



November 2006

# *The Conservationist*

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

## Expert Panel to Discuss Fly-Fishing for Trout

**Back by popular demand, our November meeting will feature a panel of experts, with 150 or so years of fishing experience between them. It will give you a chance to ask them any questions you might have about catching more trout. Want to know what size leader you really need on Beaver Creek? What's the best rod length, weight or size? Does color matter in fly selection? Will I catch more fish if I clear the ice off the stream first in February? If my vest weighs 40 pounds, am I carrying too much stuff? November will be the chance to find out.**

Mark November 15 on your calendar and join us at our regular time -- 7:00 PM -- and regular meeting location -- Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center in Silver Spring, MD for an evening that is sure to be amusing and enlightening. And don't forget, the Big Raffle for your chance to win a fishing trip to Western Maryland and other great prizes (see Page 5 for details).

## Fly Fishing Panel Fundraising Raffle Flea Market

Monthly PPTU Meeting  
Wednesday, November 15, 2006  
7:00 PM

*(For location and directions see box at bottom of page)*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Nick Weber*

**This month brings us a few important items to share with you. Along with the approaching holidays, you will undoubtedly be making your list of must haves for the next fly fishing season. That list could have one or more big ticket items deleted, if your name is drawn for one of our prizes at our Fall Fundraiser at our November Meeting. These prizes are extremely "useful" as I explained to my spouse. Just think how much I can save on a great Western Maryland fishing trip.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!



- **The BIG Raffle — Great Prizes, Great Fun!**
- **The 1st Annual PPTU Flea Market — Sell your stuff & help PPTU**
- **The November Outing to Beaver Creek!**

## 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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<b>Patuxent:</b>	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

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 - CONT'D

By Nick Weber

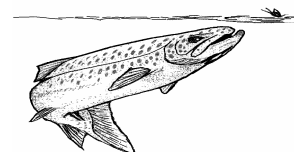
And who would not consider a Winston Classic 5 wt rod a nice addition to their closet along with an equally legendary Hardy Fly Reel. Finally, a pair of the top of the line Orvis Tailwater Waders would be a great backup or go to addition for that next trip. I have to be careful not to over spend on raffle tickets. However, the whole idea is to support the education and conservation efforts of the chapter. What is not to like about that idea?

Speaking of education, our board voted at its October meeting to support the Baltimore District Boy Scout Summer Camp for 2007 with the purchase of fly tying kits and loaner fly rods. These items will help attending scouts earn the fly fishing merit badge. Our Chapter also provides funds for high school students to attend the TU fishing and conservation camp.

In addition, a group of college students is interested in helping with our spring stream clean up, and also want to learn about fly fishing. We will look to chapter members to help with this activity next spring. If you have any ideas for outreach, education or conservation projects, please contact me or another board member, and we will give it a good look to see how it might be accomplished.

Finally, another member from our Chapter and I attended an initial meeting of the Gunpowder Watershed Group which was established by the Maryland Brook Trout Alliance. There is excitement about the prospects of going forward with two or three projects in the coming year to achieve our goal to protect and restore brook trout in the watershed.

We were also pleased to learn that there may be sufficient information available to write some grant proposals in the coming year to support those projects. Hopefully, it won't be long until I have a request for help in getting started with some on the ground efforts for our native trout nearby. See you at the meeting. ■



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# Tackle and Tactic Tips

BY JAY SHEPPARD

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**W**e have recently updated the "Stream Conditions" page at our PPTU website. Please check it out for current flow information, as well as the links to topographic maps of some 15 popular trout streams (and several segments of some) in Maryland. Once to a map, you can make other adjustments as you wish as to scale, centering, etc., before printing for your next trip.

Flows are important to both the fisher and to the trout. The former has to wade in faster water at higher flows, and the latter have to swim more to stay in place or seek shelter. Flows are measured in cubic feet per second or cfs. Think of a stream channel that is 33 feet across and 3 feet deep. One hundred cubic feet would be a one-foot cross section of the stream. The water on the surface is hypothetically (see below) moving at about 1 foot per second in a flow of 100 cfs. Widen the stream by a factor of 3 to 100 feet, and it will take 3 seconds for a fly to drift along the surface. Narrow this same stream flowing at the same rate to 11 feet and a fly will drift about 3 feet in 1 second— whoosh! This assumes that all water is moving at the same velocity, but in actuality the water may be barely moving along a rock-lined bottom.

The effect of moving water on a fisher becomes obvious to all of us as soon as we get into a stream. Faster flows can become an obstacle to our moving to where we wish to wade. The deeper we wade then both the force of the water against us and how much we weigh factor into when we will get knocked off our feet and go for a swim. To reduce this effect, wade across faster water with only one side facing upstream. We are all wider in cross section when facing into or against the current. The smaller the cross-section exposed to the force of the stream, the easier it is to wade. The biggest problem is when one gets out in the middle and discovers he has to turn around! Then is when a wading staff will more often keep you dry as you turn around.

Here are some flows and notes for some trout streams (those without mention have no gaging station to give current flows). The low number is when fishing becomes a stress to the fish (especially in midsummer), the second number is when wading becomes difficult for the average fisher, and the third is for experienced fishers. In a few cases flows for fishers in rafts or boats are offered. All are subjective; others may prefer higher or lower flows.

- **Upper Patuxent River Special Area**  
15–100 cfs, 140 w/experience.
- **Patuxent River below Brighton Dam (Flies Only)**  
25–120 cfs, 160.
- **Little/Middle Patuxent River**  
35–250 cfs, 350.
- **Gunpowder River (Flies Only)**  
30–200 cfs, 300.
- **Gunpowder River (Below Bluemont)**  
50–300 cfs, 375.
- **Savage River below dam**  
40–125 cfs, 180.
- **North Branch Potomac — Barnum area**  
80–30 cfs, 400; float 275–500.
- **North Branch Potomac—Westernport–Pinto**  
100–375 cfs, 450; float 300–650.
- **Casselman River**  
Gage height 1.0–2.8', 3.5'.
- **Youghiogheny River Special Area**  
80–200 cfs, 300.

## Happy Holidays!

The November 2006 issue of *The Conservationist* is the last issue until January. There are also no monthly meeting in December.

## The BIG Raffle

**A**t our *November Meeting* along with our program panel of fly fishers, we will have a raffle of extraordinary prizes to benefit our conservation and education programs. This is our major fundraiser for the year and we urge everyone to take part for a good cause as well as have an opportunity to win great prizes.

**The Grand Prize** — is a destination fly fishing package for two to the Savage and North Branch of the Potomac Rivers. It includes a two night stay at the Savage River Outfitters cabin located right on the lower Savage River. Also included is a day of guided raft fishing on the North Branch and a half day of guided wade fishing on the Savage. Most of us have heard about these two fabled streams. Now is an opportunity to fish them for the first time or for a repeat of great fishing past. This package includes the guide tip and is **valued at \$1000**.

**The 2nd Prize** — is a fly fisher's dream rod and reel combination – the much praised Winston Classic 8'6" 5 wt rod and a, listen-to-it-sing Hardy Viscount Reel! Now this is a sweet combination, if there ever was one. The combination rod and reel is **valued at \$770**.

**The 3rd Prize** — Top of the line, Orvis Tailwaters stockingfoot, waders. These great waders are **valued at \$329**.

Ticket prices are \$10, 3/\$25, 6/\$40 available from board members at our Chapter meeting or contact them - see list on page 2.



## The PPTU Flea Market at the November Meeting

**Do you have a closet full of fishing gear** that your spouse is complaining takes up too much space? Do you grab the wrong rod because you have too many? Is it time to cut back on all that stuff in your vest so that you can move around more easily on the stream? Well, have we got a solution for you!

Bring any items of your fishing gear that you have "outgrown" to PPTU's Flea Market at our November Meeting and support the Chapter's conservation and education programs at the same time.

Twenty Percent (20%) of the sale price of each item will be donated to the Chapter to support our valuable stream restoration work, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and other conservation projects in and around the State. So look over you rods, reels, waders, fly-tying materials, guide books, clothing that you may have out grown or have been too busy to give away and bring them to the November 15th meeting and help raise some needed conservation and education funds for the Chapter.

Items should be tagged with a description and the price you desire for the sale. You may wish to put your name on the tag, or we will put a privacy identifier on it. You may also put the retail value of the item if you wish.

Remember to arrive early (around 7 pm) for the fundraising event so that your items can be registered and placed on the flea market table for display.

For those willing to assist at the flea market table, please contact Bruce Eberle at (301) 854-3142

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## Patuxent Report

By Jay Sheppard

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There will be **no stocking** of the upper Patuxent special area, the new flies-only section below Brighton Dam, nor the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent this fall.

Water was still too scarce in early October, and the numbers of available trout were also below optimum levels. Hopefully, we can stock these waters as soon as it starts to warm next February or early March.

