

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Apr 2023 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## “The Work of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay” Guest Speaker: Kate Fritz, CEO of the Alliance April 19th, 2023

Our April guest speaker will visit us virtually to tell us about the important work that her organization, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/>), does to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed. With offices in Maryland, Virginia, DC, and Pennsylvania, the ACB is a collaborative, inclusive, and data-driven organization that has sponsored many efforts such as reforestations, stream cleanup events, and agricultural management partnerships, while also itself receiving grants to help it further these works.

This past December, the Alliance was awarded about \$4,049,092 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help protect the Bay, across nine individual awards. The funding will allow for innovative clean water solutions through the Alliance's Forests, Agriculture, Green Infrastructure, and Stewardship and Engagement programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, Delaware, West Virginia, and New York. In addition to the \$4 million received through the NFWF awards, the Alliance brings \$4,729,901 million in matching funds from state, corporate, and foundations, plus community-sourced cost-share and in-kind services, to help the Bay. Come on out to learn more about these important Alliance initiatives, and how you may help!



**About the Alliance:** In 1971, a group of concerned citizens, representing business, agriculture, conservation, academia, and government began gathering to discuss the declining “state of the Bay” and a lack of political commitment to address it. Fifty years later, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is one of the oldest and well-respected non-profits working throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Alliance brings together communities, companies, and conservationists to improve our lands and waters. We envision clean streams and rivers flowing through resilient landscapes, cared for by the people who live, work, and play in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Alliance's focus areas are: forest management (1M+ trees planted), agricultural best practices (141 farms supported), green infrastructure improvements (\$10M of stormwater management installations), and environmental stewardship & civic engagement (over 700 community scientists are monitoring water quality).

### About Kate:

Kate's interest in the Chesapeake Bay extends beyond her love of kayaking and fishing, and has led her to many volunteer opportunities locally. She is a certified Master Watershed Steward, and was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WAS). As a believer in the linked nature of the environment and social issues, Kate has been an active leader with Anne Arundel Women's Giving Together, a women's giving circle, focused on women and family issues locally.

– *Karan Singh* [singhkaranr@yahoo.com](mailto:singhkaranr@yahoo.com)

### April 19<sup>th</sup> Virtual Chapter Meeting

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday of the month except June, July, August and December

**Virtual Chapter Meeting Link:**

[Join Us Virtually!](#)

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

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## Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



### Guest Column for April's President's Column

PPTU President, Joe Taylor, is up to his neck with alligators so I agreed to put pen to paper for the April President's Column. I'll use this space to look back on March and ahead to our April activities. Then for fun, I plan to reach back into the PPTU archives and share some thoughts from previous PPTU Presidents during this time of year.

First, a big thank you to Mike Sleplesky, <https://www.tightliningmd.com/> for his thoughtful and informative presentation to our March chapter meeting. Mike generated a lot of questions, and we appreciate him sharing his knowledge. Karan Singh is our Speakers Coordinator and does an excellent job of finding top-notch speakers/topics. If you have an idea or topic for a future meeting, just let Karan know. He has lined up Katie Fritz, CEO of [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) to speak this month. Our intrepid Outings Coordinator, Lou Reichel, has kept everyone busy this spring with trips to Yellow Creek in PA and then to the Patuxent River in our own backyard. Next is the Annual "One Fly Contest" and Lou is promising to mix things up a bit, so be on the lookout for his Outing updates.

A HUGE thank you to Jay Sheppard and the many PPTU members who helped DNR with the spring trout stocking. This is a tremendous undertaking across the state and provides wonderful memories to many [children who catch their very first fish](#).

And speaking of children, Alan Burrows and Chuck Dinkel lead the largest Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program in the country. They work with nearly a hundred science teachers and thousands of wide-eyed middle school students who raise fingerlings in their classrooms. Volunteers are needed now and in May to assist with releases. Please volunteer, it'll create lifelong memories for everyone.

Members are also encouraged to come out for our Social Gatherings at local microbreweries. The next one is planned for Jailbreak Brewery in Laurel. Come by and meet some fellow members! With warmer weather PPTU Mentoring Coordinator, Ray Miller, is receiving lots of requests for streamside

instruction. Thank you, Ray, and the mentors who give so willingly of their time.

And now it's time to reach back into the history vault, dust off some old April Conservationist columns and let the tomes see the light of day once again. [You can find each of these clips and others here.](#)

**April 2003**, PPTU President Dave Piske: As this new season of the ICC saga unfolds, we need to be looking forward to again actively advocating protection of the environment in and near the alignment of the proposed ICC. The wildlife that lives there, including the trout in the Paint Branch and its trout-rearing tributaries, can't speak or write.

