



February 2003

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Wednesday February 19, 2003

A Weekend Fishing Adventure

You may recognize the headline. It's the same one that announced the February 2002 meeting—but the adventures that will be described this year are, for the most part, at destinations that were not included in last year's program. So, if you want to learn of the fishing and other attractions at locations that are just a tank of gas away, and would normally involve an overnight stay, be sure to come to the February meeting.

Here are the destinations and the people who will tell you why you'll have a great time fishing in these areas:

Central PA; Centre & Huntington Counties; Little Juniata, Spruce Creek, Spring Creek - Jim Keil

North central PA; Clinton, Potter & Tioga Counties; Fishing Creek, Kettle Creek, Pine Creek, Penn's Creek - Rocco Rosamilio

Delaware River system; West Branch & Main Stem - Jim Greco

NE Ohio & NW PA; Steelhead tributaries of Lake Erie - Ken Bowyer

Virginia's Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley; trout and smallmouth waters - Fred Kallmeyer

Western MD; Potomac's North Branch, Savage River, upper Youghiogheny - Jay Sheppard

The names of two of the presenters may not be familiar to you:

Fred Kallmeyer was an active member of PPTU before he moved to Virginia several years ago. Fred is now active in the Rapidan Chapter of TU and leads expeditions of that chapter's members to the destinations he will tell us about.

Rocco Rosamilio is a TU member who lives in Lock Haven, PA. He operates a lodge and fishing guide service in the area he will describe. Rocco has do-

nated a super prize that will be raffled at our April fundraiser meeting. Here's your opportunity to learn about the streams you'll fish if you are the winner of this prize. And, you'll learn about the TU-sponsored restoration project on Kettle Creek.

The meeting will be casual and similar in format to the January fly tying demonstration. Each presenter will be seated at a table with his brochures, maps, photos and other informative material, and you will be able to move from table to table to discover what adventures are most interesting to you.

The format of the meeting will be the same: The meeting will begin with a short business session (announcements and such) followed by the raffle of fishing related goodies. The remainder of the evening will be your chance to learn of new places to fish when the weather warms up.

Sunday, February 8

Middleburg Fly Fishing Show

On Sunday, Feb. 8, the Rapidan Chapter of TU/FFF is sponsoring the Middleburg Fly Fishing Show in the Middleburg, VA, Community Hall on VA Rte 50.

Although small, it's a good show with quite a few of the northern Virginia fly tyers showing their skill and fly fishing related businesses displaying their wares. Give it a look and support a sister chapter of TU.

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. Pass Holy Cross Hospital and go across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

The Conservationist

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Paint Branch:	David Dunmire	301-989-0331
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Contributions in the form of articles, letters, fishing news, tying tips, book reviews, and even poetry about trout fishing should be sent to the Editor as plain MS-DOS (ASCII) text or Microsoft Word attachments to e-mail messages containing brief descriptions of the attachments. Attachments received without a description will be deleted without opening.

The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication

EDITOR: John Colburn

(Phone: 202-545-8776)

(theconservationist@juno.com)

President's Column

Our April chapter meeting has traditionally been the scene of our most concentrated fundraising effort. It provides the opportunity for chapter members to have fun winning nice prizes while simultaneously replenishing the chapter's treasury, thus enabling us to carry out the mission-based activities of the chapter.

During the past year those mission-based activities have increased, primarily in the form of youth education projects. During the coming year we plan on commencing some new conservation programs, all of which require new funds. So, we are commensurately increasing the variety and values of the prizes we are offering this year, as well as the breadth and depth of the base of folks who are the sources of funding.

Our recent and ongoing youth education activities include:

- (1) establishment of the Trout in the Classroom program in two elementary schools, a program that's been enthusiastically received by the students;
- (2) a series of fly fishing lessons for elementary school students; and
- (3) financial contributions to the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp on the Yellow Breeches, a nationally recognized TU conservation program involving teen-agers. (See the story on page 7.)

We hope to sustain and expand those activities in the coming months.

Your Board of Directors wants to expand the chapter's involvement in conservation activities. Specific projects are in the definition stage. All such projects have a common need—they require expenditures of money. Potential projects include some erosion mitigation work along the upper Patuxent, access ways for handicapped anglers to reach local trout streams, and support of other conservation programs conducted in cooperation with several other conservation organizations.

