

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

**Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited**

November 2019 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## “How to Get Your Local Water Protected as a Maryland Trout Stream”

**Art Senkel & Steve Malan**

*November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

Have you ever spied a small creek in your neighborhood and wondered if there were any trout in there? What if that creek just needed a little care to help it fully develop into a true “blue line” wonder with its own stream-bred trout population? Wouldn’t it be great if there was even a process for figuring all that out?

Well, wonder no more: Art Senkel and Steve Malan, Patapsco Valley TU Members, will be visiting our November chapter meeting to explain the process they used to identify several Harford and Carroll County streams as likely containing wild trout. They will tell us how they presented their findings to the Maryland Department of the Environment, which is now taking a closer look at adding additional regulatory protections for those waters due to their trout-friendly ecosystems.

Art and Steve will also tell us how Patapsco Valley TU is looking to protect more streams in their region. With our conservation mission, maybe PPTU could consider a similar effort in Montgomery and Howard counties.

– *Karan Singh*



### **\*November’s Fly Tying Demonstration**

Pete Yarrington will be tying two of his favorite nymphs: A modified version of Sawyer’s Pheasant Tail and The Strawman

### **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, MD 20901

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

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## Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



November brings us to a time of year when we have to begin to alter our fishing habits. Over the next few weeks we'll be moving more and more away from dry flies and into streamers, wetflies and nymphing rigs. Many members have been doing this all summer long, and there's nothing like a surface strike on a dry! I hope we have many more days of decent fishing ahead before the really cold weather sets in.

### *Rod Building & Fly Tying Classes Offered to PPTU Members*

We are proud to offer two classes for PPTU members: Rod Building and Fly Tying classes! Both of these classes will be taught by our very own resident experts: Bob Dietz for Fly Tying and Larry Vawter to lead the rod building class. Classes will be offered in February and March, and are limited in size. Additional details can be found in this issue. But act fast - we need to gauge interest in order to plan accordingly for the classes. Additional information can also be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacpatuxentTU/>

### *10 Year Milestone Achievement: PPTU & Project Healing Waters*

Let's give a round of applause to Larry Vawter, former PPTU president and current Project Leader at Ft. Meade for 10 years of service to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Well-deserved and thank you for helping our veterans! Many PPTU members help in this effort and I urge you to get involved. Project Healing Waters has introduced thousands of veterans to the sport of fly fishing. You can talk to Michael Abramowitz at a chapter meeting and learn more by visiting Project Healing Waters at Ft Meade [https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersAtFtMeade/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAIoot0MZvawB8ckl8u5Pg7seIB3iUwbHjurE0fGA4ykEE038GETHBLrVUfx8dGPierG7BiJygkY3oF](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersAtFtMeade/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAIoot0MZvawB8ckl8u5Pg7seIB3iUwbHjurE0fGA4ykEE038GETHBLrVUfx8dGPierG7BiJygkY3oF)



## *Trout in the Classroom*

Did you know that Alan Burrows and Chuck Dinkle are Co-Chairs of one of the largest - if not the largest - Trout in The Classroom (TIC) efforts in the nation? This program allows students from elementary school through community college to rear trout eggs into fry and then release them into local waters. Alan and Chuck work with over 100 schools across Maryland on this project! It's an excellent introduction to environmental concerns and gets our students outdoors. Volunteers are always needed - especially in the spring when the students visit a stream to release their trout. Find Alan and Chuck at a chapter meeting and you can learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/TUmidatlantic/>

## *Festivals, Outings & Speakers!*

I'll close this month's column with a note about how PPTU is serving you. We do our darn-est to make sure you receive information and have activities that are of value. Our chapter is reaching into the communities to showcase our conservation efforts and gaining new members. The recent Burtonsville Festival was a good example. If you know of neighborhood events, think of PPTU so we can make a splash!

