

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

“Locating & Fishing Wild Trout Streams”

Virtual Speaker: Andrew Sarcinello

October 21st 2020

Our meeting and speaker for October's will be “Virtual”, combining a joint presentation with NCC-TU, our speaker will be Andrew Sarcinello.

Andrew is the Conservation Committee Chair for NCC-TU and spends much of his free time searching for wild and native trout streams in central Maryland. He will talk with us about the resources that are publicly available to help anglers locate wild trout streams and the tactics for fishing them. He will also discuss the status of Maryland's wild and native trout populations, particularly in the Patuxent River, and the challenges they face.

Andrew's journey to learn about MD's wild trout gave him a deeper appreciation for native brook trout and the delicate environments that sustain them.

A virtual meeting link will be posted on the PPTU web page and additionally emailed to our membership and friends.
<https://amadeus.webex.com/meet/motti.tadmor>

Hope to see you virtually on Wednesday October 21st, at 8pm for our virtual meeting.

Tight lines,

– *Karan Singh*



Monthly Chapter Meetings – Virtual Until Further Notice

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

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Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



We were quickly introduced to Autumn this past weekend! Our annual One-Fly contest on the Gunpowder River was a jolt to the senses as we gathered shortly after sunrise, hot coffee in hand and seeing our breaths in the frosty morning air for the first time in many, many months. Lucky flies were picked, and all headed out with high hopes. The reality was the first cold snap of fall put the fish down farther than the low water levels – which was maybe at best 30 cfs!

We welcomed several new PPTU members: Ron Kerrick, Keith Levinthal and Roman Petruniak joined a cadre of regular participants including Ken Bowyer, Bob Kaiser, Bob O'Donnell, George Opryszko, myself and Lou Reichel who organizes our chapter Outings. Being the perfect hosts, it was a new member, Roman Petruniak, who won bragging rights for the coming year and will have his name added to the list of winners on www.pptu.org.

In talking to our new members, many were not aware of our active listserv for posting email notes and I'll share the address here so you can sign up: ppctu+subscribe@groups.io. It's where you can ask any question in a 'judgment free' zone and receive many helpful answers in return. Chapter activities are posted here, so you'll want to be signed up as soon as possible.

Speaking of activities, please mark your calendar for October 9-12. This will be our Outing to western Maryland and the annual campout at the Monroe Pavillion inside Big Run State Park in Garrett County. It's a beautiful time of year to fish the Savage River. Please register in advance at PPTU Outings on the PPTU.org web page.



The cicadas are coming!!! – Part I - Jay Sheppard



I want to use these closing lines to say thank you to Ken Bowyer, a friend and PPTU member who has done much for the chapter and for many of us individually. Ken has led our Mentoring Program since 2003 and patiently taken many of us onto local waters for our first introduction to fly fishing. He will soon be stepping down from this position which he's held for 17 years! He's been the face of PPTU for many and a mentor to all of us who's met him. Thank you, Ken for taking hundreds of us out onto a local stream and introducing us to Trout Unlimited.

See you on the water soon,

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.



Numbers in the hundreds of millions per square mile are possible. To place those number in perspective that is over 3,000 tons of insects emerging from the ground per square mile of suitable forest. That is a lot of protein and every predator from fish to fowl to furry tries to take advantage of this flush of food. They only have about 5 or 6 weeks to make a small dent in the huge numbers of cicadas. There are three species of 17-yr cicadas within each brood. There are subtle differences in coloration and size; the main differences are in the male's song. All have black and orange bodies, orange flash in the wings and large fire orange eyes. The smallest are about 0.75" and the largest are about 1.125". However, none of these slight differences are of any importance to the fly fisher or the fish. This means no matching the sizes like we have to do with sulfurs every year.

Fly fishers need to be prepared, too. Some of the most amazing days fly fishing I have ever had were during this emergence. In the 1987 emergence I used black poppers on the upper Patuxent and caught a fair number of nice trout. When the 2004 emergence came around, I wanted to have a more durable and realistic pattern. The result was a fly that is very durable and is readily taken by all fish that see it and

Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 🐞

not already stuffed. This durability is a major consideration. The extra several minutes needed to provide this durability will add dozens more fish that can be expected to be landed on that one fly—who likes taking time to change flies?

