

Bob Colson
2021 Angling Calendar
As of June 9, 2021

January 28 - 31. Edison Fly Fishing Show. While the show has not officially canceled, we have decided to not attend this year. As of December 5, it is now cancelled.

March, 2021. Olympic Peninsula and Oregon Steelhead. No specific dates set at this time. Cancelled!

March 27 - April 4. [Delphi Fishery, Ireland](#). Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Cancelled!

April 19 - 23 and May 3 - 7. Penns Creek at [Centre Mills](#). Times change! Maria (finally) sold her property and has moved closer to family. Happy for her! For me, it marks the end of a 30-year run fishing Elk Creek in the headwaters and staying at such a unique, wonderful place. I've arranged to stay at the [Feathered Hook](#) in Coburn. I have a long history there, too, going back to 1987 or so when an acquaintance and his wife from the Cleveland area purchased the old building and began running the B & B.

Here are some photos from the April excursion, marked by unusually low water and more anglers than usual. The water volume ranged from a high of about 650 cf/s to a low of just over 400 cf/s. Water temperatures were between 47 and 50 F during my fishing times. My preferred height for Penns is between 900 and 1200 cf/s. When the water is low, fish and anglers both



concentrate in much more confined areas. It's not uncommon for a nymph fisher to occupy a short stretch of streamy water for hours, moving perhaps ten feet in either direction, presenting a heavily weighted team of nymphs repeatedly. Unfortunately, this is a style of

fishing that does not appeal much to me.

The first photo looks downstream at a stretch that has blessed me frequently with nice fish. It's running somewhat lower than I prefer in the picture, about 550 cf/s, but did yield a number of decent fish. A big fish for this stretch would be over 20". A decent fish is over 17". Often fish sip bugs just off the right bank under the overhanging hemlocks and bushes. There's a spot on the left at the bottom of this stretch that held my two largest fish of this trip, 17 and 19 inches. A photo of the 19" in the water is next. I fished mostly with a 8 ½ 6-weight rod with a 3 ½ inch Dingley "Perfect" to counter the high winds. Typically, I'll fish a couple of small wets across and down until I see a riser, when I switch to a dry fly. Sometimes, it takes a bit of time to find the right dry fly and to achieve an acceptable presentation. Not every fish appreciates all that effort, though. As the water drops, the trout become quite discriminating!



A day on Spring Creek is always a pleasure. This year, the fishing was quite good in low, clear water, 40 degree temperature and periodic sleet and snow! This stretch is between 20 and 30 feet wide. My tools were a 7', 3-weight with a J.W. Young "Perfect" style reel of 2 ⅞ inch diameter. I often

fish two wet flies here. The fly of choice until about 3:00 was a #14 Brown Owl, but around 3:00 a #18 BWO emerger inspired by a Waterhen Bloa became the fly of choice as the fish began to rise. The Brown Owl was likely taken for a pupating caddis as I fished it across and down to simulate pupation. The BWO was effective across and up with lesser movement. My best fish from Spring was a 16" brown taken off the left bank behind a log in the water about 50 feet down from where I took the photo and two rainbows of about 14" near the bottom of this stretch. Many beautiful brown trout between 9 and 12 inches whose parr marks were still faintly visible.

A return to Penns and Spring Creeks between May 3 and 7 greeted me with super low water. I fished one evening upriver and had some activity with small fish on #20 rusty spinners for the last hour and on small wet flies earlier. Many March Brown and Hendrickson spinners mixed. I didn't see many egg layers, but there must have been some! Most of my fishing time was downstream of Cherry Run where I had some good daytime fishing and quite a good number of fine, wild brown trout between 15 and 19 inches. The last two days the large sulphurs

(ephemerella invaria) started to hatch sporadically in the late afternoon. Such a beautiful fly! Some hydropsycha and chimarra caddis were around as were some “straw” caddis, fairly common throughout the East, whose genus eludes me. Like the chimarra, the females extrude eggs on the surface, which brings into play some dry fly fishing in the riffles, if you choose to include those flies whose bodies are in the surface film as “dry flies.” The number of people was high. Many new entrants whose technique repertory is somewhat limited.

May 16 - 22. Yorkshire. Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Cancelled!

May 23 - 30. Orton Estate, River Spey, Scotland. Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. As of December 5, my English angling companion and I have chosen not to travel to Scotland in 2021. Cancelled!

Early June. Gaspé, Quebec, Canada. Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Improbable at this time, Cancelled~

June 19 - July 10, [Orkla Lax, Norway](#). Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Waiting for the May 11 announcement, which many anticipate will open tourist travel somewhat. Cancelled!

July 18 - 26. [Norwegian Flyfishing Club, Gaula, Norway](#). Alas, my dates no longer align for week 29. I won't be sharing this experience in 2021 if Norway opens. Cancelled!

July 30 - August 10. [Flowers River Lodge, Labrador, Canada](#). Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Improbable at this time.

September 19 - 25. Humber River, Newfoundland, Canada. Subject to change due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Still a possibility!

October 14 - 20. Nass River Tributaries. Interesting fishing in an exceptionally well-run, comfortable wilderness camp. We fished about seven miles of the Nass between two canyons and two pools up the Dondachax from its confluence with the Nass. Cold water (32.4 F the last day), cold weather, and a very small steelhead run led to nine encounters, five hook-ups, and three fish landed to 37” by four good anglers led by two exceptional guides, a fraction of what might be expected in a year with an average run. I hope to return to sample further from this fishery.

October 25 to early November. Snake River and other west coast steelheading. Water temperatures ranging from 54 to 58 F and decent weather conditions provided about an average experience even though the steelhead run was small. Our fish encounters were all in two Snake River runs except for three in two days of fishing the Grande Ronde guided by [Troy Dettmann](#) and one from a downriver Snake run. Two anglers had 22 encounters, 10 fish “on the reel,” and 7 fish landed. All fish landed were wild except one from the GR. Three were B-run fish

of 31, 28, and 29 inches; the others were A-run steelhead. The river was in great shape while we were there. Always a pleasure to fish split-cane Spey rod, floating line, and a small waking fly!