



May 2004

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Wednesday, May 19

Tricks of The Trade

When you first go down the fly fishing path, you're just trying to figure things out. Like how you thread the tippet through this tiny fly' eye , and while we're at it, what in tarnation is a tippet anyway? Then it's figuring out to catch a fish in front of you and not the limb behind you and the ear next to you.

But as time goes on, you start to get down some of the basics and get curious about some short cuts and acquiring new skills. Like how to make the "double" in the double haul. Or perfect loop-to-loop connections on your leader. No doubt you'll want to learn how to tie the Boezi Bolo, the hottest knot to hit fishing since the Bimini Twist

Just kidding on that last one, Lou. But if you do want to learn some tips from some of our more experienced fishers, then come to our May meeting. We can't promise that you'll walk away having mastered the sport, but we hope you'll gain some more knowledge to stuff in the proverbial mental creel.

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM with a short business meeting and the election of the 2004-2005 officers and directors, followed by the usual raffle of fishing related goodies. Then you'll get your chance to get the answers to your questions.

Last Issue until September

Just a reminder—*this May issue is the last until next September*. Keep in touch with your buddies and log onto our web site for links to current reports. If you have not signed up for the PPTU list serve reporting system, please check out our web site. You will receive reports from other members on their local fishing results. Have a great summer! See you next September.

Annual Election of Officers and Directors

Board of Directors Nominations

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Past Presidents Piske, Keil, Sheppard, and Simpson, has come up with this list of nominees for election or re-election as the Officers and Directors for 2004-05.

As required by chapter by-laws, we are making this list known through the chapter newsletter. The election of nominees will take place at our May 19th meeting.

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually for a one-year term of office. The Directors are elected for a three-year term.

The nominees are:

President:	Lou Boezi
Vice President:	Jim Greco
Treasurer:	Joshua Forster
Secretary:	Judy Hendrickson
Directors (3):	Nick Webber

We are in the process of securing nominees for VP, Treasurer, and two directors. If you would like to nominate someone or even nominate yourself, you are welcome to do so by emailing Jim Keil at

jkeil@pop.starpower.net.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the May 19th meeting.

Jim Keil

Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Directions: From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road. Pass Holy Cross Hospital and go across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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2003-2004 Officers and Directors

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Secretary:	Judy Hendrickson	301-384-7124
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	Dave Wittman	301-725-6791
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	Paul Prevost	202-244-0168
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NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Paint Branch:	David Dunmire	301-989-0331
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Contributions in the form of articles, letters, fishing news, tying tips, book reviews, and even poetry about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain MS-DOS (ASCII) text or Microsoft Word attachments to e-mail messages containing brief descriptions of the attachments. Attachments received without a description will be deleted without opening.

The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

EDITOR: John Colburn

(Phone: 202-545-8776)

(phly_tyer@earthlink.net)

Note: This is a temporary e-mail address.

President's Column

Another Chapter year is fast coming to an end; yet the summer and fall fishing opportunities are still ahead of us.

The demonstrations, panel discussions and speakers at the monthly membership meetings, I hope, have given us all some insights into the latest methods, tricks and techniques available for us to try. We've laid out the speakers program for next year, and **Sebastian O'Kelly**, our program coordinator, will be trying to firm up commitments in the coming weeks. Look for some great presentations next year including the next installment of Wendell "Ozzie" Ozevovich's underwater film study of trout and some interesting talks on equipment, tackle and distant fishing destinations we all dream about.

This month we'll hold our last chapter meeting for the year, and as in the past, we'll have the elections for next year's chapter officers and required new Directors.

Also, we have asked a panel of some of our more experienced fishermen to lead a Q & A session for the rest of the evening. This is a great opportunity to ask some of the more basic questions you need help with while also exploring some of the more esoteric aspects of our sport. No question is too basic or complicated for our panel, since they began to gather their knowledge and experience just like the rest of us—though many years ago!

The Chapter has continued its many and varied activities again this year. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the many persons who volunteer their time and talents to make the Chapter a going concern. I'll try to highlight a few of these saints with the full knowledge I cannot list everyone who took the time and made an effort to help out even in some small way.