I have a small personal rule of effort vs. reward in tying and fishing. For every minute I spend tying a fly, I expect at least two fish landed before it falls apart. Some flies only take a minute and that is perfectly fine if I only catch a few fish, but a fly that takes a lot of effort, like this cicada, I want to be rewarded by a lot of fish. A 10-minute fly needs to yield 20 or more fish. Durability is number one in this regard. We are given a finite number of hours to fish in our lives, why waste any of that time changing leaders, tippets and flies while standing in the middle of a stream!!

This is the first part of a series of articles in the Conservationist over the next few months about the 2021 emergence of cicadas. The first goal is acquire all the ingredients to construct this cicada fly; some are not typically found in a fly tyer's 'morass' of tying materials. In future parts in this series, I will give the detailed tying instructions and later some tips on where to go and how to fish this fly. We have until May 2021 to assemble and tie up a batch of these flies and to plan our vacation time well.

Jay's 17-yr Cicada

List of needed materials:

- Streamer hook, size 6 or 8, max. total length 1.125" eye to bend
- Orange (or black) Monochord or other 210-Denier tying thread
- Black rubber foam ~3 mm
- Orange rubber legs, ~1.5 mm dia
- Amber, pearl, orange or similar crystal flash
- Black chenille or yarn, medium
- Orange chenille or yarn, medium
- Super glue or Loctite black contact adhesive
- UV fly tying cement & light
- Red or orange model paint or nail polish

I have a large selection of mostly Mustad hooks. #8 Mustad 79580 or #6 Mustad 9672 are perfect sizes. They are also forged hooks for extra strength—important for both durability and landing big carp and other fish. I do not have their equivalents in other brands. They are both about 1" long from eye to bend.

Orange tying thread of Monochord or similar heavy denier is most recommended. One could even use rod winding thread. Orange is preferred, but if not available, black will certainly work, too.



The rubber foam needs to be strong so the thread does not cut down through it. A thickness of 1/8" or 3 mm is perfect. Thicker foam will make for too bulky a fly, and a thinner foam will be too weak against the thread and fish. I tried one sheet of foam from Michael's that had an adhesive back. It was too thin, and the adhesive did not adhere to itself as strongly as desired. The fly is of a shellback design where the foam is used for the body and then pulled back over all the wings and body. The only way to make this work is for the shellback to be glued to the tail tab that juts out from the body. I have found only two satisfactory adhesives to work: super glue and black contact adhesive (Loctite). The first needs to be held in place for a minute with a small clamp (e.g., hemostats) and the second needs about 5 minutes for both surfaces of the foam to dry before they are attached to each other. I like the contact cement as it is for rubber and can also be applied to parts of the body for increased durability. (As a side note now, when you are tying a batch, just let them sit before applying the contact adhesive to all of them at the same time.) Also very useful will be some UV adhesive (and light) for some interior strengthening of the fly's body.

The crystal flash for the wings can be pearl, amber, or even orange. The natural wings of the cicada have orange overtones and a bright orange leading edge. To mimic the wings' leading edges I add a round orange rubber leg of at least 1 mm diameter. Thinner rubber legs might work but will not be as durable.

The interior portion of the body is made of the foam covered with alternating orange and black bands. Chenille is the easiest material to use, but yarns (poly, Antron, etc.) can also be used. Medium

chenilles are ideal. I have used ice chenille in the past but simple yarns or chenille will do just fine.

The cicada eyes are made with model paint or nail polish. The natural color is a deep fiery orange red, but plain red will do just fine.

Those are all the items one will need to tie this pattern. So order what you need now and have them all ready to go by the November issue. There I will give the details on how to tie or construct the cicada fly that will last and last on all those big trout, bass, carp and other game fish you are going to catch next year. You will then have almost 7 months to tie up a large batch of flies. Be a good scout and be prepared for this big event. If you are not a tier, I suspect more than a few members might be willing to sell some flies. Who knows, there might even be a few shops who will have them available, too.

Fly Fishing Net Rigs - Bob O'Donnell

One of our members recently lost his net while out fishing. Losing anything can be a real pain, losing something special is just heartbreaking. This recent post brought up a few ideas and steps you can take ahead of time to avoid losing your gear and if you do manage to lose it, perhaps get it back.

