

— APRIL CLUB MEETING —

Fishing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with Dusty Wissmath

By Larry Forte



Our April meeting will be at Tuscarora High School on Tuesday, April 12, and will start at 6:30pm. Masks are not required. Hope to see you there!

At our April meeting on Tuesday, April 12, join us as we welcome Dusty Wissmath for a talk on fly fishing the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. If you have never been to the Yellowstone area, you should add it to your bucket list. It is my favorite place to fish.

Dusty will discuss fly fishing Yellowstone National Park, the Henry's Fork, the spring creeks in Paradise Valley, and the Ruby River in Montana.

Dusty grew up in Missouri, started fly fishing when he was eight years old, and spent his formative years highly distracted by the sport. He began guiding and



The breathtaking Yellowstone

teaching fly fishing in the early seventies while working on a degree in wildlife biology at the University of Wyoming. Living in Jackson after dropping out of law school, he tied commercially for High Country Flies and guided the Snake, Green, and New Fork Rivers and in Yellowstone National Park.

In 1996, he founded the Dusty Wissmath Fly Fishing School & Guide Service in the hills near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, where it quickly earned a reputation as a professional, yet easygoing fly fishing school.

He guides in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Montana and hosts trips to fly fishing destinations worldwide.



Dusty Wissmath

Last Chance: Sign Up for the Spring Fly Swap Today!

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. — **Larry Forte**

Please Renew Your PVFF Club Membership Dues for 2022

It's easy: just 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**

Beginner's Fly Tying: Beck's Super Beetle

By Don Fine



Beck's Super Beetle

Our session for April 19 (7:00 PM) is an opportunity for our class participants to 'step outside the box' when it comes to learning to tie terrestrial fly patterns. For those not familiar with the term 'terrestrials,' this refers to a large group of insects which live predominantly all of their life cycle on land (i.e. *terra fermi*), as compared to 'aquatic' insects which live most of their life cycle in the water.

The terrestrial pattern which we will learn to tie is Beck's Super Beetle, named after its originator, Cathy Beck* from central Pennsylvania. Cathy and her husband Barry are well known in the fly fishing community for their fly fishing travels around the world, with Cathy doing most of the fishing and Barry doing the photography. A quick search on the internet will bring a plethora of information about the Becks who, by the way, were very close friends

of our long time club member and mentor, Lefty Kreh*.

I chose the Super Beetle as the fly for the April Beginner's fly tying session for several reasons: (a) it is a very productive fly pattern which (when tied in varied sizes) can be used in fishing for a variety of freshwater species; (b) it is easy to tie and easily modified to represent other terrestrial insects, i.e. ants, hoppers, crickets; (c) and this pattern introduces our beginner fly tiers to the use of new materials, e.g. foam and rubber legs and their application to the fly hook. A quick scan of fly patterns on the internet will verify the extensive use of foam and rubber in the construction of a dozens of fresh and saltwater fly patterns.

** We are honored to have Cathy Beck as a member of the Friends of Lefty Kreh (FOLK) Advisory Committee.*

Advanced Fly Tying: Extended Body Mayfly

By Larry Forte



At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering on April 20 at 7:00 PM, Nina Cleven will show us how to tie the Extended Body Mayfly. This is a great fly to have in your box for this spring.

We will meet in Room 108 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.

PVFF is member driven, which means volunteers do everything. Volunteer positions include elected board positions — 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. Contact Andy Mekelburg at andymekelburg@outlook.com if you'd like to help support the club.

PVFF Home Waters Clean Up: April 2

By Dave Keane

Our club will once again clean up our home waters and support *Project Clean Stream* in April.

As spring arrives, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to remove trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, and parks as part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's *Project Clean Stream* — the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all six Bay states and DC. Check out the Alliance's website for all of the great work that they do at allianceforthebay.org.

Dress for the weather and bring gloves, water, and waders if you plan to work in Catoctin Creek. We will be cleaning up along the entrance to the park,

Catoctin Creek, and reforestation areas. The nature center will provide trash bags.

