



Euro Nymphing with Ben Broscius

Monthly Meeting – November 12th

By Larry Forte



Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, November 12, as we welcome Ben Broscius to learn about European-style nymphing.

Ben will review all the essential aspects of this extremely effective style of fly fishing. Plus, he will discuss everything from gear needed, to leader setup, to achieving the proper drift. In addition, Ben will go in-depth as possible to hopefully get all of us out on the water Euro nymphing comfortably.

Ben is a member of the U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team and he has dedicated his time to Euro nymphing for the past five years. He is a fully licensed and insured Pennsylvania fly fishing guide with American Standard Fly Fishing Guides, LLC.

As a guide service, he covers some of the best trout water in Pennsylvania. All of his guides are highly experienced in Euro nymphing as well as traditional techniques. It promises to be a fun evening. Hope to see you on the 12th.

Beginner's Fly Tying – Nov. 18th

By Don Fine



The November Beginner's Fly Tying session will feature the *Schminnow*. The *Schminnow* pattern was developed by Norm Zeigler, prominent fly fishing guide, author, and shop keeper. Norm originally developed the *Schminnow* as a baitfish pattern to imitate small silvery-white baitfish. While the fly is very effective at catching snook, it works equally well as a fresh water pattern for bass and perhaps trout that would take a baitfish.

An interesting feature of the *Schminnow* is its effectiveness in also imitating shrimp, in that it lands delicately on the water, thus not spooking sensitive fish — in contrast to heavier flies like the Clouser Minnow, which splash upon entering the water. Larry Forte and I used the *Schminnow* on separate fly fishing outings on the Florida coast, near Sanibel, for catching numerous snook.

The November Beginner's Fly Tying will be held on Monday, November 18, at 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, room 207. Tying materials will be provided for all who attend and basic tying equipment will be available for those needing equipment.

Fly Tying Roundtable – Nov. 21st

By Jon Thames



Join us for a very different version of an October Caddis tied by Ray Gano. This month, we will be tying the wet fly version of the fly Vernon taught last month, which was a Euro nymph.

For the first time I can remember, we have two versions of the same fly to fish two different parts of the water column. Now you can take both versions and be able to cover the water.

We will meet at 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, room 207, 703 Patrick Street, Frederick. As is our policy, all materials will be supplied for this event.

Do You Tie Flies? We Need Your Help.

By Don Fine

Enjoy fly tying? Interested in sharing your passion for fly tying with other club members? The club will be making changes to both fly tying classes next year and need your help. If you are interested and would like to learn more, email me at dfine1443@gmail.com.

Conservation Update: Brook Trout Conservation in Maryland

By Dave Keane



Last month, I attended a presentation that was put on by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Freshwater Fisheries section. The topic was Brook Trout Conservation. DNR recently completed a five year Brook Trout Assessment and is developing a Strategic Conservation Plan. The Strategic Plan consists of a three prong approach:

- **Resiliency** — focusing on maintaining the most resilient “stronghold” brook trout populations and habitat across Maryland.
- **Protection** — protecting brook trout resources through cold water regulations, plan review and resource protection.
- **Restoration** — restoring degraded streams and watersheds that would allow brook trout to be re- introduced.

The Fisheries section has documented declines in brook trout populations across the state. Threats include changes in land use that have resulted from

population growth, urbanization, and poor agricultural practices. Increased water temperatures and turbidity, acid mine drainage, and loss of riparian buffers are issues that are negatively affecting our brook trout.

Fisheries staff is using spatial data, aerial imagery, and data layers to identify potential focus areas to protect and restore as part of the strategic conservation plan.

The Maryland DNR has developed a draft plan to bring together state, federal, and local governments as well as nonprofits and various NGOs to collectively address the decline in brook trout. PVFF is eager to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Plan and restoration projects moving forward. Stay tuned for more information.

On another note, the fight still continues to save Bristol Bay. Check out this video and article on this important watershed: www.theflyfishjournal.com/exclusive/bristol-or-bust/

Leetown, West Virginia: Part Two

PVFF Project Healing Waters – Frederick Program (PHWFF)

By Andrew Frutiger



“If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it,” is something that we have all heard a thousand times and sometimes actually abided by. When scheduling our last trip of the summer, we had the choice: try new water or stick with what had worked in the past. We decided to stick with what had worked before and return to Leetown, West Virginia — and we are so glad that we did.