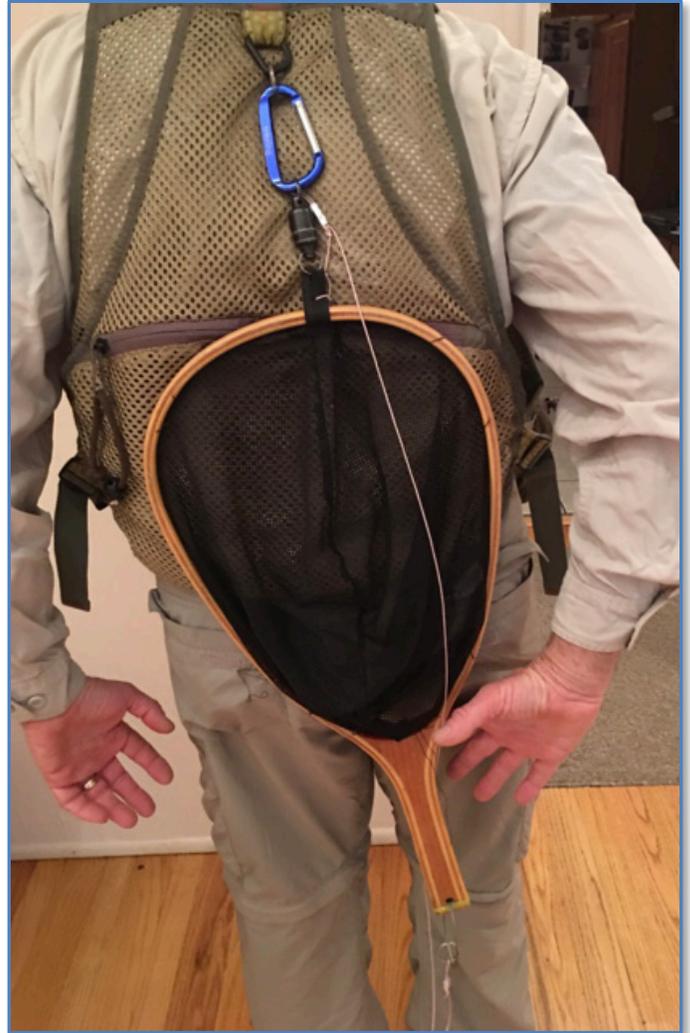
One simple thing you can do is make use of a "gear retractor". These come in many different sizes and have multiple applications for saving your gear. Small versions are great for your smaller items while the larger size is what you want for your net. Another thing you can do is label your gear with your name and phone number. If found, it may find its way back to you.

One of our members sent in photos of his setup.

1. Carabiner to vest loop
2. Detachable magnet on Carabiner
3. Second half of magnet is attached to the net
4. Thin paracord from end of net handle to top carabiner
5. The net handle is located in a low position behind you

This setup enables you to grab the handle in an easy rapid manner. If the magnets accidentally get separated, the thin paracord will prevent the net from

floating away or if snagged on a bush, you will not lose your net.



I use a similar setup but include a gear retractor attached to my vest and net. It has worked for me for many years now and I have only ever destroyed one gear retractor. I upgraded the rig a few years ago with a leather net keeper with rare earth magnets. More for esthetics than anything. A good carabiner works just great.



Devin Olsen of [Tactical Fly Fisher](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBM0Nu6sd6o) can have the last word on nets. The video link shows his setup for competition fishing which you could also apply to your regular setup. It's nice to have choices.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBM0Nu6sd6o>

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!



Studied Inattention - Pete Yarrington

A friend of mine coined the term “studied inattention” for a successful smallmouth fly-fishing technique we use on the Upper Potomac River. I write this article in part to add one more term to the fly angler’s lexicon, which has recently been deluged by a word salad boiling down to ways to nymph fish with no buoyant strike indicator, and also to help us all relax and catch a few fish.

