

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

# “Tight Line Nymphing for Trout”

## Guest Speaker: Mike Slepesky of Tight Lining MD

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Our Greetings, PPTU! Our March meeting will be both virtual-only and on a later-than-usual Wednesday (Mar 22nd). We will be joined by Mike Slepesky, a Maryland fly fishing instructor and guide ([Tight Lining MD](#), also on Youtube), who will be speaking about his recommended setups and tactics for trout fishing using the seriously effective fishing technique known as tight lining or Euro nymphing. Mike will talk about a range of goodies like rod and reel selection, leaders, flies, and how to get the best dead drift. Be sure to mark your calendars and come prepared to learn a ton of new info!

**About Mike:** Mike Slepesky is a husband, father, teacher, and fly fishing fanatic. Since his first fish caught on the Gunpowder River, he has been hooked and fishes regularly in a variety of local streams and rivers.

In 2018, Mike turned his hobby into an educational opportunity. He created the YouTube Channel "Tight Lining MD", which has grown to have more than 3,000 followers and over 150,000 views. In that time, he has shared tips, tricks, and techniques to help those who watch his videos.

This determination and passion to educate naturally led him to guiding. With over 8 years of experience fly fishing, and likely thousands of hours spent on the water trying new techniques, it is now time to share that knowledge more personally with people on the waters. The goal of Mike's guide service is to help people learn more about the wonderful world of fly fishing, show them new water, or a new way to approach it, as well as hopefully land a few fish.



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

### March 22<sup>nd</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



Oh boy...it won't be long now! I don't know about you, but it's been a tough winter season for me. When I did get out to fish, there hasn't been a lot of catching. I'm always amazed when I encounter decent insect activity (like little stoneflies) on the water but notice how there is practically no response from the fish. I'm sure there are some members who can explain what's going on in great detail, but I am always perplexed when I experience it on the water. Why after a long winter, a fish wouldn't be in more of a feeding frenzy mood? At least for me, it's been just the opposite. I totally understand that the water is still cold, so the fish aren't interested in expending much energy to eat but it's still frustrating. I guess there are just some things that will never change.

On a more positive note, I wanted to take time to recognize one of our members who has done so much for PPTU it's hard to put into words. Over the last several weeks, his contributions have been truly unbelievable. He has gone so far above and beyond what anyone could expect from any of our chapter's members. I really can't put his contributions into words, it's been just amazing! For the most part, volunteering for PPTU roles isn't very time consuming but, in this situation, Bob Kaiser countless hours helping PPTU catch up with some outstanding challenges we have been facing. Honestly, if it wasn't for Bob, I don't know what I would have done. His dedication to our chapter has been nothing short of inspirational. We have been relying on Bob's experience and expertise for many years and I'm grateful he's still willing to help out our chapter. The next time you see Bob, please take a moment to personally thank him for all the work he has been doing on our behalf. Bob, I personally want to thank you for everything you have and will continue doing for PPTU!

Before I sign off, I would encourage every member to take a few minutes to consider helping the chapter out as a co-chair on one of the committees, maybe becoming the Treasurer or volunteering in any capacity you can. We have been relying on a handful of members for years to carry the workload for PPTU and we have all benefited tremendously. It's now time to bring on some new members to help out. As folks transition from one role to another or need to step aside for whatever reason, we are left

with a gaping hole to fill. With co-chairs, these transitions become much easier to manage. It's critically important that we pass on the knowledge from one member to another in order to maintain such a strong chapter. Thanks in advance for your consideration, the entire chapter will benefit from your support. So, until next time enjoy the warmer weather and best of luck on the water.

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)



## TIC Needs You! - Alan Burrows

Yes you! TIC desperately needs your help to successfully do these releases field days and complete the program for almost 1000 students who are the future of our chapter and organization. PPTU supports Trout in the Classroom (TIC) in Montgomery County (12 schools) Howard County (5 Schools) and one school each in Charles County, Anne Arundel County and Prince Georges County. A total of twenty schools with some having multiple release events. That means 40 – 60 volunteer assignments that need to be filled. Each of the releases will have a seasoned coordinator at the release so if you are a first time volunteer you won't be thrown to the wolves. The releases start at about 9 am and last until 1 pm.



