

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

October 2019 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“Winter Trout Fishing Techniques”

Capt. Duber Winters

October 16th, 2019

As we are now officially into Fall, we’re happy to announce that our guest speaker for October is Capt. Duber Winters from Duberfly.com, who will be speaking with us about winter trout fishing techniques. Based in Annapolis, the staff at Duberfly.com teach fly casting and fly fishing, and also guide throughout the region in fresh and saltwater. Come on out to hear trout tips and techniques for when the temperature drops, that streamside cover may vanish with the falling leaves, and the fish may slow down.

About Capt. Duber Winters:

Duber hails from Southeastern Pennsylvania, where he grew up catching trout from mountain streams and smallmouth bass on the Susquehanna. His more-than-20-year career as a guide, Orvis store manager, author, and naturalist has equipped him with a wealth of knowledge about all aspects of both fresh and saltwater fly fishing.

Capt. Duber is an expert angler and fly-tier, a licensed captain, and a certified fly casting instructor. He spent more than a decade as a professional guide in Florida, where he led fly fishers of all experience levels to success landing saltwater fish such as tarpon, sailfish, snook, and permit-only species. In the Florida Keys, he joined the Orvis Company as a store manager and guide. He later worked for Orvis as a sales manager in Richmond, Va. and then as store manager in Woodbridge, Va., and Arlington, Va.—all the while conducting multiple guided trips each year across the US and overseas. He has taught many fly fishers in the greater Washington, DC, region the basics in his popular trout and bass schools. He currently continues to work as an independent guide based near Annapolis, Md.

Capt. Duber’s work as a guide—and his own writing—has been featured in various books, newspapers, and magazines. He is actively involved in raising awareness about fly fishing and the environment through groups such as Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, and a host of children’s fishing organizations. His extensive experience working for anglers of all skill levels, combined with his likeable personality and appreciation for the sport’s traditions, make him an ideal teacher and expedition partner. – *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



It was great to see so many PPTU members attending our September kickoff meeting. It featured several fellow members sharing their summer trips and fishing experiences with the rest of us. We also featured Bob Dietz presenting on the invasive Japanese Knotweed. The greatest takeaway from his talk was that this streamside plant could potentially reduce the insect population that trout rely upon for their daily food source. Troubling indeed.

Speaking of speakers: We are always looking to bring interesting guest presenters to our monthly meetings. If you have an idea, or someone you heard, please reach out to Karan Singh. He's our guest speaker coordinator and is doing a great job for all of us.

I'm happy to announce that our chapter will be offering both fly-tying classes and rod-building classes in the coming months! These classes are offered and managed by your fellow PPTU members and are an excellent way to learn fly-tying and/or to try your hand at building your very own rod from scratch. If you're interested – act fast! Class size is limited, and additional details can be found in this issue of the *Conservationist*.

This month also provides us with several opportunities to showcase our chapter at community festivals. These events help us to recruit new members, promote our conservation efforts and introduce young and old alike to our sport. Please check the calendar of events and lend a hand with tying flies, a casting demonstration and talking to future PPTU members. If you have an upcoming festival near you, please let us know and we'll help organize a table for your neighborhood festival.

We are also coordinating with our local Izzak Walton League of America for a roadside cleanup day on October 26th. Helping to pick up litter is one way to think globally and act locally. Students can get service hours for helping and IWLA hosts a hearty lunch for all volunteers.

October is also a special month for our annual "Camp Out Along the Savage River." If you've ever thought about camping and fishing in western

Maryland, save October 11-14 and come along. It's great to see so many attending this outing – if only for a day or the entire weekend – it's time well-spent!

Looking ahead, I want to also mention that our chapter is making plans to work with several local scout troops and help them to earn their Fly Fishing Merit Badges. If you want to help make this a reality, we'd like to hear from you. PPTU members George Opryszko, Motti Tadmor and Chuq Yang are leading the charge and will need assistance with the scouts.

As you can see from this column your Potomac Patuxent TU Chapter is quite active. We are working hard to provide you with unique activities such as fly-tying and rod-building classes. We seek interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. And we strive to reach out to our local communities to help scouts and promote our work at local community fairs. If you think there's something we can do, or should do, please shoot me an email at president@pptu.org – the proverbial door is always open.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming chapter meeting or on a local stream.

