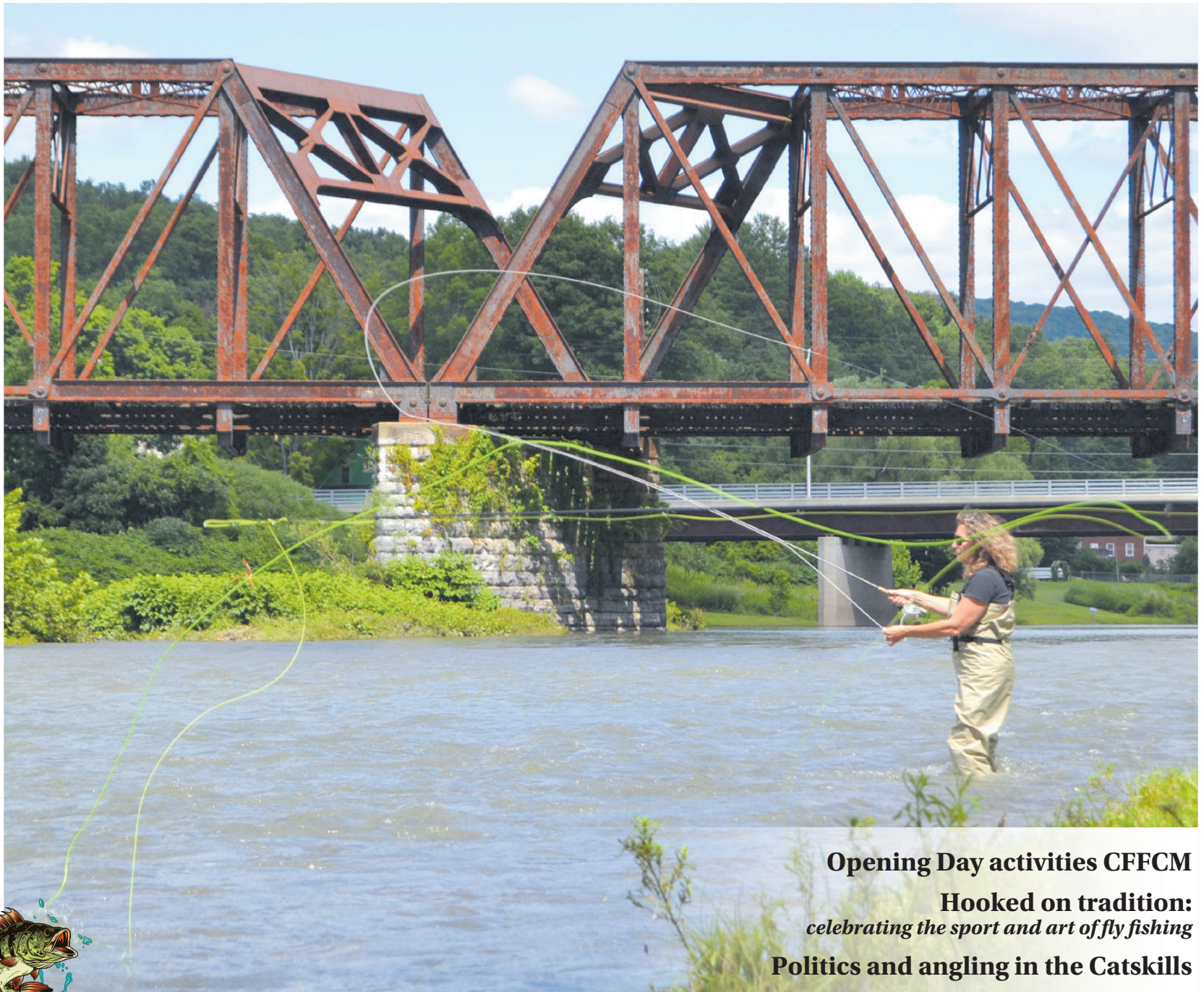


# FISHING

GUIDE



**Opening Day activities CFFCM**

**Hooked on tradition:**  
*celebrating the sport and art of fly fishing*

**Politics and angling in the Catskills**



2023 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORTER



# Politics and angling in the Catskills

By Jeff Skelding

As distasteful as politics can sometimes seem these days, there is a good news story to tell when it comes to their recent impacts on watershed protection and trout fishing in the Catskills region.

