

The Conservationist



PPTU.org

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Feb 2024 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

“Climate Change Impacts and Threats to Cold Water Fisheries”

Guest Speaker: Jim Irons

February 21st, 2024

Our February chapter meeting will feature a presentation on, and discussion of, climate change impacts and threats to cold water fisheries – impacts we all are observing and experiencing in real time on the water.

PPTU’s Climate Coordinator Jim Irons will lead the discussion. We will start with a recorded 2021 video presentation by TU Senior Scientist Helen Neville titled “Climate Change and Trout: Impacts, Opinions, and Ways You Can Help.” Jim will then provide us with additional data and information, followed by a discussion on how the chapter might contribute to addressing climate change.

James R. (Jim) Irons is Emeritus at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, since retiring in 2021 as Director of the Earth Sciences Division. As Director he managed a staff of 1400, all dedicated to studying the Earth as an integrated system that includes the atmosphere, oceans, biosphere, cryosphere, and geosphere. Jim was also the NASA Landsat 8 Project Scientist with Landsat 8 launching on February 11, 2013. Prior to 2007, Jim worked 28 years as a physical scientist in the Biospheric Sciences Branch where he served as the Landsat 7 Deputy Project Scientist. Between 2007 and 2018 he served as Associate Deputy Director for Atmospheres, Deputy Director for Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences, and Deputy Director of the Earth Sciences Division. Jim has a B.Sc. in environmental resources management (1976) and M.Sc. in agronomy (1979) from Penn State, and Ph.D. in agronomy (1993) from the University of Maryland College Park. Jim also serves as Climate Coordinator for the TU Mid-Atlantic Council (MAC). He has been a member of PPTU since 2022.



Please join us as we dive into this critically important topic.– *Scott Cernich*

February 21st Hybrid Chapter Meeting

Mid County Community Center

2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906

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

Virtual Chapter Meeting Link:

[Join Us Virtually!](#)

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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mail@pptu.org

Presidents' Column - Joe Taylor



Oh boy.....we have had some cold days recently. But on a positive note, hopefully all of the snow (and rain) will recharge the ground water, fill the reservoirs and contribute to more consistent flows on some of our local streams. And it was nice to get some skiing in for a few days; its been too long! I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the winter fishing/boating shows. My favorite is The Fly Fishing Show in NJ and PA but there are plenty around so check them out and bring your checkbook!



I'm excited to say we will be holding another fly tying class this year so keep a lookout on our Listserv or PPTU.org and our Facebook page. I can say with confidence, you will have a good time and learn a thing or two from some of PPTU's best tiers. Even if you are a seasoned tyer, you might consider joining



the class, you might pick up a few new techniques. This is just one of the many ways to enjoy our amazing club! Speaking of tying flies, I also wanted to thank the members who generously gave their time and talents and demonstrated how to tie a couple cool patterns during our annual fly tying extravaganza which was held in January. Outstanding job and much appreciated!

Anyone thinking about traveling south to get out of the cold? Maybe Bone fishing in the Bahamas or Florida Keys? Heading to Cuba for Tarpon? Taking a trip to Baja for Rooster fish? It's been on my mind for sure. Not that I'm promoting saltwater fly fishing (but I guess I am), but it's something to consider especially when it's been so cold. There is something special about sight fishing on the flats. It's like casting a dry fly to rising fish...it's exciting and visually so appealing. Maybe an Outing is in store? In the meantime enjoy getting on the water wherever you happen to be...on a mountain stream, a local lake or the flats surrounding Islamorada!

Enjoy and stay warm!

Joe Taylor
President, PPTU



PPTU Mentor Program Beginners & Beyond

PPTU 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. all on 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 us by e-mail: mentor@pptu.org



Fly Fishing Shows - PPTU

The show season in our area kicked off in January with the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival. Randy Dwyer and Bob O'Donnell attended representing the MD Fly Fishing Trail which garnered lots of interests from the attendees.

The list for February's shows are below with a wide variety of events from California to Massachusetts, and from Texas to St. Paul.

So find the show nearest you (or the big one you're willing to travel to) and mark your calendar. Spending two or three days checking out new products, fondling tying materials, or watching one of your heroes on the casting pond is a great way to beat the winter blues.

