

# The Conservationist



PPTU.org

## Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

Nov 2017 • Published monthly except June, July, August and December

# “Fly Fishing Photography”

## Austin Green - Austin Green Photography

### November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

We all love to show off and share our outdoor adventures through photography. Getting the perfect shot that relays your personal experience often eludes you. To both educate and inspire our members in the art of photography, PPTU is proud to host Austin Green of Austin Green Photography as our November speaker.

In addition to being an avid fly fisherman for everything from trout to musky, Austin has a long list of professional projects and publications. He has done photography for “*This is Fly*”, “*Southern Culture on The Fly*” magazine, “*Chesapeake Bay*” magazine, “*Eastern Fly Fishing*” magazine, “*Kayak Angler*” and “*Tide*” magazine.

He will be speaking to us about ways to improve our fly fishing photography and also a bit about catching musky on the fly.

[www.austingreenphotography.com](http://www.austingreenphotography.com)

– Alan Burrows



### 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](http://www.pptu.org)

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## Presidents' Column - Alan Burrows

### Be wary of hubris.

A little over 2 years ago, after lots of inter-net research, I tied up a fly that I thought might be an effective soft hackle. While it wasn't "original" it was original to me and it began working. It was a pheasant tail soft hackle. Over the next three years it has worked very well indeed. In fact I was heartened to read an article about a well-known sportsman who thought so much of the pattern that he used it exclusively for a year in both fresh and salt water, wet and dry as his only fly. I was pretty sure I had come across the holy grail of soft hackles (at least) and maybe the holy grail of flies.

Many of you may know that on Tuesdays or Wednesdays it is usual that Bob Kaiser and I will be found fishing someplace either together or with Gene C and AJ (if she can stay healthy). We are pretty good about posting honest reports both good and bad. If you are used to fishing with a partner, you know that its normal when someone hooks up to ask the lucky fisherman what the fish took. Bob barely asks me anymore because he knows what I usually have on and asking would be redundant.

This particular week we chose to fish on Wednesday and we were going to stay local as I had been a bit under the weather (no excuse). It was an overcast occasionally rainy day in November and there was everything short of a neon sign saying BLUE WINGED OLIVES!!!

We began to walk up stream and after a bit, Bob said, "I'm going to get in here and see if I can get a hit on a BWO dry fly." I said great, good luck and I'm going a bit further upstream. I did that, got in the water and, although I was looking for rises, proceeded to swing the holy grail working downstream.

A wise old fisherman (younger than me but fishing longer than me) once explained to me that you either needed to keep changing flies until you

found one that worked, or you kept changing locations until the fly you had on worked.

I continued to work downstream swinging my fly and in fact, picked off a few fish. The day still screamed BWO, but to be fair, I had yet to see a rise. I finally worked my way down to Bob. He reported no love on a dry fly yet but he has some luck with nymphs. I just said I had 4. Didn't need to say what I was using.

Bob was changing flies to a dry BWO as the next section was slow water with several woody snarls that would be good trout hiding spots, so he said go ahead and he would follow me. I proceeded to continue to swing the holy grail. I swung it as close as possible to the woody snarls but to no avail. After a while I got out of the water (I had a doctor's appointment), waved to Bob and told him to let me know how he finished.

Later that day I sat at my computer and read Bob's fishing report. He had changed to a dry BWO and had pounded the woody snarls, and had caught several fish as a result. Fish that saw my fly but were not impressed and were looking for BWO's. As he exited the river he mentioned that he was finally seeing rises to natural flies for the first time that day but he had not been deterred because it was a BWO day.

Ah hubris. It feels so good to be so right that you continue along that path even though you know that it's wrong. Or, in the words of Forest Gump and his mother, "stupid is as stupid does."

OK, so what do I take away from this humbling experience? Several things. In no specific order;

There is no such thing as a holy grail fly.

If the day screams BWO (or sulphur, caddis, march brown, etc.) then listen carefully and react appropriately. Put one on.

If you know that the fish are there and they aren't biting on what you are offering, try changing the offer before you move. It is likely that they are looking for something else.

Make Bob ask what you have on.

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](mailto:kenbowyer@verizon.net) 🐟

## Tackle and Tactic Tips - Jay Sheppard

“Reading the water” is a very important skill that all stream fishers need to acquire. What is important is to determine where the bulk of the food is passing through that stretch of the stream. Fish do not like to wait in a near barren piece of water. They want food. The warmer the water, the more food they want. Even in the coldest water, they are still watching for prey. What a fisher needs to figure out is not just where the bulk of the food is flowing through that short section of the stream but also how to reach that

section with as little disturbance to the residents as possible. This latter consideration is very important to avoid flushing one or more trout from its feeding station. That one flushed trout will arouse nearby trout, which, in turn, arouse others in a chain reaction. None of these disturbed trout are now interested in feeding, but rather they are concerned about another trout in their little feeding territory. The less food flowing past them the more sensitive the trout are to such disturbances. In the midst of a flush of bugs from a big hatch, these territorial disputes are minimized. One can watch a dozen trout in a very small space all partaking of the abundance of prey, while an hour earlier they might have been squabbling about who gets to sit where in the stream.



