

Featured Brook Trout Fishery – Spring 2015

Poplar Lick



Poplar Lick is a beautiful native brook trout stream nestled in the upper Savage River watershed in Garrett County, found entirely within the boundaries of the Savage River State Forest and New Germany State Park. Flanking its banks is a forest of mixed hardwoods, eastern hemlocks, and mountain laurel thickets. An abandoned off-road vehicle trail parallels the stream for nearly its entire length, making access to the more remote sections of this stream as simple as a walk down a forest road. Remote campsites can also be found scattered along the trail from top to bottom.

Poplar Lick boasts some of the highest densities of adult brook trout recorded by the Brook trout Program in recent years, averaging more than 800 fish per mile of stream! This, coupled with artificial lure only and catch &

release regulations make Poplar Lick a standout stream in a part of the state known for excellent brook trout angling.

Bait fishing is not allowed in Poplar Lick to help protect this unique fishing resource, however anglers using spinning or fly tackle experience excellent success!. Popular choices for anglers using spinning gear include small inline spinners such as those made by Mepps© or Rooster Tail©. Small crankbaits are also a popular choice for larger brook trout. For fly-fishing anglers there are a variety of insect hatches during the spring and summer months to try and match, but during the cooler months an assortment of basic hare's ear and prince nymphs will bring fish to hand. But regardless of season, never leave home without a black wooly bugger!