

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

March 2021 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“Tim Flagler’s Euro-Nymphing: Basic to Advanced Techniques, Plus Fly Tying Demonstration” *March 17th, 2021 at 7:30PM*

We are excited to announce that our March virtual speaker will be Tim Flagler of worldwide fly fishing renown! Tim will first give us a class on Euro-Nymphing, including equipment, flies, techniques, and strategies before demonstrating how to tie three of his favorite Euro-nymphing flies: the Sulphur Perdigon, the (famous) Frenchie, and Lance Egan’s Red Dart. You definitely don’t want to miss this awesome opportunity to learn from one of today’s hottest instructors in the sport of fly fishing.

Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 80,000 subscribers and 24 million views. Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or “how to” video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis fly fishing blog as well. They’re also featured on Trout Unlimited’s national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column “Beginner’s Masterclass with Tim Flagler” in Fly Tyer magazine. Many of his tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

Tim’s a fixture at the Fly Fishing Shows - giving presentations, teaching classes and often as a Featured Tier. He enjoys guiding year round for Shannon’s Fly & Tackle in Califon, NJ and hosts annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in MT starting summer of 2020.



Tight lines,

– *Karan Singh*

Monthly Chapter Meetings – Virtual Until Further Notice

Time and Day: 7:30 PM unless a new time is stated, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December

Virtual Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88264295166?pwd=emtKMWRydEJsQlp4b3I1dFpYT21Cdz09>

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



March Madness!! Well, it's not exactly a reference to tip-off of the annual college basketball bracket busters, but this March Madness is about warmer weather and the opportunity to get out of the house and leave behind the COVID-bound dust we've collected all winter long.

Winter fishing is an art not easily mastered. The game is played 'low and slow' and unlike basketball there is no shot clock to force a quicker retrieve. March on the other hand offers us a chance to enjoy warmer days, re-emergence of plants and a plethora of bugs. And with this is a chance to try some dry fly fishing once again!

March brings us the possibilities of tying on a dry fly that's sat dormant in our vest pockets, much like the real critter from nearly 12 months ago. Of course, there's the ever-present nymphs and streamers still in our boxes, there should also be some emergers, soft hackles and wet flies, too. But now the selection is growing larger as the days get longer.

Brown and black stoneflies. Maybe Blue Quill and Blue Wing Olives. As the water warms, one can dream of tying on Sulphurs, Caddis and March Browns. And there's always a stimulator pattern to try. When a trout takes a very small Royal Wulff pattern, then I know the dry fly season is well underway.

The best fly to tie on? It'll be the one our local fly shop recommends. They're on the water daily. They'll know the difference in morning and evening bugs. They offer expertise, water knowledge, customer service and want all of us to have the best fishing experience possible.



While the internet is great, there's no substitute for the knowledge gained when you walk into one of our local Maryland fly shops. I encourage everyone to visit them and to buy from them. Just like the rest of us, they are thinking of warmer days and better business after the body blows they've taken these last 12 months.

We need our local fly shops. As you plan your next day on the water, consider adding a visit to the fly shop as a part of your day's adventures. Ask a few questions and buy a few flies, even if you might have the ones suggested in your fly box already. It's a win for everyone and that's what March Madness is all about.

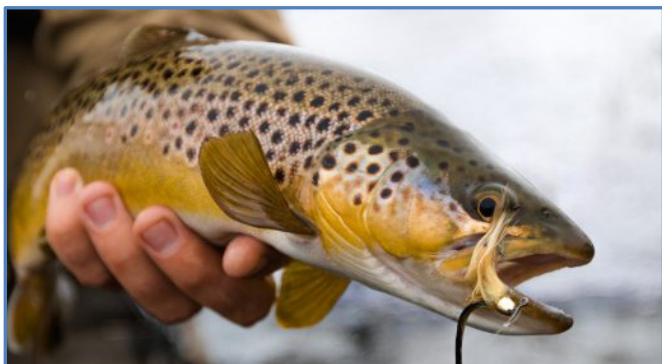
Tight lines and I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Randy Dwyer
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. 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: mail@pptu.org



Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

The last week of February PPTU members and friends float stocked 1600 rainbows in the upper Patuxent River, Brighton tailwater of the Patuxent, and the Middle Patuxent in south Columbia. This will be the only stocking of the tailwater, flies-only, section of the Patuxent this spring. In early March we hope to stock about 1800 brown trout into the upper Patuxent and the Middle Patuxent. The former is a special no-kill area and the latter is under a delayed harvest regulation (no-kill until June 1). There might be a third stocking of the Middle Patuxent towards the end of March by DNR.

Fishers parking at the Havilland Mill bridge for access to the tailwater, must not park on the private property on the west side of the road in Howard Co. Parking is available in the paved Howard Co. park on the east side and for a couple of cars on the state park land at the Montgomery Co. end of the bridge. Please do not abuse our permission to cross the private land on the Howard Co. side of the road to walk upstream to access the river on state park lands.

