

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

# “What I did on My Summer Vacation: Travel/Fishing Photos by PPTU Members”

*Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00PM*

Summer has come to a close. Kids are back to school and some cool weather has arrived in our area. As we get together again for another combination in-person/virtual chapter meeting, its time to gather your vacation photos and share that summer fun with your fellow members.

The stories and photos all vary from close to home trips to wonders outside our area. Several members have jetted across the country in search of relaxation, sightseeing, and the occasional fly fishing adventure.

We hope you will attend and even more, we hope you feel like sharing with your fellow members. So, get those photos ready (fishing related or not) or just kick back, grab some popcorn, ask questions and enjoy the fascinating places other members are sharing.

If you wish to share your adventures, please let me know and we'll get you in the que. If you're unsure about presenting, you may send me your summer pics with location info and we'll run the slide show for you. Send to: [singhkaranr@yahoo.com](mailto:singhkaranr@yahoo.com)

– *Karan Singh*



## Monthly Chapter Meetings – Hybrid Meeting – In Person/Virtual!!!

Time and Day: 7:00 PM unless a new time is stated, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December  
NEW Meeting Location: Harkins Builders - 10490 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 400, Columbia, MD 21044

Virtual Link:

[Click Here to JOIN the Meeting on Oct 19th!](#)

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

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2022 – 2023

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Past-President: Randy Dwyer  
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Secretary: Brian Hepler  
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Ron Kerrick  
Ray Miller  
Jim Senker  
Bryan Sirotkin  
Craig Vanderkolk  
Pete Yarrington

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Membership Secretary: Jay Sheppard  
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Speakers Program: Karan Singh  
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Trout in the Classroom: Alan Burrows  
Chuck Dinkel  
Water Quality: Pete Yarrington, Peter Schuler  
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Paint Branch: Joe Robinson  
Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson  
Middle Patuxent: Bryan Sirotkin  
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard

### Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Alan Burrows  
Bob Dietz: Secretary  
Randy Dwyer  
Marc Hutzell  
Lou Reichel  
Nick Weber

### Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

## Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with family and friends. I don't know about you, but the hot weather this summer put a damper on my fishing. I'm looking forward to the cooler weather and spending more time on the water. Fall also means it's time for our chapter meetings to resume. This year our chapter's calendar is filled with social gatherings, new conservation projects, outings to new streams, a great speaker lineup and more. Our fall schedule also includes hearing about our member's summertime fishing adventures. I would encourage everyone to participate in these activities, there is truly something for everyone.

I, for one, have come to enjoy the adventure associated with a trip as much, okay maybe not quite as much, as the fishing itself. This fall/winter, we have some great adventures planned including a steelhead trip to Erie, Pa. These chapter events just don't happen by themselves, so I wanted to personally thank Craig Vanderkolk for his generous time volunteering to make these events come to life. He has done a great job setting up a series of social activities and outings that have been well received. If you haven't participated in them, please follow our [Facebook](#) page or [Website](#) for more information. It's also a great way to learn fishing techniques and tips from other members.



I also wanted to take an opportunity to reiterate our need for your involvement. Over the next few months, please consider giving back to PPTU. I need your help. I would like to have co-chairs for every committee position we have across the chapter. Currently, we only have one person doing the work.

These include helping our IT team, the treasurer, the membership and conservation committees. We could also use your help with our social media accounts and just about every other committee we have. Your help for a few hours a month will help ensure our chapter remains strong for years to come. If you have other ideas to make our chapter even stronger, don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

Finally, I want to welcome our new members. We are excited to have you as part of PPTU! For those members new to fly fishing, I hope you take advantage of our mentorship program. It's a great way to learn the basics from our very own members. As a reminder, we have decided to resume our live chapter meetings this fall. They will be held in Columbia, MD. For those who prefer to participate virtually, we will continue to offer that as an option too. Until then, have a great fall fishing season and take advantage of everything PPTU has to offer!!

