

PVFF Banquet: Mark Your Calendars Now

By Kevin Lynn

The PVFF Board of Directors plans to hold our annual banquet on October 29, 2022 at the Amvets Post 9 in Middletown, Maryland. This will be our 55th banquet! Join us as we celebrate our club and our love of fly fishing.

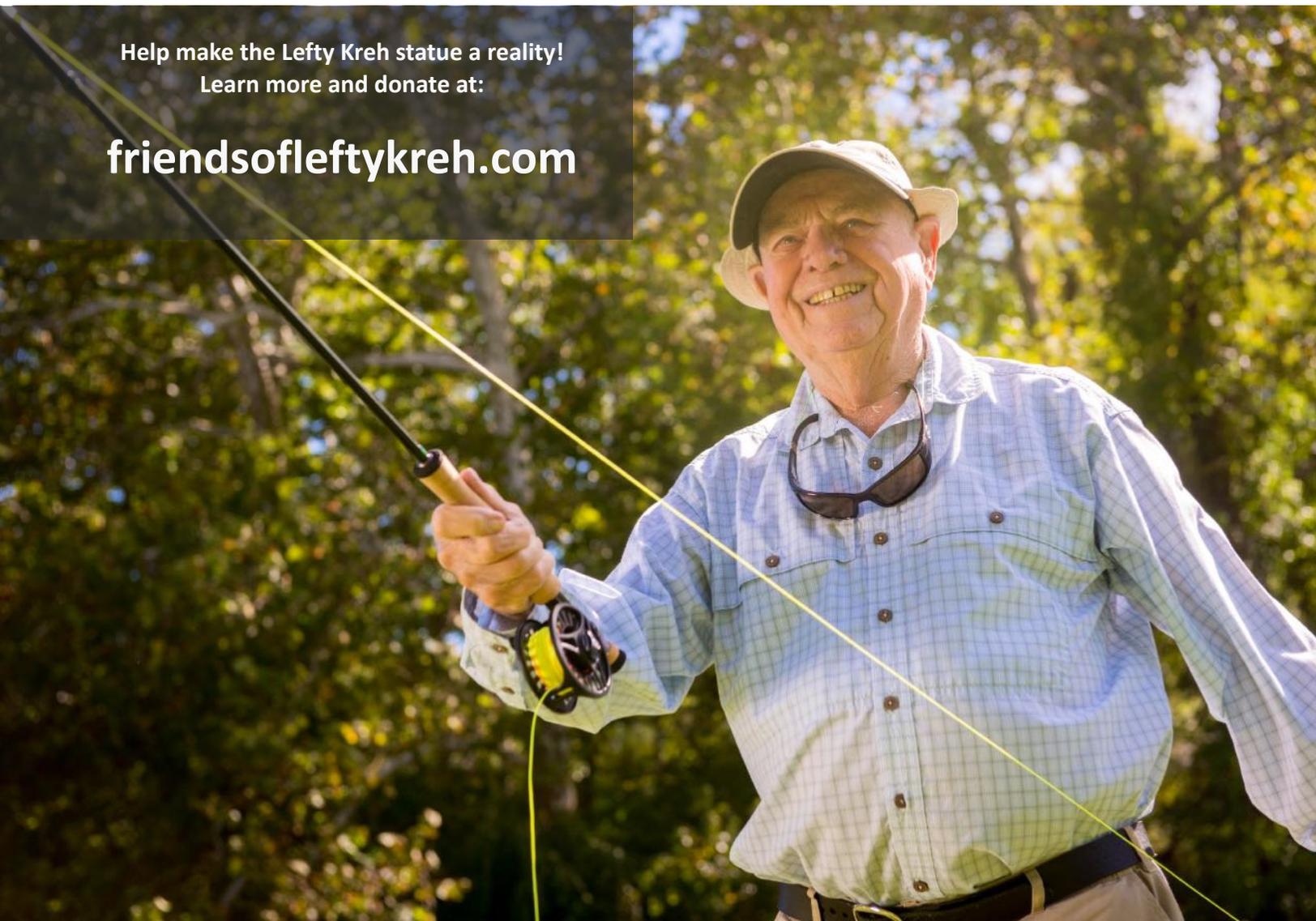
This event is our annual fundraiser that supports our club's activities throughout the year. Activities include a silent auction, bucket raffles, and chances to win a 5-weight St. Croix rod and reel and the

club's travel rod. Tickets this year will be \$30.00 for adults and \$5.00 for 16 and under.

