



October 2008

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

Steelhead and Salmon Fishing in Upstate New York **October 15, 2008**

This month's program is appropriate and just the thing to get you in the mind set to go for those "big trout" in Great Lakes tributaries just a half day's drive north of us. Dan Neuland who lives very near us in Frederick has a passion for these big fish while holding down two jobs – one as an Art Teacher at a local high school, the other as an outdoor columnist for the Frederick News Post with his own illustrations. Dan has been fly-fishing for steelhead and salmon in upstate New York for over 15 years. He will discuss how and where to catch these monster fish.

Dan's presentation covers all aspects of fly-fishing in upstate NY with his focus on steelhead. However, he will also discuss fishing for salmon in the Salmon River and brown trout in Oak Orchard Creek. His talk will also cover the major Lake Erie and Lake Ontario tributaries and where to focus your fishing efforts. Dan will also discuss the right equipment to use and the flies that he has had the most success with. And, if you need help finding a guide, Dan has several to recommend **or** sign up with Dennis Covert for our Steelhead outing in November. Either way you must get a taste for this fishing this fall. I know that I will! – by *Nick Weber*

Help wanted: We are in need of a person or persons who will step up and take the reins as our chapter Librarian. He or she would need to attend chapter meeting and rent videos and sell wares at the table. Please note the new librarian will not be alone — the current librarian will help out whenever needed and will be at the meetings with his laptop to help keep track of the video library. Yes, it's a big job but it can be a lot of fun. That's where I've met all you wonderful folks!

Larry Vawter

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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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President's Column

Getting involved –

Don't worry; this is not another harangue about doing more for the chapter. Every organization has member who are *just* members. Even that is a benefit to chapter.

No, what I'm talking about is getting the chapter involved. We do have some projects that are on-going, such as Trout in the Classroom. We can always use more help with these, but I promised no harangue.

You may have noticed that we haven't done a significant conservation project since the one on the Haulings River a couple of years ago. We are in need of some fresh ideas, which is why I'm soliciting your input. Know of a stream in the area that would benefit from some TLC, where we could make a difference? Let us know. Are you a member of another conservation organization with a project that can use some help? Again, let us know.

We do a fair amount in the way of youth education. In addition to Trout in the Classroom that I mentioned above, we have a kid's fishing day, help sponsor two youth environmental camps, have worked with both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts in some of their programs, and have even mentored college groups on fly-fishing trips. Is there something else we could be doing? Are we doing too much here and not enough direct conservation activities?

Your input is more than welcome. We now have a priorities committee, headed by Craig Falk, to determine where we should best use our resources. If you have any thoughts about what we should be doing, please let either him or me know.

Of course, *do* if you want to get personally involved, I won't do anything to discourage it!

Bob Dietz

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 are always welcome and can be sent to the Editor as plain text in the email body or in a Microsoft Word attachment. Please include your phone number and a brief description of the attachments. The deadline for submissions is normally the 12th of the month before the chapter meeting. Thanks!

Editor: Joanne Kla
Phone: (301) 854-5053 earthmomjo@att.net

Visit the Tying Bench and Angler's Corner, 7 PM, at the October Chapter Meeting

Tying Bench

Over the years, egg patterns have been used to catch trout. They are also one of the most effective patterns to catch Lake Erie steelhead. To coincide with our speaker Dan Neuland's steelhead fishing presentation and our November steelhead outing, Ken Bowyer will demonstrate how to tie the Half-n-Half egg pattern using an egg popper tool. This is a must-have pattern for this fall's outing.

Angler's Corner

Stop by the angler's corner and get the latest on the outing to Erie tribs for Steelhead. Dennis Covert, with his wealth of information for this and all other aspects of fall and winter fishing, makes a stop by his early segment a great investment for what's happening here and elsewhere. Dennis is always up for hearing about a great prospect for a future outing – so stop by his part of our world.

—*Nick Weber*

November Fundraiser

The November Meeting is the Chapter's major fundraising event to support our Educational and Conservation Programs. These include "Trout in the Classroom" and Flyfishing programs with the Scouts which are focused on reaching the next generation of anglers. In addition the event helps support the week long Tri-State TU Conservation and Fishing Camp for high-school aged students held in June at Grave's Mountain Lodge. This event also raises funds that are essential to continue our tree planting and habitat work on some of our local streams!

