

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Annual Fly Tying Demonstration Meeting

January 21st 2015

Enjoy the beginning of 2015 with a glimpse of how to tie flies and maybe even pick up a new hobby (obsession?). The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited is happy to present our annual fly tying demonstration. Join us at this chapter meeting to see our most talented local tyers show off their skills and favorite patterns. Come learn how to make it easier to succeed at this intriguing sport of fly fishing.

In addition to a table for wounded warriors from PPTU's Fort Meade Project Healing Waters program and their PPTU coaches, the following tyers will be presenting favorite patterns:

Bob Dietz will be wowing us by tying the venerable *Lime Trude*; Alan Burrows will be showing off his version of the *Dorato Hare's Ear*; while Carl Smolka ties the #10 *Rob Snowwhite's Damsel Fly* in chartreuse. George Vincent will tie his spectacular *Smoke Jumper Emerger*; while Gene Cyprych will show us his most effective *Woolly Bugger* patterns. Bob O'Donnell will tempt us with his *Cased Caddis*. As a special treat, guest expert fisherman and fly tyer, Joe Bruce, will demonstrate his *Bullet Head Darter* pattern.

Come to this meeting, and share with us one of the season's most popular presentations. Pattern sheets for the flies will be available so you can try your hand at tying your own at home. Hope to see you all there.

Don't forget to bring some funds to buy the third edition of "*Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing The Catch-and-Release Streams*" by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn. Available at our library table, this wonderful guide to our local trout fishing waters is a must have reference for every PPTU fly fisher.

Happy Holidays!

– Jim Greco

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, Maryland

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

Happy New Year!

It's a cool brisk morning. Frost clings to the window as I catch a few glimpses of light sparkling off the snow between the wisps of warm vapor escaping my coffee. Our feline master-of-the-house is curled up near me with his head completely buried in a blanket. I slowly thumb through a fishing catalog eyeing up the new "must have" gear for 2015. All is good.

The holiday rush is behind us and we welcome in the new year. Its time to take it easy during some of the coldest days and nights of the season. Sitting in front of a crackling fire there's time to go through gear and re-organize all those flies you've tucked away in the pockets of your vest. Time to tie new patterns guaranteed to catch fish and time to sort some of the gifts you may have received from loved ones; plus after all the presents, convince your spouse you "still" need to buy something.

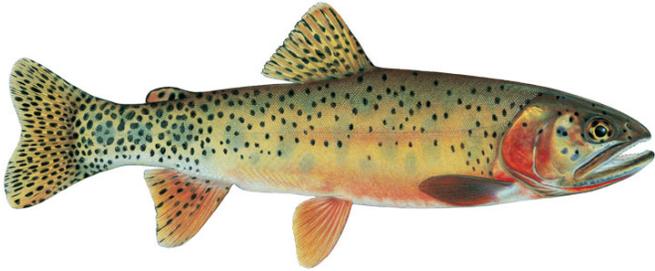
I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends and memories of days gone by. The new year brings new goals and the chance for making new memories. We hope to add to your memories this year with some new angling adventures, a rod building class, and perhaps another fly tying class. We're looking at new program speakers, new destinations and streams to explore. On top of that, we're solidifying plans for our chapter's 1st Annual Fundraiser BBQ. I believe this will be a great year for all our PPTU members, their family and friends.

If the new year leaves you with more time on your hands than you know what to do with, we could use your help. We're still looking for a few positions on our board and welcome anyone willing to step up and give it a go. Dennis Covert would like to take a break from being "Outings Coordinator", and our "Speakers" chair, amongst other positions, will be open once again. If you're interested in lending a hand just let any of the board members know.

I'm personally looking forward to a new year full of fun and fishing and perhaps a howl at the moon. Besides exploring some of the old and new local haunts, I'll get my chance at wetting a line in the waters flowing through Yellowstone Park as a group of us head out that way later in the year for a pack in trip. Wolves, and Bison, and Bears, oh my its going to be a fun year! 🌸

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** will be asked to contribute \$20. 🌸



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

Tackle and Tactic Tips Fly Tying Month - Jay Sheppard

Since January is our annual fly tying meeting, I thought I might pass along a few tips on tying that I have gleaned from more than a few decades of wrapping stuff around a hook in a vise. I trust no one will object if I digress this month from tackle and tactics!

The order in which materials are tied onto the hook is inverse to their wrapping order. First tied to the hook are last wrapped and last tied onto the hook are first wrapped. This goes for hackle around a parachute post, hackle palmered up over the body, chenille, dubbing, or wire wrapped around the body. Am sure there might be some exceptions, but I cannot think of any immediately. Nymphs, woolly buggers, streamers, dries, or whatever, this seems to be the order of tying and wrapping. Note that most recipes for a particular pattern are written in this same sequence: first step to last.

