

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Apr 2017 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

Trout Haven: “Fly Fishing Paradise in Central PA” *April 19th, 2017*

Discover one of Pennsylvania's premier limestone spring fisheries, Spruce Creek. Andrew Trelease, owner and operator at Trout Haven, will be discussing his favorite trout fishery, its fish, its pools, and its hatches.

By anyone's definition – eastern or western – Spruce Creek is premier trout water. This is a private stream, with a lot of fish – big fish. Rainbows, browns and brook trout – they're all here. Fish in the 20-inch class are common, and insect hatches are year-round. No need to book airline tickets for an exotic trip, just travel a few hours northwest to Spruce Creek and you'll have a world-class fly fishing experience.

Andrew Trelease is a licensed fishing guide in Pennsylvania. He has been fly fishing for 11 years and he currently owns Trout Haven, an exclusive fly fishing guide service in central PA that hosts fly fishing adventures on a spectacular private trout stream. Andrew was raised in the Catskill region of NY where he grew up fishing some of the northeast's most renowned trout streams, including the two branches of the Delaware, the Beaverkill, and the Willowemoc. Andrew is an accomplished musician and avid fly tyer; you can often find him practicing both pursuits when he's not guiding.

– 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

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Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

Spring is finally upon us! You can both see and feel the change in the weather. Our bird feeder is more popular than ever and now sports a Baltimore Oriole for the first time. The neighbors are all out and about walking and jogging with an extra spring in their step. I noticed a few brave individuals rocking "shorts" the other day while jogging. A little too brave for me, but it prompted me to go through all my winter stuff and pack most of it away. I kept a few pieces out for those chilly mornings spent drinking coffee and watching the birds, but I'm ready for warmer days and sunshine kissing my face.

While going thru my everyday items, I found some gear I had stashed away. A tech fishing shirt was promptly claimed by my wife. Hopefully I can convince her to wear it out fishing with me this spring. I found a couple of reels that need loaded with line and box of mixed flies - a Christmas present hidden in tissue paper. One day I'll be a little more organized.... one day.

A few pieces of gear I decided to give up and they made it to the March meeting's flea market and the items that didn't sell that night will be showing up at our regular meetings either in the bucket raffles or just on the library table for everyone to purchase. I'm sure they'll go quickly and add to someone else's collection. Just some extra things I thought I needed, but really don't. Spring is time to take stock, dust off, and thin down a bit.

Spring cleaning kind of makes you feel good and additionally will help you get ready for the many fishing trips to come this year. My plan is to trim down a bit with what I carry on stream. If you ran into me last year I looked like a walking fly shop. What didn't I have on me? Time to lighten up. All that gear got heavy. I may still carry some extra stuff in the car, but on stream, I think I want to go light this year and carry a minimal selection of flies and have the confidence to fish those flies well.

Everyone has their go to patterns, or patterns that work for a particular stream. Why carry a box full of

bass flies if you're only going to need a few nymphs and a dry fly or two at the stream you're on? Time to think about packing a "day box"; a box of the key flies you might need or have confidence in and leave the rest of the fly shop in the car. Hey, you can always walk back and restock over lunch.

So what's in my box you ask? My go to patterns for most streams include a few midges, a handful of wet flies, a wooly bugger or two, a few small adams dry flies, a couple of terrestrials, sucker spawn, and the time tested pheasant tail nymph in several sizes. They all fit in one box, which fits in one pocket, which leaves me feeling light on my feet and ready for spring, wading in a gurgling trout stream.

