
Irondequoit Creek
Conserve the Wild

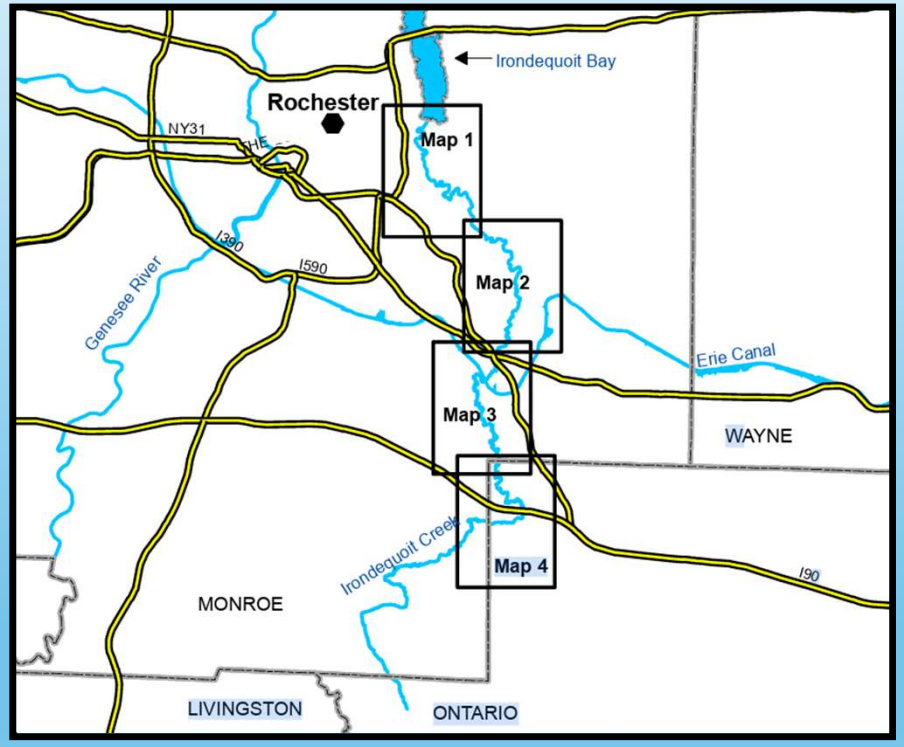
Agenda

- Geography
- History
- Bug Life
- Fish species
- Conservation
- Regulations
- Tactics & Gear



