

Club member Steve Weinstein landing a nice brown on the Savage in 2019.

## **Want to Improve Your Cast? Don't Miss our Clinic!**

*By Larry Forte*

Improving your casting techniques can help you catch more fish. While we can't guarantee you'll cast like a pro after our upcoming casting clinic, we can guarantee you'll walk away with improved skills that will help you make better casts on the stream.

I hope you can join us at this month's outdoor meeting as we will again be holding our Annual Casting Clinic. Members of the Bob Abraham Casting Club, led by Certified Casting Instructor William Ruland, will provide fly casting instruction

for all levels. We will be meeting a *NEW LOCATION* beginning at **6:00 PM**:

**Catoctin Creek Park & Nature Center**  
**2929 Sumantown Rd, Middletown, MD 21769.**

We plan on meeting at the **upper parking lot**. There is plenty of room to spread out and keep a safe distance. So bring your fly rod and join us for a great opportunity to bring your fly casting to a higher level. Also, it may be hot so you may want to bring something to drink. Hope to see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Emergent Sparkle Pupae

By Don Fine



The Emergent Sparkle Pupae

**T**he fly pattern which I chose for the June Beginner's class is the Emergent Sparkle Pupae, perhaps one of the 'best kept secrets' for fishing for trout and some of the smaller fresh water fish species. The Emergent Sparkle Pupae was developed by Gary LaFontaine, who was considered a world expert on the life history and etiology of caddisflies. This pattern will be productive on any river through the summer and fall where there are emerging caddisflies. I have been a proponent of Gary LaFontaine's flies for over 25 years and fished them productively on many of our local streams in

central and western Maryland. So what is the key component of the LaFontaine Emergent Sparkle Pupae? It is the trilobal antron yarn fibers which are imbedded in the "sparkle" yarn, which is used both in the abdomen and the trailing shuck of the fly.

More information on Gary LaFontaine's fly patterns and the development of his caddisfly patterns can be found in *Caddisflies by Gary LaFontaine (1981)* Lyons and Burford, Publishers.

**PLEASE NOTE: You will need dubbing wax to tie this fly pattern.**

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

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

# Advanced Fly Tying: The Kreelex Fly

By Larry Forte



The Kreelex

**O**ur next Advanced Fly Tying session will be Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Andy Mekelburg's house. Andy is going to show us how to tie the Kreelex fly, a fly he has great success with on his stream that runs through his property. We will start at 7:00 PM, but come out early to fish his stream.

At our last virtual tying session, Nina showed us how to tie the Antonio's Quill Midge. This is a great fly for trout. In fact, Nina's husband Phil had great luck with this fly the night after our tying session!

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. If you are interested, please let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net). Hope to see you later this month! Directions to Andy's house will be sent out via email to registrants.

# Tackle Tips: Organizing the Mess with Airtable.com

By Troy Kitch

The screenshot shows an Airtable interface for a database named 'Tying Materials'. The table has the following columns: Name, Category, Notes, Product image, Used for, Color, Patterns, and Reorder. The data is organized into rows, with most items categorized as 'Feathers' and some as 'Synthetics'. Each row includes a small product image, a 'Used for' status (e.g., Wet, Dry, All), and a 'Color' field with colored tags representing the material's color. A 'Patterns' field is also present, with one entry labeled 'Wooly Bugger'. The interface includes standard mobile app navigation elements like a back arrow, search icon, and a bottom navigation bar with a 'Material' button.

Name	Category	Notes	Product image	Used for	Color	Patterns	Reorder
Saddle Hackle: Br...	Feathers			Wet	Brown, Black		
Hackle, Wet Fly	Feathers			Wet	Brown		
Marabou	Feathers			Wet, Streamer	Black, Purple, Olive	Wooly Bugger	
Hackle, half cape	Feathers			Dry	Grizzly, White		
Hackle: half cape	Feathers			Dry	Brown		
Hackle: half cape	Feathers			Dry	Black		
Turkey/Osprey	Feathers			Wet	Brown, Grizzly		
Hackle: bugger p...	Feathers			Wet, Streamer	Black		
Hackle, rooster n...	Feathers			Wet, Streamer	Brown, Black		
CDC	Feathers	Middle - upper right...		Dry	Brown, Gray, White		
Partridge	Feathers	Middle bin - right side		Wet, Nymph	Brown		
Biots	Feathers	Wings and tails		Dry, Nymph	White, Brown, Gray		
Duck quill	Feathers			Dry	Gray		
Quill, hand stripped	Feathers			Dry	Olive		
Pheasant tail	Feathers			Nymph, Wet, Dry	Brown		
Peacock herl	Feathers			All	Green, Natural		
Chenille medium:...	Synthetics	Middle box, right		Wet	Black, Brown, Yellow		

I don't have a large space for fly tying, so I often have trouble remembering (and locating) what materials I have on hand. My solution is *Airtable.com*, a database tool available for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS (or use it within any browser without downloading the app).

