

The Conservationist



Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

October 2012 Published monthly except June, July, August and December



Jon Griffiths, Opportunistic Fisherman – October 17–

Jon Griffiths describes his blog, Opportunistic Fisherman as “my life, my addiction and my passion shared with you through past and current fishing adventures.” His writings certainly reflect that passion. Through Opportunistic Fisherman, Jon reflects on wide variety of topics from his most recent fishing adventure after work to where to fish and when.

Jon will be speaking to our local chapter in October on the subject of fishing options throughout the entire year in our area. So come ready with questions for Jon.

www.opportunisticfisherman.blogspot.com/ - *Marc Hutzell*

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

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President's Column - Dennis Covert

It's mid-September as I write this, and as I step outside this morning the welcome feel of autumn is in the air. 54 degrees! The days will continue to get cooler and shorter, but with daylight savings reaching in to the first week of November, those of us still in the trenches have enough time to get that quick fish in after work. As the water cools, bass will be on the prowl in nearby lakes, and the browns that survived the heat below Brighton Dam will become prime targets for many of us this fall.

October is such a wonderful time just to be out. Everything in nature will be on the move; gathering mast, mating, migrating, and spawning. The hillsides will color up a little more each day providing a show for every trip, until late in the month when winds will begin to strip the trees bare leaving stark branches against the skyline. Fall is a great adventure for me every year. Traipsing around river bottoms and creeks I sometimes bump woodcock while trying to thread myself and rod through the thick tangle, their whirl of wings and odd twitter always make me smile; Sometimes the heart stopping explosion of a whitetail buck so preoccupied by the pre-rut doesn't notice me until I'm practically on top of him and erupts with a crash scaring me witless. We only get so many Octobers in life and we should savor them all.

It's going to be a very busy month for PPTU. The 5th, 6th, and 7th is the chapter outing and campout at Big Run State Park in the Savage River State Forest, maybe the best outing of the year. The 13th is the MAC banquet at the Ramada Inn at BWI; PPTU has reserved two tables, \$75 a seat. There will be raffles, prizes, and an auction. If you don't have your tickets yet I'm the guy to see, or, get in touch with Nick Weber or Jay Sheppard. The 17th is our chapter's monthly meeting and we will begin raffle ticket sales for the big drawing in February. We've added a full day's guided trip for two with Mike Heck, the

author of *Spring Creek Strategies* as one of the prizes, along with the Grand prize of three days, two nights, for two anglers at the West Branch Angler Lodge in New York on the West Branch of the Delaware River. This trip includes guided float trips, and guide tips. The third prize is still to be determined at this writing.

The 21st is the Izaak Walton's Wildlife Achievement Chapter's "Breaking Clays to Save the Bay" in Damascus Maryland. Once again PPTU has been designated to receive the proceeds from this event, last year we received approximately \$2,000, and as such we really need to step up and show our support through participation. The cost is \$25 for two rounds of trap or skeet, free T shirt, bring your own gun and ammo. The 28th Casting for Recovery is sponsoring a two angler team fly-fishing contest on the Rose River Farm in Virginia, we are sending two of our best, Bob Dietz, and Ken Bowyer, wish them luck!

And last but not least, we are still looking for volunteers. We badly need someone to take over the bucket raffle at the monthly meetings; this is a position that involves ticket sales, the storage of monthly prizes, and the drawing itself. We are also looking for an outings coordinator to plan outings beyond September of 2013. If you can help please contact me, Jim Robinson, or another member of the board. 🌸



PPTU Mentor Program Beginner's & 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 🌸

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard



Last March DNR Fisheries did some sampling of the Patuxent below Brighton Dam. The results were reasonably good. A wide variety of aquatic insects was found. The most dominant was the caddis of the genus *Hydropsyche*. The next most dominant group was the midges of the family Chironomidae. Other caddis and midges were present in fair numbers, as well as mayflies, stoneflies, and other expected aquatic insects and arthropods. Another sampling is to be made just before we go to press for this October issue of the *Conservationist*, and we will report those results as soon as we get them.

We also plan to do some electro-shocking of the Patuxent, both below the dam and above the reservoir. We hope we had some survival of the trout below the dam, but we have no firm idea whether we had 5% or 20% survival this last summer. Upstream of the reservoir, I would expect a fair number of trout to have survived, since the flows never got extraordinarily low. One just needs to search for the deep undercuts and holes to find where those trout are lurking. Hoppers, crickets and inch worms should work well until the leaves fall at the end of the month. 🌸

Address changes? Moved?

