

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

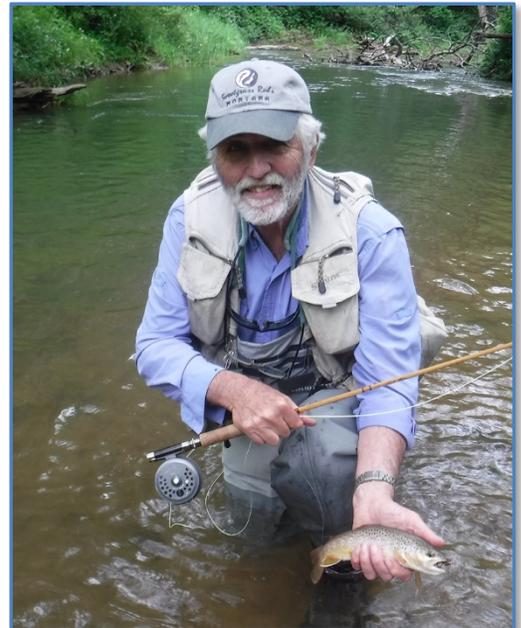
Feb 2019 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“In the Footsteps of Joe Brooks: A Fly Fishing Perspective” Presented by Jerry Kustich *Feb 20th, 2019*

In the mid-70s a book by legendary Joe Brooks inspired a life-long fly-fishing journey that started in Idaho. Along the way, Jerry Kustich learned many lessons about rivers, the environment, bamboo rods, and life itself. From steelheading the West Coast and the Great Lakes, trout fishing Montana, striper fishing the East, or many other stops in between, the program details in slides a wonderful journey that is well worth sharing.

About Jerry:

After working 22 years for R.L. Winston Rods, Jerry Kustich left the company back in 2006 to start Sweetgrass Rods (<http://www.sweetgrassrods.com/>) with his longtime friend, mentor, and bamboo rod master Glenn Brackett. Jerry is a craftsman, writer, conservationist, and a dedicated angler. He has authored four books of fly fishing stories. His latest is entitled *Holy Water*. He also co-authored *Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead* with his brother Rick, which has become a classic. His articles have appeared in several publications, and throughout his semi-retirement years he plans on continuing to live the fly-fishing way of life.



– *Karan Singh*

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, MD 20901
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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2018 – 2019

President: Alan Burrows: president@pptu.org
Past-President: Bob O'Donnell
Vice-President: Randy Dwyer
Treasurer: Bob Kaiser
Secretary: Patrick Masler
Directors: Lee Canby
George Opryszko
Karan Singh
Motti Tadmor
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Forum Moderator: Chuq Yang
Librarian: Lou Reichel
Mentor Program: Ken Bowyer
Membership Secretary: Jay Sheppard
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Speakers Program: Karan Singh
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Project Healing Waters: Larry Vawter
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Trout in the Classroom: Alan Burrows:
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Water Quality: Vacant
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Stream Committees:

Paint Branch: Joe Robinson
Northwest Branch: Joe Robinson
Middle Patuxent: Bryan Sirotkin
Patuxent: Jay Sheppard

Mid Atlantic Council Delegates:

Alan Burrows
Bob Dietz: Secretary
Jim Greene
Marc Hutzell
Lou Reichel
Nick Weber

Contact Us:

mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows



“A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.” ~ Buddha

No, I am not a practicing Buddhist, but I think these are wise words to live by, and PPTU seems to be blessed with people who practice this adage. In just the last month, we have had several members give their time to show us their favorite flies, the materials used and how to tie them. They had to schlep their equipment to the meeting, be prepared with a recipe, they had to be first to arrive and last to leave. They put on a great show!

One of our members elected to retire from fly tying and he generously donated his fly tying materials to our chapter. So far this has resulted in over a \$400 bonus to us – and more to come from future sales. We will use these proceeds to support our programs that help others learn about trout and their environment, and there is lots of material left to sell or donate.



We have had yet another member provided us with a significant contribution which, in part, will be matched by his/her employer. Others contributed significant amounts as gifts to PPTU – above and beyond the Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC). Every little bit helps us accomplish our goals.

And generosity and service not limited to financial contributions.

This month several of us will donate our Sunday to teach fly tying to people who frequent the Aquatic Resources Education Center, which is located in Anacostia Park, D.C. We always need more folks for these types of events.

Later this month and next a different set of us will be giving up a day or more to begin float stocking our rivers and streams. There are never enough volunteers to get this done, yet it is a fun way to see

the river and its changes over time. See if you can find the time for this (I know, it may mean time off for some of you. Others may be able to access an employer benefit for volunteered time to non-profit entities, which PPTU is.) Stay tuned for calls for volunteers as DNR finalizes stocking dates. Sorry, DNR only stocks on weekdays.

On March 30th several of us will travel to Quantico, VA to tie flies to support Project Healing Waters at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Several people have already contributed flies for this and we will keep collecting them at our meetings in February and March. Bring your donated flies to our meeting, in a labeled sandwich baggie. We will get the flies to the right people at PHW.

