

Mar 2001 Newsletter

Potomac-Pautxent Chapter



Gary Neitzey Fly Fishing on the Chesapeake Bay

Gary Neitzey started out as a furrier but gave up his hammer, anvil, and forge for a fly rod and boat many years ago. He used to take his horseshoeing clients fishing with him on his days off. Eventually these clients wanted him to guide them more and more. Thus a career change. Gary is a light tackle fisherman who covers the whole Chesapeake Bay. He will go from Havre de Grace to the Salomon Islands, from open water to the smallest shallow creeks, where ever the fish are. Some of his favorite places are the Severn and the Magothy Rivers, but be sure to remind him to describe what it can be like on the Patapsco near the Power Plant.

Every-one likes striped bass for both catching and eating but there are many species to be caught on the Bay and its rivers, including his favorite the chain pickerel. What to look for, both fish and conditions, and what to use will definitely be a large part of his presentation. Hot, cold, salty, rainy, clear; weather conditions can help you decide where to go and what might end up on your hook. He will share with us tips on the tackle, which is most effective for different species on the Bay, including some flies, which he finds very effective. Whether it is blind casting, working structure, or casting to breaking fish, Gary feels that the Bay can be a great place for a fly fisher. He says that one of the greatest things about the Bay is that it is a 12 month fishery. If you can go out, there are fish waiting to be caught.

You should really enjoy Gary's presentation. He is a very animated person, very excited about his time on the water. But be cautious: if you introduce yourself and shake hands, be complimentary regarding his presentation; remember, he used to shoe horses for a living.



March PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jim Keil

If someone asked me what my greatest fear is for our coldwater fisheries, my answer might surprise some of you who know me well. Some of you might think I'd say, "the ICC" or "sprawl," but you'd be wrong. The greatest danger to our watersheds is grassroots conservation groups with an inactive or limited membership. I don't have that fear about our membership; let me tell you why.

Last month I raved about the support we received at the University of Maryland Flyfishing Show and the great job many people did putting together February's flytying meeting. Those are two good reasons to think there is hope for our watersheds. Another reason for hope popped up this month. I had filed a listserv trip report on a Friday I had spent on the Middle Patuxent, and I had used some acronyms for the nymphs with which I had had success. One of the listserv readers pointed out that he didn't know what a BHPN was. I explained to him, as did one or two other readers, that it was shorthand for beadhead prince nymph, but I realized from that experience that some PPTU members are willing to admit that they're not all that familiar with some of the minutiae of trout fishing and that they want to learn more about it (indeed, the listserv has quite a few people willing to describe themselves as "newbies").

The flip side of this our good fortune is that there are chapter members willing and able to share the wealth of knowledge available that they've acquired over the years. This brings me to Jay Sheppard's recent articles on hatches, particularly the outstanding piece in February's issue; Jim Greco's on tying in this month's issue; and David Feldman's organization of the flytying course, where there were about twenty people enrolled.

There's always reasons to be hopeful when one has such expertise as these anglers represent--and one has from them a willingness to share that expertise with newcomers to the sport. As long as people keep asking to learn more about flyfishing and others are willing to help, our watersheds stand a chance. If you have a question and/or can lend a hand, please do so. But at the very least, remember that at the grassroots level a little effort and a little thanks go a long way.

Patuxent Report

by Jay Sheppard

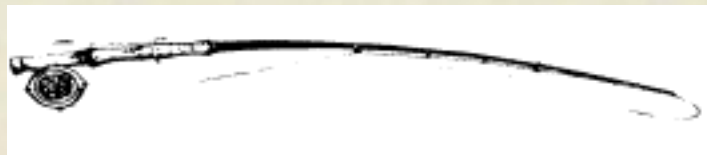
Unless there was a flood or heavy snow, the Special (& Delayed Harvest) Area should have been stocked twice by March 8. Some 2000 brown trout and 1000 rainbows were in these first two stockings. A final float-stocking of rainbows is scheduled for April 2. The browns were float-stocked away from the bridges to

spread them out, while the rainbows were mostly placed near the bridge access points or the first several hundred yards in both directions. This latter stocking policy makes a lot of fish available to those just getting into catch-and-release fishing with lures or flies

