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STREAMLINES

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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

October 2018

October 9th Program: An Evening with John Mullican and a Report on Beaver Creek

By Larry Forte

The October 9th meeting of the PVFF will feature John Mullican, Field Operations Manager for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Freshwater Fisheries Program.

Beaver Creek is a great fishery. In the 1950s, Beaver Creek was arguably the best trout stream in Maryland, but the stream began a slow decline in the 1970s due to sedimentation, deforestation and contamination from chemical sprays on nearby farmlands. Once all but abandoned by fishermen, the stream has made an enormous comeback since 2002, largely due to the efforts of the Beaver Creek Watershed Association. Healthy Brown, Rainbow trout and the insects that feed them have returned to Beaver Creek, and naturally reproducing trout populations are supplemented by annual stocking from the Maryland DNR.

John's presentation will cover current land use and restoration activities in the Beaver Creek watershed and present the status and trends of the wild Brown Trout population. Fish survey locations, methodology and management will also be explained.

Also, at our next Monthly Meeting on November 13th, Viz Ezerski will show pictures from his recent fly-fishing trip to Argentina and Patagonia.

Hope to see you on the 9th!



MD DNR Freshwater Fisheries personnel electro-shock surveying Beaver Creek.



Beaver Creek Brown Trout.



Viz Ezerski with Argentine Brown Trout

Beginner's Fly Tying – October 15th

By Don Fine

The Beginner's fly tying class will be held on Monday, October 15th. The fly chosen for that evening is a 'little known' pattern known as the "Buzz Ball". The pattern developed by the late Gary LaFontaine is an effective imitation of a cluster of floating midges. *Midges* are an always present insect food source particularly for trout, and particularly during the colder months which will be with us soon. Similar in design to the very popular "Griffith's Gnat", Gary tied his Buzz Ball using strictly chicken hackle feathers of varied colors. We chose this October (Buzz Ball) pattern to provide fundamental knowledge of choosing and wrapping hackle to those who are just beginning to tie, as well as to provide the more advanced beginners with yet another opportunity to learn about entomology (biology of insects) and creativity that comes with tying one's own flies. Don't let fly size keep you from attending this beginner session. While midge imitations are generally tied in hook sizes ranging from size #16 – #20; for the sake of learning we will be using hook sizes #12 or #14 for the October 15th class. As in past months the Beginner's fly tying will be held in room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street, Frederick.



Fly Tying Roundtable – October 17th

By Jon Thames

Join us for an evening with a different twist. Vernon Wilson, manager at Beaver Creek Fly Shop, will be tying his version of a Tenkara fly, "Sakasa Kebari", or reversed hackle fly. This fly is Vernon's "'go to' bass fly" and also his Beaver Creek 'big Brown fly'. According to Vernon "all flies are Kebari regardless of what country they come from. Kebari translates as a haired or feathered hook, (ke=hair /

bari=hook) Sakasa means reverse in Japanese." A little history as well as a new way to fish for most of us. We will start with a demonstration of the Tenkara rod and ways to use it and then progress to tying this fly. Tenkara style has been gaining lots of attention in recent years and I'm happy to bring it to the club with the help of Vernon. Please join us at Trinity United Methodist Church, room 107, 703 West Patrick Street at 7:00 PM. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about the Tenkara method to join us for this special presentation.



PVFF Project Healing Waters – Fort Detrick Chapter

By Andrew Frutiger

It is a very exciting time, we are less than a month away from our very first Project Healing Waters (PHW) event, which will take place on Tuesday, October 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church. This event is open to military personnel at Fort Detrick and Veterans with disabilities and will center on the introduction of the program and its' goal of healing through the community of fly fishing. Over the past few months, the PVFF PHW Team has been extremely busy getting our Chapter organized and off the ground but we cannot do it alone. I am asking for your help to make this endeavor a success. To those that have already participated in previous PHW events, you know what an incredibly positive experience it is and once you've gone to one, you're hooked!

Volunteering can be as simple as handing a flier to a neighbor or a friend who is a disabled veteran or at an upcoming event. For more information on getting involved, please contact Dave Wooster at:

(David.wooster@projecthealingwaters.org) or Larry Forte at: (lbforte@verizon.net).

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENT!

Saturday, October 20th – PVFF 51st Annual Banquet

By Jon Thames

Our **51st Birthday Celebration and Annual Banquet** is just weeks away and I really hope you can join us this year.

It is always a fun evening. Great friends and fellowship, plenty of Bucket and Silent Auction items, the Winston Rod & Reel raffle, the Travel Rod and much more! We already have some exciting items for you to bid on and win!