We are in need of donations, so go 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 **240-421-1774** or email klynn@kevinlynn.com.

Help make the Lefty Kreh statue a reality!
Learn more and donate at:

friendsofleftykreh.com



Beginner's Fly Tying: Go Catch Fish with Flies You've Tied

By Don Fine

Summer time, particularly August, is a great time to get on the water to test your prized box of flies in catching different warm water species (e.g. smallmouth and largemouth bass, pickerel, crappie, chubs and bluegills). No more strategic approaches for leery trout species.

If the stars are aligned correctly, instead of teaching and tying in mid-August, yours truly will be fishing for smallmouth bass and lake trout north of the U.S./Canada border. That said, the next Beginner Fly Tying session will be held September 20th.

Regarding our fall program for Beginner Fly Tying, I look forward to continuing to introduce several new fall and early winter fly patterns with new techniques for tying them.

Advanced Fly Tying

We will not have our Advanced Class this month. Many of you will be off on vacation so we will start up again in September. Have a great month. — Larry Forte

As always, the focus of our PVFF Beginner Fly Tying is to teach the basics of artificial fly construction which creates a passion and self-confidence in those new to fly tying, which leads to a life-time of enjoyment of using the 'fly which you tied to catch the fish of your dreams.'

Support the Club: Volunteers Needed

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.

— Andy Mekelburg

Seeking Backup for Newsletter

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

Take the PVFF 3-Fish Challenge!

By Larry Forte



Are you up for a fly fishing challenge? The club is holding a 3-Fish Challenge for club members that concludes on October 15th.

So far, it's off to a great start and several members have successfully completed the challenge. It is not too late and there is still plenty of time to participate. You could be the BIG winner!

The challenge is simple. Catch three 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 that catches the most unique species will be the BIG winner and will be awarded a BIG prize at the Annual Banquet in October. In addition to the Big prize, the winner will be bestowed all club bragging rights for the year! As the old Master Card commercial would say – that is priceless!

There are only a few rules to follow. All fish must be caught on a fly. Entrants must provide the fly **name**

and **size** used for each fish entered in the challenge, and the **location(s)**.

Given the history of fisherman and their ability to tell fishing tales — you 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, crappy, 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!

Editor's Note: Don't miss the great 3-Fish Challenge story that appears on page 9 of this issue.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Project Healing Waters: A Perfect Day in Leetown

By Andrew Frutiger

You could not ask for a better day. The turnout was incredible, the weather overcast, with rain passing to the south, and the fish all but jumping into the nets on what felt like every other cast. The main attraction was catching massive rainbows (14 to 20 inch+) with such regularity that this was more catching than fishing and everyone was crushing it. Several trout took to the air on multiple occasions, doing everything in their power to spit the hook and taking veterans under the docks. Even with all of this, we were able to get the fish in fairly quickly so we could release them without too much harm due to the warm weather.

In addition to the trout, this pond has several massive sun fish and bass that also put on a great show. I have seen some big pan fish over the years but you would be hard pressed to get some of these sun fish (ranging from 1-3 pounds) in a normal skillet. The bass were a lot of fun as well — taking both woolly buggers and poppers throughout the day.

I cannot thank the people at the USGS enough for hosting PHWFF and I hope that we will get the chance to return in the fall to once again fish this amazing water.



Fishing the pond at the USGS Leetown Science Center, West Virginia

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*.

The Last Pool

By Kevin Haney



Sometimes those last casts of the day really pay off

To be a certified member of that ancient and noble order of the Brotherhood of the Angle, one must be something of an eternal optimist. After all, what angler, when he expectantly sallies forth to the lake or stream, doesn't secretly harbor in the back of his mind the idea that today could possibly be the greatest day of fishing in his life? And who among us doesn't have the eternal hope that the last pool up ahead may be the one that harbors that huge monster just waiting to be caught, or that his last cast may be the one that catches the biggest fish of the day. Indeed, that's why we make that "last cast" at least a dozen times before

grudgingly putting our rod away for the day. That optimistic spirit was definitely in play on the day of the following tale.

