

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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# “Fly Tying Extravaganza” <Reboot> March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Deja vu? Yes! We missed the first time due to weather, but its back on. The Fly Tying Extravaganza meeting!

Swing by the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday night, March 21st at 7:00 PM when the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host for your enjoyment our annual fly tying demonstration.

Bonus! 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](http://www.pptu.org)

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### Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows

“Often I have been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, cold, briar scarred, sunburned, mosquito bitten, but never, with a fly rod in my hand have I been less than in a place that was less than beautiful.”

- Charles Kuralt

“Trout only live in beautiful places”

- Anon

It will be spring soon and we will be out in those beautiful places. Perhaps we will be wet and cold but we will be smiling and appreciating our surroundings. While we are doing these things, I suggest we keep a couple of things in mind. First, we need to preserve our rapidly decreasing trout streams and rivers and second, we need to think about and recruit those who will follow in our footsteps and preserve those beautiful places.

I am sure that we would all like to be part of a major stream restoration. A restoration that would rehab a forlorn waterway and turn it into a stream supporting wild trout. Here in Maryland, those opportunities are few and expensive. What we can do however is take every opportunity to maintain the streams and rivers that we have been blessed with. We can do that in any number of ways. I think I will add to my New Year's resolutions and strive to always leave the stream with some trash that I picked up along the way. There are a number of stream clean up's throughout the year on the Patuxent as well as other rivers where we can help to preserve what we have. There are volunteer opportunities with the brook trout effort in the upper Gunpowder drainage. I hope every member of the chapter will pitch in. We should all try to contribute a day or two to preserving what we have.

It is important that there are people to whom we can pass the mantel of responsibility for our trout streams as we get older. In our chapter's mostly suburban environment, kids often don't get the opportunities many of us had to enjoy the outdoors and play in the streams and forests and it seems their

parents too often under appreciate the importance of these activities. We need to create opportunities for young people of all ages to experience the thrill of catching trout in a beautiful place. That means supporting Trout in the Classroom. It means initiating young kids to fishing. It means getting young teens to experience catching or at least casting for trout. It means finding and supporting College and University 5 Rivers Clubs and outdoor clubs. It means recruiting young adults to join us in our passion for clean cold fishable water.

I recently met a fellow fisherman on Morgan Run. We talked about fishing and flies, but he seemed to want to talk more about his kids. He told me that he had learned to build his own fly rod and to tie his own flies. He had then passed along those skills to his 12 and 14 year old sons. It was very important to him to pass along to his sons the pride, thrill and astonishment of catching a trout on a rod and fly they had made and to appreciate the beauty of their surroundings.

Lets all take a little time and teach our kids, our nieces and nephews, our grand kids, our neighborhoods that trout only live in beautiful places.

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](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net) 

## Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

Longtime member, Jon Halpren, asked for some suggestions on nymphing strategies. I will attempt to cover some of the basics in the small space allotted here, but understand that whole books have been written on just this one topic for fly fishers. As with all fly fishing techniques, there are a wide range of variables, each with their own subset of choices or conditions. I am going to address a more typical situation where the stream is moderately wide and has moderate depth and speed. Think of a large deep run on the Gunpowder. First though, we have to consider the water temperature and if the trout will even be in this situation at the time. Dead of winter—not likely any insects moving in sufficient



numbers to attract a trout to move into moderate moving water. Second, nymphs are most abundant in shallower rocky water than in the bottom of deep pools. So nymphing deep pools is usually fruitless—trout have days to examine the fly!

Most nymphs are taken by the trout either when they are swept off the rocks they are clinging to or are rising to the surface to emerge. The former is the more common of the two, but be aware of the latter situation in the beginning of a major emergence. I am going to assume the natural nymphs are being swept along the bottom and so want to have mine doing the same. A nymph drifting freely but half way down in the water column is not usually very effective. It is OK to try such a presentation in really tumbling water at falls and plunges but not in long runs or pools.