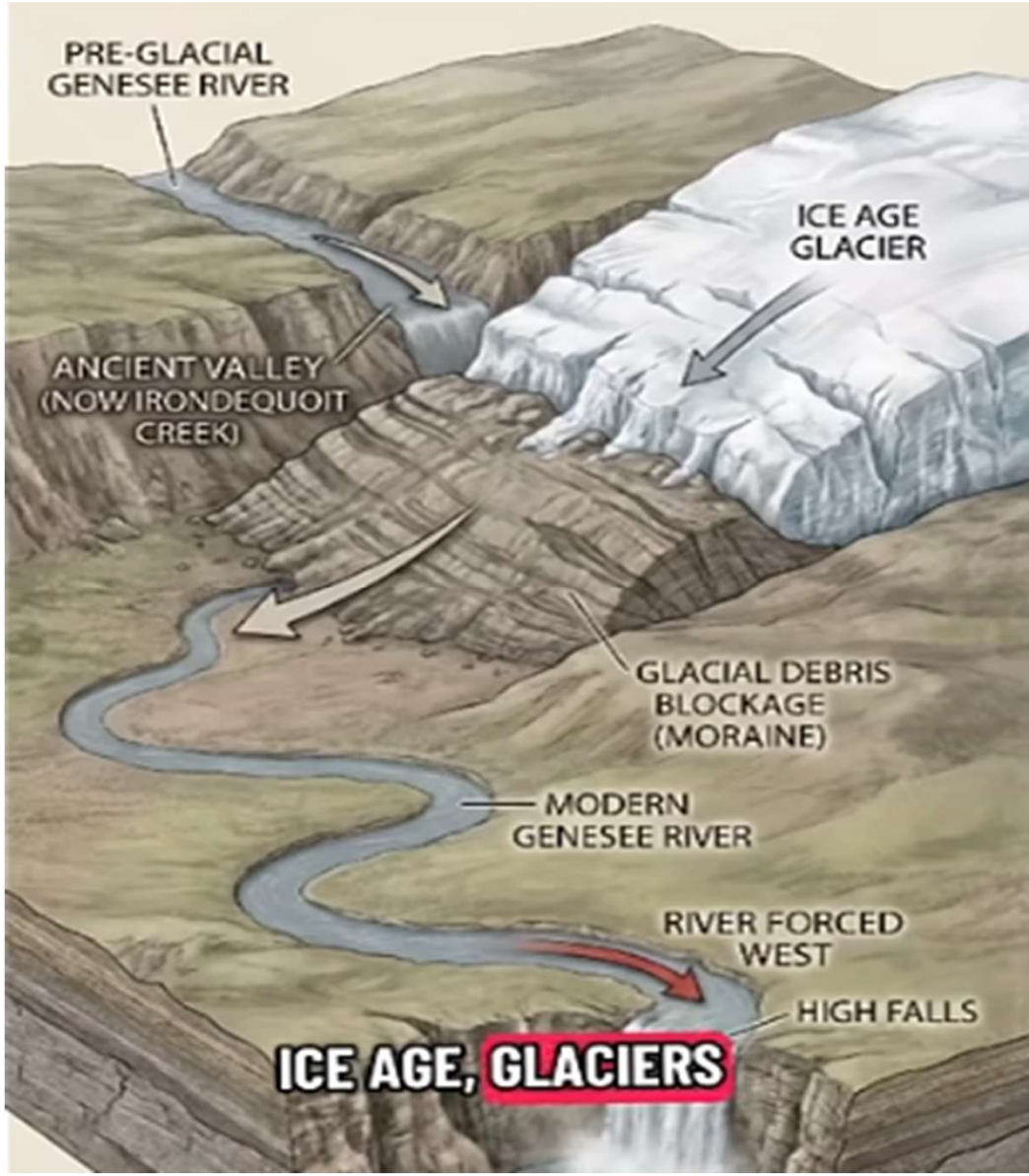
Geography

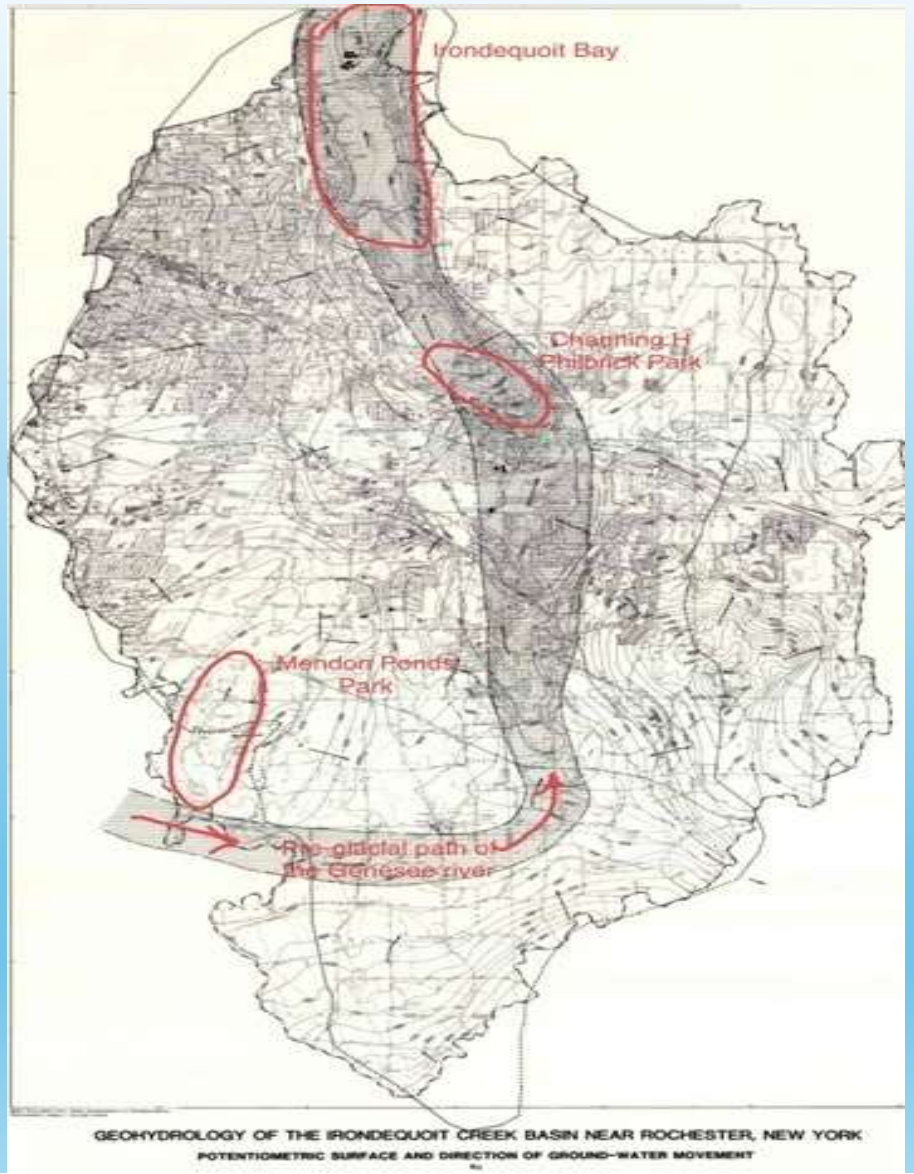
- It begins in rural West Bloomfield in Ontario County, flowing 36 miles to Irondequoit Bay
- DEC publishes a public access map - pfrirondiqck.pdf
- Plenty of Park Access – Ellison, Channing Philbrick, Spring Lake, Powdermill, more…
- Private and posted water in between
- Freestone influenced heavily by run off and weather
- Originally the Genesee River



Ancient History

- How could such a small creek create such a large valley connected to Lake Ontario?
- The Danville River once flowed through here before glaciers advanced across the area. It was this large river that cut the bay.
- Danville River dammed by glacial deposits.
- Flow diverted to Genesee River channel.
- Rising post-glacial lake floods the ancient valley.
- Irondequoit Creek drains into remnant valley.



