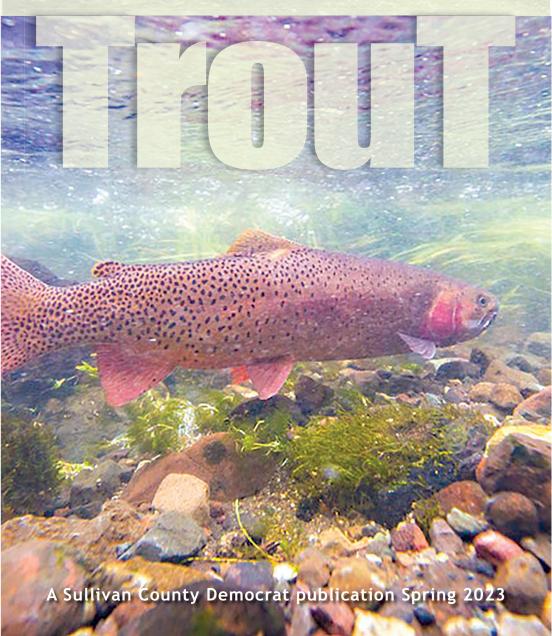
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"To fish opening day on the Beaverkill is like celebrating Christmas in Bethlehem."

Red Smith New York Times Sportswriter







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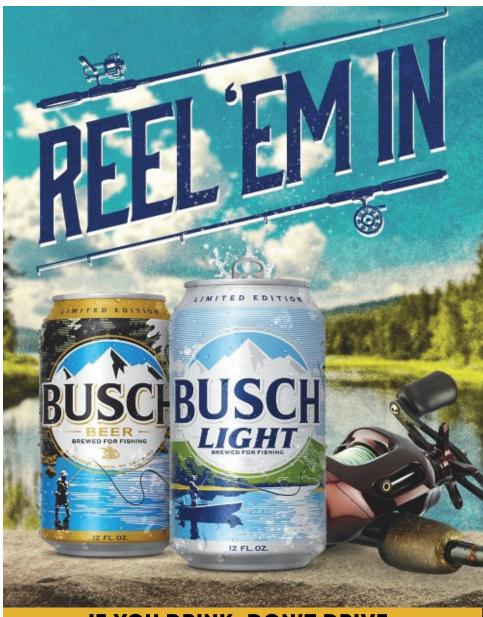
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2 TROUT Spring 2023

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Stay up to date with CFFCM

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

he Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum (CFFCM) is a multi-use education center located along the Willowemoc in Livingston Manor. They host various educational opportunities for anglers of all ages to dip their toes into the world of fly fishing.

The museum serves as an interpretation of the heritage of dry fly fishing and its birthplace in the Catskills. It also remembers the people and stories throughout the years that give the area such a deep history.

Under new Executive

A look inside the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum. Director Ali Abate, new programming in 2023 includes an expansion into the areas youth. The Center is working diligently to provide a new afterschool program, which is free of charge to local students. It will focus on teaching the history of fly fishing, casting, tying, stream science as well as introduce students to

stream/environmental conservation.

On top of the afterschool program, the Center additionally offers field trips for schools within an approximate 45-minute drive of Livingston Manor. The trips CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The crystal clear trout fishing waters in Livingston Manor.











Back in 2021, interested anglers took a rod shop class at CFFCM.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

are dynamic, indoor/outdoor experiences that feature hands-on activities around the site as well as a tour of the museum.

Aside from scheduled trips, adults of all ages and families can visit the museum during their regular hours, Friday-Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as the special events and programs that are featured at the space.

One such program that is coming up this April is the Fly Fishing Film Tour. On April 14 in the Wulff Gallery, short films about fly fishing from around the world will be shown, and will host local food and

beverage sponsors included with admission.

To support these programs, specifically the ones geared towards the youth, CFFCM received numerous grants totaling \$25,000 to support educational programs. The initiative began in May 2022 and has grown steadily in the year since.

'This program invites youth to the center to engage in activities that are fun and educational with a focus on the environment and healthy living," Executive Director Ali Abate explained. "We designed this model as part of our larger

During a field trip, students practice casting a fly rod.

strategy to expand the impact of CFFCM and engage more deeply with our local communities."

