

Fly-Fishing for Northern Snakeheads – March 13th

By Larry Forte

Have you ever caught a Snakehead with a fly rod? Many have tried, but few have succeeded. At our next meeting on March 13th (7:00 PM), we welcome Rob Snowwhite, local guide and owner of the Fly Fishing Consultant, based in Northern Virginia (VA). Rob has certainly caught his share and his talk will focus on the challenges of fly fishing for Northern Snakeheads. Plus, he will discuss limitations of our gear and the fact that snakeheads are just very stubborn when they see a fly. Rob is the only guide authorized to guide the shorelines of the Tidal Potomac in and around Washington D.C. and he is obsessed with Northern Snakeheads.

He grew up in Reston, VA and has been fishing all of his life. In an earlier life, he was a Biology teacher in Fairfax County, VA. In 2010, he started his own fly fishing business and since then his mission has been to get folks to fish locally, to make them a better and more competent angler.

At the same time, he wants to make fly fishing easy, approachable and less intimidating. In addition to fishing for snakeheads, he can help you catch shad, largemouth bass and stripers in the Potomac River. Plus, he publishes a Podcast that is great. For more information, check out Rob's website:

<http://robsnowwhite.com/>. Hope you can join us

at our next meeting on the 13th! I'm looking forward to learning more about the Snakehead!



Beginner's Fly Tying – March 19th

By Don Fine

The Beginner's Fly Tying session will be held March 19th, in room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Don Fine will lead the tying instruction that evening. As we move closer to Springtime trout fishing, we will be entering that period of the year when Caddis flies are more prevalent and serve as one of the fundamental food sources, particularly for trout.

The pattern(s) chosen for the March 19th class will be a “*Bead head Caddis Pupae*” and a “*CDC Caddis Emerger*”.



Monthly Roundtable -- March 21st

By Jon Thames

It's that time of year when trout fishers in Maryland (MD), wish they had tied some Midge Emergers! Join us on March 21st and learn the “*Chocolate Midge Emerger*” as Leslie Gollehon shares this fantastic little fly. Leslie has been tying for many years and said this was her go to fly for March. Attention chocolate lovers, except this time it's for trout and we get to learn a new chocolate fly. This is a great fly for those of you who use the dropper fly combination for trout.

Please bring your tying equipment and 6/0 Brown thread if you have it on the 21st. All other tying materials will be supplied and loaner vises and equipment are available.

See you on the 21st at 7:00 pm in room 109 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street.



Try Hot Spots

By Don Fine

A few weeks ago I was browsing through old issues of “*American Angler*” and came across an article, “*Building a Better Fly Box*” by Aaron Jasper. A portion of his article suggested the incorporation of ‘hot spot’s into our flies (e.g. nymphs). I read the article with interest; especially because I have found that a number of my newer fly patterns (particularly nymphs and streamers) seem to perform better than the equivalent pattern does without a ‘hot spot’.

In checking this out, I looked at many of the nymphs that I generally carry in my fly box and found a number of my go-to flies have a ‘hot spot’, e.g. pink squirrel, bead head caddis, Czech nymph, and pheasant tail nymph. Then I remembered my experience with adding a ‘hot spot’ to several of my favorite streamers; e.g. egg sucking leech, white fly streamers, chartreuse and black woolly bugger.

You ask, ok what is a ‘hot spot’? It can be as simple as a collar of fluorescent thread, or dubbing immediately behind a bead head, or the bead itself on a nymph, or the incorporation of a contrasting fluorescent marabou in the tail of a streamer. (I would make note here, and I don’t mean to give attribution unwarranted, but I think that Lefty always suggested the addition of the color red to the throat of a streamer as a imitation of the gills of a bait fish).

So what is it that enhances the effectiveness of these patterns, over the old standards? I’m sure that question has inspired a number of debates between the experts. And what better discussion to have over a campfire.

Nevertheless, here are several of my thoughts:

- The ‘hot spot’ provides an attraction or target (on the fly/prey) for fish species that are more predatory by nature.
- The ‘hot spot’ enhances the image of a particular pattern in off-colored water.

