

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

“Fishing Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley”

Guest Speaker: Bill Nolan, PA Troutfitters

May 23rd, 2023

Our May chapter virtual meeting will be slightly off schedule, being on Tuesday, May 23, when we will be joined by Bill Nolan, owner and head guide of PA Troutfitters. Bill will talk with us about the trout fishing opportunities in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley area near Jim Thorpe and Allentown. Often overlooked by anglers headed east to the Delaware River or west to Spring Creek and beyond, the Lehigh Valley region is actually home to a wealth of healthy coldwater trout fisheries. Bill is the owner of PA Troutfitters, a local guiding and fly fishing instruction outfit located in Slatedale, PA. Come on out to hear Bill tell us about the opportunities to fish a less-explored part of our neighboring state.



About Bill (Instagram: [billnolanflyfishing](#)):

A 2019 graduate of the Sweetwater Travel Guide school in Montana and 2019 graduate of the Wolf School of Fly Fishing, Bill has been a fishing nut since childhood. On a trip to Salmon River, NY many moons ago Bill discovered fly fishing. He started attending TU meetings and the obsession began. He would go on to lead the Donegal Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Partnership from 2016 to 2022. Bill has fished many different fisheries across the country as well as Spain. Today he calls the banks of the Lehigh River his home and leads drift boat and walk and wade trips in the Lehigh Valley and Poconos.

About [PA Troutfitters](#)

PA Troutfitters is a veteran owned fly fishing guide service based out of Slatedale, PA, specializing in drift boat trips on the Lehigh River, and walk and wade trips on the Pohopoco, Little Lehigh, Monocacy and other local streams, as well as providing fly casting instruction and fly fishing 101 classes.

– [Karan Singh](#) singhkaran@yahoo.com

May 23rd Virtual Chapter Meeting

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

Virtual Chapter Meeting Link:

[Join Us Virtually!](#)

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

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Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



It's that time of the year, when things really start happening on the stream. I don't know about you, but it truly is an amazing sight when thousands of bugs take to the air at sunset. I've been fortunate to see some amazing hatches in the last few years, including one of my favorites, the Green Drake. If you haven't seen a Green Drake, it's a sight like no other. Of course, there are plenty of amazing hatches, but the Green Drake is one I look forward to every year. Maybe it's the whole scene of trying to locate the bugs (they travel about a mile a day), camping next to the stream, the camp side fire or the company of good friends. Probably all of it, but it's just right around the corner and I can't wait. I know we all have a favorite hatch, a favorite fishing spot or something you look forward to every year. With all of the day-to-day happenings in our lives, these adventures help soothe the mind and soul. Get out there and enjoy, I know I will!



It's also a great time to take advantage of PPTU events like our monthly Outings, our social gatherings, getting involved with a conservation project or spending a day with one of our mentors helping you learn a thing or two about trout fishing. Whatever your interest, PPTU has something for you. We have so much to offer, so please take advantage of what PPTU has to offer.

Before signing off, I wanted to thank our new treasure, Alan Williams. He's been hard at work, with Bob Kaiser's help, getting to know his way around our financial and reporting systems. It's an important position that we have not always had much

luck finding the right person. Well, Alan is off to a great start. The next time you see him, please thank him for all his hard work. And finally, please don't forget to consider taking on a position on the board, volunteering to co-chair a committee. Something. We really do need your help.

Until next time, good luck on the stream and enjoy!

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



Boating and Fishing Clinics - MD DNR

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Marine Trades Association of Maryland, Annapolis School of Seamanship, and the Boat U.S. Foundation are sponsoring free [“Welcome to Boating and Fishing”](#) clinics May 6-7 at [Sandy Point State Park’s](#) boating ramps.

New and returning boaters and anglers are invited to come learn from the pros at free seminars about boating and fishing and view demonstrations on boat launching and safety equipment. Attendees can learn skills to stay involved, be safe, and enjoy Maryland’s waterways.

In addition to free seminars and demonstrations, several classes are available for purchase from Annapolis School of Seamanship at a discounted cost. Space is limited for classes.

A variety of programs will take place each day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The full schedule is available on the Department of Natural Resources website and advanced registration is requested.

Some programs during the clinic have additional costs, and all attendees must also pay the park’s \$5 entry fee when they arrive. Sandy Point State Park information is available on the [DNR website](#).



Trout Stockings - Maryland DNR

Recent stockings by Maryland DNR crews. Go check these out, take some photos and share with us!

Carroll County

Morgan Run: rainbow trout

South Branch Patapsco River: rainbow trout

Frederick County

Friends Creek: golden and rainbow trout

Owens Creek: golden and rainbow trout

The Mayfly Project – Fly Fishing for Kids - Marc Hutzell

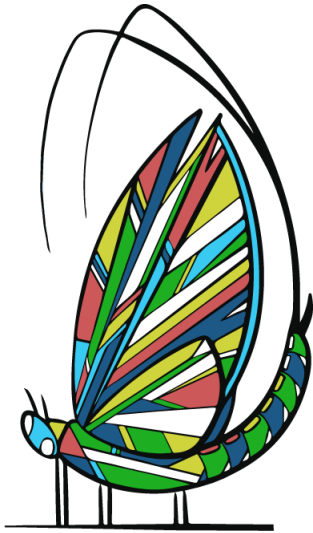
Free Outdoor Fly Fishing Experience for Kids!!

