



The Annual Newsletter

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

SPRING 2006

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The Newsletter & The Conservationist

By Jim Greco

It all started a few months ago. I was registering folks for the PPTU tying classes, and noted that we charge "members" of PPTU one fee and "non members" a higher one. I was speaking with Lance Flood, our Membership Chair, and I asked him a simple question -- "Lance," I asked, "I have a guy who is a member of the Seneca Valley Chapter of TU, but he has already paid a PPTU membership assessment so he can get our newsletter. How much should I charge him?"

That simple question started a snowball reaction on the PPTU Board of Directors which resulted in many, many man hours invested in bringing our chapter and its policies into compliance with our current bylaws and the bylaws of National TU.

I'm going to briefly outline the changes the PPTU Board has adopted, but I ask you to understand that most of the changes are superficial and merely change the way we talk about and think about procedures already in place. This is a complex issue, and I hope you will read this entire article in order to grasp the complete picture. Stick with me, and follow the outline below. We will be discussing the upcoming changes at chapter meetings, too, so any questions you may have can be answered there.

What follows is the sum of what has been changed or re-defined in order to bring PPTU into compliance with all relative bylaws: Who is a member of PPTU? -- Our bylaws, written to comply with the National TU requirements

we had to follow in order to qualify for our National TU charter say: any person who has been assigned to PPTU by National TU is a member of PPTU. What is the PPTU Newsletter? -- Since our bylaws require us to send

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Annual Chapter Election For Officers and Directors

Each Spring, the Chapter announces the nominees for its elected officers and new Directors. The actual voting will occur at the May meeting during which additional nominations may be offered from the floor.

The 2006 - 2007 slate of Chapter officers that have been nominated are as follows:

President - Nick Weber
Vice President - Bob Dietz
Treasurer - Paul Vicenzi
Secretary - Jed Feffer

In a typical year we need to fill two Director Positions for a three year term; this year because of unanticipated circumstances we must fill two additional positions.

The following nominees are offered for the positions of Director that expire this year; these candidates will fill a full 3 year term:

Arnie Strand
Carl Smolka

The additional Director positions will fulfill the remainders of the existing terms. Nominees for these positions are:

Larry Vawter
Dave Wittman

Vacant Positions! We Need Your Help

Throughout the course of the year a number of vacancies occur. If you would like to give a little back to the Chapter by volunteering your time and efforts, please contact one of the following officers of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited for a current list of vacancies and a description of what the tasks and duties associated with the positions.

PPTU 2005-2006 Officers and Directors

President:	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Past-President:	Lou Boezi	301-593-5889
Vice-President:	Bob Dietz	410-997-2787
Treasurer:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Secretary:	Jed Feffer	301-490-1851
Directors:	Jack Benoit	202-244-1040
	Judy Hendrickson	301-384-7124
	Dave Pratt	301-498-2427
	Mike Abramowitz	301-983-2363
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787
	Bob Serrano	301-552-6784
Council Delegates:	Bruce Eberle	301-854-3142
	Jason Beckstrom	301-540-0335
	Lou Boezi	301-593-5889
	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787
	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Joshua Forster	301-604-0822
	Matt Baun	301-937-8015
Editor:	VACANT	
Program:	VACANT	
Publicity:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Membership Secretary:	Lance Flood	301-490-3426
Fundraising:	Bob Serrano	301-552-6784
Raffles:	Willy Oldes	301-868-3508
Refreshments:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Water Quality:	VACANT	
Mentor Program:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
Librarian:	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
Outings	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
Conservation Advocacy:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Webmaster:	John Parchen	301-253-1701
Youth Program:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Trout in the Classroom:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Mid. Patuxent:	Larry Coburn	301-490-7170
NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Paint Branch:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

a newsletter to each and every PPTU member, not just to assessment paying members, PPTU now has a new annual newsletter which is currently being mailed as a supplement in one issue of *The Conservationist* to all members listed in our data base. It will contain information about our meetings, education programs, and our conservation activities. Whether or not they have paid an assessment, the new, annual newsletter is being sent to all PPTU members. In addition, it will also be published, annually, on our web site. *The Conservationist* will continue to be published as before, but will never again be referred to as our newsletter. More on this below -- stay with me.

How about the "Membership Assessment?" -- The fifteen dollar Annual PPTU Membership Assessment has been renamed. Since we never really had authority to levy an assessment on anyone, the assessment has been renamed, the **Annual Supporting Contribution**.

What is the Annual Supporting Contribution? -- The Annual Supporting Contribution is a donation, currently in the minimum amount of fifteen dollars, made to PPTU by anyone who wishes to support our chapter's activities.

Why do we need to have an Annual Supporting Contribution? -- When a chapter signs up a new member at a show or through a membership drive, the first year National TU gives that local chapter a substantial rebate from the dues collected from the new member. Thereafter, each succeeding year that chapter only receives a very small rebate from National TU for each member retained on that chapter's rolls. It usually amounts to about a dollar and a half or less.

