



January 2011

# *The Conservationist*

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

[www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

## ***Annual Fly Tying Demonstrations***

***January 19, 2011***

Enjoy the beginning of 2011 with a glimpse of how to tie flies and maybe even pick up a new hobby. At 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD, 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 tiers 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:

Jeff Kane - crocheted body flies

Walt Sheppard – bunny bug (smallmouth)

George Vincent - October caddis emerger

Harry Steiner – shad flies

Jim Greco - little black winter stoneflies and nymphs

Bob Dietz - Greenwell's Glory and Wickham's Fancy (wet flies)

Dennis Covert – tiny blue winged Olive

Paul Vincenzi and Peter - novice and kids table?

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.

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	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150

## Presidents Column

Well the Holiday Season is behind us, and we are beginning a New Year. I really like the New Year; it's a new beginning and a fresh start. At the start of each New Year I make a list of resolutions and compare it to the list I made the year before to see if I need to do anything better. However, I seem to have lost my old list in this clutter I call an office. Now that I think of it, I am rather sure keeping my office clean was one of the resolutions I made last year.

Here is the list I made this year. Please, feel free follow my sterling example and use some of these great resolutions for yourself.

1. Go fishing at least once a month.
2. Introduce a neighbor kid to fishing.
3. Be much more involved with chapter activities.
4. Go to more chapter meetings.
5. Tie more new fly patterns for my fly box.
6. Volunteer myself more for the good of the chapter.
7. Win the mega millions lottery grand prize at least once this year.
8. Clean my office (again!)
9. Go fishing.

These are just some self improvement ideas for me and hopefully for you. However, one resolution I would really like to see our members adopt is to have all of us resolve to help the chapter reach its goals and accomplish its mission. More folks pitching in will make it an easy task. We really need you to step up and become more than just a member. We need you to become a member who volunteers. I am still looking for good people to fill some vital roles. PPCTU is searching for a Membership Chair, a Youth Program Chair, and a Publicity Chair. These positions are vital and have been vacant too long. How about it? Can you spare a few hours to help us this year? Give me a shout, and we will make you a part of the team. You won't regret it.

Your Chapter is calling on you to add that resolution to your list. Please don't let us down

*Larry Vawter*

## New Years Resolution – Get Involved

One of our local chapter's annual responsibilities is to provide a detailed annual performance 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, 4885 volunteer hours were reported for our 2009 fiscal year – an increase of more than 1500 hours over 2009. Included in that number are travel hours, which for last year represent about 35,000 miles.

### 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 the Project Healing Waters program at Fort Meade's warrior transition unit.

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, acquiring items and managing the chapter barrel raffles, keeping our finances in order, finding and scheduling the outside speakers for our chapter meetings and contributing to the governance of the chapter 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 shoulder to shoulder with and learn from true experts in this sport. We need your help!

Thanks,  
Carl Smolka

### 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 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](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net).

*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@hotmail.com](mailto:earthmomjo@hotmail.com)*

*Thanks  
Joanne Kla, Editor*

## Patuxent Report

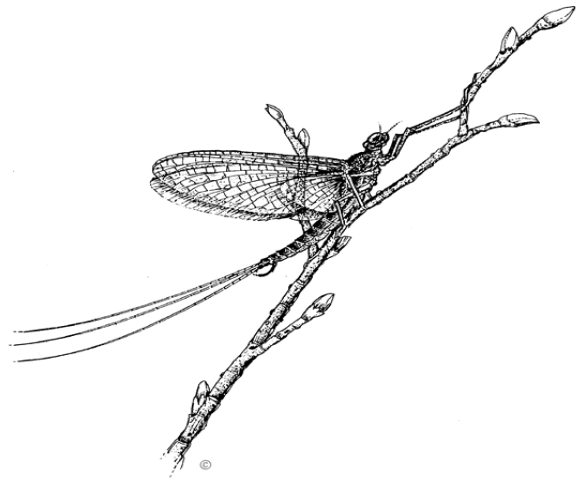
Jay Sheppard

Several PPTU members helped electro shock a few small sections of the main Patuxent below Brighton Dam in early November. They did not cover very much water but found a number of trout, mostly browns, that indicate that fishing this flies-only section could be rewarding. Nick Weber is also working with Howard Co. Parks and Recreation on the placement of a parking lot on their new property just downstream of the Bridge on Haviland Mill Road. The parking area will likely accommodate a small number of cars and is in a great spot to work up or down the river for fly fishers. We would hope to have the parking installed before the end of the winter for spring fishers to enjoy.

