



May 2007

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Fly Fishing the Yellowstone Caldera – Or What a Way to Go!

By Nick Weber

Actually, there are many ways to go and get there, but Larry Coburn, one of the region's most accomplished fly-fisherman, will tell all in an enjoyable program entitled "**Fly Fishing Yellowstone on a Budget.**"

Larry has been to Yellowstone numerous times and has honed his knowledge of the region and how to get there. Not only how to get there, but how to do it on a budget that most fishers can afford including an expected dollar amount. Come and hear Larry describe the details of the going and coming including information about transportation and lodging, and of course — where to fish.

In the numerous times he has gone to Yellowstone, he has even driven out a couple of times and stayed 4 weeks one time and 5 weeks, another. His talk also touches on some history of the park as well as some places to visit while there. He may even describe how to deal with bears – we all saw or heard about his "bear incident" last year.

Larry's fly fishing prowess extends beyond his favorite haunts here in Maryland, extending all the way to the Rockies and many places in between. He is co-author with Charlie Gelso of the popular book few Maryland fly fishers would be without: "*Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing, The Catch-and-Release Streams*". Larry currently manages the White River Fly Shop at Bass Pro and has guided for many years. He has served on the Striped bass committee for Maryland DNR and was instrumental in helping get a regulation for the Delayed Harvest Area for the Middle Patuxent River. He has also been mentioned in articles on fly fishing, hunting and other adventures in the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Washington Times and other print media and has co-authored articles with Charlie Gelso in Fly Fisherman, American Angler and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fisherman Guide. This is a program that you will enjoy from the nuts and bolts to the arm jarring strikes.

Yellowstone on a Budget Wednesday, May 16

7:00 PM

(see bottom of page for directions)

****Guest Speaker****

**Larry Coburn
Author, Guide, Fly Shop Pro**

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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. Pass Holy Cross Hospital and go across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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Contributions in the form of clip art, articles, conservation activities, trip reports, letters, fishing and conservation news, tying tips, book reviews, and essays about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain text in the email body or Microsoft Word attachments. Authors should also include their phone number and a brief descriptions of the attachments. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Nick Weber

As we come to the end of our chapter year, much good has occurred to be proud of. We have had an extraordinary amount of participation both at our meetings and in our special projects. I applaud the efforts of many who have worked to help our conservation efforts. Although outdoor activity in cold and damp weather is not physically appealing to many, many did participate with enthusiasm to help make our tree planting on the Hawlings River in March a success. I also look forward to your help with some work later this summer as we hope to reinstall the modest dam structure on Bush Cabin Run at Mase-more on the Gunpowder. Look for information on our list server this summer for the call for that activity. This is part of our beginning efforts as part of Brook Trout preservation for the Maryland Brook Trout Alliance.

I applaud the efforts of those who gave their generous gift of time, talent, and interest on behalf of our chapter to our community, fellow fishers, and others. Specifically, programs for fellow fishers like the mentor program, fly tying classes, and outings, as well as youth related programs like Kid's Fishing Day and support for the Conservation and Fishing Camp and equipment for Boy Scout Summer Camp are commendable efforts that are successful through their efforts. The cadre of folks that help stock our area streams is also a demonstration of the kind of support that many of you show. Our effort to organize and support 10 local schools in Trout in the Classroom is another example of our community involvement as well as a recent mentoring activity for eight Johns Hopkins Students.

May has come, warm breezes are blowing on the stream and in my garden, and I am ready to take my leave from a position that I have found most gratifying while challenging. However, the time has come for the focus and efforts of fresh eyes and new interests to help guide us in our next steps. That is not to say that I will not continue to participate in PPCTU, but new leadership can renew the Chapter and I am sure it will in our next Chapter season beginning in June with the installation of new officers and board members. I wish them every success and good wishes as they begin to chart the direction of our Chapter for next year. I hope to see you at future chapter meetings and particularly on the stream. May the rises be many.

Tackle and Tactic Tips

BY JAY SHEPPARD

There are many variations to casting a line and a fly to accomplish a variety of objectives. Some casts provide a lot of slack to give more dead drift time, others accommodate obstructions around the fisher, and still others may counteract the wind or the need for mending once they land on the water. Not that I am an artist, but fly casting is like painting—one has a large variety of brushes and strokes to produce different effects. I am a firm believer that one must be able to face the target and move the plane of the rod stroke from the far right side to the far left and any point in between. If one is locked into using only a standard over-the-head casting stroke, you limit yourself to a very small number of targets on our smaller streams.

Side casts from either side are often very useful to avoid obstacles either for the rod tip or the line after it lands on the water. The second most (and sometimes only!) needed cast on our local waters is the roll cast. There are only a few requirements to rolling the line over with no room available behind you for a proper back cast.

