



January 2010

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

Annual Fly Tying Demonstration January 20, 2010

Enjoy the beginning of 2010 with a glimpse of how to tie flies and maybe even pick up a new hobby.

At 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will present our annual fly tying demonstration.

Join us at this chapter meeting to see our most talented local tyers show off their skills and favorite patterns. Come learn how to make it easier to succeed at this intriguing sport of fly fishing.

The following will be demonstrating their tying skills:

Paul & Peter Vicenzi - Fly Tying for Kids

Bob Dietz - Woods Special

Ken Bowyer - Black Stonefly for Steelhead

Carl Smolka - Patriot Dry Fly

George Vincent - Renegade

Dennis Covert - Flash Back Hare's Ear

Harry Steiner - Crystal Bugger

Walt Sheppard - EP baitfish

Project Healing Waters tying table - Some visiting wounded warriors from Ft. Meade will be tying

Come to this meeting, and share with us one of the season's most popular presentations. Hope to see you all there. – *by Jim Greco*

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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 is published monthly, except December, June, July, and August, by the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The content reflects the opinions and views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the opinions, views and policies of Trout Unlimited, the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter or their respective officers and directors. Copyright © 2008 Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

2008-2009 Officers and Directors

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Past-President:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
Vice-President:	Carter Wildermuth	301-353-1022
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Directors:	Grant Faller	301-864-4248
	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150
	Will Amland	240-375-7617
	George Vincent	301-249-6399
	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
	Mark Silverman	202-429-6450

Committee Chairs

Speakers Program:	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Listserves Moderator:	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
Publicity:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Membership Secretary:	vacant	
<i>Conservationist</i> Editor:	Joanne Kla	301-854-5053
Fundraising:	Bruce Eberle	301-854-3142
Raffles:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
Refreshments:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Water Quality:	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
Mentor Program:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
	Tim Pawlowitz	410-203-0369
Librarian:	Fred Przyborowski	202-251-8226
Outings	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
Conservation Advocacy:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Webmaster:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
	Jack Benoit	202-244-1040
Youth Program:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Trout in the Classroom:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Mid. Patuxent:	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Paint Branch:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dave Dunmire	410-765-5411
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Council Delegates:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
Exec. Com. Member	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Exec. Com. Member	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
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	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787

President's Column

Why did I join PPCTU?

When I was elected President last May, I immediately started to wonder how we are going to enlist our membership to become more active in our mission for cold water conservation and other programs. I believe I have asked folks at every Chapter Meeting to step up and take a more active roll. This time I am doing it in writing.

In September a few board members and I started working on our "Chapter Effectiveness Plan". This is a sort of a business plan or road map on where we as a TU Chapter want to go in support of our mission. We have to submit this plan to the Mid Atlantic Council (MAC) of Trout Unlimited which is made up of seven TU chapters in our area. In our plan we have a variety of programs that need people to lead and carry them out. Many involve youth programs such as Trout in the Classroom, as well as interaction with 4-H, the Girl and Boy Scouts, the TU Camp, and possibly working with County Parks and Recreation Departments in sponsoring fishing and fly tying classes. If you like to fish, we will be looking for people to help mentor students from the John Hopkins University or our service friends at Project Healing Waters at Ft Meade. Another project involving a family picnic with our extended PPCTU family is also in the works.

The chapter plan is also focusing on several conservation projects on a nearby developing fishery. I have noticed that many of the Chapter activities often seem to be done by the same people. In order to accomplish our plan, we will need additional help. We need our membership to step up, pitch in, and become PPCTU members who will join us in our endeavors. We will publish a draft of our plan shortly on our web site. When reading it, ask yourself this question - "Why did I join PPCTU?" I hope that you will join us in the continued development of our Chapter. Thank you.

Larry Vawter

New Years Resolution – Get Involved

One of our local chapter's annual responsibilities is to provide a detailed financial report to TU National. An important segment of that report is a breakout of all of the hours that members of the chapter volunteer during the year. The chair of the committee or person responsible for each event is asked to compile all of the hours donated by those who worked with the chair on the event. We report our hours in five specific categories: Conservation, Fundraising, General Education, General Operations, and Youth Education / Outreach. In our chapter, 3366 hours were reported for our 2009 fiscal year – an increase of nearly 500 hours over 2008.

What kinds of activities are included in these hours?

