

# PENNS CREEK GUIDES

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## 2015 SEASON OPENER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of Penns Creek Guides,

Opening day of Trout Season is less than a week away. The weather is warm; streams are a beautiful emerald green and water levels are coming down after last week's rainfall. Winter is in the rear view mirror. Early black stoneflies, BWOs. small tan caddis and midges are Penns Creek right now. With the warming trend the Hendricksons, Quill Gordons and grannoms won't be far behind. Penns is waking up, the trout are looking up and more willing to rise to the season's first large bugs appearing on the surface.

Mid-April has been the traditional opening of Trout Season even before I first went trout fishing with my father fifty plus years ago. Each time I go astream, fly rod in hand, I fondly recall opening days past shared with father and friends. Arriving streamside before daylight, camping trips, new water and new friends were all part of those formative experiences. In that part of Pennsylvania the trout season was short; stocked trout were caught and creeled, no release here. By the middle of May most trout streams were all but devoid of anglers and stocked trout.

In contrast, the limestone streams of Central Pennsylvania are blessed with heathy populations of wild trout, a steady flow of cold, clean water and year round fishing opportunities. In fact we have been on the water since late March. I'd like to invite you to pay us a visit and fish these remarkable and challenging trout streams. On Penns Creek, Spring Creek, Fishing Creek and the Little Juniata River the trout season never really closes, at least not on the 57 plus stream miles managed under special regulations. As icing on the cake these streams are within a forty minute drive of State College. So much water, so little time!

At Penns Creek Guides our commitment is to the angler. Our goal is to provide you with a memorable day on the stream; guided trips are tailored to your requirements. Whether you're an experienced fly angler or just getting started in the sport let Penns Creek Guides design your next trip. Some dates are still available so don't wait! To book a guided excursion on one of our limestone streams with Penns Creek Guides give me a call at 814-364-9142 or send an email to [pennscreekguides1@yahoo.com](mailto:pennscreekguides1@yahoo.com). For additional information please visit our web site at [www.pennscreekguides.com](http://www.pennscreekguides.com) and don't forget to like us on Facebook. The new batch of Penns Creek Guides wading staffs are ready too!

Now is the time for some last minute gear maintenance. Test your waders for leaks before you hit the stream! At the end of the day, it is usually pretty obvious when you have a leak – your legs and feet will be wet and freezing. But actually identifying a pin-hole leak or an abrasion in the Gore-Tex that is now leaking used to be a challenge. Here is an easy way to find the leak: make sure your waders are *completely* clean and dry, turn them inside out, and spray them with rubbing alcohol. A small plastic spray bottle is perfect for this. Pin holes

and abrasion spots will significantly darken and become very obvious. Just mark the spots with a piece of duct tape or a clothing marker. Wait for the alcohol to dry before making repairs.

A repair product that is fast and effective is Loon UV Wader Repair. While indoors or shaded from direct sunlight, spread the clear thick liquid over the damaged area and expose to sunlight or a UV light for a 30 seconds to a minute. The material cures to a flexible permanent patch. Coating both sides of the wader produces the best results.

Cleaning fly lines is another bit of gear prep that should be done before getting on the water. Over the course of a season of use, lines pick up grit, dirt, and algae that impeded floatation. The modern PVC coated fly line is a far cry from the fly lines of the past; high floating, durable and so many choices. Today's fly lines are mostly maintenance free but do require *some* attention and care. And at \$65 to \$90 each keeping a fly line in top shape as long as possible just makes good sense.

To effectively clean all that gunk off, strip the line from the reel and loosely coil it into a bucket, dishpan kitchen sink, etc. of warm water. Add a **few** drops of dish soap like Dawn or Joy (easy on the soap) and let the line soak for a half hour. Draw the line from the soapy water through a clean soft cloth soaked with fresh water (no soap) into a container of warm rinse water. Use firm pressure as you draw the line through the cloth; the line makes a 'squeak' when enough pressure is used. After rinsing the line and as the line is wound back onto the reel, apply line dressing. That's it. You should have a clean higher floating fly line now, perfect for fishing dry flies to those early season rising trout.

A word of caution, *don't* use automotive vinyl cleaners to dress the clean fly line. These products contain chemicals which will break down the line coating causing it to dry and crack. Also remember that insect repellents containing DEET and sunscreen will ruin a fly line. Keep these agents away from your fly line. Next step? Go fishing!

Have a great Opening Day and all the best in the 2015 season. I'll see you on the water.

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