Where do these events happen? Most schools will bring a bus load of students to the release site. For Montgomery County most will use Little Seneca creek. Howard County will use the Middle Patuxent at Eden Brook Road and Southern Maryland will use either the Little Patuxent at Savage Mill or the Middle Patuxent.

What happens at a release event? Most schools will have 5 or 6 stations and divide the students into the same number of groups. Each group will rotate through the stations. Each rotation lasts about 20 to 30 minutes.

One of the stations will be the actual fish release. Typically manned by a parent or teacher, the students will release one or more fish into the creek. It's fun to watch and often the students have named many of the fish.

A second station will often do water testing. Since they have been doing daily or weekly water testing on their tank, they can compare the tank values with the stream values. Again, this station is usually managed by a teacher.

A third station might be conducting a stream survey to find and identify macro-invertebrates in the stream. The students, many of whom have never seen a real stream, get a real kick out of wading and turning over rocks. This station might be manned by a teacher, or a volunteer from TU or the Audubon



Naturalist Society. We provide magnification devices and ID cards so you do not need to be an expert here. Trust me you know more about macros than they do!



Since these students usually have lots of energy, we often have a station with some kind of game managed by a parent or two. In Howard County a Park ranger will often be available for a nature walk around the stream or river.

Many teachers request that we man a station that introduces the students to fly casting. We have rods and reels for the students to use as well as hula hoops for targets. Again, you know more about fly casting than any of them do and after a demonstration you will divide your time between a little personal instruction and untying wind knots! If we have enough volunteers, I try to have two volunteers here.

Again, if we have enough volunteers, we often have a fly tying station. I really enjoy this one as most of the students have never seen real feathers or real fur much less a bird cape. They are initially a bit freaked out but then they all have to touch and stroke the materials. The good news is that they have probably never seen a fly before and no matter what yours looks like it will be perfect in their view.



If you are counting then it's pretty easy to see that three or four volunteers along with a coordinator would be ideal for each release. While we do get some assistance from the SVTU chapter, the bulk of the volunteer hours come from PPTU.

If you would like to consider helping with one of more events, please contact me and I will happily share our schedule. Make sure to include your email and we will give you access to our google calendar.

Thanks for your support.  
- Alan

### **Rare Fish!** **- Bob O'Donnell**

An extremely rare fish with an unusual mutation has been caught swimming in a Virginia river.

Jacob Moore had been fishing for largemouth bass in the lower portion of the James River when he caught the strange-looking fish.

In a photo shared by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the fish appears bright gold in color. To read more about this incredible catch, check out the [Newsweek article](#).



### **Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T)** **- Frank Bowne, FSFF**

The Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) is coming to Annapolis. In the past you had to go to Arlington, VA or Hunt Valley, MD to attend.

This event benefits Project Healing Waters with giveaways, raffles, local beer, food, casting demos, and fly tiers.

## Annapolis Maritime Museum

723 Second Street  
Annapolis, MD 21403

**Thursday April, 27th** - doors open 5:30pm, show starts promptly at 7:00pm

Cost of admission \$30/all ages

Buy tickets here: [F3T Chesapeake](#)



*"It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year."*

~ Theodore Gordon

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!*



## Trout Stockings - Maryland DNR

Maryland DNR crews were busy once again stocking fish in our local waters. Well over 16,000 trout have already been placed in Maryland waters. Go check them out and see how you do.

### Baltimore County

Little Gunpower Falls: golden and rainbow trout

Patapsco River (Avalon): golden and rainbow

### Frederick County

Middle Creek: brown, golden, and rainbow trout

### Washington County

Antietam Creek: brown, golden, and rainbow trout

Beaver Creek: brown and rainbow trout



## Upcoming Fly Fishing Shows - Phil Monahan - Orvis

One of the best ways to overcome cabin fever during the long winter months is to attend a fly-fishing consumer show, below are just a few.

