

A Local's Guide to Native Species

The Foothills of Western
Pennsylvania



Brian Sproule

The breath of winter

Exhales upon the old pines

White tails on grey snow



Pennsylvania Brook Trout



State Record; 7lbs

The ruffed grouse has been Pennsylvania's official state bird since 1931, and its beauty is admired by hunter and non-hunter alike. Grouse are related to quail, turkeys, pheasants and ptarmigan. The ruffed grouse is found throughout much of the northern part of North America. Wherever there are brushy conditions and young forests less than 20 years old, there is a possibility the king of the game birds can be found.



They sit together in the shade of the Eastern Hemlock, a bed of needles coating the ground below them. She asks him how long the tree has been there. As long as he can remember, he says. He tells her he used to come and climb the tree as a small boy. Its twisting limbs suspended him above the ground, his imagination exploring far off worlds of fantastic creations. She listens carefully, taking in the stories, resting her head against his shoulder and leaning against the gnarled trunk.



Indigenous Owls

Pennsylvania State Flower



Mountain Laurel

Information from:



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania