

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

“Summer Vacation Showcase: Travel/Fishing Stories & Photos by PPTU Members” October 18th, 2023

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 queue. 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 PPTU a slideshow or photos to: singhkaranr@yahoo.com

– *Karan Singh*



October 18th Hybrid Chapter Meeting

Mid County Community Center
2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906

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

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Lou Reichel
Nick Weber

Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



Wow...gotta love this time of year! I've been out on the water a few times and to my surprise, with pretty good success. Not much in the way of bug life but swinging the "classic" wet flies like Hare's Ears and Pheasant Tails have been very productive. I've been fortunate to get away on a few overnight camping trips this fall. I'm not sure what it is but the older I get the more I enjoy the other aspects of my fishing trips like just sitting around the campfire sharing fishing stories and taking in the beauty of the forest. Catching fish has become secondary to my overall experience being in nature.

I'm sure many of you have heard something similar but I guess I'm approaching another phase of my fishing journey. The first phase is a person just wants to go fishing, then they just want to catch a fish, then they want to catch a lot of fish, then the biggest, smartest fish and finally they just want to go fishing. Trust me, I'm not suggesting I have done it all in the fishing world, far from it, I just think my priorities have been evolving as I get older. The great thing about our sport is it doesn't matter what "phase" I have been in throughout my life; I still get as excited about going fishing today as I did when I was a kid. I can't think of too many things that can bring one that kind of excitement for that many years!

Speaking of exciting times, I hope everyone can take advantage of this great weather and get out on the stream. We have some amazing outings lined up for this fall/winter including our campout on the Savage River (Oct 7-9) and steelhead fishing on Elk Creek in Erie, Pa (Nov 17-20). Not only will it be a ton of fun but also a great way to learn from some of our most experienced anglers who might be able to show you a thing or two on the stream. If you can't get away, keep a lookout for upcoming social events at local restaurants and breweries.

Good luck on the stream and be safe,

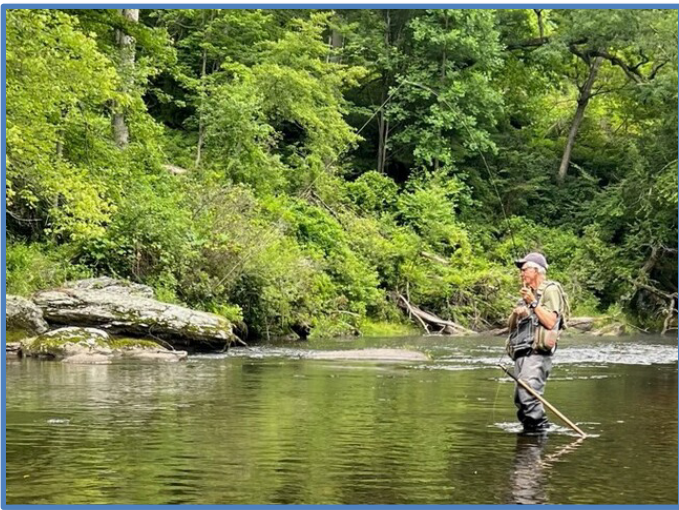
Joe Taylor
President, PPTU



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



Inaugural Northern Virginia Fly Casting Skills Development Workshop - Tom Parham

This workshop will utilize the Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Skills Development Program (FCSD). The mission of the FCSD is to give all fly anglers a guide to learning and improving casting skills that address increasingly advanced fishing situations. Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructors will teach workshops and provide confirmation of achievement for all levels of the program. All levels of fly anglers are encouraged to attend this workshop.

Registration is requested to allow for planning of staff and lunch.

To Register, send an email to Scott Allen at: sca3fly@gmail.com

Event is rain or shine—dress appropriately.

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

[Windmill Park](#), Ashburn Virginia, 20147

Fee: \$10 cash paid on-site (Coffee, Donuts, Water, Snacks) Post Event Gathering at a local watering hole – All are welcome!

