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- 
- A detailed photograph of a Bald Eagle perched on a tree branch. The eagle has a white head and neck, a yellow beak, and brown feathers on its body. It is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred forest scene.
- Eagles: An Upper Delaware treasure
 - Where to find a Catskill trophy trout
 - Top 10 List for a fun Spring day

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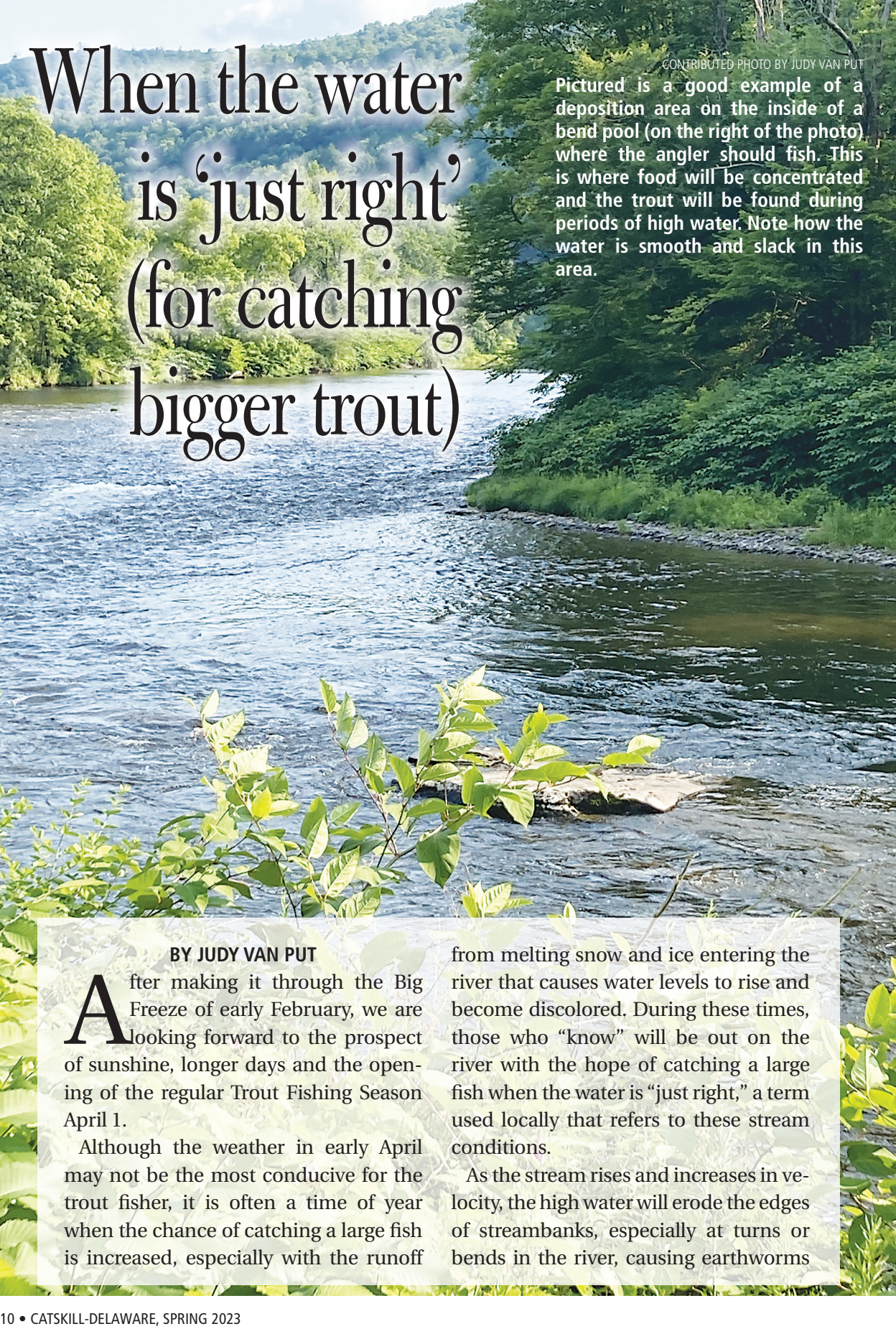
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When the water is 'just right' (for catching bigger trout)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Pictured is a good example of a deposition area on the inside of a bend pool (on the right of the photo) where the angler should fish. This is where food will be concentrated and the trout will be found during periods of high water. Note how the water is smooth and slack in this area.

BY JUDY VAN PUT

After making it through the Big Freeze of early February, we are looking forward to the prospect of sunshine, longer days and the opening of the regular Trout Fishing Season April 1.

Although the weather in early April may not be the most conducive for the trout fisher, it is often a time of year when the chance of catching a large fish is increased, especially with the runoff

from melting snow and ice entering the river that causes water levels to rise and become discolored. During these times, those who "know" will be out on the river with the hope of catching a large fish when the water is "just right," a term used locally that refers to these stream conditions.

