

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

April 2022 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

# “Fly Fishing for Bowfin & Snakeheads” with Grant Alvis

*Apr 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00PM*

In conjunction with NCC-TU, our virtual speaker for April will be Richmond-based fly fishing personality Grant Alvis. Grant has a national following as a fly-fishing expert for bowfin, snakehead, redfish, and many other species as well as setting up and using kayaks for fly fishing. When not on the water, Grant is a prolific fly tyer with many of his instructional videos found online on Youtube and other places.

Grant can be seen on social media ([https://www.instagram.com/grantalvis\\_flyfinatic/](https://www.instagram.com/grantalvis_flyfinatic/)), the Nor-Vise channel on YouTube (Grant Alvis Talking & Tying Northern Snakehead Flies), and on TV shows such as Meateater on Netflix. Grant has had many articles and interviews published in sources like Fly Fisherman magazine, and he can be heard in guest appearances on many fly-fishing podcasts.

– *Karan Singh*



(Photo courtesy of Grant Alvis)

### Monthly Chapter Meetings – Virtual Until Further Notice

Time and Day: 7:00 PM unless a new time is stated, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December

#### Virtual Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84770722030?pwd=b3l3MytRdUY5TVg3Uy9wM25JWWt1QT09>

Visit our website: [www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

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### Contact Us:

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## Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



I don't know about you, but I'm ready for spring! My passion for fishing is what drew me to PPTU but as you know we are much more than just a fishing club. The older I get, the more I appreciate the natural wonders and the beauty nature has to offer. Sure, our National Parks and the scenery out west (and many other states) is just breath taking but we have some beautiful spots right here in our own backyard. If it wasn't for the hard work of our PPTU volunteers and other organizations in the mid-Atlantic region, we might not have as many beautiful places to fish, hike or enjoy visiting. I wanted to personally thank one of our members who has been instrumental in our conservation efforts, Pete Yarrington. His technical expertise, patience and professionalism has been so valuable to PPTU's conservation efforts. Pete has spent many countless hours volunteering on our behalf and as a result we will all benefit from his dedication for years to come. The next time you see Pete, please thank him for all he has done to help preserve the beauty and watersheds that so many of us enjoy!

As I mentioned, I am ready for spring and the upcoming fishing season! I was speaking with a chapter member recently and I realized how excited I get just planning an upcoming fishing trip, the adventure with exploring a new body of water or spending time trying to improve my fishing skills. For me, 2022 is all about improving my dry fly fishing. I am committing to becoming a better dry fly fisher, even if I don't catch as many fish. I would consider myself a decent dry fly fisher but not an expert by any means. Maybe "perfecting" dry fly fishing is a stretch, but it helps give me purpose and a mission.



I've already been reading about new dry fly streams to explore and articles about dry fly techniques. My interest has influenced what fly patterns I've been tying, developing new leader systems to try and even helped me justify why I need to purchase of a new fly rod that is better suited for dry fly fishing. The next step in my pursuit of becoming better at dry fly fishing is tracking down our very own PPTU dry fly gurus... feel free to call me at your convenience. I hope you are as excited as I am about getting out on the stream, exploring new waters or simply becoming a better fisher. Enjoy the beauty nature has to offer and hopefully I'll see you on the water soon.

Joe Taylor  
President, PPTU



## PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

PPTU 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. all on 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 us by e-mail: [mentor@pptu.org](mailto:mentor@pptu.org)

## Matching the Hatch - Jay Sheppard

One does not need to know the Latin name of any bug—the trout do not know them either. It is really fairly simple if you can get a close look at the bug(s)

fluttering on the water. There are four basic groups of aquatic insects that trout see regularly and love to eat: mayflies, caddisflies, midges, and stoneflies. There are also the terrestrials that often fall into the stream: ants, caterpillars, beetles, and hoppers (incl. crickets) are the most common in warmer months.

Mayflies at rest hold their wings together and upright over the body, which sports two or three long tails. Midges are relatives of the mosquitos and look like tiny, non-biting versions. Caddis at rest hold their wings over the body like a pup tent; they have long antennae but no tails. Stoneflies at rest hold their wings flat across the top of the body; they usually have two short tail projections.

If one can use a fine mesh net to lift a bug off the water surface....or it lands on you...take a close look at its size and overall colors--body and wings. I often use a small pair of waterproof binoculars to look at insects too far away for me to catch. Match for size first and then color as much as possible. One may have to fine tune the size or color selection criteria, but you should get some hits if you made a reasonable selection from your fly box. Go fish!!

## Shake-n-Bake Fly Dressing - Will Sands

No, we're not talking about chicken, but the preparation is similar. Joe Taylor brought up trying to "up" his dry fly game this year. Will Sands from the Taylor Creek Fly Shop in Colorado has an interesting method of dressing his flies before he starts fishing. He claims it keeps them riding high and dry for a longer period of time. Something worth checking out the next time you're getting ready to lay a dry fly out on the water.