When: April 2, 2022

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Where: Catoctin Creek Nature Center —
2929 Sumantown Road Middletown, MD
21769

Stream: Catoctin Creek

We hope you can join club members this year in cleaning up our home waters and supporting Project Clean Stream. Please send Dave Keane, Conservation Chair, an email at plantprotection@comcast.net if you plan to participate in this event.

Mentor Program Volunteers Needed

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

Seeking Backup for Newsletter Prep

Do you have an interest in editing, design, and page layout? We are seeking a volunteer to serve as a backup to help prepare the monthly club newsletter. Training will be provided. Contact me at contact@troykitch.com if you're interested. — Troy Kitch



Project Healing Waters: Getting Ready for the Season

By Andrew Frutiger

What a strange month March has been. It is supposed to be “in like a lion and out like a lamb,” not the other way around. Even though the weather has not been cooperating, we have still been able to move ahead with preparing for the new year, thanks in large part to the generosity of the American Legion and the amazing facility we have to work with. Everyone is working hard: from building their personal fly rod, to tying more flies, to getting key tips and tricks on how to fish various water once the weather clears. I am looking forward to future articles involving more fishing and catching and less preparation.

On the national front, Project Healing Waters released its 2022 list of National Outings. This is an opportunity to recognize veterans who have gone above and beyond for their chapters by sending them

to places like Freedom Ranch in Wise River, Montana, or Camp Keystone in Hendersonville, North Carolina, to spend the week fishing, telling stories, and connecting with other veterans from around the country. In the past we have been honored to have had one of our veterans, Paul Kelly, be nominated and selected for the North Carolina trip. It is a fantastic opportunity and another example of the fantastic work this organization does giving back to those that have given us so much.

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*.

Meet a Member: Pete Ring

Column coordinated by Mike Holland

How long have you been fly fishing?

About 25 years. I started fly fishing in '97 or '98 while living in Colorado. It took me about eight outings before I finally caught some fish. I almost gave it up.

If it wasn't for a camping trip in the mountains along a stream that happened to be full of brook trout, I may not have kept with it.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

Wild mountain trout streams with no one else around except for those I came with. I love when all I hear is the sound of rushing water.

What is your favorite water to fish?

I love exploring new water close to home. I try to find new streams or new sections of streams to fish.

What is your best fly fishing memory?

I think it has to be the brook trout stream in Colorado where I finally caught some trout. I really was not hopeful that I would catch anything. I got one my first cast and it kept going like that the rest of the weekend. We probably caught over a hundred trout each day. Mostly brookies, but brown and rainbow too. I stopped “trying” to catch fish and focused more on my casting and presentation. I really needed that because of how discouraged I had been with it.

What is your favorite fly?

Any dry fly I am able to see floating down the stream.

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

(1) Elk Hair Caddis; (2) Hopper; (3) Stimulator; (4) Bead Head Woolly Bugger; and (5) Frenchie.

What advice do you have for others?

Learn something new each year. Think outside the box, trout do not stay in the “fly fishing only” sections of the stream. Spend time with people who know more than you. Sometimes you need to slow down, sit on a rock, and untangle your line.

What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?

Don’t know. I am kind of a homebody and like staying close. I guess I’d like to “find” that obscure stream that looks “fishy” and find trout



Pete Ring

in it. I also hope to catch my first snakehead on a fly this year.

When did you join the club?

About 5-6 years ago? I wanted to find people that had the same passion for fly fishing that I do.

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

As a veteran myself, it was an honor helping guide Wounded Warriors at Otter Camp several years ago.

Maryland Brook Trout Tour

By Mike Holland



There are brookies in there if you can cast to them!

On Saturday, March 26, I had the pleasure of fishing for brook trout with Club Member Peter Ring and President Andy Mekelburg. We met at Peter's home near Thurmont, and he graciously shared his deep knowledge and passion for the waters of the surrounding Catoctin Mountains.

