

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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“Fly Tying Extravaganza” January 17th, 2018

Please join us once again and help bring in the New Year at our annual Fly Tying Extravaganza meeting!

Swing by the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday night, January 17th at 7:00 PM when the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host for your enjoyment our annual fly tying demonstration.

Great materials – cheap! This meeting also provides you with the opportunity to “stock up” on items you may have been looking for or need for that fly you’re about to tie. Before hitting the fly shop or ordering on line, stop by our materials table and peruse all the great items we have available: capes, fur, feathers, hooks, etc., all at steeply discounted prices to help fill your tying bench. Most items only require a simple donation by you!

Make sure to wander around and visit each of our volunteer tyers as they pass along their skills and knowledge while demonstrating flies you can use on our local streams to catch fish. Take home a fly pattern recipe and don’t miss this opportunity to shorten your learning curve while you move closer to the elusive goal of mastering this special art of fly tying.

– Alan Burrows



Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December
Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901
DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER
From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows

Who are we really?

Every once in a while we reach a point in life where we ask ourselves those very deep questions. Questions like “What do I want to do for the rest of my life?” or “Where do we want to retire?” or “Who am I really?” When I was elected to be president of this chapter, it was an opportunity to ask myself, “Who are WE really?” What I have discovered is that PPTU is many, many things.

Cold, clean fishable water is the mantra for our organization. “Protect, Reconnect and Restore” are the foundation of how this is done. We have worked on the Patuxent River for several years and will continue to fight that battle to restore this tail water to a year round trout fishery. In order to do this we are going to need to solve a dissolved oxygen problem at Brighton Dam and, I expect, solicit a bunch of money to implement that solution. I know that we are committed to fixing this problem and I truly believe if we all help any way we can, that PPTU will find and fund the solution.

The good news is that there is a lot more that we can reconnect and restore. We have at least five wonderful opportunities for connection and restoration. We can help restore our veterans as they come home from tours injured both physically and mentally and as they transition from an active military life to a civilian one. Project Healing Waters is a national effort to help our troops and PPTU is actively involved in this effort. Yes it takes some time to arrange to get on base but that’s a onetime event and you would make a difference in some service person’s life by turning them on to fishing and trout.

Trout in the Classroom is a nationwide project intended to connect school students to clean cold fishable water and its effect on the environment. In Maryland and D.C., we have over 90 schools participating in this program and we expect we will touch over 3000 students each year. When we begin school field trips to release fish there are always

opportunities to volunteer a morning to help with the release events in Montgomery and Howard Counties. And to top it off, we all seem to have fun doing this every year.

In order to restore some youngsters to angling, we have a Youth Education Chair, Chuq Yang, who solicits groups of youngsters to join us for a day of fishing. We have access to a pond, and we have kids who want to learn. What we need are people willing to give up a day (usually a weekend day) to guide these mostly novice anglers.

One of our Board members, Rachel Dagovitz, recently started a chapter of the Mayfly Project to connect foster children with angling. We match up a foster child with a one on one mentor and take them from “never been’s”: to fly fishers over a series of meetings. I am sure that there are never enough mentors to go around so there are more opportunities to work with the next generation of trout fishers and protectors of clean cold fishable water.

Every spring and fall, Maryland’s DNR and Jay Sheppard provide us with an opportunity to restore streams by float stocking them. We fill boxes with hundreds of trout and spread them throughout sections of streams and rivers restoring these waterways and giving people an opportunity to enjoy a day trout fishing. It takes the better part of a day and sometimes its cold or rainy, but all of us who do it enjoy the exercise and we also know where we released the big ones. What a great chance to help the clean cold water fisheries.

Want more? We have also helped the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Casting for Recovery (helping women recover from breast cancer), Chesapeake Women’s Anglers to name a few. In FY 2017, PPTU logged over 5000 hours of volunteer time and we could do even more in the future. We should feel very proud of what we have accomplished, but we should also feel challenged to do even better in FY 2018.

