



November 2010

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

The Fall Fundraiser - November 17, 2010

November is upon us and it is once again time for a special program. This is an important opportunity to support our Chapter and at the same time obtain items we have been interested in or an experience we will remember for a life time. The possible experience of a lifetime may be the trip to the West Branch of the Delaware River for a three night two day guided fishing trip. The West Branch is a truly incredible fishery. The second prize is a Weekend Getaway for two at the Allenberry Resort/Playhouse near Carlisle, PA on the Yellow Breeches that includes lodging, dinners, breakfasts and theater tickets for two. The third prize is a waterproof digital Pentax Optio W80 camera. The fishing trip, Weekend Getaway for two and waterproof camera are the prizes that can be won by purchasing tickets at the meeting. These prizes will be awarded at our January 19th Meeting. However, tickets purchased at the fundraiser do not require you to be present to win in January. Furthermore, great silent auction and bucket raffle items will be available for interesting and sought after gear will gain much attention. Finally, a flea market will likely offer many wonderful items at bargain prices as in the past. Bring your items as well and donate 15% to the Chapter. Don't forget your check book to get some "needed" holiday items for your fishing closet or for someone else!

As a bonus and a highlight of the evening, the Fundraiser offers an opportunity to ask questions to a panel of fishers whose knowledge and advice is always well received. Many have said this is a very special meeting for this aspect alone. This gives many of us a chance to gain insight on a wide range of questions that arise on tactics, gear, and destinations which has led to new information for many of us. Come hear this interesting Q & A segment of the meeting. You will definitely learn something, particularly if you bring a question. - Nick Weber

Special time for this event is 6:30 – 9:30

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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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Presidents Column

A great group of volunteers

The other day, while at a Project Healing Waters (PHW) function, I realized PPCTU is very lucky to have many great volunteers. This was never illustrated better than by the example of our recent fishing trip on the Chesapeake held for our injured warriors from Ft Meade and Walter Reed. There, two of our PPCTU Members organized a great outing for PHW. They enlisted the help of at least eight fishing Guides, one Marina, some friends and family, and the PPCTU volunteers of our Ft. Meade PHW. Thanks to Rodger Carlson, John Dyer (and John's Family), Patti Nicholson, and Harry Steiner.

Recently, our Outings Chair, Dennis Covert, stepped up to be our new Vice President. Dennis already wears more than one hat, but he filled yet another need of our chapter. His service is a great relief. Dennis, for all you do for us, thank you! Others I have to mention are those who put together our Tying Class and Rod Building Class. Including me, teaching the Tying Class are Jim Greco, Carl Smolka, Bob Dietz, and Dennis Covert. Handling the Rod Building class this year is Jim Robinson.

Every year about this time we gear up for our Trout in the Class room Program. Jim Greene will be looking for help in delivering eggs and conducting stream releases. He may also be looking for help in other areas. We owe special thanks to Jim and all who support him and the program.

The above are just a few who give their time and energy to the chapter. I know you have heard me say this before, however, it is still true. If the chapter is to fulfill its mission, we need more volunteers like these. We have vacancies in the Membership Chair, Publicity Chair, and Youth Programs Chair; all are vital and important to our Chapter. Pitch in -- ask any one of our board members or myself, and we will surely guide you to a job where your services will be gratefully put to good use

Larry Vawter

Two-fly Teams for the Gunpowder Falls

At the wet fly clinic during our October outing, I was asked to come up with a list of teams of wet flies that would be effective throughout the season. Here's that list, plus a bit more. The first fly mentioned will be the top dropper, and the second the point fly. (**N.B.**, Maryland law permits a maximum of two flies.) In some cases, the top fly will be a dry fly, to be fished as such.

Suggested alternatives are given after the list for some the flies that might be hard to obtain.

February-Early March: Grouse&Herl; Spanish Needle. The latter represents a little black stonefly.

Mid-Late March: Dark Hendrickson wet; Grouse&Herl. These both represent little brown stoneflies.

Early April: Dark Hendrickson wet; Waterhen Bloa. The Hendrickson covers the possibility of little brown stoneflies; they both can cover for Hendrickson or Quill Gordon emergers.

Mid-late April: Light Hendrickson dry; Waterhen Bloa. These are for Hendrickson duns & emergers. Later in the day you might want to swap one or the other for a Partridge&Orange to represent the spinner.

Mid-May-Early July (sulfurs): Any combination of a Pale Evening Dun (aka Little Marryat), a Partridge&Orange (especially during the spinner fall), a Partridge&Yellow, a Pheasant Tail soft hackle (especially one with a yellow thorax) or a Parachute Sulfur (obviously that needs to be the top fly).

Summer: A Parachute Ant, or a Renegade on top, with a Partridge&Orange hung below it. If you're using the Renegade, it can be fished wet as well as dry.