Our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program successfully expanded into new schools and the kids will soon be planting their "babies" in local streams. This is an exciting program that we hope will expand to more and more schools in the state. We would like to have a technical mentor associated with each school next year. This is a person who can be a point of contact for the TIC teachers when they need some help or advice. Anyone interested in helping out in this regard should contact **Dave Wittman** or **Jim Greene**, our TIC coordinator who also served as Chapter Treasurer as

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President's Column

(Continued from page 2)

well as handling the publicity for our events.

Joshua Forster volunteered to help us and gave our outings program a real sense of adventure and excitement. Wait 'til you see what he is planning for next year! Joshua's newsletter article "Lies, Damn Lies and Releases" and web page photos provides some fun reading for the rest of us who couldn't make each month's outing. Good job, Joshua!

Jack Dawson took over the helm of our membership program and successfully led the chapter through several major recruiting events this year. Jack also handled the library and greatly expanded the variety, quality and quantity of our lending videos and tapes—another job well done. Jack also serves as a chapter Director.

Another Director holding down a second job is **Cathy Nutter**. Cathy is the person responsible for the cool refreshments available at the Board and memberships meetings. (I wonder if she will provide stream side refreshments this year???) She also organized the March program on distant fisheries that was so well received this year.

Willie Oldes has done an outstanding job in organizing and running our monthly raffles again this year. Judging from the survey I took at the March meeting Willie's raffles are a big hit with the members and is something we all look forward to at the monthly meetings. **Marci LeFevre** responded to a request for assistance and stepped up and led our Youth program ventures including our scholarship activities and the successful Kids' Fishing Day held at Martin Luther King pond.

Jay Sheppard again planned and organized our stream stocking efforts and successfully acquired the materials and equipments to surface the Jennings Chapel parking lot on the Upper Patuxent

Our mentor program provided helpful assistance to many new members thanks to **Ken Bowyer** and **Paul Prevost**. **Bob Serrano** personally planned, organized and acquired the prizes for this year's major fund raiser. This is a significant effort that is important to the Chapter and its many projects; good job, Bob.

This year's fly tying classes were expertly planned and taught by **Jim Greco**, and Jim and Pam were instrumental in getting the new chapter caps de-

signed, purchased and sold throughout the year.

John Parchen our webmaster did a wonderful job in designing, implementing and maintaining our new web site; it's a great source of chapter information, particularly upcoming events and the results of past ones.

Of course we are reading this newsletter through the expert talents, experience and great diligence of **John Colburn**. It's a wonder John has any hair left as we continually drive him up the wall with our tardiness and missing or unexpectedly short articles, forcing him to adapt and cover for us. We greatly appreciate your wonderful contributions, John.

Our past Presidents, **Jim Keil**, **Robert Simpson**, **Jay Sheppard** and **Dave Piske**, have been a great source of knowledge, expertise and guidance to me, and I thank them all for their assistance.

There are others who have helped the Chapter to be successful in its many endeavors; we thank you all and look forward to next year's exciting programs.

Lou Boezi

Memorial Day Weekend Outing

The May outing will be the annual Memorial Day weekend outing to western Maryland. Space is limited, so please contact **Joshua Forster** at jforster@smart.net or by phone at 301-604-0822 if you plan to attend this outing.



PPTU flyfishers pause at the monuments in Marinaro's Meadow on the Letort Spring Run during their search for Pennsylvania trout. Left to right—Nick Webber, Joshua Forster, and Joe Gill.

They did catch some fish—really!

See the story on page 6.

Patuxent Report

A total of 2200 browns and 1950 rainbows were stocked this year, all willing to chase your flies and lures. Some of the browns and rainbows were in the 15–16" size range. Thanks to all who helped stock this year. Approximately 300–350 man-hours were involved with this year's stockings on the upper Patuxent. I want to thank all the members of the chapter and our friends who helped in all these activities. Now let us go forth and FISH!

The stocked trout can be expected to scatter in all directions over the coming months as they compete for space among themselves and with the small number of wild trout already there.

In the past, I have caught rainbows about a mile below the lowest stocking point only 8 days after their stocking. So the trout can move quickly if the conditions suit them; these recent high flows have undoubtedly facilitated a lot of movement. The overall holdover rate will depend largely upon two big factors: summer flows and poaching.