Our October outing was a huge success - about a dozen members camped out to a full moon and beautiful fall days. Thank you Lou Reichel for being our coordinator. Please let Lou know if you have an idea for a future PPTU outing or event. <https://www.pptu.org/events/outings>

Karan Singh is our Speaker Coordinator and brought Capt. Duber Winters to us last month speaking about Winter Trout Fishing Techniques. If you have a topic or speaker you'd like at a future chapter meeting, please reach out to Karan. He's doing an excellent job for the chapter.

Tight lines!

Randy Dwyer  
President, PPTU



## **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 (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail: [kenbowyer@verizon.net](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net) 🌻

## **Burtonsville Festival - Randy Dwyer**

The Burtonsville Festival was a success and we look forward to participating next year with hopes of sharing with the community and recruiting a few new members.

We had plenty of folks drop by our booth, observe and participate, and get questions answered regarding TU, our chapter, and fly fishing as a sport. Many thanks to one of our own younger members, Carson Wargo, for tying flies all day long and gathering a lot of interest from the visitors.





## Golden Trout Overview - courtesy of Chuck Dinkel

Golden Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* species overview: The golden rainbow trout is a gold-orange rainbow trout raised under artificial fish culture conditions and stocked as a novelty for angling sport. The golden rainbow was developed from one fish, a single female trout with a genetic mutation that gave her a mixed golden and normal rainbow trout coloration. She was found in the Petersburg Hatchery in West Virginia in 1954. Through selective breeding with regularly marked rainbow trout, an all-gold, golden rainbow trout was developed. In 1963, this fish strain was popularized as the "West Virginia Centennial Golden Trout."

Pennsylvania and other states hybridized the pure strain of West Virginia golden trout with normal rainbows and produced palomino trout, which were true genetic palominos. Palomino trout were first stocked in Pennsylvania in 1967. Since then, the genetic strain in Pennsylvania has weakened, but in recent years the hybrid was selectively bred back closer to the stronger, better-colored golden rainbow trout folks remembered.



Identification: Golden rainbows are a deep golden-yellow in body color, with pinkish lower fins, pink or red tones on their cheeks and with the rainbow's reddish lateral stripe. There is no spotting on the body or fins. The Pennsylvania record golden rainbow trout is over 11 pounds. Habitat: The golden rainbow trout's habitat preferences are identical to those of the normally colored rainbow trout. In Maryland it is stocked throughout the state in appropriate trout waters. Life history: The golden rainbow is reared in fish culture stations. Spawning in the wild is unlikely, because golden rainbows are

highly visible in streams both to anglers and predators like blue herons and ospreys. Golden rainbows and palomino rainbows grow larger and faster than regular rainbows. They have "hybrid vigor," a trait often seen in crossbred plants and animals. Their food preferences are similar to those of other trout.

Golden rainbow trout and palomino rainbow trout are not sterile hybrids, they are simply color variations of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and should not be confused with the golden trout (*Oncorhynchus aguabonita*) native to a few drainages in California. It took selective breeding for several generations to result in the development of true breeding golden rainbow trout. Typically, these fish are more of a brilliant golden color than the palomino rainbow trout, which has a color phase intermediate between the golden and normally pigmented rainbow trout.

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!*

**Thank You!**  
**- PPTU Members**

Thank you to our October Chapter Speaker!

Capt. Duber Winters:

"Winter Trout Fishing Techniques"

Duber did an excellent job of describing what's needed when winter trout fishing - "Low and Slow" were his tag lines. Want to learn more?



Duber will host his Duberfly Trout School on November 16 in Virginia - and if you go, don't forget to tell Duber you're a PPTU member! Here's his website: <http://duberfly.com/>

## PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

**Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits and Bistro**  
11011 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705



<http://www.oldlinewine.com/>

## Fly Tying Tools Sale - Luis Santiago

For those of you in need of fly tying tools. Loon outdoors is having a sale right now and this kit is great for the price.

