



The **Conservationist**

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

May 2011

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Issue 5



Smallmouth Bass – The Potomac’s Great Sportfish – May 18th

When many of us think about the Potomac we think about smallmouth bass. This great sport fish is found in the river from Washington DC up to Westernport and again above Jennings Randolph Lake. Harpers Ferry is located in the heart of smallmouth country and is the location of The Angler’s Inn, www.theanglersinn.com, an excellent B & B in this historic town. The inn has been owned by Bryan and Debbi Kelly since 1996.

Bryan is also the owner of a nearby fishing shop, Kelly’s White Fly Shoppe www.kellyswhitefly.net in Sheperdstown, WV. Bryan Kelly is an ardent smallmouth bass fisher and has been fishing and guiding since 1996 on the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. The fact that he is also an excellent guide is evidenced by clients who won 1st place in 2008 and 2nd place in 2010 in the Shenandoah River Keepers River Rodeo Guide Competition. He has given classes on Smallmouth Bass for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and worked with a number of sponsors who have supported him and his sport over the years. Bryan even built his own his own handmade wooden McKenzie River boat, a Greg Thateman Design, that is still a working guide boat today. Suffice it to say that Bryan knows Potomac smallmouth bass. You need to hear him talk about them, and see him at the tying bench (tying a winner) as well.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President’s Column, by Larry Vawter
Mentor Program, by Ken Bowyer
Patuxent Report, by Jay Sheppard
Tackle and Tactics, by Jay Sheppard
Quote by John D. Voelker (AKA, Robert Traver)
Spring Stockings
Help Stop Poachers
Early Meeting Segments – Tying Bench and Anglers Corner
Did You Know?

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2010 - 2011

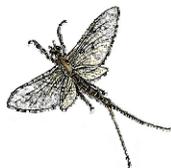
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Jim Greene 301-652-3848
Cathy Nutter 301-384-2431
Dennis Covert 410-740-8337
Jim Robinson 301-490-5358
Lou Reichel 410-730-5150



President's Column - Larry Vawter

It wasn't too long ago that I was scrapping ice off my windshield and shoveling snow, all the while dreaming of warmer weather and a chance to go out and do some fishing. Well finally May is here, a month I have personally considered the beginning of summer. I am sure most of you will partake in some fishing on streams we at PPCTU are stewards of. While you are out there, take a moment and reflect on a few things; mainly to thank members of our chapter who have given their time to stock the fish you are seeking to catch and have also taken the time and effort to clean up our streams. You may have been one of these great volunteers who have given the effort and if you are I want to say thank you.

My president's column for the past two years has for the most part had me seeking and requesting folks to step up and be active members of our chapter. We are always seeking "New Blood." We need people who are not afraid to take a lead role or just helping out on a project. Anything is something.

Our chapter meeting on May 18 will be bring in some new changes and new faces. We will be electing a new president; my term will be ending that evening. So I would like you to support your newly elected officers, like you all have done for me for the past two years.

So I would like to say "Thank You" to all who have a given me support. I wish I could mention everyone's name but we would run out of space. But for now I want to say "Good Bye," but you will be seeing me again.

It's been a real pleasure being president of the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited. 🌸

PPTU Mentor Program Beginner's & 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 🍄

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard



Spend some time exploring the river's length and all its twists and turns.

Don't forget to try the flies-only section below Brighton Dam and not just the lures and flies section above rt. 97 and the Triadelphia Reservoir. There are miles of trout waters within 30 miles of the White House or downtown Baltimore. Once the real heat of summer is upon us, plan on being on the water at first light and finished for the day well before Noon. One may be rewarded with a nice trout on any of these waters.

I would like to thank the following folks who helped float stock our local streams this spring. Jim Arnold, Eric Bowman, Frank Bowne, Ken Bowyer, Ron Brooks, Alan Burrows, Larry Choate, Larry Coburn, Bruce Eberle, Nathan Elder, Grant Faller, Jim Flannery, Mark Gay, Dave Gerth, Steve Graves, Kathy Harding, Luke Hess, Joe Kunsman, Rob Lang, Steve Naugle, Pati Nicholson, Par Pardadoust, Diane Pennessi, Alan Pflugad, Vo Polivanov, Louis Reichel, Jim Robinson, Jay Sheppard, Bryan Sirotkin, Walt

Tingle, Dennis Tirpak, Bruce Vanseldright, Val Walters, Rich Ward, and Nick Weber. Several of these fine folks help stock two and even three times. Thanks to all. We also had a stream cleanup on the upper Patuxent on April 9. Monica Carter, Chris Hoffman and a friend, Marc Hutzell, Steve Naugle, Cathy Nutter, and Jay Sheppard were the PPTU participants. About 6 large trash bags were filled along with assorted other large chunks of debris. It takes a little effort to keep our streams clean. Thank you. 🍄

Address changes? Moved? Please keep us up to date on your addresses.

Please send any notices of corrections or change of address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of the Conservationist.

Tackle and Tactics - Jay Sheppard

May is probably our best trout fishing month in this part of the country. Our early May hatches are still mostly in the middle of the day. By the end of the month a window opens up on sunny days where there is less insect activity from late morning until late afternoon. This window continues to widen as the heat of the summer unfolds. Yes, a few terrestrials will get the attention of the trout in the middle of the day. Ants or inch worms falling from overhead vegetation will get the attention of the trout, especially on windy days.

Summer is coming. After the middle of June, we can experience some really hot days that can make trout a little shy about feeding actively in the middle of the day. So we need to plan our trips to local waters with a little more care once the air temperatures regularly go past the mid-80s.

