

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

October 2021 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

# “Patuxent Riverkeeper Organization” Fred Tutman, the Patuxent Riverkeeper

*Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00PM*

Our guest speaker for the October 20th chapter meeting will be Fred Tutman, the founder and CEO of the Patuxent Riverkeeper organization. Fred will visit us virtually to talk about the Patuxent Riverkeeper's work helping ensure the river stays healthy, and we will have a lively discussion of how PPTU and the Patuxent Riverkeeper can work together on this effort. You can find out more about the Patuxent Riverkeeper at: <http://paxriverkeeper.org/>, or its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/paxriverkeeper>)

About Fred and the Patuxent Riverkeeper Organization -

As the head of the Patuxent Riverkeeper Organization, which he founded in 2004 after 20 years of volunteer activism on the river, Fred is a grassroots community advocate for clean water in Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway. He is one of the longest serving Waterkeepers in the Chesapeake region and the only African-American Waterkeeper in the nation. Among the organization's accomplishments, the Patuxent Riverkeeper was pivotal in overhauling the State's approach to regulating stormwater runoff, at creating new rules to help citizens bring environmental lawsuits in state courts, and in obtaining a landmark consent decree with a wastewater utility that happens to be the largest such settlement in Maryland's history.

Fred is an eighth-generation Patuxent River native and lives on an active farm near the river that has been his family's ancestral home for nearly a century. Before founding Patuxent Riverkeeper, Fred ran a business that provided professional media and mass communication services internationally, including to CBS News, ABC, NBC, CNN, and various Canadian and British broadcasting interests for extended news coverage of the Falkland War in Argentina, the installation of a new Pope in Rome, and proceedings related to the U.S. Caribbean Basin initiative in Havana Cuba, among other global assignments. Fred serves on the Board of the Environmental Integrity Project, as a Governor appointed Commissioner on the State's Patuxent River Commission, and on the Board of Waterkeeper Alliance, the international group that licenses Waterkeepers. Fred is an adjunct instructor at historic St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he teaches an upper level course in Environmental Law and Policy. He is an avid kayaker, backpacker and adventurer. In his spare time he does trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail, explores the Patuxent River by kayak, blacksmiths, writes, and works on his farm. [singhkaranr@yahoo.com](mailto:singhkaranr@yahoo.com)

– *Karan Singh*

### Monthly Chapter Meetings – Virtual Until Further Notice

Time and Day: 7:00 PM unless a new time is stated, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December

**Virtual Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82279059815?pwd=c0t5M2l4OGtBU0lQZkiUK1NGdTNidz09>

Visit our website: [www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

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### Contact Us:

[mail@pptu.org](mailto:mail@pptu.org)

## Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows



Ah October! One of my favorite months to fish! The temperatures are starting to come down, we might get some rain and some of the flows back. There will be some fall stocking. There will be a wonderful outing in Western Maryland, and there will be the beginning of Steelhead and lake run browns in the Great Lakes tributaries. All this and at least 5 family birthdays as well. What a month!

I encourage everyone who can to take a day or two or three and join us in western Maryland for our annual outing to Monroe Pavilion. We will be fishing the Savage and the North Branch of the Potomac and, with luck, we will have some water in the brook trout streams. Lots of good and drink by the fire with fishing stories that never end. It's a great time to be fishing out there. It is also a great time to get some mentoring if you are new to the sport. There will be more help that you may want (but all full of good intentions)!

Speaking of mentoring, we continue to need more volunteers. It means giving up a day once or twice a year to help out a new novice member. It is not a lot to give back to the chapter so if you can help out please contact Ray Miller at [RMiller220@aol.com](mailto:RMiller220@aol.com) and let him know you may be available.

We continue to work with many State, Federal and NGO agencies to correct the deficiencies at Brighton Dam as a result of power generation. Unfortunately, this may be a longer process than we want, but as things move along, we will keep the chapter up to date.

Speaking of the Patuxent, I hope many of you will join us at this month's chapter meeting to hear from the Patuxent Riverkeeper.