Will Sands shows me how he dresses his fly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cdaanXfZxc&t=127s>



Taylor Creek Fly Shop

<https://taylorcreek.com/>





If you spot poaching please call or text:

## Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers

At  
443-433-4112



*Add this number to your cell phone contact list!*



## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

PPTU members and friends helped stock 1800 rainbows on March 9 in our three local waters: upper Patuxent River, Brighton Dam tailwater on Patuxent River, and the Middle Patuxent River in south Columbia. Many of these trout were respectable 12–16". Nice fish! On March 4 the upper Patuxent and the Middle Patuxent received 1000 and 400 brown trout, respectively. Many of those browns were in the 13”-16” size range with a couple exceeding that! Really nice fish!

The rainbows were directly stocked at the rt 94/Annapolis Rock, Hipsley Mill, and Howard Chapel bridges on the upper Patuxent--no float stocking away from bridges. So these spots would be great for taking youngsters and other neophytes to fly fishing. This portion of the river is all catch and release, flies and lures only. The browns were float stocked away from those same bridges.



The flies-only section of the river below Brighton Dam starts a hundred yards below the pipeline crossing of the river which is about 400 yd below the dam itself. This regulation goes down to the Mink Hollow bridge. There is a private property owner below the mouth of the Hawlings that has posted his land, so avoid that section. There is currently limited public parking at Haviland Mill below the dam. The county park parking lot has construction ongoing...and the landowner across from that lot has posted his property to no parking there either. He does not mind fishers crossing the 50–75 yards of his land to get to the river trail going upstream, but NO CARS.



So...the only parking available to the public are two tiny spots. One is a short ramp near the Hawlings bridge on the road...one car only. The other is just next to the Haviland Mill bridge over the Patuxent on the Montgomery Co end of the bridge. Three cars can easily fit in there but one will be boxed in by another. This is state park land. The owner of the large open field south and west of this lot allows fishers to walk across his field...no problem, but NO PARKING in the field itself.

Another 225 rainbows were float-stocked from Eden Brook downstream for about a mile by another of our intrepid crews. This is a delayed harvest regulation stream (no kill, flies and lures only until June 1 when 2/day and bait rules apply). We did float stock 400 nice brown trout on March 4.

The trout in both the Brighton tailwater and in the delayed harvest section of the Middle Pax will likely be gone by the end of May or early June. The former because of water quality issues (lack of dissolved oxygen) and the latter because of rising water temps and lowered flows.

## **American Museum of Fly Fishing 2021 Heritage Award Event Honoring Johnny Morris - Bob O'Donnell**

The Silent Auction for the Heritage Award Event Honoring Johnny Morris is now open.

Only two weeks to go before folks gather in Springfield, Missouri for the grand opening of the new AMFF gallery at the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium and the Heritage Award Honoring Johnny Morris.

The silent auction for bids is open now with loads of cool prizes, some high ticket items. Select the link below to browse auction items and experiences.

Proxy bids may be placed on live auction items by contacting [spitcher@amff.org](mailto:spitcher@amff.org) or text 802.375.4386. Bids will be accepted until 5PM CST on 4/7/22

[https://e.givesmart.com/events/pqo/?mc\\_cid=b113712947&mc\\_eid=b688bef123](https://e.givesmart.com/events/pqo/?mc_cid=b113712947&mc_eid=b688bef123)

You can also tune in to a Facebook streaming of the awards ceremony on the museum's Facebook page at 9PM EST.

[https://www.facebook.com/americanmuseumofflyfishing?mc\\_cid=b113712947&mc\\_eid=b688bef123](https://www.facebook.com/americanmuseumofflyfishing?mc_cid=b113712947&mc_eid=b688bef123)

## **Fly Fishing 101 Clinic – Thank You! - Bob O'Donnell**

Members of PPTU and the Chesapeake Women Anglers (CWA) completed a fly fishing 101 class this past Saturday. The event had a good draw and every student had a good time and was anxious to learn more and continue their fly fishing journey.

Many thanks to the PPTU volunteers that showed up and assisted in the class, including casting instruction and fly tying demonstration.

Thanks to Joe Taylor, Alan Burrows, Craig Vanderkolk, Lou Reichel, and Randy Dwyer for assisting that day. Additional thanks to CWA for inviting us to participate and the staff at the visitor's center for their welcome and support.

If you've never been to the facility you should plan a trip. The Wildlife Visitor Center is a

wonderful family friendly place offering plenty to do and providing interesting educational programs.

## **National Wildlife Visitor Center/Patuxent Research Refuge**

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research>



## **High Rate of Tick-Borne Disease Measured in Centre County - Bob Kaiser**

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection this month reported extremely high rates of deer tick virus at Fisherman's Paradise, a spot known for its high concentration of wild brown trout and nearby beautiful hiking trails. On the east bank of Spring Creek near Bellefonte, more than 80% of ticks carried the virus.