Therefore, the observant fisher must figure out how to approach the water to avoid flushing any fish and still be within casting range of feeding trout. The quickest means to figure out where the food is passing through the pool is to watch the bubbles. On moderate or high gradient streams the bubbles form from the currents and entrapped air. On a flat spring creek, bubbles may not even be present. Bubbles are like the markings on a highway. They show the lanes that the floating food is taking. The trout know that no bubbles=no food. On many streams where the trout are incredibly educated to fly fishers, one actually has to drop his fly into a patch of bubbles to get the trout to look at it. Drop the fly in a clear patch of water and no hits.

A fisher must approach the water from the shallowest point of entry and carefully wade to the first fishable section from there. Dropping off the bank into a moderately deep section where food (e.g., bubbles) is passing through is much more likely to disturb the resident trout in that small section. If one has to cross such favored water, get to a poor feeding

area (shallow, no bubbles, etc.) and then plan on resting the fish before starting casting. This is the time to check leaders, change tippets, select a fly, or just observe what is happening all around you. Standing high on the bank or a large rock or rushing out into the water only exacerbates the situation. Get quiet and in position as quickly as feasible with as little disturbance as possible.

Even if one is fishing nymphs or wet flies, one still must recognize where the food is flowing. Having your fly within those feeding lanes as much as feasible on each drift is crucial to getting more strikes. The bubbles indicate where the currents are forcing floating items to congregate. Tossing a fly into a clear patch among the bubbles is an exercise in futility in 99% of the casts. Such clear patches are the result of rising or upwelling water and any item that falls into such a patch is quickly ridden out to its margins. If that is a fly, it will usually show instant drag as the tippet retards that shift in position on the water surface. Trout quickly learn not to chase such strange moving items. None of the above applies in some remote wilderness. Our local trout may see hundreds of flies a week, and most flies are being dragged through the water in an unnatural direction and speed. Do not be a dragger! Keep the fly moving with the bubbles. No faster, no slower.

Good fishing!

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!*



## Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

The USGS temperature readout on the Patuxent tailwater below Brighton Dam has been dismantled. DNR was supporting this effort with the USGS. Since the dam is under repair, we saw no need to continue to have that information and save DNR a small bit of money per year. DNR will install another gage, once the dam is back into full operation, which is planned to be in mid-2019.

The Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest section in south Columbia was stocked with a few hundred rainbows and browns in the middle of October. These should provide a little sport the rest of the fall and winter, if the river does not freeze over in January! Enjoy!

*"Only an extraordinary person would purposely risk being outsmarted by a creature often less than twelve inches long, over and over again."*

~ Janna Bialek

## PPTU BBQ – Thank You! - PPTU Board

Many thanks to all who attended this year's fundraiser and help make it a success. For those that missed out hopefully we'll see you next year.



Mission BBQ provided a nice spread of food and the day couldn't have been more perfect for some relaxation and fun in one of the area's more popular park settings. If you weren't there you missed out on some really nice prizes that spread from fishing to

birding to a salon facial. Congratulations to our big raffle winners; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Jack Benoit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Randy Dryer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Mike Mark.

## Cleaning a Fly Line - TroutWrangler

October is the first reminder that the end of another fly fishing season is approaching. Rods are wiped down, reels oiled and put away, and fly lines need cleaned.

Fly lines get dirty, like anything else, yet few anglers take the time to clean them. At the end of a fishing season, this is the very best time to do so before they are put away for a few months.

Cleaning a fly line is pretty quick and easy, and requires very little in effort or cost.



### Equipment:

- 2 clean 5 gallon buckets
- warm water
- mild dish soap
- soft towel

### Steps:

1. Fill both of the buckets about 2" deep with warm water.
2. Add a small squeeze of dish liquid in one bucket and mix it around.
3. Back the drag tension off your reel and start stripping the line off into the bucket with soapy water.
4. Let the line soak between 5-30 minutes depending upon how dirty it is.
5. Double a towel over the line and with a little pressure between your thumb and index finger start pulling the line through the towel and into the bucket of clean water. (reorient the towel occasionally)

6. When done, hang the end of the line over the clean bucket and then empty and rinse the soapy bucket with clean water.
7. With the bucket empty and reasonably dry, strip the line back through the cloth and into the dry bucket.
8. Reel the line back onto your reel and you're ready for the next fishing trip.

This video from Rio will walk you through the entire process start to finish. Enjoy!

<https://vimeo.com/50718362>

## PPTU Beer Tie - PPTU

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Old Line Wine Spirits and Bistro is our host. Stop by and check us out and try your hand at fly tying. We always have an extra vice and tools available for the curious or new tier.

