

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

**Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited**

Sep 2015 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

## Fly Fishing the Chesapeake Bay Capt. Tom Hughes *Sep 16<sup>th</sup> 2015*

We're back this month and are just thrilled to host Captain Tom Hughes who will be giving an exciting presentation on Fly Fishing the Chesapeake Bay for Striped Bass and Other Saltwater Species. This instructional presentation will cover equipment, flies, techniques, and locations that are productive.

Captain Tom Hughes is an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide and books full and half day trips for 1 to 3 anglers from April to December. He has been guiding fly fishing and light tackle trips on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries since 2000.

Captain Tom specializes in teaching (when needed) how to fly fish or light tackle fish for striped bass, bluefish, white perch, and other Chesapeake Bay species. Trips are available on any week day or weekend day. Captain Tom provides everything needed for you and your guests to have an enjoyable day on the Chesapeake Bay. Sit back, enjoy the show, and put yourself in the picture as you fly fish stretches of the Chesapeake Bay between Love Point on the eastern shore south to Thomas Point on the western shore. Imagine you and your friends fishing for striped bass, bluefish, and other saltwater species. Ready to go?

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

– 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](http://www.pptu.org)

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2015 – 2016

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### Stream Committees:

Paint Branch: Joe Robinson 301-565-3267  
Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson 301-565-3267  
Middle Patuxent: Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard 301-725-5559

### Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Nick Weber 301-774-2806 / 301-919-2026 (cell)  
Bob Dietz 301-854-6893  
Marc Hutzell 240-499-4945  
Vice Chairman Resources: Nick Weber 301-774-2806  
Carl Smolka 301-929-1365  
Alan Burrows 443-610-7850  
Rachel Dagovitz 202.468.9653  
Bob O'Donnell 410-733-0638  
Jim Greene 301-652-3848  
Dennis Covert 410-740-8337  
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### Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

As you read this, I should be standing in the Lamar River in the North East corner of Yellowstone National Park, releasing yet another huge Cutthroat, hollering up a storm, and patting myself on the back for deciding to go on this once in a lifetime excursion – a four day pack trip into the Yellowstone wilderness.

We all dream about doing different things but very often put them off til' another day or another time. When this opportunity came around I jumped at it and made the commitment. I knew if I waited or hesitated this opportunity would be gone and I may never get back there.

“Life is a flash of lightning in the dark of night. It is a brief time of tremendous potential.”

I realized our lives are short all too quickly these past couple of weeks with the sudden loss of someone dear. There had been so many things planned; a family picnic, a trip to see relatives, a stuffed bear that needed sewing, paintings to finish, and family tales to be told and written down. But time passed by and those plans, dreams, desires and memories slowly faded away.

The loss actually left me feeling a bit recharged. When we return from Yellowstone the first thing I'll be doing is printing our pictures instead of letting them lie dormant on a hard drive. I have several paintings I've started myself that need finished. You can bet I'll be getting out my brushes and putting fresh paint to canvas. There are books to be read, a yard to attend to, boxes to sort through and several items on my “Honey Do” list that will get checked off.

I don't plan on wasting another minute of time. It's too precious to let slip away. Perhaps I'll extend a bit of encouragement to the rest of you.... The next time you have the opportunity to fish, go! Surprise a friend and take them along. Share your stories with family and friends. Better yet, write them down for future generations to enjoy. Clear

the clutter from your life, get out and enjoy yourself. Take that trip you've been dreaming of and bring along those you love. My wife and I will be enjoying the Yellowstone wilderness under a star filled Wyoming sky. And if another tear flows, it will be a tear of joy. My last words to you... Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Being alive is the special occasion.

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** will be asked to contribute \$20.



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

## **Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard**

'Tis the season to think of running up to the Great Lakes and catching some salmon! Or chasing some fall stripers in the Bay. In case you are using a big landing net, here is a tip: when lifting the large fish in a very large net, do not hold the handle horizontal as most would be inclined to do. Hold

the handle vertical with the bag of the net holding the fish below the rim of the hoop. Not sure how many nets I have seen busted by folks trying to lift a large fish out of the water by keeping the handle horizontal. Handles are for reaching into the water. Lift the fish out after being netted with the butt of the handle pointed skyward.