This workshop is hosted by:

[The Chesapeake Council Fly Fishers International](#)

[Goose Creek Casting Club](#)

[Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders](#)

FREE Trout Unlimited Membership! - PPTU

If you have ever wanted to join Trout Unlimited, let PPTU cover your first year's membership! FREE! No cost except your time to send an email to membership.pptu@gmail.com. You will become an active TU member almost in the blink of an eye. The only requirement is that you have never been a member of TU. Join now!

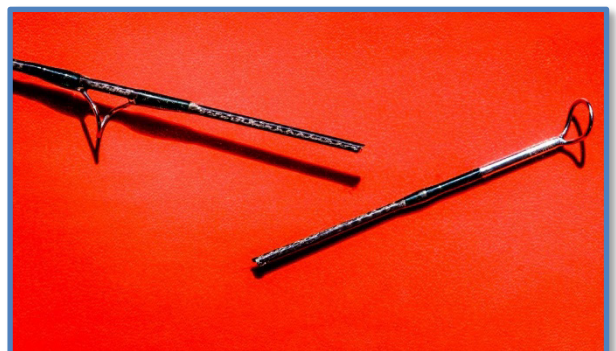


How Do You Heal a Broken Rod? - Orvis

What do you do when your rod breaks and you have a fishing trip coming up? If you own an Orvis rod you can be back on the water in as fast as 5 days.

Not that we're endorsing Orvis or anything, but the following video showcases what some of us have experienced over the years. I still cry occasionally over a custom rod I lost to a car door. – Enjoy! Bob

[Broken Rod Video](#)



Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

Fall fishing is now in full swing. Here are a few flies and tricks I love to use at this time of the year. Beetles can vary in size from microscopic to over an inch in length. I would suggest #12 and #16 patterns in the usual black color, but other colors and sizes can work, too. Crickets should be sized to the #10 adults from September into October. For caterpillars or inchworms, the chartreuse San Juan Worm on a #12 hook and about 1.5" in total length is hard to beat, but the Green Weenie and other similar patterns work very well, too. Also try the San Juan worms in grey, brown, red, and pink. Consider them also in the micro sizes of less than 5/8" length. As another 'terrestrial pattern' try a very large rusty spinner in the #8–10 size. There are a lot of flying insects, such as dragon flies, that occasionally drop on the water that will match a general buggy looking pattern such as this.



Fishing on a rainy day is usually very rewarding. With the falling rain or threat of rain the insects can become quite active, especially in warm fall weather. The effect of a falling rain seems to spur the insects to become very active and the trout respond to the increase in insects on the water. I watch the weather forecasts very closely at all times of the year, and one is often rewarded if he or she can plan a fishing trip on a damp day that has cloudy skies and intermittent bouts of rain. The little Baetis mayflies, aka blue winged olives, seem especially active during such weather at almost any time of the year. In September and early October, the Isonychia mayflies, aka slate winged drakes, willingly hatch all afternoon in such weather versus hatching at dusk on clear days. The darker skies also make the trout feel less wary and exposed than they would in bright sun. I try to avoid those days of bluebird skies, if I can.

Fall brings out a lot of larger trout in many of our waters. At the same time, we can still see the smaller trout grabbing the last of the hatches, most of which are small mayflies and the early winter stoneflies. One minute a fisher can be tossing #20 flies at 7–12" trout and a few minutes later try for a much larger monster lurking in the stream. Usually, the monster



is not going to be interested in some tiny fly—it wants a large 'protein packet.'

Fishing the rest of this fall will often be with small caddis, blue-winged olives, and terrestrials for the most part. Fishing terrestrials is about the only time trout fishers with fly rods are allowed to make any real noise in their presentations. Beetles, crickets, inchworms and even larger ants can make some noise when they fall into the stream. So a little "plunk" of a #12 beetle plopping down right up tight to a deep and undercut bank might produce a nice trout. Although I do see a small number of trout react favorably to hopper patterns in this immediate area, it is not a really common prey item for our trout, unless you get to a spring creek with banks in weeds and grasses. Field crickets, on the other hand, are very common. Try them in the #10 size, if you have a choice, on most of our local trout waters. Crickets can sometimes be actively fished with tiny twitches of an inch or three followed by a pause. Happy fishing!

