

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Feb 2017 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## Ashlee Horne “Patapsco River Shad and Herring Restoration” *February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

With the recent removal of the Simkins and Union dams on the Patapsco River, and plans to remove the Bleode Dam in 2018, miles of historical spawning habitat will be reopened for American Shad, Hickory Shad, Blueback Herring and Alewife. This tributary historically supported spawning stocks and reintroduction through hatchery inputs could have positive impacts, methods that have worked in other areas such as the Patuxent and Choptank Rivers.

As part of the Masonville mitigation agreement, starting in 2013, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) has been stocking American and Hickory shad and river herring to the Patapsco River. Stocking larval and juvenile hatchery-origin fish produces adult fish that will return to spawn upon maturity. In time, the need for hatchery inputs will diminish as hatchery fish recruit to the spawning populations to produce wild juveniles. In conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, MD DNR is monitoring these shad and herring populations in hopes to one day restore the fishery to this urban impacted watershed.

Ashlee Horne is a Natural Resources Biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources working within the Anadromous Restoration project which specializes in the monitoring of shad, herring and Atlantic Sturgeon. Join us on Wednesday evening for an exciting presentation that is additionally an exciting future fishing opportunity for everyone in Maryland.



– 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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Patrick Masler 240-381-3054  
Bob Kaiser 240-401-8927  
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Forum Moderator: Vacant  
Librarian: Lou Reichel 410-730-5150  
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Membership Secretary: Rachel Dagovitz: 202-468-9653  
*Conservationist* Editor: Bob O'Donnell 410-733-0638  
Outings: Rob Shane: 614-371-3270  
Speakers Program: Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Conservation Advocacy: Jim Keil 301-588-8375  
Project Healing Waters: Larry Vawter 410-750-8264  
Carl Smolka 301-929-1365  
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Refreshments: Rodger Johnson 301-275-2593  
Trout in the Classroom: Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Chuck Dinkel 301-401-5066  
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Webmaster: Ken Bowyer 301-627-7154  
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### Stream Committees:

Paint Branch: Joe Robinson 301-565-3267  
Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson 301-565-3267  
Middle Patuxent: Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard 301-725-5559

### Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Bob Dietz 301-854-6893  
Jim Greene 301-652-3848  
Marc Hutzell 240-499-4945  
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Lou Reichel 410-730-5150  
Carl Smolka 301-929-1365  
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### Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

The weekly fishing posts over the winter months keep me in the game, at least in spirit. I can't always leave my desk job to get on stream and hearing the many stories helps "wet" and satisfy my appetite.

If you're like me and can't steal away or you're simply just waiting around for that warmer weather to kick in, now is the perfect time to take care of your fishing gear.

All too often our rods and reels get put away and ignored until they're called on again to perform. Take care of your gear and it will take care of you for a life time. Lets take our rods. Cleaning of course will benefit any rod. With some of todays high end rods pushing close to the cost of a used car, you might want to seriously consider giving it some TLC.

Is cleanliness next to Godliness? When it comes to a fly rod I would say, "heavens yes"! A clean fly rod in the winter will freeze up less, plus in any temperture it will perform better by shooting line well, and to be honest, a clean rod just looks good.

"So where do I start", you may ask. A simple start is rinsing off your rod after a day of fishing. Now that you have some free time over the winter, you can start a more thorough cleaning by using soap and water. There are many cleaning options open to you, the following is just one of them.

Take some ordinary cake soap and using a wet paper towel, gently wash down each entire rod section being careful around the guides. To get the guides clean, a soft toothbrush works wonders. Use the same toothbrush to scrub both the grip and reel seat free of dirt and grime that built up over those warm months of fishing.

Next step? Rinse! Rinse each section at a sink under some clean running water, making sure to remove all that soap. Take a paper towel and dry each

section off as much as possible and then let the rod dry. Set it aside in a safe place (like a rod rack) for couple of days so its completely dry.

Finally, you can add the finishing touch. Take a paper towel and a small amount of fly line dressing (like Scientific Anglers) and rub each rod section down, including in and around all the guides. When done, take a clean paper towel and wipe the entire rod clean, removing all of the line dressing you just applied. Set the rod aside to dry for a day and after that just put the rod away in its rod sack and storage tube. The next time you break it out to fish you'll think its brand new.

Until next month, tight lines!

