

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

September 2014 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

Kiki Galvin

**More time fishing less time with equipment.
Tips and tricks I have learned over the years.
*September 17th 2014***

Please welcome Kiki Galvin to PPTU's September meeting. Kiki is a professional guide and will share her experience and knowledge on the water with us. Kiki has fished since she was small, growing up near the Finger Lakes region of New York. Since 2002 Kiki has guided countless anglers and shared her passion for fly fishing. Kiki also worked for LL Bean as a casting instructor.

Kiki is very active in volunteering her time to others. Kiki is a member and the former President of Chesapeake Women Anglers. Since 2001, Kiki has been part of the volunteer staff of Casting for Recovery (CFR). In 2006, Kiki also became associated with Project Healing Waters at Walter Reed Medical Center and now sits on their board of directors. If that weren't enough, she is also a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers. Please join us the evening of September 17th to welcome Kiki and enjoy a very informative evening.

– Marc Hutzel

On the Bench – Bob Dietz will fascinate and amaze the crowd with his tying expertise!



msguidedflyfishing.net

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

Is it Fall yet? I seem to have lost track of time. Back to school ads are running on TV and I swore I heard children whining about curfew. I walked into Giant the other day and was greeted by a Halloween display. It seems way, way too early for this. I haven't even gotten half way through my trout stream "hit list" for the year. I must do some catching up on that one. Lots of catching up...

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some rest during a well deserved vacation period. Hopefully you got a little fishing in there as well! Me, I'm behind at work and in my fishing. I made plans to visit a dozen streams this year and I've only managed to check off three. My vacation this year may center around a mad dash in the car to all the remaining waters on my list... the LeTort, Beaverkill, Willowemoc, and Falling Spring to name a few. I hear water running in my dreams at night with the occasional splashy rise. A perfect cast to a rising trout rewards me with a strong take. I feel the tug of a good fish on my arm, only to wake up to my cat pawing at me, wanting to be fed his breakfast. I better put in for vacation.

Time is flying but I'm still trying to get over the shock of being president. Slowly but surely I'm learning the ins and outs of the job. Its starting to sink in and take hold as I make new friends and ruffle some feathers. Hopefully I'll do half as good a job for PPTU as my predecessor had done.

Time has passed too quickly this year. I'm looking at the calendar as I type this and am slowly realizing that August is about over and September will slide in making Fall a reality. September is also a reminder to many of us that the Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) is due. If you haven't done so already, now is a really good time to give back to PPTU. Your \$20 voluntary, yearly contribution helps run many of the programs and activities we set up each year for the group. It helps sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service

projects. Just recently, we held a weed whacking party at Haviland Mill to maintain the tree planting done by the Boy Scouts. Those few extra dollars in contributions went a long way in helping out with equipment rental costs. Its really not much when you think about it; \$1.60 a month, roughly 5 cents a day, or in my case two trips to Starbucks for double tall café mochas. I think I can skip a coffee or two. My waders seem a little tight anyway. Perhaps they shrunk from lack of use over the summer. Must be time to go fishing.

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell
President, PPTU



Tackle and Tips - Jay Sheppard

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

Summer is coming to an end. During the hot months most mayfly hatches have been happening right after dawn or shortly before darkness closes in after sunset. With the cooler days of September one might encounter one of the larger mayflies common in our local waters: Isonychia or lead-wing coachman. This is usually a #12 beast that inhabits fast water where it preys upon other aquatic insect larvae and nymphs. The duns will emerge from about Noon until 4 PM if the weather is just right: moderate temperatures and with a bit of light drizzle sprinkled intermittently over the day. Streams from the Potomac up into the mountains have a fair population of them. Once you find a nice piece of water with them hatching, the fish and bass will cooperate in taking any reasonable facsimile. The hatch normally starts the second week of September and lasts until the middle of October. A 'bluebird sky' day is not a day to chase this hatch. A heavy overcast must at least be present.

A little later this month or next will come the small blue-winged olives (Baetis). This mayfly also likes a misty cloudy day. The #20 duns in this area are a pale gray in color: gray ghosts. They usually make up for their small size by coming off the water in steady numbers in the afternoons. These little mayflies must be very tasty as the trout will usually not hesitate to take one off the surface, even when only a few are drifting past.



Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

One of the problems in fishing these hatches is that by this time of the year nearly every trout has been exposed to fly fishers all year long....at least on our heavily fished catch-and-release waters! Further, most waters are still in a low flow for the most part, even with the abundant rains we have had this year. So careful wading and presentations are very important. Move slowly, if and when you need to do so—a snail's pace. Time your casts to land a few feet above a steadily rising trout at about the same time he is ready for his next meal—often more than 20 seconds between rises. Use the finest tippets you think you can get away with and have a few spare flies in your box! Nymphs work well at the start of these hatches. The lead-wing coachmen are an active, swimming nymph.