A lot of the younger fishers also benefit—they can usually see the trout swimming down in the deeper pools! As in past years, we avoid placing hatchery trout in those sections that hold good numbers of wild trout, mostly above the Rt. 94 bridge crossing. We greatly appreciate the three dozen members who have helped stock the Special Area; this effort often requires taking a day off of work and wading in some COLD water. If you are interested in helping on the last stocking and have not yet signed up for the earlier ones, please let me know by the March meeting. As with most hatchery trout, we may not see much reaction to our fishing tactics for a couple of weeks after they went into the stream. Give them a chance to learn how and what to eat. Up until now, everything they saw in the hatchery was edible. They also never had to chase their food and need some practice. Now, suddenly, bits of leaves, bark, and twigs look inviting as they swirl past the freshly stocked trout, but these items just give them a tummy ache within a few days of going into the stream!

There will be a stream cleanup on the Patuxent Saturday morning, April 7. Please mark your calendars. This annual event is in coordination with the Izaak Walton League and other conservation groups. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter's House on Mullinix Mill Road. Bring boots, gloves and a heavy duty rake. Lunch will be provided when you are finished. This is a great family activity. Contact me for further information and if you plan to help. Parking and access to the stream may get disrupted later this year. I do not know when, but both the bridges at Howard Chapel and the one over Cabin Branch on Hipsley Mill are to be removed and replaced at some point. Parking for stream access will be possible just to the north of either bridge.

Maryland License Fees



Jay Sheppard

A Maryland License fees for Nonresidents Jay Sheppard In case some of you who live outside Maryland may not have heard: MD has gone to a reciprocal non-resident fee for fishing licenses. That is, when a nonresident asks for a license, the clerk asks what state he is from and the screen only gives him the choices that a MD resident would have when in that other state.

Real example: I took a fellow out for a few days of fishing in early November. He was from Ohio. Nonresidents getting licenses in Ohio pay either a \$24 annual fee or \$5/day to fish. Since MD only offers a 5?day or an annual non?resident license, the comparable 5?day license would be \$25, so MD charges the Ohio resident its annual rate of \$24, plus the MD trout stamp of \$5 to fish ONE or all 365 days.

This will have a really big impact on our members and friends who live in the neighboring states of VA, WV, and PA. I think they will have to pay something like \$60 (VA & WV) and \$40 (PA) for an annual MD freshwater license with trout stamp. Previously, MD had one of the very lowest nonresident annual fishing licenses in the country: \$20 for a non?tidal license without trout stamp.

This whole pricing structure currently applies only to the non-tidal licenses; the legislature is being asked in the next session to allow tidal fishing licenses to also be reciprocal. Welcome to Maryland and the 21st

Century! Great place to fish, especially if you live here.



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ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have moved or see any error in your mailing labels (Trout or Conservationist), please notify both the National TU office and this chapter with sepa-rotate notices. Our mailing list is maintained apart from the National list; we do eventually get the no-tice of address change from National TU, but it is often a few months before it affects your newsletter and other mailings. Please help us help you. Thank you.

. April "Earth Month" Activities for Patux-ent Watershed

The Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed group is once again sponsoring an "Earth Month" of Stewardship Activities during April. Contact Meo Curtis at 240-777-7711 for more information. Sunday, April 1. Bird Walk off Triadelphia Lake Road with Bonnie Ott from the Howard County Bird Club.

Saturday, April 7. Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean-up, organized by the IWL-WAC. 8:30 to Noon. Meet at the IWL-WAC Chapter House off Mullinix Mill Rd. (see Patuxent report in this issue.)

Saturday, April 14. Campfire Workshop beginning at 7 p.m. for young people at Schooley Mill Park off Hall Shop Rd. in Howard Co.

Sunday April 22 (Earth Day). Guided Nature Hike and free Canoe Workshops on Rocky Gorge Reser-voir at the Supplee Park Launch Area off Brooklyn Bridge Road in Laurel from 10 to 2 p.m. and the BIG

FINALE!

