

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

“Fly Fishing Tidal Creeks and Millponds from a Kayak”

Guest Speaker: Mark Bange
September 20th, 2023

For our September meeting, PPTU will be returning to hybrid events, with our special guest: Author, fishing instructor, and former president of the Free State Fly Fishers, Mark Bange! As we enjoy the last few warm months of the year, Mark will give us some food for thought by sharing his hard-earned advice about fly fishing with the help of a kayak. While the popularity of fishing from kayaks has grown over recent years, there are several important nuances that distinguish fly fishing from spin- or bait-casting while afloat. Mark will talk with us about: 1. Why even flyfish from a kayak?, 2. Kayaks and gear -- the basics, 3. The species you'll catch, 4. Techniques and Strategies, and 5. Safety Essentials

Mark will also share some of his favorite launch sites in Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore. A long-time Maryland resident, Mark has a truly local perspective on kayak fishing.

About Mark - Mark Bange is a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He lives on the Pasadena peninsula between the Patapsco and Magothy Rivers. He has been an avid fly angler for over 40 years. He began kayak fishing 12 years ago when he retired from a 34-year career with the National Security Agency. He discovered then that a kayak and a flyrod make a perfect pairing. He has written two books on kayak fishing both of which are available on Amazon: *The Simple Joys of Kayak Fishing* and *Fly by the Seat of Your Kayak*.

He is an active member and past president of the [Free State Fly Fishers](#) in Annapolis and a regular contributor to their newsletter. Finally, he has been married to his wife Linda for 44 years. Their son and daughter and spouses and four grandchildren all live nearby in Pasadena.



– **Karan Singh** singhkaran@yahoo.com

September 20th Hybrid Chapter Meeting

Mid County Community Center

2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906

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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Past-President: Randy Dwyer
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Secretary: Pete Anderson
Directors: Ron Briggs
Tom Brosnan
Bob Bokulic
Ron Kerrick
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Librarian: Lou Reichel
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Membership Secretary: Jay Sheppard
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Middle Patuxent: Bryan Sirotkin
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard

Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Alan Burrows
Bob Dietz: Secretary
Randy Dwyer
Marc Hutzell
Lou Reichel
Nick Weber

Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! I don't know about each of you but my fishing experience this summer was a mixed bag. Some great fishing early on chasing Green Drakes in Pa followed by challenging fishing as the hot summer days were in full swing. I'm really looking forward to the fall, great weather, good fishing and spending more time with the membership.

I'm also looking forward to the fall because we can all welcome our newest board members and our newly elected Vice President. Please join me in congratulating: new board members – Pete Anderson, Tom Brosnan, Bob Bokulic and returning board member Pete Yarrington. In addition, our newly elected Vice President Craig Vanderkolk. I'm excited to have each of them joining the board to collectively make our chapter even stronger as we move into 2024.

We also created a new position under our conservation committee. Jim Irons will be our point person as our chapter's Climate Coordinator. This position will include educating our membership about how climate change impacts cold water fisheries as well as many other initiatives. Thanks Jim for taking the lead!

I'm excited to get out on the water this fall. It's a great time of the year and I would encourage everyone to take full advantage of our upcoming outings, our mentorship program and the return of our live meetings. That's right, we are planning to restart our live meetings this fall. We will continue to offer Zoom links for those members who prefer to join virtually but keep a look out for more information regarding our new meeting location.

If you are planning to go fishing, let the membership know. You might be able to take advantage of spending a day on the water with one of the experience members. So many opportunities to learn something new! There is no doubt this is one of the many unique aspects of being part of PPTU. Best of luck this fall and hopefully I'll get a chance to meet some of you on the water soon!

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



Wade and Shoreline Fishing the Potomac River for Smallmouth Bass - Adam Fancovic

I highly recommend this book for wading the Potomac for smallies. Covers from chain bridge to the split.