Studied inattention is a technique that is very, almost disappointingly, similar to just letting your fly hang about 30 feet downstream as you stand in a river, while you slip into deep thought on, for example, which of those trees on the shoreline to pee behind, soon, or whether you actually told your significant other a specific time you’d be home. I know that no one reading this will question the success of the full-on, forget-about-the-trailing-fly technique. However, I must be clear that true studied inattention requires the intention of forgetting the fly hanging downstream, even preparing for it. To be specific, “classic” studied inattention involves fishing for smallmouth bass, with a leader that is no lighter than 2x, using a size 4 or 6 motor-oil-colored Woolly Bugger with big honking red lead eyes. In a pinch, any color of bugger will do.

To just go on ahead and explain every little thing, this technique, while successful in many situations on the Potomac, works best when deep wet wading in the late summer/early fall, when river levels are down but not skinny. You should be fishing in the evening, wading in an area with a gentle current, not

enough to make thinking about wading necessary. It should be one of those fall days when the water and air temps are so similar that if you let out a big breath, you feel like you are weightless. Of course, you should not be thinking about your fishing, and ideally you should not be thinking about much else either. It is permissible to nonchalantly mend your trailing line so the fly swings back to where the shallows drop into the channel. When you do it right, and a bass hooks itself, it feels like a bolt out of the blue.

I’ll go ahead and give the pattern for the Motor Oil Woolly Bugger here, for those who feel a need for yet another smallmouth pattern. For what it’s worth, in sizes 8 and 10, without the dumbbell eyes, this fly is my best trout streamer. The pattern came about in the mid 1980s when a friend suggested that I tie a “fly version” of the motor-oil colored Mister Twisters that were all the rage on the Potomac. (After Motor Oil, the lure companies came up with “Pumpkin” and something called “Road Kill.” Huh.)



Motor Oil Woolly Bugger

Hook: Mustad 9672, Mustad Signature R74, or similar 2-3X long hook in size 4 or 6.

Weight: Small or medium red barbell eyes attached about two-three hook eye-lengths behind the eye. Don’t tie the dumbbell eyes onto the hook right behind the hook eye, because bass seem to easily throw a fly with much distance between the hook point and heavy lead eyes. Wind about 10-15 wraps of lead wire on the shank behind the dumbbell eyes. The lead wire should be similar in diameter to the hook wire.

Thread: Danville Monocord or similar 210-denier thread in brown, olive, browny-olive, even black. It doesn’t matter.

Tail: Clumps of dull olive and medium brown marabou mixed together, with a very little purple thrown in. But heck! Skip the purple if you want. Studies seem to show that bass can't really differentiate purple anyway. Make the tail about equal in length to the hook. When fishing, if you get too many short strikes, pinch off some of the tail a little at a time. This often fixes the problem, but later you might notice you have bunch of short buggers in your box.

Flash: Add three or four strands of gold and/or copper Flashabou on each side of the tail. Smallmouth love these colors. I also add some blue and purple, to help with the intended motor-oil-grub illusion, but you guessed it, bass apparently can't tell these colors from Adam. Good tip: use a little more Flashabou than you think you need, because you can't add any more in the field, but you can pluck some off.



Body: Medium or large chenille, one strand of dull olive and one of medium brown. Make the body of one color, and rib it in an open wind with the other. Or, use large olive/brown variegated chenille for the whole body. Continue the body for a wind or two ahead of the lead eyes.

Hackle: Saddle hackle or large neck hackle, grizzly dyed dull olive. Other dull colors of hackle will likely work fine too. The hackle should be full, and its barbs should be on the long side, 1.5 to two times the gape of the hook. If the hackle feathers you have are not long enough for a bugger this size, use two feathers and I will probably never know. Just don't use those "genetic" hackles with short stiff barbs. They add nothing to what we are trying to do here.

Ribbing: Copper or gold wire, size medium or large, wrapped opposite direction as hackle.

"I've gone fishing thousands of times in my life, and I have never once felt unlucky or poorly paid for those hours on the water."

~ William Tapply *"A Fly-Fishing Life"*

Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

September started our annual cycle and now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. Along with our other fund raising events, we ask for a \$20 ASC each Fall to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water 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 conservation organizations.

