

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Fly Fishing the Chesapeake Bay **Capt. Tom Hughes** **- Déjà vu -** **Oct 21st 2015**

If you missed last month, here's your second chance. Captain Tom Hughes will be giving an exciting presentation on Fly Fishing the Chesapeake Bay for Striped Bass and Other Saltwater Species. This instructional presentation will cover equipment, flies, techniques, and locations that are productive.

Captain Tom Hughes is an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide and books full and half day trips for 1 to 3 anglers from April to December. He has been guiding fly fishing and light tackle trips on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries since 2000.

Captain Tom specializes in teaching (when needed) how to fly fish or light tackle fish for striped bass, bluefish, white perch, and other Chesapeake Bay species. Trips are available on any week day or weekend day. Captain Tom provides everything needed for you and your guests to have an enjoyable day on the Chesapeake Bay. Sit back, enjoy the show, and put yourself in the picture as you fly fish stretches of the Chesapeake Bay between Love Point on the eastern shore south to Thomas Point on the western shore. Imagine you and your friends fishing for striped bass, bluefish, and other saltwater species. Ready to go?

<http://www.chesapeakebayflyfishing.com/>

– Alan Burrows



Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December
Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901
DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER
From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road,
then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

For the past 6 weeks I've been going through old boxes of memorabilia. Cherished memories stashed away, some that that haven't seen the light of day in over sixty years.

Some items were easy to match up the joy or magic they once held, others just left you scratching your head as to why it was ever saved. I guess at one time it meant something. The fact that most things hadn't been used or thought about in ages got me thinking about my current fishing gear.

If you're anything like me, you have way too much stuff. An addition here and there, an extra fly pattern to try, the local "hot" pattern to purchase or new shiny tool – it all adds up. And worst yet, you forget about all you have.

I have some Atlantic Salmon flies stashed away in one box in my vest. Do I really need to carry those around while fishing the Gunpowder for trout? I think not. I'm typically fishing trout waters but find myself carrying a box of Bass flies around. A few years ago I picked up several Cicada patterns for the big brood hatch. They're still waiting to be used, an occasional muffled call of "tie me on" come from the fly box. They sit and take up space.

There are rows and rows of nymphs, dry flies, wet flies, streamers, attractor patterns – all of which have never touched a stream. Flies, and more flies, extra tools, things that make me wonder and shake my head why just like the hidden trinkets I've been uncovering lately.

The box unpacking/packing got me thinking about going through my own personal treasures and sorting out the good memories from the junk. That in turn got me thinking about our fly vests and collections. What do we truly need? It might be time to downsize and erase the clutter. I spent about a half hour to forty-five minutes one day on stream looking for a fly I knew I had but it just wasn't materializing in the boxes. It showed up eventually, but I could have spent that time actually fishing.

So, its probably time for all of us to do a little house cleaning. My tools got sorted a bit. Some worn out or useless items got tossed. The fly collection can be sorted and simply remain in the car if needed. I can easily put a few flies in a small box or chest pack for the day. If I'm missing something, its usually an easy walk back to the car. I started sorting a few flies and then ran across a tattered fly pattern I tied when I was in high school, which got me thinking about old fishing buddies. With a smile and somewhat misty eyes, I put the fly tenderly back in its place in the old fly box, to be found again another day. Now some of those hidden treasures I've been running across lately make a little more sense. 🌸

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell
President, PPTU

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 hip boots, 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 at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 🌸

Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

The flows this summer and fall have all been almost adequate—things did get a tad dry as the summer came to a close. Fishing the rest of this fall will often be with small caddis, blue-winged olives, and terrestrials for the most part. Fishing terrestrials is about the only time trout fishers with fly rods are allowed to make any real noise in their presentations. Beetles, crickets, inchworms and even ants make some noise when they fall into the stream. So a little "plunk" of a #12 beetle plopping down right up tight to a deep and undercut bank might produce a nice trout. Although I do see a small number of trout react favorably to hopper patterns in this immediate area, it is not a really common prey item for many of our trout. Field crickets, on the other hand, are very common. Try them in the #10 size, if you have a choice, on most of our local trout waters. Crickets can sometimes be actively fished with tiny twitches of an inch or three followed by a pause.

Ants are always excellent choices, too. You might fish a cricket or beetles with a small ant in tandem behind the larger fly. The ant can be fished on the surface or just an inch or so



below it. Or you can use an inchworm or green weenie-type flies fished deeper. There are still many caterpillars chewing on our stream side vegetation so long as the trees have green leaves. A slight breeze and a few are blown off the leaves and into the water. In some situations I have used just an inch worm with no weight or even an indicator. I want it to go "plop" under a tree with the leader pretty much laid straight out. As it slowly sinks, any trout taking it will pull the leader away and downward. This really works well only on a glassy flat pool with relatively uniform flow. The strike is often within a few seconds of the fly hitting the water.



