

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Sep 2017 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“What I Did on My Summer Vacation”

Travel/Fishing Photos by PPTU Members

Tuesday!!! Sep 19th, 2017

Summer is about over and the kids will be going back to school spouting off about their many adventures to their teachers and friends. Many of us also took the time this summer to burn our vacation hours by celebrating the outdoors. As we get together for the first time in several months, the time has arrived for us to pull our inner child and show our friends and family PPTU members what we've been up to all summer.

The stories and photos all vary from close to home trips to wonders outside the states. Several members have jetted around the globe in search of relaxation, site seeing, and the occasional elusive fish.

Please note that we've moved our meeting to the evening of **Tuesday, September 19th**. Come place yourself in the visual parade of travel and fishing from your fellow TU members. Kick back, grab some popcorn, ask questions or just relive some of the fascinating places our members are sharing. If you wish to share your adventures, please send your summer pics with location info to me at: aburrows53@gmail.com.



Yes, that is an iceberg!

– Alan Burrows

Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, *Typically* - 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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Middle Patuxent: Alan Burrows: 443-610-7850
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard: 301-725-5559

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Bob Dietz: 301-854-6893
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Bob O'Donnell: 410-733-0638
Lou Reichel: 410-730-5150
Carl Smolka: 301-929-1365
Secretary: Nick Weber 301-774-2806



Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows

I recently had a conversation with my wife and it went like this;

“Well Dear, I am going to be president of PPTU for the next two years (God willing).”

“Is that some fishing club?”

“Well, yes and no. While many of us enjoy fishing and especially fishing for trout, we are also a conservation organization that supports clean cold fishable water, the kind of water that trout love. We are an advocacy group when it comes to the preservation and spread of that clean cold fishable water across the country. Finally, we are a service organization that supports other organizations that come in contact with that cold clean fishable water.”

“And you think you can do all of this well? Good luck!”

In fact I do think we can do all of this, and do it well. Starting in late 2016 and into 2017, we began surveying the chapter members. Our objective was to define who we were as a group, and to see if we (the chapter) were providing the services that the members wanted. While I think we were mostly on track, we have gotten feedback from the chapter members that will hopefully allow us to improve those services.

The survey told us that there are a lot of members who like to fish for trout. What I think we also learned was that there was a demand for more instructional outings to help make every one of us more efficient anglers. There was also significant interest in having speakers at our meetings who could talk about the tricks and techniques of fly casting, how to match the hatch, and who would talk about fishing destinations that were somewhat close to home. We will do our best to make this information available.

Our survey also told us that the members care about the youngsters around us and want us to be

involved in introducing them to trout and to fishing. The members picked out Trout in the Classroom, youth fishing and fishing lessons as being very important. PPTU is and has always been at the forefront of the Trout in the Classroom program, and we have done two youth fishing events this year where some kids were taught to fish and others were taught to fly fish. I expect that we will expand the number of events now that we have a Youth Chair, Chuq Yang.

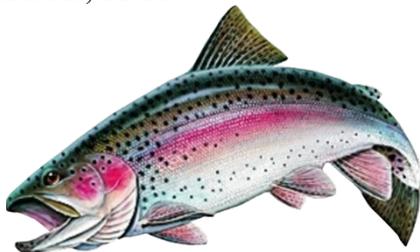
While we do some work to be visible at regional and community events, we do need to extend our local outreach and adult education. For the second year in a row, we have helped the Chesapeake Womens Anglers put on a fly fishing 101 class. If there is an opportunity in your neighborhood or community to spread the word about clean cold fishable water, let us know.

As we grow and get better at reaching our goals we seem to touch more and more people throughout the state. Through Trout in the Classroom for Maryland and DC, we touch thousands of kids every year. We have members supporting Project Healing Waters at Fort Meade, we provide support for Casting for Recovery (a women's organization to help women with breast cancer). In the past we have worked with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and we are ready to support any Boy Scouts who want to earn a fly fishing badge. We even have a member who is working with the Mayfly Project to introduce fishing to kids in foster homes.