The Center scheduled two Cane Rod

building classes this spring, one in March and another in April. Events like these can introduce adults to some of the finer points of fly fishing and all that the sport has to offer. Be sure to check out CFFCM and you'll be sure to find something that piques your interest.







6 TROUT Spring 2023



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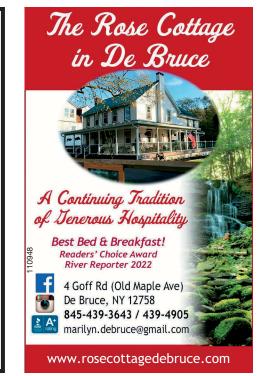
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BY JUDY VAN PUT

any of our Catskill trout streams, such as the Beaverkill, Willowemoc and Neversink, are today considered "brown trout streams" and are known for their excellent trout fishing. However, unlike the wild brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis) that are native to our Catskill waters, brown trout (Salmo trutta) have their origins in Europe and were imported to this country from their home waters in Germany many years ago.

It was back in the 1880s when Fred Mather, an early American fish culturist and avid fly-fisher, was fishing in Germany and became impressed with the trout he caught – they were large fish and were challenging to catch. Mather was determined to introduce the fish to his native American cold- water streams, and after taking charge of the new fish hatchery in Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, he wrote a letter to the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries beseeching the Commissioner to consider introducing the

European trout to the United States.

Professor Spencer Baird (who was the first Commissioner of the U.S. Fish Commission and also, interestingly, the founder of the Woods Hole laboratory, the first Federal fisheries laboratory) in turn wrote to Herr Von Behr, President of the German Fisheries Commission, and by February of 1883, the first shipment of brown trout eggs was transported from Germany to America. Fred Mather received 80,000 brown trout eggs in that first shipment from Germany, and within a few years, by 1887, "German brown trout" were stocked into the waters of the Beaverkill and Willowemoc.

The first reported catch of the large trout was widely proclaimed in local newspapers when, in 1890, Irving W. Finch, of Roscoe, a seasoned angler, proudly displayed the "German" trout he had caught that measured 15 5/8 inches in length and weighed one pound, nine ounces. Over the next few years, larger trout of greater than two and three pounds were commonly captured in the Beaverkill, especially in the large pools of the lower river.

Brown trout were found to be more toler-

ant of higher water temperatures and adverse environmental conditions than the native brook trout, and easily adapted to their new homes in the lower reaches of the Neversink, Willowemoc and Beaverkill. Brown trout were celebrated, as they essentially created additional miles of trout fishing water, due to the fact that they could survive and thrive in waters that brook trout could not, especially those lower river sections.

However, it wasn't long before the imported brown trout began to compete with and dominate the native brook trout for food, habitat and spawning areas. When both species existed in a watershed, the limiting factor of each ultimately became the water temperature. Today, brook trout remain the dominant species in the coldest tributaries and upper headwaters, while brown trout have taken over the middle and lower sections of rivers and streams. Their aggressive manner has made them the dominant fish on stretches of the Beaverkill and Willowemoc where today there are far less brook trout.

Brown trout are generally a golden-brown color with large brown or black spots on their

sides and back. These spots are usually outlined by faint halos or a lighter color than the body, with red or orange spots along the sides. The fins are often amber-colored. The body is yellowish but may be white on smaller stream-born (wild) young fish. Hatchery fish may appear greenish when they are first stocked. The tail, which is slightly forked in young fish, is almost square in older adults.

The most significant characteristic in identifying brown trout are the teeth, which are well developed in a double zigzag along the roof of the mouth, called the vomer. These are much less so developed in salmon or land-locked Atlantic salmon, which they are sometimes mistaken for.

Similar to brook trout, brown trout spawn in the fall or early winter, generally from October through December, depending on the location. The female trout digs a pit, or "redd" in the gravel of the stream bottom into which she lays her eggs. The redd is dug in the tail of the pool, and is constructed so that a "current" is created from the water running through to hold the eggs in place. (In lake habitats, trout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Photo courtesy of Dave Budin as reproduced from Ed Van Put's Trout Fishing In The Catskills.

A huge German Brown Trout of 6 pounds. 10 ounces measuring 26 3/4 inches long caught in August of 1929 by Niles Fairbairn of Margaretville.