Wade and Shoreline Fishing the Potomac River for Smallmouth Bass: Chain Bridge to Harpers Ferry (CatchGuide Series) by Steve Moore.

In this book, Steve shares his years of experience fishing one of the East Coast's best, yet most underrated, smallmouth rivers - the Upper Potomac. This book literally walks the reader 57 miles upstream starting at the Chain Bridge in the District of Columbia to end at Dam 3 above Harpers Ferry.

Given a picture is worth 1,000 words, the book includes over 200 augmented with 42 maps and 45

tables of critical information allowing you to determine the right place to go and the right time to be there.

Note: Steve writes some impressive guides and has been a featured speaker at our meetings. Be sure to check out his book:

[Wade and Shoreline Fishing the Potomac River for Smallmouth Bass: Chain Bridge to Harpers Ferry \(CatchGuide Series\)](#)



Fish Kill on Beaver Creek - PPTU

Recently there was fish kill on Beaver Creek. Maryland DNR crews are looking into what happened. DC News Now did a story on the issue, thank to Andy Grosko for sharing the story and the accompanying video.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources found about 400 dead brown trout in the stream and along the banks. The department is currently running tests to determine the cause of death. Some results are already pointing to runoff from the recent storm that blew through the area as the cause.

[Fish Kill on Beaver Creek](#)

Fly Fishing 101 Class – Howard County - PPTU

Want to learn to Fly Fish???

Once again, PPTU will be instructing students via Howard County's Recreation and Parks program.

Fly Fishing 101 is being offered by Howard County Parks & Rec. Saturday mornings: September 9 & 16 from 8-10am.

Learn to fly fish for the first time or improve your skills. Discover how to choose the right gear, tie common fly-fishing knots and the key to selecting the right fly. Practice the mechanics of casting with experienced local Trout Unlimited instructors. No experience necessary and all equipment provided for use during the program.

Info: Matt Medicus, 410-313-1769
mmedicus@howardcountymd.gov

[Register Here](#)

Ants, and the Two Distinct Ways Trout Feed on Them **- Ernest Schwiebert**

Courtesy of Bob Kaiser - Good article, and so, so many tying recipes from #32 up to #10. I usually fish #18-10, and winged flies only in early spring when the mating swarms are happening.

Flyfisherman.com will periodically be posting articles written and published before the Internet, from the Fly Fisherman magazine print archives. The wit and wisdom from legendary fly-fishing writers like Ernest Schwiebert, Gary LaFontaine, Lefty Kreh, John Voelker, Al Caucci & Bob Nastasi, Vince Marinaro, Doug Swisher & Carl Richards, Nick Lyons, and many more deserve a second life. These articles are reprinted exactly as published in their day and may contain information, philosophies, or language that reveals a different time and age. This should be used for historical purposes only.

This article originally appeared in the June 1978 issue of Fly Fisherman magazine. There is also a link to download a PDF copy of the article.

[Read the article on Ants.](#)



"Fly-fishing is a magic way to recapture the rapture of solitude without the pangs of loneliness."

~ John D. Voelker

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!



FREE Trout Unlimited Membership!!! **- PPTU**

If you have wanted to join Trout Unlimited, let PPTU cover your first year's membership! FREE! No cost except your time to send an email to membership.pptu@gmail.com. You will become an active TU member almost in the blink of an eye. The only requirement is that you have never been a member of TU. Join now!

PPTU Outings **- Lou Reichel, Outings Coordinator**

Summer is closing and the 2023 PPTU Outings will start back up in September.

September 30th, 2023 - One Fly Contest on the Gunpowder.

Hopefully by end of September the temperature will be cooler and more active trout. So this is the time to scout out your favorite section of the Gunpowder and tie your favorite fly (store bought will be accepted). The record is something close to 20 trout. One of the awards is the 2023 winner will have their name inscribed on the prestigious One Fly Contest Roll listed in the PPTU website. More details will follow.

October 7, 8, 9, 2023 - Western Maryland Campout Outing.

