

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Sep 2025 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

### **“Rising to the Occasion: Mastering Dry Flies and Emergers” Guest Speakers: Tim Cammisa**

**Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

For our October meeting we are pleased to have Tim Cammisa present “Rising to the Occasion: Mastering Dry Flies and Emergers.” In this presentation, Tim will take us through mayflies and caddisflies, concentrating on the reasons they're vulnerable to trout. Tips, techniques, and gear will be discussed to identify the stages, fish them more successfully, and purchase or tie flies to effectively match the nuances of each. Tim will also share current flies and techniques to imitate the stages, helping you to catch more trout.

Tim, the force behind "Trout and Feather," has dedicated over a decade to producing educational flytying and fly-fishing videos, enriching enthusiasts worldwide. With a background as a seasoned fly-fishing guide and teacher, Tim is a sought-after presenter and tier at prestigious events like The Fly Fishing Show and International Fly Tying Symposium, as well as club gatherings nationwide.



His passion for angling transcends borders, leading flyfishing trips to coveted destinations like Iceland and Alaska. Tim's first book, *Fly Tying for Everyone*, covers a wide range of topics essential for mastering the art of fly tying, including materials, tools, techniques, and patterns. His second book, *Tying Euro Nymphs and Other Competition Favorites*, focuses on the popular style of Euro nymphing and the flies being used by today's top competitors.

Tim resides in Harmony, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Heather, and their children, Angelo and Fina. Follow Tim Cammisa on all the social media platforms and improve your fly fishing: [www.troutandfeather.com](http://www.troutandfeather.com).

Tim will present via Zoom from his home in Pennsylvania.

– *Scott Cernich*

### **Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting**

**Laurel Volunteer Fire Department  
7588 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, MD 20707**

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

[Online Chapter Meeting Link](#)

Visit our website: [PPTU.org](http://PPTU.org)

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### Contact Us:

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## Presidents' Column - Craig VanderKolk



I enjoyed seeing so many of you at our September Chapter meeting. It was a great evening featuring our members wide ranging summer fishing trips. From fishing in Alberta in the north to Florida in the south and Maine in the east to Wyoming in the west. Thank you to all the speakers for taking the time to let our members know of the wonderful opportunities to fish. I personally plan to follow through on some of them including Alberta and British Columbia since there is such great dry fly fishing in the summer.

Last month I outlined goals for the chapter highlighting participation and recognition. With this in mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the membership to a Board member and a new member. The future of TU and PPTU is finding new members, retaining and challenging and energize current members. New board members bring new ideas and passions to extend our work and our mission.

Our most recent new member is Thomas Ketelsen. He recently moved to Columbia Maryland from Tennessee. He grew up fishing and started fly fishing a couple of years ago. He began with pan fish and smallmouth bass and he is looking forward to fishing for trout and learning to tie flies. He was participating in the one fly contest and using a wooly bugger caught two fish, out fishing many of older members. His favorite time to fish is anytime he can wet wade a small creek or river. Thomas, welcome to PPTU.

New board members include Doug Johncox. He is lifelong resident of DMV. He retired from a 43 year career in television production. He's married with 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren. He started fishing as a youth in Ontario Canada and picked up fly fishing 36 years ago. Fishing mostly for smallmouth bass in the past, he's hoping to up his game with trout "catching". We welcome his experience, new idea and appreciate his becoming a new board member.

Speaking of the one fly contest, congratulations to Joe Taylor winning the competition with 9 fish and 54". Joe fished a soft hackle hares ear. Runner up was Jim Irons who was euronymphing with a green weenie and caught 7 fish. It was a great outing and thanks to Lou and Ron for putting it all together.

I hope you'll join us for our upcoming outings. If you're going, reach out to member to make them feel welcome. Upcoming outings include the Campout in Western Maryland and fishing on the Savage River, October 10 to 13. November is our annual steelhead trip to Elk Creek which will be held November 14-17.

Finally, let's all remember to make your Annual Supporting Contribution. Since we can't assess fees or dues on yearly basis, we rely on your donation. We hope you'll pay an ASC of \$20 that we ask for each fall. This contribution goes to funding the chapter for the upcoming year. You can pay on the website, cash or check at the next chapter meeting or mail the check to PPTU.