Fall: Wickam's Fancy ; Snipe&Purple or Partridge&Orange have worked well for me into November.

Other flies for specific insects: Anytime there are olives on the water, use a small Pheasant Tail soft hackle as the point fly. If you run into Isonychias (I never seem to on the Gunpowder) use a herl bodied wet, such as a Grouse&Herl or a Leadwing Coachman, with a soft hackle of some sort as its teammate. Isos nymphs are strong swimmers; it's ok to use an active retrieve. When caddis predominate, try some combination of a Leadwing Coachman, a Wickam's Fancy, a Partidge&Green or a Hair's Ear soft hackle. Again, some action may help.

Alternatives: If you can't find a Grouse&Herl, a Brown Hackle or a Red Hackle is pretty much the same fly. A Leadwing Coachman is also pretty much the same fly, except with wings. If you can't come by a Waterhen Bloa and tie you own, a fly with a yellow silk body *lightly* dubbed with mole or muskrat (the thread should show) and a dark dun hen hackle should work just as well.

Experiment & enjoy!

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND

Ken Bowyer and Tim Pawlowitz provide 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.

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@hotmail.com

(Note: This is a new e-mail address.)

Thanks
Joanne Kla, Editor



Tackle and Tactic Tips

Successfully landing a large fish can be difficult at times. This is especially true if you do not have a net, but landing a large trout or salmon with a small net can still pose a major problem. By a 'large' fish, I am referring to one that about equals or considerably exceeds the length of the landing net at hand; it can also refer to any fish that approaches or exceeds the strength of the tippet. I strongly urge all trout fishers intending to release all or most of their catch to obtain a catch-and-release type net. These meshed nets have softer nylon and smaller mesh size to more softly cradle a trout. Trout and salmon have only a layer of slime to protect them from disease. Remove that slime down to the bare skin and scales and the fish may die weeks later from a fungus or bacterial infection. Dry surfaces are the most dangerous to a salmonid. The slime is very easily removed by dry hands, grass, or ground. A wet landing net kept off the dry ground will help protect the trout. Always wet the hand that touches the trout, even through the netting.

When bringing a large trout to net, one must often work the fish in close enough to first 'show the net' to the fish. This means holding the net steady down in the water and bringing the fish within a yard or so of the net. Most times the fish will bolt either from seeing you or the net. Expect this reaction so you do not suddenly pop the tippet! Usually on the next approach the trout can be brought to the net. The landing is always best when the fish comes into the net head first. Again, hold the net steady down in the water until the body of the trout crosses over the front edge and then lift the net and trout, while at the same time releasing tension on the line. I try to avoid bringing the tip of the fly line into the tip top guide. There are usually a few knots at this connection point that can slow the line from pulling back out should the fish suddenly bolt. That momentary increase in the tension on the tippet may be all it takes to lose the fish.

If you have to locate your hemostats to remove the fly, let the fish remain in the water to keep it from suffocating. Then lift the fish and net up with one hand under the back of the trout and insert the hemostat to grab the fly. Trout and other fish tend to struggle less if they are held upside down. Never hold a trout like a bass by its jaws—they are much weaker than any bass jaw.

Without a net one risks serious injury to the fish. I know of only one reliable way to land a very large trout or salmon without a net. The fisher must find a gravel bar or other shallow area.

When the fish is tired, it is pulled into the shallow water where it will fall over on its side. Do not drag the fish up onto dry land—the tippet may not hold and the fish will be seriously injured with a major loss of its protective slime. At the instant the fish falls over on its side, get to it and immediately pin it to the wet bottom before trying to grapple it and lift it out of the water. If the fish is still upright, it can still propel itself through the water with its tail. So the salmon or large trout must be on its side.

I once found myself standing in the middle of the North Branch with no net and a 23" brown on my line. I was able to find a pocket of shallow water in the middle of the river where I could 'beach' the fish and grapple it long enough to remove the fly and get a quick measurement. I know some fishers are very good at reaching down and grabbing the fly with the fish finning at their feet. This can work, but with small flies this can be very tricky if not impossible to accomplish. There are also small tools for sliding down the taught tippet and removing the fly with moderate success in most cases. There are other ways, too. I tend to be conservative and want to ensure the safety of both the fish and my fingers. So, go catch and release them!

Patuxent Report

The Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers were stocked in early October with a few hundred trout. Other nearby streams, such as the Patapsco, were also stocked. Surveys of the main Patuxent upstream of and just downstream of Triadelphia Reservoir are expected to have happened in late October. I will report the results as soon as I have them. I have found my largest holdover trout in late October or early November on the upper Patuxent Special Area (above rt. 97). They head for the larger pools with plenty of minnows to prey upon over the winter.

