

## Fall/Winter Fishing Tips

- In the fall and winter, plan your fishing trips during the warmest part of the day.
- Try and fish on the second or third day of a consistent warming trend in the weather.
- Use slower lure presentations as the water becomes colder and colder.
- Smaller baits generally work better as the water temperatures get colder.
- Use the smallest diameter line and clearest line possible when using smaller baits.

## Fishing With Your Child

- Always ask if the child needs or wants help before helping.
- Praise the small successes (a great cast or tying their own lure).
- Let the child experience frustration and failure but redirect when needed.
- Short fishing trips work best.
- The fishing trip is the child's trip. If they are done pack it up and go.
- Prepare them before the trip. Manage expectations (e.g. We might not catch anything; we are going to fish for as long as one TV show, etc.).
- End the fishing trip before they lose interest or when they are still excited.
- A stop at your favorite dessert place never hurts or disappoints.

Dan Grulke is the Fishing Coordinator for the Fairfax County Park Authority. He has lived in Northern Virginia for all but five years of his life. He has been fishing locally, in other states, and in other countries for 40 years. He has previously been a freshwater fishing guide on the Susquehanna River and Upper Potomac Rivers for eight years. Although he currently is not a guide, he enjoys introducing others to the sport of fishing. You can contact Dan at [Dan.Grulke@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dan.Grulke@fairfaxcounty.gov).