

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Jan 2023 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## “Fly Tying Extravaganza is Back!”

January 18th, 2023

6:00PM Drinks/Dinner - Fly Tying Demo at 7:00PM

After a long hiatus, its finally back! Our annual Fly Tying Extravaganza meeting. What a better way to kick off the New Year than gathering with friends to grab a bite to eat, shoot the bull a little and watch in awe at the fastidious skills of our volunteer fly tying demonstrators. Sean Beck, Bob Dietz, Bob Kaiser, and Pete Yarrington are a few of the excellent tyers demonstrating great techniques and offering tips to the rest of us.

These tyers will create flies they use themselves and which all have caught fish. Talk with the tyers one-on-one and then take home a pattern recipe. This is a great opportunity to shorten your learning curve while you move closer to the elusive goal of mastering the special art of fly tying. Catching a fish on a fly that you tied is something special! In addition, we will have some fly tying material/equipment out for a discounted sale. This is your chance to pick a few things up cheap.

To kick off the New Year, our January Fly Tying meeting will be **In Person**. Come to The Greene Turtle, 15660 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866 on January 18<sup>th</sup> to meet and greet your fellow chapter members, enjoy a bite to eat, and relax while viewing some great demonstrations from your fellow PPTU chapter members and guest fly tyers.

Come early for food – stay for the fly tying demo!

– *Karan Singh*  
[singhkaranr@yahoo.com](mailto:singhkaranr@yahoo.com)



### The January Chapter Meeting is In Person!!!

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday of the month except June, July, August and December

**Our January Fly Tying Meeting Location:**

**The Greene Turtle, 15660 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866**

Visit our website: [www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2022 – 2023

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Conservationist Editor: Bob O'Donnell  
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### Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

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Randy Dwyer  
Marc Hutzell  
Lou Reichel  
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### Contact Us:

[mail@pptu.org](mailto:mail@pptu.org)

## Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



**H**appy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. I don't know about you but I'm getting a bit of cabin fever. These frigid temperatures have put a damper on my outdoor activities including fishing but not before a great trip up to PA. As many of you may have heard, we recently had an amazing outing to Elk Creek. About a dozen members spent a couple days catching a bunch of steelhead and enjoyed some great dinners together. It was a good time. I wanted to thank all of the members who made this happen, especially Craig VanderKolk! If you didn't participate, you really should consider joining us next time.



In my opinion, fishing in the winter can be some of the most peaceful days all year you can have on the water. It's also that time of year to go small or go home, as they say. Tiny black stone flies, BWOs, midges and very small nymphs (not my favorite to fish) patterns have made their way to the top of my fly box. I'm sure there are many other patterns that

could easily have made my short list but not necessary the way I fish. I usually only fish for a few hours before getting too cold, so I don't need a box full of different flies to fish. If you haven't done much winter fishing, I would encourage you to consider giving it a try. Trout fishing during the winter can be some of the most exciting fishing of the year and you usually have the streams all to yourself. Keep a couple of these in mind: fish during the warmest portion of the day, be extra stealthily when approaching the stream, fish the slower, deep water and be extra safe wading this time of year. We have some expert fisherpersons in PPTU so reach out to get some additional advice, you won't be disappointed.

I'm looking forward to an exciting 2023 with PPTU but we need your help. Please consider becoming a co-chair or just helping for a few hours any way you can. Outings, conservation projects, community involvement...these all take volunteers to make it happen. If you enjoy what PPTU has to offer, consider helping out in 2023. As we get back to more of our normal live meeting schedule, I look forward to meeting all of our new members I haven't had a chance to meet yet. In the meantime, get out on the water and enjoy the peace and quiet winter fishing has to offer!

Joe Taylor  
President, PPTU

## PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

PPTU 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. all on nearby streams. Instruction will be tailored to individual needs. Members who have not made an **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.

Contact us by e-mail: [mentor@pptu.org](mailto:mentor@pptu.org)



## Fly Fishing Trail - Trout Unlimited

In case you missed it, the Maryland Fly Fishing Trail was launched last year with the help of several chapter members. TU National promoted it in an article titled, "[A trail for trout \(and more\)](#)".