This is a campout outing (3 days, 2 nights) at the Monroe Pavilion in [Big Run State Park](#) in Garrett County, Md. Savage River, North Branch of Potomac and various brook trout creeks are the

favorite waters to fish. Get your s'mores ready and the telling of good ghost stories for the campfire. There are motels in the area if you don't plan on camping. More details to follow.



November - Steelhead fishing on Erie, PA Streams. More details to follow.

Hope to see you there!

- Lou

Pennsylvania Water Trail Guides - Andy Grosko

Since we have Mark Bange discussing kayak fishing, this information seemed relevant. Thanks to Andy Grosko for the info – Bob O'Donnell.

I found hard copies of Pennsylvania Water Trail Guides available free for the asking from Pennsylvania Welcome Centers on major highways such as I-95 and the PA Turnpike. Picked them up for the lower and upper sections of the Juniata River and the Conodoguinet Creek. The guides provide river access points, the destinations between them, historical significant sights, fish and wildlife common to the area, recommended USGS stations to assess before planning your trip. Very important to note is who owns the access point / ramp. If the PA Commission owns it, they will require your unpowered watercraft to have a current PA Fish and Boat Commission launch permit, or the equivalent, a State Park Launch permit. Either is acceptable. Check out the water trail guides on an interactive map at the [PA Fish and Boat Commission](#) website.



Patapsco River News - DNR Fisheries Management

We can always use some good environmental news!

Region staff conducted an electrofishing survey in conjunction with volunteers from the Patapsco Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Stevenson University students to evaluate the efficacy of Whitlock-Vibert boxes. Staff collected numerous young of the year rainbow trout from a 300 meter section of an unnamed tributary to the South Branch Patapsco River. In November of 2022, rainbow trout eggs were placed in Whitlock-Vibert boxes and installed in the substrate. The survey revealed that these Whitlock-Vibert boxes may be a viable method to re-establish trout populations in areas where they have been previously extirpated.

Also encouraging is that an estimated 30,000 small eels (1.8-2.0 grams average) have negotiated the Daniels Dam eel ladder this year and we still have a few more months of migration left. In the entire last season, 36,000 navigated the dam (2022) - as reported in a Baltimore Sun article. Years before that, before the downstream dams were removed, only about 50 eels a year passed up the eel ladder.



Toxic Invasive Worms! What's Next? - Bob O'Donnell

Invasive worms with the same toxins as pufferfish have made their way into the DMV.

[Hammerhead worms](#) (from the species *Bipalium*) are uniquely-shaped, predatory, and poisonous. Due to the area's humid, warm climate, they have found homes in parts of D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

12 Years Old and Ties Like a Master!!!

- Bob Kaiser

Found this article about a 12 year old kid tying and selling flies. You can purchase over internet – the link is in the article. www.fliezunlimited.com

Pleasant Gap is just a couple miles from State College, PA and beautiful Spring Creek (and Fishing, Penn, Little J....)

Landis Sampsel had never tied a fly when his mother, Karrie, bought him a fly tying kit for \$30. Since that Christmas in 2021, Landis has tied thousands of flies, some of which he's sold, and earned the praise of experienced anglers.

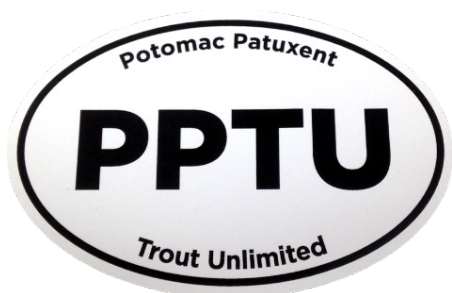
[Read the Article](#)

Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)

- Jay Sheppard

September starts our annual cycle and now is the time to consider making your Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). As a Chapter we are not allowed to require chapter dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each September, to help sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and community service projects including:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.
- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania
- Support of the Project Healing Waters
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.



Earlier I Asked What's Next?...

