

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

**Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited**

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

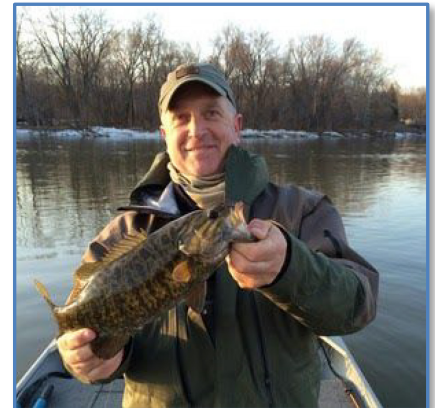
## “Health of the Shenandoah Watershed and the Mid-Atlantic Smallmouth Population”

*Virtual Speaker: Mark Frondorf*

*November 18th 2020 at 7:30PM*

Join PPTU and the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Mark Frondorf, as he gets us up to speed on his recent research on his favorite watershed and one of his favorite fish -smallmouth bass of the Mid-Atlantic. Mark has had a long history of working for the environment and for local anglers. He has guided trips on the Shenandoah and Potomac for close to twenty years, many while working a day job at one of the local think tanks.

Of note, Mark was the principal investigator and author of a government study that examined the ocean dumping of U.S. chemical weapons. Not content to just point out a problem, Mark’s study explored the full-range of issues raised by the dumping, including the challenges and potential solutions to this complex problem. As the former president of the Potomac River Smallmouth Club, Mark successfully lobbied both Virginia and Maryland to issue and then expand their catch and release regulations. He was also part of the effort in getting the federal government to revise its regulations to allow wade fishing on formerly closed sections of the Potomac. To top it all off, Mark also served on the Board of Directors for the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Fly Fishers. Mark joined Potomac Riverkeeper Network in 2015 as the official Shenandoah Riverkeeper. His skillset enables him to defend the Shenandoah against pollution, protect our right to clean water, and promote the recreational use of this beautiful river. Check out Mark’s work at: <https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/shenandoah-river/>



The virtual meeting link in the meeting notice below will be posted on the PPTU web page and additionally emailed to our membership and friends. Hope to see you on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Tight lines,

– *Karan Singh*

**Monthly Chapter Meetings – Virtual Until Further Notice**

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

**Virtual Link:** <https://amadeus.webex.com/meet/motti.tadmor>

Visit our website: [www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org)

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## Presidents' Column - Randy Dwyer



We're moving into cooler months and hopefully a bit more rain to replenish all the tributaries, streams and rivers of the mid-Atlantic. A few weeks ago in mid-October, PPTU held its annual camping trip to western Maryland and it was a great success. Outings Coordinator, Lou Reichel, noted that it may have been one of the better attended outings to Big Run State Park. The weather was perfect and the fishing cooperated for many of the attending fishers. Jay Shepard prepared his family's 100-year-old French Toast recipe for everyone on Saturday morning and it was delicious! Lou's next outing is planned for Big Springs, Pennsylvania and this outing always a test for even the best of fishers! I hope to see you there and at future PPTU Outings = remember to register in advance at [www.pptu.org](http://www.pptu.org).

I also want to thank Karan Singh, our chapter's Speaker Coordinator for arranging our October joint meeting with NCCTU and Andrew Sarcinello's presentation about "Wild Trout of Maryland." You'll find links in this issue to his recorded presentation and it's time well spent. There's much more to come.

The heart of my column is to recognize and thank Ken Bowyer for his many years of service to PPTU and leading the chapter's Mentoring Program. Ken took over the program back in 2003 and for the next 17 years has taken beginner and novice fishers to local streams for their first time on the water. He worked with the curious and those with more than a passing interest in the sport.

More often than not after spending a day with Ken, they had memories that would last a lifetime and became a devoted Trout Unlimited member. Ken is a patient teacher and takes time to explain the seemingly complex world of fly fishing: fly line to leader to tippet to fly. He'd show the difference between a dry fly, wet fly, nymph and emerger. And if fishing was getting difficult for the beginner, Ken would bring out a Copper John or San Juan worm, which often worked its magic!