Please keep us up to date on your addresses.

Please send any notices of corrections or change of address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of the *Conservationist*.

Tackle and Tactics - Jay Sheppard

I have long been an advocate of using a landing net. Not all trout seem willing to be landed by hand, although many do lend themselves to this manner of capture. I think over time, the easiest way to safely land a trout is by a net. By “safely” I am referring to the survival of the trout over the next few days following landing. But there have been times when my own safety was at risk, and I needed a net to land a large trout out in the middle of the river.

Nets come in a variety of styles, sizes, and mesh bags. If you are in a boat, a long handled net is often very useful. I also sometimes fish from a high bank where stepping into the water means going for a swim; another place for a long handled net. I most often use a simple landing net that has a regular handle and an adequate sized net bag to handle 90% or so of the fish I expect to land. Beaver Creek has many trout that exceed 15" in length. My net hoop is approximately 16" long and 8" wide so I can easily handle those larger trout. If I was only fishing a little brookie stream, my net would be about two-thirds that size.

The net bag needs to be for catch and release. That is, relatively shallow. Rubberized mesh landing nets with a long handle are great for large fish from boats or shore. The mesh I much prefer is a small mesh made of soft nylon. The diameter of the mesh without stretching the nylon is about that of a small pencil. The big advantage of this mesh is that I can also capture many insects with it. If the insect is drifting along on the surface, I simply dip the net slightly under the surface and let the drift bring the insect into the net before lifting it up for inspection. Do not swipe at the insect on the water, as it will be flushed into the mesh and probably through it. I have caught tiny midges up to large mayflies and stoneflies. Meshes that one can stick a finger through are too large for capturing most aquatic insects.

Landing small trout is usually not a problem. Just get the net under the fish and lift. Larger fish that are close to or exceed the strength of the tippet

need a little more care. The trout is directed head first into the submerged net, which is then lifted as soon as most of the trout's body has passed over the hoop. I have landed trout up to about 25" in my net. Just remember to release the tension on the line as soon as the fish is safely in the net.

There are any number of ways to carry the net. I use the type with magnetic “clips” that snap together when they are in close proximity. The lanyard between the two magnets is long enough to let me reach down beside me to easily net the trout. The net hangs from the top of the back of the vest. There are any number of other ways to hang your net. Folding or collapsible nets are excellent choices, too. 🌻



Help To Stop Poachers

Reminder - If you spot poaching please place a call to

Catch a Poacher Hotline at 1-800-635-6124

NOTES FROM MY LOG

Clark's Creek

Left this morning headed for the Codorus or Yellow Breeches but half way there decided on Clarks Creek. Haven't fished it all year. Arrived around 11 am. For those of you interested in such things Clarks Creek is 38 minutes from the turnoff to the breeches at Williams Grove or Allenberry. Water was 46 only slightly high if any and clear as always. Fished a bugger and nymphs for 2 hours and never got a strike. Too bad but I was glad to see Clarks again. It is one beautiful stream. Made note to self to fish it next year. Drove to Allenberry and parked at the run. NO cars! Water 50 and clear but high.

Fished from the confluence to the lower wire. After an hour of bugger I switched to nymphs and managed a LDR. Nice brown I think. Bit later netted a colorful bow. Later landed another nice bow.