**April 2006**, PPTU President Nick Weber: I even went south to catch a Quill Gordon hatch on the Davidson River in North Carolina with my son. Although most fish were caught on the nearby North Mills River, the best part was being on those streams with my son, and to enjoy seeing him catch trout and sharing those joys over dinner and the drive back to Chapel Hill.

**April 2008**, PPTU President Bob Dietz: By the time you read this, forsythia or even violets may be in bloom. What's this got to do with trout? There's a pretty good correlation between what's in bloom and what hatches you can expect to see on the water. That's the thesis behind a little book you may have seen called Trout Flies & Flowers, by Ivan Mahoney. I picked up a copy just after it was published about 10 years ago and must say it has been more reliable than just saying, for example, that Hendricksons come off the Gunpowder around April 12.

And finally, **April 2010**, PPTU President Larry Vawter: I came upon my New Year resolutions just the other day. They were buried under other important papers. As I scanned the list, I came across item number 4 - Take a Kid Fishing. Now this is a great reason to get out of the house for a couple of hours.

Tight lines to all,

Randy Dwyer  
Immediate Past 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.

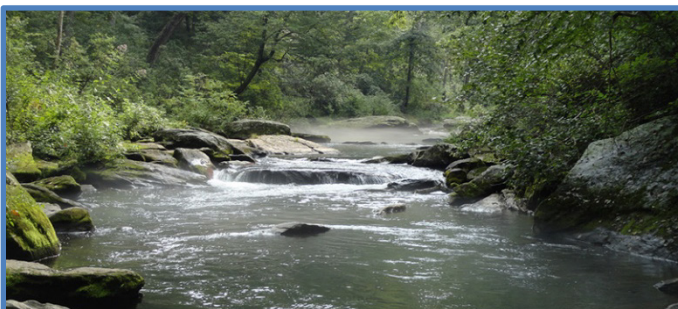
Contact us by e-mail: [mentor@pptu.org](mailto:mentor@pptu.org)



## A River Reborn - Robert Kaiser

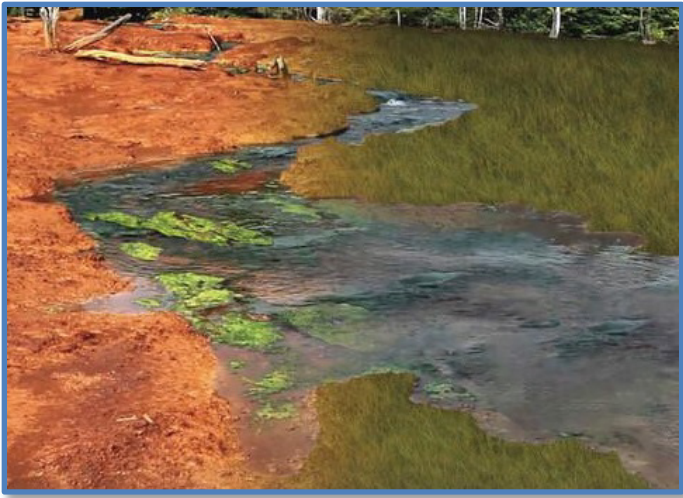
For those that missed it, this interesting film highlights the damage left by the legacy coal mines in Pennsylvania and how amazing it is to see it turned around, hence the title - A River Reborn.

As the Little Conemaugh River winds through the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania, it forms the backbone of a region with a legacy of industrial might. And like a scribe, the river carries the weight of that history - mile after mile devoid of life, poisoned by toxic pollution from countless abandoned coal mines. Generations of residents and neighbors have turned their back on the river, believing the damage to be irreversible and scolding their children for playing in its orange waters. But a decade-long effort from a coalition of local groups has begun to reveal a different future for the Little Conemaugh and for other rivers in Pennsylvania and





beyond. A River Reborn tells the story of the rebirth of the Little Conemaugh, and what it says about our ability to fix what might have been lost forever.



Watch the film: [A River Reborn](#)

To tell Congress to help clean up the damage left by legacy coal mines in Pennsylvania, visit: <https://pennenvironment.webaction.org>

## Trout Stockings - Maryland DNR

Just a few of the recent stockings by Maryland DNR crews. Hook up with some of your PPTU friends and go check these places out and report back to us on line!