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)



## **Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard**

For a moment in early September, we thought the Brighton Dam dissolved oxygen issue was solved. The owner of the turbines filed a 'notice of intent' with FERC to surrender the license. That would have meant a cessation of power generation at some time in the next year or so. All released water would be only through the oxygen-injecting needle valves or via the flood gates. The present hydro owners expressed their feeling that with all the probable requirements to be placed on the licensee that it would not be a profitable endeavor.

The prospect of no more hydro generation came to an unexpected pause about 48 hours later! A former partner of the previous owner asked the parties to wait before proceeding any further. This third party wants to explore with the current owners the possibility of transferring the FERC license to them. So now we wait. No way to predict the next step in this ongoing saga!

The trails near the Haviland Mill bridge are likely to be cleared later this year. This effort had been on hold until we got clearance from the State parks, which we now have. The county park parking lot at the bridge will be reopened on October 3. The new handicap boardwalk will be opened then.

## **Continued Social Outings - Craig Vanderkolk**

We want to continue offering chances for members to socialize and unwind. Below are a few upcoming options to mark on your calendars. Keep an eye on your email for reminders and try to join some of your fellow members for a mental break from the daily grind. Note: If you have any suggestions for a location please pass them my way.

### **October 13th - 6-8:30 pm**

Come join us for fly tying tips and techniques at [Jailbreak Brewing Company](#), Laurel MD.

### **November 10th - 6-8:30 pm**

Come join us for a viewing of a movie about fishing icon Joe Brooks - "*Finding Joe Brooks*"

Pizza, popcorn and beverages for your enjoyment at [PowerTrain, Inc.](#), Landover MD.



## Welcome to Our New Board Members - Joe Taylor

We want to welcome our newest board members to PPTU. If you run into them on stream or at our next meeting reach out and congratulate them on volunteering to keep the chapter running. Here's a little bit about our victims, I mean directors:

### Ron Kerrick

I started fishing with spinning and bait casting rods when I was a young kid in upstate New York. After college, I moved to Maryland and have been here ever since. I never considered fly fishing until about 10 years ago and now it is my favorite way of fishing. I have been a member of PPTU for several years but was not an active member until my retirement from running a small business 3 years ago. Now that I have more time, I have been helping with trout stocking, placing temperature probes in the Patuxent River, and assisting casting lessons with trout in the classroom. I look forward to continue being more active in PPTU.



### Jim Senker

I am a caring husband to the love of my life and my best friend Debbie, to whom I've been married for 34 years, a doting father to Rachel and Matthew and a caring mentor and role model to our best friend's 12 year old, Sophia Jones.



I am an aging but enthusiastic beer league hockey player, a die-hard Philadelphia sports fan and a one-time Veterans Stadium Beer Vendor. When I'm not

fishing offshore for big fish I find myself with a fly rod in hand emersed in local streams trying to outsmart trout. Since high school I've been hitting tennis balls and training to make up for lost opportunities as a kid. I aspire to play more national age group tournaments, stay away from injuries, and find my true potential!

### Ron Briggs

Ron is a retired advertising executive that has been involved in the outdoors for a long time. He is a past president of the Des Moines Izaak Walton League and has been a PPTU member for a while. Ron is the current outreach director for our chapter.



Note: Volunteers keep us going. Many thanks to board member Peter Schuler for a job well done!

*"The angling fever is a very real disease and can only be cured by the application of cold water and fresh, untainted air."*

~ 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!



## **Plea for Contributions**

### **- Jay Sheppard**

We would love to see more articles from our readership. These can be trips to faraway places, funny experiences while fishing, fly tying tips and recipes, or any other topic related to trout fishing. I have been doing articles on hatches, fly tying, tips for fly fishers, and a range of other topics almost continuously since the early 1980s. Many old timers are undoubtedly bored with reading some of the recent articles that are repeated from many years ago. So I am going to start to phase out my regular contributions.

We have hundreds of readers. Most write or wrote as part of their work. All fish. So there should be a wealth of talented writers with thousands of experiences to share with the rest of our members. I am always learning from reading of others' efforts chasing trout. Please step forward and contribute to the Conservationist. The pay is exceptional!!