Here is the rub. We cannot do any of these things without the participation of the membership of the chapter. There is far too much work to be done to just leave it to the Board of Directors to accomplish. Each and every one of these efforts costs money and volunteer time. In order to provide the services that are so needed, we need everyone's efforts.

Until next month, tight lines!

Alan Burrows
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

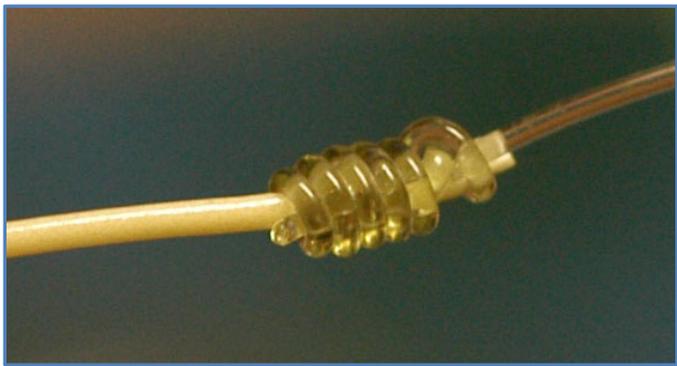
Another summer almost gone! Hope you all spent most of the summer out in some wilderness catching one large wild trout after another!??

I have been doing this little column for a very long time. I would appreciate some feedback, not so much about what has been written, but what has not been covered. Coming up with suggestions to help improve one's fishing experience is becoming a bit of a chore. I cannot always come up with a 'new' topic and have often had to resort to resurrecting an old subject to benefit some for the new comers to our readership. Just as there are many ways to present the fly to the target, so a few suggestions on other ways to do something or describe it better are also welcomed. Please send your suggestions to me: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com.



Many fly lines now come with an attached braided loop for attaching the leader. I used to trust these factory-installed device. Not as much now. Over the past decade or so I have had a small number suddenly fail me when I have hooked a large fish or a big snag. There is nothing more frustrating to suddenly feel nothing but the fly line tugging limply on the tip of the rod! Total let down! And who remembers to check those braided loops every day?

There are two remedies that I employ. The strongest that will hold almost anything is a loop made from the core of the fly line. The core of most fly lines is braided Dacron or similar material. The test strength for that is over 25 lbs in all but the tiniest fly lines. I take a short piece of 18-lb backing, make an overhand knot and tighten it about 3” above the tip of the line. I dip the 3” below the tightened backing in nail polish remover for ~15 seconds. With a second person, I tighten the backing around the line and simply pull it to the tip. It will strip all the coating off the line. A small surgeon’s loop is then tied out of the exposed core. This works very well for lines to be used for large fish such as salmon. It is not useful in dry fly fishing, as the core is now exposed and wicks the water up inside the tip of the line—causing it to sink. This is also the perfect way to make a loop at the rear end of the fly line before you attach the line to your backing. The backing has a very large surgeon’s loop that will pass over the line spool.



For dry fly fishing or where I do not ever expect to hook a fish over 12–15 lbs on that line, then I just prefer a short piece of heavy mono knotted onto the tip of the line. The mono needs to be at least the same diameter and preferably a little stiffer than the butt of any leaders you expect to attach. The nail knot is the proper way to attach this mono. I use a large safety pin, which I pin inside my vest for stream repairs, to

make this knot. A small surgeon’s loop is made on the end of the mono, usually a few inches from the tip of the line. Make sure the mono is trimmed closely to the knot as well as the tip of the line.



All loop-to-loop connections are only made by passing the loop that is attached to the reel through the loop of the material being added. “Reel through!” After bringing the rest of the material being added up through the reel loop one obtains a perfect square knot. My tippets are looped to my main leader in the same manner.

Good fishing and always have a tight line!



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!



Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Brighton Dam and the area around it and the reservoir are now closed to all public access for repairs. Flows are often down to minimum flows (~8 cfs) or suddenly ramped up to 200 cfs. Not that anyone has been fishing at Haviland Mill or other downstream areas—these will all be best left off limits until the repairs are completed. Even traffic over the dam will be reduced to one lane 24/7 shortly according to the WSSC.



We are working diligently on finding a solution for Brighton Dam that will correct the Dissolved Oxygen problem each summer when the turbines are generating power. The bottom of the reservoir stores cold water. The problem is that there is virtually no oxygen in that cold water. We are trying to find some mechanical means of injecting oxygen by bubbling air up through the water that is exiting from the turbines and before it goes out into the main river. During most summers, the total flow of the river is sent through the turbines, so if it has no oxygen, then the fish and other critters do not survive. Trout are especially sensitive to low oxygen levels and require a lot more than typical warm water fish such as bass, panfish, catfish, and minnows.

Our present plan is to find some air pumps/compressors that would force air out through some special diffusers that create millions of micro bubbles as the water swirls past. The air pumps would be powered by solar panels with batteries to run the air pumps at night and during cloudy periods. This would eliminate any problem if there is a power loss to the dam, which does happen every so often. We have to find the funding and install everything

before the Brighton Dam repairs are finished in 2 years.

Flows in the Patuxent above Triadelphia have very low all summer and are expected to remain so until good fall rains start. I do not have any information about any fall stockings of any local streams—if even any will be stocked or not. Best head out to the North Branch & Savage this month or next, as well as the Gunpowder. Good fishing!

"The solution to any problem -- work, love, money, whatever -- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be."

~ John Gierach

TIC Thanks You!!!
- Alan Burrows

Thanks to the volunteers of Trout in the Classroom 2016-17

Well another successful Trout in the Classroom season is now in the books. Almost 90 schools from Waldorf in Charles County to Harford County to Garrett County and including the District of Columbia, all raised trout, learned about the importance of clean cold fishable water, and had a field day to release their fish at the end of the year. Conservatively, we impacted over 5000, and maybe as many as 9000 students this year. They learned about water chemistry, biology, macro-invertebrates



and much more. On their field day, not only did they get to release their fish, but many of them got to experience fly casting, fly tying and macro-invertebrate sampling for the first time.

While this Mid-Atlantic wide program could not exist without the volunteer help of many TU chapters as well as our friends with the Federation of Fly Fishers and The Izaak Walton League, PPTU has once again done the program proud. Almost single handedly, we supported the program and release events in Southern Maryland's 6 schools, Howard County's 8 schools and Montgomery County's 20 schools.



I think all of our volunteers would tell you that helping with these events is both fun and rewarding. While it takes most of a business day to complete, it's a good feeling giving back to the community and introducing children to the outdoors and wonderful world of trout.

If you are feeling bad that you missed an opportunity to help this year, we have a fix for that. The 2017-18 season is right around the corner and is going to be another big year for TIC. We are already hearing from new schools in Southern Maryland and Washington County who want to join the program. That means there will be lots of chances to help us next year. So stay tuned folks because the Kamloops Express will be gearing up to deliver trout eggs in just another 5 months.

PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out and try your hand at fly tying. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious.

Old Line Fine Wine,
Spirits and Bistro
11011 Baltimore Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705



<http://www.oldlinewine.com/>

Shop Amazon Smile! - PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! Add the *Potomac-Patuxent Chapter* as your charity of choice to your Amazon account. If your company purchases through Amazon, ask them to help support us as well. Its free money to the chapter.