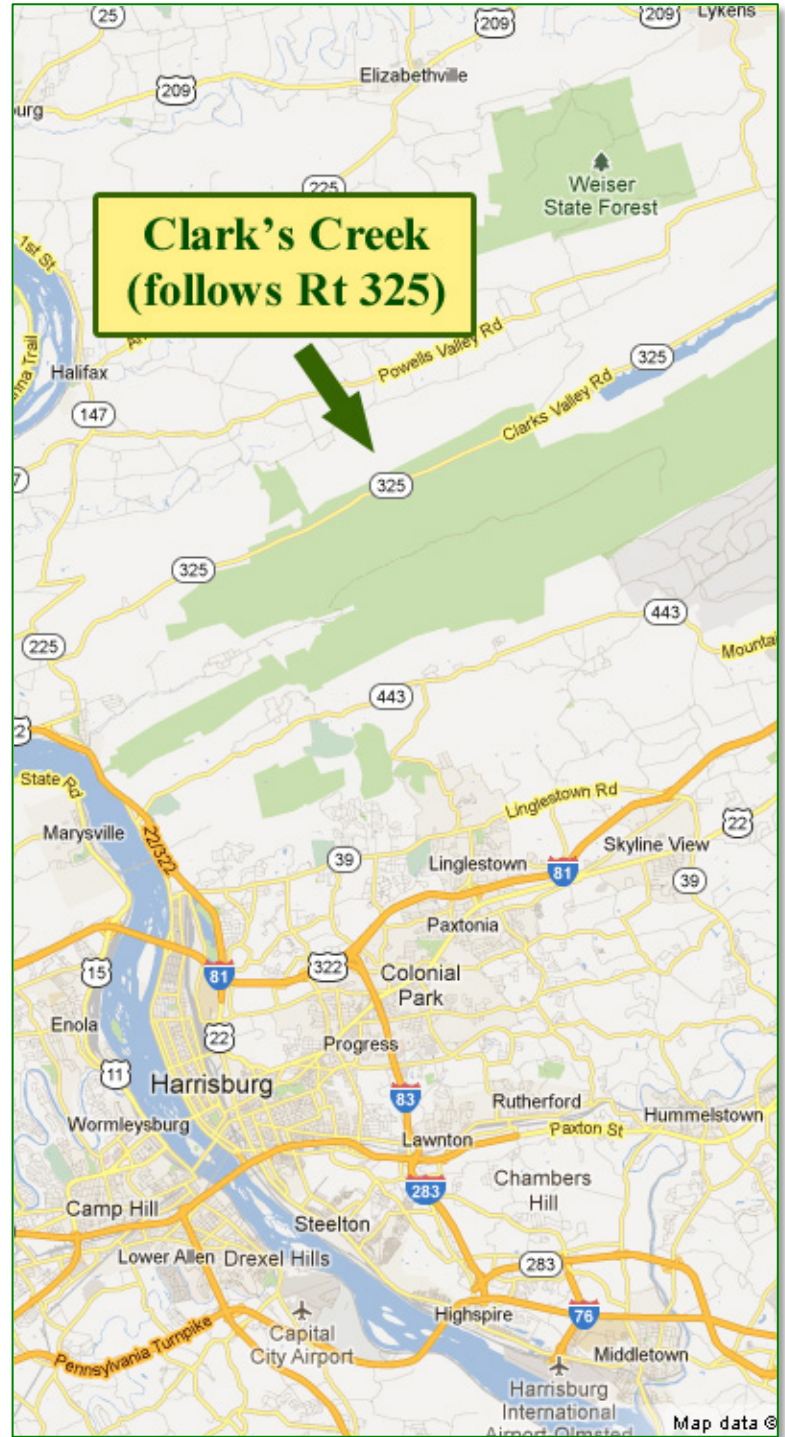


Never saw another fisherman on the Breeches from one end of sp reg area to the other. When I returned to the run lot there were 6 other cars. One guy fishing, two waiting and three hooking up. It was 4:30. They must know something I don't. There was a hatch of sorts at 4pm. Good time on two nice streams. Got to fish Clarks more! 🍀

- J. Kunsman



Partridge and Green



Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as a Microsoft Word attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication. 🍀

Editor: George Vincent
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Early Meeting Segments Begin at 7 PM - Marc Hutzell Tying Bench

Au Sable Iso Nymph

I learned about this fly last May while fishing with my high school friend on the East Canada Creek in Herkimer County, New York. We were fishing the Hendrickson's hatch and the fishing got off to a slow start. After a while my friend caught 9 fish in 2 hours. I walked down and found out he put on this fly called the Ausable Iso Nymph that he learned to tie in a fly tying class this past winter. The tying instructor is a long time local guide and one of his favorite streams is the AuSable River by Lake George, N.Y. The Isonychia hatch occurs on many rivers and streams in the spring and fall and while this fly is similar to many other Isonychia nymph patterns, the use of dental floss for the back strap could be what the fish are "keying in" on. I returned back upstream with my friend's iso and started catching fish. I think this fly could be used for the slate drakes and mahoganies. From now on, a few of these nymphs will be in my fly box along with pheasant tails, hare's ear and prince's. Never hurts to try something different, especially if the river is fished with the same old patterns. 🌿 - **Dick Friis**

Angler's Corner October Outing Big Run State Park – October 5th, 6th, & 7th



We are less than a month away from the October outing to western Maryland. This is my favorite outing of the year. The autumn color makes for a perfect back drop and hopefully we will have good flows on Garrett county waters. For those who have little or no experience fishing

Western Maryland this outing is a great trip to gain some insight on fishing these great streams.

