

Nov 99 Newsletter

Potomac-Pautxent Chapter



"Flyfishing for Taimen in Mongolia: Catching the World's Largest Freshwater Salmonid" by Charlie Conn

Our November meeting will be a rare treat, so be sure to make it and bring anyone you know who has held a fishing rod, especially those saltwater fishing friends who find trout fishing too delicate.

We are lucky to have Charlie Conn from Sweetwater Travel of Livingston, MT, to speak about fishing for huge taimen in the wilderness of northern Mongolia. This slide presentation should have it all, including exotic location, mouse flies, and the world's largest salmonids, with two rows of teeth and hominid lengths. On a recent trip, one member of National Capital Chapter and his wife landed two four footers, two three-and-a-half footers, and bunches between 30 and 36 inches.

Think crocodile for the next meeting, and bring a fishing friend!



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By Jim Keil

As we went to press with the last issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST, two powerful men were bringing relief to our area and this chapter. The first was the much anticipated and ballyhooed Floyd, which brought us some much needed rain, and the second was Governor Glendening with his announcement that he would not attempt to build the middle segment of the InterCounty Connector. Although we had nothing to do with nature's generosity when Floyd and subsequent rainfalls visited the area, we can take some measure of satisfaction in helping to convince the Governor of the foolishness of trying to stop sprawl and the environmental destruction it brings while at the same time building an interstate highway through the heart of Montgomery County that would connect three interstates with the major north-south arterial roads of the county. Congratulate yourself for your efforts.

Then pick up the phone and call the Governor and tell him to put the rest of the InterCounty Connector to bed. The Governor is under enormous pressure from the development community and Board of Trade to not only build the east and west segments of the ICC but to reverse his commitment not to build the center section. He has upset both the environmental and development communities with his decision to build two-thirds of the ICC. He still needs our support if he is to do the right thing. Don't let him down. Offer your support at 1-800-811-8336 and governor@gov.state.md.us.

There's a downside, too, to the rainfall we've had this month. Much of it came too late to help the local freestone streams and their trout, and much of it came all at once so that it ended up in the Chesapeake rather than our water tables. The system has not been recharged to normal groundwater levels, and to that extent our stream flows remain a problem and the drought continues. Please continue to conserve water. The latest forecast I saw for Fall and Winter is for below average rainfall.

On to recreational matters: I got out on the September outing with some chapter members I've fished with before and with some I hadn't. We had

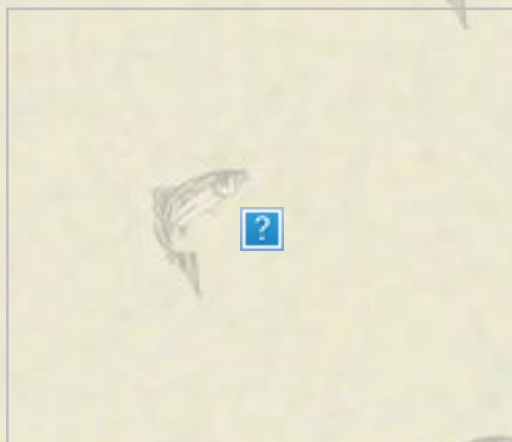
a good time, although we didn't set the stream afire. But there are some guys in this chapter that can just plain fish, and I was out with one of them that day. I've found other people in this chapter like this guy. You wouldn't know it necessarily to hear him talk, but put a rod in his hands and water on his feet and he can show and tell you a thing about fishing. It was a pleasure to hear his thinking about fly selection and presentation and to watch him fish, and I realized what a resource this chapter has in fishermen like him. I intend to take advantage of them more often in the future, and I encourage you to find these fishermen and share a stretch of water with them. I hope you've found a finely colored spawning brookie this past month, but I also trust you won't give up on fishing just because the weather's turning colder. Ask one of those veteran resources to join you over the holidays on a nearby stream, and fish with them all winter long. How do you think they got so good, anyway? Enjoy the winter holidays. Remember that the next newsletter and meeting will come in January.

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND

Available to members of PPTU current with their dues. Jim Feudale will conduct one to one. stream side instruction. Interested members must show commitment of having waders or hippers, rod/reel outfit and leaders.

Techniques, flies reading currents, etc. will be discussed and practiced @ nearby streams.

Contact Jim@301-622-4923 or email jfeudale@aol.com.



