



April 2003

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Wednesday April 16, 2003

Raffles and Silent Auctions Plus Weekend Fly Fishing Adventures

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of TU Invites you to our Annual Raffles and Silent Auctions PLUS Presentations on Weekend Fly Fishing Adventures in MD, OH, PA, VA & WV. Proceeds support our educational and conservation programs.

The program, "Weekend Fly Fishing Adventures," will precede the raffles that also take place that night. The Senior Center will be open at 6:30 PM. Presenters should be all set up by 7:00. From then 'til 8:30 you can move among the presentation tables at will. In the same interval, you can also view the raffle prizes, purchase raffle tickets, and make bids on the silent auction prizes. Raffle drawings will begin at 8:30 and should be completed by 9:15

Weekend Fly Fishing Adventures

Here we go again. It's the same program that got buried in deep snow on February 19. If you wanted to learn about the streams that were advertised for the February meeting, come to the April 16 meeting.

The adventure destinations would normally involve an overnight stay. Here are the destinations and the people who will tell you why you'll have a great time fishing in these areas.

Central PA: Centre & Huntington Counties: Little Juniata, Spruce Creek, Spring Creek—**Jim Keil**

Upper Delaware River system: West Branch & Main Stem—**Jim Greco**

NE Ohio & NW PA; Steelhead tributaries of Lake Erie—**Ken Bowyer**

Virginia's Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley: trout and smallmouth waters—**Fred Kallmeyer**

Western MD: Potomac's North Branch, Savage River, upper Youghiogheny—**Jay Sheppard**

Grand Raffle of two wonderful prizes:

1. Guided drift-boat fishing for two people for wild rainbow and brown trout in upstate New York's Delaware River. Three nights lodging and meals included. For more information on the resort go to www.westbranchangler.com. Each ticket for this prize costs \$30, and no more than 100 tickets will be sold. **\$1600.00 value!!!**
2. An 8-foot long Outcast PAC 800 pontoon boat. Outcast's pontoon boats are known for outstanding quality of materials and workmanship Each ticket for this prize costs \$20, and no more than 100 tickets will be sold. **\$1100.00 value!!!**

Premium Raffle of two marvelous prizes:

1. Two days of guided trout fishing for two persons on famous trout streams of North-central Pennsylvania and two nights lodging in superb comfort at a private lodge. See Keystone Anglers and Lightning Ridge at: www.keystoneanglers.com. Professional guides from Keystone. Raffle tickets for this prize

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Directions: From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road. Pass Holy Cross Hospital and go across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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The content of signed articles are the opinions and views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions, views, and policies of Trout Unlimited, the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter, or their respective officers and directors.

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Paint Branch:	David Dunmire	301-989-0331
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Contributions in the form of articles, letters, fishing news, tying tips, book reviews, and even poetry about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain MS-DOS (ASCII) text or Microsoft Word attachments to e-mail messages containing brief descriptions of the attachments. Attachments received without a description will be deleted without opening.

The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication

EDITOR: John Colburn
(Phone: 202-545-8776)
(johnwcolburn@juno.com)

President's Column

As this is written in early March, winter still has a tenacious hold on our weather. Only a day or two of warm sunshine has encouraged our faith that spring will soon be here. But that faith is founded in our knowledge that the earth's inevitable rotation around that seemingly permanent source of energy, the sun, will certainly bring on the season of renewed growth.

There are times when that seasonality is mimicked in other matters that concern us as members of Trout Unlimited. In the matter of the proposed highway formerly known as the Inter County Connector (ICC) another season has begun. It is brought on by the rotation of controlling political factions in Annapolis and in Washington, and by the seemingly permanent influences of economic powers that will benefit from highway construction and ensuing development of surrounding lands.

Heedless of the facts recited in previous environmental impact studies that demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that the ICC would not reduce vehicular traffic congestion, as proponents of the ICC claimed, but would produce irreparable damage to the environment of Montgomery and northern Prince Georges Counties, a new environmental impact study has been put on a "fast track" for its approval.

At this time, PPTU's chair for the Paint Branch, David Dunmire, and his cohorts in other conservation-minded organizations are striving to ensure that the "fast track" process does not preclude or diminish opportunities to make the case for environmental preservation to the deciding authorities.

As this new season of the ICC saga unfolds, we need to be looking forward to again actively advocating protection of the environment in and near the alignment of the proposed ICC. The wildlife that lives there, including the trout in the Paint Branch and its trout-rearing tributaries, can't speak or write. So, get your pens and keyboards ready to act again in their defense.

