

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Apr 2019 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“DNR Report on Historic Wet Weather” *April 17th, 2019*

About those rains last year . . .

Remember the basement flooding in the summer? The blown out rivers in the fall? Did you wonder about how the fish were doing with all that water? Well, come to our April 17th chapter meeting and hear what a Maryland Department of Natural Resources biologist has to tell us about that last question. DNR has been collecting data over the last six to eight months on this very question and will be able to share their knowledge with the chapter. It's a great privilege to hear directly from a state scientist, so come on out and show your appreciation!

– *Karan Singh*



Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December
Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901
DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER
From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road,
then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Contact Us:

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Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows



Yes it's that time again. Time for Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Release events, and I need all the help I can get. PPTU will be supporting releases for 5 schools in Southern Maryland, with most of these on the Little Patuxent at Savage Mill. Howard County will have 6 release events on the Middle Patuxent at Edenbrook (King's Contrivance area of Columbia). Montgomery County will have 23 release events at The Lodge at Little Seneca Creek. Each of these events takes from 2 – 4 volunteers. That is a tremendous number of volunteer hours and we should all be proud of what we do. – this is our Chapter's single largest activity, and we need as many people as possible to support it. We are part of the largest all volunteer (TIC) program in the country. In Montgomery County alone we will have a chance to interface with over 1,600 students.

What is a TIC release event? This is our last opportunity to imprint upon these students the importance of clean, cold, fishable water to the environment. Well that's just great Alan but what would we actually be doing? Glad you asked! First, this is almost always a Monday through Friday event. The bus(es) show up at about 10 am and the kids are divided up into (usually 6) groups. Each group spends 20 – 30 minutes at each station and then they rotate. They need to leave the stream by about 1:00 pm so that the buses are available for normal afternoon trips.

TIC stations are typically:

1. Fish release. Each student gets to release one or more fish into the stream and we talk about the next stage in the fingerlings life: staying safe, finding food, keeping cold.
2. Testing the stream water chemistry in the same method they have tested their tank water.
3. Doing a stream survey to find and identify macro-invertebrates in the stream.
4. Demonstrating fly tying.
5. Teaching a beginner class of fly casting (and knot untying for the instructors).
6. Some type of game or a nature walk so they can run off some energy

Typically, our volunteers are involved in #4 and #5. We sometimes help with stations. #1 and #3 as well. Worried that you don't know enough about macro-invertebrates? Bet you know more than these students and there are printed guides to help them identify what they find. Fly tying for the kids is a blast, and casting lessons are fun! Think working with 5th and 6th graders is tough? Amazingly, it is NOT! These kids are motivated and interested in aquatic environments, fishing, and conservation. They are curious, ask great questions, and have a terrific attitude.

The full schedule for all three counties will be posted on our web site, along with the contacts for volunteering. I sincerely hope you can help us on one or more events. It's a great time and it is a chance to help these student's awareness of their impact on our environment.

Until next month, tight lines!


Alan Burrows
President, PPTU



PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

Ken Bowyer provides one-on-one streamside fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hip boots, a rod and reel outfit, and leader. Discussions will include equipment, knots, casting, flies, dry fly and nymphing techniques, entomology, reading water, conservation, etc. at nearby streams. Instruction will be tailored to individual needs. Members who have not made an **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Our final stockings of the Middle Patuxent delayed harvest section and the upper main Patuxent was on April 2. These rainbows were float-stocked away from the access points by PPTU members and friends. With all the rains, and lots of stocked trout, fishing should be excellent for the next several months. The trout should all be well scattered. Good luck!

Everyone must remember that we have not stocked the Brighton Dam tailwater this year. The dam is still under extensive repairs. WSSC thinks it will be completed by the end of this calendar year. We will see.

April 6 is our annual cleanup of the upper Patuxent. Please see the notice elsewhere in this issue. PPTU members and friends often wear waders and go below the bridges to remove trash. However, this year there have been several major floods that have flushed everything down river—likely into Triadelphia Reservoir. So please show up and help clean the parking lots and road sides near the Patuxent. The Izaak Walton Wildlife Achievement Chapter has been a major contributor to our chapter. We must all support them.

Tidal Potomac Slam Fishing Tournament - NCCTU

The National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders and CCA Maryland's Greater Washington Chapter are proud to present the second annual Tidal Potomac Slam fishing tournament. A multi-week event, compete for great prizes and bragging rights, while helping to support Friends of Fletcher's Cove in its quest to restore the Cove and protect this unique urban fishing resource for generations to come.

