

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Feb 2023 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“State of the Gunpowder” Guest Speaker: Mark Staley, MD DNR February 15th, 2023

Our February chapter meeting will feature Mark Staley, fisheries expert from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, presenting his annual report on the "State of the Gunpowder", including the results of DNR's latest trout population surveys.

Join us for an informative evening Wednesday, February 15th and learn what's new about the Gunpowder and take in some of what Maryland DNR does for you behind the scenes. Have your questions handy, hopefully to be answered fully during this presentation as we welcome our guest speaker from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Mark Staley. Mark is the Central Region Manager for MD DNR Freshwater Fisheries. The Central Region includes Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery counties.

Mark has worked in the Central Region for the entirety of his 34 year career as a fisheries biologist with MD DNR managing coldwater, warmwater, and tidal largemouth bass recreational fisheries.

For those of you that fish the Gunpowder, this should be an interesting reveal on one of Maryland's beautiful and treasured trout streams.



– *Karan Singh*
singhkaranr@yahoo.com

February Chapter Meeting

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

Chapter Meeting Location & Virtual Link:

The Greene Turtle, 15660 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85850595601?pwd=amE4UFkwMU8zUzF5TnJLU1RDQnNMQT09>

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



We are off to another great year at PPTU! Our first chapter meeting, the Fly Tying Extravaganza, was a great success. Thanks to everyone, including our fly tying team, for putting together a fun filled evening. If you missed it, please consider joining us for future chapter meeting which are held the third Wednesday of each month. I know I learned a lot and had a blast.

The success of our meeting got me thinking about doing more “hands on” meetings in the future. There are so many topics like how to build your own leaders to rigging for different water conditions to how to understand the action of fly rods and many more. This list goes on and on, all of which take advantage of our generous members who are so willing to share their knowledge and experience with fellow members. In my humble opinion, this truly separates PPTU from other fishing clubs I've been part of over the years. In addition, a few of us kicked around the idea of bringing back our monthly fly tying nights. This is an opportunity to get together for a couple hours tying up a fly or two. We typically pick a fly that would be a good choice for that time of year and tie a couple up. We share different patterns that have been successful, show each other a couple tying tricks and just have a good time. It's also an opportunity for those members who are either just beginning to tie flies or maybe you are just interested in learning more. More to come but keep an eye out for upcoming tying nights (most likely they will be at the Green Turtle in Burtonsville) in the near future.

I don't know about you, but I've had some tough fishing days this winter including a couple skunks. It's encouraged me to buy a couple books, reach out to some of our very own members for advice and listen to a few podcasts. It's amazing how many resources are available, but you just can't beat time on the water. Observing what's happening in real time is very insightful. One way to get great advice while being on the water is to participate in our upcoming outings. I've been known to spend a couple hours just following some of our experience anglers around, watching and learning. How do they read the water, determine what fly to select, what tippet size to use and more. If you haven't

participated in one of our outings, I would encourage you to make it a priority this year.

On the topic of learning, if you have something you are interested in learning more about, don't hesitate to bring it to my attention. We are always looking for ways to help bring helpful content to our members. So, until next month, enjoy some time on the water and take full advantage of what PPTU has to offer!

Joe Taylor
President, PPTU

PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

PPTU 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. all on 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 us by e-mail: mentor@pptu.org



So, what is TIC anyway?

- Alan Burrows

I guess I've been around Trout in the Classroom (TIC) for so long I assume everyone knows about it but I was reminded the other day that we have lots of new people who may not be familiar with the program so over the next couple of months I will try to explain what we do.



Trout in the Classroom is a program that enhances science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculums. Students study and raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in a coldwater aquarium during the school year. It is a unique opportunity used to teach the relevance of watersheds. The program culminates with a field trip to a community stream, river, lake or pond where students release their fish into a state-approved location.

TIC exists throughout the US where cold water exists. In some cases it is endorsed and supported by state natural resources departments. In many locations the program is supported by local Trout Unlimited (TU) chapters. Back in 2004, a member of PPTU applied for and was given a grant and started TIC in 3 schools in Montgomery County. While the program has always been supported by PPTU, several years later the management of the program was moved to the Mid Atlantic Council of TU because it had grown to cover much of Maryland as well as the District of Columbia.

Today we have tanks in almost 100 schools and nature centers throughout the state and district. We are the largest all volunteer TIC program in the

country and we estimate that we impact several thousand students every year. These students set up tanks, learn about the nitrogen cycle, do water testing and feed fish from December through the end of the school year. The program culminates with a field trip for each school where the students release the fingerlings they have raised as well as participate in some other activities. In many cases this is the first time some of these urban students have ever experienced a stream or river.



As you can imagine, this program is a pretty big “lift” and takes a lot of volunteers to pull it off. This will be the subject of my next column.

Thanks for your support.
- Alan

Fly Shop Spotlight – District Angling - Bob O’Donnell

I thought it wouldn’t be a bad idea to run some information on our local shops, especially for some of the new friends and family of PPTU. This month’s feature is on Washington, DC’s [District Angling](#).