To be clear, PPTU does receive a tiny amount back for members' annual dues to the national TU. This only amounts to a few hundred dollars. Your annual dues to national TU are separate and apart from any ASC, which is a donation to the chapter to help cover its expenses each year. PPTU does not mail renewal notices to anyone. If you see a renewal notice in the mail regarding TU, it is from the national offices—PLEASE renew each year! PPTU no longer handles renewals of national membership fees.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting (whenever that might be) by cash or check.
- Use our PayPal portal: <https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU to our PO Box (see last page).

Your contributions are most appreciated!

One Fly Contest 2020 - Winner - Lou Reichel

Saturday started off brisk for PPTU's annual One Fly contest. Participants: Ken Bowyer, Randy Dwyer, Bob Kaiser, Ron Kerrick, Keith Levinthal, Bob O'Donnell, George Opryszko, Roman Petruniak, Lou Reichel,

1st Place Winner: Roman Petruniak.

Roman fooled 1 brown trout at 8 inches with a bead head red squirmy worm, with flash in middle, on a trutta hook using a Euronymphing setup.



Roman has bragging rights for 1 Year and his name posted on the Roll of Winners!

The day started cool in the 40's with highs in the 60's. A nice Fall weather day with blue skies. Gunpowder flow was low at 30 cfs.

I am glad to see 3 new members showing up for the 1-Fly Contest. Two of the new members returned with a catch. Fishing was tough. Trout were seen but were not active. Most of the sections of the Gunpowder were fished except below Bluemount and upper Falls Rd.

Honorable mention:

Bob O'Donnell – 2 trout, total 6 inches, purple BH RS2, #18

Ron Kerrick, 1 trout 4 inches, BH brown w/gold wire nymph, #16

Thanks to All of the participants.

Next Outing: Western Maryland Campout, Savage River, Oct 9 – 12. Hope to see many of you there during our next outing.

Triadelphia Reservoir Health Advisory - Karan Singh

Here is a link to WTOP.com with the general information on what is going on at the reservoir and why you need to avoid getting wet in Triadelphia Reservoir's recreational waters.

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission urges you to avoid all contact with the water of the Triadelphia Reservoir along the Patuxent River in Montgomery and Howard counties because of high concentrations of blue-green algae.

<https://wtop.com/maryland/2020/09/why-you-need-to-avoid-getting-wet-in-triadelphia-reservoirs-recreational-waters/>

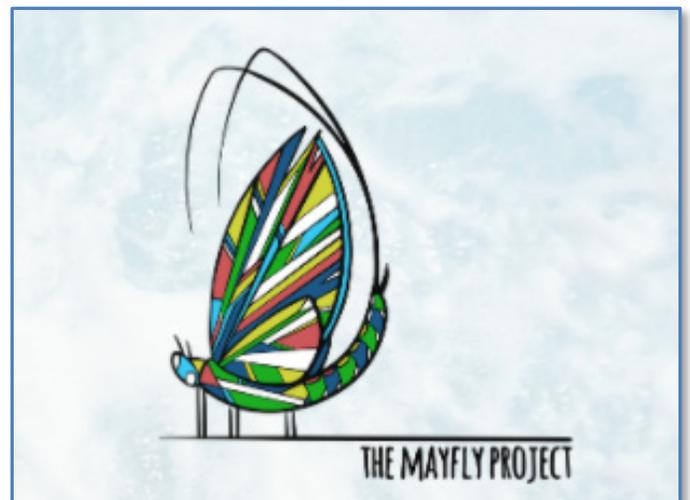
The Mayfly Project One Fly - Bob O'Donnell

Everyone is learning to deal with COVID. The folks at the Mayfly Project are usually gearing up for their annual One Fly fundraiser at Rose River this time of year. With COVID, plans have changed and they've come up with a unique opportunity for folks to participate and additionally, help kids out.

From Sept 1st to Oct 31st, purchase a fly/flyes and receive free chances to win awesome prizes.

Purchase Options

Select the item you would like to try to win and then purchase the flies associated with that prize.



Prices are as follows:

- 1 fly for \$5.00 and receive 1 free chance to win
- 5 flies for \$25.00 and receive 5 free chances to win
- 10 flies for \$50.00 and receive 10 free chances to win
- 15 flies for \$75.00 and receive 15 free chances to win
- 20 flies for \$100.00 and receive 20 free chances to win

If you would like to donate the flies back to TMP please message us and let us know!