Maryland's Fly Fishing Trail is the first statewide fly fishing trail in the Nation, where Maryland residents and visitors and their families and friends can experience a wide variety of unique fly fishing experiences with two Trail sites located in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.



Get your map out and plan to explore the trail in 2023. It could be a family adventure to explore and check off all the various locations Maryland has to offer, whether you actually fish or not.

Learn more about the [Fly Fishing Trail](#).

## Social Outings to Continue! - Craig VanderKolk

Our social events have been well received so we'll continue offering this opportunity to meet and greet fellow members in 2023.

Our movie night was a blast, so we'll probably do another one this year. Many thanks to Ron Briggs for loaning us "*Finding Joe Brooks*". It was quite entertaining and enlightening.

If you have any suggestions for a meeting location or event please send them my way.

[cvanderkolk@gmail.com](mailto:cvanderkolk@gmail.com)

## Fly Tying Clinics and Classes - Great Feathers Fly Shop

Great Feathers will be hosting several fly tying clinics in 2023 along with fly tying classes. The first fly tying class for Winter Euro Flies will be **Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** where folks can learn tie a Blow Torch. All Classes Start at 5 PM. The tying classes are free. One only needs to bring a vise, tools, and materials on the list. However if items are needed they can be purchased at the shop for 10% off prior to and after the class.

**Blow Torch materials:** Standard Jig Hook 12-16, ST Bead 3.0mm – 4.0mm (7/64” – 5/32”) Copper, 70 Fl Org Thread, Fl Org Antron Yarn, CDC (Brown/Tan), 6x or 7x Tippet, UV Ice Dud Peacock Black, Opal or Pearl Flash.

The first clinic coming up is **Saturday February 11: Steelhead Q&A, Fly Tying Steelhead Flies, and Pizza with Sarah Beth.** This event is \$25 per person, Limit is 12 People. Food, drink, and materials for four flies are included in the price. Participants just need to bring their own vise and tying tools. A 10% Discount on any Fly Tying Related Purchase will be given the night of the class to those attending. \*Pre-Registration Is Required with full payment due at time of registration\*.



To register for any of the above events, please call Great Feathers Fly Shop at (410) 472-6799 Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM, or email us with questions at [contact@greatfeathers.com](mailto:contact@greatfeathers.com).



## Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival - Dana Williams

I just wanted to put a plug in for any female anglers for the great lineup Beau Beasley has at the Beyond the Cast Women's Symposium at the VA Fly Fishing & Wine Festival coming up Jan. 14-15 in Doswell (near Richmond), VA. I'll be emceeing the event 10 days before I ship out to a 2-year assignment in Turkmenistan (land of no fishing). Guys - the rest of the festival looks great, too, so check it out!

[www.vaflyfishingfestival.com](http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.com)

Thank you PPTU for your great mentor program (shout out to my mentor Bob Kaiser!) I was privileged to be a part of this year and for the great info on the forum which I also enjoyed during my one year in the DC area. The fishing reports were a special highlight for me. I will look y'all up again when I pass through town for a few months training in 2025!

*"A Master in the art of living draws no sharp distinction between his work and his play; his labor and his leisure; his mind and his body; his education and his recreation. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence through whatever he is doing, and leaves others to determine whether he is working or playing. To himself, he always appears to be doing both."*

~ Francois Auguste Rene Chateaubriand

If you spot poaching please call or text:

**Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers**  
At  
**443-433-4112**



*Add this number to your cell phone contact list!*



## Strange Catch - Bob O'Donnell

I've read some weird headlines and articles on the web, this one caught my eye. Not exactly fly fishing, but you never know what you'll pull from the water on any given day.

[Man Finds Live Grenade While Magnet Fishing](#)

## Fishing Angles - Troutbitten

How much do you think about fishing angles? One topic seldom talked about is the angler positioning relative to the sun. Check out this video from Troutbitten to improve your approach when you're hitting the river.

[Fishing Angles](#)

## Invitation from SVTU - Noel Gollehon

I want to make other TU chapters in Maryland aware of SVTU's upcoming program on **Jan 9, 2023**. It is a real honor for SVTU to host Steve Moyer, TU National's VP for Governmental Affairs. All TU chapter members are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

After a distinguished career of more than 30 years leading Trout Unlimited's national conservation policy work, Steve Moyer, Vice President for Government Affairs, will reflect on the successes and future challenges for saving fish and their habitat.