For the last seventeen years, Ken has been a diplomat and ambassador for PPTU. For the new member, he's been the face and persona of a large chapter of many diverse characters. And most of all, he's been – and continues to be – a friend to all.



Honestly, Ken has set a standard of service to PPTU that few could match. Our chapter is better because of him. And we all owe him our gratitude.

As one of the many who you mentored, I truly appreciate your friendship and look forward to many future fishing trips with you! Thank you, Ken. Stay safe and see 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. 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 us by e-mail: [mail@pptu.org](mailto:mail@pptu.org)

## The cicadas are coming!!! – Part II - Jay Sheppard

Last month I discussed some of the general biology of the periodic cicadas and materials needed to construct or tie an effective and durable pattern. The emergence of Brood X (Ten) of the 17-year

cicadas will start about May 20 and end at the end of June. This will happen in Maryland from the west side of the Bay to Garrett County and north well into PA and even onto Long Island. This month I will describe how to create this cicada fly. Part 3 in this series will describe some specific waters to find cicadas and how to fish them; this will come out early next year in a future issue of the Conservationist. I hope you were able to locate all the materials listed in Part 1? Hooks, rubber legs, crystal flash, etc.?

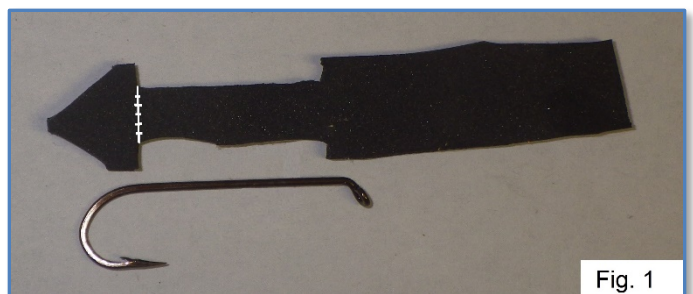
### Jay's 17-yr Cicada ver. 2021

List of needed materials:

- Streamer hook, size 6 or 8, max. total length 1.125" eye to bend
- Orange (or black) Monochord or other 210-Denier tying thread
- Black rubber foam ~3 mm or 1/8"
- Orange rubber legs, ~1 mm dia
- Amber, pearl, orange or similar crystal flash
- Black chenille or yarn, medium or large
- Orange chenille or yarn, medium or large
- Super glue or Loctite black contact adhesive
- Red or orange model paint or nail polish

First, note that you will not need the UV cement. Sorry, my mistake. Use it for other tying needs or to repair your breathable waders!

The precise measurements outlined below are only guidelines; we only want to create something that looks like a cicada floating on the water. On the other hand, we do not want giant or mini cicadas that do not approximate the actual insects. The naturals are about 1" long and 1/2" wide.

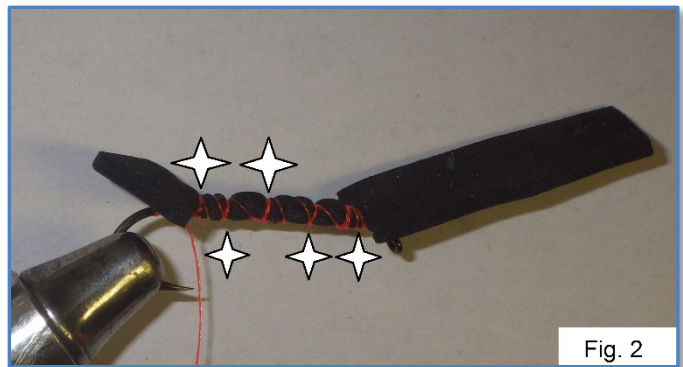


Cut the foam sheet into 1/2" wide strips. Cut each strip into 2 1/2" lengths (i.e., approx. 1/2" x 2 1/2"). Starting a 1/2" from one end cut out a quarter of the width on each side; the remaining middle half will be lashed to the hook shank. (See Fig. 1.) The length of this body is not to exceed about ~90% the length of the hook shank. It is very critical that no cuts leave



