

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

March 2015 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## Trout in the Classroom March 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

**PPTU** welcomes Jim Greene, Alan Burrows, and Chuck Dinkel who will be giving a presentation on “Trout in the Classroom” during our March meeting. They will give us a better understanding of the great work that is being done through this program.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC, [www.troutintheclassroom.org](http://www.troutintheclassroom.org)) is more than twenty years old and is an environmental education program in which students in grades k-12 . . .

- raise trout from eggs to fry to fingerlings.
- monitor tank water quality.
- engage in stream habitat study.
- learn to appreciate water resources.
- begin to foster a conservation ethic.
- grow to understand ecosystems.

The history of TIC in Maryland owes its start to three elementary schools ten years ago. From those three elementary schools, TIC has grown to 88 programs in elementary, middle and high schools plus - for the first time - a college. This academic year alone, 3,000 students will be actively involved in raising trout from fertilized eggs to releasing them in our local streams. This success of the TIC program in Maryland is almost entirely due to the efforts of PPTU's members and enormous support!

In the words of Jim Greene, “What's important about TIC is that it's essentially a conservation rather than a hatchery program. Trout are like the canary in the mine; their health is an indicator of water quality”. Trout in the Classroom helps to establish a connection for students between themselves and the natural world that they live in.

– *Marc Hutzell*

### 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, Maryland  
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)

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2014 – 2015

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### Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

Anyone up for some ice fishing? Its almost warm enough outside. A new outing for PPTU?

Brrr... I don't remember it ever being so cold for so long a time. We had some good hard winters growing up in PA, but I don't recall any of them ever being so bitter and hanging around for so long. If we're lucky, we'll thaw out by April.

The last couple of months have been a challenge for us. Our January meeting got cancelled. My deepest apologies to anyone that showed up that night. Then the February meeting almost got cancelled as well but we pulled it off. Many thanks to all those that braved the cold. Our fly tying meeting was a fun break from the weather. We even had a few new members show up. Welcome, by the way. We are glad to have you!

Speaking of the weather, its been much too cold to stock trout. Usually around this time we've put fish in the streams. Jay Sheppard is looking into a new schedule and when it becomes available he'll let folks know. If you've never stocked before it's a fun workout and only takes a few hours of your time. You can contact Jay directly in case you're interested in lending a hand.

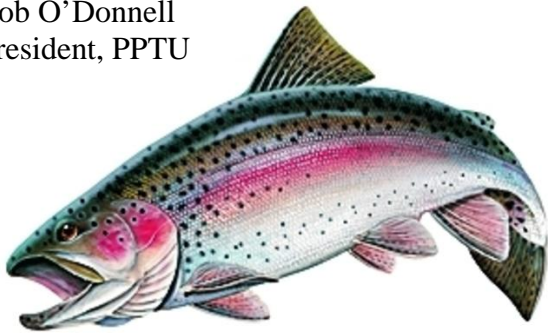
With the cold keeping most folks at bay, and curled up in their homes I hope you've taken the time to inspect your gear and perhaps tie up some killer patterns for the next trip. If you're looking for something to tie, the patterns from our Fly Tying meeting will be posted on our web page. Browse through the list and find something that interests you or presents a new challenge and help pass the time as you stare out into the cold. I know I could use some new Sulpher patterns. Several bushes and trees ate up my flies last year. And the Dorato Hare's Ear looks like a winner that needs to be added to my fly box – assuming I can find room. Time to buy a new box?

Every time I turn around there's something new to ogle over or buy. My wife just shakes her head as

packages arrive at our door. The FedEx and UPS drivers are on a first name basis. If I go to a fly shop its hard NOT to buy something. Coming home, packages in hand, I usually get greeted with, “Did you buy me something pretty”? Every now and then, I do just that. The running joke with our friends for February was the wooden landing net I got my girl for Valentine’s Day. They say laughter warms the soul, and its been too damn cold lately. Try to stay warm. 🌸

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O’Donnell  
President, PPTU



## PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

**K**en 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** will be asked to contribute \$20. 🌸



Contact Ken 301-627-7154 or E-mail:  
[kenbowyer@verizon.net](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net)

## Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

**L**ast month I discussed searching for trout when there was no visible hatch or at least when no trout are rising regularly. When trout are rising regularly to some hatch, then we need to be really focused on what is happening. Knowing what kind of insect is emerging and how it and the trout behave is critical to getting a trout to take your fly. All other learning experiences in trout fishing come to fruition during a hatch: careful casting, good observations, selection of the fly and tippet, and then it is all presentation, presentation, presentation!