How about Fishing Wolves?

- Bob O'Donnell

Once pushed to the brink of extinction, certain species of wolves (like gray wolves) have been making recoveries thanks to the Endangered Species Act. And in recent years, researchers have learned more about wolves than ever before.

A new paper was published in the Royal Society of Open Science journal about wolves 'fishing' for freshwater fish. Thanks to trail cameras, GPS collars, and even a first-person account of the behavior, we now know that fishing is a widespread behavior for wolves. [Check it out!](#)



Like What You See? Join PPTU Today!

- PPTU

The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Chapter No. 236) invites you to join its membership!

We have a great group of people and are always looking for additional members to share the fun. It's easy to join, heck we'll even pay the way for new members to join TU for their first year! (see pg 4)

Enjoy a multitude of information on our website, PPTU.org, information for new fly fishers, fly tying and useful conservation articles. We offer a monthly meeting eight times (or more) a year with additional outings and social activities. Get access to our chapter publication, The Conservationist and keep abreast of chapter activities and featured articles to sharpen your skills.

Join the PPTU forum to share local reports and photos, search for a fishing partner, or get answers to your questions – fishing related or not. We look forward to meeting you! [Join Now](#)

Meet Your Board Members! - Randy Dwyer

I thought our newsletter issue for the Fall season would be a good time to introduce our board members. If you come to the first meeting for the Fall this September make sure to introduce yourself and say hello. So, in no particular order, here are your current board members:

Tom Brosnan

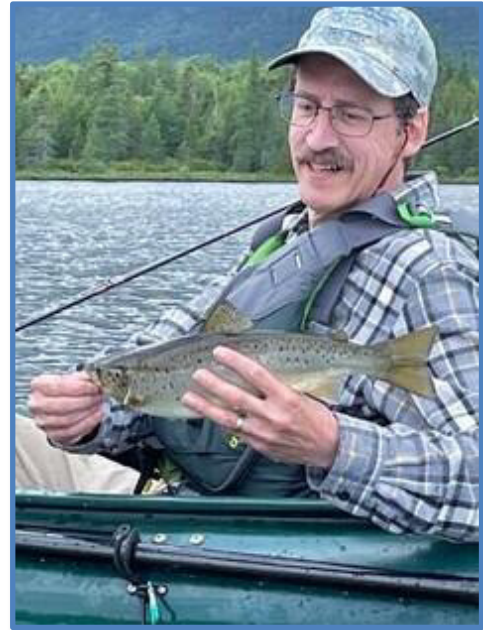


I caught my first brown trout on a fly as a kid in Ireland and have been hooked on all things aquatic ever since. For a snapshot of my summers in Ireland, see the second story here. A native of NYC and the Bronx, I and my family moved to Maryland 30 years ago. I have been a PPTU member for ~10 years and have greatly appreciated the camaraderie and outings. I have been an environmental scientist for NOAA for 23 years, working on assessment and restoration after large oil spills and contaminated Superfund sites, including dolphin health assessments. Beyond fishing I enjoy softball, tennis, biking, gardening and guitar. I'm looking forward to moving towards partial retirement in 2024 and lots more fishing with PPTU members.

Pete Yarrington

Pete is a retired fisheries biologist/aquatic ecologist who worked primarily on fish passage, flows and water quality. He has fly-fished and tied flies since before he could drive, and sold flies to shops locally and in Pennsylvania and Maine through his teens and twenties. He is a long-time member of Trout Unlimited and the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter, but was only recently fooled into taking on any position of responsibility. Pete is also active in Nature Forward (previously the Audubon Naturalist

Society), where he identifies aquatic macroinvertebrates to family or genus as part of a water quality monitoring program. He is OK with snakes, but is creeped out by spiders.