any nicks in the remaining foam; I try to make small turns at the two interior corners with the scissors with one continuous cut. Shape the ½” tail tab into a triangle. The foam now has three distinct sections: small triangular tail tab, middle narrow body, and the head-shellback. The first two sections combined are shorter than the third. (See Fig. 1) The point where the body meets the tail tab is the weakest point of the pattern and is critical to its durability. This weak point is shown in Fig. 1 as a hashed white line across the juncture of the two segments. All complete fly failures have happened when the tail snaps off at this point, which leaves the shellback flapping. Steps will be taken to help reinforce this weak point.

Flatten the barb and insert hook into vise. Tie in the thread and wrap the shank fully a couple of times ending at the rear. Lash the narrowed foam onto the hook at this point so that the rear of the body section matches up with the rear of the shank or slightly forward of that point. The tail tab should just extend beyond the bend about half of its length and no more

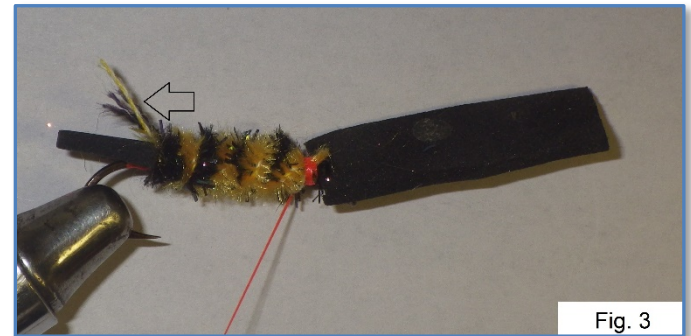


(we will do a final trim at the very end). Lift the tail tab of the foam and take several winds around just the shank before returning to wrapping around the foam and shank. This process locks the material and keeps it from later rotating around the shank. Lash forward repeating the locking wraps on just the shank at several points on the shank. At the front again employ the locking windings onto the shank for several turns before resuming lashing the foam. Return to the rear starting point. (See Fig 2—the five stars point to the lock wraps on this fly body.)

Strip about ½” of both chenilles’ ends leaving only the core threads exposed. Tie in both chenilles with the thread ends trailing back over the top of the tail tab. If using yarns vs. chenilles, extend the tag end of one of the yarns out onto the middle of the tail.

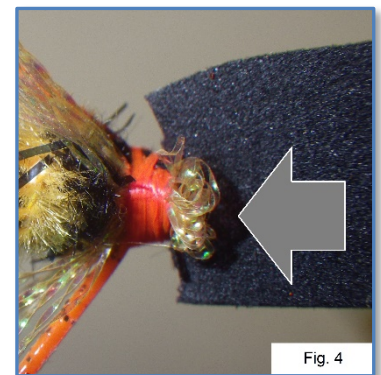
Now wrap the thread up to the front of the body and lock it a second time with several wraps on the

shank and then back over the foam with another 4-5 turns of thread. Be careful in wrapping that the thread does not cut into the foam at any point. The body should not be totally compressed against the hook shank when finished. As it is compressed onto the hook, it will naturally grab hold of the shank, further reducing body rotation when it gets wet later. We want some floatation from this section. (See Fig 2.)



Take both chenilles or yarns and wrap them around the whole body section so that they give alternating bands of black and orange. It makes no difference if more orange than black shows or vice versa—the cicadas vary greatly in this coloration. (See Fig 3—note arrow pointing to the chenille threads.) Tie down and then cut off the chenilles or yarns.

Take 12–16 strands of crystal flash and tie down at front end of body so that almost 1.25” extends back on one side of the body. Tie down with 4-5 turns and then fold the crystal flash over and lash the other wing down on the other side. The trick on ‘folding’ is to take 2 turns over the second wing with a large portion of the crystal flash twisted and laying down on the shellback. Then pull the second wing through those couple wraps until a small fold appears. (See Fig. 4 and the large arrow pointing to the folded crystal flash.) Finish tying down that wing. Both wings should angle out at about 45° from the rear of the body.

