

Club Meeting: Fishing the Chesapeake

By Larry Forte

Finally, after 21 months, we are back at Tuscarora High School for our monthly meetings.

Please note that our monthly meetings will now start at 6:30 PM instead of our usual time of 7:00 PM. Given COVID and new restrictions by FCPS, we need to start earlier because we need to be finished by 8:30 PM.

We'll be meeting in Room A170. When you arrive at the school parking lot, look for the PVFF banner. We'll have people standing by the banner at the entrance of the school to help direct people to the meeting location.

To kick off our first meeting, Jim Lowell, long time club member, is going to talk to us about his love for catching stripers in the Chesapeake Bay.



Most weekends in the fall, you will find Jim casting to stripers in the bay. He's going to share with us his tactics on how to catch them and his love for the region.

Face Covering Required to Attend Club Meetings

A face covering will be required by all occupants at all times while inside a Frederick County Public School facility. It is recommended that members remain physically distant to the extent possible. Failure of our club to comply with mandatory face

covering requirements will be reported by school staff to the Use of Facilities Coordinator. Consequences could include immediately revoking our organization's privilege to use the facility without warning.

Beginner's Fly Tying: CDC Elk Hair Caddis

By Don Fine

Our next Beginner's Fly Tying session will be on Tuesday, November 16. The pattern chosen for the November Beginner's Fly Tying session is the CDC Elk Hair Caddis.

Fall water temperatures make caddisfly patterns such as the CDC Elk Hair Caddis a perfect candidate for fishing some of our local streams. Just as adult caddis flies can expertly travel the waves and are very tempting for trout, the CDC Elk Hair Caddis is the ideal fly pattern to use in the cooler and more turbulent waters of the fall.

The CDC Elk Hair Caddis is quite similar to the standard Elk Hair Caddis but differs in that the underwing (under the elk hair) is CDC which stands for cul de canard (French for butt of a duck). And



because of their structure and water shedding properties, incorporation of the CDC feathers provide additional buoyancy to the fly.

As a reminder the next and future PVFF Beginner Fly Tying sessions will be held monthly on the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM in room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick Street, Frederick.

For those of you who cannot attend our monthly in-person tying sessions, please note that we will provide online instructions for every fly we tie.

We will also provide a video demonstration of how to tie each fly when possible. You will find these extra materials on our website, filed under 'Beginner's Fly Tying.'

Advanced Fly Tying: October Caddis

By Larry Forte

Our next Advanced Fly Tying session will be on Wednesday, November 17. This will be our first IN-PERSON session and will be at Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland. We will meet in room 108. For those that prefer to join us via ZOOM, no problem. We will have a Zoom hook-up at the church for folks. Don Fine is going to show us how to tie the October Caddis.



At our last meeting Doc Leadbetter taught us how to tie the Walts Worm and a green-bodied synthetic quill CDC beadhead jig, shown here.

Interested? We would love for you to join us. Just please let me or Don Fine know.

You can sign up on our website or you can email me at lbforte@verizon.net. See you on the 20th!

Do these flies look familiar? Due to the cancellation of tying sessions in October, we shifted last month's planned activities to November. We hope you can join us!

A Banner 2021 Banquet. Thanks, Donors!

By Dave Keane



Nearly 60 club members participated in the banquet.

Our annual banquet was held on October 23rd at the AmVets Memorial Post #9 in Middletown, Maryland. This event serves as our major fundraiser for the year. Thanks to all of the members that donated items for our silent auction and bucket raffles. Items that were donated included gift certificates to local fly shops, waders, fly rods and lots of really nice flies tied by members. Additionally, local businesses and guides donated items, as well. The following businesses very generously donated items and/or services to our banquet. Please make sure to visit them and show your support!

- Mike Heck's Trout Guides:
www.fallingsprings.com
- Joe Bruce Custom Flies:
www.joebruce.net
- Murray Friedman, Hunting Creek Outfitters:
www.huntingcreekoutfitters.com

- Mason Dixon BBQ:
mddbqservices.com
- The Gun Shack:
www.gunshackinc.com
- "Troutbitten" Domenick Swentosky:
troutbitten.com
- "Wooly Bugged" Michael Evanko:
www.woolybugged.com
- Rob Snowwhite:
robsnowwhite.com
- Mossy Creek Outfitters:
mossycreekflyfishing.com

It was great catching up with the almost sixty members who came out to the banquet that we haven't seen for well over a year. Lastly, I would like to thank the PVFF board members for all of their hard work in planning and delivering a great night of fellowship and fundraising for our club.



