

South Central Pennsylvania Fly Fishing

Monthly Club Meeting – March 10th

By Andy Mekelburg

The Falling Springs, Letort, Yellow Breeches, and Big Springs are just a few of the many famous trout streams that South Central Pennsylvania has to offer. Toss in the numerous wild brookie and stocked waters the area has, and you have miles upon miles of trout streams within minutes of each other.

Mike Heck, a Professional Trout Guide, author and fly tyer, has fished them all and will be speaking at our next general meeting on March 10.

Mike has been fly fishing for more than thirty four years, and a professional guide and instructor for over eighteen years.

You may have read some of his articles in Fly Fisherman Magazine, American Angler, Fish & Fly and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. He's the author of *Spring Creek Strategies* and has been featured in the show called *Road Trip*, which is on Discovery Channel, Europe. He's also a pro staff member for



Regal vises, and pro member of Performance Flies. Mike conducts beginner classes and offers year-round guiding on the Falling Springs, LeTort and Yellow Breeches as well as some other excellent South Central PA streams and showing you how and where to find these trout and techniques and flies used to catch these wild trout.

Seems like he's equipped to handle the full panoply of fly fishing and tying questions! Hope you will join us for an interesting presentation on the 10th!

Beginner's Fly Tying on March 16: Light Cahill Wet Fly

By Don Fine

The next Beginner's Fly Tying session will be held **March 16**. As noted in our earlier *Streamlines* newsletters, the theme of our 2020 Beginner's fly tying program is to focus on improving the basic fly tying skills for the correct application of materials on the hook.

Increasing in complexity from our last class, the pattern chosen for the March Beginner's class, the *Light Cahill* wet fly, builds upon the skills learned last month, including the correct application of a tail, hackle collar and wing to the fly.

The *Light Cahill* is a great general imitation of summer mayfly duns. While the *Light Cahill** was originally designed to imitate a family of mayflies with the name of *Stenonema*, it is a great searching pattern that can be used to imitate light colored



mayflies which begin hatching in late May and continue through June.

**The Dark Cahill variant of the Light Cahill is often used earlier in the spring, as it imitates several of the darker colored mayflies which hatch during the months of March through May. Virtually the same tying steps are used for the Dark Cahill with substitution of darker tying materials.*

Advanced Fly Tying on March 19: Conewago Wooly Bear

By Larry Forte

For the next Advanced Fly Tying Class on **March 19**, we welcome back Art Overcash and he will be teaching us the Conewago Wooly Bear, a fly that he designed.

The fly is named for Conewago Conservationists in Biglerville, Pennsylvania, where it was field tested and approved by guide Steve Harry and other fishers who have used it on that portion of Conewago Creek. It's a great fly for trout but would also be a tasty morsel for other species. The fly can be fished



as a nymph and possibly a streamer. Although it was designed to "match the hatch," it will catch fish all year round.

The Beginner's and Advanced fly tying classes begin at 7pm at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fredrick (Room 207). All tying materials and hooks are provided.

PVFF Treasurer's Update

By Dennis Allen

At the last Board of Directors meeting, your Board approved the new PVFF budget for 2020. In summary, membership income this year is expected to be around \$1,800 and operating expenses are around \$5,400. As you can see, membership dues do not cover all expenses, but we also have income from the annual banquet and auction, the rod raffles, shirt sales, and ad hoc donations from various members.

The biggest parts of our operating expenses are fly tying classes (\$1,100), insurance (\$450), the newsletter (\$1,200), and meeting room rent (\$920). The remainder of the expenses include the picnic, fees for some of our speakers, the website, and our Fly Fishing International dues.

In any event, we still expect a small budget deficit this year, so we are making two changes going forward:

Project Healing Waters Update

By Andrew Frutiger

What a fantastic start to the new year! We continue to have a strong showing of veterans, enthusiastic about learning as much as they can about the sport. This past meeting was all about getting back to basics and knot tying, something we can all appreciate. Veterans spent time working on the Double Surgeon, Improved Clinch, and Blood Knots. For those looking for a greater challenge, there was the Non Slip Loop Knot. In addition to knot tying, many veterans took advantage of the space that the American Legion affords to practice casting. On this night, we had special guest and casting aide, Project Healing Waters Regional Director, Curtis Boatman.

