

Huntin' & Killin' with Zach Going Native at Looking Glass

By Zach Browning
Sports Editor

When fishing this past weekend, "going native" was the name of the game. So off we went to fish my favorite wild trout stream.

Looking Glass Creek runs for several miles before it cascades over Looking Glass Falls. The stream is tight in places but with the right finesse, can prove rewarding. I have fished several sections of the river, and have caught my share of native fish—some big, and some small. Most tend to be on the small side, but they fight like a fish three times their size. That's one of the things I love about native fish; in order to catch them, you have to bring your "A" game to the river.

On this particular day, my friend and I began fishing in a spot well above sliding rock, a spot I had fished several times before the previous summer. This particular area is tight, and by that I mean that laurel



Looking Glass Creek branches hang low and don't give much room to cast. It is beautiful however; there are three larger waterfalls and countless smaller runs much like Sliding Rock. We decided to head down stream but that required us to almost repel down the side of the bank. You know you're fishing when you hang on for dear life and swing down the trees like a monkey to get to the water. Well that's exactly what we did.

The water was particularly cold that day, or at least it seemed. It wasn't long until we had our first catch of the day, a small brook trout. My friend seemed disappointed at its size (He is used to fishing stocked water), but I reassured him that they do get bigger, but the real fun is just being able to catch one. After that we decided to move down a larger waterfall, but were forced to climb up on a ridge and slide down the

opposite bank. This was difficult enough with all the undergrowth, but the eight foot rods we had didn't make it any easier at all. It was a steep climb.

We finally got to the bottom and were able to pull out three more decent size trout. I won't bore you with the rest of the afternoon, because it went pretty much the same way. We got to a hole, fished it and left. The point is that no matter what you catch or don't catch, fishing is all about having fun. The fact that we were even able to fool a native trout of any size



John Billingsley maneuvers down a hill

makes me happy—they are a picky bunch. These fish have grown up on an insect diet and *usually* know what's real and what's not.

If you fly fish and are looking for a real challenge, take a trip up to Looking Glass Creek and try your luck. Long leaders and small flies are the key, and there is hardly ever anybody up there fishing. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving holiday and if you plan on hitting the stream or the woods, good luck!



Zach Browning fishing in Looking Glass Creek

All photos courtesy of John Billingsley