

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

March 2024 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## “Success Not Stress on Spring Creeks”

Guest Speaker: Mike Heck

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This month PPTU is excited to host Mike Heck on Wednesday, March 20. Mike will be sharing his knowledge and expertise on finding "Success Not Stress" on spring creeks. Since boyhood, Mike has been blessed to have been able to learn the art of fly fishing on some of the hardest and most famous spring creeks in the country. He has been doing so for over thirty years. Mike Heck is the author of “Spring Creek Strategies,” head writer for "Keystone Fly Fishing," and also contributed to the book “Tying Dry Flies.” Mike has also been published in Fly Fisherman, American Angler and Fish and Fly Magazine. He has appeared in the TV show, “Road Trip USA,” a Discovery channel show that aired across Europe. Mike operates an Orvis Endorsed professional guide service for the Falling Springs, Letort, Yellow Breeches and many other South Central PA trout streams.



Mike is also an innovative fly tyer with several patterns credited to his name. These flies include his Simple Shrimp, Big Eye Rainbow, Mike’s Midges Pupa, the Snowshoe Emerger series of patterns and his well know Baetis and Sulphur nymphs. You can find Mike Heck’s Trout Guides on the web at <http://www.fallingsprings.com> or contact Mike by e-mail at [fallingsprings@outlook.com](mailto:fallingsprings@outlook.com) and by calling 717-321-5160.

Please join us Wednesday night as Mike takes the stress out of fishing spring creeks.

– *Scott Cernich*

### March 20<sup>th</sup> Hybrid Chapter Meeting

Mid County Community Center

2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906

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

Virtual Chapter Meeting Link:

[Join Us Virtually!](#)

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

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## Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



Fish it thoroughly or keep moving? Do you leave fish to find “better” fish? Sure, there are plenty of other decisions one must make like what fly to use, how much weight to add and many other decisions. But how will you fish your favorite stretch of water is always an interesting topic. For most of us, we don't get to fish so often that we know every pool and bolder that holds fish so we make calculated guesses. Some would say after a few casts move on to another pool or stretch of water while others might say don't overlook the less obvious sections the stream has to offer. I am certainly not in a position to provide expert advice so I'll leave that up to other members but I will say I've been guilty of looking for the perfect pool or stretch of water to only find out the fish were right at my feet...literally right at my feet.

The best example I can think of was on the Gunpowder while I waiting for the sulfur hatch to get going one summer evening. I was moving around the stream when a very nice gentleman told me to stay put and give it another thirty minutes. Oh boy, was I surprised to see what seemed like a hundred fish rising all around me and within inches of my legs. It was crazy because I probably walked by a thousand fish that night to get to that “perfect spot”. So, as the season gets in full swing I, for one, will be more patient and not in such a hurry to keep moving on to the next stretch of stream.

This story also reminds me of fishing with one of our long time PPTU members Lou Reichel. If you don't know Lou you should get to know him. He's one of the nicest guys you will ever meet and has a great sense of humor. The connection between my story and Lou is a funny one. Lou will tell you stories of how he would invite another member of PPTU while on outings to fish next to him to only watch them catch a fish right in front of him. Lou is like that, he's a good sport and is always looking out for someone else to have some fun too. I always think of Lou's fun spirited approach to fishing during our outings.

I wanted to personally thank Lou for the many years he has served PPTU as our Outings Coordinator. It's one of PPTU's most know activities. If you didn't know, many other chapters

are envious of our Outings and support and involvement we foster across the chapter. This could not have happened without Lou's dedication and commitment over the years. So Lou, I wanted to thank you for all you have done for PPTU as the Outings coordinator!

Lou has recently decided to step down temporarily as our Outings Coordinator so if you or anyone you know might be interested in taking over for a short time please let us know. Lou isn't going anywhere so he can help get you up to speed and help hand off the playbook to the coordinator. As I mentioned, this is one of the cornerstone programs for PPTU so it's important we find his replacement soon. If you enjoy adventure and having fun fishing with fellow members this is the position for you! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Until next month...get out on the water and enjoy!

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 Shows for March & April - PPTU**

The show season is still moving along. The list for March and April's shows are below with a wide variety of events around the country.

Two shows of note nearest to us include **The Fly Fishing Show** in Lancaster, PA and the **Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectible Tackle Show**, one of the east coast premier shows will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024 at West Village Commons, 404 Emerson Drive, Towson, MD 21204. West Village Commons is located on the west side of Towson University's campus. There is FREE garage parking and a short walk to the event building.

