

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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PPTU's Annual “Fly Tying Extravaganza” *January 18th, 2017*

Please, join us once again for a PPTU family favorite - our annual *Fly Tying Extravaganza* meeting!

Swing by the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday night, January 18th at 7:00 PM when the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host for your enjoyment our annual fly tying demonstration.

This year, we will have tables set up for several creative local tyers and their wares. Come by and check out the magic of Jed Feffer and his *Grey Ghost*, Walt Sheppard's *Gurgler*, Carl Smolka's *Perdgon Spanish Nymph*, Chuck Dinkel's *Lightning Bug*, Marc Hutzell's *Sawyer Killer Bug*, James Harris' *Parachute Wonder Wing Adams*, and Bob O'Donnell will clean up with a *Shop Vac*, while Bob Dietz will demonstrate *various techniques for hackling with small hackles*. You don't want to miss this!

Our volunteer tyers will be passing along their skills and knowledge while demonstrating flies you can use on our local streams to catch fish. Take home a pattern recipe and don't miss this opportunity to shorten your learning curve while you move closer to the elusive goal of mastering this special art of fly tying.

– Alan Burrows



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
DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER
From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

Happy New Year!

Solstice is over and the days are slowly starting to lengthen again. It's still a tad cold and dark outside which makes it the perfect time to sit at the vice with a warm drink and make some magic.

If your fly boxes and vest look anything like mine it is time to sort flies, pitch the bad ones and take stock of what you'll need come Spring. If you were lucky over the holidays, maybe someone gifted you with a new set of flies or gift certificate to put to good use in the local fly shop or on line somewhere. Maybe you even unwrapped a new vice or fly tying kit and are itching to get started. Now is a great time!

Our annual fly tying meeting will get your creative juices flowing. Even if you don't fish, tying flies is a relaxing hobby and can be rather therapeutic when the winter doldrums hit. I can almost feel my blood pressure go down while sitting in front of my vice. If you have even the tiniest hint of creative genes in your body, combining fur, feathers, thread, and synthetics to a hook is a work of art. Your fly fishing friends will admire you – and your flies.

For those that take the plunge, fly tying can be life long hobby. There's always something new to learn, new materials to try out, new patterns to play with, and the challenge of coming up with your own unique creations to fool the fish in our local waters.

If you've never tied, stop by at our January meeting and get immersed in the event. Wander around the tables and observe and perhaps try your hand at tying a fly. The chapter is looking into holding another fly tying class again this winter and you're welcome to join us. We have extra materials and vices available if you need them. Plus, plenty of knowledge and patience to go along with the good instruction you'll receive.

We'll continue the New Year with a new fly tying adventure we started this past year – a monthly chapter Beer Tie. So far its been a social gathering for various members to sit and enjoy each others company, shoot the breeze, eat some good food, tie some flies, and if so inclined, enjoy a drink of your choosing. Join us one night at Old Line Wine & Bistro to relax a little with your fellow TU members.

I hope the new year finds you in good health and you're able to get out and enjoy the outdoors. We'll be hosting plenty of interesting meetigs and fun outings this year with some new locations sprinkled in amongst the familiar streamside haunts. Make sure to post our meetings and events to your calendars and join us as often as time allows. Come to an outing and bring along those flies you've tied. Catching a fish on a fly YOU tied is a thrill you'll never forget.


Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell
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 

Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

Winter is now upon us. If our free time is restricted to the weekends one may have to work on their gear in the basement—tying flies, repairing items, cleaning lines and reels, etc. However, if you are able to get out at almost any time, then look for a pleasant day in the forties. It may be heavy overcast, but even a slightly warmer than average day can produce a lot of midges and stoneflies on our local waters. In turn, the trout can become active feeders. Whether it is the Breeches in Pennsylvania or the Gunpowder, Big Hunting Creek and Savage tailwaters here in Maryland, they can become excellent winter fisheries in the middle of the day. Have had some great fishing days even when there was a foot or more of snow on the ground if the air temps just went into the forties!



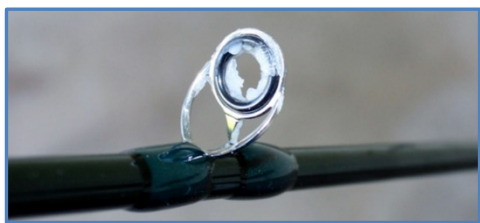
Safety is always important at any time of the year. During cold weather we have to also be cognizant of the danger from hyperthermia. Have a plan if and when you fall into the water. Do not go too far from the warmth of a car. Carry a change of warm clothes in case you do take a winter bath. Tell the family where you are going and what time you expect to return. Toss your cell phone in a Ziplock, even if it is supposed to be water resistant, for carrying with you. Be safe. Live to fish another day, even if you do fall into the water!

