

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Oct 2018 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“Winter Fishing on Beaver Creek” James Harris, Beaver Creek Fly Shop

Oct 17th, 2018

Our October speaker is James Harris, one of the owners of Beaver Creek Fly Shop, located just east of Hagerstown, MD. James will be speaking on late fall and winter fishing on Beaver Creek. If you're not familiar with it, Beaver Creek is one of the few true spring creeks in MD, and offers year-round trout fishing.

James' topics will include: what to expect with local stream conditions; seasonal fish behavior; suggested fishing strategies; and winter flies.

Bring your questions about Beaver Creek or western Maryland in general: In addition to running the shop, James guides on Beaver Creek and other area streams.

See you at the meeting!

– *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
DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER
From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road,
then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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Treasurer: Bob Kaiser
Secretary: Patrick Masler
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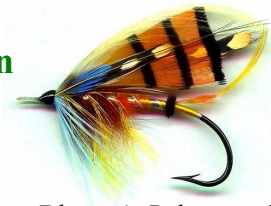
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Contact Us:

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Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows



Rain, rain, go away... Please! It has really been one wet year. This was the wettest July on record. Wet beginning to September, and here come the hurricanes stacked up along the Atlantic. At least the trout seem to have survived OK. What is a trout fisherman to do you ask? Well let me make a few suggestions.

All this rain means lots of run off from the roads and bridges. That means lots of trash in and around the rivers. Take a half a day, go to your favorite stretch of river or stream and fill up a trash bag with garbage, then send us a picture or post it on our new forum site: <https://groups.io/g/ppctu>. The more the merrier. Or on October 27th you can join the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Isaac Walton League and help clean up the drainages to the upper Patuxent. That starts at 9:30 and lasts 'til noon, with a rain date of the 28th. IWL supports us financially, and we should have a strong turnout to protect the stream we all love. See the events calendar on our web site for details.

Get a fly tying vise and give it a go. While we are not offering a beginner class this year, you can get a vise and tools and join us on "Beer Tie" night, the second Monday night of each month at Old Line Wines and Spirits (11011 Baltimore Ave., Greenbelt, MD). You can get some expert instruction, learn to tie some flies, and have a good time as well, even if it is raining. If you are interested but maybe not ready to jump all the way into the pool, there are several of us and we now have a vise and some tools you can borrow one of these Monday nights to see if you like tying. We always have a spare set of tools and plenty of materials to share.

October means that it's time for Trout in the Classroom training for teachers and volunteers. That will also take place on October 27th at the Robinson Nature Center in Howard County. While I admit to being biased, it's a great opportunity to help kids get involved with trout.



If you are interested, please contact me or Chuck Dinkel at TroutintheClassroomcd@gmail.com. In December we will deliver eggs to the schools, and start the process that culminates in fish releases in April and May.

While on the subject of youth education, I recently received a letter from Franklin Tate, the Director of TU's Headwaters (Youth) program. It is vitally important for us "grey beards" to recruit the youth of today to carry the torch of clean, cold, fishable water into the future. To help local chapters accomplish this crucial work, the Headwaters Youth Program has been built around the premise that TU has something to offer any and all young people. Known as the Stream of Engagement, this model moves kids from entry level programs like TIC and kids fishing days into week long fly fishing camps. The most passionate teens can then attend the National Teen Leadership Summit, and hopefully organize a 5 Rivers Club when they get to college. Although the Headwaters Youth Program has both some private and corporate funding, meeting the programs financial goals is always a challenge. PPTU has supported the Frostburg State University 5 Rivers Program with donations of gear and equipment.

In 2017, members of TU's largest chapter (Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited) made a commitment to establish a Tomorrow Fund to seed fund raising for the Headwaters programs. That commitment is \$10,000.00 annually. Franklin and TU have asked that all of the chapters consider a gift to that fund. TU is offering 5 free youth membership to chapters that donate to this fund.

