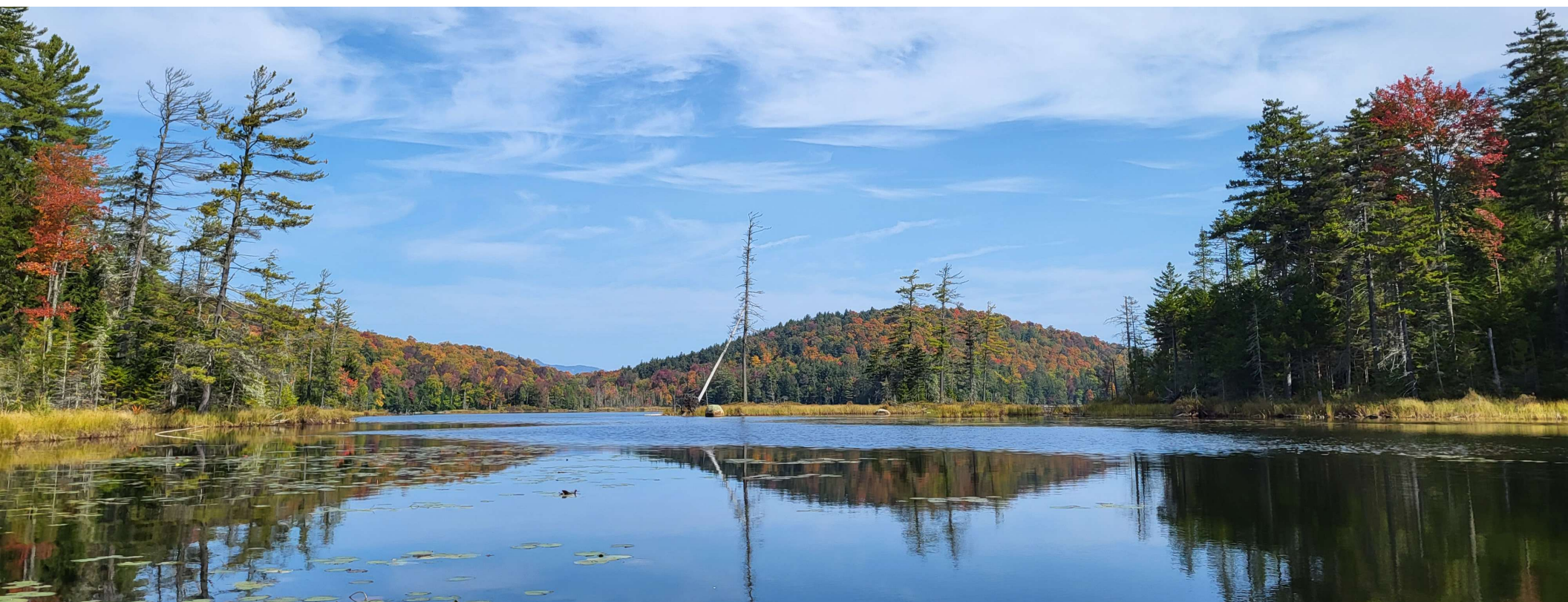




**Stillwater Fishing for
Adirondack Brook
Trout – Steve Prievo**



An Under-utilized Resource with Scenery, Solitude and Bigger Fish

There are 425 publicly accessible stillwaters in the Adirondacks that contain Brook Trout. Thirty-four (34) percent have recent records of producing brook trout of 16 inches or larger.



Wildlife sightings are another part of the experience



...and also the sounds

Stillwaters vs. Flowing Waters

Ponds & Lakes

Fish move to food-producing areas
90 to 95% subsurface feeding
Canoes, float tubes etc. usually needed
Full Sinking and Intermediate lines
Angler must impart action to the fly

Streams & Rivers

Current brings food items to a fish's lie
More surface feeding
Wading is more common
Floating Lines
Dead drift often necessary



Canoe, Kayak or Float Tube usually needed; boggy shorelines and steep drop-offs make wading difficult

Regular 9 foot 5 and 6 weight rods are adequate but some anglers prefer 9.5 and 10 foot rods., with long leaders. A variety of lines is needed – floating, intermediate and sinking