Ron Kerrick

I started fishing with spinning and bait casting rods when I was a young kid growing up in upstate New York. After completing a dental residency in Buffalo, I moved to Maryland, got married and have been living here ever since. I never tried fly fishing until later in life but now it is my favorite way of fishing. I have been a member of PPTU for several years but was not an active member until my retirement in 2019. Now that I have more time, I enjoy going on Chapter outings and volunteering for various Chapter Programs. I look forward to continuing to be active in PPTU.



Pete Anderson

I grew up crabbing and fishing for snapper blues and fluke at the Jersey shore—I discovered fly fishing, and trout, in my 30s. I live in Silver Spring (my “home water” is the Northwest Branch), and I’ve worked as an editor for the federal government for about 15 years. I only recently joined TU. I’ve already learned a lot and I look forward to contributing to its conservation mission!



Ray Miller

Ray grew up fishing the local trout streams of Schuylkill County Pennsylvania until graduating HS when he then embarked on 20 year career in the US Air Force. During his service time he put the fishing rods down and picked up his golf clubs until his assignment to Alaska where he once again caught the fishing bug. 20+ years ago Ray moved and settled in Maryland.



He has been an active member of PPTU for close to 20 years and has been a board member for 2 years. He is also the Coordinator for the PPTU Mentorship Program. Besides fishing Ray enjoys watching his beloved Phillies and learning and mentoring about US history. He is also the current President of the Chesapeake Civil War Roundtable, in Arnold Maryland.



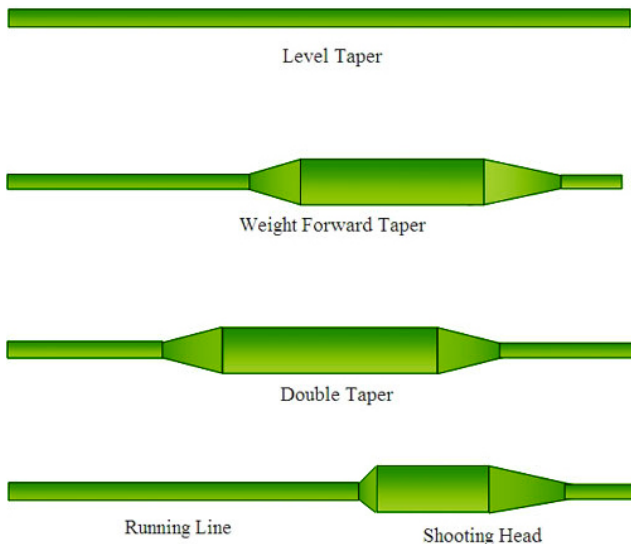
Alan Williams

Alan is a relatively late comer to fly fishing having started in 2018 at the urging of Jim Irons and an upcoming Idaho float trip on the Snake River in the summer of 2018. He retired in 2019 just pre-COVID after 48 years in the Food & Drug Retail industry mostly as an IT Executive and ended up traveling around the world; literally.

Prior to being asked to serve as Treasurer for PPTU, Alan is the treasurer for a Religious Organization with a Preschool operation and serves as treasurer for two aircraft partnership companies.



He holds a commercial multi-engine instrument flight FAA license with part-ownership in two aircraft and performs volunteer flights for Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic. Alan joined PPTU in November of 2022 to participate in the group for the Erie Steelhead outing and has been 'trout-bitten' ever



since.

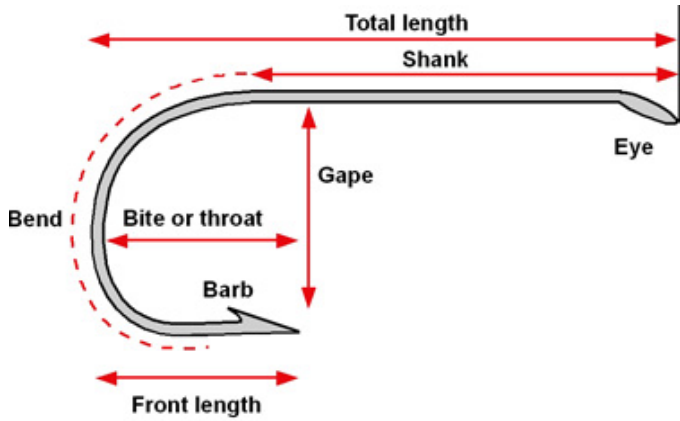


Bob Bokulic

I'm a long-time member of Trout Unlimited and joined the PPTU chapter about two years ago. My fly fishing pursuits are varied and include trout,