PPTU's stake in the Paint Branch goes back to the founding of this TU chapter. In recent years, it has not been a popular recreational fishery. Indeed, its self-sustaining population of wild brown trout is too fragile to survive heavy fishing pressure, even in the section designated as catch-and-release water. But the symbol that Paint Branch represents is more important than the number of recreational trout anglers that frequent its waters. The Paint Branch

(Continued on page 3)

Grand, Premium, and Barrel Raffle Prizes

(Continued from page 1)

costs \$15, and no more than 100 tickets will be sold.

2. A Sage XP series, 4-piece travel rod, 8' 6" for a 4-weight line. Each raffle ticket for this prize costs \$10, and no more than 100 tickets will be sold.

Tickets for Grand Raffle may be purchased at Anglers' Lie, 2165 Glebe Road, Arlington, VA, Backwater Angler 538 Monkton RD, Monkton, MD, and at PPTU meetings on March 19 and April 16, or by mail sending payment by personal check made out to PP-TU and mail to Bob Serrano, 8419 Greenbelt Road, T2, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Tickets for Premium Raffle may be purchased at PPTU meetings on March 19 and April 16. You do not need to be present on April 16 to win any of the Grand or Premium Raffle prizes.

You will need to be present on April 16 to win any silent auction or barrel raffle prizes.

A partial list of the Silent Auction prizes includes:

Two-day weekend fly fishing school for two people (Dusty Wissmath's Fly Fishing School), held at Whitetail Mountain Resort in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Included will be one night's lodging for two at the Hill Country Lodge.

One day catch and release trout fishing on private water in a Virginia river accompanied by Jim Greene of Waterwisp Flies.

One day catch and release trout fishing in Shenandoah National Park, guided by Fred Kallmeyer.

Three hours of fly fishing instruction for two people provided by Backwater Anglers of Monkton, MD.

One day of guided fishing for smallmouth or trout with fly fishing guide Stacey Crossland-Smith.

Personal Fly Tying Lesson, 3 hours provided by Master Fly Tyer Jim Greco.

The Barrel Raffle will include about thirty prizes of highly desirable fly fishing equipment, books, assortments of flies, and a Regal tying vise.

Barrel Raffle Ticket prices:

\$5 for 1 ticket, \$10 for 3 tickets, \$20 for 10 tickets, and \$40 for 30 tickets. These tickets will be sold only at the PPTU meeting on April 16.

Payment terms: All payments are to be by cash or personal check made payable to the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited (PPTU).

No credit cards accepted

Weekend Fly Fishing Adventures

(Continued from page 1)

West Virginia: Favorite trout streams of the Mountaineers—**Clay Sanders**

The names of two of the presenters may not be familiar to you. Fred Kallmeyer, formerly a PPTU member, now leads excursions for the Rapidan Chapter TU to the destinations he will tell us about. Clay Sanders is a new member of PPTU. He is a native of West Virginia who knows its best trout streams very well.

Each presenter will be at a table with his brochures, maps, photos and other informative material, and you will be able to move from table to table to discover what adventures are most interesting to you.

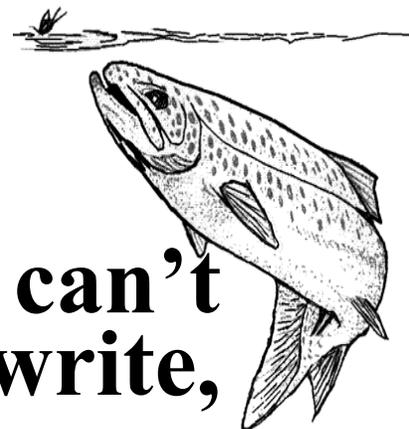
President's Column

(Continued from page 2)

stands alone in the metropolitan area of our nation's capital as the only remaining stream that is pure enough, cold enough and habitable enough to sustain wild trout. It is a symbol of what natural resources can be preserved, given the will to do so, even in a densely populated suburban community.

Let's not let that symbol be destroyed.

Dave Piske



**I can't
write,**

**So, get your pens and keyboards
ready to act again in their defense.**

A Reminder: Spring Break Is Coming Soon

No, I'm not talking about the one for college kids, but the one that your national, state, and local legislators take around Easter.

It would be a good time for you to make an appointment to see them while there are in their home district. Remind them that you are interested in preserving our cold water fisheries and other natural resources and *you vote*.