Shop at AmazonSmile
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#236 of Trout Unlimited

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amazonsmile

New Outings Coordinator - PPTU Board

We're pleased to have Lou Reichel step in as PPTU's outings coordinator. Being very active and voiceful over the years Lou is a natural fit for our group's fishing activities. PPTU is already making plans for both local and destination outings for the coming months and next year. As one of next year's events we're exploring a group trip to the Catskills to

explore some fine streams and step into a bit of trout fishing history. If you have any ideas for an outing feel free to stop by and talk with Lou at our chapter meetings or drop him a line via email. Ideas and help are always welcome. lwreichel@aol.com



3rd Annual BBQ Fundraiser! Sunday, October 1st 2017 - PPTU Board

October should bring some cool weather into our area just in time for folks to chill outside, relax and enjoy another nice day at Centennial Lake for PPTU's 3rd Annual BBQ fundraiser.

We hope to see many members there as this is our main fundraising event for the year. There will be loads of good food along with lots of cool prizes to bid on and buy raffle tickets for a chance to win. **First Prize** is two nights stay for up to 4 people & 2 days guided fishing trip for 2 anglers at Savage River Outfitters in Western MD. **Second Prize** is a float trip with Harold Harsh of Spring Creek Outfitters on the North Branch of the Potomac. **Third Prize** is a day of guided fly fishing on Beaver Creek.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!!

Adults purchasing tickets prior to the event will receive a \$5 discount - \$20/person. Tickets sold the day of the event will be \$25/person. Kids' prices are \$10/person (ages 6-12), kids 5 and under eat for free.

Mark your calendars, add it to your cell phones, tell your friends and pass the info around. Hope to see you there!!! Tickets will be available for purchase at the September meeting and/or by contacting any of the board members.

NCC-TU Presents: IF4™ International Fly Fishing Film Festival - TroutWrangler

Our fellow fishing and conservation friends at the National Capital Chapter are hosting the International Fly Fishing Festival for the first time in the Washington, DC area – September 26th.

The Festival consists of short and feature length films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly fishing.

All profits will support NCC-TU's Education, Conservation & Community Service initiatives including their new Project Healing Waters program at the Washington DC VA Hospital.

Where? When?

IF4 will be held at the **Avalon Theater**, 5612 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC on **Tuesday, September 26th** at 8:30 PM (Doors open 8:00 PM) Tickets may be purchased for \$20 online and may also be purchased the same day at the Avalon Theater box office.

<https://www.showclix.com/event/WASHINGTONDC2017>



TU's 2017 Annual Meeting

- Rob Shane

Join hundreds of like-minded TU members, volunteers and staff at our **2017 Annual Meeting in Roanoke, VA from Sept. 27-30.**

The TU Annual Meeting is an event like none other, full of interesting presentations, networking with TU leaders from across the country, awards and fundraising banquets, and a great conservation tour showcasing successful stream protection and restoration. It's also a powerful celebration of all we've accomplished together in the past year towards our mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.



For those traveling from across the country, it's also an excellent opportunity to fish some incredible trout streams in Virginia!

Along with the important TU business to conduct, the Annual Meeting includes some great opportunities and special activities, including: Hosted day of fishing with local TU volunteers, Conservation tour and hands-on stream temperature monitoring training, Barbecue and special events at the Orvis facility in Roanoke, Special Spouses Tour



of Roanoke, Volunteer awards reception and dinner, state of TU address by Chris Wood, President & CEO, STREAM Kids event for children ages 6-14, Annual Banquet, Embrace-A-Stream grants and Mortenson Award presentation, Glade Creek volunteer planting project presented by Orvis and the Roanoke Valley Chapter and much more.

Register now to attend this great event! You can register for the entire event, or choose to attend just a few days or activities. For registration and full information please visit:

<http://www.tu.org/annualmeeting>

Grauer's Fine Fishing Tackle

- Steve Fletcher

Wayne Grauer, who I believe held the only local fly fishing show in Baltimore this year, now has his own website. Wayne has a wide selection of used and new rods and reels.

Besides being an all-around nice guy, Wayne starts his intro off as, "sole owner, chief cook and bottle washer". It's a good read if you have some time and the items Wayne has for sale are varied and pretty interesting.