I use a lot of chenille for the Patuxent Specials and many other wet patterns. Most chenilles and smaller yarns come on small cards. The cards usually have a small hole in one end to hang on the display boards in the shops. Unwind 5–7 inches or so of the material and pass it through the hole before starting to tie it onto the hook. If there is no hole, simply take your scissors and poke a hole in one end. In this way every inch of the material but the final few on the card will be used in tying flies. Do not cut off a foot or so and use that for tying. Invariably a few inches will be left from each section you take off the card that has to be discarded.



Metal tubes on bobbins seem to get nicked over time. I have not found an easy way to remove those microscopic nicks (I have any number of remedies),

so I have to set them aside. Cutting thread as one is in some important step in tying a fly becomes a real nuisance and cause of frustration. I only use ceramic bobbins now. I still have a number of the older metal-tubed bobbins. I now wind my lead wire and floss through the bobbins. Again, like the chenille, no more wasted scraps littering my tying area.

My tying bench is painted a pale blue. Once in a long while I am using some material that is that shade, but it is rare. So everything else that I am using—hackle, dubbing, hooks, thread, floss, yarn, tools, what ever—is of some contrasting color to this pale blue. It also reflects my overhead fluorescent lights very well but with no glare. Try it, you will like it!



I use either the synthetic fibers or natural hackle for tailing my mayfly dries. The latter are taken from spade hackles that lie along the sides of quality necks. To keep from losing track of such special feathers, I take a short piece of fine yarn and loop an overhand knot around the base of the feather. It remains attached on the side of the rooster neck, where I can always locate it. Spade hackles are not usually wanted for hackling flies, so these special, lopsided feathers get used for these special purposes. 🌻

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Stocking season is coming in late February. I do not have any plans yet worked out with DNR Fisheries managers, but we will have a plan by early February, I hope. The big question revolves around the Brighton Dam, flies only tailwater on the Patuxent River. At some point next year WSSC plans to drain the Triadelphia Reservoir for 2 years. If it appears that this work will not start until after Memorial Day, we will push to have some trout stocked below the dam. It may not be as many as we have stocked in recent years, but there should still be a sizeable number for fishers to play with all spring. The remainder of the trout will be moved back to the upper Patuxent Special Trout

Management Area (lures and flies) above the reservoir. DNR has been providing a relatively fixed number of trout for both the tailwater and upper fisheries for the past decade or so. So we have had a constant balancing act as to what proportion of the rainbows and browns we stock in each of those two fisheries.



In a brief shocking survey of the tailwater last September, DNR found only one trout. This sampling was done as a result of poor Dissolved Oxygen (DO) being measured below the dam downstream almost to the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. As a result of that sampling, DNR decided not to do a larger scale sampling in October or November. I have not heard of any fish reports—positive or negative— from the tailwater this fall and early winter. We are certainly concerned about these very low DO levels and hope to have them corrected when the WSSC fixes Brighton Dam.

If you wish to help float stock in late February or March, please let me know by sending an email (jmsheppar@aol.com) and I will place you on my mailing list. If you are already on my list, I will be sending out notices in mid-February as to dates and streams. If you have changed your email address since last spring, drop me a note. You must have chest waders and be comfortable walking down or up a stream for a mile or two to participate in this effort. All stockings are Tuesdays through Fridays.



Get Your Copy of the MD Guide Book! - Trout Wrangler

The NEW “*Guide To Maryland Trout Fishing: The Catch-and-Release Streams*” by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn are now available to our members at the library table during our monthly meetings.

This version of the guide is completely revised and updated, including two new streams and updated maps. There are 16 trout streams, with detailed information on hatches, tactics, and access plus a list of major Maryland fly shops and other important resources. Definitely pick one up! 🍷

Congratulations to Nick Weber! - Don Haynes

Our own Nick Weber is receiving a Governor’s Citation for his service on the Maryland Marcellus Shale Commission.

Nick’s hard work on the commission was instrumental in pushing the ball forward on the risk assessment portion; something all of Maryland will benefit from. His concern and attention drawn to our precious Savage River watershed and its thriving brook trout population is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Nick for his continuing effort in this matter. If you see Nick at our next meeting be sure to shake his hand and congratulate him.

Good job Nick! PPTU is proud to have you as member and representative. 🍷



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!

Have Strike Indicator, Will Fish - Carl Smolka

A recent posting about the New Zealand wool strike indicator which appeared on the fly fishing scene a year or so ago prompted me to jot down a few thoughts about my experience with the various alternatives and lessons learned as I have invested in most of the technology and settled on a few home-brew versions that are very inexpensive and work quite well.



At the 12:00 position and going clockwise:

Solid foam teardrop shaped – held on line with toothpicks – float well, but I lose the toothpicks.

Thingama or Uni bobbles – air filled plastic bobbles available in different sizes including ones small enough to be tied in as an integral part of a fly. A bobber.