If the fishing is slow or you can only get out on the unpredictable weekends, consider 'target practice' with your fly rod. Create a small 'target' out of Styrofoam or wood that is easy to see and no more than a few inches across. Attach to a length of monofilament and a small weight. Toss in a nearby stream and practice casting to it from different angles and distances. Start in slower water and then move the target into the faster water with variable currents. Dead drifting a small dry fly within a few inches of the target on the majority of the casts is excellent, especially if the distance is >25' and across the currents. Pay attention to the slack in the tippet and leader and take note of when drag sets into the drift.



Drag is the single biggest signal to a trout that the fly is not a natural. Micro drag is when the tippet material at the knot with the fly directs it to move (or not move) in a manner that a natural insect would not move. This might be imperceptible from 30–40' away, but a stiff tippet might not let the fly spin or do some other micro motion that tells the trout "not edible!" One can imagine the action of a #16 dry fly attached to a 1X tippet versus an 8X tippet. Obviously, one must find a compromise in tippet size selection to obtain the maximum fly movement in the presentation versus strength in landing any expected trout that takes the dead drifted dry fly.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are as anxious as I am to see spring for a lot of fishing.



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!

Patuxent Report **- Jay Sheppard**

We expect to start stocking our local stream in late February. If you wish to help, drop me an email (jaymsheppard95@gmail.com) if you are not already on my mailing list for volunteers. You must have chest waders, be able to walk a mile or more up or down the middle of a local stream, and be available during the week for up to 6 hours. The benefits are that you learn a section of a local trout stream and literally where the trout are at the start.



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has given the owner of the hydro project in Brighton Dam until the end of January to outline steps he will take to alleviate the very low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) below the dam in the summer. We hope the owner of the power plant will be able to come up with a simple solution so the trout do not suffocate each summer from lack of oxygen. The FERC letter to the hydro owner cited the frequent reports in the Conservationist over the past several years as the source of their low DO information. Our reports were, in turn, based upon actual measurements provided by WSSC and DNR Fisheries. We will keep you posted on this process.

Fly Fishing Shows - Bob O'Donnell

The new year opens with several fly fishing shows across the country. The list below are shows that were narrowed down to those within a somewhat reasonable driving distance from our area. I know a few folks often go the NJ or PA shows. The shows are a great way to see what is out there in terms of new gear plus many offer class sessions from casting to fly tying. If you're looking for a car pool buddy, post a note on the PPTU forum. Enjoy!

January

27th – 29th The Fly-Fishing Show
Somerset, NJ

February

3rd – 4th The Fly-Fishing Show—Atlanta, GA
4th Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show
Fairfield, OH

March

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

April

8th – 9th Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival
Doswell, VA

Shop Amazon Smile! - PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile this year. Add the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter as your charity to your Amazon account. Those donations add up.

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:

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

[Get started](#)

amazonsmile

PPTU Beer Tie - Bob O'Donnell

Since this is our fly tying issue... here's another reminder that the **PPTU Beer Tie** is a perpetual event happening the 2nd Monday of each month at Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro. Come take part and check it out some night.



11011 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705

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

What is it??? - PPTU

Carl Smolka posted these photos and question to the group recently. Usually there's a quick reply with the correct answer – not this time around. It took a little thought and guessing before someone chimed in with a reasonable answer.



Its an old style fly tying bobbin!

Maryland Water Monitoring Report - Carl Smolka

On December 2, the Maryland Water Monitoring Council held their 22nd annual conference with the theme, “A River Runs Through It – strengthening networks and connections” at the Maritime Institute in North Linthicum. For the first time, the conference was oversubscribed with 515 participants and 75 on a waiting list. My intent in attending this conference is to learn what the current water quality issues in Maryland are and where we, as a chapter, might be able to make a contribution in the future.

Clark Howells, Chairman, MWMC Board of Directors called the session to order. Plenary speaker Wayne Gilchrest, former US representative from MD’s 1st district gave an inspiring talk without the use of notes or death by PowerPoint about nature being indifferent and everyone can wake up liking a sunrise. He paraphrased a Norman Cousins book using the phrase, “Knowledge is the solvent for danger”. I was feeling sorry for whomever would follow him, but was equally impressed by George Hawkins, the second plenary speaker. George is the CEO and General Manager of DC’s Water and Sewer Authority. Another inspiring talk without notes, teleprompter, or reading slides! He talked about the Blue Plains water treatment facility in DC which is the largest such facility in the world and handles not only DC, but surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. I did not realize that it was a larger construction effort than building Metro. His message had to do with the alliance required both upstream and downstream of handling waste water and the difficulty/expense of getting the next 1% improvement in the quality of discharge and whether it is worth the effort when the current discharge is cleaner than the water into which it is discharged. The annual Carl Weber award was presented to Bonnie Bick for her efforts with the Mattawoman Watershed Society.

