plan on releasing fish though, there are some steps you can take to help improve their survival.

Methods for Releasing Fish

- Use barbless hooks; they cause less damage to the fish.

- Playing a fish for just a short time increases its chance of survival. Do not play a fish longer than necessary.

- Wet your hands before touching a fish that is to be released. Dry skin will remove the mucous coating on trout. Avoid touching the gills.

- Use of a landing net also increases the survival rate of a trout.

- Gently push the hook out and cradle the fish in your hand, underwater and facing upstream. After a moment, allow the fish to swim free. If the fish turns upside down, catch it and revive it as stated above.

* courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



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Reelin' 'em in

Time-tested spincasting gear and tips

By Lillian Browne

Trout fishing in Delaware County is not just a pastime - it's a tradition steeped in history and lore. Flyfishing was birthed in the Catskills and the famed Beaver Kill, Willowemoc and east and west branches of the Delaware River draw thousands of fly fishers to the area each year seeking a day on the water. But that is not how most people fish in Delaware County.

It's here that fly fishers share the water and stream banks with spincasters of all ages - using bait and lures.

Dick Gifford, owner of Gifford's Sports Supply in Walton, someone who has



Krocodile lure.

been in the business for decades, shares tips to help reel in fish.

Lures

Most lures for freshwater fishing imitate bait fish in a river lake or stream.

Gifford said, "So it's best to choose one that comes close to imitating a bait native of the waters you are fishing," he said. Among his best selling lures is the Phoebe. The lure was invented by Blaine Wright after fishing, studying and experimenting with luring fish on the west branch of the Delaware River.

"It's a VERY effective trout lure for the river (west branch of the Delaware River)," Gifford said.

Other top selling casting lures include the Rapala - great for trout and bass, and Kastmaters and Krocodiles - which are great for early-season use in lakes or the Cannonsville and Pepacton reservoirs.

Another choice in lures is a "spinner" which gets its name from the action of the metallic blades, that passively revolve like a spinning propeller when the lure is in motion. The lure mimics a small fish or other prey for large predatory fish. Top selling spinners include the Yamika rooster tail, "It's the number one seller in the store," Gifford said; the Panther Martin and Mepps lures are also very popular.

Another lure that is gaining popularity is the Thomas Rough Rider spoon, for trout. Whether it's the glint of sunlight off a Phoebe or the subtle wobble of a silver spoon, these timeless lures have a knack for enticing even the wariest trout.

But the overall best seller for bait, Gifford said, is the nightcrawler and trout worm. "They lead the pack, especially in April and May."

Fishing Line

There are three basic types of fishing line for freshwater fishing: monofilament, fluorocarbon and braided, Gifford said. He uses the mono-line, partly because it costs less and because it works just fine for most types of fishing. For line that has a little less stretch and sinks better, use fluorocarbon, he said. Braided lines, like Berkeley Fire Line and Spiderwire, give lots of strength with a smaller diameter line. His best selling lines are 6- or 8-pound monofilament.

Fishing for those big browns in the reservoirs sometimes requires lead core lines, he said from experience.

Poles

For stream fishing, you need a decent spinning rod and reel, Gifford said. He recommends a Shakespeare Ugly Stick, "Although there are several excellent



6-pound monofilament fishing line.

spinning combos out there."

Whether a seasoned angler or a wide-eyed novice, Delaware County offers some of the finest fishing around, and with the right gear - a mix of old-school classics and modern innovations - you'll be well-equipped to reel in the catch of a lifetime.

Gifford's Sports Supply is located at 133 Stockton Ave., Walton. For more information call 607-865-4427 or find them on Facebook.

License Requirements

You need a fishing license if you are 16 years and older and fishing for:

- Freshwater fish species by angling, spearing, hooking, longbow, and tip-ups.
- Frog species by spearing, catching with the hands or by use of a club or hook.
- Freshwater baitfish for personal use.