In the Conservation category, activities include stocking of fish in many of our local streams, posting of DNR signs near the streams, cleaning up the waterways including working with the Isaac Walton League, participating in several water quality activities, attending meetings on protection of watersheds, restoring habitats in various streams measuring of macroinvertebrates activities like that done by Stream Waders, and assisting with the electro-shocking surveys done with the DNR

Our Fundraising activities include the finding and acquiring of merchandise for our monthly and annual raffles, begging merchants to donate products and services on our behalf, acquiring and selling refreshments, renting videos, acquiring and selling apparel, and running our flea markets.

The General education area includes hours dedicated to sharing experience with others on tying fishing flies, making fishing rods, mentoring of new fishers on the local waters, organizing our fishing outings, working on the monthly and annual fly tying demonstrations at chapter meetings, and assisting with Project Healing Waters.

Our Youth Education/Outreach category includes volunteer hours for our flagship Trout in the Classroom program, organizing Kid's fishing day, working with the Scouts on conservation, continuing our Youth fishing camp tuition program, and mentoring the Johns Hopkins students.

General Operations contains a lot of the behind the scenes work helping the chapter core functions like creating and maintain our web site, keeping our membership rosters current, contributing to Mid Atlantic council TU meetings, creating and maintaining our list server, creating, publishing and distributing *The*

Conservationist, keeping our finances in order, finding and scheduling the outside speakers for our chapter meetings and contributing to the governance at monthly board meetings.

Getting involved:

If you see something that appeals to you or where you can contribute some of your expertise, please step forward and let us know where you can help. Organizations like ours cannot survive on gravity alone– they require the talent, time and tenacity that each of us can bring to the overall good of the organization. We have the luxury of having many true experts in the field of cold water fisheries among our local chapter membership and volunteering for some of these activities will also give you the opportunity to work along side and learn from these masters. With the unfortunate passing of Dave Wittman this year, we have some very large volunteer boots to fill. We need your help!

Thanks,
Carl

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND

Ken Bowyer and Tim Pawlowitz provide one-on-one stream-side fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants 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.

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.

Tim at 410-203-0369 or e-mail tpawlowi@msn.com.

Have an idea for an article, or something you'd like to share with other chapter members? Material is welcome (and cheerfully accepted).

The deadline is the 12th of the month for the next month's issue. Please send articles, ideas, etc, preferably in MS Word or in the body of the e-mail to earthmomjo@att.net.

*Thanks,
Joanne Kla, Editor*

Tackle and Tactic Tips

In the past, I have stuck to my column's title for subject matter, but since the January meeting is about fly tying, I thought I might pass on a few tying tips gathered over the past 35 years of fly tying.

Chenille and related materials usually come wrapped around a small card. Instead of cutting off a short length to work into a few flies, feed the end through the hole on the end of the card. If the card does not have a hole, just poke one into it with your scissors. I usually have several inches extending out the hole to tie onto the fly and then hold the card like a bobbin to wrap the chenille around the body. The only scrap you will ever toss away as being too short will be at the very end of that card.

Head cement is always being knocked over on my tying bench. Even if the cap is on, this is still a small problem. So I took a small block of 1" Styrofoam maybe 3–4" on a side and removed a plug in the middle that the bottle will just fit into. Not only can I find the bottle easier in my usual clutter, it is always upright when I take the lid off. I also use the sides of the block as my 'fly morgue' where flies that have busted points, unraveled hackles, or otherwise mangled by fish are left to remind me of better days than tying flies.

The background color of the tying bench is important. It needs to be bright to reflect a large amount of light but still contrast with almost any material that falls on it. I have found a pale sky blue to be really excellent. Unless one is tying Atlantic salmon flies, pale blue is a color we rarely use in tying our flies. So white, black or almost any other color will show up against this background.

Carpet beetles are the bane of all fly tying aficionados. These little fellows can chew up valuable capes and fur if left alone for even a month or two. All fur and feathers need to be stored in air tight containers. Large zip lock bags are perfect. Cedar chests are nice and so are moth balls for keeping these beetles out, but once they find the feathers or fur, they can eat to their hearts' content.

The only substance readily available to fly fishers that will both repel and kill pests such as the little carpet beetles is paradichlorobenzene (PDB). Look in the drug stores next to the moth balls for this product with PDB as the active ingredient. A teaspoon of the PDB in a very large zip lock bag will kill any beetles or their eggs in a matter of a day or less. If you see little fuzzy bugs in the bottom of a zip lock bag, time to break out the PDB. A few bucks spent on zip lock bags and a can of PDB will save hundreds of dollars in capes and other feathers and furs: a small price for protection. Snap lids on shoe box-sized, plastic containers will not keep bugs out. If you can press air out of the container it will not prevent beetles from crawling into it.