October will also give some of us the opportunity to stock fish in several of our streams and rivers. If you have not done this it is really fun and rewarding. You will also get to know the river as never before, know where all the fish are in that section of that river! Jay Sheppard organizes this effort. He has a list of potential volunteers and will send out emails to schedule volunteers. If this sounds interesting contact Jay at [jaymsheppard95@gmail.com](mailto:jaymsheppard95@gmail.com) and ask him to add you to his list.

As many of you know, Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is very important to me and to TU. Before Covid, we were just above 100 schools. Last year was catastrophic and we had a small fraction of that number. Fortunately, we were able to offer a virtual TIC program through a nature center in Baltimore County. I am pleased to be able to tell you that we will have over 70 schools in the program this year with several new schools. I would hope that by 2022-23 we will be back over 100 schools again. Since many of these schools are in PPTU's area, I would encourage you to think about helping out with egg delivery in December and helping with field trips in April, May and June.

More on this as we get closer to that time.

Alan Burrows  
President, PPTU

## PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

PPTU 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. on 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 us by e-mail: [mail@pptu.org](mailto:mail@pptu.org)



## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

During the first few weeks of October, we expect to recover the temperature loggers we planted last spring. The 38 devices were placed in most of the tribs and the main stem of the Patuxent above rt 97—Georgia Ave. We hope to learn where good cold water is entering the river and where summer storm events send flushes of warmer water into it. This will be useful as future climate change events are likely to impact our region. This was a joint project between PPTU and the National Capitol Chapter.

We are still focused on the Brighton Dam tailwater. We hope in 2022 to solve the summer Dissolved Oxygen problem that has plagued us from the start. Once this is solved and fully implemented we will have a sport fishery close to all of us that will offer fishing 365 days a year. Stay tuned.

We have no information on any planned float stockings in our immediate area for this fall. There is usually some trout stocked in the Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest reach each fall. We will announce any stockings as soon as we learn of them on our PPCTU forum/listserv.

## Call for Volunteers - Amy Holstein

Have you ever fished Merkle Ponds in Upper Marlboro, Maryland?



It is a fantastic place to fish and visit, where both CWA and PPTU have held casting and fishing clinics! Lately, the growth around edges of a few key ponds have made access challenging.

Danny Jones, the area manager of Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, and I, am working to gather volunteers to clear some of the growth so that we may all enjoy our fishing experiences there to the fullest.

**~All needed equipment and supplies  
will be provided~**

If you can spare a few hours, please let us know, and, thank you!

**Date:** Saturday, October 16th

**Rain (downpour) Date:** Saturday, October 23rd

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 12 noon

**Bring:** water & snacks if desired; gardening gloves, bug repellent

**Wear:** long pants/long sleeves, rain or rugged boots

**Please respond to:**

Danny Jones: [danny.jones@maryland.gov](mailto:danny.jones@maryland.gov) and  
Amy Holstein: [aholsteiffsn@icloud.com](mailto:aholsteiffsn@icloud.com)

## **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard**

September started our annual cycle and now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. Along with our other fund raising events, we ask for a \$20 ASC each September to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including:

- Room rental for the monthly Chapter meetings (when they resume).
- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Support of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.

- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.



To be clear, PPTU does receive a tiny amount back for members' annual dues to the national TU. This only totals a few hundred dollars annually. Your dues to national TU are separate and apart from any ASC, which is a donation to the chapter to help cover its expenses each year. PPTU does not mail renewal notices to anyone. If you see a renewal notice in the mail regarding TU, it is from the national offices. PPTU no longer handles renewals of national membership dues.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting (whenever that might be) by cash or check.
- Go to [pptu.org](https://pptu.org) and use our PayPal portal: <https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU to our PO Box (see last page).

Your contributions are most appreciated!

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!*



## Risk of Vibrio Infection

- Bill Smith

Just a heads up regarding the risk of vibrio infection through October.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/conditions-ripe-for-vibrio-infections-in-bay/>

Be prepared.

### Moved?

### Changed Email?

If you have retired, moved, or changed your email address, please let us know. Send an email to [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com) or go "old school" and drop a postcard in the mail (see address on last page).