Are you a foster parent or adoptive parent with kids that want to learn how to fly fish with us? We have 8 spaces left for kids in or adopted out of foster care, ages 8-18, to register for this year's project! Kids learn all things fly fishing, go on local fly fishing adventures, and get their own gear to keep, all for free!

First come, first served! Find out more and register here: [Mentee Registration Form](#)

Email us with any questions you may have: <mailto:kaitlin@themayflyproject.com>

Learn more about The Mayfly Project here: www.themayflyproject.com



"Time flies so fast after youth is past that we cannot accomplish one half the many things we have in mind or indeed one half our duties. The only safe and sensible plan is to make other things give way to the essentials, and the first of these is fly fishing."

~ Theodore Gordon



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!



Fly Fishing 101 Class – Watch, Learn, and Volunteer in the Future - Ron Briggs

Attention PPTU Members, we host an annual Fly Fishing 101 Class for Howard County Parks & Recreation twice each year. This year's first class dates are Thursday, May 18th and 25th. Both are Thursday evenings with class time from 630-830 PM, the class is held at Centennial Park in Columbia.

We are looking for about 6 members who would like to attend and simply watch what it is we teach, learn some techniques and maybe help out by volunteering for the class in the years to come.



If interested in seeing what we do, please reach out to Ron Briggs at rlbriggs@comcast.net.

It is most rewarding to see a complete beginner catch their first fish on a fly rod!!!!

Thanks in advance for your consideration,
Ron

Trout in the Classroom – Help Wanted - Alan Burrows

I'm going to need lots of help in May. Montgomery County has releases on May 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 25 and 26. Additionally I know there is at least one Howard County release on the 4th. I would really like to have 3 volunteers per release. Please look at your calendars and let me know which dates you are available to help. You can reach me at [aburrows53@gmail](mailto:aburrows53@gmail.com) or 443-610-7850.

I believe all Montgomery County releases will be at the [Lodge at Little Seneca](#). We usually arrive before 9:30 and are done by 1:30.

Volunteering for a TIC release is a rewarding experience for both you and the students. If you have the time please consider volunteering.



Bamboo, Beer and Graphite, Grub Social Outing – May 11th - Craig Vander Kolk

Have you ever wanted to try a bamboo rod or cast a 12wt rod, or just get some advice on casting? Here's your chance! Bring your favorite rod to share or cast at this event.

Join us on Thursday, May 11th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Waredaca Brewing Company, right around the corner from our home waters of the Patuxent.

[Waredaca Brewing Company](#)

1417 Damacus Rd
Laytonsville, MD



How to Behave on a Trout Stream - Orvis, Tom Rosenbauer

Spring is here and so are the crowds. Its early in the year yet there seems to be more people out fishing than ever before and we all need to get along! Learn how to make your experience, and that of others, more pleasant and productive with just a bit of communication.

A little common sense and etiquette goes a long way on today's crowded rivers. There are some ethics that you should follow in fly fishing. And they're really just basic, common sense, or the "golden rule".

Give other people their space on the water. Don't crowd other people. If you see somebody in the water, try to go somewhere else. Try to go upstream or downstream. Give people space, that's probably the most important thing you can do in fishing.

Check out the scenario in this Orvis video - [How to Behave on a Trout Stream](#).

New Zealand Strike Indicator - Bob O'Donnell

For those that have never used one, the New Zealand [Strike Indicator](#) is a great indicator for spooky fish and for highly technical water.

This super innovative and patented system will allow you to easily make and remove strike indicators. In less than 10 seconds you can be fishing. You can easily adjust the indicator so your fly is presented exactly in the trout's strike zone. You can also trim your indicator to different sizes to match conditions. If fish start rising, you can quickly remove the indicator within a couple seconds.

The indicator system come in different packages with multiple color options of yarn. Use as is or mix and match to create a unique indicator that you can see well on the water.



Fly Shop Spotlight – Beaver Creek Precision Fly and Tackle - PPTU

The Beaver Creek Fly Shop has been Hagerstown's premier fly fishing shop for a long time. Now owned by Precision Fly and Tackle, Beaver Creek is a full-service fly shop on the banks of Beaver Creek, a tremendous year-round wild trout fishery. What's new is the shop now owns the building next door and has opened a tackle shop to serve the fishing community.



The shop offers lots of great gear including hand tied flies, plus you can sign up for various fly fishing and fly tying classes along with guided fly fishing.

Typical shop hours are 10-6PM except for Saturday, 10-5PM.