Corks – every other device is claimed to float “like a cork” but only corks and unbobbles really do

Split foam cylinder with rubber insert. You position this on your line and spin it in one direction to lock it to the line and reverse the direction to remove it or move it but I usually forget which direction I used to install them.

Yarn Gripper – small black tubing with slit in which to pinch some indicator yarn. Has to be

installed on leader and is difficult to keep in position.

Frog Hair foam with tiny rubber tubing cylinders which are used to keep the indicator in position. Tiny rubber cylinders are easily lost and only available from Frog Hair

Foam balls with toothpicks – same toothpick issue as before

Tapered foam football shape with rubber tubing that holds position – similar directional spinning issue as with split foam cylinders

New Zealand wool with small plastic tubing to position indicator only available from the manufacturer. Wool does need to be treated with floatant and special tool required to install/move. Years ago, a guide from Yellow Breeches cut a piece of wool off his wool vest fly patch and tied it on the leader with a slip loop as an effective strike indicator. Wonder if he moved to New Zealand?

Small torpedo plastic floats with very tiny tubing attached to one end – I think someone put these in my vest one day to confuse me and it worked as I have no idea how to use these. Tiny tubing is similar but smaller than on Frog Hair device

Poly-yarn or wool indicator with rubber O rings. Secure with loop in line through lower O ring and then around indicator for easy positioning. Needs to be treated with floatant. Very easy to make from wool yarn and small O rings. Lands very soft (parachute-like) on water and detects subtle strikes. Can be tough casting in the wind.

French slinky easily made by taking a section of high visibility mono, wrapping it tightly around a pencil, boiling to for 5 minutes and leaving it in the freezer overnight. Tie a perfection loop on each end and position it between your leader and tippet or leader and line. The slinky loops will detect very subtle strikes. Cheap but does not float.

Pinch on foam pads – float okay but adhesive will muck up your leader and are not easily repositioned

Center: Rigid foam bait-floats – held in place by inserting leader loop through hole in float and placing a small piece of rubber band in loop and pulling it back into float cavity. Very inexpensive, available in different sizes, colors, and any small rubber band works. These are my current go-tos.

Most of these are in a file drawer for unwanted toys along with various fly tying gadgets. 🌸

Tight lines,
Carl

Members Catch - PPTU

These fish are too pretty not to share with everyone. Take pride in your angling skills!



Winter Gear Storage Tip - C. Boyd Pfeiffer

For the most part, fly-fishing gear is maintenance free, but you can prolong the useful life of all of your angling stuff by storing it properly for the long winter. Here are a few tips:

Rods: Wash them thoroughly with the hose, or even take them into the shower with you. You can use an old toothbrush to lightly scrub the hardware, making sure all the grit is out of the reel-seat threads and anywhere else in the seat. Scrubbing the cork will remove a lot of the nasty color you've added over the year. Completely dry the rod, and then put it in its sock and tube. Lay the tubes horizontally, and if you don't fear mice or other vermin, leave the end caps off the tubes to allow the rods to "breathe" and to ensure heat or moisture doesn't build up inside somehow.

Reels: Wash them thoroughly, taking them apart to ensure you've gotten any dirt, salt, or other schmutz taken care of. Use soapy water and a toothbrush. Rinse and then dry thoroughly, making sure you turn the reel parts several times during drying to make sure all the water gets out. Store the reel in its bag, but before you do so, back the drag off completely to take pressure off the drag materials.

Lines: Take them off the reel, clean with the manufacturer's recommended solution, and then wipe them clean with a rag. Check for damage to the line and make any necessary repairs.

Waders and boots: Air them out completely and make sure they are perfectly dry. Check for leaks and make any repairs. Hang for the winter. Boot-foot waders should be hung upside down by the boots.

Flies: Open all your fly boxes and let everything inside dry completely before storage.

The important thing, as you've probably figured out, is to put everything away **DRY**. 🍄

PPTU Outings - Dennis Covert

Come join in on the fun with other PPTU members as we shake off the cold and start the new year right by getting out fishing. All members are welcome to join in on the camaraderie.

Our next outing locations will be:

Big Spring, PA – January TBD

Big Hunting Creek – February TBD

Outings are listed on our web site and updated frequently with the latest information. If you have any questions or suggestions on an outing feel free to contact me at: denniscovert@hotmail.com 🍄

AmazonSmile - PPTU

We recently created a fundraising account with AmazonSmile. If you shop at AmazonSmile instead of the regular Amazon website, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our chapter. There is a hot link on our web site for members to use. We hope you bookmark the site and remember to use it while doing some of your on line shopping. This is another great way to help support our chapter. 🍄

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**Potomac Patuxent Chapter
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

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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.

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Hippie Chick Midge

The idea behind the Hippie Chick Midge was to incorporate numerous bright colors into a single fly in hopes that trout respond to at least one.



<http://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-the-hippie-chick-midge/>



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