

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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“Flea Market Time” February 21st, 2018

Over the winter you’ve been finding, cleaning out, and reconditioning your equipment, right??? You probably have stuff you haven’t seen or used in a year or more, gifts you didn’t bother opening, probably some duplicates. Maybe you replaced a rod or reel as a holiday present. Maybe you got a new fly tying vice.

What if on the other hand you are looking for a new rod, reel, sling pack or vice. Or a friend is. Perhaps you are just starting out on your fly fishing journey and looking for some deals on gear. You could also be trading up as you’ve gained experience and you are looking for a nicer rod or reel. We’ve got a deal for you!!!

Come to our **February Flea Market Meeting** to both buy and sell that gear for some cash and help support PPTU. If you’re buying, knock yourself out on some really great deals. The Chapter has its own load of equipment, fly tying materials, and other items donated over the past year that we will be selling at seriously discounted prices.

If you’re selling, all we ask is that a portion of the proceeds, minimum 10%, be donated to the Chapter to further our mission. (*Details on selling on page 6.*)

So clean out that back room, car trunk, garage – you and your spouse will be glad you did. Your unused item is another person’s gold for the new season.



– Alan Burrows

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, 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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2017 – 2018

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Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows

My New Year's Resolutions

While you will be reading this in February, I'm writing it in January and pondering my 2018 fishing resolutions. It's not like they are a terrible stretch but I do need a plan for execution. My hope is that if I share them then there may be some peer pressure to accomplish them. Additionally, some of you may choose to join me in some of these resolutions.

1. Fish, and catch fish, at a wild trout fishery at least once a month throughout the year. That doesn't sound hard but then January has been pretty cold and it isn't like we have an unlimited number of these streams available. I got January out of the way on the 11th at Beaver Creek. I want to add the Gunpowder and the Savage to this list but will be looking to PA for some more streams.

2. Fish, and catch native brook trout, on at least three different bodies of water. I have targeted the upper Savage as one but I'm hoping to visit another stream in the Gunpowder drainage (its kind of a secret), a Brookie stream in PA and finally I hope to catch one on the Connecticut River this June. I hope four chances are enough.

3. Go on at least one brackish or saltwater trip and one small mouth fly fishing trip.

4. Attend more outings. Lou Reichel does a great job of planning these outings. They are in interesting places and I just have not made enough of an effort to attend as many as I should. I hope several of you join me on this one. They are fun and they expand your fishing experience.

5. Do more conservation activities. Between Trout in the Classroom and stream clean ups alone there are lots of opportunities to volunteer to educate people about clean cold fishable water as well as get out in the trenches (or ditches) and help clean things up. I really hope many of you will resolve to be more active in this area. Many hands make light work and we can make a difference.

6. Attend the Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited meeting in May in West Virginia. I went to the national meeting last year and it was a real learning opportunity so I am expecting the same in West Virginia along with a day of fishing to kick off the weekend. You are all welcome to join me.

7. Working with Jay Sheppard, I resolve to try to find some way to provide dissolved oxygen below Brighton Dam. Note: this may be a two year resolution.

8. Make PPTU the best chapter we can be by providing opportunities for fun, fishing, education and conservation projects as well as spreading the good word through youth activities.

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

For the next month or so, I suggest small black stoneflies, midges, and small nymphs and streamers on the tailwaters such as the Gunpowder, Big Hunting Creek, or the Savage. By the end of February, there should be some warming of more local waters. Slowly moving streamers tend to work well. We just need to keep the precipitation coming to ensure good flows all spring and summer.



Bubbles are where the food items float and where the trout are looking. If you do not see much surface activity, you need to focus on the feeding lanes where anything further upstream (ants, beetles, etc.) is going to be funneled as they travel down the river. Clear areas without bubbles are usually devoid of insects, unless there is an active hatch occurring. Those clear spots are often upwellings of water that cannot rise any higher once they reach the surface. The water then rushes sideways spilling outward. Bubbles often collect where two adjacent upwellings meet and anything on the surface becomes entrapped in the narrow area between the two clear patches. Trout watch these bubble patches very closely, just as your pet watches its food dish for something to eat, even if it is not time to be fed.

Many years ago, I was talking with a long time, good fishing buddy, Joe McMullen, a real expert on Spruce Creek and all other waters of central PA. He was pointing out to another fellow who was asking about what flies to use and that to catch trout one had to focus on several factors. Joe listed them in decreasing order of importance as follows: presentation, presentation, presentation, presentation, size, shape, and color. One can tie on the perfect imitation of the tasty morsel the fish are eating at that moment, but if the presentation of that fly is off by just a tiny amount, the trout are likely to

refuse it. Action, if any, of the fly as it comes into view is really critical on most of our heavily fished trout streams. By the time the trout is 7 or 8 inches, it has been subjected to a host of flies and fishers.



Trout are quick learners. If something got their attention, caused them to be jerked around and handled by some large, hairless ape and released back to the water, they are going to hesitate to attack the same object acting in that manner the next time. The next time you are watching a stream flow past your boots, watch closely how the little patches of bubbles move together down the feeding lanes. At first you may think all the bubbles are marching as a single unit with each remaining in the same relative position to its neighbors. In almost every case, each bubble is moving relative to its nearest neighbors. They may circle each other or one may slow for a moment and then speed up relative to another. Your dry fly has to imitate not only the natural insect floating along, but also its motion relative to other objects on the surface. If your fly is being dragged just slightly faster or slower in the wrong direction than the nearby bubbles, then you have provided a hint to the trout—this may be a fraud.