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell
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

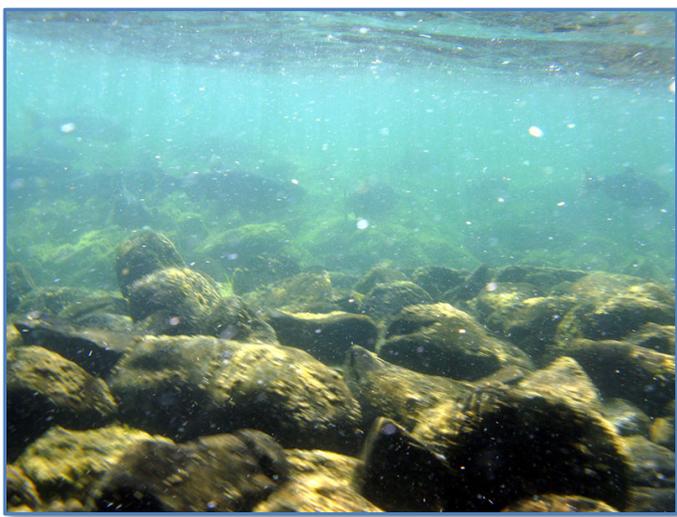
I always enjoyed bank fishing as a little kid. Toss the worm and bobber out there and sit back and wait for some action. As I grew older, I learned that being able to get across the stream got me to places most other fishers could not get to. Hip boots made that possible—usually. There were a lot of swimming opportunities, too! But hipers filled with water were no fun to walk in for any distance. Eventually, I graduated to chest waders that were made out of such heavy material that in cold weather I was always sweating profusely after any hiking of any distance. My goal in much of this wading was to get to places where only a few other fishers, hopefully, were able to reach.



Years ago a buddy and I crossed the Yellowstone River at a difficult point and then hiked upstream for 20 minutes before we discovered hundreds of cutthroats were lined up on our side of the river. The hundreds of other fishers lined up on the far side some 200' away were next to the road but far from the fish. We each caught and released a hundred cutts between 14" and 19" while those on the road side may have landed a dozen among themselves. One chap tried to wade straight across, but when his cap started floating he swam back to shore. Getting to the far side was one of the best days of fishing either of us have had. Chest waders and careful planning made that happen.



Crossing a stream in knee-deep water is usually no big problem, unless the water is really moving and/or the bottom is very irregular or slick. The deeper and faster the water, the more interesting the crossing! Going almost chest deep in even slightly moving water can be hazardous to one's health. Knowing the bottom is very important. Sand and gravel bottoms with no large rocks or buried logs are easy to negotiate. Cobble stone is also wadeable with few problems. Jagged and irregular bottoms like the lower Savage or Youghiogheny Rivers are the most difficult to wade, even when there is little current with which to contend.



In heavy currents, cross facing the far side. This allows the downstream leg to brace against the current. Do not face directly up or down when deep in heavy currents. Even with a wading staff, the force of the moving water can very easily tip one over. The biggest challenge happens when crossing a deep moving river and then encountering clearly deeper water than can be negotiated. Turning around in those conditions can be very challenging. For a brief moment one is facing up or down the river, and the full force of the river is then felt. A wading staff will save the day and keep you dry if placed downstream of your position.

In heavy water, do not try to cross straight across, but allow oneself to be moved slightly downstream with each step. On the Yellowstone that day, we walked chest-deep almost downstream on the

cobblestone bottom and ended up more than a hundred feet downstream of our starting point. I had crossed at this spot many times in previous years with lower water, so I knew the bottom had no drop offs or large boulders scattered across the bottom. We were richly rewarded for our effort.



Wading staffs are very important for anyone wading potentially treacherous waters. I do not always carry a wading staff. Often I will find a suitable stout branch along the bank and use it to go across; it is carefully stashed on the other side in case I return that same way again. Certainly consider one of the numerous collapsing versions on the market.

Hope you can get across the next deep river you fish without getting wet. And that you find lots of willing fish on the far side! Good wading and good fishing!



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

The final float stockings of our local waters took place the end of March. Altogether PPTU has float stocked 5200 trout on the Patuxent and Middle Patuxent Rivers. The upper Patuxent above rt. 97 received 2200 trout, the Brighton Dam tailwater got 1500, and the Middle Patuxent another 1500. Enjoy your local spring fishing!



