



April 2004

# *The Conservationist*

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

www.pptu.org

Wednesday, April 21

## It's Your Lucky Day

**I**t's time for the Chapter's annual raffle and silent auction with lots of wonderful prizes to be given away to lucky participants. Grand prize is a trip for two to the Big Island and a guest appearance on stage with Don Ho singing "Tiny Bubbles", followed by a tour of the old TV set of *Magnum PI*.

*Just kidding.* If you want to experience Hawaii, you'll have to do it vicariously through old Brady Bunch reruns, but we do have a wonderful Pennsylvania trip to be raffled off. Valued at over \$700, it includes two days of guided fishing, including comfortable lodging, for two people on some of Pennsylvania's most famous streams, courtesy of Keystone Anglers. For a preview, check out [www.keystoneanglers.com](http://www.keystoneanglers.com).

But that's not the only prize. Second prize gets you a Canon PowerShot A70 digital camera (\$300) and third prize, one day of wade fishing in nearby water for trout and bass with guide Stacey Crossland-Smith (\$200). And unlike the Olympics, fourth place will do you better than just watching the winners ascend the podium; in this case it's a Orvis TLS 4 weight rod with matching Battenkill reel and line (\$500).

But, as they say on those late night infomercials, that is not all. We'll have a silent auction of 25 fishing and non-fishing items, plus a pick-out-of-the-hat raffle for over thirty prizes, including flies, books, a vise, and other fishing gear.

Tickets for the big prizes are \$10, purchased anytime between now and the evening of the event (you need not be present at the meeting to win); Hat raffle tickets are: \$5 for 1 ticket, \$10 for 3 tickets, \$20 for 10 tickets, and \$40 for 30 tickets. For these prizes, you must be present to buy and to win. Tickets can be paid for in cash or by check, leave the plastic at home.

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So come on down and win some goodies. You've got a better chance here than at the carnival or casino and the prizes are even better!

Sevastian O'Kelly



### **Here Fishy, Fishy... Join Us for PPTU's Annual Kids' Fishing Day!**

On Saturday, May 1, PPTU will sponsor its annual Kids' Fishing Day at Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Park in White Oak (Montgomery County), Maryland. The free event will be held at the park's lake from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., rain or shine.

The day will be chocked full of opportunities to learn how to catch fish, make new friends, learn about watershed protection, and enjoy some of the

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### **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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<b>Patuxent:</b>	Jay Sheppard	301-725-5559

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)  
(johnwcolburn@juno.com)

## President's Column

This month's membership meeting is our annual fund raising event. Ticket sales for the grand prizes thru February had not been overwhelming, but I'm sure that by the time you read this newsletter you all will have purchased several tickets for the grand prize drawings.

We reduced the price per ticket this year in the hopes of greater participation by the members. In addition we'll have the barrel raffle and, as we did last year, we'll have a silent auction which will include select fishing equipment and special related items of a more general interest.

Plan on attending with the family; bring a bag of money and enjoy the evening. There is always a buzz of excitement and chatter when we look over the prizes and select which ones we would like to win. The air really gets tense when the drawings begin and the winners are announced. The countdown to the winners of the silent auctions is another exciting time.

Get your tickets and bids in early and often and improve your chances for some great prizes. The proceeds from this event all go to support our many chapter activities; without this event there is no way the Chapter could be as active as it is.

We have stocked the Upper and Middle Patuxent several times with both brown and rainbow trout. The fish are healthy and willing to strike at our offerings. A lot of us have been out and successfully verified the stocking!

The water flows this spring have been favorable for some fine fishing and the weather, for the most part, has been mild. Please practice good streamside etiquette and set a proper example for others to follow. If you are new to the sport and are unsure of proper streamside etiquette speak to the more experienced members about this. They are eager to help.

Last month the Board approved a contribution of \$250 to Seneca Valley Chapter for its tree planting part of the Beaver Creek restoration project. Also, our newly constituted Conservation committee issued a questionnaire to the membership. Please provide them your thoughts and support this effort by responding to the survey.

The Mid Atlantic Council (MAC) of TU is looking for volunteers to take on small tasks as part of a program to acquaint TU members with the work of

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## President's Column

*(Continued from page 2)*

MAC. Anyone interested please contact me and I'll point you in the right direction for further information.