## **Current PPTU Outings**

### **- Lou Reichel**

#### **Western MD Campout, Oct 8-10**

Camping at the Monroe Pavilion in Big Run St Park, near the Savage River, for 3 days, 2 nights. There are other places to stay if you are not camping. More details at the end of the newsletter.

#### **Steelhead Trip, Erie, PA, Dec 3-5**

Craig Vanderkolk skillfully planned this trip and he has arranged for some guides. Block out your time and sign up for this exciting trip.

#### **November Outing!**

A November outing is coming! Stay tuned for more information.

## **MD Fly Fishing Trail – Live!**

### **- Randy Dwyer**

As the first in the Nation, Maryland's Fly Fishing Trail provides everyone with opportunities to experience fly fishing across the state. With two Trail sites located in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, there are no shortage of options when it comes to fly fishing.

Each Trail site has been selected to provide a unique fly fishing experience. You'll find as diverse a range of species—from native brook trout in small Western Maryland streams to largemouth bass in Eastern Shore ponds to striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay—as you will environments and water types. Is every stream, river or lake mentioned on this website = No, because the goal isn't to list every body of water, but to highlight some (2 per county) as a place to fish, bring a youngster or friend and to cast a fly line, whether it's for a trout out west, cobia in the bay or casting into the salt along Maryland's coast.

So share and tell your friends! There's plenty of fantastic water and many species of fish to catch on the fly across Maryland!

Thank you for helping to make this a reality. Please let me know of questions.

Randy Dwyer

[wrandydwyer@gmail.com](mailto:wrandydwyer@gmail.com)

(703) 887-7542

Take a look, explore and enjoy!

[Maryland Fly Fishing Trail](#)

## **The Mayfly Project**

### **- Marc Hutzell**

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, members of PPTU recently finished up another series of sessions of our local Mayfly Project.



The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) organization that uses fly fishing as a catalyst to mentor children in foster and adoptive care. Our mission is to support



## Tackle and Fishing Tips - Jay Sheppard

This note is aimed at the beginning fly fishers. The mechanics of casting flies is the same as casting lures and bait in all types of fishing, except the weight being cast is the line itself. The problem for the fly fisher is that the line and attached fly cannot be allowed to touch the ground behind. That requires the rod tip must be held almost straight above the head. The casting stroke is a much shorter arc than with other rods (surf, ultralight, etc.). Here is a way to learn more about the casting stroke.



Take a spinning rod and affix some small weight that can be dragged back through the grass--no hooks, etc. Hold the spinning rod with the "lure" just outside the tip at the 1 o'clock position. Cast the lure as far as possible WITHOUT dipping the rod tip back before starting the forward cast. I have never seen anyone try this the first time without dipping the rod back to 3 o'clock or more on the first casts! Habit! Get someone to help by holding a broom handle just behind the rod when it is at about 1 o'clock. You should quickly learn how far you can cast from that starting position.

When we are usually casting a fly, we hold the line in the other hand. Learning to shoot some line out is often a hard lesson to learn. The release of the line is exactly at the same instant one lifts the index finger off the spool on the spinning reel. Practicing with the "lure" rig can be done. Stop rewinding the line with a couple feet remaining outside the tip of the spinning rod. Lift the bail and hold the line with the usual index finger. Then grab the line with the opposing index finger and thumb and pull the lure up to near the rod tip. Before starting the cast, release the index finger on the reel. As you cast, release the line with the opposite hand at the same time you



young people through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems, with the hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for young people in foster and adoptive care to have fun, feel supported, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

Each year TMP hosts five sessions covering topics from how to cast, tie flies, and conservation. At the end of the sessions, all the young people receive all new fishing gear, sling packs, tippet, and flies so they can continue with what they learned.

Former PPTU member Rachel Dagovitz started the Silver Spring project of the Mayfly Project, and PPTU members have always contributed to TMP over the last six years.

If you have any interest in being a mentor for next year please contact Marc Hutzell @ [hutzz73@icloud.com](mailto:hutzz73@icloud.com) or visit <https://themayflyproject.com/> for more information.



would have normally done so with the index finger on the rod hand. Will take a few tries.

