



potomacvalleyflyfishers.club
STREAMLINES
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February Club Meeting: Fishing Local

Where do you fish around here? That's a question we hear a lot. At our virtual club meeting on February 8 at 7:00 PM, club members will talk about their favorite spots, like Town Creek shown here. We're going to cover all the best local places to go for trout, bass, brookies, stripers, panfish ... if you want to know where to go, when to go, and how to fish it, you don't want to miss this meeting. Bring your questions and let's plan our next outing.

Given the recent COVID spike, we will NOT meet at Tuscarora High School for our monthly meeting. Instead, we will meet via Zoom — the link will be sent by email, so check your inbox.

Beginner's Fly Tying: Dirty Bird

By Don Fine



The Dirty Bird

I would appreciate those who plan to attend on February 15 at Trinity United Methodist Church to notify me at dfine1443@gmail.com to ensure I have enough materials available for the class.

The fly pattern chosen for the February 15 Beginner's Fly Tying class is "*The Dirty Bird*." We chose this fly pattern to honor Bob Abraham, long time member of Potomac Valley Fly Fishers.

Whenever Bob was asked to lead one of our PVFF fly tying classes, he would exclaim, "How about I teach the dirty bird?" You might wonder why *The Dirty Bird* was one of Bob Abraham's favorite fly patterns. Perhaps it was because Bob found this fly pattern to be a very effective imitation of a hellgrammite, during those years when he guided clients fishing for smallmouth bass on the Potomac River.

Credence to this 'theory' can be found in referencing an article in the Maryland Conservationist, written by Truman Doyle of Boonesboro, Maryland, entitled

The Dirty Bird. In the article Mr. Doyle reported his success while fishing for trout on Washington County's Beaver Creek in the 1950s. One evening in May 1955, Mr. Doyle had failed to raise a fish after several hours of fishing worms and small fly rod "lures." In desperation, "*a last search in the lure box turned up a monstrosity I'd created the previous winter (1954) in an attempt to simulate a hellgrammite, with which I hoped to interest smallmouth bass, come June.*"

The article continues to note that for a period of four years in which he recorded his fishing success, approximately 25 percent of the total fish were caught on his Dirtybird fly pattern.

In his publication, Mr. Doyle best describes his *Dirty Bird* as "*a kind of cross between a palmered trout fly, a nymph and a bass bug type (fly)...*". The *Dirty Bird* pattern which Mr. Abraham tied, fished, and taught to perhaps hundreds of fly fishers over the years since, is the true representation of the fly developed decades ago by Mr. Truman Doyle.

Advanced Fly Tying: the Circus Peanut

By Larry Forte



Circus Peanut

At our February Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on Feb. 16 at 7:00 PM, Joe Walther will tie the Circus Peanut fly — an articulated streamer that is essentially two wooly buggers. This will be fun, but a challenge! We will meet in Room 109 at Trinity Church. For those that

prefer to join us via Zoom, no problem. We will have a Zoom hook-up at the church for folks.

Interested? We would love for you to join us. Just let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at lbforte@verizon.net.

Time to Renew Your PVFF Club Membership Dues for 2022

Please fill out the **Membership Application/Renewal form** at the end of this newsletter and send with your payment to the address shown on the form to Dave Dowiak, membership chairperson. Be sure to provide your email address, as the monthly "Streamlines" newsletter and virtual monthly meetings (in addition to other important announcements) are sent via email. If you prefer to renew online, visit pvff.club/club-membership/ to fill out the form and pay with PayPal or credit card. — **Dave Dowiak**

Call to Action on Proposed *Fly Fishing Heritage Trail*

Submit Your Comments by February 3!



We have an opportunity to influence what will become of a section of Hunting Creek at Frank Bentz pond following the removal of the dam at this location, thanks to the work of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock. For several years, BOJC members have worked with Maryland's Department of the Environment and the town of Thurmont on a proposal to restore the streambed to its natural state and regulate it as a youth only, fly fishing only catch-and-release section, while retaining the current dedication to Frank Bentz, Sr.

Perhaps influenced by the work of the BOJC, the National Park Service issued a request for public input in January on a separate proposal to improve the trail system in Catoctin Mountain National Park. This proposal includes designating a Fly Fishing

Heritage Trail, as well as a "potential future trail connection."

The BOJC now needs support to "connect the dots" between the National Park Service proposed new trail with the dam removal project at Frank Bentz pond. The hope is that strong support for the NPS project will influence the designation of the youth only, fly fishing only catch-and-release section at Frank Bentz pond, an area of the stream not on national park land.

You can help, but time is short. The deadline to submit comments expressing your support to the NPS is February 3. Please consider taking a few minutes of your time to submit a public comment at the following website:

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/cato_trailplan

It's Time for Our Annual Spring Fly Swap!

By Larry Forte



Stock up on a variety of flies with the fly swap.

As we have for the past few years, our club will host a spring fly swap for 2022. Here are the details: tie twelve flies to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your flies to our March or April meeting. If we're still not meeting in person at this time, I will share

details on how to drop your flies off. After I get everyone's flies, I will mail you a bunch of different flies tied by club members. The deadline to have your dozen flies to me is April 15th. If you would like to participate, please send me an email at lbforte@verizon.net.

Project Healing Waters: Looking Forward to a Great Year

By Andrew Frutiger

All great fishing seasons start with setting goals. On January 18, our Project Healing Waters volunteers got together and laid out our ambitious goals for the year, from fly tying more complicated patterns, to rod building, to more outings. With the ability to meet in person, without too many restrictions, we are all looking to build on the successes of last year.

In addition to the volunteers meeting in January, we also tried to get out on the water with the veterans to start the year with a bang. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't cooperative and winter temperatures quickly put an end to that idea. We will continue to look for breaks in the weather to get out on the water but, for now, we are focusing on indoor activities such as fly tying and rod building.