8 TROUT Spring 2023 Spring 2023 TROUT 9



Brown trout are generally a golden-brown color with large brown or black spots on their sides and back. These spots are usually outlined by faint halos or a lighter color than the body, with red or orange spots along the sides. The fins are often amber-colored, and the tail, which is slightly forked in young fish, is almost square in older adults.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

will seek a tributary stream of the lake in which to spawn; lacking a tributary, they will spawn in the gravel near the shore.)

After the eggs are laid, they are fertilized by the male trout, and the female then completes the redd by moving slightly upstream and churning, or using her tail, to cover the eggs with fine gravel. The number of eggs laid varies with the size and age of the female. Some brown trout mature at two years of age and produce between 400 to 500 eggs while spawning; the number of eggs produced by older and larger fish can range from 600 to 3,000 eggs. Under normal conditions, the young will hatch out of their eggs after approximately 48 to 54 days in the spring, with water temperatures averaging on or about 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

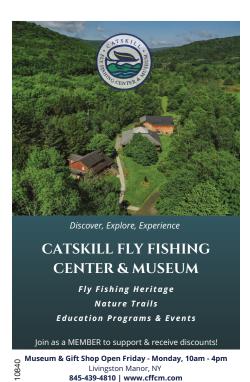
By the end of the first summer, the young of the year will range in size from two to four inches in length and are thus referred to as "fingerlings", the size of a person's finger. Their size will vary depending on the abundance of food and the environment in which they live. As a yearling, a stream fish will average from 8 to 10 inches in size, and from 10 - 12 inches as a two-year-old. Three-year-old wild browns will reach 12 to 15 inches, while four-year-olds, which are about at the age limit of wild fish in our area

streams, will attain sizes of 16 to 20+ inches in length.

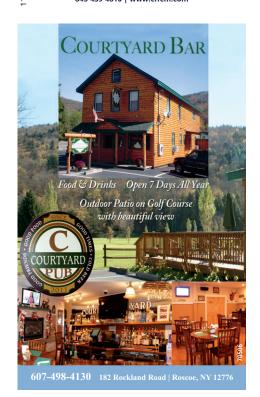
The largest brown trout reported to have been caught in the Beaverkill was taken by Egbert Tripp, of Turnwood, in 1895 the monster "German" trout measured 31 inches and weighed 10 pounds. However, the largest trout (by far) ever to have come out of the Beaverkill was first reported on November 1, 1903 by two young boys who were walking along the railroad tracks upriver from Cooks Falls. They discovered a tremendous brown trout that had become trapped in a tiny spring brook, probably while spawning. The fish was in a greatly weakened state, and probably died from starvation and/or old age. William Keener, of the Roscoe House, measured the fish at three feet, two inches long, (38 inches) and it tipped the scales at 14-3/4 pounds! Keener stated that the trout was in very poor condition; if it was healthy, he estimated it would have weighed 20 pounds!

Thanks to the insight of fly-fishermen and scientists Fred Mather, Professor Spencer Baird, and Germany's Herr Von Behr back in the early 1880s, we can celebrate today the wonderful trout fishing enjoyed here in the Catskills, and that most notable species, the remarkable Brown trout.

10 TROUT Spring 2023









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Fish stocking

to take place starting in April through June

he New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has scheduled fishing stocking beginning the first week of April and running through the first week in June.

In total, nearly 40,000 Brown Trout between 8 and 15 inches are anticipated to be stocked in 18 different bodies of water across Sullivan County. The DEC said the actual number of fish to be stocked and times may vary depending on fish availability and weather conditions.

Fish are stocked with help from the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County (FOSCOSC).

Check out website https://www.dec.ny.gov/out-door/23285.html for complete details.

Beaver Brook in the Town of Highland will see 359 stocked trout during the third week of April. The fish will range in size from 9-10 inchers up to 12-15 inchers.

The **Beaverkill River**, located in the Town of Rockland, will see Brown Trout stocking beginning the third week of April through the first week of June. 7,768 fish will be released into the Beaverkill, ranging in size from 9-15 inches.

The North Branch of the Callicoon Creek will see approximately 1920 Brown Trout released beginning the second week of April through the fourth week of May.

Again, the sizes will range from 9 to 15 inches.

In the main stem of the Callicoon Creek, stocking will begin the second week of April with about 700 Brown Trout released.

