



The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

October 2011

Published monthly except
June, July, August and December



Member Travelogues – Great Fishing Experiences Shared October 19th

As I think back over several years of reading our list server, I remember reading countless stories about our members sharing exciting and unique fishing experiences that captured my imagination about the places they had been and fishing wonders that they had seen. That has become the basis of this month's program – to have fishers whom most of you know or have read on the list serve share one of their favorite fishing experiences with you at our meeting embellished with a few pictures.

Now on to the teller and titles of these tales of fishing delight that should enchant and entertain us along with the possibility of following these tales with one of our own. Charlie Gelso will tell us about "Chasing Submarines in Northern Patagonia" while Dick Friis will share a tale about "Fall Fishing the Madison River Area in Yellowstone." Talk about out of the way - Ken Bowyer will share an experience about "Fishing Some Central New Hampshire Streams", Jed Feffer will tell us about "Fishing the Farmington, a fine tailwater. Finding a great fishing kayak", and Jay Sheppard will talk about "Fishing with Grandkids." Finally, Bob Dietz who fishes way beyond the Gunpowder will share a special morsel about "Fishing for Landlocked Salmon in Maine's Grand Lake Stream." Come see and hear about these fishing delights.

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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Secretary: Cathy Nutter 301-384-2431
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Committee Chairs:

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Jim Greene 301-652-3848
Cathy Nutter 301-384-2431
Dennis Covert 410-740-8337
Jim Robinson 301-490-5358
Lou Reichel 410-730-5150



President's Column - Dennis Covert

As I write this column rain is pounding on the window next to me, which hopefully is an indication there won't be another drought this fall here in the East. At least for the moment our streams and rivers are full to over-flowing, holding the promise of some great October fishing.

Long before I ever heard the term "Fiscal Year", October marked the beginning of the New Year for me. As a farm boy in the 1960's I lived for the October opening of quail season. Now when I dream of October it's in anticipation of fishing and camping in the Alleghenies with my fellow TU members. October is perfect; the brilliant autumn colors shroud our rivers and streams and combined with the esthetics of fly fishing create a living work of art, in which we not only participate but become a part. It's a wonderful time of year to gather around a campfire with other chapter members after a full day of fishing, reliving the victories and defeats, the aroma of wood smoke and grilling steaks wafting through the crisp night air.

A few months ago, TU National tasked the chapters to update their bylaws. Our chapter's by-laws committee has completed a proposal that has been accepted by the board and will be presented to the membership at our October membership meeting to either accept or reject. Our chapter's current by-laws require a minimum of 10% of the membership to be present at a chapter meeting to form a voting quorum. We have 450 members, so we need at least 45 card carrying members of PPTU to attend the October meeting. If we fail to constitute a quorum, we will then have to take a roll call of voting members present at every monthly meeting thereafter until we constitute a quorum and can hold a vote. Please attend if possible. If you are a current member of Trout Unlimited assigned to chapter 236 you are a member of this chapter and are eligible to vote. 🍷

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 🌻

Some sources for flow information to Maryland trout streams - Jay Sheppard

These levels are my estimates of when the wading becomes very difficult (max.) or few trout remain in the remaining pocket water (min.). The estimates are in cubic feet per second



(cfs) for optimum fishing on these streams. At flows above these maxima, one can expect to see less and less surface activity, as the cost for a trout of rising to the surface is more than the energy it usually obtains from a small insect on the surface. The two web sites to check for water flows are both the US Geological Survey (USGS) — waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/rt & waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=flow These have links to the current flows and

releases on such rivers as the Savage, North Branch, Youghiogeny, Casselman, main Patuxent (Unity), Gunpowder (nr. Parkton) and Little Patuxent (Savage) and many others. At a few sites, the USGS also gives stream temperatures (*).

Two Army Corps of Engineers (COE) sites for Savage River Dam and Jennings Randolph Dam on the North Branch also give pool level, inflow and out flow information www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/savag.jpg & www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/rando.jpg If the reservoirs are near full and you arrive just as a large rain storm ends, you may find those rivers in full flood. Call 410-962-7687 (Baltimore COE office) for a tape recording of current and projected releases at Savage River Dam and on North Branch @ Jennings Randolph Dam. Projected releases and whitewater releases for the coming months are posted at www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/projected_Q.html

Gunpowder @ Parkton: 25–200 cfs*

Gunpowder @ Glencoe: 50–300 cfs

Patuxent @ Unity: 15–130 cfs

Patuxent @ Brighton Dam: 25–130 cfs

Little Patuxent @ Savage, MD: 35–250 cfs

North Branch @ Barnum: 80–300 cfs(##)*

North Branch @ Luke: 100–400 cfs (##)

Savage @ Bloomington: 40–150 cfs*

Casselman gage ht: 1.0–2.8' (may cease operation after 1 October)

Youghiogeny @ Friendsville: 50–300cfs*

##--For floating these two river sections, the "minimum flows" are considerably higher than the minima listed for wade fishing, unless the fisher plans on spending a lot of time pulling or pushing his craft over the rocks. 🌻

Breaking Clays to Save the Bay

Sunday October 16

10:00am - Noon

All proceeds go to Potomac-Patuxent

Chapter Trout Unlimited!

