

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

January 2014 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

Annual Fly Tying Demonstration January 15th

Please, join us at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 15th, 2014 at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD when the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited will present our annual fly tying demonstration.

This year, we will have a table for our Project Healing Waters Warriors and coaches to demonstrate their skills while our creative local tyers, George Vincent, Carl Smolka, Bob Dietz, Jed Feffer, Bob O'Donnell, Harry Steiner, and Jim Greco show off some of their most productive patterns.

You will see these tyers working to create flies they use on our streams and which have all caught fish. Several of these patterns will be shown for the first time. Take home a pattern recipe and don't miss this opportunity to shorten your learning curve while you move closer to the elusive goal of mastering this special art of fly tying.



Fly Patterns

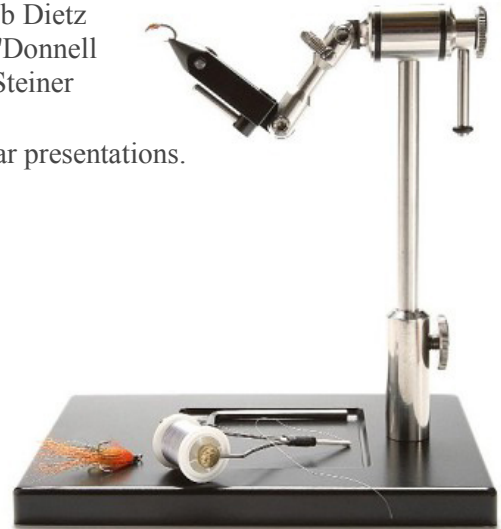
- Gorilla Glue Ants** - Carl Smolka
- BH Zebra Midge w/CDC** - George Vincent
- Crane Fly/BH Crane Fly Emerger** - Jed Feffer
- Sulphur Parachute w/Split Tails and Biot Body** - Jim Greco
- Renegades and Bi-Visibles** - Bob Dietz
- Spent Partridge Caddis** - Bob O'Donnell
- Golden Retriever Fly** - Harry Steiner



Come to this meeting, and share with us one of the season's most popular presentations.

Hope to see you all there.

— *Jim Greco*



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Presidents' Column - James Robinson

Happy New Year to everyone! The cold of winter has set in upon us so my suspicion is that only the hardiest fishermen are trekking out to see what's biting. It's a good time to catch up on tying flies for warmer weather. If you're looking for a venue for fishing, the January 18th Chapter Outing will be to Big Spring in Newville, PA.

Speaking of tying flies ... Bob Dietz will be leading a 6 week fly tying class in Howard County beginning later this month. Go to www.pptu.org for details.

Lots of things have been happening, all good. Here's a rundown ...

- 1) The Chapter netted a little more than \$1000 at the November Fund Raising meeting. We still have cards available for one of the two Rise Fishing Company fly rods that were donated by Jim Greco & Carl Smolka, prizes that they won at the Casting for Recovery Two Fly Contest in October. The drawing will probably occur during the January 15th Chapter meeting so make plans to attend, buy a card (or three), and take a chance.
- 2) We are also continuing to sell raffle tickets for the February drawing. Five prizes are being offered: 3 nights with 2 days of drift boat fishing for two people on the Delaware from the West Brach Angler & Sportsmen's Resort; 2 nights at Graves Mountain Lodge & a full day of fishing for two people in the Shenandoah National Park with Paul Kearney's Guide Service; 1 night in a cottage & a full day of fishing for two people with Beaver Creek Outfitters; a full day of fishing for two with Mike Heck's Trout Guides in south-central Pennsylvania, and a waterproof camera. First ticket drawn gets their pick of one of the five packages; second ticket drawn picks from the remaining four packages; third ticket drawn picks from the remaining three,

and so on. The drawing will be at the monthly Chapter meeting on February 19th.