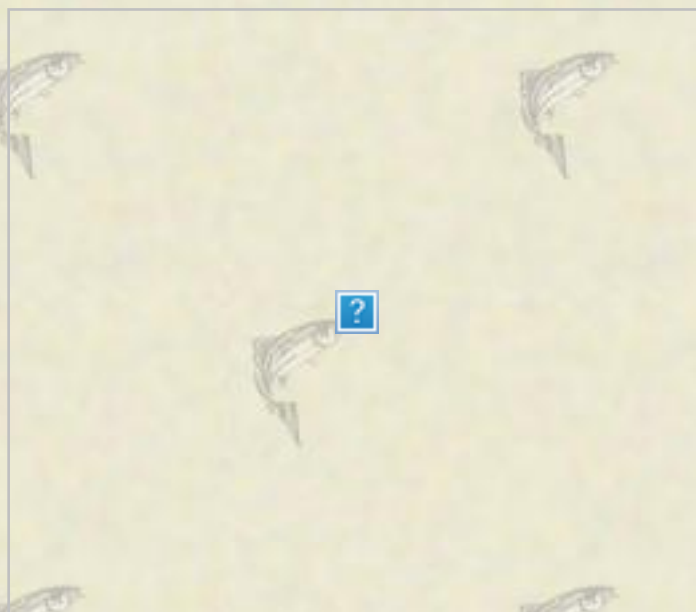
Maryland DNR Marks MORE Trout

The Maryland DNR fisheries biologists are continuing an experiment in marking some of

the trout in the Gunpowder River. Movement of fish, growth rates, and survivorship are just some of the topics of interest to them. At several selected stations a very small colored, plastic tag has been inserted right behind the LEFT eye of the trout. The skin at this point is transparent, and a tagged fish can be quickly spotted. Fish that are about 8–11" in length have also had their adipose fin removed; larger fish were only tagged. Trout smaller than about 7" in October of this year (expected to be more than 8" next summer) have not been tagged. The tags are about 1/16" ? 3/16" and come in several bright colors (e.g., orange, chartreuse). They have a single letter and two numerals imprinted on their surface, but due to their small size some fishers will need to use some source of magnification to be sure of reading them correctly.

If you spot a fish with such a tag, please record the location and date where you caught the trout, as well as the number and color of the tag. You can notify DNR by a postcard (17400 Annapolis Rock Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797), or do send via E-Mail (cgougeon@dnr.state.md.us), or by phone (301-854-6060 or 410-442-2080). The DNR is interested in several aspects of the wild trout fishery on the Gunpowder. When you report the location of a marked trout, try to be as precise as possible (e.g., 600 yards above Masemore Bridge). Only 400 trout were marked this year and perhaps another hundred survive from 1998. When initially marked or recaptured, each trout was carefully weighed and its length measured by DNR.

If you have moved or see any error in your label on this copy of the newsletter (ZIP, misspelling of names, wrong street numbers, etc.), please notify both the National TU office and this chapter with separate notices. Our mailing list is maintained apart from the National list; we do eventually get the notice 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.



PATUXENT REPORT

By Jay Sheppard

The only real problem with fishing this stream at this time of the year is that much of the upper Patuxent Special Trout Area is a public hunting zone. Call the Park office at (301) 924-2127 or stop by on Clopper Road in Gaithersburg (Seneca Creek State Park is responsible for Patuxent State Park) to obtain maps of hunting zones within Patuxent. Some of the local sport shops may also have this information. The fire-arm season for deer is about to start, but other fire-arm hunting (e.g., squirrels, woodcock), as well as archery season for deer will be running now through early February. Suggest weekdays or Sundays OR a bright-colored hat on Saturdays, in particular. The most hunted area is between Hipsley Mill and Howard Chapel Roads.

I have no reports of any browns below Rt. 94. (Annapolis Rock bridge) that survived the summer drought. We did stock 1000 rainbows from just above the Rt. 94 Bridge down to below the mouth of Cabin Branch and up from Howard Chapel for about ½ mile. This was done on October 13. The water flows since mid-September has been very good and clear. This stocking should provide a little fun for the rest of the fall and into the winter. We are already starting the planning for next year's stockings .



Maryland FOREcast

Just like last year, this was another very dry summer. The leaves have left the trees, although some will still be swirling around in our waters. Cold weather is on its way. Most Maryland streams have had good flows for the past 2 months. The North Branch, Youghiogeny, and lower Savage are still slightly less than expected, but the rest of our streams east of Hancock are at or above normal late summer–early fall flows. There are lots of fish in all the tailwater Catch-and-Release streams, but the clear, low flows make approach and presentation very important. Freestone streams, such as the Patuxent and Morgan Run, had excellent flows in mid-October but appear to be able to sustain those flows only if we have continued rainfall all fall and winter.

All the Delayed-Harvest streams (e.g., Middle Patuxent) east of Hancock, as well as many other stocked waters, had been restocked by mid-October with rainbows. Only the freestone streams in Western Maryland still have flows too low to be stocked as we go to press. The tailwaters of the Gunpowder, Big Hunting Creek, and the three above Garrett County streams have any holdover or wild trout of note.

