



The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

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The Rapidan and Rappahannock – The Good, Bad, Ugly -March 16th

At the age of 58, Steve Moore is proud of the fact that he has been fishing for over half a century. His father, Hal Moore, co-author of the New York Times bestseller, *"We Were Soldiers Once... and Young"*, started him at the early age of five on small ponds at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. It got serious when the family moved to Norway and trout were added to the mix. After pulling in massive trout on mountain streams, Steve was addicted with no hope of a cure.

Since 2006, Steve has been an active writer who posts three articles a week to his very popular website, SwitchFisher.com, which receives over 22,000 unique visits/40,000 page views a month. The primary focus is on places to fish in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia with maps, pictures, directions, and discussion of what Steve encountered during his visit. In 2009, Steve realized that he had collected a treasure trove of information and matured the content into four books. The *"CatchGuides"* represent a breakthrough approach that moves away from the traditional guidebook. Instead of covering a broad area like a state or a region at a high level, Steve focuses entirely on a specific, single body of water and leads the reader beyond the parking lot onto the river. He literally walks the reader upstream using words, pictures, and provides GPS coordinates as well as driving directions.

At our meeting, Steve will walk us up the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers using a mix of maps, pictures, and satellite views to provide a perspective on selected places to fish that represent the good, the bad and the ugly. He believes that it is important to cover the bad places as thoroughly as the good to keep his readers from wasting time going to nonproductive locations. He will also share innovative techniques he has used to fully document all of the rivers covered in his writing. Find Steve's books on Amazon under Books – Steve Moore Fishing.

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, Maryland

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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President's Column - Larry Vawter

Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow, so I think we can call it official; winter is over, and spring is coming very soon. Yeah!!! Clean you fly lines, and don't forget your rods and reels. Get the winter dust off. I am sure your favorite flies have been tied and added to your box. As soon as the snow is gone, it will be the perfect time to wet a line.....But we still have some work to do.

Don't forget our stocking efforts and more than likely a stream clean up or two. At the time of this writing, the stocking schedule has not been posted, but don't worry it is coming very soon. Keep an eye on the DNR website or check out our list server for dates. I am 100 percent sure we will be looking for more volunteers to help us stock our local streams. What a great way to see the size and quality of the stocked fish. Stream clean ups will also be scheduled soon. So keep an eye open for that as well.

Here is an important change to our fishing rules you should know about. In order to help prevent the spread of invasive species such as Didymo (rock snot), or whirling disease, Maryland DNR has promulgated new regulation effective on March 21, 2011. This new regulation prohibits the use of felt soled boots or shoes while wading in our streams. As a result, you may want to do is get some new wading shoes, or boot foot waders which utilize the new sticky rubber soles instead of traditional felt.

Every month I seem to write about wanting volunteers for this or that. As Chapter President, seeking out and recruiting volunteers is one of the most difficult tasks I have. This month is no exception. Last month I mentioned we are looking for officers, and this month we are still looking. So once again we are searching out special people who don't mind serving the chapter. I am looking for members to take over as Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a couple of folks to become Directors. Are you a special person who can fill one of these roles here? Help is always needed, and it is always welcomed. Please, join our team. You won't regret it.

PPTU Mentor Program Beginner's & 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 301-627-7154 or e-mail: kenbowyer@verizon.net

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard



Please mark your calendars for the second Saturday in April as a stream cleanup. The Upper

Patuxent Watershed Clean-Up will be on Saturday, April 9th (rain date: Sunday, April 10th) from 8:30 to Noon. Meet at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter, 26430 Mullinix Mill Rd., Damascus. Gloves, water, and lunch at noon for all participants will be provided. PPTU members bring hip boots or chest waders (felt free!) and a heavy rake to pull human detritus from the stream. Anyone with kids can join other groups cleaning road sides and parking areas. A great family activity.

Stocking of the local streams and lakes was expected to start about the end of February and continue into March. Special regulation streams such as the Patuxent and Middle Patuxent are usually scheduled as early as possible, since these waters have no closures and the fish can survive the spring and in some places through the summer. The upper Patuxent special area (flies & no-kill) is planned to receive 500 rainbows and 800 browns from rt 94 down stream to Howard Chapel bridge. Below Brighton Dam, the Patuxent will be stocked with 500 rainbows and

1200 brown trout; this is a flies only, no-kill section. The Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent is planned to be stocked with 500 rainbows and 500 browns. These stockings are to be completed just as we mail this issue out. 🌸

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. Just drop us a post card or send an email to Jay Sheppard (jmsheppard@aol.com) with any changes to your email or snail mail addresses.