Custom Flies, Repairs, Maintenance, Fly Tying Classes, Seminars, etc., you’ll find all that and more at the shop. Here’s just a few of things the shop has going on:

Flyfishing Bootcamp

Fly fishing can be a difficult sport to master, and can be daunting to the new recruit, District Angling helps you train and learn and appreciate the sport with an intensive and detail-oriented fly fishing school. Bootcamp is split into a 2 day event: Day 1 is a 2 hour in-classroom event at the shop where you’ll learn the basics of the sport and the beginnings on

how to cast. Day 2 is an all-day on the river clinic learning about trout stream entomology and where you get to apply everything you’ve learned and catch your first fly-caught trout!

10-and-2-Clinics

When learning to cast a fly line, you’re taught to keep your casting arm between the 10 and 2 o’clock positions to ensure a tight loop. District Angling runs clinics at 10am and 2pm in honor of the spirit of these teachings.

Clinics run every fourth Saturday throughout the year, at 10am and 2pm and range from 30 minutes to an hour. Shop clinics range from travel, casting instruction, gear maintenance, or fishing tips and tricks to make sure you’re a better all-around angler, and are open to the public, free of charge.



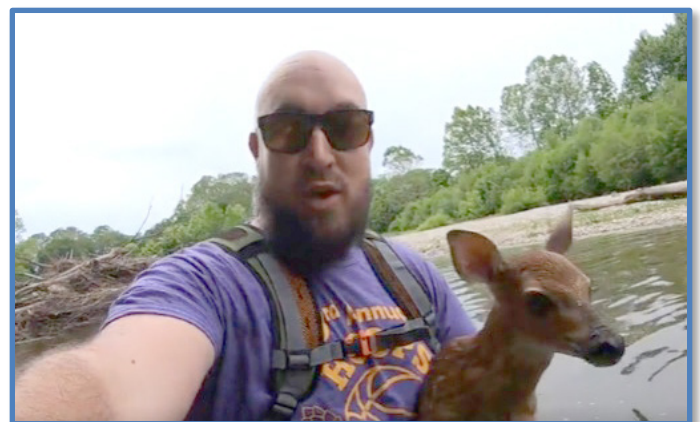
Check out the District Angling website for more details, or better yet... drop by the shop and get a warm welcome from Rich Farino, Grizzly Lambert and the rest of the crew.

District Angling
2105 North Pollard Street
Arlington, VA 22207
(703) 268-7500

This Ever Happen to You While Fishing? - Bob O’Donnell

This was too cute to pass up. Yea, I’m a sucker for animal stories. Combine animal cuteness with fishing and I’m hooked.

Fawn swims up to fishermen for help.



Note: For those of you only reading the hard copy of the newsletter, you can find the digital version of the Conservationist on line with all the active story hotlinks by visiting PPTU.org.

"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."

~ Roderick Haig-Brown

If you spot poaching please call or text:

Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers
At
443-433-4112



Add this number to your cell phone contact list!



Trout Stockings - Maryland DNR

Maryland DNR crews were busy once again stocking fish in our local waters. Well over 16,000 trout have already been placed in Maryland waters. Go check them out and see how you do.

Frederick County

Catoctin Creek (Doubs Meadow): golden and rainbow

Catoctin Creek (Catoctin Park): golden and rainbow

Garrett County

Youghiogheny River (Friendsville) brown, golden, rainbow

Youghiogheny River (Oakland) brown, golden, rainbow



Howard County

Lake Elkhorn: golden and rainbow

Centennial Lake: rainbow
& rainbow trout

Greenbrier Lake: golden & rainbow trout

Montgomery County

Great Seneca Creek: golden and rainbow

Washington County

Israel Creek: golden and rainbow



Upcoming Fly Fishing Show! - Phil Monahan - Orvis

One of the best ways to overcome cabin fever during the long winter months is to attend a fly-fishing consumer show, below are just a few.

February

4 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show—
Loveland, OH

17-19 The Fly-Fishing Show—Denver, CO

March

4-5 The Fly-Fishing Show—Lancaster, PA

10-11 Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo—
Albany, OR

11-12 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo—Warren, MI

16-19 International Sportsmen's Exhibition—
Salt Lake City, UT

17-19 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo—St. Paul,
MN

18 Maryland Fly Fishing Show—Towson, MD

25 Long Island Fly Fishing Expo —Hauppauge,
NY

[2023 Fly Fishing Show: Dates & Locations](#)

Haviland Mill Park - Pete Yarrington

Pete kindly found a write up on the park at [Haviland Mill](#). If you haven't been out that way there in a while its worth checking out. Thanks for the article Pete! Here's a short blub from the full article. Check out the link for more info

HOWARD COUNTY, MD — A 1,250-foot universal access pathway at Haviland Mill Park in Howard County has officially opened. The path enables park user to view the Patuxent River from an observation deck.