Aquatic insects emerge to their flying or adult stages in a wide variety of ways. Stoneflies tend to crawl to the shore or out on a rock to emerge. Caddis can rocket from the bottom to the surface and just keep on flying like a missile shot from a submarine, while other caddis may wallow in the surface film before getting airborne. Mayflies have several routines that the various species employ to get into the air. Most mayfly nymphs swim or float to the surface and then slowly emerge to the dun or subimago flying stage before taking off. A few can blast from the bottom to the surface almost like the caddis missiles! A few may act like stoneflies and crawl out on a rock or shore to emerge. The aquatic insects can emerge at almost any time of the day or night—varying with the season and species involved.

So knowing what to expect when you try to go to a stream with a reported hatch happening is very important. Being 15 minutes too late or many hours too early can spoil the trip. I got to the Gunpowder



before first light one hot summer morning and was rewarded to a major carpenter ant emergence. From 5:30 AM until 7:30 AM it looked like somebody was tossing handfuls of pebbles in the water everywhere I looked. It stopped almost abruptly and when I met a fisher arriving at 8:00 AM there was nothing happening!! Not one rise! NADA! ZIP!

I like long floppy tippet sections for nearly all my dry fly fishing, especially during a hatch. I want zero drag and make casts that allow the leader to create many S-curves between the tip of the line and the fly. There are a few times when caddis are skimming across the surface and a dragging fly will get fish to respond, but that is uncommon. A totally dead drift is what is usually needed. I prefer to alter the angle of the cast relative to the general speed of the current. The faster the current or more variable they are, the more I like to be almost directly downstream of the rising trout. In slower, flatter water, I prefer to be off to one side. On really slow water with a lot of well-educated trout, I may need to be quartering downstream to the fish.

Some fish will take the insects every 20, 30 or 40 seconds. One needs to time the cast and try to get their fly to pass over the trout at the time it is looking for its next meal. Flailing away and continually casting as quickly as one can usually results in the trout being put down for 5–10 minutes or longer. Other fish may be very sporadic as they are not in a feeding lane producing bugs in large numbers. Some hatches come and go in brief spurts. There may be lulls in emerging insects for a noticeable time and then a flurry of activity. Again, beating the water to a froth during the lulls usually gets little response from the trout. If the bugs and trout take a break, you do too. Check your fly and tippet, dry the fly off, relax . . . etc. Better to wait than put down some skittish trout on our heavily fished waters.

I usually aim for a spot about 2 feet upstream of the rising fish to drop my fly. I never want the fly line or even the butt of the leader to go near the trout. I pick up the fly as soon as it has cleared the tail of the trout...maybe a foot or so behind it. There is no need to let the fly drift 5 or 10 feet past the trout; it is not going to turn and chase it—unless it is a real mouthful of protein! No matter where the cast lands or starts to drag, do not pick up the fly



in front of or right beside the trout—that will put it down in a flash! Generally, if I get a bad drift with drag in front of the trout, I will either wait a few more rises or at least a full minute before I drop the fly back in front of the trout. On our catch-and-release streams, the trout have seen most of the flies in our boxes by the time they are 9 or 10 inches long! At that point, it becomes 90% presentation to fool a trout! Next month I will discuss the different types of rises one sees trout doing and what that tells you. 🌸

## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

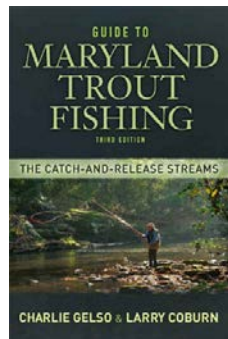
By the time this issue gets shipped out in early March, we will have hopefully float stocked the upper Patuxent above Triadelphia Reservoir, the river below Brighton Dam, and the Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest section in south Columbia. These streams are float stocked to spread the fish out. So when you travel to any of these waters, know you can usually find more trout in the next pool through the help of our chapter members and many friends. The float boxes we use are light plastic boxes with a lid we can open to fill or release the trout. The box can hold up to ~150 trout. With strips of Styrofoam under the lids they will float flush in the water. The rope handles allow us to pull them up or down the rivers we stock, releasing a few in each pool—sometimes a dozen or two. After a few weeks acclimatizing to the rivers, the fish will often move up and down from where they were released. I have seen trout 2 miles above or below where the nearest stocking took place a month earlier. Trout can swim!! Amazing! 🌸



There will be a stream cleanup on the upper Patuxent the morning of April 11. Mark your calendars for that Saturday. We will be meeting with other volunteers at the Izaak Walton League on Mullinix Mill Road near Damascus at 8:45 AM. A free lunch is provided. More details will be in the next issue. This is a great family event. 🌻

## Get Your Copy of the MD Guide Book! - Trout Wrangler

The NEW “Guide To Maryland Trout Fishing: The Catch-and-Release Streams” by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn are now available to our members at the library table during our monthly meetings.



If you missed our Fly Tying meeting you definitely missed out! Both Charlie and Larry were on hand to autograph member’s copies of their new guide book. 🌻

## Tri-State Conservation & Fishing Youth Camp – June 21-26, 2015 - George Gaines

I'm pleased and excited to let you know that our Camp website [www.tucamp.org](http://www.tucamp.org) has been fully updated with information about this summer's Camp to be held June 21-26, 2015. Check it out and make sure that everyone you know does, also. Please help us get folks to go to our website and learn about our Camp.

Our greatest needs are help with recruiting campers, finding interested boys and girls ages 13-17, and financial help to make the Camp possible. We deeply appreciate all that you do to help make our Camp so successful. I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Camp. Please let me know if I can help you get the word out. 🌻

## Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp – June 21-26, 2015 - Nick Weber

Support the Rivers Conservation Youth Camp. This is their 21<sup>st</sup> year providing conservation education to area students.

The camp is hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited & held at the Allenberry Resort on the Yellow Breeches in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. The deadline for the early acceptance period is March 31, 2015. More information about the camp and application form can found on their web site - [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com)



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!*

## Fly Rod Building Class - Trout Wrangler

PPTU's Fly rod building class got off to a good start. Seven members signed up and met at the Beaver Creek Fly Shop for the first class date. Everyone jumped right into building. There was cork dust flying everywhere as students prepped their grips prior to mounting on the rod blanks. One brave soul, Josh Loh, attempted a spey rod as his first build. It took him a bit longer, but he got it together. He was also rewarded with a nice brown trout from Beaver Creek after class was over. That fish made all the hard work seem worthwhile. 🌻







Our instructor, Tom Smithwick, is pictured teaching how to get your guide wraps started. Tom and Carl Smolka provided all the help the class needed to get going. Part 2 of the class will cover finishing the rods. Everyone is looking forward to it. Hopefully we'll do another class soon. Our "Outings" coordinator, Dennis Covert is shown hard at work on his rod.



## Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited Annual Banquet - Nick Weber

The MAC Banquet will be held on Saturday March 28, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Martin's West 6817 Dogwood Road, Windsor, MD 21244. The banquet will feature Open Bar, Dinner, Conservation Awards, Online Auction, General Raffle, Bucket Raffles and a Live Auction. Tickets are available for \$100 for individuals or \$1000 per table. Sponsorships are available for \$250 to \$5000 with sponsor names listed in the program, Council Newsletter, and Website. Contact PPTU board members.

The Banquet is the Council's only fund raising event during the year. Proceeds go to fund Council activities and are shared with Trout Unlimited Chapters throughout the State and D.C. Support your chapter by supporting MAC!