- 3) The Isaac Walton League held their annual “Breaking Clays to Save the Bay” event in Damascus in October. In December, the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter received a check (this year it was \$1200) to use on conservation projects. We are grateful for this and plan to use it wisely. Thank you to the Isaac Walton League.
- 4) Trout in the Classroom – The new season for this will begin on January 10th with distribution of the Kamloop Rainbow Trout eggs from the Albert Powell Hatchery to about 70 schools & nature centers across the state. The plan is to have them delivered within three hours. It’s a big effort so if you have time on the 10th, I’m sure that Jim Greene & Chuck Dinkle can put you to work.
- 5) The next sale of Hotdogs & Bratwurst at Bass Pro will be in March (date TBD). This is a good opportunity to meet & greet the public & show the banner of the Chapter. Help is always appreciated.
- 6) The Howard County Green Fest is coming up on April 5th from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Chapter has had a table there for the past 4 or 5 years and will have one again. Help is always appreciated.
- 7) About the Patuxent River below Triadelphia ... We received word from WSSC that they will be sending divers to see if they can clear the debris screens, allowing for cooler water releases into the Special Regulation – Fly Fishing Only section of the river. We don’t have a date for this yet but we were preparing to ask that we hire divers when WSSC advised us that they will be handling this effort. This will save us about \$2500 that we can use elsewhere.

So as you can see, we’re keeping very busy but it’s time to buy your 2014 license and get ready for warmer weather. It’s just around the corner. 🌸

Jim Robinson
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** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken 301-627-7154 or E-mail:
kenbowyer@verizon.net 🌸

Tackle and Tactics - Jay Sheppard

Looking back I should have written this for the November issue to help anyone contemplating a new rod for the holidays. Hopefully, anyone who did get a new rod that it fits their needs and desires.

Fly rods are simple tools. They are levers to apply pressures to casts and to fight fish. They can toss almost microscopic bits of fluff on a placid spring creek or big heavy flies in the salt. As with any fishing tool, no one rod can do everything you might want to use it for. I am going to talk in generalities and not about specific brands; graphite is the predominate material being used in rods at this time. You generally will find very serviceable graphite fly rods on today’s market for \$150 to

\$250. Many are travel rods. Most come with a rod bag and tube. The latter protect the rod when you are not using it, so be sure you have tube and bag for all your rods.

Light rods/lines are for casting small flies and fighting small to moderate sized trout, and the heavy lines and rods for casting large flies and fighting bigger fish. This same range of fly sizes also dictates what size most of the fish are going to be. Rods also come in a wide range of actions—stiff/fast down to soft/slow. The lengths of rods range from short (under 7') to very long (over 9'). There are the specialized rods, not discussed further here, for Tenkara and Spey fishing. So there is almost an infinite range of rods available for fly fishermen.

I am going to offer a little table to give some average expectations from 3-, 6- and 9-wt rods that have moderately fast action and in the range of 9', although the latter has little effect on these factors. One can extrapolate for rods for the intermediate line sizes.

LINE SIZE	3	6	9
Av. Max. casting range (ft)	25	40	50
Optimum casting distance	20	30	40
Max. fish weight (lb)	5	18	40
Smallest size dry fly	32	18	8
Largest size streamer	10	6	1/0

The above are only typical expected ranges. Casting range is getting the fly to land on target with only a little wind; this is not the maximum distance the rod can cast a line. By adjusting the leader, one can cast a #28 with the 9-weight, and one can cast heavier streamers/poppers. A fisher could land a 10–12 lb fish with the 3-weight, for example, if the conditions allowed.

Personally, I like long rods, as I can have a lot more line control for mending and roll casting. I no longer have any really short rods. I have used my 9' rods in very tight quarters, being mindful not to rear back and catch the trees and shrubs behind me. Long rods that are moderately fast or stiffer do have issues with busting fish off on light tippets. This must be learned to not rear back and try to bring the north end of the fish to its south end. One must simply raise the rod until tension has been achieved and no more. Slack in the line at the moment of the

take for a long rod is not a real problem, as the rod tip can travel for more than 20' if moved from straight ahead to straight behind the fisher. I try to fish with less than one rod length of slack between my rod tip and the fly. Since I try to fish with the lightest, most flexible, tippet I think I can get away with, this means being very careful on setting the hook on any fish of either unknown or large size. “Large” is relative to the strength of the tippet: being equal or heavier than that line’s test.

