

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

March 2020 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“The Mono Rig”

Better control, contact and strike detection with a fly line substitute.

Domenick Swentowsky - Troutbitten

March 18th, 2020

PPTU welcomes a special guest speaker: Domenick Swentowsky, editor of the Troutbitten journal (<https://troutbitten.com/>).

Domenick hails from Central Pennsylvania, where he has been involved in fly fishing since he was a child. After attending Penn State and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (majoring in English), Domenick settled where he could make Spring Creek his home waters. He and his friends started collecting fly fishing advice in a listserve that eventually became the Troutbitten website, which launched in 2014. Troutbitten has since grown to be a true online fly fishing presence with hundreds of articles written by Domenick and eight other contributors.

Domenick guides in central and northern Pennsylvania about 100 days out of the year. He has given presentations around the east coast and mid-south on euro-nymphing, streamer fishing, and general fly fishing tips.

Domenick will be speaking with us about his Mono Rig setup for fly fishing. While many fly fishers know about using long mono as a nymphing technique, Domenick’s approach to this piece of equipment is more versatile. He will explain the theory behind the setup and discuss his recommended tactics for using the rig on the water with nymphs, streamers, and dry/droppers.



Hope to see you there!

– *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

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



As I write this column the temperature outside is dropping rapidly into the 20s. Yet, spring is here and with it comes the re-emergence of life in the fields, forests, streams. It's a time of activity in Nature and for your PPTU Chapter, too.

March is a busy time for your PPTU Chapter. We have our popular Fly Tying and Rod Building Classes underway. I'd like to thank Bob Dietz for leading the tying class. His tying skills and historical knowledge associated with each fly is second to none. Thank you to Michael Abramowitz and Larry Vawter for leading the rod building class. Each participant will soon walk away with the fishing rod of their dreams. Our members do an excellent job of 'paying forward' the knowledge and skills associated with fly fishing and this makes our chapter truly unique.

Both Larry and Michael give extra of themselves at Project Healing Waters at Ft. Meade and Project Healing Waters at Walter Reed Medical Center, respectively. Consider marking your calendar for the 7th Annual Fly Tying Marathon to be held March 28th at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.

Anyone interested can register to tie flies by contacting:
chris.thompson@projecthealingwaters.org.

CWA Fly Fishing 101 and Trout in the Classroom

PPTU is assisting the Chesapeake Women Anglers with their Fly Fishing workshop on Sunday March 22 at the Patuxent Wildlife Center. This is a great opportunity for any woman interested in learning more about fly fishing in a very welcoming setting. If you're interested, please reach out to Carol Stevenson at pres@chesapeakewomenanglers.org or visit <https://chesapeakewomenanglers.org/>.

We also have literally hundreds of schools with thousands of students managing their Trout in the Classroom projects and they will soon be releasing their young into local streams. Our TIC Volunteer Leaders are Alan Burrows and Chuck Dinkle and they will be asking you to assist in the near future. Keep an eye out for their call!

Special Guest to Speak at our March 18th Chapter Meeting

I'll close with a mention of our March 18th chapter meeting and Domenick Swentowsky, a very special guest who will be addressing our members. He is the force behind <https://troutbitten.com/> and will lead a lively discussion on fly fishing techniques including the mono rig and tight line versus indicator nymphing. Come early to get a good seat and I urge you check his website in advance. Domenick has a wealth of knowledge to share so have your questions ready to go!

Randy Dwyer
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 🐟

Fly Fishing 101 – Prep for the Season - Bob O'Donnell

With spring right around the corner and the weather teasing us with warmer days, it's a good time to take stock of your gear and prepare for another season on the water.

Flies – How many did you lose last year? Pull those fly boxes out and dig through your pockets. Take a good look at your flies. Do you need to tie or

buy more of a certain pattern? Hey, it won't be long before the Hendrickson hatch shows on the water. Did you take a spill last season or get caught in the rain and forget to dry out your flies? I tied a fly on one spring only to see the eye snap off. The hook had rusted! Check your flies for any signs of rust, bugs, or general wear. Quick tip here: if you find a set of dry flies that have been crushed accidentally, you can easily revive them back into shape by steaming them over some boiling water. Drop them into a colander and steam them up a bit. Coax any stubborn feathers back into shape AND – make sure you let them dry before putting them back in your box.

Rods – Rods can have a tendency to pick up dirt and debris from a day (or days) on the water. Take the time to inspect them for loose or broken guides. Some soapy water, soft cloth, and a toothbrush can do wonders for a tired looking rod. Want to make that cork handle look like new? Try taking one of the Mr. Clean Magic Eraser pads to it. You'll be amazed.