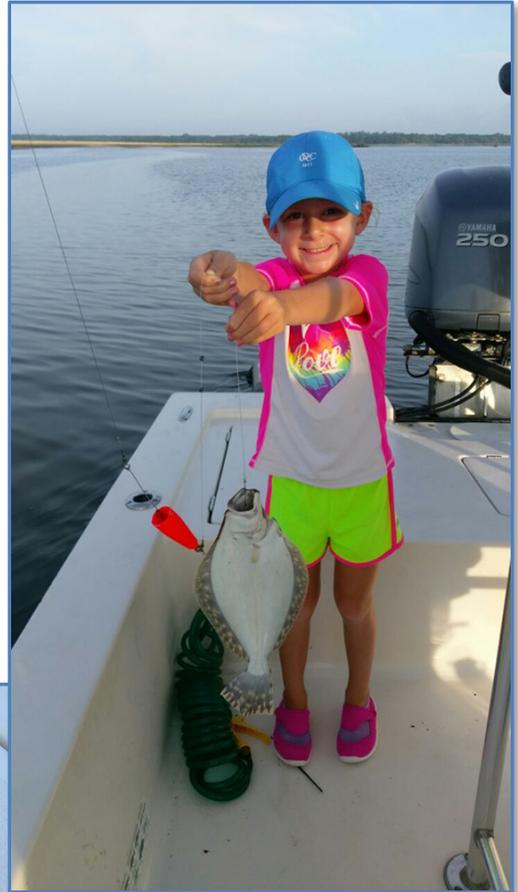
Check it out when you get a chance.

<https://grauersfineflytackle.com>

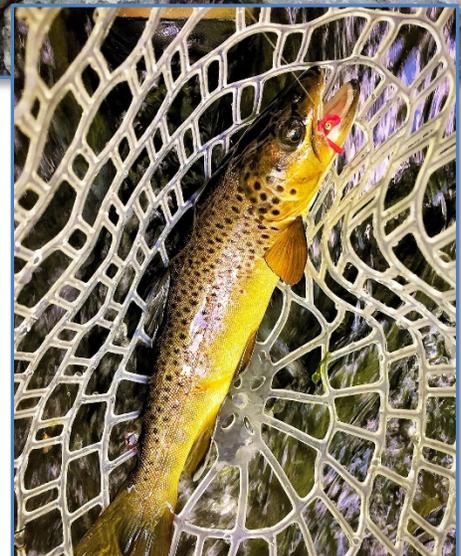


Members Catch - TroutWrangler

Reminder, we're doing a "Show & Tell" for the September meeting. I hope that you'll come by for a relaxing evening of imagery and stories from across the country. Please send your summer pics with location info to Alan at aburrows53@gmail.com. This slide show will only be as good at your photos.



You can't start them too young!

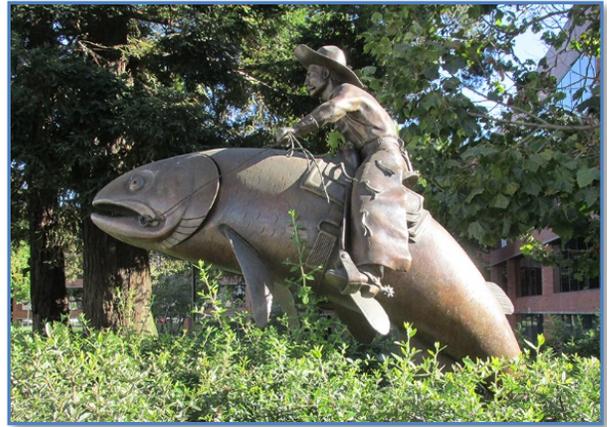


Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: Trout Wrangler

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



San Juan Worm

Everyone has a fall back fly for when the fishing gets tough. Lets face it, fish eat worms. There are plenty of aquatic worms in our streams and other worms often get washed into the water from the banks. Don't go fishing without a couple of these tucked into your fly box. Next time the fishing seems slow, or you can't seem to match the hatch – try tying on a SJW.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3ZNJL34aGU>



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