John Colburn

Kids Fly Fishing Classes

Mentors Sought

Jed Feffer, elementary school teacher and PPTU member, will again conduct a series of after-school sessions teaching the elements of fly fishing. Jed is seeking a few adults to assist in one-on-one mentoring with the students.

The purpose of this program is to get elementary-aged children excited about more than fly fishing. It is also to have them become aware of being stewards of the environment, and to understand the connection between the health of a stream environment and themselves. The mentoring type instruction permits passing on both fishing skills and environmental knowledge in a very personal and satisfying way.

Subjects to be covered include: fly fishing equipment familiarization, tying knots, simple overhead casting, stream features (riffle, pool, run), fish habitat, macro-invertebrate sampling and identification, and tying simple flies (woolly bugger and San Juan worm).

Classroom sessions are supplemented with a walk to observe and explore nearby Sligo Creek and a short automobile trip to Northwest Branch. The capstone event is expected to be a Saturday fishing trip to a stream inhabited by wild trout.

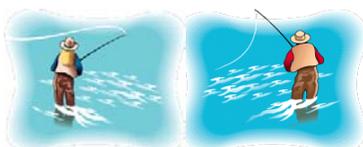
There will be five students involved; three boys and two girls; four are 5th graders and one is a 4th grader.

Except for one or two Saturday sessions, classes will be conducted immediately after school dismissal on Thursdays. The fly fishing classes will run from 3:45 PM until about 5:15 PM. The pond- or streamside classes will run until 7:00 PM. All sessions will be held at, or start from, Highland View Elementary School in Silver Spring.

The dates on which mentors will be needed are April 9, 23, and 30, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, May 30-June 1 (Casselman River over two nights), and June 4 and 7 (Gunpowder River), with June 12 an additional possibility.

Persons who are interested in mentoring should contact Jed Feffer at 301-650-4626 (school) or 301-879-8943 (home), or via e-mail at: jedtfeffer@aol.com.

Dave Piske



North Branch Whitewater Release Schedule

The four weekends this spring that are tentatively scheduled for whitewater releases on the North Branch are: April 12–13, April 26–27, May 10–11, and May 24–25. They have not scheduled the Savage for any whitewater releases this spring.

Anglers can fish the Savage during the day and the North Branch each evening after about 5 PM if the water drops back to normal flow.

Several years ago, six members fishing after that day's release had subsided caught more than 120 trout in one large pool, nearly all on dry flies (the next day [no releases] we only caught six or seven!).

Before going up that way, please call the tape at the Baltimore Office of the Army Corps of Engineers for current and future release schedules on these two rivers: 410-962-7687.

To be really fishable by wading, the Jennings Randolph release needs to be about 400 cfs or less, less than 325 cfs is preferable. The whitewater release is usually in the 800–1000 cfs range, which is unfishable. The release on the Savage needs to be less than about 150 cfs to be safely and easily fished.

Jay Sheppard

River Info for Fishers

There are several phone numbers and web sites that provide information of use to trout fishers. These tape recordings involve releases/water conditions at some important streams:

Deep Cr. Lake	814-533-8911
N Br. & Savage	410-962-7687
Gunpowder River	410-329-6821

The Deep Creek Lake release flows into the Youghiogheny at Hoyes Run near McHenry; the tape is usually changed each Monday morning for that week; the clear water of the release usually adds 5–15 inches to the height of the river. The big problem is that they can also release water from Deep Creek at any other time!

The Corps of Engineers tape for the North Branch and Savage is updated periodically, as flows change and upcoming events approach. Good fishing flows for the former are in the range of 150–300 cfs, the latter 75–150 cfs; dangerous or unfishable flows are >350 cfs and >175 cfs, respectively.

(Continued on page 5)

River Info for Fishers

(Continued from page 4)

The Gunpowder River tape is at the Backwater Angler Shop in Hereford. If it is during non-business hours, they will have a tape on the stream flows and what is happening as well.

If anyone is aware of other tapes or sources of info regarding stream flows in this area, please let us know.

Here are two web sites that also offer information on stream conditions or visit our web site at www.pptu.org for links:

www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/wc
<http://water.usgs.gov/md/nwis/rt>

Both of these sites will lead you to individual stations where you can learn the current and recent flows, as well as the water temperatures and precipitation in some cases. Check out both sources, as each has some features that are useful, even when looking at the same station's data.