An option is to use a heavily weighted nymph or use split shot to drag down a lightly weighted (if any) nymph. In really fast waters, I would suggest the former, but in only moderate moving water I go for the nymph with the least weight and use split shot maybe 10" above it to get it down. I like to think the light nymph is going to have far more movement in the myriad of subtle currents along the bottom and act more like a suddenly freed nymph. A heavily weighted nymph is going to run through all those opposing currents like a bullet through a tornado. Nymphs do not behave that way. On the other hand, if I can get the heavily weighted nymph to simply lay on the bottom for a few moments before moving along, then that is another option in presentation. I watched a good friend hold a very large stonefly nymph dead on the bottom behind a large rock in mid stream and then hook a monster brown that clearly went over 10 lbs. Dragging that heavily weighted #6 nymph with the current would have gotten zero response.

A strike indicator is often very useful. Do not leave home without a range of indicator sizes. One

can use a tiny indicator even if it is dragged under the surface but as long as it remains visible. On the other hand, a large indicator will hold the nymph just off the bottom if the depth is set correctly. Watch to see if the indicator is jiggling as the weight or nymph ticks the rocks on the bottom, which is what one wants. If the indicator drifts smoothly down the river, then you are not on the bottom where the nymph must be fished. I tend to use several smaller split shots close to each other to slip through cracks between rocks with less chance of hanging up rather than one large one. Bottom line—we want to see or feel the split shot touching the bottom on every drift and at the same time keep the fly from showing any unnatural movement.

Use a good dry fly as an indicator when the trout are taking that fly and also taking nymphs. The latter should be lightly weighted and of a type that the trout are then seeing rising. Hoppers and other good dry flies make good indicators and can hold up a bit of weight. Some tiny nymphs work well as a dropper behind a dry and fished in or just below the surface film, but that is another story left for another time.

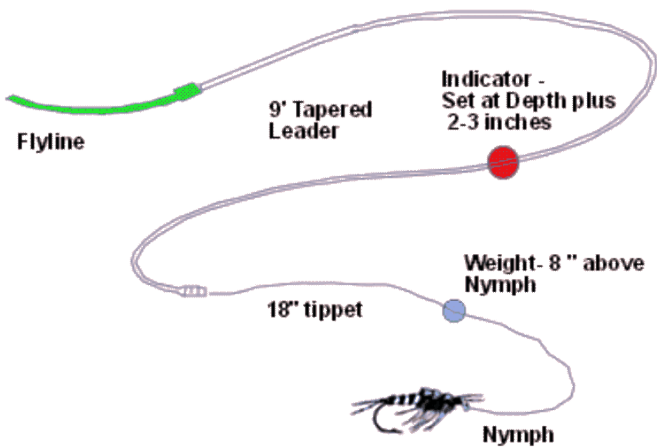


Still another technique is to ‘high stick’ the drift with no indicator. The heavily weighted rig is cast upstream a short distance, and, as it comes back, the rod is raised to remove the incoming slack. After passing, the rod is lowered to return the slack to the drift. The object is to barely have a direct connection between the tip of the rod and the weighted rig on the bottom; the leader and line go almost straight from the rod tip down to the fly, and the tip follows the drift at all times. The object is to bounce the split shot and nymph along the bottom in a dead drift and match the speed and direction of the drift with the rod tip by the removal or addition of line and leader off

the water surface. Hits are detected by the sudden stopping of the leader as it moves downstream. The casts are rarely over 20'. Most hook ups are within 10' of the rod tip. Weight must be just enough to get the fly to the bottom as quickly as possible.



Some 90% of the trout's daily diet is subsurface nymphs. One must use nymphing to catch more trout more of the time. We all love dry flies, but the trout will be more often feeding on nymphs and other subsurface flies. Good nymphing!



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

By the time you get this issue our local preseason stockings have taken place. All of our local waters have had some trout tossed into them. There are more stockings to come, too. I wish to thank all those who have helped stock trout this year. Much appreciate all your efforts.

Remember, there are no trout stockings below Brighton Dam this year. Check the DNR Fisheries web site for latest stocking information:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/trout/stocking.aspx>.

That site lists not only the stream or pond but the numbers and kinds of trout stocked on that date.