Sponsored by District Angling, Traeger Grills, Speedwell Law, Computer Showcase, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership and RepYourWater, the Tidal Potomac Slam is a celebration of the arrival of Spring and all of the migratory species that return each year to our Nation's River! So join the fun and get in on this year's Shadness Madness!

Learn More at the Tournament Website!

<https://www.tidalpotomacslam.org/>



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!

Some More Stocking Info - PPTU

Here's a few more trout stockings from Maryland DNR. The fish are waiting for you! Remember – take photos and share your success with your fellow PPTU members.

Howard County

- Little Patuxent River: 1,800 golden and rainbow trout
- Patuxent River: 800 rainbow trout

Garrett County

- Casselman River: 2,400 rainbow trout (delayed harvest)

- North Branch Potomac River, Barnum: 450 brown, golden and rainbow trout
- North Branch Potomac River, Westernport: 450 brown, golden and rainbow trout
- Piney Reservoir: 900 golden and rainbow trout
- Savage River: 1,100 golden and rainbow trout
- Youghiogheny River: 1,300 rainbow trout (delayed harvest)
- Youghiogheny River, Oakland: 1,350 golden and rainbow trout

Washington County

- Little Tonoloway Creek: 300 golden and rainbow trout (youth, senior citizen and blind person)
- Sideling Hill Creek: 1,350 brown, golden and rainbow trout

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make a donation to:

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

Get started



"The finest gift you can give to another fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you."

~ Lee Wulff



PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits and Bistro
11011 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705



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

Fly Fishing 101: The Basic Cast - Bob O'Donnell

We all missed getting together for the fishing techniques outing due to some bad weather (again) but hopefully that outing event will be rescheduled. In the meantime, I thought we could walk through the mechanics of the basic cast.

To cast a fly rod, you simply have to make it do three things: bend, stop, and travel in a straight path.

Start with roughly 25 to 30 feet of fly line out in front of you. Begin your cast with the rod tip low, almost touching the ground or the water's surface and then start to lift the line.

Next, make your backcast by moving the rod in a smooth, accelerated motion up and back to an abrupt stop. Think about lifting your cell phone up to your ear for an important call, its smooth and fast. The initial casting motion is similar. Speed up and stop.

This speed-up causes the rod to bend under the weight of the line. If you continuously and smoothly accelerate, the rod will bend more and more deeply. This is known as loading the rod. It's like when you pull an arrow back on a bow. The bow arms bend storing energy. When you release, the stored energy propels the arrow to the target.

Where you stop the rod on the backcast dictates where the line goes. If you stop the rod too far back,

you'll direct it down to the ground behind you. If you stop too soon, you may not have enough energy to completely propel the line behind you. When you are just learning to load the rod, try to stop the rod so the line behind you unrolls parallel to the ground.

After the backcast, you must pause and wait for the line to roll out before you can make a forward cast. The timing here is very important. You should let the line almost straighten completely before you make your forward cast. If you wait too long, the energy in the line dissipates, and the line drops toward the ground. If you come forward too soon, your line will cross creating a knot, or you'll get a cast that results in a loud snap. That snap usually means you lost your fly.

Just like in the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears your cast has to be "just right." The easiest way to tell if your timing is just right is to simply look at your backcast. Watching your backcast is helpful while practicing. You can see where the rod tip is stopping. Out of the corner of your eye, you can see the line unrolling, and it can help you improve your timing.

When you see the end of your fly line straighten, it's time to smoothly accelerate the rod forward. Push with your thumb and use it like a rudder telling the rod, line, and fly where to go. At the end of the forward cast, come to an abrupt stop with the rod tip around eye level.

During both the back and the forward cast, you want the rod tip to travel in the straightest path possible. After you stop the rod tip at eye level, the line should roll out in front of you and straighten in the air. Once it is straight, follow the line with the rod tip as it falls gently down to the water.

That's it! Practice, practice, practice until you no longer think about the mechanics and all your concentration is on the fish at hand.

Here's a well done casting video example by master casting instructor Bruce Richards of Fly Fishers International where I'm currently working on getting my casting instructor certificate.



Tight lines!
Bob

<https://vimeo.com/316666842>

Shop Amazon Smile!

- PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! Add the *Potomac-Patuxent Chapter* as your charity of choice to your Amazon account. If your company purchases through Amazon, ask them to help support us as well. Its free money in support of the chapter.

