

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Mar 2016 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“Strip-Set: Fly-Fishing Techniques, Tactics and Patterns for Streamers”

George Daniel

Mar 16th, 2016

Mark your calendars for this awesome presentation! The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to welcome famed fly fisherman and author George Daniel to our March 16th chapter meeting.

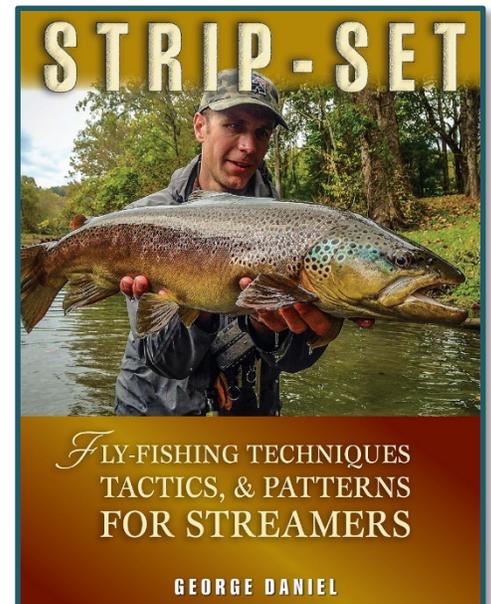
George is a former manager of TCO Fly Shop, a professional guide and competitive fly fisher as well as the author of the bestselling fly fishing book “*Dynamic Nymphing*” and his latest and greatest book, “*Strip-Set: Fly-Fishing Techniques, Tactics and Patterns for Streamers*”.

Enjoy a fun filled evening as George takes you on an exciting journey with streamers. He'll clearly explain how to read the water, trout behavior, equipment, casting and night fishing as well as discuss some of the best streamer patterns being used today.

ADDED BONUS
It's Rod Raffle Night!!!

Put a few dollars aside and snag a couple of tickets at the door as we raffle off a sweet rod. The winner will walk away smiling with their new *Douglass Outdoors, DFX 4904 - 9' 4 wt* which is a gorgeous rod and a nice arrow to have in your trout fishing quiver.

– Alan Burrows



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, MD 20901
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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Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

My calendar has been full lately. I haven't had a chance to get out and fish. Well, not quite true. There was one nice day in the mix, but the look on my wife's face was priceless as I reached for the fishing gear. One look told a whole story of neglected chores and promises and fly fishing wasn't even on the list. I reminded her of the gorgeous landing net I ordered her as a surprise for Christmas and that we should really go try it out together. That line didn't fly far. Sort of landed like a puddle cast.

With the recent weather, it doesn't look like too many others have tried the waters either. The fish pics posts on line have been slim this month and its been unusually quiet, other than some comrades in similar positions, emailing that they're just jonesing to get out and fish. I'm right there with you. Looks like things will be turning around shortly. Work is getting under control and the weather looks like it wants to shift gears.

DNR has done their due diligence and has dropped some fish in our Maryland waters. Out of the blue I got notified the other day that they were dumping fish in the Little Patuxent near Savage Mills. Shhh! It's a secret. Don't tell anyone.

Our chapter stockings unfortunately got delayed. The weather was against us at every planning stage. No worries, the fish are still there waiting for us. I'm certain we'll find them a nice new home shortly and all of you can make a visit to the Patuxent and check on them. Look for a notice in email and on our website – we'll let you know when the fish go in. Mail in a \$1 to PPTU and I'll tell you where they put the really big one. ;)

One thing that has been keeping me going lately is that I joined in on PPTUs fly tying class. Several members signed up and have been listening, watching, tying and learning from master fly tyer and fly fishing history buff Bob Dietz. Its been a blast not only learning a new pattern and tying techniques, but Bob also doles out the history behind the flies and the materials used to tie them. If we do another tying

class, I highly recommend it. Even if you're not the most efficient tier, it's a lot of fun.