Tackle and Tactics - Jay Sheppard

As indicated the past two months, the value of a fly increases exponentially as one travels further and further away from the car and the nearest fly shop or tying bench. Recovering a fly from a tree, log, bush, or whatever has snagged it is an important skill to have, especially if that fly that just got hung up on the tree is the one that is really working that day and is your last copy! I have a few more tricks that can help retrieve a fly.

Some mail order houses offer a small hook-like device that can be placed in the tip top guide. A stout cord is attached to this hook and the inside of the hook is sharpened. It will usually cut through branches up to the thickness of a pen or so. A simpler trick is to pull off about 20' of fly line and then take the tip of the rod to lay over the offending branch a loop of the line. The remaining line is pulled over the branch until the doubled fly line can be grasped. Lay the rod out of the way where it will not be stepped upon! The line is then used to pull the branch down to where the fly can be grasped.



A line and leader will usually snake over and

through almost any obstruction. The problem arises when there is anything attached to the leader: flies, split shot, strike indicator, etc. Naturally, knots made by such attachments also pose a real problem. In many cases it is very prudent to simply snap off all such attachments and knots and then slide the freed line back through the branches. In most cases the leader has been compromised by abrasion from the plant material—grasses, bark, leaves, twigs, rocks, etc. Always check your leader thoroughly after any hang ups with any structures firmer than melted butter. You might hook a real nice trout on your next cast! 🌸



New License Requirements For Maryland Anglers Go Into Effect

Maryland changed its recreational fishing license structure for 2011 in order to comply with the National Angler Registry requirements. Because of these changes, anglers in Maryland will not have to register with NOAA. The contact information required by the angler registry will be automatically provided to NOAA for Maryland licensed or registered anglers by MD DNR.

A key change to the 2011 license system is that unless individually licensed, “a free registration is required” for waterfront property owners or family members, those fishing in a designated free fishing area, and passengers on a vessel displaying a consolidated sport boat license.

Anglers may register at:
www.dnr.maryland.gov/service

Effective January 1, 2011, anglers who fish in Maryland will see significant changes to sportfishing license requirements. Enacted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), many of these changes are being implemented to allow the State to comply with Federal law calling for a national database of saltwater anglers.

“Marylanders are blessed with exciting, abundant recreational fishing opportunities,” said DNR’s Fisheries Director Tom O’Connell. “These

changes will help us gather information critical to managing these fisheries for the long term.”

Notable changes include:

- 🌸 A single comprehensive saltwater sport fishing license has been created to replace the one in effect since 1985. The new Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License will now cover Maryland waters off the Atlantic coast, including the coastal bays, in addition to Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
- 🌸 The NOAA National Saltwater Angler Registration will no longer be valid for anglers fishing in Maryland waters. DNR will provide angler contact information to NOAA obtained through State licenses and registration.
- 🌸 A new recreational sport fishing license fee structure has been adopted and registration for certain unlicensed anglers will be required. The license fees for several non-resident categories of Maryland’s recreational fishing licenses have been changed and five-day licenses have been extended to seven days.

We strongly encourage everyone who plans to fish in Maryland to take the time to learn about these changes and how residents and visitors – including those exempt from holding a license – will be impacted,” added O’Connell.

Specific details on the changes, new fee structure and exemptions are available at www.dnr.state.md.us/service/fishing_license.asp. Anglers with questions can email customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or call (410) 656-9526. 🌸



Felt-Soled Waders and Wading Shoes Are On the Way Out - Effective March 21



Didymo, also known as Rock Snot, is an invasive, non-native alga of cold flowing waters.

Individual didymo organisms are microscopic, but infestations include enormous numbers. Each individual produces a long stalk from the stream bottom resulting in a yellow-brown slime layer, which can dominate a once beautiful cold water stream.

Didymo is gross, and it can obstruct fishing to the point of being insufferable.

Didymo has also caused destructive changes in stream biology in some of the finest cold fishing waters on the planet.