The most popular trout rods here in the East are 4 or 5 weight and 8½–9' in length. The 3-weights are gaining in popularity. Out West most rods are a line size or two larger. Whatever your rod, it is always fun to fly fish! Beats a day in the office or mowing the lawn! Go fish! 🐟

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

We are still actively working with WSSC and DNR to find a solution to accessing the cold water in the bottom of the reservoir. WSSC plans to send a diver down in early January to see if he can remove the heavy rust deposits that now clog the trash screens. These grates now only allow a very small amount of water at each level to pass through them. Consequently, the bulk of the water must come from the upper depths even when the control gates on the bottom of the control tower are fully opened. We narrowly escaped last summer’s warm water being released to the river downstream. It was not a particularly hot summer. The minimum temperature of the release water did not start to cool well below 68° until the end of September. The highest daily minimum temperature all summer for the release was about 70.6° on September 13. The daily range in the water temperature was about 2°, sometimes up to 3.5° between sunrise and late afternoon.

Stockings below the dam will start sometime in late February. If you are not on my list for helping with the stockings, please drop me an email to be on the list (or if you have changed email address in the past 9 months or so).

My email: jmsheppar@aol.com.

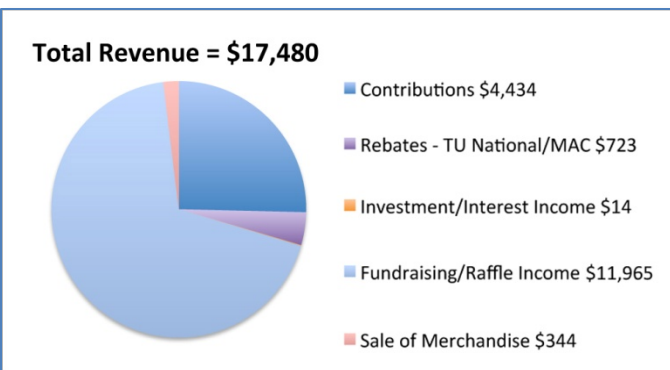
We hope DNR can supply another 2500 trout for stocking this tailwater this coming late winter or early spring.

Jack Benoit, our webmaster, has created an excellent map of the tailwater section of the Patuxent. Go to the PPTU.org web site and open the Stream Conditions page on the left menu. Then open the PDF Map of Catch and Release Area under the heading for the Patuxent tailwater (flies only). This map shows access for both parking and trails. Don't leave home without it! 🗺️

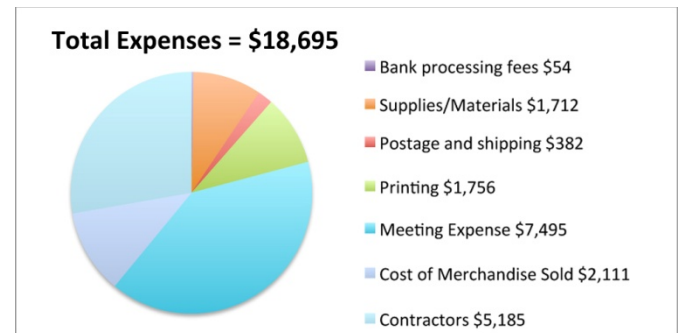
FY2013 Annual Financial Report - Ken Bowyer

Each Fiscal Year (October 1 through September 30), chapters and councils are required to file an Annual Financial Report with Trout Unlimited. This report consists of Revenue, Expenses, Assets, Liabilities, Volunteer Hours, and Additional Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) Data Input.

Our Revenues for the past fiscal year are shown in the first pie chart. Contributions came from donations by various individuals, a donation of \$1646 from the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, and the Annual Supporting Contributions of our members. We received rebates from TU National and the Mid Atlantic Council (MAC). Interest income came from our Money Market account. Fundraising activities included monthly barrel raffles, the annual fundraiser (grand raffle, silent auctions, card raffle, bucket raffles, Greco fly sales and flea market sales), the MAC Banquet, hot dog sales, and the lending library & library fines. Sale of merchandise including PPTU Hats, Shirts, books, fly boxes, and refreshments was our final income source.



