



May 2010

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Maryland's Lesser Known Trout Streams

May 19, 2010

Have you ever passed over an unknown stream and looked as you passed and wondered whether there are trout up there somewhere beyond your view and around that turn. You saw the boiling water as it tumbled down that small valley and thought surely that it should hold a fish or two, but you never stopped to give it a try and soon what might have been faded away.

Tom Starrs, a Maryland native, has been exploring Maryland's trout streams over 25 years. He has caught trout in over 100 Maryland streams. In addition, he fishes year round catching trout in Maryland every month of the year for the last 25 years. Of particular interest is his passion for finding and fishing out of the way wild trout streams that are not stocked with hatchery trout. His presentation will deal with locating and finding streams where one can avoid the crowds and experience peace and solitude while having a quality fishing experience. Tom will take you on a tour of 3 distinct regions of Maryland where one can experience what he considers some of the best trout fishing in the state. Come hear one of Maryland's most experienced trout fishers and learn what keeps him coming back month after month to these special streams and learn why you too may want to give them a try. This is a presentation that you can't miss! - by Nick Weber

Elections at May meeting

PPTU announces the slate of officers for the May elections.

As we go to press we still have openings for the VP slot and two director candidates..

President - Larry Vawter

Secretary - Cathy Nutter

Treasurer - Carl Smolka

John Colburn's name was misspelled in our previous issue in the notice of his passing.

The Conservationist apologizes for the error.

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Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

Place Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Directions From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

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2008-2009 Officers and Directors

President:	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
Past-President:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
Vice-President:	Carter Wildermuth	301-353-1022
Treasurer:	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
Secretary:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Directors:	Grant Faller	301-864-4248
	Lou Reichel	410-730-5150
	Will Amland	240-375-7617
	George Vincent	301-249-6399
	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
	Mark Silverman	202-429-6450

Committee Chairs

Speakers Program:	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Listserves Moderator:	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
Publicity:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Membership Secretary:	Chris Steele	860-449-2212
<i>Conservationist</i> Editor:	Joanne Kla	301-854-5053
Fundraising:	Bruce Eberle	301-854-3142
Raffles:	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
Refreshments:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
Water Quality:	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
Mentor Program:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
	Tim Pawlowitz	410-203-0369
Librarian:	Fred Przyborowski	202-251-8226
Outings	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
Conservation Advocacy:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Webmaster:	Ken Bowyer	301-627-7154
	Jack Benoit	202-244-1040
Youth Program:	Paul Vicenzi	301-650-2087
Trout in the Classroom:	Jim Greene	301-652-3848
Mid. Patuxent:	Jim Robinson	301-490-5358
NW Branch:	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
Paint Branch:	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dave Dunmire	410-765-5411
Patuxent:	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

Council Delegates:

	Bob Dietz	301-854-6893
	Larry Vawter	410-750-8264
Exec. Com. Member	Nick Weber	301-774-2806
Exec. Com. Member	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559
	Carl Smolka	301-929-1365
	Jim Keil	301-588-8375
	Robert Simpson	410-461-8180
	Cathy Nutter	301-384-2431
	Dennis Covert	410-740-8337
	Jim Greco	410-997-2787

President's Column

President's Column

What a year and its not over

I was elected President in May of last year. So far I believe that my first year term has gone rather well. However, it has had some high points and one that was very low.

Let's start with the low point. That was losing a very dear friend in Dave Wittman. Not only was it hard losing a friend, but we lost one of our chapter's biggest volunteers. Dave was willing to drop everything to give the chapter a hand in any project or task, but was particularly involved with our Trout in the Classroom project as well as our fly tying and rod building classes. For those and numerous other efforts he was posthumously nominated for and given the Citizen and Organization Award of the Mid Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited. Our Chapter has also adopted an award in his name for persons making special contributions to our chapter.

My personal high point was starting the Project Healing Waters project at Ft. Meade. Since September we have had a fly tying class on base with our soldiers who have been injured in the War against Terrorism. It has been so much fun working with these men and women showing them the art of fly fishing. Now that the weather has improved we are planning trips to local streams. The laughing and smiles are all the gratification I need to make this activity worth while and I am certain that our fellow chapter members Jim Greco, Harry Steiner, Carl Smolka, and Dennis Covert who lend a big hand feel the same way.