Steelhead, and various saltwater species in the shallow marshes of the Chesapeake Bay. I've enjoyed participating in our float stocking program, informal outings, chapter meetings, socials, and Trout-in-the-Classroom since joining PPTU. I'm looking forward to getting more involved in leadership of our chapter as a member of the board!



Craig Vanderkolk

For those that don't know me, I'm a Plastic Surgeon and been practicing for 35 years at Johns Hopkins, Walter Reed and for the last 15 years at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore. Occasionally my area of expertise has come in handy on the stream when a hook or a fall results in a need of medical treatment.



Ron Briggs

I am a converted ultra-light spin fisher from the Midwest. I've been a PPTU Member for 5+ yrs and enjoy the fishing camaraderie that PPTU brings to the table. As a relative new fly fisher I am constantly learning with the help of our experienced members. As outreach coordinator I'm always looking for ways that PPTU can reach out. I've been retired 9 yrs from the television business and my wife and I reside in Columbia, MD. Let's go fishing!!!



I've been involved in fly fishing most of my life and as I've gotten older, its become an addiction. I love fishing all the areas in Maryland and also surrounding areas like Pennsylvania and Virginia. Becoming a member in PPTU has provided me an opportunity to meet other anglers and increase my knowledge. I have been a Board Member for the last 2 years and look forward to assisting the chapter and our current President Joe Taylor as Vice-President in the coming year.



Jim Senker

I grew up in suburban Philadelphia and am a lifelong Philadelphia sports fan. I went to school in the city at the University of Pennsylvania and was a beer vendor at Veterans Stadium for 5 summers. That was still the best job I ever had during which I saw my Phillies win their first World Series!



While in college I started a restaurant magazine which led me to working for Esquire Magazine in New York for 4 years in the 80s where I met my wife Debbie.

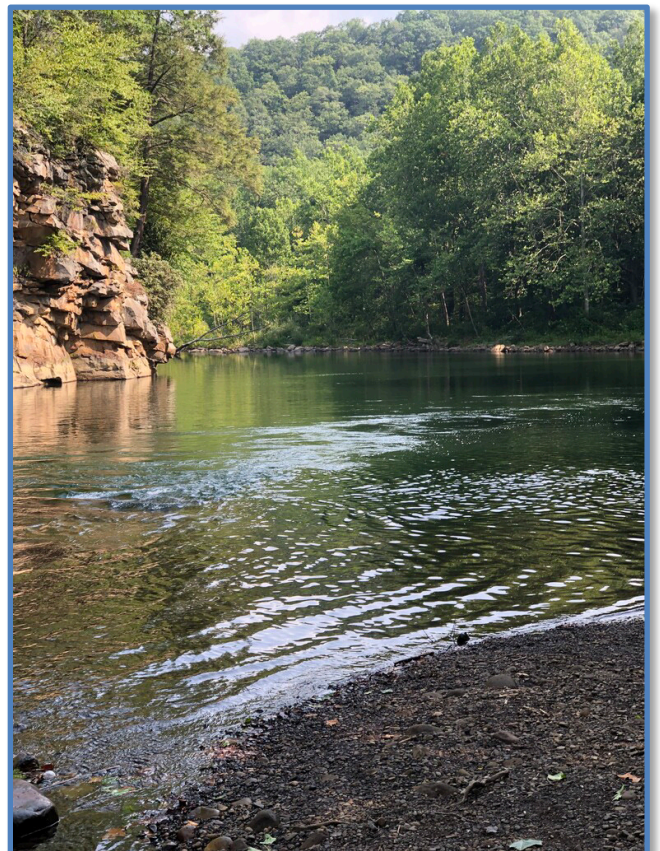
We were married in 1988 and moved to the DC area to get involved in a family furniture rental business where we have lived ever since. Our two grown children also live nearby and today I still ply my trade at Corporate Rentals which I started in 2001. Corporate Rentals provides rental furniture and housewares to insurance housing and to corporate housing companies in the Mid-Atlantic.

