



September 2009

# *The Conservationist*

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

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## ***Upstate New York - Salmon River Steelhead September 16, 2009***

So you want to catch some fish on a fly rod within a day's drive of home that will put a large bend in an 8 wt and make your large arbor reel sing. Then head north to Pulaski, New York and the Salmon River that flows through it. This stream has become a fishing Mecca with miles of water and two main tributaries all inhabited by very large fish in the tailwater portion where the steelhead abound. Larry Coburn who currently manages the White River Fly Shop at Bass Pro and a fisher of the Salmon River for 25 years will be our guest speaker. He also owns property on one of the tributaries. Many of us know Larry as co-author of "The Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing" as well as someone who has widely fished great waters across our country, Belize, Mexico, Canada and Labrador, and is written about on occasion in the Washington Post.

Larry will give us a glimpse of the great steelhead fishing in the late fall and early spring. He will mention the exceptional nature of the fishery because of the changes in the creel limit which in part is credited with the 3 and 4 year old fish that return to spawn in the spring. Steelhead weighing up to 20 pounds may be caught at times in this blue ribbon fishery. The fishery boasts not only of steelhead, but also king salmon, coho salmon, brown trout and smallmouth bass. If you want to experience some of the "Wonders of Steelhead," come to our meeting where Larry will share some of the secrets and triumphs of this great fishery. – by Nick Weber

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Column	Page 2	Early Segments	Page 3
Tackle and Tactic Tips	Page 4	Patuxent Report	Page 5

### 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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Trout in the Classroom:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Mid. Patuxent:	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
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Paint Branch:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dave Dunmire	410-765-5411
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

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	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787

## President's Column

### Happy Birthday, TU!

Well just what have you been up to this summer? Get out and do a little fishing, hiking, camping, and sun and fun on the beach? Whatever you have been up to, I hope it was a safe and pleasant summer for all. But summer is winding down and we are returning for another season of PPTU Chapter meetings.

Your Chair people have been busy all summer working out details for fundraising, Trout in the Classroom, speakers for your enjoyment at the chapter meetings, and outings for the fishing experience that everyone seems to enjoy. Well why wouldn't you? You're a Fly Fisher.!

My dictionary states that the word Volunteer is a noun meaning:

- 1) a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking.
- 2) a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

PPCTU is entirely made up with about 400 plus individuals who do precisely that. They give their time and efforts for each other and you. We are always looking for new people. If you like, why don't give some time to the Chair's in helping them help you. For example, our Outings Chair is not run by just one man; it now has a total of three, a committee all working together. So I ask you to ask yourselves: what can I do to help?

Fifty years ago 16 people got together at the home of George Griffith who lived on the bank of the Au Sable River in Grayling, Michigan. This happened in the early summer of 1959. It was the first chapter meeting.

Now here we are 50 years latter, TU now has over 150,000 Volunteers that belong to 450 chapters nation-wide. PPCTU is just one of these chapters. So just what is TU? Well it seems apparent to me that we are 150,000 volunteers working also with other chapters together for cold water conservation, youth education and advocacy. We have it here in our own chapter; we are doing our part for the Hawlings

River Project, Trout in the Classroom, Youth Camps, and Kids Fishing Day. Now, hopefully, a Kids Fishing Day at Centennial Lake in Columbia this fall and our new Project Healing Waters program at Fort Meade.

The Birthday Party for Trout Unlimited was held at the National Convention Center in Traverse City, Michigan August 18-24. Our own Bruce Eberle was in attendance representing the Mid-Atlantic Council.

PPTU and the Mid Atlantic Council donated a custom rug like the one at our last year's fund raiser; the only difference is it has the TU Logo with 50 cut into it. It is one of a kind and very nice. I hope it brings a lot of money for their fund-raising efforts.

So Happy Birthday TU!

*Larry Vawter*

### **Early Meeting Segments begin at 7 pm**

*by Nick Weber*

### **Tying Bench**

This month will find a plethora of information at the tying bench. Although a specific fly will not be tied, you will be offered a view of Larry Coburn's box of Steelhead flies along with an example of Larry's must use, guaranteed-to-catch-fish steelhead leader set up. Larry will also have information on guides and places to stay. For anyone interested in steelhead fishing, time spent at the **Tying Bench** will be worth the time of coming to the meeting. That, coupled with Larry's talk will certainly make for a great fishing evening.

### **Angler's Corner**

Come by the Anglers Corner and get the latest on the planned outings to Yellow Creek (9/18-20) and Western Maryland (10/9-11).

Dennis Covert, our Outings Chair, and undoubtedly some of his cohorts will be telling all about these two great trips and why you really should consider a shared fishing experience with some of our fellow fishers. Have an idea for an outing, share it with Dennis.