February

2-4 The Fly-Fishing Show—Atlanta, GA

3 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show—
Loveland, OH

3 Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Expo—
South Windsor, CT

16-18, 21-25 Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel
Show—Indianapolis, IN

17 Fort Wayne Fly Show—Fort Wayne, IN

16-18 Troutfest Texas—New Braunfels, TX

17-18 The Fly-Fishing Show—Bellevue, WA

23-25 The Fly-Fishing Show—Pleasanton, CA

24-25 Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival—
Plano, TX

FREE Trout Unlimited Membership! **- PPTU**

If you have ever wanted to join Trout Unlimited, let PPTU cover your first year's membership! FREE! No cost except your time to send an email to membership.pptu@gmail.com. You will become an active TU member almost in the blink of an eye. The only requirement is that you have never been a member of TU. Join now!

Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day **- Maryland DNR**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering the state's first-ever **Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day** for children under 16 years of age on March 23, one week before opening day for all trout anglers.

"Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young people to the sport and our state's natural beauty," said John Mullican, Maryland DNR's director of freshwater fisheries and hatcheries. "We hope children across the state will take advantage of this day reserved just for them to enjoy stocked waterways that are typically still closed."



PPTU Social Outing **- Craig VanderKolk**

The chapter is getting ready for its next social outing and we hope many of you can come join us!

Once again we will be visiting one of Maryland's brewing companies, [Jailbreak Brewing Company](#) in Laurel, MD. This is a great time to come meet other members in a relaxed setting and enjoy the comradery of your fellow members. See you on Thursday evening, February 1st from 6-8:30PM.

Jailbreak Brewing Company
9445 Washington, Blvd
Laurel, MD 20723

"One thing becomes clearer as one gets older and one's fishing experience increases, and that is the paramount importance of one's fishing companions."

~ John Ashley-Cooper



5 Ways to Keep Warm During Winter Fishing **- Patrick Blackdale**

Winter fishing can be some of the most tranquil and rewarding angling of the year. To fully enjoy the experience, prepare to stay warm and dry under various conditions. In order to maximize your comfort, it's crucial to understand the five ways the human body loses heat, and how to combat each one.

1. Avoid Touching Cold Objects (Conduction)

Conduction occurs when you come into direct contact with cold objects. This usually happens when you're sitting on a cold rock or on a snowy bank to re-rig. Practice rigging while standing instead, in order to avoid losing precious body heat via conduction. Or, if you have the option, it's helpful to pre-rig several rods in the comfort of your home or garage before you arrive streamside, so that you can simply swap them out rather than having to re-tie. If you have to set equipment down in the snow, shake any snow or ice loose before casting again, so your skin is not directly touching snow or ice. Every little bit helps. A pair of latex or nitrile gloves underneath a warmer pair of fingerless mitts can also aid with this issue.

2. Shield Yourself from Wind and Current (Convection)

Convection refers to the loss of body heat by air or water moving against the skin, usually in the form of wind and currents. To protect yourself from wind, wear a shell-style jacket as the exterior layer; and to ward off heat-stealing river currents, wear good waders. Proper insulation underneath waders and wading boots is also important. A good layering system for the lower body would start with a thin base-layer pant made of synthetic or wool material against the skin. Over the base layer you can wear fleece, synthetic, or down pants. Same goes for your feet: wear a thin “wicking” sock against your skin, and then put a thicker wool or synthetic sock over it. Be sure to not over-tighten your wading boot laces, as this can restrict blood flow and make your feet colder. Even better, wear bootfoot waders, which allow air to circulate around your feet.



3. Cover Your Head (Radiation)

Radiation heat loss happens mostly when warmth escapes through gaps near your head and neck, similar to a wood stove. A good winter hat is imperative to combat radiation. I like to wear a baseball cap underneath a thick beanie, so the hat bill helps to maintain some glare protection, and I can remove the beanie if I begin to overheat. If you are still losing too much heat even with your beanie on, pull up the hood of your jacket to further retain heat being lost through the head. A neck gaiter is also very handy for avoiding radiation loss through the neck and face.