I have had several reports this spring of poachers in the Annapolis Rock–Hipsley Mill sections of the stream. **Please report these sightings immediately to the Natural Resources Police or the State Park rangers.** The Natural Resource (DNR) Police number is 800-635-6124 and the State Parks number is 800-825-7275.

**A "poacher" is a device
for cooking eggs and other food
in a simmering liquid.
The fish and game law violator
is a thief!**

Three years ago, one poacher was fined over \$400 for taking a dozen trout from the stream below Annapolis Rock bridge. I hope that word gets out to others that it can be costly to poach trout and a lot cheaper to go to the local market for something to eat.

So keep an eye out for poachers and carry a cell phone to report them

We also really need to get out and get some signs placed on the stream. It has been a couple of winters since we did that and the old signs are starting to wear out.

A parking lot was vastly improved with a donation of crushed stone provided by the LaFarge North America quarry company in Frederick. The rock was hauled to the site by a generous donation of the Toll Brothers, Inc., a luxury home builder with a development only about a mile from the site.

The improved parking lot is on Jennings Chapel Road about 1.6 miles west of Route 97 and a few hundred yards east of Daisy Road.

Be sure to explore this area in broad daylight, as there are dozens of trails on the State Park land that are accessible from this lot; most do not go close to the river.

The Patuxent is about a 15-minute hike almost due south from the lot along the west side of a large field complex on private land.

Jay Sheppard

Library Fines Now in Effect

The video library is an asset that is to be enjoyed by all members. When you borrow a video and don't return it at the next monthly meeting you are depriving one of your fellow chapter members the enjoyment of watching it.

The new policy for late returns is that the member will pay \$5 for all videos not returned at the monthly meeting when the video was due.

***All videos are always due back
at the next monthly meeting.***

If you can't make the monthly meeting and want to mail the video to me, please address it to:

Jack Dawson
13420 Daventry Way Apt G
Germantown, MD 20874.

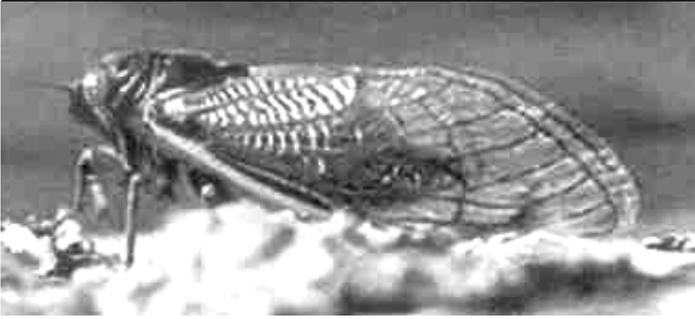
PPTU Mentor Program

Beginners and Beyond

Available to members of PPTU current with their dues, Ken Bowyer or Paul Prevost will conduct one-on-one stream side fly fishing instruction.

Interested members must show commitment by having waders or hipsters, 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.

Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or e-mail kenbowyer@comcast.net or Paul at 202-244-0168 or e-mail pprevost@hotmail.com



They're Coming!

The Seventeen Year Cidades

By the time you read this the night air might be filled with the sound of millions of cicadas enthralled with the sound of their own mating songs. You may be catching trout that have overly distended bellies looking like they have been gorging at Mom's Thanksgiving table. That's right; in May and June of 2004 the cicada brood X (ten) will reappear after lying dormant for seventeen years. For the full story, go to:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/03/0329_040329_cicadas.html

A number of years back, Pam and I went to the Green River in Dutch John, Utah, and had the best fly fishing trip either of us have ever had. On that trip we only used one pattern, a #10 foam cicada tied to match a local cicada hatch that started a few days before we arrived.

We used about a dozen flies apiece each day we floated the river, and we didn't lose any flies. They just got so chewed up by the huge browns that were inhaling them they stopped working.

No kidding, it was the trip of a lifetime with so many 16 inch to 23 inch browns, rainbows, and cuttbows taken, by the end of the first day we ran out of Band-Aids for our stripping fingers. That local hatch of cicadas was one of the periodic hatches that take place every year, and its numbers were small in comparison to what brood X will be like.

Many people have been asking about it, so here is the pattern we used. I have since caught bass and trout with it here, too. When brood X emerges, I hope this pattern will work as well here.