PPTU's Grand Prize Raffle this year includes a **First Prize** of a trip for two on the Delaware River at the West Branch Angler. The winner will have a three night stay, with two days of guided drift boat fishing (a day of fly-fishing school may be substituted for a day of fishing), meals (if the restaurant is open at the time of your stay), and a tip for the guides.

The **Second Prize** is an Orvis TLS Matrix 9', 6 weight rod and Orvis Mid-Arbor Battenkill reel.

The **Third Prize** is a Pentax Optio waterproof digital camera, 7 MP, 3x optical zoom.

Tickets are on sale at one for \$15; two (2) for \$25 or four (4) for \$40.

Tickets may be purchased at Chapter meetings up until the drawing, at the January 21, 2009 meeting. Tickets will also be available at the November 19th Fundraiser: from any Chapter Board member (see page two of the Conservationist) for their contact info; or send a check made out to PPTU to Bruce Eberle, 6586 Guilford Rd, Clarksville, MD 21029.

There will be a special, one day raffle for a door prize at the November 19th meeting.

The fundraiser event will also include a Silent Auction of gift certificates from our various supporters in the neighborhood and a variety of fishing and fishing related gear. The Silent Auction will also provide the opportunity to bid on a number of fishing books.

Back by popular demand will be the Flea Market. This will be a golden opportunity for members and guests to sell items that have been gathering dust in their closets and buy the very thing they desperately need! Fifteen (15%) percent of each sale will be donated to the Chapter to support PPTU's education and conservation programs. There will be some camping gear, and a sleeping bag courtesy of Bob Serano, reels donated by David Haidak and medalist reels from Ben Trump available

There will be something for everyone, so come early, chat with old friends and make new ones, look over the available items, and bring your check book! This will be a fun and entertaining way for you to support and expand our education and conservation efforts. Try to be there!

Bruce Eberle

A Couple of Reasons to Tie Flies

Jim Greco

In the years during which I have been one of the instructors in our PPTU annual tying class, more than one person has asked me to explain why I get so much enjoyment out of tying trout flies. It really is an interesting question, and its answer has many facets.

I am not going to delve into reasons to avoid tying. Believe me, there are some, just ask my wife. I do, however, wish to mention a few reasons that make me want to tie, and then tell a short anecdote that will help explain.

The major reason I tie is to catch more fish. That said, I cannot ignore the fact my ego doesn't suffer when my friends who do not tie assume that because I tie flies I know more than they do about the sport, even if down deep I know it is seldom true. But wait... to be a good tyer you do need to study bugs more than you did before, and you do need to study what fish feed on in order to tie flies they will eat. Could it be my friends are more insightful than I first thought? Might tying make you a better fly fisher? Tying does satisfy a creative urge. I know I am not the village artist, but still, when I come up with a variation on a pattern that looks good and works well, I feel pretty good about it. There truly is a special sense of accomplishment involved in catching trout on flies you have tied yourself.

A few years back a bunch of us traveled to Jim Kiel's dad's hunting cabin near State College to fish the sulphur hatch on Spring Creek. On that afternoon we carried portable radios to keep in touch and announce what was working on the water and what was not. For the first hour it was rather slow, with only a rise or two and an occasional take. Then the action picked up and sulphurs began popping off the water and fish started rising everywhere we looked. The trouble was none of us could get any of the rising fish to take a fly. Since the sulphurs had been hatching for days, there was a mix of different sized spinners, emergers, and duns on the water.

When I am in that situation, I love trying to solve the puzzle. Ask anyone who knows me, and they will tell you I carry far too many flies, but I do it for days like that one. I carry flies I tied ten years ago and might have only used once. This day I tried almost every sulphur pattern I carried. My fly patch was nearly full, and then I stumbled across the key. Of course! Instead of a rusty spinner they usually take, these fish wanted a yellow bodied spinner with cream hackle wings. After I tied on that pattern, I caught nice fish on almost every cast. Thanks to the radios, the others then started catching more fish, too.