Enjoy the fall and tight lines!

Craig VanderKolk  
President, PPTU

### **PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond**

**PPTU** 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. all on 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 us by e-mail: [mentor@pptu.org](mailto:mentor@pptu.org)



### **October PPTU Social Outing - PPTU**

Our next PPTU social outing will be at the Dive Bar & Grille in Savage, MD on Thursday, October 9th starting at 6:30 pm. This event is a great way to become more acquainted with other PPTU members!! The restaurant/bar is located within the historic Savage Mill which was built in the early 1800s on the Little Patuxent River and is now restored into a collection of unique shops and venues.

The closest place to park is in the "Little Lot" where you can enter through the Courtyard. If that lot is full, then you can park in the "Big Lot" and walk a bit further through the main mill to the Dive Bar.

We have a room reserved towards the back of the restaurant. Just walk straight in and go past the bar.

See you there!

See the website for parking options:  
<https://www.savagemill.com/directions/>

### **Workshop on Monitoring Data - Andy Grosko**

Some of our PPTU members who collect stream monitoring data (macroinvertebrate survey results, water samples, stream temperature data, etc.) may be interested in this day long workshop featuring presenter that explain how you data may be used.

Free to sign up and remote session available.

[Sign Up and More Info Here](#)

## Climate Corner

### - Jim Irons

Earlier this summer the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a 2025 Climate Synthesis report. In a 27 August, 2025 statement entitled "The Practice and Assessment of Science: Five Foundational Flaws in the Department of Energy's 2025 Climate Report ", the American Meteorological Society (AMS) identified five foundational flaws in the report:

- 1) Lack of breadth across scientific fields.
- 2) Lack of depth within scientific fields and specific topics.
- 3) The DoE Report is based on an unrepresentative group of subject matter experts.
- 4) The DoE Report selectively emphasizes a small set of unrepresentative findings, particularly those that might appear beneficial on superficial examination. This "cherry picking" also downplays and excludes scientific findings that might be widely understood to be harmful.
- 5) The DoE Report extrapolates from a limited subset of findings to reach conclusions that do not follow from comprehensive consideration of the scientific evidence.

The AMS Statement ends with:

Five conclusions are robust when accounting comprehensively for the scientific evidence. They have been consistently reaffirmed by independent subject matter experts and independent scientific institutions worldwide. Decades of intensive research on climate change demonstrate that:

- 1) Climate is changing, and the rate and magnitude of change are unusual in human experience.
- 2) People are the primary cause of modern climate change, mostly through burning fossil fuels.
- 3) Climate change is harmful to humanity, and the threats to people and all life are increasing.
- 4) A wide range of response options is available that can reduce the dangers of climate change.
- 5) Those who study the scientific evidence overwhelmingly agree.

[Read the full AMS statement here.](#)

## Rechargeable Headlamp – Cheap!

### - Bob O'Donnell

A friend of mine via a work connection and I were talking and somehow the conversation turned to fishing. I have big trout painting framed and hanging on the wall in my office and I think he saw it during our Teams meeting. Sometime during the conversation he mentioned a light he just bought and recommended it to me. I looked it up and figured it would be worth a shot. I ordered a set for the office IT guys and also a set for home fishing/camping use.

Haven't used it much yet, but you can't beat the price. You get 2 of them for \$12.00.

[Rechargeable Headlamp](#)

*"What are more delightful than one's emotions when approaching a trout stream for the initial cast?"*

~ T. Nash Buckingham

If you spot poaching please call or text:

**Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers**  
**At 443-433-4112**



*Add this number to your cell phone contact list!*



## Just for Fun

### - Tactical Fly Fisher

Thought I would throw this in for fun.

The crew at [Tactical Fly Fisher](#) had a really fun day of fishing a few weeks back. They hiked into a remote canyon to beat the August heat and find some willing trout in cold water. It was a pretty incredible day of fishing with a lot of brown trout and rainbow trout coming to the net. They even had some very good dry fly action. [Check it out here.](#)

## Line ID - Cheeky

How often have you forgotten what line is on your extra spool, or maybe you switched out a line and it is in a tangled mess on an old spool? Introducing the Line ID Wrap to be used with spare spools, old line keepers or even for your multiple reels. The Line ID Wrap keeps your lines straight and the gel print surface allows you to write down line weights, type of line or whatever you want. Never confuse your lines again.