If you've ever used a database tool and found it cumbersome and complicated, then you may like Airtable because it is very easy to use and intuitive. Best of all, it's free!

That is, it's free to create as many different databases as you need (which Airtable call "bases"), and each

base can contain up to 1,200 records. That's quite generous for a free account. And since you can create as many bases as you want, you might also consider creating one to catalog your fly fishing gear.

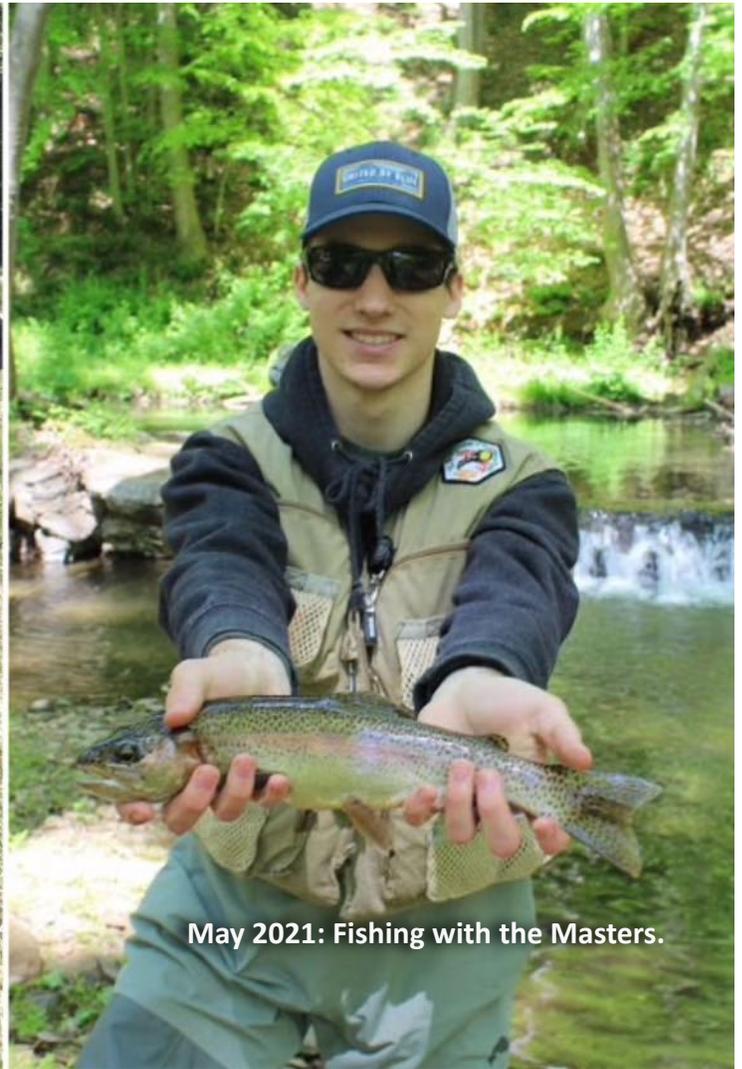
For me, it's useful to quickly see if I have the materials I need to tie a particular fly, but it's also handy as a reference or teaching tool. I add notes to my materials to remind me where different things are located, but also how the materials are used. One other potential use: create a base that lists all of your gear to track how much your stuff is worth. Handy if you ever need to make an insurance claim.

# Conservation Corner: Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock

By Dave Keane



May 2012: First year at BOJC, fishing the ponds for trout and bluegill.



May 2021: Fishing with the Masters.

Education, Conservation and Fellowship are the foundations of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers. I believe that's what makes our club unique and successful. Another unique organization is the Maryland Chapter of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock. I have been involved with this group since 2012 when my oldest son Grant began in the program. BOJC teaches fishing and conservation to youth beginning at the age of eight.