### Allegany County

Flintstone Creek: brown, golden, and rainbow trout

### Garrett County

Youghiogheny River (Friendsville): brown, golden, and rainbow trout

Youghiogheny River (Oakland): brown, golden, and rainbow trout

### Washington County

Antietam Creek: golden and rainbow trout

Little Tonoloway Creek (youth and blind): golden and rainbow trout



## Pro Tips: Spring Tactics on the Gunpowder River - Marc Hutzell (Orvis post)

Orvis showed a little love to our area by featuring an article by Bryan Donoway, [Flies in Disguise](#)

The Gunpowder River in Maryland comes alive during spring, as warming daytime temperatures boost insect activity, motivating wild browns to stir from their winter slumber and begin packing on the pounds. By the time the frogs are chirping their nightly serenades in March, anglers should be ready to take advantage of the early-season action here.

Byran Donoway is owner/operator of Flies in Disguise in Jarrettsville, MD.

[Check the article out!](#)



*"Often I have been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, briar scarred, sunburned, mosquito bitten, but never with a fly rod in my hand, have I been unhappy."*

~ Charles Kuralt

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!*



## Introducing the World's First Truly Affordable Bamboo Fly Rod - Phil Monahan - Orvis

Orvis has been making fine bamboo fly rods for almost 150 years, and even in today's high-tech world, these angling tools are prized as the ultimate in craftsmanship. For many fly fishers, their first split-cane rod is a sign that they have achieved a high level of proficiency and acquired a finer appreciation for the tools of the trade.

There's just one problem: Because creating a bamboo fly rod requires rare skill, materials from overseas, specialized equipment, and hundreds of hours of the rodmaker's time, the finished product can be quite expensive. Many fly fishers—no matter how proficient—are simply priced out of the bamboo market. Until now.

Introducing the Orvis HG Bamboo Fly Rod! A triumph of science and craftsmanship, this new rod puts bamboo within reach of every angler, and it makes a great project for the whole family to enjoy. The HG is for "home grown," because you actually start with a seed and grow a complete bamboo fly rod from scratch. [Watch the video!](#)



## MDTU City Catch Event - Volunteers Needed - MDTU

MDTU Members and Friends,

Spring is here, and it's almost time to celebrate with our annual City Catch youth fishing event!

We are still in need of volunteers, so please consider joining, and invite a friend or two. No special expertise required, just basic spin fishing skills. Thanks to those who have already signed up!

On Friday, April 14th we will be stocking 800 rainbow trout in Dead Run in Leakin Park. On Saturday, April 15th a group of kids from Baltimore City Rec Centers will arrive at around 9:00am to enjoy a morning of fishing with the help of our volunteers.

Each child receives a free spinning rod and reel, and bobbers, hooks, and bait are supplied too. Everyone has a great time. Lunch is served for all, and the event is generally over by 1:00pm. Please join us for this fun Saturday morning and help bring joy to a group of youngsters.

[Sing up to volunteer!](#)

## Fly Fishing 101 Class Success - PPTU & CWA

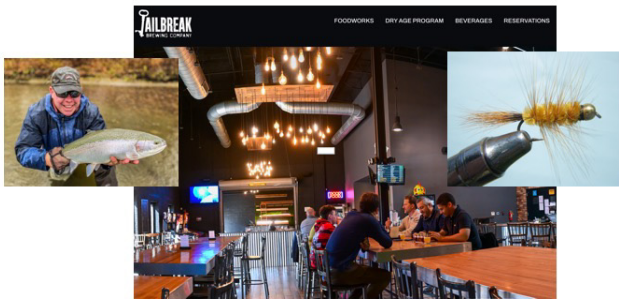
Many thanks to all the volunteers that stepped up to help make the Chesapeake Women Anglers FF101 event a success this year. From the good feedback received it sounds like a lot of fun was had by all.



## April Social Outing – April 11th - Craig Vander Kolk

Join us at Jailbreak Brewing Company, Tuesday April 11 from 6:00 to 9:00pm. Share the latest fly you tied, the fish you caught or the story of the one that got away.





### Jailbreak Brewing Company

9445 Washington Blvd N Ste F  
Laurel, MD 20723

### 2023 Fly Fishing Film Tour – April 27th - PPTU

The Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming to the heart of the Chesapeake Bay - Annapolis, MD! Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. We are doing this to benefit Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing!