The wild brook trout streams of Baltimore County, the Catoctins and western Maryland have severely depressed populations. In fact, I strongly urge all fishers to avoid these fragile resources until next spring to allow successful spawning and emergence of the brookie fry. Even then, I would urge fishers to avoid these streams as much as possible for still another year. In many of those brookie streams, we likely lost 60–75% of the wild fish to predation and other factors. This is the loss above the normal levels mortality when we might expect only 25% to survive from year to year in many trout populations. In other words, we may have only 5-10% of our wild stocks left in those freestone streams that we had a year ago.

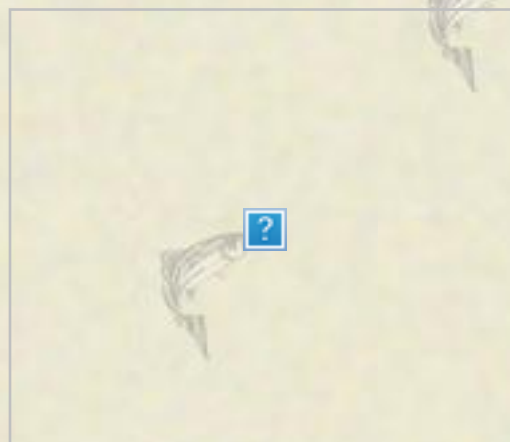
The preliminary survey results on the Gunpowder this fall seem to indicate a major reduction from past years' numbers. In overall numbers, there was about a 30% reduction in total adult fish from 1998 to 1999. Last year was also very dry and may not reflect the actual average population, either; thus, we may have about 60% of the average numbers of adult trout that we have seen in the mid-1990s. Part of this reduction in numbers is possibly attributable to the poor hatching of trout in spring 1996, while the bulk of the losses is more likely due to the effects of this drought and low flows. Data are still being analyzed, but preliminary study of the 1998-tagged fish shows that about 25% survived and most only showed a ½" increase in size. This shows to me that the fish are stuck in this 9–12" size range, and my bet is that this is caused by the combination of lack of a large supply of bait fish above Blue Mount Road and competition with other brown trout. The size ranges for the 1999 samples look about normal (i.e., the usual 9–10" average size, with only a sprinkling of fish in the 13–15" range). The young of year in the Gunpowder do not appear to have suffered the same rate of losses; in fact, at most stations, there was a major increase in their numbers. This offers hope for the next few years that there will be plenty of trout. My best guess is that the surviving adults will show a real spurt in growth once the flows increase back to more normal levels and the fish have less competition. By the time this is mailed, I would hope that the flows on the Gunpowder and western Maryland streams would have returned to more normal levels.

Normally this is always a great time of the year to at least search for larger trout: when they finish spawning they go looking for deeper holes with lots of minnows with which to spend the winter. Spending the winter months in such a well-stocked cupboard is what makes the trout even bigger. However, only the five tailwater fisheries I mentioned above will offer any chances for finding the larger fish.

The two streams with the largest fish appear to be the North Branch and Savage River below their re-spective dams. In early October, several members and I went up there for a few days fishing. It was cool for the first few days, and hatches were moder-ate; flows were below normal, but adequate. The last day was Sunday, October 10, which was cloudy but warm from the heavy rains the night before. This was one of my better days on the Savage in the past 25 years. I did not keep careful count, but had about a dozen fish by our 1 PM lunch break and then caught another two dozen after lunch. Most were on small dry flies, but some were on nymphs and San Juan worms. My last fish of the day was my largest on the Savage this year: an 18" male brown that took several frantic minutes to land on the 6X tippet as it tried to run under and around logs and rocks while going downstream 50 yards through a couple of pools. I also had three others in the 13–14" range. Others in the party had some nice fish, too. Dave Piske and Jason Beckstrom each had a trout over 15". Everyone had a fish in the 13–14" range. We certainly hated to depart that afternoon! About 15% of our total trout on the Savage that trip were larger than 12".

Spawning on Maryland streams by brook and brown trout stretches over nearly 3 months from early Oc-tober (mountain freestones) to late December (spring creeks and Piedmont tailwaters). Water tempera-tures in mid-40s is the usual optimum but can range from 40s–50s. The passage of a cold front is when peak spawning activity often takes place and then frequently at night. Some trout may wander trying to locate mates. Both sexes will strike at a variety of patterns while spawning, often to get rid of some item from the redd. They resume feeding in earnest shortly afterwards. This latter period can be one of the best times to find hungry trout.