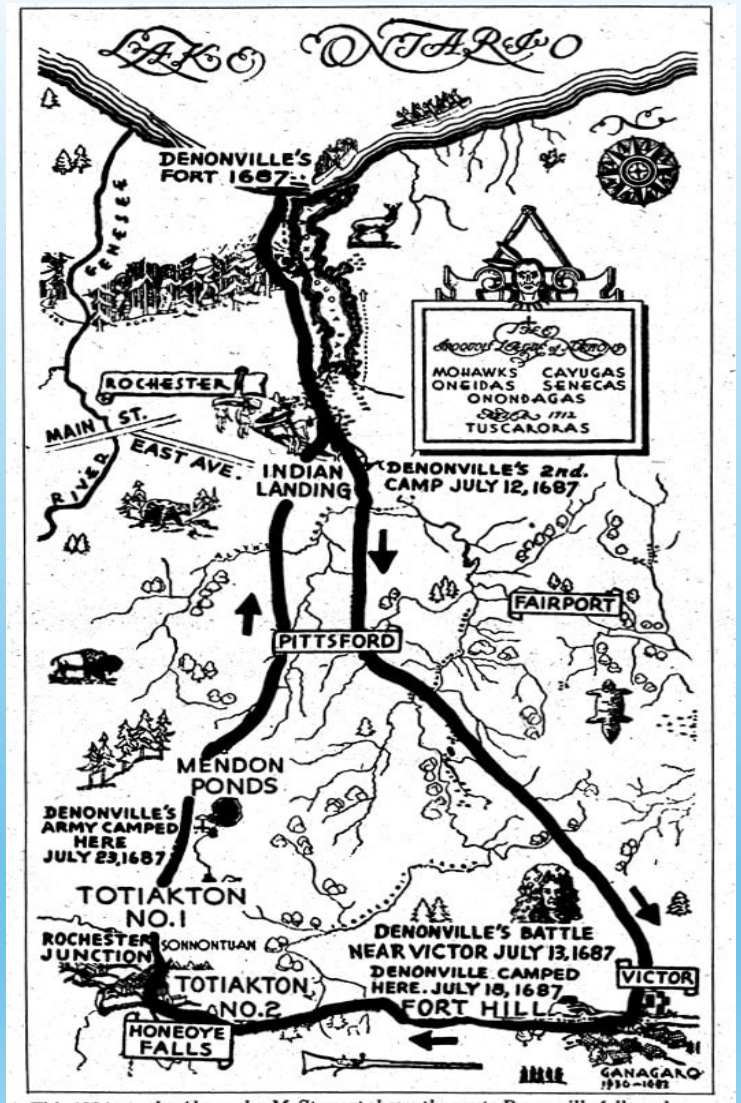


GEOHYDROLOGY OF THE IRONDEQUOIT CREEK BASIN NEAR ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE AND DIRECTION OF GROUND-WATER MOVEMENT

Early Arrivals

1788- American Oliver Phelps acquires title to the bay.
1741- English buy the bay from the Senecas.
1721- English build Fort Schuyler.
1717- Fort de Sables built by French as a trading post.
1687- Denonville's attack.
1679- Las Salle's third visit. Father Hennepin builds chapel.
1678- La Salle's second visit.
1669- La Salle explores the bay the first time.
1612- Bay appears on Champlain's map.
1610- Etienne Brule first European to see the bay.



This 1934 map by Alexander M. Stewart shows the route Denonville followed.

History

- After the Treaty Of Paris, which ended the War of Independence, exploration of this area began to grow
- Early settlement – Tryon, which is where Ellison Park is today – was settled near the waterway
- The first settlements in the town of Penfield sprang up along the creek, as its waters were well suited to mills.
- The Daisy Flour Mill, previously a restaurant, was the last of over a dozen mills that once used the creek's waters.



Fish Species

The creek's connection to Lake Ontario through Irondequoit Bay and discharges from the Erie Canal explain the variety of species in the creek.

- Brown and Rainbow trout
- King, Coho, Atlantic salmon
- Largemouth, Smallmouth, Rock bass,
- Various panfish
- Chubs, shiners, suckers, quillback, gobies, darters
- Carp
- Walleye
- Northern Pike