To join the meeting online, click the button on the front page of SVTU's website. Just go to <https://senecavalleytu.org/> click "Join the meeting here!" to join.

## Trout Stockings - Maryland DNR

Winter fishing can be highly rewarding. It's possible to arrive at your favorite location and have the entire stream to yourself! Time to relax, soak in the outdoors and let the solitude wash away the worries of the day.

Maryland DNR crews were busy the last couple of months stocking fish. Well over 16,000 trout have already been placed in Maryland waters. Go check them out and see how you do.

**Carroll County**  
Piney Run Reservoir: rainbow trout

**Allegany County**  
Town Creek (delayed harvest): brown trout

**Garrett County**  
Deep Creek Lake: rainbow trout  
Savage River Reservoir: golden & rainbow trout  
Youghiogheny River (delayed harvest): brown trout

**Washington County**  
Blairs Valley Lake: brown, golden, & rainbow trout  
Greenbrier Lake: golden & rainbow trout



To date, Amazon Smile has donated a total of \$1,390.67 to Potomac Patuxent Chapter #236 of Trout Unlimited.

Thanks to all that participate. Keep shopping folks!

## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

As the New Year rolls around, now is a good time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) to PPTU. As a Chapter we are not allowed to require chapter dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each year, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and other community service projects including:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania,

sponsoring attendance by high school students.

- Support of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.



You can make your ASC donation in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting (whenever that might be) by cash or check.
- Go to [pptu.org](http://pptu.org) and use our Donate portal: [Donate to PPTU](#)
- Mail a check payable to PPTU and send to our PO Box (see last page).

## **Cabin Fever? Attend a Fly Fishing Show! - Phil Monahan - Orvis**

One of the best ways to overcome cabin fever during the long winter months is to attend a fly-fishing consumer show . . . or perhaps several of them. This year, show season kicks off a little later than usual, with the first even not until January 6. Then things really get rolling right through March, as there's a wide variety of events from California to Massachusetts, and from Texas to St. Paul.

Every year, the list changes, but the pandemic seems to have taken its toll on these expos, as the number of gatherings has shrunk considerably. If you've got a link to or other info about a show I've missed, I'll get them on the list.

So find the show nearest you (or the big one you're willing to travel to) and mark your calendar. Spending two or three days checking out new products, fondling tying materials, or watching one of your heroes on the casting pond is a great way to beat the winter blues. Below are just a few.

### **January**

12-15 International Sportsmen's Exhibit—Denver, CO

14-15 Fly Fishing & Wine Festival—Doswell, VA

27-29 The Fly-Fishing Show—Edison, NJ

### **February**

4 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show—Loveland, OH

17-19 The Fly-Fishing Show—Denver, CO

### **March**

4-5 The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA

10-11 Northwest Fly Tye & Fly Fishing Expo—Albany, OR

11-12 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo—Warren, MI

16-19 International Sportsmen's Exhibition—Salt Lake City, UT

17-19 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo—St. Paul, MN

18 Maryland Fly Fishing Show—Towson, MD

25 Long Island Fly Fishing Expo —Hauppauge, NY

[2023 Fly Fishing Show: Dates & Locations](#)



## Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

If you haven't seen it, check out our Events page on the chapter website. The recent trip to Erie, PA for steelhead couldn't have been better. Lots of happy fishermen. The article explains the trip and besides the still photos, there is a video of our fearless leader explaining a steelhead setup to the group. These are just a few of the many fish reeled in. Enjoy!

### [Steelhead Outing](#)



## Contributions & Questions Welcome!

Send your contributions, article suggestions or fly fishing questions to the Editor in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is typically the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

**Editor: Bob O'Donnell**

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### Pink Possum Streamer

Our friend at Savage Flies, Matt O'Neal discusses some fly tying fun with random fur. He gives a good explanation of fur options and where to pick some up for a decent price. Besides talking about fur, Matt demonstrates his Pink Possum Streamer. This looks like a good option to slowly fish in some deep pools and runs this winter.

[Fly Tying Fun with Random Fur](#)



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