

Valley Angler

Hot Spots for Opening Day Trout

by Bill Thompson

Considering the weather we have been plagued with lately it is hard to believe that the opening day of the trout pond season is just a week away. Only a few weeks ago we were concerned that there would be very little open water on the salmon lakes, which turned out to be true, and now I am worrying that many local trout ponds may still be frozen over. In the thirty or so years that I have been fishing New Hampshire I have never seen this happen, at least in the ponds in Carroll County. I did make an ill fated trip to Profile Lake one opening day several years ago only to find that the lake was still frozen solid. Based on past experience I would guess that we should be able to find some open water.

There are probably more good trout ponds in Ossipee than any other town in the state. One good bet for some action on opening day is always Duncan Lake. Of course I am not the only one who is aware of this and opening day on Duncan Lake can be a little crowded. Another popular Ossipee trout pond is White Pond. White Pond is fly fishing only and is located just south of Duncan Lake on Route 16. Both Duncan Lake and White Pond have a parking issue. There just isn't a lot of room at either location. However, these bodies of water always produce some of the best early spring fishing.

Conner Pond is another favorite, however it located at a slightly higher altitude and just might have some ice left. However, Conner Pond is in my opinion one of the best ponds in our area. At one time it was possible to catch Sunapee Trout in the pond, but today it is managed for brook trout.

In Freedom try Loon Lake. Unlike Duncan and White Pond you are unlikely to find a crowd. In recent years the rainbow trout population has been very healthy. Loon Lake is also a great place to fish for bass. The boat launch isn't much, but a canoe or small car topped boat can be launched.

Heading up Route 153 out of Freedom towards Conway you will pass by Long Lake and Hatch Pond. The boat launch is just a small turnout along the road; however it is possible to get a canoe in the water. There is only room for a couple of cars to park on the opposite side of the road. It is possible to wade fish by keeping to the right of the boat launch. This can be quite productive in early season as the trout seem to concentrate in this area.

The next pond is Hatch Pond, sometimes refereed to as Hidden Pond. Unlike all the other ponds along 153 Hatch Pond is not viable from the road. Look for a turn out on the right with a state boat launch sign; it is a short walk down to the water. It is possible to haul a canoe down to the water, but if you have a float tube this is the place to use it. By sticking to the shore near the outlet it is possible to wade.

There are two locations in Tamworth that are worth checking out, White Lake and Chocorua Lake. Both lakes are located just off Route 16 and provide easy access for anglers. White Lake is, of course a state park, however there is a fisherman access just off Depot Road. The launch is suitable for canoes and other small craft. White Lake is a brook trout fishery and fishes well in the spring and the fall. Chocorua Lake is perhaps one of the states most beautiful lakes. Setting under the watchful eye of Mount Chocorua the lake makes a very attractive place to wet a line. Aside from the great scenery the lake hold some pretty good rainbows.

This is but a sampling of the many great trout ponds that can be found in our neck of the woods. A little exploring and you will find some great water of your own.

See you on the river.