



Image and story courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Maryland DNR Stock Bass Fingerlings in Potomac

In July, Maryland's Fishing and Boating Services Hatcheries Division and Freshwater Fisheries Program stocked 30,000 fingerling smallmouth bass in the Potomac River from Taylors Landing downstream to Edwards Ferry.

Freshwater staff collected adult smallmouth bass from the Potomac in April to serve as hatchery brood. The bass were spawned in ponds with artificial nesting structures and reared in fertilized ponds. Once growth had been maximized in the

ponds, the bass were transferred to indoor circular tanks where they were trained to feed on an artificial diet to accelerate growth to a stockable size of two to three inches. The final step was transporting these fish to the Potomac River.

Several consecutive years of high river flows during the spring have reduced spawning success causing lower catch rates for anglers. The hatchery fish will supplement natural reproduction, accelerating the recovery of the fishery and improving fishing.

Don't miss our "Last Cast" article on Page 7 for important updates about upcoming events!

Beginner's *Fly Tying*: Curly Tailed Jig Pattern

By Don Fine

Over the past several months our Beginner's Fly Tying class has focused on a series of relatively simple fly patterns representing several types of aquatic and terrestrial insects. In contrast, the pattern chosen for our August fly tying represents another category of fish-food, while also introducing new tying skills and materials used in fly construction.



I refer to the August fly pattern as a “*curly tailed jig*” because I do not know who first developed this pattern. Nevertheless, I will give attribution to our club-member Tommy Marks, who first shared the pattern with me and other PVFF club members.

The curly tailed jig, much like the classic (Bob) Clouser deep minnow, is tied in an inverted manner with either bead chain or dumbbell eyes, which makes the fly virtually weedless while providing an up-and-down (i.e. jiggling) motion to the fly using a strip-retrieval. The pattern is tied also with a rubber

tail which further imparts a life-like action such as that of an aquatic worm, leech, or minnow.

The curly tailed jig fly, when tied in various sizes and colors, provides the fly fisher with a small arsenal of flies for panfish through larger species, e.g. smallmouth and largemouth bass. It is an awesome pattern on ponds, rivers, and lakes during these hot summer months.

As with last month, those who intend to participate will need to register in advance, no later than August 10th, in order receive by mail the tying materials for the pattern.

How to Participate in our Aug. “*Fly Tying at a Distance*” Session

No later than **August 10**, head to the PVFF website to sign up for our *Fly Tying at a Distance* event. We will mail you the hooks and materials needed to tie this month's flies. All instructions for tying these patterns will be available online by **August 14**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vice to contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club — we'll post all of the photos we receive on the club website.

Tying the Scud and Mop Fly Patterns

Project Healing Waters

By Andrew Frutiger

In our fifth and sixth installments of online fly tying seminars, Colin Flournoy led our veterans through tying complex scud and simple mop fly patterns. While the scud pattern can take the better part of 20 minutes to tie, the mop fly only takes about two minutes. Both are great additions to our veterans ever growing fly collection and, if the weather ever cools, I have no doubt that they will lead to many fish on the line.

Both flies are meant to be fished off of the bottom, adding a twitch every now and then to stimulate a reaction.

We also talked about planning a fly fishing trip, where preparation meets opportunity. Many of us just want to throw our gear in the back of the car and go fishing. When we get to the water, we throw all of our equipment on and go trucking down to the river (sometimes still in the process of putting our gear on). Once we get to the river, we can't get our fly in the river fast enough (Ready, Fire, and then Aim).



Larry, with the help of the volunteers, gave some perspective on how we should all approach our next outing, taking the time to prepare and get organized:

familiarize yourself with the stream (phone a friend/book a guide), check/clean your equipment, check the weather and water flows, and bring backup gear (two of everything, including a backup fishing spot). When you get there, be patient. Do not go storming down to the water. Instead, take your time, look around, look under rocks, see what is hatching, how the fish are feeding, see if you can see the fish (if you can, they can see you), and consider where you want to place your fly (which also means where you need to start your casting). Once you have an idea of what is happening, step back, select your fly (use a loop knot for

more realistic movement), move to your spot (out of sight of the fish you are hunting) and enjoy the day.