As the stream rises and increases in velocity, the high water will erode the edges of streambanks, especially at turns or bends in the river, causing earthworms

and underground invertebrates to become exposed and enter the stream. Terrestrials such as ants, beetles, grasshoppers and inchworms are washed into the stream from the land, trees and bushes, and with the increase in the speed of the current, nymphal stages of mayflies, stoneflies, caddis and other aquatic insects are dislodged from the bottom of the streambed.

Despite invertebrates having legs and other methods of attaching themselves to the bottom substrate to avoid being washed away in the current, in high water they will lose their foothold and drift defenselessly along with the current, eventually settling out of the fast water and being deposited in the slower inside water of the bend, as the speed of the water is fastest on the outside and slowest on the inside of the curve.

The current or flow will not only be traveling downstream, but in a bend pool, will also be moving in a circular up-and-down motion, toward the inside of the curve, which is where the insects, invertebrates and debris will be deposited.

If you observe the stream near a bend, you'll notice that the water on the inside of the bend is calm and looks flat; this slack water also invites trout who will seek not only the opportunity to get out of the swiftness of the current, as it takes less energy to maintain their position in the slower water, but also has the benefit of the additional food that is being washed downstream - a double bonus for the trout, and a good opportunity for the angler to catch them!

Large fish will leave their hiding places and feed openly on this new host of food and abundance of nourishment entering the stream, following the long winter with its limited food supply. Those trout that have spawned in the fall and winter may not yet have fully recovered from the

stresses of spawning and have lost condition, and will feed hungrily, gorging themselves on the insects and terrestrials that are swept into the stream.

When water conditions are high and roily, some anglers may wonder how it is possible to succeed in catching any fish at all. Fly fishers in particular may be daunted by discolored water, thinking that the trout may not be able to see their fly - however this is not the case. A black or dark fly will stand out and will be visible to the fish.

To improve your chances of being successful in the early season, it's important to know where to fish. Look for turns or bends in the stream that will have these slower, calmer "deposition areas."

With so much food available, the trout will be feeding on or near the bottom. This is the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LEE VAN PUT

A Zug Bug weighted nymph is a good fly to fish with during periods of high flows, when the water is "just right."

perfect time to fish with nymph imitations; using split shot as weight will help to keep your fly down near the bottom (you can find non-toxic split shot in most places that sell fishing gear). It will enable you to fish your fly more slowly through the area as the weight will drag a bit, giving you the

opportunity to cover the most water out of each cast.

My husband Ed remembers interviewing Howard Lindsley, from Livingston Manor, many years ago. Howard related the story of catching a huge brown trout in Junction Pool on the Beaverkill just below Roscoe, way back in 1949. The fish weighed an astounding eight pounds, two-and-one-half ounces, and measured 27 inches in length, with a girth of 15 inches. Howard caught it on a nightcrawler in the early evening and said that it took him a half-hour before he was able to reel in the large trout. In the interview (which



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occurred many years later) Howard recalled that, "the water was just right."

As you prepare for early-season fishing during high water, before you plan to fish, try to locate sections of the stream with bend pools, with noticeable deposition areas on the inside of the bend. The fish will be located close to the stream bank and you won't have to wade very far to make your cast.

When we fish in high water with nymphs, we tie a dropper of about six to eight inches long at about twelve inches above the end of the leader, to which we tie on the nymph; then attach the weight (split shot) to the end of the leader. This frees up the fly to move along in the current just above the bottom and will result in less chances of your fly getting hung up. If the split shot gets hung up, you can just pull it free or replace it if necessary and still have your fly intact.

Our favorite nymphs to fish with during the high flows of the early season are the Zug Bug (weighted nymph) in sizes #8 - #12 and the Hendrickson Nymph in size #12.

To fish with a nymph and weight in this manner, it's best to use just a short line, fishing only the leader section with your arm extended. You won't need to cast very far due to the high and discolored water, and as a result, you can get close to the trout. Keep the leader perpendicular to the rod and use the tip of your rod to follow the leader as it moves downstream. If you find that the leader is not moving slowly with the current, or

