

Where they're biting



Trout Fishing

May 11, 2000:

By Anthony Ritter

NYS Licensed Guide

Greetings to all anglers,

It's good to be back!

This will be our fourth season reporting fishing opportunities in the Catskill-Pocono-Hudson region.

Our area supports some of the finest coldwater and warmwater fishing in the United States, and it's only two hours from a metropolitan area of 20 million people. This region offers big rivers, small creeks, ponds and reservoirs – a bit of everything for anglers. This weekly report will try to cover everything from small farm ponds for the novice youngster wanting to wet a line for sunnies to tips for the most accomplished angler plying the big rivers for wild trout.

"The Guide to where they're biting" also features weekly reports from 14 tackle shops, tips and techniques for fly and spin angling, book and video reviews, and upcoming fishing-related events. We have listed our archive reports from 1999 and 1998 for easy reference as well.

I look forward to being your guide throughout this year and welcome your suggestions at any time.

Good fishing to you!

Upcoming events

- Bob Levenson will be the guest flytyer at the Catskill Flyfishing Center and Museum 1-4 p.m. **Saturday, May 13**. For more information about this event and others at the center, call 914-439-4810 or visit their Web site at <http://www.cffcm.org/>.
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Tony's book picks

- **"Canoeing the Delaware River" by Gary Letcher (Rutgers University Press)** This paperback will fit into your backpack or your backpocket. It features a complete river map with mileages, riffles, pools and public access sites from Hancock, New York south to Trenton, New Jersey. Historical anecdotes of villages and people are covered as well along with more timely information like restaurants, liveries and museums. ISBN:0-8135-1077-5 (out of print; best bet is a used bookshop.)

- **"Good Fishing in the Catskills" by Jim Caposella (Stackpole Books)** A paperback now in its' third edition. A great resource which covers most of the major rivers and streams in our region. Smaller "local" creeks and lakes are also critiqued in detail. Hatch and lure information along with plenty of stream and reservoir maps so you won't get lost or skunked! ISBN: 0-942990-13-7 [Buy from Amazon now](#)
- **"The Dettes – A Catskill Legend" by Eric Leiser (Willowkill Press)** The first half of the book is a warm biography of Walt and Winnie Dette and their circle of friends and associates that made up the angling fraternity of the Beaverkill-Willowemoc Rivers during the early days of flyfishing in our region. Leiser begins the story in Roscoe during the 1920's and follows the path up through the 1980's. The second half of the book details Dette's fly patterns with clear instructions and good photographs. ISBN: 0-9632705-0-8 [Buy from Amazon now](#)
- **"The Fly Tyer's Primer" by Richard Talleur (Lyons and Burford)** A straight forward, no nonsense approach to fly tying for beginners. Talleur explains the principles, the tools and the materials of this art. He then patiently walks the reader through a dozen patterns – attractors, dries, nymphs and wets - which are the foundation of freshwater flytying. ISBN: 1-55821-188-8 (also out of print; try a good used shop)
- **"Fishing The Delaware Valley"** This handy guide features not only the Delaware River from the New York City reservoirs south to the Atlantic Ocean but tributaries to the river like the Beaverkill and Lackawaxen Rivers as well. Saltwater fishing for blues and stripers is also covered in depth. The book was written by three avid anglers who were professors at Temple University in Philadelphia and lists anecdotes about their fishing escapades, restaurants and taverns along the river, antique stores, tackle shops, eccentric characters as well as a few mouthwatering recipes. There is a handy appendix that details Web sites, magazines, organizations, books and maps for anglers who want additional information about the last free-flowing river in the eastern United States. The book is published by Temple University Press in Philadelphia and is available at your local bookstore or through [Amazon.com](#)

Hornbeck's Tackle, Deposit, N.Y., 607-467-4680

Click on fly
for a map



Lloyd said that Cannonsville Reservoir is still coming over the top from the midweek rainstorm. The rain has not affected the wading levels of the river however. Locals are nailing big browns at the weir in Deposit using sawbellies along with Blue Fox Vibrax spinners in sliver and gold. For the fly anglers, the fish are taking caddis in tan and green in size 14 and 16 along with Adams in #14 through #18 and McMurray Ants. Hendricksons are on the way out, but Lloyd reports more large March browns are appearing in size 10. Reservoir fishing has been very good with most of the anglers scoring from boats and drifting sawbellies in 15 to 20 feet of water. Shore fishing has slacked off.

