



May 2005

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

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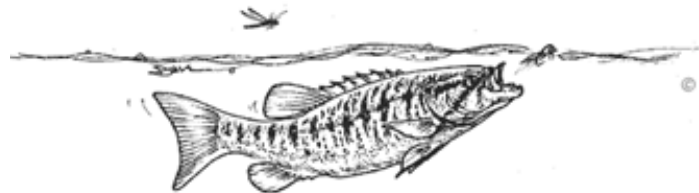
Wednesday, May 18

The Smallie River King

Some know him by his Sam Elliott-sized handlebar mustache. Some know him by his demonstration of a flawless roll cast at the winter fly fishing shows. But most know him as the King of the Potomac River smallmouth bass guides.

He is Mark Kovach and he will be coming to our next meeting to show us the when's, where's, and how's of fishing for those prized bronzebacks just a few double-hauls away from our nation's capital in our National river -- the mighty Potomac. So come learn the techniques, the best floats -- some only a short drive north of the Beltway -- the easier wading spots, and pick the brains of a man who had made a living on what many consider to be, pound-for-pound, our best fighting freshwater fish! ■

— Sebastian O'Kelly



Dave Whitlock @ www.davewhitlock.com

Tying Bench

Bill Miller, recently back in our area, will share his knowledge of a most interesting tying technique, what he calls the furred construction method for tying flies. Bill will demonstrate this at the Tying Bench during the social period of the May 18th Chapter meeting from 7:00 - 7:30 PM.

According to Bill, these flies go together pretty fast and he uses just two materials. On this night, Bill will be tying what he calls a Fake Adams.

He ties this type of fly in sizes 16 to 20 and claims they are proven trout takers.

Numerous color patterns are possible with this technique and Bill is anxious to tie a pattern for the Sulphur hatch on the Gunpowder. So be sure to come early and check out a new wrinkle for tying a grand old fly imitation. ■



— Nick Weber

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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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 Microsoft Word attachments. 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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This column will be my last as Chapter President. At our May meeting we will hold our annual Chapter elections; the nominating committee will have announced the new slate of officers at the April Fundraiser. The Chapter continues to enjoy a healthy atmosphere of fishing related activities, outings, educational and conservation programs and youth activities. As I write this column, preparations are complete for the April 30th Kids Fishing Day event at the Martin Luther King Pond. Judging from last years' event there should be many families and kids taking advantage of the fishing experience.

I have been affiliated with the Chapter since the early 1980's and, while there were periods during which work and other personal priorities prevailed, I always felt the need to be associated with a conservation activity. It has been my belief that we all have a responsibility to help sustain our favorite sporting activities and as each new generation comes along there is a need for educating and exposing all newcomers to these activities in such a way that they too will enjoy them and share the responsibility to help carry on.

A number of years ago I decided to take my turn in a leadership role and accepted two terms as Chapter Vice President, knowing full well that that could lead to bigger and better things! Sure enough I later accepted the nomination for Chapter President. You all did your thing and now, some two terms later, my time is ending.

I'm personally satisfied and happy for having served the Chapter in some small way and can honestly say it has been very gratifying being associated with our members and other elected and appointed officers all of whom are very talented persons and highly successful in their own right. Each has exhibited the same commitment to doing the right thing to support the Chapter in its endeavors and to helping members learn and enjoy the sport.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Chapter and I especially want to thank all the members of the Board, Committee and Program Chairpersons for their excellent support to me and the Chapter. ■

-Lou Boezi



Tackle and Tactic Tips

If we practice catch and release on most of the trout we catch, then we must handle and release them so that they do not succumb from their encounter with us. The goal is to have the trout survive to be caught again and again.

There are many factors affecting the chances a caught trout will survive to be caught again. I do not want to discuss all of them, but they include such circumstances as water temperature, location of hook, tippet strength, length of the fight, and handling to disengage the hook. I want to focus on the last two factors at this time, as they are fully under our control. We must strive to keep the fight time as short as possible.

Water temperatures well past the middle 60s can create a bigger physiological problem for the trout, so quickly getting the fish released increases directly with the temperature. In fact, if the water is well into the low 70s, we ought to even consider whether we fish at all. If a large fish takes our fly on a hot afternoon with the water above about 72°, then we must get it released in very quick order. This means stronger tippets than we would like to normally use. When the water is really cold, we have fewer physiological concerns for the trout.