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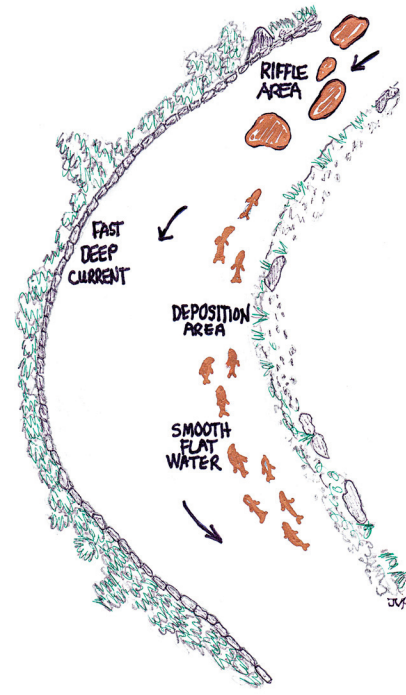
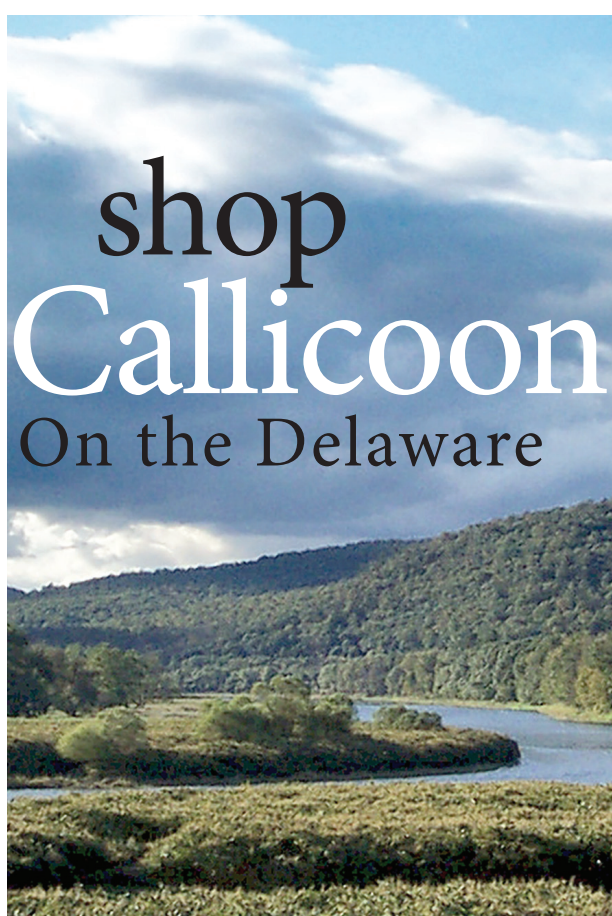


ILLUSTRATION
BY JUDY VAN PUT

It depicts where one might find large trout in the early season with high waters - the black arrows indicate the direction of the stream flow, with the faster water on the outside of the curve or bend, and the slower water on the inside of the

bend. This becomes a "deposition area" not only for the debris and abundance of aquatic foods but also for the trout who appreciate the slower current in which to rest. These are prime fishing areas that anglers should seek for early-season high water fishing, when the water is "just right."



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if you cannot feel the bottom with the split shot, add another split shot.

You'll need to be fishing slowly, as the trout will not chase after your fly with so much food already available on or near the bottom. Once the line has drifted below where you are standing, repeat the process by lobbing the rig back upstream in order to cover as much of the entire area in front of you as possible.

Concentrate on the leader and look for hesitation in the movement or a slight tug – you'll need to gently but quickly set the hook, as this may be the only indication that a fish has taken your

fly. You may even catch a white sucker – which is a good indication that you are fishing on the bottom.

If you are not having any action after fishing for a while, rest the area and move on to another. Chances are still good that there are trout lurking there to be caught at a later time.

Become familiar with these special areas before you embark on your fishing trip; there is great satisfaction that comes from learning where and how to fish under high water conditions that most anglers will forego; and you'll add to your enjoyment of the sport knowing to fish when the water is "just right."

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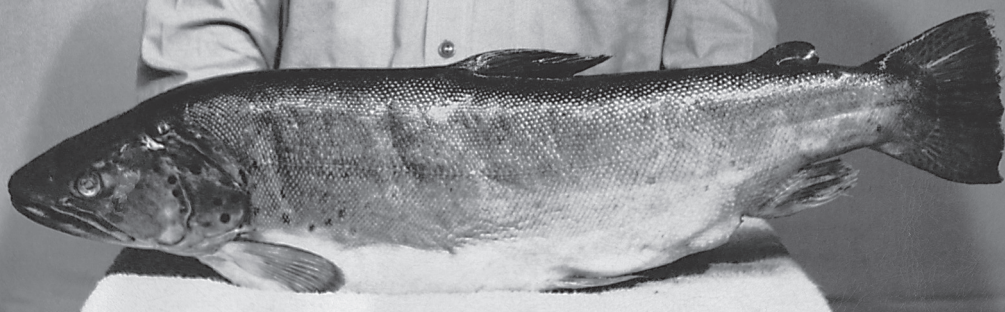
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ED VAN PUT COLLECTIONS

Howard Lindsley of Livingston Manor with the huge eight-pound, 2 1/2-ounce brown trout he caught in Junction Pool on the Beaverkill when the water was "just right". The big fish was 27 inches in length with a girth of 15 inches.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY ED VAN PUT

19-inch Brown Trout caught in the Willowemoc by Ed Van Put when the water was "just right."



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All are encouraged to try their hand at the bird hunt expeditions as there are no hunting licenses required for pheasants.

Whether it has feathers or is made of clay, "bird" hunting is not the only option when looking to let loose a few rounds and keep the aim sharp. Clay and trap shooting are a staple

for the pheasantry, with two full courses that are expected to give even experienced shooters an exciting challenge.

The first of the two sporting clay courses, "Pheasant Run", was recently outfitted with lighting to allow night shoots.

