



## **Club Meeting: An Evening Talking About Lefty Kreh**

By Larry Forte

**A**t our next online meeting on December 8th, we are going to spend the evening reminiscing about fly-fishing legend Bernard “Lefty” Kreh. Lefty passed away in March of 2018 and, as you know, he had a tremendous impact on the sport we all love. For over 18 years, he wrote the *Outdoor* column for the Baltimore Sun. He wrote over 30 books on fly fishing. He co-hosted his own fly-fishing show with Tom Brokaw. He was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame and named Angler of the Year in 1997. Plus, he was a local boy; born and raised in Frederick, worked at Fort Detrick, and he started his career at the Frederick News Post.

Mr. Kreh was a lifetime member of PVFF and a dear friend of the club. We are fortunate to have a couple of members who were friends of Lefty. At our December meeting, Dan Neuland and



Bernard “Lefty” Kreh

Ruby & Don Fine will share their memories of Mr. Kreh. I hope you can join us. It will be a special evening.

Join us on Zoom at 7 PM on December 8th — We’ll email you the link. We hope you can join us for our next club meeting!

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Squirmy Worm and Glo Bug

By Don Fine

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on us all, but despite these hardships our Beginner's Fly Tying continues to be a success, with more than 20 of our club members participating each month in the remote fly tying.

As such, we plan to continue with the same format for the coming months, until the time when we can gather again safely to learn more about the art of tying artificial flies.

I have chosen two new (relatively simple) fly patterns for the month of December, both of which introduce more new tying techniques, while at the same time providing fly patterns worthy of fishing in the coming winter months and going into the spring stockings of new fish.

The two patterns are the '*glo bug*' which represents fish eggs (commonly referred to as salmon eggs) and the '*squirmy worm*' which represents aquatic worms, which commonly inhabit fresh water habitats.



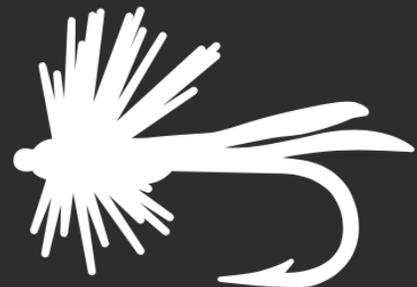
Squirmy Worm



Glo Bug

## How to Participate in our Nov. "Fly Tying at a Distance" Session

No later than **December 14**, 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 **December 16**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vise to [contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](mailto:contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club).



# PVFF to Start an Advanced Fly Tying Group

By Larry Forte

In January, PVFF plans to start an Advanced Fly Tying Group. This will be similar to our very successful Advanced Roundtable from the past, but with a few changes. The idea is that the group would meet once a month on a predetermined date. For example, it may be the third Thursday of the month. At first this group will meet virtually, but hopefully at some point in 2021, we will be able to meet together ‘face to face.’

Here’s how meetings of the Advanced Fly Tying Group will work. Each participant will be responsible for leading a tying session for at least one monthly meeting during the year. The leader for any given month will select the ‘*fly of the month*’ and show how it is tied during the meeting. Thus, if we have 12 tying members in the group, each member of the group would lead a session once per year.

Prior to the meeting which you are scheduled to lead, **you would supply only the recipe** (via email) for the fly to the other members. Then each member would be responsible for getting his/her necessary materials before the tying session — not the lead tier. The leader’s sole responsibility is to show the group how to tie the fly.

To be part of the group, we encourage participants to consider tying skills are that of an intermediate – advanced fly tier. Those who are new to fly tying



would be expected to continue participating in the monthly Beginner’s fly tying session, until they are proficient at the basic tying skills. Members of the Advanced Fly Tying Group are not excluded from their continued participation in the monthly Beginner’s sessions, which have been very successful throughout 2020.

Also, as part of the group, your participation requires you to lead one tying session each year (assuming that there are at least 12 members).

Again, the meetings would start virtually but, hopefully by mid 2021, we will be meeting together as a group at a defined location.

If you are interested, sign up on our website email me at [lbforte@verison.net](mailto:lbforte@verison.net).

## How to Sign Up for Advanced Fly Tying

If you are interested in leading an advanced fly tying session, you can register on our website. You will find the sign-up link in the sidebar next to the beginner’s tying registration link.

