

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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PPTU's Annual "Fly Fishing Flea Market" March 15th, 2017

Our next meeting on March 15th will stray away somewhat from our usual speaker's presentation and feature instead a "Flea Market" of new and gently used gear brought in by members, plus bucket raffles of rods, reels, packs and other gear. This is a great opportunity to clean out unused and old gear that's still good and put it into new hands. Plus, you get to do a little shopping as well. Perhaps you'll find some nice new or used gear you may need. The proceeds help benefit all our PPTU activities and services.

Sort through your gear as you do your winter cleaning, and gather up that stuff that you don't use but is still new or slightly used in good condition. Bring it to the March meeting, where we will register it, tag it with a price and tracking code, and display it for sale. We ask that a minimum of 10% of the final sale price be donated to PPTU to support our conservation efforts. Of course you can always donate more if you wish to do so.

For those in need of gear or looking for items to round out your fishing arsenal, this is the meeting to come to. Its going to be a great shopping option that will allow you to stretch your fly fishing budget and secure the gear you need for the new fishing season. Bring along friends and family - pass the word around. All are welcome!

– 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

I'm sort of pack rat. There's fishing gear tucked all around the house. Sometimes I surprise myself when I come across a treasure that I've stashed away (forgotten about; misplaced). How's that proverb go? "Out of sight, out of mind". I'll pull it out, dust it off and promise to get back to it. Part of the madness is that I've always liked wondering around antique shops and flea markets whether on a quest to buy something or not. Sometimes the buying just happens. Part of the thrill is finding something unique or interesting. On a good day, you buy something you actually need. So when we decided to do a "Flea Market" meeting for the chapter, I felt a little spark run down my back in anticipation of both buying and selling.

I was tying flies the other day and ran across 3 packets of the same dubbing material. No clue "why" I had 3 packs of the same color; lost my way in a couple of fly shops I guess. I have a new reel I've only put on a rod and cast a line with, never fished with it. There's also a nice wooden trout net collecting dust in my closet. Those things along with some other gear that is basically new and unused are going in a bag set aside for our flea market meeting. Hopefully my dusty gear will find a good home and be loved, and in return I hope to find something to replace them with as there is now room at home for more stuff. ;)

Our March meeting offers a great chance for everyone that attends to purchase some gear they may need, or not need as the case may be, AND at a nice price. Its also a good outlet to sell some of the decent gear you no longer use, or like me, have brand new in the package. If you can make it, come to this meeting! Take some time out of your week and look over your stuff. Clear out the closet, dig under the bed, riffle through your storage locker and see if you have something to price and put on the table. Tell your friends too, everyone is welcome to the meeting. We only ask for a small donation or if you're feeling generous, you can donate the full sale price to help the chapter's bottom line.

I know more than one person that has limited funds set aside for their gear. The Flea Market is your chance to score big. This meeting will be a good opportunity to check off your spring fly fishing gear list and stay within that budget. There will be rods, reels, line, leader, flies, etc. up for sale at steeply discounted prices.

So, mark your calendar and tell your friends, post your Facebook notes, tweet your delight, save your money by packing your lunch for the next couple of weeks and come out to our Flea Market meeting on March 15th. You may just find that hot item you need to round out your gear this year, or something that is truly unique. Brrrr... I just got another chill.

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

The ground hogs were wrong. Spring is coming early this year. Are we ready for some fishing? Hopefully, we have all been out exercising our casting arm on a local stream! A little practice casting at least? If not, why not?



Winter and early spring stone flies have been out most of the winter. The latter are about a #14 tannish brown insect. A few #18 Baetis blue-winged olives have been spotted, but more will be coming off later this month and into the spring.

Many of us enjoy a day on a put-and-take stream (opening day is March 25) or the equally popular 2/day streams, such as the Little Patuxent in Savage or the Patapsco below Daniels Dam. As the season moves into April and May, more of us will focus our attentions on the no-kill waters. On streams such as the Gunpowder, Big Hunting Creek, and the Savage, those wild trout can get really picky in not just presentation but on fly choices. In fact, on those streams with wild trout, the smallest trout learn fairly quickly what is edible versus what jerks them into a landing net.

My guess is that probably 90–95% of fly fishers use a #16 or larger fly for nearly all their fishing. Thus, the wild trout are very accustomed to those patterns. Many over 9 or 10 inches likely can identify not just the fly pattern by name but also the hook manufacturer! As always presentation is most of the game, most especially with dries. So even

when we obtain a drag-free float over a feeding trout with the right fly, we still may get nothing but refusals.

