

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

January 2020 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

PPTU's Annual “Fly Tying Extravaganza” *January 15th, 2020*

Please, join us once again for a PPTU family favorite - our annual Fly Tying Extravaganza meeting!

Swing by the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday night, January 15th at 7:00 PM when the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host for your enjoyment our first meeting for the New Year and annual fly tying demonstration.

This year, we will have tables set up for several creative local tyers. Besides some of our very own skilled chapter members, the lineup includes volunteer tyers from Beaver Creek Fly Shop, District Angling, LLBean, and Project Healing Waters. Come by and check out some of these patterns: Ryan's Softshell Crayfish, Adams Parachute, Blowtorch, Lively Legs Pheasant Tail Nymph, Tony's Big Bird Articulated Streamer, and more!

All of our tyers will be passing along their skills and knowledge while demonstrating flies you can use on our local streams to catch fish. Take home a pattern recipe and don't miss this opportunity to shorten your learning curve while you move closer to the elusive goal of mastering this special art of fly tying. And if you catch the bug, inquire about signing up for our beginner fly tying class starting very soon.



Hope to see you there!

– *Karan Singh*

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

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2019 – 2020

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Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson
Middle Patuxent: Bryan Sirotkin
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard

Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Alan Burrows
Bob Dietz: Secretary
Randy Dwyer
Jim Greene
Marc Hutzell
Lou Reichel
Nick Weber

Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



The Year 2020 and 20/20 Vision

New month. New year. New decade. The turning of the calendar from 2019 into 2020 gives us an opportunity to look ahead for spring and summer activities, and also to set a clear 20/20 vision for the years and decade ahead. Your Potomac Patuxent TU chapter has a strong reputation as a conservation organization that serves our local communities and works to improve our region's water quality.

As PPTU members we have an opportunity to build on the good work of those before us. As our region continues to experience population growth and development, there is a need to help retain – and maintain – our local cold water fisheries.

At our November meeting we heard Steve Malan (Patapsco Valley TU) talk about the stream surveys they conducted in their area. It is amazing to hear how small local, forgotten streams can hold trout and have the capability to hold more with stream improvements. I believe we have similar streams in our region that deserve our attention – it would be a shame if we could help maintain their quality and did not act when we have the chance. Let's do what needs to be done – with clear 20/20 vision.

Serving Our Communities

Did you know that our Trout in the Classroom is the largest of its kind in the country? Last month our program co-chairs Alan Burrows and Chuck Dinkel coordinated trout egg delivery to over 100 local schools! Students will care for them and watch them grow in specially provided tanks. In the spring each class will go to a local stream to release their young and learn about water quality. It's a fantastic program and volunteers will be needed to help teach our next generation. Please keep TIC in mind and lend a hand this spring.

I also want to give a shout out to the other programs PPTU is actively supporting: Project Healing Waters at Fort Meade, Mayfly Project, Casting for Recovery, Fly Fishing merit badges for local scout troops, Chesapeake Women's Anglers, and more. Each deserves our continued support and

all need volunteers to step up and assist. One easy way you can help is by visiting Amazon Smile and selecting Potomac Patuxent TU as your charity of choice. This doesn't change the costs of any of your purchases and PPTU receives a small donation from Amazon. Every bit helps PPTU to support our local charity efforts.

Your PPTU

January 15th is our wildly popular "Fly Tying Extravaganza" and this year it will feature tyers young and old providing hands-on opportunities to all. Please join us then and throughout the year. As always please reach out to me president@pptu.org or any fellow board member with questions or ideas. We work together to make your Potomac Patuxent Trout Unlimited chapter the very best. Tight lines!

Randy Dwyer
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 

Cold Weather Fly Fishing - Michael Abramowitz

My wife will often criticize me severely when I plan to go out fishing when the weather is inclement. My response to her is, "there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing." However lightning does scare me.

We all know that blue sky sunny days are not ideal for fly fishing. When the sky is overcast and air temperatures are not blazing hot, these fishing conditions may be a better time to be on your favorite stream.

At this time of the year, steelhead fishing trips are planned. The many tributaries flowing into Lake Erie are locations where many PPTU members are challenged to catch steelhead.

Over the past few years many new fabrics have been developed for all types of weather. The most important factor is to wear more than one layer. Use a layer that wicks perspiration away from your skin. Often we will be stream side very early until it is dark. As the hours pass the air temperatures rise. You may want to remove one layer such as a fleece jacket.