If you will remember back to September, it was filled with hot days combined with no rain, not ideal for successful fly fishing trips for the experienced, let alone for those just starting out in the sport. Leetown offered an oasis from the heat, and a cold, spring fed pond full of stocked rainbows and bass. Although the day



started out on the cooler side, it warmed up quickly, but so did the fishing. The fish were everywhere, and as soon as we figured out what they were eating, every rod was bent over. Each of the participants caught multiple fish, some even hooked into monsters and got the fight of a life time. By the end of the day, no one wanted to leave and everyone was glad that we had stuck with what worked.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort

Detrick, please reach out to me at any time or go to our Facebook page. Search for ***Project Healing Waters - Frederick Chapter***.

Sincerely,
Andrew
andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com

December Travelogue

By Larry Forte

For our December monthly meeting on Dec. 10, we will have our travelogue. This won the vote a couple of months ago. I have a few members on the agenda to share pics from their fishing trips this year. If you would like to share your pictures, just let me know. I will add you to the agenda.

Renew Now to Enter Special Drawing

Membership Renewal

By Ruby Fine

Membership dues for 2020 are due by December 31, 2019. At the bottom of the monthly newsletter, there is a form for new and renewal membership. You

may mail the form & check or pay at the monthly meetings. **A special drawing will be held at the December meeting for those who have paid.** If your name is pulled, you may win a one-year free membership along with a box of flies. Pay early...you may be the lucky one!

Banquet Recap

By Larry Forte

As I write this, it's Sunday morning and the day after the banquet. What a great time last night!

Congratulations to Jim Lowell, Donald Lee, Troy Kitch, and Don & Ruby Fine for their awards. I promise a more complete banquet recap in the December issue. This issue needs to get to the printers.

From the Archives:

Travels of the Trout

By Don Fine

(reprinted from the March 2012 issue of Streamlines)

Did you ever have the experience of knowing about a "lunker trout" that held in a particular spot (e.g. deep hole, under a log, behind a big rock) in your favorite stream year after year. Then again maybe you wondered whether that particular fish was/was not there at other times?

A recent article "Travels of Trout" in the January 2012 Wyoming Wildlife Magazine may help answer your curiosities. Kris Homel, a graduate student at Montana State University tracked the patterns in cutthroat trout movements (by tracking individual trout) in the Snake River near Jackson Wyoming, since 2006. What Homel found is that trout will go quite a ways to meet their needs for procreation and food. During spawning season, Homel found fish



move more than sixty miles to reach spawning areas. Once spawning is complete, the trout hang out in that area for several weeks before migrating back to their home habitat.

As for the influence of food on their travels, trout (in winter) move to a suitable habitat with slow water and deep pools. In summer, they would move to

faster waters, anywhere that they could grab a meal and return to a secure location.

But perhaps the travels of cutthroat trout do not apply to all species of trout. Another student (Mariah Mayfield) at Montana State University has studied brown trout movements in the upper Clark Fork River. She found that a lot of brown trout spend the majority of the year in one spot (e.g. behind one rock) all the time. But at spawning time, the brown trout will also swim long distances to reach their spawning tributaries and then (like the cutthroat) will return to exactly the same spot that they inhabited the rest of the year.

If you're wondering what the take home message is from the referenced article and the studies conducted by these two students, it is this. Trout (and perhaps other species) are opportunists. They utilize as much of the watershed as they can, in order to survive. This principle has been going on for thousands of years. Anglers need to understand that "it isn't the rock that makes healthy fish, but rather the system as a whole and each piece plays a pivotal role in that big fish being able to make a living behind that rock, no matter how short or long its travels from it may be."

Let's keep our waters healthy.

Last Cast: A Year With Tenkara

By Larry Forte

It started last fall when I was at an event hosted by the Beaver Creek Fly Shop. James, the owner, had a young lady demonstrating how to cast a tenkara rod. I was amazed at how simple, easy, and fun it was to cast. I am sure most of you have felt it. You go to the same river or stream that you always go to, break out your favorite 5wt rod and off you go. Fun, but sometimes it feels like a routine. At least for me it does — at times.

So when I started casting the tenkara rod, it was something new and exciting. After doing a little research and talking to Vernon, the manager at Beaver Creek, I decided to buy a tenkara rod. I purchased the TenkaraUSA Iwana model – a good all round tenkara rod. For those of you interested in getting into tenkara, the price to get started is very reasonable. For a little

over \$200, I had what I needed to get started. My first trip was last November to Western Maryland to fish Big Run State Park for brookies. That morning, I started with my 2wt rod. I caught a few fish but was not enjoying how the rod cast. After lunch, I switched to my new tenkara rod. Instantly, I was

having a blast casting to and catching little 6" brookies. One thing that I like about tenkara is how accurate your casts are, which is great if you want to target feeding fish.

