

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

September 2019 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

# “What I did on My Summer Vacation” Travel/Fishing Photos by PPTU Members *September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

Summer has baked us enough! It's time to cool off and relax among your fishing friends. Many of us vacationed this summer to exciting locations. As we get together for the first time in several months, the time has arrived for us to channel our inner child and show our friends and family of PPTU members what we've been up to all summer. Tall tales and photos will vary from close to home trips to wonders outside the state lines. Several members have great trip information to share with others in search of relaxation, sightseeing, and the occasional trophy fish.

Come on by and put your feet up and relax and imagine yourself in the waders of your fellow TU members. Grab some popcorn and a cool drink, ask questions or just relive some of the fascinating places our members will be sharing Wednesday night.

If you wish to share any of your adventures, please send me your summer pics with location info: [singhkaranr@yahoo.com](mailto:singhkaranr@yahoo.com)

– *Karan Singh*



### 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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President: Randy Dwyer: president@pptu.org  
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Vice-President: Open  
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Secretary: Patrick Masler  
Directors: Lee Canby  
George Opryszko  
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Librarian: Lou Reichel  
Mentor Program: Ken Bowyer  
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*Conservationist* Editor: Bob O'Donnell  
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Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson  
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Bob Dietz: Secretary  
Randy Dwyer  
Jim Greene  
Marc Hutzell  
Lou Reichel  
Nick Weber

### Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

## Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



September is a favorite month of mine. It begins to signal the end of summer and the start of fall. It's seen in the changing of the leaves, the amount of daylight we have and the cooler evenings. For our Potomac-Patuxent TU chapter it marks the beginning of monthly meetings, group outings, instructional classes and opportunities to continue working with students and veterans in our community.

I am proud of our chapter's long and active history of civic engagement and environmental conservation efforts. While I step up to serve as chapter president, we must recognize the excellent leadership Alan Burrows provided us as a board member and most recently as chapter President. He is a wealth of knowledge and I plan to lean on his expertise often. I also want to recognize Chuq Yang and Joe Taylor for serving as PPTU board members. Their leadership in Youth Outreach and other projects was instrumental for our chapter's outreach efforts and they deserve our gratitude.

I want to welcome Adam Rice and Peter Schuler to the PPTU board of directors. Their insight will prove to be invaluable. They join an excellent board that is focused on the member as its core mission. Our chapter's strength comes from the involvement of rank-and-file members and your board is extremely responsive. I encourage every PPTU member to reach out and share your ideas and suggestions.

One of the great things about our chapter is that it offers something for everyone. Our website <https://pptu.org/> lists upcoming activities, we have a very active "non-judgmental" online forum <https://pptu.org/comm/forum> for all anglers and we are focused giving back to the communities we serve.

Our chapter is driven by volunteers and we're active in many projects including Casting for Recovery, Trout in the Classroom (TIC), Project Healing Waters and supporting the Mayfly Project. I encourage every member to find a way to volunteer and help keep these programs going strong – when you do, it strengthens our chapter and the communities we serve.

In this issue you will find several “Thank You” stories and pictures from organizations supported by PPTU over the summer months. This includes working with youth through the Anne Arundel County STEM program as well as supporting cold water conservation efforts by the “East Coast Trout Management and Culture workshop” hosted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Brook Trout Program. Every PPTU member can take pride in knowing these programs deserve our support.

I will be asking you to support our chapter’s activities with both your time and your wallet, and I hope you respond accordingly. We have an excellent chapter and your support of our efforts to improve the environment and share the joys of fishing with others will ensure our continued success.

I look forward to seeing you at chapter meetings and outings throughout the fall.

Tight lines!