It was early summer and I had just received a "new" antique reel that I wanted to try out. It was a Hardy Perfect from the 1930s, the quintessential high-end fly reel of that and many a succeeding decade. Made in merry old England, it was a desirable collector's piece and there are fanatical collectors out there who can tell which one of the over 100 variations it was just from the sound of the click. But I always like to use the reels in my collection, so I put on a 3-weight



A 12-inch brookie caught in a very tiny stream (location undisclosed)

silk line and mated them with a willowy 7' bamboo rod and planned to go in search of brook trout, one of my favorite prey. The night before I had carefully put a new coat of flotation wax on the line, an ancient and sacred ritual of yesteryear that your grandfather and possibly father remember, if they were fly fishermen.

Early the next morning, just after sunrise, I eagerly ventured forth to the nearby stream, which shall remain nameless for obfuscations sake. Suffice it to say that it was one of those little clear, cold mountain streams, born from hidden springs way up in the Catoctin highlands, that cascade down the mountain amongst tunnels of mountain laurel and rhododendron in an epic series of achingly beautiful waterfalls, plunge pools, and riffles, to finally flow

easily on the flatland below. There was a parking area on the side of the road so I pulled in, geared up, and went downstream away so I could fish my way back up to the car.

It was finally warm enough for wet wading so, unencumbered by waders or hip boots, I fished the pocket water and small pools heading upstream. I prefer to use dry flies almost exclusively for brook trout, so I was fishing a small Royal Coachman, about size 18. I managed to catch and release a couple of beautiful brookies in the 5-6 inch range, which was standard for this stream, but the action was sparse.

When I returned to the parking area, I was tired and hungry and ready to call it a day when I saw

something I hadn't noticed before, a deep pool right below the cars. It looked to be about 3 feet deep, which was unusually deep for this stream. Being right off the parking area, it looked like it probably had a larger population of beer bottles than trout. But I thought I saw some movement out of the corner of my eye, so I sat down for a few minutes to watch. There, in the middle of the pool, I saw a large fish rising.

After excitedly watching the fish rise a few times and figuring that a larger fly would catch a larger fish, I tied on a size 12 elk hair caddis. I approached the pool from downstream, staying far enough away so as not to spook the fish. I nervously started false casting and letting out line so I could daintily drop the elk hair caddis in the pool where I had seen the fish rise. Before I could do that, of course, my excitement got the better of me and I got caught up in a tree behind me. So I went back, retrieved the fly, checked the leader, and sat down to compose myself a little before making another attempt.

Finally, it was time to try again. Sneaking back up to within casting range, I again started letting out line, being extra careful to avoid any hangups. When the proper amount had been let out, I dropped the fly

into the middle of the pool. There was a quick flash and large splash and the fish was on! I could immediately tell that this fish wasn't the standard 6 inch brookie. It even crossed my mind that it may be an errant rainbow trout that had somehow managed to get where it shouldn't be. It put a big bow in my little rod and did a few laps around the pool. I moved up past the tail of the pool so I could bring it in. I had to be careful, as I was using a 7x leader. When I finally and oh so gently coaxed it to the bank, I saw that it was a gorgeous brook trout about 12" long! I was surprised, since I didn't know that they got that big in these tiny streams! After snapping a quick picture, I carefully unhooked and released him back into the pool, hopefully to be caught again another day. I sat down on the bank to rest and feel gratitude for the fish, the stream, and the day.

So, I guess the moral of this fish tale, and yes there is a moral, is to fully embrace that eternal optimism that is part and parcel of the true fisherman's character. Fish that last pool up ahead, even if it is right by the parking lot. Stay on the stream just a little longer, even if it is getting dark. And make that last cast as many times as you can. You never know when it will pay off and, after all, that's the whole point.

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

Meet a Member: Troy Kitch

Column coordinated by Mike Holland

How long have you been fly fishing and when did you join the club?

I first learned to fly fish as a teenager. I joined the club in 2014, I think? It was not longer after we moved to Frederick and I was eager to get back to fly fishing after being away from the sport for many years while I was living abroad.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

I'd say I spend about 60 percent of the year fishing for trout and 40 percent fishing for bass, panfish, or whatever over the hot summer months. I tend to use a 4-weight or one of my Tenkara rods.