Coming in the near future, we are concentrating on a few key areas: outings and competitions. We are

- First, we are going to limit our miscellaneous donations and conservation project expenses to the income from the 50/50 raffles. Each meeting we will announce the recipient of the raffle income so please participate – they are good causes. You might win also!
- Second, we are going to increase next year's dues by \$3, so membership will be \$15/individual and \$20/family.

The Board of Directors will continue to handle these matters so you can concentrate on monthly meetings, fly tying, and fishing, but if you want to know more, please find me or Andy Mekelburg and we can discuss any of this.

— Dennis Allen, Treasurer

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looking forward to the Lancaster Fly Fishing Showing coming up in March and this year, our veterans will be competing in the 2020 National Fly Tying Program & Competition.

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 andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com or head to our Facebook page (search for *Project Healing Waters - Frederick Program*). Our next meeting will be at 7pm on March 24 at American Legion Francis Scott Key Post #11.

Conservation Update: Trout in the Classroom

By Chuck Dinkel

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Trout in the Classroom (MATIC) program is to develop school children into future protectors of and advocates for establishing and maintaining healthy conditions for trout in local streams. Through the exciting experience of rearing trout from fertilized eggs and stocking them in local waters, TIC helps young people to become stewards of the environment. Raising trout through a combination of classroom and hands-on activities demonstrates to youngsters both the importance of clean water and the difficulty of maintaining it.

Quite simply, MATIC is essentially a *cold-water conservation* and not a *hatchery* program. Linking students to their watersheds, TIC activities reinforce existing multidisciplinary curriculum requirements from grade three onward. Students learn to value our natural resources through the lifecycle of the trout. Besides creating a durable understanding and appreciation of the importance of clean water, TIC also exposes children to broader themes. These include the concepts of ecosystems and watersheds, preservation and enhancement of natural resources, protection of the environment, and the value of maintaining healthy trout populations as an indicator of environmental quality. A collateral purpose is to encourage young people to enjoy sport fishing as a way to connect with nature and part of a healthy life-style.



In Maryland, over 100 schools and environmental centers from Baltimore to Garrett County are taking part in this important conservation education effort for the 2019-2020 school year. Frederick County has 23 participating schools.

In December, TIC volunteers assemble at the Albert Powell Hatchery in Hagerstown to collect fertilized

Kamloops eggs. Approximately 120 eggs are delivered to TIC schools. Once the eggs hatch, students monitor the lifecycle of the alevin as they grow into fry and fingerlings. With their teachers' help, students feed the trout, monitor them for growth, and test water quality, in many cases on a daily basis.

In late spring, students release the fingerlings at DNR-approved sites. The release program usually includes taking stream measurements, surveying insect life, fly-casting and tying demonstrations and hands-on experience, and in some cases visits to fish hatcheries and stream restoration projects.

Since Frederick County lacks a TU chapter, for many years PVFF members have stepped up to fill critical roles such as delivering eggs, teaching students fly tying, raising eggs and alevin, and assisting at trout releases. Without this support, TIC would not flourish in Frederick County.

The requirements to serve as a TIC volunteer are minimal. I don't know a single PVFF member who wouldn't measure up. Volunteers are eligible to attend the annual training provided for teachers. If you like to fish for trout, which most PVFF members do, aspects of TIC training will make you a better fisher. The training is held at Hood College and professors from the school will typically covers topics ranging from trout anatomy, life cycle, and food sources. DNR staff will teach you how to collect and identify the aquatic bugs that are one of the main sources of a trout's diet.

Interested, want more information? Talk to me at the next meeting or contact me now at 301-401-5066 or troutintheclassroomcd@gmail.org.

Assisting at an upcoming trout release this spring will provide you an introduction to the program, and my guess is, like me, you'll be "hooked" too.

Let's Plan Some Outings!