Tight lines!

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 🌻

Annual Fall Cleanup - Izaak Walton League-Wildlife Achievement Chapter - Randy Dwyer

The Annual Fall Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean up with the Izaak Walton League-Wildlife Achievement Chapter is on **Saturday October 26**.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the IWLA-Chapter House at 26430 Mullinix Mill Road near Damascus. Help us keep litter and larger debris from entering our local streams, the Patuxent River, and the downstream drinking water supply reservoirs. Wear sturdy footwear that you don't mind getting dirty. IWLA will supply water, gloves, bags, and lunch for all participants. Note: Student service learning hours available if completed forms are brought on the day of the event. For more information, watch your email, check our website or you may contact Meo Curtis at meosotis58@verizon.net to sign up or for more information.

We hope to see a good turnout from PPTU! IWLA supports us each year with a generous conservation donation. Its fitting we return the favor in support of their cleanup.

See you there!

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Just an update on our efforts to get Brighton Dam to operate with sufficient Dissolved Oxygen (DO). When the turbines are running and water is coming from the bottom of the reservoir in the summer, there is no DO in the water that comes out from the turbines. Trout require 5 parts per thousand DO to survive. The river was running at about 1 ppt, at best, when the turbines operate in the summer.

PPTU is working with MD DNR, MDE, USFWS, and the owners of the dam (WSSC) and the hydro plant (Davis Hydro). We have an expert hydrologist from the Dept. of Energy, Oak Ridge Lab, in Tennessee advising us on how to fix this. The various options are not yet before us, but we expect some sort of structure to be built in the river below the dam that will oxygenate the water 24/7 and still survive the massive floods that periodically flush the river.

Our remaining problem is to find major funding for this construction. We are searching and hope to have a number of leads shortly. This all will take time. We cannot predict when everything will be in place to construct the structure or when it will be operational. It may be wishful thinking that we will be near completion a year from now.

Our long term goal is to have a sport fishery on the main Patuxent below Brighton Dam that provides year around opportunity for trout fishers. This is only a dozen miles or so from either beltway. We do not expect a wild trout fishery like the Gunpowder, as the Patuxent here simply does not have the requirements for major spawning and rearing of little trout. Further, the reservoir is relatively small compared to Prettyboy. We anticipate that during severe droughts there may not be sufficient cold water even at reduced flows. So maybe once every decade we may lose most of the trout during a hot, dry summer. WSSC is still working on repairs to the dam. They hope to be finished sometime this coming winter. That means we may be able to resume spring stockings, but holdovers are unlikely over next summer. Stay tuned.



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 River Trail Project - Tom Newton

Way back when, the Izaak Walton Wildlife Achievement Chapter hosted a meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, DNR, and DNR's consultants about this trail project. There are three phases, and Phase 1 includes parkland adjacent to our Chapter.

It has been a long process to get here, but we are happy to report that we have received all our trail permits and we have final approval to begin construction in the upstream Phase 1 area!! We will be sending out additional details in the coming days, but our Patuxent Upstream volunteer kickoff is planned for Saturday, 10/5, 9am-1pm.

You can visit this Facebook link has more information, including a map showing the location of the project area, and a trail map of the Phase 1 section where we will be building the first 7ish miles of what will eventually be 25+ miles of multi-use trail.

<https://www.facebook.com/paxriversp/>

Stay tuned for more info!

Tom Newton
Patuxent Liaison
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE)

more-mtb.org

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. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits and Bistro
11011 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705



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

Flybrary by Castaway Customs - Sean Beck

You arrive at the stream with a plan and a smile. Off to the side is an angler who just came off the water and has an open fly box and is placing some of his flies onto a board. You strike up a conversation and walk away with a few flies that worked when nothing else would that day.