# Project Healing Waters: A Lesson from Lefty

By Andrew Frutiger



Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace and, being the son of Korean War Veteran, this day always had special meaning in our house. It is with this in mind that this month's article focuses on one of our own veterans, Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, and the example of service he set supporting Project Healing Waters.

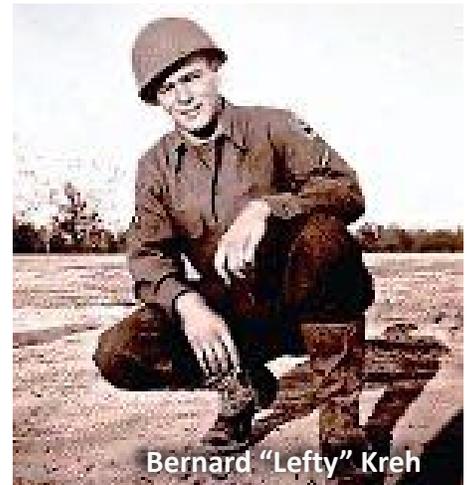
Many of us have heard stories of Lefty during World War II, from serving in the 69th Infantry Division to helping to liberate a concentration camp, to suffering from frostbitten feet at the Battle of the Bulge. What I had never heard until now was his experience. In his words, "We were scared as hell a lot of the time, but today we all agree: It was the best experience of our lives. You learn that you can do things you never thought you could do."

It was with this spirit of "Anything is Possible" that Lefty traveled the world fishing with dignitaries and celebrities but, unlike many who would have let this change them, Lefty never did. He maintained the

role of teacher wherever he went and this was never more evident than with his

work on Project Healing Waters. Whether meeting him in person or watching him work with others, you always felt like he could teach anyone how to fly fish, no matter the challenge. It is in that spirit that we approach our own Chapter of Project Healing Waters, as teachers willing to overcome any obstacle to help service men and women find joy in the sport we love. Thank you Lefty.

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](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters* — *Frederick Chapter*.



Bernard "Lefty" Kreh

## Time to Renew Your PVFF Club Membership Dues for 2021

Please fill out the **Membership Application/Renewal form** at the end of this newsletter and send with your payment to the address shown on the form to Dave Dowiak, the 2021 Membership Chairperson. Be sure to provide your email address, as the monthly "Streamlines" newsletter and virtual monthly meetings (in addition to other important announcements) are sent via email. Thank you. — **Ruby Fine**

# Conservation News: Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

By Dave Keane

**W**alk in the woods this time of year and you may find yourself asking what is that shrub with the red berries?

If you're not sure what it is, scratch the bark off a twig and if you get a spicy aroma, it's most likely a spicebush.

## Description

Spicebush is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub in the Laurel family that grows to a height of 4-12 feet. It is a very common understory plant found near streams, floodplains, and in low lying forests. It often forms dense thickets that provide excellent cover for small mammals while providing much needed shade for streams and creeks.

Spicebush produces brilliant yellow flowers in early spring prior to developing leaves. The leaves are alternate and simple, oblong or ovate with a smooth margin. The beauty of this shrub really shows itself in the fall with the leaves turning a bright golden color followed by the red drupe berries.

The young twigs are glabrous and light green and the mature bark on the trunk is gray with white lenticels. Spicebush is very common throughout the eastern United States. It is found in zones 4 through 9 from New England to Georgia and west to Michigan and Missouri.



Spicebush (courtesy Maryland DNR nursery)

## Conservation

Spice bush is a very important plant that thrives along river banks, wetlands, and floodplains stabilizing the soil and providing shade for aquatic life. Fortunately, the mature shrubs are not a preferred meal to the white tail deer, making this shrub one of the more common plants surviving in our forests. This plant also provides nectar to native bees and pollinators in the early spring. It is the host to the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, whose larvae feed on the leaves of the plant. The fruit is enjoyed by American robins, northern bobwhite quail, as well as raccoons and opossums.

## Cultivation

Spicebush can be propagated by seed or softwood cuttings. Cold stratify the seeds for at least four months and do not let them dry out. More commonly seen in natural settings, this plant can be used in the landscape. In order to have berries, you will need to plant both male and female plants.

# Astronomy Minute: November 2020

By Russ Hanson

Finally, on December 21<sup>st</sup>, we'll get to witness a once-in-twenty-years event – if the sky is clear. Yes, the great conjunction will occur on the December solstice. It takes Jupiter, with its shorter and faster orbit, 20 years to overtake Saturn. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, these two planets will be as close to each other in our sky as they ever get.