In the cold area around the Great Lakes the following clothing plan works for me:

- First BASE LAYER - Medium weight wicking
- Second BASE LAYER - Heavier weight wicking
- MID LAYER - fleece or synthetic down
- OUTER LAYER - waterproof breathable (Gortex)

A long sleeve micro-fibre "T" shirt, then a type of polo neck shirt, then a regular fly fishing shirt. This has the few zipper pockets to safe guard vehicle keys. A fleece jacket tops this layering. Merino wool for t-shirts has become very popular. These garments can be very expensive. With well sewn seams, correct washing (inside out/no bleach) you can get long term use. The merino wool resists retaining body odor. Merino wool is light weight and ideal when back packing.

Long underwear (for warmth and wicking perspiration) followed by microfiber trousers. Denim jeans are heavy, and not quick drying.

Ideal socks are compression type to below the knees, then a pair of wool hiking sox. Often one may

be standing for many hours is the reason for compression hose. A pair of full length waders and rain jacket adds to warmth and wind protection.

Head protection is achieved with a balaclava and neck buff. A "Thinsulate" balaclava will still allow you to wear a baseball type hat to keep the sun or rain off your face.

Gloves with fingertip slits will allow you to handle flies and tippet. Wearing mittens with a flap for exposure for your fingers has an advantage where you can place a hot warming pad. I secure the warming pad with a safety pin. Extra warming pads in your wader pocket is a backup if the warmer in the mitten gets wet. Spare gloves often come in useful. Clips from the gloves to your sleeve will prevent a lost glove.

Polarized sun glasses are essential for eye protection for glare from the sun on snow.

A weather forecasting radio alerts you to severe weather changes. A Uniden Atlantis 250 radio has continuous weather reports from NOAA. Don't rely on cell phone service for weather reports, as there may be no cell phone service.

Remember to have a bag of spare clothing in your vehicle if you ever fall in the stream and get wet. A wading stick is helpful in icy and wet weather when the paths are wet and slick.

We are all aware of very low temperatures. Its good to know all the signs and symptoms of hypothermia.

These are progressive and have serious consequences.

MILD hypothermia: Body Temperature (BT) 95-92 degrees F. One complains of severe cold, speech changes, stumbling, uncontrollable shivering, blue finger tips /hand and feet, stiff muscles.

MODERATE hypothermia: (BT) 90-82.4 degrees F, altered level of consciousness, shivering may stop, muscles stiff and rigid, irregular heartbeat.

Talk to your fishing buddy often to notice any changes.

Wind will accelerate frostbite. Frostnip precedes frostbite. Stay well hydrated, do not skip any snacks or meals and avoid alcohol as alcohol increases heat loss.

There are many more factors to discuss regarding cold weather fishing. Please Google some of the topics mentioned to learn more.

With cold weather fishing remember that road conditions may be more hazardous getting to the stream and back home. There will be warmer days to catch fish.

Volunteer to help with BSA Scouting Fly Fishing Merit Badge - George Opryszko

Next spring (dates TBD), PPTU will be having a few Fly Fishing Merit Badge events so scouts can earn a badge. The events will likely be on Saturdays or possibly some Sundays. We need volunteers to help with all aspects of fly fishing. Scouts will learn to tie flies, cast, learn correct knots, and various other parts of fly fishing. You can sign up to be a BSA merit badge counselor or just come to help assist. These will be motivated kids.



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®

If you're interested, please contact George Opryszko, Alan Burrows, or Motti Tadmor.



"Poets talk about "spots of time", but it is really the fishermen who experience eternity compressed into a moment. No one can tell what a spot of time is until suddenly the whole world is a fish and the fish is gone."

~ Norman Mclean

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**

In early December we got a call from the Maryland DNR Fisheries: A trout rearing facility west of Hagerstown was running out of spring water to keep it going. All trout had to be pulled out and stocked. These were all trout we were expecting next February and March, not December! So we were asked if we could muster the volunteers to manage stocking 450 into the Middle Patuxent and 1550 trout into the upper, main Patuxent River? The DNR wanted the trout moved within 10 days. Normally, we get several weeks to coordinate major stockings. We said we would try to find the 20 or 25 volunteers and see if we could float stock these two streams we all like to fish.

We eventually found the necessary man (and woman) power. On December 6 we stocked the Middle Patuxent delayed harvest section with moderate flows and four volunteers. On December 11 we float stocked about 6 miles of the upper Patuxent special trout management area. As soon as the truck arrived at the Middle Patuxent and handed us our first bucket, we knew we might have a problem!! We were expecting 9" brown trout, but instead most of the trout were in the 14–17" range with some at large as 20"! A few of those BIG trout could barely fit into our float boxes!! Since our four float boxes could not hold all of them, the truck went around from Eden Brook and dumped the remainder into the Middle Patuxent at Old Columbia Pike. Our

boxes made it safely downstream about 2 miles sprinkling trout here and there in the larger pools.