Membership Bonus

- Jay Sheppard

Everyone who has joined TU this past 6 months as a new PPTU member OR who has paid their Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) is now entitled to a decal indicating they are a PPTU member. The decals will be passed out at the April meeting to those so eligible. If possible, we would hope a lot of members will come to the meeting to get their decal. We do not want to have to mail out very many of these. Please come to our April meeting and claim your PPTU sticker and show your support for the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of TU.



No Pebble Mine!

- Jim Keil

Despite over a decade of opposition, the agency reviewing the permit application for the massive proposed Pebble mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska recently moved the mega-project one step closer to reality. Without our help, the project is currently on track to begin digging a massive hole at the headwaters of Bristol Bay.

Please comment to the agency considering Pebble's phase-one permit. Tell them the Pebble mine has no place in Bristol Bay. Then send this link to your friends.



<https://www.tu.org/action-center?vsrc=/campaigns/63765/respond>

Fly Fishing Clinics

- Beaver Creek Fly Shop

Western Maryland Fly Fishing Clinic - Ever wanted to learn more about fly fishing opportunities in Western MD? Then this is for you! We will be staying in some beautiful cabins on Deep Creek Lake in McHenry, Maryland. From here we can access a handful of different streams in all directions.

<https://beavercreeflyshop.com/event/western-maryland-fly-fishing-clinic/>

Juniata River Smallmouth Clinic - Do 7 weights, popping bugs and big eats on streamers sound like fun?

We think so and that's why we decided to offer this clinic! You will be floating the Juniata River for two days fly fishing for smallmouth bass. We've assembled one heck of a team for this trip and are able to offer you first class services on a top notch smallmouth river.

<https://beavercreeflyshop.com/event/juniata-river-smallmouth-clinic/>

Shop and Fish Local

- PPTU

There are several great fly shops within a short drive of the Baltimore area. Take a run by and check them out and support these local shops.

Great Feathers - We are committed to providing our customers with the best fly fishing feathers, materials, products and service while sharing our obsession. While staying current with the latest trends and products, we sell only the products that we believe in and use. We offer a full assortment of classes for all aspects of fly fishing.

<https://www.greatfeathers.com/>

Backwater Angler - A full service fly shop thirty-five minutes from downtown Baltimore, Maryland and steps from the Gunpowder River. Backwater Angler is proud to offer a top-notch fly fishing guide service that specializes in the pursuit of wild brown trout. The fly fishing guide service also focuses on many other Maryland trout fishing destinations such as well.

<https://backwaterangler.com/>

ANNUAL SPRING WATERSHED CLEAN-UP!



COME JOIN THE WILDLIFE
ACHIEVEMENT CHAPTER AND
HELP CLEAN UP OUR
COMMUNITY ROADS AND
WATERSHED!

**Saturday April 6, 2019 from
9:30 a.m. to Noon.**

Rain date: Sunday April 7

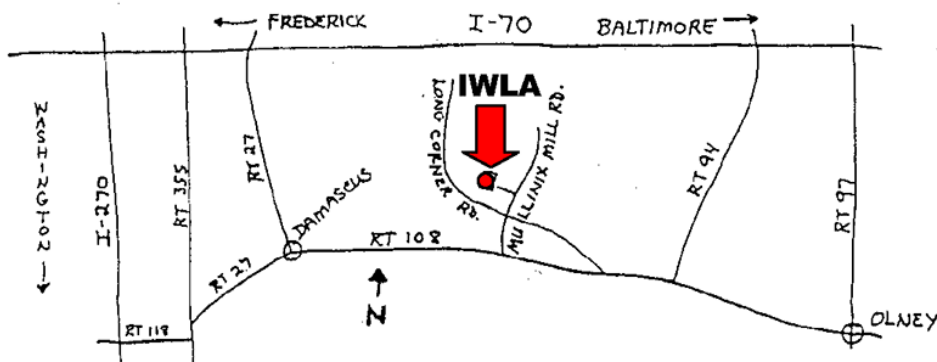
Keep trash and debris from entering
the Upper Patuxent River and the
Triadelphia drinking water reservoir.

*Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the IWLA-
Chapter House at 26430 Mullinix
Mill Road near Damascus.*

Wear sturdy footgear that you
don't mind getting dirty. We will
supply water, gloves, and bags. The
IWLA-WAC will provide lunch for all
participants at noon at the Chapter.



Student Service Learning hours available if completed forms are brought on the day of the event.



For more information, contact
Meo Curtis via e-mail at
meosotis58@verizon.net.

Special Thanks to Montgomery County Highway Services for picking up trash collected at the event.