If you have to hold the trout to reach into its mouth for the fly with your hemostat, then turn the trout on its back. In this position, it is more likely to relax, and there is less stress on its internal organs. Obviously, if you can avoid handling the fish at all, that is best. How long you can keep the fish out of water is inverse to the water temperature. Cold water allows a minute or more with no real problem. Water over about 67° means only a few seconds out of the water, if at all. If you want pictures, have a friend ready with the camera and quickly raise the fish out of the water, snap the shot, and get the trout right back in less than 5 or 10 seconds.

Think how you would feel if you ran a 100 yards and then had someone immediately dunk your head under water? Treat the trout well and they will be there when any of us return. ■

— Jay Sheppard

Fly Patterns

This is a list of recipes for six wet fly patterns that Chapter member Tim Pembroke sent out to the list serve in February. Tim is one of several wet fly aficionados on the Chapter and he says that these flies are very easy to tie and they are really effective. All are tied on Mustad 3906B.

Black Gnat

Hook: #14-16

Thread: black 6/0 or 8/0 depending on the size

Body: black rabbit dubbing

Wing: crow or other black feather, coated w/fleximent.

Collar: black woodcock feather or other feather colored black with a Sharpie

Woodcock and Orange

Hook: #12-16

Thread: orange silk for the body and head

Collar: woodcock or partridge (both work)

Partridge and Copper

Hook: #10-14

Thread: orange

Body: copper wire

Thorax: dark Hairs Ear dubbing

Collar: partridge a brown chicken feather can be substituted

Starling & Herl

Hook: #14-18

Thread: black

Body: peacock herl

Collar: iridescent starling feather

Note: I also add a silver rib for a variation

Pheasant tail wet

Hook: #12-16

Thread: black

Tail: pheasant tail barbs

Body: pheasant tail fibers wound around hook

Rib: copper

Thorax: dark hairs ear dubbing

Collar: brown partridge or hen hackle

Continued on page 4

Wet Flies

(Continued from Page 3)

Hares Ear wet:

Hook: #12-18

Thread: match the body

Tail: partridge or hen barbs

Body: hairs ear dubbing

Rib: gold tinsel

Thorax: hairs ear dubbing

Collar: partridge or hen hackle

Note: you can vary the color of the fly to match the predominant mayfly nymph. I like to tie these in a light brown, dark brown and grey. ■

—Tim Pembroke

MEMBER ASSESSMENT NOW PAYABLE

The annual assessment (see back) is now payable, if you wish. Check your label--if the "PP-" date is "0905" (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-0906." We do not mail notices in September. Make checks payable to "**POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER-TU**" and mail to our chapter mail box. 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, etc. Final issue for those having "PP-0905" will be this next November. **Please also advise us of any address changes or errors in our labels.**

FINAL ISSUE UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Members are reminded that there are no newsletters during the summer months. The September *Conservationist* should be mailed just after Labor Day for the September 21 meeting.

Fish Without A License — Legally

Have you ever wanted to sample the fishing in a nearby state, or had a non-angling friend interested in seeing what this fishing stuff was all about, but didn't do anything about it because of the hassle and expense of getting a license? Well here's the deal for you. Most states in our area offer a few free fishing days in the early summer. The table below provides dates for some of the more popular.

If you want others, you can find them online at: www.takemefishing.org/default.aspx?id=242.

Except for Virginia, you can fish without need for a license anywhere you could normally fish with a license. Virginia doesn't allow you to fish without a license on designated stocked trout water.

- **Maryland June 4, 11 and July 4**
- **Pennsylvania May 28, June 5**
- **Virginia June 3 thru 5**
- **West Virginia June 11 and 12**
- **District of Columbia June 6 thru 12**
- **New York June 25 and 26**

So make plans now to visit one of those places over the line in a nearby state that you've heard so much about, or make plans to take a friend out here in Maryland and introduce him/her to the joy of our sport. ■

— Robert Simpson

May Elections

We had to go to press with this May issue a little earlier than planned. Therefore, the chapter nominating committee for the May elections was still trying to persuade several of our fine members to join the Board.

The committee expects to have the proposed slate announced at the April 20 meeting, with the actual vote at the May 18 meeting. We hope to post the proposed slate on the chapter web site well before this issue is mailed to our membership in early May. ■

Streamline

The producers of the television show *Seinfeld* promoted it as a “show about nothing,” yet it was one of the most popular series of all time. With that in mind, I would like inaugurate this space as the column about nothing. But let’s forget about the popularity part. After all expectations shouldn’t be too high seeing that this column is born out of the need to fill some empty space for this month’s newsletter and I am way passed deadline as I write.