### **March**

**2-3** The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA

**2** Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo—Kirtland, OH

**8-9** Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo—Albany, OR

**9-10** Midwest Fly Fishing Expo—Warren, MI

**9** Trinity Fly Fest—Fort Worth, TX

**15-17** Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo—St. Paul, MN

**15-16** Wasatch Intermountain Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo—Sandy, UT

**16** Long Island Fly Fishing Expo—Hauppauge, NY

**21-24** International Sportsmen's Exhibition—Salt Lake City, UT

**23** Maryland Fly Fishing Show—Towson, MD

**23** RMFTU Trout Fishing Expo, Loveland, CO

**21-23** Sowbug Roundup—Mountain Home, AR

**22-23** East Idaho Fly Fishing & Tying Expo—Idaho Falls, ID

### **April**

**13** Tri-Lakes Fly Fishing Expo—Clinton, MO

### **May**

**3-4** FFI Gulf Coast Classic—Gulf Shores State Park, AL

**3-5** Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival—Arlington, VT

**31-2** Appalachian Fly Fishing Festival—Thomas, WV



## Cathy Beck - RIP - Andy Grosko

Fly-Fishing Pioneer Cathy Beck passes at 71.

Cathy and her husband Barry were both from Pennsylvania; she passed away recently. I used to religiously read their fly fishing articles in the PA Angler magazine. Maybe you enjoyed their writings as well or met her in person at a fly fishing show... evidently she was last at the Edison NJ show. Cathy passed away suddenly on February 7, 2024, while hosting a group of fly fishers at Laguna Verde Lodge, aka "Jurassic Lake," in a remote region of Argentina.

You can read more at [Fly Fisherman](#) magazine.

*"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."*

~ Roderick Haig-Brown

## Trout Stockings 2024 - MD DNR

Maryland Department of Natural Resources crews stocked more than 12,000 trout. You can check out the details by visiting the interactive trout stocking map. This map contains up-to-date information on all stocking activities performed by the department throughout the year. Click a feature on the map to find out the last time that area was stocked.

Additionally, the Trout Stocking Map tools allow multiple ways to select stocking locations of recently

stocked areas for streams and waterbodies in Maryland. This map offers the latest daily stocking information statewide.

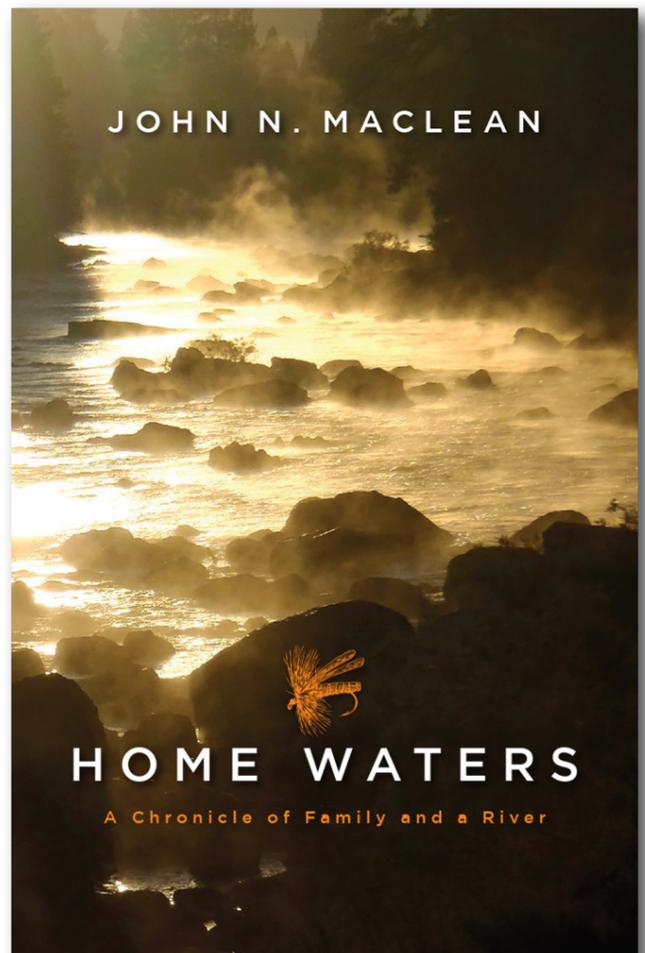
[Trout Stocking Map](#)

## Special April Chapter Meeting!!! Author John N. Maclean - Scott Cernich

John N. Maclean is the son of Norman Maclean, author of *A River Runs through It*.

John is the author of *Home Waters: A Chronicle of Family and A River* and other books. He wrote the foreword to Ernest Hemingway's Big Two-Hearted River: The Centennial Edition, published last year by Mariner Classics. Maclean spent thirty years at the Chicago Tribune, most of that time as a Washington correspondent, before turning to an independent writing career three decades ago. Maclean, an avid fly fisherman, divides his time between Washington, DC, and a family cabin at Seeley Lake, Montana.