Successful Fly Fishing 101 Event - PPTU

The fly fishing 101 event held by the Chesapeake Women Anglers at the Patuxent Wildlife center was a rousing success. Many new anglers and members to the fishing community showed up for some great instruction by the ladies of CWA and assisted by the PPTU staff.

The program covered all the basics from gear to knots and we taught the group basic casting skills and a crash course on fly tying at the end which folks enjoyed.

Many thanks to the volunteers that helped make this program a success. CWA is already planning to host the event again next year.

A "thank you" note to PPTU from CWA....

I've been thinking about the fly fishing clinic all week and smiling over the memories. We really had a great turnout! It's a perfect facility and we were lucky with the weather. I realize it's a lot of work to prepare and conduct the clinic but the rewards are worth it. I was very impressed by the progress our students were able to make in a single day. It's very heartening to see such a renewed interest in fly fishing now. I'm so glad we could take advantage of this and recruit some new members into our fly fishing organizations.

Thank you so much for participating with us in running this clinic. Please extend my sincerest thanks to Lou, Bob, and Randy for their willingness to teach last week-end. Their expertise make the clinic a success. It's asking so much for folks to give up their days off to teach at our clinics so I'm very grateful for the help. I'm eager to do the clinic again next year if PPTU is willing. In the meantime, please keep us apprised of your activities. Many of our members are in your service area and we'd like to support you any way we can.

Again, many thanks for all you did for us!

Carol Stevenson
Chesapeake Women Anglers

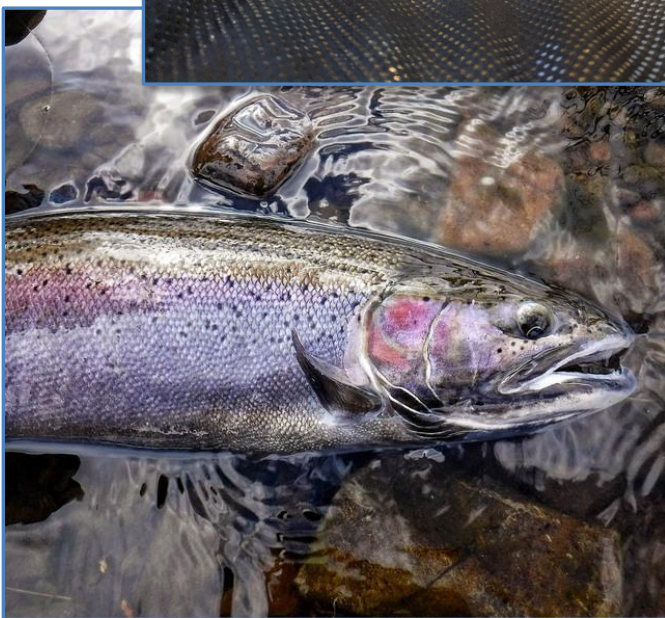


If you've never been to the National Wildlife Visitor Center it would worth a visit. The research refuge offers many attractions – outdoors and indoors. There are approximately 20 miles of roads and trails that provide opportunities for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. A wetland and wildlife viewing area provides visitors the opportunity to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. There are seasonal tram tours that highlight wildlife habitat and management practices and interactive exhibits which focus on global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats, endangered species, and more.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent/visit/nwvc.html>

Members Catch - PPTU

It's about time we started to see some fish pictures again! Kudos to the guys out in the snow and rain. Those of us stuck in an office can almost hear the water meandering downstream and the splash of a fish in the net.

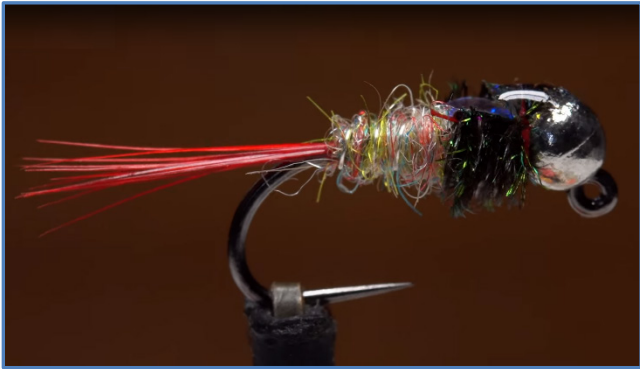


Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: Bob O'Donnell

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@yahoo.com



Tungsten Rainbow Dart

A lot of good fly patterns come out of experimentation and innovation. In this case, several of the best qualities of 3 other flies were put together to form this little gem. I might tie a few to drop into my fly box just for fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hECTXm5xaTY>



Return Address:
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P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD 20915