Banquet Highlight: Dave Keane was awarded a commemorative plate for his work as club vice president, banquet coordinator, and conservation chair.



Banquet Highlight: Ruby Fine was recognized for 17 years of service as membership chair, along with all of her of tremendous support to the club over the years.

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.

In Remembrance of PVFF Founding Member Jim Gilford

By Dan Neuland

PVFF founding member Jim Gilford died on Aug. 19. He was 92. In 1964, Gilford proposed Big Hunting Creek become a catch-and-release stream — a first in Maryland — it was Jim Gilford who became the plan’s biggest and most vocal advocate. This radical idea for the time was given the go-ahead from the state fishing commission to make one mile of the trout stream catch-and-release only. Today, all of Big Hunting Creek is a catch-and- release, fly-fishing-only trout fishing stream.

In the 1960’s, Gilford developed a friendship with the Frederick News Post outdoor writer, Lefty Kreh. When Lefty left for Florida in 1965, he recommended Gilford as his replacement as the outdoor writer for the Frederick News Post. Kreh and Gilford were working together at the time at a failed attempt to prevent the state from damming Big Hunting creek to create Cunningham falls Lake.

When Gilford was hired as the FNP outdoor columnist in 1965, Kreh devoted one of his last columns to the new guy: “You’re going to like Jim. He’s an excellent fly fisherman, loves spin fishing, has trained his setters to a T, is an avid archer, a photographer, is eager to learn and best of all a nice person.”

From 1965 to 2006, Gilford wrote two weekly columns for the FNP — Bassin’ Notes and The Drumming Log. He also compiled the Outdoor Notes each week. Gilford was an outdoorsman’s outdoorsman. He wrote about fishing, hunting,



Jim Gilford

conservation and was not afraid to spar with the state over proposed regulations and conservation efforts that he believed to be, or not be, in the best interest of sportsmen and wildlife.

In one of his first Drumming Log columns, Gilford introduced himself to Frederick County sportsmen. He grew up in Pennsylvania and his father worked for the Game Commission in the “outdoor paradise” section of that state. That’s where he learned to hunt for grouse, fish for trout and grow his skills from bait to fly fishing, learned to train bird dogs, hunt deer and bear, and all about bassin’.

“I tie my own flies and popping bugs, fletch my own arrows, and wrap my own rod guides because I enjoy doing such things,” he wrote. “I feel no need to prove myself the best in any outdoor activity. I like just being where the hard road ends.”

Gilford held the first organized meeting of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishermen in 1967 in his living room. In celebration of the 50th PVFF anniversary in 2017, Gilford was honored along with Walker Zimmerman and Bob Abraham as the only surviving PVFF founding members. Sadly, Zimmerman passed away in 2020.

As a member of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Gilford also duly reported their annual tournament results. His columns often spotlighted a variety of Chesapeake Bay issues such as the

changing regulations related to striped bass, oyster and blue crab populations. Gilford was also an advocate of the brook trout, as a contributor to the Maryland Brook Trout Fisheries Management Plan.

Gilford received many honors and state appointments, including chairman of the Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish Trout Advisory Committee, served three decades on the DNR Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, was appointed on

the federal level to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Advisory Panel, and he received the state's highest civilian award, Admiral of the Chesapeake, in 2007.

Gilford continued to write his columns until 2006, when he announced his retirement — from writing regular columns after 41 years with the Frederick News Post.

“Home Waters” of Catoctin Creek Stocked

Thanks to the volunteers who helped to empty the pen and stock the trout on October 27. And a special thanks to Jon Thames and Billy Noland for helping Rick with the early morning prep work. And, of course, thanks to Rick Loose for all the work he does to make this program possible.

For those new to the club who may not be aware, we raise our own trout to stock in Catoctin Creek, our home waters. The trout take a lot of care and feeding throughout the year. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Rick at flyfishric@gmail.com.



Meet a Member: Kevin Haney

Submission by Kevin Haney — Column coordinated by Kevin Holland



How long have you been fly fishing?

