



## Upper Gunpowder Falls Brook Trout

Monthly Meeting — February 11th

By Larry Forte



The Gunpowder is one of my favorite streams to fish. It's a beautiful stream and the fishing, while challenging, is a lot of fun. While I have caught only brown trout, I have never caught brook trout in the upper Gunpowder. In fact, I didn't realize that there were brook trout in the stream.

At our next meeting, on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Scott Scarfone. He is with the Upper Gunpowder Falls Brook Trout Partnership and he will talk to us about their efforts to restore brook trout populations in the Gunpowder watershed.

Brook trout are Maryland's only native freshwater trout species. Also, the Gunpowder basin supports

over 25 percent of the state's brook trout population. Unfortunately, their numbers and their pristine habitat have been declining for years.

The Upper Gunpowder Falls Brook Trout Partnership is a coalition of volunteers, community organizers, and government agencies. Their mission is to improve water quality and stream habitat and to restore brook trout populations in the Upper Gunpowder Falls watershed. The partnership includes Trout Unlimited, the MD DNR, Baltimore & Carroll Counties and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. I am looking forward to Scott's presentation. Hope that you can join us on the 11<sup>th</sup>!



# Beginner's Fly Tying

By Don Fine

On February 17, we will launch our new Beginner's Fly Tying program. This new fly tying program will provide basic fly tying instruction for those who have never tied an artificial fly. It will also provide a series of progressive tying instruction sessions for more-experienced tiers who have good basic technique, but wish to broaden their fly tying skills.

For those who have little to no experience tying flies, on February 17<sup>th</sup> (and in subsequent months), attendees will receive very basic instruction which includes (but is not limited to): hook types and sizes, basic fly tying tools, procedures for wrapping thread, attaching materials, and materials spacing on the hook and finishing the 'head' of the fly. Over a series of monthly fly tying sessions, these individuals will learn to tie very basic patterns; e.g. green weenie, woolly worm, woolly bugger, simple egg and nymph patterns.

At the monthly Beginner's tying sessions, our more experienced tiers will be tying a diversity of fly patterns. The focus of these sessions is to sequentially introduce new materials and new tying



skills throughout the year. The fly selected for the February 17<sup>th</sup> session is the **muskrat nymph**, a relatively simple pattern and the focus of which is 'correct application' of dubbing materials and insertion of a hackle collar on the fly. Each of these two basic techniques are fundamental to tying more sophisticated patterns. Also, the muskrat nymph is a versatile pattern for early season trout fishing.

Tying begins at 7:00pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, room 2007. Tying materials are provided as well as tying tools for newcomers. Looking forward to a great year of fly tying for all.

# Advanced Fly Tying

By Don Fine

Spring is just around the corner and that means it's almost time for shad fishing. To get us all ready to catch American & Hickory shad in the Potomac, our guest tier is Dan Neuland. Dan will teach us a **jig style shad fly** that you will want to have with you on the Potomac River this spring.

Our Advanced fly tying class be on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We will provide all of the materials and hooks.

Advanced Tying begins at 7:00pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, room 207.



# Register Now! “Tie One On” Club Winter Fly Tying Event is February 22

By Don Fine

There is still time to register and attend our “Tie One On” winter fly tying event scheduled for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Trinity United Methodist Church.

This winter-time fly tying activity is for novice to advanced fly tiers. *And what better way to avoid the cold, but get out of the house for several hours to tie flies?* In contrast to the previous winter time open fly tying sessions, the focus of the February 22 fly tying event is to tie flies to support military veterans of the new Frederick Chapter of Project Healing Waters, as an introductory package for new PVFF members, and for our club’s outreach to youth fly fishing in the Frederick community.

The event will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude around 2:30 PM that day. Tiers of all skill levels are encouraged to attend. Bring your own fly tying equipment and PVFF will provide a selection of tying materials for you to construct your own

favorite (wet fly, dry fly, nymph and/or streamer) pattern(s). Guidance will also be provided for those who are at the early stage of fly tying, as well as to those who are expanding their tying skills.

We will break for lunch around noon. Water and pizza will be provided. (A free-will offering to cover cost of lunch is welcome).

**Please register in advance** since we have set a cutoff for number of participants for the event. You can register on our website:

[www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](http://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club)

Alternately, contact either Don Fine ([dfine1443@gmail.com](mailto:dfine1443@gmail.com), 301-371-5617), or Larry Forte ([lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net), 301-943-7533).

Looking forward to a great day together behind the vise!

## Conservation Update

By Dave Keane

Here are our updates for February:

### **Home Waters Stream Clean Up**

Our club will once again be cleaning up our Home Waters and supporting Project Clean Stream. Please send me an email at [davidkeane1968@gmail.com](mailto:davidkeane1968@gmail.com) or sign up at a monthly meeting if you plan on participating. Join us on April 11 from 10:00am-12:00pm.