Reservations have been made at Big Run State Park for October 5th, 6th, & 7th. I have booked

the Monroe Pavilion from Friday noon till Monday noon for group tent camping; the reservation allows us up to 25 people. All this for just \$180 split however many ways we have participants. The shelter has electricity, a fire place (everybody brings a bundle of locally bought wood), picnic tables, and a place to gather after the days fishing to cook, make coffee, tell lies, ooops...I mean swap stories, and if it rains we have a roof to get in under. Dry campsite, the park no longer has water, we must bring our own. No bathrooms, just an outhouse. We can shower at New Germany State Park. 🌿 - **Dennis Covert, Outings Coordinator**

For more outing information see
<http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml>

Directions from Baltimore: Take I70 West. At Hancock interstate I70 splits into I68 and I70. Bear left onto I68. Proceed on I68 through Cumberland, just before Grantsville turn South onto New Germany Road. Follow New Germany Road past New Germany State Park and proceed on to Big Run Road. Turn left on Big Run Road and proceed to Park entrance. Monroe Pavilion will be on the right just after one enters the campground. If you get to Savage River Road, turn around and go back about 1/2 mile and look through trees on left.

Big Run State Park can be also be accessed from the lower Savage driving up past the Savage Dam on Savage River Road.

Other area streams and rivers include the North Branch of the Potomac, The Yock, and the Casselman. The Casselman is usually too warm and is not fished on the fall outing.

Take into consideration when packing gear this is October in the mountains. We have had years when the temps were in the 80's during the day with warm and muggy nights. Other years, it barely gets into the 50's during the day and our wading boots froze overnight. Be prepared for anything.

Items Needed:

Tent, sleeping bag, lantern, food, water, and toiletries, basically everything needed to sustain

you for a weekend. We can use showers at New Germany State park.

On a scale of 1-5 in difficulty of wading I would give the savage a 3; the rocks can be very slick and hard walking on. The North Branch at least a 4, and 5 if flows are above 250 cfs. You need a wading staff! Fishing all day, especially on the North Branch can be exhausting, always be realistic in your wading abilities, do not overestimate them.

Breakfast and lunch is whatever you bring to cook or go get, there is a subway and McDonald's in nearby Westernport. We usually have deer chili Friday night, I bring the chili, and everyone else can bring a side. Last year we grilled sausages and had corn bread with it. Saturday is steak night. Bring your own steak and potato (pre-baked) and a side if you want, we will supply the charcoal. Sunday night we have no plan, just whatever you want to do. Even though we do a lot of walking and wading we usually don't lose any weight on this outing, actually, we might even gain a couple pounds.

Jay Shepard has put together a fly list and of course members wanting to fish with us who don't want to camp are also welcome. Accommodations should be readily available at area Inns and motels.

To sign up for a camping site; access the liability release form on the PPTU home page at PPTU.org each participant must pay an equal share even if there is more than one person to a tent. 🌻

Upcoming Events:

October Outing 5th, 6th & 7th PPTU outing Big Run Campout.

MAC Banquet October 13th - BWI Ramada 6pm - 10:00pm Prizes Raffles auction and awards program.

October 21st- Breaking Clays to Save the Bay at Izaak Walton League; Wildlife Achievement Chapter Damascus Maryland. \$25 fee, shoot two rounds of trap or skeet, bring your own gun and ammo. Free T shirt, proceeds to go to PPTU. 🌻

Mid-Atlantic Council Award and Conservation Banquet

Join us at the banquet for the Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited at the Ramada BWI on Saturday October 13th with open bar. Great live and silent auction prizes as well as bucket raffle items to enjoy. These will include unbelievable trips, art, and gear for an exciting beginning of your fall season. Tickets for the banquet as well as prizes will be available at our September 19th Chapter meeting or contact any of our board members if you cannot attend to get in on the fun.

<http://www.mac-tu.org/>