Resource managers in North America and New Zealand suspected early on that the felt-soled waders and boots of traveling fly fishermen were the pathway for its spread. Subsequent field and laboratory research has confirmed that the felt used for waders is an ideal medium for collecting and transporting microscopic organisms.

DNR scientists and anglers have found seasonal infestations of Didymo in the Gunpowder River and traces of the organism in the Savage River.

Other diseases and injurious species such as Whirling Disease, which is fatal to trout, may be carried on felt soles.

Felt has been banned from New Zealand streams since 2008.

Alaska and Vermont have moved to prohibit felt soles.

Maryland is doing the same.

Maryland's proposed regulation to prohibit felt soles in all waters is scheduled to become effective March 21, 2011. 🌸

FLY FISHING SYMPOSIUM

Saturday & Sunday, March 5 & 6, at the Bass Pro store in Arundel Mills. World renowned and the fly fishers' guru, Lefty Kreh, will be giving tips on knots and other tricks for fly fishers on

Sunday afternoon, March 6. He will also be signing any of his dozens of books. Do not miss this chance to meet The Legend in person!

On both Saturday and Sunday there will be demos and presentations to learn fly fishing and tying tips and techniques from some of the best-known fly anglers in the mid-Atlantic region. The presentations feature: Jay Sheppard "Getting Started in Fly Fishing", Jim Gracie "Fly Fishing Maryland Trout Streams", Capt. CD Dollar "Kayak Fishing the Chesapeake Bay", Steve Moore "Leveraging Technology to Find Fishing Spots", Walt Sheppard "Knot Tying for Fly Fishing", and Bill Dawson "Fly Casting".

There will also be information tables manned by PPTU, as well as the Coastal Conservation Association and the Chesapeake Woman Anglers Fly Club. Please come and bring a friend or a kid! Its free!! 🌸

Early Meeting Segments - begin at 7 pm

Tying Bench

This month will find Dick Friis at the "Bench" tying not one, but two flies that hold special interest for him.

FLY #1 - Salmon River Guide - Flesh Fly

While flesh flies have been around a long time for salmon and steelhead, Dick got this pattern from a Salmon River guide. He likes this fly due to the use of modern materials such as the chenille for the body and two tone rabbit strip. Dick notes that a friend recently caught a nice steelhead on it in New York.

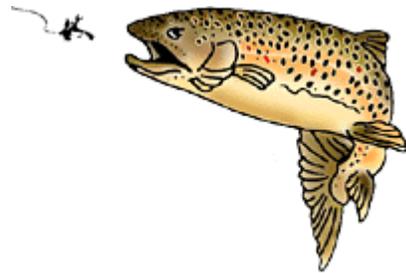
FLY #2 - John Barr's Slumpbuster With A Twist
Wooly buggers and streamers are fine, but last year Dick began tying Barr's Slumpbuster pattern which incorporates the use of micro squirrel strips for movement. Dick will demonstrate this fly with the Skull Head, the 2011 fly tying product of the year! He says that not only has he had great success with Barr's Slumpbuster on brown and rainbow trout, but also smallmouth and walleye. Let's see how it looks with its Skull Head twist. 🌸

Angler's Corner

Come by the Angler's Corner and check with Dennis Covert to learn about our Demo Outing on March 19th on the Little Patuxent River at Savage (Laurel). This is going to be an instructional outing for new or novice anglers. Dennis says he is looking for volunteers to hold small clinics on rigging up rod to reel and leader systems, casting clinic, demonstrations on fishing wet flies, nymphing, dry fly presentation, etc. If you are interested in demonstrating a skill let Dennis know. April 10-13 are the dates for the Steelhead Outing to the Salmon River in New York. Fishers will lodge close to or in Pulaski NY. Contact Dennis for details. 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, contact Dennis Covert, Outings chairman, at denniscovert@hotmail.com. See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings. 🇺🇸

Council Banquet

The Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited is holding its annual banquet at the BWI Marriott on March 26th. The banquet features conservation and education programs that the council and its chapters support. In addition, an incredible number of items are available to bid on from trips to fishing gear and art. Tickets are only \$75/seat. Also consider being a sponsor. Contact Larry Vawter or Nick Weber for both seat and raffle tickets.



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