Unfortunately, Jupiter won't occult Saturn. That's because the orbits of the planets don't line up perfectly with the plane of the solar system. If you've been watching these two planets over the last few months, you will have observed that they are not only getting closer to each other, but they are also moving westward across the night sky.



So make sure you look to the southwest as soon as it gets dark so you don't miss it. They'll do it again in 2040, but won't be as close to each other.

## Honoring H. Walker Zimmerman, Jr.

By Don Fine

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, PVFF lost another of the club's founding members, Harry Walker Zimmerman. Born August 23, 1923, in Frederick, Walker (his preferred name), graduated from Frederick High School in 1941 and served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946. Walker, also a life member in the Frederick Isaac Walton League, was an avid hunter and fisherman who enjoyed many hours fishing at his second home on the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

I first met Walker Zimmerman at a PVFF club event some 20 plus years ago, not realizing that he was one of our club founding members. Only several years ago, I came to know Walker on a more personal basis. He had contacted me regarding his intent to



donate many of his fly fishing rods, flies, and fly tying materials to PVFF as a fundraiser. It was then (while talking with him and going through his memorabilia), that I came to realize the close, life-long relationship between Walker and his good friend Lefty Kreh.

And Walker was there to honor his friend, when (posthumously) Lefty was inducted into the Frederick High School hall of fame. Two years ago our club honored Walker, Bob Abraham, and Jim Gilford for their life-long contributions

and accomplishments to our club and to the sport of fly fishing at the PVFF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. May we all remember the dedication of these distinguished founders of our club, the outdoor pass times which we love and the beauty of nature which they and we strive to conserve. *(Image courtesy of Keeney & Basford P.A. Funeral Home - Frederick)*

# Last Cast

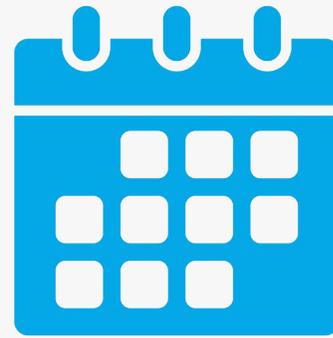
By Andy Mekelburg

We're in the midst of the holiday season of the strangest year in my mind, so thought it would be an appropriate time to say thanks to everyone for such a successful year. First of all, let me thank the Board of Directors and other volunteers who have helped guide us through this year. Both Larry Forte and Don Fine have offered critical and timely advice that have helped shape our direction. While I'm mentioning Don, what he and Troy have done with the Fly Tying at a Distance Program has been nothing short of phenomenal. They have established a brilliant model for future fly tying.

I want to recognize Karen Baker's efforts in running the "Virtual Banquet" this year, in a rapidly changing environment. We had a fun, entertaining banquet with a great financial result. We actually netted more this year than in the past, putting us in good financial stead for the near future. Thanks to Lynn Ashe for the donation of her kayak that started the momentum for other contributions. Thanks to the many members and businesses who donated to the raffle and many thanks to everyone who bought tickets, making a generous donation to our future.

Thanks to all our speakers this year, both in person and virtual. Thanks to Rick Loose and the trout pen team for keeping the fish fed through this. And thanks to Mark Toms and the DNR for helping us stock the trout. I know this is the one gift we can all appreciate — taking some time off in this busy season to relax, throw out a few casts, and catch a MONSTER trout!

And of course, many thanks to my wife, Linda, who is supportive of pursuing my passion. I am very much looking forward to ending this year and starting off next year with a clean slate, having a fabulous 2021!



## Calendar of Events

- Dec. 3** Board of Directors' Meeting  
Conference Call, 7:00 PM
- Dec. 8** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- Dec. 14** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- Dec. 16** Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website

## 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  
Past President.....Larry Forte

**POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS**

**P. O. BOX 3001**

**FREDERICK, MD 21705**

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



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



**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. I also 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](http://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:** \_\_\_ \$15 single \_\_\_ \$20 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:**

**David Dowiak, PVFF Membership**  
**8920 Bloomfield Road**  
**Frederick, Maryland 21702**

**Dues for calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31**

**Cash** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_ **Life** \_\_\_\_\_