Saturday May 1, is the date for this year's kids fishing day. Beginning at 8:00a.m., at the Martin Luther King pond, you'll find freshly stocked trout, courtesy of DNR, bait for the kids, and eager members of PPTU waiting to help kids catch some fish.

If you have never been to the park for this event, stop by and lend a hand (or catch a fish). Kids have a great time, especially when they actually catch something; so why not lend some of your experience (or relate some of your tall tales about the big one that got away) to our guests on that day.

*Lou Boezi*

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## Annual Kids' Fishing Day

*(Continued from page 1)*

outdoor wonders of Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Park, which has playgrounds, picnic areas and several miles of scenic trails that extend along the nearby Paint Branch stream.

PPTU sponsors Kids' Fishing Day in collaboration with the Maryland Department of National Resources and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to introduce youngsters and their families to an appreciation of and respect for the environment through the sport of fishing. To help kids jump into action and try their luck at catching fish, PPTU volunteers will be on hand to provide bait to kid fishers, help place worms on hooks (yuck!), and assist with tackle. While bait is provided, kids and their adult fishing pals should bring their own fishing poles, as well as warm clothing, water to drink, and lunch or snacks.

Remember, the early bird catches the worm...fish tend to bite earlier in the morning, so make plans to get up at the crack of dawn and join us for what is sure to be a day full of fun and lasting memories.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Park is located at 1100 Jackson Road in White Oak, Maryland (Jackson Road is off of New Hampshire Avenue). To reach the lake and your fellow fishers, follow Jackson Road past an elementary school and swim center. The lake will be on the left across from the park's tennis courts.

For more information on Kids' Fishing Day or to volunteer for the event, contact me, at 301/562-9307

*Marci LeFevre, Youth Outreach Coordinator*

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## Outings Report

### Lies, Damn Lies and Releases

**T**he scheduled outing to Big Gunpowder Falls River on Saturday, January 24, was canceled due to inclement weather.

The scheduled stream destination of Morgan Run for Saturday, February 28, was altered due to a change in the spring DNR stocking schedule. As an alternative destination, Artie Haglich, Jack Benoit, Larry Vawter and Mike Goeser joined me on Beaver Creek on Saturday, February 28. We took a quick tour of the Albert Powell Hatchery before suiting up in waders and boots, and leaving behind the spectacle of bank napping bait fishermen at the hatchery outflow.

Moments later, we arrived at the one mile stretch of special regs catch and release water, where we were welcomed by sunny skies, warm temperatures and a slightly off color stream that was running at 54 degrees. Hatch activity consisted of black midges in the morning and cream midges in the afternoon. In the slack water above Beaver Creek Church Road, one could find dozens of rainbows of ten inches and less feeding just below the surface on emergers; beneath which lurked the bigger 'bows, that were given away by the telltale reflection of their silvery sides in the light of the midday sun while grubbing for nymphs at the bottom of the stream.

Although the trout were not as cooperative as some had lead us to believe, Mike caught four rainbows on a dry/dropper rig consisting of a dark Elk Hair Caddis and a San Juan Worm in the upper part of the special regs section. Likewise, Artie, Jack and Larry each caught several respectable rainbows on woolly buggers in the slow water above Beaver Creek Church Road. Your outings leader landed three between nine and fifteen inches with a point/dropper rig consisting of a heavily weighted Jay's Patuxent Special and Green Weenie that he had tied himself after learning how in the Chapter's Fly Tying Class. Four other rainbows got away when they either broke the 6x tippet attached to the dropper or had the hook pulled from their mouth in the author's eagerness to land the fish too quickly.