I would encourage all of the members to think about making a donation to this fund during the month of October through the chapter. I am going to send Bob Kaiser (our Treasurer) a check earmarked for the Tomorrow Fund and I hope all of you who can, will also make a contribution. Send it to PPTU, P.O. Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915)

Let's all hope that we can get in some great fall fishing. After all, we will have plenty of water.

Until next month, tight lines!

Alan Burrows
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 🐝

Tackle and Tactics 101 – Tippet - Bob O'Donnell

So what is tippet? The "tippet" is the very end of your leader, the part that we attach to our fly. On a tapered leader, the tippet is always the thinnest section, usually about the last 2 feet.

"Tippet material" is the stuff that comes on spools and it's what we use to add to our leader to adjust its size. Normally the tippet we add is 2 to 4 feet in length and should match, or be smaller than, the diameter of the leader's tip. Tippet material is measured in Xs, as in 3X, 4X, 5X, etc. Most store-bought leaders also come with X designations. For tapered leaders, the X tells you the diameter of the narrowest part of the leader, the higher the X number the finer the material.



The biggest advantage to using tippet is that it extends the life of the leader. Leaders can be expensive and if you change flies often, little by little

the taper of the leader is cut away. By tying on tippet, you can maintain the taper of your leader

What size tippet should you use for a particular size fly? Flies come in all different shapes and sizes that range from very small #28 to large #2. The size of the fly you are using helps dictate the size of leader/tippet you use. To help determine the proper size leader and tippet to use with a particular size fly, many leader manufacturers insert a small chart inside their packaging. The chart below is a good rule of thumb for fly to leader ratio:



Tippet Size	Diameter	Fly Sizes
8X	.003	24-26-28
7X	.004	20-22-24
6X	.005	16-18-20
5X	.006	14-16-18
4X	.007	10-12-14
3X	.008	8-10-12
2X	.009	6-8-10
1X	.010	4-6-8
0X	.011	2-4-6

Final tip – Tippet Rings! If you're not familiar with them, tippet rings are tiny metal rings (typically made of nickel alloy) that can extend the life of your leader. Instead of attaching tippet material directly to the end of your leader, tie a tippet ring on. The tippet ring serves as the junction between your tippet material and your leader. Because of their tiny size (2mm and 3mm diameter are most common) and nickel alloy construction, tippet rings float, making them viable for fishing both nymphs and dries. Concerns about strength should be set aside, as tippet rings are very strong, rated at 25-30 lbs.



You can modify your store-bought leader with a tippet ring and make it last you a year or more. Typically, you'll want to cut off around 24 inches from the end of your tapered leader. Attach a tippet ring to the end using a simple improved clinch knot

(or the knot of your choice), tie the material you just cut off back on to the tippet ring, tie on a fly and you're ready to go fishing.

No need to worry about tippet rings working properly. Tippet rings turn over flies just as well as a leader with a direct line-to-line connection and any drag worries you may have can be resolved by



placing a dab of floatant on the tippet ring to keep it riding high in the water. About the only thing you might want to do is occasionally check the knot and snip it off and retie it if it gets scuffed up.

I tied a tippet ring to a leader at the beginning of 2018 and used that same leader for most of this year's trout fishing. I would still be using it if it hadn't suffered a terrible casting accident.

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!



Fishing Legend Charlie Meck Passes

- PPTU

Author and Pennsylvania fishing icon Charlie Meck passed away Sept. 19, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was 86 years old. He was the prolific author of more than a dozen books, and was a frequent contributor to Fly Fisherman magazine over the course of more than two decades. He was inducted to the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, and through his writing he helped us better understand hatches and how to match them. Through his groundbreaking books such as *Patterns, Hatches, Tactics, and Trout* he helped popularize tandem rigs and dry-dropper rigs, which are considered standard today.



He was a Penn State graduate and he worked at Penn State in continuing education for more than 25 years.