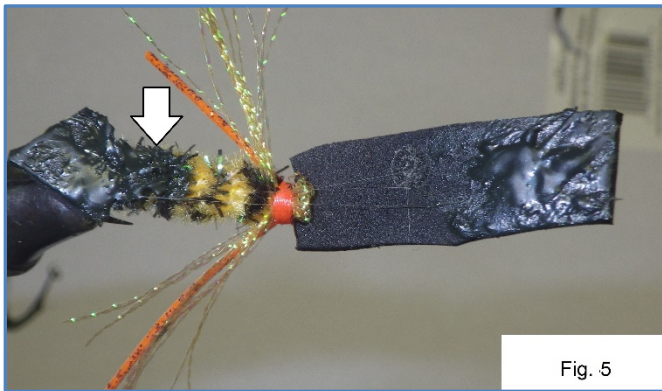


Take a single orange rubber leg and complete the winging on each side so that the leg lays along the front edge of the crystal flash. (See Fig. 4.) Allow each rubber leg to extend forward of the eye to serve



as forelegs of about ¼". Tie off the thread and apply head cement. Trim the wing material on each side so that they barely extend to the tail tip, and, most importantly, they are both of exactly equal length. (Unequal wings may cause the fly to spin during casting, which twists the tippet!).

I like Super Glue, but now I much prefer the contact adhesive. The latter can be used to apply to the top of the yarn/chenille body to provide added reinforcement to the weak tail tab. If using the rubber contact adhesive, apply a THIN coat to both the tail tab and the matching side of the shellback. (See Fig. 5 and arrow pointing to adhesive on top of chenille.) Include the rear portion of the top of the body, making sure not to entangle any of the winging materials. Be sure you are embedding the tags of the yarns or chenilles in the tail. Allow to dry for 7-10 minutes and then align the two parts before pressing together.



For those using the Super Glue apply to the tail tab ensuring the tags of the yarn or chenille threads are centered and then pull the head tab over the back. Clamp the shellback onto the tail tab. (I use small alligator clips, but hemostats work well, too.) Allow to dry. Remove clamp.

Trim shellback to match the tail, maybe trimming both to a little smaller taper will not hurt. A large tail may thwart hookups! Add a small drop of red or orange nail polish or paint for eyes on corners of the fold of the foam. (See Fig. 6.) Let dry. Ready!

I cannot over emphasize that we are only creating the impression of a cicada. These are not supposed to be works of art. None of these will be framed and mounted as major trophies. One can spend many minutes trimming or adjusting this construction. The fish do not have the time to count legs, measure wings and body, or other checks before they grab this concoction! This may, at first reading, seem like a

very difficult fly to build. The main issue is that this does not use many of the typical fly tying techniques we use. After the second cicada fly, you should really get the hang of tying these up.



Here are a few additional notes to make this easier. Crystal flash usually comes with a small tie wrap binding it in the middle. I pull the tie wrap down to one end of the whole bunch. Then I select 12–16 strands and tie a thin yarn or string around those selected strands. I simply work on those strands until they get too short and then count out another batch and repeat with the yarn or string marking them. An equal mix of more than one color is fine: pearl and orange, pearl and amber. I tie in the free ends on each fly and work back using a few inches until I run out of crystal flash. If using orange crystal flash, the rubber legs are not necessary.

Another trick, especially when using the contact adhesive, is to glue them all in one final step...a dozen or more at a time. As mentioned in the Part 1 in the October issue, durability is one of my prime considerations. If you want to take shortcuts and make simpler flies, feel free to do so, but understand you may need to spend more time using more hooks and materials to tie more flies to catch the same number of fish this recipe can produce. Plus you will also spend more time standing in the water changing flies while fish are gulping the naturals that are dropping all around you. Full fish are harder to catch.