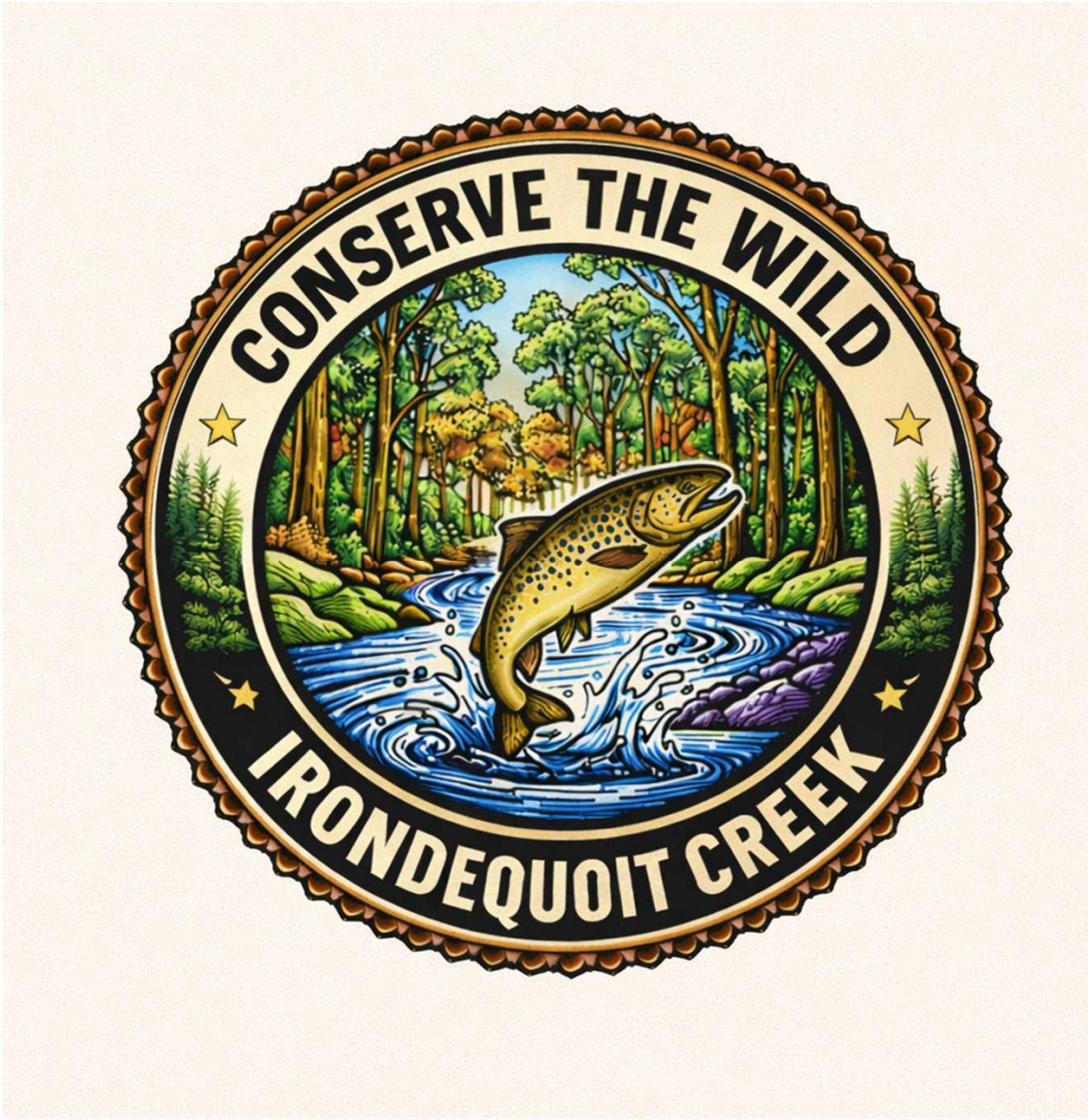


Bug Life

- Mayflies are not prolific like other local fisheries. Most noteworthy are the BWO hatches in March/Early April
- The larger, more well-known varieties are spotted periodically (Examples: March Brown, Sulphur, Hendrickson).
- Craneflies and Caddisflies are the most prolific hatches
- Midges are always around
- Sadly, I have never seen a stonefly
- Scuds, crayfish, and small baitfish are on the menu too
- Fish eggs are important forage in the fall and spring.

Conservation

- Stewardship and conservation working groups
- Educational outreach best practices
  - Encourage C&R
  - Habitat – wood is good!
- Maintaining streamflow monitoring tools.
  - USGS gauges in Fishers and Ellison Park
- Clean up events