Watershed Day at Brighton Dam. Saturday,

April 28th from 10 - 2 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, April 29th.) Learn about the resources of the reservoir watershed and how to become an active steward to protect those resources. Enjoy the azalea garden in bloom, see the inside of Brighton Dam, stream monitoring demonstrations and exhibits about successful suburban and rural citizen stewardship, and listen to talks on environmentally friendly households. Bring your own lunch! **PADDLING THE PATUXENT** As part of the ongoing efforts to increase awareness of the Patuxent River's resources and the need to protect them, there will be a "Patuxent Sojourn" from Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 10, 2001, on the tidal portion of the river. The paddling trip will be limited to no more than 100 people in canoes and kayaks. There will be sites for camping along the tidal Patuxent, ending at the 14th annual Bernie Fowler Wade-In at Broomes Island. There will be presentations at the camp sites with a focus on restoration, including wetlands, riparian zones, and oysters. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is the primary organizer for the Patuxent Sojourn, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) providing staff, transportation, and outreach. For additional information, contact Sean McGuire at DNR at 410-260-8727 or e-mail at smcguire@dnr.state.md.us



HATCH TALK

Jay Sheppard

HATCH TALK Jay Sheppard By the end of March or early April, local trout streams start to see some of the first hatches of mayflies and caddis. It would take a lot of space to list the whole hatch chart for Maryland and nearby states for the year. I would check out some of the books on Pennsylvania trout fishing by Charles Meck or look through some of the other large books on mayflies, caddis, and similar topics in your local fishing shop. You should search for books that cover a large geographic area, since most of us end up fishing in a variety of States over time.

What is always important in order to have a better chance at catching trout is capturing a specimen, figuring out its basic coloration and size and then trying to find a close match in your fly box. Most local shops will be able to sell you some flies that match what is hatching. Mayflies, stoneflies and caddis have a variety of hatching behaviors. Most stoneflies nymphs wander up onto an exposed rock or the shoreline and molt into the adult stage. A few mayflies and caddis do the same thing. The nymphs are frequently taken as they migrate to the edges of the stream or up a rock. However, the freshly emerged adult may simply flutter off the shoreline or rock and not be available to most trout. Then again, on windy days some will get blown back onto the water. Only later will the adults flutter about the surface to lay eggs and also become prey for the alert trout. There are even a few adult aquatic insects that actually dive back to the bottom of the stream to lay their eggs.

Typical mayflies and caddisflies swim to the surface of the water and then pop out of their nymphal or larval skins in a few seconds before fluttering off to some bush or other vegetation. Some caddis, in particular,

emerge on the bottom and literally rocket to the surface without any pausing there. Still others, like the members of the abundant mayfly genus *Ephemerella* (e.g., sulphurs), may ride on the surface for 5-40 seconds before fluttering away. This gives any trout a lot of time to see and attack them. The mayfly nymphs become very restless just as the hatch starts. As the hour arrives, some individual nymphs may actually swim part way to the surface and then go back to the bottom. At this stage of a mayfly hatch, the trout have ready access to these active nymphs that are swimming towards the surface. We may see trout flashing midway between the bottom and the surface of the stream, especially at the heads of a pool, as they chase these first nymphs. As the hatch gets going in intensity, the first duns pop out of their nymphal shucks and start to ride the surface. If this is going to be a heavy hatch, the first rising trout may start at this time, particularly in the slightly slower water near the heads of a pool.

Be-cause some mayflies hatch in profuse numbers only for a few days each year, the first day or two of the hatch may see relatively minor attention to the duns as they drift on the surface. The famous Green Drake duns seem to benefit from this lack of attention the first few days of their hatch (around June 1 in this area). This is our largest local mayfly, being up to 2½ inches long on some fertile streams. A few trout which I have flushed for their stomach contents at this time show a fair number of the large drake nymphs but many duns. The duns can be sporadic all afternoon and then reach a climax just about sunset, which may be the only time the trout greedily take the duns. So in some cases the nymphs may be the main pattern to use in either the hour(s) leading up to the hatch or in the first day of the hatch before duns become quite visible.

For those mayflies (and also caddis) that hatch sporadically all day long, the duns may not be readily taken. The March Brown is one typical case. The nymphs or spinners are the patterns to have for this hatch, although you may get an occasional fish in mid-afternoon. Again, some of the many books on this subject should allude to this preference for this and other mayflies. Next month, I will try to tackle the problems with complex hatches of several different mayflies and other insects hatching at the same time, unless readers have some questions.