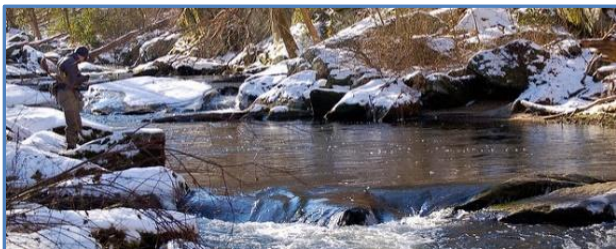
Bob O'Donnell  
President, PPTU

## 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

Reels are an important component of most fishing. (In this discussion I am not going into the Tenkara fishing that does not use any reel.) Many books imply that the reel is to just hold the fly line while you are fly fishing. That is true for most of our fishing, but the reel serves other purposes, too. When looking for reels to 'hold the fly line' one needs to consider other aspects of the reels he is looking at.



The diameter of the reel determines the amount of line that can be stored as well as how much line is recovered with each revolution of the spool on the retrieve. Larger reels recover more line onto the spool for each revolution. This aspect can be negated if the line does not fill the capacity of the spool. When the line is fully recovered at the end of the day, the spool should be completely filled to its very edges. Backing is what helps to gain the maximum retrieval rate when cranking on the handle of the spool.

Backing should be used for filling the space on the spool such that the line will have the maximum diameter at all times for retrieval. Backing in trout fishing is rarely used, but it is very useful in keeping the spool as filled as possible. Backing comes in very handy when the fly one is using gets imbedded in the far bank with an intervening deep pool separating the angler from the fly. If the fly is critical



to my success that day, I just walk down my side until I can cross and then go back up the far side to get to my fly. (Flies on a stream are always worth far more than they are at the tying bench or fly shop!) For smaller weight fly lines one really has little use for most of the line. On 3 and 4 wt lines I remove about half of the 90' line and replace it with backing. Who casts and mends more than about 40–50 feet of such small lines? In fact, I use double taper lines and simply cut them in half, storing one half for later use.

As the line size increases, I remove less and less of the rear end of 90–95 feet of line. On 6 wt lines I may remove about 20 feet of the rear running line and replace that with backing of 60 feet or more. Only on the larger lines do I retain all 90 feet of the line. For those lines I am using a larger reel with plenty of backing.

One of the other purposes of the reel is to act as a counter balance to the loaded rod during casts. The fly rod is a lever with the grip being at the fulcrum. A long rod is best counter balanced with a slightly heavier reel than a much shorter rod of the same line size. The term “balancing” the rod is often employed, but I am not sure I know how to say when a rod and line are “balanced” with a particular reel. It usually comes down to what makes the user most comfortable. Holding the rod and reel aloft for hours on end can be tiring. The heavier the outfit, the more energy it takes. This is one of the major reasons graphite rods have taken over the world and bamboo is now rarely used, especially for larger game fish. The latter rods are much heavier than the new rods.



Spring is just around the corner. Get ready. A few warm days usually show up before the end of February. May your reel be ‘singing’ all year long!

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**

Stocking will start before the end of February on our local special regulation streams. These include the Patuxent River above and below Triadelphia Reservoir and the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia. If you have not gotten the general notice about float stocking by email in the first week of February, you are not on my mailing list. Send me an email ([jaymsheppard95@gmail.com](mailto:jaymsheppard95@gmail.com)) to get onto that list. Details on dates will be sent out as soon as



I know them, likely by about the middle of the month. One must have chest waders, be physically able to wade up or down the middle of a stream for a mile or more, and be able to help during the week. All our float stockings take place Tuesday through Friday. Rainbows and browns will be stocked.

The ample rains this winter have helped recharge the ground water levels. Hopefully, we get some snow that will seep downward to further help. The more ground water, the more the local streams will flow at reasonable rates this coming summer.

## Fly Fishing Shows Reminder - Bob O'Donnell

Just a reminder that several fly fishing shows are still coming up. The list below may hold some interest to you and fill a weekend.

### February

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> The Fly-Fishing Show—Atlanta, GA  
4<sup>th</sup> Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show  
Fairfield, OH

### March

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA

### April

8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival  
Doswell, VA



## 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.



## PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month you'll find folks at the **PPTU Beer Tie**. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host.