Doors open at 5:30p.m. with great food, local beer, swag & prizes! The show begins promptly at 7:00p.m. The 17th annual [FLY FISHING FILM TOUR \(F3T\)](#) presented by Costa, YETI and Simms is back in action and hitting the road with a top notch selection of short films that are sure to get you fired up for the season ahead.



The 2023 show will feature locations from Cuba to Patagonia, Mexico to Australia, Alaska, Wyoming, the Deep South, Massachusetts and beyond. Experience the achievement of a permit slam, follow the journey of one boy from Mexico to the waters of Wyoming, explore the best international waters and compete for the legendary belt buckle. Join us for a journey of adventure, friendship and the best fly fishing action.

### PPTU One Fly Contest – April 15th - Lou Reichel

The PPTU One Fly Contest will be held on Saturday, April 15 on the Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore County, MD, from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Please meet early, at least by 12:15 pm so there is time to register your winning fly before the start time of 12:30 pm.

All new members and new to fly fishing are welcomed. The Gunpowder is a Catch & Release stream and Md Fishing and Trout Stamp is required.

Meet at Bunker Hill (south) parking area for registration of your fly with the PPTU Outings Coordinator, Lou. We need the name of fly and size of hook. Once the fly is registered, photographed, weighed, and measured, you're off to your favorite spot. Must return no later than 4:30 pm to register your catch report requiring number and total inches of trout.

The Winner has the most total inches of trout and bragging rights to PPTU for 2023!



### Fly Shop Spotlight – Backwater Angler - PPTU

The Backwater Angler Celebrates 22 Years!

Backwater Angler is a full service fly shop thirty-five minutes from downtown Baltimore, Maryland and steps from the Gunpowder River. Backwater Angler is proud to offer a top-notch fly fishing guide service that specializes in the pursuit of wild brown trout.

<https://backwaterangler.com/>

The fly shop is located at 16829 York Rd. Monkton, MD 21111.

Shop hours are:

10 AM till 3 PM Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and the shop is closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

On March 1 our stalwart volunteers float stocked about 1500 healthy brown trout into the upper Pax special area and into the flies only section below Brighton Dam. All reports were of very nice trout, some over 15"! Then a week later on March 8, the same number of rainbows were stocked in the same waters, as well as the Middle Patuxent River delayed harvest section in south Columbia.

The trout in the upper mainstem were stocked between rt 94 and Howard Chapel. None of the browns were intentionally dropped at the bridges, A short hike should get you to their initial stocking points. A couple hundred rainbows were dropped at each of the bridges.

There is a great cleared trail going upstream on the Howard Co. side of the Patuxent tailwater from Haviland Mill Road. Just park in the large county park lots just north of the bridge. There is a zig-zag trail along the Montgomery Co. side going downstream from the bridge and the small parking spaces there. Fishermen are allowed to walk cross the big meadow downstream of the bridge, courtesy of the owner, Sam Haviland. Please Note: this a NO PARKING area! At the downstream end of the meadow he has a ramp going down to a ford--easy access for fishers.



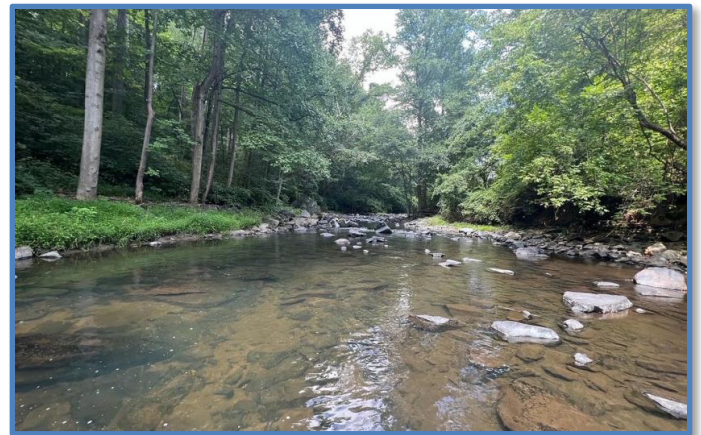
Thanks to all who helped stock on March 1:

Dave Astin, Mike Bovitch, Ernie Branson, Ron Briggs, Ian Gifford, Brian Hepler, Bob Kaiser, Ron Kerrick, Ray Miller, Richard Moore, Steve Naugle, Peter Schuler, Steve Shaw, Don Vance, Edwin Waleryszak, and Bob Zukowski.