[Beaver Creek Fly Shop](#)
9720 Country Store Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21740
717-486-4646

Dead Trout - Natural Resources Police (NRP)

At approx. 7:30AM on 4/17 employees at the Albert Powell Fish Hatchery discovered that someone closed one of the discharge valves in one of the raceways at the hatchery which resulted in the death of 1,000s of trout. If you have info. about this incident, please call 410-260-8888.



Reforestation a Farm Field - PPTU via James Irons

Thanks to Jim for passing this along.

We recently had the CEO of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Kate Fritz, speak at our chapter meeting. It was interesting to hear everything they do. If you missed the presentation, it was recorded and you can access it from the [PPTU](#) website.

So, here's the [Alliance in action!](#) The article paints a great picture of what the Alliance can accomplish. In November, 2021, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay began reforestation 36 acres within the Emory Waters Nature Preserve at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. For decades, four different plots of land within the property were used to cultivate grain crops, and before that, likely grew tobacco. The nature preserve is named after Emory Waters, an African American man who once lived within Jug Bay and farmed the land.

Over time, it was decided that this land, which is owned by Anne Arundel County, would be better suited as forest than farmland. So, in October, 2021, the last crop was harvested and the reforestation effort began.



PPTU will be looking into a future project with the Alliance and hope to see many of our members show up as volunteers.

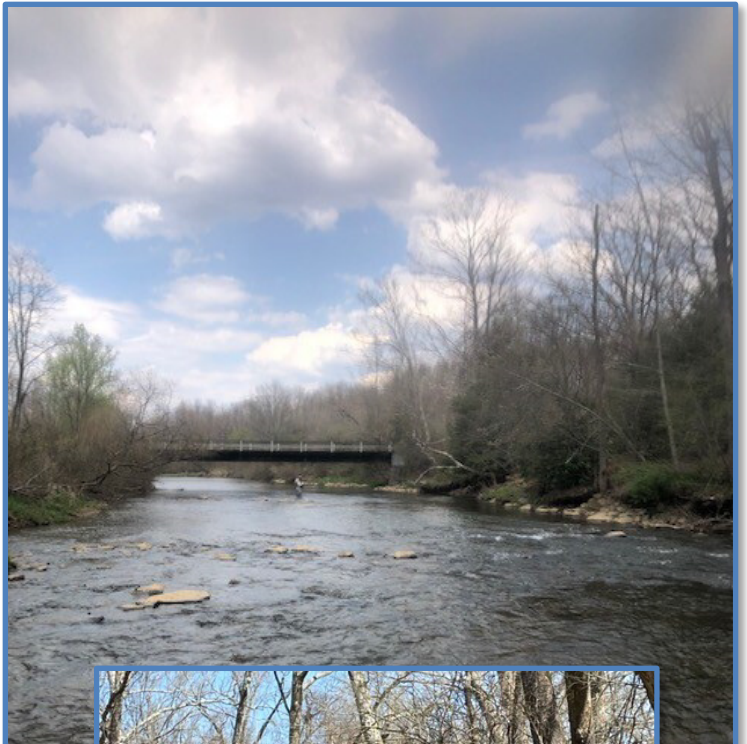
For more information on the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, please visit their website.

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

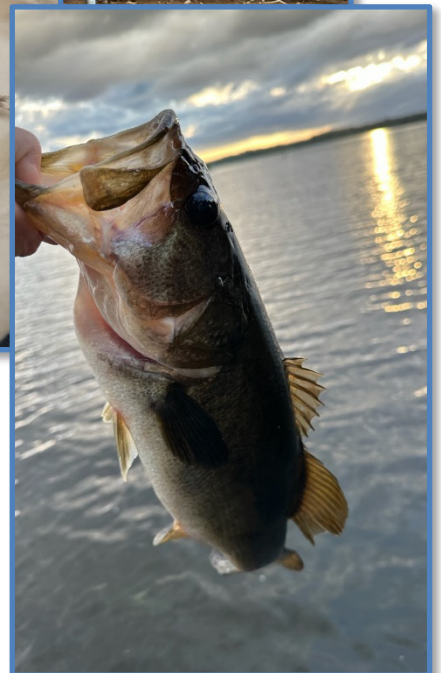


**Members Catch
- Bob O'Donnell**

There should be plenty of opportunities for some dry fly action soon! Don't forget to snap a few pictures and post them for others to enjoy.



Two trout on 1 fly!!!
The Clouser Minnow



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.

Editor: Bob O'Donnell

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



Clouser Minnow

The photo of the 2 trout on a single fly says it all. The Clouser minnow is perhaps the best baitfish pattern of all time. It simply catches fish, in the case above – 2 fish! Incredible.

Tim Flagler of Tighline Productions walks you through this great fly. Clousers can also be tied small so you can fish them on your local trout streams. One of the keys to the pattern that Bob Clouser developed is to keep the materials sparse. Tie a few up and try them out! Send us your success stories.

[Clouser Minnow](#)



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