11011 Baltimore Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705



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

## FY 2016 Financial Report - Bob Kaiser

The Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited's (PPTU's) fiscal year runs October 1st through September 30th. All chapters are required by Trout Unlimited (TU) to meet certain financial record keeping standards and to file an annual report with TU. Our Treasurer, Ken Bowyer, keeps the books, compiles summaries for and reports monthly to the PPTU Board of Directors, and handles funds intake and disbursements. Our many thanks to Ken for a job well done for multiple years. Per TU requirements, Ken must relinquish this position in May, so we are actively looking for someone to become our new Treasurer. Contact Bob O'Donnell at [troutwrangler@yahoo.com](mailto:troutwrangler@yahoo.com) if you wish to volunteer or know someone that can help. The following is a summary of fiscal year 2016.

The bottom line: PPTU completed FY16 \$1,580 "in the black", with expenses \$5,600 below budget and income \$3,500 under budget. Read on for some additional details. Looking forward, we would like to increase our revenues, especially from the Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC), to help increase our conservation and education activities.

Chart 1 shows the major sources of income – PPTU is largely self-funded through internally generated revenues. Revenues in FY16 totaled \$14,617, approximately \$3,400 under our \$18,089 budget target. Donations originated from individuals and organizations, including \$2,800 from the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. These funds are for 2014 and 2015

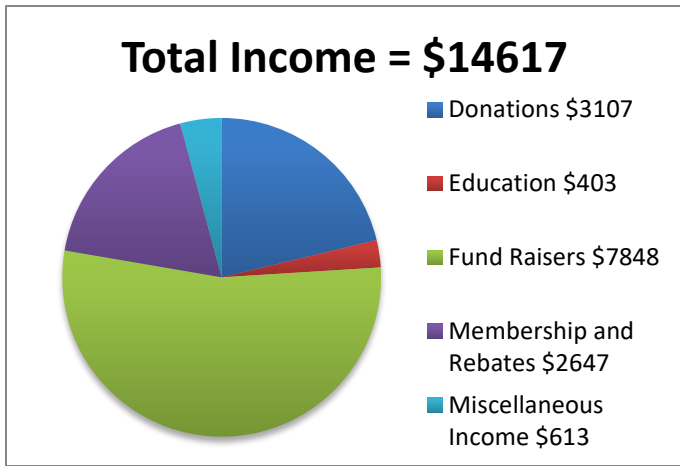


Chart 1

“Shooting Clays to Save the Bay” events. Education income includes funds collected for fly tying classes and from our lending library. Fund raisers include the annual BBQ, the largest single source of funds, and raffles, auctions, book sales and the MAC banquet. The Membership & Rebates category includes our Annual Supporting Contributions (\$1,680, under budget by \$420), and rebates from TU’s Mid-Atlantic Council and TU. Our income from the voluntary Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC), which is \$20 annually requested of each PPTU member to fund our activities, has decreased for the past several years. We ask that you please contribute this amount (or more!) through our website (or mail to PPTU, P.O. Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915 or bring to next meeting). Note that the TU annual dues does not go to PPTU, but a portion is remitted to us through rebates.

Annual expenses are shown in Chart 2.

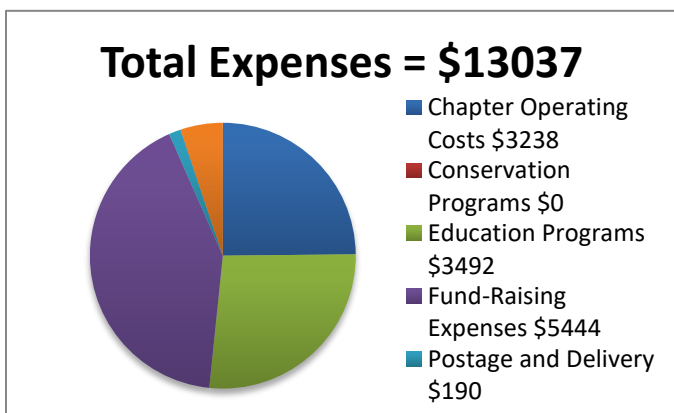


Chart 2

Major expense categories include Operating Costs (\$3,238), Education Programs (\$3,492), Fund Raising Expenses (\$5,444) and Postage/Delivery/and Printing (\$862). Operating costs include

meeting space rentals of \$1,350, speaker fees of \$500 and insurance and software. Education program costs include \$682 for Healing Waters, \$900 for Casting for Recovery and \$1,910 for youth activities. Fund raising expenses include the annual BBQ, book and prize purchases, monthly raffle prizes and the MAC banquet. Total expenses of \$13,037 were approximately \$5,600 under the FY16 budget of \$18,615. The variance includes curtailed donations to conservation projects, a postponed a planned rod building, finding efficiencies for the fly tying class, reducing library expenses and curtailing merchandise purchases, receiving donations (in lieu of purchased items) for monthly raffles, and finding new, less costly, printing services.