The Upper Delaware River (UDR) watershed offers some of the finest trout angling in the entire country and is often referred to as the birthplace of American fly fishing. However, the story of conservation to ensure the future protection and restoration of the watershed is a bit of a mixed bag. The watershed is divided by the New York City water supply system and can fairly be described as a “tale of two watersheds.” For decades, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, New York City, and an engaged citizenry have worked hard to achieve conservation results while assuring the health of local economies and the protection

of private property rights above the Pepacton, Cannonsville, and Neversink reservoirs. This area is often referred to as the “New York City” watershed.

That work hasn’t been easy and there are still spirited disagreements about the best way to achieve conservation and economic harmony in the region. But as a general matter, the dynamic has greatly improved over the years and so has the conservation result. The trout are happier too.

The same can’t always be said for the portion of the UDR watershed that lies below the NYC reservoirs in Delaware and Sullivan counties where a nationally renowned wild trout tailwater fishery attracts anglers from across the globe. While there have been many excellent efforts to protect water quality and habitat over the decades by government agencies, non-profits, and private landowners, they often came in fragmented approaches and unlinked projects. Thankfully, this is



changing as the increasing popularity of the river is accompanied by a heightened awareness of the need to holistically protect the watershed which is attracting new resources to advance water quality and habitat protections.

In 2017, a coalition of municipal governments and non-profit organizations completed a comprehensive planning process to protect tailwater streams in Delaware County and a similar effort is now underway for the Neversink River watershed. Perhaps the biggest factor in making a difference in this part of the watershed is the long overdue recognition by New York state and the federal government of the need for a meaningful and dedicated conservation investment.

Since 2017, the federal Delaware River Basin Restoration Program has awarded close to \$5 million in grant funds to organizations and agencies who work with multiple partners, including local governments and private landowners, to implement dozens of on-the-ground stream restoration projects below the NYC res-

ervoirs. These efforts generate multiple community benefits including water quality improvement, flood mitigation, fisheries protection, and enhanced recreational opportunities.

The program has enjoyed strong bipartisan support from New York’s congressional delegation since 2017 and our newest member, Congressman Marcus Molinaro, is already demonstrating notable leadership in the early days of his public service in Washington D.C. Back in New York, the general assembly and the governor in Albany are poised to fund a second year of UDR funding in their state budget. This marks the first time the UDR has ever received dedicated funding at the state level and removes the region from underneath the long shadows of the state’s other iconic watersheds.

Lead by NY Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, this

effort also enjoys strong bipartisan support from members of the state legislature representing the Catskills region and the southern tier of New York. All of this is occurring amidst a backdrop of increasing pressures on the river including changing weather patterns and increased flooding, post-COVID out-migration, and the proximity of the watershed to millions of people less than a day’s drive away. The adoption of these important funding programs and an increasingly unified public engaged in watershed protection means the future looks brighter for anglers and trout in the Catskills region!

*Jeff Skelding is the executive director of Friends of the Upper Delaware River based in Hancock. The organization works to protect and restore the Upper Delaware River watershed in New York and northeast Pennsylvania.*

## Anglers’ Reunion dinner March 31

The Anglers’ Reunion dinner will be Friday, March 31, at the Rockland House, 159

Rockland Road, Roscoe.

Cost for the dinner is \$36 per person. Social hour is at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6. Call 607-498-4240 to make reservations as soon as possible.

The Anglers Reunion started in the early 1950s and was held at the Antrim Lodge in Roscoe on a three-day weekend in mid-January for several years. Opening day at that time was mid April. Businessmen involved in fishing tackle, news writers, fishermen from all over and local people attended and enjoyed ice fishing, rabbit hunting, show shoeing and socializing at Keener’s Pool.



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# Opening Day activities CFFCM

Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFCM), 1031 Old Rte 17, Livingston Manor, will host fishing related events and activities throughout the area all weekend with a special Saturday, April 1 - Celebrate at the Center - for the official start of the 2023 trout season.

"First cast at Junction Pool," the confluence of the Willowemoc and Beaverkill Rivers, has been a tradition since the 1940s.

Food and fish tales will be plentiful at the museum from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; warm up with "Soup A La Agnes" - prepared by the beloved Agnes Van Put - and free coffee.

The museum's guest fly tyer for the day: John Apgar; for kids, coloring sheets featuring "Beamoc" the two-headed trout.