We started by fishing Clifford Branch, which is on Hamburg Road in the Frederick Municipal Forest. It is a small water that literally begins as a spring several miles upstream and eventually flows into Tuscarora Creek. According to Peter, Clifford Branch is not heavily fished, and its water temperature is such that it offers year-round brook trout fishing. Indeed, we were the only fishermen out but there were plenty of hikers and mountain bikers enjoying the beautiful woodlands.

Andy started us off with a brookie not too long after we started casting nymphs in the water. I followed him by catching one with a Squirmy San Juan Worm that I had tied myself. Before we left a few hours later, we had collectively caught about thirteen brook trout. Surprisingly, I had no luck using a Zebra Midge or Stimulator but had great success with a green Copper John.

I will share that I experienced one of those special moments that keeps us all going out the next time. As Peter and I worked upstream, taking turns, we saw a hole that was promising but had limited access. It was a nice riffle that ran into an undercut bank with a tree above. After changing my fly from a Zebra Midge to a green Copper John, I got down on my hands and knees and was able to figure out how to successfully get four bow and arrow casts into riffle, seams, and pool; I was rewarded with my best

brookie of the day. It felt wonderful to figure out how to approach promising “fishy” water, make some very difficult casts, and to have your fly selection confirmed.

After Peter showed Andy and me some of the surrounding waters, Little Fishing Creek, and Little Hunting Creek, we fished Big Hunting Creek in the Thurmont Park. There is plenty of parking and all you need to do is know that there is a creek hidden behind all the undergrowth that you can fish. There are some paths once you get closer to the edge of the greenery.

If you would like to fish Clifford Branch or some of these waters, I encourage you to contact Peter. He has spent a lot of time fishing these waters and loves to share his knowledge with others. If you want to go out by yourself, one way to find Clifford Branch is to take Rosemont Avenue in Frederick and keep driving west until you see the sign for the Frederick Municipal Forest.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

Let the fishing begin! The season has opened and the club had its first official outing. Let’s pretend for a minute that my vision was a nice warm spring day casting merrily for our quarry. The reality was a little different with snow showers and cold temperatures, but we were out fishing and enjoying ourselves nonetheless.

The weekend started on Saturday, when Mike Holland and I met up with Peter Ring to fish the streams of the Catoctins. On my second cast, I caught a nice sized brook trout. I knew it wasn’t going to get any better than that and I said I should stop then. As you would guess, I didn’t stop and eventually caught another three. Great time exploring the streams with Peter’s navigation. See Mike’s article on the previous page for the real scoop.

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 12** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Apr. 19** Beginner’s Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Apr. 20** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
(Zoom link provided for those who cannot attend in-person)
- Apr. 28** 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

On Sunday, we had our first official outing at our home waters at the Catoctin Creek Nature Center. I was bravely joined by Marlan Marolit and Josh Beard. I'm sad to report no trout were caught, but happy to report that both Marlan and Josh caught at least something: actually decent sized creek chubs. Yes it was chilly, but yes we enjoyed ourselves.

The point of these two days of fishing is that it shows the value of the club. To me one of the key aspects of PVFF is to bring together people who have the same passion for fly fishing and are looking for other people to fish with or new places to go. As we plan the club's activities for the year, we keep this in mind. While our general meetings provide interesting speakers and content — thanks to Chuck Dinkel for the entomology talk last month and we look forward to the coming month with Dusty Wissmath. However, in my mind, the real value of the meetings is our interactions with each other before and after the presentations.

This is one of key values: building fellowship among our group. All of our activities are built to emphasize this. Based on the values of the people who founded the club and have nourished it through these many years, promoting a non-competitive attitude, helping people improve their enjoyment in whatever aspect



Josh Beard and Marlan Marolit

of this sport they participate in — that is what we have always been about. Whether it's outings, fly tying, general meetings, the annual banquet and picnic, raising our trout, working with our vets as part of Project Healing Waters, our conservation activities, and the many other things we do, the idea is to have fun, learn, and interact.

Please let me know if you have any ideas for outings, activities, presentations or anything else that you believe will make the club more enjoyable. We are all volunteers running the organization, so I encourage you to get involved and participate. And go fishing!

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 _____