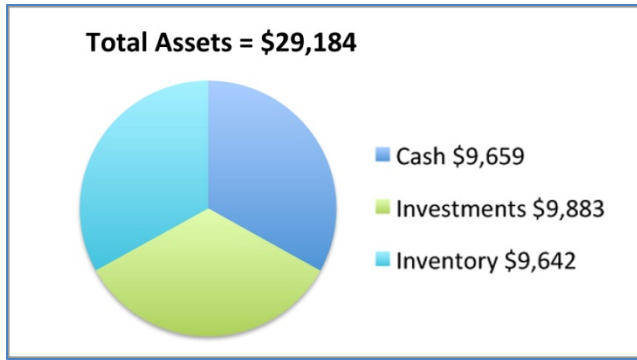
Our expenses are depicted in the second pie chart. Bank processing fees consisted primarily of PayPal fees. Supplies/Materials consisted of office supplies and miscellaneous expenses and prizes for the annual fundraiser and monthly barrel raffles. Postage and shipping expenses consisted of postage



for mailing The Conservationist to local shops, etc., and membership letters. Printing consisted of printing The Conservationist, brochures, and raffle tickets. Meeting Expenses are made up of expenses for our conservation and education programs including Project Healing Waters (PHW), Casting For Recovery, and Youth Programs (support for the TU Tri-State Conservation & Fishing Camp), room rental for our chapter and board meetings, speaker fees for our chapter meetings, and support of the MAC Banquet. The Cost of Merchandise Sold included our cost for purchasing books, hats, fly boxes, purchasing food and materials for our hot dog sales, and paying the Maryland Sales & Use Taxes. Contractor expenses consisted mostly of Conservation Programs (hiring a contractor to take under water videos at Brighton Dam to determine why cold water releases failed, weed whacking around the trees planted upstream of Haviland Mill Road, and hiring divers to attempt to clean the trash screens/grates in front of the gates at Brighton Dam) plus the cost of Web Hosting/Software.

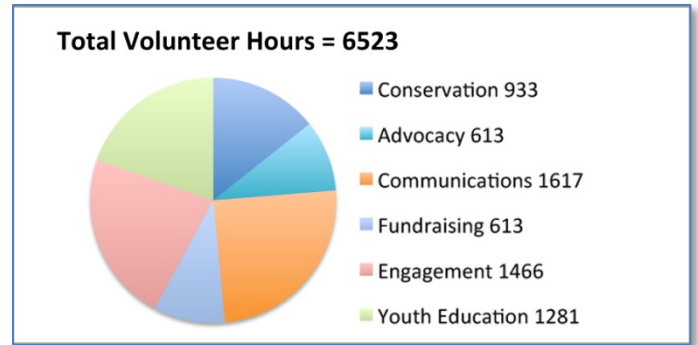


The third pie chart depicted our total assets. At the end of the fiscal year, we had cash in a checking account and a PayPal account. Our investments consisted of a money market account. Our inventory was made up of our library inventory, PPTU merchandise, a display board, a projector, float boxes used for stream stockings, fly tying class materials and books, Trout in the Classroom spare equipment, PHW materials, Raffle materials, and donated books and fly tying materials. We have no liabilities.



The fourth pie chart shows the distribution of volunteer hours over the last fiscal year. Conservation activities included float stocking, posting signs along the streams, various cleanup activities, Eagle Scout projects, the Brighton Dam Tailwater project, and electroshocking surveys to name a few. Advocacy consisted of MAC meetings, our board meetings, the National Leadership Council meetings, and the Northeast Regional Meeting. Communications included all other general operations including chapter meetings, financial reporting, outings preparation and reporting, membership, The Conservationist publication and distribution, website maintenance, and other program chairs to name a few. Fundraising included obtaining prizes for the monthly raffles and the Annual Fundraiser, preparation and participation at the hot dog sales, purchase and sales of refreshments at our meetings, and planning and selling tickets for the MAC Banquet. Engagement consisted of our outreach activities with Project Healing Waters and Casting For Recovery, the Mentor Program, and participation in various events such as the Bass Pro Shop Show, the NCC Show, National Hunting & Fishing Day, and Howard County Greenfest. Youth Education primarily consisted of Trout in the Classroom but also included Girl Scout

Conservation Day. In 2012, Trout Unlimited estimated the value of a volunteer hour at over \$22.