**Note:** This special April 17th Chapter Meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY**. Mark your calendars.



## More Books! - Bob O'Donnell

If I'm not mistaken, our own Charlie Gelso started this thread on murder mysteries and fly fishing. Sounds like there should be another movie.

Hello Fellow Travelers,

I just got introduced by a pal from Montana to a book series that combines the murder-mystery genre with fly fishing. Keith McCafferty has written the series, and if you haven't already, it might be worth a look. I have read two books in the series (Grey Ghost Murders, and Royal Wulff Murders), and I think they are terrific. Excellent writing, great mysteries, and lots of fly fishing in Montana land.

With that post – Chalie sparked a nice long thread with other members chiming in on various books to read in that genre. Check them out and if you read one, let us know what you think.

**Paul Doiron:** Mike Bowditch Mysteries

**Peter Heller:** The Dog Stars, The River, The Guide

**Keith McCafferty:** Sean Stranahan Mystery Series

**Michael Wallace:** Quill Gordon Mystery Series

**C.J. Box:** Joe Pickett Series



## State Record Rainbow Trout - MD DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recognizes Jean-Philippe Lartigue of Bethesda as a new state record holder for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Nontidal Division. Lartigue caught a 17.44-pound rainbow trout February 10 in the section of Antietam Creek running

through Devil's Backbone County Park in Washington County.

Lartigue was fishing with a long, 12-foot crappie-style rod, spinning reel, eight-pound test monofilament line, a small split-shot weight, and a No. 8 hook baited with a natural worm bait when he hooked the massive rainbow trout.

## Reminder!!! Put it in Your Calendar Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day - Maryland DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering the state's first-ever **Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day** for children under 16 years of age on **March 23rd**, one week before opening day for all trout anglers.

"Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young people to the sport and our state's natural beauty," said John Mullican, Maryland DNR's director of freshwater fisheries and hatcheries. "We hope children across the state will take advantage of this day reserved just for them to enjoy stocked waterways that are typically still closed."

## Mailed a Newsletter Copy? - PPTU Membership

If you receive this issue through the US Post Office, we request your email address, so we can save the mailing cost for our conservation and education expenses. To receive the Conservationist electronically, please send an email with your name to: [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com).



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!*

## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

As the New Year is in full swing, 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 or 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.

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

## FREE Trout Unlimited Membership! - PPTU

If you have ever wanted to join Trout Unlimited, let PPTU cover your first year's membership! FREE! No cost except your time to send an email to [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com). You will become an active TU member almost in the blink of an eye. The only requirement is that you have never been a member of TU.

Optionally, you can sign up on line directly at Trout Unlimited's web site for half price - \$17.50. Scan the QR code below. Join now!



