



October 2004

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Wednesday, October 20

A Champion For Conservation

Want to know about how Trout Unlimited is doing fighting for conservation at the national level?

The hot conservation issues in this Presidential election? How as a local chapter we might get involved and make a difference?

Then show up to listen to Jim Range, life-long conservationist and 2002 *Outdoor Life* magazine Conservationist of the Year. Jim is or has been a Board member of TU-National, American Sport-fishing Association, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Yellowstone Park Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is the Chairman of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

A former aide to a previous Senate Majority Leader and a lawyer here in town that counts among his clients the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, there is not much that goes on at the Federal level concerning fish and wildlife policy that Jim doesn't know about or have a hand in shaping. Just as importantly, he is able to present the complex issues of the day in a folksy and entertaining way for the rest of us lay people to understand.

So come educate yourself about Federal conservation issues from someone who really is in the know! ■

— Sebastian O'Kelly



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I sat down to write this month's message I just finished preparing a letter to the wife of Bob Schueler informing her of the gifts PPTU received in honor of her husband who passed away in July of this year. Bob was proud to be a member of TU and was deeply involved in our Chapter over the years. He was stream chair for the Paint Branch and faithfully monitored its condition and aggressively protected its interests against all those who would do it harm. Always a gentleman, Bob loved to attend chapter meetings and was always the responsible person to help out when the need arose. In his later years Bob could not get around very well but still thought of "his Chapter" and in the end asked his friends to honor him with their generosity to PPTU. We cannot replace Bob, but he will forever serve as a wonderful example to current and future members of TU.

We began our new year in September with an interesting and thought provoking film by Ozzie Ozefovich. Ozzie's films all have been thought provoking and challenging to many of the conventional notions we frequently hear about stream fishing, ►

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Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Directions: From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road. Pass Holy Cross Hospital and go across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Contributions in the form of clip art, articles, conservation activities, trip reports, letters, fishing and conservation news, tying tips, book reviews, and essays about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain text in the email body or Microsoft Word attachments. Authors should also include their phone number and a brief description of the attachments. The deadline for submissions is the fifth (5th) day of the month prior to the month of publication

EDITOR: Matt Baun
Phone: 301-937-8015
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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I'm sure we will discuss Ozzie's film materials for many hours. This month's meeting will be equally interesting, as will all those throughout the coming year. Take a glance at our web pages to see what's coming over the next months and plan to bring a friend to the meeting. You might also invite a friend to join the chapter and take advantage of the outings scheduled for the year.

Whether you care to travel some distance to a faraway hot spot or just get out in a nearby stream, it is great fun to fish with and enjoy the company of a friend. Last year's outing chair, Joshua Forster, is now our Treasurer and is temporarily filling in the outings chair until we get a replacement. If you are interested in learning more of what's involved in being the outings chair contact either Joshua or me. We'd be glad to discuss this with you.

The Board has been briefed on the general findings and recommendations of the ad hoc committee reviewing chapter conservation activities. The considerations ranged from the increased financial support of ongoing PPTU programs to new ventures with other chapters to the maintenance of a wild brook trout fishery in Western Maryland. This range of programs would require increasing amounts of money, time, effort and long-term commitments by the chapter in order to be viable. The committee also gave considerable thought to the level of member participation needed to expand the chapter's conservation program beyond the current levels of activities. They were concerned that the members needed to agree to provide some predictable level of support to this chapter before we began any new initiatives. The Board is considering the recommendations and deliberating on the level of efforts we think can be supported by the chapter. Over the coming months we'll introduce our thinking to the general membership and get the broadest level of participation we can before deciding on what new programs we can launch. ■

— Lou Boezi



Hatch Talk Revisited

This is a reprint of an article from the *Conservationist* about 6 years ago; we have a large number of new members who might benefit from some of this information. This article is devoted to some real basics: what is an insect and how to identify them.

