

Every



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Lee Gaul fly fishing on Fishing Creek near Stillwater Covered Bridge by Mana Ritter

46 Columbia-Montour Visitors Guide 2008 • (800) 847-4810



One Has an Angle



Kids at their favorite fishing spot.

Everyone over voting age can look back in regret, at a time when they passed up an opportunity. There are also times in the lives of many, when one never realized that a great opportunity even existed. But wait, I'm getting ahead of my story.

Several years ago, Bill Kalanick and I were fishing at the Fishing Creek Sportsmen Association area located just upstream from the Benton Golf Course. We were situated on the downstream side of the broken "old power dam" and on opposite sides of the creek. We were catching the occasional small trout, but, the action could in no way be considered a calendar day.

During that time I had noticed three different fishermen cross the creek below the rapids and proceed into the woods to climb over the old dam wall and continue upstream. I wondered how the creek looked up there. It must be attractive, to draw three "walkers."

I was fishing the lower end of the deep run at the dam and Bill was fishing the head of the run. Evening was approaching and everything was calm but uneventful. Suddenly, the air was filled with Green Drakes. They were everywhere. Trout were coming completely out of the water trying to grab them in flight. I'm not talking about small trout. A number of them were at or over sixteen inches. (I may be a fisherman, but, I'm no liar.) It was a sight to behold. And I had no Green Drake patterns in my vest. After all, this was Fishing Creek. Not Penn's Creek. All I could do was watch. I decided I'd just sit down and enjoy the circus.

That long stretch of rapids below us, where the water was no more than eight to ten inches deep seemed to have a trout holding behind every soccer ball sized rock in the water. Without a doubt there were upwards of fifty trout in that stretch no more than 150 feet in

length. In most places, the water would barely cover your ankles.

After about twenty minutes the circus stopped as quickly as it had started, and things returned to normal. Later, I reflected on seeing the three fishermen who walked by this water, never realizing what they had missed. And probably wouldn't believe me if I told them. The lesson was not lost on me. A mistake I vowed to never again commit.

I am no longer physically able to negotiate the bottom structure of fast water. Even ankle deep fast water, but when I was able to, I put in my bank of memories the many hook-ups I enjoyed by fishing those "fishless" stretches of Fishing Creek.

Did you know . . .

- Mahoning Creek and Mauseus Creek are approved trout waters and favorite local "watering holes?"
- Briar Creek Lake has a 50-acre lake and is included in the Fish Commission's late winter, extended trout fishing program?
- Little Fishing Creek has six informational kiosks placed along it that identify open waters and trout stocking locations?
- We produce a brochure entitled "Reel 'Em In" that depicts the six kiosk locations on Little Fishing Creek?
- Lake Jean, a 245-acre lake at Ricketts Glen State Park, offers anglers warm water game fish and pan fish?
- State Game Land #58, southeast of Bloomsburg, boasts 12,646 acres of mostly mountainous terrain and offers deer, bear, turkey, grouse and pheasant hunting?
- State Game Land #226 in the northwest corner of Columbia County has 4,225 acres of mostly forested terrain and offers deer, bear, turkey, rabbit, grouse and squirrel hunting?