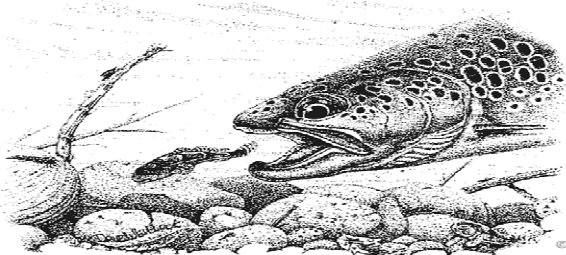
Please be careful fishing the upper Patuxent in the State Park. This is hunting season. Wear a bright cap or only fish on Sundays.

### The November Outing Saturday November 4

## Beaver Creek

From Baltimore Take I-70 north. Approximately 18 miles west of Frederick take exit onto Rt. 66. Go south on 66 a short distance less than a mile then turn right onto Black Rock Road then an immediate left onto Country Store lane. Parking lot is on the left. We will meet at 9:00 am. Don't forget your cress bug patterns!

Dennis Covert  
Outings Leader  
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Artwork courtesy of Dave Whitlock— [www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com)

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## Finding Fish in Still Water

BY ROBERT SIMPSON

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**F**ishing in moving water has always appealed to me, in part because I can make some reasonable guesses about where the fish are likely to be. In contrast, still water fishing in lakes and ponds has remained a mystery for me. If you're in the same boat, read on.

The fine folks at Humminbird now make a small fish-finder that is helping me unlock the secrets of still water fishing. Their SmartCast RF20 and RF30 fish-finders are just the ticket for a shore angler who wants to be sure he is where the fish are. Both employ a small, self-contained sensor unit that you can cast to points of interest with a medium action spinning rod. It uses wireless communications to send data to a display unit on shore. In the case of the RF20, it's a rod-mounted display unit; for the RF30, the display is made like a wristwatch. I use the former, but I'm sure the latter would receive less abuse, but that hasn't been an issue so far.

The operating range is 100', more than adequate for my needs. The monochrome LCD display is 1" x 3/4" with 48x32 pixels. In addition to providing depth information, it also detects and indicates the depth of any fish it finds. This past summer, I was able to find that there was a drop off about 15' from the shore and the bluegill were hanging close to the drop off at a depth of about 5' in 7' of water. Further out or closer in, no fish. With this information, I was able to target them quite successfully. Instead of mindlessly pounding the water in search of fish, my 8-year-old son and I were able to have a very productive afternoon.

The depth scale is adjustable with a maximum depth of 100'. There are other features such as an audible fish alarm. The sensor unit turns itself on when in contact with the water and turns off when out of the water. Estimated life of the unit is 400 hours. When the battery runs out in the sensor, you have to buy a new one for about \$25. Battery life for the display unit is about 25 hours, but that battery is easily replaceable.

These fish finders are now quite affordable, at prices as low as \$59.99. Leave this article out where your favorite Christmas shopper might see it, and perhaps your very own SmartCast will show up under the tree this year. I'll look forward to hearing your reports about great still water fishing results.

## Annual Supporting Contribution

Members of the **Potomac-Patuxent Chapter** of Trout Unlimited who make an Annual Supporting Contribution of \$15 will receive our publication *The Conservationist* either by mail or electronically. Members of other TU chapters may also make an Annual Supporting Contribution and receive *The Conservationist*. The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. The Annual Supporting Contribution is separate from TU dues. Send all correspondence, changes of address, and Annual Supporting Contribution to our P.O. Box (below). Also indicate whether you wish to receive this publication by mail or via the internet. If the latter, please provide the e-mail address where you will receive your electronic copy. You will be contacted by email and given the URL to obtain your copy. Students may receive a free copy of this publication, if they provide their graduation date. Your publication expiration for *The Conservationist* is indicated on the address label as PP-0906 or PP-0907.

## Annual Supporting Contribution NOW PAYABLE

The Annual Supporting Contribution for 2006-2007 is now payable. Check your label on *The Conservationist*. If the "PP-" date is "0906" (or there is NO "PP-" and date), you can send your \$15 now, and you will not have to worry about paying at the next meeting. If you have already made your Annual Supporting Contribution, your label will show "PP-0907." Make checks payable to "POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER - TU" and send it to our chapter P.O. Box. If you wish to receive *The Conservationist* via the Internet, please indicate this with your check and provide your email address. The Annual Supporting Contribution covers only the *Conservationist* and related administrative expenses plus special rates for certain Chapter activities. All other donations above expenses at raffles, etc., go to the resource and educational programs. **Final mailing** for those having "PP-0906" on their label will be the November issue. **There will be NO separate mailings to remind members of this obligation.**



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