His longtime friend Paul Weamer wrote this of Meck: “For all that Charlie gave to the fly-fishing world during his life, he gave much more to humanity. Charlie was one of the finest human beings I’ve known. He was kind, humble, unpretentious, and he loved people. His caring acts affected hundreds and most will never be known beyond the people he helped. I dedicated my first book to him because I may have never had a fly fishing career without his guidance. But I’m also a better man because I knew him.”

You can read Charlie’s obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/centredaily/obituary.aspx?n=charles-r-meck&pid=190272030&fhid=15341>



"The Patriot"

~ Dry Fly by Charlie Meck

PPTU Beer Tie

- PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out and try your hand at fly tying. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier.

Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits and Bistro

11011 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705



<http://www.oldlinewine.com/>

Trout Stocking – Believe it or Not!

- MD DNR

Hard to believe with all the bad weather, but MD DNR started posting Fall trout stockings.

Garrett County

- North Branch Potomac River/Barnum:
500 rainbow
- North Branch Potomac River/Upper
(Catch and Release)
500 rainbow
- North Branch Potomac
River/Westernport:
800 rainbow

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 to the chapter.



“Staff” Award - PPTU Board

Every so often we get an interesting post from Joe Kunsman. Great stories and interesting photos. It was a sad day when Joe announced his favorite wading staff was no more. Besides all the good photos and stories, Joe has been very kind and generous to our chapter over the years. The board members decided to return the favor and took up a personal collection to replace Joe's favorite stick.

Four members of the PPTU Board and Richard Lewis met at Joe Kunsman's home in north Gaithersburg and presented the wading staff to him. He was totally surprised at our arrival and even more surprised when we gave him the staff.

Richard had made arrangements to stop by and visit his former neighbor on the pretense of delivering some smoked salmon and other goodies. Alan Burrows, Bob Kaiser, George Opryszko, and Jay Sheppard arrived about 15 minutes later saying they had heard there was some smoked salmon being served....

The PPTU Board needs to thank Joe's wife, Darlene, for adding so much more food to the table

that was already overflowing with wine, beer, salmon, venison, cheese, brie, crackers, etc., etc.



Enjoy the wading staff, Joe. And keep your fishing reports coming!!

Unique Trout Saved from Polluted Stream - Kimberly Moyer

Kimberly Moyer, the Agriscience Educator, and FFA Advisor at Century High School kindly shared this article with us.

<https://www.morningagclips.com/unique-trout-saved-from-polluted-stream/>

For all of you – feel free to make contributions like this any time. Just email one of the board members or the newsletter editor and mention it's for the Conservationist.

