



September 2010

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Fall Fishing Opportunities

September 15, 2010

From September through the end of the year there are an abundance of trout fishing opportunities in our region. Jay Sheppard will explore many fall tactics and review where and when some of the better fall fishing will likely be the most exciting. Trout are preparing for spawning (browns and brookies), and all are loading up on fat reserves for the upcoming winter when food becomes less abundant and water temperatures may hover nearer freezing. Handouts will be provided on lists of flies and other important information useful in trout fishing in the coming months.

Jay has been fishing for over 60 years, starting in Ohio and living in Alaska, Oregon, and California before moving to Maryland in 1972. He has been active in the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter and the MAC for more than 30 years and currently serves as MAC Vice Chair for Resources. Jay writes a column about Tackle and Tactic Tips for the PPTU Conservationist. He is a retired biologist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and lives in Laurel.

- by *Nick Weber*

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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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	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150
	Jim Crowell	301-816-9445
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Speakers Program:	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Listserves Moderator:	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
Publicity:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Membership Secretary:	Chris Steele	860-449-2212
<i>Conservationist</i> Editor:	Joanne Kla	301-854-5053
Fundraising:	Bruce Eberle	301-854-3142
Raffles:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
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Water Quality:	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
Mentor Program:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
	Tim Pawlowitz	410-203-0369
Librarian:	Fred Przyborowski	202-251-8226
Outings	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
Conservation Advocacy:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
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Mid. Patuxent:	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
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	Dave Dunmire	410-765-5411
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Council Delegates:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Exec. Com. Member	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
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	Jim Greco	410-997-2787

President's Column

President's Column

Have you noticed summer is fading? That means fall will be here soon to herald a new season of PPCTU meetings.

In case you wonder why you should come to our meetings and be an active member of PPCTU, here are some really good reasons:

We always have an excellent assortment of professional speakers who give us great insight about our waters and fishing in our area.

As many of you know, for just about a year we have been conducting a Project Healing Waters (PHW) program at Ft. Meade. This fall, we are planning a saltwater PHW event on the Chesapeake, and we need help to make sure all of our wounded warriors stay safe and have a good time. We will talk this over at the September chapter meeting where you will have the opportunity to volunteer. If you do, I can guarantee that you will have a very rewarding day and some great fun with our wounded warriors.

At our meetings, talk to Dennis Covert, our Outings Chair, and learn more about our chapter outings. He always puts together some excellent fishing events.

In November, we hold a fundraiser where you have the opportunity to win some spectacular raffle prizes, door prizes, or bid on items in a silent auction. The funds raised are used for all of our programs and some of our operating expenses.

The winter season brings us our chapter fly tying and rod building classes.

If everything goes according to plan, next spring we plan to have a tree planting along the Patuxent River in the Havilland Mill area.

Come to our meetings – see what we are about. Enjoy the fellowship and the rewards of fully participating in our chapter. There is not a better deal in town...

Larry Vawter

Early Meeting Segments

begin at 7 pm

Tying Bench

This month will find one of our favorite tiers back at the Tying Bench. Jim Greco, master tier, will be at the Tying Bench to share his expertise and wisdom about tying and fly fishing. Jim will share one of his favorite patterns, the latex caddis pupa which he has found to work well on fall trout as well as year round. Jim says that pattern that has caught some really big fish for him. He uses it as a searching pattern and likes to fish it off a dropper in skinny water or with a strike indicator in deeper, faster water. Stop by the "Bench" in the Early Segment and see why and how Jim likes this great pattern for fall trout and use this as an opportunity to see Jim work his magic with bobbin, hook and hackle and a few other goodies to craft a first rate fare for our finicky fall trout.

Angler's Corner

Come by the Anglers Corner and check with Dennis Covert to learn all you need for the fall trip to the Savage and North Branch on September 25 – 27. You may also hear some tales from the recent outing to the Yellow Breeches or even Yellowstone. It should not take much convincing why you really should consider these fishing experiences with some of our fellow fishers. Have an idea for an outing, share it with Dennis Covert, outings chair, (denniscovert@hotmail.com). See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings.

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*

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 hipers, 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

Address changes? Moved?

Please keep us up to date on your addresses. We have saved a lot of money in recent years by using email to alert members that their Annual Supporting Contribution is expiring or some other important information. We frequently have the Post Office returning undeliverable copies of the Conservationist from members who have moved without letting us know.

Send an email to Jay Sheppard (jmsheppar@aol.com) with any changes.



Tackle and Tactic Tips

Jay Sheppard

Fly lines must be protected from all sorts of chemicals. Virtually all lotions, creams, and insect repellents can cause the surface of most fly lines to deteriorate rapidly. I use a stick insect repellent that I can apply directly to any exposed skin that needs such protection. I avoid sprays. If I must use them, I apply a large quantity to the back of my hand and then rub it onto my face and neck areas. The main point is to keep the palms of your hands clean of all such materials. This will not only protect your fly lines but also your eyes when you rub them!