Many of my hooks still have barbs. (OK, so I have some hooks that likely were manufactured by the Vikings a thousand years ago!) Before tying a set of a dozen flies, I mash down the barbs on all of them and lay them in front of my vice. It is much easier to mash the barbs down all at one time rather than as I put each hook into the vice. This is also the time I offset the hook if the pattern is more useful in that configuration. Nearly all of my dries are now tied on offset hooks, especially if using a small hook with a high wing.

Good tying in the coming years.

Jay Sheppard



Maryland Water Quality Council Meeting

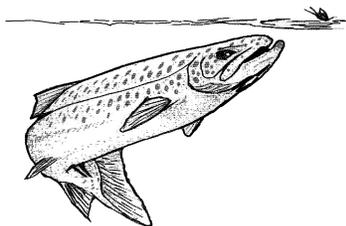
By Carl M. Smolka, Water Quality Chair

On Thursday, December 3, 2009, the Maryland Water Monitoring Council held their fifteenth annual conference with the theme, "Water Quality Success Stories: It Ain't All Doom and Gloom". As chair of the water quality program in the chapter, I attended this conference with the intent to learn what the current water quality issues in Maryland are and where we, as a chapter, might be able to make a contribution in the future.

Tom Horton, Chesapeake Bay author and Professor of Environmental Studies at Salisbury State University was the keynote speaker. Tom was formerly the Baltimore Sun Environmental Writer and Columnist. His two books, *An Island Out of Time: A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake*, and *Turning the Tide: Saving the Chesapeake Bay* highlight his strong concern about protection of this estuary and as he noted about the theme of the conference, wakes in the morning torn between saving the world or enjoying what we have. The plenary speaker, David Carroll, Director in Baltimore County of the Office of Sustainability talked about having a personal ethic of stewardship with regard to the environment where we live within our means to make it as clean as possible.

The conference had a number of presentations spanning topics from forest and water quality, monitoring strategies for management action, citizen involvement, outreach and education. Of the specific breakout sessions that I attended, Donald Outen of Baltimore County spoke about a program to get landowners with very large plots of treeless land to convert their lawns by planting trees to increase the forest cover in the watershed areas, Shannon Philbin of the Savage River Watershed Association (to whom we made a \$500 donation) spoke about their VISTA program to curtail negative environmental impacts threatening native brook trout, removing Japanese spiraea and replanting with native red spruce as well as the program to remove a dam and reconnect natural stream conditions to a 1,000 foot reach of the Savage River. Improving volunteer participation was the theme of talks by Megan Ward of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance as well as Heath Kelsey with efforts in water monitoring on the Magothy River. Bonnie Bick and Ken Hastings made emotional appeals to support their efforts to defer the current proposed ICC in Charles County that would bisect the Mattawoman River watershed and shared data with the participants showing the devastating impact of increasing impervious cover in a watershed above 10%. They also commented that the Mattawoman is the 4th most endangered stream in the nation, so if you are in need of a target for some citizen advocacy work, they would certainly appreciate the help.

On the topic of volunteer activities, there are other opportunities to get involved in activities related to water quality including Stream Waders and the Biological Stream Survey. Stay tuned for more information on these activities.



Help for Stocking Needed

Starting in mid-February PPTU helps DNR stock many of our local streams. If you have not helped in the past, this is an excellent way to learn more about a stream, as we pull the float boxes up or down the trout streams. This is a weekday activity (sorry no weekends) and chest waders are required by all participants. If you are not already on my email list, drop me a note: (jmsheppar@aol.com) or sign up at the next two monthly meetings. As soon as we learn the stocking dates, we post them to the email list to see who can help on those dates. We float stock three local streams: upper Patuxent above Triadelphia Reservoir, Patuxent below the reservoir, and the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia.

Address changes? Moved?

Please keep us up to date on your addresses. We have saved a lot of money in recent years by using email to alert members that their Annual Supporting Contribution is expiring or some other important information. We frequently have the Post Office returning undeliverable copies of the Conservationist from members who have moved without letting us know. Just drop us a post card or send an email to Jay Sheppard (jmsheppar@aol.com) with any changes.

New Membership Secretary Needed

The chapter still needs help from someone familiar with MS Access to assist us in maintaining our membership/ mailing list. If you are familiar with that software and want to help us, please contact Jay Sheppard (jmsheppar@aol.com) for more information. This database is one of the main tools of the chapter in keeping in touch with our 400–500 members. Simple data entry and some simple edit checks are about all that are required to do this invaluable work for the chapter.



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

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