The upland bird hunt prices depend on the type of bird being hunted, with the Ringneck Pheasant running around \$400 per group and the Chukar Partridge being \$410 per group. Hunting times are split up into two sections, mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, and afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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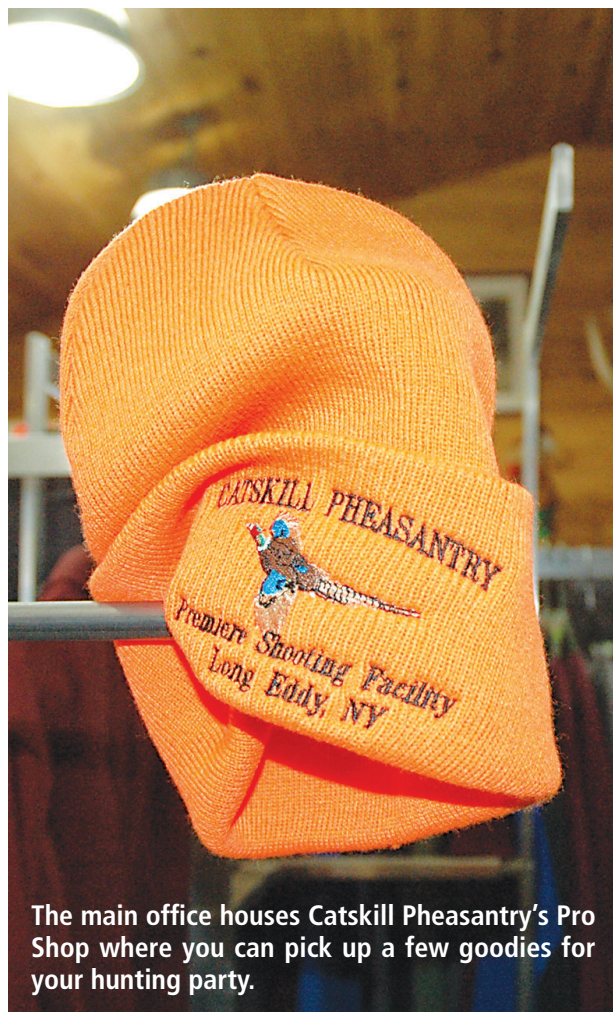
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If you're in the market for a four-legged hunting buddy, Catskill Pheasantry also has experience in raising and training gundogs from the basics to field trial work. This also includes dog evaluations and one-on-one training.

Not big on hunting but still want to check out the natural scenery? The pheasantry is also available for non-sporting gatherings like reunions, events, and even weddings. If you hear the mountains calling to you while planning the special occasion, the pheasantry has the outdoor set up for it.

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The main office is located at 374 Neer Road in Long Eddy. For more information on all the hunting and outdoor activities available at Catskill Pheasantry, call the office at (845) 887-4487 or visit their website at www.catskillpheasantry.com.



The main office houses Catskill Pheasantry's Pro Shop where you can pick up a few goodies for your hunting party.



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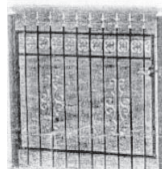
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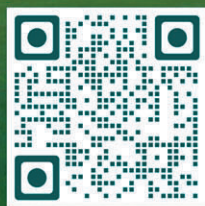


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Pages 46-47

FARM STORE

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Nostalgia meets modern at the Homestead Restaurant and Lounge

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY KAITLIN CARNEY

The main interior dining room showcases the attention to detail and desire to feature the properties amenities in the design. Floor to ceiling, two-story windows, soft lighting, comfortable and chic tablescapes and seating options offer an experience beyond the menu.



The Homestead's famous cinnamon raisin bread is a sweet companion to the specialty cocktails, like the Crimson Boulevard (Speakeasy Motors Rye Whiskey, sweet vermouth, Pollinator Spirits Crimson Amaro, garnished with a twist of orange and a cherry) at the Eldred Preserve.

The reimagining of the Eldred Preserve property by Dan and Joan Silna conceptualizes three Sullivan County hospitality stalwart brands into one; a marriage of nostalgia and modernity, class and classic. The result is a hospitality gem combining the Homestead Restaurant and Lounge (built in the footprint of the iconic Eldred Preserve restaurant of yore) with the luxury Bradstan Boutique Hotel nestled in the bucolic splendor that is the preserve property, once totaling nearly 3000 acres along Route 55 in the Town of Highland. Ponds and streams still dot the wooded acreage, and the design invites a pre or post dinner stroll to enjoy the grounds: a stunning backdrop in any season.

The construction of the Homestead Restaurant and Lounge- the reimagining of the iconic Monticello favorite, features floor to second-story windows in the dining area, outdoor options for meals or cocktails and small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

plates, and an event space with an all-glass buffet area to provide the exclamation point to the room's grand design. Chic without pretense, the restaurant lures you in with its architecture and captures your attention with its menu.

At a cozy banquette, table, or private room, there are a variety of ways to enjoy the Homestead's menu. Start with a signature or classic cocktail, signature martini, draft or bottled beer, or select something from the extensive and thoughtfully selected wine list. The Homestead cinnamon raisin bread (that you can also purchase to take home and enjoy) will jog your tastebuds as you peruse the dinner menu of starters, salads, soups, main courses from the Farm-to-Table or Steakhouse fare and delectable sides.

