

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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“Flea Market Time” March 20th, 2019

Come to our March Flea Market Meeting to both buy and sell your extra gear for some cash -- while also helping to 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.

Over the winter, we know that you've been finding, cleaning out, and reconditioning your equipment. It's a near-guarantee that you've been uncovering stuff you haven't used (much less seen) in a year or more -- gifts you didn't bother opening, stuff you bought off online auction sites when you didn't think your bid would win, probably even some duplicates you thought were good to have "just in case." Maybe you replaced a rod or reel as a holiday present? Or maybe you got a new fly tying vice?

What if you are in the opposite situation and are looking for a new rod, reel, sling pack or vice? Or a "friend" is (we won't tell your spouse). Perhaps you are just starting out on your fly fishing journey and are 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. In any case - we've got a deal for you at the March meeting!!!

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 7.)

So clean out that back room, car trunk, garage and bring it to the PPTU flea market -- you and your spouse will be glad you did. Remember, your unused item is another person's gold for the new season.

– *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
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 2018 – 2019

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Past-President: Bob O'Donnell
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Secretary: Patrick Masler
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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 - Alan Burrows



Ah, March in Maryland. To me that screams SPRING! That means things are going to bloom again and the streams and rivers we hold so dear will be filled with fish. We will have stocked some of them, some will be wild and some will be native. Spring means that bugs will begin to emerge. Many of us have been slogging through winter with our nymphs and streamers, but now we will have a chance to delicately drop that wondrous dry fly onto the water in hopes of a take. Whatever else you have on your calendar, make some time to get out on the river.

When people ask me what is so special about fly fishing for trout, my easy answer is that trout only live in beautiful places. While that is mostly true, there is something more to it. In addition to the beauty that surrounds us, there is the joyous sound of riffles and falls and that perfect silence when one is alone with nature. No car horns, no clacking of keyboards, no hum of conversation, just the peaceful silence while standing by the river.

People frequently ask me what is so fascinating about fly fishing. I recently read a description I just have to share. In his book *The Bright Country* by Harry Middleton tells people who ask “that one way they can sample the myriad emotions that overwhelm the typical fly fisherman is to go home, haul a large tub of ice water into the house and place it as far from the fireplace as they can. There should be a good fire going in the fireplace. Then while standing barefoot in the tub of ice water, they should take fly rod in hand and practice casting hundred-dollar bills into the fireplace. While this exercise may not give them much of a feel for fly fishing as art, it will, I think, permit them to share in some of the wonders of fly fishing, especially the wonder of why fly fishermen keep at it.”

Speaking of casting hundred-dollar bills, we will be having a swap meet this month. Along with a few donated items, we were recently gifted with several boxes of flies. I would have to guess there are 300 – 500 of them. Additionally, we have several boxes of fly tying materials for sale at about half retail price. These, as well as a few other donated items, will be on sale by the chapter. We have been blessed

with several donations of money and other items in the last year or two and those donations have helped us pay for meeting space and support for our other volunteer efforts in education and protection of clean, cold fishable water. I encourage everyone to register to bring their spare or lightly used equipment to the swap meet. Email Bob Kaiser at Treasurer@pptu.org to register your items. Pre-registration makes the process of sales and accounting much, much easier! I would hope you might consider donating a significant part of the proceeds to PPTU.

Additionally, we are collecting flies for donation to Healing Waters via the Quantico and Project Healing Waters - Fort Belvoir Programs of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. They will host the 6th Annual Fly Tying Marathon at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on March 30, 2019.

Fly tyers interested in supporting Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. are encouraged to participate. All flies tied during the event are donated for use by programs across the country. Lunch and refreshments are provided. Preregistration by contacting chris.thompson@projecthealingwaters.org. PPTU will collect flies at through our March meeting and send them to PHW. I know you like to tie, and likely have some extra flies to donate, too.

Finally, we passed the hat for donations to Project Healing Waters in honor of past member Carl Smolka at our delayed February meeting. We will do it one more time at our March meeting. Carl was a dedicated member of the chapter, an active board member and very active is support of Project Healing Waters. I encourage everyone to make a donation to a good cause in honor of a great fellow PPTU member.

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 

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

PPTU and friends help stock the upper Patuxent special area (NO KILL) and the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent. Approx. 650 were stocked in the first and 600 in the second.

