

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

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# Annual Fly Tying Demonstration Meeting *February 18<sup>th</sup> 2015*

*[No, this is not a repeat performance -- Our January meeting was "snowed out" and this is NEW!!!]*

Enjoy the beginning of 2015 with a glimpse of how to tie flies and maybe even pick up a new hobby (obsession?). The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited is happy to present our annual fly tying demonstration. Join us at this chapter meeting to see our most talented local tyers show off their skills and favorite patterns. Come learn how to make it easier to succeed at this intriguing sport of fly fishing.

In addition to a table for wounded warriors from PPTU's Fort Meade Project Healing Waters program and their PPTU coaches, the following tyers will be presenting favorite patterns:

Bob Dietz will be wowing us by tying the venerable *Lime Trude*; Alan Burrows will be showing off his version of the *Dorado Hare's Ear*; while Carl Smolka ties the #10 *Rob Snowwhite's Damsel Fly* in chartreuse. George Vincent will tie his spectacular *Smoke Jumper Emerger*; while Gene Cyprych will show us his most effective *Woolly Bugger* patterns. Bob O'Donnell will tempt us with his *Cased Caddis*. As a special treat, guest expert fisherman and fly tyer, Joe Bruce, will demonstrate his *Bullet Head Darter* pattern.

Come to this meeting, and share with us one of the season's most popular presentations. Pattern sheets for the flies will be available so you can try your hand at tying your own at home. Hope to see you all there.

Don't forget to bring some funds to buy the third edition of "*Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing The Catch-and-Release Streams*" by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn. Available at our library table, this wonderful guide to our local trout fishing waters is a must have reference for every PPTU fly fisher.

Happy Holidays!

– Jim Greco

### 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, Maryland

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](http://www.pptu.org)

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2014 – 2015

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## Presidents' Column - Bob O'Donnell

Déjà vu?

Yes, you've seen the Fly Tying meeting notice before. Snow was coming down heavy in the afternoon on Wednesday of last month. I watched my phone and email for a "closing" notice from the senior center. A few folks mentioned driving conditions were dicey and it didn't surprise me when the notice came in that the center was closed for the evening. After much discussion and juggling of alternate meeting dates we came to the conclusion we would need to push it back. Since everyone was already geared up and ready for it, we moved Fly Tying to this month's presentation.

Anyone got cabin fever yet? Spring trout fishing is just around the corner. DNR will soon be releasing Rainbow and Brown trout into the waters across the state. Better yet, come to our next outing! A few brave souls showed up to fish Big Hunting Creek last month and shake off the dust for the new year. A few were rewarded with fish on the line, and of course hot brats, dogs, and desert this time around. I have to say, Dennis and Lou go all out to make our outings fun!

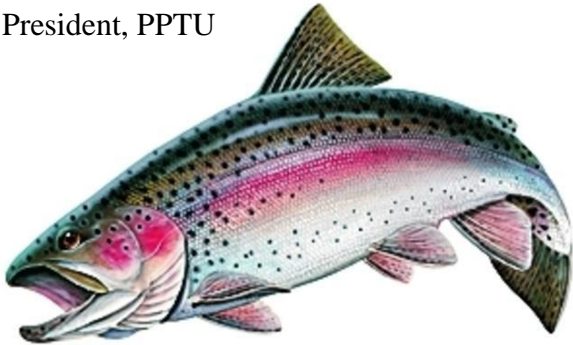
If you prefer to wait for better weather and plan your first trip of the year, the DNR stocking schedule is out and posted on their website. Visit the Trout Fishing page and you'll find tons of information including interactive Trout Stocking Maps to help pinpoint the Maryland streams.

Do you need to fish differently for stocked trout vs their wild counterparts? No. Hatchery fish aren't exactly looking for an exact imitation. However, this is your chance to practice your knot tying, casting, and presentation skills. Fish like you would for wild trout and you'll be better served. One exception would be fly patterns. For fresh stocked trout you'll do well with bright flies, egg patterns, and flashy wooly buggers in olive, black, and white.

Eventually those stockies will start acting more and more like wild fish. They soon learn what's good to eat and start responding to more natural presentations by fisherman. That small bit of early season practice and concentration will serve you well throughout the remainder of the year and give you fighting chance against the tougher fish. 🌸

Until next month, tight lines!

Bob O'Donnell  
President, PPTU



## PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

**K**en 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** will be asked to contribute \$20. 🌸



Contact Ken 301-627-7154 or E-mail:  
[kenbowyer@verizon.net](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net)

## Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

**I** have written in the past about tactics in searching for trout when there is no visible hatch. For the old-timers, sorry, but we seem to have a number of new members in our midst and I hope this may benefit them in the coming spring season on our local waters.

One of the most egregious errors we make in trout fishing is leaving the same fly on our tippet and casting over the same water for long periods of time with nothing to show for our efforts. Trout are almost always hungry and eager to take anything they can see or smell, unless they are wise to what fishermen are drifting past them! I wish I could tally all the trout I have taken on the first or second good drift of the fly versus all subsequent presentations to the same water. I have little doubt that those first one or two good drifts yield the majority of trout takes, compared to all later drifts combined.



When there is no visible hatch and one sees no or only sporadic rising trout, a fisher must either **MOVE** position or **CHANGE** flies. Standing in one place and beating the water with the same fly and expecting a different result than the previous dozen casts to the same spot is not a good expenditure of time and energy. If I see trout actively moving or occasionally coming up to look at my offering, then I know I need to change the fly. Usually I make the change to a smaller fly, but sometimes to a totally different pattern type.