Woolly buggers in a large range of colors, Clouser minnows, leaches, and other streamer patterns in the #4-8 range can often turn the trick. Larger nymphs also seem to attract more interest. Hardware can go a little larger, but avoid heavier, as you need to slow the retrieve down considerably in the slower flows we now have as well as when the water temperature reaches or drops below 40 degrees. Dark may work wonders one day and bright white or yellow the next.



ICC Update

By David Dunmire

Many people have been waiting for some time now for the Governor to make a decision on the ICC. On September 22 Governor Glendening announced that he “would not build the InterCounty Connector. As far as I am concerned, there is no ICC!” The Governor also said he would sell the properties the state has acquired for the northern alignment, and would recommend that the property along the master plan alignment be reserved for parkland and mass transit. He also proposed building two new parkway roads, one at the west end of the proposed ICC route and the other at the east end. The state is also to pay for major intersection improvements throughout Montgomery County in an effort to ease traffic congestion.

However, Governor Glendening may be forced to abandon his proposed sale of the state-owned right of way along the northern alignment of the ICC. The three member Board of Public Works, which consists of Glendening, State Comptroller William Donald Schaefer and State Treasurer Richard N. Dixon, passed as resolution in a symbolic 2-1 vote on September 27 prohibiting the sale of the land. The resolution also stated that the panel must approve any deal to sell state land intended for the road.

Proponents of the ICC are making it politically difficult to stick to his plans and are inundating the Governor’s office with messages advocating the ICC. There are radio advertisements purported to be representing a group called Citizens for Traffic Solutions, but they are sponsored by the "Coalition for Better Mobility," and funded by the Greater Washington Board of Trade, local chambers of commerce, AAA, and other organizations. This is called "ASTROTURF" or "GREENWASHING" when industry groups create false grassroots fronts.

At our last PPTU Board meeting we had a guest speaker by the name of Bill Eichenbaum who is with the World Wildlife Fund. Bill was a member of the Governor’s Transportation Solutions Group (TSG), and one of the four who wrote the minority report. Bill told us that before the TSG met he presumed that the ICC was needed to alleviate metropolitan traffic congestion, and that the TSG’s job would be to find ways to mitigate potential environmental impacts to the fullest extent possible and to deal with whatever impacts remained. He stated he was very surprised to learn that the need for this road was not to relieve traffic congestion, that the State Highway Administration’s own studies concluded that the ICC would reduce traffic congestion on I-495 and other major roads by only an insignificant amount (a few percent), and that the need to traverse the full length from Gaithersburg to Laurel is extremely small. He was also surprised to learn that “the environmental impacts were pretty overwhelming,” and that the federal agencies had clearly indicated that they would never approve the required permits for the Master Plan Alignment through Paint Branch and Northwest Branch Stream Valley Parks. He

reminded us that the TSG actually voted against building the ICC, but this fact was suppressed by the chairman and other pro-ponents. The TSG's support for the ICC was solely based on economic development. He emphasized that the TSG's majority report states on page 12 that pri-riority should first be given to reduce vehicle miles traveled, and that road construction should be a sec-ondary factor. When asked where we go from here, he responded with the following recommended ac-tions:

- Praise Governor Glendening for his recent deci-sion to not build the ICC
- Work with County Councils to implement his recommendations
- Reach out to new businesses to oppose the ICC rather than the old established businesses who have been the traditionally supporters of the ICC
- Convince County Executive Doug Duncan that supporting the ICC is politically a bad idea

We need your help on this. Governor Glendening, while not doing everything environmentalists would like, has taken the high road in many ways on the ICC and is getting a good bit of heat for it. He and Lieutenant Governor Kennedy need to hear that you support his decision to kill the ICC and convert the mid-section to parkland. Write, e-mail, or voice mail (better yet, do all three) them at:

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
The State House
Annapolis, MD 21401
governor@gov.state.md.us
After hours voice mail at 1-800-811-8336
Fax: 410-974-3275

The Honorable Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
The State House
Annapolis, MD 21401
ltgovernor@gov.state.md.us
After hours voice mail at 410-974-2804
Fax: 410-974-5882

Also ask a relative, friend or neighbor to take action too.