Reels – Over the course of a season your reel can pick up dirt on the inside which hinders its performance and can shorten its lifespan. Most reels can easily be cleaned with soap and water, soft cloth and a toothbrush. If you're uncertain about it, some fly shops offer gear maintenance and will clean your reel for you. Make sure your reel is always dry before storing it. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for any grease or oil applications to the moving parts. Its good practice to clean your fly reel once a year.

Fly lines – Fly lines, like other gear, start to pick up dirt each time you use them and begin to lose their performance. Inspect your line for nicks and cracks and replace it if necessary. Sometimes all a line needs is a good cleaning to turn it around. Rio has a good video on this process. Take a look: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=QsCDjSdrpOA&feature=emb_logo

Waders – With continued use your waders will eventually start to leak at some point. That point in time can be sooner rather than later depending upon how hard and often you fish. If you bushwhack through multiflora a few times, more than likely you'll end up with some pin prick leaks. I just had to repair my waders. The last two times I waded in to waste level, I noticed I was getting wet. It didn't take much to determine the cause. Careful inspection showed the material had separate slightly from a few of the tape seams. A little UV cure resin applied carefully to the seams, rubbed in and then hit with the

UV light did the trick and patched the leaks for me. UV resin is a quick repair option, Aquaseal is another option that has a longer cure time.

Repair tip: When your waders are dry, turn them inside out and lay them flat on a work surface. Fill a spray bottle up with isopropyl alcohol. Spray the area where you suspect the leak to be liberally with the alcohol. Pin prick holes and scratches will show up as dark marks on the fabric. Apply a small amount of sealant to each spot and rub it in softly. This will plug the leak without any buildup of sealant. UV cures instantly once hit with a UV light, Aquaseal is dry to the touch in a few hours but takes about 12 hours to fully cure. The following video will give you the details on the procedure to find and seal those leaks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBI70sxYQKU>

Start getting your gear ready now so you can enjoy yourself on the water later.

Upcoming Meeting Notes - Randy Dwyer

Here's a couple of reminders about our upcoming meetings. We'll send some notes out, but wanted to get you thinking about it.

Our April meeting will be a joint meeting with NCCTU in Bethesda. We will also be asking everyone attending March meeting to consider donating a fly or two for the scouts merit badge project PPTU is assisting on.



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!



Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

PPTU members and friends have stocked the Middle Patuxent Delayed harvest section again. It was stocked back in early December with a mix of browns and rainbows. On February 20 another 450 rainbows were added. These trout were float stocked downstream in the middle of the delayed harvest section. Float stocking spreads the trout out over more than a mile of stream. There will be one more float stocking the end of March with a similar number and distribution.

Also on February 20 our intrepid crews float stocked the Patuxent River tailwater below Brighton Dam. This is a Flies Only, No-Kill regulated section. DNR provided us with 800 rainbows which were scattered from the upper end of the flies-only area down to past Havilland Mill Road. On February 15, several of us cleared the trails along the river from Havilland Mill upstream. We still have not fixed the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) problem for the dam's hydropower operation. Consequently, we expect that sometime in June the DO will simply get too low for trout. So enjoy the fishery while it lasts.

The upper Patuxent River special regulation area (lures & flies only and no-kill) will be stocked the end of March with approximately 650 rainbows. The river was heavily stocked with a mix of brown and rainbow trout in early December; a large number of these fish were camera-sized trout up to 20". Reports were received this winter of nice fish being caught in the deeper pools. I expect some of these nice fish will move out into the runs and pocket water before the end of March.

"The man who coined the phrase "Money can't buy happiness", never bought himself a good fly rod!"

~ Reg Baird

Izzak Walton Annual Stream Cleanup - Jay Sheppard

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, April 4th is the annual stream cleanup on the upper Patuxent River. This is an event for young and old. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Isaak Walton League, 26430 Mullinix Mill Road, Damascus. This is just north east of Mullinix Mill and Long Corner Roads. Lunch

will be provided to all participants. Student Service hours are available for credit, if forms are brought to this event. Bring sturdy foot wear. If you want to help clean the river itself, bring waders and a heavy rake. Gloves, bags, and water will be provided. This is a group effort with a number of conservation oriented organizations participating. Bring family and friends for a rewarding morning cleaning roadsides, parking lots and the stream.