Target: brown trout

River Essentials, Starlight, Pa., 570-635-5900

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The folks at River Essentials near Hancock, N.Y., report that water levels on the Main Stem Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River are the best they have been all year. Hendricksons, Shad Fly, Blue Wing Olives, tan caddis and Blue Quills are on the Main Delaware from our shop all the way down to Callicoon! Hendricksons and Blue Quills are the flies of choice for the trout with the small tan caddis and Apple Caddis (Shad Fly) a close second. The Hendricksons are just about over on the main river.

Location: Hale Eddy south to Buckingham

Target: brown trout, rainbow trout and shad

Joe McFadden's Fly and Tackle, Hankins, N.Y., 914-887-6000

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Joe called to say that before the midweek rainstorm, the Big D was fishing well with both trout and shad in abundance. Good size roe shad are being caught north of Long Eddy, N.Y. The river should be in good shape by the weekend. Hatches on the main stem have been Tan Caddis in size 16, March Browns in size 10 and Apple Caddis in size 16. Most of the fish seem to be keying in on the emergers slightly below the surface film.

Location: Callicoon, N.Y., north to Lordville, N.Y.

Target: brown trout, rainbow trout and shad.

Tom's Bait and Tackle, Narrowsburg, N.Y., 914-252-7445

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Cecilia reports that the shad run on the Big D started about two weeks ago and is going strong. Anglers are bringing in both roes and bucks, and some of the roe shad are fat and healthy, weighing in at close to 5 pounds! Chartreuse and green darts are doing the trick.

Location: Callicoon, N.Y., south to Ten Mile River

Target: trout, shad, walleye and smallmouth bass

Angler's Roost, Lackawaxen, Pa., 570-685-2010

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Charlie reports that the Delaware shad run turned on about a week and a half ago with a good mix of both bucks and roes. It's been a very strong run this year. Anglers are using the old standby -- shad darts in red and white. Gold and silver spinners and spoons are also taking the "poor man's salmon" as well. Trout fishing on the Lackawaxen River has been very good as well with the state of Pennsylvania stocking this pretty river with trout. Hatches have been Quill Gordons, Hendricksons and caddis in tan and green. Large March Browns are beginning to appear. Charlie wants to remind all



anglers that the Eighth Annual Early American Shad Fest will be held at the Fireman's Field in Lackawaxen, Pa., on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28. Anglers have been bringing in an average of 20 to 30 shad each day to be donated for the festival, and Charlie has been filleting the fish for the hungry anglers.

Location: Ten Mile River south to Barryville, N.Y.

Target: trout, shad, walleye and smallmouth bass

Hagemann's Tackle, Shohola, Pa., 570-559-7589

Kurt called to say that the shad run is in full gear all along the Delaware River, from Pond Eddy up to Narrowsburg. Try using a gold-plated 3/16th shad dart – they're all the rage this year, and Kurt has 'em in stock. Kurt adds that the crappie fishing on local ponds have turned on big time. Small jigs and live bait are the way to go for those slab crappies.

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Location: Delaware River, Shohola Creek and area ponds and lakes

trout, shad, smallmouth bass and walleye

Al's Sport Shop, Downsville, N.Y., 607-363-7740

Al Jr. mentioned that on Pepacton Reservoir, anglers are connecting with nice size browns by trolling Sutton Spoons, Kastmasters, black and white bucktail jigs and sawbellies from boats in 25 to 35 feet of water. Pepacton Reservoir is at 100 percent capacity, and shore anglers might find difficulty in accessing good places to fish since the water is up near the trees.

