

Fishing.....

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right.

- Cox's Chapel bridge. Take U.S. 21 north out of Sparta, stay straight onto U.S. 221, turn right on N.C. 93 and right on Mount Carmel Road (state road 1338), then turn right on Turkey Knob Road (also 1338), which turns into Cox's Chapel Road (VA 601) after it crosses the Virginia state line. Follow Cox's Chapel Road to the bridge.

- U.S. 58 and Hwy. 93 overpass. Take U.S. 21 north out of Sparta, stay straight onto U.S. 221, turn right on N.C. 93 (turn right at intersection with 113 to remain on 93). Cross the river and turn right at the intersection of U.S. 58. Turn right immediately onto a dirt drive leading to the access area beneath the bridge.

Much of the river in this area winds across the North Carolina-Virginia state line, Cox said. For that reason, fishing licenses from either state are valid from the confluence in Piney Creek to the mouth of the Little River near where U.S. 58 crosses the New River in Mouth of Wilson, Va.

From the section starting at Fields Dam in Mouth of Wilson, where reciprocal license ends, anglers may not possess any bass between 14 and 22 inches. They may keep up to five smallmouth bass 14 inches or smaller, and one of those can be over 22 inches, Cox explained.

Trout Streams

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is announcing projected stocking dates this season instead of announcing afterward as in the past. Remaining 2019 stocking dates are:

Big Glade Creek – June 20;
Big Pine Creek – June 20;
Brush Creek – June 6, July 8;

Little River – June 6, July 8; and

Prathers Creek – June 18.

Other creeks that have no additional stocking include Bledsoe Creek, Little River (delayed harvest portion), Meadow Fork Creek, Pine Swamp Creek, and Piney Fork.

To see the dates, go to www.ncwildlife.org/portals/0/Fishing/documents/Trout-schedule%202018.pdf. For maps of where to fish, see www.ncpaws.org/pmtws/TroutSearchResults.aspx.

From the first Saturday in June until the end of September, anglers can keep fish they catch in hatchery supported streams, said Cox. On the first Saturday in June, children can start fishing from 6 a.m. to noon with

no restrictions on bait. Anglers age 18 and older can start at noon.

Starting Oct. 1 and continuing through the winter until fishing season opens again, catch and release rules apply. Anglers must use artificial bait with a single hook and release any fish they catch.

Stone Mountain State Park

Stone Mountain State Park in Alleghany and Wilkes counties has more than 20 miles of designated trout waters. Rainbow and brown trout dominate the lower parts of the streams while brook trout inhabit the cooler water at higher elevations.

Some of the streams are catch and release and some areas require permits; see the park website for details at ncparks.gov.

"A lot of people come here from Greensboro, Raleigh

and Winston-Salem areas to fish," said Denise McGrady, office manager. Anglers are required to have an N.C. fishing license and a trout license, she said.

General information

S&L Sporting Goods in downtown Sparta (lower level below Horizon Bistro and A Touch of Grace) has more information on equipment, locations and regulations. The Alleghany Chamber of Commerce on Main Street in Sparta also has information.

Cox said anglers who want more information on fishing in this area can also call (336) 341-8289. Those age 16 and older must have a fishing license. A PFD (personal flotation device or life preserver) is required for each person in a jonboat, canoe, kayak or other any other craft. Children age 12 and younger must be wearing them at all times.



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