

Outdoors Adventure Committee Report on Inaugural Outing

May 19-23, 2022

Little Pine Creek in North Central PA

A four or four and a half hour drive north and east from Pittsburgh gets you to Little Pine Creek State Park. It's a 25 min drive north of Jersey Shore on RT 220 and about 25 minutes south of the Fly shop on Big Pine.

The terrain is very dramatic with steep hills on all sides of the park as you can see from the topo:



The Park has a nice campground with some tenting areas available, but mostly full hookups for RVs. The campground is right below the dam with easy access to the stream:



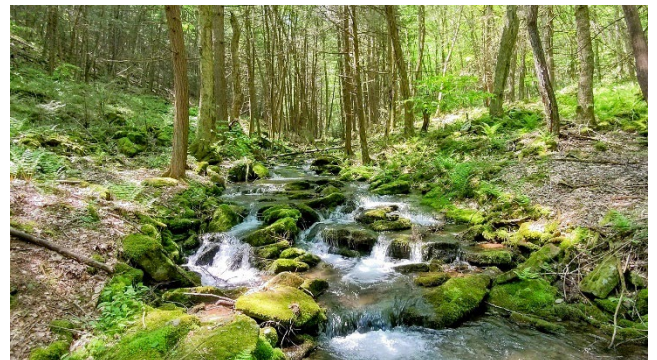
The lake above the dam provides plenty of bottom-release cold water to keep the trout happy:



Little pine above the dam is Delayed Harvest project water:



English creek joins Little Pine at the dam:



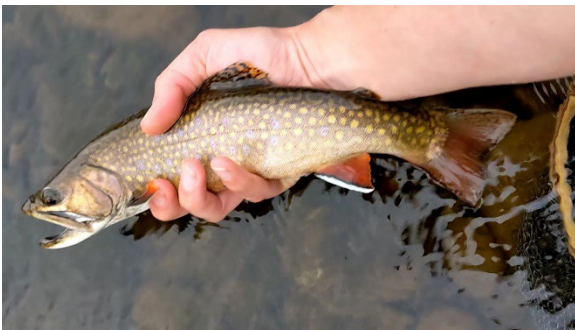
Tough to fish but rewarding:



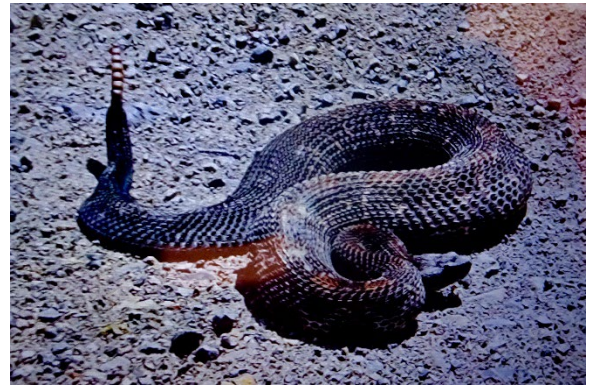
There were lots of bugs: tan caddis, mahogany dun, March brown, sulfurs (a few), and this giant stone fly:



Picture of another fish:



The group encountered an interesting assortment of wildlife:



And



And:



And:



Chuck found a blood-engorged deer tick on his leg the second day and promptly squished it, not realizing that he could have sent it to test for Lyme vector. Now he's left looking for a bullseye rash.

Andy Andrews arrived on Thursday and set up camp. Camp included a person-powered blender for non-alcoholic marguerites:



Well, sort of:



Peter Ten Eyck set up a tent at a near-by spot. Here Pete and Tom Sutor examine bottles on Tom's bike in search of more refreshments because it was HOT and muggy:



The group expanded on Saturday to include Joe Hlista and his friend Ron (pictured here with Andy and Tom).



Eli Baird (blue hat) joined the fun after several passes through the campground looking for the wrong campsite.



Andy grilled shrimp wrapped in bacon as an appetizer and cooked a fabulous dinner:



All in all a very successful inaugural Outdoor Adventure event.

Here's a fist-person account from one of the Outdoor Adventures Committee members ELI BAIRD:

"After planning and waiting all winter for the inaugural outdoor adventure committee trip, I couldn't wait to wake to go on Friday morning. To break up the drive, I stopped and fished the Little Juanita

River. When I arrived the Sulphur Duns and March Browns were landing and being sipped by eager trout, however, a storm front shortly passed through and put an end to both.

When I pulled off of 220, I quickly realized why the area is called the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. The surrounding area is split in half by Pine Creek with gorgeous rolling wooded mountains on either side as far as the eye can see. I quickly set up camp at Little Pine Creek campground and eagerly went out to explore the fishing.

I started on Little Pine Creek as it was only 10 minutes from my campground. After finding some nice holes and runs without any luck, I settled on a deeper tail water that was butted up against a downed tree. One careful cast with my Sulphur Dun and I caught a nice Brook Trout. A couple of more casts in and around the tail water yielded two more nice fish.

I woke up early Saturday morning to beat the ensuing heat which would make for some uncomfortable afternoon fishing. Unfortunately, due to the size of Pine Creek and my lack of knowledge of the area, I did not have any immediate success on the water. I then tried my luck at Mill Creek and Slate run to escape the sun, but sadly had similar results. While my spirits were slightly dampened from the lack of fish, they were lifted by the complete beauty of all the waters I fished.

Later that evening, I found myself exploring a heavily wooded small stream on the hunt for some wild Brook Trout. Using a little dry fly I created myself (I call it Creature) and my 7ft 3wt rod, I was quickly rewarded by the voracious smack of an eager wild brook trout. I continued to hike up the stream looking for more spots that held Pennsylvania's Crown Jewel of native fish. I was happy to find out that there were many.

After about an hour, my empty stomach told me it was time to head back to camp. When I arrived, it was not disappointed about what it was going to eat. Andy had prepared a camp dinner fit for kings: steak, chicken, bacon wrapped shrimp, great sides and even desserts provided by Chuck's wonderful wife. Afterwards, with full bellies, we had wonderful discussions around the campfire about life, fishing and everything else in between.

Sunday was filled with redeeming myself on Pine Creek. After scouting out spots the day before and consulting my bible (Keystone Fly Fishing) I found a spot that looked promising. I set up my rig according to advice I received from my elders the night before and with a good bit of wading I hooked into a beautiful 20 inch brown trout. Sadly, after a big fight and barbless hooks, I was unable to get it to my net. I

had similar results with two more slightly smaller rainbows.

At that point, the sun was getting higher and the air was getting hotter. I had been fishing hard for three days and I decided it was time to head back home.

Minus the heat, the trip was everything I could have hoped for and more. Beautiful water with equally stunning nature, good fishing and most importantly, the opportunity to make new friends. I wait with eager anticipation for the next trip I can attend!