After your purchase you will receive your fly/flyes in the mail along with a ticket stub/stubs. The other half of the ticket stub/stubs will be placed into a box that corresponds with the prize you would like to win.

Winners will be drawn Oct 31st on Facebook Live at 7pm Central Standard Time and contacted to claim their prize.

Check it out. Please note: As of this date the limited ticket items are already sold out but there are some other great items available for you to choose.

All proceeds go to support mentoring foster children through fly fishing.

<https://theflyproject.com/one-fly/>

How to Fillet a Northern Pike - Neal Murray

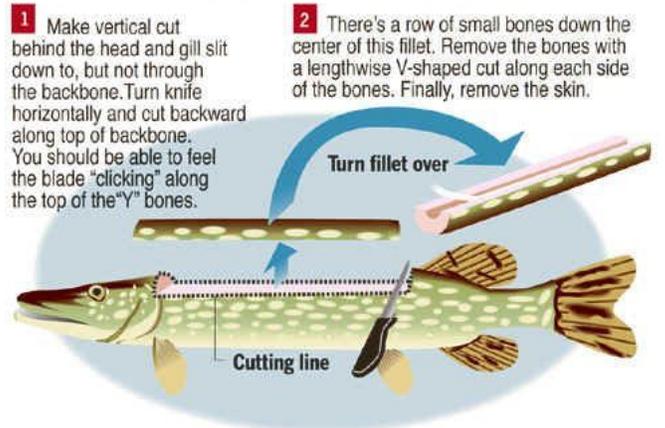
Not sure how we got onto the subject, but Neal Murray sent us a graphic to explain how to get fillets out of pike.

Neal wrote: "I can get 5 boneless fillets from a pike. From the head back to the fin. Both sides of the dorsal fin. Finally both sides in front of the dorsal fin, missing the Y bones."

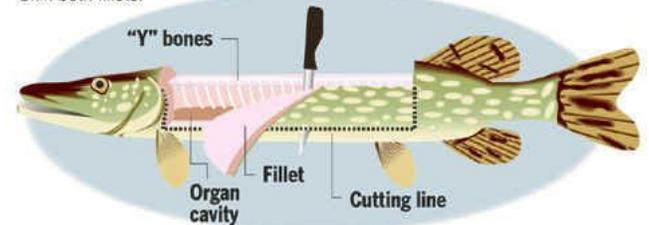
Many of our readers were intrigued so I thought I would post it for everyone. Thanks Neal!

How to fillet a Northern Pike

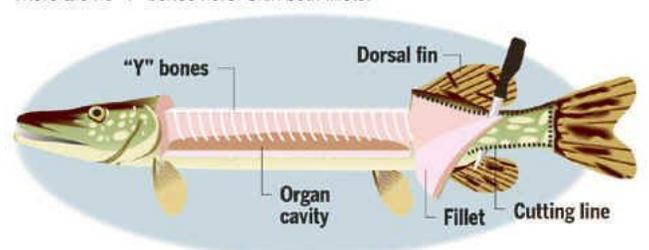
Many anglers routinely throw northern pike back, often because northern pike have a well-deserved reputation as a bony fish. However, if you're willing to take the time to learn a different filleting technique, you can take a few pike home for a delicious, bone-free meal.



3 With the backbone exposed, a series of bones will be observed running parallel to it on either side. These are the "Y" bones. Work down and over the ribs and remove the flank fillet. Repeat for other side. Skin both fillets.



4 Finally, cut fillet free from each side of dorsal fin back to tail. There are no "Y" bones here. Skin both fillets.



Source: Fishing Tips and Tricks and www.nwd.com/burnett/pike.html
Times Illustration by Mark Marshall

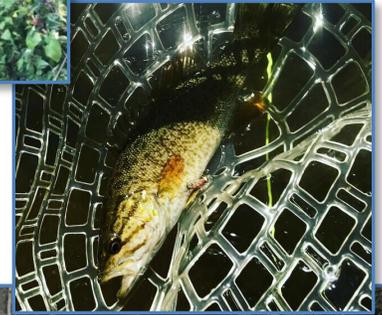
Microplastics Found in Susquehanna Smallmouths - Sebastian Okelly

Sebastian shared this bit of information with the group. Plastics are an environmental hazard that will be around for a long time. Tiny bits of plastic have seeped into soil, fish and air, posing a threat to animal and human health. In recent years, biodegradable plastics are being introduced to help alleviate the problem. Thanks Sebastian for the article!