## Tackle & Tactic Tips

- Jay Sheppard

Reading the water is critical for success, especially for dry fly fishing. It is both a science and an art to figure out where the most likely places a trout is lurking. We are not talking about a major hatch with trout rising everywhere, rather when there is very sporadic or no surface activity to tell us where our quarry are. Let us first review water hydraulics and how it works in a stream.

Water may be a fluid, but it is a most powerful and constant source of erosion. As it goes around a bend it deepens the outside of the bend—eroding materials—and deposit sediments along the inside of the bend and downstream. The sharper and tighter the bend, the deeper the hole that is going to be scoured out. But even gentle bends force the water to deepen the outside portion.



The surface water is forced up along the outside bank and all the food carried on the surface tends to be concentrated there. Trout are lazy predators. They want to sit in as little current and see as much food passing by as possible. Inside a bend is not a dependable place for food, and there is rarely any cover.

Straight stretches of a stream allow the sediments to be deposited that were scoured out in the bends above. If the stream bed is mostly coarse gravels and fine sands, they are deposited in these long straight stretches. If the stream has lots of rubble and larger rocks, then the riffles between bends can hold lots of cover and macroinvertebrates—and trout. The only places I have seen significant differences between the depths of the sides and middle of a stream are where there are large numbers of overhanging trees and other vegetation. During bank full flood events the trees push the water downward, and the sides can be significantly deeper than the middle of the bed.



All of the above ignores major obstructions to a stream flow: Large woody debris, big boulders, bed rock, etc. Those change the flow around them, which usually produces deeper water, sometimes very deep water!

Now that we know where the deeper water is usually to be found, where do we cast our dry flies? Very simple on most streams: follow the bubbles! Bubbles are the lane markers of where any insect that is floating on the surface eventually will be found. Trout learn at an early age that if they sit under a steady stream of bubbles, food is much more likely to come to them than if they are elsewhere. Often right next to a patch of bubbles is a totally clear surface. These are usually upwelling water. Cast a

fly across one of these patches and you quickly see that water is moving outward in all directions from their center. The fly will start to go in one direction and the leader will go in the opposite. DRAG!!!

On streams like the upper Gunpowder and lower Savage, the fish actually see small patches of bubbles drifting over them followed by a patch of clear, upwelling water. One must cast the dry fly into a patch of bubbles—that is the only place a trout will come up and take it. In a long riffle or run section, the bubbles will form lines. Those are the lines to cast a nymph or a dry. If fishing a wet fly or a streamer, the angler will want to go across those bubble lines where the trout are most likely to be lurking.



Meanwhile, we are casting to the areas where the most food is likely to be drifting.

Read the water. Fish the bubbles. Avoid walking on top of trout. Now catch more fish!

*"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."*

~ Roderick Haig-Brown

**Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!  
- Bob O'Donnell**

Congratulations to Tom Brosnan for hanging around until the end of September's chapter meeting and winning our surprise Postfly gift box during a random drawing after the presentation was over. Who will be next? What will you win???