Introducing the Cheeky Line ID Wrap in color. You loved the black and white version, so we made it brighter, bolder, and more Cheeky with a pop of color! Match the color of your reel and spare spools or take organization the extra mile with color coding your lines. Keep your reels, spare spools, and lines ready to head out on the water for your next adventure.

[Cheeky Line ID](#)

## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

Another year of meetings and other activities has begun. Remember to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter, we are not allowed to require chapter dues or fees for membership. Since we only see a tiny amount from national TROUT UNLIMITED, PPTU has asked for an Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) to help us do our many conservation and educational projects. Along with other fund-raising events, we use these funds 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 of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.
- Support water quality monitoring on local trout waters

Everybody invariably asks "am I paid up?" So I have scoured our records, which are maintained by a crack, highly paid staff.....me, myself, and I. ☺

### You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- Go to [pptu.org](http://pptu.org) and use our PayPal portal: [Donate Now](#)
- Mail a check payable to PPTU to our PO Box (see last page).
- At the next chapter meeting by cash or check.

Your contributions are most appreciated!



## PPTU Outing – Western MD Campout! - Ron Kerrick/Lou Reichel

The October Outing and Campout in Western Maryland will be held from **October 10 to 13, 2025**. Friday (set up 3 pm or later) thru Monday (must vacate by 1:00 pm), 4 days and 3 nights. Join us for one or all days, and fish the wonderful Savage River, North Branch of the Potomac and the many other mountain brook trout streams in the beautiful autumn foliage of Western Maryland. You may camp with us at the pavilion or stay at other facilities or lodgings in the area, but everyone should join us for the evening campfires.

**Outing:** Western Maryland Campout and Savage River Fishing.

**When:** October 10th – 13th (3 nights, 4 days), Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day weekend.

**Where:** Big Run State Park, Monroe Pavilion, next to Savage River, Garret County, MD

All this for just \$180 split per participants (\$30 maximum – or Pavilion cost split between all of the participants and rounded up for easy cash payments). We do need at least 6 people to sign up for the Pavilion to keep shared payment at a reasonable price. Pay Ron at the Pavilion, direct amount in cash or check, there will not be change available. Donations are appreciated. Cost is "per participant" and not the days. Join us for as many days as you can make it.

**New members and new to fly fishing are welcome.** Let Ron or Lou know if you need assistance. There will be members there that can show you the rivers.

More details to follow in our chapter emails.

To sign up for this outing, please complete the [Outing Registration /liability form](#). For people not staying at the Pavilion, please still fill out the Registration/Liability form and let us know where you are staying.

Please contact the Outings Coordinator if you have any questions.

Lou Reichel and Ron Kerrick (240-423-8375)  
Outings Coordinators  
[outings@pptu.org](mailto:outings@pptu.org)

## **Unusual Catch - Orange Shark - Bob O'Donnell**

Thought I would add another article for fun. I ran across this on the internet somewhere and saved it for an article filler for the newsletter.

Speaking of.... If anyone has anything to ADD to this publication, please email me, send me a link, a short write up, photos, etc. We're always looking for good stuff to share with the group.



So, back to the Orange fish. Headline reads: "Angler reels in first documented orange shark off Costa Rica." It's a year old, but still cool.

Aug. 28 (UPI) -- A man fishing in waters off the coast of Costa Rica reeled in an unusual catch -- the first [documented orange shark](#).

Garvin Watson reeled in the 6-foot, 6-inch nurse shark while casting his line near Tortuguero National Park in August 2024.

## **Meeting Reminder – October 15th - PPTU**

Just wanted to remind folks to add the next chapter meeting to their calendars. Come out and rub elbows with your fellow members and enjoy a great presentation from Tim Cammisa.

## I Love Big Tippets - Jay Sheppard

I recently described the parachute and related casts. In that article I mentioned using long tippets for dry flies. I wish to expound a little more on this point to explain my reasons in more depth. A late friend and super fly fisher in another state once said there were five factors in catching wary trout. They were presentation, presentation, presentation, presentation, and fly selection, in that order!