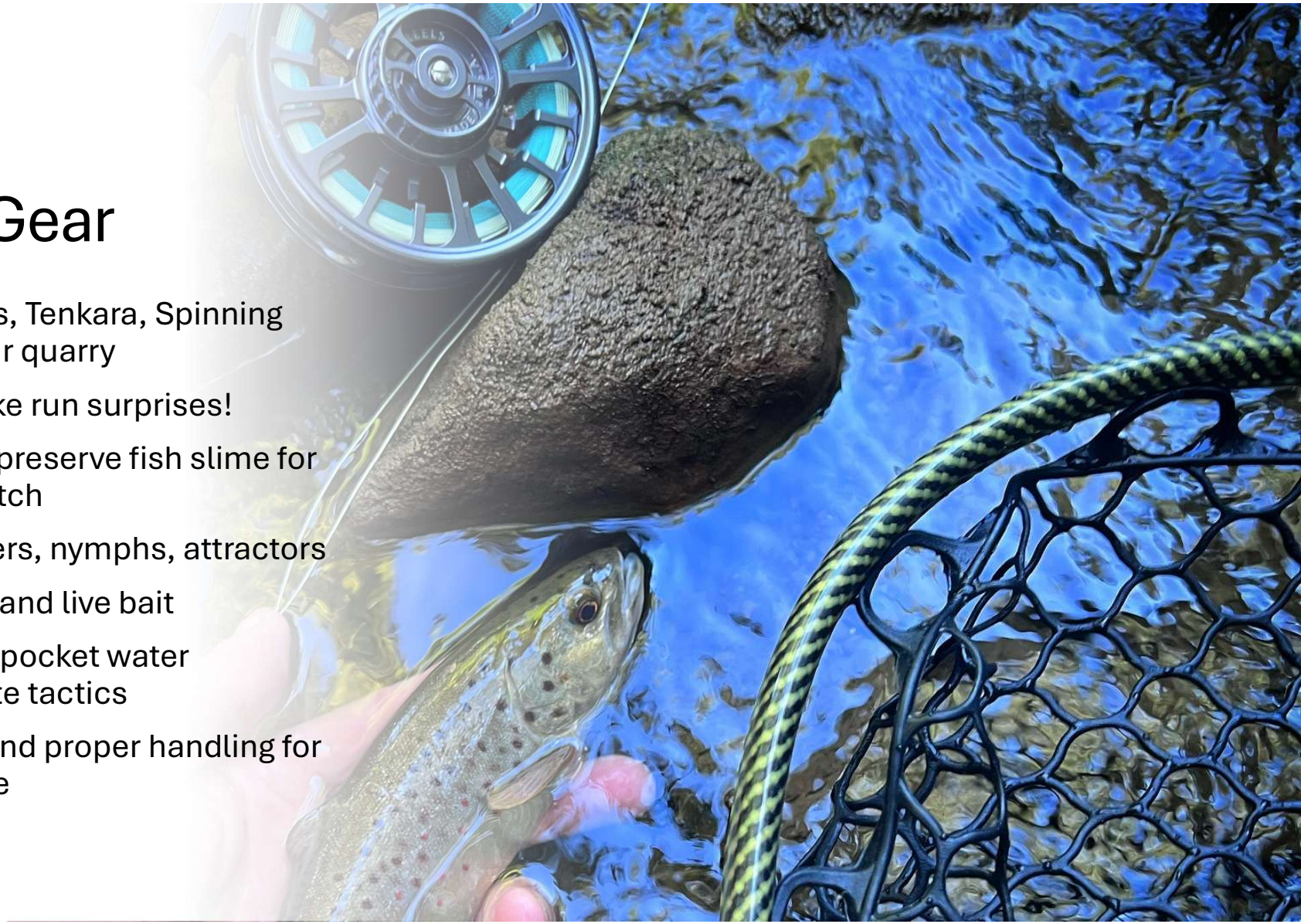
Regulation Changes

- Irondequoit creek is managed as a Great Lakes tributary
- The DEC has discontinued stocking brown trout
- DEC management Policy: NYS does not stock brown trout in any Lake Ontario tributary below an impassable barrier.
- DEC conducted an electro-shocking study and found healthy populations of wild fish in Penfield, East Rochester, Perinton and Fishers.
- Not stocking fish over wild trout populations is a widely accepted common sense practice.
- Powdermill Hatchery will continue to stock
- Similarly, Oatka Creek has stocked areas and wild C&R areas for all to enjoy
- Wild fish are a resource to cherish
- Consider the resource and limit your catch, instead of catching your limit



Tactics & Gear

- 8-10+ foot fly rods, Tenkara, Spinning gear sized for your quarry
- Good reels for lake run surprises!
- Rubber net bags preserve fish slime for releasing your catch
- Dry flies, streamers, nymphs, attractors
- Flies, lures, eggs and live bait
- Pools, riffles and pocket water throughout dictate tactics
- Barbless hooks and proper handling for catch and release



My Experience

- I fish and guide the Penfield area the most, all year
- <68 degree water and 2.75 - 3.25 feet on USGS is best
- Been fishing IC for 30 years originally as a tributary
- Found a new appreciation for the creek when Oatka declined
- Focus on nymph fishing
- Dry-dropper when regulations allow