**BANQUET DIRECTIONS** - I-695 Baltimore Beltway to Exit 17 Security Blvd Rt 122 - Go West on Security Blvd and at 1st right turn RIGHT onto Belmont Ave - Just past Best Western Baltimore West Hotel turn LEFT into Martin's West.

For tickets or information on sponsorships and online bidding at the auction, please contact PPCTU Chapter Officers or board members.

## Casting for Recovery - Rod Raffle! - Casey Petlier

**CFR** is holding a rod raffle. If you are interested in purchasing tickets and helping out the Casting for Recovery Mid-Atlantic chapter, visit their website by checking out the link below.

1<sup>st</sup> prize is a handmade 8'4 wt fiberglass rod by Zeb Tonkavitch of Snowman Custom Rods. This is one gorgeous rod that would be treasured in anyone's collection. The rod features a golden witch reel seat with maple burl insert, pink agate stripping guide and purple tipped snake guide wraps. A Snowman rod tube and rod sock are included. Very cool!

2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a custom made 8'3 wt with inlaid abalone grip in a CFR rod case. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a Casting for Recovery TFO outfit which includes a 5 wt rod, Deschutes reel, fly line and backing, CFR rod tube, flies, leaders, tools, and fly boxes. Everything you need!

Go to the CFR website and scroll down to the Rod raffle ad and use the purchase tickets here link. <http://castingforrecovery.org/cfr-mid-atlantic/>



## Project Healing Waters 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fly Tying Marathon

- Bob Gartner

The Marine Corps Base Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) will host their Second Annual Fly Tying Marathon at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fly Tyers are encouraged to join the event in order to replenish the fly stock of PHWFF programs nationwide. All flies tied and donated at the event will be distributed to programs for PHWFF participants to use at fishing events throughout the year.



The Fly Tying Marathon will consist of two shifts: 0900-1245 and 1315-1700. Volunteers may register for both shifts and tie all day. Fly Tyers should bring tools and materials to tie fly patterns of their choice for donation to PHWFF. Tax deductible donation forms are available upon request. Standard flies such as Woolly Buggers, Hare's Ear Nymphs, Clouser Deep Minnows, Royal Wulffs, Dahlberg Divers, etc. are all welcome. However, there are no restrictions on the type or size of flies to be donated. There are programs in every clime and place with participants anxious to catch the fish that live there!

PHWFF will provide lunch, light refreshments, and beverages to all volunteers. The Devil Dog Diner and Tun Tavern facilities of the National Museum of the Marine Corps will also be open for patronage throughout the day. Tables with chairs and electrical outlets will be provided for each participant.

We can seat 35 volunteers at each shift. Volunteers may register by emailing the Event Coordinator at [phwquantico@gmail.com](mailto:phwquantico@gmail.com) with their name and the shift they wish to tie. PHWFF has limited tying tools and materials for volunteers that would like to tie, but don't have their own equipment. Those items will be provided first come, first serve with priority going to PHWFF program participants.

Fly Tyers that are unable to attend the event, but who still wish to donate flies may do so by mailing in their contribution. Contact the Event Coordinator at [phwquantico@gmail.com](mailto:phwquantico@gmail.com) for a shipping address. 🌸

## Members Catch!

- Trout Wrangler

I couldn't resist posting a few photos. It may be numbing cold out, but the fish are still there for the taking to those that make an effort.



**Shop at AmazonSmile**  
and Amazon will make  
a donation to:

**Potomac Patuxent Chapter  
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

Get started

**amazon**smile



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**

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### **Josh's Reaper Midge**

**Hook:** Orvis Tactical Wide Gap Hook or dry-fly hook, sizes 16-22.

**Thread:** Black, Veevus 8/0 or 10/0.

**Abdomen:** Veevus Iris Thread in color of choice.

**Wing:** Pearl Krystal Flash.

**Hackle:** Grizzly.

**Thorax:** UV Ice Dub in pink, purple, or orange.



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