



potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

STREAMLINES

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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

PVFF Banquet: Mark Your Calendars Now

By Dave Keane

The PVFF Board of Directors plans to hold our annual banquet on **October 23, 2021 at the Amvets Post 9 in Middletown, Maryland**. This will be our 54th banquet! Join us as we celebrate our club and our love of fly fishing.

This event is our annual fundraiser that supports our club's activities throughout the year. Activities include a silent auction, bucket raffles, and chances to win a 4 weight St. Croix rod and reel and the

club's travel rod. Tickets this year will be **\$30.00 for adults and \$5.00 for 16 and under**.

We are in need of donations, so go through your fishing supplies and gear and donate an item or two to support our club. Gift certificates to your favorite restaurant or sport shop are great donations as well. Donations can be dropped off at my house or I will come and get them. Contact me at 240-367-4905 or email plantprotection@comcast.net.

Do you plan to attend the banquet? Let us know.

We have a few questions for you to help us get an idea of how many people plan to attend our annual banquet on Oct. 23, 2021. Your answers do not commit you to attend the event. This is simply to give us a ballpark estimate of how many people we can expect to attend so we can better plan for the event. Take the survey in under a minute by typing this in your web browser:

bit.ly/3f3EY0D



Beginner's Fly Tying: Ant Pattern

By Don Fine

Over the past year, our PVFF Beginner's Fly Tying sessions have covered a wide variety of fish food forms; mayfly, stonefly and caddisfly nymphs, as well as the emergent forms of these flies, worms, fish eggs, minnows, leeches, midges and gnats and large terrestrials (i.e. cicadas). Throughout these monthly fly tying sessions, our tiers have also learned how to employ a diversity of tying materials (i.e. feathers, dubbing, foam, chenille, yarn, rubber) in the construction of the tail, wings, abdomen, thorax, legs, and antennae of an "artificial fly".



As homeowners you probably have noticed during the hot summer months there is a preponderance of ants and 'other bugs' present around your house. In fact, ants and other terrestrials (e.g. hoppers, crickets, fireflies), are common also around fresh water ponds, streams and rivers. And on breezy or windy days these 'terrestrial' insects end up being fish food. One of my favorite (and successful) patterns which I go to on a 'hot' day is an *ant*.

The fly pattern which I chose for the August session is an ant pattern. Not just any ant, but rather a

para-ant. The term **para-ant** derives from the fact that this fly is tied in a parachute style of fly tying. That is, the hackle feather is attached and tied (around the "post") in a fashion such that the hackle fibers lie parallel to the hook shank and water surface. Thus, the hackle not only allows the fly to gently 'parachute' to the water surface, but then it suspends the fly on the water surface; giving the fish an opportunity to see the entire silhouette of the fly from head-to-tail. Learning to tie flies in the "parachute" style is yet another skill which the Beginner fly-tier can use to create a diversity of very effective fly patterns.

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

No later than **August 9**, 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 **Aug. 11**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vise to contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club.



Stimulator Pattern

Advanced Fly Tying: Stimulator Pattern

By Larry Forte

Our next Advanced Fly Tying session will be Wednesday, August 18th. Joe Walther is going to show us how to tie a Stimulator. An awesome pattern this time of year.

Location to be determine (we'll send an email out and post on the website when the location is set).

At our July fly tying meeting, Ray taught folks how to tie two flies: an easy parachute pattern and a pan fish / bass streamer pattern.

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 lbforte@verizon.net. Hope to see you on the 18th!



Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Conservation Corner: Youth Camp in Pennsylvania

By Dave Keane

In June, my son Evan attended the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. The camp was presented by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The camp was started in 1995 to offer teenagers an education in fly fishing and coldwater conservation. Featuring experts in the fields of biology, habitat restoration, and fishing, students engage in a week of college-level material. The vision of the camp is to produce young men and women who are equipped to become tomorrow's conservationists.

The program consisted of both classroom and hands-on learning. Topics included ecology, entomology of a trout stream, genetics, hydrology, and riparian buffers. Fishing instruction included knot tying, casting, and fly tying. The students also completed a conservation project along the banks of the Yellow Breeches by installing a log framed winged deflector to reduce stream bank erosion and to provide habitat.

Each morning and night, the students were able to fish the Yellow Breeches that flows through the campus and everyone caught both rainbows and



browns. While on the stream, they were also taught ethics and stream etiquette.

A big thanks to Steve Weinstein for informing us about this wonderful camp.