In choosing a name for this column, I thought about many possibilities: Home Waters (already taken) The Backcast (sounds too loud), Whip Finish (too violent), Pipe and Tweed (too sophisticated). I needed something short and sweet — Streamline. There, that’s it. Done. That’s my whole thought process for coming up with the title for this column. I hope to use it for as long as I can before someone sues me for stealing it from another publication. Seems that between names of fly shops and names of fly fishing columns, all the better name are already taken. I wonder if there is a national registry for this sort of thing?

In creating this column, I hope never to use it for airing my long-winded opinions, but something more *streamlined*. I’d like it to be of interest to the chapter and the best way that I can think to do that is to report on the latest exploits of our very own members. So if someone stops you in the middle of your casting stroke on the Gunpowder this summer, don’t get too bent out of shape. Figure that it is me, your trusty newsletter editor doing his best to get the scoop on the goings on around the chapter.

When I was on the cocktail party circuit, I always liked to ask people what they were reading. I found it a great way to start conversation and learn something about the person.

So for the kick-off column, I would like to introduce the annual Summer Beach Reading List, as told to me by selected chapter members. These are titles that members are currently reading or plan to read over the course of the summer and they offer some insight as to why they chose them.

Bob Serrano is reading Trout Hunter, by Rene Harrop which has a forward by Andre Puyans. One of the reasons that Bob is drawn to the book is that Puyans is the guy who invented the AP series of nymphs, loop wing flies, hair stacker and neoprene waders. (AP stands for Andre Puyans, I had to look it up). Puyans is the one who taught Bob how to tie flies as he says, “many years ago.” Trout Hunter takes a different look at insects and recommends recipes that imitate stages in the life cycle that aren’t normally imitated by tiers.

In between all his trips out to Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, **Joe Kunsman** is reading Ian McEwen’s, Amsterdam. His fishing related books include Dave Hughes, Handbook of Hatches and Rich Osthoff’s, No Hatch to Match: Aggressive Strategies for Fly-Fishing Between Hatches.

George Vincent has finally gotten around to reading one of his Christmas gifts, Charlie Meck’s, Hatches Made Simple and Meck’s, Patterns, Hatches, Tactics and Trout.

Bob Dietz also has a good list of books. He is reading Ed Engle’s, Fishing Small Flies, a companion book to Engle’s, Tying Small Flies. Bob has just finished reading, Rod Rage: The Ultimate Guide to Angling Ethics, by Rhea Topping. He also hopes to check out John Gierach’s Still Life with Brook Trout, due out this spring.

Jim Kiel has an ambitious reading list. I will give you just a sampling. In fact, he is the only one in a five hundred mile radius currently reading any one of the following: Goethe’s, Faust Part I; Anonymous, Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror; Richard Wolin’s, The Seduction of Unreason: The Intellectual Romance with Fascism from Nietzsche to Postmodernism, and Emily Dickinson, The Collected Poems. Yada, Yada, Yada. To his credit, though, Jim just finish Rich Tosches’, Zippering My Fly and plans on getting Gierach’s new book. But the title that Jim says he would like to check out next, if he had the time: Buxom, Bobber-Abusing Babes. I bet they have desk calendar version, too. ■

—Matt Baum
Editor



ADDRESS CHANGED?

If you move, please take a moment and advise us with a post card as to your new address. Likewise, we would like to know of any changes to your email service. Last January we had to cancel the monthly meeting on very short notice due to the snow storm that day. We would like to use email to help alert our membership of such events. Email saves the chapter on postage and paper costs for other informational mailings, too. We can assure you that we will not be selling our modest list to any spam artists! Our membership database is totally separate from the National TU list; any address changes sent to the latter office may take a couple of months to be reflected in your mailing label for the Conservationist.

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-0905 or NTU-0905.

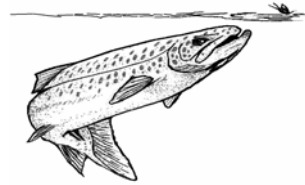


Return Address:
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU
P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD 20915

Memorial Day Outing

A reminder that beginning with the Memorial Day Weekend Outing (May 27th through May 30th), Dennis Covert will take over as the new outings' leader. As in prior years, this outing will be to western Maryland where participants will stay at Casselman Hotel & Motor Inn in Grantsville, Maryland.

Participants will be provided with an opportunity to fish the Youghiogheny, Savage, the North Branch of the Potomac and the Casselman River. If you are interested in this outing, and for details about the rates, please contact Dennis Covert at denniscovert@hotmail.com or 410-740-8337. ■



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