I've been fly fishing for about 2 ½ years. It's something that I planned to take up when I retired 3 years ago, as I knew it would be a significant time investment. Before that, I was primarily a weekend spin fisherman. I also fished the waters of the Patuxent River as a kid as I grew up near it.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

What I enjoy the most is dry fly fishing for trout with antique tackle. I don't own any graphite rods and prefer to fish with bamboo and greenheart wood rods. I've taken fish on 140-year-old solid wood

rods and reels with silk line and to me, that's the ultimate thrill. I really enjoy the history and mystery that antique tackle evokes. I'm still not very comfortable fishing nymphs and tiny dry flies that I can't see.

What are your favorite waters to fish?

Big Hunting Creek, Owens Creek, and Fishing Creek, since I live at the foot of the Catoctin Mountains. I also occasionally wade for smallmouth in the Monocacy, but I've been concentrating on trout fishing this past year almost to the exclusion of anything else. I've found that once you get fly

fishing for trout into your blood, it's very hard to do any other kind of fishing.

What is your best fly fishing memory?

That would probably have to be catching a fat 18" rainbow trout on a 4wt rod last fall in Catoctin Creek a week or two after the club stocked it. Catching a 15" brown trout on Big Hunting Creek on a cicada imitation this summer comes in a close second.

What is your favorite fly?

Elk hair caddis is my go-to dry fly for trout on the local creeks. The regular variety, as I assiduously avoid duck butts.

What advice do you have for others?

If you are just beginning fly fishing, realize that it will take you at least a couple of years before you

start to feel minimally proficient with fly casting, stalking, fly presentation and line control. And another couple of years before you start to feel really proficient. Get a mentor and persevere and eventually it will start to come naturally. And get involved with the club — it will help you progress in many different ways.

What is your bucket list fly fishing trip?

I would love to fish one of those big streams out west or in Canada where there are no obstacles to casting and the huge trout compete to see which one of them can eat your fly first.

When did you join the club?

I've been a club member for 1 ½ years. I've been helping with the club web site and the mentor program for about a year.

Seeking Submissions for “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. Email kevinhaney1@outlook.com.

Second, we are seeking people for the “**Meet a Member**” column. It's easy to do: 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 michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com.

Want to Grow Tonkin Bamboo?

Club member Kevin Lynn is seeking anyone in the group who grows or would be interested in growing some Tonkin bamboo with him. This type of bamboo is most often used in rod making because of its long, dense fibers. He is thinking of growing it in large containers but would prefer somewhere it could be grown without containers or possibly with a poured concrete border to keep it from spreading too far. Interested? Email klynn@kevinlynn.com.



Cutties, Browns, and Salmon

By Mike Holland

As many club members may remember fondly, the late Warren Zevon used to sing about “Lawyers, Guns, and Money.” Today, I will write about my recent experience with cutties, browns, and salmon.

In September, I found myself in Boise, Idaho on a Sunday afternoon with nothing on the calendar until Tuesday afternoon. So, I did the only natural thing. I got up at dark thirty and drove 331 miles each way to fish the lower branch of the Snake River with a guide from the Lodge at Palisades Creek (tlapc.com/category/south-fork-of-the-snake-river-fishing-report/)

Our float started off fairly promising when I rolled a large cutthroat trout. I shook it off and resumed fishing. We were using a hopper dropper combo. The hopper was a “Peacock” hopper, and the dropper was a “Duracell” nymph. We enjoyed gorgeous scenery and weather and caught about twenty cutties and brown trout before the day ended. Most notably, we were able to land cutties and browns that measured 16, 18, 20, and 21 inches, respectively. It was incredible to see them rise to the surface to take the hopper and I enjoyed some spirited battles. Needless to say, it was a bucket list day for me.

In early October, Andy Mekelburg and I headed north to Pulaski, New York to fish the private waters of the Douglaston Salmon Run (douglastonsalmonrun.com) of the Salmon River. As we have done for several years now, we used a guide on the first day and then fished a second day on our own. We were blessed with an absolutely gorgeous day followed by a typical North Country fall day. On our guided day, we each caught our limit, and each had one break off. As many of you know, if the salmon is able to run far enough upstream, the odds are with him not you.

Additionally, our guided day could not have begun any better, because it started with my landing a brown trout that was twenty-nine inches long, seventeen and three quarters inches in girth, and weighed about 11.4 pounds.

While hope springs eternal, I do believe the odds are not in my favor to catch a better brown trout in my lifetime. But I guess if you fish enough, you just never know.



Project Healing Waters: Back in the Swing

By Andrew Frutiger

October has been the best month for Project Healing Waters in over a year and a half. We are finally to the light at the end of the tunnel with consistent monthly meetings at the Legion, great fall weather and actually getting to go fishing.