4. Don't Overheat (Evaporation) Sweat evaporation cools the body, a factor which is often overlooked by cold-weather anglers. If you're

planning on hiking into your fishing area, you must first remove layers to avoid building up excess sweat. A handy saying I like to remember before hiking is, “Don't be silly, start out chilly.” The problem with getting sweaty in the winter is that once you start fishing and your core temperature drops, that sweat will continue cooling you off, which can make you very cold very quickly, and could even lead to hypothermia. Staying dry is key, which is why a wicking base layer is so important, since this layer wicks the sweat away from your skin and helps keep you dry. It's a good idea to have a small daypack where you can store excess layers when you don't need them. Also, many outer layers are made with vent zippers which can be unzipped when you start to get overheated—use them! We all think about staying warm enough while fishing during the winter, but it is equally important not to let your body get too warm because sweat is your enemy when it's cold out.

5. Breathe Through Your Nose (Respiration)

Exhaling warm air results in heat loss, a process known as respiration. The best way to combat losing heat via respiration is to breathe through your nose instead of your mouth. Your body's nasal passages will retain exhaled heat better, as well as warming up inhaled air more efficiently. Staying hydrated will also help keep your body functioning at its peak since water has such high heat capacity, whereas a dehydrated angler will often struggle to stay warm. A neck gaiter over the face can prevent some heat loss, but be careful not to allow your gaiter to become damp, which will then steal heat via convection.

On the whole, remember to dress in layers starting with a thin wicking layer on the skin of your core, moving outward to a mid-layer, like a fleece, and then a down puffy jacket underneath an exterior windbreaker or shell. Keep your body dry, the fish wet, and enjoy all that this winter season has to offer on the water!

Mailed a Newsletter Copy? - PPTU Membership

If you receive this issue through the US Post Office, we request your email address, so we can save the mailing cost for our conservation and education expenses. To receive the Conservationist electronically, please send an email with your name to: membership.pptu@gmail.com.

If you spot poaching please call or text:

Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers
At
443-433-4112



Add this number to your cell phone contact list!



Fly Tying Skill – Hand Whip Finish - Sean Beck

Our fly tying meeting kicked off with one of the tiers forgetting their whip finish tool. Sean Beck conveniently posted this note - This seems like a good time for tiers to learn a new skill! The procedure for doing a whip finish by hand is documented clearly in this Tim Flagler video. With a little practice, you should get it down easily.

[Hand Whip Finish](#)



Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) - Jay Sheppard

As the New Year is in full swing, now is a good time to consider making your **Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC)** to PPTU. As a Chapter we are not allowed to require chapter dues or fees for membership. Along with other fund raising events, we therefore ask for a \$20 ASC each year, to sustain the chapter's administration costs, educational programs, and other community service projects including:

- Trout in the Classroom program that teaches primary & middle schoolers the importance of cold water fisheries to our environment.

- Support to TU fly fishing & conservation camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania, sponsoring attendance by high school students.
- Support of the Project Healing Waters program at Ft. Meade and Walter Reed that provides recreational activities to wounded warriors.
- Support the Mayfly Project for foster kids by being taught to fish and use fly rods.
- Free copies of the Conservationist for local fly shops, State agencies and other conservation organizations.
- Conservation projects that restore trout habitats in rivers & streams across Maryland.



You can make your ASC donation in several ways:

- At the next chapter meeting on Feb 21st or by cash or check.
- Go to pptu.org and use our Donate portal: [Donate to PPTU](#)
- Mail a check payable to PPTU and send to our PO Box (see last page).