What is your favorite water to fish?

By far, my favorite area is Savage River. I typically fish the river from up near the dam to below the fly shop. I like how close the campsites are to the river, so it's easy to walk to the river to fish, break to eat or nap, then fish some more. I also enjoy trekking up and around the tributaries above the reservoir for brookies.

What is your best fly fishing memory?

As much as I enjoy fishing with friends, the memory that first comes to mind is a solo camping trip in May 2017, when I first explored



Middle Fork Crabtree Creek, which runs into Savage reservoir. I hiked several miles up the creek on this day. The water levels were perfect, the weather was perfect, and by sheer luck my visit coincided with a time when brookies were plentiful and surprisingly large. I fished upstream to the point where rhododendron hugged the creek so densely, I was sure I couldn't go on. But then I spotted a patch of blue through the green. There was a good pool ahead, I was sure of it. So I collapsed my rod and low crawled under the brush to check it out. It turned out to be one of

the largest pools of the day. Brookies were everywhere. The fish were chasing each other around, surface sipping, splashing out of the water, and generally seemed to be having a grand time. So I planted myself on a blowdown at the bottom of the pool and pulled out lunch (sardines, boiled egg, and some bread slices — my idea of the perfect pack meal). I watched the fish while I ate. Then I watched the fish after I ate. Then I took a nap on the log. In the end, I decided not to fish the pool. But I caught brookies in smaller pools all the way back to the reservoir. And I didn't see another person the entire day.

What is your favorite fly?

I'd say my favorite fly is a small caddis tied with red or pink thread.

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

(1) Parachute Ant; (2) Black Woolly Bugger; (3) Hare's Ear Nymph; (4) Elk Hair Caddis; (5) Zebra Midge.

What advice do you have for others?

For most of my life, I had the attitude that 'guides are too expensive.' I've only recently come around to the notion that it is well worth the investment to pay for a guide to get to know a river and improve skills. The first time I hired a guide was in 2018 for a half-day on the Savage. It really opened the river up for me and made me a better fly fisher.

What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?

I would like to fly fish in New Zealand.

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

The first year we had our club outing to Savage River was particularly memorable. Our group

may not have caught many fish during this multi-day camping trip, but we got to know each other better and we fished in areas I hadn't fished before. We fished the Savage and also went to the North Branch of the Potomac. I find I'm more adventurous on club outings and willing to wade into areas I likely wouldn't go alone. I figure there's someone nearby to fish me out in case I literally get in over my head. During this trip, I broke the tip of my new 4-weight rod on the first morning. I was so excited about my new rod, it was the only one I brought. I was devastated. I thought the fishing was over for me before it began. But here's another benefit of an outing: people carry a lot of gear. Dave Keane loaned me a rod he had packed and I was back in business within the hour. Thanks Dave!

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Aug. 25 | Board Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207 |
| Oct. 29 | PVFF Annual Banquet
4:00 PM
Amvets Post 9
Middletown, Maryland |

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

Two Catoctin Mountain Watershed Trifectas

By Mike Holland

On Saturday, July 2, I had the pleasure of fishing the Catoctin Mountain Watershed with fellow club member Pete Ring. Our outing was the product of a couple of months of planning and a postponement, but it finally started at 8 AM at his home near Thurmont, Maryland.

As we were discussing our options — there are a number of great waters in close proximity — he suggested that we attempt to complete the 3-Fish Challenge. While I had not anticipated doing so, I quickly agreed and we headed toward Owens Creek, which I had never fished, as it offered the best opportunity to catch a rainbow.

We parked on Highway 550, made the fortuitous decision to wet wade, walked in on a railroad track, and then found our way down to the creek. We started with dropper rigs that featured size twelve stimulators and nymphs. Pete caught the first fish, which was a small fallfish. He then proceeded to catch a rainbow. As we often do, we took turns on different “fishy” waters as we worked up the creek. While we worked our way up, we learned once again the value of not taking waters for granted. Specifically, while I was heading toward a promising pool, I unwisely chose not to fish flat water along the bed of the cement wall that ran along the edge of the river and spooked a large trout. This is a prime example of a mistake or unforced error that anglers consistently make. I can readily attest that exercising the discipline to first fish waters near the bank and on the way to more attractive water will produce more fish.