This can be practiced on a playfield or large yard. Have your fly rod nearby to transfer what you have learned with this spinning rod rig. Tie a short piece of colored yarn on the tippet to see where your cast goes. Then go fish!!

## **Fly Fishing Film Fest – Nov 16th - NCCTU & PPTU**

We are proud to jointly host this event with our friends at NCCTU. Check out the link for information on buying tickets and also a preview to some of the great fly fishing videos in store for you.

Tickets are \$25 and if you get there early, there is a cash bar across the hallway from the theater that sells food and beer. [Tickets and Preview of IF4](#)

**AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**  
8633 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Doors open at 6:30 PM. Film begins AT 7:00 PM. Let's get a good PPTU crowd to show up for this event. More reminders to follow!



## **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard**

September starts our annual cycle and now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to require chapter dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each September, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Support of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by 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 make your ASC donation in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting (whenever that might be) by cash or check.
- Go to [pptu.org](http://pptu.org) and use our PayPal portal: [Donate to PPTU](#)

Mail a check payable to PPTU and send to our PO Box (see last page).

**Shop at AmazonSmile**  
and Amazon will make  
a donation to:

**Potomac Patuxent Chapter  
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

[Get started](#)

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## The Traver Award - American Museum of Fly Fishing

The Traver Award is named after Robert Traver, pen name of the late John D. Voelker, author of Trout Madness, Trout Magic, Anatomy of a Fisherman, the 1958 best seller Anatomy of a Murder, and the fine historical novel Laughing Whitefish. Judge Voelker also served on the Michigan Supreme Court as its 74th justice from 1956 to 1960. A collection of Voelker's finest "yarns" and observations about fishing was published posthumously by Nick Lyons in 2001 under the title Traver On Fishing.

The Traver Award was created in 1994 to encourage and recognize "distinguished original stories or essays that embody the implicit love of fly-fishing, respect for the sport, and the natural world in which it takes place." The winning story or essay must demonstrate high literary values in one or more of these three categories:

- The joy of fly-fishing: personal and philosophic experience
- Ecology: knowledge and protection of the natural world
- Humor: piscatorial friendships and fun on the water

The John D. Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing (AMFF) are pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 Robert Traver Fly-fishing Writing Award: "A Dog Named Fish" by Frank Sargeant of Guntersville, Alabama. Mr. Sargeant's story is a warm, humorous, but heartrending story about a man and his dog who both love tarpon fishing.

### [A Dog Named Fish](#)

The American Museum of Fly Fishing is the steward of the history, traditions, and practices of the sport of fly fishing and promotes the conservation of its waters.

[amff.org](http://amff.org)



## 3 Ways to Catch More Fish on Your Next Trip - from The Catch and The Hatch

A lot of us on the river get lazy and revert to our "favorite flies" or typical water because we've had past success. That's insane. River systems and the trout in them are some of the most dynamic environments in the world. With all the change that is happening every moment on the water, we need to be as adaptive as the fish are to their changing environments.

Below are three simple, yet very effective ways to catch way more fish on your next adventure. If you actually apply these tips, you will catch more fish next time and every time you go back out on the water.

### Cover More Water

So many of us find the first hole we see, plant ourselves in it and rinse and repeat the same cast hoping for different outcomes. We are missing a lot of actively feeding fish by staying in one place. The key is to find fish willing to eat your fly. Even with a poor cast and a less than perfect fly, covering water will still produce the most willing fish. Spend no more than 15 minutes in the same spot. 90% of the fish in the river will take a well-presented fly in the first 3 casts.

### Have the Right Seasonal Flies

Don't bring your hoppers to the river on a cold April day and don't leave your tricos at home in August. Having the basic knowledge of local hatches for the river based on the seasons is key. The flies to have in your box depend on the season and the region you fish. Making sure you have a variety of insects covering the stages of major hatches for that region will keep you equipped.