- To the fish the ‘hot spot’ may resemble an anatomical feature of the particular insect/bait (fly) imitation (i.e. legs or air bubble that aquatic insects use to rise to the surface during emergence).
- The ‘hot spot’ is resembles secondary food source, when presented as part of the primary food source (i.e. egg sucking leach).
- The ‘hot spot’ provides a more life-like appearance to somewhat stoic-looking patterns.

Remember that ‘hot spots’ don’t have to be fluorescent to enhance the effectiveness of a fly pattern. Incorporation of ice dubbing (many of which incorporate Antron fibers or other light-reflective material) seems to be more effective than standard dubbings. Whatever the reason, consider incorporating a hot spot into the tying of your flies, then evaluate your catch rate (or even your strike) rate in that pattern, either with or without the ‘hot spot’.

Conservation News

By Dave Keane

Below are several opportunities to let your voices be heard & dates to put in your calendars for 2018:

Land Preservation and Recreation Survey Now Open

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD – DNR), is seeking input from concerned citizens to complete an online survey which includes questions on outdoor activities, amenities and services like camping, fishing and hunting. This will help guide the department’s decision-making, investments and programming. Let your voice be heard on what is important to you and your family when it comes to outdoor recreational activities and land preservation. For more information follow the below link:

<http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2018/02/08/land-preservation-and-recreation-survey-now-open/>

Backyard Buffers

The MD – DNR, Forest Service and the Potomac Watershed Partnership present the “*Backyard Buffers*” program, designed to assist homeowners who have a waterway on or adjacent to their property to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs. Forested buffers cool water, filter pollutants, increase stream habitat and stabilize stream banks. Protect our waterways for future generations by planting some trees and shrubs this spring. Follow the link to find out additional information.

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/Backyard-Buffer-Program.aspx>

2018 Frank Burt Smoot Commemorative Stream Cleanup Project

The Maryland Chapter of Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (BOJC) and the Thurmont Green Team are joining forces with other conservation minded organizations to promote the **Frank Burt Smoot Commemorative Stream Cleanup Project**.

When: Saturday, April 7th, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Cunningham Falls State Park – Thurmont, Maryland

Stream: Hunting Creek – Between the parking lot located across the road from the “*Catoctin Mountain Park Headquarters*”, and the “*Visitor Center*”.

Meeting Point: The Joe Brook Monument, on Hunting Creek, located across the road from the “*Visitor Center*” & Park Entrance.

The details:

Assuming that the smaller capacity parking areas might be full, there will be a shuttle bus running from the Park’s large capacity parking lot near Hunting Creek Lake to the event. The “*honor system*” parking fee for that lot will be waived for all event participants. Rt. 77 (Foxville Road) inside the park is a typical mountain road with narrow shoulders and many curves. **Be safety conscious and wear bright colored clothing for the event.**

The BOJC will have trash bags available, and a limited supply of gloves, to distribute at the meeting point.

If you are able to attend, consider recruiting a youth, or two, to participate as well! As Frank would probably remind us, “They are the future stewards of our environment” and “Example alone is the one certain teacher”.

Hope to see you there!

For more information contact: Steve Weinstein at (410) 978-1455 or Steve.wei@verizon.net

PVFF “Home Waters” Clean Up

When: Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Catoctin Creek Nature Center – “Our Home Waters”

Stream: Catoctin Creek

Meeting Point: We will be meeting in the parking lot at the Nature Center and then head out to clean up the banks of Catoctin Creek.

Every Spring, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to pick up trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, parks, and neighborhoods as part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s “*Project Clean Stream*” – the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all 6 Bay states and Washington DC.

Wear clothes that are appropriate for the weather and that you don’t mind getting dirty. Bring your own gloves, sunscreen, and waders for anything in the creek. There will be a limited number of gloves there if someone forgets them. When you’re done cleaning up the stream, stay and fish our Home Waters!

For more information contact:

Dave Keane at (240) 367-4905 or email him at Davidkeane1968@gmail.com

Natural Resources Careers Camp Accepting Applicants

Students entering grades 9 through 12

As a reminder and follow-up from the article in the February newsletter, High School students interested in forestry, fisheries, wildlife, or park management are invited to join teens from across the Mid Atlantic at the week-long Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC), held from July 22nd to 28th at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County, MD. Students will explore related college studies and professions through hands-on activities with experts from a variety of conservation fields.

