



April 2008

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Norm Bartlett to Speak at April Meeting

Do you think you are possessed or obsessed by fly fishing? Just come and hear a guy who lives every syllable of the words throughout the four seasons of saltwater fly fishing and then judge. Norm Bartlett has fished over 60 years but by age 25, he was obsessed by fly fishing. He holds many fishing records—even one on a bamboo rod he made. Norm is a member of many organizations and has contributed much to them. His respect and love of fisheries led him to sue the EPA and the State of Maryland for their failure to enforce the Clean Water Act. In 1991, after six years of retirement and almost constant fishing, Norm obtained his Maryland guide's license.

Norm has fished from the Susquehanna Flats to coastal North Carolina and Florida. He not only builds rods and ties flies but he has invented fishing related objects like the Fly Casting Trainer and others.

Norm has written articles for Sports Afield Annual, Fly Fishing Magazine and Mid-Atlantic Sportsman. You should not pass up the opportunity to hear this prolific fisher and gain some insight as to why and how he fishes. Captain Norm Bartlett is truly a man of the salt and fly fishing. Come share in some of his fishing expertise and expand and embolden your fly fishing pursuits. For anyone who

Four Seasons of Saltwater Fly Fishing

Wednesday, April 16

7:00 PM

fishes saltwater or contemplates fly fishing saltwater, this is a program for you! – *Nick Weber*

Slate of Officers for May Election

The Nominating Committee's role is to assure that there is a nominee for every position for the Chapter's Annual Election in May.

Additional nominations can be made from the floor the night of the election. The proposed slate of officers for the coming year is as follows: (continued – See May Slate, page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Column - Page 2

April Outings: Deer Creek Shad; Western MD Trout - Page 3

Keystone Water Conference; Tackle and Tactics - Page 4

Monthly Chapter 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, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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2007-2008 Officers and Directors

President:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
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Secretary:	Tim Pembroke	301-649-4185
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	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
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	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787
	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
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	Jack Benoit	202-244-1040
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NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Paint Branch:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Bob Dietz

This & That

Spring has sprung, more or less. By the time you read this, forsythia or even violets may be in bloom. What's this got to do with trout? There's a pretty good correlation between what's in bloom and what hatches you can expect to see on the water. That's the thesis behind a little book you may have seen called *Trout Flies & Flowers*, by Ivan Mahoney. I picked up a copy just after it was published about 10 years ago and must say it has been more reliable than just saying, for example, that Hendricksons come off the Gunpowder around April 12. They come off about the time that violets are in bloom, and if the flowers have been late or early, so have the hatches. The beauty of this scheme is that you don't need a region-by-region hatch chart, just observe the flowers. (According to the book, forsythia correlates to the Blue Quill - although I've noticed the latter last longer than the former.)

You may have noticed some back and forth on our list servers about poachers in the Middle Patuxent around Eden Brook. One theory has it that it's kids doing the poaching. In a way, I almost hope this is true - at least it means that there are some kids interested enough in fishing to do so illegally. Without kids fishing today, there isn't much hope for the future of our fisheries. We need to make sure that those interested have the opportunity - a legal one. Take a kid fishing. If you don't have a handy kid to take (or even if you do) come help out at our kid's fishing day on April 12.

Finally, one of our members asked me the other day what should happen to his fishing and tying stuff once he no longer can use it? Good question, one for which I didn't have a ready answer. I see the issue regularly addressed by publications dealing with my other recreational pursuit (radio control airplanes) but I don't remember seeing it pop up in any fishing magazine. At the very least, it might be a good idea to keep a list of what some of your stuff is worth, so that your survivors can get a fair price. Of course, you may want to keep the list in a sealed envelope to be opened only on the event of your demise, lest your spouse find out how much you have "invested" and hasten the date of that event.

Seriously, think about it now.

Bob Dietz

Shad at Deer Creek

April 14

Like the Steelhead trip, we've scheduled the Shad outing on a week day in hopes of smaller crowds. If you ever wanted to catch fish-after-fish in the 1 to 1 1/2 pound range, then this is the outing for you.

We'll catch Hickory Shad—sea run fish that come up through the bay to spawn in Deer Creek. No special license will be required. Meet us at 5:30 am at the pumping station near Stafford Road.