Not only has Bob Dietz led a wet fly tying class, but he has volunteered to once again teach a beginning fly tying class this winter/spring. He may need some help assisting students. Email me if you are interested in the class: President@PPTU.org.

If you have an interest in renewing your humanity through generosity and service, there are lots of ways to become involved. We will need people to man a table February 16-17 at Bass Pro Shop during their big fishing weekend. We will be tying flies; talking up clean, cold water; and recruiting new members. It's a fun time, usually a 4 hour shift, and lots of neat stuff is on sale and demonstrations ongoing during the Bass Pro Spring Fishing Event.

We will need volunteers to help with a Fly Fishing 101 class put on by us and the Chesapeake Women's Anglers (CWA) March 24th at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. We teach knots and casting, and take the group onto the on-site lake for some fishing.

There are volunteer opportunities on April 6th to join the Izaak Walton League in cleaning up the roadways along the Patuxent watershed. This is a great way to get out and help and you wouldn't believe what people throw out the window of their cars (much of which ends up in the stream).

Late April and May have almost unlimited opportunities to help when Trout in the Classroom students have their field day to release their fish. We demonstrate fly tying, provide casting instruction and experiences, and run an invertebrate identification class. The kids (and teachers and staff

and parents) love it! It's a great way to pass along our skills to the next generation, and a fun time, too.

Show us your generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion by volunteering to help us with our outreach activities.

See our website at PPTU.org, particularly the calendar and articles for special events. Or contact me at President@PPTU.org.

Until next month, tight lines!

Alan Burrows
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 (ASC)** will be asked to contribute \$20.



Contact Ken at 301-627-7154 or by E-mail: kenbowyer@verizon.net 🌻

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Exactly one year ago I wrote: "We need rain!!! Streams are way below normal flows for this time of the year." I now want to apologize for all the rain we got last year. Clearly my plea a year ago was heard! Unfortunately! Streams are running about three times normal right now!

Remember, there are no trout in the Patuxent below Brighton Dam, and none will be stocked there this spring and likely not next. We plan to stock the Special Area on the upper Patuxent above Rt 97 this month and next. If you are not on my current stocking list (I sent out an email the end of January to my list), then send me an email to get onto the mailing list: jaymsheppard95@gmail.com.

We only stock Tuesdays through Fridays. Chest waders are required to pull the boxes, but others can help haul the buckets from the truck down to stream side. We pull the boxes down the streams for more than a mile—a few sections are up to 3 miles. I hope to know the DNR stocking dates for our local waters before Valentine's Day. Float stocking is not only great fun, but one gets to learn where the holes and pockets are for when they return to the streams that we float stock: Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest and upper Patuxent River special area.



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!

Fly Tying Extravaganza Winner! **- PPTU**

Our annual fly tying meeting for January was quite a success with a great group of tyers demonstrating numerous flies. The donated fly tying materials table was a big hit! Lots of great stuff there for the taking. We will continue to put items out for you to peruse through and find a gem or two for cheap. So if you missed the January meeting you'll still have plenty of chances to rummage through the cache of fly tying materials we have on hand.



Congratulations to our own Jim Crowell who walked away with a great box of flies tied by PHW's Ray Collette. Proceeds from that raffle went directly to Project Healing Waters. Many thanks to all that purchased tickets. Jim has a beautiful selection of flies to add to his vest this year.

"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary."

~ Patrick McManus

Tackle & Tactics 101 - Preparation **- Bob O'Donnell**

How many times have you been on the stream and you're ready to change flies or re-do your rig and you spend the next 15 minutes looking for the right fly or piece of equipment you swear was in the first two to three pockets of your vest that you just went

through? That time wasted searching could be time spent fishing – and catching!

With winter in full bloom, most folks will put the fishing gear aside and find something else to do until fair weather returns. Now is a great time to unload your gear, sort and re-organize everything you carry.

Some of those flies you were carrying around may have stayed wet and rusted out a bit. Don't think twice about tossing them out. They're not worth losing a fish over. Take all your boxes and sort through them. Reorganize them in a manner that works for you. I have all my dry flies on one side of my vest and all my nymphs and streamers on the other side. Special flies, like scuds and eggs are in their own pockets.

Maybe consider downsizing a bit. Do you actually need to carry 1,000 flies down to the stream? It may make sense for you to have preloaded boxes set for the particular streams you most often fish or sorted by the time of year. There's not much sense carrying that box of Sulphur dry flies with you in the middle of January. Leave them at home, or in the car. The last two times I went out I left almost all my boxes in a gear bag in the back of my car and only took what I thought was needed. If I missed something it was a short walk back to the car.



Spend a little time cleaning your gear as well. You can easily sit in front of TV while cleaning a fly line or wiping down your rods. Inspect the guides and reel seat to make sure nothing is loose. A soft cloth and/or toothbrush will help get dirt and debris off your gear. Inspect your line and reel as well. One or the other may need replaced. The winter down time is perfect for allowing you time to prepare for the next fishing adventure. Preparation can be the key to your success and enjoyment on stream.

Tight lines!

PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2nd Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier. Show up early and try out the food! Tying Time: 7-9pm.

Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits and Bistro
11011 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705



<http://www.oldlinewine.com/>

Shad Night with Mark Binsted – February 27th - NCC TU

On February 27th, our friends at NCC are presenting another fun evening devoted to a favorite local springtime fishery, the Potomac River shad run. Come early to socialize and stay for the featured presentation to learn more about the run and how to catch shad.

This is a fun presentation. Don't miss NCC's most popular meeting of the year!

Place: Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Regional Services Center

Date: February 27
Time: 6:30 pm

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



Shop Amazon Smile!

- PPTU

Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! Add the *Potomac-Patuxent Chapter* as your charity of choice to your Amazon account. If your company purchases through Amazon, ask them to help support us as well. Its free money in support of the chapter.



Winter Fishing Action

- PPTU

Enjoy some recent fishing action on Beaver Creek courtesy of Sean Beck. Stills and video of some recent catches on our local spring creek.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SY0sM5TpG5Kdmgy2_hnNQ_NWbj18HKZf?usp=sharing

What is a TU Council and What Does It Do?

- Alan Burrows

TU chapters in a region are organized into a Council. Most are organized by state boundaries; however some Councils are made up of more than one state (for example the Mid-Atlantic Council which serves Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C.) In most cases, the council serves as an umbrella organization for its chapters, state-wide. Councils are the key link between the TU staff (paid TU employees) and local chapters. Councils are often a conduit between individual chapters and state agencies.

There are officers and committee heads on the Council similar to the way our chapter is organized. In addition the president of each chapter is a member

of the Council and each chapter gets one additional representative for each 50 members of the chapter. If you happen to have an interest in representing PPTU at the Council level please contact me at president@pptu.org. We can have up to 8 representatives so there is room for everyone.

The Mid-Atlantic Council has a business meeting quarterly. There are typically several ongoing conservation programs being worked on where interaction with one or more state agencies is required.

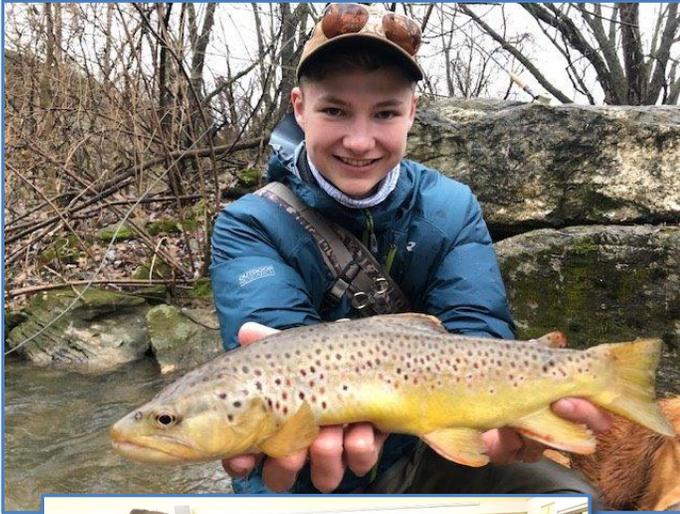
At the most recent meeting in January, here are some of the things being worked on:

- Morgan Run is in need of restoration and the handicap access does not meet current standards and needs to be rebuilt. The cost of this project is estimated at over \$200,000 and the Council is looking for grant money to fund this project.
- A Cold Water Advisory Committee has been established with representatives from MDE, MD DNR and TU to provide protection to waterways where current regulations do not provide any protection. These are typically streams that have been missed by the tri-annual stream review done by MDE.
- TU's Home Waters Initiative has been expanded to Western Maryland. Thanks to funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Department a position will be funded to manage projects in Western Maryland. Currently those projects include'
 - Reconstruction of a road crossing at Wolf's Den Run, a native brook trout stream.
 - A demonstration stream restoration project on a trout stream that runs through Frostburg State University's campus.
 - A tree planting project to protect streams has been proposed and TU is currently looking for funding.

The Council was asked to become involved in trying to keep a developer from damaging Dipping Pond Run (Baltimore County) by asking MDE to enforce the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the council was invited to sit on a committee to review power generation practices at the dam that creates Deep Creek Lake. As you can see, the council stays busy. If you have input, concerns or wish to volunteer just send me an email.

Members Catch - PPTU

More winter fishing action. Yes, the trout have to eat and during this time of year you can also have an entire stream to yourself. Better yet – take a TU buddy along with you!



There is still a ton of fly tying materials available from our recent meeting.

We'll keep putting it out while it lasts.

Good stuff cheap!



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: Bob O'Donnell

Phone: 410-733-0638

Email: TroutWrangler@Yahoo.com



Zebra Midge

If you're fishing in the winter you should definitely have a few of these in your box. You can vary the color of the thread and bead to get a wide range of colors. The Zebra Midge is usually a thread body of Black, Red, Olive, Brown, and Gray color with a fine silver wire ribbing. It can have a beadhead of Nickel, Copper, Gold, Black, or a Glass Bead.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFAIXG_78Z4



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