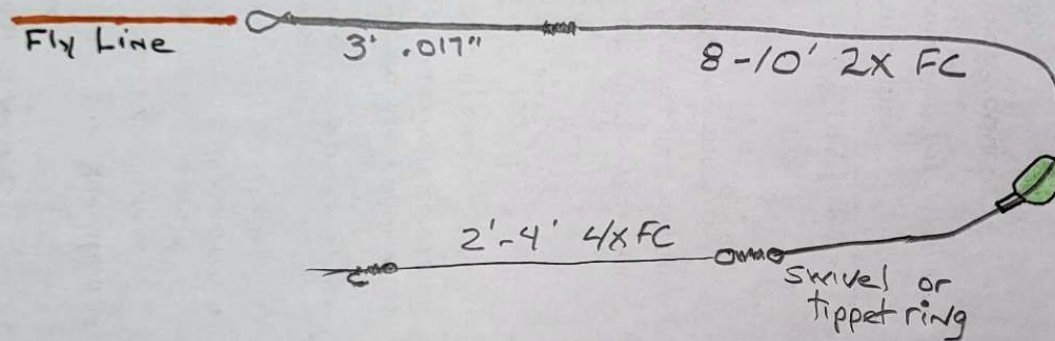
Lures and Flies

- Standard trout-size lures for spin fishing
- Flies should resemble natural prey items like leeches, damsel and dragon fly nymphs, minnows and midges
- Flies need motion so softer materials like marabou and rabbit or squirrel strips are used
- Flies should resemble a prey item – movement more than exact copy
- Hare's ear and pheasant tail nymphs are also productive patterns
- Trolling a Lake Clear Wobbler and a worm is a classic Adirondack technique
- I've had success with small jigs and Gulp pinched crawlers

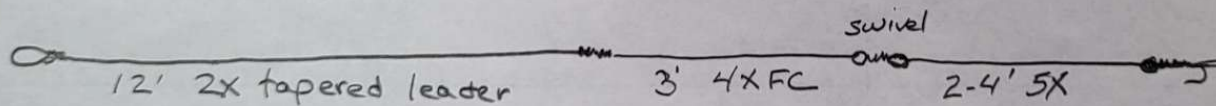


Long leaders are common, with or without slip floats Sinking Lines use shorter leaders

INDICATOR LEADER



"Naked" Leader



Match fly line, fly and retrieve

- Hatching insects rise vertically from the bottom. Imitate this motion with a floating line and bead head nymphs, and vary the speed of your retrieve to find what the fish want.
- Leeches, minnows and damsel nymphs swim horizontally. A slow sinking clear intermediate line (1.5 to 2 ips) will hold the fly at a given depth during the retrieve. Good for 2 to 6 foot depths – one of the best feeding zones, especially in low light conditions
- Deeper than 6 feet, use a faster sinking, type 3 or 5 full sinking line.
- Floating line and slip float will suspend a weighted fly at a given depth

Stillwater Calendar



***Ice Out** – usually around April 20, depending on previous winter, earlier on lower elevation ponds. I've had good luck the last week of April into first couple of days of May

Turnover – Deeper waters turnover during the first 2 weeks of May. Water is cloudy, greenish and has a swampy odor. Fishing slows

Mother's Day – water temperatures in 50s now, insects and fish activity pick up. Peak around Memorial Day. By Father's Day surface temperatures are too warm for C&R fishing, though some evenings could produce surface activity.



By mid-September water temperatures have cooled and fish can be found in shallower water. It's a great time to enjoy the colors of fall and the fish