My hope for this year is that more PPTU members take advantage of our offerings and activities throughout 2016. Try to make a real change to the year and come out and join us. If you can't make it, share your adventures via our listserver and email. We all love a good story, fish story or not. Feel free to share your photos with the group. Let us know what you're up to. And remember, come visit once in a while. Grab a friend and drive to a meeting, join us fishing, show us your garden photos or the birds at your feeder. Heck, my cat has graced the pages more than once – big fat Tabby. Its all good – we're family; TU family.

I look forward to the coming months and change in the weather. Not only for fishing, but in the hopes of seeing both new and old faces at our meetings and more importantly, out on the water.

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell
President, PPTU

PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & 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 (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 

Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

“Meeting the hatch” is one of fly fishing’s holy grails. This fun starts where one plans to make a trip days or many weeks in advance of an anticipated hatch and then arrives to find the timing and planning have made the trip very worthwhile—fish are rising everywhere to the anticipated hatch. This is all easier said than done in many cases.



One of the major mayfly hatches in this area is the “white miller” or “white fly.” This is an all white mayfly that can hatch by the millions at its peak. It is a large fly and provides a lot of protein to any fish able to engulf it. Trout, bass, carp, catfish, large panfish, etc. —all will happily take this rich source of calories. The fly is common on the Potomac and larger river systems to the north. The hatch on the Yellow Breeches in south-central PA is a frequent destination for local trout fishers.

The biggest problem is that this particular hatch only lasts for a few days at any one spot. This is a very brief but intense hatch. Most of our spring hatches of insects can last for a couple of weeks or more. Many summer or late spring hatches can go for almost a month in a few cases. The white fly hatch on the Potomac typically starts in late July or very first of August and proceeds upstream at the rate of about 3 miles per night. The bulk of the hatch only takes place for several nights at any one spot, so one has to anticipate where it will be to literally meet this hatch.

Other bugs tend to be a lot more cooperative. I will not go into any hatch table here. One can find such tables in many of the trout fishing references for mayflies or area streams. These books are generally

excellent and can easily predict most of the better hatches to within a few days on our local waters.

Simply knowing that insect “X” will hatch the first week or so of May in some location is not enough. One must dig a little deeper and determine the behavior of that insect during the hatch. Do the nymphs or larvae start their emergence in the riffles or along the sides of a quieter section of the stream? Do they linger on the surface for very long? Do the egg-laying stages become available to the trout? What time of the day does the hatch commence and end? Does it progress over the days to earlier or later emergence? How does weather affect the emergence? Are some stages more vulnerable to being eaten by the trout than other stages? Are there sometimes competing hatches that can distract the trout?



I intend to cover most of these questions over the next two issues of the Conservationist. For now I do want to elaborate on a few of these questions. Some insect larvae or nymphs literally rocket to the surface and just keep on going as they change into the flying adult stage. Trout only have a second or three to intercept these “missiles” before they get too far out of reach. Others slowly swim or simply rise to the surface, and then they slowly emerge as they drift along. Trout recognize these various modes of emerging. One has to imitate those actions with not just the correct fly pattern, but with the motion or lack thereof! One may be told that the nymph to use is a beadhead pheasant tail. A few hits might result from dead drifting that fly, but the real action may happen only when the fly is sent deep along the bottom and then caused to rapidly rise up to the surface. Fishing nymphs in the middle or tail of a long pool may yield little results because the naturals are all in a later stage of emergence by the time they

get to the middle or end of the pool. Conversely fishing a dun in the very head of a pool or even in the riffle leading into the pool may not be as productive as fishing a nymph or emerger in that faster water.



In sum, one must learn how the anticipated hatch behaves. Having the correct fly does not always guarantee a great fishing trip. Books, friends, local shops, guides, and others can give you the information one needs to meet the hatch and have a great day fishing. Information is key.

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Spring is almost here. Late winter stockings have been happening, when weather permits. As we go to press, our first chance at local stream stocking got canceled, and the backup date does not look much more promising. Watch the PPCTU list serve for updates on when stocking have taken place on the Patuxent and Middle Patuxent rivers.