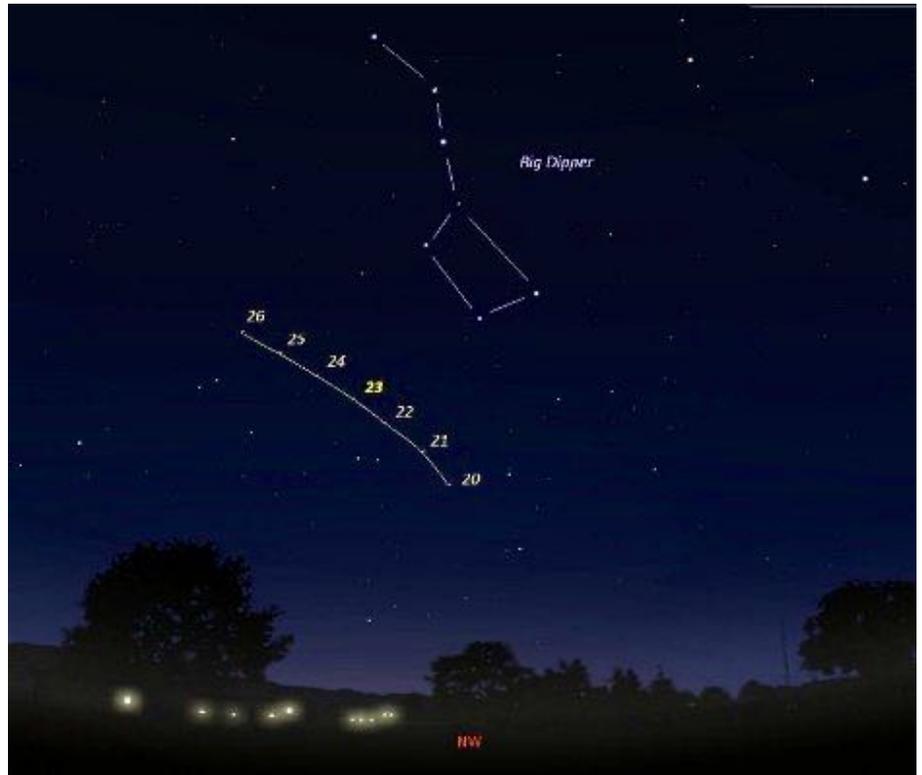
If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters* — *Frederick Chapter*.

Astronomy Minute: August 2020

By Russ Hanson

Before Sunrise – The Perseid meteor shower peaks on August 12 (11 and 13 should be good, also). Best viewing should be from midnight until dawn, with viewing getting better as dawn approaches. Unfortunately, the moon may wash some of them out. Also, Venus is at greatest elongation on August 12. That is, it will be as far out in front of the sunrise as it gets. I hope for clear skies!

After Sunset - Jupiter and Saturn (smaller, gold colored, a little farther to the east) are very evident in the southeast after sunset. It is easy to see at least four of the moons of Jupiter if you have a small telescope or a spotting scope. You might see one moon if you can hold your binoculars steady enough. Where's Waldo – er – Comet NEOWISE? It is moving in about a 45 degree angle up and south from under the bowl of the Big Dipper.



I don't know how much longer we can see it; it may be gone by time this newsletter is published. Look for it with binoculars when it is dark enough to see the Big Dipper.

Follow us on
our new
YouTube
channel!



YouTube

If you have a Gmail account, you can follow our new channel on YouTube, where we are posting our monthly fly tying sessions and other videos. As of the end of July, we have 14 followers. But we need a minimum of 100 in order to change our YouTube web address to a unique name. Until then, the easiest way to find our channel is to head to www.youtube.com and search for "Potomac Valley Fly Fishers."

Northern (New York) Fly Fishing Adventure

By Mike Holland

A few of you may know me from trips to Pulaski, New York, to fish for salmon on the Salmon River. In any case, I am a new member of the PVFF and friend of Andy Mekelburg, who I readily give the blame (and credit) for my fly-fishing addiction.

