

Caddis in January? We fished caddis hatches on Friday January 6 dry fly caddis fishing, in January, does not happen, but they hatched and we did. Sure you expect to see Midge activity but not caddis. Not just one type of caddis, there were three. The temperatures this past weekend were, needless to say, very warm. The parking lot at TanVat was full, which I expected to see with the warm weather. However, most of these guys were still trying to fish, like they do in the summer, on top of the fish. The longer these fish are away from the hatchery, the wilder they get and you have to adjust your fishing style accordingly, unless you just enjoy beating the water. I actually watched one guy wade down the middle of a hole, then turn around and fish the water he just waded through... he didn't catch anything ????

Winter fishing is cold, wet, drab and water conditions are usually very clear. I think this photo pretty well sums it up... very little or no bug activity except for those tiny little midges that no one over the age of 40 can see without a magnifying glass. But there is solitude, maybe for a good reason, but us old fools really don't care why when you can have a few miles of stream to fish and only share it with eagles and a buddy that is as foolish as you are to him. Notice the drab colors of this fisherman that blends with the background colors. Clothing colors are very important in gin clear water.



If you are accustomed to fishing the Current River or the Meramec River for stocked fish, don't be surprised if you find them spookier than normal. Stocked fish will become wilder the longer they live in the stream. Walking in too fast, standing over them, making splashes with your fly line presentations will send them to cover and the wilder ones will scatter. They won't be as spooky as wild trout, but they won't let you stand over them anymore and beat the water with your casts. The other thing that will change will be the amount of fish in the stream. Without the daily stockings in the parks, natural predation will take its toll on the quantity of fish. Good thing is, as these fish become wilder they will also become stronger so the fights will be longer and more frequent jumps. Look for midgeing activity during the winter... very slow subtle rises in slow water. A midge could be as large as a 14 or small as a 40. Most of them will be size 20-22 and smaller. They can be black, gray, tan, light green, brown, you get the picture. You will have to catch the flies to see what **color and size** they are.. there is a huge number of genera and species.



©This is what can happen if fishing line is left in the trees. The zoomed photo isn't too clear, but you can still see that it is a bird...it looks like a Kingfisher to me. I

was going to get a better photo the next time I was at that spot, but it was gone when I went back

“ A Bad Day Fishing Is Still A Great Day”



A Beautiful fresh chrome from a recent steelhead trip.