

Fishing "Top 10" List

HERE ARE OUR "TOP 10" THINGS YOU WILL NEED FOR MAKING YOUR TROUT FISHING TRIP MORE CONVENIENT AND ENJOYABLE IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT POTENTIAL MISHAPS:

- 1. Your valid N.C. Wildlife Fishing License.** This will most definitely come in handy when you come across a Game Warden or Wildlife Officer. (See WNC Fishing License Agents PDF in this section also)
- 2. Water proof/Air tight storage:** We recommend either plastic baggies or our personal favorites, old "Mason" jars or peanut butter jars with screw tight lids. The latter has worked wonders for us in the past. You can fit cell phones (even "smart phones"), keys, wallets, license(s), etc. in them and they will NOT get wet. Ok, well there is a chance of breaking it but put it in your day pack and wrap it in a backup t-shirt or towel.
- 3. "TP"...** better known as toilet paper for those of you who aren't familiar with slang. You'll want to make sure that this is stored in a water proof/air tight plastic bag or you might as well not even pack it. This will provide you with some "home comforts" while you're away from the facilities. It sure as heck beats Rhododendron leaves.
- 4. Car keys.** Or at least your keyless entry tool. This will fit nicely into your mason/peanut butter jar (see #2).
- 5. Water.** Staying hydrated is one of the most important things you can do when you're active and outdoors. We suggest taking at least two 32 oz. containers full. And if you are planning on staying in the back country for a night or two plan for a way to boil creek water or purchase some water purification tablets to treat it with before you head out. Although the water in our streams looks crystal clear and clean, there is potential for sickness to occur after drinking it due to bacteria found in some streams, creeks and rivers. Boiling or treating the water you drink is always a good habit to practice.
- 6. Snacks.** You will be burning a lot of calories as you wade up/down the stream bed. It is important to refuel after periods of activity to keep your stamina up and keep you catching fish. We pack either trail mix, granola bars, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches or anything that doesn't have to be kept cold. Packing extra could come in handy if you happened to get delayed getting back to your car for any number of reasons that could occur. (See our recipe section here for these and other snack ideas)
- 7. Compass/Map.** Depending upon the location you plan on fishing or the time frame you will be dealing with, these two items could prove to be life savers. Now, if you plan on fishing from a riverbank off of U.S. Hwy 64 E between Franklin, NC and Highlands, NC then no, you would not need these items. In contrast, if you decide to go to remote areas such as [Panthertown Valley](#) in Jackson County, you will most certainly need an area map and possibly even a compass. Especially if you are new to the area and/or have never been there before. Always do your homework on areas such as these.
- 8. Change of clothes.** If you have room in your day pack, etc. it is never a bad idea to have either an extra t-shirt or pair of shorts or both. If you do happen to fall in or get caught in a downpour of rain, these will come in handy (wading in summer months).
- 9. Polarized Sunglasses.** This may seem like an unnecessary item but if you have never worn [polarized sunglasses](#) while fishing, you are missing out. Some say if you can see the fish that chances are it may have already seen you, but with polarized glasses you have the advantage. The polarization takes any and all glare off the water's surface allowing you to see what is going on below. You can find pairs for as cheap as \$30-\$40 and they work very well. It's amazing what happens when you take the glare out of the equation.
- 10. Needle-nose pliers.** No matter the fishing destination we suggest having a pair of [needle-nose pliers](#) with your everyday "tackle" or fishing equipment. After you land a fish, use these instead of grabbing the hook/lure with your fingers. This will promote a less harmful removal of the hook for the fish. This method is crucial when fishing in "Catch & Release" waters. Wild Brown Trout and Hatchery Supported Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout are notorious for swallowing the hook. It is near impossible to remove it without severely harming the fish.