This unexpected largess gave us a few extra days to gather as many volunteers as we could to move the 1550 trout the following Wednesday. We expected to only need 13 boxes but mustered 20 volunteers to pull 17 boxes over most of the water between rt 94 (Annapolis Rock) and Howard Chapel. The only hiccup was the weather: an inch of snow greeted us that morning on the grass and forest floor with air temps slightly above freezing. The only mishaps were that three of us went for unplanned swims: One of our crew three times, another once, and yours truly went in twice. We were working so hard that we had no real issues with hypothermia. If we had been quietly fishing, we would have been forced to our cars immediately.

In sum, go fishing this winter on these streams. At least give it a try—if we get some breaks in the weather. In the Patuxent River State Park, I would wear a hunter orange cap or something unless fishing on a Sunday: still hunting season. Dress warm, tell friends where you will be, and enjoy a winter day on the stream!

I counted over 330 emails exchanged on organizing these stockings. If you are not on my mailing list to potentially help, send me an email: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com. We do expect to stock in February and March. The requirement for float stocking are chest waders and reasonable agility in walking down or up the middle of a stream with rocks and unseen logs for a mile or two. Videos and pictures of this and other recent stockings are posted on our chapter web site.



I wish to thank the following PPTU members and friends for helping on such short notice in these stockings: Sean Beck, Mike Bovitch, Ron Briggs, Alan Burrows, Lee Canby, Geoff Carton, Bob Erskine, Mike Frey**, Gregg Gochnour, Noel Gollehon, Jon Griffiths, Mark Jacobs, Bob Kaiser, John MacLean, Jeff Miller, George Opryszko, Bill Roberts, Joe Robinson, Peter Schuler, Bryan Sirotkin, Dale Thatcher, Maurice Waldorf, and Bob Zukowski. (** worked both stockings)

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. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

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



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

Passing the Baton at Penn State - Bob Kaiser

Bob was kind enough to share this with us. I can't think of a better guy to take the helm of this program at the school. George Daniel has been named lead instructor and director of the Penn State fly fishing program. Congratulations George!

<https://www.pennlive.com/life/2019/12/penn-state-fly-fishing-the-next-generation.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 in support of the chapter.



Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) Not Too Late! - Jay Sheppard

It is not too late to pay your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. We therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each year, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including:

- Room rental for the monthly meetings at the Schwienhaut Center.
- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of clean, cold water and fisheries to our environment.
- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Support of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other TU chapters and conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting by cash, check, or credit card.
- Go to pptu.org and use our PayPal portal: <https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU to our PO Box (see last page).

Paid members are eligible to receive the new PPTU decal for their vehicles' back window, etc.



Fly Tying & Rod Building Classes - PPTU

Reminder – PPTU is offering a Beginner Fly Tying class and also a Rod Building Class for the New Year. If you're interested, reach out to Bob Dietz to sign up for the fly tying class and Bob Kaiser if you're interested in the rod building class.

Members Catch

- PPTU

Nice to see people fishing, tying flies and having some fun during the winter.

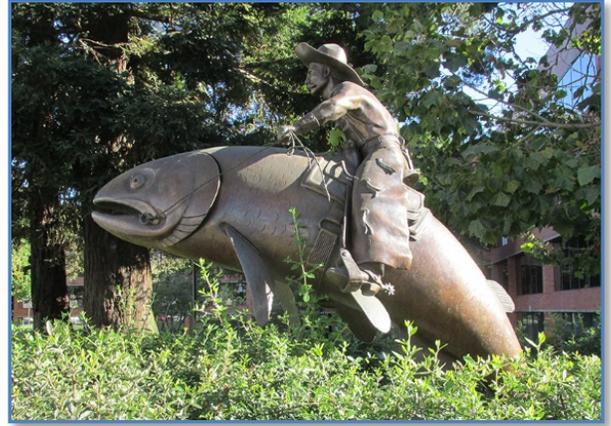


Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: Bob O'Donnell

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



Bead Head Brassie

The Brassie is a great all-around nymph pattern that offers three great features: its wire body imitates the segmented bodies of midges and caddisflies, it's easy to tie, and it sinks like a stone—which means you can fish it deep. Try tying it with wire of different colors, especially red and green, or even two colors on a single fly.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/Tying-the-Brassie>



Return Address:
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU
P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD 20915