In Part 3 on cicadas, I will suggest both where to fish (some specific waters) and how to fish these big flies. If you run into questions on building these bugs, drop me a line: [jaymsheppard95@gmail.com](mailto:jaymsheppard95@gmail.com). Do not try to contact me after the middle of May next year!!! I will be fishing somewhere almost every day possible and my phone and computer will be



unplugged! In July you can find me in divorce court most likely—this will be my last real chance to fish this Brood X, even if I am still able to hold a rod the next time they come around. This 2021 event is near the very top of my bucket list! I hope you have a great time, and this will not be your last cicada rodeo!



Fig. 8 Columbia, MD  
© Richard Orr

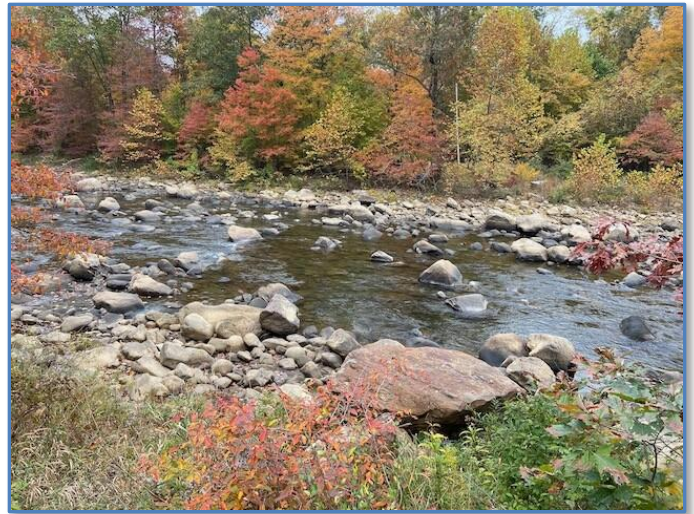
I might mention: save any leftover cicada flies for the next emergence. If you are a big traveler, there are emergences nearly every year somewhere in Eastern US; some are very local in their distribution. Until the flies get lost on a tree or totally destroyed by the 100th fish, the flies will be ready to go in 2038! I had two survivors of my 2004 flies to start this next season with! I truly hope most of the readership is able to fish that 2038 emergence of this amazing insect. After you fish this coming event you will place the next emergence near the top of your bucket list! This will be a great time to introduce kids and significant others to fly fishing! Delicate or accurate casts NOT desired or needed.

Lastly, I would like to thank Pete Yarrington for his comments and welcomed suggestion to earlier drafts on this article.

## Wolf Den Run State Park

- Ken Bowyer

After participating on PPTU's Savage River Campout, I went to the new Wolf Den Run State Park to see about fishing there in the future (the literature says there are 3 brook trout streams in the park). As noted on the website, there are 3 separate sections to the park; Huckleberry Rocks, North Hill, and Potomac River areas. The photos are of the Potomac



River at the lower end of the Potomac River Area. This area is located just west of Kitzmiller. The second photo is the entrance to the North Hill area. As noted on the sign, the area is still under construction. It's a short hike down to the bridge that crosses Wolf Den Run. There looked like there might be a trail to hike downstream from the bridge but there is currently a No Trespassing sign a short distance downstream.



*Note: PPTU plans to explore this area in more detail for future chapter outings.*





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!*



### **This Happened to Me While Fishing! - Pete Yarrington**

I last fished Beaver Creek near Hagerstown about a year ago. It was a beautiful, overcast morning, and I was several minutes downstream from the bridge at Beaver Creek Road. I was on the side opposite of the creek from the parking area.

While intently watching my Letort Cricket, my eye caught some movement on the narrow, tangled path on the bank opposite me, roughly 40 feet away. The path was on a steep hillside, about eye-level. I was not sure what I was seeing, but it was something light-colored, moving upstream along the tangled path, in fits and starts, intermittently obscured by vegetation and tree roots. After a minute or so, I decided what I was seeing was a foot-long trout – its side on the ground, its light belly towards me – flapping every few seconds and lurching along... As I tried to check my sanity, I only became more convinced of what I was looking at. A trout, moving upstream using the path rather than the creek. After it had gone maybe 20 or 30 feet, it disappeared behind some roots. I found this very upsetting, because it meant I might never find out what the heck I had just seen! Then it reappeared, flopping its way further along the path, into a sunlit spot that reflected off its white belly and making the rest of it easier to see. And the little brownish-black mink behind it, barely visible, pulling it along, one concerted yank at a time, in fits and starts. Mystery solved, sanity regained.