Reprinted and revised from the October 2009 *Conservationist*.

"Time flies so fast after youth is past that we cannot accomplish one half the many things we have in mind or indeed one half our duties. The only safe and sensible plan is to make other things give way to the essentials, and the first of these is fly fishing."

~ 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!



PPTU Outings **- Lou Reichel, Outings Coordinator**

Fall is here and the 2023 PPTU Outings have started. Hopefully a few of you attended the PPTU One Fly contest held on September 30th! The next outings on our schedule are listed below. Information on attending is on our web site.

October 7, 8, 9, 2023 - Western Maryland Campout Outing.

This is a campout outing (3 days, 2 nights) at the Monroe Pavilion in [Big Run State Park](#) in Garrett County, Md. Savage River, North Branch of Potomac and various brook trout creeks are the favorite waters to fish. Get your s'mores ready and the telling of good ghost stories for the campfire. There are motels in the area if you don't plan on camping. More details to follow.

November - Steelhead fishing on Erie, PA Streams. November 17 to 21st.

This outing, as noted, is in Erie, Pennsylvania. It's about a 5-6 hour drive from Washington/Baltimore area. PPTU books guides for a chance to fish on private water if you wish to do so. More details to follow on the forum as the time draws near.

Hope to see you at an outing!

- Lou



Mailed a Copy? **- PPTU Membership**

If you receive this issue through the US Post Office, we need your help now! These mailings cost money to print and mail. We request your email address, so we can save that cost for our conservation and education expenses. To receive the Conservationist electronically, please send an email with your name to: membership.pptu@gmail.com.

Fly Fishing 101 Class – Success! **- PPTU**

The recent Howard County Fly Fishing 101 classes were a success. We had reasonable size classes of students for the Spring and Fall, several of which who signed up to become TU members and additionally, members of PPTU!



Class always begins with the basics: running through all the gear and its uses, basic entomology and fish food, reading water, and fly selection followed by some basic casting skills. The follow on class gets into some more details and then takes the students down to the water on Centennial Lake for some practical application of what they've learned.



If you're interested in volunteering for the next class in the Spring, feel free to join in a day or two. It helps to have some extra hands on board to teach, especially for the fly casting demonstration. No need to be an "expert" in anything, almost all of the students are fly fishing newbies and appreciate any help and input you can give them. If you're interested in volunteering, contact [Ron Briggs](#).

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 request chapter dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC donation starting each September, to help 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
- Support of the Project Healing Waters
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods



Advanced Casting Lessons from Carl McNeil - Bob O'Donnell

When New Zealand-based husband-and-wife team Carl McNeil and Jeanie Ackley—released "Casts that Catch Fish" a dozen years ago, they brought gorgeous cinematography to the how-to genre. By combining high-quality production values, high-end graphics, and cutting-edge editing techniques, they were able to show casting in a whole new light. To make things even better, Carl demonstrated some incredibly cool casting and mending techniques that go beyond the basics. The five videos presented here are just a taste of what's on the DVD.

[Watch the Casting Lessons](#)



Speakers Program Coordinator Needed - PPTU Board

First off, we would like to acknowledge the great job Karan Singh did for us. He coordinated a lot of great presentations for our chapter. Karan is not going anywhere, just stepping back a bit.

So, we are looking for a volunteer to assist lining up presenters on various topics for the New Year. Karan, and others, will be available for guidance and assistance. Its not a great deal of work, but does require a little time and effort to pull things together and coordinate with the speaker. There's a lot of good people out there with considerable knowledge on many topics and it only takes a little effort to ask if they wish to present.

If interested, please contact the president or any one of the board members.

And last but not least, to Karan – Great Job!!!

Cleaning a Fly Line - Bob O'Donnell

October is the first reminder that the end of another fly fishing season is approaching. Rods are wiped down, reels oiled and put away, and fly lines need cleaned.



Fly lines get dirty, like anything else, yet few anglers take the time to clean them. At the end of a fishing season, this is the very best time to do so before they are put away for a few months.