Paint Branch Report

By David Dunmire, Paint Branch Chair

Update : Gum Springs Piping Project

The objective of this project is to reduce the impacts of stormwater flows on the lower section of the Gum Springs tributary, the second most productive spawning and nursery area of the Paint Branch system. Currently the flow from a storm water management pond drains into lower Gum Springs, which is a very small stream. This project will divert the flow through a parallel piping system so that it enters the main stem of Paint Branch, which is larger and better able to accommodate this discharge. The project involves installing approximately 2000 feet of 36-inch pipe, significant clearing and construction of access roads to the remote site, and eventually stabilization and reforestation of the entire area. We expressed concerns in late August and early September about the lack of progress and a number of problems at this site. In response an on-site meeting was called on September 10 with representatives from the organizations conducting this project, including the Corps of Engineers, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and the contractor, Golden Eagle Construction. Representatives from regulatory organizations included Montgomery County Parks Department, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Montgomery county Department of Permitting Services, and the Council of Governments. Eyes of Paint Branch also participated. A number of agreements for specific remedial actions resulted from that meeting in terms of erosion and sediment control, impacts to trout habitat, construction virtually on top on an unstable stream bank, and clearing up to the edge of the stream bank in three locations.

On September 31 I walked the entire site once again. At this point the flared outfall pipe is in place, but the pipeline leading to it had not been installed. A man-hole and a few hundred feet of pipe are in place in the lower-middle part of the site. Straw bales reinforce the existing silt fence in many, but not all, critical areas. No super-silt fence has been installed. There is a significant quantity of sediment that is collecting in the lower section of this project, so much that the elevation in this area has been raised several inches. Many of the agreements from the September 10 meeting have not been fully implemented.

Unfortunately we are now past the October 1 dead-line prohibiting in-stream construction in Use III wa-tersheds. We are currently working with the regula-tory professionals to reach a technical consensus on what should be done and what should NOT be done at this site. One option would be to initiate no new construction and focus all efforts on preparing the entire site for winter to minimize impacts to the sur-rounding area. Construction would then resume in the spring. Obviously there are tradeoffs here in con-tinuing to work now and potentially impacting the reproductive process of the wild trout population. We setting up a second on-site meeting tentatively scheduled for October 22 to review the current situa-tion, plans for completing activities this fall, prepara-tions for preparing this site for the winter, and plans for resuming construction in the spring.

Proposed Cloverly Town Center

Representatives from a variety of environmental and civic groups attended a Public Information Meeting on the proposed Cloverly Town Center on Septem-ber 8. The developer remains defiant and refuses to make any concessions to reduce the environmental impact of the proposed development. This site strad-dles the Northwest Branch and the Paint Branch wa-tersheds. About 39 percent of the site is in the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area, and thus sub-ject to additional regulation. An upper limit on the area that can be covered with impervious surfaces is 10 percent in the SPA; the current plan for the Clo-verly Town Center is nearly 100 percent. The con-tractor is asking for a waiver of this requirement, al-though provides no basis in any of the three areas in which waivers are defined. The developer is also ask-ing for a waiver to “buck the grade” and dump all the runoff into the Northwest Branch side. We are coor-dinating with several civic and environmental groups to present unified opposition to the current plan.

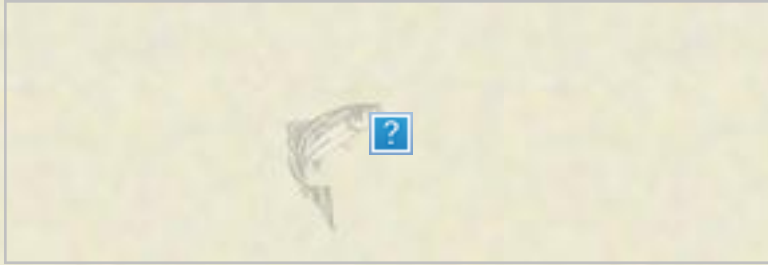
Reforestation Project on Left Fork

The drought was fairly hard on the trees we planted on the Left Fork near the Peach Orchard Road cross-ing last year. We had planned to replace the damaged or dead trees on Montgomery County Community Service Day, October 22. However, we were not able to complete preparations for this event in time, so it has been canceled. We plan to conduct this event in the spring.

Home Heating Oil Contamination of Left Fork of Paint Branch - Update

The Montgomery County Department of Environ-mental Protection issued their report on from the macro invertebrate sampling on the Left Fork. In short, their findings indicate 1) fuel oil is still getting into the storm drain system and into the Left Fork of Paint Branch, 2) fuel oil is present in both the water and sediments in the Left Fork between the tributary (near Maydale Nature Center) and Peach Orchard Dr. (~ 0.5 mile of stream), 3) presence of the fuel oil is impacting the benthic macro invertebrate commu-nity.

Before this report was issued I participated in a con-ference call on this problem in which a number of actions were identified. Releasing this report was only one of the first steps. I will be working to ensure that the actions, such as continued monitoring and mailings to affected residents, are carried out.



New Internet Feature for PPTU Members

At the September meeting, the chapter announced it's latest effort to exploit the Internet. In addition to the webpage and the fishing report database, we now have our own listserver. Basically, it's a way for chapter members to share helpful information via email.