Details of our fundraising efforts associated with the April meeting will be announced during February. But here's a short preview of the most enticing prizes our contributors will be eligible to win. They include:

- (1) packages of overnight lodging and guided fishing on some of the best trout waters in the mid-Atlantic region;
- (2) a premium-quality pontoon boat that will en-

(Continued on page 3)

President's Column

(Continued from page 2)

able the winner of that prize to safely and comfortably access prime fishing spots on our larger rivers and on still waters;

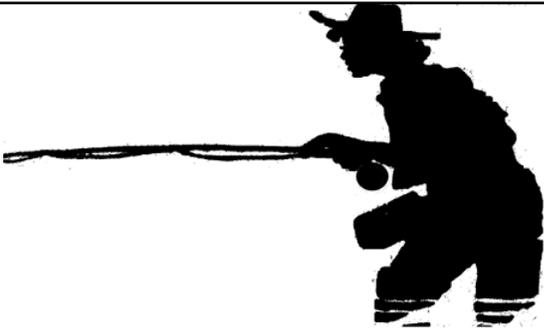
(3) guided trips for a day of trout fishing, including access to some private waters; and

(4) several premium-quality fly rods and packages of beginner-level fly fishing outfits.

To help assure the success of this expanded fundraising effort, we will be broaden our base of ticket-buyers by initiating new channels of distribution for ticket sales, and extending the ticket-sales period over two months.

Putting this new face on our April fundraiser is an exciting adventure. If you would like to help us in sculpting it, contact Bob Serrano, Fundraising Coordinator, (bserrano~prodigy.net), or you may contact me.

Dave Piske



Casting Classes Offered

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering two intermediate-advanced fly fishing casting courses.

The first is **Saturday, March 15**, the second **Saturday, March 22**. Your instructor is NVATU member, John Blair (John Blair's Anglers Academy).

You will learn advanced techniques to control your fly line, gain line speed and distance. You will learn the double haul, curve, reach, serpentine, roll, roll and pick-up and Belgium casts. You will also learn to cast from both sides of the body and compensate for changing wind conditions.

There is a special discount for Trout Unlimited members, only \$60 for a half day of instruction. The regular cost is \$75. One-third of your registration fee goes to NVATU for its conservation programs.

You must register in advance by calling John Blair at 703-425-6590. Space is limited.

Patuxent Report

Since we had virtually zero holdover on our local stocked streams following last summer's major drought, no need to check them out. They have recovered their natural good flows following the excellent rains late year and through early February. So even if they rivers look fine, you are unlikely to find many holdover trout on any of our streams until we stock.

We will be stocking trout in the next 3-6 weeks in the upper Patuxent Special Area, as well as the Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest section. If you have chest waders and can help on a week day, please get in touch with me (see page 2; E-Mail is best: jmsheppar@aol.com). There will also be a clip board at the monthly meeting on February 20.

At this time we are uncertain if there will be any brown trout for float stocking this spring, due to budget restrictions at DNR. If they do purchase some browns, we will float stock them away from the bridges to spread them out.

Float stocking is a great way to see a large section of the stream, since we walk 1½ to 2 miles up or down in various sections of these two rivers. Float stocking the trout reduces competition and means that there should be a few trout every few dozen yards to start the season.

We will also be helping DNR stock the Middle and Little Patuxent Areas that are tackle with a 2 per day limit. If you are already on my list of volunteers from past years, there is no need to let me know UNLESS you have changed your phone number or Email address in the past year.

Don't forget to carry your card with the 800-phone numbers for the DNR Police and the Park dispatchers. Most of the poaching I see on our streams occurs from early March until opening day of regular trout season (March 29). This is because the only open trout waters, for the most part, are our special areas and delayed harvest sections on the upper and Middle Patuxents. If you see anything call the DNR immediately with as much information as possible (license plates, descriptions of vehicle and occupants, etc.). In case you have lost the card, please get one ASAP at the next chapter meeting or at your local shop.

The 24-hour numbers are as follows: MD Parks & Forests lands: 1-800-825-PARK (7275) and for DNR Catch-a-Poacher Program: 1-800-635-6124.

Jay Sheppard

At the College Park Fly Fishing Show

Show Booth Report

Once again the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter has had another successful booth at the College Park Fly Fishing Show, Jan. 11 and 12.

The secret of the success was a fine group of members who talked about Maryland trout fishing, Trout Unlimited, and the PPTU activities. As a result of their enthusiasm and friendliness, they signed up 22 new members in TU and 2 new members in PPTU and renewed 4 memberships in TU and 19 in PPTU. They also sold 33 copies of the Charlie Gelso and Larry Coburn guide to Maryland trout streams. These are about normal numbers for this show in recent years.