Until next month, tight lines!

Alan Burrows
President, PPTU



PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

Ken Bowyer provides one-on-one streamside fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hip boots, a rod and reel outfit, and leader. Discussions will include equipment, knots, casting, flies, dry fly and nymphing techniques, entomology, reading water, conservation, etc. at nearby streams. Instruction will be tailored to individual needs. Members who have not made an **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 🌻

Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

Ok, so we are now sitting around the house in mid-winter. So what, we can all dream of warmer times, can't we? Let me suggest a few future plans for those warmer times. I encounter a steady stream of fishers who want to get into fly fishing for trout. I also meet many who have been trying for the past year or so to improve their skills. There are dozens of skills that we must master to become reasonably good in this sport. It is a lot easier to focus on a few of these skills and largely ignore some of the others for the moment. But we all want to be rewarded for our day on the water with at least a few fish brought to hand.



Trout are masters of their environment. They have to learn what they can ingest and what to avoid. On heavily fished catch-and-release streams, trout become experts at

fly identification. I am convinced that many trout at the more popular fishing spots can actually identify the manufacturer of the hooks our flies are tied on! For the average fisher, this means a lot of refusals and missed trout resulting in frustration. Presentation and fly selection for these wary trout is the only game where you can hope to score.

So ignore presentation and fly selection issues for a change next spring! Go forth and chase some fish that give good accounts of themselves when hooked on a fly rod. In particular, spend the next summer going for smallmouth bass and similar quarry. Smallies are ounce for ounce about as great a sport fish as anyone could catch. But their biggest asset, besides their sporting qualities, is that these bass will chase almost anything presented to them and no matter how sloppy the cast. Bass hear something hitting the water and react instantly: "can I eat it?" Trout hear something hit the surface of the water nearby and think: "Should I flee?"



Take some small poppers, streamers, woolly buggers, and even a few sturdy nymphs and dry flies and head for a smallmouth stream as soon as the water is well into the 50s next spring. We have some of the finest in the nation within an hour or two drive: Potomac, Shenandoah, Susquehanna, and even many local small streams. When you chase smallies with a fly rod, you can focus on the fundamentals of line control, mending, fighting fish, and just casting. So many starting fly rodders are overwhelmed by having to focus on so many things at the same instant when they chase trout. Consequently, if they ever do hook a trout, they lose it quickly as the line wraps around their legs or rod, or they give too hard a pull on the rod or give too much slack.

Smallies will attack almost anything that looks edible that comes within range of their eyesight or hearing. They are far more easily caught compared to most wild trout. No special techniques of presentation and fly selection are usually needed. Just get the offering into the water on a reasonably stout leader is almost all that is required. This allows

the fly rodder to focus on handling the rod and line, sharpening his casting skills, and still catching lots of fish. Smallmouths and trout seek the same basic feeding spots in the rivers and streams; so learning where bass are waiting is excellent training for where the trout will be found.



After the fisher learns how to strip and retrieve line, mend casts, alter drifts and retrieve speeds, and fight a fish with all the line hanging off the reel, then he can return to the trout streams. On the trout stream, the focus of the game returns to presentation, presentation, presentation, and fly selection. So plan to hit some of those smallmouth waters this coming spring. They are the best educators with which a fly rodder can start, and they charge nothing for the lessons.

If you spot poaching please place a call to the

Catch a Poacher Hotline
At
1-800-635-6124



Add this number to your cell phone contact list!



Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

As no stocking of trout will happen below Brighton Dam for the next couple of springs, we will be more heavily stocking the upper Patuxent Special area above the reservoir. Some of those trout will also be going to a new Delayed Harvest section that will be opening on the Patapsco River next year. Exact numbers will not be available until early February. We will float stock the brown trout as we always do in the upper Patuxent, so if you are not already on my list of volunteers, please send me an email: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com. We will be sending out dates and other information as soon as we get it from DNR in February. All stocking are on weekdays. Chest waders are required to walk the streams we stock, but if you want to just carry buckets from the truck to the streamside, that can be arranged, too. There are no plans to alter our stocking of the Middle Patuxent—about 1500 trout altogether are usually stocked there each spring.