*PPTU Members: If you a great story to share, send it the editor! [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)*



*"To him, all good things - trout as well as eternal salvation - come by grace, and grace comes by art, and art does not come easy."*

*~ Norman Maclean*

### **Beaver Creek Work Day – Nov 7th - PPTU**

Seneca Valley TU and Beaver Creek Watershed Association is hosting a workday on Beaver Creek on **Saturday, November 7th**.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.  
(you may leave at any time)

**Where:** 20522 Campbell Court,  
Hagerstown MD

If you want to get out of the house, come join us for a work day at the Zimmerman's on Beaver Creek. We will be removing tree guards and pruning trees, and where needed, we may be adding wire around trees for beaver protection. Bring gloves, water, wire cutters, pruning tools and snacks. BCWA will be providing lunch (sandwiches). Lunch will be ordered between 9:00 - 9:30, or if you prefer, bring your own.

For info and a map of the location visit:

<https://www.beavercreekwatershedassociation-md.org/>





## Record Yellowstone Cutthroat!

- Bob O'Donnell

People dream of stuff like this and fish aren't as big in the dreams! Thought you should check out this giant 31" record breaking Yellowstone cutthroat trout from the Snake River.

<https://ftw.usatoday.com/2020/10/record-yellowstone-cutthroat-trout-landed-after-snake-river-chase-fly-fishing>



## DNR Proposed Brook Trout Regulation

- Randy Dwyer

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has proposed the following fishing regulation change for Brook Trout.

1. Require catch-and-release only in all put-and-take waters statewide (Note: Maryland does not stock brook trout); and
2. Require catch-and-release only in all waters east of Interstate 81 (I-81).

The goal is to eliminate the harvest of adult brook trout in Maryland's most pressured waters (i.e., put-and-take areas) and stressed populations (east of I-81).

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx#brookie>

[https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Reg\\_Changes/BrookTrout\\_Catch\\_Release.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Reg_Changes/BrookTrout_Catch_Release.pdf)

## This Happened to Me While Fishing!

- George Opryszko

Shortly after I started fly fishing I went by myself to Morgan Run. DNR had stocked it about a week earlier. I started at Klees Rd. across from the handicapped area. DNR always stocks some right there. There was a tree limb across the pool and sure enough there were a few on the other side of the limb. I cast across the limb with an Elk Hair Caddis and latched on to a typical stocked Rainbow.

The part that I didn't think about was how I was going to get it to the side of the limb I was on. I pulled it close to the limb and waited for it to jump, as the Rainbows tend to do. Once it jumped I pulled hard and got it to my side.

Stupid moved saved!

## Four Tips for Getting a Better Picture

- Gink & Gasoline

The anticipation of waiting to review my big fish photos was almost as fun for me as catching the trophy. I wish I could say all those developed photos came out perfect but that's far from the truth. Some came out great but the majority were blurry, had my head cut off, or I was holding the fish like a rookie. Nowadays we have the luxury of instant feedback with digital cameras, so we don't have any excuse to not get good photo when the fish cooperates. Below are four tips for capturing better photographs of your trophies with examples of the right and wrong way to hold your fish. Keep in mind there is a learning curve for handling big fish. The more you do it the better you get.

1. Hold the fish with the tips of your fingers not your palms
2. Hold the fish level, making sure the head and tail of the fish are on the same plane
3. Keep the back of the fish parallel to the water
4. Cradle the fish behind its pectoral fins

Take your time, always handle your fish gently and humanely, and don't be afraid to look down to make sure your holding the fish correctly. If you do this you'll find the majority of your photos will turn out great.