The Saturday crew was, in no special order, Dave Wittman, Dave Piske, Robert Simpson, John Colburn, Bruce Eberle, Bob Serrano, Rick Patterson, Jim Greene, Jay Sheppard, and Jim and Pam Greco. The Sunday crew consisted of Lou Boezi, Dave Wittman, Jim Keil, John Colburn, Mike Lee, Judy Hendrickson, Cathy Nutter, and Bob Serrano.

I certainly want to thank everyone who helped at the booth! This was about the best help to turn out in many years. Good show!

If anyone has any suggestions on improving matters next year, please let us know.



Mike Lee pushing membership



(L to R) Bruce Eberle, The Unknown Fly Tyer, and Mike Lee

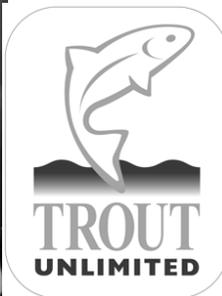


"That was a good hot dog!"
Jim Greco and Rick Patterson



Dave Wittman and Mike Lee

Jay Sheppard



Digital photos
by Lou Boezi



Jay Sheppard and Jim Greco

At the Fly Fishing Show Casting For Recovery

At the College Park Fly Fishing Show, just down the aisle a couple of booths from the PPTU booth was the booth of the Chesapeake Women Anglers (CWA), several of whom I knew from other shows in the last couple of years. I went over to renew my acquaintances and got to talking about one of their projects that I help to support with fishing fly pins for their fund raising activities. The major project is Casting For Recovery (CFR), a program of help and support for survivors of breast cancer based on the fact that fly casting helps restore muscles damaged in surgery.

The Chesapeake Women Anglers is a premier fly-fishing club serving the Chesapeake Bay and the D.C. Metropolitan area. The club is dedicated to promoting flyfishing for women through education, clinics and destination fishing trips. One of CWA's community out reach programs is conducting periodic Casting For Recovery retreats where women who are breast cancer survivors gather at a scenic location for a weekend for companionship, support, and a day of fly fishing. Some of the CWA members at the retreat are certified fly casting instructors who teach beginners the rudiments of casting and aid others in improving their casting.

From the conversations I had with the CWA members, I learned that the retreats are a very enjoyable experience for the attendees. The site is always scenic, the accommodations excellent, and the support very helpful in aiding recovery. Many close friendships are formed at the retreats. Even the fishing is great fun!

The club is in the process of making a slide presentation about the CFR program and retreats. Watch for it.

If you know a breast cancer survivor, tell her about CFR and have her contact CWA president Kiki Galvin, 703-893-7020, e-mail angla56@msn.com, or CWA senior advisor Carol Stevenson, 703-536-2726, e-mail casteven-son@mindspring.com for information about the Casting For Recovery Retreats.

And next time you pass the Chesapeake Women Anglers booth or any other CFR booth at a show, buy a couple of raffle tickets or ask about making a donation to their fund raising efforts. You can't find a better, more helpful program.

John Colburn

February 8 and 9, 10 AM-4 PM Bass Pro Fly Fishing Weekend

Lefty Kreh will be featured at the second annual fly fishing weekend at **OUTDOOR WORLD** at Arundel Mills, February 8 and 9, just off Rte 100 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Rte 295).

Lefty is a world renowned expert on fly casting, knots, and all other matters involving fly fishing. He has written untold numbers of books, articles in magazines, and outdoor columns in several newspapers over the past 60 years. The opportunity to see him give a casting demo is always worth your time. A casting pool will be set up inside this mammoth store.

There will be a number of local fly fishing gurus on hand to answer your questions on fish or saltwater fly fishing. A talk on "Getting Started" on fly fishing is offered several times each day.

Our chapter with the help from Seneca Valley TU will be manning an information and membership table, as well as giving fly tying demonstrations each day. Bring a friend and come visit the Bass Pro **OUTDOOR WORLD**.

For directions call 410-689-2500.

At the PPTU Library

I am happy to announce that our chapter has added to our video collection, and we now have over 125 videos. Our new additions include ten VHS tapes and two DVDs.

The new titles include: *Trout Fishing Essentials with Barry and Cathy Beck*, *The Complete Clouser Minnow with Bob Clouser*, *Gary Borger on Nymphing and Fishing the Midge*, *The Orvis Fly-Fishing School*, *Basic Nymph Fishing with Jim Teeny*, *Bass Pro Shop's Handcrafting Effective Flies for Trout, Bass, and Saltwater*; *Fly Fishing Basics* (DVD and VHS), and the *White River Fly Shop DVD on Knots*.

Please stop by my table and check these out. My goal is to have all the tapes in circulation and not in my video box.