Most aquatic insects prefer being active when the air temperatures are in the 60s and 70s. Thus, as the summer heats up each day and the middle of the day become progressively warmer, the insect activity moves away to the cooler portions of the day. Hatches now happen from before dawn to early morning, sometimes even stopping before 8:00 AM. Another insect hatching peak is from about an hour before sunset until well after dark. Should a cloudy day produce a few afternoon showers, then some mayflies and other insects will magically appear as the rain drops continue to hit the water. Otherwise, a clear sunny midday is a great time to catch a nap, grab some food or take a shower.

In the middle of a really hot and humid spell several summers ago, I arrived a few minutes before the official start time of 5:30 while it was still pitch black. By the time I got my waders on and rod rigged I could just make out the shadows of the nearby trees that lined the banks. Almost simultaneously I started hearing gulps from the unseen waters not more than 75' away. Mist was still rising from the water, as I quickly locked the car and made it over to see what was causing the commotion. Loud slurps and gulps could be heard in both directions up and down the clear water, but I could see no insects in the remaining darkness of a gray dawn.

Suddenly I looked down at my arm. There was a large flying carpenter ant crawling up it. BINGO!! I quickly tied on a reasonable imitation and soon had a fat trout in the net. This went on for nearly 2 hours. By 7:30 the flying ant hatch was all over and no trout could be seen rising anywhere. Literally ten minutes later the first fisherman I had seen that day arrived and asked as he walked over to the bank if anything was hatching? I said he was a little too late. I stayed a couple more hours hoping that some other bug might entice the fish into another feeding frenzy, but by about 9:30 it was already close to 90°. No more rising trout. I packed up and departed.

The main point for summer trout fishing is to usually avoid the middle of any sunny day. Try from before sunrise to a few hours later or again as the cool of the evening comes to the stream. If there are afternoon showers possible, then stick around and see if any activity commences with the rain drops. Have a fun summer! 🍷

QUOTE

I Fish Because

- John D. Voelker

(AKA, Robert Traver)

From Trout Magic, A Testament of a Fisherman

I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because, of the television commercials, cocktail parties, and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because, in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup tastes better out there; because maybe one day I will catch a mermaid; and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun. 🍷



Spring Stockings

On February 23 some 1300 rainbows were stocked in the upper Patuxent Special area, the flies only section below Brighton Dam and in the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia. On March 2, 2500 browns were stocked in these same three river sections. The rainbows were stocked largely under and around the bridges on the upper Pax, but were float stocked on the other two river sections. The browns were stocked almost exclusively by float boxes away from the access points. The browns were raised in spring fed ponds where they had access to natural prey...so they should know the difference between a bit of bark and a bug.

The final spring stocking on March 28 placed additional rainbows into the upper Patuxent River (above Rte. 97), Patuxent below Brighton Dam, and the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia.

Have fun this spring and thanks to all those who have helped us stock this spring! For up-to-date stocking information throughout the state, go to the Maryland DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/stocking/index.asp>.



Help To Stop

Poachers

Reminder - If you spot poaching please place a call to

Catch a Poacher Hotline at 1-800-635-6124



Early Meeting Segments

- begin at 7 pm

Tying Bench

This month we have a special treat at the bench. Bryan Kelly who is presenting our program on smallmouth bass will share one of the best lures in his fly box. The secret weapon is a pattern that is a variation of Jack Gartside's gurgler or the Gartside Gurgler. The fly is an easy to tie surface pattern that is inexpensive and a critical part of his smallmouth arsenal. Come to this early segment and have an opportunity to visit with Bryan and to see him tie a must have part of your smallmouth box for the coming summer. 🌻

Angler's Corner

Be sure and stop by the Angler's Corner and learn about the Casselman outing first hand that folks took part in April 30th – May 1st. Of equal interest will be the discussion of the annual trip to the Ken Lockwood Gorge on June 11-12 in New Jersey. Come learn about the fishing and the landscape this nearby setting has to offer on a free fishing weekend (license not required this weekend). Ken Bowyer will lead this discussion since he has made the trip several times. In addition, chat with Dennis about a favorite fishing location that may not have been tried by the outing group. Stop and talk to Ken and others about the fun expectations that this outing provides. If you can't make it to the meeting, don't hesitate to suggest a potential outing destination to Dennis at denniscover@hotmail.com. See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings. 🌻

Did You Know?

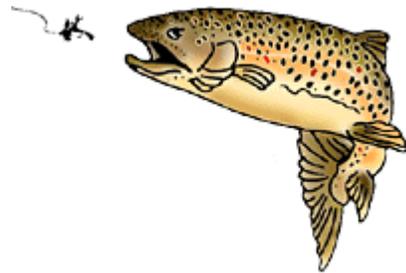
The Albert Powell Fish Hatchery currently raises a majority of the fish for Maryland's freshwater trout fishery and the DNR trout stocking program is funded entirely by the sale of

freshwater fishing licenses, trout stamps and Federal Sportfish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux) funds which are generated by anglers and boaters' tax dollars.

The Hatchery is located in Hagerstown, Maryland. Named after a former Maryland hatchery director, construction of this facility began in 1946 and was completed in 1949. This hatchery raises rainbow trout to meet various DNR goals. The hatchery receives eggs from a private supplier and raises them to fingerling size. Some of these fingerlings are stocked directly into Maryland waters at the request of Regional Biologists to enhance naturally reproducing populations. Additional fingerlings are supplied to other state culture facilities where they are grown to catchable size. The remaining fingerlings are cultured to adult size and used for put and take stocking and fishing rodeos. Approximately 10% of the fish are cultured to trophy size and stocked

throughout Maryland to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch some spectacular fish. 🐟

Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as a Microsoft Word attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication. 🐟
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