The Banquet will be on Saturday, October 20th, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the AMVETS Valley Memorial Post #9 in Middletown, MD. As a reminder, all items in the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction are donated by both members and friends of PVFF. This tradition has served us well and it is amazing what is donated every year. This year the list includes several fly rods, bake goods are promised (not delivered), selections of flies and the list goes on. Another thing to consider is that we have items that are not fish related and many are tasty items. Bring your spouse or friend and see what he or she can find to win and take home.

This year, we are adding a couple of new activities to the evening, including a contest to see who can tie the best fly – while blindfolded!!

You can sign up to attend the Banquet by filling out the enclosed form and mailing it with your check to Ruby Fine at your earliest convenience. The cost is \$25.00 per adult. This will help us get an idea of the number we need to accommodate for this party. The Banquet is also open to family and friends and

is a great place to bring someone interested in getting into fly fishing. As in the past years children under 18 years of age are free, but be sure to put the names on your registration form so we can have name tags made for them.

Reservation forms along with your payment can be made at the next meeting or mailed to Ruby at her home address. Also, you can bring your donation items to October's meeting.

Again, save the date...October 20th...and go fishing as often as you get the chance to until then.

Banquet Donations Needed

By Jon Thames & Andy Mekelburg

As mentioned in the article about our Annual Banquet, the monies raised comes primarily from donations by Club members. The Banquet is our main fundraiser for the year and these funds help pay for the various activities we offer throughout the coming year. The \$12.00 annual Club dues that everyone pays, does not cover all of our expenses.

Donations can be a fly rod or some other piece of fly fishing equipment that you are no longer using, but it doesn't need to be fly fishing related. It could be a bottle of wine or a gift basket. Please consider donating to the Banquet.

If you would like to make a donation, you can bring your donation to the October monthly meeting or to one of the fly tying classes this month.

Upcoming Outings

Salmon River; Pulaski, New York

Date: Thursday to Sunday, October 11th to 14th

By Dan Neuland

The annual PVFF trip to the Salmon River in Pulaski, New York (NY), will be held on the second weekend of October 2018. Although the famed Salmon River has miles of public water, anyone interested in attending the outing should consider purchasing a Douglaston Salmon Run daily pass online on the their website **now** as they will be sold out soon if not already for the days our trip is planned.

The DSR offers a quality experience to a limited number of anglers for the price of a daily rod fee (\$75.00, kids under 15 years of age are free with a paying adult). The fish entering the Salmon River first must pass through the 2-mile section of the DSR where fly anglers have the best opportunity to hook one of these giants. Chest waders and Boots with studded soles are highly recommended. NY State Non-resident Fishing License fees are: \$50.00 annual, \$28.00 for 7 – day and \$10.00 for 1 – day.

For many PVFF members, the annual trip to the town of Pulaski is the highlight of the fishing season. Whether you fish the private waters of the DSR or upstream on the 13 miles of public water, landing a 15 to 30 pound Chinook or Coho salmon on a fly rod is a challenge and certainly a trophy to be admired. There is sure to be Steelhead and Brown Trout in the mix and some Atlantic Salmon as well.

Fishing the Salmon River is an experience you will never forget! For more information and anyone interested in sharing a campsites should contact Dan Neuland at: danneuland@verizon.net or phone 240-422-1299.

Trip Details:

What: PVFF Salmon River Outing

Where: Pulaski, New York

Arrive: Thursday, October 11th

Depart: Sunday October 14th

Fish Species: Atlantic, Coho, & King Salmon, Steelhead, Brown Trout

Equipment: 8, 9 or 10 weight Single-hand Rods & matching Big Game Reel with a solid Drag System is a must!

The number of anglers using two-handed Spey equipment has increased over the past several years. You have plenty of room to use it! Chest waders with metal cleats or studs also are essential for maintaining footing while fighting a fish.

Flies: Simple Estaz egg patterns in size #4 or #6 have been the top producers.

Camping: Selkirk Shores State Park

- <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/84/hunting.aspx>

Private Water: Douglaston Salmon Run

- <http://www.douglastonsalmonrun.com/>

Contact: Dan Neuland

- danneuland@verizon.net



Conservation News

By Dave Keane

Davidkeane1968@gmail.com

Blode Dam Removal Project

On Tuesday, September 11, 2018, the Maryland DNR partially breached the Blode Dam located on the Patapsco River, beginning a project to remove the century old structure. If you grew up in the Ellicott City / Elkrige areas you probably spent time exploring the Dam like I did as a kid. On hot days you could walk inside the Dam and cool off and watch the waters of the Patapsco River flow over top of you. Built in 1907 the Blode Dam was the first underwater hydroelectric Dam in the world supplying electric to surrounding areas.

