



**December 11th Program: Jerry Kustich –
*In the Footsteps of Joe Brooks: A Fly
Fishing Perspective***

By Larry Forte

At our December 11th meeting, we welcome Jerry Kustich. Ever wonder what it would be like to live the life of a full-time fisherman? Well, Jerry lives that life. It is a life of purpose and passion – a powerful love affair with fish and fishing. Whether he casts his line across water or upon paper, he is forever fishing. Jerry's works reflect this love whole-heartedly.

In the mid-70s, thanks to a book by legendary Joe Brooks, it inspired a life-long fly-fishing journey that started in Idaho. Along the way Kustich learned many lessons about rivers, the environment, bamboo rods, and life itself. From Steelheading the West Coast and the Great Lakes, Trout fishing Montana, Striper fishing the East, or many other stops in between, this month's program details in slides a wonderful journey well worth sharing.

During his fly-fishing journey, he eventually started working for the Winston Rod Company, building graphite and bamboo rods. In 2006, he teamed up with his longtime friend, mentor, and bamboo rod master Glenn Brackett to start Sweetgrass Rods in Twin Bridges, Montana. In addition to being a craftsman, he is an accomplished writer, conservationist and dedicated angler. He co-authored the classic *Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead*. Plus he has written several other books including; *At the River's Edge, A Wisp in the Wind, Around the next Bend, A Fly Angler's Journey and Holy Water*.

I just finished his last book, *Holy Water*. It is a great and enjoyable read.

Hope to see you on the 11th!



Beginner's Fly Tying – December 17th

By Don Fine

The Beginner's Fly Tying session will be held on Monday, December 17th. Don Fine will lead the tying session that evening. That evening we will be tying one of the classic nymph patterns; the "*Pheasant Tail Nymph*" (aka PTN). The classic PTN was first designed by British Riverkeeper Frank Sawyer, who twisted wire and Pheasant tail fibers around one another and wrapped them forward together forming the abdomen and thorax. (**Note:** if you haven't read his book called, "*Frank Sawyer Keeper of the Stream*", you are missing a fantastic biography of the life and times of a few gentlemen whose responsibility was to keep the Avon River, a 'chalk' stream of the British Isles in top condition for the wealthy flyfishers, who owned these waters, and their fortunate guests.)

Because it closely resembles the nymph stage of a number of mayfly species, the PTN is a pattern which most fly fishers would agree is an essential nymph pattern to carry whenever fishing for trout.

On December 17th, Don will give a short overview on the history and evolution of this pattern and then

we will tie the PTN in much the same classic style as Mr. Sawyer, but with more contemporary tying materials.

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 – December 19th

By Don Fine

The monthly fly tying Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, December 19th. That evening Don will lead the tying of a relatively new streamer pattern, the “*Bunny Light*”, developed by Scott Sanchez. Scott is the shop manager for JD High Country Outfitters in Jackson, WY and a regular contributor of new patterns featured in *American Angler* magazine.

The “*Bunny Light*”*, which should be a very productive streamer pattern for large Trout and Smallmouth Bass, gets its name from the fact that while being bulky in appearance and performance, it casts easily because the materials used in the construction of the Bunny Light are low weight, yet impact an undulation and pulsation upon retrieve.

NOTE: *Photo, tying instructions and materials list for tying the “*Bunny Light*” were featured in the July / August 2018 issue of *American Angler*.

Join us at 7:00PM in room 109 at Trinity United Methodist Church 703 West Patrick Street. As always, all materials will be supplied so bring your tying equipment, loaner vices and basic equipment will be available. New tiers are encouraged to attend.



PVFF Project Healing Waters (PHW) – Frederick Program

By Andrew Frutiger

As we all know, this is a very busy time of the year. With all our various commitments, it is sometimes difficult to get everything done on our lists. That is why I am extremely thankful for all of you that have continued to get the word out about the Frederick Chapter of Project Healing Waters, we have seen an increase in the number of people viewing the site. In addition to the Facebook traffic, the team has gone onsite at Ft. Detrick to hold multiple fly tying demonstrations which has also generated a good deal of interest.

To learn more about the program and follow our Chapter's progress, follow us on Facebook or reach out to me directly with any questions or if you would like to get involved at:

andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com

Our next PHW Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 18th in Room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street in Frederick.