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning."

~ Theodore Gordon

Winter Gear Storage Tips - PPTU

Many folks fish through the winter, others take a break to stay warm indoors and dream of spring. While taking that needed break, spend a little time giving your gear the TLC it needs. These tips are good reminders for everyone.

Rods: Wash them thoroughly with the hose, or even take them into the shower with you. You can use an old toothbrush to lightly scrub the hardware, making sure all the grit is out of the reel-seat threads and anywhere else in the seat. Scrubbing the cork will remove a lot of the nasty color you've added over the year. Completely dry the rod, and then put it in its sock and tube. Lay the tubes horizontally, and if you don't fear mice or other vermin, leave the end caps off the tubes to allow the rods to "breathe" and to ensure heat or moisture doesn't build up inside somehow.

Reels: Wash them thoroughly, taking them apart to ensure you've gotten any dirt, salt, or other schmutz taken care of. Use soapy water and a toothbrush. Rinse and then dry thoroughly, making sure you turn the reel parts several times during drying to make sure all the water gets out. Store the reel in its bag, but before you do so, back the drag off completely to take pressure off the drag materials.

Lines: Take them off the reel, clean with the manufacturer's recommended solution (simple soap and water works too), and then wipe them clean with a rag. Check for damage to the line and make any necessary repairs or replacements.

Waders and Boots: Air them out completely and make sure they are perfectly dry. Check for leaks and make any repairs. Hang for the winter. Boot-foot waders should be hung upside down by the boots.

Flies: Open all your fly boxes and let everything inside dry completely before storage.

The important thing, as you've probably figured out, is to put everything away DRY.



Fly Fishing Shows for 2018 - TroutWrangler

January brings another year of new and exciting opportunities, including new fly fishing gear. The following is a condensed list of shows around our area and a few destination options. For a complete listing, try checking out Orvis's website:

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/heres-2018-consumer-fly-fishing-show-schedule>

The Fly Fishing Show 2018 Schedule

January

- 13-14 Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival—
Doswell, VA
- 20 Heartland Fly Fishing Festival—
Lebanon, IN
- 26-28 The Fly-Fishing Show—Edison, NJ

February

- 2-3 The Fly-Fishing Show—Atlanta, GA
- 3 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show—
Fairfield, OH
- 16-25 The Great American Fly Fishing Expo,
now merged into the Indianapolis Boat,
Sport & Travel Show—Indianapolis, IN
- 24-25 The Fly Fishing & Wingshooting Expo
—Lake Harmony, PA
- 24-25 Lefty Kreh's Tie Fest —Annapolis, MD

March

- 2-3 44th Annual Hawkeye Fly Fishing
Association Meeting & Show
Bettendorf, IA
- 3-4 The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA
- 17 Maryland Fly Fishing Show—Towson, MD

PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU



Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out and try your hand at fly tying. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier.

Old Line Fine Wine,
Spirits and Bistro
11011 Baltimore Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705



<http://www.oldlinewine.com/>

Annual Flea Market - PPTU

The annual flea market is coming up in February so it's a good time to heat up some cocoa and sort through any old or unused gear you've collected.

We'll be setting up tables with options for you to both buy and sell fishing gear. That old rod you never use may be just the thing one of our other members is looking for this year.

If you are interested in selling anything, please contact Bob Kaiser so we can get a list going and advertise our sale items.

kaiskat4@yahoo.com



Shop Amazon Smile! - PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! Add the *Potomac-Patuxent Chapter* as your charity of choice to your Amazon account. If your company purchases through Amazon, ask them to help support us as well. Its free money to the chapter.