*Joshua Forster  
Outings Leader*

## April Outing

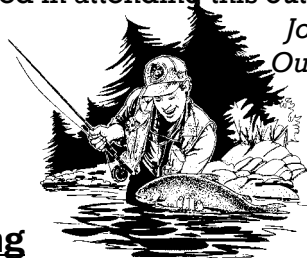
### Rapidan River

**T**he scheduled outing for the month of April will be the Rapidan River in Virginia on Saturday, April 24.

A valid Virginia License and Trout Stamp are required for this trip. The cost of a five consecutive day Virginia non-resident tourist license and stamp is \$6.50. (You do not need the additional \$30.50 Designated Stocked Trout Water License to fish the Rapidan River in Virginia.) Virginia Licenses and trout stamps can be purchased on-line for an additional \$2.00 processing fee at:

[http://www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/regulations/getting\\_a\\_license.html](http://www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/regulations/getting_a_license.html). (Those are underlines, not spaces!)

Please see me at the April 21 Chapter meeting if you are interested in attending this outing.



*Joshua Forster  
Outings Leader*

## Special Outing

### Memorial Day Weekend Outing

**I**f you missed the March monthly meeting, for the past more than 20 Memorial Day weekends, the chapter has had an outing to some slightly more distant waters (usually 3–4 hours drive). We have gone to central Pennsylvania and Garrett County in western Maryland.

Several members of this or other chapters would be on the outing who are familiar with these streams—what lures or flies should be working, where to park, etc. These folks are NOT going to be your personal guides for the day, but they will point you in the right direction and offer some suggestions.

At times during the day, people on the outing will stop to compare notes and see what is or is not "working." Many of the major hatches on these streams should be in full swing.

This is always a popular way to see new streams and where to access them for later trips.

If you have an interest, contact Joshua Forster (see page 2 or e-mail: [jforster@smart.net](mailto:jforster@smart.net)) or come to the April meeting—where we will have lots of info about the fishing opportunities in Western Maryland.

*Jay Sheppard*

## Tackle and Tactic Tips

**H**oles in waders from encounters with our local berry and rose bushes can make wading unpleasant at almost any time of the year. Trout fishers can find and repair the leaks fairly easily if they employ the following tricks. Hang the waders up with a good support; right side out. Fill one leg with water from a hose or bucket to just about the knee level. Then squeeze the foot and ankle of that leg to raise the level of the water up to the hip area. Eventually raise the leg to dump the water in that one over into the other leg. In the end, raise both legs to concentrate the water in the butt area.

All the time the water is in each leg, the outside of the waders are searched for leaks, which must be kept dry. Take a crayon or grease pencil and where you find a leak place a small tick mark off to one side and directly above it, leaving room for the patch material. When you are all done, dry out the waders (e.g., using your shop-vac blower side.)

To patch, I much prefer to use Black Plastic Rubber available in all hardware and auto supply stores. This is very flexible, adheres to all waders, and last longer than the waders. Put a tiny dollop on the leak point and RUB it in with a smooth object such as the head of a large finishing nail. Let dry for several hours—keeping it level. Apply a second dollop over the first and let it dry for 24 hours—also keeping it level. You have to do one side of the waders at a time; most leaks are found in the seat or on the front side of the waders. Do not allow any patch to touch another patch for any reason in the first 48 hours or so, as they will stick to each other!

For simple pin hole leaks this works great; the round patches of the Black Plastic Rubber should only be about the size of a quarter or a little larger. They will last as long as the wader, so long as the first layer is rubbed into the fabric. (If the waders are rubberized on the outside, not a fabric, the area needs to be lightly sanded with a file or sand paper.) Larger leaks require actual patches provided by the manufacturer. I try to check my waders for leaks at least once per year and before any major trip where I expect to be in my waders every day for the trip. Being wet is not what we want to be when on the stream and chasing trout.



*Jay Sheppard*

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## Phishing Photography New Water-Resistant Vest-Pocket Digital Camera

**F**or gadget-loving, catch-and-release anglers, it's a dream come true, a digital camera that fits easily in a vest pocket and won't be destroyed if you take an accidental tumble in the stream. The Pentax Optio 33WR comes in a compact 3"x3"x1" package that is entirely water and dust tight. It's not intended for continuous submersion, but it will survive a dunking with no ill effect.

With this camera, you can now document your catch and put an end to those skeptical looks from other anglers or family members, without having to wait for a trip to the photo developer. The camera can focus to within a foot, so you don't even need a partner present to capture the beauty of your fish before returning it to the water.