When you consider our meeting room rental fees, guest speaker fees, float stocking expenses, contributions to outside educational camps for kids, Trout in the Classroom expenses, donations for tree plantings, all the other conservation activities we

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sponsor, the educational programs we foster, along with the cost of publishing and mailing *The Conservationist* and now the new *Annual Newsletter*, the National TU rebates do not come close to meeting our chapter's financial needs. Therefore, we have fundraisers, and we are now asking each and every one of you to become a member who fully participates, and we ask you to show your support by making an Annual Supporting Contribution of fifteen dollars to the chapter so we can continue the good work our loyal army of volunteers makes possible with the donation of thousands of man hours of labor they provide for the chapter.

The good news is you will no longer be assessed fifteen dollars in order to have the privilege of being a PPTU member. The old "Membership Assessment" is no more. If National TU assigned you to PPTU, whether or not you choose to fully support us with a fifteen dollar, Annual Supporting Contribution, you are still a PPTU member but, please -- make that contribution to keep us effective in accomplishing our mission.

There will be additional incentives for you to make an Annual Supporting Contribution. More will be discussed and announced later, but for now members who make an Annual Supporting Contribution will receive discounts on many of the activities and sale items for which the chapter charges fees such as, the PPTU tying classes, shirts, hats, books and more. Annual Supporting Contributions may be given at meetings, by use of a form you can print and mail from our web site, or by using the form included in this publication.

And *The Conservationist*? -- Those making Annual Supporting Contributions will also receive a subscription to our publication, *The Conservationist*. Using the form provided here, the members who choose to make the fifteen dollar Annual Supporting Contribution can elect to receive a hard copy of

The Conservationist by mail, or they can elect to join the new list server Robert Simpson has organized for the sole purpose of making *The Conservationist* available to them on line. In addition, each time *The Conservationist* is published, the first page will be posted on the PPTU web site, but only the first page. Thereafter, when the next issue of *The Conservationist* is published, the entire previous issue will be placed in the archive on the PPTU web site. Importantly, from a membership recruitment and public awareness viewpoint, complimentary hard copy issues of *The Conservationist* will continue to be sent to many fly shops, conservation organizations, newspapers and others who often help us out when we need a voice.

I sincerely hope the above hasn't confused anyone. After you have had a moment to digest what I just said, you will see that not much has really changed. Yes, now we have an annual newsletter that is sent to each of our newly re-defined members. Yes, you will still be able to read that great publication from your chapter, *The Conservationist*. Yes, we are still asking you for \$15 a year to support us, however, at least we are no longer assessing you for it, but we really hope you will make that donation a priority since we depend so heavily on it to function the way we do.

I personally want to thank those brave and persistent souls who served on the membership committee, Robert Simpson, Nick Weber, Bob Dietz, and Jay Sheppard, for all of the hours they spent hammering out the semantics of these changes for us. I would like to point out that only through hours of hard work, discussion, and compromise they presented the PPTU Board with a workable plan to bring us into complete compliance with all of our relative bylaws, and they still managed to keep the wonderful character of our chapter intact. Thanks also to our Board of Directors for the hours of discussion that went into approving these changes.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PPTU Chapter Meeting Dates

2006-2007

September, 20, 2006

October 18, 2006

November 15, 2006

January 17, 2007

February 21, 2007

March 21, 2007

April 18, 2007

May 16, 2007

NEED FILLER

POSSIBLE INFO FOR CATCH A POACHER NUMBER

IMPORTANT WEB LINKS

ANY THOUGHTS?

?

The PPTU List Server

By Robert Simpson

The chapter operates a listserver that all members are welcome to join. Over 150 members currently make use of this opportunity to post email messages to the group and receive email messages posted by others. The information you find here is great stuff that you can't find anywhere else. The Listserver topics cover all aspects of trout fishing and will improve your knowledge of the sport. So don't be left out.

To subscribe, send an email from the email account you want added to the listserver, to

ppctu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Within a few days and often within a few hours, you will receive an email confirming your membership on the listserver.

Once on the list, you can post messages to the entire group by addressing your email to

ppctu@yahoogroups.com. There are several options as to how messages from the listserver will come to you. The default is for the listserver to send you each message posted to the group as it arrives. A second option is to receive a daily digest, a single email containing all the messages posted during the last day.

A third option is no email deliver, using instead an onlive archive of messages. However, attachments that go out with messages via the other options are NOT kept in the archive, so sometimes you miss out some things with this option. Lately, listserver message traffic has run between 100 and 300 messages per month. If you would like to use one of these other options and aren't familiar with how to change this setting, or if you encounter any other problems with using the listserver, send an email to ppctu-owner@yahoogroups.com and we'll try to help.