I am originally from Malone, New York, which lies about ten miles south of the Canadian border and about 550 miles from my home in Burke, Virginia. While not widely known, Malone is also home to some fabulous fly fishing. The Salmon River (not connected to the Salmon River in Pulaski) runs right through town and on to Canada. About ten miles to the east of Malone, the

Chateaugay River runs north to Canada; about 15 miles to the west of Malone, there is the St. Regis River. All of these rivers have excellent public access and are home to rainbow, brown, and brook trout; they also are stocked annually. While in normal circumstances they can draw Canadian and local spin cast anglers, especially on the weekend, there is plenty of room for those willing to get up early and/or walk.

As I usually do, I spent the week of June 29 at home in New York's North Country. I was able to fish on four days. I spent two days on the Chateaugay River and was able to catch seven rainbows and a brown trout. I primarily engaged in nymphing and



found success with a stonefly trailed by smaller nymph such as the Prince Nymph, Copper John, and Pheasant Tail. The good old Woolly Bugger in black and olive was also a winner. In fact, I used Woolly Buggers to catch one rainbow on the Salmon River and another on the world-renowned Ausable River, which is about an hour and a half from Malone.

In terms of accommodations, there is a very nice and relatively new Holiday Inn Express in Malone. There are also several nice local restaurants such as Hosler's and King Wok. I encourage you to consider a trip to New York's North Country at some point; the best fishing is in May and early June. I am happy to help you if you decide to plan a trip and can be reached at michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg



Happy summer! Welcome to the heat doldrums. Fishing has gravitated to early morning and evening for bass. And maybe a trip on the Bay for rockfish.

As our world creeps ever so slightly back towards the way it was, PVFF continues to keep in touch

with the membership. The “Fly Tying at a Distance” program has been very successful, with at least 20 members taking part each month. I just hope that Don Fine and Troy Kitch don’t take their talents to Hollywood (or wherever you go these days). Regarding our website and YouTube videos, Troy says that if 100 or more individuals subscribe to our

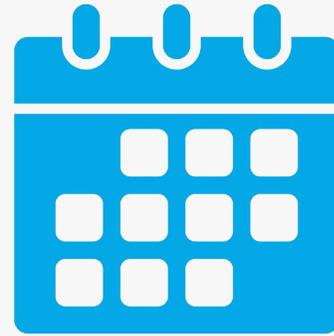
videos, we can become an official YouTube channel. Tell your friends!

I want to share our plans with you for the next couple of months, which is about how realistically far we can project out. First, we're hosting another virtual meeting on August 11 at 7:00 pm. Look for your Zoom invitation. We're trying to make these as fun and informational as possible. Those members who have attended tell me that they get a lot out of them. Next on the schedule is our Casting Clinic on September 8 at 6 p.m. at Middletown Park. This will be our first in-person get together since March, and it will be very exciting to see real people again! We will follow all state and local guidelines and you should do whatever you are comfortable with.

Thirdly, we have decided on a course for our annual banquet with the many comments I received from you. Some great ideas! We will host a virtual banquet over Zoom on October 24, starting at 6:00 pm. We plan to have a fun, quick program and then we'll have some great prizes — but you don't have to be present to win. Before I get to the prizes, let me assure the membership that we are not in dire financial straits. Much like we like to leave the environment as good, if not, better than when we got there, this is our philosophy with funds for our club. This event will replenish our operating funds, without dipping into savings.

We would like to collect donations from our membership that would be suitable for a nice prize, such as a fly rod, gift certificate, Ruby's apple pie, etc. (not my old waders that have a small hole). Also, if you are willing to host a couple of people at a fishing spot of your choice or anything like that – be creative!

Many more details to come soon. If you want to donate something or have questions or suggestions, Karen Baker is in charge and may be reached at kcbab@aol.com. Of course, you can always contact me at amekelburg@comcast.net.



Calendar of Events

- Aug. 10** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- Aug. 11** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (check your email for the web link)
- Aug. 14** Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- Aug. 26** Board of Directors' Meeting Conference Call, 7:00 PM
- Sep. 8** Casting Clinic at Middletown Park, 6:00 PM
- Oct. 24** Virtual Annual Banquet — Join us on Zoom at 6:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)

2020 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
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