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



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

## Annual Supporting Contribution (ASC) now Payable - Jay Sheppard

The \$20 we ask to help support our administrative and other expenses is now payable. We operate on a September-to-September basis for the chapter's publication, *The Conservationist*. Very simply, it costs a lot of money to operate the chapter for meeting room rentals, postage, printing, web site, and other expenses. We want to use all the contributions we receive and raise through our fund raisers to support our work for the resource.

You can pay the ASC at the next meeting or just mail it to our chapter mailbox. Make checks payable to PPTU.

Our web site also has an online option for paying the ASC: <http://www.pptu.org/Join/join.shtml> using PayPal or a credit card. You do not have to be a TU member assigned to PPTU to subscribe to the *Conservationist* by paying the ASC.



## 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 to the chapter.



## New Membership Secretary Needed - PPTU Board

We are looking for a volunteer to help maintain the chapter's mailing list. Using the Internet and some knowledge of Microsoft Access is required.

This work is what really helps our chapter to keep in touch with everyone and is crucial to our past success as one of the top ten chapters in Trout Unlimited for membership services and recruitment. If you are interested in helping the chapter behind the scenes, please contact Jay Sheppard. Your help will be appreciated. [jaymsheppard95@gmail.com](mailto:jaymsheppard95@gmail.com)

## Vanishing Insects - George Opryszko

Saw this article in the Washington Post. Maybe we need to start a Bugs Unlimited organization.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speak-in-science/wp/2017/10/18/this-is-very-alarming-flying-insects-vanish-from-nature-preserves/>

In just 3 decades, insect populations—everything from parasitic wasps to hoverflies and wild bees—have plummeted by more than 75% in German nature reserves, according to a new study. The reasons for the decline aren't clear, but the pattern is consistent over a swath of western and northern Germany, and it's likely having wide-ranging effects on plants and other animals, such as insect-eating birds.

## PPTU – TIC in the News - Monocacy and Catoctin Watershed Alliance

The Monocacy and Catoctin Watershed Alliance (MCWA) held its quarterly meeting on October 11, 2017 at the Catoctin Creek Park Nature Center in Frederick. Guest speaker Chuck Dinkel, from the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited walked the audience through a typical year in the life of a Trout in the Classroom student. Trout in the Classroom is a conservation organization whose mission is to "conserve, protect, and restore cold water fisheries and their watersheds". Through Trout in the Classroom, students in 20 Frederick County schools receive fertilized Kamloops rainbow



trout eggs, hatch and raise them in their classroom aquariums and release the fingerlings into local streams. This program allows students to learn to appreciate the importance of cold clean water and environmental stewardship



## 23rd Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Council - MD DNR

The 23rd Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Council will take place on Dec. 8, 2017 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum. The theme this year is Managing Water Quality in a Changing World.

Discounted early bird registration ends Nov. 17 at noon. All registrations must be in Dec. 1 at noon. We are unable to accept walk-ins the day of the event. There's still plenty of time to register for our annual conference! Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the day's events will adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

The conference will include a plenary session, six concurrent breakout sessions, posters and exhibitor tables, plenty of snacks and of course, the famous Maritime Institute all-you-can-eat buffet lunch. You'll also have plenty of time to network and catch up with old friends and colleagues during the long breaks and at the post-meeting social.

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/streams/Pages/MWMC/conference.aspx>

## International Fly Tying Symposium - Bob Dietz

I'm sure some of you may have already received an e-mail to this effect, but the International Fly Tying Symposium is being held in Lancaster, PA on November 11-12. If you haven't heard of it, the IFTS is run by the same folks as the Fly Fishing Show (aka "Somerset" or "Lancaster", used to be one in College Park) but oriented toward fly tying instead of pushing resort destinations and over-priced fly rods.

Their site has classes and events listed:  
<http://www.internationalflytyingsymposium.com>

There is a good line up. The highlight for me will be Robert Smith, author of “The North Country Fly: Yorkshire's Soft Hackle Tradition” and grandson of one of the authors of Brook and River Troutng.

There will also be a Saturday evening tier’s banquet. Details are in their brochure on the website.



**International Fly Tying Symposium**  
**Dates:** Nov 11-12  
**Place:** Lancaster Marriott  
25 South Queen Street,  
Lancaster, PA 17603

### BBQ Highlights - PPTU

We thought folks would like to see a few shots from this year’s fundraiser. A good time had by all that attended. Keep an eye out for more chapter events and outings throughout the year. The next fishing outing will be to Big Hunting Creek sometime in November. Try to attend, support your chapter and most importantly, have some fun.



## Members Catch - TroutWrangler

Our members were busy once again this month testing their angling skills amongst gorgeous scenery.



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: Trout Wrangler**

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## Loon Outdoors – Fly Tying 101

Usually we feature a single fly but perhaps some of you new fly tiers or folks considering tying might want to see a brief informative fly tying 101 class. Loon Outdoors offers a live show that is quite interesting if you've never seen it, they also feature video recordings of their shows, and recently did this series of tying 101 videos that is quite good. Enjoy!

<https://loonoutdoors.com/videos/fly-tying-101-episode-1/>



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