Each year at camp, they learn new skills such as outdoor ethics, aquatic entomology, casting, knot tying, and game laws. The final year of instruction

ends with the student "Fishing with the Masters". My son Grant was fortunate to have our own Dan Nueland as his guide this year as he finished his instruction with the Masters.

Grant's first year at camp was spent catching bluegills and trout out of the ponds with a spinning rod and trout magnets. Over the years as he developed his fly fishing skills, he learned how to tie flies, built his own fly rod, and fished the beautiful streams of the Catoctin Mountains. My other son Evan has also been attending BOJC and looks forward to it each year. Spending time outdoors with

## Project Healing Waters: Modified Mop Fly

By Andrew Frutiger

In our latest installment of online fly tying seminars, Collin took us through tying an alternate version of the Mop fly. Collin's version added rubber legs, which allows for more movement on the water, ultimately getting more looks. As with the standard mop fly, this can be tied in an assortment of colors, hook sizes, and rubber leg styles. The key when adding the legs is to make them about the same length as the overall fly. One note: you can always go a little long on the legs and cut them down at the stream depending upon what insects you are seeing in the area. Project Healing Waters has now entered Phase 3 nationally and our chapter is working hard to schedule our first in-person event that can include up to 10 total individuals, veterans and volunteers combined. Although we were originally shooting for our first event to occur in May, a casting seminar at the American Legion, it looks like mother nature may force us to wait a little while longer.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at



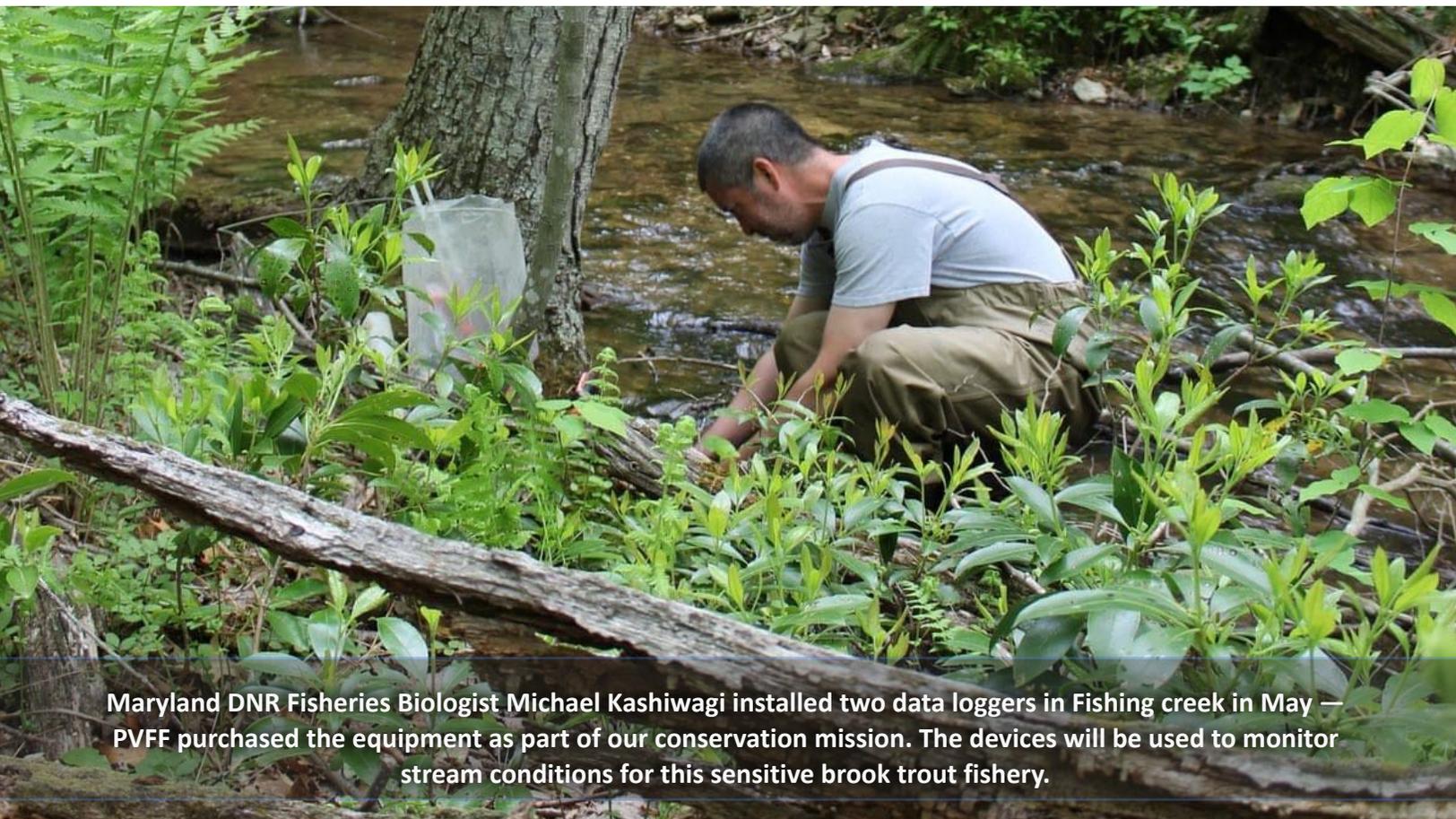
Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at [andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters — Frederick Chapter*.