For more information, go to their website:
www.riverscamp.com.

If you know a high schooler interested in learning more, I highly encourage them to apply.

Classifieds: Visit Our Website to Buy or Sell

Did you know that we have a classifieds section on our website? Head to our site to get the details — and send us an email if you have something to add to the list.

New Proposed DNR Regulations Affect Catoctin Creek

By Andy Mekelburg

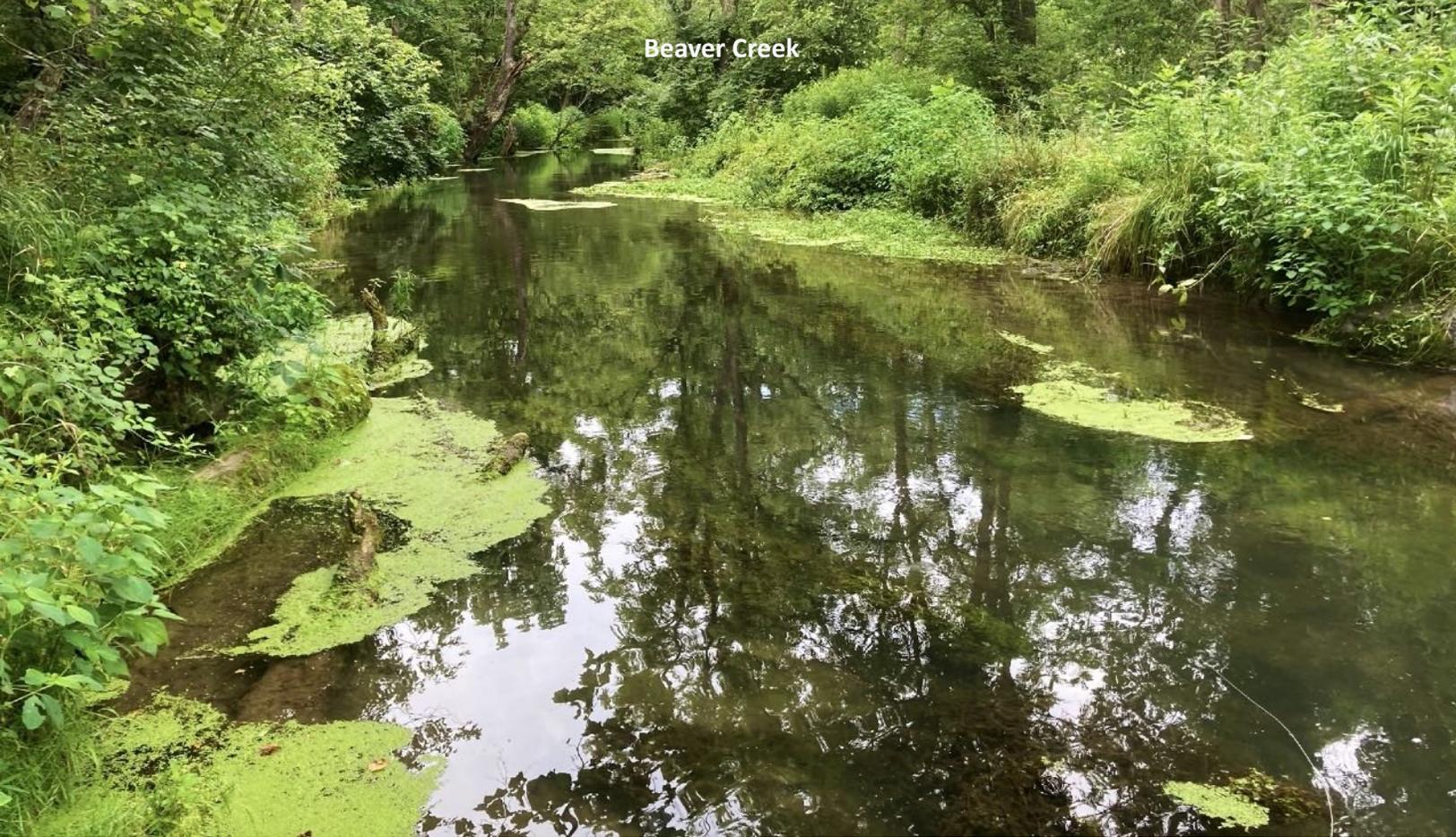
The Maryland Department of National Resources announced on July 27 that they are looking at four areas of regulation, including changing the boundary of the Delayed Harvest Area on Catoctin Creek, right above the bridge outside the Nature Center Park.