Rainbows are being heavily stocked in the Patuxent flies-only tailwater. Brown trout will be heavily stocked in the upper Patuxent Special area. A total of a thousand rainbow and brown trout will be float stocked in the Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest section by early March. So get out and enjoy! Time, tide and fish wait for no man (or woman)!



If you spot poaching please place a call to the

Catch a Poacher Hotline
At
1-800-635-6124



Add this number to your cell phone contact list!

Seventh Annual Fly Casters' Rendezvous – Jim Crowell

New update on the Bob Abraham Casting Club International Federation of Fly Fishers Chesapeake Council, International Federation of Fly Fishers event in Williamsport.

Seventh Annual Fly Casters' Rendezvous

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM, 2 April 2016

River-bottom Park, Williamsport, Maryland

- First Time Fly Casters Learn to fly cast - equipment provided
- Experienced Casters Improve your Fly Casting Certified Casting Instructors to teach
- Casting Obstacle Course with Instruction
- Spey Casting Instruction (bring waders)
- Single-hand Spey Casting Instruction
- How to Fly Fish from a Kayak In-water instruction.

Kayak class taught by the American Canoe Association Certified Instructor, Sheila Chappelle. Pre- registration required.

Dress for the Weather - Outdoors, rain or shine.
Coffee and water provided
Lunch Available at Site
(approx. \$6:00 delivered by Desert Rose Café)

Cost: \$20 All Day

Contact Bob Davis
bob2soni3@aol.com
301-331-4681

More Fun! **Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival** **- Trout Wrangler**

The Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival will be held on April 9th & 10th at the Meadow Event Park, 13111 Dawn Blvd, in Doswell, VA.

Meadow Event Park is centrally located along the I-95 corridor just north of Richmond, VA and is on the National Register of Historic Places. This family horse farm was the birthplace of Triple Crown Winner Secretariat in 1970. Today, it is a 300+ acre site that is home to many types of events including the State Fair of Virginia.

For more detailed information on the event go to:
<http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.com>

Tri-State Conservation & Fishing **Youth Camp – June 26 – July 1, 2016** **- George Gaines**

I'm pleased and excited to let you know that our Camp website www.tucamp.org has been fully updated with information about this summer's Camp to be held June 26 – July 1, 2016. Check it out and make sure that everyone you know does, also. Please help us get folks to go to our website and learn about our Camp.

Our greatest needs are help with recruiting campers, finding interested boys and girls ages 13-17, and financial help to make the Camp possible. We deeply appreciate all that you do to help make our Camp so successful. I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Camp. Please let me know if I can help you get the word out. For additional information email: info@tucamp.org



Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp – June 19-24, 2016 - Nick Weber

Support the Rivers Conservation Youth Camp. This is their 22nd year providing conservation education to area students.

The camp is hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited & held at the Allenberry Resort on the Yellow Breeches in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. The deadline for the early acceptance period is March 31, 2016. More information about the camp and application form can found on their web site - www.riverscamp.com

Blue Ridge Bamboo Gathering - Jed Feffer

The annual Blue Ridge Bamboo Gathering will be held on April 22-24, 2016 at Graves' Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA.



For all vintage fly tackle enthusiasts! Buy, sell, swap or just meet & greet. There is also lots of fishing action within minutes of the lodge.

A \$30.00 fee covers the entire weekend, and \$20.00 will get you in for one day. The entry fee is also a deductible donation to the Trout Unlimited Tri-State Youth Camp.