\$25 for 2 rounds of Trap or Skeet, plus Lunch

and a "Save the Bay" T-Shirt.

HOA and Lewis Prizes.

Location -- Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League
26430 Mullinix Mill Rd., Mt Airy, Md. 21771 near Damascus, MD

Address changes? Moved?

Please keep us up to date on your address

Please send any notices of corrections or change of address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of the Conservationist.

Tackle and Tactics

- Jay Sheppard

I had one of those ‘eureka’ moments on Beaver Creek earlier this summer. The water was deep, slow and clear. How to fish something subsurface that would look natural to a trout that had at least a couple of hours to examine the offering? In the past, I had followed Larry Coburn’s trick of placing a small split shot maybe 10" above one of his trimmed deer hair cress bugs. The fly would try to float but would be held down by the split shot. That tactic works very well.

I wanted to try a chartreuse inch worm to see if it would attract a few wary trout. My usual technique was to fish it like that cress bug, although I knew the inch worm would sink below the split shot. I had noted over the years that I often had takes while the inch worm was still falling through the water column. Sometimes

almost instantly after the fly hit the water I would see a surge, and a trout would take the fly. But on these placid waters under the forest canopy I did not want a presentation with the tiny ‘plunk’ of the split shot nor the rapid descent of the inch worm. What to do?

On a few occasions I had tried an inch worm and no indicator or split shot. That had worked where the trout were instantly pouncing on any caterpillar that fell into the water from the overhanging vegetation. But I needed a long descent time for these Beaver Creek trout, which were not immediately pouncing on anything that fell into the slow water. I was using a 5X tippet with a #12 XH wet fly hook and the 1.5" long chenille tied on top of the hook (front and back on the shank only). No split shot between the fly and the little strike indicator. The heavy hook was taking the fly down to the bottom within a few seconds.

Then the ‘ah ha’ moment hit me. Try a heavier tippet, dummy! The thicker diameter would slow the descent. I replaced my loop-to-loop tippet section with 3X. Bingo! Now the fly took almost twice as long to sink to the bottom. On the second cast I had a fat rainbow jerk my little strike indicator almost a foot upstream as he gulped the inch worm and ran off with his prize. I started watching the action of the fly as it drifted downward. As it pulled the heavy tippet down it actually wobbled very slightly left and right in movements that would also further enhance the appearance of a real caterpillar. I took several more fat trout that summer afternoon. The heavier tippet also allowed me to fight the fish quickly to net and avoid the downfalls.

Normally, we all want the lightest tippet that will still get the fly back with a fighting trout hooked on it. Lighter tippets allow more freedom of movement of the fly in response to minute differences in wind and currents. In this case, the heavier tippet slowed the falling wet fly considerably in water that had no subtle variances in the currents. A split shot would have negated this presentation.

Try this when the opportunity presents itself to you. I doubt if it will work for any nymph or other aquatic insect. Inch worms are great flies to try until the first frost. Chartreuse, brown, gray and similar colors will work. 🌸

New Chapter By-laws to be Voted on at October Meeting

In the spring of 2011, National Trout Unlimited asked that all chapters review their by-laws and provided a model template for each chapter to use in this task. Then President Larry Vawter appointed an ad hoc committee of Vice-President Dennis Covert, Treasurer Carl Smolka & Director Jim Robinson to review our current by-laws and draft new by-laws for our Chapter.

This committee produced draft by-laws for our Chapter based on the National model and tailored to the needs of our Chapter in June. These were then thoroughly reviewed and refined by the Board during the summer resulting in a final draft document that was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors at their August 29th meeting.

The new by-laws have been posted on our web site for your review. Chapter members will have the opportunity to

approve this document at our monthly Chapter meeting on October 19th. It is very important that as many of our Chapter members as possible attend this meeting to approve the new by-laws of the Chapter.

Voting procedures in accordance with our 1995 By-laws:

- a) Proper notice must be given to the membership of the Chapter;
- b) Only members of Trout Unlimited assigned to the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter 236 can vote on these by-laws;
- c) We must have a quorum of 45 members;
- d) 2/3's majority vote is required for final approval. 🌸



Help To Stop Poachers

Reminder - If you spot poaching please place a call to

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



Maryland has several locations which are managed as Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas

As the title implies, these locations are restricted to catch and release fishing only up until a specific date. Delaying harvest offers several benefits to anglers, including a larger number of fish to be caught, and these longer term acclimated fish exhibit a

more natural trout feeding behavior, allowing fly fishermen to have additional opportunities to test their skills matching hatches on the streams with delayed harvest regulations. In contrast, most put and take streams are "fished down" after several days and the fish that are stocked are often geared toward feeding on pellet food from the hatcheries. Multiple stockings of delayed harvest areas offer trout fishermen a higher success rate over a longer period of time, with the bonus of providing a late spring or early summer five fish creel limit long after most of the put and trout streams have seen peak catches of trout. There are two distinct groups of designated Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas. 🌿

More information can be found at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking/index.asp>



Save a Tree!!