Directions

Take I95 North, get off at the Havre de Grace Exit. Make a right at the top of the exit, go 1/2 mile to Lapidum Road and make a left. Take Lapidum Road for about three miles. The road ends at the Lapidum boat ramp on the Susquehanna River. Make a left turn and follow the road for approximately two miles and it will run into Stafford Road Bridge. Do Not Cross The Bridge! Bear to the left on the dirt road for 1/2 miles and you will be at the pumping station.

Tackle Bring 4-5 weight rods with a sink tip line. I use the sinking tip extensions sold at area shops like bass pro on a floating line.

Flies Shad flies are gaudy. Tie combinations of marabou in pink/yellow chartreuse/white red/white red/yellow or solid colors on a #8 nymph hook. I also use Clouser minnows and streamers in Chartreuse, or combinations of chartreuse with white or flash.

Western MD/Yellow Creek PA

April 19 & 20

This outing concentrates on the streams and rivers of Western Maryland and Yellow Creek in Southern Pennsylvania. We will meet at 7 am in the parking lot next to the old stone bridge that crosses the Casselman River just off Route 40 near Grantsville. Saturday night, most of us will be staying at the Casselman Inn at Grantsville MD, which is approximately a mile from the Casselman River. Everyone participating is of course free to fish and stay wherever they like.

Weather in the mountains can be very volatile, especially at this time of year, and its effect on particular creeks and rivers could dictate where we fish. Bring rain gear and clothing for different temperature ranges. A wading staff is a must for some of this water. I'm a clumsy wader and usually fall in at least once, sometime twice, so I take two extra sets of dry clothing, always keeping one in the Truck

The past couple of Memorial Day Weekend outings we have met at the truck stop on route 40 at Accident, MD. We can meet there Satur-

day evening or choose another location.

Flies

According to the Gelso & Colburn *Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing: The Catch- and-Release Streams*, flies that may be present on the Casselman are the Quill Gordon #12-14; Hendricksons #10-12 and the male Red Quill #14. Blue Winged Olives peak in April in sizes #16-20 and emerge on cloudy days. April Grays make their appearance on the Savage in good numbers. Look for Blue Quills #16-20, Quill Gordon #12-14 and Hendericksons in #10-12, including the Red Quill (male) #14.

The Casselman is famed for its great numbers of stocked fish—some very large. Dredging the deeper runs and holes with Woolyboogers, Prince Nymphs and soft hackles has produced fish for me in years past.

Yellow Creek in PA is sort of on the way back home depending on how you define sort of. We had a great outing on Yellow Creek last year at this time in April. Caddis, Craneflies and Mayflies, were present. We can discuss Sunday's destination at Saturday dinner.

Casselman Inn info

Saturday night rates: 1 double bed \$50.95 plus tax, 2 double bed 59.95 plus tax. Tele. 301-895-5055 *Dennis Covert* □

May Slate (Continued from page 1)

President: Bob Dietz

Vice-President: Larry Vawter

Secretary: Joanne Kla

Treasurer: Carl Smolka

Director: Mark Silverman

Director: To be determined

Four additional directors carry over for the remainder of their staggered three-year terms. The Committee wishes to express their appreciation to all the candidates who have graciously agreed to serve the chapter in these various roles, and encourages the members to remember to thank them as well.

Contributions in the form of clip art, articles, conservation activities, trip reports, letters, fishing and conservation news, tying tips, book reviews, and essays about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain text in the email body or in a Microsoft Word attachment. Authors should also include their phone number and a brief descriptions of the attachments. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

EDITOR: Shawn Jensen

Phone: 202-577-3362

Email: Shawn@shawnjensenlawoffice.com

2008 Keystone Water Conference

The 2008 Keystone Water Conference was held at Penn State on Saturday, 23 February with an optional session on Friday for headwater taxonomy and field identification that accommodated 100 participants who braved the inclement weather and nasty driving conditions. Bob Dietz, Jim Keil, Joanne Kla and I represented the chapter and participated.

The theme of this year's session was the protection and management of our headwater ecosystems and highlighted the emerging research and successful partnerships that keep our headwater streams healthy. The audience included a diverse group with participation from TU chapters, watershed associations, conservation districts, as well as private and public sector environmental professionals. Ken Undercoffer, President, PA Council of TU welcomed keynote speakers Larry Schweiger of the National Wildlife Foundation and Bernard Sweeney of Stroud Water Research who each presented info on the perils facing our headwater streams, the imperative to protect these ecosystems, and what is being done to ensure their long-term health.