Here are some of the things we envision using it for:

Fishing/stream reports

Announcements of fishing-related events

Automatic e-mail reminders of chapter events

Environmental news

Big sales on fishing gear

In order to post and receive email messages from the group, you must be a chapter member. To join, send an email to ppctu-subscribe@egroups.com, and put your real name (not your email address or user name) in the body of the e-mail message. This is the most effective way for us to be sure we get your e-mail address entered properly.

If you're undecided about joining, you can view the messages that have been sent by pointing your browser to <http://www.egroups.com/group/ppctu>. Since we just started this address in mid September, there's not much there yet. You may also want to visit <http://www.egroups.com/group/pptu-report>, where you'll find e-mail traffic from a group of board members who tested the process this past summer.

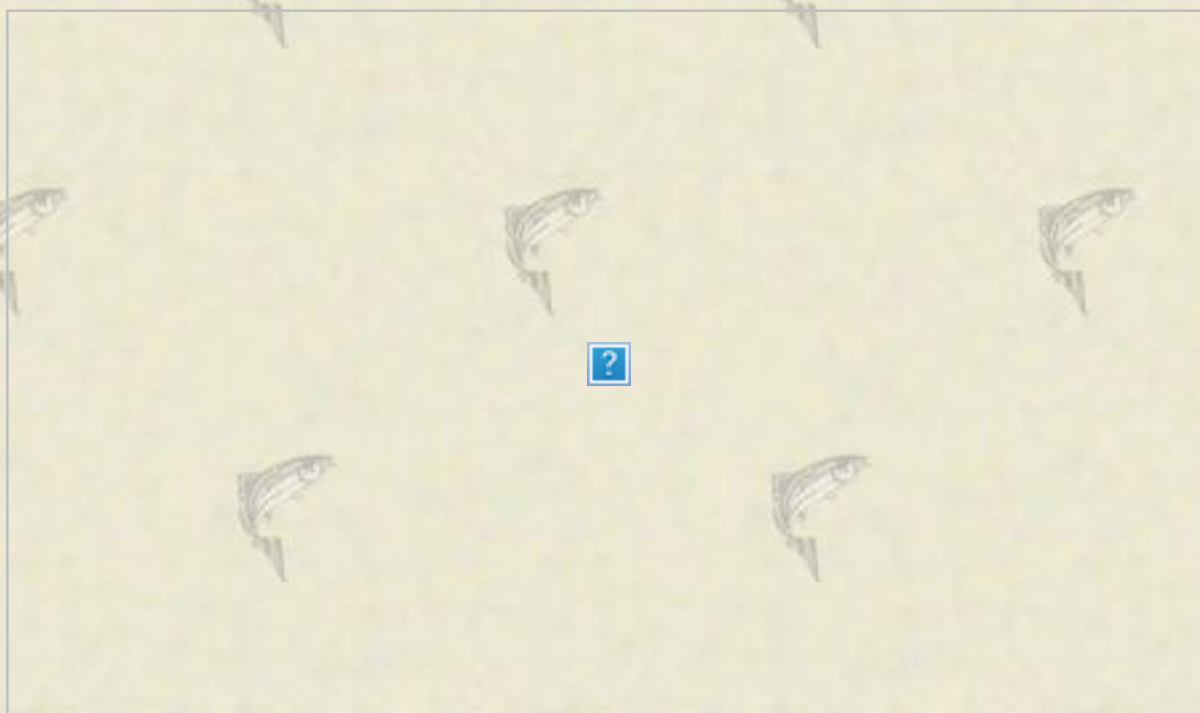
The listserver is free, so there is some advertising material that helps pay the bills, but we have found it to be quite minimal. Presently, other members can look up your e-mail address if you subscribe, but non-members (and potential spammers) are not granted access to this information. The chapter will not sell the e-mail address database, nor provide it to others groups or organizations for non-chapter-related activities.

This thing will only be as good as we make it, so please join up, contribute, and, most importantly, be-have civilly. If problems, call Robert Simpson via e-mail at rgsonwbc@mindspring.com



Additional Internet Feature for Fishing Report Database

All new information reported to the data base shall be also sent to the List Server. The data base is a source of fishing reports from members, including hatches, flies used, fish caught, temp, clarity, etc. Also it is searchable by Stream Location, Author, Month, etc. Check it out by clicking on the Fishing Report Data Base icon on our web site found at <http://www.digizen.net/member/kentbish/ppctultd.htm>. To reiterate what Robert said above, this will only be as good as we make it. Over 40 reports have been logged so far. Any questions give Kent Bishop, newsletter editor a ring or an e-mail.