Stocking on March 8 was provided by:

Bob Bokulic, Ernie Branson, Ron Briggs, Jim Flynn, Mike Frey, Ron Kerrick, Jim Senker, and Jay Sheppard. Alan Burrows assisted.

THANX, guys! Job well done!



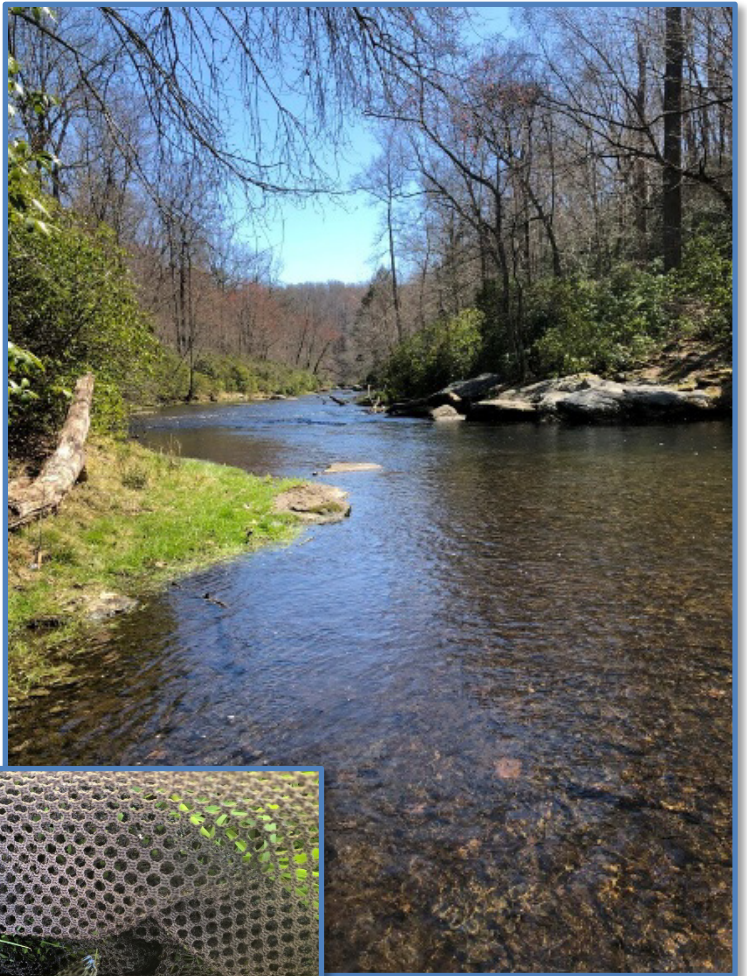
Many ask why so few trout are now being stocked in the Middle Patuxent these days. We are phasing out stockings on this lovely stream. The big issue is the continued development in the watershed. Impervious surfaces are increasing, which sends rain water going into the upper tribs quicker and in higher volumes. The watershed sits on an ancient sand pile from millions of years ago or so. Sand is bad for trout--little food produced for them. The siltation of the few large holes is the result. Not likely that development will slow or heal the runoff situation. To say we have been sand bagged into this problem...might be closer to the truth! Over the past few years we have seen virtually no trout after a week. Where they go is unknown, but they clearly do not find the delayed harvest section suitable. Stockings are no longer providing any meaningful recreational benefits to fishers after several days. Sad!

This is one of the reasons I have been pushing the Brighton tailwater fishery for the past decade. Until this year we had a problem with the turbines in the dam. When running, the water released gained no oxygen in the process. In summer we wanted to release the cold water at the bottom of Triadelphia Reservoir, but that cold water had almost no oxygen. Trout could not survive at that low level of oxygen, so we had no holdover trout. Now the hydro owner is no longer running the turbines, at least not in the summer. So we hope to see the trout surviving all summer below Brighton Dam. Fingers crossed!



**Members Catch  
- Bob O'Donnell**

Lots of nice looking shots here! Glad to see our members out and about soaking in the fun.





## Contributions & Questions Welcome!

Send your contributions, article suggestions or fly fishing questions to the Editor in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is typically the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

**Editor: Bob O'Donnell**

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



## Sulphur Dun

Its probably not too soon to be thinking about lining your fly boxes with some Sulphur patterns. Our friend Matt O'Neal of Savage Flies has a nice video showing and discussing a dun pattern.

One of many sulphur dun mayfly patterns, this one was created by George Harvey of Pennsylvania. Vary the body slightly to match the sulphurs in your area-- from pale yellow to a slightly more orange.

[Sulphur Dun](#)



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