During our monthly meeting at the American Legion, Dave W. covered our goals for the new year with the veterans and we got right to work. Colin led tying the first fly of the new year, the sculpin pattern — an excellent all year round option. Larry and Billy spoke to the group about opportunities with the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock and we rounded the evening out with Don Fine walking through the new approach to rod building this year. The goal is to have more frequent meetings for those veterans that want to build their own rod, as well as the ability to take the rod building equipment home so that they can finish their rod early and start using it in late winter/early spring.



Project Healing Water Frederick volunteers honored Jim Lowell, who is stepping down from his pivotal role with the chapter.

Finally, with every year comes change. Jim Lowell, a founding member of the Project Healing Waters Frederick Volunteers and the heart and soul of our chapter is stepping down. Jim has been at the forefront of the program from day one and driving much of its success. He has done everything from managing all of the equipment to running

casting strokes. Jim can teach anyone to cast, his patience and perseverance has led to many greatly improved cast strokes and more enjoyable time on the water. We wish him the very best moving forward and thank him from the bottom of our hearts for everything he has done for all of us.

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*.



SalesForce to helping veterans increase their fly fishing knowledge and improving their

Meet a Member: Dennis Allen

Column coordinated by Mike Holland



How long have you been fly fishing?

Two years for fly fishing, before that I was a lure casting bass fisherman.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

I enjoy wading with nymphs and streamers in beautiful surroundings and weather.

What is your favorite water to fish?

Any water with feeding fish is good but the local or regional streams in quiet, beautiful surroundings are always a treat.

What is your best fly fishing memory?

My best memory to date was catching a little brookie on a small stream at my daughter's house. The stream is just a little unknown place with no room to cast and a small little pool below

some rocks. It was a little bitty fish, but I was so proud to have found it, fished it, and caught a wild trout using my own instincts and knowledge.

What is your favorite fly?

My favorite flies are the foam dry flies made by Jon Thames — they catch almost anything.

If you could only fish with five flies, what would they be?

(1) Woolly Bugger; (2) Thames foam dry fly; (3) Y2K; (4) Mops; (5) Muddler Minnow.

What advice do you have for others?

My advice is to have patience, relax into it, and master the mechanical skills of setting up, tying flies, knots, etc. to maximize your fishing time.

What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?

I would like to fish some Scotland streams.

When did you join the club?

I joined the club two years ago.

Do you have any memories of past club events or members you would like to share?

We have what I anonymously refer to as the PVFF legends. People who have been at it for a while, know a lot, and love to share. Fellowship with them is the highlight of club membership.

PVFF Auditor Needed

As Treasurer of PVFF, I keep up with our income and expenses, write checks, make deposits, manage PayPal, etc. I do this largely unsupervised though I make a monthly report to the Board of Directors showing the expense details, income summary, and a monthly report of income and expenses. Annually, I file a tax return for our group.

The club bylaws state that an audit may be performed, and I think it's a good practice for all that an audit be performed. I am therefore looking for a volunteer to review my data and receipts for last year and be able to report out that everything is on the up and up.

If you have a couple of hours over the next month or two and wouldn't mind looking at a little paper, I would like to have you over, show you how its done, and walk you through the details. Everyone in the club has a right to know their dues and other income isn't being wasted and your time would help me tell that story. Contact me at 301-606-7998 or redwombat34@gmail.com.

— Dennis Allen

Seeking Mentor Program Volunteers

Our mentor program is geared toward helping folks that have little or no experience in fly fishing. Volunteer mentors provide customized instruction, both on and off the stream, in all areas of fly fishing and introduce new members to club activities. The overall goal is to recruit more club members and produce capable, self-sufficient fly fisherman who will become long time club members and contribute to club activities. If you have a good base of fly fishing knowledge that could be of use to a beginning fisherman, please consider volunteering to be a mentor. Sign up today on our website at pvff.club/mentor-program/

— Kevin Haney

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

To me, this time of year is the height of the offseason. The holidays are over, the hatches are over, the trout stockings are over. Time to reset and plan for the spring. The winter fly fishing shows have begun so you have a chance to restock, find some new equipment, listen to lectures, and get pumped up for the spring trout season. I envision all the fish I'll catch and none of the times I get skunked — a clean slate.

At this month's club meeting, members will give insight on local streams — where, when, what, and how to fish the many places available in our region. PVFF had great growth in new Members in 2021 — over 50 new members. Some are new to the sport or the area, so we think this overview will be helpful to many. This will also be a Zoom-friendly program. I know I'll be taking notes.

We hope this will lead to many local outings this year. Mike Holland has once again volunteered to help coordinate the outings. Remember an outing is defined as more than one fisher getting together at a stream. We have a couple we've put on the website. If you have any other ideas for what club activities you are interested in and that you think we should offer, please let me know. I'm at andymekelburg@comcast.net.

The board is starting to plan activities and programs for this coming year and it should be plenty full for whatever aspect of fly fishing you are interested in, as well as for the fellowship. Check the website, our Facebook page, or emails for updates.

*We now have an easier way to get to our website. Just type **pvff.club** in your browser and it'll take you to **potomacvalleyflyfishers.club!***

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 8** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (link will be sent out via email)
- Feb. 15** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Feb. 16** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109
(Zoom link provided for those who cannot attend in-person)
- Feb. 24** Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109

2022 PVFF Offices & Directors

President.....Andy Mekelburg
Vice President.....Kevin Haney
Secretary.....Owen Davis
Treasurer.....Dennis Allen
3 year Director.....Dave Dowiak
2 year Director.....Troy Kitch
1 year Director.....Kevin Lynn
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 _____