Fly tyers are now using those UV-activated cements to finish off a fly. Carry a tube of the stuff for not only patching your waders but also to quickly fix the head of a fly that is starting to fall apart while you are standing in the middle of a stream! It is super quick (if the sun is shining) and gets you back to casting for fish. Flies out on the water are worth 10 or even a 100 times what they are worth in a shop or on your tying bench.

If you are like most folks and wish to have a cold drink of water (etc.) on the stream, look into obtaining a water bottle pouch or holster that attaches to your belt. Add some ice to the large-mouthed bottle before adding cold water, and the pouch will keep it cold for hours. These holsters can be found at almost any hiking, biking, & camping store. They are made of a thick insulating material that holds water for evaporative cooling—just dunk it into the stream you are wading!

When landing any trout, try to keep it in the water as you unhook it. Do not take it out of the water for more than a dozen seconds, if at all. This is especially important if the water is in the mid-50s or higher. Even when the water is cooler, it is still very important to reduce the stress on a trout as much as possible. The hook may not make much of an injury to the jaw of the trout, but simply stressing the fish too much may be enough to reduce its longevity.

## **Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard**

The Patuxent River tailwater below Brighton Dam became anoxic and too warm for trout in July again this summer. The temperatures would have been tolerable if there had been an abundance of dissolved oxygen, but the DO went to zero about the same time as the water temps started hitting the low 70s each afternoon.

As we go to press I have no word yet on when WSSC plans to start work on Brighton Dam. I expect it to start this fall or early winter, but nothing definite, yet. We plan to meet with WSSC to make sure we get a thorough inspection of the control gates and trash screen in front of the dam intake control structure. The main work on the dam will be to reface the spillways and other major repairs on the dam itself. The work is expected to take 2 years.

If you had not heard, Asian snakeheads were discovered this spring in the Little Patuxent River at Savage Mill. I have not had the opportunity to chase them with a fly rod yet, but look forward to a day of chasing these tasty fish with the long rod. Although I have no reports, there is no reason whatsoever that these fish are not also in the main Patuxent River upstream to Rocky Gorge Dam just above Laurel.

The flows in the upper Patuxent River have been better than average this summer. I would expect a good number of our stocked browns and maybe even a rainbow or two to have survived the summer and be willing to play with the anglers willing to traipse back away from the bridges. There was a major flood the end of June (>8' of water! & 3000 cfs!!) that cleared out any lingering sediment. Flows in mid-July and early August were still about twice the normal flows. As we get into hunting seasons later this fall, be sure to wear some bright hat or other clothing if fishing Monday through Saturday on this challenging stream.

## Comments on Our Chapter

**Dennis:** Thanks for organizing this great trip. What a day!

To the rest of you, I just wanted to say how much I appreciated your welcoming into PPTU. Being away from family and home for six months is not easy but your fellowship and fishing trips really helped make the time go by.

I really appreciated Bob O'Donnell who took me under his wing and guided me to a few special rivers to fish; thanks Bob!

I head for home on Friday this week and will sign out of the list serve but just know that you all made life easier for me.

Thanks to all.

Mickey McGuire  
[mcguiremr@gmail.com](mailto:mcguiremr@gmail.com) 

*Ed. note: copied from PPCTU list serve 7/14/15*



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!*

## PPTU BBQ - Annual Fundraiser - Trout Wrangler

Our chapter's first annual BBQ fundraiser appears to have been a success, bad weather, holiday weekend and all.

My sincere thanks to ALL our members and friends that attended the event and the many volunteers that helped with prizes, ticket sales, set up and take down. Cudos! It looks like we'll be doing it again next year.