The NRCC is sponsored by MD’s Forest Conservancy District Boards, Allegany College of Maryland, the MD – DNR, Forest Service and the MD Forestry Foundation. The camp has been held annually for over 45 years.

Students who will be entering grades 9 through 12 next year and are interested in natural resources careers are eligible to apply.

Applications are available at www.marylandforestryboards.org. Local Forest Conservancy District Boards interview, recommend and offer scholarships for students to attend the camp. Space is limited so interested participants are encouraged to apply online today!

For more information contact:

Dave Keane at (240) 367-4905 or email him at Davidkeane1968@gmail.com

Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources

WINTER 2018

Brook Trout Restoration in the Upper Monocacy River Watershed

The “*Brook Trout Restoration in the Upper Monocacy*” project was completed in September 2017. Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the EPA and the MD – DNR, Forest Service, the project helped to restore brook trout populations in targeted catchment acres using green infrastructure techniques on public and private property.

The project included a 1,500 foot stream restoration with a 3 acre riparian reforestation project on private agricultural property in Little Tuscarora Creek, and a 1.39 mile gravel road resurfacing project with 4 small culvert replacements on Delauter Road along Fishing Creek.

The project also offered an expanded Neighborhood Green Program which included stormwater best management practices like rain barrels, rain gardens, conservation landscaping and tree plantings to homeowners in the Upper Monocacy watersheds. 74 households received "*Brookie Restoration Plans*" and 60 households installed best management practices to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff on their properties.

2018 Boy Scout Spring Camporee

Nearly 700 Frederick County Boy Scouts of America (BSA), will be attending the Spring Camporee from April 19th to 21st, 2018. This is the Field Sports camporee which is hosted every 5 years, or so by BSA Troop 270 in Thurmont, MD. **Saturday, April 21st is the big day!**

The event will feature shooting, archery, primitive cooking and tools, falconry, and fishing among other activities. This year, the BOJC has volunteered to take the lead, but we still need PVFF volunteers.

There will be two fishing venues. Fly tying demonstrations by BOJC and PVFF volunteers in a 10ft by 10ft walled tent. The second venue is a casting contest using spinning rods/reels, at which scouts will cast to buckets or hula-hoops for points. This event will be held rain or shine, so as the Scouts say, "*Be Prepared*".

Volunteers will be needed from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM on **Saturday, April 21st**, at each of the fishing venues. Lots of volunteers are needed to help process 700 scouts. If they have time, some of the scouts will want to return to the tent to tie a fly.

If you would like to help, Billy Noland is the PVFF's point of contact and can be reached at

(301) 514-7007 or mail him at:
brnoland@comcast.net.

We will have Volunteer Sign-up Sheets at PVFF meetings for these events.

Trout Pen – Update

We have been working with the MD – DNR, Fisheries Service and expect to take delivery of approximately 500 Rainbow trout within the next 2 weeks. They should be about 8" when we get them and we will stock them in the Fall. We currently have about 75 trout in the pen and I am sure they will be very happy to have some new friends in the pen.

A big "*Thank you*" to Rick Loose and all of his volunteers for taking care of our fish. These folks make sure that on a daily basis that our fish are being feed and take care off. Thank you!

Upcoming Outings:

We have 2 outings planned for March. Here's a list of all outings:

1. **The Fly Fishing Show** – Lancaster, PA: Saturday, March 3rd. Leave the Frederick area at between 7:00 – 8:00 AM. Return late afternoon.
2. **Town Creek** – Upper stocked section: March 18th. Leave Frederick area at 7:00 AM. Return late afternoon.
3. **Little Senaca Lake** – Float trip: April 21st. Time – TBD
4. **Gunpowder River** – May 17th. Time – TBD

If you would like more information or to join us, just let me know.

Larry
lforet@verizon.net
(301) 943-7533

New "*EVENTS*" Feature on Our Website!

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, Troy Kitch, our Website Administrator, has added a new feature to our website, called

EVENTS. Click on **EVENTS** and you will be directed to a calendar of upcoming events. This includes club events and other events of interest.
(<https://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club/events/>)

Membership

By Ruby Fine

To those who have renewed their 2018 PVFF membership, thank you for making my job a little simpler.