The East Branch of the Callicoon Creek will be stocked during the second week of April with over 2,600 Brown Trout scheduled to be released.

Chestnut Creek in Neversink will see 509 Brown Trout stocked during the second week of April. The trout will range in size from 9 to 15 inches.

Halfway Brook in Highland will be stocked with 1,000 Browns during the third week of April.

The Little Beaverkill River in the Town of Liberty will be stocked the third week of April with nearly 1,510 Brown Trout.

Loch Sheldrake will be stocked in April with 850 eight-inch Brown Trout.

The Mongaup Reservoir in Lumberlade is being stocked with 1,275 eight-inch Browns in the third week of April.

The Mongaup River will be receiving 833 Brown Trout ranging from 9-15 inches in the first week of April.

The Mongaup River, East

Branch, in Bethel will see 817 Brown Trout released during the first week of April.

The Mongaup River, Middle Branch, located in the Town of Fallsburg, will see 680 Browns released during the first week of April.

And the Mongaup River, West Branch, in the Town Bethel, will see 592 trout stocked in early April.

The Neversink Reservoir in the Town of Neversink was stocked with 3,145 Browns last fall.

The Neversink River, which flows through the Towns of Fallsburg and Thompson, will see more than 8,200 trout stocked during April and May.

Ten Mile River, which flows through the Towns of Cochecton and Tusten, will be stocked with 751 trout during late April.

And finally, the Willowemoc Creek, which is located in the Towns of Neversink and Rockland, will be stocked from the third week of April through the first week of June.

The DEC will release more than 15,000 Browns into these pristine waters, ranging in size from 9 inches up to 15 inches.

Please respect all private property rights, and please respect all game laws regarding creel limits and catch and release areas

12 TROUT Spring 2023

Trout Unlimited: County conservation update

Trout Unlimited's staff are set to resume working in Sullivan County this year, across a variety of projects and watersheds. In 2022, their field crew surveyed over 1,100 stream crossings and began work to prioritize improvement strategies for trout populations of the Catskills.

Later this Spring, seasonal field technicians will begin work on Sullivan County trout streams to collect data regarding habitat conditions, water temperatures, macroinvertebrate, and trout populations. If you see some smiling faces in bright yellow vests at your favorite watering hole, feel free to say hello!

These efforts and more were made possible by federal and state grants and working alongside our partners at NYSDEC, FUDR, US Fish & Wildlife, Sullivan County, The Town of Rockland, and more.

TROUT

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Pan fried trout with saffron cream sauce and fried capers RECIPE BY EVAN CHESNEY | EXECUTIVE CHEF

vid fisherman? Aspiring chef? This pan fried trout recipe will spice up dinnertime and add a new level of flavor to your next catch.

You'll need just a handful of ingredients to bring a new flavor to your typical trout dinner.

For the saffron cream, you'll need:
2 Tbsp Butter
1/2 Cup Chopped Shallot
1 Cup Heavy Cream
1/4 Cup White Wine
1-2 Cloves of Garlic
Handful of Chopped Chives
1-2 Pinches of Saffron
Salt and Pepper to taste

To make the sauce, melt butter in a pan and add shallots. Cook until soft and translucent. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Then, add wine, lemon juice and half of the chives. Bring that to a simmer and then add heavy cream and whisk until thick.

Add saffron and mix until cream turns a beautiful yellow. Add salt and pepper to taste and set aside while cooking trout.

For the fried capers, just wash and dry the capers, heat oil to 325 degrees and fry until crispy. Place on a paper towel to absorb remaining oil.

For the trout, you'll need:

1 Trout

1/2 teaspoon Salt

1/4 teaspoon Pepper

1/4 teaspoon Italian Seasoning

1-2 Tbsp neutral oil

Lemon Juice

Lemon garnish

Start by pat drying the trout. Season with

salt, pepper and Italian seasoning. Heat a stainless steel pan over medium high heat, then add oil. Place the trout skin side down in the pan and cook for 3-4 minutes until the skin becomes crispy and has a golden color. Flip the trout using a thin spatula and cook filet side down just until flakey. Depending on the thickness, this should take 1-2 minutes.

Place the cream sauce on a plate, place the trout on top and garnish with remaining chives, a sprinkle of saffron, the fried capers and a lemon garnish.



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14 TROUT Spring 2023



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