

Image courtesy of Calvert
County, Maryland



— FRIENDS OF LEFTY KREH —

Local artist Toby Mendez to Sculpt Lefty Kreh Statue

By Seth Denbo

A statue of a Chesapeake Bay waterman standing on the prow of his boat greets visitors to the Annmarie Sculpture Garden near the mouth of the Patuxent River in Solomons Maryland. Situated in the middle of a fountain, the subject stands on the prow of his boat, water dripping from the end of the large oyster tongs in his hands, as if he has just pulled them out of the bay. This creativity and thoughtfulness in presenting a subject naturally and faithfully makes Maryland native Toby Mendez the ideal sculptor to create the statue honoring famous fly fisher, Frederick native, and PVFF member Lefty Kreh.

While Mendez has experience with statues situated in fountain settings, placing a sculpture in a natural environment — it will stand in Culler Lake as if wading and depict Kreh casting — is new to him. “Putting it in a body of water and working it into the landscape makes this different and is one of things that drew me to the project.” Mendez said when I spoke to him on the phone recently. “We hope” he said, “that the way that it’s placed in the landscape will engage visitors to Baker Park and draw them in.”

Toby Mendez, a long time Frederick resident and Maryland sculptor, has an international reputation and an extensive résumé of commissioned works of

public figures and athletes, including a statue honoring Thurgood Marshall on the grounds of the statehouse in Annapolis. He was also chosen by the Baltimore Orioles to sculpt the figures of six Hall of Fame players to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Camden Yards. You may have seen them if you've been to an Orioles game. While his sculptures grace ballparks and public spaces in a number of cities across the country, projects associated with Maryland history have a special place in his body of work.

Another aspect of the project that attracted Mendez relates to Lefty's multi-faceted life and career. Although best known as fly angler, Lefty was also a gifted teacher, a prolific author, and an active and

committed conservationist. "He had more dimensions than just fishing," Mendez said. In order to carry on that legacy the project includes plans for a plaque contextualizing the statue so viewers can learn more about Kreh's life.

Mendez is currently working on the maquette, a one-quarter scale clay version of the statue in which he will sculpt all of the details and look of the final finished work. Once that is complete, it will be enlarged to full-scale in clay. A mold will then be taken from the full-sized clay version into which bronze will be poured to make the finished statue, with the goal of having the sculpture complete by spring of 2023.

To learn more and to help make the Lefty Kreh statue a reality, you can donate via the project website:

friendsofleftykreh.com



Lefty Kreh

Beginner's Fly Tying: White Miller

By Don Fine

At our July Beginner fly tying session we will be tying both a White Miller wet fly and dry fly. I chose these patterns for our Beginner class because July is the month when abundant hatches of White Millers occur on nearby waters (e.g. the Potomac River in Maryland/Virginia and Yellow Breeches in Pennsylvania). For this hatch, our tiers will learn two basic easy-to-tie patterns to “match the hatch.”

If you haven't fished a full-blown White Miller (WM) hatch, you will have the opportunity in July. In the late afternoon and early evening, the nymphs begin their ascent to the surface, at which time the wet fly pattern can be used to fish for smallmouth, blue gills, etc.

Later, just as the sun is fading, the adult WMs start coming off the water, mating within minutes in the air and shortly thereafter depositing their eggs upon the water for next year's brood. This is the time to fish the dry fly pattern — when you try to get your pattern to be selected out of the thousands of real flies that are hatching. If you have a concern about not having these WM patterns tied by the time of the hatch, there are several reasons not to worry:

- In general, the WM hatch begins early in the month near D.C. and proceeds up river over the period of several weeks, arriving near Shepherdstown, West Virginia, generally by the 3rd week of July (depending, of course, on weather).



White Miller Dry Fly — image credit: 1000flies.com



White Miller Wet Fly — image credit: blueribbonflies.com

- Other light colored (white, cream) mayfly patterns can be very effective during the hatch, and
- “Any day fishing beats any day of work.”

We will meet in Room 207 at Trinity Church at 7:00 PM on July 19.

Advanced Fly Tying: John Barr's Meat Whistle

By Don Fine



Meat Whistle — image courtesy of Tightline Videos

The Advanced Fly Tying meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 13, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Note that the July session is **one week earlier** than our usual Advanced sessions, which are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month. Don Fine will lead the tying session, demonstrating how to tie John Barr's Meat Whistle. This is an awesome streamer pattern very productive for trout and smallmouth bass, particularly when these species are in heavy cover waiting for an

offering of baitfish, freshwater leeches, aquatic worms, etc. to swim by. Materials for tying the Meat Whistle will be provided. Kindly let Don know that you are planning on being present that evening. For those who might plan on participating online, a listing of materials for the pattern will be provided approximately one week earlier. Please let Don (dfine1443@gmail.com) know in advance as to whether you will participate live or online.