Type **bit.ly/3la5Sb9** in your web browser for more information about what the department is considering and how to submit comments. All comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. August 10, 2021.

If enacted, the department would move the boundary of the Delayed Harvest Area on Catoctin Creek in Frederick County from the boundary of Catoctin Creek Park at the Sumantown Road Bridge upstream 200 feet.

According to the DNR this change is necessary as: “There have been enforcement issues in this area because upstream of the boundary is open year-round to the harvest of trout, while the delayed harvest area beginning at the bridge is closed to the harvest of trout from October 1 through May 31. Also, during that time period, a person may not use any natural or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent and capable of catching fish in the delayed harvest area. After stocking, trout often reside under the bridge. By moving the special management line upstream of the bridge, anglers on both sides of the bridge will be fishing the area under the same rules.”

Let me know if you have comments on this proposal.



Persistence Finally Pays Off at Beaver Creek

By Mike Holland

On Sunday, July 18th, I finally caught my first fish at Beaver Creek, a nice limestone, spring-fed water in Washington County, Maryland. I was with club president Andy Mekelburg and we were fishing a portion of the creek that is accessible to the public from Beaver Creek Church Road. On that note, a quick note of gratitude to the farmer who graciously allows the public to park on his property and walk through a corn field to get to the creek.

This area of the creek is not far from the Beaver Creek Fly Shop, which is about a tenth of a mile from route 70 at Exit 35 for Boonsboro, off of Mapleville Road (State Route 66). From the fly shop, one would travel west on State Route 66 and take a right onto Beaver Creek Road, followed by a right onto the Beaver Creek Church Road. Once on that road, the entrance to the parking area is on the

left — look for a break in the tree line framing a corn field.

When Andy and I arrived around 8 am, there was already another angler on the creek. He told us he had been there for about an hour and had some success with midges. After we had been fishing for an hour or so, two more anglers arrived. We sorted out where we were going to fish and proceeded.

I was pleased to catch a rainbow on a purple zebra midge, probably in a size 10. I also enjoyed seeing and hearing fish somewhat regularly rising along the banks downriver from me. As an eager to learn novice dry fisherman, I worked to recall lessons from various books and videos and to offer a broad menu of dry flies but was not successful. Clearly, there is more work and practice in my future.

Andy decided to fish upstream and caught a nice brown trout in a large pool. He offered one of his famous “Mekelmops” and it proved to be irresistible. In fact, the trout came from a shaded area near the bank to take Andy’s offering. Shortly thereafter, around noon and as the temperatures were well on their way to the 90s, we decided to call it a day and go home to our endless lists of to do items.

This section of Beaver Creek is quite beautiful and has nice shade cover. It offers pools, riffles, and runs and a range of water depths, including a good stretch of slower, deeper water. I encourage you find the time to grab a friend or a mentor/mentee and go enjoy some challenging fly fishing.

Upcoming Outings

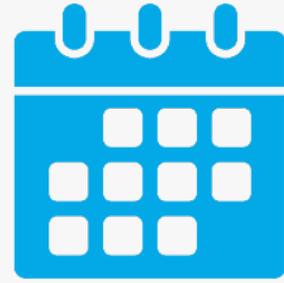
We have one outing on the docket for October: a multi-day camping/fishing trip to Savage River. Head to our website for more details and to sign up.

SAVAGE RIVER, MD

- Dates:** October 1-3, 2021
- Location:** Savage River
- Time:** Join us for one or all days
- Species:** Trout
- Outing Leaders:** Troy Kitch and Dave Keane

Interested in Joining the PVFF Board?

Our club is only as strong as its members — and we need you! We’ll soon hold elections for our club president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and directors. All members are welcomed to self-nominate for any position. If you are interested in a position, or want to learn more about what each position entails, contact Andy Mekelburg at andymekelburg@outlook.com.



Calendar of Events

- Aug 9** Beginner’s Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- Aug 11** Beginner’s Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- Aug 18** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Location TBD
- Aug 26** Board of Directors’ Meeting 7:00 PM at Il Fornos on the Golden Mile in Frederick
- Oct 1-3** Savage River Outing Directions and details will be sent out via email to registrants. Head to the website to sign up.

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

Zebra Midge and Griffith Gnat

Project Healing Waters

By Andrew Frutiger

It has been a slow summer for Project Healing Waters across the country, but we are hoping to be back out with the veterans very soon. In the meantime, here is a throwback to earlier this year and our online tying seminars. During this session, Don Fine took us through tying the Zebra Midge & Griffith Gnat. Both patterns are relatively easy to tie and are extremely effective.