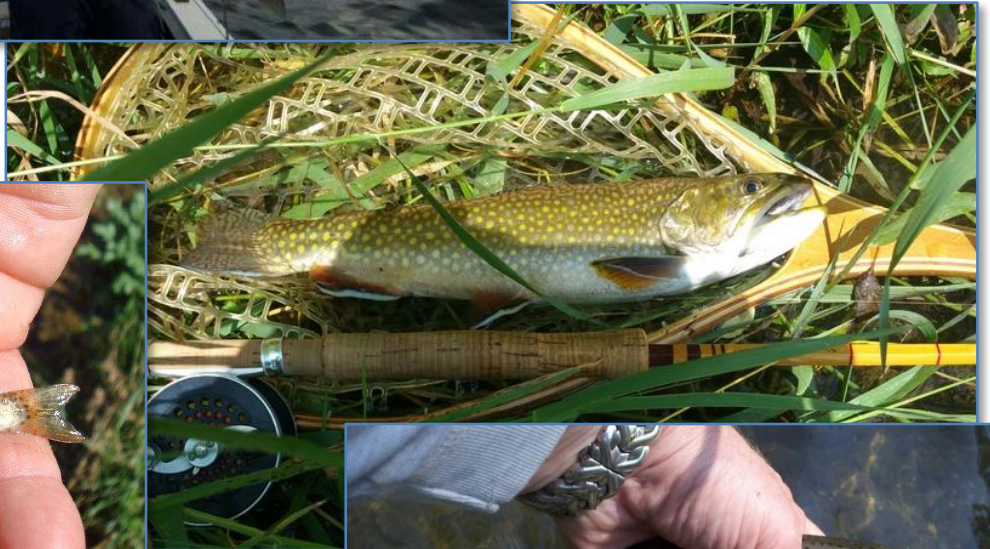
Congratulations to all our prize winners! We hope you enjoy yourselves and look forward to postings and pictures of your adventures.

Jim Crowell – West Branch Angler Trip  
Patrick Casey – Guided Trip with Mike Heck  
Ken Bowyer – Guided Trip on Beaver Creek



## Members Catch!

Our members have been busy lately! Check out some of these bad boys!



*World's smallest rainbow?*



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and Amazon will make  
a donation to:  
**Potomac Patuxent Chapter  
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

[Get started](#)

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## PPTU Poetry Contest! - PPTU Board

Sharpen your pencils, dust off that keyboard!

We decided to have a little fun and invite all our members to enter a poetry contest. We know there are some bright minds and sharp tongues out there amongst our creative membership, so give it a whirl and enter! Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Give us your best Haiku, Limerick (keep it clean), or Rhyme based on a fishing or conservation theme. Our grand judge will be the illustrious scholar and fly fisherman Mr. Jim Keil.

Sample limerick from Joe Robinson...

*There once was a flyfisher from Kent.  
One day to a bonnie brook he went.  
But upon his first cast,  
into a tree he held fast,  
and both angle and angler left bent!*

So give it a thought, type it up and email your best verse to the editor for a chance at fame and fortune. Winners to be announced in another edition of the Conservationist. Mail your entry to the PPTU mailing address or email poems with the subject line "Poetry Contest" to: [troutwrangler@yahoo.com](mailto:troutwrangler@yahoo.com)

Good luck! 🌸

## Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting - TU

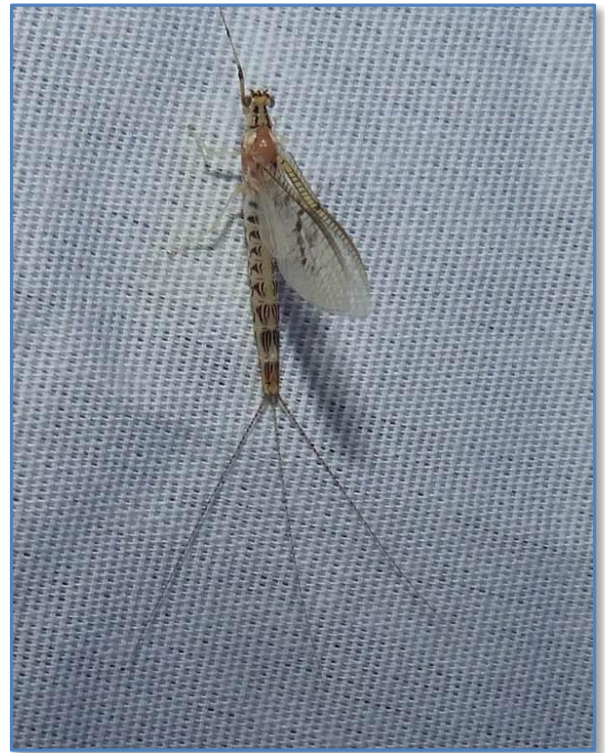
Join hundreds of fellow Trout Unlimited members and volunteers like you at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Scranton, Pa. from Sept. 16-20.