The Additional Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) Data Input is shown below and according to TU's scoring directions, our chapter has a Chapter Effectiveness Index of 84 out of a maximum score of 100.

Conservation Activities

- Number of conservation projects 3
- Any project over \$50K or 500 hours? No

Education Activities

- Number of education projects 3
- Any project over \$50K or 500 hours? Yes

Service to Members

- Number of chapter meetings 8
- Average chapter meeting attendance 40
- Number of newsletters (incl. electronic) 9
- Quality of chapter website - site updated monthly
- Have chapter listserv or email list? Yes

Business Practices

- Quality of strategic plan - active plan reviewed annually
- Quality of budget process - budget reviewed quarterly
- Number of active chapter leaders 20+
- Amount of participation at council meetings - rep at all council mtgs
- Number of chapter members who are council officers 1 🐝

Annual Raffle Tickets Available!

Tickets for our annual raffle are still available for purchase. Come to our monthly meeting or contact any of the board members listed on the PPTU web site. Take a chance to win! Good luck!

Congratulations to Joe!!! **- Bob O'Donnell**

The last issue of the Conservationist contained a reader contest based upon Carl Smolka's article on your top 12 flies you would have inside your "Go Box". Finally a response from Joe Robinson reached the editor's mail box. Joe is the proud winner of a dozen dry flies. Keep reading and watch out for our next contest notice, the winner may be you! 🌸

BEAU'tiful Day Fishing **- Carl Smolka**

Just before Christmas, my wife and I took a trip to Florida to visit my Mom and then a few days to ourselves to enjoy the warm weather. We took our golf clubs and did manage a couple of rounds – the first I have played since mid-June. For some reason, I didn't pack any fishing gear but caved and started surfing the web in search of a fly fishing guide in or around Orlando. I found what I thought was a reasonable rate \$325 for ½ day to fish for bass on a local lake, so I booked an afternoon with Captain Beau and agreed to meet him at his boat launch at 1:45.

I fished from his runabout until about 5 pm, trying a number of his personally tied bass bugs on everything from a 3wt to a 10wt with little success – one blue gill and one small bass and finished the day yielding up my credit card to his telephone equipped transaction device. I didn't have my reading glasses but asked if I could add a 20% tip which he readily accepted by pressing some buttons on his phone and then asked me to scribble my signature on the screen and said he would send me an email receipt. All good and away I went thinking that I had spent around \$400 for an afternoon trying a number of different rods and enjoying the outdoors.

When I got back to our accommodations, I was surprised when the electronic receipt showed the rate was \$425 for ½ day and with the 20% tip, a total of \$510 for the afternoon had been charged. I sent Captain Beau an email to inquire what happened and his answer was that the web site I

used to select him – Orlando Outfitters on which he was according to his own tooting, their #1 guide and is listed at the top of their recommended guides – had not updated his rates for a couple of years and he was sorry for the confusion but he would have them make the changes to their website. I have only used a few guides in my fishing career so my sample size is very limited. Fortunately, all but two have been wonderful – I have learned from them and had very positive experiences – whether or not I caught many fish. This most recent experience was a downer, but also a learning experience – always take your reading glasses with you! 🌸

In the Media

It was recently suggested that we encourage our members to submit a link and a line or two about either a YouTube, book, magazine or newspaper article, blog, TV, video, etc. that they enjoyed and would like to share. Could be about fishing, tying, conservation, science, travel, product reviews...whatever floats your fly. Send your ideas to the editor and it may find its way into the next issue of the Conservationist.

Joe Robinson kindly provided me a link he found on Oliver Edwards fishing but unfortunately, the link was recently removed do to a copyright claim. Sorry Joe! So...in keeping the theme, I remembered a casting demo link by Joan Wulff masterfully showing off how to complete a "Reach Cast". Something I wished I had mastered before my trip to the Delaware River! Anyway, enjoy and I hope you can execute it better than I can. It's a great skill to have in your fly casting arsenal. I'm still practicing. Joan makes it look soooooo easy. 🌸

<http://vimeo.com/70578659>



Reminder

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!



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: Trout Wrangler

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Ken's Crazy Ant

What's it made from? Email the editor with the answer and be the first ant to the picnic!

<http://vimeo.com/82189854>



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