First, a few numbers to grasp the enormity of this topic. One estimate is that there maybe as many as 100 million kinds (species) of animals in the world. Of those, perhaps 99 million are from just one group: the insects. Of the remaining million, about 95% are other invertebrate groups (various worms, spiders, crustaceans, shellfish, etc.). There are an estimated 30,000 kinds of beetles in some 800 families in the U.S., compared to only 700 species of birds in 78 families. Insects occupy virtually every habitat around us.

Insects are a member of the group of animals known as arthropods, which also includes spiders, crustaceans, centipedes, millipedes, and their relatives. The general characteristics of arthropods are a segmented body AND appendages covered with a hard, exterior (chitinous) body. They must shed this outer skeleton in order to grow. Insects are identifiable from all other arthropods by having **three pairs** of legs (spiders have 4), and three major body sections: head, thorax and abdomen. Two pairs of wings are typically present.

Insects have a series of stages in their life cycles from egg to adult. In the more primitive groups, the eggs hatch, and the young insects are essentially adult-like in appearance and simply molt until reaching the adult (winged or reproductive) stage. Stoneflies, mayflies, grasshoppers and crickets are examples of this kind of simple or incomplete kind of metamorphoses. In aquatic groups such as the mayflies and dragonflies, the egg hatches into a nymph that has external gills for breathing. The immature stage is called a "nymph."

All nymphs have eyes, legs and mouth parts that function basically as in an adult stage. In the more advanced groups of insects, the immature stage is quite unlike the adult stage and ►

often lives in a totally different micro environment. The immature or "larva" is typically grub- or caterpillar-like with or without three apparent pairs of legs; they typically have a very large abdomen and never any apparent wings.

The larvae finally molt into an intermediate stage known as the pupae, where the body completely reconstitutes itself into an adult insect, usually with wings. The insects with complete metamorphoses usually have three larval stages (or instars), one pupal stage, and the single adult or reproductive stage. Those with simple or incomplete metamorphoses may have 4 to 8 instars, although the mayflies may have up to 20 molts before leaving the nymph stage. (The latter is important to understand the long periods some mayflies may spend in the water and how often they molt.)

In a future issue I will explain how to identify the major groups of insects trout fishers encounter on a stream. ■

— Jay Sheppard



Fall PPTU Fundraiser

Don't Miss Out on Your Chance to Win . Help Support the Chapter! Buy your Raffle Tickets Today!

1st prize - An expense paid stay for two anglers at the West Branch Angler & Sportsman's Resort located on the West Branch of the Delaware River and two days of drift boat fishing with a guide -- approximately a \$1900.00 value.

2nd prize - Will be a one day guided wade fishing trip for trout or smallmouth bass to local waters with local guide Stacey Crossland-Smith.

3rd prize -- Will be a sweet, 7' - 5wt. fly fishing outfit from L. L. Bean. -- including rod, reel and line.

Ticket prices will be \$15.00 apiece or three tickets for \$35. We will be selling tickets at all meetings until the raffle takes place, on November 17, 2004, and you do not have to be present to win. Most Board members (see page 2) will have tickets to sell anytime. Time to ante up folks; we need your help! Support our chapter of Trout Unlimited ■

PATUXENT REPORT

Enjoy the new bridge where Hipsley Mill crosses the Cabin Branch! Last month my expectations were that 25% of the brown trout survived this summer's flows and heat; in a normal year, we might see 20% of the stocked fish survive. The better flows and cooler temperatures should leave many trout scattered up and down the river for the rest of the year. Some rainbows also might be found to holdover this year in a few sections.

The DNR had to rearrange their schedule and did a quick survey of the stream on September 2. Below Hipsley Mill Road they found five browns and two rainbows in a short 540' section. The largest was 15.5" brown. One brown was a holdover from the spring, and the other four were wild. They also sampled a similar short section just upstream from Howard Chapel bridge with similar results: five browns (one stocked) and four rainbows. The largest on this sample was a very fat 13" rainbow. The estimate was that the stream held about 400 trout to the mile or about 16-17 pounds of adult trout to the acre. One young of the year was collected at each station. These two sections near the bridges have always had a real holdover problem over the years, so this small number is not surprising to me.