The camera sports 3.2 Megapixels, more than enough to produce dazzling 4"x6" prints, a 2.8X optical zoom, covering a range equivalent to a 37 to 104 mm lens on a 35mm camera, and an additional 4X digital zoom. The optical zoom is accomplished with no changes in the external dimensions of the camera, so as not to compromise its water-tightness.

I purchased one of these cameras locally from Ritz camera in November for \$350. If you order it from Ritz online, Ritz will swallow the Maryland sales tax, but you have to pick up the shipping costs. It's available from other online camera dealers as well, with varying discounts.

It comes with a 16 Mbyte SD card that will hold 7 high resolution images. I picked up a 256 Mbyte SD card on sale at Staples for \$60, and it will hold nearly 180 full resolution images. I don't know about you, but that's more fish or scenery than I'm likely to photograph in a day or three. It operates on two AA batteries. I also bought several high capacity NiMH rechargeable batteries to use with the camera.

The other accessory I'd recommend is a neoprene case that fits the camera and stays on during use, like the cases you see on cell phones. This provides some padding and protection against bumps and scratches.

The only caveat I'd offer is to anglers with larger than average hands/fingers. I found the controls well laid out and easy to use, but because of the compact size of the camera, those with large hands or fingers might encounter some difficulty. If so, keep your eyes open for the US release of the Ricoh Caplio 300G, presently available in Europe, Asia and Australia. It's not as compact and has additional features, but it's larger and pricier.

You can get more information about the Pentax Optio 33WR at <http://www.dpreview.com/news/0309/03090301pentax33wr.asp> and for the Ricoh, visit <http://www.dpreview.com/news/0212/02120301ricoh300g.asp>

Finally, let me add that you may see some other cameras advertised as being weather resistant. But for anglers, whose cameras could experience sudden but brief immersions, stick with water-resistant instead of weather-resistant models.

As I was writing this, I learned that Pentax has announced the Optio 43WR, a 4Mpixel upgrade to the Optio 33WR, available in June 2004. No price has been announced yet.

The Optio 33WR is so small and light that I've been taking it with me everywhere in my jacket pocket, so if you see me at a chapter meeting and want to take a peek at it, just ask. I'll be happy to show you my latest toy.

*Robert Simpson*

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## Hatches

### Get Ready for Early Action

After April 15, the hatches on Hunting Creek, Patuxent, Gunpowder and even the Savage should be going full tilt. Hunting Creek and the Gunpowder, in particular, have always had dependable hatches of a good variety of medium-sized mayflies. These include the Hendricksons/Red Quills, Ginger Quills, tan and black caddis and the Light Stonefly, *Isoperla*, (#12-14). Blue-winged Olives (*Baetis*) should be out on the Gunpowder (#18-20), particularly on warm, cloudy days.

Don't put off any fishing opportunities this spring for later this summer; go while the water is up

*Jay Sheppard*

## Poacher Cards

The chapter has some business-sized cards that have the two **toll-free** phone numbers for reporting poachers in Maryland 24 hours a day. The DNR number is for any problem; the PARKS number is to be used only when on State lands. Be sure to pick up a card at the monthly meetings or your nearby tackle shop to carry in your wallet. Remember, there may not be an immediate response to your call, but it is logged. When the reports start accumulating, more patrols and better response times might be expected. The DNR Police number is 800-635-6124 and the State Parks number is 800-825-7275. Try to get a license plate number and description of the individual(s) involved.

See the May 2004 *Fly Fisherman* for more on the Metolius River



## **A Home River** **The Metolius**

[Editor's Note: *This article is from a semi-irregular newsletter from John Judy, a guide and author from Camp Sherman, OR, on the Metolius River.*

*[During the 1980s and 90s my sister owned a cabin right on the Metolius, and when I visited her in Oregon I had to stay out at the cabin for part of my visit—a dirty job, but someone had to do it. It became one of my home rivers and remains one even though I'm a continent away. Any visit to Oregon includes a fly swimming lesson on the Metolius.*

*[If you have occasion to visit Oregon, you have my permission to fish the Metolius—or at least visit it. The Metolius is a beautiful river in the Deschutes National Forest, and most of both banks are NF land and accessible to the angler.*

*[John Judy's article contains a message about the results of no stocking of a river—food for thought.]*

The Metolius has been my home river for almost 30 years now; after all that time it continues to delight and amaze. Yesterday was one of those day when for the brief moment the river revealed itself.