## Locating & Fishing Wild Trout Streams RECORDING AVAILABLE! - Randy Dwyer

Many Thanks to Andrew Sarcinello for sharing his experiences and passion with us! In case you missed it, a recording of the October chapter meeting is available here: <https://youtu.be/z3MT0LOmQjI>

Andrew spends much of his free time searching for wild and native trout streams in central Maryland. He talked about the resources that are publicly available to help anglers locate wild trout streams and the tactics for fishing them. He discussed the status of Maryland's wild and native trout populations, particularly in the Patuxent River, and the challenges they're facing.

Andrew's journey to learn about MD's wild trout gave him a deeper appreciation for native brook trout and the delicate environments that sustain them.

Note that the first few minutes of the recording provide an update to PPTU activities for October and beyond. Thank you!



## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

It's not too late to send in your ASC. Along with our other fund raising events, we ask for a \$20 ASC each Fall to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects that we host or participate in as a chapter.

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).

Your contributions are most appreciated!

## Thank You from ACTU! - Richard Lewis

Dear PPCTU members,

Since we seem to have developed a pretty good relationship between our two chapters and very much appreciate your help in funding the Conewago Creek fly fishing only catch and release fishing access purchase I share this complementary issue of the ACTU Adams Angler with you. (See link below)

[http://www.adamscountytu.org/FALL\\_EDITION\\_Adams\\_Angler\\_Oct\\_20.pdf](http://www.adamscountytu.org/FALL_EDITION_Adams_Angler_Oct_20.pdf)

The land purchase that will preserve the Conewago Creek fly fishing only catch and release section is still on track... funding from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Adams County Trout Unlimited chapter, and the Land Conservancy of Adams County has all been approved. We are just waiting now for the approval of a PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources funding grant.

With best wishes,

Richard  
ACTU Board member

## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

On October 14, 400 brown trout 10-15" were float stocked into the Delayed Harvest section of the Middle Patuxent in south Colombia. For a complete list of all fall stockings in Maryland go to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Trout Stocking in Maryland web page at:

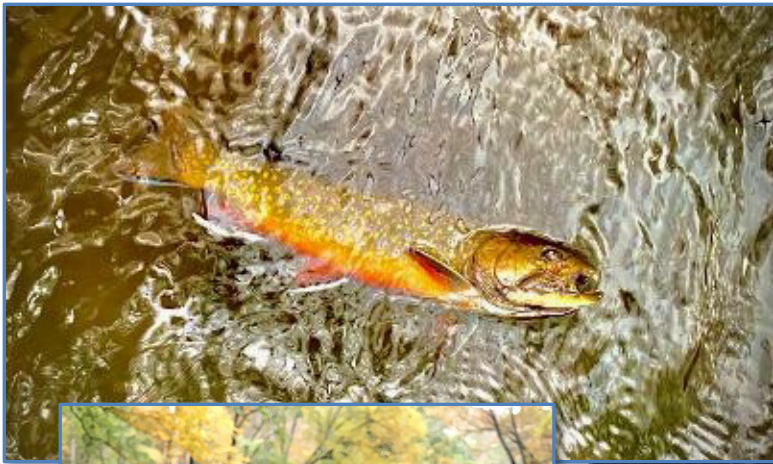
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/trout/stocking.aspx>





**Members Catch  
- Bob O'Donnell**

The weather may be changing but the fishing is still good. Keep your photo adventures coming!









## 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**

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: [TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com](mailto:TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com)



## Woolly Bugger Euro Jig

The Woolly Bugger has been catching trout, bass, panfish, and other species for more than half a century, since Pennsylvanian Russell Blessing first tied what he thought of as a hellgrammite imitation in the 1960s. Once a fly becomes popular, variations on the original start appearing everywhere. In this variation, the fly is tied on a jig hook which helps keep it from getting hung on the bottom while also adding an enticing jigging motion to the fly.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-how-to-tie-the-woolly-bugger-euro-jig>



Return Address:  
Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU  
P.O. Box 2865  
Wheaton, MD 20915