Museum admission is free

for 2023 members. Join or renew at [crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub\\_23989aa7-ddc1-11ec-be05-02d341daa68d&WidgetId=108544](http://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub_23989aa7-ddc1-11ec-be05-02d341daa68d&WidgetId=108544)

## Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) Friday, April 14

Coming to CFFCM for the first time ever and the only screening in southern New York, 10 beautiful short films about fly fishing. F3T is the original and largest fly fishing film event of its kind. Come for the action and stay for the giveaways and camaraderie. The films are set in locations from Cuba to Patagonia, Mexico to Australia, Alaska, Wyoming, the Deep South, Massachusetts and beyond. Experience the achievement of a permit slam, follow the journey of one boy from Mexico to the waters of Wyoming, explore the best international waters and compete for the

legendary belt buckle.

Check out the entire tour at [flyfilmtour.com](http://flyfilmtour.com) or follow on social at [@flyfishingfilm-tour](https://twitter.com/flyfishingfilm-tour).

Pizza, barbecue, soft drinks and beer are included in your ticket price of \$25 - advanced tickets required. Raffle tickets will be sold during the event for incredible prizes from national and local businesses. Get your tickets before they sell out.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with social hour in the Wulff Gallery. Screening begins at 6:30. Intermission at 7:15 when raffle drawings are held.

For more information call the museum - 845-439-4810 or visit [cffcm.com](http://cffcm.com)



contributed photo

Rachael Yaeger is all smiles as she wades back in after the 2022 "ceremonial first cast."

## Join FUDR for One Bug 2023

Each year, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) hosts a weekend-long "One Bug" fly fishing tournament, which kicks off the spring season on the Upper Delaware.

Organizers are excited to announce that the banquet is back after the pandemic, and is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 29. Purchase tickets at [www.fudr.org/one-bug](http://www.fudr.org/one-bug).

There are three fishing team spots available. This year, the fishing tournament occurs Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29.

Register your team of two for \$3300, or \$1650 for a single - click here to register: [www.fudr.org/one-bug](http://www.fudr.org/one-bug)

**Included in the fishing registration fee:**

- Thursday night dinner with all One Bug anglers and

guides

- Two days of drift boat fishing with a licensed Upper Delaware River guide. Back by popular demand, fish in the same boat with your partner

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided on Friday and Saturday

- One Bug merchandise
- Awards banquet on Saturday evening

- Partial tax-deductible donation

- Lots of fun hanging out in the best place on earth.

Saturday night banquet tickets (\$150) includes:

- one free drink
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# Hooked on tradition: celebrating the sport and art of fly fishing



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

A section of the Wulff Gallery is dedicated to the history of fly tying.

By Lillian Browne

LIVINGSTON MANOR - Livingston Manor and Roscoe, located in the Catskills just over the Delaware County border, are well-known destinations for fly fishing enthusiasts. The area's rich history of fly fishing dates back to the mid-19th century.

In the mid-1800s, fly fishing began to gain popularity in the United States, and anglers began to explore the streams and rivers of the Catskills. The region's abundant trout population and beautiful scenery made it an ideal destination for fishing enthusiasts.

One of the most famous figures in Catskills fly fishing history is Theodore Gordon. Gordon is credited with developing many of the fly fishing techniques that are still used today. He lived in Roscoe and fished the Beaver Kill extensively. In the late 1800s, Gordon began to develop his own flies and fly tying techniques, which were more effective than the traditional English patterns that were popular at the time.

Gordon is widely con-



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

sidered to be the father of American dry fly fishing, and he is credited with creating several famous fly patterns that are still in use. One of his most famous creations is the Quill Gordon. The Quill Gordon is a classic dry fly pattern that imitates the early season mayfly hatch, and it is a popular choice among fly fishers today.

Another famed fly tyer and angler, Lee Wulff, created several patterns in the 1930s including the Royal Wulff, the White Wulff, the Grey Wulff, and the Adams Wulff, among others.

The flies are known for their bushy, highly visible wings, which make them easy for anglers to see on

hatch, and it is a popular choice among fly fishers today.

The flies are known for their bushy, highly visible wings, which make them easy for anglers to see on





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Lillian Browne/The Reporter

The fly tying desk owned by Dave Brandt, a legendary conservationist and fly tyer. Brandt died in 2020.

the water. They are typically tied with hair from a white-tailed deer or moose, and their bodies are made from a variety of materials, including peacock herl, dubbing, or synthetic materials.