Eight breakout sessions completed the morning and afternoon, with topics related to research on headwater ecosystems, management tools and techniques for improving your watershed, and methods to best protect these precious ecosystems. There were 275 registered attendees for the conference which is held every two years. If you want to participate in the next session, please make your interest known. — *Carl Smolka*

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS AND BEYOND

One on one stream side fly fishing instruction is available to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hipsters, a rod and reel, and leader. Discussions will include equipment, knots, casting, flies, dry fly and nymphing techniques, entomology, reading water, conservation, etc. at nearby streams. Members who have not made an Annual Supporting Contribution will be asked to contribute \$15. Contact Ken Bowyer at 301-627-7154 or send e-mail to kenbowyer@verizon.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CASTING CALL

Volunteers are needed to assist youth in teaching them about fish and fishing on AFFTA Family and Youth Day, Sunday, April 27, along the C & O Canal at Flether's Cove. Simms has donated great shirts for the volunteers as an added incentive. To volunteer go to: www.nationalcastingcall.com/volunteer or call Dave Rogers, TU Director of Volunteer Operations at 703-284-9414. This is a chance to have an impact on the anglers of tomorrow.

Tackle and Tactic Tips

Reading the water of a stream or river is a very important skill. A fisher needs to know where the fish are or are not, as well as know where he can wade without endangering himself. A stream is a conveyor belt for moving food past the trout. Given time, it also conveys sediment downstream to eventually end in the ocean. Since the fish are in the same section of a stream 24/7, they quickly learn where the best and worst places under different flows to wait out floods or find food, as well as avoid predators.

Bubbles are the markers most useful to fishers. They mark where the other items on the surface are floating, particularly potential food. Clear area devoid of bubbles is usually upwelling water from the bottom and the surface very rarely has any drifting insects. A long line of bubbles likely indicates a feeding lane. One cannot always see a small ant or other tiny insect struggling in the surface film, but, if there are any insects present, they rather quickly get entrained into one of the lines of bubbles moving down the stream. A cast into a line of bubbles with any fly is more likely to elicit a hit than one where bubbles are non-existent. This includes nymphs, as well as dries.

I look for funnels where the material on the surface is squeezed into a smaller area as it flows past rocks or other obstructions in the stream. Imagine a 15" wide patch of evenly flowing water encountering a large rock and having to then slide around to one side of that rock. As it passes the rock, all the material in that original 15"-wide patch is funneled into a much narrower patch of only a few inches or so. The funneling or concentration effect is perhaps 5:1 (15" into 3"). If there are only 2-3 insects in a space 15" across, they are now concentrated into a narrow feeding lane of perhaps 3". I usually find trout waiting in a spot that has less than a 2:1 concentrating effect. Bigger fish are much more likely in especially good funnels—often where the ratio is 5 or 10:1, or even higher; especially if the funnels end near some good cover.

It is a simple rule that the faster the water is moving the more it can carry. Still water moves nothing. Water falls can gouge out deep holes. Water moving in a straight line has less effect than water changing direction. Riffles form between bends of a stream as the water has become a more uniform flow. In bends, the stream is trying to continue to move in its original direction until it is forced to go left or right— or up or down in some cases. (continued ►)

Tips continued from page 4

The outside of a bend gets all of the maximum cutting forces to deepen the stream bed, while the inside to the bend is moving much slower. The former is moving large quantities of material (sand to boulders), while the latter is actually depositing those materials as it slows in speed. The same effect is happening around or under logs, rocks and similar larger material in the middle of a stream. Where the water has to speed up to move around a rock, there is going to be deeper water, on average than a short distance to either side of the rock that is not subject to that increased current. Behind the rock will be shallow water, while in front it is likely to be much deeper.

I have watched a number of folks over the decades helping us float stock trout. Some seem to not recognize where the water is being forced to cut a deeper section and will walk right up to a submerged log and attempt to step over it. Others will walk straight up to a large tree where most of the stream is butting directly into it and wonder why the water suddenly becomes very deep in front of the roots. Again, any place that the water is forced to change direction (against a rock, log or cut bank, etc.), the water will suddenly become deeper as a result of the increased velocity of the flows. Floods, obviously, create even higher velocities and can effectively remove materials where the water is really moving at an increased speed. Learn to recognize where those deeper spots are going to be, along with where the food is going to be drifting with the bubbles. These spots are more likely to hold trout and may also save you from a nasty and unexpected swim.