Conservation News

By Dave Keane

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What do you do when it snows? You plant trees! On Saturday, November 17th the PVFF joined *StreamLink Education*, www.streamlineducation.org along with other volunteers to plant 610 native trees along the Monocacy River in the Waterside Community. A total 101 volunteers turned out despite the snowfall that fell two days prior.

“Pretty amazing turnout. I'm so glad the snow didn't keep people away. Just shows the dedication of our volunteers!” Said Lisa Baird, *Streamlink Education*

The mission of *StreamLink Education* is to connect community to conservation through educational

volunteer tree-planting experiences to instill environmental stewardship and improve the health of our rivers and streams.

Planting trees and shrubs along the banks of rivers and streams helps in many ways.

- Trees will grow and provide shade for fish and other aquatic life
- The roots from plants will help stabilize stream banks
- Forested buffers serve as wildlife corridors
- Canopies of large trees intercept raindrops and slows rainfall allowing for slower infiltration
- Leaf litter accumulates on the forest floor and acts as sponge soaking up rainfall and reducing soil erosion

I have lived near the Monocacy River for almost 17 years and I'm always dismayed how muddy the River becomes after the smallest amount of rainfall.

Thanks to the following members for coming out and planting trees!



Pictured are: Rachel Bernard, Jon Thames, Larry & Betsy Forte, Donald Lee, Karen & Chad Baker, Peter Thompson and Dave Dowiak.

Membership

By Ruby Fine

The 2019 dues are to be paid by December 31, 2018. Please fill out the Membership / Renewal Application Form at the end of this Newsletter and pay your dues by either mail or at the Monthly Meetings. You may also pay for more than one year at a time. A special drawing will be held at the end of the December meeting and if you're the lucky person who has paid your dues and your name is selected, you'll get a one-year free membership along with a box of flies. Hope this is

your lucky year! Thank you for renewing your membership.

December Meeting & 2019 Club Election

By Larry Forte

At our December Meeting we will hold our annual Elections of Club Officers and Directors for 2019. This will include the position of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure and 3-year Director. If you would like to run for a position please let me know.

Also, we will vote on a change to the Club's By-Laws to allow for a 3rd year for the Position of President. Please let me know if you would like to review a copy of the revised By-Laws before the meeting. A revised version of the By-Laws were emailed to the membership on November 19th.

Club Treasurer Needed for 2019!!!

By Larry Forte

Help!! Due to extenuating circumstances, we need a Club Treasurer for 2019. This would involve maintaining the Club's checkbook, balancing the checkbook every month, making bank deposits and filing a couple of tax forms each year. An accounting background would help, but is not necessary. Plus, it would require attending the monthly Board of Directors' Meeting. This is a great way to get involved and help the Club. If you are interested or have any questions concerning the position, just let me know by email at lbforte@verizon.net or at (301) 943-7533. Thank you!!!

Fly Tying (Materials) 101

By Don Fine

This week, at the PVFF combined Roundtable tying session, one of the fly tiers suggested that those who consider themselves 'neophytes' to fly tying might need a list of the most commonly used tying materials, to which a fly tier would purchase (have in her/his collection) in order to tie some of the more favorite flies.

It just so happens, that I had previously put together such a list for a 'newcomer' to in stocking her/his 'fly tying materials box'. The list below will not only provide for tying nine of the most popular common flies* that one might have in a fly box, but

which can be also used to tie perhaps another dozen or so common fly patterns.

*In reference to those nine flies, they are: Green Weenie, San Juan Worm, Woollybugger / Egg Sucking Leech, Clouser Minnow, Pheasant Tail Nymph, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph, Soft Hackle wet fly, Elk Hair Caddis, and Adams (dry fly). A consensus from many experienced fly tying instructors, these nine patterns will provide most newcomers both an introduction to fly tying and get them fly fishing with their own tied flies.

Rather than provide the list of 'ingredients' (materials) that are commonly used in constructing each of the nine flies above, I have provide below the combined materials list for the nine flies above, as well as other commonly used patterns. I'm sure that other seasoned fly tiers might want to add or subtract to the list below, but this is a place to start.