Because of the high flows all trout were directly stocked from the truck into the water, except as noted below. The access points where the rainbows were dumped are as follows:

Upper Pax--Rt 94/Annapolis Rock bridge

Hipsley Mill bridge--main stem

Hipsley Mill--Cabin Branch

Howard Chapel--float box only and taken upstream for approx. 1/3 mile

Middle Patuxent--Old Columbia Pike

Eden Brook

Because of the high flows, these trout are expected to drift downstream as much as a mile or more in the next few days from where they were released. We did not intentionally stock the holes under the bridges, etc., but a few did escape. Not all

places listed above received the same numbers of trout....some got 100-150, other access points up to 450....



The next stocking of these two streams is of brown trout on March 5. If you are not on my mailing list for stockings, please contact me directly if you are interested in helping on this important stocking, esp. on the upper Patuxent!: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com.

Note: We only stock Tuesdays through Fridays. Chest waders are required to pull the boxes, but others can help haul the buckets from the truck down to stream side. 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.

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!

Even More Stocking Info! - PPTU

Here's the latest info from Maryland DNR in case you get the itch to get out and explore. There are plenty of fish in the water just waiting for you to tangle with them. There are also trees to tangle with but that's another article. Fish on!

- **Baltimore County**
Patapsco River (Daniels): 1,800 golden and rainbow trout (two per day)
- **Howard County**
Little Patuxent River: 450 rainbow trout
- **Montgomery County**
Patuxent River: 800 rainbow trout
- **Queen Anne's County**
Unicorn Branch: 100 golden and rainbow trout (two per day)
- **Washington County**
Beaver Creek: 900 golden and rainbow trout



"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming.."

~ John Steinbeck

March Events - Bob O'Donnell

March is blowing in quick and hard. Here are few of the many events going on in the next couple of weeks. More info on the PPTU web site.

March 9-10: PA Fly Fishing Show - Lancaster

March 16: MD Fly Fishing Show - Towson

March 24: CWA Fly Fishing 101 Class

March 30: PHW Fly Tying Marathon

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/>

The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock - Chuq Yang

The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (BOJC) is an organization that was started in 1940 with the mission of the conservation and restoration of American game fishes. To that end, its members have spent nearly 80 years teaching boys how to fish, about conservation, reading the water, entomology and all things fishing. The peculiar name comes from the neck feather of the Indian Jungle Fowl which is represented on their logo.



Each year, the BOJC hosts a three-day overnight camp at Camp Airy in Thurmont, MD called the Campfire Weekend. The camp can host up to 425 boys and men and a man can only attend if he sponsors at least one boy. The campfire is a six to nine year program, where the boys start out their first year around eight years old. If boys join the campfire after age eight, they may get placed in a different class year. Classes can include anything from stream side instruction, reading the water, conservation, equipment maintenance and even rod building and net making. The youth will also be introduced to DNR police, wildlife art, beginning angling and first year fly casting.



The 2019 Campfire officially starts the morning of Friday, May 17th and runs through Sunday, May 19th after lunch. Membership to the BOJC is by referral of a member only, but since PPTU and BOJC share many of the same values and goals, PPTU is working with the BOJC leadership to help get sponsorships for PPTU Members. The cost of the Campfire weekend is \$200 per man and boy pair, plus \$75 for each additional boy. There are limited funds available to those in need of financial assistance. Annual membership in BOJC is \$25. Applications for membership should be submitted soon, but no later than April 1, 2019.

The Campfire weekend is not just classroom time. Attendees will fish local creeks including Friends Creek, Owens Creek, Hunting Creek as well as the private stocked ponds at Camp Airy. Campfire attendees need, not have their own equipment, but they are welcome to bring whatever equipment they own and would like to use.



BOJC has spin and fly gear available for loan and they can supply waders and polarized glasses for streamside instruction.

For more information, please visit their website at <https://bojcmd.wordpress.com/> or contact John Zimmer JohnZimmer@comcast.net or Charlie McNeilly charliemcneilly@yahoo.com and tell them you read about the Campfire and BOJC in the PPTU Conservationist!

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.



Trout in the Classroom - George Opryszko

Here's a great little article on the TU website about their Trout in the Classroom program.

<https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/happy-students-and-happy-teachers>

Anyone that is interested in helping our efforts, we do stream releases and show the kids how to cast a fly rod in May and early June. We can always use some help and it's great to see middle school kids engaged with the outside.

Flyfishing 101 – Fishing for Stocked Trout - Bob O'Donnell

The trout are in in the streams! Here's a few tips to help you catch them courtesy of Kent Klewein.

Tip 1: Big Flies & Bright Flies.