-Jay Sheppard



Mayfly Key Available

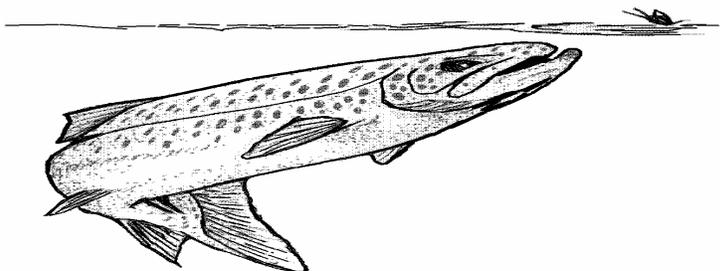
A laminated card that will help a fisher identify the mayflies encountered on a stream is available at all Chapter meetings for just \$3 (2 for \$5). The card can be easily carried in a vest and will help not only in fly selection but reporting hatches encountered on our eastern trout waters.

Anyone who cannot make it to a meeting can email a request for copies to jmsheppar@aol.com and arrangements will be made to get a copy to you ASAP. All profits from the sale of these cards go to conservation and educational activities of PPTU, such as Trout in the Classroom.

Online Delivery of *The Conservationist*

Members who have made an ASC for the current year or just joined Trout Unlimited and are assigned to PPTU, have the option to access the complete current issue of *The Conservationist* online. This saves PPTU the printing and mailing costs and allows members to access the issue before it is mailed. Send your access request to pptu-owner@yahoogroups.com and indicate the email address you wish to use for this purpose and whether you want to continue or suspend mail delivery of the paper copy. A special listserver is used to send an announcement with the link for each new issue. Those who request online access will be sent an email alerting them to be on the lookout for an invitation to join this special listserver. This will be followed by an email from pptu@yahoogroups.com containing the official invitation. You must reply to this second email to accept the invitation and be placed on this list. No reply is interpreted as a declined invitation. Spam filters may intercept either or both of these messages. Please check your Junk Mail or Spam folders if your invitation doesn't arrive normally. Failure to accept the invitation for any reason means you won't be included when the announcements go out, and you will not have access to the new edition. As always, any problems you encounter can be reported to pptu-owner@yahoogroups.com and we'll do our best to help. But please help us by being diligent in responding to the invitation. We hope you find this new distribution channel useful and effective. Complete past editions as well as the first page of the current edition are available at our www.pptu.org website.

As you may have noticed, the cost of Maryland fishing licenses went up this year. This was partly at the urging of the Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation, comprised of fisherman and hunters, who gotten agreement from the governor that the fee increases would go directly to the Department of Natural Resources, and not into the state's general funds. Additionally, a matching amount of funding would also go to DNR from the general funds. This was to rebuild the department after being largely gutted by the previous administration. Politics being what they are, the funds were almost taken back by the Legislature; the budget committee's analysts had recommended doing so. I received the following this week: "The House Budget and Taxation Subcommittee, chaired by Tawana Gaines, has ... rejected the Budget analysts recommendation, and the \$750,000 General fund match for our increased license fees is staying in." This is good news, indeed.



NOTICE TO PPTU MEMBERS

Remember to return your videos and books on time. Many fellow members would like the opportunity to rent the books, tapes and DVDs that you rented.. Late fees will be applied if they are not returned by the next chapter meeting.



Renewals for TU Members

Existing members should be renewing their membership to TU by any of the following methods:

- Membership Renewal Statement that is mailed to them,
- Call Customer Service at 1-800-834-2419 to renew by phone
- Online at www.tu.org.

For online renewals, click on the **Join/Renew** tab at top, then click on the "Renew Membership" link on the left. You will need to know your login name and password.

Tying Bench & Angler's Corner

Tying Bench

Sebastian O'Kelly will be tying a Gartside Gargler, so named by its creator, saltwater fly innovator and erstwhile Boston cabbie Jack Gartside. When stripped sharply, it is a deadly top water imitator of a wounded baitfish skittering across the surface. Simple to tie, it is a must for chasing bluefish and stripers in the salt but has its fans in the sweet - - smaller versions face frequent ambushes from largemouth/smallmouth bass and pickerel, among others."

Angler's Corner

The active fly fishing season is upon us and gives you the opportunity to join the fun of our spring outings as a way to interact with fellow fishers and learn new water as well as new attempts to improve your experience on previously fished waters. Come chat with Dennis Covert, our Outings Chair, to sign up for a coming outing or gain some insight on one or more of the many streams he fishes. Outings suggestions are always welcome.



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