The first is that the line tip must remain on the water at the moment before the cast; the water creates the tension to make the cast. This is why one cannot practice the roll cast on a lawn: no resistance. The second is that for just the micro second before the cast is made the fly line must hang behind the tip of the raised rod. Do not pause too long, as the line may then be pulled back to you, and slack will result under the rod.

Another trick is that if the direction of the cast is more than about 15 or 20 degrees to the right or left of the direction the line is being dragged back to you, the tip of the rod must be moved to the opposite side of the impending casting direction. This sounds confusing, but if you try to roll the cast 30 or more degrees and the rod tip is on the same side as the direction of the intended cast, it will cross itself in mid cast and tangle. The fly will certainly not land where you wanted it. Roll casts should be one fluid motion of lifting and snapping the rod downward in the intended direction.

A reach cast is very useful in reducing drag, especially when casting across the current. Just before the line straightens out on the final forward cast, the rod is dropped directly upstream (rarely downstream) of the fisher. The result should be that the fly line lands a rod length above the fisher and not on a direct line from him to the target. This gives a few more moments before any drag to the drift starts, and a mend is needed. The reach cast can be merged to the end of several other casts, when the opportunity presents itself.

I love parachute casts, which are nothing more than soft casts directed up above the target 10 or 20 feet. The problem is that with any wind they land unpredictably. They do give lots of S-curves to the line and leader for long drifts. For better accuracy I usually use the stop cast. I make a cast as though I wanted the fly to land 5–10 feet past the actual target. However, just as the line is about to straighten out, I give it a sharp tug back toward my body with my left hand (I am a right-handed caster). The tug is only a few inches in length and results in the line snapping taught and then recoiling in lots of S-curves a few milliseconds before it reaches the water.

If you can, study some of the many DVDs on fly casting. I highly recommend Lefty's material, but there are others. Most seem to stress distance over accuracy—I have always thought that most casting instructions were either for bonefish or steelhead at 80' and not sipping, nervous trout at 30 feet under a low overhanging branch. Have a great summer and practice your casting while catching lots of fish!

NOTICE TO PPTU MEMBERS

Just a reminder to return your videos and books on time. Many fellow members would like the opportunity to rent the books, tapes and DVDs that you rented the month before. Late fees will be applied if they are not returned by the next chapter meeting.



Patuxent Report

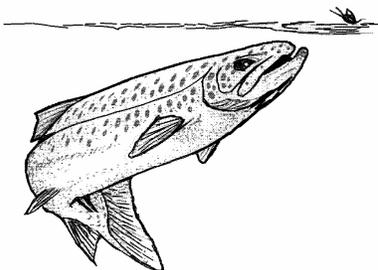
By Jay Sheppard

Recently a couple of fishers got lost in the back woods of Patuxent R. State Park, which encompasses the ~12 miles of the special trout regulation area upstream of Rt. 97–Georgia Ave. Even with cell phones, they took some time to get themselves extricated. Here are a few tips re the many dozens of trails running through the park.

These trails are maintained by the horse riders, and the trails may run along the river bank and then wander off in any direction that suits that user group. If you park at one of the bridges and then walk up or down the river, do not leave the trail in the flood plain unless you have no choice. There are very few places where the river bottom trail goes up the side of a hill and then right back down. Most of the river bottom trails run 10–100' back from the river.

The LAST thing you want to try is a trail that leaves the flood plain trail and takes off straight up a hill. In many places it is a couple miles out to a house or road! Most of the best trails along the flood plain are on the Howard County side of the river, but there are many on the Montgomery County side, too. Carry a cell phone in a Ziplock but be warned that much of the Patuxent River bottom has no or very poor coverage!

Naturally, do remember the direction of river flow when you started and walk back the opposite direction to the bridge you started at!! Naturally, if you have a GPS unit, use it as you leave the parking lot! If worse comes to worse, call me from the trail, and I can very likely talk you out, if you can provide good descriptions of the stream and other land marks. Do not wait until sunset to start out for the first time!!! It takes me 25 minutes to hike some of those trails, and I am a fast hiker who knows them.