The zebra midge represents the early midge life cycle and can be fished anytime of year but is the most effective in later fall to winter. This fly is typically works best on small to mid-sized rivers and as the dropper in a tandem rig. The key here is to let the fly drift on its' own. We started with a size 14 Caddis Pupae hook and added a bead head, black wire, silver wire, black thread, and finished off with a tiny amount of dubbing right behind the bead. You can add a tail, green or red as well.

The gnat, on the other hand, describes flying insects (diptera, or two wings). Same as the house fly, sometimes called a lake fly. Gnat patterns mimic the midge when it is ready to fly off the water. It can also represent a group of dead gnats that have clumped together. Winter is a great time for this pattern. You will find midges around ponds and streams in the late afternoon or evenings (look like clouds of insects). We started with a size 12 wide gap



hook and added pheasant feather (sized accordingly) and peacock hurl (always snip the thin end so it doesn't break on you).

Hopefully we will all be out on the water soon, putting all of the flies we tied to good use and I can write about all the fish we are catching.

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*.

Help Wanted

By Larry Forte

Our Project Healing Waters team is looking for help. We are always looking for volunteers — and more so now as we get back to having in-person monthly meetings.

We have an immediate need for help with inputting data into Project Healing Water's CRM system. This helps us log and track who is attending our meetings and outings. This is great way to get involved and is perfect for someone to do at home.

If you are interested or would like to learn more about helping, just send me an email — lbforte@verizon.net — or give me a call at 301-943-7533.



Tackle Tips: Keeping Your Fly Line Afloat

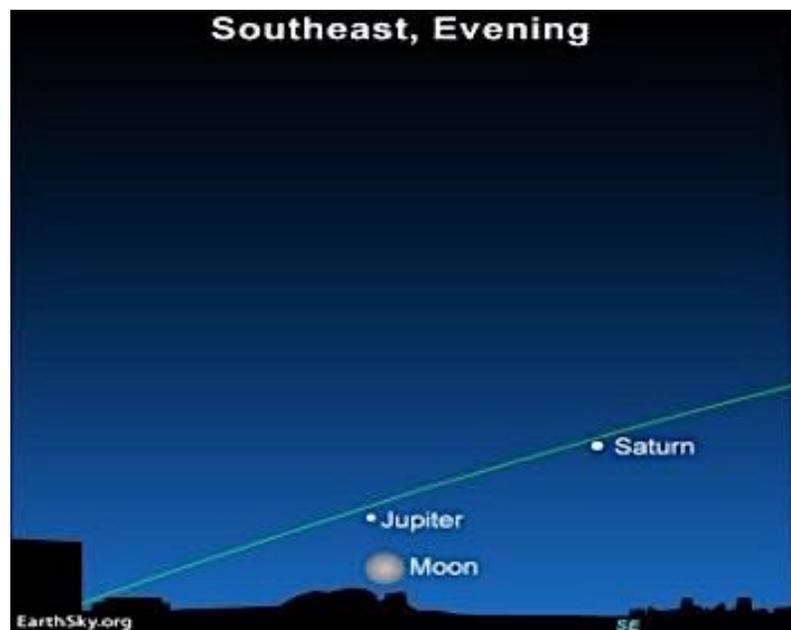
By Kevin Haney

If you are fishing dry flies all day, the end of your fly line may eventually start to sink. This is usually caused by an accumulation of dirt or other debris. To keep your line floating, you can apply a thin coating of fly line floating on the last 8-10 feet of line. This is the same stuff that was used on the old silk lines to keep them floating. Waxed-based preparations (like Otter Butter) are preferable over grease-based mixtures (like the original Mucilin in the red tins) because they don't attract and hold as much dirt and debris and thus keep your line floating longer. And if you are using fluorocarbon leaders, which have a tendency to sink, give them a coat as well. Monofilament leaders are usually preferred when dry fly fishing for this reason.

Astronomy Minute

By Russ Hanson

Good Views of Planets in August – Earth will be passing between the sun and the planets Saturn (8/2) and then Jupiter (8/19) during August. This is called opposition and means two important things for us. At opposition, the planets are opposite the sun in our sky. Thus, they come up over the eastern horizon early in the evening. Additionally, they are as bright as they get for the next year or so because the earth is as close as it will be until the next oppositions with these planets. So, look southeast in early evening. Venus is also quite obvious now. This brightest planet has emerged from behind the sun and is climbing higher in the western sky each evening. Oh, and don't forget the Perseid meteor shower late evenings on August 11-13. Best viewing is from midnight to 4am! Happy viewing!



Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

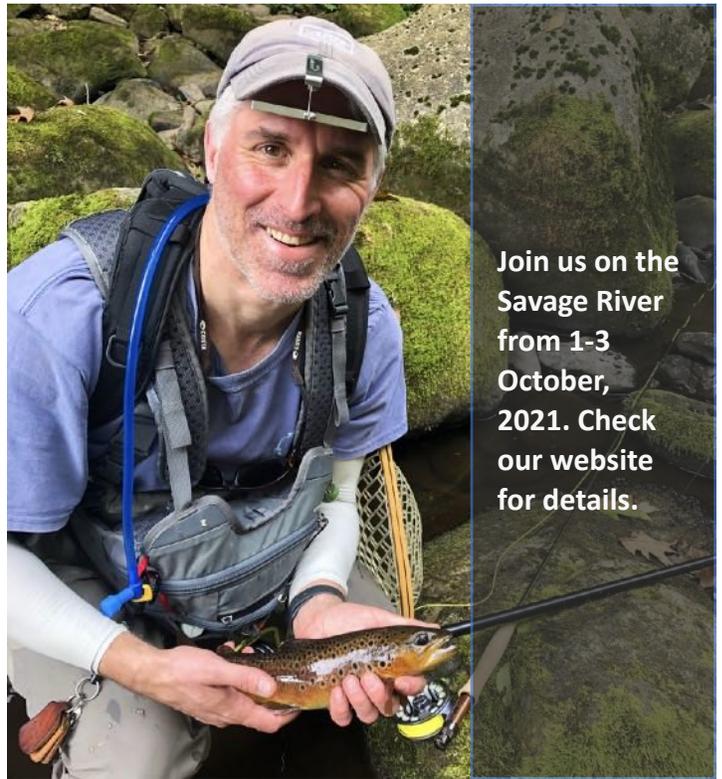
In another couple month or so we'll be complaining about the cold, however we fly fishers still need to fish despite the overwhelming evidence that it's hot. My recommendation, as one company would say (can't name them until they contribute to the banquet), you need to "Just do it!"

I have been going on the waters to beat the heat and it worked. Here are some of my recent cooling off spots.

First stop, Savage River, always challenging. Mike Holland and I went to the so called "Phd Pool" (think smart fish). Nice and cool by the waters. I got some hits on the cicada pattern and finally got a 14" brown. A new first for me (not the brown, but catching a fish at that pool). Not too long a drive out there. Once you get there, there are many great fishing options, such as the North Branch of the Potomac, the Youghiogheny, the Casselman, and Town Creek, among the many others. Troy and Dave are planning an outing out to the Savage in October, so look for the details on the website.

Next escape was the club annual outing to the Conocoheague on the 4th of July. We had a great showing of PVFF fishers. Half of the group went above the Broadfording road bridge and half of us went below. I think the crew that went upstream did better than those that went down — but a good time had by all and everyone was home for their BBQ.

A couple of weeks later we went to Beaver Creek, parking at the farmer's lot (I always thank him!). Nice and cool under the tree canopy, a reasonable trade for the flies I gave to the trees. We worked up to the bend and in the stretch above, I found a nice pool of browns. I threw out the "MekelMop" and there was a stampede towards it. I had been a while



Join us on the Savage River from 1-3 October, 2021. Check our website for details.

since I caught something in Beaver Creek, but I broke that slump that day.

Last but not least, we met up with Mike Heck (I can use his name, because he contributes to our banquet) in Chambersburg on a hot Sunday morning. We drove through a lot of Central Pennsylvania, but the water was low at his usual spots. Then he brought us up to Mountain Creek, outside of Caledonia State Park. Mike put us onto some pools that held some native brook trout, and I somehow caught two. It was a mountain-cooling, relaxing, successful day.

The key to beat the heat is start early and end by noon, or go out late. It's nice and cool in and around the stream even with your waders on, or whether you choose to wet wade. Standing under the trees, with the shade of all my flies on the limbs above, provided comfort from the beating sun. All I can say is don't let the warm weather keep you in the air-conditioned basement. Get out to the natural air conditioning, it's a lot more fun! I look forward to hearing your stories and getting together to create new ones. See you out there!

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 _____