After a half hour or so of that, my chuckles on the radio waves prompted folks to head back to the car where I broke into the fly inventory box I carry to refill my vest. I can remember more than one smile as I handed everyone a few #12 or #14 sulphur spinners tied with split microfibertails, sulphur yellow turkey biot bodies, and oversized cream, wound hackle spent wings. That was one of the best days I have ever enjoyed on Spring Creek, with many more fish than I had ever caught in an afternoon before. I guess you could say days like that are really good reasons to tie.

If I have piqued your curiosity – good! See the ad about our annual tying class in this issue of "The Conservationist" or on our web site. Give it a try, and find a new way to expand your horizons. Maybe you will have as much fun as I do.

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM

BEGINNERS AND BEYOND

One on one streamside fly fishing instruction is available 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 Bowyer at 301-627-7154 or e-mail kenbowyer@verizon.net.

Patuxent Report

DNR expects to have some trout available for fall stockings, but as we go to press we do not have the stocking schedule. Check the DNR web site for the fall stocking reports or watch on the PPCTU list serve.

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 is still a way off, but squirrel hunting starts 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 for deer does not apply on public hunting zones, such as the Patuxent River State Park.

Jay Sheppard

Online Delivery of *The Conservationist*

The current issue of *The Conservationist* has been available online for the last several years upon request from members who are current with their Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). This month we announce an improved method for joining the listserver that announces the URL for each issue as it becomes available. If you are not already on this listserver and able to access the current issue online, but would like to be, please visit *The Conservationist* page on our website at <http://www.pptu.org/conservationist/conservationist.shtml> and follow the quite simple instructions for how to make this happen for you. The front page of the current issue will still be available to the general public upon publication and all pages of prior issues can be found at this same webpage. We hope this new method will alleviate some of the problems that have interfered with our past efforts to grant online access and that more of you will be able to enjoy this benefit in return for you ongoing support of the chapter and its many programs. Give it a try and let us know what you think.

Robert Simpson

Autumn Outings '08

Don't miss out on all the fun. Sign up for one, or better yet both, the October outing to Western Maryland and the November steelhead trip to Lake Erie tribs.

October 10-12—Camp out at Big Run State Park Friday, Saturday & Sunday night.

Erie PA. November 9-12— Meet Sunday afternoon at the mouth of Elk Creek and fish area Lake Erie tribs Sunday afternoon, Monday Tuesday & Wednesday morning, heading back sometime around 12pm.

Requires Lake Erie Permit or Combo Trout-Salmon/Lake Erie Permit in addition to your annual or one-day Non-resident PA License or Non-Resident PA License and Trout-Salmon Permit.

Contact: denniscovert@hotmail.com
or 410-740-8337

Dennis Covert

Remember to return your videos and books on time. Many fellow members would like the opportunity to rent the books, tapes and DVDs that you rented. Late fees will be applied if they are not returned by the next chapter meeting.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

If you moved this summer or if the information on the mailing label on the *Conservationist* is wrong, please email Arnie Strand at ArnMail@Verizon.net. You may also drop us a post card with the correction. PPTU maintains a mailing list separate from the national TU list.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Existing members should renew their TU membership using any of the following methods:

- Mail your Renewal Statement to TU National
- Call Customer Service at 1-800-834-2419
- Navigate to www.tu.org. Click on the **Join/Renew** tab at top, then click on the "Renew Membership" link on the left. You will need your login name and password.

Tying Flies for Trout

FOR THE NOVICE OR INTERMEDIATE FLY TYER

Tying Flies for Trout is designed for the novice and intermediate 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, Dave Wittman, Robert Simpson, Carl Smolka, and Larry Vawter 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 6, 13, 20, 27, February, 3, 10, 2009.

Tuition for this 6 week class is \$115.00. For TU members who have made a \$20.00 Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) to PPTU a discount of \$20.00 applies, making the tuition only \$95.00. 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 PPTU Chapter for use in its education and conservation efforts. Right now, joining National TU costs only \$17.50 (which is only \$2.50 more if you elect to be assigned to PPTU – ask Jim) which will also include the PPTU ASC, and entitles you to the \$20.00 discount and other benefits associated with it. Limited enrollment -- sign up now. Materials included. Students must supply their own tools. Optional tying manual available for \$11.00 – Fly Tying Made Easy for Beginners, Randall Kaufmann (\$21.95 value)

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



Return Address:
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Wheaton, MD 20915

FIRST CLASS MAIL