<https://loonoutdoors.com/products/fly-tying-tool-kit>



## Shop Amazon Smile! - PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! Add the *Potomac-Patuxent Chapter* as your charity of choice to your Amazon account. If your company purchases through Amazon, ask them to help support us as well. Its free money in support of the chapter.



## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

Now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. We, therefore, ask for a \$20 ASC each September, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including, but not limited to:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Room rental for the monthly Chapter at the Schwienhaut Center.
- Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- The Mayfly Project for foster kids being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting by cash, check, or credit card.
- Go to our web site and use our PayPal portal: <https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU and mail it to our PO Box (see last page).

Your contributions are most appreciated!

## MD Fall Trout Stocking - MD DNR

Trout hatchery staff started the fall trout stocking program. Check out these locations:

### Allegany County

- Evitts Creek: 500 golden and rainbow trout
- Evitts Pond: 300 golden and rainbow trout
- Wills Creek: 500 golden and rainbow trout

### Baltimore County

- Patapsco River (Avalon): 500 golden rainbow trout
- Patapsco River (Daniels): 400 golden and rainbow trout (two-per-day limit)

### Carroll County

- South Branch Patapsco River (River Road): 500 golden and rainbow trout
- Piney Run Reservoir: 400 golden and rainbow trout

### Cecil County

- Big Elk Creek: 600 golden and rainbow trout
- Howards Pond: 300 golden and rainbow trout
- Rising Sun Pond: 200 golden and rainbow trout

### Frederick County

- Carroll Creek: 300 golden and rainbow trout
- Cunningham Falls Lake: 600 rainbow trout
- Friends Creek: 500 golden and rainbow trout
- Owens Creek: 500 golden and rainbow trout
- Rainbow Lake: 400 golden and rainbow trout

### Garrett County

- Accident Pond: 300 golden and rainbow trout

### Harford County

- Deer Creek: 500 golden and rainbow trout

### Howard County

- Centennial Lake: 400 golden and rainbow trout
- Little Patuxent River: 400 golden and rainbow trout (two-per-day limit)
- Middle Patuxent River: 400 golden and rainbow trout

### Washington County

- Antietam Creek: 400 golden rainbow trout
- Blairs Valley Lake: 600 golden and rainbow trout
- Greenbrier Lake: 500 golden and rainbow trout

*"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."*

~ John Steinbeck

## Congratulations and Thank You Larry! - PPTU

Larry Vawter was recognized as the longest tenured Project Healing Waters leader at their 10 year anniversary at Fort Meade.

Check out more info on their Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersAtFtMeade/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAioot0MZvawB8ckl8u5Pg7seIB3iUwbHjurE0fGA4ykEE038GETHBLrVUfx8dGPierG7BiJyglY3oF](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersAtFtMeade/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAioot0MZvawB8ckl8u5Pg7seIB3iUwbHjurE0fGA4ykEE038GETHBLrVUfx8dGPierG7BiJyglY3oF)

### *Note from Larry:*

*The pleasure of working with PHWFF and PPTU has been all mine. I have been so fortunate to have some great volunteers over the years. The day of our get together, George Gaines gave me some kudos that I am the longest running current Program Leader in the entire worldwide organization. That was something I was unaware of. I feel proud about that. In my 10 years I have been to every meeting since the start but one.*

*Again, many thanks to all who have stood beside me in my years and thanks to the entire PPTU for sticking with me.*

Larry – the thanks is all ours. We're grateful for your dedication to a worthy cause. Congrats!



## Members Catch - PPTU

Lots of good stuff here! Including Bob getting a fly tying lesson from Carson.





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.

**Editor: Bob O'Donnell**

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## White Death

Well, it is Steelhead time and if you're going you may want to take a look at this pattern.

This is Jeff Blood's White Death, a well-known Great Lakes steelhead pattern. It's for all intents and purposes nothing more than an easy-to-tie Zonker.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSrp75dQa40>



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