Location: Pepacton Reservoir

Target: trout

Al's Wild Trout, Shinhopple, N.Y., 607-363-7135

Al Sr. tells us the East Branch of the Delaware River cooled down and only went up about four inches from the rain. Excellent conditions for both the trout and the angler with March Browns in size 10 starting and Hendricksons in size 14 slacking off. Al's tip: Lots of nice trout are coming up for Rusty Spinners in size 14 and 16. The river is cool and clear in the upper 50s.

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Location: East Branch Delaware River

Target: trout

Beaverkill Angler, Roscoe, N.Y., 607-498-5194

Joan reports that the fishing on the Beaverkill has been outstanding. A buffet of bugs has been hatching for the trout! The midweek storm raised the water levels a bit and cooled the temperatures down to the upper 50s. Good

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for a map



hatches of caddis in tan, black and brown in size 14 and 16 along with small blue wing olives in size 18 can be found. The first March Browns of the year are beginning to appear. The Beaverkill should be in tip-top shape by the weekend.

Location: Beaverkill River and tributaries

Target: trout

September 30 1999:

By Anthony Ritter

NYS Licensed Guide

This report marks the finale of our third year of informing readers of weekly fishing opportunities around the Catskill/Mid-Hudson region. I hope you have enjoyed reading "*The Guide*" as much as I have enjoyed reporting it to you. Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, all of the information from our weekly reports from 1998 and 1999 along with tips, techniques and links to other websites can be accessed by those with computers throughout the off-season for handy reference. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the tackle shops if you have any angling questions.

The sport of fishing, to me, is one of the great past times that life has to offer. It's a sport that you can grow with - young or old - and there's always much more to learn. I am fortunate to live in an area so rich with freshwater angling opportunities.

So much has been written about the sport, whether how-to books or fiction, that during the winter that lies ahead, your local library is a treasure trove of information.

Clubs and organizations like Trout Unlimited offer classes to the novice or experienced angler on different aspects of the sport, from fly tying to stream management. Museums, like the Catskill Fly Fishing Center, in Sullivan County, offer exhibits that give historical perspective to the sport.

One saying that is far from a cliché is that we all live downstream from one another. This applies to courtesy and sportsmanship. With more anglers participating in the sport along with other people using our rivers and lakes, we must all practice giving others elbow room, picking up litter and releasing fish so that in the future we have a better fishery for everyone.

I believe that true sports people leave the water a better place than when they found it. And, as anglers, we should try to teach others in the ways of the water. That's the way you pay it all back. You pass it on. It's as important as catching fish.

During the past season, I've enjoyed being your guide and it is my hope that we'll meet on the river in the future. May you have tight lines and light breezes.

Until we meet again next year-

Good fishing to you!

Upcoming Events

- Guest flytyer at the Catskill Flyfishing Center and Museum on **Saturday, October 2** will be Bob Rumpf. For further information please about this event and others please call the center at: 914.439.4810 or connect with their website at: <http://www.cffcm.org/>

Tony's book picks are from 7-29-99:

1. **"Canoeing the Delaware River" by Gary Letcher (Rutgers University Press)** This paperback will fit into your backpack or your backpocket. It features a complete river map with mileages, riffles, pools and public access sites from Hancock, New York south to Trenton, New Jersey. Historical anecdotes of villages and people are covered as well along with more timely information like restaurants, liveries and museums. ISBN:0-8135-1077-5 (out of print; best bet is a used bookshop.)
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These following reports are from last year - 1999, but my tracking shows the material -- and books -- remain extremely popular. ~the editor

A new book was recently published in paperback entitled "Fishing The Delaware Valley." This handy guide features not only the Delaware River

from the New York City reservoirs south to the Atlantic Ocean but tributaries to the river like the Beaverkill and Lackawaxen Rivers as well. Saltwater fishing for blues and stripers is also covered in depth.

The book was written by three avid anglers who were professors at Temple University in Philadelphia and lists anecdotes about their fishing escapades, restaurants and taverns along the river, antique stores, tackle shops, eccentric characters as well as a few mouthwatering recipes.

There is a handy appendix which details websites, magazines, organizations, books and maps for anglers who want additional information about the last free-flowing river in the eastern United States.

The book is published by Temple University Press in Philadelphia and is available at your local bookstore or through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Good fishing to you!