Some items change seasonally, and special appetizers, soups and entrees offer extensive variety for every palate. Small plates and Lounge bites can be ordered in the



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Chef John Botti also offers a breaded Veal Chop Caprese as an option for Farm-To-Table fare at The Homestead Restaurant and Lounge. Almost too beautiful to eat, the chop is served bone-in with roasted tomatoes, mozzarella, pesto and balsamic glaze.

entrance floor Homestead Lounge area and provide another way to enjoy the property.

Starters like the jumbo shrimp cocktail, chicken liver pate, stuffed mushrooms, and smoked trout dip are classic flavors to start your dining experience. Punctuate the richness of the starters with a farmer's or seasonal salad or keep the theme of heartiness going with baked French onion soup or one of the delectable soups of the day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



PAGES 30 & 31

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The Honey Pepper Chicken starter at The Homestead Restaurant and Lounge features rice flour-breaded chicken, crisped to perfection and served with a garlic, ginger, and bell pepper glaze.

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The entrée menu is comprised of Culinary Institute of America trained Chef John Botti's (of John's Harvest Inn) Farm-To-Table Fare and the Edelman family's Homestead Steakhouse Fare. The former sourcing hyperlocal veg, starches and proteins like Murray's Chicken, Bella Bella duck, and Beaverkill trout; vegetarian and vegan options are always available.

The latter offering hand-cut USDA Prime aged steaks like the dry-aged in-house 17 oz Ribeye or 14oz New York Strip, the 8oz Filet Mignon or 10 oz Piedmontese sirloin, a staple Homestead Burger, or fish and seafood selections like Seared

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Stuffed mushrooms, offered with a white cheddar cheese sauce, are a starter at the Homestead Lounge and Restaurant at the Eldred Preserve.

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SEE PAGES 32-37



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Sides pair well with selections from either side of the menu, but the roasted brussels sprouts with charcutiere sauce, smoked pork, and sun-dried tomato creme are an especially wonderful partner to any beef selection.

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Even if you don't have a sweet tooth, the desserts at The Homestead Restaurant and Lounge round out the spectacular meal perfectly. Choose from seasonal fruit crisp, cheesecake or creme brulee (cinnamon roll featured here), peanut butter pie, gluten free chocolate cake, or Haagen-Dazs Ice creams or sorbet as options. Pair with a coffee or espresso selection, or a signature martini like the Espresso Martini.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Branzino, wild-caught salmon, and Lobster Tail.

A la carte sides include loaded baked potato (port wine cheese, crispy bacon, parmesan crisps, scallions), creamed spinach, roasted brussels sprouts, and steak fries.

Dessert brings another set of difficult decisions. Homemade bread pudding, seasonal fruit crisp, seasonal cheesecake, or seasonal crème brulee are excellent choices, as well as the mocha chocolate mousse or Bradstan brownie sundae. Enjoy with a coffee, espresso, or cappuccino, Tea

Forté tea, or an after-dinner drink.

Whatever you choose to enjoy, the Eldred Preserve has a unique and breathtaking spot to do so. Reinvigorating the property welcomed back "Trout Farm" and Homestead devotees while also inviting in the new generation of visitors and residents. Joan and Dan Silna have succeeded in the delicate merging of icons to create their own luxury brand. With Scott Samuelson as COO, the Eldred Preserve is shepherding Sullivan Catskills hospitality into a very luxurious future.

The Eldred Preserve offers special menus and events for a variety of holidays and celebrations, as well as event spaces for small to medium weddings, parties, and conferences. Find out more on their website: www.theeldredpreserve.com or stop in at 1040 State Route 55, Eldred, NY.

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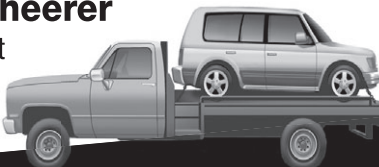
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10 things to do in the Sullivan Catskills this spring

Story and photos
by the
Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association

Spring in the Sullivan Catskills brings fresh air, warmer days, and budding flora in our wonderful natural landscape. It's a great time to visit. There's a lot of new energy here in the Sullivan Catskills, with new and unique hotel properties, new restaurants opening offering farm-fresh local food, and the frozen rivers are breaking through and flowing again. Here are ten things to do while on your next fishing trip.

Visit the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of fly fishing in the Catskills and educating the next generation of anglers and conservationists. The museum is situated on 50 acres of land with walking trails open to the public. They even have a Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. This is definitely worth a visit.

Do a Tasting at Do Good Spirits

Do Good Spirits is located right in the heart of Roscoe, known as Trout Town USA. Their tasting room is open seven days a week and they have a new garage cocktail bar and restaurant serving up delicious cocktails made with their own spirits, including gin, vodka, and bourbon whiskey. Everyone



loves their Beaverkill Bourbon Cream; have it on its own or in a cup of coffee.