Randy Dwyer  
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) 

## PPTU Sponsors DNR Brook Trout Event - Bob Kaiser

The Potomac Patuxent Chapter of TU was pleased to help sponsor the recent trout conference event at Frostburg State University.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Brook Trout Program hosted the multi-day sixth East Coast Trout Management and Culture workshop at Frostburg State University on June 10-13. Over 100 people, from 27 states and 3 countries, attended the meeting! Presentations ranged on topics including angling regulations, genetics, creel surveys, aquaculture, habitat restoration, and many others. The information presented and shared helps managers and researchers with directing management, regulatory, and research efforts. This East coast meeting is held every 5-7 years and is considered one of the most productive coldwater fisheries management meetings that resource professionals charged with managing trout fisheries attend! In addition the Brook Trout Program also hosted the annual meeting of the Trout Committee of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society

<https://units.fisheries.org/sdafstroutcommittee/2018-spring-meeting/> and a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Brook Trout joint Venture <https://easternbrooktrout.org/groups/steering-committee>. The introductory welcome for the East Coast meeting was delivered by Maryland’s own John Neely, the chair of Maryland’s Sport Fish Advisory Commission, and set the perfect tone for a great meeting!



*Maryland Sport Fish Advisory Commission Chair Mr. John Neely delivering the welcome speech at the East Coast VI Trout Management and Culture Workshop.*

## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

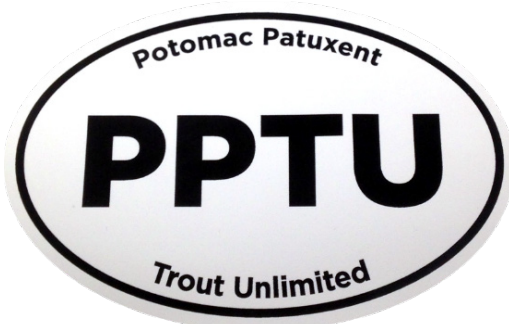
September starts our annual cycle and now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each September, to sustain the chapter's administration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

- Room rental for the monthly Chapter meetings at the Schweinhaut Senior Center.
- 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 both 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 for 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.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting by cash, check, or credit card.
- 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 address on last page).

Your contributions are most appreciated! Don't forget to pick up your PPTU sticker as well.



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!*

## Fish Kill on the LeTort - Marc Hutzell

**Our friends from CVTU Respond to LeTort Fish Kill on July 31st at Carlisle Barracks.**

On July 31st there was a large fish kill in the LeTort Spring Creek on Carlisle Barracks property. An investigation is underway by Army and PA authorities, but the presence of on-going sewer pipe repairs points to the likely release of chemicals involved in that work.

The CVTU Board of Directors is concerned by this incident and wants to keep members informed of our actions following the event. Through our community network, we found out about the incident immediately after it occurred from a post resident who observed the dead fish and contacted a board member, who relayed the information to PA Fish & Boat Commission.

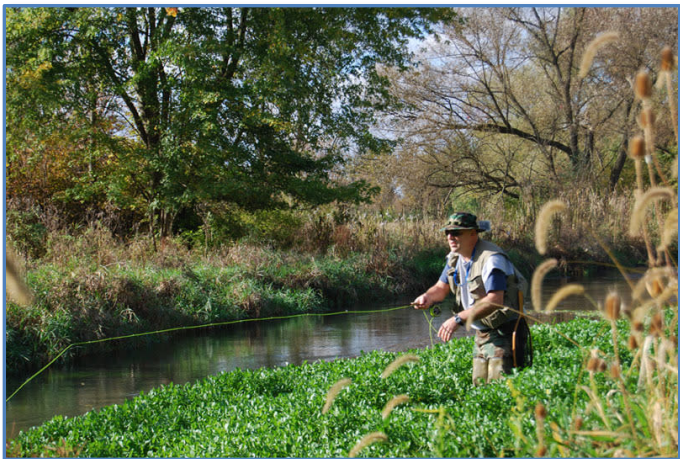
Because of this early notification, a PAFBC officer was on post that same day to interview witnesses and gather fish samples for toxicology testing. On the following day, another board member walked the water from the mouth upstream to the post boundary and saw no evidence of fish kill outside of the post. The CVTU Chapter President wrote letters of concern to the editors of The Sentinel and the Patriot-News/Penn Live published on August 3rd & 5th respectively. On August 5th, Carlisle Barracks had a separate incident involving drinking

water quality; post authorities state that the two incidents are not related.

As of August 15th, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has informed the Carlisle Barracks that no Carlisle Barracks Garrison or U.S. Army War College activity is the source of a recent fish kill in the LeTort Spring Run, according to a Wednesday afternoon post on the Carlisle Barracks Garrison Commander Facebook page.