I would suggest fishers try further away from the road and look for lots of cover and deeper water. I want to thank Dave Wittman, Nick Weber, and Rick Banvard for responding to the call for help on such short notice.

DNR also shocked a section upstream from Mullinix Mill bridge in mid-August and found about 35 lbs of trout to the acre, all wild browns. Many young of year were also found. The stream is small but there are many pools to hold trout. They noted that only a handful of these trout in the three surveys had any hooking injuries, but a fair number had injuries from herons.

ANNUAL WARNING: Hunting goes through mid-winter in many sections of Patuxent River State Park, so be careful and stay alert. The firearm season for deer is still a way off, but squirrel hunting starts the first Saturday of October, and dove and archery season for deer will both be continuing as this is mailed. Suggest fishing on weekdays or Sundays; otherwise, wear a bright-colored hat on Saturdays, in particular. Sunday hunting for deer does not apply on public hunting zones, such as the Patuxent River State Park.

— Jay Sheppard

PPTU Mentor Program

Available to members of PPTU current with their dues, Ken Bowyer or Paul Prevost will conduct one on one streamside fly-fishing instruction. Interested members must show commitment by having waders or hip-pers, 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.

Beginners should contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or e-mail: kenbowyer@comcast.net

For advanced instruction contact Paul at 202-244-0168 or e-mail: pprevost@hotmail.com

Proposed Outings Schedule

The Chapter regularly sponsors monthly outings to area trout waters. Here is the proposed schedule for 2004-2005. More details on these trips are available on the web at www.pptu.org.

- October 15-17, Weekend trip to Central Pennsylvania.
- November 1, Monday trip to Connetquot River, NY
- February (TBD), Saturday trip to Beaver Creek, MD
- March (TBD), Trip to Falling Springs Branch, PA
- April (TBD), Trip to Rapidan River, VA
- May, Memorial Day Weekend Trip to Western Maryland

THE FLY FISHING SHOW



Mark Your Calendar

Join Us at the Fly Fishing Show! In just three months, the 13th annual Fly Fishing Show will take place on **January 15th and 16th 2005 at the Reckord Armory, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.**

Daily admission is just \$14 (children under 12 admitted for \$2) or \$24 for both days. As we get closer to the show we will provide more information on this years speakers and special events. Remember to mark you calendar and as in years past "Fly Fishing is not Part of the Show, it is the Show." For more information log on to: www.flyfishingshow.com.

—Jack Dawson

My Experiences from Youth Camp

During the week of June 20th to the 25th, I had the good fortune of attending the 2004 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. The camp was a very successful one, and my class was the 10th group to attend the camp.

The camp was held at the Allenberry Resort, which can't be much further than 100 yards from the catch and release section of the Yellow Breeches Creek. I felt very comfortable at the camp from the moment I first entered the resort, up until I left. Upon arrival, I was warmly greeted by the staff. I was given a name-tag and found my seat. As I sat at the table, I found in front of me a neatly organized binder, hat, fishing vest, water bottle, a flybox containing patterns working on the stream for that week, and a t-shirt. The resort is a wonderful place for the camp, and its location is conveniently less than two hours away.

The staff was great, and the many instructors had activities or classes for the group to enjoy. Many of the class instructors gave us handouts full of useful and interesting facts and notes regarding his/her topic. Here is the list of the instructors and their classes/activities during the camp.