Follow the two links below to learn more about the history of the Dam and how its removal will improve habitat, public safety and recreation on the Patapsco River.

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/fishpasage/bloede.aspx>

<https://www.americanrivers.org/patapsco/index.html>

Freecycle Roundup – City of Frederick

This event is an opportunity for Frederick City residents to drop off items at no cost and to reduce items going into the landfill.

When: October 20, 2018 from 8 am- 2 pm

Where: Public Works Complex
111 Airport Drive East

For more information contact Tammy Albaugh at: talbaugh@cityoffrederick.com or call: 301-600-1680.

****Limited only to residents of Frederick City****

Fall Tree Planting

Stream-Link Education is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to connect community to conservation by organizing volunteer tree planting experiences to promote environmental awareness. With the help from volunteers, they plant native trees and shrubs within the area known as the riparian zone, the land that extends from the banks of a stream, to improve water quality. Follow the link below to learn about their fall tree planting events at: www.streamlinkededucation.org

Membership

By Ruby Fine

This is just a reminder that dues for 2019 can be paid at the Monthly Meetings or can be mailed to the address shown on the PVFF application form. Please fill out the form so I can update my records. Please provide a phone number so you can be reached in the event of cancellation of our monthly meetings or other functions due to bad weather, etc. Please circle whether you are a member of FFI (Fly Fishers International).

Golden Age Pass

By Jon Thames

A few years ago I was told, "*age has its privileges*" and I did a polite "*thank you*" and moved on with a blank look.

Last year this hit home when I was told about the "*Golden Age Pass*". This pass get a person into any of the Maryland State Parks for free, half price camping Sunday thru Thursday and unlimited boat launches. The only thing is you have to be 62 and a resident of Maryland with a valid ID. This can be gotten at any of the State Parks or on-line. This is a lifetime pass and the cost is \$10.00.

Yes, age does have its privileges and this is a great pass to take advantage of.
Age 62 plus!

Paul's Ruby River Montana Fly Fishing Adventure

By Paul Dobson

In 2016 Dusty Wissmath, the Manager of the TCO Fly Shop in Boiling Springs, PA spoke at

a PVFF meeting and described a fly fishing destination trip to the Upper Canyon Outfitters Ranch on the Ruby River in Southwest Montana. The pictures were beautiful and the trout were big and plentiful. I became obsessed with trying to find a way to ask my wife if I could go on this trip and get an affirmative response. Then one day she asked me what I wanted for my 60th birthday. I asked that my gift be this adventure. My lovely and understanding wife agreed.

In January, after asking a lot of questions, I paid my deposit and began the long wait for the day I would depart for Montana. It seemed to take forever but on Friday, July 27th I arrived in Bozeman, Montana. The next day Dusty picked me up along with some other guests and we headed for the ranch.

I stayed in the main part of the lodge. It was quiet and comfortable. There was a deck on the front of the lodge. It served as a nice dining area for the mosquitos during the happy hour. I think on some days there were some drunk mosquitos! The lodge served some tasty treats for happy hour. There was baked brie, cheese with huckleberries, stuffed mushrooms, asparagus, green onions and many other tasty morsels.

Meals were served buffet style. You sat down to a preset salad then went through the buffet line for the entrée. Dinner each night was outstanding. During the week they served elk in a variety of forms as well as beef, pork chops and catfish. All were seasoned to my liking. It was a feast every night. I have described a good time already and I have not even started writing about the fishing.

On day one I went to a location they called "*Hackers*". It was a stream that fed into the Ruby River well below the Dam. It was there I learned the art of nymph fishing. Someone had previously spoke at one of the PVFF meetings about this type of fishing but I had never tried it. It was an effective method of fishing this water and I caught about 15 or so fish that day. Some small and some up to about 12 inches. I missed a bunch of takes simply because I was learning the intricacies of a new method of fly fishing. If I had hooked and landed every take

I probably would have caught more than double that number.

On day two I went to the Ruby Dam. At the dam the water is very swift making it a challenge to stand in the current and land the fish. We used the same style of nymph fishing. I was so glad I had the chance to “practice” the day before because the first fish I hooked was a 15 inch Brown Trout and he put up a tremendous fight. The fish know how to use the current to their advantage. I caught about 16 fish that day and none were smaller than 12 inches. Most were in the range of 15 – 19 inches. The part I liked most about this was the fish were so large and fought so fiercely that you had to put them on the reel and let them take line in order to land them. There was a lot of technique to getting them to the net. Even listening to the guide and trying our best to do what he said we lost fish. Sometimes the hook straightened out, the line broke or perhaps they simply were not hooked well and the hook pulled out. The fish bit our nymphs all day. At the end of the day my bicep was tired from fighting fish. It was a day of fishing that dreams are made of.