[Hardcover version](#)

[Paperback version](#)

Hornbeck's Tackle; Deposit, New York; 607-467-4680

for a map



Lloyd said that the West Branch of the Delaware River has water releases at 45 cfs which has made for low clear levels. Water temperatures are in the upper fifties at Hale Eddy in the morning. Your hatches have been small blue wing olives along with terrestrials. Nymphs and streamers are a good choice in the riffles throughout the day. Spin anglers are into a few bruiser browns up to four pounds near the eel weir using Rapalas in silver or gold, Kastmasters and shiners. Anglers are doing real well on the bronzebacks in Cannonsville Reservoir. Lloyd says the bass fishing will go into overdrive throughout October. The feisty smallies are grabbing shiners, crayfish along with Rapalas and Rooster Tails.

Location: Deposit, New York south to Hale Eddy, New York.

Target: Brown Trout

River Essentials; Starlight, Pennsylvania; 570-635-5900

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for a map



Chuck, a New York state licensed guide, reports slow fishing along the West Branch Delaware River. Chuck is looking forward to a great fall season but this past week the hatches have been sporadic. Chuck adds that there's a bit more action on the main stem Delaware with hatches of caddis, slate drakes in #14, sulphurs in #16 and #18 along with blue wing olives in #18. Chuck thinks that 1999 will go down

as one of the best years on the Delaware River – fish wise and bug wise. He’s looking forward to the year 2000 as being a banner year for bugs and trout. Here, here... I’ll drink to that!

Location: Hale Eddy south to Buckingham.

Target: Brown trout, rainbow trout and shad

Joe McFadden’s Fly and Tackle; Hankins, New York; 914-887-6000

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for a map



Welcome back Joe! Joe took a well deserved hiatus and went west – to Montana for a little business and r and r. He’s back and here’s his report: The main stem Delaware has levels at 3.2 feet and dropping – great for wading along with water temperatures from 58 to 63 degrees. Most of the action is subsurface with the wild Delaware ‘bows nailing prince nymphs and pheasant tails in #16. Hatches have been sparse but chances are you’ll see a few large caddis in #14, slate drakes in #12 and #14; small blue wing olives in #18 and #20 and a stray sulphur. Joe’s tip of the week: Fish right on through the fall as long as the weather cooperates.

Location: Callicoon, New York north to Lordville, New York

Target: Brown trout, rainbow trout and shad.

Tom’s Bait and Tackle; Narrowsburg, New York; 914-252-7445

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for a map



Tom reports that the Delaware River near the Big Eddy is chilling down. Water temperatures are coming in at 58 degrees in the morning and that means that the smallmouth are going to start hunkering down in deeper holes of seven to twelve feet. They can still be caught but low and slow will be the rule as the water gets colder. Try to target your fishing during the warmer parts of the day – from 11am to 4pm and present your offering a bit slower. Lead head eighth ounce jigs tipped with grubtails in chartreuse, silverflake and motoroil will bring strikes if you bounce them off of submerged boulders and drop offs. As far as bait, try minnows for non-stop action throughout the fall.

Location: Callicoon, New York south to Ten Mile River.

Target: Trout, Shad, Walleye and Smallmouth Bass

Angler's Roost; Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania; 570-685-2010

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for a map



Dimitri reports that Pennsylvania will stock the beautiful Lackawaxen River with 3,000 trout during the first week of October. Take advantage of the beautiful fall weather and wet a line before the frost is on the pumpkin! A few smallmouth are still being caught on the Delaware by anglers using live bait, jigs and plugs. Dimitri and Charlie want to thank their customers for making 1999 a wonderful season.

Location: Ten Mile River south to Barryville, New York

Target: Trout, Shad, Walleye and Smallmouth Bass

Hagemann's Tackle; Shohola, Pennsylvania; 570-559-7589

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Kurt called in to say that Mike Heyburn of Pond Eddy, New York nailed a beautiful five and a half pound largemouth bass using a black plastic worm. Kurt adds that the bass fishing on lakes and ponds has been picking up in general due to colder temperatures putting the fish on the feed. A few walleyes on the Delaware are beginning to perk up to lead head jigs tipped with shiners. Remember, all you walleye anglers: The fishing for walleyes will only get better as the water gets colder – 45 degrees and below is optimum. The walleyes will come into their own on the beautiful Delaware River after the first hard frost which is usually by Halloween.