January Meeting Fly Tying Spectacular and Rod & Reel Swap

Mark your calendars now for January 19, 2000, the date of our annual fly tying demonstration. This has always been one of our most popular events and it promises to be so again. We can't demonstrate all of the best patterns at one two-hour meeting. But, if you know the requisite tying techniques, you should be able to tie any pattern, given its recipe. Therefore, the demonstrators will be focusing on key techniques for tying a

multitude of patterns that are highly effective on local waters. Non-tiers who are interested in getting started, and others who may have just started tying, are sure to be inspired by the skilled tiers they will see performing at this meeting. Everyone will be able to see some special tying techniques that are “guaranteed” to make your flies more attractive to the fish and, perhaps coincidentally, to the human eye too. Our assemblage of tying stations, all staffed by the most expert tiers available, will feature subjects like:

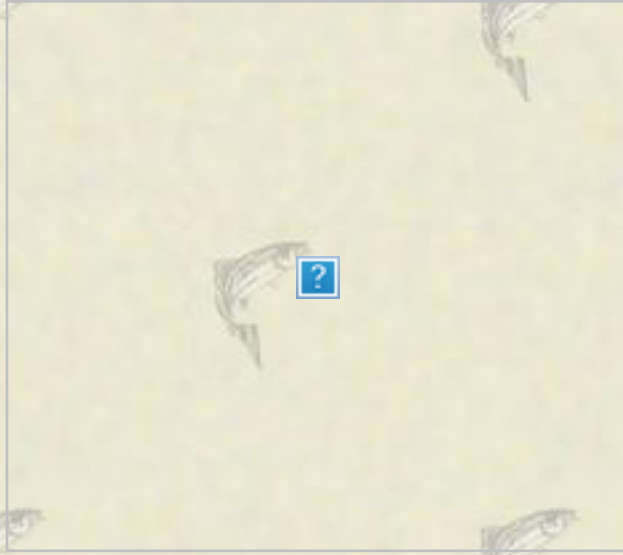
- Mimicking Minuscule Midges,**
- Perfecting Parachute Posts & Their Perimeters,**
- Successfully Spinning Deer Hair,**
- Realizing Realistic Wings,**
- Sleeky Sexed-out Spinners**
- Specious Bugs from Synthetics**
- Controlling Cantankerous CDC**

Augmenting the tying demonstrations will be a favorite feature revived from our former February Clinics. Once again you will have an opportunity to clean out the excess rods and reels that are just taking up space in your closet or wherever. Bring them to the swap table at the January 19 meeting and, after a small commission to benefit the chapter, recover some cash to buy more new fishing toys. Of course, everyone attending the meeting will have the opportunity to get some real bargains by buying some other person’s surplus.



Dave Feldman

Dave Feldman has generously agreed to offer once again a fly tying class beginning January 25 and going for six consecutive Tuesdays, through February 29th. Classes will be held in the Schweinhaut Center, where we have our monthly meetings, from 7 to 9. The cost is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members. We suggest the non-members simply join the chapter instead of spending the extra \$15.



Special Help Needed

The chapter really needs to find someone who has access to a bulk, office postage meter machine and willing to handle the mailings. It would be a lot easier on the editor and others involved with the mailings if the machine or member was located between Columbia and Burtonsville or between Laurel and Olney, but any other member would still be welcomed to volunteer. We mail some 350 single news-letters and a dozen bulk packets to stores 8 times per year. Obviously, we reimburse for all the costs. Anyone who wants to help should contact Jay Sheppard as soon as possible. With the use of self-adhesive stamps, the process can also be done rather easily by hand. Perhaps 2–3 man hours to att

MEMBER'S ASSESSMENT NOW PAYABLE

The annual assessment (see back) is now payable. Check your label--if the "PP-" date is "0999" (or there is NO "PP-" and date), you can send your \$15 now, and you will not have to worry about paying at the September meeting. Some members paid twice this year, so they already show "PP-0900." Make checks payable to "POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER - TU" and mail to our chapter mail box. The assessment covers only the newsletter and related administrative expenses; all donations above expenses at raffles, etc. go to the resource and not to support our members with free newsletters, maps, etc. Final mailing for those having "PP-0999" on their label will be this next November issue. There will be NO separate mailings to remind members of this obligation. Please take note and action to-day! Thank you

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E-mail skennedy@digizen.net

MEMBERSHIPS: The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited has two membership categories: Regular/Family (\$15/year assessment) and Student (free). The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. Assessment is totally separate from dues paid to Trout Unlimited National. Send correspondence or assessment payable to POTOMAC-PATUXENT TROUT UNLIMITED at the return address listed below. Your Chapter (and National TU) expiration date is indicated on the mailing label as PP-0999 or NTU-0998. First-time visitors receive two issues of this publication free.