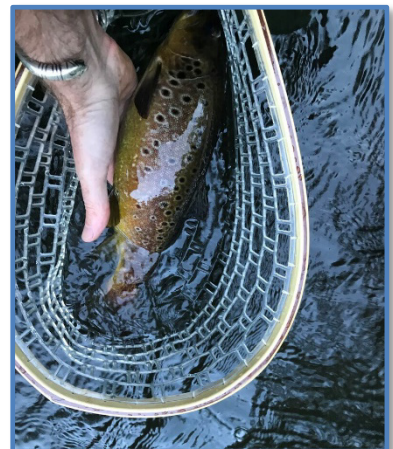
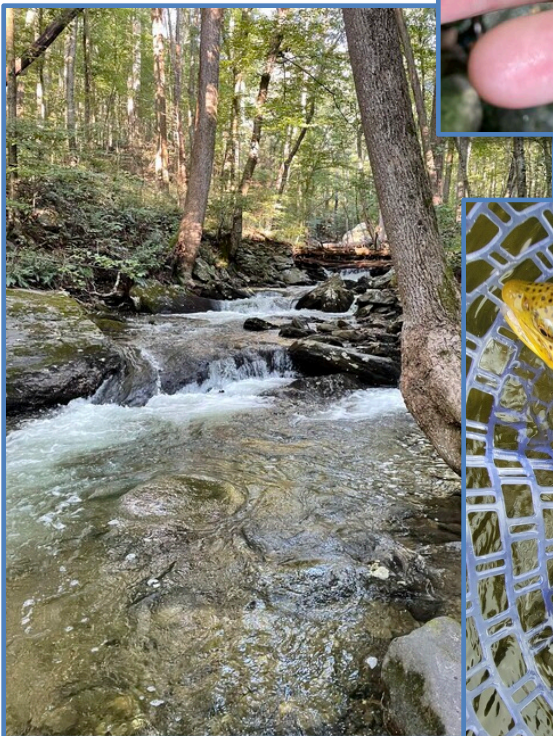
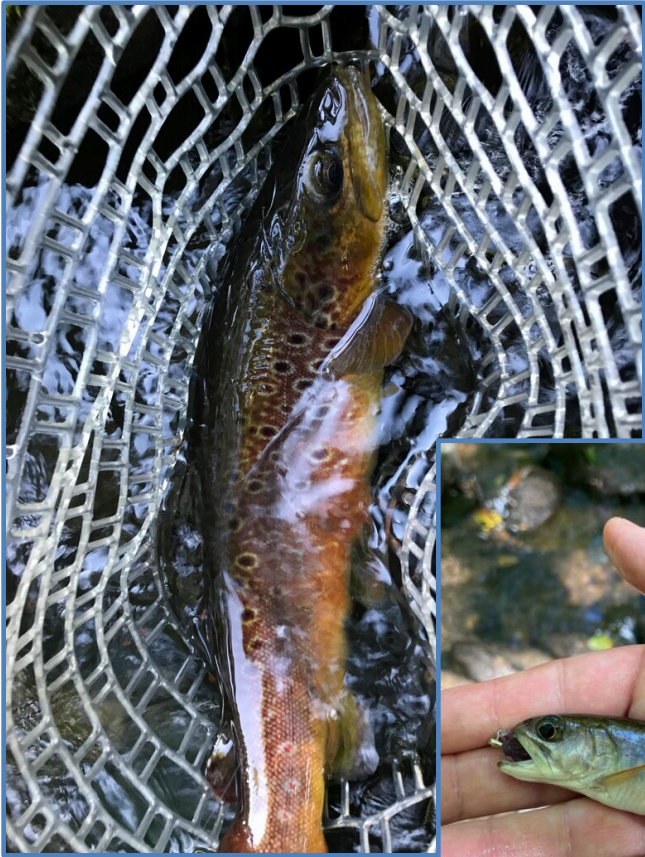
The other big advantage of fishing bubble lines: one can instantly see if your fly or strike indicator is drifting at the same speed as the bubbles or is starting to drag. In a bend, the bubble lines closest to the outside bank are the most likely places for the larger trout to reside. The bubble lines, if any, on the inside of the bend are the least likely places for a trout.

As one proceeds up or down a stream, we want to avoid flushing trout out of their feeding lanes. Brown trout, in particular, are very territorial. Each has several favored feeding locations, almost all of which are also sought by other trout. Spooking one brown trout means it will go to another favored spot and either displace the trout in that spot or move on to another location. A chain reaction of trout displacing other trout can happen. Now several trout are agitated and unlikely to want to feed. It takes time for the agitated trout to calm down and resume feeding. So as we move up or down the stream we must shift from one side to the other. We want to wade where the least amount of food is drifting through the water. Less food means fewer trout.



**Members Catch  
- Bob O'Donnell**

Lots of nice photos this past month. Hope to see some of you catching fish at the next PPTU outing!



## Contributions Welcome!

Send your contributions or article suggestions to the Editor 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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## October Caddis Wet Fly

This is a good looking pattern and a somewhat easy tie for those that want to add a few soft hackles to their fly box for this Fall. It also doesn't take a lot of materials to tie. Only 3! The same technique can be used to tie patterns in other color schemes.

I just tied a bunch up for an upcoming trip. If I hook up with a nice fish I will snap a photo for the group. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi4OI6dfK48>



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