

— CLUB MEETING: Orvis 2022 Guide of the Year BRYAN DONOWAY —

Fly Fishing the Gunpowder and Savage Rivers

By Larry Forte

Happy fall. I hope everyone had a great summer. We have an amazing program to kick off the fall season for you. At our meeting on September 13th at 6:30 PM, we welcome Bryan Donoway, owner and guide of Flies In Disguise, (fliesindisguise.com) in Jarrettsville, Maryland.

Bryan, with over 20 years of fly fishing experience and seven years as a professional guide, provides professional fly fishing instruction and guided fly fishing trips on the Gunpowder River watershed in North Central Maryland and the Savage River watershed in Western Maryland. Plus, in late April,

he was awarded “Orvis 2022 Fly Fishing Guide of the Year.”

Bryan is going to talk to us about fishing these two challenging rivers, including a few European nymphing tips to help you catch fish.

The presentation will cover fishing on both the Gunpowder and Savage River watersheds including regulations, access, gear, hatches, fly patterns, and tactics specific to each one.

Plus, he will cover rigging, techniques, and fly selection associated with this very effective approach to fly fishing.

How can you miss such a presentation???

Hope to see you on the 13th at Tuscarora High School.



PVFF Banquet: Purchase Tickets Online

By Kevin Lynn

Our annual banquet is on October 29th at the Amvets Post 9 in Middletown, Maryland.

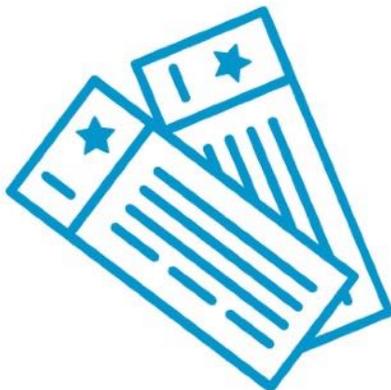
This will be our 55th banquet!

Join us as we celebrate our club and our love of fly fishing.

Head to our website to purchase tickets and register to attend.

Just type **pvff.club** in your browser and look for the link to the banquet.

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**.

The *Friends of Lefty Kreh* project is pleased to invite you to the official unveiling ceremony of the Lefty Kreh statue's maquette. A maquette is a smaller scale version of the statue, which is then used to create the final bronze statue.