When I do move, I move very slowly up the stream. I try to avoid creating waves that move up the stream ahead of me that alert trout to my presence. I try to move about one leader length up before I cast to the same feeding lane and let the fly



drift about two leader lengths before I pick it up for the next cast. On small streams this slower wading is not as easy, but on larger rivers, such as the Gunpowder, one can be covering a dozen feeding lanes from one position. By slowly moving up after each cast, I will have moved up about one leader length when I again cast to a particular feeding lane. I let the dry fly drift about two leader lengths (3 times leader length for a nymph) before picking it up and moving it to an adjacent feeding lane. This gives approximately two full drifts over the same spot before I have moved past that spot with the presentation of that fly. Most of my takes in these situations are to the very first cast to a new position upstream on a drift line.

If a trout shows itself without taking the fly, then I will change to another pattern. I may go through a dozen flies in 20 to 40 minutes of casting to a known trout—each fly getting only two or three good drifts. This might include changing to nymphs or even a streamer to see if the trout will respond. Although an actively feeding trout will move laterally to one side or the other of his chosen lair, I am trying to drift the fly down the seam or in a line of bubbles that appear to pass right over that trout. Where a trout might only move a foot or so to the left or right to take a surface fly, it might move several times that for a fly offered at its depth. So when I fish nymphs or similarly drifted wet flies down the stream, I usually can cover much more water in the same time period, as the fish are much more willing to move over to take a yummy looking food item. It is potentially dangerous for a trout to come to the surface and show itself to predators such as Ospreys or herons.

All of the above goes out the window when trout are rising steadily to a hatch or if one is presenting an actively fished pattern, such as a streamer. Next month, I will cover stalking trout during a hatch. 🌸



## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Early trout stockings will take place towards the end of February, if the weather cooperates. If you are not on my mailing list to help float stock, contact me soon to be alerted as to when we need help with stocking our local trout waters: jmsheppar@aol.com. All stockings are during the work week and usually start in mid-morning and last several hours or more. Chest waders and some experience in wading a stream are needed.

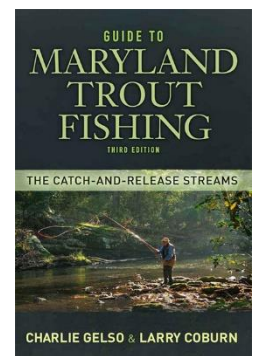
Our plan in working with DNR is to stock approximately 1200–1500 rainbows below Brighton Dam on the flies-only tailwater section. This is about the same number as has been stocked in recent years on this section of the river. No browns will be stocked below the dam this year. The Patuxent upstream of the reservoir will be stocked with many more browns than in recent years.

At some point later this year, the WSSC plans to drain Triadelphia Reservoir to work on the dam for the next two years. We expect to then see a full inspection and any needed repair of the dam's control structures, so we can better control the release of the cold water during future summers. After those repairs are completed on the dam, we certainly hope to see a much better tailwater fishery for future generations of trout fishers. 🌸

## Get Your Copy of the MD Guide Book! - Trout Wrangler

The NEW “*Guide To Maryland Trout Fishing: The Catch-and-Release Streams*” by Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn are now available to our members at the library table during our monthly meetings.

This version of the guide is completely revised and updated, including two new streams and updated maps. There are 16 trout streams, with detailed information on hatches, tactics, and access plus a list of major Maryland fly shops and other important resources. Definitely pick one up! 🌸



**Tri-State Conservation & Fishing  
Youth Camp – June 21-26, 2015  
- George Gaines**

I'm pleased and excited to let you know that our Camp website [www.tucamp.org](http://www.tucamp.org) has been fully updated with information about this summer's Camp to be held June 21-26, 2015. Check it out and make sure that everyone you know does, also. Please help us get folks to go to our website and learn about our Camp.

Our greatest needs are help with recruiting campers, finding interested boys and girls ages 13-17, and financial help to make the Camp possible. We deeply appreciate all that you do to help make our Camp so successful. I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Camp. Please let me know if I can help you get the word out. 🌻

**Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing  
Youth Camp – June 21-26, 2015  
- Nick Weber**

PPTU also supports the Rivers Conservation Youth Camp. This is their 21<sup>st</sup> year providing conservation education to area students, boys and girls ages 14 to 17, (born between June 26, 1997 and June 21, 2001).

The camp is hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited & held at the Allenberry Resort on the Yellow Breeches in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. The deadline for the early acceptance period is March 31, 2015. More information about the camp and application form can found on their web site - [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com) 🌻



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!*



**Big Hunting Creek Outing – January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
Early morning temp – 19 degrees! At least the brats were hot. Outing report is on the web site.

**3D Printed Fly Reel  
- Steve Fletcher**

Thought some might find this video interesting. First ever on the water test video of a 3D printed fly reel by Michael Hackney. Not sure about the colors but the idea of printing a reel is interesting.

<http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/the-lateral-line/video-first-ever-on-the-water-test-of-a-3d-printed-fly-reel?ZTYF7DWpQ1Vt4eP6.03>

The possibilities here are endless; custom tools, fly bodies, gadgets, etc. If you're interested in buying a 3D reel (or getting the files to print your own), visit Michael's website, [www.electicangler.com](http://www.electicangler.com)

Enjoy! 🌻



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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### **Rough Water Caddis**

This pattern is meant to float in the water's surface film, so the hackles on the underside of the hook are trimmed off close leaving a nice, fanned appearance to the top side.

<http://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-a-rough-water-caddis/>



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