Enjoy a Meal at The Junction

The Junction in Roscoe serves elevated comfort food, signature cocktails and local craft





beer. The owners are avid fly fishermen, and after camping and flyfishing all over the western Catskills they fell in love with Roscoe. Originally from Texas and North Carolina, they offer a Southern-inspired menu. You must try the Pimento cheese with fried saltines and the fried chicken sandwich.

Stop for an Ice-Cold Beer

The Sullivan Catskills are home to multiple local craft breweries, including Roscoe Beer Co, Upward Brewing, Catskill Brewery, Russian Mule Brewing Co, Shrewd Fox Brewery, and 17 West Brewery, all using our fresh Catskills water. Many are open for tastings so you can find your next favorite IPA, pilsner, or sour ale.

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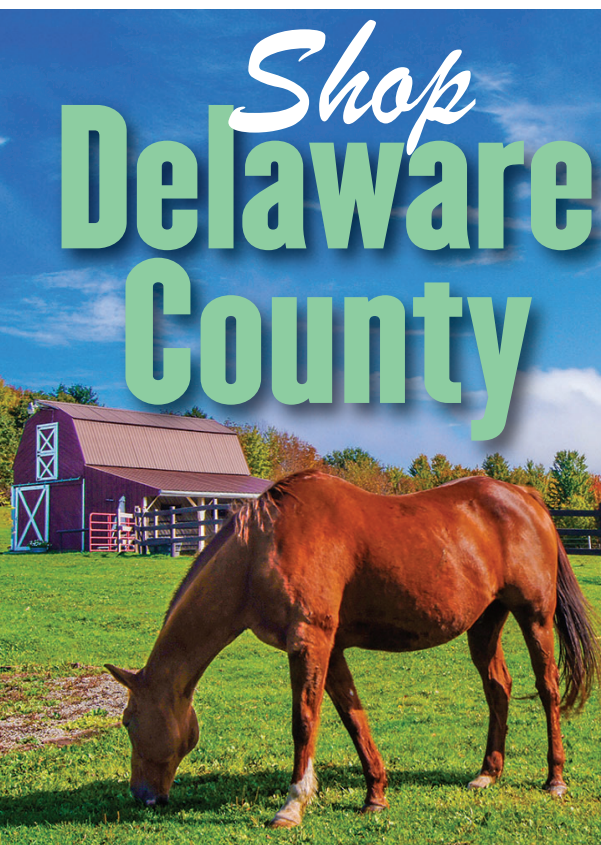
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While fishing is a terrific way to explore nature, so is getting out and going for a hike. There are many trails to choose from in the Sullivan Catskills, from easy to difficult. Find them all on Trailkeeper.com, where you can find out how long the trail is, the level, and the coordinates. It makes hiking a breeze, so go explore!

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Explore the Dove Trail

The Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail is a collection of 61 dove sculptures perched in villages, towns, and at several tourism businesses. Each

permanently mounted dove is hand-painted by a professional local artist. Originally inspired by the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock festival, today the legacy trail continues to grow and inspire. Try to find them all!

Dine on 'Catskill-icious' Cuisine

There are so many amazing dining options in the Sullivan Catskills. From restaurants, to cafés, to coffee shops, and more you are sure to find something you love. Our chefs source ingredients locally and you are likely to find fresh fish on many menus. Enjoy farm-to-table fare at some of the best restaurants in the region.