Paint Branch Report

By David Dunmire, Paint Branch Chair

Good Hope Mosque Update

Update It is strange sometimes how government works. Councilmember Praisner, when she first learned in June of the clearing and grading violations of the Forest Conservation Law committed by the Ahmadi-yya Washington Mosque, was not willing to voice her concerns to the Montgomery County Planning Board. However, Councilmember Leggett wrote the Planning Board and personally called each member, pressuring Board members on behalf of the mosque.

For other members of county government, issues be-came complicated and confused. For example, at the first hearing some members of the Planning Board indicated that the Forest Conservation Law permitted a landowner such as the Mosque to clear 40,000 square feet of forest in the Special Protection Area without any type of permit, application, or water quality plan. Clearly, it forbids all these violations and provides

penalties for them. After the first hearing, Councilmember Praisner wrote a letter to the Planning Board asking for clarification of a number of specific technical points. Board Chairman Bill Hussmann responded with a three-page letter that systematically addressed each issue in detail. Hussmann's letter states, in part, "In cases of extreme violation (un-permitted clearing occurs in an environmentally sensitive area, clearing done for a use which requires further permitting by the Planning Board or Board of Appeals; clearing which occurs in an existing conservation easement): the maximum civil fine is applied; a forest conservation plan must be submitted; administrative civil penalties may be applied; and a reforestation plan may be required for specific areas of disturbance even if planting is not required per the forest conservation plan." In her own way, then, it seems Councilmember Praisner has done PPTU, the Paint Branch, and the Forest Conservation Law enforcement a great service. Mr. Hussmann's letter is directly applicable to the violations committed by the mosque.

It is difficult to see how the Mosque violations could be penalized in any other ways than the ones laid out in the letter. Yet Mr. Hussmann and the Planning Board, perhaps due to Councilmember Leggett's pressure, seemed willing before their February 15 meeting to accept a settlement that is 60% the maximum cash penalty--and without any requirements for a forest conservation plan, administrative penalties, or reforestation. Just before going to press, I learned that the Planning Board removed this item from their February 15 agenda, and I am not sure what this means for the settlement. PPTU's Paint Branch Committee is outraged about this egregious violation of the Forest Conservation Law and its feeble settlement. We would like to see a settlement that included some conservation education and tree planting done by members of the Mosque with the help of PPTU. We encourage PPTU members to write the Planning Board and express their concerns for the Paint Branch and for the enforcement of the Forest Conservation Law in the future:

Mr. William Hussmann,

Chairman Montgomery county Planning Board Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

8787 Spring Street Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you have any questions, please contact David Dunmire at ddunmire@tscwo.com.

Corps of Engineers' Projects

When the Paint Branch Technical Team (consisting of the Paint Branch Committee, the Parks Department, Maryland DNR, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and Eyes of Paint Branch) met with the Corps on January 4, one of our main objectives was to achieve consensus on the plans for the Phase II projects on the main stem of Paint Branch. We emphasized that the Phase II projects need to include both stream bank stabilization and habitat improvement for adult trout on the main stem between Fairland Road and Columbia Pike (Rte 29).

The Paint Branch Technical Team had reviewed the plans for these projects several times, walked the stream with the Corps, and provided detailed comments. While there appears to be complete agreement in the field, many of the important changes had not yet shown up on the plans. Consequently, we asked that the Corps and the Technical Team walk the construction sites once again, with the latest plans in hand, and record the agreed upon changes to the plans. On January 16 we all met on site for this final review of the plans. We have not yet seen the revised plans, but we hope ACOE will include them in the next revision, due at the end of February

NSWC/FRC/FDA

For those interested in the details associated with the environmental clean up of the former Naval Surface Warfare Center in White Oak, there is now a web page with related information. This page can be accessed by going to the following address and logging in with "guest" as a user ID as well as the password: <http://www.lantopsir.org/whiteoak/security/login.asp>

Inter-County Connector Update

When Governor Glendening declared the "The ICC is Dead" two years ago, he made it clear that the mid-section, the part that goes through Northwest Branch and Paint Branch watersheds, should never be built. However, he kept alive plans for a western parkway and an eastern parkway. Since that time the State Highway Administration (SHA) has been working on plans for building these roads.