If you could get by with an electronic copy of the *Conservationist*, it would really help our Chapter. Printing and mailing the *Conservationist* not only eats up a lot of trees, but costs us several thousand dollars each and every year – money we could use to grow our Trout in the Classroom program, increase our Youth programs, or enhance our Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade. Give it some thought. By enrolling in the electronic copy versus the hard copy, you will have access to the full *Conservationist* via a pdf file in living color! Let's save some trees

and opt for an electronic *Conservationist*! Here is how you do it:

Go to the PPTU website at www.pptu.org/conservationist/conservationist.shtml where you will find a box where you can enter your email address and follow the instructions. Make sure to include your proper name in the "Comments to Owner" box so we can tell who goes with which email address as some email addresses are pretty cryptic and we want to make sure You are You. You can also send a simple email to membership@pptu.org requesting we change your delivery mode from hard copy to electronic; again, please include your full name in the email. 🌿

Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) now due

Check your mailing label on this issue. If it reads "PP-0911" then you may mail in your \$20 as soon as possible or bring it to the October meeting. Some may not have noticed that we changed the annual donation from \$15 to \$20 after the May 2008 meeting. Also, those receiving this publication over the Web will be notified later this fall. The only "membership" fee is to national TU for \$35 (etc.) per year. So if you are a member of national TU, then you are also a member of a chapter—the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter or any other chapter of your choosing. The Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) is the voluntary donation our chapter asks from each family to help us pay for our basic administrative expenses. Mail your check (payable to PPTU): PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. 🌿

Address Change?

Please send any notices of corrections or change of mailing address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915 or via email to: membership@pptu.org. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of *The Conservationist*. We would also be appreciative of having any changes in your email address, as we sometimes need it to advise the membership of last minute cancellations of meetings because of storms, etc. 🌸

Passing of a Founding PPTU Member – In Memorium

Larry Miller, one of our chapter's founders, died of a heart attack on August 7, 2011, in West Yellowstone, Montana. Larry was the second president of PPTU. He had some health issues after his term as president. This caused him to reassess his lifestyle, and he moved his family to West Yellowstone about 1982. He bought and operated Sleepy Hollow Lodge until his death on August 7. Over the years, many of our chapter members stayed at the lodge and enjoyed swapping stories with Larry and guests in his "Liar's Den." 🌸

Did You Know?

The DNR trout stocking program is funded entirely by the sale of freshwater fishing licenses, trout stamps and Federal Sportfish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux) funds which are generated by anglers and boaters' tax dollars. 🌸

Raffle Tickets on Sale*

Tickets for our big raffle are now on sale. You can purchase tickets from Board members, Program chair persons, or at one of our chapter meetings. The drawing will be held on January 18 at our regular Chapter meeting. You need not be present to win. The tickets are the same price as last year; one ticket for \$15, two for \$25, four for \$40, and six for \$50, the prizes are:

First Prize: West Branch Angler and Sportsmen's Resort fly fishing package for two. Three nights in a large cabin on the West Branch of the Delaware River in Deposit NY; most meals* and guide tips. There are two options.

Option # 1 is two days of guided drift boat fishing for two.

Option #2 is one day of guided drift boat fishing, and one day of fly fishing school for two. Retail Value: \$1800

Second Prize:

Is an Allenberry Resort/Playhouse Getaway weekend for two, Lodging, dinners, and breakfast & theatre tickets for two. Retail value \$660

Third Prize:

Pentax Optio WG-1 Waterproof Digital Camera 14 MP, 5X Optical Zoom. Retail Value \$350

*** The raffle is part of PPTU Annual Fund Raiser and helps to fund meetings, conservation projects and special guest speakers.**

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

Tying Bench

This month we have another approach for a favorite pattern. The fly should be easy to tie according to Dick Friis. Dick says it is a basic emerger pattern that uses cdc and mallard fibers. He says it is easy to see this fly on the water although it has a low profile. Dick relates that last May while fishing the Beaverkill and having no luck - a fellow fisher handed him this fly and said try this one. It worked. Come to this early segment and have an opportunity to see this emerger and see if you must have it your fly box.



Angler's Corner

Be sure and stop by the Angler's Corner and hear about the fall camping outing to the Savage River and what Dennis has planned for the

remainder of the fall. Dennis will share pictures of Chapter outings. These special fishing trips are a great way to learn a lot about fishing streams in the area while sharing the experience with fellow fishers. Tell Dennis about a favorite fishing location that you might suggest that has not been tried by the outing group. If you can't make it to the meeting, don't hesitate to suggest a potential outing destination to Dennis at denniscovert@hotmail.com.

See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings

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

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