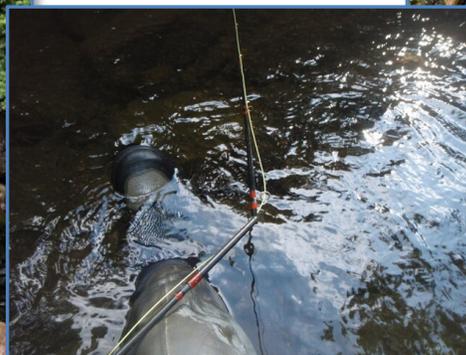
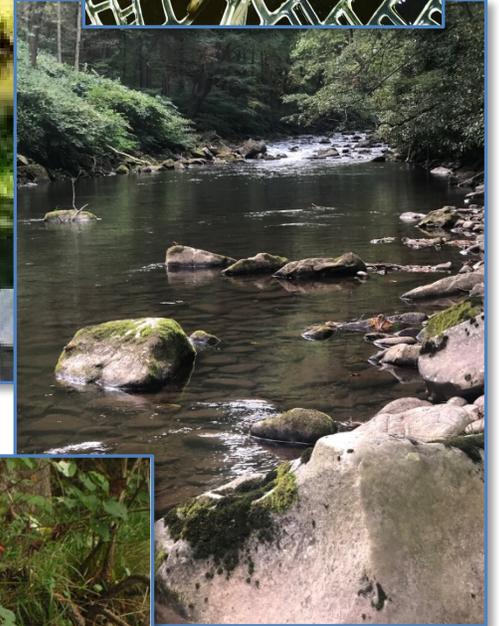
<https://www.thefishingwire.com/releases/458f20fc-199f-45b1-a2bd-241f7cc0f2c4>

Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

Many good photos came across the forum this month. Make sure to sign up for our group and post your own stories and photos. Not everything needs to be about fish. Folks are interested in all types of things and activities; flowers, birds, animals, pets, etc. I even posted a picture of my cat in the past. God rest his soul. I tied a fly with his fur to remember him by. That said, anything goes just keep it clean. Join in the fun and post a note with some photos. During the week chained to a desk I live vicariously through other member's posts.



2020 One Fly Contest Participants



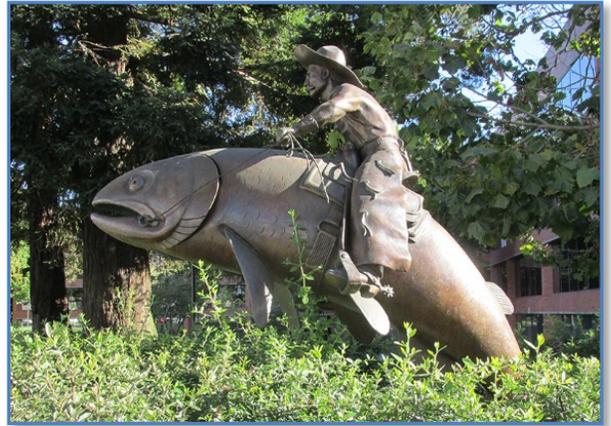
Contributions Welcome!

Send your contributions or article suggestions to the Editor 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

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October Caddis

What can I say? Its that time of year again when all things pumpkin tasting and pumpkin color come out. And we're not just talking about Starbucks' Pumpkin Lattes!

The October Caddis hatch can be a nice bonus for the Fall fisherman. Anglers fishing this hatch should concentrate fishing imitations during the evening and early morning hours. Dry flies and nymphs fished close to a bank that has rocks, overhanging trees or bushes is a good starting place to cast.

Below are several videos and an informational article for you to explore. If you're coming to the October campout, put something Pumpkin colored and tasty in your box.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/Video-How-to-Tie-Matts-October-Caddis-from-Tightline-Productions>

<https://www.tu.org/blog/fly-tying-october-caddis-euro-nymph/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi4OI6dfK48>

<https://www.johnkreft.com/preparing-for-october-caddis/>



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