



The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

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Brook Trout in Maryland, Five Years Down the Road Since Implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan – September 21st

In 2006 the Department of Natural Resources published its Brook Trout Fisheries Management Plan. The plan was technical, far reaching, and ambitious. It laid out a framework for managing the brook trout resource in Maryland. The goal of the 2006 Maryland Brook Trout Fishery Management Plan is to “restore and maintain healthy brook trout populations in Maryland's freshwater streams and provide long-term social and economic benefits from a recreational fishery”. Nine Fisheries Management Plan objectives were developed to meet the plan’s goal. The 2006 Maryland Brook Trout Fisheries Management Plan was reviewed in 2010.

Alan Heft was a member of the group who helped draft the plan and also edited the DNR document. Alan Heft is a statewide fishery biologist with the Inland Fisheries Management Division. He has been working on freshwater fisheries management with the Department for the past 24 years, after graduating from Frostburg State University with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. He is a certified Fisheries Scientist by the American Fisheries Society. Come hear Alan talk about this topic and review how far DNR has come in meeting the objectives. The plan continues to be an important topic for all who cherish the Brook Trout in Maryland and their special contribution to our sport and worthy of our conservation efforts.

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 - Dennis Covert

September! Still plenty warm on most days, especially early on in the month, but after a long hot summer I anxiously begin to anticipate that first cool breath of fresh autumn air.

On a recent campout in the Savage River State Forest I was reminded what a magnificent resource we Marylanders have to enjoy. I saw two bears, lots of deer, and fished for wild brook trout in Poplar Lick under a lush canopy in deep shade. It's also a resource threatened by a variety of perils including but not limited to invasive species, water depletion, whirling disease, and most recently high pressure fracture drilling for Natural gas. By now many of you are aware that our region sits atop one of the richest Marcellus Shale deposits of natural gas in the world. Entire states here in the east are facing an onslaught of negative impacts to the natural environment from the drilling processes that release the gas trapped in the shale deep underground and bring it to the surface in a marketable state. Maryland has mineable Marcellus Shale in her western counties and drilling permits have been applied for in Garrett. As a cold water conservation organization we must address these issues the best we can and hope the resource we pass on to our grandchildren will survive intact and of a quality we're not ashamed to have been the stewards of.

But life is all about balance, so as we ponder and move to meet these great challenges to the environment we also must take the time to enjoy it ourselves. To get out there and fish, immersing ourselves in deep forest surrounded by the sounds of rushing water and bird song.

Our Chapter's chair persons have a great new year of meetings and activities planned; so come to our chapter meetings and hear knowledgeable speakers, rent a video from our library, or sign up for an outing. Visit the tiers bench and learn to tie a new fly, and buy some raffle tickets and maybe win a prize! 🍀

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



We are working on a plan to modify Brighton Dam so we can tap into the cold water that lies deeper in the reservoir. Right now we can only access the water down to about 50 feet below the normal pool level. By mid-summer this water is right at the upper cusp of temperatures that trout will readily tolerate—about 68° F. By the time this water circulates in the stilling basin below the dam and moves downstream it can be up to 74° in late afternoons on hot days.

There should be some trout stockings in October of some of our local streams. Which ones and how many trout will be determined in late September by DNR. 🌸

Tackle and Tactics - Jay Sheppard

This chapter's list serve is open to any fisher who is interested. If you are not yet on this email list serve, you may wish to get on ASAP: ppctu-subscribe@yahoo.com. During the heat of July, many discussions took place when it was a tad too warm to be standing in any of our local waters. Here is just a sampling of some of the subject lines for July—Durango, CO; Recommendations for lodging/guides at Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Yellowstone and surrounds; Small warm water stream report; Brighton Dam 100 cfs; temps below Brighton Dam; Monocacy River; Haviland Mill cows; Monroe Pavilion Rented for October Outing; and several trip reports for the North Branch and Gunpowder. As one can see there were a diverse list of topics. By my count, there are usually 5–10 emails a day when most of us are not fishing and wishing we were.

Another subject heading dealt with Wyoming entomology, although much of that discussion thread related to various tactics some of our members employ to get the attention of wary trout. There is not enough room here to mention all the suggested tactics, but I will try to condense many of them for our reader's edification. Bob Dietz, Jim Greco, and Jim Keil, among others, offered several suggestions anglers might try.