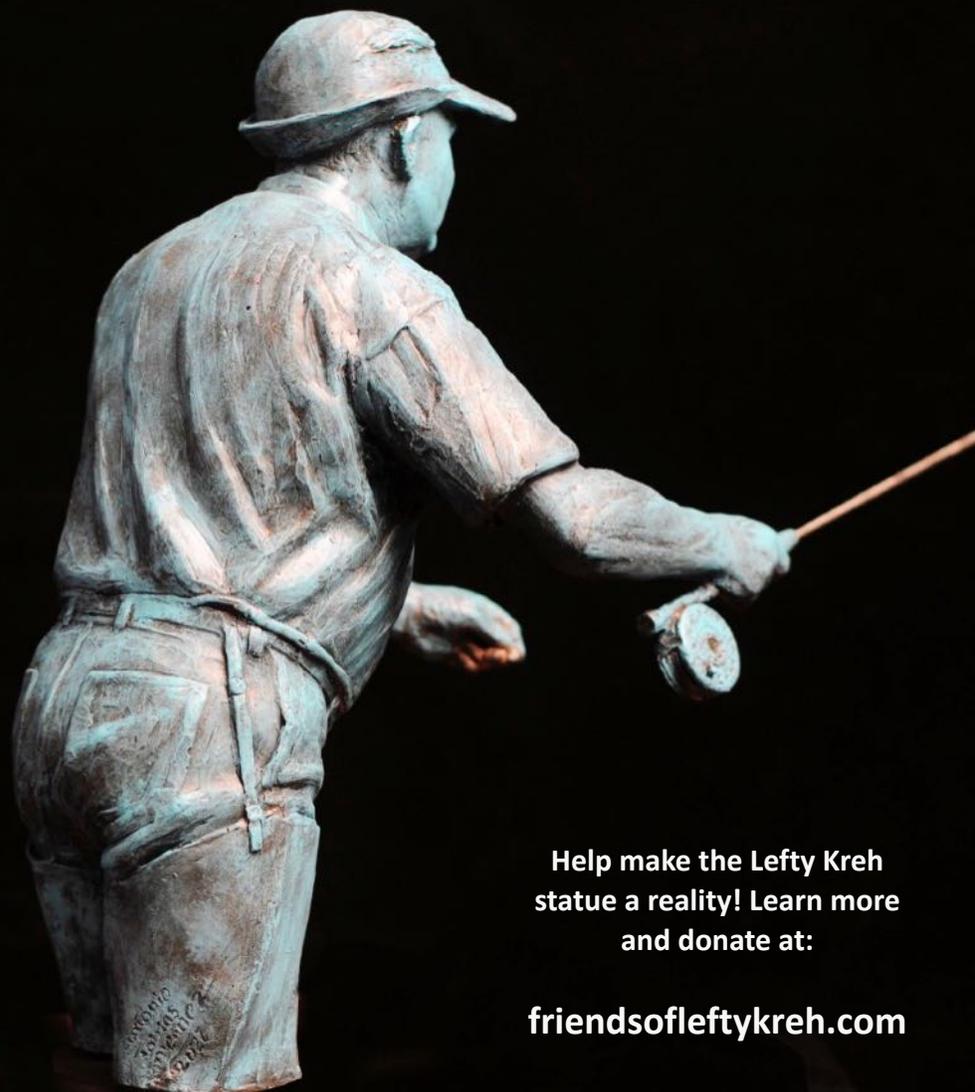
When: Saturday, September 10th, starting at 10:00 am.

Where: We will be meeting at Culler Lake, in Baker Park, next to the "Skater's Shelter" building, which is where Lefty's statue will be placed.

Address: 201 W College Terrace, Frederick, MD 21701.

Also planned as part of the day's event is a fly casting demonstration, casting clinic, and a park cleanup sponsored by the PVFF.

No prior knowledge of fly fishing is required, so come join us if you want to learn how to cast a fly rod or improve on your existing fly casting skills.



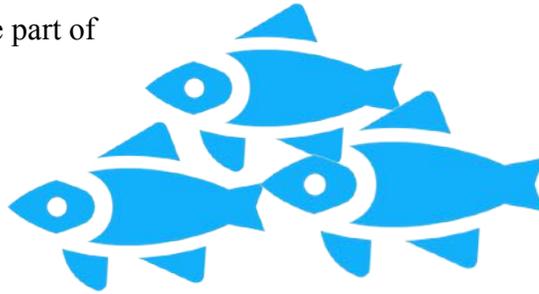
Help make the Lefty Kreh statue a reality! Learn more and donate at:

friendsofleftykreh.com

PVFF 3-Fish Challenge: Times Running Out!

By Larry Forte

Time is running out to be part of our 3-Fish Challenge. 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 question is: are you up for a fly fishing challenge? The 3-Fish Challenge for club members will end on October 15th.

The challenge is simple. Catch three or more fresh water 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 couple of rules to follow. All fish must be caught on a fly with the name of the fly, the fly size which was used for each fish entered in the challenge and the location.

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. You can download this off 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!

Conservation News: Culler Lake Clean Up

This month we will be performing a lake clean up in and around Culler Lake within Baker Park.

What: Culler Lake Clean Up

When: September 10, 2022, 10:00 am to noon.

Where: Culler Lake in Baker Park. Meet at the "Skater's Shelter"
(201 West College Terrace Frederick, MD 21701)

Please bring gloves, waders, and dress for the outdoors. The club will provide trash bags. Kindly email me if you plan on attending at plantprotection@comcast.net.