One of our TU members has been instrumental in getting the State Government interested in purchasing property along the Patuxent River at Haviland Mill Road. If the paperwork is successfully completed, this may become a stream restoration project with a potential handicap access and a gully crossing bridge. Since becoming President, I have been watching this project grow from an idea to reality. This too has been gratifying.

Another project to watch is the possibility of a handicap access at the Little Patuxent in the Savage Mill area. At this time crews are working on a sewer line along the river. With so many trees cut down along the river, another of our members is investigating the idea of installing a handicap access and fishing platform in that area. This is another idea that may just become a reality as well. We are also hopeful to extend our efforts in education and work with children. So with one year down and one more to go, I ask you to jump on board with us. It could be a great ride.

Larry Vawter

Early Meeting Segments

begin at 7 pm

Tying Bench

This month will find one of our favorite tiers back at the Tying Bench. Charlie Gelso, master tier, and co-author of "Guide to Maryland Fishing The Catch-and-Release Streams" will be at the Tying Bench to share his expertise and wisdom about tying and fly fishing. You will find several unique patterns that Charlie has found to work well on finicky wild trout in his book. Charlie will tie one or two of these easy but extremely effective patterns for us. He mentioned his Realistic Caddis and possibly his three hackle as probabilities. Stop by the "Bench" in the Early Segment and see why and how Charlie likes these great patterns for wild trout. This opportunity to visit with Charlie is even more reason to help you prepare for fishing *Maryland's Lesser Known Trout Streams*.

Angler's Corner

Come by the Anglers Corner and check with Bob Dietz on the planned outing to Ken Lockwood Gorge, NJ 6/5-6. You may also hear some tales from the recent outing to Pulaski, NY and the spring run steelhead trip to the Salmon River or the Shad trip to Deer Creek. Bob Dietz will be telling all about what to consider in way of patterns and gear for the New Jersey trip. It should not take much convincing why you really should consider these fishing experiences with some of our fellow fishers. Have an idea for an outing; share it with Dennis Covert, outings chair at dennis-covert@hotmail.com. See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for more outing listings.

Have an idea for an article, or something you'd like to share with other chapter members? Material is welcome (and cheerfully accepted). The deadline is the 12th of the month for the next month's issue.

Please send articles, ideas, etc, preferably in MS Word or in the body of the e-mail to earthmomjo@hotmail.com. (Note: This is a new e-mail address.)

*Thanks
Joanne Kla, Editor*

PPTU MENTOR PROGRAM BEGINNERS & BEYOND

Ken Bowyer and Tim Pawlowitz provide one-on-one streamside fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hipsters, 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.

Tim at 410-203-0369

or e-mail tpawlowi@msn.com.

Address changes? Moved?

Please keep us up to date on your addresses. We have saved a lot of money in recent years by using email to alert members that their Annual Supporting Contribution is expiring or some other important information. We frequently have the Post Office returning undeliverable copies of the Conservationist from members who have moved without letting us know. Send an email to Jay Sheppard (jmsheppar@aol.com) with any changes.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Existing members should renew their TU membership using any of the following methods:

Mail your Renewal Statement to TU National Call Customer Service at 1-800-834-2419

Navigate to www.tu.org. Click **Join/Renew** tab at top, then click on the "Renew Membership" link on the left. You will need your login name and password.