If this past month's meeting at the Legion is any indication of participation, we are going to have a great year. We had a great blend of old and new faces making this one of our largest meetings ever. Everyone from the veterans to the volunteers are eager to get back on the water.

Several upcoming trips were announced from Frederick Friends Creek to the Yellow Breeches. In addition, Chuck led the group through creating their own leaders while Colin walked through how to tie egg patterns.

On a final note, I wanted to let everyone know what an incredible program this is and that, although it is 100% free to the veterans, we still need your help.

During this season of giving, when many of us are making donations to the various groups we support, please consider including our Frederick Chapter Project Healing Waters. To do so, all you need to do is visit our Facebook page (see below) to make a donation.

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*.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

I look at October as being the end of my fishing season, with November starting a new year. The late summer fishing lull reduces the number of trout that are out and about. I still went out, mind you, but didn't see or catch as many fish as I wanted to. But isn't that the same all year, anyways?

My official fishing year ends on Columbus Day weekend with our annual trip to Pulaski for Salmon fishing. For those who have never done it, imagine catching a three foot, over 20-pound fish, that only wants to go up river. A real thrill. The water was down a little, but challenging enough. On the first day, my fishing companion, Mike Holland, and I always hire guide Greg Liu. This way we know we 'll catch some salmon.

Mike started it off by catching an 11-pound brown trout. It was as big as a salmon, incredible sight! On my turn, first cast, boom – a salmon! I would usually report that that ended my day, but fortunately, Greg guided us, quite ably, to catch our limit. For those who haven't been to the Douglaston Salmon Reserve, first thing to know is that, if you've never fished there, it's a rodeo in the public area — just not enjoyable for me. Second, if you catch fish and want to bring them back, you need to make your way upstream a couple of hundred yards, then scale the 100 steps to the top, dragging the fish. I always thought that a local boy scout troop could make some money bringing fish up from the river for fishers. I'm not going to spend



much time talking about day 2, except that Mike caught two fish that he released.

Second sign of the end of the season is the annual banquet. This year was great, almost as if last year's wasn't virtual. Lots of activity and some great donations brought a good contribution to the club. Thanks to everyone for participating. The best part of the evening was being able to see and talk with everyone again. One of the key aspects of the club is the fellowship. It was good to have some of our new members join us and get a feel for what we're like — live!

At the banquet, we recognized the efforts of Dave Keane who has served as Vice President and Conservation committee, but most critical was his

role was running this year's banquet. Not only did Dave drive all over the place to get donations, but he was at the Amvets the day before and set up all the tables and chairs. The banquet was a great success due to Dave's efforts and our members' "vigorous" contributions. We also recognized the efforts of Ruby Fine, who recently stepped down as Membership Chair after 17 years. Ruby still is integral to our operations, but I couldn't pass up the chance to honor her, as she gives so much to the organization.

The last sign of "end of year" was our club trout stocking. Rick Loose and his team did a great job in raising the fish this year. Once again, there were no small fish. We had a great crowd of volunteers to jump in the pen and learn the secret places the fish are stocked, so thanks to everyone who helped, as well as Mark Toms and the DNR team.

So now the new year begins. It starts on November 9 with our first "live" meeting since you know when. Looking forward to not only hearing Jim Lowell's talk, but seeing everyone and talking fish! See you then!

Upcoming Outings

Head to our website to sign up. Want to read more about fall fishing? Go to the Frederick News Post online and search on "fall fishing" for club member Dan Neuland's latest article.

CATOCTIN CREEK, MD

Dates: November 22, 2021

Time/Location: 11 AM @ Catoctin Creek Nature Center: 2929 Sumantown Road, Middletown, Maryland.

Time: 11 AM

Flies: Olive & black woolly buggers, nymphs (copper johns, pheasant tail, hares ear, black stone flies, zebra midges) and, of course, Mekelmops.

Outing Leaders: Mike Holland

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 9** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Nov. 11** Board of Directors' Meeting
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 16** Beginner's Fly Tying at 7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
*(In-person tying session with
online print/video instructions)*
- Nov. 17** Advanced Fly Tying at 7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
*(In-person tying session with
Zoom broadcast for remote
participants)*
- Nov. 22** Catoctin Creek Outing
Directions and details will be
sent out via email to
registrants.

2021 PVFF Offices & Directors

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

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 _____