### **ADDRESS CHANGE?**

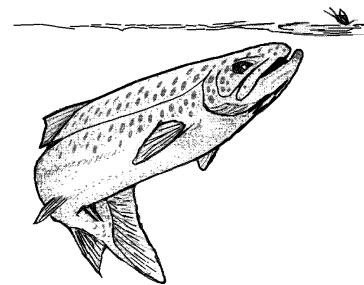
If you moved or if the information on the mailing label on *The Conservationist* is wrong, please email Jay Sheppard at [JMSheppard@aol.com](mailto:JMSheppard@aol.com). You may also drop us

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](http://www.tu.org). Click **Join/Renew** tab at top, then click on the "Renew Membership" link on the left. You will need your login name and password.



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.

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@att.net](mailto:earthmomjo@att.net).

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 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 at 301-627-7154 or e-mail [kenbowyer@verizon.net](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net).

Contact Tim at 410-203-0369 or e-mail [tpawlowi@msn.com](mailto:tpawlowi@msn.com).

### Tackle and Tactic Tips

Another summer has come and gone . . . almost. Hope everyone caught so many fish that they lost count! Casting is still the issue for many of us, even if we have been trying this sport for several decades. Being flexible and adjusting our casting that the current situation dictates helps us reach spots that other fly fishers may not be able to reach.

Roll casts are certainly needed on brushy streams like the upper Patuxent River. There are a large number of overhanging limbs that thwart trying the standard overhead cast. One trick I learned on that stream many years ago was how to roll cast back under a low branch to reach a pocket next to the bank. This is a side roll cast. It is really not much different than a regular roll cast, only that the plane of the loop that is formed is off to one side or the other. Instead of bringing the tip of the rod more or less straight down in front of you with the usual sharp snap, the rod tip is brought over correctly, the plane of the loop slides under the low branch and drops the fly back under where you want it.

A roll cast pickup can also be used to pick a fly up off the water. The roll cast pickup is

useful when you find you have a lot of slack between your rod tip and the fly. A regular cast is started, but just as the tip of the line is about to lift off the water a standard back cast is immediately made, followed by a normal forward cast to where you wish to drop the fly.

The roll cast pickup is also very useful when one has a heavy sinking line or a heavy fly down deep. This pickup can help lift the fly more directly straight up out of the water versus having to bring most of the line back to the rod tip before one can clear the fly and sinking line out of the water. This is a much more rapid means for getting your fly into a back cast and then out to where you wish to fish it. I will use this when fishing poppers for bass, etc. I do not use the roll cast pickup very often for a dry fly, as the dragging of the fly rapidly through the water just before it is picked up tends to ruin its floating capability too quickly. Otherwise, this is a very useful trick to have in your repertoire.

Side casts are also very useful, as I have mentioned in the past. On streams like the upper Patuxent, being able to back cast the line only a few feet above the water and then forward cast the line and fly in a similar plane is crucial to keeping the fly over fish. The looping line also has less visibility to the trout in clear, slow water where some trout become alerted to an angler's presence by the flash of line a dozen feet over the water. So this cast can be useful on heavily fished waters (e.g., Gunpowder) that offer ample casting room but well educated trout. Keeping the cast and rod low may allow for better stalking of wary or smart trout.

Again, practice these casts where you have ample room before trying them on a stream with lots of overhanging trees or lots of brush. Lots of practice makes these and other casts second nature where little thought has to go into them, but concentration on the quarry in front of you can be maximized. Good fishing!

Jay Sheppard

## Patuxent Report

Jay Sheppard

There have been reports of good numbers of brown trout remaining in the upper section of the river above Rt. 97. There should also be some trout remaining below Brighton Dam down to past Haviland Mill. We have had somewhat better flows than many summers, so fall fishing in and around the bigger pools and pockets should be productive. Terrestrials (hoppers, crickets, beetles, ants, inch worms, etc.) should result in some hook-ups. Careful stalking is going to be needed as these fish have not seen a lot of anglers in the past several months.

We will not know for another month if there will be any fall stocking of the local waters.



## 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, website, 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.

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.

This is also a good time to see if your mailing label (hard copy deliveries only) is still valid. Please let us know if there are any corrections to your label.

## Outings\*

Yellow Creek Pennsylvania #

September 19, 2009

Big Run State Park Camp Out,  
Western Maryland

October 9-10 , 2009

Steelhead Outing Western Pennsylvania+

November 8-11 , 2009

\*All dates subject to change and dates may be added or deleted due to weather

+Requires Non-resident PA License and Lake Erie Permit or Combo Trout-Salmon/Lake Erie Permit

#Requires Non-resident one day PA License or Non-Resident PA License and Trout-Salmon Permit

## **New Membership Secretary Needed**

Arnie Strand has stepped down as our invaluable membership secretary. We are looking for another volunteer to help maintain the chapter's mailing list. Access to 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](mailto:jmsheppar@aol.com)). Your help is appreciated.



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