

Local Fishing Report 010/22/23



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Toccoa Tailwater: Turnover is done on the Toccoa tailwater! Water temps below the dam are down into the mid 60s and are dropping. The fish are feeding on a variety of things. Plenty of Tan Caddis and BWOs are



Guide Matt Morrison and client Stephen with a 22" brown trout caught out of some shallow water.

around, as well as tons of midges. October Caddis are just around the corner, so we're expecting to see these start popping off any day now.

Morning and late-evening dry-fly fishing has been phenomenal throwing smaller Parachute Adams, Parachute BWOs and Tan Elk Hair Caddis. Dry-dropper rigs have been working well, with nymphs hanging between 2-4 feet below the dry depending on where you are fishing. Hare's Ear variations have been working the

best with some small mayfly nymphs, like Pheasant Tails, in the mix. Fishing should only get better as we start to get into our October Caddis hatch so start stocking up on some orange-colored caddis dries. Even switching to a smaller orange chubby on your dry-dropper rigs can help pick up a couple extra fish.

Upper Toccoa: Delayed Harvest season starts November 1. Flows are incredibly low with as little rain as we've had. As I'm writing this the upper is flowing at 106 cfs. This should really help wade fishermen out. Make sure to stock up on your typical junk flies like Pat's, Eggs, Worms, and Rainbow Warriors.

Are you new to fly-fishing or don't know what "DH season" is? Basically, starting Nov 1 on specific streams around Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. All provide great opportunities for new anglers, but there are a few more regulations you need to pay attention to. During DH season (Nov 1 - May 14), fishing is restricted to catch-and-release only, and single-hook artificial lures only (for fly fishermen ... meaning no more than two flies).

Georgia waters include portions of the upper Toccoa River, Smith Creek (Unicoi State Park), Chattooga River, Chattahoochee River, and Amicalola Creek. Also included is the Hiwassee River in nearby Reliance, TN and several streams in western North Carolina, including the ever-popular Nantahala River, Fires Creek and Big Snowbird Creek.



Scott with a nice rainbow caught on a Hopper doing some technical low water dry fly fishing.

Small Streams: This fall is looking to be another low-water fall. With not much more than a drizzle the past two months, the creeks are incredibly low. This means fish can be really spooky.

In the wild-trout streams, stick with dry flies or some light, dry-dropper rigs. Throwing light rigs can help keep your flies from slapping the water and

spooking fish. In some of the stocked streams, that can also be the case with pressured fish. With dry flies, I've been having some luck throwing some attractions like Stimulators, Bugmeisters, and PMXs, but the trout will still eat natural dries like Caddis and Parachute Adams pretty well. Sometimes, it just helps throwing something that sticks out from all of the leaves.

Hot Flies:

- Soft Hackle Jigged Pheasant Tail (sz16-18)
- Soft Hackle Jigged Hare's Ear (sz14-180)
- Flashback Pheasant Tail (sz16-18)
- Flashback Hare's Ear (sz 14-18)
- Duracell Jig (sz 14-18)
- Rainbow Warrior (sz16-18)
- Woolly Bugger
- Pat's Rubber Leg
- Tungsten Pat's Rubber Leg
- Elk Hair Caddis Tan (sz12-16)
- Parachute Adams (sz 16-18)
- Parachute BWO (sz 16-18)
- Zebra Midge (sz 16-18)
- Two Bit Hooker (sz 16-18)
- Bugmeister (sz 12-14)
- PMX (sz 12-14)
- Donkey Kong Hopper (sz 12)
- Stimulator (sz 12-14)