Cleaning a fly line is pretty quick and easy, and requires very little in effort or cost.

Equipment:

- 2 clean 5 gallon buckets
- warm water
- mild dish soap
- soft towel

Steps:

1. Fill both of the buckets about 2" deep with warm water.
2. Add a small squeeze of dish liquid in one bucket and mix it around.
3. Back the drag tension off your reel and start stripping the line off into the bucket with soapy water.
4. Let the line soak between 5-30 minutes depending upon how dirty it is.
5. Double a towel over the line and with a little pressure between your thumb and index finger start pulling the line through the towel and into the bucket of clean water. (reorient the towel occasionally)
6. When done, hang the end of the line over the clean bucket and then empty and rinse the soapy bucket with clean water.

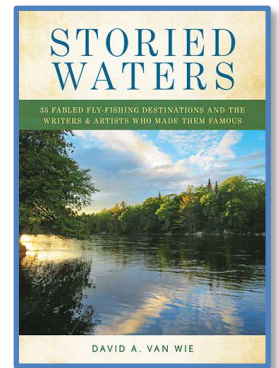
7. With the bucket empty and reasonably dry, strip the line back through the cloth and into the dry bucket.
8. Reel the line back onto your reel and you're ready for the next fishing trip.

These two videos will walk you through the entire process from start to finish. Enjoy!

[Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

Storied Waters - by David A. Van Wie

Storied Waters chronicles the author's six-week odyssey from Maine to Wisconsin and back to explore and fly fish America's most storied waters and celebrate the writers and artists who made them famous.



The book is a grand vicarious adventure, driving the backroads for weeks at a time exploring beautiful places, and meeting fascinating people who share a common interest. With an easy, conversational writing voice enhanced with spectacular photographs, Van Wie relates an eclectic mix of travel narrative, natural history, and fishing tips and advice, as well as a deep (but sometimes humorously irreverent) appreciation for the writers who have created such a rich legacy of stories about fishing over the past 200 years.

New Membership Secretary Needed - PPTU Board

We are looking for another volunteer to help maintain the chapter's mailing list. Connection to the Internet and some knowledge of Microsoft Access is required. This work is what really helps our chapter to keep in touch with everyone and is crucial to our past success as one of the top 10 chapters in Trout Unlimited for membership services and recruitment. If you are interested in helping the chapter behind the scenes, please contact Jay Sheppard (jaymsheppard95@gmail.com).

Your help will be appreciated.

New “In-Person” Meeting Location! - PPTU Board

We’re finally meeting again in person and additionally, doing a hybrid meeting via Zoom.



The new location is:

Mid County Community Center
2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906

[Visit the Web Site](#)

Our meeting room is located directly across from the front service desk as you walk into the building. The room is fairly large with a projection screen and projector setup. We’re still shaking out the technical kinks, but should have everything ready to go for the next meeting.



There is plenty of parking for those attending one of our chapter meetings. Additionally, there is a sizeable grass field out back that would lend itself to other group activities, like casting practice and casting demonstrations.

This location is currently being evaluated for all future meetings. If you attend a meeting and have any input for us, please let us know.

Early Autumn Trout Tactics - Kubie Brown in MidCurrent

As the first cold nights of autumn leave their first frosty kisses on the grass and leaves begin to change from green to fluorescent oranges, reds, and yellows, we trout anglers begin to get excited. Cooling water temperatures bring new life to the river. Trout become more active as they feed heavily preparing for winter or, depending on the species, as they prepare to spawn. Whether you’re a dry fly purist, a streamer junkie, or someone who just likes to catch trout anyway you can, early fall has some of the best opportunities to land a ton of trout or even the fish of a lifetime.



Read the full article with discussion on the flies/hatches and techniques to help you have a successful Fall outing. [Read Here](#)

“Anchored” Podcast: Carl McNeil - April Vokey

Since we mentioned Carl ([Epic Fly Rods](#)) earlier on page 6, I thought we could finish up with this podcast from April Vokey.