I am an aging but enthusiastic hockey player, a tournament tennis player (and can be found most mornings training on a tennis court) and a fisherman since I was kid. I started fishing on my father's friend's boat in Ventnor NJ in the 60s and the 70s for bluefish, which led me to fishing for stocked trout in

suburban Philadelphia and the rest is history. I spend my summers fishing for Tuna, Dolphin and Marlin in my 41' Albermarle Bridge Boat, Da' Chief, and the rest of the year chasing trout with a fly rod which is relatively newer endeavor for me.

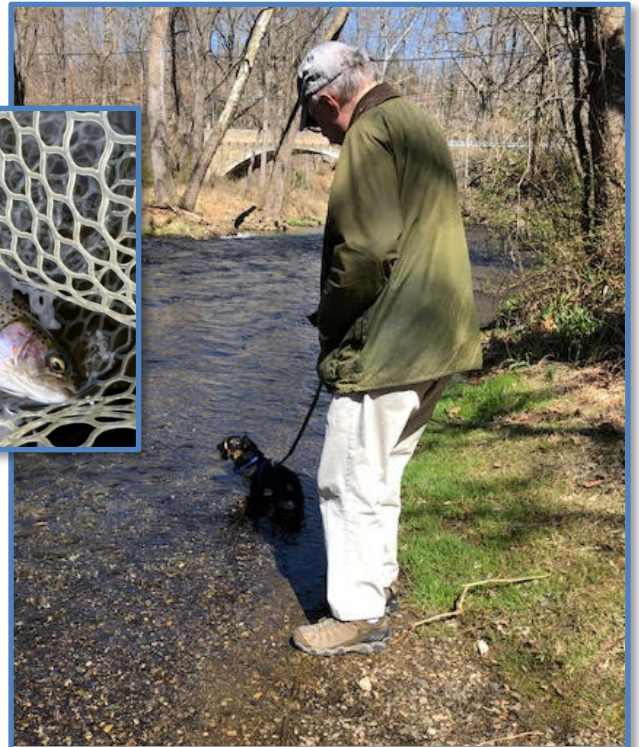
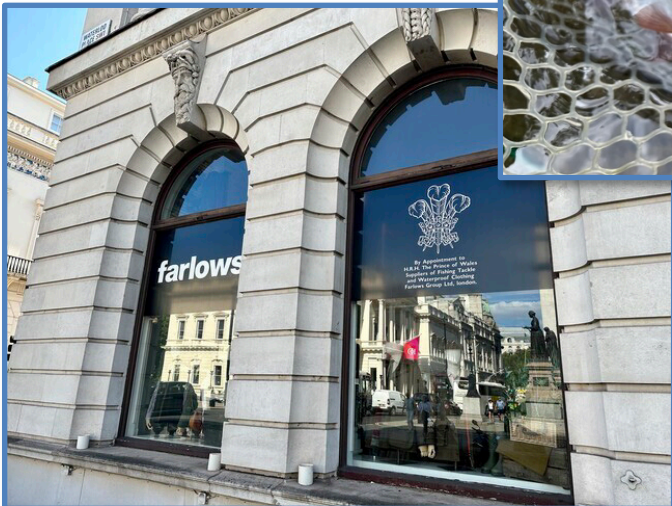
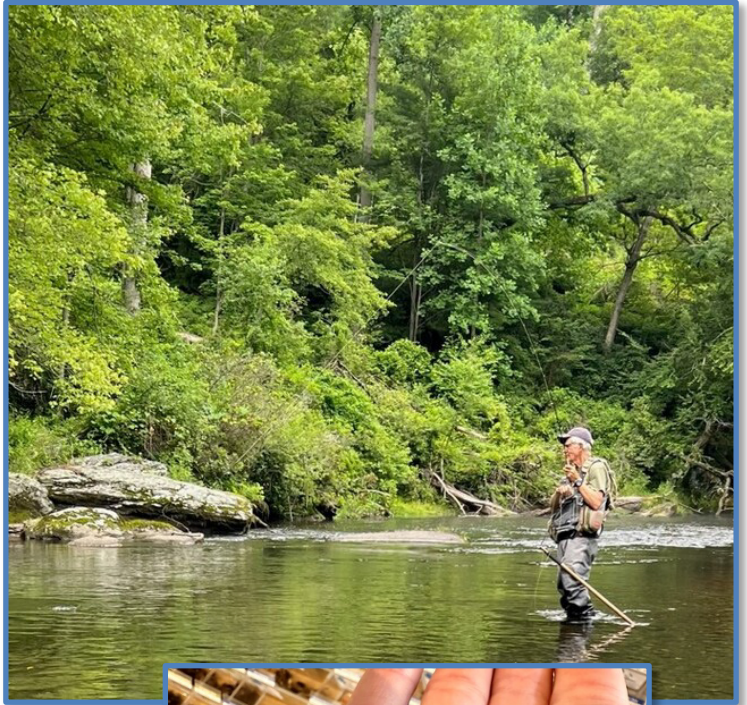
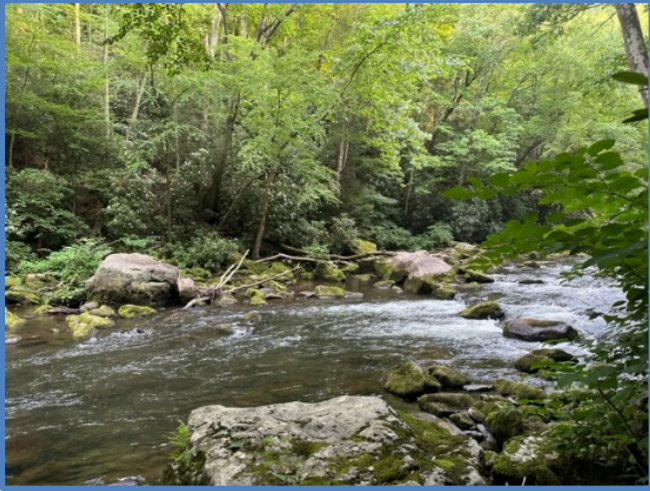
The advent of COVID, during which my Company worked every day, still left me with an abundance of free time which I used to learn dozens of local streams. I put my waders and fly fishing gear on more than 80 times that year and experienced, with much needed help from many more experienced anglers, the joy of fly fishing for trout. I learned during every single trip about how to read a stream, the importance of presentation and what matching the hatch really means. Fly fishing for trout became an academic experience that gave me the opportunity to loose myself in the peace and beauty of our local waters and to live in the moment. No cell phones and work emails, etc. I lost myself in these experiences and today continue to apply what I have learned. Sometimes I'll hike for well more than a mile for both the exercise and the opportunity to catch just 1 trout.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to help and to contribute to the PPTU Board and to meet and learn from a plethora of anglers the never ending wonders of fly fishing!



Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

September is finally here! There should be plenty of stories to tell from the summer. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in person again!



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



GFA Hopper

Whether you're looking to fish it "as is" or part of a dropper system, this is great pattern to have in your box. With some color changes it could also double as a cicada fly pattern. The green ones are buzzing in the trees now.

Tim Flagler of Tighline Productions walks you through this hopper pattern. Its fairly easy to tie and works well.

[GFA Hopper](#)



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