On January 11, 2001, Nelson Castellanos of the Baltimore office of USDOT/FWHA, expressed concerns about SHA's plans to study three east-west road links. The FWHA's concerns are in a letter responding to SHA's Draft Discussion Paper On Independent Utility and Segmentation Issues (DDPIUSI). The SHA document defines the following three road segments: A widened four-lane MD 28-MD 198 connector road from MD 97 to Interstate 95, now in the project planning phase A four-lane Western Parkway from I-370 to MD 28 east of MD 97 (the ICC route) A six-lane Eastern Parkway from U.S. 29 to U.S. 1 with an interchange on I-95 about two miles south of MD 198 (the ICC route). In the January letter, USDOT/FHWA stated that "following review and considerable internal discussion of the DDPIUSI pertaining to the East/West Transportation Link in Montgomery & Prince-George's Counties, we are concerned that the logical termini discussion is unclear and does not appear to be reasonably supported. The ICC Study had long recognized the need to connect the I-270 and I-95 Corridors.

The current draft report attempts to demonstrate that the corridor demand line can be divided at MD 97, suggesting proposed improvements to MD 28/MD 198 between MD 97 and I-95 will satisfy traffic demands and should move forward. The report simultaneously concludes that construction of the Western leg of the facility (I-270 to MD 97) will fail to meet traffic demand, therefore warranting further analysis. However, the analysis also documents that the MD 28/MD 198 improvements will exacerbate capacity deficiencies on MD 28, west of MD 97. This contradicts the assertion that improvements to MD 28/ MD 198 between MD 97 and I-95 would not restrict consideration of alternatives for the western leg. The question is also raised whether future improvements to the western leg might point the gun at the need for a limited access facility in the middle section.

The development pressures apparent in the vicinity of the MD 97 intersection heighten the importance that a coherent plan for managing the east west travel demands be developed appropriately, avoiding the possible need for costly retrofit solutions in the future. Moreover, we are concerned that the public will perceive that this report is an attempt to piecemeal the long controversial ICC and advance the original proposal in smaller sections." The letter then goes on with a list of specific comments on the report. In this their most recent statement on the subject, the Federal Highway people obviously are concerned that building two limited access highways at either end of a cross-county connector would force the future construction of a middle limited access highway segment and thus violate their policies forbidding segmentation of federally-funded highway construction. PPTU opposes any construction that would have significant impact on Class III trout streams and their watersheds, and this position rules out any of the ICC routes that have been studied so far. The ICC saga continues.

New Shop In Hereford

What was formerly Wally Vait's On the Fly shop in Hereford is now called Backwater Anglers. The new

owner's name is Theaux (pronounced Theo) LeGardeur. His fiancée, Sarah Hoffman, also is taking part in the business. Theaux has extensively renovated the shop and gained more space. The shop will have had a Grand Opening on March 1 through March 4, which will be before this issue is mailed to our members. PPTU members should plan to stop at this new venture when going to the Gun-powder. The E-mail address is bckwtrfly@aol.com and the phone number is 410-329-6821.

Store hours will be 10 AM until 7 PM six days a week, closed on Wednesday. A website is in the planning stages and is expected up about April 1. Clarification There was some confusion regarding the article on "Chapter Assessments" in the February issue of CONSERVATIONIST. It appeared that members of other TU chapters might be receiving the newsletter for free. They are, in fact, paying the same \$15 assessment as PPTU members in order to receive this newsletter. We apologize for the confusion.

Over 30 Hours of NEW Videos

On The Way

An order has been placed for twenty-five new videos to add to the chapter Video Library. Fly Tying from the vises of experts such as A. K. Best, Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, and Dave Whitlock. Casting from master casters the likes of Doug Swisher, Joe Humphreys, Mel Krieger, Joan Wulff, and the Becks (Barry and Cathy). A dollar donation will be collected when checking out each of the new videos (this will allow us to de-fray video costs and expand our holdings).

The same two-video maximum per member remains in effect but only one of these can be a new video. By limiting each member to one new video checkout, every-one should get an opportunity to view the new tapes. Remember to return any of the chapter's videos you have checked out. Every video is due at the next chapter meeting. If you are not sure if you have a video due and want to check the chapter records, please contact the Video Librarian, Jack Dawson, 301.253.4092 or email at dawsonj@erols.com.