The PAFBC is continuing its investigation to uncover the polluter. The board will continue to stay engaged on this issue and will continue to send updates as we learn more about the investigation.

<http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2019/08/carlisle-sentinel-fish-boat-commission.html>



## 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. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

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



<http://www.oldlinewine.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 in support of the chapter.



## Anne Arundel County STEM Program - Randy Dwyer

Many thanks to the folks who helped with the Anne Arundel County STEM program on July 24th and July 25th. We were able to teach 19 soon to be high school young folks about fly fishing; including fly tying and fly casting on our first day and we were able to take them pond fishing on Thursday thanks to the folks at the Patuxent River Wildlife Refuge.



## Shooting & Handling Line - Bob O'Donnell

Can't quite reach that rising fish? Is your cast falling just a little short? Try shooting some line!

The steps for shooting line are pretty simple. What you want to do is strip out a little extra line off your reel and control it with your left hand (or right hand if you're left handed) and then during the forward cast, you release it to add that extra distance.

When you shoot line, you want to have good timing. You want to make sure that you're releasing that line at just the right moment. There's a couple of different ways you can do this. You can see it, or you can feel it.

To see it, what you're looking for is that nice loop rolling out in front of you. As soon as you see that loop, that's your visual indicator on when to shoot the line. See the loop, release the line.

If you want to feel it, you can actually feel your rod come to that good abrupt stop. Come to that nice stop, then release that line.

Now let's talk about timing. If your timing is off, if you release the line too soon, what can happen is the line can wrap around your arm or wrap around your rod/reel and it won't shoot out very nicely. So to achieve good timing; release the line right after we stop the rod.

To keep the line from "calf roping" you like a cowboy, make sure when you're releasing the line that you feather it through your hand. You don't want to just let the line go. One way to feather the line is to make a small ring using your thumb and index finger and control the line going through it. It's like having an extra guide on your rod. If you still have an issue, simply move that hand slightly away from your reel. After the cast, remember to anchor the line back underneath one of your rod hand fingers and then you can strip some of that line back in to take out any extra slack. Remember, keep that rod tip nice and low and be ready for your next cast or better yet, your next fish!



The following is Rick Hall's Facebook post:

"What an incredible day at the Patuxent River Refuge Reservoir! We caught more fish than I have ever seen in one day. I lost count. Thanks to the amazing crew from PPTU for making this possible! Your knowledge, patience and willingness to go the extra mile really made the difference today. This is an experience these kids will never forget. I know we just made several future fishermen and women. Thanks again!"



*"The best fisherman I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them."*

~ John Gierach

*"Fly Fishing the High Country"*

## The Perfection Loop - Tightline Productions

The perfection loop is most often used to create a loop at the butt end of a tapered leader. It allows your leader to be connected using a loop-to-loop connection to the end of your fly line.

One other good use – you can use it to tie a non-slip loop to your fly, such as a streamer, allowing for greater movement and range of motion.

This excellent informative video from Tightline Productions will guide you through the steps of not only tying a perfection loop but also using it to secure a fly to your leader. A good thing to have in your fly fishing bag of tricks.

<https://vimeo.com/139365724>

## Hidden Treasures - American Museum of Fly Fishing

On Saturday, September 14 at 10 AM the AMFF will unearth some early rods and reels from their collections storage to share with members.

Coffee & donuts included! RSVP to [amff@amff.org](mailto:amff@amff.org). There is no charge for this event as it is for members only!



Want more information on becoming a member? You can get all the information you need here: <https://www.amff.org/membership/>

If you want to check the museum out on line just hop over to their website. They have some interesting features that allow you to explore the museum from

the comfort of your home. In case you're in the Vermont area on vacation, drop by in person.

The museum address is:

4070 Main Street  
Manchester, VT 05254

<https://www.amff.org/>



## WSSC Water Contact Health Advisory - Jay Sheppard

WSSC Issues Recreational Water Contact Health Advisory for T. Howard Duckett and Triadelphia Reservoirs

### Drinking Water Not Affected

Laurel, Md. – August 21, 2019 – WSSC has detected high concentrations of blue-green algae in the T. Howard Duckett and Triadelphia Reservoirs, which can cause serious adverse health effects if contacted. Both reservoirs, located along the Patuxent River, serve as drinking water sources for WSSC and recreational areas for hiking, fishing and boating.