Also in November, the local boy scouts completed a crossing of a nearly impassable 'gulch' just upstream of the Haviland Mill bridge. Arnett Dorsey is a candidate for Eagle and led the efforts to install a crossing over this obstacle on the Howard County side of the river. He and his crew are to be commended for their efforts. A lot of future fishers will now be able to cross without damage to their waders or their pride.

If you have not expressed an interest or helped in the past to float stock the local Patuxent streams, please send me an email ([jmsheppar@aol.com](mailto:jmsheppar@aol.com)) to be placed on this list. Float stocking will start some time in the latter half of February in most years on our streams. You must have chest waders and be able to get off during the week. This is a fairly strenuous enterprise, as we walk down the middle of the streams for a mile or more trying to avoid large logs and rocks as best we can. The reward is learning where the holes in that section of the stream are really located for your return with a rod later.

Hunting in Patuxent River State Park continues until mid-February or so. If we get a warm spell in late January or in February, one can sometimes find trout sipping on midges and even an occasional black stonefly. The latter are actually quite active on all our streams from October into early April, with larger species involved in the warming days of March and early April.



### 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](mailto:jmsheppar@aol.com)) with any changes to your email or snail mail addresses.

## Tackle and Tactics Tips

Jay Sheppard

The value of a fly increases exponentially as one travels further and further away from the car and the nearest fly shop. If the fly is the last copy of THE FLY for that day, its value is further increased. Getting flies back from lost fish is usually impossible. However, flies lodged on a branch or log are often retrievable. First, two or three basic points for getting those flies back. I usually wear chest waders on almost all my fishing trips. With them I can more easily wade across streams and often reach the far bank with my rod tip will balancing along the edge of a deep pool. Although I rarely ever use my backing for fighting fish, I do use it frequently to get to my fly that is parked on a root on the far bank. With my chest waders I may work up or down the stream to where I can cross and then back up the far side to get to my fly. The backing and the chest waders likely account for an extra several dozen flies retrieved on my fishing trips each year. The last general trick is to never yank at a fly that is hung up on anything. Unless you are using 20-lb tippet and a heavy weight rod, you are just feeding flies to those places. I have recovered a dozen or more flies from some tree branches, and many with the tippets still attached. Those 'fly trees' seem particularly prevalent over the better holes.

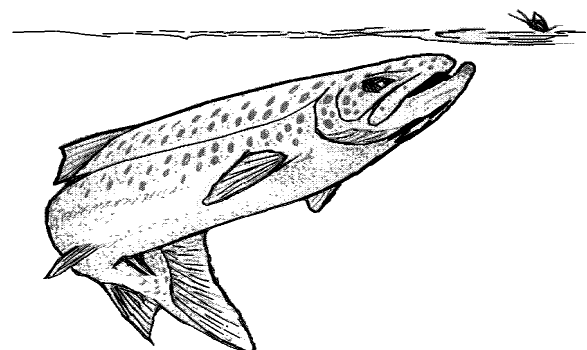
Many hangups are made on the back cast. I cannot begin to estimate how many times I have back cast into a tree or shrub that magically appeared behind me. Those things sprout like crazy—or I just have no memory for them! The trick is to get a feel for when your line is starting to encounter some obstruction during the back cast and to instantly release the line in the left hand (for those casting with the right). Sinking the hook point into or around a small branch or twig is only going to make the recovery operation just that more difficult.

The most frequent trick that I employ to recover flies is to first keep a very slight tension on the fly as I close in on its position. This is simply to ensure that the tippet and fly line do not start bouncing around and further entangling on the branches or similar object. The entire line and leader are followed with the tip of the rod right to the fly. When the tip of the rod is at the fly, one must simply

PUSH the tip over the fly and away from ones self. The hook point is facing you in most cases, and this simple action shoves the tip guide over the body of the fly and moves the hook bend away from you. I usually get back more than 95% of the flies to which I can get my rod tip. This goes for logs, branches, roots, rocks, or whatever. Having a long rod is another factor in my mind. I can reach higher or further into deep water or across small streams with the longer rod.

Naturally, if a fish of a life time is within casting range when I hook up with some inanimate object, then I am more likely to give it a big yank and tie on another fly. However, on most of our local waters we are simply going to spook only a few small trout by wading across to the bank and get our fly off that root. On many occasions where I have a good fish actively feeding within casting range, I will try to mark where my fly is lodged and wade over there after I have spooked the quarry to retrieve the fly by hand. Again, I may want to use that fly on the next pool!

In the next issue I will describe other tactics to getting a fly back. In the mean time, I hope you are able to retrieve more of your flies with the above information. Flies are important commodities when on the stream. Conserving them makes fishing just that more fun. Some who know me well claim that I get almost as much pleasure out of retrieving a fly from some branch as catching a fish! Maybe they are right!??



## **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 (jmsheppard@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.



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