Hook: 2x long dry fly (Tiemco 2302 or Mustad 94831) in a size #8 or #10
 Thread: 6/0 black Unithread
 Body: 1/8" thick black closed cell foam for #10 or 3/16" thick black foam for #8
 Thorax: black, ice/crystal chenille, densely

wrapped over foam
 Hackle: brown neck hackle palmered thickly through the mid section of the fly then clipped short
 Legs: barred orange and black Sili Legs
 Wing: 12 strands of black Krystal Flash then 8 strands of pearl Krystal Flash
 Top: small piece of 1/8" yellow closed cell foam on top so you can spot the fly to make sure it is floating upright

Tying tips: Wrap your thread over bare hook to just over the barb then back to eye. Tie in black foam at head of fly then fold back the foam and begin tying it down about 2/5ths of the way to the bend of the hook.

Apply Zap a Gap/super glue to the entire wrapped area to lock the foam in proper position. Just past the point, stop wrapping the foam down leaving enough black foam to extend 3/8 " past the bend. Trim the black foam to a sharp, narrow triangle to match the cicada abdomen shape.

Tie in two sets of legs on each side (two front—two back, each side).

Tie in black then pearl Krystal Flash for the wing, cutting it off about 3/8" past tip of abdomen.

Tie in a large brown hackle. Tie in black Ice Chenille and wrap mid section. Palmer the brown hackle to the back of the head and trim it all around to make the appearance of thicker body, being careful not to clip off any legs.

Tie in a small piece of yellow foam on top for easy spotting of fly.

Fishing tips: If you don't see the yellow dot after the fly lands, give it a tug to right itself and show the yellow.

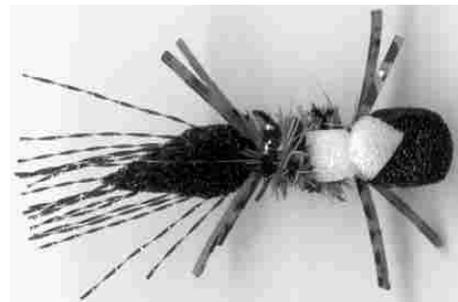
Throw it to a big trout and hang on!

Jim Greco

Cicada Dry Fly

Tied by Jim Greco

From a pattern used on the Green River in Dutch John, Utah



Tackle and Tactic Tips

Recently, a member of the PPCTU listserve asked how I was flushing a wild trout I caught in early April to examine its stomach contents. This is reprinted from the February 2002 *Conservationist*:

An important tool for me is a small “wash bottle” that literally flushes the stomachs of trout so I can see what they are eating. I use this when there is either a very complex series of hatches taking place or I can see fish working but am unable to clearly identify what they are taking.

Usually, only one trout per day may be subjected to this procedure. It involves simply squirting a high volume of water (ca. 4–6 fluid ounces) in a few seconds directly into the stomach. The trout relaxes its throat to allow the sudden volume of water to flow back out its mouth. Any food items come with the return flow and are captured in a small plastic bag held under the trout’s head.

The trout is best held upside down, as this tends to relax them more. The trout is then released and the prey items can be examined with a hand lens or a set of Flip Focals for better scrutiny. Often, many of the insects are still quite alive and squirming around in the bag.

What is really important through this procedure is to see what the dominant prey is, if any. You do not have to be an entomology professor to identify the insects. You just need to tell if the various insects are adult or immature, and one of the major groups of prey that trout regularly feed upon: mayflies, stoneflies, caddis, terrestrials (hoppers, ants, beetles, caterpillars, etc.).

From there, you need to just match the right size and colors of the dominant prey. If there is a wide range of prey, you may have to just try different flies to match several of the prey items you saw. This may not improve your catch rate, but it will give you better confidence in your choices of flies.

The soft plastic wash bottles are obtainable at many laboratory supply houses (see the Yellow Pages). I prefer the 250 ml (8.5 oz) size.

The tip of the small, bent tube coming out of the top must be trimmed slightly to increase the flow, but it must also be sanded to prevent any injury to the trout.

The limitation of this bottle size is that it only works on trout up to about 13" in length, but this bottle size easily fits in a vest pocket along with a small

plastic bag (white is also preferred over clear).