Remember the library policy is that every tape checked out at the meeting *must* be returned at the next meeting. The check-out procedure is simple. Every chapter member (with a valid membership) may check out two tapes and two books. Tapes that have the bright ORANGE stickers are the newest tapes and we ask for a one (\$1) dollar donation (this goes towards future pur-

(Continued on page 6)

Tackle and Tactic Tips

For the next month or so, I suggest small black stoneflies, midges, and small nymphs and streamers on the tailwaters such as the Gunpowder, Big Hunting Creek, or the Savage. By the end of February, there should be some warming of more local waters. Slowly moving streamers tend to work well. We just need to keep the precipitation coming to ensure good flows all spring and summer.

I have had few questions sent to me in recent months, so if you have any please do not hesitate to send them to me. This is supposed to be an exchange of ideas, so if you have some suggestions, let me know. As you hopefully have noticed, fly fishing is as much art as it is science.

Bubbles are where the food items float and where the trout are looking. If you do not see much surface activity, you need to focus on the feeding lanes where anything further upstream (ants, beetles, etc.) is going to be funneled as they travel down the river.

Clear areas without bubbles are usually devoid of insects, unless there is an active hatch occurring. Those clear spots are often upwellings of water that cannot rise any higher once they reach the surface. The water then rushes sideways spilling outward. Bubbles often collect where two adjacent upwellings meet and anything on the surface becomes entrapped in the narrow area between the two clear patches. Trout watch these bubble patches very closely, just as your pet watches its food dish for something to eat, even if it is not time to be fed.

At the recent Fly Fishing Show in College Park, I was talking with a long time, good fishing buddy, Joe McMullen, a real expert on the Spruce Creek and all other waters of central PA. He was pointing out to another fellow who was asking about what flies to use that to catch trout one had to focus on several factors. Joe listed them in decreasing order of importance as follows: presentation, presentation, presentation, presentation, size, shape, and color.

One can have the perfect imitation of the tasty morsel the fish are eating at that moment, but if the presentation of that fly is off by just a tiny amount, the trout are likely to refuse it.

Action, if any, of the fly as it comes into view is really critical on most of our heavily fished trout streams. By the time the trout is 7 or 8 inches, it

has been subjected to a host of flies and fishers.

Trout are quick learners. If something got their attention, caused them to be jerked around and handled by some large ape-like creature and released back to the water with a sore jaw, they are going to hesitate to attack the same object acting in that manner the next time.

The next time you are watching a stream flow past your boots, watch closely how the little patches of bubbles move together down the feeding lanes. At first you may think all the bubbles are marching as single unit with each remaining in the same relative position to the others. In almost every case, each bubble is moving relative to its nearest neighbors. They may circle each other or one may slow for a moment and then speed up relative to another.

Your dry fly has to imitate not only the natural insect floating along, but also its motion relative to other objects on the surface. If your fly is being dragged just slightly faster in the wrong direction than the nearby bubbles, then you have provided a hint to the trout—this may be a fraud.

Next issue we will go back and revisit the curse of all fishers: micro drag.

Jay Sheppard

At the PPTU Library *(Continued from page 5)* chases). If you can't return your tape, book, or DVD, please make every attempt to get it to me. I can often arrange a pickup if you contact me the week before the membership meeting.

A special thanks to both the Bass Pro White River Fly Shop and the Angler's Lie Fly Shop for providing the videos at a discount. Remember to thank them the next time you are in their shops.

Jack Dawson
Librarian

Address Changed? Missing an Issue?

If you have moved or see any error in your label on this newsletter, please advise both the TU national office and this chapter with separate notices. We maintain our mailing list apart from the national list; we do eventually get the notice of address change from national TU, but it is often a few months before it affects your newsletter and other mailings. Please help us help you. Thank you.

This past year we had several reports of members not receiving their newsletters. Make sure we have your correct address, including 9-digit ZIP, and that you have paid your dues. If you are missing a back issue, please contact us for a copy

Scholarship Offered

Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

The ninth annual session of the nationally acclaimed Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp will take place June 15-20, 2003. The camp will be at the Allenberry Resort on the Yellow Breeches at Boiling Springs, PA. PPTU will again offer a scholarship that pays the \$275 tuition for a youth from our area who is accepted into the camp.

The camp is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and is hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter. In 2001, Trout Unlimited honored the camp as national Coldwater Volunteer Conservationist of the Year.

Applications for the camp must be received by the camp selection committee by March 15, 2003. The camp is co-educational, and students at the 2003 camp must have been born between June 20, 1985 and June 15, 1989.