— Dave Keane

Beginner's Fly Tying: The CHRLFY Woolly Bugger Variant

By Don Fine

After a brief summer break, our next Beginner Fly Tying session will be held at 7:00 PM on September 20th at Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick. As a change in venue for our tying sessions this fall and into 2023, we have decided to replicate (i.e. repeat) some of the basic fly patterns which PVFF fly tiers have tied in the past, including those recommended for beginning fly fishers. As such, this new approach will provide basic instruction for newcomers to fly tying, as well as provide more 'seasoned' fly tiers the opportunity to incorporate minor modifications to the fly's original design, thus broadening tying skills and providing a more diverse arsenal of fly patterns.

The fly pattern chosen for our September 'kick off' class is a variant (CHRLFY) of the well-known standard Woolly Bugger, which I have found to be quite productive in fishing for trout and smallmouth bass. My CHRLFY variant refers to adding a cone-head, rubber legs, and crystal flash to a standard Woolly Bugger.

The original and classic Woolly Bugger was tied by Russell Blessing in 1967 to imitate a hellgrammite (or dobsonfly nymph) as a modification of its precursor pattern, the Woolly Worm. Commonly



referred to as a wet fly or streamer, the Woolly Bugger may represent any of the following natural fish foods; large nymph, baitfish, leech, drowning terrestrial insect, clam worm, crayfish, shiner or crab. Indeed Woolly Buggers are a versatile fly pattern for fishing streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and tidal flats. When tied in a variety of styles and colors they indeed represent a wide variety of game fish prey.

More information on fishing a Woolly Bugger in rivers and streams can be found online. Search YouTube for: "How to Fish Woolly Buggers in Rivers."

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/](https://www.pvff.club/mentor-program/) — Kevin Haney



Advanced Fly Tying: The “Belly Scratcher” Streamer

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on September 21st at 7:00pm, Wayne Leadbetter will show us how to tie the “Belly Scratcher” streamer. This will be a new one for me!

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.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Project Healing Waters: Fishing Farm Ponds

By Andrew Frutiger

Chasing bass and panfish on fly may not sound glamorous, but it can be a lot of fun! Just ask John Gierich (prolific author and “Trout Bum”), who in many of his books writes about the joy of chasing bass and panfish over the summer months. We were fortunate enough to get out on the water twice over the past month to chase these species.

The first trip was to an amazing little farm pond at Thorpewood in Thurmont. We showed up in the early evening after the heat of the day, and got to work. It was amazing how much cooler it was on the back side of the mountain and the later it got, the more fish the veterans caught. The most effective patterns were subsurface, legs/no legs — it just didn’t matter, the fish ate them up. This continuous bite kept up until we left just before dark.

The second trip was back to a familiar site, the farm pond in Adamstown, thanks to a connection of Chuck Dinkel’s. The farm pond has a little of everything. Good size bass that put up an excellent fight, as well as a variety of panfish that never disappoint. Although the weather was much warmer, the bite was excellent and if you were fishing subsurface, you were guaranteed to hook up.



As you can see by our Adamstown group photo above, our chapter is doing well and our event turnouts have been fantastic — but we are always looking to serve more veterans. If you want to know more about Project Healing Waters or if you know a veteran who might benefit from the program, please reach out for more information.

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*.

Upcoming Outings

SMITH CREEK, VA

Date: October 23, 2022

Time and Location: Meet at Susie Q Farm around 9 am. Directions will be provided upon reservation. We will break for a pot-luck lunch; Mike will bring the famous Glazier Hot Dogs. We will fish Smith Creek on Susie Q Farm, which is located off of Exit 257 of I-81 in Broadway, Virginia. There is a \$100 rod fee payable to the Mossy Creek Fly Shop; we typically call in at lunch time and each provide our payment information.

Recommended Flies: Nymphs, such as Prince Nymphs, Copper Johns, and Zebra Midges. Woolly Buggers always work well. Blue Wing Olives, March Browns, and Quill Gordons may be worth a try. Hoppers should also work well at this time of year.

Outing Leader: Mike Holland

How to Sign Up: Contact Mike (michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com) or go to the "Outings" page of our website.