Jay Sheppard

Poacher Cards

The chapter has some business-sized cards that carry the two **toll-free** phone numbers for reporting poachers in Maryland 24 hours a day. The DNR number is for any problem; the Parks number is to be used only when on State lands. Be sure to pick up a card at the monthly meetings or your nearby tackle shop to carry in your wallet. Remember, there may not be an immediate response to your call, but it is logged. When the reports start accumulating, then more patrols and better response times might be expected. The DNR Police number is 800-635-6124 and the State Parks number is 800-825-7275. Try to get a license plate number and description of the individual(s) involved. Keep two cards in your wallet or vest, as you might pass one to another fisher complaining about the poachers that he saw recently.

Address Changed? Missing an Issue?

If you have moved or see any error in your label on this newsletter, please advise both the TU national office and this chapter with separate notices. We maintain our mailing list apart from the national list; we do eventually get the notice of address change from national TU, but it is often a few months before it affects your newsletter and other mailings. Please help us help you. Thank you.

This past year we had several reports of members not receiving their newsletters. Make sure we have your correct address, including 9-digit ZIP, and that you have paid your dues. If you are missing a back issue, please contact us for a copy

Patuxent Report

There have been three stockings of 2100 browns and 1750 rainbows on the Patuxent. The average stocking rate was about 18 browns per 100 yards, with more in the lower and deeper sections; some browns were fairly respectable in size.

All of the rainbows were not float stocked any distance, being placed only near the bridges.

For the foreseeable future, all stocked trout will be planted between Annapolis Rock (Rt. 94) and Howard Chapel Bridges, including Cabin Branch.

The several miles above the Rt. 94 bridge is now largely without some of the deeper pools it once had. In addition, there is a good population of wild browns in this section that we do not want to stress any further.

The stocked trout can be expected to scatter over the coming months as they compete for space among themselves and with other trout already there. In the past, I have caught rainbows about a mile below the lowest stocking point only 8 days after the stocking. So the trout can move quickly if the conditions suit them.

The overall holdover rate will depend largely upon two big factors: summer flows and poaching.

There will be no further spring stockings on the upper Patuxent Special Area after the end of March.

Jay Sheppard

Renew TU Membership Thru Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

National TU will accept renewals of memberships sent through the chapter. In return, the chapter receives a rebate of \$5 for each renewal processed.

We hope every member will bring their membership renewal notices to the chapter meetings. The chapter will take it from there. We will accept cash, check (payable to *Trout Unlimited*), or credit card for these renewals.

If you forget your renewal notice, we only need to have your membership card so we can obtain your member number.

Help support the chapter and bring your next renewal notice to the monthly meeting.

Spring Weekend Outing

For the past twenty-some Memorial Day weekends, the chapter has had an outing to some slightly more distant waters (usually a 3–4 hours drive). We have gone to central Pennsylvania and Garrett County in western Maryland.

Several members of this or other chapters would be on the outing who are familiar with these streams—what lures or flies should be working, where to park, etc. These folks are *not* going to be your personal guides for the day, but they will point you in the right direction and offer some suggestions.

At times during the day, people on the outing will stop to compare notes and see what is or is not "working." Many of the major hatches on these streams should be in full swing.

This is always a popular way to see new streams and where to access them for later trips.

For the past several springs, about a dozen members, spouses, and friends have stayed at "Streams and Dreams," a lovely retreat run by Don Hershfeld for a nominal cost (ca. \$85/person for **all 3 nights combined**) for some fine accommodations.

This is located where Hoyes Run meets the Youghiogheny River west of Deep Creek Lake in Garrett Co. You can walk out the door of the lodge and be fishing a fine hatch after a few minutes walk.

A reservation deposit will need to be made by late April to secure this facility again for our use.

If you have an interest, contact Jay Sheppard (see page 2 or e-mail: jmsheppar@aol.com) **or** come to the April meeting, where I will have lots of info about the fishing opportunities in Western Maryland.

Jay Sheppard

Membership

THE POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited has two membership categories: **Regular or Family** (\$15/year assessment) or **Student** (free). The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. The assessment is totally separate from Trout Unlimited dues. Send correspondence, change of address, or assessment payable to POTOMAC-PATUXENT TROUT UNLIMITED, PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915.

Chapter and national TU expiration dates are indicated in the mailing label as PP-0903 or NTU-0903.

First time visitors receive two free issues of this publication.

Tackle and Tactic Tips

About 8 years ago, I had to replace the felt soles on my wading shoes. In getting the new felt soles to really bind well with the shoe, you have to ensure that no dirt or old felt or adhesive remains.