Mike Holland, Owens Creek, Maryland, with a rainbow

When we got to the promising pool, I hooked, but did not land, a nice fish on zebra nymph dropper, that I had tied myself. It was a good strike, and I lost the fish when the line broke, leaving a little curly tippet. I am embarrassed to say that the tippet failed because of an obviously less than ideal knot ... operator error. While I was tying another nymph on to serve as a dropper, Pete caught another rainbow. We moved on and I am pleased to report that I was then able to land a rainbow and that Pete caught one more, as well.

With the pressure to catch a rainbow off, we headed to Little Hunting Creek in pursuit of brown trout. There, I caught a brook trout. It was memorable because I had to use a side cast and overcome a crowded riverbank growth to place my fly in a tough little riffle that was under low-hanging branches. As an aside, it sure made me happy that I had pulled the trigger a month or so ago when I purchased a Redington Butterstick, seven-foot, three-weight that I found at half price. It is a fiberglass, slow-action rod that provides an enhanced ability to place flies more accurately.

Pete then caught a brown trout after perfectly placing his fly in a pool that ran along the far bank. There was a rock obstructing the view, so we did not see the fish take his stimulator. It was really satisfying (and fun) to see an excellent cast into a tough spot yield a good fish.

We headed to Fishing Creek to try to complete our trifactas. Below the reservoir, Fishing Creek has wild brown and brook trout, and we were fortunate to be able to fish a stretch of water on private property that Pete has permission to fish. Fairly soon after we began fishing, I made a nice cast and caught a brown trout that quickly took a stimulator to complete my trifacta. Pete then finished off the day with a brookie and we decided to call it a day, about five minutes



Pete Ring, Fishing Creek, Maryland, with a brookie

after our planned stop time of 2 PM. While we always enjoy fishing the Catoctin Mountain watershed together, the 3-Fish Challenge definitely added to our enjoyment.

Pete Ring adds: I am thankful that PVFF put out the 3-Fish Challenge. It brought about a fun goal for us to strive for while fishing together. Aside from the good company of Mike, it added to the level of enjoyment in the day. We all like a challenge from time to time.

End of An Era

By Pete Ring

In 2005, I moved here with my family from Fort Collins, Colorado. At that time, we were living on 6th Street in Frederick. As you can imagine, I was apprehensive about what kind of opportunities I would have with fly fishing for trout in this area. It was a long way from what I was used to in Colorado.

One of the first things I did when we got settled in was to look in the phone book (yes, you read that correctly!) for a fly-fishing shop, hopefully one close by. I was very pleased to find Hunting Creek Outfitters just down the road from me. This is where I met Murray Friedman, the owner of Hunting Creek Outfitters. I probably spent about two hours in his shop chatting with him about trout fishing opportunities in the area. I appreciated the time that he gave me even though I was not spending much money. I think I left with only a book on Maryland trout fishing as I was pretty broke back then. Over the next 17 years, I would stop in to see him and his dog(s) every time I was downtown.

It was in one of the PVFF virtual meetings that I was saddened to hear that he was closing up shop. That week, and several more afterward, I visited him. We chatted about his plans and about the years we have known each other. He helped me pick a new pair of waders that I will call "Pete Proof," as I am very hard on my gear. They are a pair of Orvis Pro waders, and I couldn't be more pleased.

On July 2nd after fishing with Mike Holland, I had the pleasure of helping Murray move the rest of his belongings out of the shop and to his house. We were fortunate to have the timing of the rain on our side



Image credit: Bill Green, Frederick News Post

and we, Maizey, and the belongings all stayed dry. Murray is out, the store is closed, and Murray and Maizey are on to a new chapter in their life. I am thankful for his friendship, the knowledge he generously shared with me, and his hospitality, which always made me feel welcome here over the years. Murray, thank you for supporting PVFF and the fly-fishing community here in Frederick for the past 21 years. Enjoy your time "off," enjoy the time with your family and friends, and look forward to your new chapter. You have earned it!

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 _____