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN WATERSHED, MD

Date: November 19, 2022

Time and Location: We will meet at PVFF club member Pete Ring's home at 8 am. It is located at 10910 Putnam Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.

Recommended Flies: Brook Trout flies including Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, Parachute Adams, Royal Wulffs, etc. Nymphs, such as Prince Nymphs, Copper Johns, and Zebra Midges also work well, and it is always good to have Woolly Buggers and San Juan Worms.

Outing Leader: Mike Holland and Pete Ring

How to Sign Up: Contact us (michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com, pete@lhc-inc.com) or go to the "Outings" page of our website.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 13** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Sept. 20** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Sept. 21** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
- Sept. 22** Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109
- Oct. 23** Smith Creek Outing, 9:00 AM
Meet at Susie Q Farm. View details and register on our website's Outings page.
- 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

Firsts and Favorites

By Mike Holland

Over the course of the past weeks, I have been fortunate to be able to do some fishing. It started on July 23, 2022, when I fished the backwaters near Amelia Island, Florida, with guide T.D. Lacoss of Amelia Angler Outfitters (ameliaangler.com). As you would imagine, the early morning sunrise on the Atlantic coast was beautiful as were the oyster beds and very green marshes.

I had fished salt water before, but this was my first time to fish it with a fly rod. While the fishing was slow, I did achieve my goal of catching my first speckled sea trout on a black Clouser. For good measure, I also caught a blacktip shark that took the line T.D. had been trolling as I fished for trout. It was about three feet long and put up an excellent battle; I am considering it preseason training for salmon season. We finished a slow day with a small flounder, also caught on the same black Clouser.

Next, I fished Yellow Breeches in Pennsylvania with PVFF President Andy Mekelburg on Saturday, August 6. We arrived at a church on Pine Road near Boiling Springs around 9:30 am. While there were not too many other anglers, it would have been better if we had met our original target time of 8:30 am but it worked out alright; Andy caught a very nice rainbow on a Woolly Bugger in a deep pool above a bridge and I caught a nice brown trout on a Beadhead Pheasant Tail nymph. In my studies, I had read about the effectiveness of Pheasant Tails so gave it a try. Notably, I tried a good place — a nice current before a hanging forked branch. I caught it at the end of day when I was about to give up, after a conversation with a fellow angler who shared with me that he had caught a nice trout there earlier.



On August 9th and 10th, I was fortunate enough to fish Spruce Creek at Evergreen Farms (harpsterfarms.com). Evergreen Farms is a dairy farm with bucolic views and a guest house at which anglers can stay. It also is a big brown trout haven. On Tuesday the 9th, I literally spent hours trying to entice some of the big browns lying in a pool; it



seemed like I tried just about everything in my fly box before a nice brown was kind enough to take a black beetle with rubber legs. Shortly thereafter, I caught a very nice 16” brown trout on the same fly about thirty yards down the creek after making a very nice cast to make a presentation between a rock and the far bank.

Of note, that night I fished after dark for the first time. I did not have a headlamp with a red light — since corrected — so I had to turn my back while tying on flies. It was truly incredible to hear the big browns splashing and a lot of fun trying to catch one. While I failed to capitalize on the few hits on my black unweighted Woolly Bugger, it certainly broke the night fishing ice. As an aside, if anyone wants to plan or join an outing to fish there in 2023, please let me know.

I next fished for stripers on the fly on Cape Cod during my vacation. On August 16, I first tried for them on Brewster Flats with guide George Sylvestre

of Sylvestre Outdoors (sylvestreoutdoors.com). While we enjoyed a truly majestic sunrise and I did a very good job of casting Clousers into a brisk wind, the stripers were just not cooperative. Later in the week, I tried for stripers with Clousers, Lefty’s Deceivers, and crab flies, on the Mashpee Town Beach and First Encounter Beach, but there was no change in outcome. However, I did catch a small crab and a magnificent sunset at First Encounter Beach. I also developed a strong desire to catch my first striper on the fly at some point.