The annual meeting is a time to celebrate all that we have accomplished together, and recommit ourselves to all we will do in the year ahead to preserve, protect and restore our nation's coldwater resources. For more info check out the TU web site:

<http://www.tu.org/get-involved/national-events/2015-annual-meeting>

## New Mayfly for the Region - Jay Sheppard

A group of folks searching for moths with lights in Howard County encountered this mayfly, a White Drake, *Ephemera blanda*, for the first regional record: Before you rush and make a bunch of flies to imitate this species...it is very rare this far east and north of the Appalachians where it is usually found. Nice bug! A female. Hope there were others in the nearby stream.



Note 3 tails, blotches on wings and large apparent size--all excellent marks for this genus. 🌸

## Shocking News - Jay Sheppard

At a meeting in Luke where DNR fisheries reported the day's results of shocking the North Branch from Westernport down to McCoolle... The results where shocking to say the least!!!

Within the first 3 minutes of drifting downstream in their large pontoon electro-shocking 'barge'/boat they had shocked up two large fish!! One was a 20" rainbow and the other was a 22" brown...right below the Piedmont-Westernport

bridge!!! It only got better as they went downstream!! They can sample only about 10% of the stream with their gear and they averaged about 100 trout per hour. Before you rush out there...be advised that they check all the fish for hooking injuries...hardly any of the big fish had any evidence they had been caught!!! Over 80% of the fish are either wild browns from the Savage River or grew up from the thousands of fingerling rainbows and browns that WV and MD DNRs are stocking below Westernport to Keyser. They dumped 65,000 fingerlings in the river so far this year. This river section is no-kill for all trout and bass down to almost Cumberland. 🌸

## Hopper History Lesson - Marc Hutzel

For the history buffs among us - I came across this article “Grasshopper Country” that gives a history lesson on the hopper. And like the author, I think you can catch a fish just about time of year on a Letort Hopper. ; )

<http://www.amff.com/assets/images/archived-journals/2012-Vol38-No3web.pdf>



## For the Traveling Angler - TroutWrangler

Visit Cherokee NC’s newest attraction – the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians. Through exhibits and videos you’ll learn about past fly fishing legends, the evolution of rods and reels, basic knots, fly-tying, types of gear, types of gamefish, regional fishing waters, and the history of fly fishing in the Southeast.

Once considered a sport only for the wealthy, today fly fishing is one of the hottest trends in outdoor activities for both men and women. Whether you are a long-time fly fisherman, or have

only attempted or never tried fly fishing, you will find something to enjoy and to learn from in the museum.

The rustic interior reinforces the outdoors theme of the museum. An entire tobacco barn was dismantled in Surry County, North Carolina. The entire barn and many additional loads of barn wood were used to make exhibit cases, partitions, benches and other furnishings; local rhododendron branches were used as decorative elements.

Open daily, the museum is centrally located in Cherokee - next door to the Visitor Center, and across from the Fairgrounds and the Museum of the Cherokee Indians. The back deck of the museum building overlooks the Oconaluftee River; and the Museum is within walking distance of Oconaluftee Islands Park.

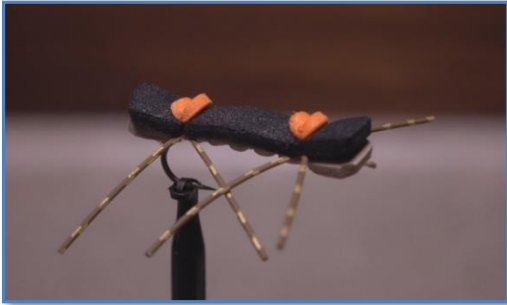
Cherokee is the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian and some of Western North Carolina’s most acclaimed trout waters. Adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee is 1 hour west of Asheville, 2 hours from Knoxville, Greenville/Spartanburg & Chattanooga, and 3 hours from Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Atlanta.

<http://www.flyfishingmuseum.org/>

### *About Southern Appalachia's Trout Waters...*

There are more than 14,700 miles of accessible trout streams in the nine Southern Appalachian States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama; the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and the Blue Ridge Parkway. 🌸





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](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)

## Chernobyl Ant

It's hard to go wrong with a Chernobyl Ant and it doesn't matter if you're fishing for trout, bass or blue gill, or whether you're using it as a primary fly or the hopper part of a hopper-dropper rig. These things just plain get the job done.

<https://vimeo.com/135964829>



Return Address:  
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU  
P.O. Box 2865  
Wheaton, MD 20915