Annual Supporting Contribution Now Payable

The Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) is separate from TU dues. Members of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited who make an ASC of \$15 each year will receive *The Conservationist* for one year, and be entitled to other PPTU benefits such as the mentor program outings, and reduced rates for the Fly Tying class. First-year TU/PPTU members for whom the Chapter receives a TU rebate do not have to pay the ASC, but they are still eligible for ASC benefits. High School and college students are also eligible for ASC benefits. Members of other TU chapters may also make an ASC to PPTU and receive *The Conservationist* and ASC benefits. When you pay the ASC, please indicate whether you wish to receive this publication by mail or email, and be sure to provide your contact information. Your expiration for *The Conservationist* (as well as expiration for your ASC benefits) is indicated on the address label, e.g. "PP-0907" (September 2007). You may send your payment to the address listed below for the coming year **now**. If you do not make an ASC contribution for our 2008 season, your benefits will end November 2007. If you have questions about the ASC or to check on your eligibility for ASC benefits, please contact the PPTU President or Jay Sheppard (Contact info on Page 2) or visit the Chapter's website at: www.pptu.org/join.shtml.

Upcoming PPTU Outings

By Dennis Covert

Join us for the traditional May outing to Western Maryland the 26th, 27th & 28th. We will be staying at the Casselman Inn in Grantsville next to the Casselman River.

For more details contact Dennis Covert at 410-74-8337 or denniscovert@hotmail.com

Dress for Success!

All the best dressed fishermen and women are wearing them. The Potomac Patuxent Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Shirt. Come to the video rental table and order your shirt or email Larry Vawter at thecarptman@msn.com. Be the envy of all when you appear on the stream.

TYING BENCH & ANGLER'S CORNER

By Nick Weber

Don't miss out on this month's regular monthly features "Tying Bench" and "Angler's Corner during the chapter meeting on May 16. These sessions occur concurrently beginning at 7 p.m. (See Front Cover for directions).

Tying Bench

This month will feature a sure fire pattern for this time of year. It is a Sulphur version of the "Quigley Cripple". And none other than our own Jim Greco will tie this fly for you. Jim says it is a great pattern for any Sulphur hatch and should be timely, too. Stop by and see Jim tie this pattern and make sure it finds its way into your box. Sulphur hatches will commence soon and you should give this pattern a try this season.

Angler's Corner

Stop by to chat with Dennis Covert about the upcoming trip to Western Maryland. Dennis continues to scout water in the surrounding area. So don't hesitate to pull up a chair and talk about streams in Pennsylvania as well as Maryland. Dennis would like to hear about one of your favorite streams. Perhaps he will organize an outing to it, if you are willing to share some secrets. Let's try and talk him into a summer outing.

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND

One on one stream side fly fishing instruction is available 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 \$15.

Contact Ken Bowyer at 301-627-7154 or e-mail kenbowyer@comcast.net.

Free Fishing Days

Prices of gasoline, milk, meat and every other commodity is going up in price this year. That's why it is important to take advantage of free fishing days this spring and summer. A lot of great destinations await you. – Matt Baun, Editor

Pennsylvania

May 29 & June 3, 2007

District Of Columbia

June 4 - June 10

Virginia

June 1 to June 3

West Virginia

June 9 & 10

New York

June 23 & 24

New Jersey

June 9 & 10

Maryland

June 2

June 9

July 4

For the dates of other states' free fishing days please visit www.takemefishing.org.



FISHING BY THE NUMBERS

90,000 - Number of fingerlings stocked in the Zero Creel Limit area of the North Branch of the Potomac from Westernport to Pinto.

1,100 - Number of adult trout per mile in the Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing

0 - The new 2007 creel limit for brook trout found in the Savage River Watershed

Source: Maryland DNR

Youth Fishing Camp: Deadline Extended

The Board of PPTU has earmarked funds to provide financial assistance to our young participants in two nearby fishing camps. Registration for one of these camps has been extended. So now is the time to act! Nominate a youngster so he or she can learn about stream conservation and appreciate our sport. High School aged girls and boys entering 9th through 12th grades are encouraged to apply. But, you'll have to act quickly, the application deadline is quickly approaching.

Contact Paul Vicenzi at pvicenzi@starpower.net, if the young person is accepted and you wish to seek reimbursement. May 16, 2007 is the application deadline for the TU Conservation & Fishing Camp, in Syria, VA. The TU camp runs June 24-29, 2007 at a cost of \$500. For more info and application instructions, visit www.tucamp.org.

FINAL ISSUE UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Members are reminded that there are no newsletters during the summer months. The September Conservationist should be mailed just after Labor Day for the Sept. 19 meeting. Keep in touch with your buddies and log onto our web site for links to current reports. If you have not signed up for the PPTU list serve reporting system, please check out our web site. You will receive reports from other members on their local fishing results. Have a great summer! See you next September.

MAY PPTU ELECTIONS

We had to go to press with this May issue a little earlier than the chapter nominating committee could report their slate for the May elections. The committee was still trying to persuade several of our fine members to join the Board. PPTU members should keep an eye out for the new slate of officers which will be published on the Chapter List-serv and in the ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, which will be published at www.pptu.org around May 1. The actual vote for the new officers will occur at the May 16 meeting.



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