Stocked fish are conditioned to eating food pellets tossed on the surface in the hatcheries, you can take advantage of that by and catch them on the surface with big dry flies. A dead drifted dry works well but sometimes, twitching or skating it at the end of the drift will also work. If the stocked trout aren't liking your dry flies, go for a black or olive woolly

bugger. A large profiled fly with an erratic action will really get the attention of freshly stocked trout, so much in fact, that they often will swim several feet to eat a big fly like a woolly bugger. And if the woolly bugger isn't working tie on a San Juan worm or egg pattern. Fluorescent colored flies are very hard for stocked trout to pass up, and they're usually the ticket until most of the stocked trout have been landed on them multiple times. Try these for freshly stocked trout.

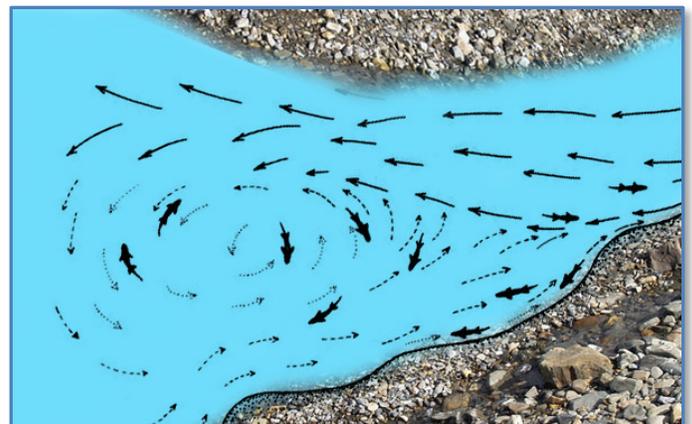
Tip 2: Don't move, try changing your flies.

Don't always think the fun is over after a few fish. Many anglers move on to new water when all they need to do is change out their flies. I once spent an hour fishing beside Dennis Covert watching him land fish after fish while my own action had spun down to nadda. Sheepishly I asked, "So what are you using"? Turns out it was the same fly I was using. When I told him I wasn't getting anything, he calmly looked at me and said, "switch flies, they get use them after a while". That simple, I switched flies and was back catching fish. The fishing slowed down – I switched again. It was a fun afternoon.



Tip 3: Search out slower water, pools, deeper runs and back eddies.

When trout are first stocked they often search out slower moving water. I think most of the time this is because they're trying to match the slow moving water that they grew up in at the hatcheries and it's more comfortable to them. If you know the DNR recently stocked you should first check out the pools and deeper slow moving runs and bypass the fast moving pocket water. Lou Reichel and I found a huge back eddy on a stream one afternoon and the



fish were just piled up in it sucking dry flies out of the foam and if you tossed a nymph in they all fought to get it.

Tip 4: Go natural with fly choice after the trout have been around for a while.

Eventually stocked trout will get conditioned to seeing those big woolly buggers and bright attractor nymphs, and you'll find it much harder to get them to eat them. When that happens, try fishing fly patterns that are more natural looking and less gaudy and flashy. This is the time that soft-hackles and your traditional nymph patterns (prince nymph, hares ear nymph and pheasant-tail nymphs) really shine.

Tip 5: Hit the pocket water and riffles.

The longer the stocked trout have been in the stream or river, the more they will start to spread out and move around. You should do the same. Try fishing the pocket water and seams of riffles. You'll find the trout here less pressured, easier to catch and you should also be able to find some water to yourself.

Tip 7: Go tiny and downsize your tippet.

Stocked trout can sometimes be unbelievably difficult to catch. Stocked streams can get pounded daily with anglers, and eventually the trout get super spooky and selective. If you're going to be fly fishing for stocked trout late in the season after they've had lots of education, you should be ready to downsize your tippet, nymphs, and fish tiny dry flies if you want to consistently catch trout – try 6x-7X tippet and fly patterns down to size 24.

**Buyers and Sellers Info
PPTU Flea Market at March Meeting
- Bob Kaiser**

Sellers: Sell your stuff at our March 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 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.

Note to Sellers: Please register your items by obtaining an inventory sheet from Bob Kaiser by emailing me at treasurer@pptu.org. 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.

**Members Catch
- PPTU**

Time to start getting out there and getting your gear wet. Try out all those flies you've tied.



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



Woolly Bugged on the YouTube Channel "Fly Fishing the Patuxent River"

No fly pattern for this issue! Instead, since the stocked trout are in the streams I thought you might like a taste of some local action. I ran across this video by accident. Michael Evanko has some interesting posts on streams in both PA and in MD. Check some of them out.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=531&v=9G_3WqEVH7o



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