You Should Be Tying Flies

By Jim Greco

Late last spring my wife, Pam, and I traveled to one of our favorite streams in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, to fish the first few days of the annual sulphur hatch. We hiked to a remote pool about a mile from our car and eagerly waited for the sulphurs to show themselves. As dusk approached and there wasn't a sulphur to be seen, our spirits sagged. We turned out to be a day or two early.

The flat calm water beneath the hemlock and hardwood branches whispered past our legs and taunted us with memories from prior seasons when the sulphurs had hatched on time and rising fish shattered the calm water with slurping rises too numerous to count. Seventy-five yards downstream, at the tail of the pool, two other fly fishers entered the placid water and gracefully presented their offerings. I gave them a pleasant nod and waited, just about ready to tie on a weighted nymph and cast to the faster moving water in the center of the pool. As I reached for my fly box, a ring formed in the calm water twenty-five feet in front of us, then another, thirty-five feet upstream from Pam. In a matter of minutes, rising fish dotted the pool with rings almost everywhere I looked, but there weren't any sulphurs to be seen. I bent over and scanned the surface of

the water for a clue. Surprisingly, I saw a large black caddis lying spent in the surface film. Once I knew what to look for, I noticed caddis now drifting everywhere in the pool. Quickly, I scooped one up and scrutinized it more closely. It was a size twelve, the largest I'd ever seen anywhere. I fumbled for my caddis box and grabbed a size twelve caddis pattern that I had tied the year before for a trip to Montana. It had a black body, a dark dun deer hair wing, and five turns of black hackle tied up to the eye of the hook.

I couldn't believe how lucky we were to have a pattern that so closely matched the natural. I tied one on and quietly waded over to Pam with a couple for her. Over the next forty-five minutes Pam and I caught and released more than twenty-five fish. Each one of those fish crashed the black caddis pattern and did it with gusto. That is an evening Pam and I will never forget. Before the light really began to fail, Pam and I headed for the car, passing by the two fellows who had been fishing the tail of the pool. One of them called to us from the edge of the pool, wanting to know what we had been using. When I told him, he responded by saying he'd been fishing the pool the night before when the same hatch had occurred, but not having anything that large, he'd only landed two fish. He went on to say he'd been to a couple of fly shops in the area earlier in the day and had only found and purchased some number four-teen, black, Elk Hair Caddis, the largest in stock at any of the shops. He also said he'd had nothing but refusals all evening, not one strike. I gave him a couple of the big caddis Pam and I had been using and waited while he tied on and cast to the closest riser.

On his first cast, a solid fifteen inch rainbow slammed the caddis. Dancing over the surface of the pool for more than twenty feet before making a determined run downstream, the fish finally yielded to the angler's steady pressure and circled back to the waiting net. His partner came over, and I handed him a couple of the big black caddis, too. Pam and I were leaving, so it really didn't matter if my supply was depleted. I'd tie some more that evening. The young man asked me where I got the flies I'd just given him. "I tied them," I said proudly. The guy blinked and nodded his head. "There's a fly shop just around the corner from my place," he said, "and the owner runs a tying class every winter. I think I'll take it next year." I glanced at Pam, then back to him "You won't save any money, but you sure will catch more fish," I said.

Pam laughed, and, as usual, got in the last word. "Yeah, if he weren't tying for two of us, we couldn't afford it." Somewhere in this anecdote there has to be a moral, but you probably have to tie flies to understand it. You should be tying flies because: you will catch more fish; you will learn new things; you will be more creative; you will get to spend more time tying for your friends and relatives who fly fish; you will get your spouse to look at you more often, especially when smelly packages arrive from all over the country; you get to buy new glasses; you get to carry seven or eight fly boxes in your vest instead of one or two; you get to study Latin names of bugs you never heard of before; you get to take allergy pills; you get to catch fish on flies you have tied with your own hands. **I never want to quit.**

Flyfisher's Mailbox

Part I by Robert Simpson

Over the years in this newsletter, chapter members have provided generous glimpses into what they keep in their fishing vests and their fly boxes. Others have reported on quality books that merit further attention. Equally valuable is a peek at their mailbox, to see what magazines and catalogs they've come to rely upon. This month, I'll share a list of periodicals that I've come to rely upon, and next month I'll report on the more useful of the catalogs that flood my mailbox this time of year. Of course, we all read the quarterly issues of National TU's Trout magazine from cover to cover.