The conference continued with a number of concurrent technical sessions with topics including: Stream Restoration Monitoring Results – what are we learning?, Salt of the Earth: Unintended connections between de-icers and our water resources, Nutrient Trading – From baseball cards to water quality – trading is the game, Creating Resiliency Through Nature – roles for green

infrastructure in a changing climate, Air Pollution Impacts on Surface Waters, Advocacy and Outreach, Sustainable Bay Fisheries, Collaborating with Community Partners, Urban Waters – life in the big city, National Aquatic Resource Surveys, Teachers, Tidewater, and Tributaries – citizen scientists get the job done, Those Blue-Green (aka Cyanobacterial) Primitive Photosynthetic Machines, Climate Change: wetlands, the bay, and beyond, Save the Trout – land use, BMPs and strong partnerships, and Why Did The Stream Cross The Road.

The full program with talk and poster abstracts and committee reports for this and previous year’s conferences are available on the MWMC website at www.marylandwatermonitoring.org. Also on this website is an interactive mapper of Maryland showing all of the monitoring activity in the state.

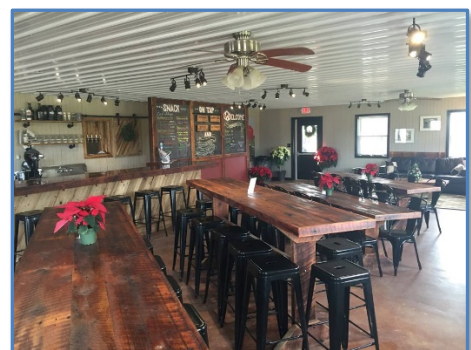


Waredaca Brewery Fundraiser - Trout Wrangler

If you missed this event, you missed a night of fun. The good news? We’ll be doing it again.

Many PPTU members and friends showed up in support of the chapter and enjoyed a relaxing evening while sampling some of Waredaca’s offerings of craft beer and non-alcoholic cider. Which by the way was yummy! Once the final tally comes in we’ll get it posted to the group. From my understanding, we did well. If you get a chance, I highly recommend stopping in and checking the place out for yourself.

www.waredacabrewing.com



January Meeting Bucket Raffle - Bob Kaiser

In keeping with the agenda of this month's meeting, the bucket raffle will feature two themes: staying warm in cold weather and fly tying. Fishing mittens and gloves, thermos bottles, hand warmers, etc. will help you keep fishing all year long.

Fly tying items include hook files and hones, pliers, magnetic pickups, test leads (hackle pliers) and a multi-compartment magnetic midge box to hold those tiny #20s and smaller winter flies.

Fifteen tickets for just \$5.00 or two tickets for \$1.00 go a long way to supporting PPTU.

Staying in Touch – Staying Safe - Michael Abramowitz

Walkie talkies are an excellent item to keep in touch with your fellow anglers, especially with the newer models which have longer line of sight range.

There are local streams where there is poor or no cell phone reception with many of the local cell phone carriers. (even if you are close to a road or houses) I use an ACR AQUA link personal locator device (PLD). (406 MHz PLB) The PLD is waterproof for a long period of time and depth. The batteries have a 5 year lifespan.

You register the device with SARSAT/NOAA. There is no fee for registration and it is renewable every two years. You can use it anywhere except China. If you kayak/boat or go out alone I think that a PLD is a lifesaving piece of equipment.



This is the web site for the device:

https://www.acrartex.com/products/catalog/personal-locator-beacons/aqualink-plb/?gclid=CjwKEAiAsMXBBRD71KWOh6fcjRwSJAC5CNE1VzoyEXuz7PnFWONd3U0Yck69XrfXdP7FInVP0ZZ0dhoCk0fw_wcB#sthash.CtuQBU p3.ZY6iprqs.dpbs

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Make sure to check out the stories on the company web site.

Coming Soon – The PPTU Flea Market! - Bob O'Donnell

Dust off your old gear and clean out those storage spaces! We're bringing back the flea market to one of our next meetings. The flea market will feature old fishing gear AND mini-raffles for related items from our chapter's collection. So dig up that old rod, reel, vest, tying vise, whatever and offer it for sale to our members. All we ask is that a portion of the proceeds, minimum 10%, be donated to the chapter to further our mission. So clean out that back room and car trunk - you and your spouse will be glad you did! Remember, one person's unused item is another's gold. Looking for a nicer, shorter, longer or heavier rod? Need a new sling pack? You might just find it at the upcoming PPTU Flea Market.

More details and meeting date to follow!

Fly Tying Tools and Materials Available - Bob Kaiser

An assortment of fly tying tools and materials will be available, in exchange for a donation to PPTU, at our January 18th, 2017 meeting. This is the perfect way to get started or pick up items you need. Who doesn't need an extra bobbin or a new color thread! Items include tools, feathers, wire, tinsel, hooks, dubbing, and plastic drawer units to store your stuff in. We will also have some cigar boxes – perfect for storing tools, small material, etc. Materials will be available throughout the meeting – come early for best selection!



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: Trout Wrangler
Phone: 410-733-0638
Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



Kaleidoscope Midge

Winter means it is time to go slow and small.

The Kaleidoscope Midge is a fast easy tie, even for the beginner. The techniques shown in the following video allow you to make 3 different versions of the fly using the same material with small additions to the pattern.

<http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/fly-tying-videos/nymph-flies/878-kaleidoscope-midge>



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