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. Sign up online: pvff.club/mentor-program/

— Kevin Haney

Sign Up Today: The PVFF 3-Fish Challenge

By Larry Forte

Are you up for a fly fishing challenge? The club's 3-Fish Challenge continues through October 15. The challenge is simple. **Catch 3 or more freshwater species in ONE day with a fellow club member.** Complete the challenge and you will be recognized at the Annual Banquet on October 29th.

The PVFF member who catches the most unique species will be the BIG winner and will be awarded a BIG prize at our banquet in October. In addition to the big prize, the winner will be bestowed with all club bragging rights for the year! As the old MasterCard commercial would say – That is priceless!

There are only a few rules to follow. For all fish entered in the challenge, you must use a fly and

provide the name of the fly, the fly size used to catch each fish, and the location where you caught the fish.

Given the history of fishermen and their ability to tell fishing tales, you also must fish with a club member so that your day's catch is verified. A picture would be nice, but is not necessary.

Examples of freshwater fish species 'for the challenge' may include (but is not limited to) the following: brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, golden trout, smallmouth bass, sun fish/blue gills, largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, white chub/fallfish.

Join the PVFF 3-Fish challenge. There is a simple form to complete which you can download from the home page of our club website or you can send me an email (lbforte@verizon.net) and I will email you a copy. Good luck and happy fishing!

PVFF Banquet: Request for Donations

Date: October 29, 2022

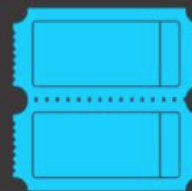
Location: AmVets, Middletown, Maryland

It's that time of year to start thinking about donating items for our annual banquet. We have already received some fly tying materials and some hand tied flies. If you are interested in donating an item, please send me an email, preferably with a picture of the items and your contact information. We can arrange a pick up or drop off time. This is our club's annual fundraiser, so please consider donating an item.

— Kevin Lynn, klynn@kevinlynn.com



**Food Provided by
AMVETS POST 9**



**Silent Auction and
Bucket Raffle**



**Win a St. Croix 4wt
Rod Reel Set or the
PVFF Travel Rod**

PVFF Picnic Wrap-Up

By Dennis Allen



As advertised, the annual PVFF picnic was at the Catoctin Nature Center on June 14. It seemed like all had a good time and we're already looking forward to next year. Thanks goes to several people for their efforts at the event: Don Fine, Ruby Fine, Lea Allen, Andy Mekelburg, Don Lee, Owen Davis, Larry Forte, and others who pitched in here and there as needed. See ya next year!

CONTEST WINNERS:

- 1-fly contest: Seth Denbo caught 11 fish in the 2 hours allotted on a "Red Tag Wet Fly" that he learned at one of our beginners fly tying classes.
- Casting with an obstacle (2 different distances): Ray Ouellette with 4 of 6 casts in the target
- Long Distance Casting: Jeb Stevens at 63 ft.
- Accuracy Casting: Jeb Stevens with 3 of 3 in the target.



PVFF Picnic: Casting Competition

Meet a Pair of Members: Phil and Nina Cleven

Column coordinated by Mike Holland



Phil Cleven

Nina says: Phil and I are a fishing team, he fishes, and I tie the flies that he currently thinks will attract the trout he is after. I initially got into fly tying some 50+ years ago but only dabbled in it at that point. It wasn't until we joined the PVFF group that I finally got back into the hobby.

Since then, I have been learning the intricacies of making a decent-looking fly by attending the fly-tying sessions our club holds each month and watching more YouTube videos than I care to admit. Some of my favorite fly-tying YouTube channels are: In the Riffle (Charlie Craven); George Daniel, Tight Line Video; Holsinger's Fly Shop; and of course, our own Don Fine.

Now here is Phil's side of the story: I started trout fishing as a five-year-old living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP). I fished the same waters as the famous writer John Voelker, aka Robert Traver, author of books like Trout Magic, Trout Madness, and Anatomy of a Murder. It was a great area to grow up in! I was in my twenties before I attempted to fly fish, and I wasn't very good at it. After a few years, I kind of got away from fly fishing because we were living in southern Michigan, and it was a long drive up to rivers like the AuSable and Pere Marquette. My fly-fishing interest revived about seven years ago when we moved to Pennsylvania and discovered that we lived about a five-minute walk to a dry flies only stretch of the Antietam.



