



February 2011

# *The Conservationist*

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

[www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

## *Savage River Watershed, Brook Trout, and Other Western MD Projects -*

*February 16, 2011*

Our speaker, Matt Sell grew up in South Central PA, with a love for trout angling from a very early age. With many spring creeks literally out his front door, he was able to cut his teeth on those wily old wild browns for most of his young life. During high school, he used every bit of spare time to be on the water. In fact, he was president of his high school's fishing club and was even able to get out of study hall to fish the freestone stream that ran through his school's property. During his senior year he kept a log and fished over 300 days. Avid was a good word to describe his angling. However, he suggests that obsessive would probably be more accurate.

Fisheries seemed a logical career path for him, considering his love of the water and fish. He started in the fisheries program at Frostburg State in Sept. 2000. During his stint there, he was proudly awarded the Nemascolin Chapter scholarship. Matt graduated with honors in 2004, and immediately began graduate work at Frostburg. During that time, he worked part time in the entomology lab at the UMD Center for Environmental Science, Appalachian Lab, then for Ray Morgan on the Maryland Biological Stream Survey, and finally worked for Ray full time. In August 2009, Matt joined the Inland Fisheries Division of DNR, as the Brook Trout Specialist. His talk will cover PIT tagging study on Big/Monroe Run, planned radio tagging project on the main stem, a summary of temperature monitoring throughout the Savage River watershed, and an update on the Frostburg Pond Project. This should give you an understanding of the many exciting projects Matt currently has underway with our wonderful native char! – *Nick Weber*

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### **Monthly Chapter Meetings**

**Time and Day** 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

**Place** Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

**Directions** From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

*The Conservationist* is published monthly, except December, June, July, and August, by the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The content reflects the opinions and views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the opinions, views and policies of Trout Unlimited, the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter or their respective officers and directors. Copyright © 2011 Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

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Vice-President:	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
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Secretary:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
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	Jim Crowell	301-816-9445
	Dick Friis	301-249-6214
	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150
	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
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Membership Secretary:	Vacant	
<i>Conservationist</i> Editor:	Joanne Kla	301-854-5053
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NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
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Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
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	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150

## Presidents Column

The chill of winter is most certainly here. Many streams are cloaked in a wondrous shield of ice leaving us unable to cast a line. On the plus side, winter is the time of year when I have more time to wet a line. So what am I going to do with myself until the ice relents enough to allow me to do so? Well, as Chapter President, I plan to keep very busy, spending some time helping our chapter. Now I ask -- what are you going to do?

I have a suggestion. How would you feel about doing some volunteer work? Your Chapter is really in need. I know I must sound like a broken record. Every month I ask for your help. Why? Because our need is real; we really do need your help. We are in great need of someone to fill a few key positions. In other words – HELP!!!

Our Election Committee is now searching for candidates to fill the vacant positions in time for the chapter elections in May. They will be looking for a new Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and two Directors. These positions are extremely important to the Chapter, and we are in need of dedicated people to fill the posts. These positions are not that time consuming. I am asking you again, can you possibly spare two or three hours a month?

We are also searching for chair people. We are looking for a Membership chair, the Publicity, and Youth Programs Chairs, and an Editor for our chapter publication, "The Conservationist". Please help us out. Your time will be most appreciated.

We can't keep asking the same people to do all the work. We need new people. So, please consider coming to aid your Chapter. To paraphrase JFK, don't ask what your chapter can do for you; ask what you can do for your chapter.

*Larry Vawter*

## **Early Meeting Segments begin at 7 pm**

*by Nick Weber*

### **Tying Bench**

This month will find a product of our tying class and an avid member of our Project Healing Waters contingent at Ft. Meade sharing an interesting and productive pattern at the bench. Pati Nicholson tells us she discovered this fly on YouTube. She says the pattern is called the Polish woven body nymph. In addition to the woven body aspect that I am anxious to learn, Pati says that the "color combinations are limited only by the available colors of Ultrawire." In addition she says that it can be tied on straight or curved nymph hooks. Pati has used the pattern successfully on local Maryland and Virginia waters. Her success has come on Beaver Creek as a single fly cast across the creek with a brisk retrieve as well as on a Virginia creek on a dropper rig. Is this the new fly we all want to try this spring? Come and learn all about it from Pati at the Tying Bench.

### **Angler's Corner**

Come by the Anglers Corner and check with Dennis Covert to learn all you need for the outing to Big Hunting Creek, February 26. This annual trip always contributes to raising our expectations for the new season and the camaraderie and challenge of the stream make folks who go to this outing cherish this experience. You may also hear some tales from the recent outing to the Yellow Breeches in late January. It should not take much convincing why you really should consider these fishing experiences with some of our fellow fishers.

Have an idea for an outing? Share it with Dennis Covert, outings chair, at [dennis-covert@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis-covert@hotmail.com). See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings.

## **PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND**

Ken Bowyer provides one-on-one stream-side fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hipsters, 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 will be asked to contribute \$20. Contact Ken 301-627-7154 or e-mail [kenbowyer@verizon.net](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net).

### ***The Conservationist* needs an Editor!**

This is my last issue as Editor.

***The Conservationist*** is published monthly, except December, June, July, and August. It doesn't take a lot of time to pull each issue together (and you won't have to go to Board meetings unless you want to!!), just more than my schedule will allow at present.

We use Microsoft Publisher, which is user friendly, and not at all difficult to learn

Please contact Jay Sheppard or Larry Vawter if you would be interested in picking up the reins.