There are still a few members who are delinquent in paying their 2018 dues, so this is just a reminder that if not paid by the end of March, regretfully, those individuals will be dropped from the membership roster.

Last Cast

By Larry Forte

Happy March everyone! I am anxious to get out to fish for the first time this year. Unfortunately, between the severe cold weather last month and the recent rain, I have not had an opportunity to wet a line. However, I have added to my list of “*Places to Fish*” recently. After hearing Gene Howson talk about the Gunpowder last month, I can’t wait to get out and fish this tailwater again.

Plus, a few days ago, I attended the Antietam Anglers monthly meeting. Their guest speaker was Brian Trow, who is the owner of Mossy Creek Fly Shop, located in Harrisonburg, VA. He gave a great presentation on fly fishing VA including the Shenandoah National Park for brook trout (I hope to have him give the same talk to us this fall). Just another place to add to my list of “*Places to Fish*”.

It is amazing, when you think about it, all of the great places we can fly fish in our area. Certainly, our local streams are great. Add the streams in Western Maryland, the Gunpowder and the streams in the Shenandoah National Park, we have a tremendous number of incredible places to fly fish within a 2-3 hour drive.

Let’s go fishing! My goal is to fish more and I am working with the Board concerning the planning of Outings for this year. I would like to be able to offer an outing every 2-3 weeks this Spring and Summer. These would be primarily local trips. More information to come.

Right now, we do have a couple of outings on the schedule. We will make a trip to the Fly Fishing Show in Lancaster, PA on March 3rd.

On March 18th, we will fish the upper stocked section of the Delayed Harvest Area on Town Creek in Green Ridge State Forest, MD. On April 21st, we will float fish Little Seneca Lake at Black Hills Regional Park in Boyds, MD. On May 17th, we will fish the Sulphur hatch on the Gunpowder River in northern Baltimore County, MD. In addition to these outings, we have a bunch of events occurring this spring. Here’s a list of the April events that the club will participate in:

- 1. Frank Smoot Spring Clean-up:**
Saturday, April 7th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- 2. Catoctin Creek Stream Clean-up:**
Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 3. Frederick Fishing Derby:** Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 4. Catoctin Creek Nature Fest:** Saturday, April 21st from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- 5. Frederick County Camp Jamboree:**
Saturday, April 21st from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Would you like to get involved and help? We can use your help with all of these events.

If you would like to help or want more information, just send me an email or give me a call. You can also visit our Club website and the “*Events*” page to learn more about each.

[\(https://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club/events/\)](https://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club/events/)

Finally, if there is anything you would like to see improved with our club or if you are interested in getting more involved with the PVFF, please don't hesitate to contact me. Plus, you are always welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' Meeting.

Thank you for being part of this club. See you at the next meeting!

Larry Forte

lbforte@verizon.net

301-943-7533

Meeting Cancellations

We have been very fortunate this Winter, but when inclement weather conditions occur and Schools are closed on the day of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, there will be **no** meeting. Please be sure the Membership Chairperson has a contact number in case the meeting is cancelled for other reasons. This policy complies with Frederick County Public School closings. As such it applies basically to the monthly club meetings held at Tuscarora High School. Decisions regarding cancellation of monthly fly tying sessions and roundtables will be made by the roundtable coordinator and dependent on whether the church parking lot has been plowed and the facility is accessible.

Monthly Calendar of Events

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| March 3rd | <i>The Fly Fishing Show
Lancaster County, PA
Convention Center</i> |
| March 13th | <i>Monthly Club Meeting
Tuscarora High School
Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM - Room A170</i> |
| March 18th | <i>Club Outing – Town Creek
Delayed Harvest, Upper
Stocked Section
Green Ridge State Forest,
MD</i> |
| March 19th | <i>Beginner's Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207</i> |
| March 21st | <i>Fly Tying Roundtable
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109</i> |
| April 4th | <i>Board of Directors' Mtg
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207</i> |

PVFF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2018

President	Larry Forte
Vice President	Jon Thames
Secretary	Karen Baker
Treasurer	Paul Dobson
3yr Director	Andy Mekelburg
2yr Director	Russ Hanson
1yr Director	Bill Kulp
Past President	Don Fine