Clouser's Fly Tying Classes – On Line - Clouser's Fly Shop

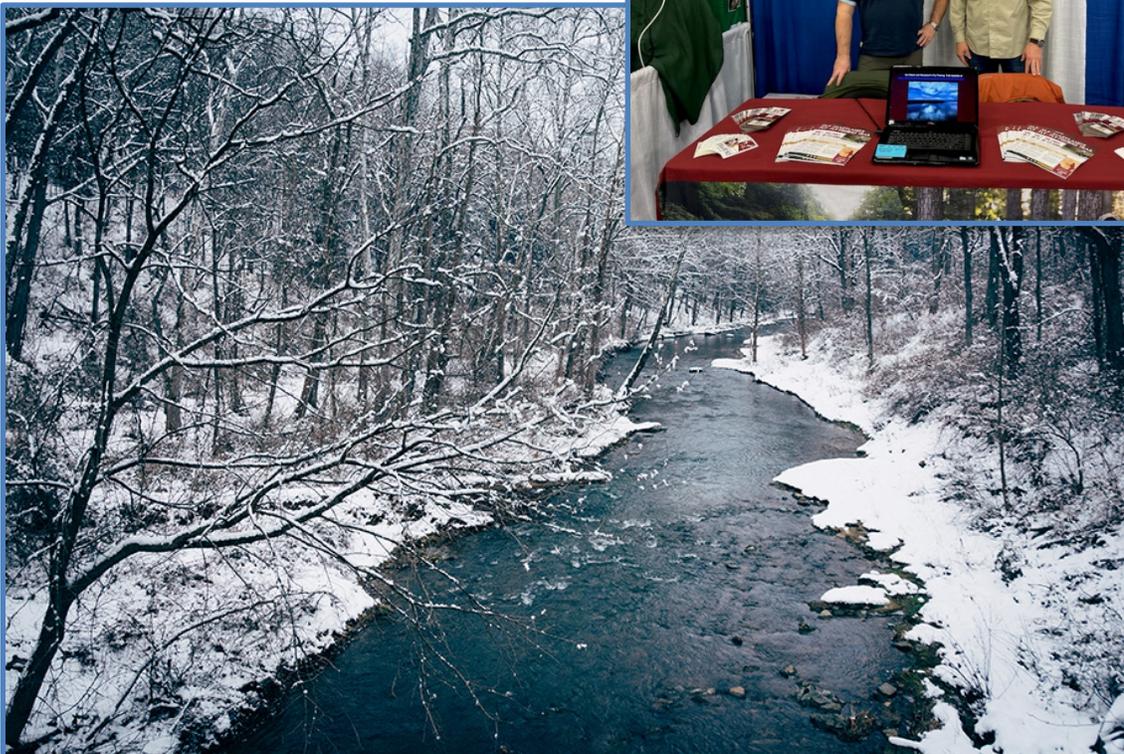
Once again Clouser's Fly Shop is offering on line classes to teach you personally how to tie some of Clouser's flies. The class schedule is posted on their web site where you can sign up. All materials to tie the selected patterns for each class are included in the costs. You can check out the upcoming fly tying classes at the link below and look into tying: Clouser's Predator, the Crosscut Minnow and Crustacean Pattern.

From the [Fly Tying Class](#) link page, select Event Details to sign up for the selected class.



Members Catch - Bob O'Donnell

Where are all the fish??? A brand New Year and I'm not seeing anyone out on the water. If you think its too cold, check out the article on Winter Fishing and staying warm on page 4.



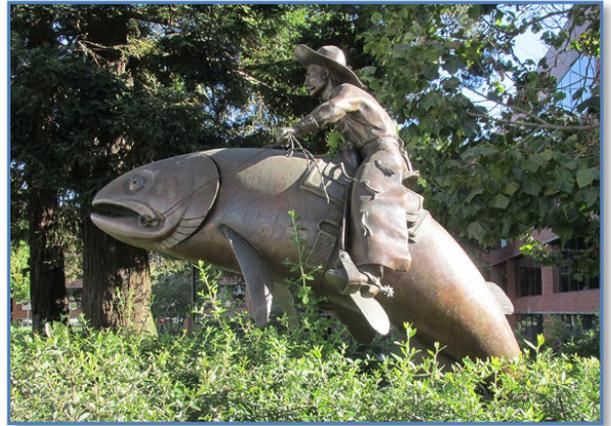
Contributions & Questions Welcome!

Send your contributions, article suggestions or fly fishing questions to the Editor in an email or as an MS Word.doc attachment. The deadline for submissions is typically the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: Bob O'Donnell

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Winter Midge Pupa

Nice to see the snow here in Maryland. Remember, fish need to eat. You can have some luck if you have patience and the right fly. Davie McPhail demonstrates some interesting midge patterns that you can try out. His flies are simply gorgeous. Hopefully yours turn out just as nice.

[Winter Midge Pupa](#)

[CDC Emerger Midge](#)

[Aero Dry Winged Midge](#)



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