### Spend 5 Minutes Observing

Don't rig up at the car. Unless you were fishing here yesterday and you got it all figured out, you are making a huge mistake. Grab your gear, walk down to the river and spend 5 minutes observing what's going on. Then, if you don't have a bug seine, flip over some rocks and collect the insects in the water. As you see the insects and identify them as mayfly nymphs or caddis pupa, you'll have a way better idea what the fish are eating.



## Mayflies in Trouble - Robert O'Harrow Jr.

The world's oldest winged insect is in trouble. How frightened should we be?

Mayflies are among nature's best environmental sentinels — and their current message to us is grim. [Read the article here.](#)



## Western Maryland Campout – Reminder! - Lou Reichel

The next PPTU outing is coming up soon and NEW members are welcome. Let me know if you need assistance.

**When:** October 8, 9, 10. Saturday –Monday  
Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day)

**Where:** [Big Run State Park](#), Monroe Pavilion, next to Savage River, Garret County, Maryland

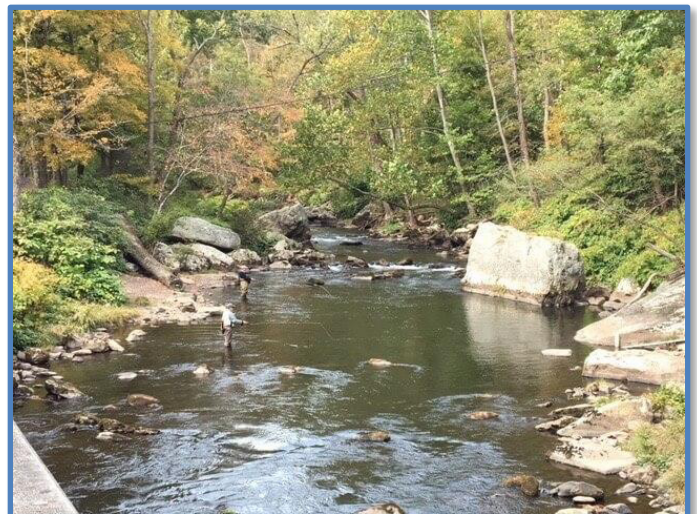
The October Outing and Campout in Western Maryland will be on October 8, 9, and 10, 2022. Join us and fish the wonderful Savage River, North Branch of Potomac and the many other mountain brook streams in the beautiful autumn foliage of Western Maryland. You may camp with us or stay at other facilities or lodgings in the area. But all should join us at the evening campfire. Reservations for camping have been made at the Big Run State Park, in the Monroe Pavilion shelter, from Saturday (2:00 pm) till Monday (1:00 pm), 3 days and 2 nights, for group tent camping or campers.

For those not interested in camping, there is lodging available in Keyser, WV (Keyser Inn) or Grantsville, MD (Casselman Inn), within 30-40 min to Savage River. There is also a large hotel, Comfort Inn just off I-68 at exit 22 (just before Grantsville). In addition, there are camping sites and cabins in nearby New Germany State Park, but generally need a month reservation for cabins.



Fishing on the Savage and North Branch is great during the fall months. There are small mountain creeks with brookies with bright red markings hidden beneath rhododendron. Pocket water fishing on the Savage River with pools called the PHD pool for the trout are too smart. Some of those brown trout can get large and colorful on the Savage. And then move to the large North Branch which can resemble a large Western style river. See for details, "Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing, the Catch and Release Streams" by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn.

All this for just \$118 split however many ways we have participants. We do need at least 4 people (\$30.00 per person) to sign up. Pay at the Pavilion, direct amount in cash or check, there will not be change available. Donations are appreciated. Cost is per participant and not the days. Join us for as many days that you can make it.



We generally put 2-4 individual size tents inside on the stone floor of the Monroe Pavilion. It can hold up to 6-7 tents. Make sure to bring an air mattress to sleep on the stone floor. Larger tents and campers can be positioned around the Pavilion. The Pavilion has a fireplace for great campfires (bring firewood), picnic tables, and a place to gather after the days fishing to cook, make coffee, swap stories, and if it rains, we have some shelter.