Our total assets are positive, as shown in Chart 3, and there are no outstanding liabilities. Inventory consists of our library inventory, projector, stocking boxes, fly tying materials and books, raffle materials donated equipment and materials, and equipment and materials for Trout in the Classroom and Project Healing Waters.

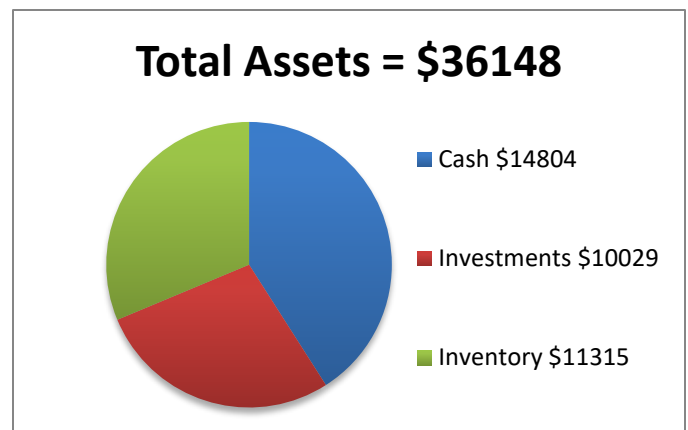


Chart 3

## Welcoming New Members - Lou Reichel

It only takes a minute to smile and welcome a new member. Introduce yourself and ask about their interests, perhaps tell them something you like about the chapter, discuss your favorite gear, or point out all the options available to them at the meeting; like the membership table, PPTU swag, MD fishing book and bucket raffle items. The smallest gesture to make a new member feel welcome will go a long way in keeping our chapter healthy and happy.



## More Shad! - NCC-TU

The NCC-TU chapter invites you to join them on Tuesday, February 7, for their annual “Shad Night” meeting in Bethesda. Seem a little early? Last year the first shad were caught on March 11 so they want you to be ready!



This year the focus is on hickory shad, the fish perhaps most responsible for popularizing fly fishing on the tidal Potomac. Plan to arrive at 6:30pm for fly tying demonstrations, one-on-one advice and an expanded silent auction featuring plenty of guided shad fishing, fly rod outfits and angling art. The presentation begins at 8:00pm. For more info visit [ncc-tu.org](http://ncc-tu.org).

## March Flea Market Reminder - Bob Kaiser

Our meeting on March 15th will feature a flea market of gently used gear brought by members and bucket raffles of rods, reels, packs and other gear. This is a great opportunity to clean out old gear and put it into good hands, and pick up some nice new and used gear. Proceeds benefit all our PPTU activities and services. Bucket raffle items are all new and ready for your use! As of press time, raffle prizes include:

- Orvis Safe Passage sling pack
- Watermark backpack with chest pockets
- Stanley 16oz. thermos/water bottle
- All-Weather Notebook kit
- Hook & Hackle fly tying toolkit with storage pouch
- Waterproof binoculars
- 2 ½” Browning folding knife
- Casting lesson at Beaver Creek Fly Shop

Tickets for this special event are two for \$5 each, five for \$10, and twenty-five for \$20. Please bring cash and correct change! The regular bucket raffle will not be held at this meeting.

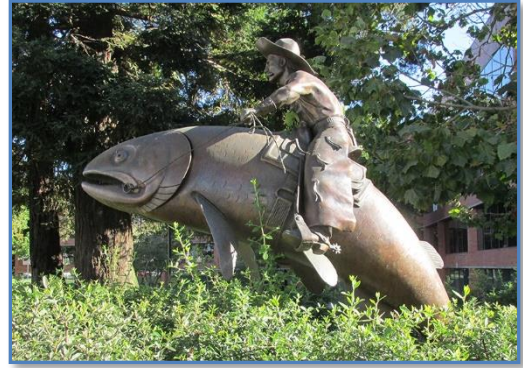
## Members Catch - Trout Wrangler

Here’s what folks have been up to. Kudos to those that brave the cold for a tug on the line.



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: Trout Wrangler**  
Phone: 410-733-0638  
Email: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## Perdigon Nymph

If you missed the fly tying meeting then you missed this!

This fly is designed to get to the bottom quickly, imitate a variety of aquatic-insect larvae, and be able to withstand some punishment from rocks and fish.

<http://www.orvis.com/news/fly-fishing/video-tie-pliva-perdigon-nymph/>



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