More on Casting:

In the past I have made some suggestions regarding fly casting technique for those just getting started. One point that I did not fully explain is the use of the clock in casting. Most fishers think that 12 Noon is always directly overhead. In all cases, 9 o'clock is the direction of the point of aim of the forward cast; while the 3 o'clock position is the direction of the back cast. The aim point for either cast might be a foot or two above the surface or it might be 15 feet above the water depending upon the intent of the cast (e.g., a 'parachute' or stall cast is aimed upward well above the rod tip's maximum height). Think of your rod grip as being in the center of a clock. The clock face (sorry, but we do not use digital in this example!) is in the plane of that particular casting stroke. So if you are doing a series of side casts on the right side, the clock face is directed towards the sky, while a cast on the left side has the clock facing the ground. Again, in all cases, 9 o'clock is the direction of the target.

Good fall fishing! 🦈

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

We expect to have a small number of trout for stocking the Middle Patuxent later this month. If you are on my volunteer mailing list, I will be sending out an email when the date and numbers are known. We likely will only need two or three folks. Other local waters will likely be stocked by the DNR, such as the Patapsco. Watch for online announcements or check with the DNR web site.



There is a possibility of some trout surviving the summer in the Brighton Dam tailwater. There was better oxygen this summer and the water temps were never truly excessive. Let me know if anyone gives the Patuxent a try in this section. The Patuxent upstream of the rt. 97 (Georgia Ave.) should hold a fair number of trout this fall. Remember this is a state park hunting zone so wear a bright hat or fish only on Sundays!

From the Web - Trout Wrangler

For an interesting evening of fly tying and entertainment (even if you don't tie) check out the live web cast "Loon Live" by Loon Outdoors featuring Matt Callies as your host. Matt hosts the show live and ties two different patterns each webcast while going over tools, techniques, and answering your questions during the live broadcast. Matt is the person that developed Loon's UV product line.

Its incredibly fun and relaxing. And some of the commentary provides additional entertainment. I chimed in one week and got Matt to tie a fly using UV cure only, no thread. He was shaking his head and laughing, but he pulled it off. If you get a chance, I highly recommend it. Sign up for notices:

<http://loonoutdoors.com/loonlive/>

The live demonstration goes down the first and third Thursday of every month and is completely free. 🦈



If you spot poaching please place a call to the

Catch a Poacher Hotline
At
1-800-635-6124

Add this number to your cell phone contact list!

Invasive Species! **- Sue Muller**

Here comes the next invasive species to Howard County. Meet the Japanese Mystery Snail. It measures about 2.5 inches. Several were found in a stream going into Wild Lake in Columbia. Two young teenage sisters were exploring the stream.



This is an invasive species and can outcompete native snails for food and habitat. To read more about this species you can follow this USGS link: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1046>

I know most of you hike all around the state, so please keep your eyes open for this invader and take photos. In Howard County - Centennial Lake, Lake Elkorn, Sewell's Orchard and Lake Kittamaqundi would be good places to focus on. I only want to know about snails that are more than 2 inches in size. 🌸



You can email Sue at:
smuller@howardcountymd.gov

Congratulations are in Order! **- PPTU**

Jim Greene of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter received the Mortenson Award — TU's most prestigious award — at the recent Trout Unlimited National Conference in Scranton, PA. Jim has been a diligent volunteer and a guiding light for Trout in the Classroom Programs both locally and nationally. Jim was completely unaware that he would be receiving the award. The look on his face was priceless!

Please join us in congratulating Jim for a very well deserved honor. 🌸

Breaking Clays Fundraiser – 10/11/15 **- IWLA**

The Isaac Walton League's Wildlife Achievement Chapter near Damascus Maryland is holding its annual "Breaking Clays to Save the Bay" event October 11th at their range. Over the past few years, the proceeds from this event have been directed to our chapter of Trout Unlimited (PPCTU). Please come out and support them and us. For more information and directions, go to

<http://www.pptu.org/Shoot/Shoot.shtml>

Campout!!! **- Dennis Covert**

The next PPTU outing will be the Savage River Campout October 10-13 in Western Maryland. Watch for updates which will post to the chapter list server. For more details on upcoming outings see our Outings page.

<http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> 🌸





Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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Mouse Eater!

I just had to try it while fishing the Lamar River way back inside of Yellowstone National Park. It paid off. Many thanks to Joe Robinson for tying up such a great pattern and capturing the moment. As Joe previously stated, I'm usually somewhat reserved but hooped and hollered when this guy hit the mouse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjhUx-k2Chk>



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