The following volunteers helped in the first two float stockings this spring (the final came too late for this issue): Dave Astin, Sonny Bell, Eric Bowman, Sheldon Burkle, Alan Burrows, Lee Canby, Ray Collette, Dennis Covert, Grant Faller, Mike Frey, Bob Kaiser, Joe Kunsman, Rob Lang, Phil Lowe, John MacLean, Walter Marcella, Chris Miller, Steve Naugle, Mike Pochettino, Lou Reichel, Joe Robinson, Jay Sheppard, Walt Sheppard, Greg Sholly, Robert Simpson, Bryan Sirotkin, Dale Thatcher, and Don Vance. Thanks to all.



“If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago.”

~ Zane Grey

Call for TIC Volunteers - Alan Burrows

It is getting close to trout release time and I need volunteers in both Montgomery County and Howard County for TIC releases from the last week in April through the 1st week in June. For anyone interested, the schedule is on the PPTU web site and I would be happy to send you an email with the calendar.

aburrows53@gmail.com

A few release dates are below:

April

21st – Baker Middle School
25th – Sligo Middle School
27th – Tacoma Park Middle School
28th – Neelsville Middle School

May

1st – Wood Middle School
3rd – Barnsville School
5th – Redland Middle School
11th – Westbrook Elementary
12th – Julius West Middle School
15th – Cabin John Middle School
18th – MLK Middle School
19th – Westland Middle School
22nd – Gaithersburg Middle School
24th – Kingsville Middle School
25th – Hoover Middle School
26th – North Bethesda Middle School
30th – Ridgeview Middle School
31st – Hallie Wells Middle School

PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and tie one on – fly that is. Or sit back and enjoy some libations and food while watching us tie.



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

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

2017 Flea Market Results - Ken Bowyer

Preliminary results from the March Flea Market are as follows:

Gross Sales: \$932.00

Sellers take home: \$191.00
Donations by sellers: \$ 48.00
Bucket Raffle income: \$240.00
PPTU Merchandise: \$453.00
Totals: \$932.00



PPTU Net Income: \$736.73

Thanks go out to everybody that worked on this plus all the Buyers and Sellers that participated. While the evening's member turnout was lower than expected, this was definitely a success!

Note: A few items that didn't sell will be out on the library table during the next few meetings. So if you missed the meeting, here's your second chance to pick up some nice gear.

- Bob O'Donnell

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.

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

[Get started](#)

amazonsmile

PHW Fly Tying Marathon - Michael Abramowitz

The venue was the USMC Museum at Quantico.



The event began at 9:00am, as I arrived the security guards noticed the folks carrying fly tying bags, cases and vices etc. were waved through security to the fly tying tables.

There were about 60 fly tiers. One lady at my table just purchased a fly tying kit and had never ever tied a fly. It was fun getting her started and she ended up producing wooly buggers.



Visitors to the museum wandered by to watch fly tiers. A few news reporters roved around as well chatting and interviewing fly tiers. The PHW organizers had a drawing in the morning and in the afternoon where the winner received a rod and reel.



The large selection of flies on the table at the end of the day would be distributed to various PHW outing groups around the USA over the next few months. We can all be rest assured that when the PHW veterans on outings get a tight line there will hopefully be many smiles.

Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders Tie-A-Thon - Trent Jones

After a few years of doing a standalone event to support the Walter Reed Chapter of Project Healing Waters, we've decided to incorporate this within a Beer Tie. The next Beer Tie is **Monday, April 10**, in the **Sandbar at Whitlow's on Wilson**, doors open at **6PM** and we'll be around until 10PMish.

If you aren't familiar, Project Healing Waters ("PHW") is an organization that uses fly fishing as mental and physical rehabilitation for our wounded veterans. There is a chapter at many Veterans Administration hospitals, including the nearby Walter Reed. PHW takes these veterans fishing regularly and needs to provide them with flies, which is where we come in. We're asking for people to bring their vises and donate all the flies you can tie to the Walter Reed chapter.



The group primarily fishes private trout streams and some local places for bass. In the past, the best flies have been those that are easy to see, cast, and tie on. This would include larger nymphs (Prince, Hare's Ear, Copper John), attractor dries (Royal Wulff, Stimulator, Adams, etc.) and small streamers (Wooly Bugger, Muddler Minnow). Any fly donation would obviously be appreciated.