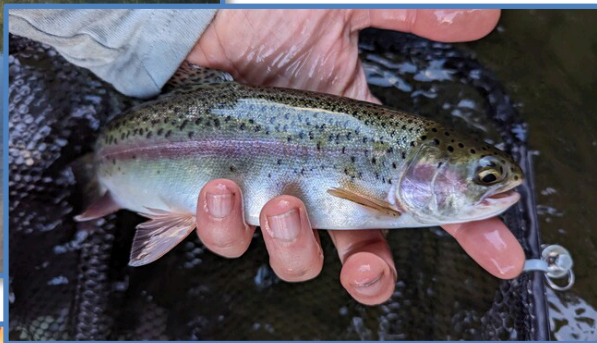
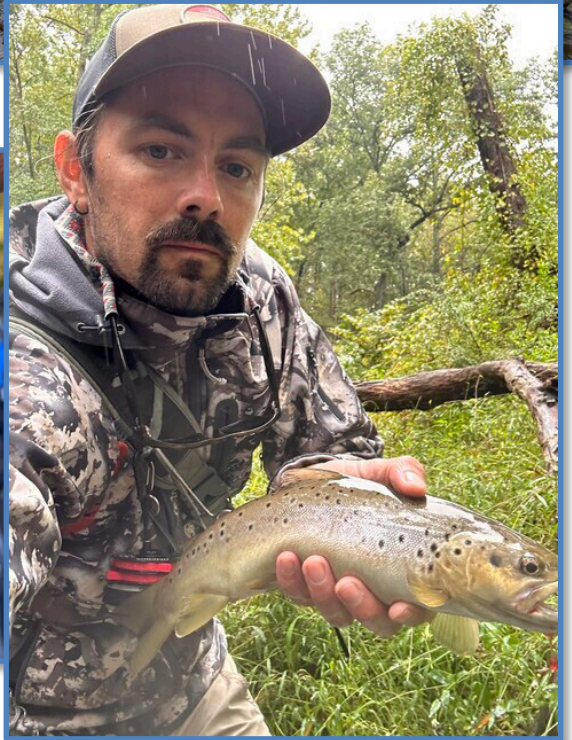
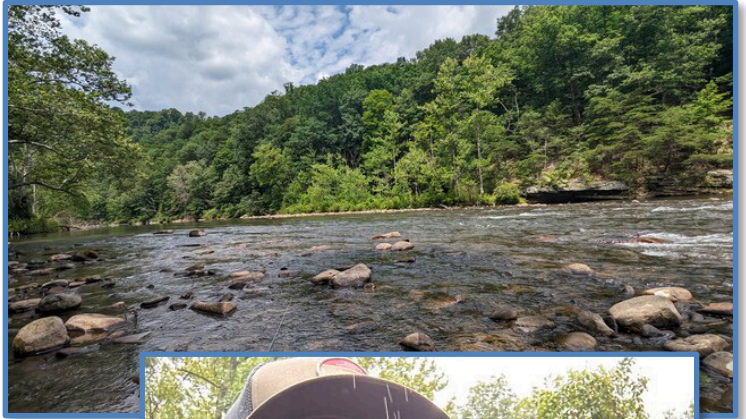
Carl was one of the first IFFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructors in New Zealand and has taught hundreds of anglers how to fly cast both at home and abroad. His hugely popular fly casting DVD ‘Casts That Catch Fish’ remains one of the most popular fly casting films ever made.

In an hour-long [podcast interview](#), April Vokey talks to Carl about his custom line of beautifully-crafted fiberglass rods, being a disruptor in the fly fishing industry, and the beauty of New Zealand’s South Island.



Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

October already??? Where has the year gone? Hopefully you'll hear some good stories and see some great photos at our next meeting. See you soon!



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

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



October Caddis Soft Hackle Pupa

Its October, I would be remiss NOT to mention an October Caddis Fly.

Fly Fish Food has a great pattern for you to try out. You can fish it as is or hang it under dry fly as a dropper pattern.

If you're headed out to the October Campout this would be a good pattern to try out.

[October Caddis Soft Hackle Pupa](#)



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