Finally, I just returned from Idaho, where I was able to fish the Blackfoot River near Soda Springs, Idaho, on August 25th and 26th; it is one of my favorite places in the world. I was very pleased to catch a very nice Cutthroat trout on a stimulator with rubber legs and some green coloring. Again, this was after going through just about every fly I had. Interestingly, I had some fish follow my dry fly as I brought them in to try again but again, despite the presence of a lot of tall grasses and undercut banks, I found no success with my hopper collection.

After catching a magnificent view of the Milky Way, Saturn, and Jupiter, the next morning I was able to experience a wonderful western sunrise over the Blackfoot River. However, I was not able to crack the code required to catch one of the Cutties sipping and sometimes splashing around me. It was not for lack of trying.

These experiences have reminded me that as we often jokingly say, it is called “fishing” and not “catching.” It also reinforced for me the need to fully appreciate the incredible beauty of the environments in which we spend so much time as well as the reality that there is always more for us to learn. For example, I am now very interested in learning more about catching stripers on the fly as well as improving my dry fly fishing skills. As I do so, I look forward to fishing with and learning from you.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

Summer vacation is over, time for fall fishing. This is our “second” season. We have the spring, then we give the fish off for the summer, then in the Fall the fish go back to school and we go fishing.

The calendar is starting to fill up with fly fishing and PVFF events. Here’s just a glimpse.

First off is our *Lefty on the Lake* Clean Up event on September 10 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. We’ll be gathering at the Skater’s Shelter in Baker Park to unveil the maquette of the Lefty Kreh Statue, as completed by Antonio Toby Mendez. Then we’ll put on our waders and go into the lake. We will have a fly-casting demonstration and clinic, as well as a raffle of a nice prize donated by Precision Fly Shops. Come and show your support for the project, bring your family!

The Lefty Kreh project is progressing well. We’re finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Frederick, which completes all government approvals. We’ve raised over 60% of our funds and the word is getting out. Thanks to all our members who have donated time and money to the effort. I encourage everyone to go the website — **friendsofleftykreh.com** — to donate, and share the link with your friends. It would be great if all our members donate, even a small amount, to recognize a hometown guy who has brought recognition to fly fishing around the world.

Our September 13th club meeting will feature Brian Donaway, who has guided in many of the rivers and streams in Maryland. He will talk about the Savage River and Gunpowder, so make sure you don’t miss this one. Remember we start at 6:30 PM. Also, jumping out of chronological order, our November meeting is going to be held at the Beaver Creek Fly Shop, starting at 6:00 p.m. — not the High School (as it will be Election Day). Think of this as an early

holiday gathering, but surrounded by fly fishing items you can buy.

After taking August off, fly tying is starting up again, just in time! Beginner’s is always held on the third Tuesday of every month, Advanced on the 3rd Wednesday. Don Fine, world renown due to his tying videos on YouTube, leads the Beginner’s and Larry Forte, also known by everybody for being the longest Emeritus President of PVFF, leads the Advanced tying group. We’re always looking for suggestions on how to make these great programs better.

The other big event on the calendar is our annual banquet. This is our major fundraising event of the year and, in the interest of transparency, we don’t make our money on the price of the ticket (\$30), it’s all about the auctions and raffles. This is the time of year where you can evaluate your equipment to decide to move them on, and we have the place to receive them. Contact Kevin Lynn if you have anything to donate.

It’s a good time to clean out the fly fishing wing of your house or your wine cellar! I ask you to sign up early for the banquet (Troy has enabled online payments on the website). This way, we can be sure to place our meal order appropriately. I would like to thank two of our newest members, Bob Clouser and Jackie, for their early donations!

On October 23, Mike Holland is hosting another outing to Smith’s Creek in Virginia. This is a privately stocked stream on a farm, limited to 6 anglers, for a \$100 fee. I’m signed up, the place is great, and the fishing is awesome.

So, lots to do. We’re open for more ideas, although be aware, if you have a good idea, I’ll ask you to help make it a reality. Hope to see you all soon!

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 _____