Fly Fishing 101 Clinic – March 22nd - Chesapeake Women Anglers & PPTU

Open to new anglers and new members to the fishing community, the fly fishing 101 clinic will once again take place at the National Wildlife Visitors Center, Patuxent Research Refuge, in Laurel, Maryland on March 22nd from 10am-4pm. Sign up for some great instruction by the ladies of CWA and assisted by PPTU staff.

This clinic offers a great overview of fly fishing and fly fishing equipment, basic casting techniques, knot tying, entomology and fly selection, and introduction to the art of fly tying. Registration is required for the class.



Note: Workshop sessions will involve both classroom and outdoor instruction, dependent on the weather. Loaner rods, reels, lines and flies will be available for the day to participants who need them. Water, sodas, and light snacks will be provided. Bring your own bag lunch.

Contact: pres@chesapeakewomenanglers.org.

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.



Fly Fishing Shows! - Bob O'Donnell

Start making plans to attend these upcoming shows and get the dates in your calendar. Two good shows are coming up soon. The first will be The Fly Fishing Show in Lancaster PA on March 7th & 8th. The show starts at 9am on both days. Location: Lancaster County Convention Center, 3 East Vine Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

<https://flyfishingshow.com/lancaster-pa/>

The second show is a bit more local, it's the Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectable Tackle Show. That show takes place on March 14th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Towson, MD at the West Commons building in the main ballroom on the 4th floor. Details and directions are on the show's web site.

<https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/>

Nymphing Instruction on the Web - PPTU

A lot of stuff comes into our mailboxes daily, sometimes the ads just clutter our in box and you delete or ignore it. Occasionally, something good shows up. In this case, the Fly Men Fishing Company sent a link to some good instruction on nymphing. I had signed up for a special fly sale offer one time (well, maybe twice) and got on their mailing list. The

instructional materials they have on their site is pretty good so I thought I would share. Their fly sets aren't too bad either.

<https://flymenfishingcompany.fliesforsale.com/basic-guide-to-nymphing/>

Request for Fly Donations for Scouts - Randy Dwyer

Reminder – PPTU is requesting members that attend our March meeting to bring a fly or two to donate to our upcoming Scout merit badge effort. We're looking for a variety of flies for the scouts. Here's a short list: Griffiths Gnat; Beetle or Ant, San Juan Worm, Wooly Bugger, Bully Bluegill Spider, Mop Fly with Legs, Mickey Finn. Tie one or buy one and bring them to the next meeting!



Pinup Blast from the Past - Bob O'Donnell

Joe Robinson shared this picture on the PPTU forum after a discussion about fishing licenses and pins. A long time ago, growing up fishing in Pennsylvania, I used to collect some of the fishing license pins the state put out. Joe sent us a sample from Maryland. I had no idea. Very cool!

If anyone has any antiques to share send them my way for a future post in the Conservationist. As always, my email appears on the last page of each issue and you can send stories and photos to the editor (me) at any time.



Stream Closures and Regulations - Bob Kaiser

Closures on Put & Take streams start in early March – don't get caught unawares!

Special regulation / catch and return trout streams have no closures. But be aware of boundaries where special regulation streams turn into put and take areas.

See MD DNR regs for other species:

<http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/put-take-trout-fishing-areas/>

Fly Fishing Film Tour – Showings on Feb 28th Mar 11th - Luis Santiago

Both Beaver Creek Fly Shop and Great Feathers Fly Shop are hosting the 2020 Fly Fishing Film Tour!



If you have never been to a film tour showing I recommend a visit. The film tour shows several short fly fishing films followed by intermission with tons of door prize giveaways as well as raffle prizes for sale. Often the raffle is a high end fly rod that could make your night.

Trailers for the tour are available for viewing <https://flyfilmtour.com/watch-trailers/>

Beaver Creek's showing is Feb 29th at 6pm, at the 28 South in Hagerstown, MD.

<https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Hagerstown-Md-37061>

Great Feather's showing is at the BC Brewery in Hunt Valley, MD on Mar 11th, at 6:30 PM.

<https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Hunt-Valley-Md-37302>

Members Catch - PPTU

I finally arrived late to the last outing at Big Spring only to see the guys packing up and getting ready to head home. Can't blame them, it was pouring cats and dogs on my drive up. By the smiles in the photos it looks like they had fun. Hope a few more of you get out and fish and share those photos. There are lots of fish in Maryland streams waiting for you!



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



Scud

A fly similar to this worked great for me on Big Spring. I'm anxious to try it out in a few more streams. Check it out. If you can't get the material used in the video, substitute other scud dubbing or mix up your own. Spikey squirrel hair makes a pretty good substitute dubbing for this pattern.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGoo6Fskq7Q>



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