

PVFF Banquet: Tickets Available on Our Website

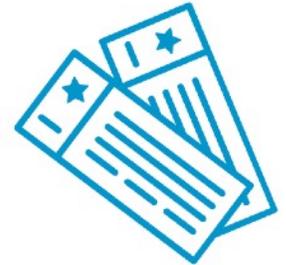
By Dave Keane

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, a chance to win a 4-weight St. Croix rod and reel, and a chance to win the club's travel rod for one year. Tickets this year are **\$30.00 for adults** and **\$5.00 for 16 and under**.

We are in need of donations!

Please consider going 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. You can purchase tickets on our website with PayPal or credit card!



Don't Want to Pay for the Banquet Online? No Problem.

If you don't wish to purchase banquet tickets online using PayPal or a credit card, no problem! At the event, we will have the ability to take cash, checks, or credit cards to purchase attendance tickets, raffles, or auction items. But we need to know as soon as possible if you will attend. So if you don't want to buy tickets online, but know you are coming:

Head to our website at potomacvalleyflyfishers.club and look for the "Banquet Tickets" link. Once on the banquet page, please choose the **REGISTRATION** option and fill out the short form.

This way we will know you are coming and it'll help us plan the best possible event for club members.

Club Meetings Resume This Month on Zoom

We're still firming up the details for this month's club meeting, but we want to let you know that we've invited local fly shop owners and managers to discuss current industry trends and equipment. Hope to see you on September 14th at 7pm — details and the Zoom link will be sent via email.

Beginner's Fly Tying: Green Eyed Damsel Nymph

By Don Fine

The fly pattern chosen for the next Beginner's tying session will be the Green Eyed Damsel nymph.

Damselflies are present spring through fall each year. As such, different species of damselflies will emerge at different times of the year. Some appear sporadically, while others emerge in mass with vast numbers of insects migrating towards shore at the same time. If you are on the water during one of these emergences, the fishing can be incredible if you have a passable nymph imitation.

The Green Eyed Damsel nymph pattern — which we will tie at our first 'in class' session (in over a year, courtesy of COVID-19) — incorporates several new materials which can be used in the tying of other nymph and streamer fly patterns.

This pattern (ref. internet, "*Panfish on the Fly, the Green Eyed Damselfly Nymph*") calls attention to the use of green bead chain eyes on the fly which more realistically imitates the eyes of the natural damselfly nymph. In addition, ostrich herl is used to represent



both the body and tail of the fly. Ostrich herl seemingly provides a better imitation of the gills present on the live insect, rather than dubbing which is commonly used in tying large nymphs. The fly also features emu feathers which represent the legs of the damselfly.

IMPORTANT! LIVE Beginner's Fly Tying Sessions Resume This Month

Beginner's Fly Tying will be held on September 21st at 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, Room 207. Meetings will be held every 3rd Tuesday of subsequent months, unless otherwise indicated. Due to this change, registration is no longer required. Just show up if you'd like to participate. Also, there will no longer be **PRE-RECORDED VIDEOS** posted on YouTube and **NO MATERIALS WILL BE MAILED** to those who cannot attend in person. For those who cannot participate in person at Trinity Church, we will post tying instructions and list of materials on our website in advance of each monthly session.

Please note that our agreement with Trinity Church stipulates that the club, along with those who participate in any PVFF activity, must comply with church health and safety measures at the respective time of meeting (e.g. wearing of masks, if required).

Advanced Fly Tying: Join Us on September 15

By Don Fine

Our next Advanced Fly Tying session will be held virtually on September 15th beginning at 7:00 PM. Dr. Wayne Leadbetter, PVFF club member, will be leading the tying that evening. At this time, the fly pattern is yet to be chosen. But all who regularly participate in the Advanced tying sessions will be

notified of the tying materials to have on hand prior to the event. As a reminder, the September Advanced tying will be the last fully “virtual” session, as we expect to continue these tying sessions in-person at Trinity United Methodist Church, beginning on October 20th.

General Announcements

1. Interested in Volunteering? We Need You!

We are on the lookout for members who want to get more involved with the Club. PVFF is member driven, which means volunteers do everything. Volunteer positions include elected positions such as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer — as well as other areas, such as mentoring, leading outings, website, social media, newsletter, conservation, feeding the trout at the trout pen, and other opportunities. Everyone has a unique talent, come share yours with your fellow club members! Contact Andy Mekelburg at andymekelburg@outlook.com.

2. “Tackle Tips” and “Meet a Member”

We are seeking submissions for our newsletter. First up, if you would like to share tips and tricks on any aspect of fly fishing, send in a short article for our new “**Tackle Tips**” column — if possible, also send us an accompanying image. Second, we are interested in starting a new regular column we’re calling “**Meet a Member**.” The idea is simple: we’ll send you a Q/A form to fill out. You tell us about yourself (it’s fly fishing focused, of course!). Interested? Email contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club.

3. Mentors Wanted

Volunteer mentors provide customized instruction 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.

Mountain Creek Brookies

By Mike Holland



As the club banquet approaches, I wanted to share my experience with an item I won last year. Specifically, thanks to guide Mike Heck's (*fallingsprings.com*) generosity, I was able to enjoy a half day fishing trip in Pennsylvania. We originally had planned to fish Yellow Breeches but, given how busy it was, decided to move to Mountain Creek to fish for native brook trout.