This is the type of interaction that the creators of the Flybrary, Castaway Customs, hoped for when they came up with the idea. "Have one? Leave one. Need one? Take one." A new way for anglers to share patterns with each other, the Flybrary allows local anglers to hone in what works and what does not with each other face-to-face on the water. They are popping up with regularity across the States and even internationally. Here in Maryland you can find them at popular streams like the Gunpowder River and Morgan Run. I recently added one to the Middle Patuxent River at the Eden Brook Rd access point using a premade patch from Castaway Customs. I have also crafted one from craft store cork and cedar lumber which will be placed at the Howard Chapel Rd access to the Upper Patuxent. Flybraries can be as simple or complex as you like.

While the Flybrary is a cool project on its own, we can extend its use to new member recruitment for PPTU. Many anglers do not know we exist, and a sticker or a URL engraving next to one of these is all

it takes to spread awareness. You can get a free kit like the one I placed on the Middle Patuxent from Castaway Customs. Cedar and nails are cheap, and I have lots of excess waiting to be used. Scout out potential locations for new Flybraries on various Maryland streams and we can work together to spread the PPTU message of conservation and clean water while also making the angling community more friendly.



Order a kit:

<https://www.castawaycustoms.com/flybrary-project/>

How it started:

<https://flylordsmag.com/2019/06/18/what-is-the-flybrary-project/>

See the map:

<http://flybraryproject.com/find-a-flybrary/>

Add to the map:

<http://flybraryproject.com/add-your-flybrary/>

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.

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:

**Potomac Patuxent Chapter
#236 of Trout Unlimited**

Get started

amazon smile

Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

Now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to assess dues or fees for membership. We, therefore, ask for a \$20 ASC each September, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including, but not limited to:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Room rental for the monthly Chapter at the Schwienhaut Center.
- Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- The Mayfly Project for foster kids being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.

You can pay the ASC in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting by cash, check, or credit card.
- Go our web site and use our PayPal portal: <https://pptu.org/j-d/donate>
- Mail a check payable to PPTU and mail it to our PO Box (see last page).

Your contributions are most appreciated!

"In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman."

~ Norman Maclean

"A River Runs Through It"

MD Fall Trout Stocking - MD DNR

Trout hatchery staff are busy preparing for the fall trout stocking program that begins this month. The stockings will be posted on the trout stocking website after they occur and are subject to changes due to flow conditions in rivers, streams or creeks.

Staff report that the rainbow trout to be stocked are going to be **larger than usual** and they expect to stock approximately 26,000 trout for you to enjoy. Several trophy-sized spring "holdovers" in the three-pound range will also be stocked. Get your gear together, check those waders and boots for leaks and get ready for some exciting fishing fun in a trout management water near you. Check our online map to help you explore places to fish by county.

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/09/10/fall-trout-stocking-begins-in-october/>

"Fun" Raiser - Northern Virginia Chapter TU

Our friends from the Northern Virginia chapter of TU <https://www.novatu.org/> invited folks to attend their "Fun Raiser" coming up at the end of October. If you're looking for a little fun, plug this date into your calendar, gather some friends and take a short trip to join in and maybe even walk away with some gear or a guided trip.

**Whitlow's on Wilson (the Back Bar)
Tuesday, October 29, 2019
6:30 - 9:30pm**

- Silent Auction (fly rods, guide trips, and tastings)
- Trout Trivia (teams of 3-6 people)