## Fly Fishing Shows for 2018 - TroutWrangler

Its not too late to catch a show and this one is local and deserves your support. The Maryland Fly Fishing Show will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> up in Towson, MD. Get out and enjoy yourself for a few hours of fun with some great company.

<https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/>

*"I look into my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long."*

~ Allison Moir

## PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>



## Fly Tying Materials – Cheap! - PPTU

We still have loads of fly tying materials left over from the flea market. We'll be putting it up for sale again at the fly tying meeting. If you're interested in anything, grab it and pay the price marked or make us an offer. There's something there for everyone; threads, feathers, fur, capes, beads, etc. Yours for the taking. Drop by and check it out.

[kaiskat4@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## Spring Stocking the Patapsco Watershed - Arthur Senkel

Below is the spring stocking schedule for Patapsco watershed. I am asking that anyone who can help (and possibly recruit others) for the following stockings to contact me ASAP.

Morgan Run C&R and Piney Run P&T have already been stocked! Go get em'.

**March 26** (first ever stocking of the brand new delayed harvest section of the South Branch Patapsco - may be a DNR press release developed this day) and on **April 11** (2nd stocking of the South Branch Patapsco DH) The South Branch Patapsco DH will need to be float stocked from Gamber Rd downstream to Main Street Sykesville.

Thanks, Art

[iasenkel@gmail.com](mailto:iasenkel@gmail.com)



## 3 Tips for Tying Better Fishing Knots - Louis Cahill

### 1. Leave a tag.

I'll start here because it's controversial. Anglers have traditionally clipped the tag ends of their knots flush to their knots. It has long been considered good angling craft to do it this way but it makes no sense. If the fish is not bothered by the nine feet of leader coming from your knot, he's not going to care about the tag end either. I always leave about 1/16th of an inch tag on my knots as an insurance policy. If I have made a mistake, which gets easier as my eyes age, and my knot slips, the tag will catch it.

This goes for my blood knots in my leader as well. Anglers are often resistant to this idea because they think the tags on the blood knots will catch their leader as it turns over. If that's happening to you, it's a casting problem, not a knot problem. Forget about your blood knots and read this article on tailing loops.

### 2. Hold your knot in your mouth as you tighten it.

We all know to moisten our knots before tightening them, and most of us do it by popping the knot into our mouths before we tighten it. Leave it there as you pull the knot tight. The purpose of moistening the knot is to reduce friction as it is tightened. That friction builds up heat and it's the heat which weakens the line. Spit doesn't really help that much. Most knots which are damaged by friction are simply pulled tight too quickly. You should always tighten your knots slowly and if you leave them in your mouth, you can actually feel the heat on your tongue. It should feel like a warm day, not hot coffee.

### 3. Don't be a tippet miser.

I get it, tippet costs money, but in the scheme of any fishing trip it's about the cheapest thing we use. Give yourself enough tippet to tie a good knot easily, without fumbling and losing tag ends. You'll tie your knots faster, better and with less frustration. If you clip off an extra couple of inches of tippet, you're really only losing pennies on a spool.

For more on knots, check out the animated knots website where you can learn to tie all the standard knots you'll need for fly fishing and many more, like the Davy knot. A favorite if you're fishing with small flies. This knot is simple, super strong, and offers a small profile which is perfect for tiny flies.



Davy Knot

<http://www.animatedknots.com/indexfishing.php>

## Fly Fishing 101 Class - CWA & PPTU

The Potomac Patuxent chapter will once again be assisting the Chesapeake Woman Anglers conduct a Fly Fishing 101 class on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel, MD.

If you're new to fly fishing or just need a refresher class, this is for you. We'll be covering all the basics from gear, to knots, to bugs, and casting. The day will finish off with some actual fishing at the Wildlife Center's pond. A Maryland fishing license will be required to participate in the fishing. You do not need a license to attend the class.