### March

4-5 The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA

10-11 Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo—Albany, OR

11-12 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo—Warren, MI

16-19 International Sportsmen's Exhibition—Salt Lake City, UT

17-19 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo—St. Paul, MN

18 Maryland Fly Fishing Show—Towson, MD

25 Long Island Fly Fishing Expo—Hauppauge, NY

[2023 Fly Fishing Show: Dates & Locations](#)

## Opening Day Event – Beaver Creek - Precision Fly & Tackle

We are excited to be hosting another Opening Day event at the Beaver Creek location. We will have representatives from some of the top companies in the industry attending; such as Orvis, Douglas,



Scientific Anglers, Sage, and more! There will be door prizes, giveaways, and presentations happening throughout the day. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you there. Mark your calendars! March 25<sup>th</sup>.



## The New Generation Appreciates Vintage Fly Tackle

- Ben Carmichael

My wife knows the drill: if the house catches on fire, the only thing she is to save on her way out the door is my bamboo fly rod. The graphite rods can burn.

A similar devotion to vintage tackle is finding a new appreciation from younger anglers. Read more about this swing to [vintage appreciation](#).

## Looking for a Good Read?

- Mark Kenyon

### 5 Must-Read Fly Fishing Books to Shake Off the Winter Blues

I'm not sure what it is about fly fishing that's made it such fertile ground for reading and writing, but there's something there, just beneath the water's glassy surface.

Despite fly fishing participation representing a small slice of the larger hunting and fishing world, books written about the pursuit own an outsized space in the world of sporting literature. Is it that a certain literary type has the predisposition to enjoy fly fishing? Or are the

locales, fish, and almost meditative motions of the cast simply tailor-made for the written word?

[Check out the rest of the article](#) including good descriptions of the books listed:

*At the Grave of the Unknown Fisherman*  
by John Gearach

*The Optimist* by David Coggins

*Spring Creek* by Nick Lyons

*Trout Water* by Josh Greenberg

*The Longest Silence* by Tom McGuane

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Tying Marathon - Michael Abramowitz

The Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs of Project Healing Waters will host the 8th Annual Fly Tying Marathon in the main gallery for the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Saturday, March 11th from 9am-5pm. Flies created will be distributed to programs across the nation for use at PHW events. Fly tyers can sign up for one of two shifts or do both shifts if they wish.

Fly tyers must pre-register by email to: <mailto:chris.thompson@projecthealingwaters.org>. For further information contact the event coordinator at: 540-287-6486. Check out the link for more information. [Fly Tying Marathon](#)

## Fly Tying Light - Bob O'Donnell

There was a short discussion going recently regarding a portable fly tying light. Several people chimed in, including our own Matt O'Neal. I have that light too. It works great for tying at home as well as taking your stuff on the road.

Matt did a video review that you can check out if you're considering a portable light. The batteries go strong for several hours and mine usually lasts a few tying sessions before I consider swapping them out with new ones. Rechargeable batteries are great.

One pro that Matt mentions - the bracket will hold different lights if you wanted to use a brighter light, or one with a wider spread, you could do that.

Check out Matt's video - [Zephr LED Light](#)



## Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

Looks like folks are getting outdoors. Catching fish and helping to stock fish. Our recent trip to Big Spring was fun and we met some neighbors from Northern VA TU. Busy day on stream. A few fish were caught too. Brats & beans streamside, yum!





## 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.

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## Oil Slick Perdigon

Perdigon flies are Spanish nymph patterns, invented by Spanish competitors at their local streams, where trout are very careful and catching them is about true fly fishing skill. In Spanish Perdigon means a shot (pellet) and it tells something already.

As it turns out, perdigon refers to lead pellets, as in lead ammunition. The origin of the Perdigon nymph's name isn't due to its resemblance to a food pellet, but to its similarity to lead ammo—both of which sink to the bottom of the river with abandon thanks to their heavy weight.

## [Oil Slick Perdigon](#)



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