### **Beer Company Supporting Conservation**

Growing up, I was taught to cut up the “six pack” soda holders to prevent them from harming wildlife. Birds, turtles, fish and other wildlife have been killed by these soda and beer holders. Plastics have become a big problem in our natural environment

and continue to harm animals. Follow the link below to find more information on this innovative idea:

[www.craftbeer.com/editors-picks/saltwater-brewery-creates-edible-six-pack-rings](http://www.craftbeer.com/editors-picks/saltwater-brewery-creates-edible-six-pack-rings)

### **Frank Bentz Pond to be Removed**

Many of us young and old have fished at Frank Bentz Pond right outside of Thurmont. The pond is stocked annually with trout and is a popular spot for younger anglers just learning to fish. It has been determined that the dam is unsafe and needs to be removed. Search for “Frank Bentz Pond” at [www.fredericknewspost.com](http://www.fredericknewspost.com) to learn more.



# Upcoming Fishing and Outdoor Shows

By Dan Neuland

If you can't get outdoors to enjoy some winter fly fishing or other outdoor activities, there are still several outdoor shows taking place in our area over the next few months to at least get you excited about participating in these activities until spring arrives.

## **Great American Hunting and Outdoor Show:**

Feb. 1-9, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA. The Great American Outdoor Show is a nine-day event celebrating hunting, fishing and outdoor traditions that are treasured by millions of Americans and their families. The show features nearly 1,100 exhibitors plus a jam packed schedule including concerts, fundraising dinners, speaking events, archery competitions, celebrity appearances, seminars, demonstrations and much more! Adult admission \$14.00 (1-day) \$24.00 (2-day), join NRA and get 1-day free. [www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org](http://www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org)

## **Rapidan Trout Unlimited Annual Fishing**

**Show:** Feb. 15, Warrenton, VA. "The Biggest Little Fishing Show" will be held at Highland School, 597 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, VA. The fishing show always has a great lineup of speakers and presentations. This is the annual fundraiser for the Chapter's conservation projects, annual Youth Conservation and Fishing Camp, Trout in the Classroom, Kid's Day fishing, Chapter operations, and stream restoration and cleanup. Adult admission: \$5.00 [www.rapidantu.org](http://www.rapidantu.org)

**Lefty Kreh Tie Fest:** Feb. 22-23, BWI Marriott, 1743 Nursery Road, Linthicum, Md. The event honors Lefty Kreh, Frederick native and one of fly fishing's international legends. Come meet some of the best local and nationally known fly tiers and fly anglers. Stock up on fly tying materials from select vendors. Contact [tony.friedrich@gmail.com](mailto:tony.friedrich@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Fly Fishing Show:** March 7-8, Lancaster County Convention Center, 3 East Vine Street, Lancaster, PA. Everything there is to know about fly fishing, featuring fly tiers, writers, instructional classes and seminars and fly-fishing destinations. The exhibit hall is packed with industry manufacturers, the largest dealers, the best guides and lodges in fly fishing, great artists, nearly every fly tying material invented, all the books and DVD's, and all the best rods, reels, lines, waders, and accessories. The Federation of Fly Fishers is pleased to offer FREE fly fishing instruction at the FFF Learning Center located at the FFF booth. Basic fly casting- fly tying- knot tying will be taught throughout the day-every day of the Fly Fishing Show. International Fly Fishing Film Festival - Award-winning films will be shown Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Adult admission, cash only at gate: 1-day \$15.00, 2-day \$25.00. [www.flyfishingshow.com/lancaster-pa](http://www.flyfishingshow.com/lancaster-pa)

## **Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectable Tackle**

**Show:** March 14, Towson Maryland. Experience fly fishing through the eyes of professional bamboo/graphite/glass rod builders, classic tackle dealers, national known artist and authors, regional guides not to mention our local fly shops from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. More than 70 vendors and booths chock-full of everything fly fishing. Adult admission \$10. [www.marylandflyfishingshow.com](http://www.marylandflyfishingshow.com)

## **3rd Annual Maryland Sportsman Show:**

March 28-29, County Fairgrounds. Over 100 vendors, events and seminars, waterfowl calling competition, cornhole contest, bucks bears & stag scoring, NWTf turkey calling competition and much more! Bring your dog. Check online for ticket prices and info: [www.mdsporthanshow.com](http://www.mdsporthanshow.com)

# PVFF Project Healing Waters – Frederick Program

By Andrew Frutiger



Our February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Our group of participants are excited about 2020 and getting out on the river/stream/lake and bay to do some fishing this year.

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 Program*.

Sincerely,  
Andrew  
[andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com)

## Meeting Cancellations

Please be aware that when inclement weather conditions occur and Schools are closed on the day of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, there will be **no** meeting. This also applies if schools cancel their evening activities so while school may be open for that day, if bad weather is forecast for that evening, they may close the schools to evening activities.



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.

## Flies Needed!

We are still looking for donations of flies from our members. Please check your fly boxes and see if you can pull a dozen or so to donate to this effort. You can bring them to an upcoming club meeting at your convenience. *A special thanks to Tommy Marks and Paul Gerlach for their very generous donations to our needs.*

## Membership Update

Thank you to those who paid your 2020 dues prior to and/or at the December meeting. Congratulations to Paul and Darlene Leboeuf on their winning the free one-year dues drawing. If you have not renewed your membership, please fill out the Application/Renewal form at the end of the newsletter and send along with your check to Ruby Fine. ***Membership dues that are not paid by the end of February will be dropped from the club roster.***

# Last Cast

*By Andy Mekelburg*

It's February, and while most non-fly fishers are thinking the season's over until April, fly fishers know better. Yes, there are only some who will brave the elements and get out there to fish, but there are the two "F's" we look forward to in February— fly tying and fly shows.