For Room reservations, call Graves Mountain Lodge at: 540-923-4231 www.gravesmountain.com

For all event info, call Paul at 540-229-0563 wccanoe@gmail.com

Trout Stocking Information for 2016 - DNR

For those of you just dying to know where the fish are, DNR's Trout Stocking information can be found here:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/trout/stocking.aspx>



Additionally, you may sign up on DNR's web site to get up to date email notices. Sign in to choose from a list of available topics that may interest you, such as the "Nontidal Recreational Fisheries". Emails will include news and informational updates on the topic(s) you choose, frequency is based on related subject matter activity.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email-contact.aspx>

If you have any questions on the subscription service feel free to contact DNR by sending us an email at: customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov

"Live the Stream" - Bob O'Donnell

We (PPTU) recently sent a small donation to help independent filmmakers, Lucas and Meigan Bell fund their upcoming documentary film about fly fishing legend Joe Humphreys. "Live the Stream" is a documentary about Joe and his lifelong journey to share the sport he loves while inspiring a greater respect for our local waters. The documentary will

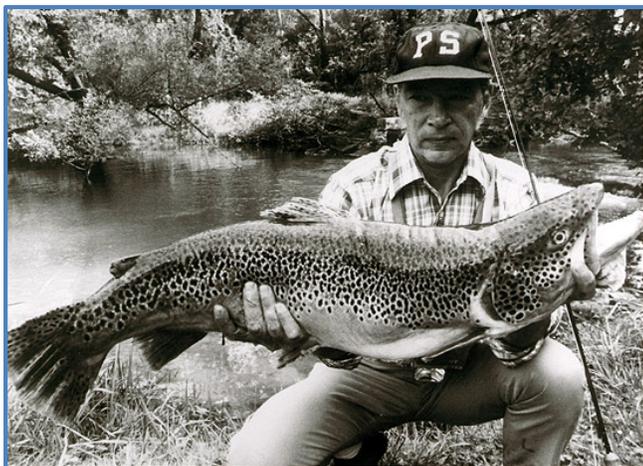
follow Joe Humphreys for one year of his life. Including following him in the local community, with family, and with friends. It's a personal portrait.

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/live-the-stream-the-story-of-joe-humphreys#/>

Joe was a multi-lettered collegiate athlete who easily could have chosen another career path but, instead, decided to devote his life to fly fishing. Joe's traveled the world representing the U.S. in fly fishing competitions, has guided presidents & celebrities, held a Pennsylvania record, hosted an ESPN show, and was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, yet Joe's focus has always been on teaching, coaching, and passing on the joys of fly fishing to anyone who wants to learn. His books have helped many students better their skills and his classroom work as a 19-year instructor of the renowned Penn State Angling program is just as esteemed.

When complete, PPTU will be the proud owner of a copy of the finished documentary film and will be able in turn to offer it to our members. Stay tuned for more info as it becomes available. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, check out this segment on Joe from one of my favorite World Fishing Network shows, "The New Fly Fisher".

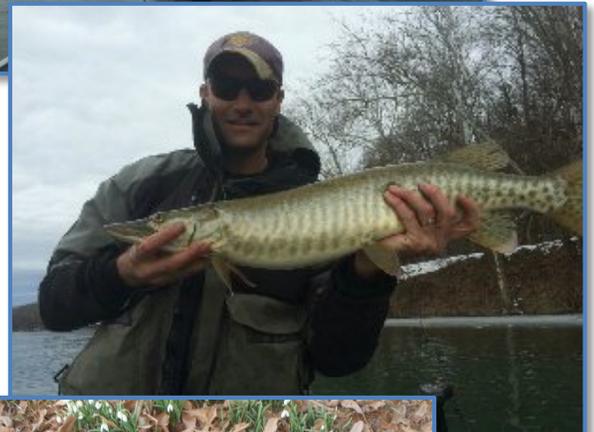
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Members Catch - PPTU

Keep those photos coming, fish or no fish.

Musky times Two!



*Almost
Spring*



Big Hunting Creek - Winter

Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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The Klinkhåmer Special

This is one of the many cool fly patterns being taught in PPTU's intermediate fly tying class.

Check out this pattern along with a detailed history about its inventor, Hans van Klinken, and some really nice photos including a step-by-step series of how to tie the fly.

<http://www.tomsutcliffe.co.za/fly-fishing/fly-tying/item/248-hans-van-klinken-on-his-klinkhamer>



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