“Visitors to this new trail will enjoy the careful considerations that went into developing this wonderful pathway,” Prince George's County Recreation and Parks Director A. Raul Delerme said. “Every inch of this trail was created with purpose and with the idea of allowing residents to enjoy these preserved wetlands in a safe and equitable way.”



PPTU Fishing Videos – Anyone Else? - Bob O'Donnell

Folks are posting more and more on line. If you have something cool to share please send me an email with the link. Jim Senker posted another video. Nice hat Jim! Here's the quick write up.

I went to Cedar Creek in Star Tannery VA to angle for big stocked Rainbows. You pay to fish at Cedar Creek which I know is far from the preferred fly fishing opportunity for many of you. I get that.

For me, after a bout of Cabin Fever, and limping around on a 4 month old surgically repaired foot, this was just what the doctor ordered!!

[You can watch my feeble attempt here.](#)

No music, nor fancy introductions, nor drones flying overhead. Just me rambling on and on and on and some really big bows!

I encourage you to open up your beverage of choice and join in on the fun!!

In Remembrance: Robert ‘Don’ Haynes - PPTU

We suffered a great loss recently, Dr. Robert ‘Don’ Haynes 71 passed away January 3, 2023, after a 5 month battle in the hospital.

A native of Virginia, Don was the son of Robert and Dorothy Martin Haynes. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a Ph.D. in International Studies. Don also served in U.S. Air Force. He was a professor at University of Baltimore for 35 years where he taught until his death.

Don was heavily involved with Trout Unlimited and was chairman of the Mid-Atlantic council for several years, working to keep all the MD chapters active and productive. Below is Don and his wife Norma receiving TU's Golden Trout Award for MDTU.

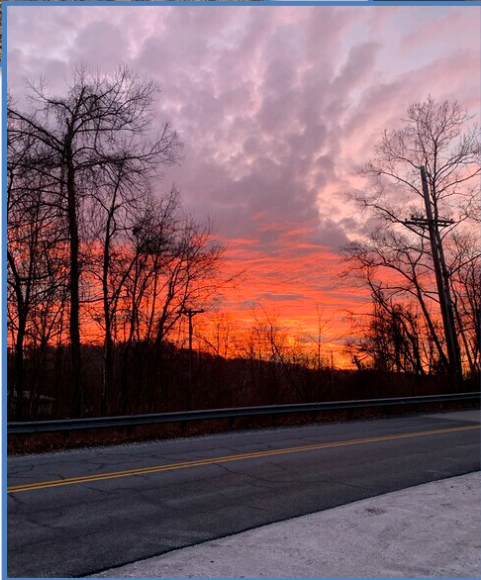
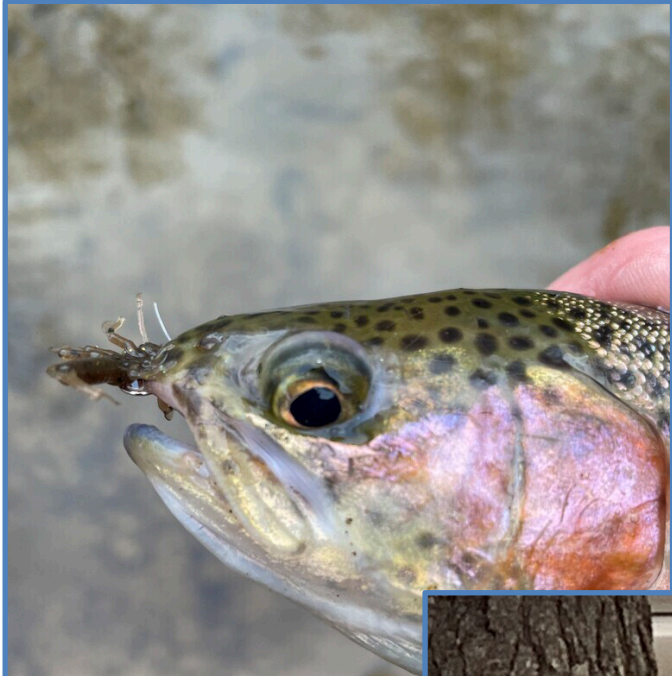


Don coached baseball and soccer for TRC when his son was young, was the past commissioner of Kelly Post Lacrosse in Towson, MD and was also a great photographer, an avid fly fisherman, and a leader in MDTU until his death.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited, 1509 Bellona Ave. Lutherville, MD 21093.

Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

Yes, there is a bird photo! A Baltimore Oriole to be exact. Since I haven't been out fishing yet, it's the only thing I've caught recently. The rest of you keep fishing and share your photos. Enjoy!



Contributions & Questions Welcome!

Send your contributions, article suggestions or fly fishing questions to the Editor in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is typically the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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Vintage Anglers

We typically highlight a fly pattern here, but for this go around we'll highlight a web site. Vintage Anglers is a site dedicated to all those anglers that came before us and those that love to use and collect classic fishing gear. For all of your vintage and antique tackle needs check out Kevin Haney's website. You'll find some interesting stuff there that may trigger some memories of the past. Enjoy!

www.vintageanglers.com



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