Good fishing in 2018!! Leave a few uneducated trout for me to play with!!

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

We need rain!!! Streams are way below normal flows for this time of the year. Remember, there are no trout in the Patuxent below Brighton Dam, and none will be stocked there this spring or next.

We plan to stock the Special Area on the upper Patuxent above Rt 97 this month and next. If you are not on my stocking list (I sent out an email the end of January to my list), then send me an email to get onto the mailing list: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com.

We only stock Tuesday through Fridays. Chest waders are required to pull the boxes, but others can help haul the buckets from the truck down to stream side. I hope to know the DNR stocking dates for our local waters before Valentine's Day. Float stocking is not only great fun, but one gets to learn where the holes and pockets are for when they return to the streams that we float stock: Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest and upper Patuxent River special area.

"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you. Particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish.

~ Mark Twain

February Bucket Raffle - Bob Kaiser

In keeping with the weather and winter fishing, the bucket raffles in February and March will feature themes of staying warm, fly tying and winter flies. Fishing mittens, gloves, fleece vests, thermos bottles, etc. will help keep you fishing all year long. Nothing like a hot coffee after coming off the river in near freezing temperatures!



We will have at least one box of winter flies in each raffle. The boxes are the nice ones, compartmentalized with a magnetic base, to hold those tiny winter flies, and keep the wind from blowing them away! PPTU volunteers have tied an assortment of tiny midges, BWOs, stone flies, Griffin's Gnats, WD-40s, and other winter flies for your use.

Fifteen tickets for just \$5.00 or two tickets for \$1.00 go a long way to supporting PPTU's activities.

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
**Potomac Patuxent Chapter
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

[Get started](#)

amazonsmile

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 or new tier.

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



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

Conquer the Cold: The theory of bigger being sometimes better. - George Daniel

George Daniel offers up an interesting theory in this timely article on fishing larger patterns during the winter months. Thanks goes out to Marc Hutzell for sharing this tidbit with our group.

George discusses getting into the head and mindset of winter fish and what they want. Next time out you might want to test the theory. My box always has a few larger than normal flies stuffed in it. Sounds like it might be worth tying one on and giving it a shot. Hey, if nothing else is working, why not?



<http://www.paflyfish.com/smartsection.item.245/conquer-the-cold-the-theory-of-bigger-being-sometimes-better.html>

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.

Buyers and Sellers Alert!!!! PPTU Flea Market at February Meeting - Bob Kaiser

Sellers: Sell your stuff at our February Meeting Flea Market for some cash and support PPTU. All we ask is that a portion of the proceeds, minimum 10%, be donated to the Chapter to further our mission. So clean out that back room, car trunk, garage – you and your spouse will be glad you did. Your unused item is another person's gold.

Additionally, the Chapter has a load of equipment fly tying materials, and other items donated over the past year that we will be selling.

Buyers: Bring cash, credit card, or your checkbook for fastest checkout. You'll find lots of good stuff to bring home (or hide from your spouse or significant other).

Sellers, please register your items by obtaining an inventory sheet from Bob Kaiser by emailing me at kaiskat4@yahoo.com. Complete the inventory sheet, email it back to me, and we'll prepare tags for your items, which you can attach to your items at the meeting. We will collect payments from buyers throughout the meeting, and distribute proceeds to each seller at the end of the meeting.

A partial listing of items available at this press time includes:

- Orvis Clearwater 4 pc., 4 wt. rod and case
- Orvis Clearwater 4 pc., 6 wt. rod and case
- Tom Tom GPS unit
- Multiple rod and reel cases
- Fly boxes of all sizes and types
- Simms fly fishing vest
- Simms Headwaters sling pack
- Landing nets
- Fly tying hackle, furs, buck tails, deer hair, dubbing, hooks, tinsel, wire, etc.



MD Spring Trout Stocking - 2018 - Bob O'Donnell

For those of you dying to know when and where the fish will be for 2018, I have some news for you. The 2018 Spring Trout Stocking Schedule is out and available for viewing on DNR's website.

http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/2018_trout_stock_sched.pdf

Check out the stocking schedule dates and start planning your fishing days for the new season. Our outings coordinator, Lou Reichel will be looking it over and will plan accordingly for several PPTU hosted outings this year. If you have any suggestions for Lou, feel free to drop him a line:

lwreichel@aol.com

Video Casting Instruction - Bob O'Donnell

Its that time of year when you start getting the itch to go fishing. I can always tell I'm due for a fishing session every time I pick up my cat's teaser toy and start casting to him. The cat's toy is fun and gets you in rhythm but it doesn't replace "real" practice with your rod. If you need a refresher on casting or just some good tips in general, then check out this excellent casting video series from the master himself, Tim Rajeff.



<http://echoflyfishing.com/tip-videos/>

On the Echo website you will find a full catalog of tips and tricks to maximize your casting potential.

Members Catch - TroutWrangler

You never know what you'll run across on a trout stream. Who would have thought you needed to watch where you're stepping before entering the stream – in January!

Northern Banded Water Snake



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: Bob O'Donnell
Phone: 410-733-0638
Email: TroutWrangler@yahoo.com



Top Secret Midge

The Top Secret Midge is one of Pat Dorsey's creations. Pat is one of the foremost experts on fishing with small flies, and he is known far and wide as a guide, writer, fly tier, and presenter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cwSeVsqxQg>

As a bonus, here's a podcast from Orvis with Pat Dorsey:

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-pat-dorsey-fishing-early-spring-midges-tailwaters/>



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