The class is open to anyone interested in learning the basics from some great instructors. To sign up, simply send an email with your contact information to Bob O'Donnell: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## Destination Trip to Patagonia, Argentina - Rachel Dagovitz

If you're like me, you love catching local native trout, but yearn for the tug that only a big fish can provide. Well, we have planned a fantastic destination trip, that will take you to Patagonia to fish for large sea run trout and resident brown trout on the Rio Gallegos and Rio Penitente rivers. Six days of fishing, glorious meals and exotic scenery. I have been twice and it is great fishing with easy wading and river access.



But wait, it gets even better!

We have obtained a special all-inclusive group rate at the El Rincon Lodge in Rio Gallegos, Argentina. [www.elrinconflyfishing.com](http://www.elrinconflyfishing.com). Package includes six days of guided fishing, lodging, gourmet meals (including wine), and round trip transportation between the Rio Gallegos airport and lodge (1.5 hour drive). **All this for \$3,000.** If you have ever looked at prices for this trip, you will know that trips average \$4,200 to \$6,500 USD. We have 7 fishing spots the week of **January 5 to 12, 2019**. If you want to bring your non-fishing spouse, I will obtain a price for you.



This trip is a fantastic opportunity based on us filling all spots. You must provide a 50 percent non-refundable deposit to hold your spot. If you cancel

after the deposit is paid, then you will receive a refund only if someone takes your place. We need your 50 percent deposit NLT July 1, 2018. Full payment is due Oct. 1, 2018. The trip can fill before July, so I encourage you to submit your deposit as soon as you know that you are going. It may seem early to book the trip, but these trips fill up far in advance.

### Not covered by the trip:

- **Airfare from US to Rio Gallegos** (Estimated at approximately \$2,000 if you don't have airline rewards miles)
- **Hotel and meals in Buenos Aires** (I will reserve a block of rooms in BA for the Thursday and Friday before we fly to Rio Gallegos. You may also choose to reserve your own lodging. )



Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to fishing with you next January!

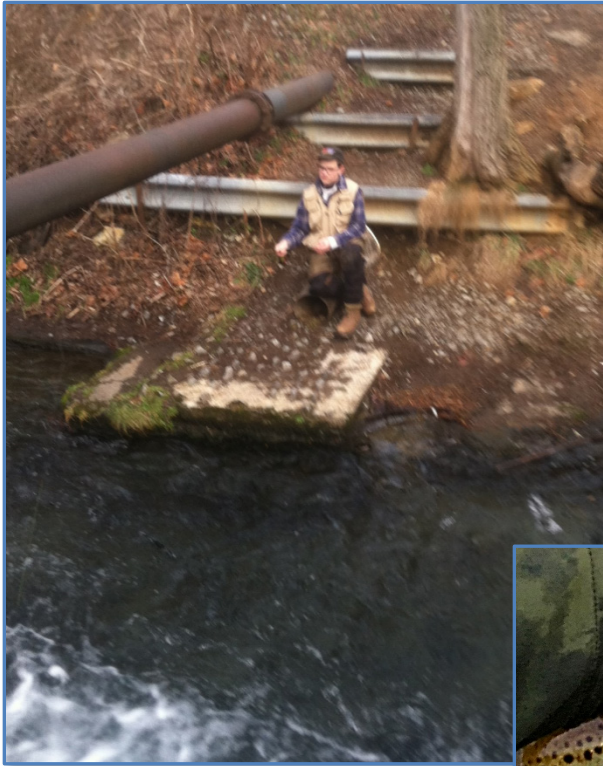
For more information:

Rachel Dagovitz,  
<mailto:racheldagovitz@hotmail.com>



## Members Catch - TroutWrangler

Yes, that is a crocodile. Be careful wading in the Patuxent this summer. Is it April 1<sup>st</sup> yet? ; )



*The most difficult part of fly tying  
is holding their legs still.*

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**  
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## One Minute Fly Tying Tips

Tim Flagler of *Tightline Productions* produces some of the best fly tying videos on the internet. Orvis actually dedicates a page to host this series of one minute tips about fly tying and tricks for tying flies. Check them out. Both the beginner and experienced tier will find these useful in advancing your fly tying skills.

<https://news.orvis.com/one-minute-tying-tips/>



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