Please check the current release from Brighton Dam before trying to fish the tailwater! Flows over ~150 cfs are generally very difficult to wade. Best flows for most wading fishers is about 75-110 cfs. Check the web site:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?cb_all&format=gif_stats&period=7&site_no=01591610

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!



The Cicadas are Coming! **- Jay Sheppard**

On March 10th there will be a virtual fly tying demonstration by Matt O'Neal of the durable cicada fly Jay Sheppard has described in previous issues. The link to the talk will be sent out to all members and also posted on our PPTU Facebook page. A complete set of the three-part series by Jay has also been collected into a single pdf file and posted on the PPTU web site. It will also be attached to the announcement of the link to the virtual meeting on March 10th. A video of tying the fly by Matt will later be available on our web site for viewing.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86731717499?pwd=ZHovQmRaNjdPNjZlEQVVJWmp3SEpldz09>.

Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) **- PPTU**

TU members of other chapters can get on the PPTU mailing list for the Conservationist. We ask our own members to help support the chapter too by asking for an ASC. You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting (whenever that might be) by cash or check.
- Use our PayPal portal:
<https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU to our PO Box (see last page for address).

Your contributions are most appreciated! Help support PPTU!! Your ASC is separate and apart from your annual dues (if not a Life member) to TU.

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish."

~ Sparse Grey Hackle



Ode to Lefty Kreh **- Toby Frey (courtesy of Walt Sheppard)**

Attached is a very moving video, an Ode to Lefty Kreh, with some great thoughts... I feel very privileged to have known Lefty one on one, but way too late in my life. People like him, you could never be around enough.

https://tforods.com/another-birthday-greeting-to-lefty-from-flip/?mc_cid=c8edcb042a&mc_eid=174899df5c

Support Your Local Fly Shop **- PPTU**

Running a small business, even in the best of times can be very challenging. Over the last year COVID has hit small businesses hard. This is a reminder to shop local when you can and give our area fly shop a little love. The shops are all doing business the best they can during the COVID restriction and they could use your support. Stop by and see how they're doing, pick something up even if you don't need it. (I do that all the time anyway!)

Below is a list of several local shops in the Baltimore/DC/VA area to check out:

Backwater Angler

<https://backwaterangler.com/>

Beaver Creek Fly Shop

<https://beavercreekyflyshop.com/>

District Angling

<https://districtangling.com/>

Great Feathers

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

Hunting Creek Outfitters

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

Murray's Fly Shop

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

TCO Fly Shop

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

Savage River Outfitters

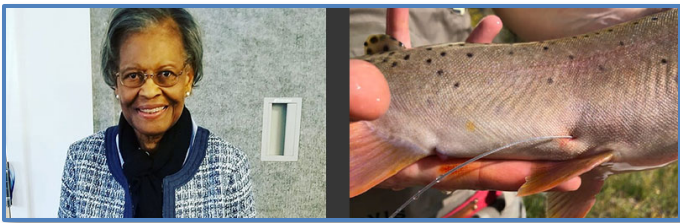
<https://www.savageriveroutfitters.com/>

Tochterman's

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

Tracking Trout - Lillit Genovesi, Trout Unlimited

February celebrated African American History month and Trout in the Classroom students are celebrating the black women and men in STEM fields that have contributed valuable research supporting our efforts to take care of the environment. One such hero is mathematician Dr. Gladys West. Dr. West who, in the 1970s and 80s, developed algorithms, incorporating gravitational, tidal and other forces that distort earth's shape, to create an accurate model of the planet. Dr. West's important research ultimately became the basis for the Global Positioning System (GPS) that we use for so many applications.



Land Use Tied to 'Intersex' Smallmouth Bass in Bay Rivers - Sebastian Okelly

Sebastian was kind enough to share this with the group. There were previous reports from PA on this issue as its being studied. Water runs downhill...all the way to Maryland. Thanks for sharing Sebastian!

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/fisheries/land-use-tied-to-intersex-smallmouth-bass-in-bay-rivers/article_9c309c5e-76d4-11eb-b040-33d12a3b432e.html

Special Event March 10th: Cicada Extravaganza! - Randy Dwyer

Please join us March 10th for a special evening of fly-tying with Matt O'Neal, who hosts his own [channel on YouTube called Savage Flies](#). He will be tying the cicada pattern featured by our very own Jay Sheppard in the Conservationist. The Brood X otherwise known as the Great Eastern Brood cicada hatch is expected to emerge in late May for several weeks into June. This 17-year brood will bring millions of cicada out of the ground in the Mid-

Atlantic region. Keep an eye out for additional details, material needed if you want to tie along, or just grab some popcorn and watch. It should be spectacular.