<https://www.statecollege.com/high-rate-of-tick-borne-disease-measured-in-centre-county/>

"Anglers and boaters should take note of this warning as they make plans for the start of trout season and other adventures on the water this spring," Tim Schaeffer, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission executive director," said in a statement. "Just as we urge boaters to always wear a life jacket, you can further protect yourself by wearing tick repellent clothing or keeping a bottle of tick repellent spray in your tackle box."





## Two Dry Flies - Bob O'Donnell

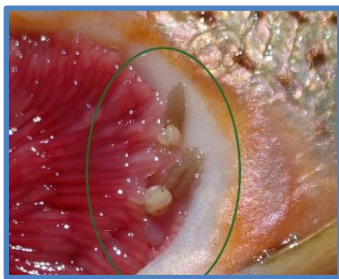
In keeping with Joe Taylor's opening comment on uping his dry fly game this year I thought I would share this tip.

When fish are feeding on very small flies, it can be difficult to see your tiny imitation on the water. In such situations, tie on a big, bushy dry fly, and then add the smaller dry fly on a 12-18" dropper. That way, the big fly serves as a locator and strike indicator — when a fish hits the size 22 fly, the big ol' size 10-12 fly will move or disappear. Also, striking at any rise close to your indicator fly is a good idea. If you know exactly which flies the fish are hitting, you can simply tie on two of the same pattern, thus doubling your chances of a strike. The two-fly rig also helps when you're trying to figure out which patterns work. You can test-cast twice as many patterns this way. Additionally, you could get lucky and hook up on a double!

## Gill Lice Detected in Rainbow Trout in Virginia - Virginia DWR

Fisheries biologists with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) recently identified gill lice on rainbow trout in Blue Springs Creek, a tributary to Cripple Creek, located in Smyth and Wythe Counties.

Learn more about gill lice, the steps DWR are taking, and what anglers can do to help stop the spread.



[https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/gill-lice/?utm\\_source=mailchimp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nftf&utm\\_content=gill\\_lice](https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/gill-lice/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nftf&utm_content=gill_lice)

*Note: If you notice gill lice on any of the trout you encounter here in Maryland please take a photo and inform MD DNR.*

## Lost Camera Hack - Val Spring

Recently, one of our members thought they had lost their camera while out fishing. Fortunately, the camera had slid underneath the seat of the car. We

got many comments, including a great tip provided by Val Spring. Thanks Val!

Val's tip:

A "life hack" as my boys like to call it...a "tip" for us older generation, is to write your contact information on a large piece of paper (use a large marker with large font) then take a picture of it.

That way, if someone finds your camera and looks through the photos, they'll come across the picture with your contact information.

## Welcome Back on the Water - WSSC

On March 15th boating and fishing on the reservoirs resumed. Gates open 1/2 hour before sunrise. If you arrive and a gate is not open please call our Police at 301-206-8888.

A sediment removal project on Triadelphia Reservoir is tentatively scheduled for mid-May through October. During that time, all boat ramps on Triadelphia reservoir will be closed and no boating will be allowed. Additionally, the Greenbridge and Pig Tail recreational areas will be closed to ensure public safety due to the construction activity. All other recreation areas on Triadelphia Reservoir will remain open for hiking, picnicking and shoreline fishing. All boat ramps and recreation areas on T. Howard Duckett Reservoir will remain open, conditions permitting. We will update users on closure dates.

Our watershed team has been working to ensure the recreation areas and trails are well maintained but with recent storms and high winds trees may have come down. if you notice downed trees or other maintenance needs contact the Brighton Dam Visitor Center at 301-206-7485.

Permits can be purchased online or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center or WSSC Water's headquarters.

Details on how to purchase a permit are available here - <https://www.wsscwater.com/watershed>

All boat mooring permits must be purchased in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center.

If you have any questions please contact [Watershedrec@WSSCWater.com](mailto:Watershedrec@WSSCWater.com)



**Members Catch  
- Bob O'Donnell**

Start posting more pictures! Our outings are coming up and locally, fish have been stocked and are just waiting to have their picture taken with you.





## Contributions Welcome!

Send your contributions or article suggestions to the Editor 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: Bob O'Donnell**

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## Classic Podcast: Twelve Tips on Fishing Hatches that Might Surprise You

Its getting close enough to start thinking about hatches. We're all counting the days until the big fly hatches begin. Time to get ready to fish those dry flies!

Keeping the theme going from Joe Taylor's president's column, this seemed appropriate to revisit.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-twelve-tips-fishing-hatches-might-surprise>



Return Address:  
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU  
P.O. Box 2865  
Wheaton, MD 20915