ANNUAL WARNING: Hunting goes through mid-winter in many sections of Patuxent River State Park, so be careful and stay alert. The firearm season for deer starts later this month, but squirrel hunting started the first Saturday of October, and dove and archery season for deer will both be continuing as this is mailed. Suggest fishing on weekdays or Sundays; otherwise, wear a bright-colored hat on Saturdays, in particular. Sunday hunting does not apply on state lands, such as the Patuxent River State Park.

Jay Sheppard

LAST CHANCE!!!!!! PCTU TYING FLIES FOR TROUT

We need to have at least 10 students committed to taking the class. With the number of great coaches we have, we can accommodate up to 20 students. However, 10 students is the break even point for us. If you are interested in becoming a better fly fisher for trout, you couldn't take a better path. Remember, if we don't have at least 10 students signed up by the end of November, we will have to cancel the class and return checks to those who have already signed up. Give it a try; you will be glad you did. See below:

FOR THE NOVICE OR INTERMEDIATE FLY TYER --Tying Flies for Trout is designed for the tyer who wishes to learn new tying skills or improve the techniques they already have. The basic skills and materials for tying nymphs, emergers, duns, and spinners, coupled with basic wet fly and streamer construction will be covered. The class focus will be on proven local patterns.

Jim Greco, Carl Smolka, Bob Dietz, Larry Vawter, and possibly Dennis Covert will conduct the class. The class will be at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD, from 7 to 9 PM on Tuesday nights: January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 8, 2011.

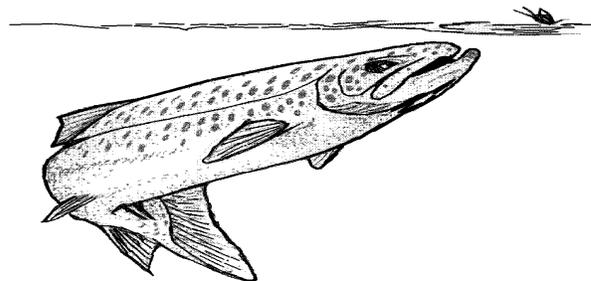
Tuition for this 6 week class is \$135.00. For TU members who have made a \$20.00 Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) to PPCTU a discount of \$20.00 applies, making the tuition only \$115.00. The tuition fee covers the room rental, class handouts, and tying materials for flies to be tied in the class with the balance of revenue going to the PPCTU Chapter for use in its education and conservation efforts such as stream restoration, Trout in the Classroom, and Project Healing Waters.

Right now, joining National TU costs only \$17.50, see www.tu.org/intro. Be sure to enter chapter number 236 so PPCTU will get the proper chapter rebate. The introductory offer will also include the PPTU ASC, and entitles you to the \$20.00 discount and other benefits associated with it. Once you join National TU and select PPCTU (#236) as the chapter you wish to be affiliated with, you will be a member of PPCTU. The ASC is optional. An optional tying manual available for \$11.00 – Fly Tying Made Easy for Beginners, Randall Kaufmann (\$21.95 value)

To register for the class, contact Jim Greco for information at a chapter meeting, or at Jimg6128@comcast.net, or 410-997-2787.

By the way -- I should point out each student will receive enough material to tie at least 4 flies of each pattern we teach. That means you will finish the class with approximately 48 flies in your box you didn't have before taking the class. Just the value of those flies makes the class tuition almost free, and you will have a new skill to practice for the rest of your trout fishing future.

Jim Greco



Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) now Payable

The \$20 we ask to help support our administrative and printing costs is now payable. We operate on a September to September basis for the chapter's publication, The Conservationist. Very simply, it costs a lot of money to operate the chapter for meeting room rentals, postage, printing, web site, and other costs. We want to use all the contributions we receive and raise through our fund raisers to support our work for the resource.

If your mailing label reads "PP-0910" (or there is no "PP-" designation) then you need to renew your ASC. You can pay the ASC at the next meeting or just mail it to our chapter mail box. Make checks payable to PPTU. You can choose to have the Conservationist delivered in hard copy or via the Internet; please advise which method you wish and include your email address. You do not have to be a TU member assigned to PPTU to subscribe to the Conservationist by paying the ASC. This November issue will be the last for those with "PP-0910" on their label. If you are receiving the Conservationist via electronic format, we will notify you by email if your ASC is about to lapse.

New Membership Secretary Needed

We are still looking for another volunteer to help maintain the chapter's mailing list. Use of the Internet and some knowledge of Microsoft Access is required. This work is what really helps our chapter to keep in touch with everyone and is crucial to our past success as one of the top 10 chapters in Trout Unlimited for membership services and recruitment. If you are interested in helping the chapter behind the scenes, please contact Jay Sheppard (jmsheppar@aol.com). Your help will be appreciated.



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