My good buddy, Charlie Gelso, is a real aficionado of small flies. He even has dreams of using an 8X leader and a #24 midge to hook one trout after the other. On really slick flats one can often get by without a small fly being on point as a dropper behind a larger, more obvious fly. However, if the water is slightly ruffled up from wind or water action, the typical small-fly fisher will resort to the tandem rig. The smaller fly behind the larger is tied on with only 15–20" of 7X or even 8X tippet. Regardless of how much tippet is used between the two flies, the smaller fly rarely lands more than about 10" from the larger, often only 7 or 8" away.



Small midge patterns are the most popular tiny flies used, but even tiny caddis and mayflies can sometimes be employed when those insects are on the water. One of my favorite small fly patterns is what is called a ‘one-hackle,’ while others use a ‘3-hackle’ fly. A #20 or 22 dry fly hook (straight eye vs. DTE or UTE) is used. Tie a few stiff hackle fiber tips in the middle of the shank and straight out the rear, then palmer one to three quality hackles up to the eye—just a few turns are all that are needed on the front half of the shank. I love a dark dun one-hackle, but use cream and white about as much. The 3-hackle version can use grizzly, ginger and brown. There is no dubbing used. As usual, the hook point

is offset, and I sometimes clip a V out from under the body to better expose the hook point.



When using the midge larvae or pupae patterns, the fly should be fished just below the surface. I have been amazed at how well trout can spot a #22 midge passing them in the fast pocket water of the Savage. They have less than a second to see and decide on pursuing the tiniest offering. One rarely has to go smaller than a #22. Try a tiny fly pattern when you are getting one refusal after another on our popular wild trout streams. Have a great spring and leave a few uneducated trout for me!

[Revised from March 2012 Conservationist]



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!

Shop at AmazonSmile
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**Potomac Patuxent Chapter
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

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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.



PPTU Beer Tie
- PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month you'll find several members and friends at the **PPTU Beer Tie**. 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
- Bob Kaiser

Our meeting on March 15th will feature a flea market of gently used gear brought by members and bucket raffles of rods, reels, packs and other gear. This is a great opportunity to clean out old gear and put it into good hands, and pick up some nice new and used gear. Proceeds benefit all our PPTU activities and services.

Special Bucket Raffle

The bucket raffle items are all new and ready for your use! As of press time, raffle prizes include:

- Orvis Safe Passage sling pack
- Watermark backpack with chest pockets
- Stanley 16oz. thermos/water bottle

Patuxent Report
- Jay Sheppard

Our local waters in the Patuxent will be stocked by the time you read this. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped pull the boxes filled with trout up and down the Patuxent River and Middle Patuxent. Fishing at Haviland Mill below Brighton Dam can commence! Same for the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia and the upper Patuxent special area (also no kill).

There will be a major stream clean up of the upper Patuxent River State Park on APRIL 1. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Izaak Walton League on Mullinix Mill Road, just east of Damascus. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. PPTU members typically cover the river itself at the bridge crossings for trash in the river, so bring waders and a heavy rake if you wish to help in that particular endeavor. Other parties will be cleaning up the parking lots and road sides. A free lunch will be provided. This is an excellent family event. Please consider volunteering and help keep our streams clean!

LAST Fly Fishing Show Reminders
- Bob O'Donnell

Ok – Your final reminder on the remaining fly fishing shows. Hope to see you at one.

March

- 4th – 5th The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA
- 18th MD Fly Fishing and Collectibles Show
Arnolia United Methodist Church, Parkville, MD
- 18th Lefty Kreh Tie Fest, Kent Island Yacht Club

- All-Weather Notebook kit
- Hook & Hackle fly tying toolkit with storage pouch
- Waterproof binoculars
- 2 ½” Browning folding knife
- Casting lesson at Beaver Creek Fly Shop

Tickets for this special event are two for \$5, five for \$10, and twenty-five for \$20. Please bring cash and correct change! The regular bucket raffle will not be held at this meeting.

Flea Market

Sort through your gear as you do your winter cleaning, and gather up that stuff that you don't use but is still in good condition. Bring it to the March meeting, where we will register it, tag it with price and tracking code, and display it for sale. We ask that a minimum of 10% of the final sale price be donated to PPTU to support our conservation efforts.