But where else do we turn to satisfy that urge to know just a little more or to discover that one extra tip that one day proves the key to a fabulous day on the water? In my case, I've come to rely on the following six

periodicals. There are easily three times that number to choose from, but I'll restrict myself to just those that deal with flyfishing and those that I actually find the time to read.

Probably the one that I look forward to the most is Fly Fisherman. Published six times a year by Prime-dia Enthusiast Group Publications of Harrisburg, PA, this magazine consistently brings quality photos and illustrations, attractive layouts, and a good mix of articles by prominent authors. The magazine provides me with a good nationwide perspective on angling issues and techniques. Visit them online at www.flyshop.com to sample the contents or to subscribe (\$24/yr), or call 1-800-829-3340.

Close behind are a pair of magazines from Abenaki Publishers, the bimonthly American Angler and the quarterly Fly Tyer. Entomologist Rick Hafele and tyers Dick Talleur and C. Boyd Pfeiffer are favorites that grace both publications. You can sample both magazines at www.flyfishingmagazines.com. Annual subscription rates for each of these magazines is \$19.95. Subscriptions can be made by phone at 1-800-877-5305 for American Angler, or 1-800-397-8159 for Fly Tyer.

The next two are more local in nature. The Pennsylvania Angler & Boater is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. It's only \$9/yr or \$25 for three years. Contributions by Charles Meck and Chauncy Lively have made this a winner for many years. Unfortunately, Mr. Lively passed away last year and his tying articles will be sorely missed. This magazine also covers all types of fishing found in Pennsylvania waters, including ice fishing! You'll also find a variety of info about Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission programs and policies. Check it out at www.fish.state.pa.us.

The other, more local, entry is the Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide, published by The O Boys Publishing Co., P.O. Box 144, Allenwood, PA 17810-0144. Published 10 times per year, this publication can be obtained for free at most local tackle shops. It does an excellent job of covering local fishing conditions in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and Connecticut, including excellent hatch and pattern charts. Also tucked away in each issue is a column on salt-water flyfishing by the legendary Lefty Kreh. If you find you don't get by your fly shop often enough to get every issue, \$17/year will bring each issue to your mailbox.

Finally, for a little international change of pace, you might want to take a look at Fly Fishing and Fly Tying, a British offering from Rolling Rivers Publications Ltd. It appears eight times per year and a US subscription is £34.50. It's mercifully devoid of the "dead fish photos" that still grace the majority of British fishing magazines and provides nice counter-point to American notions about sport fishing. And it's great fun trying to decipher the language, things like buzzer baits, sedges, and beat fishing. It's also a great source of information about stillwater fishing, as stream fishing opportunities are limited and expensive in Great Britain. Visit them at www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk to sample or subscribe, or call on your own nickel at +44 (0)1887 830526.

Next month, we'll return with a short list of catalogs that are useful for both the information they contain and the products they offer for sale. In the mean-time, make the most of your springtime fishing.

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Past President:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
Vice President	Dave Piske	703-751-0208
Secretary	Jim Greco	410-997-2787
Treasurer:	Len Blakley	301-236-5313
Directors:	Tom Allegretti	301-989-0553
	Lou Boezi	301-593-5889
	Vacant	
	Carl Helman	301-299-8762
	Val Walters	301-9497882
	Vacant	
Mid-Atlantic Council Delegates:	David Dunmire	301-989-0331
	Bruce Eberle	301-854-3142
	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
(treasurer)	Bob Plumb	301-762-2769
	Dave Piske	703-751-0208
	Jack Dawson	301-253-4092
Librarian:	Jason Beckstrom	301-977-8210
Membership Chair:	Vacant	301-829-3308
Membership Secretary	Bill Barton	
Little/Middle Patuxent Chair:	Charlie Gelso	301-776-4741
Northwest Branch Chair:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Outings Chair:	David Pratt	301-498-2427
Program Chair:	vacant	
Patuxent Chair:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
Paint Branch Chair:	David Dunmire	301-989-0331
Publicity Chair:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Raffles Coordinator:	Willie Oldes	301-868-3508
Refreshments:	Bill Miller	301-926-3590
Mentor Program:	Jim Feudale	301-622-4923
Water Quality Chair:	Jeff Colaianni	301-897-9892



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