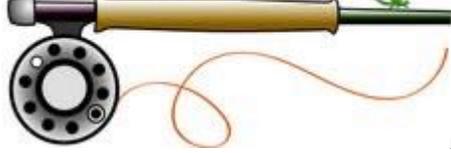


POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education - Conservation - Fellowship



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

STREAMLINES

Vol. 30, No. 7

July 2021

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club



Enjoy the Summer and
Go Fishing — Club Meetings
Resume in September



Thanks to those who joined our
Casting Clinic in June!





Pat's Rubber Legs. Image credit: tailwaterjunkie.com

Beginner's Fly Tying: Pat's Rubber Legs

By Don Fine

The fly pattern which I have selected for the July beginner's fly tying program is Pat's Rubber Legs. Named after its creator, Pat Bennett, this fly is considered a great stonefly imitation, one relatively easy to tie. In researching the history of the fly, I found that Pat's Rubber Legs is highly regarded as a favored pattern not only in

fishing for trout, but also in fishing for panfish and smallmouth bass during the summer months.

In tying this pattern, our group will gain additional experience in the technique of applying multiple sets of rubber legs to a fly, a technique applicable across a range of fly patterns.

How to Participate in the Next "Fly Tying at a Distance" Session

No later than **July 12**, 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 **July 14**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vise to contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club.



Working on the Kreelex fly, June Advanced Tying session

Advanced Fly Tying: Easy Parachute & Streamer Pattern

By Larry Forte

Our next Advanced Fly Tying session will be Wednesday, July 21st. Ray Ouellette is going to show us how to tie two flies: an easy parachute pattern and a pan fish / bass streamer pattern. This meeting will be held using Zoom. We'll send out the link to participants via email.

At our June fly tying meeting, we had our first in-person gathering and met an Andy's house. Andy showed us how to tie the Kreelex fly, a pattern he has great success with on his stream that runs through his

property. As a bonus, we learned how to tie his Special Mop Fly. It was a fun evening.

Interested? We would love for you to join us. Here's how it works. Each participant is responsible for leading a tying session for a monthly meeting during the year. You select the fly and show how it is tied during the meeting. If we have 12 members, you will lead the session once per year. To join in, sign up on our website or email me at lbforte@verizon.net. Hope to see you online on July 21st!

Conservation Corner: Dobson Flies and Hellgrammites

By Dave Keane

Recently while leaving for work in the early morning, I observed an amazing insect on the side of my house. It was a female Eastern Dobsonfly, *Corydalus cornutus*.

Dobsonflies are not really flies (insects in the Order Diptera). They are in the Order Megaloptera along with the Alderflies and Fishflies, all of which have an aquatic larval life stage.

Description

Rarely seen, adult Dobson Flies are short lived with males living about three days and females living around 8-10 days. Adults are quite large, with wing spans reaching up to five inches in length. Male Dobson flies have long “tusk like” mandibles used for self-defense, courtship, and mating, while the female’s mandibles are much shorter. Coloring of adults can vary from gray to dark brown.

Larvae, commonly called Hellgrammites, are impressive predators and can grow up to 2 3/4 inches. Hellgrammites are aquatic and have both gills for breathing underwater and spiracles for breathing on land. These critters are prized and sold as bait in some parts. Handle them with care, as they will deliver a painful bite!

Habitat

Hellgrammites live in flowing water, under rocks and on snags. They are top invertebrate predators and feed on other aquatic insect larvae and even small fish.

Life Cycle

Eggs are laid on rocks, structures, and leaves near flowing water. Some say the egg masses resemble bird droppings which may protect them from predation. Once hatched, usually at night, the larvae fall or crawl into the water, where they will spend 1-3 years developing through 10-12 larval stages.



Pupation occurs on land in moist soil or under a rock or log.

Dobsonflies and Hellgrammites are important insects in the food chain. Hellgrammites are indicators of clean water, so get out on the stream and flip some rocks to see if you can find some.



Upcoming Outings

We have one outing on the docket for July, and we're also in the initial planning stages for a multi-day camping/fishing trip to Savage River for September. Head to our website for more details and to sign up. Details for the Savage trip won't be up on the site until mid-July.

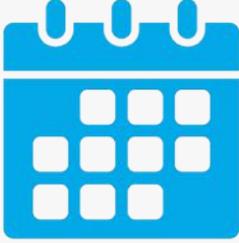
Note that all planned dates are weather- and water-level dependent, so if you sign up, be sure to check your email the evening before and morning of a given trip to make sure it's still on.

CONOCOCHEAGUE CREEK, MD

- Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021
- Location:** Meet at Andy's house
- Time:** 8:00am (carpool to stream)
- Species:** Bass
- Outing Leader:** Andy Mekelburg

Classifieds: Visit Our Website to Buy or Sell

Did you know that we have a classifieds section on our website? We currently have a variety of vintage fly rods and reels, a tying vise, and a switch rod for sale. We also have a member seeking antique bamboo rods and vintage reels. Head to our site to get the details — and send us an email if you have something to add to the list.



Calendar of Events

- July 4** Conococheague Outing Meet at Andy Mekelburg's home at 8:00 AM (directions will be sent out via email to registrants. Head to the website to sign up.
- July 12** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- July 14** Beginner's Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- July 21** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (invitation will be sent out via email)
- July 22** Board of Directors' Meeting Conference Call, 7:00 PM

2021 PVFF Offices & Directors

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

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

I hope everybody is busy fishing as we transition from the spring to summer season. Many thanks to Don and Troy for their beginner's fly tying. Just in time for the hatch, we learned how to tie the Cicada pattern. It was fun to tie.

Afterwards I looked at it and asked myself, will this work? As the weeks went by and I didn't hear any sounds, I was left wondering if they weren't hatching in my area. All of a sudden – they were here! It started with a low hum, but as the weather heated the buzzing grew, and then they were everywhere.

I dutifully tied my fly, put it on the line, and went down to the water. To make a short story short: first cast – caught a nice rainbow. What a great feeling. So now, when I hear those cicadas sing, I think of PVFF! I'm already looking forward to 2038.

It was great to see everyone and meet some new members at the casting clinic. Nice to interact with the group and watch everyone bring up their game. We're working on the fall schedule for meetings, fly tying, and other activities. One of the constraints we're working through is that the places we usually meet, both the Church and High School, haven't been open to outside groups, yet. So more to come on that.

The good news is that the Amvet's Middletown Post is open, so we are holding our banquet there on October 23. Please put that date in your calendar and start thinking about any items that you would like to donate for our auction or bucket raffle. Hope to see you out on the waters soon!



PVFF Banquet: A Request for Donations

Date: October 23, 2021

Location: AmVets, Middletown, MD

It's that time of year to start thinking about donating items for our annual banquet. We have already received some fly tying materials and some hand tied flies. If you are interested in donating an item, please send me an email, preferably with a picture of the items and your contact information. I will arrange a pick up or drop off at my house. This is our club's annual fundraiser, so please consider donating an item.

— Dave Keane,
plantprotection@comcast.net

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

P. O. BOX 3001

FREDERICK, MD 21705

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

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

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS. Mail your check with this 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 _____