This is the time of year we go through our fly boxes to finally bring order to the chaos that resulted from a busy fall fishing season. I know I have flies I never used and can't figure out when to use them, there are also those flies that have seen better days. More importantly, I try to project which flies to use this coming year. For the experts (no names) it's easy to say: "In April I use this fly, in this month I use this one, etc." For we amateurs, we know the familiar and comfortable ones that have either worked or is the one everyone tells you works.

After narrowing that down, the decision is what is lacking and do I have the fly tying skills to make it. Having attended beginners classes and advanced classes, I have been taught a lot of the basic ones. At each class, we receive the "ingredients" and the "recipes", so it's a matter of getting the material and working on it. The more you tie, the easier it gets and the shorter the time it takes to make it. My magic number must be building 20 flies, as I haven't quite reached the easier, more efficient level. It really doesn't matter, as you tie one at a time and get absorbed in the activity. Once we're out fishing again, it's very satisfying to catch a fish on your hand made fly and instead of fretting over losing a \$3 fly in the brush, you just pluck out another of your favorites.

Starting near the end of January through March come the fly fishing shows. Dan Neuland did a great job accumulating all the various shows and putting together a list, which we emailed to you earlier this year. Over the past few years, I have attended a lot of

them. They all are a little different, one may feature new equipment, lectures, seminars, meeting new guides and seeing new fly fishing destinations, some are more like yard sales, with vendors selling used and vintage equipment. I purchased an inexpensive waterproof pouch at one, for around \$6 or 7 dollars. Just last month, it paid for itself, as the pouch accidentally (does anyone do it on purpose?) fell into Catoctin Creek. It worked, passing the test!

The best thing about these shows are the people who sell or teach at the shows and attend. In my experience, Fly fishers are basically nice people who match our passion for this sport. To me, the best part of PVFF is the people and the passion they bring to our meetings, outings and activities. It's a great group of folks that have come together.

For PVFF, February is as active as most months, maybe more so. We have our usual beginners and advanced classes, with the muskrat nymph and shad fly on the menu, Don Fine and Dan Neuland, respectively, as our instructors. The big addition, is "Tie One On" Saturday on February 22 from 10-2. We will provide the materials, equipment if you need it, instruction and pizza. This year, the flies we make will replenish the ones the club uses for new members, the 50-50 raffle, Project Healing Waters and other activities. It's always a good time and what else are you going to do on a cold day in February!

Our February program has Scott Scarfone, from The Upper Gunpowder Falls Brook Trout Partnership is coming to talk with us. We have lined up great programs for just about all our Member meetings through the year. Remember the April meeting is the Casting Clinic and June is the picnic.

At our January Board meeting, the group continues to work to refine our various programs. Some of these ideas we'll share at our next meeting. Others

we are still studying and open for input. As I mentioned at our last meeting, I hope to have every club member get out and fish at least once before the May meeting. If you are just new to the sport or don't have equipment or are concerned about wading through the waters, just let me know, I have just the place and equipment for you to get a taste. The club also has a loaner rod program run by Karen Baker.

We are starting to solicit all our members to suggest outings or have ideas on how to improve our process to get us out to fish. If you have any suggestions please let me know. A number of the ones we have done in the past have been so enjoyable, we are planning to repeat them. We will let you know when and where once we have started to build the calendar with outings.

Enjoy your fishing, tying and warm thoughts for the upcoming season!

— Andy

[andymekelburg@outlook.com](mailto:andymekelburg@outlook.com)

202-253-4562

## Fly Swap

For the past few years, our club has been doing a spring fly swap. Here are the details: tie twelve flies and bring them to the May meeting. When you leave that night, you will have twelve different flies all tied by club members. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next few meetings if you would like to participate.

## Help Wanted

PVFF will be teaching a youth fly fishing class on April 25th at Fountain Rock from 10:00am to 3:00pm. We are looking for club volunteers to help with the class. If you are interested, please contact Larry Forte at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).

## Monthly Calendar of Events

- Feb. 11** Monthly Club Meeting  
Tuscarora High School  
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike  
Frederick, MD  
7:00 PM – Room A170
- Feb. 17** Beginner's Fly Tying  
Trinity U.M. Church  
703 W. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD  
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Feb. 20** Advanced Fly Tying  
Trinity U.M. Church  
703 W. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD  
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Feb. 25** PHW Meeting  
Francis Scott Key Post #11  
American Legion  
1450 Taney Avenue  
Frederick, MD  
7:00 PM
- Feb. 26** Board of Directors' Meeting  
Trinity U.M. Church  
703 W. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD  
7:00 PM – Room 109

## 2019 PVFF Offices & Directors

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