Location: Shohola, Pennsylvania south to Milford, Pennsylvania

Target: Trout, Shad, Smallmouth Bass and Walleye

Al's Wild Trout; Shinhopple, New York; 607-363-7135

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Al tells us that the East Branch Delaware River is in very good shape – cool and clear with good wading levels from Downsville south to Shinhopple. Water temperatures are in the mid fifties. Al has been observing solid hatches of: blue wing olives, sulphurs, terrestrials and tricos.

Location: East Branch Delaware River

Target: Trout

Beaverkill Angler; Roscoe, New York; 607-498-5194

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Dave reports that the fishing has been good on both the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc. Both streams have cool water and plenty of it! Water temperatures are in the low to upper fifties. Dave adds that the rainbows are moving up into the Beaverkill and your hatches are: small blue wing olives in #20 through #24; Slate Drakes in #12 and #14; Sulphurs in #16 and #18 and terrestrials.

Location: Beaverkill River and tributaries.

Target: Trout

Fur, Fin and Feather; Livingston Manor, New York; 914-439-4476

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Richie mentioned that a few anglers are picking up trout along the Willowemoc on wooly buggers and gold ribbed hares ears nymphs. There's been very little surface activity though. Streamers and nymphs are accounting for most of the action. Richie adds that the fish are there and will be throughout the fall – you just have to work for them.

Location: Willowemoc River and tributaries.

Target: Trout

Roy's Sport Store; Mongaup Valley, New York; 914-794-6563

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Richie says that the walleye and crappie are biting on minnows on Swinging Bridge Reservoir and will probably continue to do so as the water cools. Good news for the owners and recreational users of this pretty reservoir – Richie says that the water level of Swinging Bridge is now up about nine feet due to Hurricane Floyd's appearance last week.

Location: Sullivan County lakes and ponds

Target: Trout, Bass and panfish

Catskill Flies Fly Shop; Roscoe, New York; 607-498-6146

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Dennis, a New York state licensed guide, reports that over on the Neversink there have been normal flows and water temperatures are in the upper fifties to low sixties. Small blue wing olives, midges, small caddis and terrestrials are your patterns. On the Esopus, the water is in the low sixties but the clarity is stained. Slate Drakes and small caddis have been appearing throughout the day. Your best fishing on the Esopus is above the portal. Dennis' tip of the week: Look to the mouth of the tributaries – the fish are on the move.

Location: Neversink River and Esopus Creek

Target: Trout

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Art's Gun and Tackle; Ellenville, New York; 914-647-6559

No report.

Location: Rondout Reservoir, Bashakill and area streams in western Ulster County.

Target: Trout and warmwater fish

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Ampro Sports; Kingston, New York; 914-331-9440

Terry mentioned that there's plenty of good fishing to be had on Ashokan Reservoir. Crayfish and shiners are the ticket. Terry adds that the fishing is picking up as the water and air temperatures cool down.

Location: Hudson River and Ashokan Reservoir

Target: Bass and Trout

The Bait Bucket and Full Draw Archery; Middletown, New York;

914-344-4774

Peter called in to say that last week's heavy rainfall and cooler night temperatures made for stained water conditions. Large noise producing lures if they are worked slowly or

allowed to suspend have been producing good results. Live bait is always a good bet during seasonal changes as are jigs worked slowly.

Location: Wallkill River and area ponds and lakes in Orange County.

Target: Trout and Bass

Eldred Preserve; Eldred, New York; 914-557-8316

No report.

Location: Lake and Ponds in Sullivan County Target: Warmwater fish

Anthony Ritter is a licensed NYS fishing guide. His business, Gone Fishing Guide Service is located in Narrowsburg, NY. Have a story, a tidbit that anglers can use? Call Ritter at 845-252-3657 or visit his web site at: <http://www.gonefishingguideservice.com/> . Photos will be accepted.

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