### Mentor Program: Help Wanted

Just a few months ago, we kicked off our new club mentor program to help pass down knowledge of fly fishing from one generation to another. It's been a great success, but unfortunately we now have more requests for mentors than we have mentors. We need you to help make this program a success. Volunteer mentors provide customized instruction, both on and off the stream, in all areas of fly fishing and introduce people to club activities. The goal is to recruit more club members and produce capable, self-sufficient fly fishers who will become long time club members and contribute to club activities. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, look for the Mentor Program on our website to sign up.



*Thanks to club members who participated in our **2021 Fly Swap** — Don Fine: Egg Sucking Leech; Joe Walther: Kreelex Gold and Copper #8; Lynn Ashe: Sunny Streamer; Paul Murphy: BWO Emerger #20; Martyn Holland: Griffith Gnat and Gold Head Bug; Andy Mekleburg: Kreelex Gold and Silver; Larry Forte: Copper John; Karen Baker: Squirmy Wormy; Dave Keane: Cicada.*

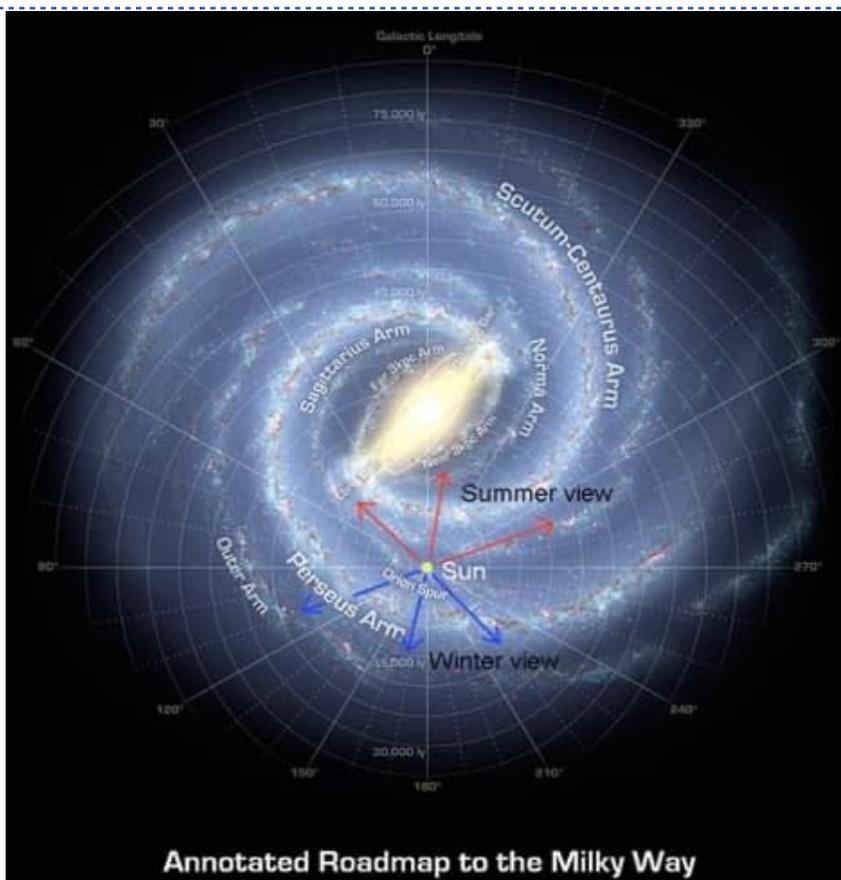


Maryland DNR Fisheries Biologist Michael Kashiwagi installed two data loggers in Fishing creek in May — PVFF purchased the equipment as part of our conservation mission. The devices will be used to monitor stream conditions for this sensitive brook trout fishery.