Despite the hot weather, I was able to catch a nice brookie, who greedily grabbed a stimulator that I had floated along the nicely shaded bank. After I landed it and admired its beauty and feistiness, I moved up the stream further. I found a nice little pool that was behind a fallen tree and tried to approach it from downstream. However, it was fairly impenetrable, at least for me, from that position so I moved upstream and began to make offering downstream. A brookie was definitely interested, rising as I offered a number of dry flies such as hoppers and Royal Wulffs, but was not quite interested enough to take one, regardless of size.

This experience, along with the fun I had with brookies at Morgan Run earlier this year, has rekindled the love for brook trout fishing I had as a child growing up in the Adirondack foothills; my first brookie (that I remember) was caught with a worm on a Zebco when I was about five.

These recent experiences have also left me with a strong desire to fish for brookies more often and with increased skill. Thus, I would be interested if anyone would like to lead or join me for a brook trout focused outing. As part of my effort to educate myself, I have been reading Harry Murray's *Trout Fishing in the Shenandoah National Park*.

I also will be attending a mountain trout fly fishing school through his fly fishing shop in Edinburg (search for "*Murrays fly shop trout school*" to learn more).

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to join me; I will be attending the May 9, 2022, session.



Project Healing Waters: Back at the American Legion

By Andrew Frutiger

On August 24th, we were able to host our first indoor, in-person meeting at the American Legion in Frederick. It was a fantastic turnout with over 15 people — and more than half of participants were veterans. Although there was some casting instruction and fly tying, the main goal of the meeting was just to reconnect, share stories about what we had been doing all summer, and discuss where we would like to fish in the future.

Over peaches, pizza and dessert, we talked about potential local fishing trips from PA to the Bay, as we are not yet cleared for overnight trips (any suggestions from the club are always welcome).

In addition to scheduling upcoming events for current veteran participants, we are always looking to recruit new, qualified veterans (please see our Facebook page for more information) so we are asking everyone to get the word out. If you know of anyone or any upcoming events that we should attend, please let us know.

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*.

Project Healing Waters 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 at lbforte@verizon.net — or give me a call at 301-943-7533.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

Fall brings the annual pilgrimage up to Pulaski, New York, to the Salmon River for salmon fishing. For those who have never done it, imagine hooking a 20+ pound salmon on your line. The “wrestling” match is a great challenge: the fish will either try to run upstream, downstream, or just break off. I’ve seen fishers following their hooked fish a couple of hundred yards to bring them in, or get broken off. The river is swift and the rocks are slippery, which adds to the difficulty factor.

Dan Neuland is our maven of the North, he’s infected many of our PVFF trout fishers with Salmon Fever. The image in my mind of Dan on the river is him running up and down the water assisting and netting fish for everyone. From experience, I can tell you the importance of a good netter. His teaching expertise surely shines out there. If you’re interested in going up there, ask Dan and he will give you the full scoop. In addition to the salmon run in September and October, the steelhead come in through a lot of the winter and there are good size brown trout out there (ask Paul Gerlach).

The other Fall trip that is becoming an annual event is to the Savage River in Western Maryland. Troy Kitch and Dave Keane will be leading the outing. We set up our tents in the primitive campground below the Reservoir (there is a port-o-potty) and fellowship of hanging around the campfire helps make this a great trip. Many fishing options — from walking up to the “PhD pool” or going down to the swifter areas. There’s brook trout in the creeks that feed into the reservoir, and right down the road is the North Branch of the Potomac. If that’s not enough for you, the Casselman, Youghiogheny, Deep Creek Lake are nearby — and there’s even more on the way out via Route 68.

On the near horizon for the Fall is our annual banquet on October 23. You’ll see us pushing this, as

Calendar of Events

- Sep. 14** Club Meeting— Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- Sep. 15** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- Sep. 21** Beginner’s Fly Tying at 7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Sep. 23** Board of Directors’ Meeting
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207, 7:00 PM
- 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

it's our big fundraiser for the year. Don't tell anyone that you heard this from me, but we only break even on the actual dinner, once food costs, room rental, etc. add up. The money for the club is all in the rod and bucket raffles and the silent auctions. Hence our annual request for donations — it's a good chance to recycle your equipment, any rods you don't need, reels, flies, kayaks, bottles of scotch(!), gift certificates to local fly shops and restaurants, or a personal guided fly trip to some local stream. It doesn't have to be fishing related. Members have donated art, wine, salon trips, pickup trucks (just kidding, but we're open for it) — if it's something you think someone would enjoy, let Dave Keane or me know.

I need to note the efforts of Troy, along with Dennis Allen, our Treasurer, to allow members to use Paypal to pay for their tickets (even raffle tickets) through our website. Dennis reports that we will have a credit card reader at the banquet, which should speed settling up at the end and make it easier for attendees to spend more money on the auctions and tickets for the benefit of the club.

Lastly, as the Fall unfurls, we are starting to plan to get back together, live, for our meetings. The November general meeting is scheduled to be held at Tuscarora High School, with Covid protocols in place. Beginner's fly tying will be held at the Trinity Methodist Church starting in September. Hope to see you soon!

Astronomy Minute: Finding Polaris

By Russ Hanson

Of course, all cell phones have a built-in compass so you can find which direction is north whenever you want. But there is something very gratifying about being able to go "old school". All you have to do is find the Big Dipper.

The Big Dipper rotates around Polaris every day, but the two stars at the front of the bowl always point to Polaris. The farther north you go, the higher Polaris is in the sky. It will be directly overhead at the North Pole.

However, be careful about relying on this star if you go south. Polaris gets closer and closer to the horizon and will disappear as you get to the equator. Keep your cell phone handy.