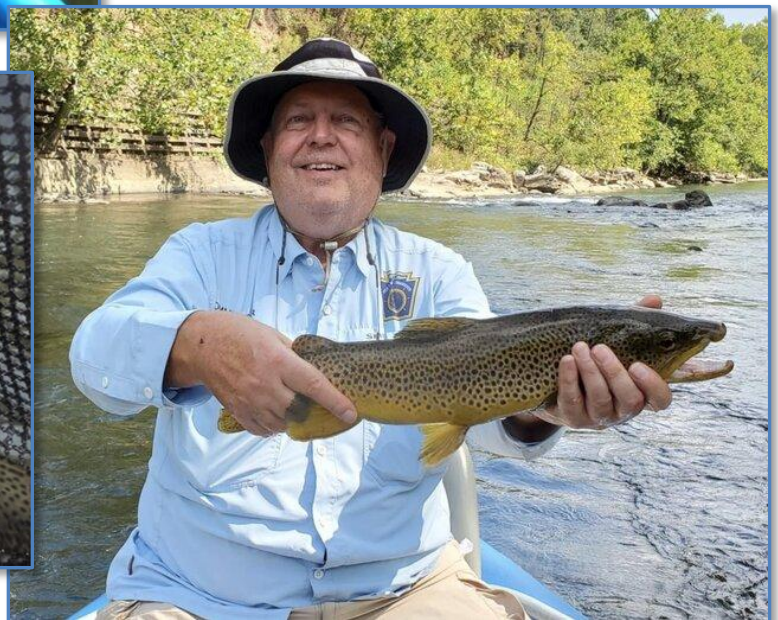
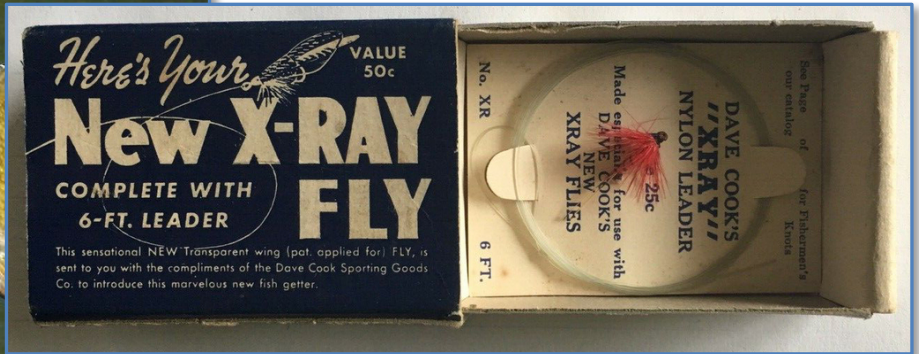
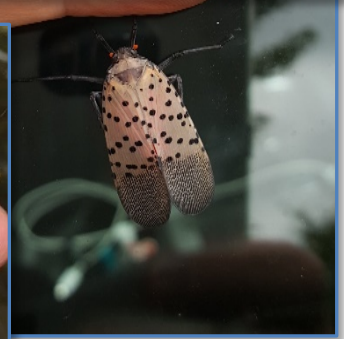
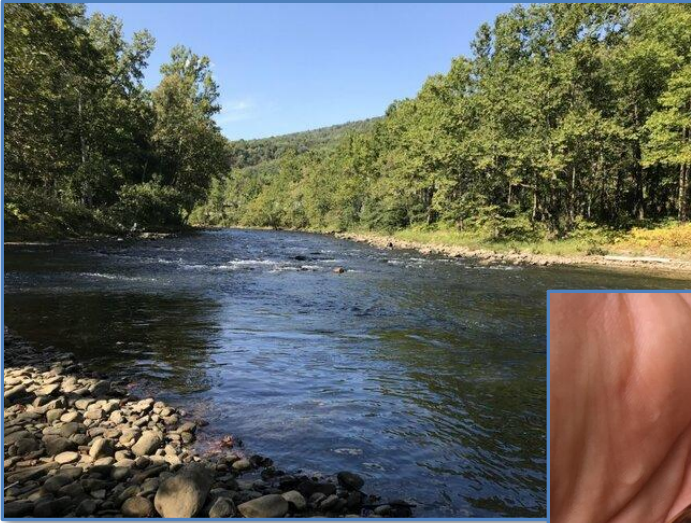
All are welcome. Join us for dinner and beverages (at cost). Transportation and Parking: 2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nearest Metro is Clarendon, On Street parking or garage at <http://www.whitlows.com/directions-and-parking>

Please RSVP to:

<https://www.evite.com/event/01DBIWPJUMRK CIAH6EPJ3MR53WR4HA/activity>

Members Catch - PPTU

The water has been low and slow but that doesn't appear to have affected our members fishing.



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



All Around Emerger

I've had a tremendous amount of luck this year fishing emerger patterns. The fish don't seem to hesitate at all when they see these coming their way. This buggy looking pattern is by fly tyer Davie McPhail.

Pay attention at the end of the first fly as Davie does neat little trick using head cement to finish off the fly.

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



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