The first couple of times you try this you may want the help of another fisher to help hold the bag under the head of a trout. If done properly, the trout is out of the water no more than 10–15 seconds. I hold the trout in the water in my net after unhooking it and while filling the bottle, which is always flushed two times with fresh stream water before each use.

Jay Sheppard

Lies, Damn Lies and Releases

Pennsylvania Limestone Creeks

Joseph Gill and Nick Weber joined me on Saturday, March 20th, for the outing to south central Pennsylvania where we fished the outflow run from Boiling Springs Lake and the Allenberry Playhouse sections of the Yellow Breeches and the Marinaro’s Meadow section of Letort Spring Run.

Saturday’s weather started out sunny but turned partly cloudy as the day wore on with a high of about 50 degrees, moderate winds, which made for some difficult casting at times, and a late afternoon shower on the Letort.

Although the weather conditions helped generate a prolific hatch of size 18-20 Blue-Winged Olives and size 20 Little Black Winter Stoneflies on the Yellow Breeches, we did not observe any trout rising to these hatches. Instead, with the receding stream flows and clearing conditions on the Yellow Breeches, we resorted to subsurface flies such as nymphs, egg patterns, Woolly Buggers and San Juan Worms.

Stream conditions on the Letort were clear with an afternoon stream temperature of 52 degrees. Hatch activity on the Letort consisted of size 24-26 Olive and Cream Midges, which generated sporadic surface feeding.

Nick caught two browns and two rainbows on the outflow run at the Yellow Breeches and two browns on the surface with a Little Black Winter stonefly pattern on the Letort.

Joe caught two on the outflow run at the Yellow Breeches, including one 12-inch golden Rainbow Trout on an egg pattern, and three browns on the surface with a Little Black Winter stonefly pattern at the Letort.

I landed one 11-inch brown on a tan Bead Head San Juan Worm and one 12-inch palomino Rainbow Trout on an egg-sucking leech pattern on the outflow run at the Yellow Breeches.

Joshua Forster

Hatch Talk

Summer Hatches

(Revised and reprinted from May 2001 *Conservationist*)

From now until the first frost or so, there will be an abundance of bugs and other prey for the trout to feed upon. The early hatches have come and gone, and we now have the late spring hatches to contemplate. But they are some of the best.

The late May and early June period is the time of the prolific sulphur mayfly hatches. These are the hatches where you need two very important items: a good selection of flies to imitate these mayflies and a spot to stand during the hatch. The former include nymphs, duns, and spinner patterns that are very realistic.

The local trout see so many naturals and so many fly patterns that they become highly selective. That is caused by the other "hatch" at this time: lots of trout fishers. Because of this latter hatch, finding a good place to fish with little competition from other fishers can be difficult. One must sometimes walk a good distance from the parking lots and be prepared with a small waterproof flashlight to make his way back after dark.

The sulphur hatches are probably the best hatch we have in this area. All the streams have them, although they are most prolific on the Gunpowder and the Savage Rivers in my experience. On a good evening, one has to keep the mouth closed to ensure no unwanted protein gets sucked in!

There are two species of mayflies involved. I will not bore you with the Latin names, but the larger one is the dun with a more uniform sulphur yellow in color. It is best matched by a #14 pattern (nymph, dun, spinner). This is the first of the two to emerge and can start about May 12 on the Gunpowder and May 22 in western Maryland.

About 10-12 days later the second sulphur mayfly starts to emerge. This varies in size as the season progresses and starts as a real #16 and ends up in late June as little #22 pale mayflies. They also vary more in color, ranging from as nearly as bright a yellow as the larger species to a pale cream, nearly off white. The wings are as often pale grey as they are cream.

The larger sulphur mayfly is usually done about 15 days after the hatch starts, but the smaller species easily runs a full month as they get smaller and paler. The larger one will hatch sporadically on a warm, cloudy afternoon and peaks about 1-2 hours before dark. The smaller species tends to hatch more faithfully starting about 2-3 hours before dark and peaking in the final hour of daylight. Late in June, all the

activity takes place in the final 30-45 minutes of light and continues well into total darkness. You have to learn to fish by Braille at this time!