It was a beautiful day for fishing, with the temperature sneaking up to 60°F for the first time this spring, I had to go out. I picked a spot in the upper river, closer to home, to fish.

To be honest the last few years I haven't been fishing the upper very much. After they stopped stocking it didn't seem to me that the upper recovered the way the lower did. I have been following my success. Yesterday I thought I would break that mold and try something different. What a good idea that turned out to be.

When I got to the river there were a lot of different

insects on the water, midges, mayflies and small stones, but the insect that got my attention was the large Orange Caddis, the one I call the "Little Sister Sedge". I know from experience when this caddis is hatching, even if it looks like they are coming off in fairly small numbers, the fish will take notice. Yesterday was no exception.

In a matter of a few hours, using a large orange caddis pupa nymph, I saw and hooked as many nice rainbows (over 15 inches) as I have ever seen or hooked in a single day in the upper river. Most day you don't see any fish, especially rainbow, but yesterday they were everywhere.

What a remarkable story it makes; eight years after the end of stocking the river is still improving. If you ever had any doubt of the value of catch and release or the value of natural stream spawned fish, the Metolius has become yet another shinning example of why it's so important.

*John Judy*

*[John Judy may be contacted by mail at John Judy Fly-fishing, PO Box 122, Camp Sherman OR 97730; by phone at (541) 595-2073; or by e-mail at [John@JohnJudyFlyfishing.com](mailto:John@JohnJudyFlyfishing.com).*

*[John Judy wrote an excellent book on the Metolius River that I reviewed in the May 2003 issue of The Conservationist and another, Slack Line Strategies for Fly Fishing, a very good read for anyone interested in getting drag free drifts whether fishing with dry flies or dead drifting nymphs. His hinged leader system works.*

*John Colburn]*

## **Caution to Anglers**

Over the past decade there have been a small number of break-ins of vehicles at public parking lots used by anglers. Valuables have been taken. We all have seen a number of cars at many parking lots where the angler was clearly in a hurry and left a door unlocked or even a window down. We must not only secure our vehicles but also remember to not leave any valuables in the car. Take only the rod and tackle you plan to use. Do not leave any valuables in plain sight; if the rod case must remain visible, leave the end cap off to show that it is empty. Take your wallet with you at all times; if concerned about getting it wet, drop it into a zip-lock bag. Do not leave any keys in or under the vehicle for buddies—bring spares for them. Watch for unusual activity and immediately report it. Get the license number! Overall, the number of cases has been low, but those suffering the loss had no fun that day.

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## River Info for Fishers

**H**ere are several phone numbers and web sites that provide information of use to trout fishers. These tape recordings involve releases/water conditions at some important streams:

Deep Cr. Lake        724-597-8911 (New number)  
N Br. & Savage      410-962-7687  
Gunpowder River    410-329-6821

The Deep Creek Lake release flows into the Youghiogheny at Hoyes Run near McHenry. The tape is usually changed each Monday morning for that week by the power company. The clear water of the release usually adds 5–15 inches to the height of the river. The big problem is that they can also release water from Deep Creek at any other time!

The Corps of Engineers tape for the North Branch and Savage is updated periodically, as flows change and upcoming events approach. Good fishing flows for the former are in the range of 150–300 cfs, the latter 75–150 cfs; dangerous or unfishable flows are >400 cfs and >175 cfs, respectively.

The Gunpowder River tape is at the Backwater Angler Shop in Hereford. If it is in non-business hours, they will have a tape on the stream flows and what is happening as well.

If anyone is aware of other tapes or sources of info regarding stream flows in this area, please let us know.

Here is a list of web sites that also offer information on stream conditions or visit our web site at PPTU.ORG for links:

[www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/wc](http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/wc)  
<http://water.usgs.gov/md/nwis/rt>

Both of these sites will lead you to individual stations where you can learn the current and recent flows, as well as the water temperatures and precipitation in some cases. Check out both sources, as each has some features that are useful, even when looking at the same station's data.