On the third day in the morning, I went to the upper part of the Ruby River. The headwaters were narrow and shallow. I caught a number of Cutthroat Trout using a top water fly. I had landed about 5 that were between 4 to 5 inches and then I hooked one that was about ten inches. I did not know that Cutthroat Trout got that big, but I do now. In the afternoon, we went downriver a bit and fished an area where the stream was only about 2-3 feet wide with high banks. It was difficult fishing because the grass, weeds, and high banks made it difficult to get a drift. We were fishing Hopper Dry Flies and a three foot drift was about the best you could do. The wind was not helping either. The first hour was even more difficult because we were not catching fish. Then I managed to catch three small Brown Trout. Looking at the size of the stream and the size of the fish I was catching I thought this was what to expect for the remainder of the day. I was fishing a particular spot and having a very difficult time getting a drift. The guide was standing about four feet away on the opposite bank. Because the guide encouraged me I continued to try to

get a good drift. Then it happened. The fly was in the water next to the bank on my side so I could not see it, but I felt the take. The rod began to bend and I lifted it to set the hook. There was tremendous splashing for such a narrow stream. The guide slid down the bank and netted a 14 inch Brown! I never would have expected such a large fish in that spot. About an hour later, I caught a 17 inch Brown in a spot that was deeper but narrower. He was longer than the stream was wide in the spot where I hooked him. This day provided three surprises of much larger fish than I expected to catch in the stream we were fishing.

The fourth day was overcast and we went to an area called “*Lazy Man*”. When it was cloudy the fish simply would not rise to take a Dry fly. We tied on Dry/Droppers rigs and caught a few. The most interesting part of this day’s fishing is when the sun was out the fish would bite. When the sun was hidden they would not bite. The sun stayed hidden for most of the morning. After lunch we fished a little more upstream. Our guide gave each of us an area to fish with current and a couple of eddies. We still were not having much success then the sun came out and stayed out. In about twenty minutes I caught four fish. The first was a 4 inch Rainbow. I caught him simply because he kept rising to my fly and I kept offering it to him. It took him about 5 attempts to actually get the fly in his mouth! After catching him I moved up a couple of steps and caught a 6 inch Mountain Whitefish. Then I move up a couple of more steps and caught an 8 inch Rainbow. The last fish I caught in this pool was a ten inch Rainbow. It was an exciting finish to a slow day.

The final day they allowed us to request an area to fish. I asked to go back to the Dam because I do not know an area near Maryland where I can nymph fish with such fantastic results. The morning bite got off to a slow start during the first hour. It then began to pick up. Just before lunch it picked up a lot.

Because we were catching so many fish we did not eat lunch until 2:00 PM. We kept the guide busy for three hours running back and forth because it seemed one of us always had a “fish on”. I had 15 fish in the net by the time we broke for lunch. I was able to enjoy the battle

with a lot of other fish but they simply got the best of me before they made it to the net. After lunch it was threatening rain but after discussing the weather we decided to go out again simply because it was our last day. We went to a place where the water was moving swifter than any area we had fished before. The guide sent me out into the swiftest area. I was skeptical about wading into the fast moving current but he assured me I would be OK. It is not often that I am happy I weigh 240 pounds, but I was thankful for every ounce standing in the fast moving water. I am casting and getting some good drifts and the balloon we were using for a strike indicator completely disappeared. I sat the hook and tried to move the fish towards the guide standing downstream. The fish would not budge. He is just taking line. I turned my body to get some leverage and started sliding downstream with the current. I slid about two feet before I was able to turn sideways and regain my footing. I am thinking I'm never going to land this fish. After the large brown trout made four or five runs we finally got him in the net. This was the most epic battle I have had with a fish on the line. I hooked four more fish about the same size in the same stretch of water in that hour and I am proud to say I got all of them to the net!

Dusty's trip to the Ruby River was just as he said it was. Plenty of trout, plenty of large trout, good food, and beautiful scenery. I would recommend the trip to anyone wanting to fish for trout using different methods in a variety of water on the same river. I want to take this opportunity to thank my wife for this gift that provided some wonderful memories.