Many of our fishing hours are spent in the early or late hours of the day. Even in the middle of the day sun glare can be a problem. I strongly urge fishers to find a pale brown, amber (best!) or even copper colored set of Polarized sunglasses that fit their preferences for style. The standard gray lenses on most such sunglasses eliminate a lot of actual light, which is critically needed as the sun is setting or rising. The sunglasses need to be removable either by flipping up from prescription glasses or hanging from a chord in some manner. In my own experience, Polarized sunglasses are an absolute must for the trout fisher. The trout are far easier to see. Watching trout and their reactions to your fly presentations is critical for improving your success. The only real negative is that the reduction in glare also reduces the ability to see tiny insects or your fly floating on the surface, as well as tiny dimples of trout sipping in low light. So removal of the Polarized lenses from the field of view is very critical to seeing minute changes in the surface of the water. My own estimate is that I use my sunglasses only about 30–50% of the time.

DNR to ban Felt Waders

If you are thinking of purchasing new wading shoes or wading boots, you should know that Maryland may ban the use of felt-soled waders next year. Felt collects all sorts of organisms, some of which are not native to our streams and can cause all sorts of problems for our coldwater ecosystems. In order to reduce the chances of invasive, unwanted species being transported from one stream to another, DNR is very likely to issue a ban on using felt soles on waders next January. Exotic species of concern to trout fishers include didymo (or rock snot), a tiny snail, and whirling disease. So look for the various rubber soled waders now on the market. They work just as well as felt and will protect our streams.

Savage River Report

Jay Sheppard

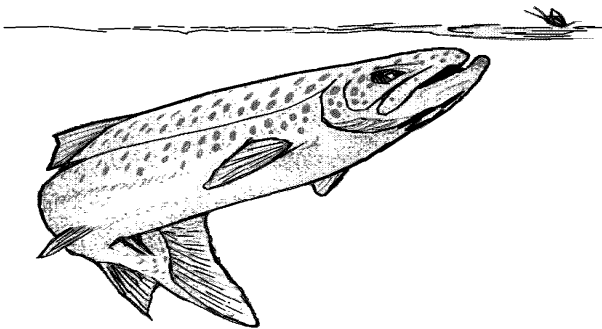
The lower Savage River was surveyed in July by DNR. The overall health of the stream and the trout were found to be excellent. Their estimate was that perhaps 25% fewer trout reside in the river compared to most recent year surveys. However, all the trout found were in excellent condition. As expected, no young of year were found from last winter's spawning efforts. Insect hatches from all the reports I have heard appear to be a tad sparser than usual, but all macroinvertebrates have been observed in the river that were known before the dam was repaired last winter. My estimate is that after this coming winter's spawning and another year for recruitment, we will see plenty of trout and excellent hatches in the river. The latter should be by next year, and the full population of adult trout should be fully recovered by 2012 for sure. Fishing has been excellent all summer and should remain so through the fall and winter.

Patuxent Report

Jay Sheppard

I expect a number of wise trout have survived in some of the better tangles of logs and roots over the summer. The flows got very low in late August (5–10 cfs). This is a little below the normal low flow at this time of the year. So look for a deep hole with lots of cover over the next month or three and hold on tight. There are still some large browns in the 15" or larger range to be found in the upper Patuxent. There may be a float stocking of trout this fall in this section of the Patuxent, but I will not know until late September or later. Likewise, there may be a fall stocking of the Patuxent below Brighton Dam (flies only) and in the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia. There should have been a fair number of trout holding over below Brighton Dam this summer, but almost none should be expected to have survived the drought and heat in the Middle Patuxent below Rt. 29 in Columbia.

The upper Patuxent Special Area is in a public hunting area. Dove season starts in early September and then squirrel season in early October. Please be aware of these other users in the fall of the year. No hunting is allowed on Sundays on all State lands.



Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) now due

Check your mailing label on this issue. If it reads "PP-0910" then you will no longer receive *The Conservationist* after the November issue. Please mail in your \$20 as soon as possible or bring it to the September meeting. Some may not have noticed that we changed the annual rate from \$15 to \$20 after the May 2008 meeting. Also, those receiving this publication over the Web will be notified if they will be in arrears for the ASC this fall. If you wish to change how you receive *The Conservationist*, please advise us when you renew if you wish hard copy, email, or both.

The only "membership" fee is to national TU for \$35 per year. So if you are a member of national TU, then you are also a member of our chapter, the Potomac – Patuxent Chapter, or any other chapter of your choosing. The Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) is the contribution our chapter asks from each member, including family. Persons who make this contribution get *The Conservationist* (either print form or in a timely manner on the web), get discounts if they attend our fly tying or rod building class, purchase books, etc. Students are waived the ASC upon request and when providing their date of expected graduation.

For reasons dealing with mandatory clauses in our by-laws, the ASC is not called "dues" or a "membership fee", and the chapter's publication, *The Conservationist*, is not called a newsletter. Members are still members even if they do not make an ASC; members of any other TU chapter can also get *The Conservationist* by paying the ASC. There is no "subscription" to the annual newsletter. The only newsletter we prepare is annually and appears on our website in late April. It is freely available there to chapter and non-chapter members. Persons who make an ASC will receive *The Conservationist* as a benefit. To some, this might not make sense, but after hundreds of hours of discussion several years ago, this was the best we could do to be in compliance with the national TU by-laws.

Chapter Needs Help!

We still need help managing our extensive membership mailing list. If you are familiar with Microsoft Access and are willing to help the chapter, please contact Jay Sheppard (jmsheppard@aol.com). This is a very important job. Your assistance is encouraged for this or any of a number of other tasks we need done.

Fly Rod Building Class

PPTU will be offering a six week fly rod building class starting in mid-October. Details will follow. If you are interested, contact Jim Robinson at jrobinson@fm.umd.edu.



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

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