



Critter Collectors

By Carl Richardson

Kick Seine

Materials Needed:

(2) Wooden dowels, 1 inch diameter, 4 feet long window screen (fiberglass material works best) measuring at least two feet by four feet

1/4" staples & heavy duty staple gun utility knife or wire cutters (for cutting screen)

Directions:

1. Cut screen to a size no longer than four feet. NOTE: Many state fishing regulations limit the length of nets and seines to four feet. Seines larger than four feet may require a special scientific collector permit. Contact the nearest office of the DNR or consult the summary of regulations that comes with your fishing license.
2. Lay dowels along shorter edge of screen, lining up the bottom of screen with the bottom of dowels.
3. Wrap screen around dowel, 1 complete wrap. Staple screen to dowel rod, placing staples every six inches or so.
4. Repeat process on other dowel.

To use kick seine:

One-person method: Place bottom of net on stream bottom downstream of where standing. Shuffle your feet, kicking over rocks and disturbing the bottom. After nearly a minute of kicking, raise the net--bottom first--out of the water. Pick critters off screen.

Two-person method: Person one holds the net on the stream bottom. Person number two wades into the current directly upstream of person #1. That person then walks toward net, disturbing the bottom as in one-person method.

Soda Bottle Trap

Materials

Two or three liter soda bottle (only use bottles that have an opening of less than 1 inch. Regulations prohibit traps with larger openings)

Picture frame hanging wire (or other suitable rigid 18 gauge or smaller wire)
Large nail (10 penny or larger)
Wire cutters
Utility knife
Permanent marker

Directions

1. Using the permanent marker, put your name, address and telephone on the outside of the bottle. Note: Some state's fishing regulations require that unattended traps be identified with this information
2. Cut the top from the bottle just where bottle begins to taper toward the opening.
3. Invert the bottle top and place it inside of the remaining portion of the bottle.
4. Heat the nail and make four holes in the two pieces. The wires used to hold the two pieces together will go through these holes.
5. Cut four pieces of wire, approximately two inches in length.
6. Wire the two pieces together and cut off excess wire. But, make sure to leave at least one piece longer. This will be the one that use to open the trap.
7. Heat the nail and make several holes in body of trap

To use soda bottle trap:

Place large metal washers or small stones inside trap for weight. Traps are most effective when best placed in shallows of ponds or lakes or the slower moving portions of a river or stream. Trap can also be baited with bread. Be careful when using trap in early spring. Breeding or migrating salamanders may find their way into these traps. One salamander will attract others and soon you will have a bottle full of dead salamanders.

NOTE: Many states limit the number of baitfish and/or aquatic invertebrates (fishbait) you can possess are 50. Contact the nearest DNR office for the rules and regulations regarding collecting organisms.