Dead drifting a fly is not easy. On our heavily fished eastern streams, trout see hundreds of flies in a year, if not more. They can often identify the fly before they are 8" long and the hook manufacturer before they are 10". The trout constantly watch all the bubbles, debris and potential food drift by their station. They are quick learners. They are not going to come to the surface to take any item that does not move in the same manner as the bubbles and all other drifting material. So, presentation becomes the challenge for the dry fly angler.

Consider a hypothetical arrangement. One attaches a foot of 5x tippet directly to the tip of the fly line and then casts with no fly. The 5X will lie straight out from the end of the fly line. Now attach 9 or 10 feet instead. Where does the tip of this new 5X land in relation to the end of the fly line? If there is no wind, the tip of the 5X material may only be a foot or two from the tip of the fly line. The point is that long tippets do not unfurl very much. Add any fly and it cannot carry an

air-resistant fly even less. Anyone who has used a tandem dry fly rig quickly learns the trailing dry fly is rarely more than a foot from the larger fly regardless of the length of its tippet.

First, a monofilament tippet for dry flies should be of the same brand as the main tapered leader to avoid differences in flexibility and strength. Adding a stiffer or stronger tippet is not good. The tippet needs to be at least one size smaller and more than 10% weaker than the main leader but can be up to three times smaller (e.g., adding 7X to 4X). If more than 3 times smaller, just loop in a 5–10" segment of intermediate size (e.g., 5X looped between 3X leader and 8X tippet). The length and size of the tippet are based mostly upon the size of the fly; the wind may also be a factor. I generally use a tippet of about 30–45" for most dead drift presentations, 20–25" for small streamers, something in between for most nymphs and wets. In dealing with very fussy trout, I have used tippets up to 60" in length. The longer the tippet, the more drag free the presentations. Short tippets turn over more easily but are more likely to break than long ones, so they should be no shorter than 18–20" from their loop knot to the fly. Thus, for most dry fly fishing I am using a leader system that is 9½' to 10½' long, occasionally up to 12–13' and sometimes as short as 9'. I want my dry flies to drift exactly like the bubbles and naturals on the water. Long tippets give me an edge.

I usually use a 7½' tapered main leader. I loop tippets of varying sizes and lengths to this base all day long. For a more in-depth description of the loop-to-loop leader system I use, go to our Chapter website: [Leaders Simplified](#). In the darkness of an evening hatch, there should only be three knots to be felt from the fly to the butt of the leader—any more and you have a wind knot!

May all your dry flies drift like they are not attached to any tippet.

Tight lines.  
Jay



## Trout Stockings - MD DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will begin its annual fall trout stocking program the first full week in October. The program will bring thousands of hatchery-raised rainbow, brown, and golden rainbow trout to streams and impoundments across the state. This initiative provides recreational fishing opportunities for

anglers of all ages and skill levels throughout the autumn months.



Crews will stock 29 waterbodies with more than 15,000 brown, golden rainbow, and rainbow trout averaging just less than a pound each. Anglers should consult the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing or the DNR website for current fishing regulations. The waterbodies will be determined based on local conditions at the time of stocking. Daily updates with locations and numbers of trout stocked will be posted on DNR's [trout stocking webpage](#) and shared through email and social media.

## Functional Fly Casting

### Part 1: Acceleration

- Ed Jaworowski

It's vital to understand that, since fishing conditions and situations change endlessly, there can be no rigid or fixed rules or instructions for casting. You cannot specify where to start, move, or stop your arm or rod, or the direction and distance to move them, before deciding on the result you want from the cast. You must take various factors into account, including the fly being cast, the desired direction and distance, wind, any obstructions—whether overhead or to the side or rear—and more. [Watch Video Here](#)



## Pink Beaded Rainbow Warrior

- Lance Egan

The Rainbow Warrior was my first commercially available fly pattern. It's now over 20 years old! The first addition to the original was adding a tungsten beaded version (the original used a pearl glass bead). Next I made them in different colors. Red, black, and even an olive version existed at one time. Newer versions pop up routinely. During my competition fishing years I was constantly trying new flies, and I was being exposed to new ideas and tricks, one of which is wild colored beads. I found I didn't have consistent success with many bead colors outside of the standard gold, silver, copper, etc... with one exception. Metallic pink. Metallic pink beads work really well. Add that pink bead magic to an already deadly fly pattern and you have the Pink Beaded Rainbow Warrior. It's a great variation that is easy to tie and you likely already have most, if not all of the components if you tie Rainbow Warriors. Grab a pack of pink beads and some Wapsi rainbow sow scud dubbing and have your net readily accessible.

