Guys,

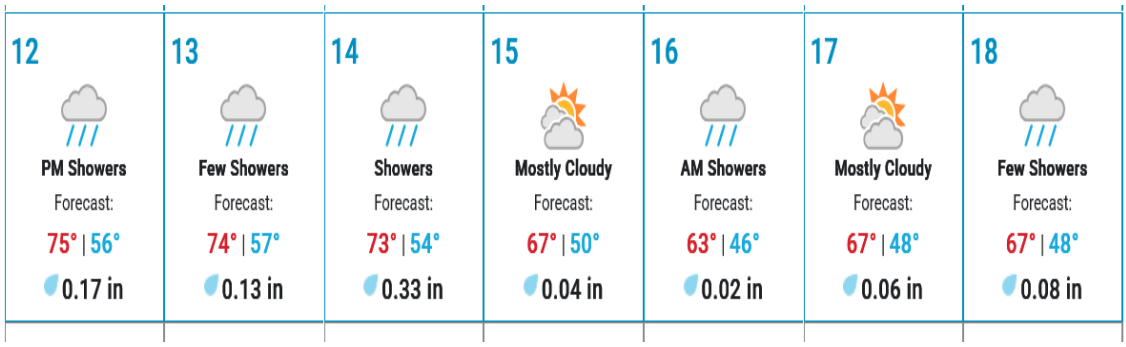
When I bought a small trophy plaque in 1976 and came up with the idea of a tournament that I named after root-toot-tootin' movie cowboy Gabby Hayes, little did I imagine it would last this long. But in just 12 days, we'll be competing in the 50th annual Gabby Hayes Memorial Trout Fishing Tournament, possibly the longest-running camp fishing tournament in Pennsylvania.

This annual gathering of old and new friends, fathers and sons, brothers, and an uncle and nephew has transcended being a mere fishing competition to become what one Gabby Guy (Jeff Mueller?) called a spiritual experience.

The 50th tournament on April 18 is looking to be a memorable one, with a trend toward warmer weather, stream levels that are slightly highly than average but fishable, plenty of fish in the stream and a special celebration of the 50th, replete with commemoratives.

First the stocking report. Good news. By the time we get into camp, there will have been eight stockings of rainbows, brown and golden trout in Kettle Creek from Oleana to Cross Fork including two on "our stretch" of stream. March 16: Catch and release area. March 21: Bridge in Cross Fork downstream to Long Run. March 27: Ole Bull to upper limit catch-and-release and lower limit catch-and-release to Cross Fork (our stretch). April 8: Ole Bull to upper limit catch-and-release and lower limit catch-and-release to Cross Fork (our stretch). April 10: Bridge in Cross Fork to Trout Run.

The weather report. As the former public affairs officer for NOAA's weather researchers, I personally don't put much stock in long-range forecasts. But for what it's worth, here's Weather Underground's forecast for Gabby Week:



Two weeks out, it's harder to predict the turnout for a Gabby than to predict the weather. But from what I'm hearing and because of the possibility of pleasant weather and some light rain, which will lift the fire ban, this might be one of the larger camps in recent years. If you get a chance, email me your plans in a "response to all" to this email.

Also, go to GabbyHayes.net to check out last year's summary and catch up on 50 years of Gabby history.

One final reminder: Thanks to Mike Shanks, we have the Gabby campsite reserved all week so you can arrive early and fish all week.

Have a safe trip to camp.

Founder Dane