- *Fly Casting*, Ed Shenk, Emily Zeiders, Catharine Tucker and Art Rorex
- *Knot Tying*, Emily Zeiders, Art Rorex
- *Ethics and Streamside Etiquette*, Catharine Tucker
- *Equipment Repair*, Dusty Weidner
- *Principles of Ecology*, Mike Klimkos
- *Hydrology and Geology*, Dr. James Gilford
- *Entomology of a Trout Stream*, Dr. James Gilford
- *Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates*, Karl Sheaffer
- *Watersheds*, Glenn Rider, Kevin Kelly, Jennifer Bandura
- *Ecological Effects of Water Pollution*, Robert Schott
- *Wader Survival*, Dan Martin
- *Ye Olde Colonial Angler*, Ken Reinard
- *Fly Tying and Advanced Fly Tying*, Kieran Frye, Tim Trexler, Frank Angelo
- *Reading the Water*, Catharine Tucker
- *Reptiles and Amphibians*, Chris Urban
- *Trout Behavior*, Dr. Robert Behnke
- *Electro-fishing Demonstration*, Larry Jackson
- *Environmental Law and Politics*, Maxine Woelfling
- *The Bugs and Acceptable Imitations*, Dave Rothrock
- *What's That Bush My Backcast's In?*, Catharine Tucker

- *Evolution of an Angler*, Denny Moore
- *Advanced Casting*, Dave Rothrock

The one activity that I found the most memorable was the Ye Olde Colonial Angler by Ken Reinard. He came into the room dressed as a colonist, and demonstrated to the group about how they fly-fished back in those days, using silk lines, and horsehair leaders. He even showed how they tied flies back then. Without vise, bobbin, or tools, Reinard just held onto the hook as he tied away using only his hands!

We also ended up working. For two days, the camp members worked to improve the habitat on the "run" that spills out of Boiling Springs Lake. On your next trip, notice the four new logs placed directly in front of the picnic table pavilion. The placement of the logs will help direct more flow towards the middle of the stream, scouring out a deeper channel for the fish to hide in. Also, the logs provided nice plunge pools that should hold fish.

Of course, all of the campers were excited about the fishing. Not one camper left without catching a fish. I caught my share, and although none were "monsters", I was happy to catch them. The guides would help me when the fishing was tough, and put me on lots fish. They also helped improve my casting and other aspects of fly-fishing while I was on the water.

I had a blast, and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to be able to attend this amazing camp. I would like to thank PPTU for providing a scholarship to attend. ■

— Matt Merrill

Membership

THE POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited has two membership categories: **Regular or Family** (\$15/year assessment) or **Student** (free). The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. The assessment is totally separate from Trout Unlimited dues. Send correspondence, change of address, or assessment payable to POTOMAC-PATUXENT TROUT UNLIMITED, PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915.

Chapter and national TU expiration dates are indicated in the mailing label as PP-0905 or NTU-0905.

First time visitors receive two free issues of this publication.

Tactic and Tackle Tips

Leaves will be falling in the western mountains by mid-October and late October locally. That is the signal for the final flurry of surface action as the brown trout start their spawning on most streams. On tailwaters (Gunpowder, Big Hunting, Savage, North Branch and Yough) this is usually delayed from a few weeks to a month until the waters cool to about 45°. This month is a really fine time to watch the fall colors and trout sipping flies.

Grab the rod and take a day to enjoy it! ...Maybe a few more days, too! Many fishers have shown me their fly boxes over the years. We all start with one box and depending upon how rapidly we accumulate flies we are soon using a dozen boxes or more, or so it seems. What I have invariably noticed in many beginning fly fishers' boxes and even those more experienced, is a lack of organization.

As I have mentioned often in the past, we have only so many minutes of daylight and minutes to fish in a life time. Our flies need to be organized so we do not have to waste minutes opening and closing one box after another. The first division of a small selection of flies would be by type: dries and wets (incl. nymphs & streamers). Within each of those divisions, I would suggest segregating first by size and then by color or pattern. If you have a box with a series of compartments for dries, for example, place all the Adams of one size in one compartment. Do not mix sizes of the same pattern in the same compartment but do have them in adjacent compartments (or raised foam).