Thanks

Joanne Kla

## Tackle and Tactics Tips

Jay Sheppard

As indicated last month, the value of a fly increases exponentially as one travels further and further away from the car and the nearest fly shop or tying bench. Recovering a fly from a tree, log, bush, or whatever has snagged it is an important skill to have, especially if that fly that just got hung up on the tree is the one that is really working that day and is your last copy! In the last issue I described how to run the rod tip up the line and leader to push the fly off the branch with the rod tip. Also, how chest waders and backing can facilitate recovery of a fly. Developing a reflex to when the line is wrapping around something on a cast and releasing all pressure on it is going to take a lot of practice time and lost flies; I still snap a few on every trip but am getting better after four decades of 'practice' on this reflex.

The simplest and first trick I usually try on snagging a fly on a branch or other object is try to gently tease it off the object. If I did not jerk at the fly when it first got imbedded in the branch, I sometimes can gently tease it off the object. If it is a weighted fly, I will sometimes be able to slowly ease the fly up and around the branch. A really heavy fly may not wrap itself around the offending branch and can be tugged with a rhythm that causes the fly to swing back and forth like a pendulum, with the final retrieve being as it swings away from me and has the least chance to encounter the twig with the hook point. The Patuxent Special was specifically designed with this issue in mind—stiff hackles that are twice the hook gap.

Often when fishing I lodge the fly in a half submerged log or rock half way or more across the stream. I do not wish to take the time to wade to where I can get my rod tip to the fly. There is also a patch of open water on the other side of the snag. Here is a trick only a fly fisher can do: roll a loop of line and the leader to the far side of the snagged fly

With the rod down to almost touching the water, allow the line to settle on the water for about 1 second or so, and then give a quick snap of the rod to the vertical. For a fraction of a second, the loop on the far side of the fly will tug at the fly in the opposite direction because of its resistance in

the water surface. That is, it will pull directly away from you for just a moment and then lift the line and fly off the water and back towards you. This is all possible because the weight of the line enables one to roll a loop of line away from you. I rarely have to try this trick twice on the same snagged fly. As in all cases learning not to tug hard when the fly first encounters the snag is important to the success of this trick and any other ploys one might try.

I did fail to mention a few of the problems of getting a rod tip directly to a fly. One is a strike indicator blocking the passage of the rod tip. Another is a tandem rig where only the point fly gets hung up on the tree, etc. I love to fish with indicators or a tandem rig. However, I sometimes avoid those rigs when I am fishing a tight stream with lots of trees and other potential fly grabbers. If I am going to lose a fly, better one than two or a fly and an indicator.

## Patuxent Report

Jay Sheppard

Stocking of the local streams will be expected to start about the middle of February and continue into March. Special regulation streams such as the Patuxent and Middle Patuxent are usually scheduled as early as possible, since these waters have no closures and the fish can survive the spring and in some places through the summer. If you have chest waders, have some experience wading rivers, and can get free on a week day to help, you may be able to help us stock. Please contact me ASAP if you are not already on my email list of potential volunteers: [jmsheppar@aol.com](mailto:jmsheppar@aol.com). Float stocking our local streams offers a real opportunity to learn about these waters up close and personal. Each crew may cover from 1 to 2 miles of a stream and release a couple hundred trout.

Please mark you calendars for the first Saturday in April as a stream cleanup. More details will be forthcoming in the March issue.

## ADDRESS CHANGED?

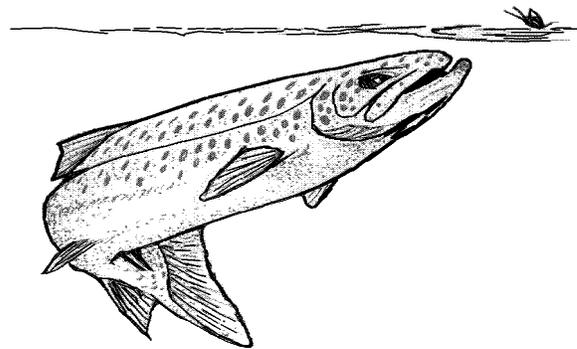
## CHAPTER ASSIGNMENT?

## MISSING AN ISSUE?

If you have moved or see any error in your label on this *Conservationist*, please advise both the National TU office (1-800-834-2419) and this chapter with separate notices. Our mailing list is maintained apart from the National TU list; we do eventually get the notice of address change from National TU, but it is often a few months before it affects your *Conservationist* and other mailings. Please help us help you. Thank you. This also covers changes in your email address.

Further, please check your membership card from the National TU office after you renew. It is possible that you may have been reassigned to a different chapter unbeknownst to you! Call the above 800-number and ask to be moved to the chapter of your choice and also ask that your record be flagged so as not to be changed at any future time without your requesting the change.

In the past, we have had several reports of members not receiving their *Conservationist*. First, make sure we have your correct address, including 9-digit ZIP, and that your dues are paid up (label reads PP-0911). If you are missing a back issue, please contact us for a copy. For future reference, we try to mail the *Conservationist* to our active members about 2 weeks before the next meeting. Remember, we have no mailings or meetings in December or during the summer months of June, July and August.



## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)

The \$20 we ask to help support our administrative and printing costs is now payable. We operate on a September to September basis for the chapter's publication, *The Conservationist*. Very simply, it costs a lot of money to operate the chapter for meeting room rentals, postage, printing, web site, and other costs. We want to use all the contributions we receive and obtain through our fund raisers to support our work for the resource.

If you obtained this copy of *The Conservationist* at a fishing shop or through a friend, we ask you to get on our mailing list. You can pay the ASC at the next meeting or just mail it to our chapter mail box. Make checks payable to PPTU. You can choose to have the *Conservationist* delivered in hard copy or via the Internet; please advise which method you wish and include your email address. You do not have to be a TU member assigned to PPTU to subscribe to the *Conservationist* by paying the ASC. November was the last issue for those with "PP-0910" on their label.

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