You do not need a fishing license if you are:

- Fishing on a licensed fishing preserve
- Fishing during designated Free Fish-

ing Days

- Fishing at a free learn to fish clinic
- A resident landowner primarily engaged in farming (including lessees and members of their immediate families) when fishing on farmlands they are occupying and cultivating.
- A farm fish pond license holder (including members of their immediate families) fishing on waters covered by the license.
- A Native American living and fishing on reservation land.
- A patient residing at a qualifying U.S. Veterans Administration hospital or facility in New York.

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Catch vs. Release

Fishing Delaware County

By Lillian Browne

DOWNSVILLE - April 1 marks the opening of the harvest season after year-round fishing was greenlit on most New York streams in 2021, with the implementation of an Oct. 16 to March 31 "artificial lures only, catch-and-release" season.

Though some people keep what they catch, there is continued advocacy for more releasing than keeping, including by Al Carpenter, owner of Al's Sports Store in Downsville.

Year-round catch-and-release applies to trout streams only. Fishing for trout in lakes and ponds is prohibited after Oct. 15, unless they are managed under a special regulation that allows for angling.

"If you really want to have good fishing, year round, why don't you let more of them go?"

Carpenter asks; though he is not opposed to keeping a fish now and then.

In order for the fishing to be really good, there has to be a fair amount of fish out there to catch, he said.

"So if you take everything all the time, then you have nobody to blame but yourself when the fish are not biting," he opines.

Carpenter also objects to regulations which allow anglers to fish while trout are spawning.

"Back in 1984, DEC harvested scale samples from trout caught in the reservoir," Carpenter recalled. "Eighty percent were proven to be wild fish. Back then they stocked twice as many fish as they do now so it would be safe to assume that the percentage of wild fish in there now would have to be greater than 80%. That's a good reason to not harvest them when they are spawning."

The state (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) does not stock enough fish to allow for repopulation, compounding a foreseen decrease in the fish population, he said; however, they have reduced the daily



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Al Carpenter, owner of Al's Sports Store in Downsville, makes a case for catch-and-release fishing.

harvest limit to compensate for the decrease.

There are not nearly as many fish as there used to be, he continued, and they are not as big as they once were, either. The fishery has changed over the years.

From his observation, he said, there is an increasing number of anglers who fish streams and rivers who are releasing what they catch because they realize the alternative is having to wait to fish after a stocking truck arrives. Those

who fish the reservoirs are more likely to keep what they catch, he said.

Staying within the confines of regulations and simply taking a daily limit can also fuel depopulation of the fishery, he said.

"I'm trying to educate people about how to help the fishery," he said in advocacy of catch-and-release.

For hours and information about Al's Sport Store, visit allsportstore.com or call 607-363-7740.

2024 trout stocking in Delaware County

Spring trout stocking begins in April and runs through early June. These listings reflect the anticipated distribution of yearling and older trout for the spring fishing season. Actual numbers and stocking times may vary depending on fish availability and weather conditions.

The fish are stocked with help from County Federated Sportsmen.

For a more detailed breakdown of stocking dates, see page 19, visit the-reporter.net or www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/23327.html

Beaverkill Trout Hatchery

Fishing Preserve Open 8 to 5
Saturday & Sunday, April - Labor Day



Top Quality Trout
for Stocking
and for the Table

Hatchery Open All Year-Round
(weather permitting)

Family Owned and Operated by the Shaver Family
Circa 1963 - 5 Generations

Restaurant inquiries Welcome
Email: troutlady61@gmail.com

LIVE DELIVERY GUARANTEED
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Cash or Check. No cards, please.

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Livingston Manor, NY



845-439-4947 for info
BeaverkillTroutHatchery.com

37165

General Fishing Licenses Types and Fees

Annual license valid one full year (365 days) from the date of purchase or renewal; Ages 16-69: Resident \$25, nonresident \$50. Ages 70 plus resident \$5, non-resident \$50.

Seven-day license: Resident \$12, non-resident \$28

One-day license: Resident \$5, non-resident \$10

For residency qualifications visit www.dec.ny.gov