Before proceeding with this list, I would like to pass along one of the most basic concepts that I learned through my 40+ years of tying flies. *In tying any fly, it is more important to replicate the natural food form (i.e. insect) itself, in size and natural features, rather than it is to replicate the fly using the materials that was used by the creator of the particular fly.* For example, Bob Clouser used exclusively deer hair and Flashabou in his original deep minnow pattern. But other synthetics came along which gave more flash, translucency and action to the fly than the original. Bob certainly gave credit to these modifications, to the point that his later patterns incorporated more of the newer materials.

Look to the list below in preparing to stock your Arsenal of Fly Tying Materials.

Hooks*

- Wet Flies/Nymphs – Mustad 3906B or equivalent – size #12, #14, #16
- Dry Flies – Mustad 94840 or equivalent – size #12, #14, #16
- Streamers – Mustad 79580 or equivalent – size #6, #8, #10

NOTE: *I suggest you buy these in quantities of 25 packs/size rather than 100 packs to provide more flexibility in your tying.

Threads*

- Black, Olive, Tan – size 6/0 & 8/0

- Fire Orange, Red – size 6/0

NOTE: *One spool of each color to start.

Silk Floss

- Insect Green, Orange, Yellow

Dubbing*

- Wet Fly/Nymph Patterns – Rabbit Dubbing with Antron (e.g. Haretron) – Adam's Grey, Black, Brown, Dirty Yellow, Hare's Ear, Insect Green
- Dry Fly Patterns – Beaver or equivalent – Adam's Grey, Black, Caddis Green, Cream, Olive, Tan

NOTE: *Consider buying plastic multicolor dispenser with selection of Wet Fly & Dry Fly dubbings.

Flashabou / Krystal Flash*

- Black, Chartreuse, Gold, Pearl & Silver

NOTE: *One package each color

Deer Tails

- Chartreuse/White, Grey/White Bucktail

Deer / Elk Spinning/Stacking Hair*

- Coastal Deer Hair
- Natural – Light & Dark

NOTE: *1 package each color

Mallard Flank Feathers

1 package

Partridge Soft Hackle

1 package

Peacock Herl

1 package

Pheasant Tail

1 package, 4 to 6 feathers

Chenille

- Black, Olive – size Medium

Crystal Chenille

- Brown, Olive, White – size Medium

Vernille

- Chartreuse – size Small

Marabou

- Black, Olive
- 1 package each color

Egg Yarn

- Fluorescent Red, Orange
- 1 package each color

Fine Copper Wire

- Size – Medium, Fine
- 1 spool each size

Lead / Lead Free Wire

- Size – Medium, Small
- 1 spool each size

Beads (Brass / Tungsten)

- Black, Gold – size to fit Hook size #8 – #16

Neck Hackle

- Chestnut, Grizzly, Tan

Saddle Hackle

- Black, Olive

I make two notes in closing this list. First, each fly tier's list of essential materials will vary depending on what type of fly fishing he/she intends to do; my list is personalized for my type of fishing. I accept the fact that other fly tiers might deviate from what is found above. Secondly, this list is meant solely to get a newcomer started into the 'awesome pastime of tying flies'. Many, many other materials in various colors, sizes, textures and composition are available. So if one questions why I have not included a particular material that they find essential, so be it. That is: *the beauty of the art of fly tying! Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.*

The Double Haul

By Karen Baker

October 31st, Halloween Day, looked like a lovely day to go fishing at our home waters, Catocin Creek at the Nature Center. We didn't know if it would be trick or treat, but we (Lynn Ashe and Karen Baker), set off to catch some Rainbow trout that PVFF had stocked in the stream a week before. Jon Thames joined us on the stream a little later.

We arrived around 11:00 AM and the water was clean, clear, and at a very good level for wading. After gearing up and with wading sticks, rods, vests and flies we made for the pool at the far end of the grass path by the stream prior to the Private Property sign.

Although the path to the stream was slick and steep we made it down to the stream without mishap and started fishing. The flies of choice were a Size #8 or #10 Black or Olive Beadhead Woollybugger with a bit of flash in the tail and gold ribbing. We were rewarded with hits almost immediately. The pool on the far side of the stream and the more shallow water just downstream above the riffles appeared to be loaded with fish. Lynn was so excited with catching her first trout at the stream she employed her "*silent scream of happiness*" so as not to scare the Trout.