*Jay Sheppard*

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## North Branch Whitewater Release Schedule

**T**he four weekends this spring tentatively scheduled for whitewater releases on the North Branch are: April 10–11, April 24–25, May 8–9, and May 22–23.

They have not scheduled the Savage for any white-

water releases this spring. Fishermen can fish the latter river during the day and fish the former each evening after about 5 PM if the water drops back to normal flow.

Before going up that way, please call the tape at the Baltimore Office of the Army Corps of Engineers (410-962-7687) for current and future release schedules on these two rivers:

To be really fishable by wading, the Jennings Randolph release needs to be about 400 cfs or less, <325 cfs is preferable. The whitewater release is usually in the 800–1000 cfs range, which is unfishable. The release on the Savage needs to be less than about 150 cfs to be safely and easily fished.

*Jay Sheppard*

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## The Last Word

### Deadlines and Other Pressures

*(Continued from page 8)*

I had a nice piece by John Judy about the Metolius River, one of my home waters, that needed a little introduction, but there were still two pages that needed materials. I started digging through the material that I'd written at various times about fly fishing, looking for something that would take the place of Jay's articles.

Then about 1600 (4 PM) I got a call from Jay! He'd forgotten about the deadline—but didn't blame the anesthetic—and could send me some material in a little while. Soon I received his e-mail with a fairly long attachment containing a half dozen articles strung together.

Jay either can't or won't separate his articles, so I have to cut them up so I can fit them into different places in the newsletter. It's not much fun, but better than going through all my old stuff and reworking it.

So at 2200 (10 PM), aside from finishing this column and pouring it into the newsletter, all I have to do is print it out, proof read it, correct any typos and boo-boos. e-mail a file of it to the printer and Robert Simpson for the web site, and I'm thorough until next month.

I never kept track of how long it took to get a newsletter ready for printing until today. Always before I could work for a couple or three hours a day for four or five days, but today was one straight shot—sixteen hours so far and a couple more to go—eighteen all told.

Anybody want to be the newsletter editor?

*John Colburn*

# **The Conservationist**

**The Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

## **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-0904 or NTU-0704.

First time visitors receive two free issues of this publication.

## **Address Change? TU Membership Renewal**

If you have moved or see any error in your mailing labels (*Trout or Conservationist*), please notify 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 TU, but it is often a few months before it affects your newsletter and other mailings. Please help us help you. Drop us a post card with your new address. Thank you.

Also, we want to remind our members that they should try to renew their national TU membership at a chapter meeting. Please bring your renewal slip or your membership card when it is time to renew. The chapter benefits from processing the renewals and uses the \$5 rebate for conservation-related purposes. We do not accept cash for such renewals.

## **The Last Word**

### **Deadlines and Other Pressures**

**A**s I write this column, it's about 2130 (9:30 PM) on March 15, and I've just about got *The Conservationist* ready to go to the printer. This issue has been an interesting one.

The deadline was Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, but that day I was up in Pennsylvania getting ready for the Fly Fishing Fair at Fort Washington, PA. The show was Saturday and Sunday, and I got back to my room about 2200 last night—too tired to even think about the newsletter.

Usually I have about four or five days to get the newsletter together, but this time I had one day and not much more because on Wednesday morning, the 17<sup>th</sup>, I was getting on a plane to fly to Oregon for the NW Fly Tyer's Expo. That's a trip I couldn't miss if I were still alive.

At 0633, I dragged myself out of bed and started putting the newsletter together. I ate lunch and supper at the computer.

Thanks to well written articles by Lou Boezi, Joshua Forster, Marci LeFevre, Sebastian O'Kelly, and Robert Simpson, I had quite a bit of material that was easy to get ready to pour into the frames.

Then I realized I had nothing from Jay Sheppard! Jay, who usually wrote about a quarter of the articles in an issue, was recovering from some pretty major surgery and hadn't sent anything.

*(Continued on page 7)*



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## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**April 21 Chapter Meeting—Raffles  
and Auctions**

**April 24 Rapidan River Outing**

**May 1 Kids' Fishing Day**

**May 29-31 Annual Memorial Day  
Outing**