The Passing of Charles R. Meck / Noted Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Author By Bob Eichler

Last Wednesday, September 19th, was a sad day for me when I was notified Charles "Charlie" R. Meck, age 86, had passed away peacefully in the afternoon surrounded by family. Born in Cressona, PA. Charlie was a life-long resident of PA until the past five years when he resided in Macedon, NY near family. Charlie was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Shirley, whom he married in 1956. Charlie served in the Army during the Korean War. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Penn State University, and received his Masters in Administration from the University of Scranton. Charlie worked at Penn State in Continuing Education for over 25 years. His life-long love was enjoying the outdoors, especially fly-fishing. Charlie was a noted author and fly fishing expert. He wrote 15 books on fly fishing, as well as numerous magazine articles. He wrote for "*PA Angler & Boat*" Magazine for over 40 years. In the mid 1980's he developed the Patriot Dry Fly. He loved teaching others the sport of fly fishing and the appreciation of the beauty of the natural world. Charlie is honored with a display at the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum. He was also a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and PA Outdoor Writers Association. Charlie was a lifelong supporter of the Little Juniata River Association and Project Healing Waters. I first met him in 1986 at the Fly Fishing Show held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in the Laurel Highlands of PA. Charlie was signing books along with George Harvey. As Charlie was signing a book for me we struck up a

conversation and before I knew it, was invited to fish with him that Spring. Over the many years of knowing Charlie I was fortunate to be able to fish with him on numerous occasions and during those trips Charlie was always more interested in seeing that I caught fish over his own fishing. Charlie was very giving of his time and talents and I will always be indebted to him for his friendship. Charlie was a true fly fishing icon.



Patriot Dry Fly

Last Cast

By Larry Forte

Enough %\$!#@ rain already. I have lost count of the number of times this year I have planned on going fishing only to be washed out by the rain. As I sit here writing my column, I should be at Big Run State Park fishing for wild brookies. Unfortunately, the trip was postponed because of the RAIN! The problem is that for my column, I was going to write about the trip. Given I do not have a trip to write about, this will be a brief “*Last Cast*”.

To start, we have several exciting events this month. The big event is our **51st Annual Banquet** on Saturday, October 20th at the AMVETS Valley Memorial Post #9!

If you are a new member or have never attended the Banquet, I encourage you to attend. I promise you will not be disappointed. Jon Thames and Andy Mekelburg have been putting together some amazing Bucket and Silent Auction items. Plus, the winner of the beautiful Winston rod & reel will be drawn.

You can also enter to win the “*Traveling Rod*”, which entitles the winner to use a brand new Scott 6-weight fly rod and reel for 2019. Lynn Ashe won it last year. It will include a journal

for you to document your fishing adventures with the rod during the year. New this year will be a beautiful wood box for the Traveling Rod that was made by Troy Kitch. It looks awesome!

Also, I am happy to say that we will have our first monthly **Project Healing Waters Meeting** on Tuesday, October 23rd. This will be an Open House for military personnel at Fort Detrick and veterans in our area that would like to participate in the program. The goal of the program is to assist with the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled, active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly-fishing. I am very excited that the Club can do this.

On Wednesday, October 10th, Don Fine will help induct Lefty Kreh into the **Frederick High School Distinguished Alumni Association**. Don put together the application and played a big part in making this happen. Thank you, Don!

On Thursday, October 11th, Dan Neuland will lead a group of lucky Club members to the **Salmon River in New York** to fish for King & Coho Salmon at the DSR. I can't wait to see pictures of the monster fish that they always catch. Thank you Dan for again leading this great outing!

Finally, what column of mine would not ask for volunteers to become involved with PVFF? None of these events would be possible without volunteers. Would you like to get involved with PVFF? This is a great opportunity and we are always looking for help. No experience required. Just let me know. I think that you would find it very rewarding.

In closing, if there is anything you would like to see improved upon with our Club please do not hesitate to contact me. 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

**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	Lynn Ashe
Past President	Don Fine

Monthly Calendar of Events

- October 9th** *Monthly Club Meeting
Tuscarora High School
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room A170*
- October 10th** *Lefty Kreh Induction
Ceremony
Frederick High School
Distinguished Alumni
Association
650 Carroll Parkway
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM*
- October 12th – 14th** *Annual Outing to the
Salmon River, NY*
- October 15th** *Beginners Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207*
- October 17th** *Fly Tying Roundtable
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109*
- October 20th** *51st Annual PVFF Banquet
AMVETS Valley Memorial
Post #9
409 W. Green Street
Middletown, MD
4:00 to 9:00 PM*
- October 23rd** *PHW Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7 PM – Room 109*
- October 24th** *Board of Directors’
Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109*