Each applicant must submit an essay telling why she or he wants to attend camp. The essays carry most of the weight in deciding who attends the camp. Applicants are also required to provide, as a reference, the name of a Student Counselor or Science Teacher. The camp's selection committee rigorously screens applications in a competitive selection process and only 32 of the applicants will be accepted.

Application forms can be obtained from Mike Klimkos at telephone 717-243-3056, e-mail: klimkos@epix.net; or from Dick Darr at telephone 717-249-5089. They are members of the Cumberland Valley TU.

To be eligible for the PPTU scholarship, applicants must send a copy of their application to Dave Piske at PPTU, P. O. Box 2865, Wheaton, MD. 20915.

Decisions on acceptance into the camp will be made by the camp's selection committee. Decisions on awards of a PPTU scholarship will be made by PPTU's Board of Directors after applicants are notified of their acceptance into the camp.

The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation. This is accomplished through a mix of classroom sessions addressing environmental issues and on-stream fly fishing and stream conservation lessons.

The coursework provides students with a background in fundamental science, and they learn how it applies to daily life. Classes include ecology, hydrology, geology, aquatic biology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biologic effects of pollution and acid deposition, the politics of conservation and the effects of humans on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

The faculty consists of leaders in their respective fields, and all have an interest in conservation. One member of the faculty is Dr. Robert Behnke, recently retired from Colorado State University. Dr. Behnke is considered the foremost trout biologist in the world. Leading experts in the fly fishing community, including Ed Shenk, Dr. James Gilford, Ken Reinard, Dave Rothrock and Tim Trexler, bring their talents to provide a faculty that is well-rounded.

The overall objective is that each of the 32 students completes the camp with a lifelong understanding of the importance of clean water and how it relates to everyday living.

Dave Piske

[*Editor's Note:* Dr. Robert Behnke recently published an outstanding reference book, *Trout and Salmon of North America* (2002, The Free Press, NY, NY). It may be ordered through any fly fishing tackle shop and may be available at the larger chain bookstores.

In the Jan.-Feb. 2003 issue of *Fly Rod & Reel*, Dr. Behnke was named "Angler of the Year." Two excellent articles about Dr. Behnke appear in that issue.]

Renew TU Membership Thru Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

National TU will accept renewals of memberships sent through the chapter. In return, the chapter receives a rebate of \$5 for each renewal processed.

We hope every member will bring their membership renewal notices to the chapter meetings. The chapter will take it from there. We will accept cash, check (payable to *Trout Unlimited*), or credit card for these renewals.

If you forget your renewal notice, we only need to have your membership card so we can obtain your member number.

Help support the chapter and bring your next renewal notice to the monthly meeting.

Inside *The Conservationist*

Get-away Weekends	1
Chapter Activities in 2003	2
Fly Casting Classes	3
Patuxent Report	3
Fly Fishing Show Report	4
Casting For Recovery	5
Bass Pro Shop Weekend	5
New Videos and DVDs	5
Tackle and Tactics	6
Youth Camp Scholarship	7

Membership

THE POTOMAC-PATUXENT CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited has two membership categories: **Regular or Family** (\$15/year assessment) or **Student** (free). The Chapter operates on a September-to-September basis. The assessment is totally separate from Trout Unlimited dues. Send correspondence, change of address, or assessment payable to POTOMAC-PATUXENT TROUT UNLIMITED, PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915.

Chapter and national TU expiration dates are indicated in the mailing label as PP-0903 or NTU-0903.

First time visitors receive two free issues of this publication.

The Last Word

Other Chapters Activities

While the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of TU has a pretty full schedule of activities throughout the year, it's impossible for the board to make plans that fit every member's calendar and desires. For those who would like to participate in different or more events than PPTU offers, there are two other TU chapters and a smallmouth bass club in the immediate Washington area that welcome visitors:

National Capitol Chapter of TU (www.tu-ncc.org)

Northern Virginia Chapter of TU/FFF (www.nva-tu.org)

Potomac River Smallmouth Club (www.prsc.org)

The National Capitol Chapter has a great one-day fly fishing show on Saturday, Mar. 8, and the Northern VA Chapter will hold its annual banquet during the evening of the same day (See their web sites for details.)

Another not-too distant club, the Rapidan Chapter of TU/FFF, is sponsoring the Middleburg Fly Fishing Show on Sunday, February 9, in the Middleburg Community Center on VA Rte 50 West in Middleburg.

John Colburn



Return Address:

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU
P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD 20915

Plan a weekend adventure
Wednesday, February 19

FIRST CLASS MAIL