[Watch Video Here](#)



## Tracking Practice

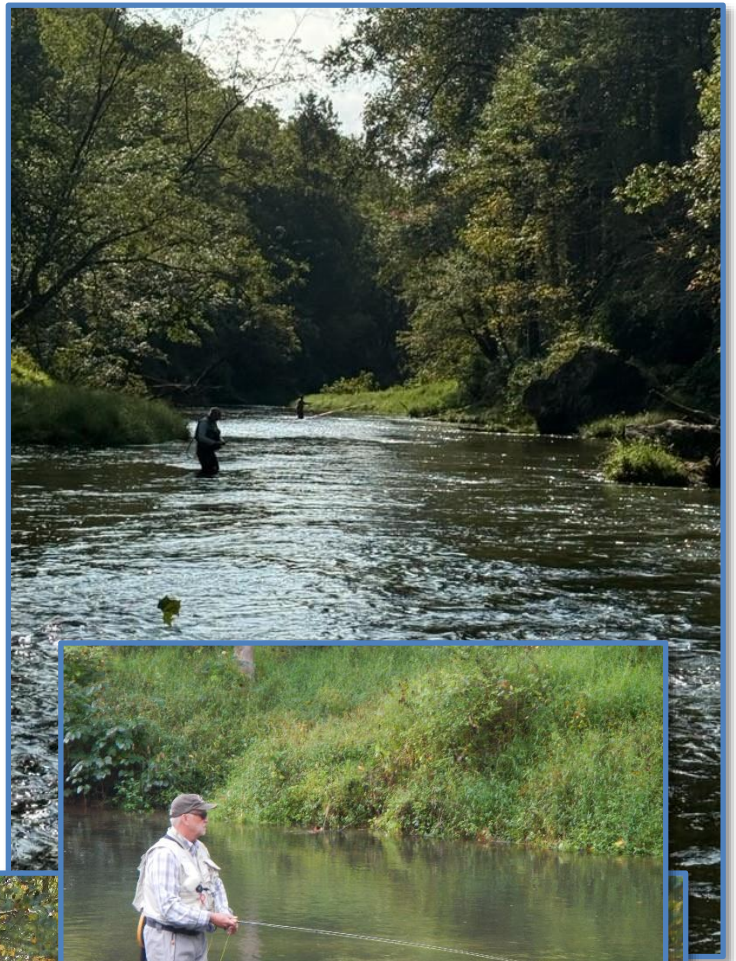
- Mad River Outfitters

Thought I would toss this in for all you PPTU members that have been taking those long flights fishing salt water and wondering about your casts. Practice, practice, practice! This should help. Its not a bad thing to practice on our trout waters as well.

In this video, Brian Flechsigs from Mad River Outfitters sits down with the legendary fly caster and rod designer, Tim Rajeff from Echo Fly Fishing to discuss the importance of tracking your fly casts. Tim also gives a few practical pointers on how to track your fly cast as well. [Watch Video Here](#)

## Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

If you missed the **One Fly** contest, try to plan on it for next year. Several members had a great time. Including this year's winner, Joe Taylor who fished a soft hackle for the win! Lucky I wasn't there Joe!



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**Editor: Bob O'Donnell**  
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**FREE TU Membership When You Join PPTU!**

New members can join TU for FREE by completing the Special [Introductory Membership Application Form](#) available on our web page – PPTU.org. Email the completed form to membership at: [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com). Our chapter will send the completed form along with a check for \$17.50 to Trout Unlimited to complete your membership sign up.

If you use the QR code you should send receipt to [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com) for reimbursement.

Any questions regarding signing up can be addressed to membership via email: [membership.pptu@gmail.com](mailto:membership.pptu@gmail.com).



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