If you are bringing gear to sell:

- Email us at: backupking1977@gmail.com and let us know what you are bringing so we can advertise it!
- All gear must be serviceable and reasonably clean.
- Arrive at meeting by 7:00 pm sharp to get the gear registered and tagged.
- Sell the gear at our various tables.
- Contribute PPTU's share of the sale at the end of the meeting.

Beginners and experienced fishers will find lots of good gear to trade up, get started, or just to ogle! Please bring cash to simplify your transactions. Sellers should bring cash to make change.

As of press time, flea market items include:

- Orvis 8' 6" Clearwater 4 wt., 4-piece rod and hard case
- Size 11 LL Bean wading boots with tread sole and studs
- Leland metal fly box with 10 enclosed compartments for fragile dry flies and slots for 144 additional flies
- Orvis fly boxes
- LL Bean Fly Rod
- Leaders & Tippets

- White River Fly Reels; 3/4 & 5/6
- Orvis 9' Clearwater 6 wt., 4-piece rod and hard case
- Brodin Landing Net
- Fly Fishing Books
- Waders & More

See you on March 15th!!!

4th Annual Fly Tying Marathon! **- Carl Smolka**

The Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. will host their 4th Annual Fly Tying Marathon in the main gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Flies created at the event will be distributed to programs across the nation for use at fly fishing events throughout the year. Fly tyers can sign up for a shift from 9:00am to 1:00pm, 1:00pm to 5:00pm, or for both shifts.

Fly tyers must preregister by email to: phwquantico@gmail.com

Registration is first come, first serve. For further information contact the event coordinator at: 540-287-6486.

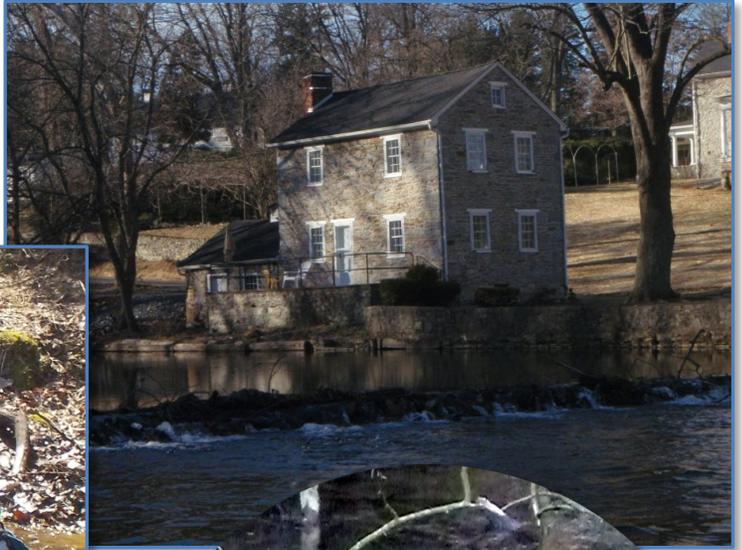


Fly tyers must provide their own materials and tools. Recommended patterns include, but not limited to: Woolly Buggers, Hare's Ears, Prince Nymphs, Muddler Minnows, Clouser Minnows, Lefty's Deceivers, Surf Candies, Half and Halves, Copper Johns, Pheasant Tails, Poppers, Slump Busters, Royal Wulffs, Elk Hair Caddis, Whistlers, Gurgle Bugs, Chronomids, Midges, Soft Hackles, and Nymphs.



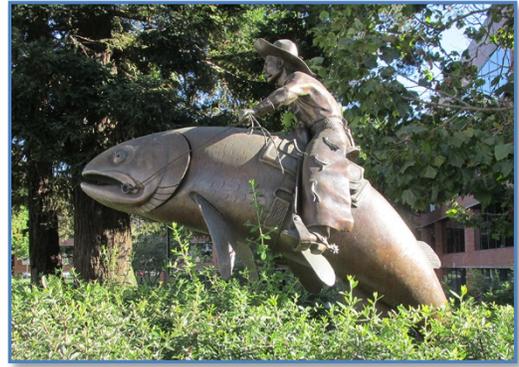
Members Catch - Trout Wrangler

Here's what's new, including our many volunteer trout stockers.



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
Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



CDC Blue Winged Olive

Blue-winged olives are among the first great hatches of the year in many parts of the country, especially on cloudy and raw days.

This fly sits low in the water and looks tempting. Fish these in slow-water sections and eddies, where trout will often slurp up lots of mayflies in an attempt to fatten up after a long winter.

<https://vimeo.com/51283364>



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