In addition to this special evening, PPTU is planning a chapter outing to western Maryland from May 31 to June 6 specifically to fish the cicada hatch. PPTU reserved the Monroe Pavilion in Big Run State Park for this event. Everyone is invited to come out to camp and fish for as long as they want. Registration is necessary and you can sign up here: <https://pptu.org/events/outings>.

First Responder and Military Community Trial TU Membership Now Available - PPTU

Trout Unlimited's Service Partnership is a nationwide effort to bring the healing power of the water to those members of the first responder (i.e., fire service, medical, law enforcement) and military (i.e., active duty servicemen and women, reservists, veterans) communities, and their families, who have served our nation so boldly.

This free 1-year introductory membership for new-to-Trout-Unlimited members of the first responder or military communities has all the benefits of a paid membership. Those who join will also receive a less tangible benefit, the pleasure of knowing they're part of a growing community of individuals who enjoy angling and want to keep America's rivers cold, clean and fishable.

Please share this information with any First Responder/Military personnel you know. Sign up here: https://gifts.tu.org/vsp_join



Brooke Spacek

Angling for All Pledge - Orvis + Brown Folks Fishing

Last summer, Brown Folks Fishing (BFF), an organization committed to building community and expanding access among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in fishing and its industry, launched the Angling for All Pledge with Orvis as the inaugural pledgee. The pledge seeks to dismantle systemic barriers to entry and participation at all levels of the fishing industry. Learn more at <https://www.orvis.com/s/angling-for-all/15899>

From the Web - Joe Robinson

Joe Robinson was kind enough to share this cool bit of video with the group recently. If you haven't watched it, it's worth a look. Yes, it is Cicada related!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3vioq0kB88>



Why Did I Miss that Fish? - Orvis Podcast with Dave Jensen

In case you missed it, this podcasts sheds some light on a question we've all asked ourselves, why did I miss that fish?

Swing, hit, and miss—why did you not connect with that fish? Did it just miss your fly? Did you strike too soon? Did you strike too late? Or did the fish refuse your fly even though it looked like a take? Dave Jensen and Tom Rosenbauer discuss how you can (maybe) tell why you didn't connect . . . and it may not always be your fault. (Lou)

If you want to skip over the Fly Box questions in the beginning of the podcast you can simply jump ahead right to where the interview starts at 44:47.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-why-did-i-miss-that-fish-with-dave-jensen>



Also, if you've never visited their site, check out Jensen Fly Fishing:

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

Trout Stocking - MD DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources crews stocked 11,620 trout this week. I think your chances of catching one are pretty good!

Thanks to Jay Sheppard and the volunteer crew for getting some of the fish into our waters. These are just a few areas to explore:

Baltimore County

- Little Gunpowder Falls: 1,500 golden and rainbow
- Lower Gunpowder Falls: 2,300 golden and rainbow
- Patapsco River - Daniels (Two/Day): 1,800 brown and rainbow

Frederick County

- Catoctin Creek - Creek Park: 900 rainbow
- Catoctin Creek - Doubs Meadow: 300 rainbow

Howard County

- Middle Patuxent River: 400 rainbow

Montgomery County

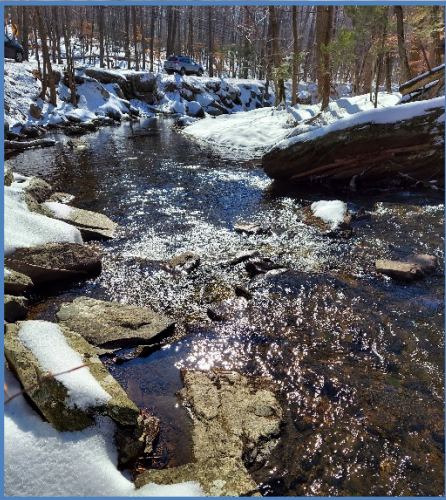
- Patuxent River: 1,200 rainbow

Washington County

- Antietam Creek: 1,000 brown, golden, and rainbow
- Sideling Hill Creek: 1,000 brown, golden, and rainbow

Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

The weather wasn't too bad this past weekend when we hit Big Hunting Creek. The hot lunch provided kept us warm and heated our spirits while searching for fish. Cheers to the food providers and to all the members that showed up, including several brave new members. BHC in the winter can be tough for the first outing of the year – but folks had fun! Glad you all could make it and we look forward to seeing you on stream again at the next outing.



Contributions Welcome!

Send your contributions or article suggestions to the Editor 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

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Pinecone Cicada

This pattern is kind of a funky tie and comes with an interesting story from the man who tied it, Clark (Cheech) Pierce, one of the founders of Fly Fish Food.

Since we're all getting wound up and ready for the upcoming hatch of Brood X cicadas coming our way, when I saw this I knew I had to include it in the Conservationist. I'm buying my foam now before it becomes impossible to find!

<https://www.flyfishfood.com/blogs/dry-fly-tutorials/pinecone-cicada>



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