Now, if you research tenkara, which means "from the heavens" in Japanese, it involves not only a type of rod, but also a philosophy/mindset about how to fish tenkara.

To start, the rod is not your typical fly fishing rod. It's a telescopic rod that can be between 10'-13' feet. The Iwana is 12 feet long.



Plus, no reel is involved. The line is attached to the tip of the rod.

Also, true Tenkara believers don't rely on multiple fly patterns. It relies on a pretty basic reverse hackle fly, called the *Sakasa Kebari*, which means backward fly in Japanese. It is believed that these simple flies will catch fish if fished the proper way.

I am not a tenkara "purist." But I do enjoy tenkara fishing. However, so far, I have used more traditional flies. In fact, during one trip this spring, I used a hopper/dropper rig and had a blast catching trout on both flies. This included a couple of 15-16 inch trout near Cunningham Falls.

The challenging part is what you do when you catch a fish. Again, there is no reel. With bigger fish, this can be a rather comical issue. Basically, you end up grabbing the line and hand fighting the fish. But it's a fun fight. While these rods are lightweight, I had no trouble landing fish up to 16 inches. It's great for smaller fish. When you catch a five inch brook trout, it's a blast and gives you a fun fight.

During my tenkara year, I fished with the rod about six times. I have fished for sunnies, bass, and trout with some success. I even tried it in Florida for mangrove snapper (I had a nice hit – I think). It's fun and while I don't see myself ever becoming a tenkara "purist" and ditching my favorite 5wt, it is now part of my fly fishing arsenal. It's a fun way to fish and I am looking forward to next year. It's something new to learn, which is always a fun part of this sport.

Thanks for reading this issue of "*Streamlines*." I hope to see you at our monthly meetings, upcoming fly tying classes, or other club events!

— Larry Forte

lbforte@verizon.net

Monthly Calendar of Events

- Nov. 12** Monthly Club Meeting
Tuscarora High School
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room A170
- Nov. 18** Beginners Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Nov. 20** Board of Directors' Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109
- Nov. 21** Roundtable Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Nov. 26** PHW Meeting
Francis Scott Key Post #11
American Legion
1450 Taney Avenue
Frederick, MD
Meeting Time – 7:00 PM

2019 PVFF Offices & Directors

President.....Larry Forte
Vice President.....Dave Keane
Secretary.....Karen Baker
Treasurer.....Dennis Allen
3 year Director.....Lynn Ashe
2 year Director.....Andy Mekelburg
1 year Director.....Russ Hanson
Past President.....Don Fine

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS
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www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club



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POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS
MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL APPLICATION and LIABILITY RELEASE

Year _____

The purpose of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers (PVFF) is (1) to promote fly fishing as the most sportsman-like and enjoyable way of fishing and the most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our resources; (2) to provide advice, suggestions and assistance to club members; (3) to publicize the best practices and techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and other related subjects; and (4) to maintain liaison with other organizations of sportsmen and conservationists. By my joining PVFF voluntarily, I understand there are risks involved and will not hold the PVFF club, board of directors, and officers responsible for any injuries, accidents or death as a result of participation in the activities of the Club. Also I grant PVFF permission to photograph me and/or my family at any activities and also to publish them in our monthly newsletter, at the meetings and any PVFF fly fishing functions.

Website: www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

The undersigned being in agreement with the above does hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers.

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____
 (Last) (First)

If family membership, other names _____

Home Address: _____
 Street City State Zip

Phone Number: _____ E-mail address for e-mailing newsletter _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Are you a Fly Fishers Int'l (FFI) member? Circle **Yes** or **No** Yearly Dues: \$12 single \$17 family \$ Donation

How did you hear about PVFF? Friend Facebook Newsletter Fly Shop Other

Interested in a volunteer position? Officer /Board of Directors Committee/Chair Banquet Trip Organizer Teaching Fly Tying Other Activities

Please make check payable to Potomac Valley Fly Fishers or PVFF and mail with completed form to:

Ruby Fine, PVFF Membership
 8712 Baltimore National Pike
 Middletown, Maryland 21769-9401

Dues for calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31

Cash Check# _____ Amount _____ Date _____

New Renewal Life