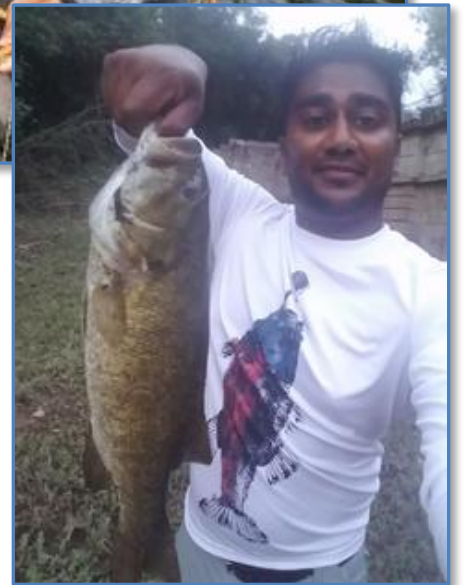
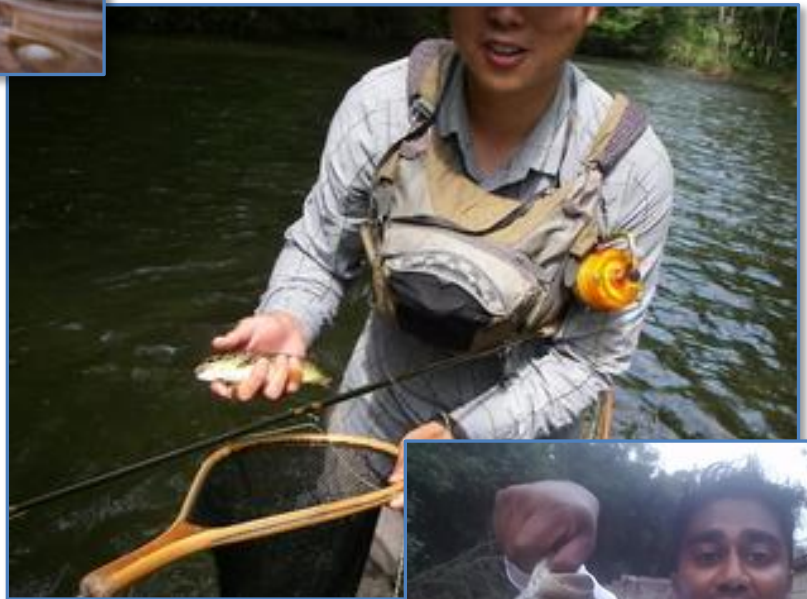
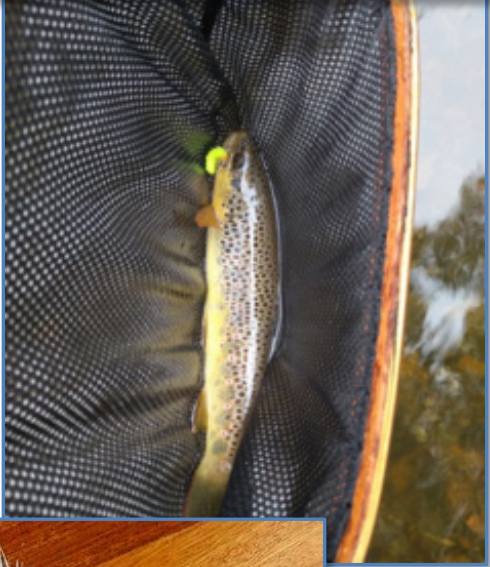
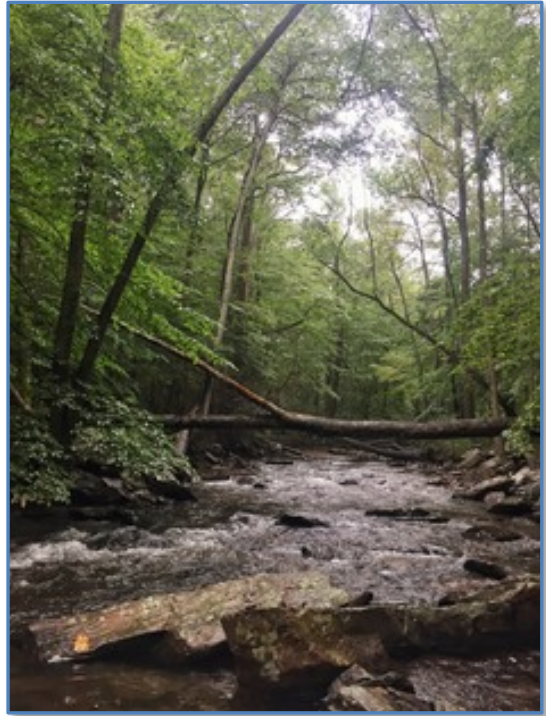
How to Fish Riffles for Trout - Tom Rosenbauer

Trout are often found in shallow riffles. When they are in this kind of water, they are often easy to catch, but most fly fishers ignore these hot spots because they look too shallow. Trout move into riffles to feed, though, and often you'll be surprised to find large trout. They can be easily caught on dry flies and nymphs if you know where to look.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/master-class-monday-how-to-fish-riffles-for-trout>

Members Catch - PPTU

With all the rain, its amazing people were fishing at all! Check out some of action.



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.

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October Caddis Skater

Whereas the best way to present a mayfly imitation is almost always a dead drift, trout are often willing to chase a caddisfly skittering across the surface.

Give this guy a go on your favorite stream.

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-tie-october-caddis-skater>



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