## Astronomy Minute

**Summer Viewing** – Have you ever noticed that the stars seem clearer in the winter sky than the summer sky? I had always thought the summer sky contained more haze and humidity which led to reduced clarity and was recently surprised to learn the real reason. It has to do with our location in the Milky Way Galaxy. As shown in the accompanying illustration, our winter sky looks away from the center of the galaxy, and the summer sky looks towards the center of the galaxy. So, the reason the summer sky isn't quite so clear is because of the light pollution ... from the stars in our own galaxy.

Wow! — **Russ Hanson**



Annotated Roadmap to the Milky Way

# Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

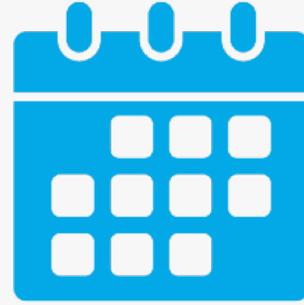
For those who joined us at our last general meeting, I hoped you enjoyed the evening with Bob Clouser. Bob was more than generous with his time, knowledge, and personality. Bob's years of tying the Clouser minnow was evident in his ease of demonstrating it to us. The presentation about bass was interesting. However, the thing that hit me the most was the link to the history of the sport.

Yes, I realize that fly fishing has been practiced for many years. However for me, people like Bob and Lefty are the links from the previous era to the "modern" era. Actually, when I think about it, these fly fishers are among the innovators that brought us into the modern era.

Fishermen in the not-so-distant past not only inspired us, but as students of the sport were able to evolve the sport and techniques. They were the innovators who forged the trail with new rod materials, new flies invented, and new casting methods.

The many books and videos and appearances they were involved with helped to train our generation and readied the sport for its next evolution. The interest in fly fishing has exploded in the last year for obvious reasons, but this just continues the trend over the last few years. Just observing the addition of many new members to our club, you can see this shift to the next generation beginning. It's very heartening to see the many new fishers who have joined the ranks. Our mentor program has helped introduce fly fishing to a number of members, as well as increasing skills and confidence.

What I take most out of studying our predecessors and mentors is the nature and character of these gentlemen who have made participating so enjoyable with their non-competitive nature. They were always willing to share their attentions, knowledge, and skills to help their fellow, and potential, fishers. It's



## Calendar of Events

- June 8** Club Meeting — Casting Clinic at Catoctin Creek Nature Center, Middletown, 6:00 PM
- June 14** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- June 16** Beginner's Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- June 16** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Join us on Andy Mekelburg's home at 7:00 PM (directions will be sent out via email)
- June 24** Board of Directors' Meeting Conference Call, 7:00 PM

## 2020 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

like going out to the stream and asking whoever's out there fishing: "Have you caught anything and what are you using?" You always get a friendly answer. Hope to see you out on the stream soon! Let me know what you're catching the big fish on!

## Gunpowder Outing

*By Andy Mekelburg*

On May 13, the club sponsored a trip to the Gunpowder in the afternoon. We met at the park-and-ride off of 70 for the trip to Masemore Road, in Parkton, Maryland. Many of the nation's and world problems were solved along the way ... although strangely, all the solutions revolved around fishing!

There were quite a few cars in the lot, but Larry was able to snag an open spot. The weather was nice: not too hot, not too cold. What struck me, initially, was the "Lefty Kreh Trail Marker" and stone parking lot. Coincidentally earlier that day I spoke to our Frederick County liaison about our own efforts to create a tribute to Lefty (contact me if you want more information).

Larry and Kevin went upstream all the way to the "bridge" and started up there. I followed them, but



Gunpowder Outing: Andy Mekelburg, Kevin Haney, and Larry Forte

started a little downstream as I saw some good spots. I tried most of the flies I had, even the Mop and Kreelex, without any success. Kevin, unfortunately, shared my experience. Larry said that he "caught two dumb browns."

All-in-all another nice outing — great location, weather and company.

**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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_