Wulff flies are highly effective at imitating a wide range of mayflies and other insects, and are popular choices for fly fishing for trout, grayling, and other freshwater species. The Wulff series of flies have become classic patterns and are widely used by fly fishermen around the world.

Both anglers and fly tyers are memorialized for their contributions to the sport and the art of fly fishing, as well as their conservation efforts, at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor and Roscoe, along with the east and west branches and the main stem of the Delaware River in Delaware County, and the Little Delaware River and Trout Creek in the town of Trout Creek, remain popular destinations for fly fishing enthusiasts.

They believed fly fishing has a history and heritage worth preserving. Many of

the techniques and traditions of fly fishing have been passed down through generations, and preserving the heritage can help maintain a connection to the past.

Fly fishing is a significant economic driver and helps support local economies and businesses.

Today, the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc in Liv-



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Ali Abate, executive director of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, at the gift shop.

There are five different types of trout in New York waterways, including brook trout, also known as speckled trout, and are the only native species in the state. They prefer cold, clean water and are typically found in small streams and high elevation lakes.

Brown trout are an introduced species now found widely throughout the state. They are known for their aggressive behavior and can grow to be quite large.

Rainbow trout are also an introduced species and are popular among anglers due to their acrobatic fighting style. They are often stocked in streams and lakes and can be found in some wild populations.

Lake trout are typically found in larger, deeper lakes. They are known for their size and can grow to over 30 pounds.

Steelhead trout are migratory rainbow trout and are found in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. They are known for their strong runs.

They are known for their strong runs.



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## 62nd annual Two-Headed Trout dinner

ROSCOE - The 62nd annual Two-Headed Trout dinner, sponsored by the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce, will take place at the Rockland House April 1 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Guest speakers include Ramsay Adams, founder and executive director of Catskill Mountainkeeper and Richard Schager, 2022

Two-Headed Trout Lifetime Achievement award recipient.

Other award recipients are Ed Van Put, Catskill Fly Fishing author and advocate and recipient of the "Joan Wulff Award for Fly Fishing Excellence;" and posthumously, the late Ted Rogowski, acclaimed Beaverkill River conservationist.

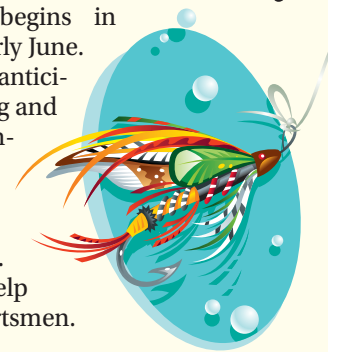
Invited guests of honor include Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado, an avid fly-fisher and supporter of the sport, Joan Wulff, the legendary First Lady of Fly Fishing, and Richard Schafer, fly fishing champion.

Tickets are \$75 per individual; \$525 per table for 8 - \$65 each.

## 2023 trout stocking in Delaware County

Spring trout stocking begins in March 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.



### Delaware County, DEC Region 4

Water	Town	Number	Date	Species	Size
Beaver Kill	Colchester	9540	1st week of April thru 3rd week of May	Brown Trout	9-15"
Big Pond	Andes	250	Spring	Rainbow Trout	8"
Big Pond	Andes	212.5	Spring	Brown Trout	8"
Cannonsville Reservoir	Deposit and Tompkins	6375	May	Brown Trout	8"
Charolette Creek	Davenport	4180	April - 2nd week	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River East Branch	Middletown	1583	April - 4th week	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River East Branch	Middletown, Roxbury	893	April - 4th week	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River East Branch	Roxbury	609	April - 4th week	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River West Branch	Delhi	7200	1st week of April thru 3rd week of May	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River West Branch	Hamden, Walton	5896	1st week of April thru 3rd week of May	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River West Branch	Harpersfield	2860	1st week of April thru 3rd week of May	Brown Trout	9-15"
Delaware River West Branch	Kortright	924	1st week of April thru 3rd week of May	Brown Trout	9-15"
Launt Pond	Tompkins	700	April - 1st week	Brook Trout	8"
Little Delaware River	Delhi	242	April - 1st week	Brown Trout	9-15"
Little Pond	Andes	285	Spring	Brown Trout	8-15"
Little Pond	Andes	200	Spring	Rainbow Trout	8"
Mud Pond	Colchester	85	Spring	Brown Trout	8"
Mud Pond	Colchester	300	Spring	Rainbow Trout	8"
Pepacton Reservoir	Colchester	4250	Spring	Brown Trout	8"

For a more detailed breakdown of stocking dates, visit The-Reporter.net or <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/23327.html>

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# 2023 exam dates for licensed guides program

DEC is offering exams for guiding in camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, whitewater rafting, canoeing or kayaking, and rock or ice climbing.