THE CONSERVATIONIST is a publication of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Contribution in the form of fishing news, tying tips, new book reviews, articles, letters and even gossip should be mailed or faxed to the Editor. Items received by the 15th of the month will be published in the next issue.

PPTU Web Page

Use the Chapters New Stream/Fishing Data base by visiting the chapters web site at;
<http://www.digizen.net/member/kentbish/ppctultd.htm>

Click on the NEW!!STREAM/FISHING text and be up to date on the latest local fishing information. This data should provide each of us with up to date information of what is happening on the various local streams. What hatches are occurring, when they are occurring, and how is the stream fishing. Check it out and help us update the data base with your own trips and fish stories. Any question email

Book Review:
**"The Trout Fishing Guide To Maryland & South Central
Pennsylvania"**

**by The Members of the Patapsco
Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited; 1998
(92 pp., 41maps, 9 black and white photographs)
Reviewed by Dave Piske**

If you fish for trout in Maryland, you can't afford to be without this book. For anglers who are just getting acquainted with trout fishing, it is an indispensable guide to the state's trout waters. Veteran anglers of Maryland's trout fisheries will no doubt also find new gems of valuable information, and perhaps learn about some trout streams they didn't realize even existed. As the title says, the guide extends its coverage into south central Pennsylvania to include waters that are less than a two-hour drive from central Maryland. Thus, it places under one cover the full range of day-trip trout fishing opportunities for anglers who reside in our area.

More than fifty streams are described, with over three dozen of them being in Maryland. The amount of detail in the description varies from stream to stream, depending on how popular the trout fishery is. For the most popular streams there is a map that accompanies the text. There are 37 such maps, many of them depicting more than one stream. Together, the narratives and maps describe the sections of each stream that hold stream-bred or stocked trout as the case may be, the character of the water in these sections, the locations of public access points, the location of special regulation areas, and other appurtenant features along the stream. The text typically also mentions what insects constitute the menu of trout food, suggests the flies and flyfishing tactics most likely to succeed, and lists sources for obtaining information on current fishing conditions. For ease of reference, the book has been organized into four geographic regions; central Maryland, intermountain Maryland, western Maryland, and south central Pennsylvania. A regional map at the beginning of each grouping shows where the streams within that region are with respect to one another.

Perhaps the most unique feature of this book is that it relates the personal knowledge and experience of twenty-nine contributing authors. They include anglers who are intimately familiar with the streams about which they write and fisheries professionals who have written introductions to each of the four geographic regions. These are all first-hand writings. No interviewer has had the opportunity to distort what these experts know and believe.

To be complete, this review should mention some minor shortcomings of the guide, in hopes that future editions will be changed:

1. a sprinkling of typos and grammatical errors throughout.
2. some inconsistency, from one map to another, of the symbols used to designate differing sections of a stream as "stocked," etc.

3. an apparent swapping of the captions of the photographs of Falling Springs Branch and Conodoguinet Creek.

4. on some of the maps an absence of places and roads mentioned specifically in the accompanying text.

These are all of minor consequence and are greatly outweighed by finally having the first comprehensive guide to Maryland trout waters.

This book was organized, edited and published by the members of the Patapsco Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a fund-raising project for their chapter's coldwater fisheries conservation projects. As such, a portion of the proceeds of each sale go to that purpose. The book retails at \$10 per copy and is available at many local tackle shops and also through other TU chapters that are members of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited.

Copies can be purchased at chapter meetings of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter for as long as the supply holds out. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the books sold by our chapter will similarly be used to support Potomac-Patuxent TU's conservation activities. If you do not already have your copy, you had better hurry as the supply is limited.

Hotline for Environmental Crimes

The Baltimore FBI and the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office have established a 24-hour hot line for citizens to report environmental crimes, especially those involving the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This applies not only to our streams, but also the storm water sewers that eventually make their way to our streams. For instance, custodial employees of a local mall were observed dumping waste water from a floor cleaning machine directly into a storm drain. A concerned citizen reported this to the hotline, resulting in an investigation by the Maryland Department of the Environment and action by the proper enforcement authorities.

So, if you see something on the stream or in your neighborhood that looks improper, give the hotline a call at 1-800-377-5879. We'll all be glad you did.

Conservation is Your Responsibility By David Dunmire

Those of us who know and love nature most must take action to protect our natural resources. View it as payback for all you have gotten from nature, to ensure that others who follow you will have the same opportunities. Make at least one contribution to some type of conservation activity or effort this year. If you are looking for specific opportunities, give me a call at 703-516-7401.

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