You can mix patterns of the same size in the same compartment. The reason is simple: the most frequent change to what you are presenting to fussy trout is to alter the size a tiny bit. If you see trout rising to a pattern but then refusing at the last second, a change in size is usually a good bet. One does not want to mix heavy nymphs with dry flies. We want to preserve the delicate hackles of the latter and not worry too much about the appearance of the former. Further, when we go to select, we usually are already thinking what type of presentation we plan to try: dead drift a dry or nymph or try a streamer, etc. As we accumulate ever more flies we need more and more boxes. ▶

Keep the same box in the same pocket of your vest at all times.

I have watched all too many fishers opening and closing their vests trying to find the box that holds a particular pattern. If you have several boxes of identical design, mark them in some way so you will know their contents, especially from seeing only the edge of the box sitting in a vest pocket. The markings can be simple letters (A, B, C...). I leave all my fly boxes in my vest at all times...well, once a year I do wash my vest whether or not it needs it! Same box goes in the same pocket on all trips. If I need a certain fly, I know in which pocket it has to be residing. Spend more time fishing for trout and less time for flies in your vest.

If you are walking around the sides of a stream, watch the wool fly patch with which most vests come equipped! Unless the fly is well imbedded into the fleece, a small branch or weed can brush the fly off never to be seen again. As previously mentioned, do not forget to place your name and phone number on or inside each of your fly boxes.

—Jay Sheppard



****MEMBER'S ASSESSMENT **** **NOW PAYABLE**

ACT NOW! The annual assessment (see back) is now payable. Check your label—if the "PP-" date is "0904" (or there is NO "PP-" and date), you can send your \$15 now, and you will not have to worry about paying at the October meeting. Some members paid twice this year, so they already show "PP-0905." 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-0904" on their label will be the **November** issue. **There will be NO separate mailings to remind members of this obligation. Please take note and action today! You will not want to miss our January issue and later issues with all their announcements. Thank you.**

Outings Report

Lies, Damn Lies and Releases

Western Maryland



Nine members from the Chapter joined me late last May for the traditional Memorial Day weekend outing to Western Maryland, where we fished the Casselman River, the Savage and the tailwater section of the North Branch of the Potomac. We stayed at a very comfortable and affordable guest home on the east side of Deep Creek Lake in the Green Glade Cove area, which was graciously provided by Dave Wittman's daughter and son-in-law. Evenings were spent swapping lies, grilling venison and rockfish supplied by Joe Gill and drinking scotch purveyed by George Vincent.

As for the stream conditions, flows on the Savage (tailwater) ranged from 80 to 100 cfs and flows on the North Branch were running at approximately 320 cfs. Stream temperatures ranged from the low fifties to the low sixties on the Savage and North Branch, respectively. The weather was slightly overcast on Friday and Monday but clear on Saturday and Sunday, and air temperatures ranged from a low in the mid fifties in the morning to a high in the upper seventies in the afternoon. Hatch activity consisted of tan and olive caddis flies, BWOs, Light Cahills, Green Drakes and Cicadas.

On Saturday, the group headed out to the Casselman River where in my eagerness to get to the stream, I locked my keys in the car. Recovering my keys with the assistance from the friendly - if less than fully cooperative - folks at Geico, I returned to the stream later that day to discover that Joe Zocchi and Bill Barton had managed to land several stocked browns and rainbows. Unfortunately, Bill had also managed to break his rod on the hike back out to the road. Alas, luckily for Bill, he had brought a back up rod that he switched to in an effort to get even with those wily salmonids.

On Sunday, Ken Boyer, George Vincent, Jonathan Halpern, Michael Golob and Joe Gill joined me above the Merrill property to fish for wild brookies in the headwaters of the Savage. Everyone landed several brookies ranging in size from just a few inches up to ten inches or better. And Joe Gill landed a small rainbow just below the confluence with Blue Lick. Splitting up in an effort to seek some solitude and explore new water, Mike Golob and myself hiked up above the confluence with the Little Savage where we ended up doing more hiking than fishing that day.