## Video Pro Tips: Secrets to Fishing Spring Creeks - Orvis

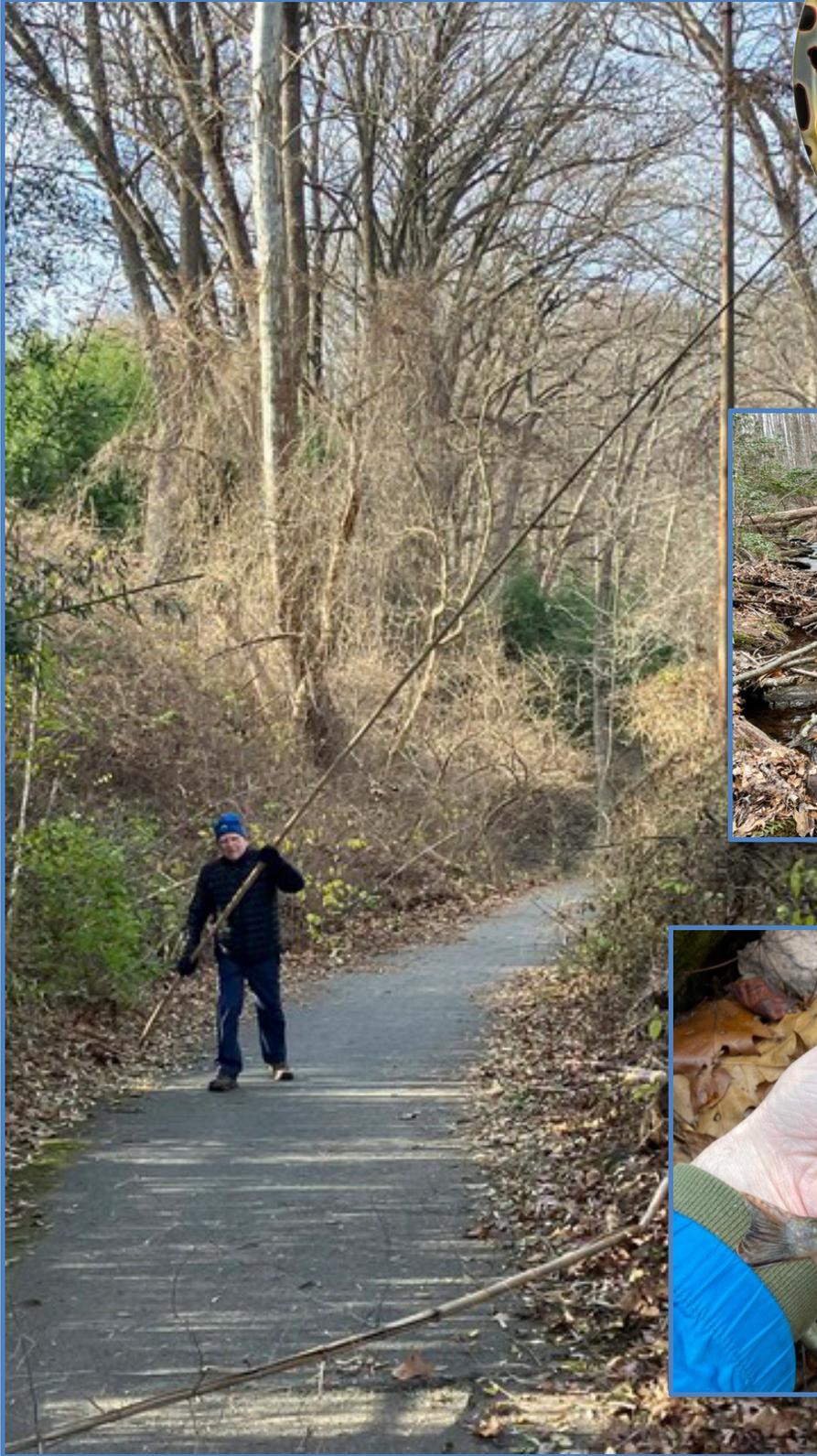
Along with Mike Heck's presentation at our chapter meeting, this video by Todd Moen may come in handy for you.

Spring creeks can produce some of the most exhilarating—and frustrating—moments in fly fishing, usually over the course of the same day. Their slow-moving, crystal-clear water allows trout to detect your presence from much farther away, and gives them plenty of time to examine your flies, amplifying challenges to new heights which can sometimes seem insurmountable. In this detailed 10-minute video from Todd Moen of Catch Magazine, Peter Corbett, owner of Creekside Angling Company near Seattle, shares some of the lessons he's learned after many years of fishing spring creeks.

[Spring Creeks – Secrets of Catching Trout](#)

## Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

A few fun things popped in from the group this go around. I hope to see more in the coming months. Get out there and snap some photos!



**Abel Fly Reel**  
(On my wish list)



That is one huge Bamboo Rod!

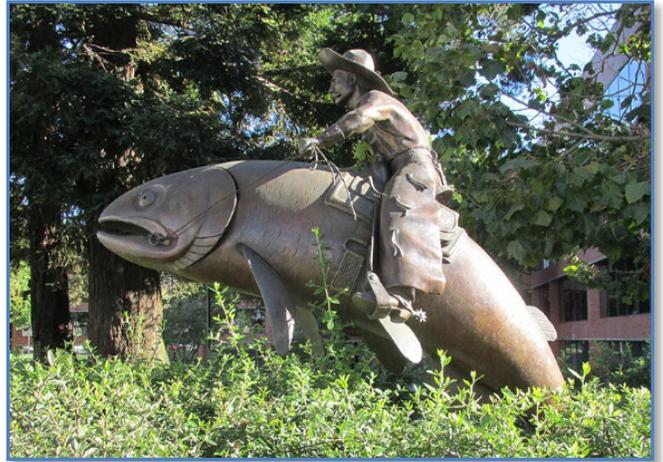
## Contributions & Questions Welcome!

Send your contributions, article suggestions or fly fishing questions to the Editor in an email. Deadline for submissions is typically the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Newsletter available online at [PPTU.org](http://PPTU.org)

**Editor: Bob O'Donnell**

Email: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



### Green Caddis Larva

Trout guide and author of Spring Creek Strategies, Mike Heck, ties one of his productive spring creek patterns, his green caddis larva.

#### [Green Caddis Larva](#)

Want to see another “hot” Mike Heck pattern? Here is his simple shrimp. Another great spring creek fly.

#### [Simple Shrimp](#)



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