Over the next two hours or so we had many strikes and each landed a number of large, fat, very active Rainbow trout. The average size of the trout was between 14 and 18 inches and a few may have been larger. They were so active, fat and slippery that it was hard to get them into the nets and almost impossible to hold onto them for pictures.

After a couple of hours in the water we were getting cold so we decided to exit the stream to warm up. We had fished upstream and were now at a point of either walking back down to where we put in or attempting to negotiate the steep trail by the big rock. Electing to exit there, Jon made it up the bank and then helped Karen up. Then with the aid of a long branch, he pulled Lynn up as well. That was Jon's "*Double Haul*"!

We felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful stream (between heavy rain storms), this late into the Fall. It's snowing today as we remember the lovely day and fun times with good friends and maybe there will be another warm spell and we can get out again one more time this year!



Jon Thames



Lynn Ashe



Karen Baker



The Passing of Carl Miller, Longtime BOJC & PVFF Member

By Bob Eichler

On Saturday night, November 24th, the Maryland Fly Fishing Community lost a great man and friend. After a series of health setbacks in the last couple of months, Carl Frederick "Butch" Miller, 85, passed away peacefully in his sleep. He was an Army veteran having fought in the Korean War. Few people have given more of their time and talents to Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (BOJC), amongst countless other organizations that promoted Wildlife Management and Conservation than Carl did. He was a great friend, member and longtime supporter of the PVFF, having made countless donations to our Club and Annual Banquet. He always included Raffle items for the children. Some of you may also remember Carl was the person who drove Frank Smoot towards the end of his life to all of the events Frank attended. To say he left us with some big shoes to fill would be a gross understatement. His tireless energy, witty jokes and endless smiles will be sorely missed.

Last Cast

By Larry Forte

Thanksgiving has passed and I hope everyone had a great Turkey-Day. As I write this column a couple of days after Thanksgiving, of course, it is once again raining. Fortunately, I have been able to get out and fish since my November column. This included a great day fishing in Garrett County for small, native Brook Trout. I made the trip with Donald Lee and we had an enjoyable day fly fishing several streams that feed into the Savage Reservoir. We both tried our Tenkara rods with success. Plus, we ate well. Mr. Lee always travels with his grill. If you have never fished that part of our state, I highly recommend it. The fishing is fun, the

scenery is beautiful and the streams are very accessible.

I have also been over to fish Catoctin Creek, our "*Home Waters*". Our stocked Trout are a blast to catch. None of them have been smaller than 14"! When the water levels are close to normal, make a trip over and try your luck with "*our*" stocked Trout.

It has not been all fishing. As you read in Dave Keane's column, we had a great time planting trees along the Monocacy River a couple of weeks ago. Over 100 folks, including many kids, showed up on a wet and cold Saturday to help plant trees. The PVFF turnout was great and we planted 610 trees in a little less than two hours. Nice job Dave for organizing the event. Hope we can do more in 2019. Thank you to all of the club members that came out and helped as well.

The PHW team is doing a great job getting the Frederick Program up and running. By the time you read this, our second Project Healing Waters meeting will have been held. Thanks to Billy Noland, several members have been going over to the Ft. Detrick VA Outpatient Clinic and setting up a table to promote our new Frederick program. Thank you folks for your efforts! The next PHW meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18th.

To wrap up my column, would you be interested in getting more involved with PVFF? We are always looking for help, more so going into next year. It is very rewarding and it's a great group of people to work with! Come to our next Board Meeting and find out for yourself.

In closing, 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.

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

Larry Forte

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301-943-7533

Monthly Calendar of Events

December 11th Monthly Club Meeting
Tuscarora High School
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room A170

December 17th Beginners Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207

December 18th PHW Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207

December 19th Roundtable Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109

TBD Board of Directors’
Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109

PVFF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2018

President	Larry Forte
Vice President	Jon Thames
Secretary	Karen Baker
Treasurer	Paul Dobson
3 year Director	Andy Mekelburg
2 year Director	Russ Hanson
1 year Director	Lynn Ashe
Past President	Don Fine