I did not want to spend an hour or two taking a good wood rasp and similar tools to remove the old material. The answer was a "paint and rust stripper" from my local hardware store that mounted in my electric drill. This is a 4" diameter disk about 3/4" thick and looks like some hard, black, honey-combed material.

I first peeled off the bulk of the old soles by working a not very sharp 1" wood chisel down between the worn felt and the shoe. What was left was a very thin layer of the old felt and adhesive.

The stripper (rotating away from my face) removed all the old felt and about 99% of the old adhesive in less than 3 minutes per shoe. There was no damage to the surface of the shoe, and it was truly clean of unwanted materials. Total prep time for both shoes was less than 12 minutes.

After following the gluing directions for the new felt and allowing to fully harden over night, the stripper was again used to even the edges of the new felt soles after the gross trimming of the edges with a sharp utility knife. (Any felt that juts out from the edge of the shoe may catch on a rock, etc., and start the felt peeling away from the shoe **or** cause you to trip.)

Put this little note aside. If you ever have to replace the felts on your waders, the paint and rust stripper will really save you much time! [*Editor's Note: Safety glasses and a face mask are a good idea any time you are working with rotating power tools.*]

Spring Hatches

After April 15, the hatches on Hunting Cr., Patuxent, Gunpowder and even the Savage should be going full tilt. Hunting Cr. and the Gunpowder, in particular, have always had dependable hatches of a good variety of medium-sized mayflies. These include the Hendricksons/Red Quills, Ginger Quills, tan and black caddis and the Light Stonefly, *Isoperla*, (#12-14). Blue-winged Olives (*Baetis*) should be out on the Gunpowder (#18-20), particularly on warm, cloudy days. Don't put off any fishing opportunities this spring for later this summer; go while the water is up.

Jay Sheppard

Drag Workshop—On the Water!

THANK YOU!

Our sincere thanks go to these businesses that have contributed to the prizes offered at our April 16 fund-raiser event. Your patronage will be appreciated by them. And when you contact any of them, please thank them for their support of Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited. These donors are listed in alphabetical order and include donors as of March 12, the editorial deadline for this newsletter.

Anglers' Art
Fly fishing bookseller
Plainfield, PA
1-800-848-1020
www.anglersart.com

Angler's Lie
A complete fly fishing outfitter
10 minutes from the White House
Arlington, VA
703-527-2524
www.anglerslie.com

Backwater Angler
A full service fly shop
just steps from the Gunpowder River
Monkton, MD
410-329-6821
www.backwateranglers.com

**Dusty Wissmath's
Fly Fishing School**
at Whitetail Mountain Resort
Mercersburg, PA
717-328-9400 ext. 3531
e-mail: dwissmath@skiwhitetail.com
www.skiwhitetail.com

Keystone Anglers
Central Pennsylvania guide service
Lock Haven, PA
570-660-9620
www.keystoneanglers.com

Orvis of Tysons Corner
The Orvis Company
Outfitters since 1856
Vienna, VA
703-556-8634
www.orvis.com

Sage Manufacturing
Flyfishing Products
Bainbridge Island, WA
www.sageflyfish.com

Stacey Crossland-Smith
Guide service and fly fishing instruction
Gunpowder - Potomac - Susquehanna
410-668-0912
www.findsfish.com

West Branch Angler Resort
A full service fly fishing resort
Deposit, NY
607-467-5525
www.westbranchangler.com

Our special thanks also go to these Trout Unlimited members who have volunteered to share their expertise in the form of lessons or guiding:

Jim Greco

Jim Greene

Fred Kallmeyer

Win! Win! Win! **Two Grand Raffle Prizes!**

**Win a Two Day All Expenses Paid
Guided Delaware River Trip for Two!**
(Value \$1600)

Win an Outcast PAC 800 Pontoon Boat!
(Value \$1100)

Two Premium Raffle Prizes!

**Win a Two Day Guided Fishing for Two
On Famous PA Trout Streams
With Two Nights Lodging**
(Value \$740)

Win a Sage XP Series 4-piece 8' 6" 4-wt. Fly Rod
(Value \$600)

Silent Auctions and Bucket Raffles

**Guided Trips, Equipment, Materials, Books, Flies
Fly Tying Lessons, Fly Fishing Schools, and more!**

>>>>>See stories on page 1<<<<<



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Wheaton, MD 20915

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