A guide must be at least 18 years of age. Guides offer services for hire, directing, instructing, or aiding others in a variety of recreational activities. DEC's Special Licenses Unit administers licensing of outdoor guides. Applicants are not required to be New York state residents to receive a license.

To provide enhanced access to examinations, DEC offers licensed guide examinations online in 2023.

Dates and registration details are below:

May 12 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Registration must be received by May 10;

June 23 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Registration must be received by June 21;

July 7 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Registration must be received by July 5;

Sept. 15 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Registration must be received by Sept. 13; and

Oct. 13 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Registration must be received by Oct. 11.

To register, visit [dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html](http://dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html). Applicants will receive an email acknowledging registration and an additional one-time link for use to access the website on the date of the exam. Upon successful completion of the exam(s),



applicants will receive information on applying for the appropriate guide license, including an application form. Do not send applications or fees prior to passing the examination(s).

An outline of exam content, a study guide, and additional information can be found on the DEC Licensed Guide Program website. The Fieldbook, a reference book published by the Boy Scouts of America, is also recommended and can be found at a local library or bookstore. A list of current New York State Licensed Guides is available online.

For questions or assistance, contact the Special Licenses Unit at NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752; phone: 518-402-8985, fax: 518-402-8925; email [SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov](mailto:SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov).

# 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30465.html).

*continued on page 8*



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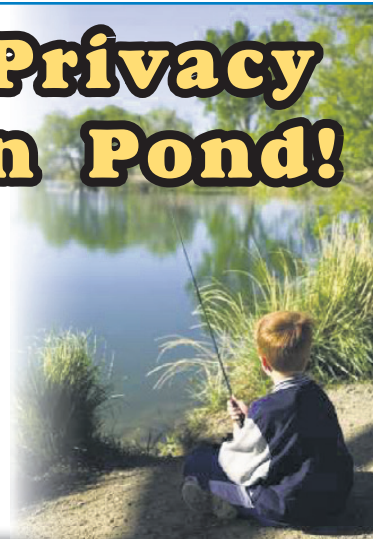
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## Trout season opens... *continued from page 7*

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html). Hard copies of the guide are available wherever sporting licenses are sold.

# 2023 freshwater fishing regulations

Species	Open Season	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Brook Trout (in lakes and ponds)	April 1 - Oct 15	None	
Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Splake (in lakes and ponds)	All year	5 (only 2 longer than 12")	
Trout in inland trout streams. Inland trout streams shall mean all rivers and streams inhabited by trout except as follows: Great Lakes tributaries to the 1st impassible barrier. Finger Lakes tributaries to the 1st impassible barrier. Lake Champlain tributaries to the 1st impassible barrier. Tidal stream reaches.	April 1 - Oct 15	5 (only 2 longer than 12")	
	Oct 16 - Mar 31	Catch and Release only	Artificial lures only
Lake Trout	April 1 - Oct 15	21"	3
Atlantic Salmon (Landlocked)	All year	15"	3
Black Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	June 15 - Nov 30	12"	5
	Dec 1 - June 14	Catch and Release only	Artificial lures only
Muskellunge	June 1 - Nov 30	40"	1
Northern Pike	May 1 - Mar 15	18"	5
Pickereel	May 1 - Mar 15	15"	5
Tiger Muskellunge	May 1 - Mar 15	30"	1
Walleye	May 1 - Mar 15	15"	5
Crappie (Black and White)	All year	10"	25
Yellow Perch	All year	None	50
Sunfish (Bluegill, Redbreast, and Pumpkinseed)	All year	None	25
Lake Whitefish	All year	None	5
Paddlefish, Sauger	Closed	Fishing for (including Catch and Release) or possession prohibited	
Striped Bass	April 1 - Nov 30	1 (not less than 18" no greater than 28")	
American Shad - Hudson River and Tributaries	Possession Prohibited		
American Shad - All other inland waters, including Delaware River	All year	None	3
Hickory Shad	Aug 1 - Nov 30	Any Size	5
American Eel	All year	9"	25
Snakeheads (all species)	Possession Prohibited		
All other species (except those listed in special regulations)	All year	None	Any number



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