

Stocking (continued from page 1)

"The brookies don't make it," he said. "They don't belong in a

lake. Their habitat is fast-moving streams. Todd Kern, who has fished Harveys Lake for 22 years, said that he has caught trout between

20 and 36 inches long at Harveys

"The trick is to follow the schools of alewives," he said. "Use a fish finder to locate them.

Alewives, also known as sawbellies, run three to four inches in length and have large heads and small tails. Although alewives eat perch and calico bass eggs, they're a tasty treat for trout, walleyes, pickerel and bass, Kern said.

Larger game fish eat the fingerlings and the alewives eat fish eggs, but Kern thinks the lake's ducks are the fishes' biggest enemy

Ducks know when and where the fish are spawning and hit the nests as soon as the females are finished. Fish spawn only once each season. Sometimes all that is seen of the ducks during spawning season is their tails as they tip upside down in the water feasting on fish eggs.

"It's too bad that someone can't widen and deepen the creeks around the lake and put in gravel for the brown trout and walleye to spawn," he said. "That would go a long way in establishing a good resident trout population."

Kern believes there still are many good-sized trout in Harveys Lake, stocking program or not. You just have to know where they are and how to attract them.

"Last year the really big ones were biting on chartreuse J-7 Rapala lures on downriggers."

Large trout to be stocked later

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Lake

Legal-size adult trout are returning to Harveys Lake, although

not in time for opening day. It isn't their annual spring migration. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has decided to stock 4,200 adult trout in the lake during the season, as well as adding 225,000 fingerlings during the spring and another 25,000 in the fall, according to area fisheries manager Bob Moase.

No adult trout will be stocked before the April 16 opening day. The Fish Commission had discontinued stocking adult trout in Harveys Lake in 1990 in an attempt to increase the size of trophy-size trout in the lake. Stocking of fingerlings had begun in 1985, Moase said.

The adults will average 10 inches in size, while spring fingerlings are about three inches long and fall fingerlings about eight inches long, Moase said.

The legal minimum size for trout is seven inches

"We found that we have been losing a great number of fingerlings and didn't have any definite evidence where they had gone," Moase said.

"We knew that some were being eaten by the lake's resident chain pickerel and some were also leaving the lake and going into nearby streams."

The Fish Commission stocks fingerlings in such large numbers because it knows that many won't make it to adult size, Moase said.

Harveys Lake is also home to large- and smallmouth bass, walleye, Atlantic salmon, perch, pickerel, black crappies, suckers, catfish, pumpkinseeds, various kinds of panfish and alewives, Moase said.

Many of these fish were stocked in the past but have now established good resident populations, he said.

He didn't know where the alewives came from. "Someone else stocked them," he said.

The stocking program is expensive - adult trout cost \$1.10 each, while fingerlings can cost between 25¢ and 75¢, depending on their size, according to Fish Commission production chief Dennis Ricker.

Fishy trout season facts

Anglers eager to hook a nice brook, rainbow or palomino trout may want to purchase their 1994 fishing licenses if they haven't done so already.

Trout season opens April 16 at 8 a.m.

A listing of Pennsylvania fishing regulations, approved trout waters and special regulations is in the summary of the fishing regulations booklets which come with the fishing license.

- Opening day: April 16 at 8 a.m. • Fishing hours: 24 hours a day after the opening day.
- Minimum size: seven inches.

• Daily limit: eight per day, combined species (brook, rainbow, steelhead, brown and palomino trout.)

• Licenses: all anglers over 16 years of age must have both a valid 1994 fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp in order to fish for trout. The license and the stamp must be signed in ink and worn on an outer garment or hat. Anglers must also be able to furnish other identification, such as a driver's license or school ID card.

Senior citizens are eligible for a senior lifetime license.

Licenses, valid until December 31, are available at more than 1,700 issuing agents, including the county treasurer and the Fish Commission offices in Sweet Valley.

• License fees: Resident, \$12; Trout/salmon stamp, \$5; senior resident (yearly), \$2; senior lifetime, \$10; 5-day tourist, \$20; and non-resident, \$25.

A 50¢ issuing agent's fee is added to each license and the trout stamp at the time of purchase.

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