Phil and Nina Clevin

One of my favorite memories was a trip to Yellowstone in the 1970s where my son and I caught all kinds of cutthroat trout right off the shore of Yellowstone Lake and right next to our campsite. I really enjoy dry fly fishing, but much of the time I am actually nymph fishing. I spend a lot of time on the East Branch of Antietam Creek, but also enjoy Beaver Creek, the upper stretches of the Yellow Breeches, and of course our club's "home waters," Catoctin Creek.

My favorite fly is anything that is working, but I spend a good part of the winter with an egg pattern tied on my leader. If I could only use five flies, I would probably choose: (1) a Pheasant Tail; (2) a Hare's Ear nymph; (3) an Adams dry; (4) an Elk Hair Caddis; and (5) a Sucker Spawn Egg pattern. I also really enjoy fishing soft

hackle wet flies. I don't tie my own flies, but I am married to a great fly tyer!

My bucket list fly-fishing trip would be to go back to Michigan's UP, or to Ontario on the north shore of Lake Superior. My advice to others would be, if you need some information or inspiration, check out YouTube as it has some wonderful videos. I've been a member of PVFF for about four years and it seems like much of my experience has been affected by the COVID pandemic. I haven't had a chance to get out on one of the club's fishing events, but I certainly would like to. I have enjoyed stocking fish in the Catoctin Creek, the annual fly-casting event, and even helping clean up Catoctin Park.

Getting Schooled in Pennsylvania

By Mike Holland

On June 13, PVFF Club President Andy Mekelburg and I went to school in Pennsylvania — almost literally. Earlier this year, Andy had been the winning bidder on a guided trip generously offered by fishing guide Tom Baltz as part of an effort to raise money for the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association (paflyfishing.org), which is located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Our education began almost as soon as we met Tom in the parking lot across from the TCO Fly Shop (tcoflyfishing.com) in Boiling Springs. As soon as we had concluded introductions, I proudly showed Tom the loop-to-loop connection I had tied only to learn that the loop knot I had tied on my fly line was incorrect and I had not inserted the fly line loop into the leader loop, which is the correct way to make that loop connection. Tom also explained how he uses bobbin to fasten the fly line loops he ties.

We proceeded to the Yellow Breeches Creek to fish. I started with a fly Tom created that he calls a “Bronze Back,” with a Frenchie attached to it with about a foot of tippet. Eventually, that rig produced a nice rainbow trout, who found the Frenchie irresistible. While fishing that hole, Tom taught me how to use a roll cast to set up a side cast to reach under cover overhanging the water.



Mike Holland and Tom Baltz on Yellow Breeches

At the next hole, I had the great satisfaction of catching a brown trout on a Prince Nymph that I had tied. In fact, it was one of the first I had ever tied and proof that the artistic attributes – or lack thereof - of a fly are not necessarily the determining factor for success.

Andy was fishing below me and after he caught a very nice rainbow, I moved downstream about ten yards of so to another promising hole that was

between us. Here, I caught another nice brown on a Zebra Midge that I had tied myself.

We broke for a lunch of sandwiches and chips at a Children’s Lake Park in Boiling Springs and then headed to the last stretch of water we fished. Here we fished dry flies and I was very happy to catch a brown trout on a Royal Wulff. It was particularly pleasing as I have not caught too many fish on dries and the Royal Wulff is a fly that my father loved to fish back home in the Adirondacks. Here I worked on my cast and at keeping my elbow in and not throwing the line. I also worked on keeping my line tip ahead of the fly line to avoid drift.

Other items we worked on throughout the day were mending and setting the hook. Tom reminded us that fish feed facing into the current and that setting the

hook downstream and low will prevent you from pulling the fly out of the fish’s mouth and help you avoid streamside vegetation if you do not hook a fish. At one point, I was pleased that Tom complimented me for putting my flies in the fly box properly – pushing the bend of the hook into the slot. He also explained the importance of having enough room between the fly box cover for dry flies, so they are not crushed. Finally, Tom was passionate about picking up trash that he saw and making sure that excess tippet was not left in the environment by using a PIO (pack it out) pod. He explained how he had found a dead duckling one time wrapped in tippet and what a sad sight that was.