Later that afternoon, however, we joined the rest of the group to fish the North Branch of the Potomac just below Blue Hole. Although none of us experienced a fifty fish day, most everyone was able to land a couple of browns or rainbows and the prize of the day went to your author who

landed a buttery yellow bellied 15 inch holdover brown, that was most probably stocked years earlier as a fingerling, on a # 12 Green River Cicada pattern described in the May 2004 issue of the *Conservationist*.

On Monday many in the group decided to head home early, but die hard fly-fishermen like Mike Golob and myself spent half the day fishing the Savage at its confluence with the North Branch, where we each managed to land several wild browns and a few stocked rainbows on cicada patterns. (See trip photos on the PPTU list server).

WEST VIRGINIA

Ulrich Levi-Goerlich and his son, Kevin, Chris Gunzel and Richard Ward joined me and host, Allen Glasgow, for West Virginia's free fishing weekend at Allen's cabin on the Cacapon River in Largent, West Virginia from June 11th through June 13th. Rain Friday evening caused the river to rise dramatically and Saturday's fishing for small-mouth bass on the Cacapon from the canoes provided by Allen was hampered by high off color flows. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed the canoe trip, especially the wild turkey that flew across the lead canoe. Later that day, we traded in the canoes for some wading gear and headed up to one of the near by stocked streams, which had been previously hit hard by bait fishermen. Determined to make the best of the situation... our host, made up for the days somewhat disappointing fishing experience by preparing a dinner of T-Bones, grilled shrimp, baked potatoes served with a broccoli & cauliflower salad and capped with a desert of ice cream and home-grown black raspberries. Allen further entertained us with his hunting and fishing stories, a tour of the property, and by providing Kevin with his first experience at shooting a .22 caliber rimfire rifle.

On Sunday, Chris Gunzel, Richard Ward and myself drove about an hour and a half southwest of Largent to Seneca Rock, West Virginia, where the sun broke through the clouds just as we arrived at Seneca Creek. For those of you who have never fished this stream, Seneca Creek is a high gradient freestoner that holds wild brook and rainbow trout that readily take a dry fly. One word of caution, however, make sure you don't inadvertently fish one of the feeders such as White's Run, which is what two of us did for several hours until we realized that we were on the wrong stream.

In conclusion, everyone that participated in the outing to West Virginia would like to thank Allen for his generosity... many of us look forward to next year, and we hope that he enjoyed the gift certificate from Bass Pro Shop! ■

— Joshua Forster



THE VERY LAST WORD: THANK YOU

When Kent Bishop had to give up editing *The Conservationist* after 9-11, I managed to fight my way to the head of the line to replace him, and thanks to Dave Piske and the PPTU board members I was given pretty much a free rein to do the newsletter as I thought best. That made the transition a lot easier because I didn't have to fit my ideas into someone else's format.

I let it be known that *The Conservationist* was not *my* newsletter; it was the *chapter's* newsletter, and I would rely on the members to write the articles for it. In general, the response was pretty good. If you look back through the back issues, you'll find several names at the end of the articles—some of them in every issue.

My sincere thanks to Dave Piske for his "President's Columns," which came in before the deadline almost every time, to Lou Boezi for his "President's Columns" since his elevation to the head of the list, and to Jay Sheppard for combination of "Patuxent Report." "Tackle and Tactics," and assorted reminders about chapter assessments,

change of address, and more, all strung together, but also usually on time.

Jon Barnes, and later Dave Piske and Sebastian O'Kelly wrote the front page articles about the meeting programs, relieving me of the chore of creatively writing the copy. Mil gracias, senores.

Jim Greco, David Dunaway, Joshua Forster, Robert Simpson, and others whose names have slipped my 75-year old mind have made invaluable contributions to *your* newsletter and relieved me of the job of writing filler material. Many thanks to all of you and my apologies to those I've omitted.

Finally, my debt to Matt Baun for volunteering to take over *The Conservationist* is great because it gives me a chance to go on to other things.

I'm not leaving the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of TU; I'm just letting Matt have the pleasure of doing *The Conservationist* for a while.

—John Colburn



FIRST CLASS MAIL