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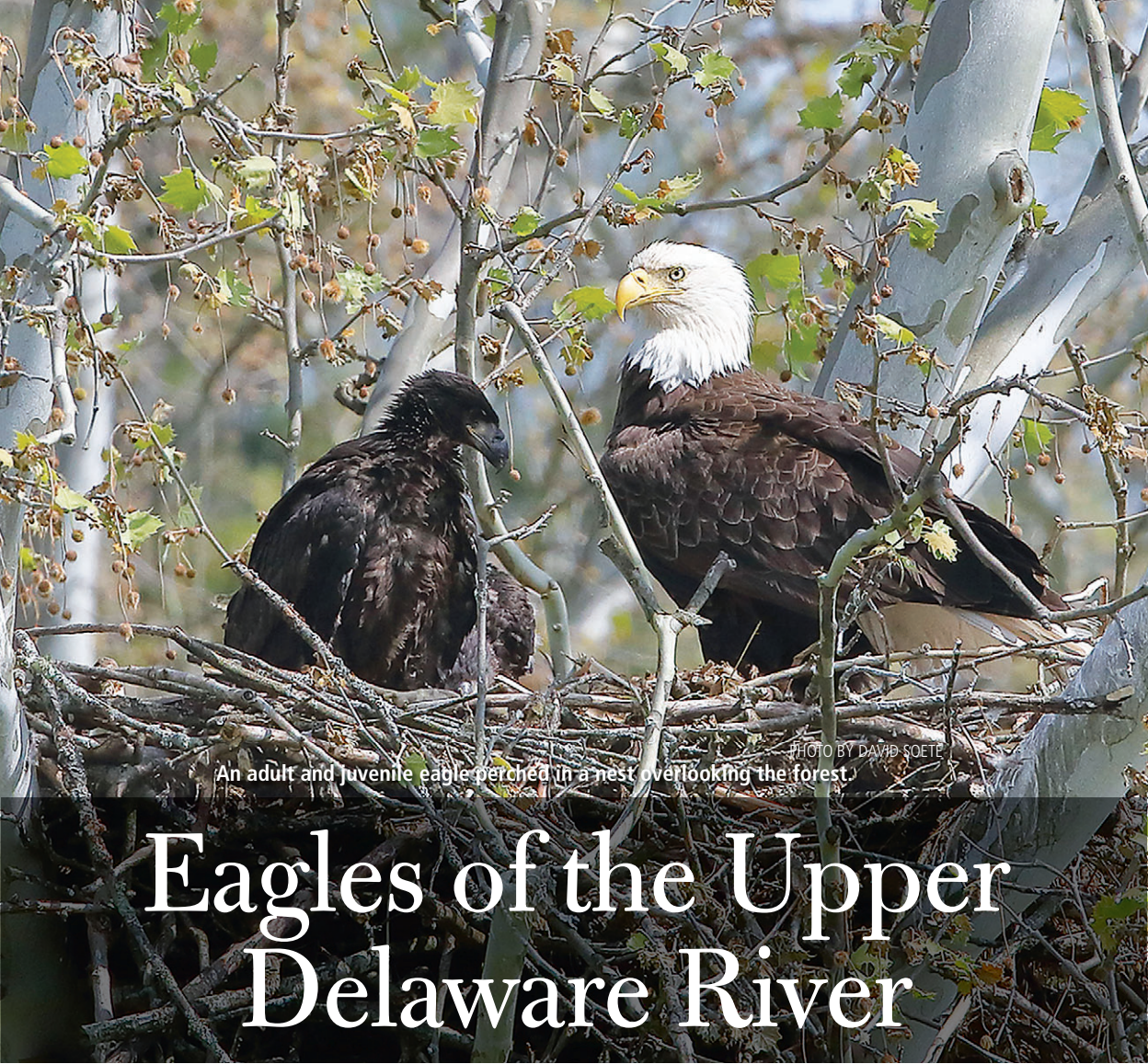


PHOTO BY DAVID SOETE

An adult and juvenile eagle perched in a nest overlooking the forest.

Eagles of the Upper Delaware River

BY BETHANY ZARNOWSKI | DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

In winter, the Upper Delaware River region becomes a temporary home to hundreds of bald eagles. Arriving from Canada and upstate New York, the eagles fly south in search of open water to fish, and large stands of trees in which to perch and roost.

The clean waters and protected lands of the Upper Delaware provide the perfect winter habitat for these magnificent birds, and eagle-viewing has become a popular winter activity.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy offers a series of guided Eagle Watch bus tours in January and February, and on weekends Conservancy volunteers staff Eagle Observation Areas located throughout the region where visitors can look through binoculars and scopes to see bald eagles in the wild.

More information about the bus tours and a map to the Eagle Observation Areas to plan your own driving tour is available on the



PHOTO BY
JOHN KOCIJANSKI
**The number
of eagles in
New York
has grown
tremendously
in the past 50
years, thanks
in large part
to volunteer
efforts to
restore the
population.**

Conservancy's website, www.delawarehighlands.org/eagles.

Whether eagle-watching on your own or with a guided bus tour, it's important to practice 'eagle etiquette' to ensure you do not disturb the birds. Avoid loud noises such as yelling, car door slamming, horn honking, and unnecessary movement. Use binoculars instead of trying to get closer, and don't do anything to try to make the eagle fly.

Remain inside your vehicle and park only in designated public parking areas. Practicing eagle et-

iquette ensures that the eagles can conserve the precious energy they need to survive the cold winter months.

By late February to mid-March, most of these winter migrants are heading back north to their home territories—but the Upper Delaware is also a year-round home to dozens of resident, breeding pairs of bald eagles. It wasn't always this way, however.

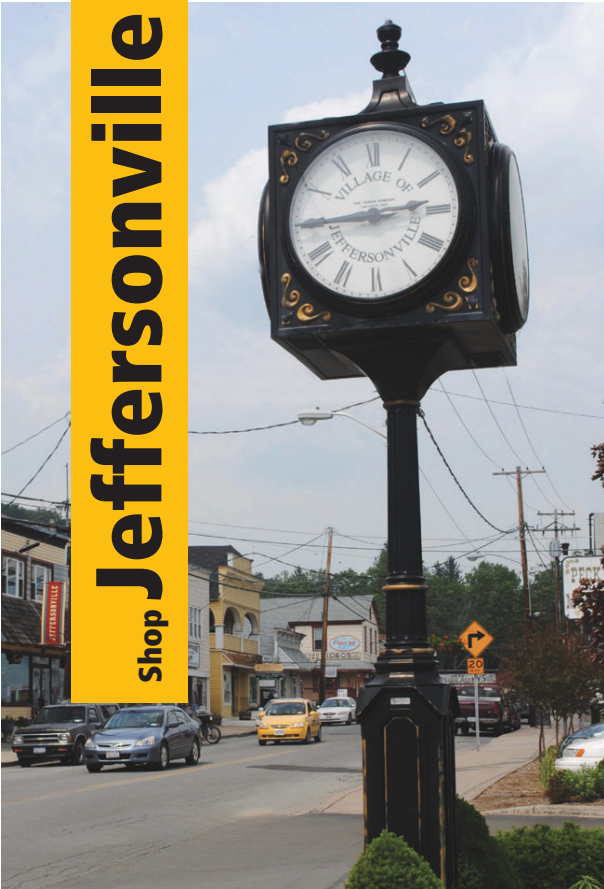
In the 1800s and 1900s, the region was home to similar eagle populations as today. But as human impacts on eagle habitat increased—cutting down large trees the eagles used for nesting and spraying harmful chemicals such as DDT—the eagle population dwindled until they were nearly eliminated. The DDT made the eagles' eggshells soft, making them unable to fledge young, and by 1972, there was just one pair of bald eagles left in New York and one in Pennsylvania.