It has only rained 50% of the times. Bring firewood, store bought wrapped parcels, which can be purchased at the New Germany Ranger station or other gas stations and convenient stores in the area (Grantsville exit). The camp site has no running water, no fresh water at Big Run SP so you must bring your own water. The camp is rugged and has men and ladies dry bathrooms. We do have access to the showers at New Germany SP (15-20-min away). Alcohol is not permitted (within reason). In previous times we have been checked by Park Rangers looking for suspicious people, and they did not arrest us even with a lone bottle of good whiskey sitting on the table. There is electricity in the shelter.

Please bring a ghost story for the late night campfire.

Bring food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I do bring a camp stove, extra water and some utensils if you need to cook. There is a charcoal grill setup at the Pavilion if you plan on grilling. On Saturday night bring your favorite grilling meat and we all will cook on the charcoal grill. Charcoal for grilling will be provided.



If you have a favorite side dish, please bring and share with us (pies, cobbler, potato and macaroni salads, baked beans, etc). It seems in the past, the Sunday dinner is hotdogs cooked on the grill and we finish up all the side dishes. There are places to eat near Grantsville, MD, Westernport, MD and Keyser, WV.

There are no trash cans in the Park. Please be considerate and pick up trash and no food outside at night for there are wild bears and feral cats. I also heard of a Goatman roaming the area. Trash will need to be taken away by us. Thanks.

Items Needed: MD Fishing License and Trout Stamp.

Take into consideration when packing gear, for this is October in the mountains. There can be a cold frost at night and be quite warm by afternoon.

Camping stuff like tent, sleeping bag, air mattress, flashlight. Food for breakfast, lunch and dinner and cooking utensils. Water. Toiletries, basically everything needed to sustain you for 3 days.

I do ask for people to bring store bought firewood for the campfire (firewood can be bought there or buy packaged parcels at your local stores. Do not bring wood from your home wood pile).

Rods: Bring 3 to 5 wt rods (7ft to 9ft) for either small brook trout stream or large brown trout in lower Savage and North Branch.

Flies: Stop by the Savage River Outfitters, on Savage River Rd, to find out what flies are active. You can also see [Jay's Maryland Fall Fly List](#) (PPTU.org – Skills – Entomology).

To sign up for this outing, please complete the [Outing Registration Form](#). If you don't have an account just scroll down the page and use the "Don't have an account?" link to create one.

Please contact Lou Reichel if you have any questions about this outing.

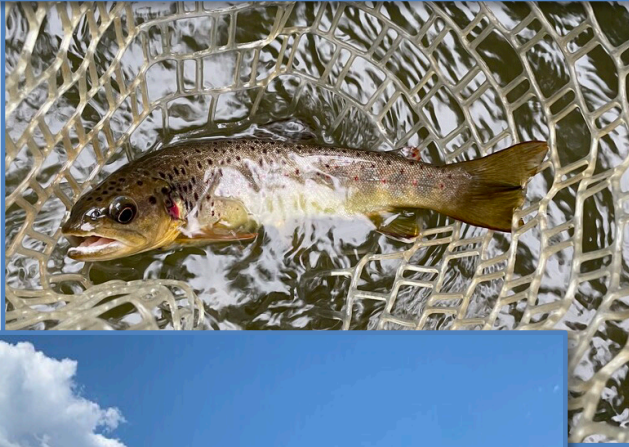
Lou Reichel  
Outings Coordinator  
443-745-0313 (cell)  
[outings@pptu.org](mailto:outings@pptu.org)





## Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

Don't hesitate to share your adventures. Post a note and some photos to the PPTU forum.





## 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)



### WD-40 Blue Winged Olive Emerger

Who could resist a 5 minute tie! This simple pattern is useful in the Fall when smaller flies are present. Additionally, this simple fly is incredibly effective and a great way to fill up your box with some smaller profile nymphs. You can tie these up in different sizes and colors and cover the entire range of emergers for the season.

[WD-40 BWO Emerger](#)



Return Address:  
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