Tackle and Tactic Tips

Jay Sheppard

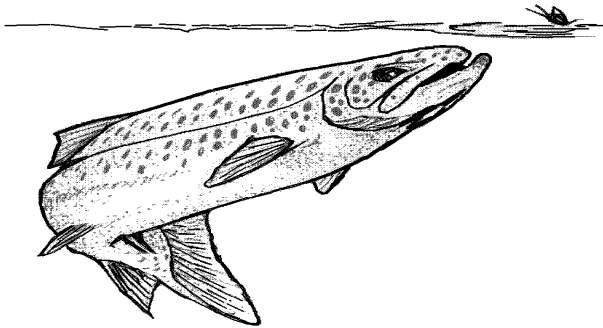
Many of us are now planning our summer trips to far away destinations—Yellowstone, Alaska, and other wonderful fishing places. Here are a few suggestions for anyone planning a trip. First and foremost know what you are getting yourself into—climate, bears, fishery, accommodations, and other major factors. If one is going to be ‘out in the boondocks’ with no chance for resupply or getting a missing or broken item replaced, then care must be made in what you take and leave behind. I have been using a one-page, three-column checklist for all my major trips for decades. I listed all the gear that I might need on any trip at any season. This ranges from spare prescription glasses and camera batteries and charger to winter clothing and camping gear. On any particular trip I may not need something, but that can be scratched off the base list. I cannot simply pack my gear the night before I depart and hope that when I get to my destination I have everything that I might need for a successful trip. The list keeps me from forgetting almost any item of what to pack and not pack.

Getting information on what to expect at a new fishing area is getting so easy now that there is little I can add other than to “Google it!” One can find lodges or fly shops that will provide basic information from timing of hatches to timing of salmon or steelhead runs. One needs to know the expected water conditions for this trip’s dates and not the normal conditions for this date in most years. Arriving in the middle of an early or late runoff or during a super drought with no water in most streams is very important information to have before booking a guide or even planning the trip. Then there is the personal touch that any member of the PPCTU list serve can get by just asking if anyone has ever fished in a particular destination. With some 200 members now on this list serve (see pptu.org on how to sign up), there are few destinations that someone of this group has not already been to—from Nepal and New Zealand to New York or New Mexico.



Be Forewarned—Felt Waders!

Fishers should be warned that Maryland and some other states are considering the outlawing of the use of felt waders on their streams. Felt waders are thought to be the prime source for contaminating our waters with various unwanted invasive species. So if you are looking into purchasing a new set of boot waders or wading shoes, you may want to consider obtaining one of the new rubber-soled variety. Many manufacturers have seen this coming and have greatly increased their inventory of the rubber-soled type equipment and reduced the felt models. There is as of yet no time table on when such regulations might be implemented here in Maryland, but it could be within the next several years or sooner.



Savage River Update

Jay Sheppard

Most of the sediment has been flushed out of the river below the now repaired Savage Dam. From all reports, fishing is good. Trout are still present in all the pools. A check of the rocks in the river in early April found the expected macroinvertebrates one might want to see—scuds, mayflies, caddis, stone flies. If the water conditions are suitable in Savage Reservoir, whitewater releases may happen on the first Sundays in July, August, and September this summer. The 2010 release schedule for Jennings Randolph Lake has been posted on the public website: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/northBranch.html>. This page also includes the 3-day projections for release rates for Jennings Randolph Lake and Savage River Dam. Scroll down to find the recreational release schedule. If the whitewater release on the North Branch drops back each afternoon, one can often find a lot of willing and very hungry trout waiting for the lower flows about 4:30 or 5:00 PM.

TROUT UNLIMITED TRI STATE CONSERVATION & FISHING CAMP

Sunday, June 27 to Friday, July 2, 2010
Graves' Mountain Lodge - Syria, Virginia
Adjacent to Shenandoah National Park

The Camp was organized to provide high school youth with a week of outdoor experiences that help them gain firsthand an appreciation of the value of their coldwater fisheries resources. Twenty-four high school students currently in the 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, or will be 13 years old by June 2010 are eligible to attend. Both males and females are accepted. They enjoy an exciting week of hands-on action packed fun in our mountain stream environment that will help them become a skilled angler and an experienced conservationist.

Youngsters learn firsthand from officials of the National Park Service, professional conservationists with state natural resources agencies, environmental educators, professional fishing instructors and guides, and experienced members of Trout Unlimited.

Students don't need any special experience or equipment—the Camp can provide it. All that is needed is to be interested and want to attend. The cost of the six-day, five-night Camp is \$650. Full or partial funding is available for any camper who requests sponsorship to attend the Camp. For more information – contact and application form, see www.tucamp.org.



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