Even after DDT was banned in 1972, and the Endangered Species Act in 1973 made it illegal to kill bald eagles, it still took a concerted effort to bring the bald eagle back to the Upper Delaware River region.

Today, habitat loss is the number one threat to breeding eagles. The Conservancy works to permanently protect farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat in the region, and these protected lands offer safe places for eagles year-round—so even though you are likely to spot the most eagles during the winter months,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

eagle-viewing is an activity you can try anytime.

Learn more about the Conservancy's work and what you can do to protect nature at www.DelawareHighlands.org. Being respectful, aware, and cautious when watching wildlife means we can continue to experience the joy and satisfaction we get from seeing eagles soar above our rivers and forests

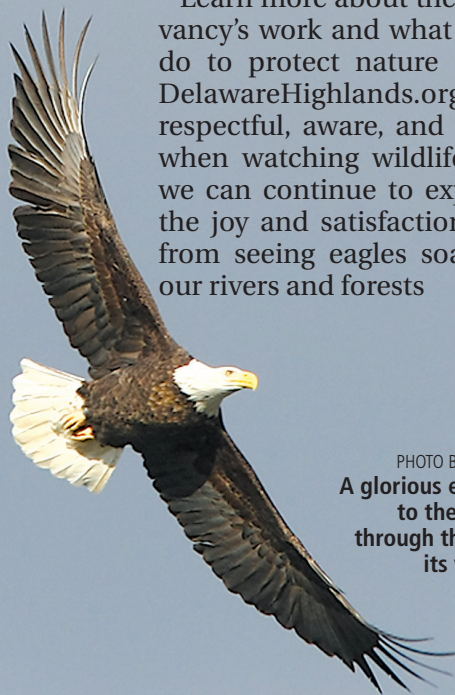


PHOTO BY DAVID SOETE

A glorious eagle takes to the air, slicing through the sky with its wings fully extended.



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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY GENE WEINSTEIN

By the 1970's, the bald eagle population throughout the country had been decimated. DDT, a pesticide used in farming, contaminated fish and water fowl. Both of which are an important source of an eagle's diet.

By interfering with calcium metabolism, the females were unable to produce egg shells that would withstand the pressures of incubation.

When Peter Nye, leader of NYS DEC Endangered Species Unit, took over in 1976, only one pair of nesting bald eagles were found in all of New York State.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52



A beautiful bald eagle perches atop a tree branch stretching its wings.

© Gene Weinstein

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It was his plan to restore an eagle population by acquiring eagle chicks from other States (mostly Alaska). Having been reared in captivity, it was not known whether or not bald eagles would survive in the wild, much less reproduce and remain in New York State.

An army of volunteers, scattered throughout the State, helped in answering both those questions. As a volunteer, it was our assignment to re-

port sightings in our respective areas, including the bird's age, sex, wing tag, leg band and other observations, such as illness and injuries.

During late February and March, we would submit nesting information in order to check both the integrity and security of each nest. This is especially important when the eagles are breeding. Then, when the chicks (1 to 3) are between 3 to 7 weeks old (unable to hop and fly),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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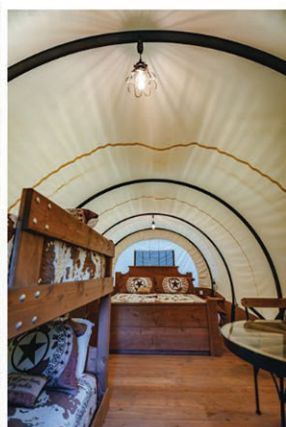


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Pete would climb the tree to band them.

In the decades following the volunteer efforts, the number of nesting pairs in New York increased drastically.

Starting with just one nesting pair in the 70s, and two in the 80s, the number has steadily increased in the years since. In 1990 there were 14 reported nesting pairs, and in 2000 that number raised to 59.

By 2010, when Nye retired, there were 223 nesting pairs noted in Pete's final report.

In 2017, the number had increased to 323 pairs.

This information and more is available by looking up the NYS Bald Eagle Report 2010. Within the report are photos of the many volunteers as well as a summary of Peter Nye's monumental achievement.

I see you!
A bald eagle makes eye contact with the camera for a stunning photograph.



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