It is important to note, WSSC's drinking water is not affected and continues to meet all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. As a precaution, WSSC is closely monitoring water quality conditions at its Patuxent Water Filtration Plant.

Due to ongoing dam work at WSSC's Triadelphia Reservoir, this area is not open to the public. All recreation areas, boat ramps and public access to this reservoir are closed.

Visitors to WSSC's Duckett Reservoir should do the following:

- Avoid all recreational water contact. If water contact occurs, rinse off immediately with clean water.
- Do not allow pets to swim in or drink the water (prohibited at all times by WSSC watershed regulations).
- Do not consume fish livers or digestive organs from fish caught in the reservoir. If a fish is caught in the reservoir, wash fillets thoroughly with drinking water.

Permit holders at the Duckett Reservoir can use the picnic areas and hike on designated trails. Signs

will be posted throughout both reservoirs to make visitors aware of this water contact health advisory.

In the event that you, your pet, or someone you know has contacted or ingested water at either reservoir, call your local Health Department:

- Montgomery County: 240-777-0311 (Montgomery County 311)
- Prince George's County: 301-883-4748 (Prince George's County 311)
- Howard County: 410-313-1773 (Community Hygiene Department)

For more information on algal blooms, visit WSSC's Algal Blooms page -

<https://www.wsscwater.com/HAB>

Contact:

Lyn Riggins

[lyn.riggins@wsscwater.com](mailto:lyn.riggins@wsscwater.com)

301.206.8100

## Interesting Video - Motti Tadmor

Whooshh Innovations moves live fish safely. Using patented technology, Whooshh transports fish over dams, around hatcheries, and sorts for invasive species. Check it out. Thanks to Motti for sharing this with the group.

<https://youtu.be/HN6sjnUbjoM>

## Fish Story - Jon Griffiths

Check out this fish story.... I have been pleading and badgering DNR and Trout Unlimited to reinstate a catch and release status on a local tailwater trout stream near my house in Montgomery county for nearly 20 years. It was a catch and release stream in the 90's but was delisted. Some years it's stocked with fingerling trout, other years it is not except for the few trout in the classroom fish. In mid-July we finally met with DNR and Montgomery parks to electro shock the stream to see if trout survive and get an idea on abundance. I already knew there were adult trout in there as I fish it often but how many or what size was uncertain. The first two stations were very slow, then the third gave up a fish that dreams are made of. An absolute giant brown trout.



Larger than the DNR has found anywhere except the north branch of Potomac. And guess what else, they compared photos of a fish that was sampled in the same area in 2010. It's the same fish!! In July 2010 the fish was 19.5" and this year it was 23.5" and as thick as a football. Absolute monster, king of the roost in a stream you could jump across in some places. He's still out there and I'll name him Eagor. I've fished his lair countless times and never knew he was there.

## Another Cool Video – Yellow Creek - Jim Feudale

Found this on YouTube. It ain't always this easy. The project's water fishing is at the Molly Gordon hole on Yellow Creek in Bedford County, PA.

Details of the story of young Molly Gordon have been lost over the years. The scene of her hapless adventure was a deep hole where Yellow Creek winds through Jack's Corner in Hopewell Township. One story is that Molly hid in the deep water to elude the pursuing Indians. Another version is that she fell through the ice and drowned trying to escape capture.

*I wonder what Molly Gordon would say  
If she knew that two centuries after her icy plunge  
When the waters of Yellow Creek closed over  
her head  
That the only folks who remember her name  
Are flyfishermen?*

<https://youtu.be/ukoTqv-SgSo>

**Editor's Note:** Jim posted this on our IO group's page, but feel free to send any articles, ideas, stories, video links, etc. to: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## Members Catch - PPTU

It's been an interesting summer. Lots of folks fishing. Good thing too, as I've spent most of that time behind my desk living the stream through your photos and stories. Keep em' coming!



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](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## GFA Hopper

It's that time of year... hoppers are out and about and they eventually find themselves in the water at some point. Give this pattern a try. You can also use it as an indicator and hang a small nymph off the back.

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



Return Address:  
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU  
P.O. Box 2865  
Wheaton, MD 20915