During a hatch, add a dropper of a matching wet fly emerger or even the nymph about a foot behind the dry. For caddis hatches use a soft hackle wet as a dropper. A drowned adult may also work where there is a lot of fast water tumbling

the insects as they drift downstream.

Add a dropper of some heft (e.g., bead head nymph) about 2 feet behind a dry mayfly, caddis or stonefly. When fished downstream on a semi-tight line the rod can be raised and lowered carefully and the dry lifted momentarily off the water while the heavy nymph helps anchor the fluttering dry. The bouncing dry can elicit some vicious strikes, so be prepared to drop the rod the instant a trout hits or the fly will be immediately, if not sooner, pulled out of its mouth.

When swinging a wet fly or nymph on a tight line down and across a moving stream, hold an extra foot or two of slack line in the non-rod hand. The very instant a trout is detected surging at the fly; the slack is released while the rod remains pointed at the fly line and only a few inches above the water. The trout will hook itself if the slack is given to it. As when most flies are fished on a tight line or downstream of the angler, the rod must not be raised or the hook set until a good amount of time has elapsed to let the fly get well into the trout's mouth.

As with any and all techniques we suggest here, give them a try and practice, practice, practice. Fall is coming and there is still a lot of good fishing time left before the first freeze. 🍁

From Arnold Gingrich's The Well-Tempered Angler, 1965 version:
- Pete Yarrington's favorite fishing - related quote, which is particularly "poignant" for this small-stream angler.

"The one honest book I've found that gives off the reek of undeodorized authenticity is a thin volume published by Putnam in London in 1960, written by

John Inglis Hall and called How to Fish a Highland Stream (The Truim). Summarized, its message is, for all but the hardiest of souls, simply: Don't. The duckings, the snagging, and the snarls, the bedevilmings of the winds, the vagaries of the currents, the endless frustrations building up to a beside-yourself pressure of mindless rage, all the demonic perversities of this 'wretched little burn'... A nonfisherman reading it would put it down as the mindless ravings of an idiot." 🍁



New On Line Liability Release Form **- Ken Bowyer**

We've gone green! We now have an online Liability Release Form. To sign up for a specific outing, simply complete the form. When you click on the Submit button, the Outings Chair is notified of your intent to attend that outing and you will receive a copy of your completed Liability Release via email. No paperwork is required. You can complete this form from any device that has internet access including smart phones and tablets. 🍁

<http://www.pptu.org/outings/release.shtml>

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 September 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 donation our chapter asks from each family. Mail your check (payable to PPTU): PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. 🌸

Help To Stop Poachers

Reminder - If you spot poaching please place a call to –



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



Early Meeting Segments - begin at 7 pm

Tying Bench

This month we have a special version of an old favorite. The fly is an easy to tie flashy woolly bugger pattern that is a favorite of Kurt Feigel who worked at the Bethesda Orvis Store. Yours truly had an opportunity to see this "killer version" and hear the rave testament to its fish catching abilities. Come to this early segment and have an opportunity to see this bicolor variant and see if you must have it your fly box soon. Materials will be available for you to try the pattern for yourself. 🌸

Angler's Corner

Be sure and stop by the Angler's Corner and learn about the fall camping outing to the Savage River October 14-16. Of equal interest will be the discussion of the September 10 trip to the Gunpowder for the One Fly Contest and learn who has bragging rights. Notes on the Savage should yield information for those wanting to try to "Tame the *Savage Beast*". Come learn about the fishing and the landscape that this pristine setting has to offer and talk with Dennis and others about the outing as well as 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. 🌸

Address Change?

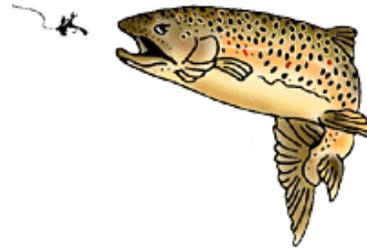
Please send any notices of corrections or change of mailing address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of *The Conservationist*. We would also be appreciative of having any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

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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FIRST CLASS MAIL