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
**Potomac Patuxent Chapter
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

[Get started](#)

amazonsmile

MD Water Monitoring Council Report - Carl Smolka

On December 8, 2017, the Maryland Water Monitoring Council held their 23rd annual conference with the theme, “Managing Water Quality in a Changing World” at the Maritime Institute in North Linthicum. My intent in attending this conference is to learn what the current water quality issues in Maryland are and where we, as a chapter, might be able to make a contribution in the future. While there were a couple of other TU Members in attendance, I did not see any others from PPTU.



Clark Howells, Baltimore City Department of Public Works and Chairman of the Council called the session to order. James Caldwell, Director of Howard County Office of Sustainability, gave the first plenary session on the 2016 Ellicott City Flood and provided an informative history background on this 225 year old Mill Town’s Survival Story through many floods. The second plenary session was given by Dr. Grace Bush of Johns Hopkins on a deeper history lesson from core samples in the Chesapeake Bay and insight into a 10,000 year record of climate, forests, land use and Chesapeake Water Quality.

The conference continued with a number of concurrent technical sessions with topics including Stream Restoration Monitoring, Defining Maryland’s Ocean Future, Your Food and Your Water, Updates on the State of the Bay, Climate Resiliency, Monitoring Urban Waters, Saving the Bay One River at a Time, New Monitoring Technologies, Planning for Climate Change, Community Engagement, Education, and Training, Managing Maryland Lakes, Lessons from Groundwater Monitoring, The Connection between water Quality, Quantity, and Public Health, New Approaches to Wetland Monitoring and Restoration, Communicating Challenges and Successes in a Changing World, and Managing Storm Water for

Healthy Waters. A full program with talk and poster abstracts and committee reports is available on the Maryland Water Monitoring Council’s website at www.marylandwatermonitoring.org.

Of particular interest to me were the sessions on stream restoration and the debut of a discussion of lakes in Maryland. In the lake session, Lisa Borne of the Cary Institute gave a global overview on the number of lakes that are now recognized and the insight that the surface water temperature of lakes around the globe is rising quicker than the air temperature. Mark Lewandowski of MD DNR talked about the aquatic invasive species management and efforts to monitor trailered boats from spreading invasive species to different waters. John McCoy, responsible for the lakes and ponds in Columbia discussed how they manage and control the alga issue and sediment, and Barbara Beeler discussed Deep Creek Lake and the common issue that all lakes in Maryland have of sediment, invasion and a unique one, hydrilla, that is impacting Deep Creek.



For those who are not aware, Maryland has no natural lakes – a fact I found hard to believe, but the reality is all of our MD man-made lakes face this sediment issue and Deep Creek Lake was built in the 20’s. According to John McCoy, Columbia spent \$13.5M to temporarily mitigate their sediment issue. In November of 2010 after twenty years of no sediment management, a major dredging effort was done on Lake Needwood in Montgomery County and the decision was made to let nature take her course on neighboring Lake Frank, which will eventually fill in. Both these lakes were built in the late 60’s for flood control purposes and are fed by Rock Creek.

Beginner Fly Tying Class - 2018 - PPTU Board

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Fly Tying Class for Beginners in February.

Classes are slated to start on Tuesday, February 13th and run for 6 weeks, so the last class would be March 19th. This is a great opportunity to beat the winter blues and learn how to tie your own flies from our own resident expert and teacher, Bob Dietz.



Even if you know how to tie, this a good refresher class and additionally an opportunity to get out and tie some flies with friends for a couple of weeks in preparation for the New Year. Classes will be held every Tuesday night for 6 consecutive weeks in Landover, MD. Cost for the class is \$75.

If you're interested in signing up, please contact Bob Dietz at: dietzredietz@gmail.com

New Fly Shop! - Chuq Yang

For those of you that went to the November meeting back in 2016, you may remember that Rich Farino came and spoke about steelhead fishing. His new shop is finally open at 2105 North Pollard St, Arlington VA. Another fly shop!