On the Savage River one June evening several years ago, I was able to identify eleven kinds of mayflies, four kinds of stoneflies, and at least five or six kinds of caddis. That is a lot of variety to make the trout very selective at times.

By the end of June the large mayfly nymphs will become relatively scarce as the major spring hatches finish. Fly fishers will need to shift to tiny nymphs, caddis, terrestrials or minnows and crayfish patterns. The latter two will be hatching large numbers of young as the month of June starts.

A couple of years ago, I flushed the stomach of a Gunpowder brown, and the bulk of the items were small, dark snails! How does anyone tie a snail imitation?

Besides the major aquatic insect groups (mayfly, stonefly, caddis, and midges), fly fishers need to be adequately prepared to match the other important hatches on our trout streams.

By now, readers have all heard about the 17-year cicadas that will be appearing in our woods over the next several months of 2004. Go to the better fly shops for some patterns or just use a black popper about 1" long with some orange hackle and rubber legs. Billions will be out by Memorial Day. This is almost the only pattern that works well when fished with a loud "splat" on a trout stream! (See Jim Greco's article on page 5.)

There are many other terrestrial insects that are very important in a trout's diet. Beetles, ants, caterpillars, and crickets are the most often taken in this area.

Some meadow streams have great hatches of hoppers as the summer proceeds into early fall.

On fast moving sections of streams a sunken ant often works wonders. The ants may be tiny or large, and they sometimes swarm in the flying stage.

This latter reproductive stage can happen at any time; I have seen a consistent hatch of large (#16-18) flying ants on the Gunpowder in mid-June that stops just before most fishers arrive at the stream. If they had arrived at a warm, misty dawn, they might have found the stream alive with trout taking in the enormous numbers of flying ants. In hotter months, dawn and dusk are often the best times for activity—fish and bugs.

Beetles can vary in size from microscopic to over an inch in length. I would suggest #12 and #16 patterns in the usual black color, but other colors and sizes can work, too.

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The **Conservationist**

The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Membership

THE POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited has two membership categories: **Regular or Family** (\$15/year assessment) or **Student** (free). The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. The assessment is totally separate from Trout Unlimited dues. Send correspondence, change of address, or assessment payable to POTOMAC-PATUXENT TROUT UNLIMITED, PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915.

Chapter and national TU expiration dates are indicated in the mailing label as PP-0903 or NTU-0903.

First time visitors receive two free issues of this publication.

Member's Assessment Payable NOW!

The annual assessment is payable now, if you wish.

Check your label—if the “PP-” date is “0904” (or there is NO “PP-” and date), you can send your \$15 now, and you will not have to worry about paying in September. Some members paid twice this year, so they already show “PP-0905.”

Make your check payable to “**POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER-TU**” and mail to our chapter mail box (see below).

The assessment covers only the newsletter and related chapter administrative expenses; all donations above expenses at our raffles, etc., go to the resource and not to support our members with free newsletters, maps, etc.

The final issue for those having “PP-0904” will be this next November. *We do not mail notices in September.*

Please also advise us of any address changes or errors in our labels.

Hatch Talk

Summer Hatches

(Continued from page 7)

Start using crickets in late May and June that are tiny #18-16 and gradually increase their size to the #10 adults in late August and into October.

For caterpillars or inchworms, the chartreuse San Juan Worm on a #12 hook and about 1.5" in total length is hard to beat, but the Green Weenie and other similar patterns work very well, too. Also try the San Juan Worms in grey, brown, red, and pink. Consider them also in the micro sizes of less than 5/8" length.

As another “terrestrial pattern” try a very large rusty spinner in the #8-10 size. There are a lot of flying insects that occasionally drop on the water that will match a general buggy looking pattern such as this.

To quickly review the past [2000-2001] seven “Hatch Talk” columns, make sure you have a good reference book or two and are able to identify the main stages and groups of the insects found in and around a trout stream. Match the captured insect to a pattern of the same or smaller size and as close in coloration as possible.

All this combines to make for both the fun and the frustration of fly fishing. Many rightfully argue that fly fishing is about 80-90% presentation and the rest fly selection. Whatever the ratios, it is all a mental challenge and physical exercise to fool the wary trout. Good luck this summer!

Jay Sheppard



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FIRST CLASS MAIL