We will also be holding a raffle for PHW and need some items to be donated. I am kicking in a Lamiglas Fiberglass 7'6" 4wt rod, and I have a boatload of high quality books donated by Orvis in Tysons and Arlington. If you have any other gear you'd like to provide, let me know. These funds can help pay for more equipment and fishing trips for our veterans.



If you can't make it to the Fly Tie-A-Thon, the local Orvis stores have agreed to collect flies for us. Stop by Orvis in Bethesda, Arlington, or Tysons to donate any flies if you can't make it out and want to contribute. <http://www.tpfr.org>

Eight Annual Fly Caster's Rendezvous - Carl Smolka

A reminder that the annual fly casting rendezvous on the Potomac in Williamsport is coming up this month. This is an excellent opportunity to learn/improve from one of the IFFF casting instructors, either single hand or two handed casting. If you are doing two handed, make sure to bring your waders.



Hogan Agrees with Fracking Ban - Don Haynes, Mid-Atlantic Council

This is good news and a big surprise!

I want to thank Nick Weber for spearheading the Mid-Atlantic Council's response to the proposed regulations and for following this issue closely over the past few years. Nick did a tremendous amount of work on this both this year and on the original Fracking Moratorium. The Mid-Atlantic Council is deeply appreciative.

I also want to thank a few other TU members who contributed to comments or worked closely with Nick: Art Senkel, Brian Bernstein, and James Tingey. They, too, made a significant contribution and should get due thanks for their efforts.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited (MAC): Thank you very much!

Fly Fishing and Collectable Tackle Show - Trout Wrangler

Finally a fly fishing show in the Baltimore area! The first annual fly fishing show to bring together fly fishing enthusiasts and high quality fly fishing dealers for a day of tackle review and conversation took place March 18th. If you missed it, you missed out on some fun.



The show, featuring both new and used quality tackle for sale, was deemed a success. So much so, that they are getting a much larger venue for next year's show! All types of fly rods, including classic

bamboo, reels, artwork, and more were on display. I bought a reel I had wanted for some time and can't wait until next year rolls around! Of course if I had come home with the vintage Evinrude Motor they had for sale I would never hear the end of it. (Shhhh... I hope it's there next year)



PPTU Annual BBQ – October 1st - PPTU Board

It's not too early to start plugging the annual BBQ event! Take a few minutes to plug the event date into your smart phones and email calendars. We're going to keep working on improvements and opportunities for your enjoyment. Many more notices to follow.

Green Fest – April 22nd - Sue Muller Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

What's going on at GreenFest this year? Many, many workshops! Here is just a sampling of a few workshops scheduled: Deer Resistant Plants for Shade Gardens, Backyard Butterflies, Impact of Buildings on Birds, and Raising Backyard Chickens.



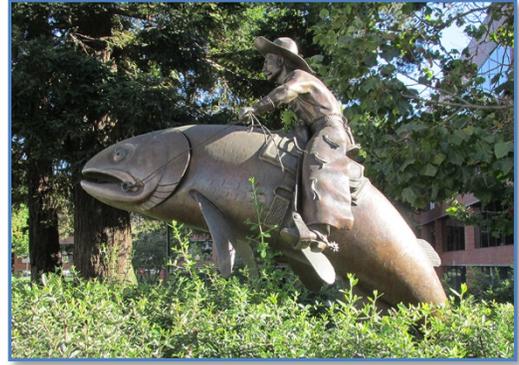
Members Catch - Trout Wrangler

Here's what is trending lately. The waters our folks are fishing look really sweet and the fish have been cooperating. Catching trout on dry flies this early just rocks!



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: Trout Wrangler
Phone: 410-733-0638
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Top Secret Midge

Midges are available to trout year round and make up a huge portion of their diet.

This little pattern by Pat Dorsey is fairly easy to tie and should net you a few trout on your local stream. If you haven't fished midge patterns yet, give them a try.

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



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