Take a gander and if you're in the area stop by and give the store a tour and say hello to Rich from his friends at PPTU.

<http://districtangling.com/the-shop/>

Lefty Kreh's Tie Fest - Alan Burrows

PPTU is looking into participating at this upcoming event. If you're looking for something to do over the winter months, drop by and have a look around and additionally say hello to your fellow PPTU members.

The tie fest is being held at Loew's Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD on February 24-25. Times are Saturday from 10-5, and Sunday from 10-2:30. There will be 3 floors of fly fishing fun for you to explore, wander around, and meet some of the pros and legends of the sport.

Just for Fun - Bob O'Donnell

My "In Box" is constantly full of advertisements from various vendors and newsletters that I've subscribed to. Several have some really neat, interesting items that they've come out with in the past year.

One such business is "RepYourWater". If you haven't seen any ads or heard of them go check them out sometime. They offer a unique line of products geared at both hunting and fishing. RepYourWater is dedicated to providing uniquely designed, top quality gear for anglers and hunters while increasing support of local conservation and inspiring exploration.



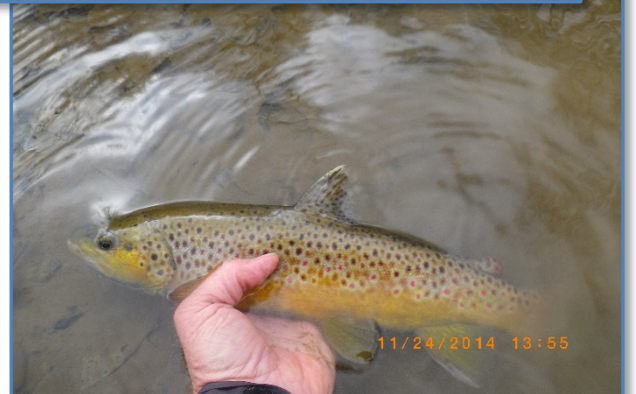
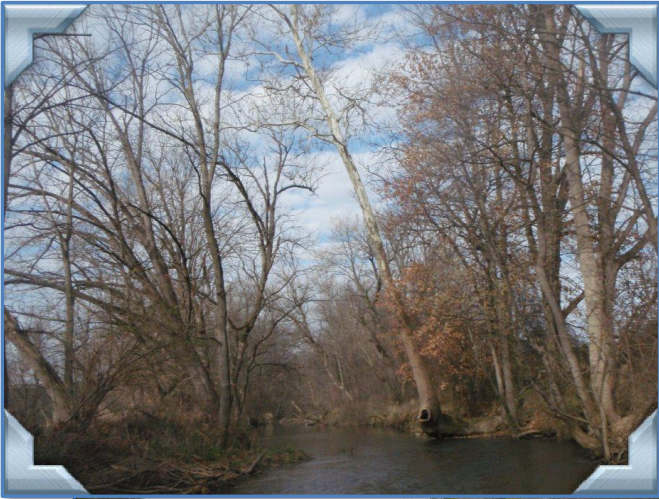
Santa didn't bring me a pair of these, but my birthday is coming up soon. I made sure my wife saw the email. ;)

www.repyourwater.com

Members Catch - TroutWrangler

Recognize Santa? He's our very own Steve Fletcher bringing joy to the holidays. Don't forget to share your adventures in 2018 and post those photos and stories for the PPTU members to enjoy.

Steve looks awesome!!!



Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: Bob O'Donnell
Phone: 410-733-0638
Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



Turbo Midge

The Turbo Midge uses a combination of silver and pearlescent ribbing material set off against a black body, which offers attractive flash and contrast. This fly also gets to the bottom quickly, which means that it is in the strike zone longer, a valuable trait in a small fly. Give it a shot!

<https://vimeo.com/155524889>



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