I am thankful for the time we were able to spend with Tom and for the many insights he shared. I plan to try to go out with him again next year to continue my education. If you would like to book a trip with Tom, the best way to reach him is via email at baltzte@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

July 13 Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108

July 19 Beginner’s Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207

2022 PVFF Officers & 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

Outing Report: Beaver Creek

By Mike Holland

On June 3, I led an outing to Beaver Creek, in Hagerstown, Maryland. I was joined by Andy Mekelburg. After meeting at the Beaver Creek Fly Shop, we traveled to and parked in the public access area generously provided by a farmer on the Beaver Creek Church Road. It was a beautiful, sunny day, which made the water quite clear. Beaver Creek is limestone, spring creek and is quite technical and challenging as it is well-known and draws a lot of anglers from the surrounding states. According to Jim from the Fly Shop, the pressure has lessened with increased gas prices. In any case, I was pleased to catch a nice rainbow on a size 12 black Zebra Midge that I had tied myself. I also tried, and enjoyed, using an 7’6” 2 weight rod.

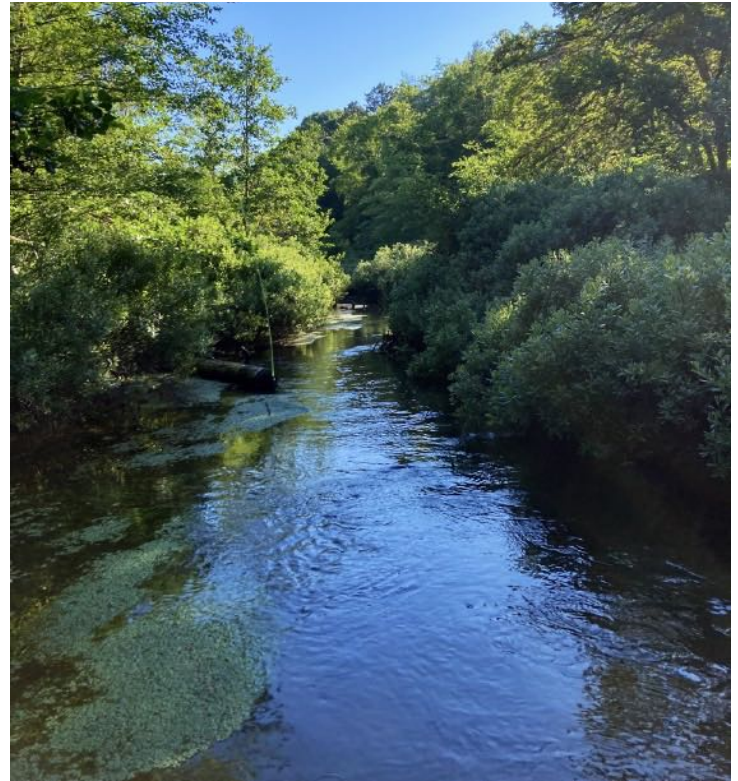
Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

A while back I was fishing with a person in another state. He said that if anyone should come by and ask us how we're doing, we should just say we caught a couple of panfish. I first thought I would be happy to catch a couple of small fish, but then I thought about the bigger picture. As I was taught to fly fish by members of the club, the need to catch fish seemed like an alien concept to me. Our members are not only happy to share how many and what kind of fish they caught, but will even tell you on what fly and where. This spirit of sharing reflects on the non-competitive nature of our club. Yes, we like to have competitions like we had at our recent picnic with the one-fly contests (congratulations to Seth) and our casting contests (congrats to Jeb and Ray), but those are fun events to sharpen everyone's skills.

I have found that members will share their joy and skill of fly fishing to all new and potential members. It's part of the club's critical value of fellowship. The other thing I've learned by talking to our fishers is that they aren't just "fly fishing for trout only" people. I have heard stories of many fishing exploits and species that our local anglers go for, whether it's bass, shad, salmon, stripers, blue gills, cat fish, snakehead, or others. Members just like to fish, so they will fish any and all situations. I find that it can be a good learning experience to use different tools and techniques, with each having a unique allure.

This may seem like a long lead up to mentioning a couple club activities that are ongoing and upcoming. First, we have introduced the 3-fish challenge. This is a fun competition in which you catch three different species in one day. The twist is that you have to be with a fellow member and take pictures: this is the fellowship piece. I've learned that fishing and catching is secondary to who you are fishing with. As we are generally a catch and release



club, at the end of each day our goal is more about leaving with memories of our time on the water and perhaps a few good pictures.

The second event is our upcoming banquet scheduled for October 29. Summer is the time of year where we ask our members to donate equipment, services, gift cards, art, or any items for the raffle and auctions. Kevin Lynn is coordinating the banquet, so please let him know if you have something to donate. This is a good time to shed those items that you don't use and provide them to members who will appreciate them.

The club doesn't hold any general meetings in July and August, removing an excuse for not going fishing. If you're looking to go fishing and want to meet up with fishers at a certain stream and time, just let Mike Holland (michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com) or me know. I look forward to hearing your stories at our September 13 meeting. Tight lines!

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 _____