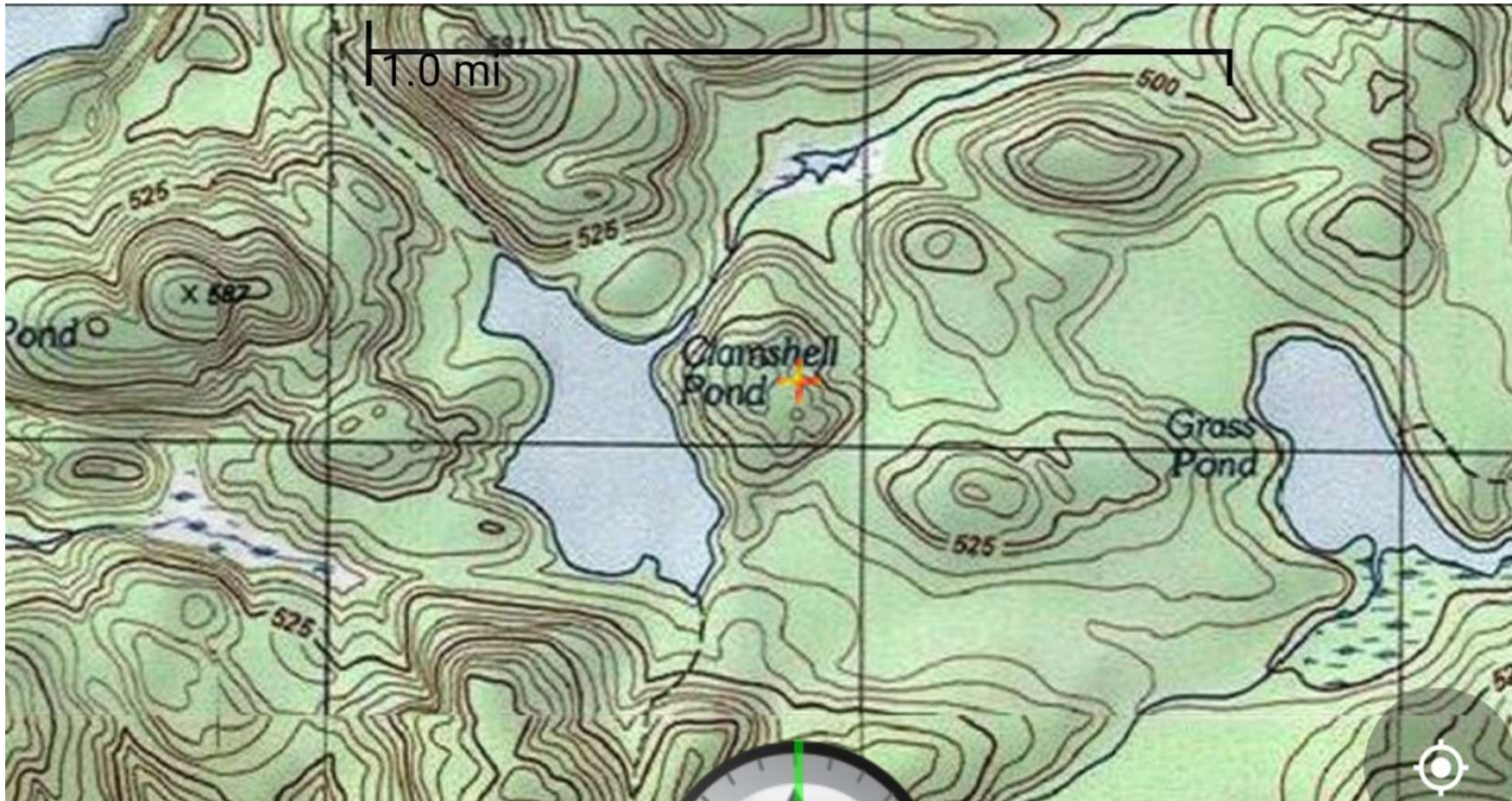


Where to Go



Hiking trails, snowmobile trails and /or canoe routes can take you to backcountry waters in most of the Wilderness Areas and Wild Forests, where the best fishing is.

Using a topo map to “read” the water



Some of the best areas

- West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area
- Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area
- Five Ponds Wilderness Area
- St. Regis Canoe Area – a popular and more accessible area that produced the current state record Brook Trout. The nearby Saranac Lakes Wild Forest also has numerous accessible ponds.
- Massawepie Conservation Easement – Another accessible area with multiple ponds
- Moose River Plains, Jessup River and Ferris Lake Wild Forests all have brook trout waters.



I hope you have a successful stillwater
experience, and I hope you'll practice Catch
& Release