Members join our club for many reasons, but one of the key ones is to get out to fish. Whether you are a beginner wanting to learn, an experienced angler, who wants to see new water, or you just want to fish and have a fun day on the streams with others, the PVFF helps to coordinate a number of member-run outings.

If you have a favorite stream (or second favorite) give us a date and location that you plan to fish and we'll let the other members know. Just email/call/tap on my shoulder to set up an outing, we'll coordinate. — Andy Mekelburg

Ladies Outing in April

Join us for a ladies only outing on April 30 at Fountain Rock Pond in Walkersville, MD, at 10:00 am. We will have lunch out at the tavern afterwards. Come out for a fun day with the gals! Call me for questions at 301-639-4520. — Lynn Ashe

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.

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 Federation of Fly Fishers will offer FREE fly fishing instruction at the at the FFF booth. Basic fly casting, fly tying, and knot tying will be taught every day of the show. Adult admission, cash only at gate: 1-day \$15.00, 2-day \$25.00.

www.flyfishingshow.com/lancaster-pa

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

I guess I'm still waiting for winter to start, so it can end and we can enter prime spring fishing season. As others are, I've been tracking the DNR announcements of trout stocking with anticipation. I have been out to the streams to see if I can get the "early luck" going. So far so good! My heartfelt thanks to Rick Loose and the trout pen team for their efforts in raising the trout. There are no small fish in our home waters!

I was very encouraged by the show of hands at our last meeting of those who have been fishing this year. I feel very optimistic about our prospects of meeting our May deadline for everyone to fish at least once. (Tell me if I'm too goal oriented ... actually you don't have to tell me, I know.)

I'm still sifting through the various almanacs and old sayings to figure out whether the milder winter will lead to a good or bad spring. Doesn't really matter:

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. Adult admission \$10. 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.mdspportsmanshow.com

whatever it is, it is. I'll voyage to the stream either way, and mow the lawn a lot either way.

March is the transition month. The cold air gradually warms up, streams warm up, and flies start hatching. The last round of fly fishing shows and open houses at our local fly shops is happening, so it's time to stock up on the season's supplies and tools. I'll admit that I'm a sucker for some of those strange gadgets that are displayed. This year, I bought a telescopic fly retriever that extends to 9 feet long to get flies out of trees. Looks like I can also use it as a back scratcher and golf ball retriever, very versatile. I bet we could have some interesting discussions on items you have seen or bought in the past.

It's also time to "wind up" the winter tying activities. If you were fortunate enough to attend our "Tie One On" event on February 22, you had a great

time in tying, fellowship, and pizza! Many thanks to Don Fine and Jon Thames for leading us.

Now is the time to start getting the club outings on the calendar to start mapping out our spring. I know everyone has their favorite streams, so if you want to suggest a date and a place, we'll put it on the calendar for members no sign up. Of course, you may want to take us to your second favorite place. Please let me know, we'll help do the behind-the-scenes work.

As always, if you have any suggestions, comments, or any input, let us know — and you're welcome to come to our board meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month. It's your club!

See you soon, happy fishing!

— Andy

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Help Wanted

PVFF will be teaching a **youth fly fishing class on April 25** at Fountain Rock from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The class will be for 11-15 year old kids in Frederick County. We will start with the basics, including an introduction to the equipment and entomology. This will be followed by casting and fishing Fountain Rock pond. It will be a fun day.

We are looking for club volunteers to help with the class. If you are interested, please contact me at lbforte@verizon.net. You don't need to help all day. Even a hour or two would be a big help.

— Larry Forte

Monthly Calendar of Events

- Mar. 10** Monthly Club Meeting
Tuscarora High School
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room A170
- Mar. 16** Beginner's Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Mar. 19** Advanced Fly Tying
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 207
- Mar. 24** PHW Meeting
Francis Scott Key Post #11
American Legion
1450 Taney Avenue
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM
- Mar. 25** Board of Directors' Meeting
Trinity U.M. Church
703 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD
7:00 PM – Room 109

2019 PVFF Offices & Directors

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Vice President.....Dave Keane
Secretary.....Karen Baker
Treasurer.....Dennis Allen
3 year Director.....Russ Hanson
2 year Director.....Lynn Ashe
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