

## EARLY SEASON NOTEBOOK # 1

On April 1, opening day on the Trophy Water, there could be heavier flows/stronger current than we've become conditioned to at the end of April. Additionally, the water will likely be somewhat cooler, as will daytime air temperatures.

Trout metabolism is keyed to water temperature with peak activity and most aggressive feeding falling in the 55F to 67F range. I doubt we will see those temperatures early in the month, BUT any spike of two to three degrees will stimulate the fish. So, if temps have been running in the low 40's and jump to the mid 40's, our trout will be happier and feed more energetically.

Track water temps and watch forecasts for bright, sunny days. This time of year sunshine is a good deal as it will drive afternoon temps upward. A warm rain can, of course, accomplish the same result, but a heavy snow melt will make the water cooler for a brief period.

I'm betting we'll be most successful early in the month when fishing nymphs patiently and methodically in slower runs and deeper riffles. Streamer fishing should be pretty good, but remember to move your fly more slowly on the retrieve in colder water. Dry fly fishing for larger trout will improve significantly as the water temp climbs into the 50's.

**SAFETY** – wade with care and take a break from the current and cold every few minutes. If the water looks too deep, it is. If the current feels too strong, it is.

Layered clothing is important. Fleece pants under your waders and warm socks are most helpful as are fleece turtlenecks and vests. These do not need to be “windproof” models because you will be wearing a wading jacket as an outer rain and wind proofing garment.