

# BARRICADING BEARS



**A**fter half an hour of clawing and biting, four Bronx Zoo grizzlies gave up on the apple-filled canister their keepers tossed them to test. The confounding container manufactured by Garcia Machine was designed to be bear proof, and fortunately for the bears, it is.

Many parks, like Adirondack State Park in New York, now require the use of bear-resistant canisters so wild bears won't get hooked on human food and garbage. According to Lake Tahoe- and Sierra Nevada-area research, bears dependent on food sources like dumpsters become less

active and weigh up to 30 percent more than bears fending for themselves. Worse yet, bears completely reliant on people often have to be killed to protect any backpackers or campers they could come into contact with.

That's where the canisters come in. Made of high-impact plastic, they lack edges and are too slippery for bears to pick up. Each canister is the size of a rolled-up sleeping bag and holds about six days' worth of food. They cost between \$70 and \$100. Some parks rent them for about \$5 per night. [www.wcs.org/adirondackbbear](http://www.wcs.org/adirondackbbear)

—Susan M. Brackney

## Trying for Trout

**A**s America's most popular game-fish, trout can make a tasty meal – if you can just catch one. Want to try? Keep these tips in mind:

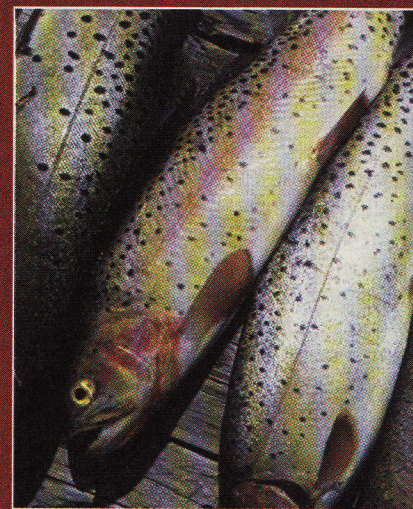
**Find Their Homes.** Trout like to hang out just downstream of big rocks. Also, flat and dark water is good; often the biggest trout come from deep pools. Look for places along the bank where the water has dug out little caves. Even better, find these features in shady spots.

**Feed Them Right.** Effective baits include small earthworms, mealworms, salmon eggs, bugs like ants and grasshoppers, and even corn kernels. Use small hooks and light tackle.

Make sure your bait is at the same depth as the fish. When the trout are feeding near the surface (especially early, late and on cloudy days), don't add any weight. Try using a small bobber. When the fish are staying deep, add small split-shot to get your bait down.

**Lures Work, Too.** Don't feel like handling crawly critters? Cast a small spinner diagonally upstream – partway upstream and partway across the stream – and retrieve it slowly. The fish will snatch it just as it stops going downstream and starts coming back up.

—Oliver Shapiro



## MAKE YOUR FISH A DISH

**F**ILLET YOUR CATCH by cutting just behind the side fin, going down to the backbone and turning the knife edge toward the tail. With a gentle sawing motion, remove the fillet. Do the same on the other side. ♣ Rinse, coat with flour or cornmeal, and fry over medium heat in some oil or butter. It's done when the meat is solid-colored (white or pink) and flakes easily.

—O. S.