Most hatches one encounters including the two mentioned above are not composed of a steady stream of insects swarming off the water. The insects seem to come in pulses. A dozen here, a few there, and then a few dozen more, often with none in sight for a few minutes or so. There can be small or even long breaks in the action of the insects. The trout respond to these breaks by taking a rest and may not rise for 5 or 10 minutes in some cases. It warns the trout and get few takes, so do not flail the water blindly during these slow times.

On some heavily fished streams, like the Savage and the Gunpowder tailwaters, one must cast the fly to land in a patch of bubbles floating down the pool. Dropping a fly in the current in a clear spot devoid of all bubbles and foam usually gets zero takes. The trout have come to know that almost all food is found only among the bubbles. So one must time the presentation to drop the fly in a patch of foam and bubbles swirling down the stream! Sorry, I do not make up these stories....only report years of observations. Good luck and enjoy our fall!

In case anyone noticed....we did not see a real drop in water temps coming from Brighton Dam at the start of August. WSSC had opened the bottom control gates on Brighton Dam at that time. However, we saw no major reduction in temperature of the water. There are all sorts of theories as to what is going on, but clearly we are not getting the cold water that is right at the bottom and in front of the dam. It looks like we are going to see a near identical temperature regime as we had last summer. Last year the release temperatures rose slowly up to the low 70s until Sept. 14 and then started almost as slowly to decline. I would hope the peak will be earlier this summer—wait and watch!

Once the water in the reservoir cools back we will do an electro shocking survey of the fishery with DNR. We will also be investigating with WSSC why we do not see any real cold water being passed through the dam. This is all very frustrating, to say the least!

I did find a few trout in the upper Patuxent special area on my couple of forays to those waters in the summer. With the excellent flow this summer, there should be a fair number of holdover stockies awaiting any adventurous fishers willing to negotiate the weedy shorelines of this small stream. The further from the roads one gets the less 'educated' the trout—BUT they are more wary! Good fishing!



One Fly Contest!!! - Trout Wrangler

Feeling lucky? PPTU is proud to announce our 9th annual One Fly Contest! Its coming up just around the corner. Mark your calendar for September 20th! Start thinking about the one fly that grants you glory; at least for the year anyway.



We typically meet around 7 am at the Masemore parking lot on the Gunpowder River. The rules are simple; the event runs from 7 am to 12 pm, designate the one fly you wish to fish and go get em', lose the fly and you're done. (but keep fishing for fun!) Whoever catches the most inches of fish (and makes it back to the parking lot on time) is the winner and gets bragging rights for the year.

As a special "bonus" this year, the winner is eligible to represent PPTU at the Casting for Recovery "2 Fly 4 Hope" event held at the Rose River Farm in Syria, Virginia. They'll be joined by last year's One Fly winner - Lou Reichel.

Fly Tying Tip - Mike Abramowitz

If you need WHITE coastal deer hair for a new pattern, try bleaching darker deer hair with Chlorox.

Try soaking a small amount of the deer, elk or moose hair in a 50% mixture of water and Chlorox, and a 2nd batch with 100% Chlorox. It may need to soak for a few hours. Then thoroughly wash to get rid of the Chlorox smell.

If you have access to swimming pool "Shock Powder", this may work as well or try using OXY CLEAN (oxidizing bleach) from the laundry room. About 2 teaspoons to half cup water is a good start.

Note of Thanks - Rosemary Robinson

Dear PPTU Friends, Thank you for the lovely flowers; the printed banner was saved and is still on Jim's grave. The special edition of the newsletter was a very thoughtful tribute to Jim and his work for PPTU.

I am so overwhelmed by the cards, letters, and many expressions of sympathy that I have received from so many of you.

We all enjoyed meeting "the fishing people" and hearing the wonderful stories and kind words. It is clear why Jim loved the organization so much.

Love,
Rosemary, Sara & James

"Save the Bay" Fun Shoot - Jim Crowell

The Damascus chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is having its "Save the Bay" fun shoot on **October 19th** at the chapter's shotgun ranges in Damascus. Once again the proceeds from this shoot will go to PPTU to help support our conservation and education programs. The cost will be \$30 for a couple of rounds of trap and/or skeet and you get lunch and a cap as well.

The shoot is open to the public and I would like to encourage as many PPTU members as possible to participate. It not only helps our chapter but demonstrates our appreciation to the Damascus IWLA. Additional details will be posted on the chapter website as the event nears but save the date now and come join the fun.





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!

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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Engraved Reel Seat
by W.S. "Bill" Oyster



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