

— CLUB MEETING:  
AN EVENING WITH  
JOE BRUCE —

## Fly Fishing Tips and Techniques

By Larry Forte

At our meeting on January 10th, we will hear from Joe Bruce: club member, author, and owner of Joe Bruce Custom Flies. Earlier in his fly fishing career, Joe was also the owner of Fisherman's Edge Fly Shop.

At the meeting, he will present an interactive discussion on tips and techniques about the sport we all love. This will include a Q&A with some props to start the evening. This presentation was popular at his former fly shop for both new and experienced anglers, where he was always amazed how each discussion took on a life of its own.

Joe has been fly fishing for over 60 years and has written several books including *Common Sense Bonefishing* and *Funny Things Happen Fishing*.



Joe Bruce

It will be a fun night. Hope to see you there at 6:30 PM: Room A170, Tuscarora High School, Frederick.

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Squirmy Wormy & Salmon Egg

By Don Fine

Our next Beginner Fly Tying session will be held at 7:00 PM, January 17, in Room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Don't let the complacency and chill of the winter detract you from the warmth and camaraderie of our upcoming January fly tying gathering.

Remember that even though it is getting colder as we move toward the winter solstice, fish need to eat, and those warm winter days are a great time to go fly fishing.

As such, we have chosen two 'proven' wintertime fly patterns for the January fly tying, the **Squirmy Wormy** and the **salmon egg**. Both of these fly patterns represent a natural morsel of food for hungry trout. While these two patterns can be fished as a 2-fly combination, either the worm or the egg can be fished as a single fly, or in combinations with another cold weather pattern; e.g. woolly buggler, bead headed Prince, or Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear. As an added note, in the event that Santa misses you on Christmas Eve, he has left some surprise gifts at my house for those who attend our January fly tying session.

Please note that we plan to incorporate a new component into the 2023 Beginner Fly Tying

## Advanced Fly Tying: Lantern Fly

By Larry Forte

Our next gathering will be on January 18th. We are going to try something new. Andy is going to lead us how to tie the Lantern Fly. This pattern is a work in process. So the fun part is we all can add our two cents regarding how we end up tying the fly.

Would you like to join us? This is open to everyone. Perhaps you are not sure if your skills are to the "Advanced" level yet? No worries. Come and watch



sessions; i.e. 'how, when and where to fish the fly patterns' which are selected for the respective tying sessions.

and check it out. I am barely an intermediate tier but I learn something new at each session. Plus, it is a lot of fun! We will meet in Room 108 at Trinity Church at 7:00 PM. 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](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).



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

[friendsofleftykreh.com](http://friendsofleftykreh.com)

## Support the Club: Volunteers Needed

As we are a member run organization, we always are looking for Members that want to volunteer to help. There are many areas where you can volunteer: being on the board, helping with the newsletter, website, outings, mentoring, trout pen stocking, project healing waters, the banquet, picnic, fly tying and whatever your imagination or talents can contribute to your fellow members. If you can spare an hour or two a month, please let me know at [andymekelburg@outlook.com](mailto:andymekelburg@outlook.com).

— Andy Mekelburg

## Time To Renew Your Membership

A reminder to go to our website or use the form at the end of this newsletter to renew dues for 2023 or to join as a new member. Whether you renew online or in-person at our club meeting, note that you can purchase more than one year at a time.

— Dave Dowiak



## Project Healing Waters: 2022 – What a Fantastic Year

By Andrew Frutiger

2022 was the first full year back from the pandemic and what a year! First and foremost, our community was back together in person and stronger than ever. We could finally meet face to face, tell jokes, and share stories without all of the internet connectivity issues of the past two plus years. The veterans were able to seamlessly pick up right where they left off, tying flies, and building rods at the American Legion until it warmed up enough to get on the river. Once the weather cooperated, everyone was back on the river (or pond) catching fish in some of the most amazing places, from the MD/PA border all the way to Harman's Cabins in WV. To say that there were some absolute hogs caught this year is an understatement — many of the veterans caught trout well over 18 inches throughout the year.

But what is truly special about our chapter was highlighted by our annual dinner this past December

at the Legion, and that is community. Community is at the heart of Project Healing Waters (Recovery through fly fishing, Mentoring, and Building Relationships) and our chapter puts this at the forefront of everything we do. That is why the annual dinner is so important: it is a time when everyone comes together, just to be together, no fly tying, rod building, or casting clinics. It is veterans and volunteers coming together to break bread and share experiences. The fact that almost everyone comes to the annual dinner is truly a testament to just how much this program means to all of us and how strong our community is. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the program, please reach out to me at any time at [andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters — Frederick Chapter*.

### Did you know we have a mentor program?

Our mentor program is geared toward helping folks that have little or no experience in fly fishing. Volunteer mentors provide customized instruction, on and off the stream, in all areas of fly fishing and introduce folks to club activities. If you are interested in signing up for a mentor, head to the PVFF website, read about the program, and submit a web form to tell us about your experience level, where and for what species you want to fish, what equipment you have, and some other basic information. You will be paired with a mentor that matches your needs.



Dan Neuland

## Meet a Member: Dan Neuland

*Coordinated by Mike Holland*

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

I can't remember when my father first introduced me to fly fishing, but I can safely say it was over 50 years ago. I do remember my father teaching me at an early age the slow-retrieve method of hand-twisting a fly line, a technique we used to catch sunfish. I joined PVFF in 2006 after being invited by Larry Forte to give a presentation on fishing for steelhead and salmon. That was when

PVFF meetings were held on the MSD campus.

### **What type of fly fishing do you like the most?**

As a freshwater fly angler, I get the most excited about fishing for steelhead. There is really nothing like the energy and beauty of a chrome steelie. More recently, I have been enjoying saltwater fly fishing with sinking lines for rockfish and shad in Maryland and false albacore, blues, drum, sea trout in North Carolina.

### **What is your favorite water to fish?**

I love rivers, especially Cattaraugus Creek, a tributary of Lake Erie in western New York State.

### **What is your best fly-fishing memory?**

Fortunately, I have many best memories but if I had to choose it would have to be the trips with my sons to the Salmon River and Oak Orchard Creek. Netting a 6-pound brown for my oldest son, Andre, at age 15 on our first trip to the Oak in 1998 or watching my youngest son, Nathaniel, at 9-years old battling a 20-pound king in the middle of the Salmon River while I held onto his arm are unforgettable memories. The backpacking adventure in the Wind River Mountain Range outside of Pinedale, Wyoming catching brook trout with my father was another favorite. I can never forget the fun I had trout fishing in Colorado while attending the University of Denver, way back in my college days.

### **What is your favorite fly?**

A black woolly bugger for freshwater and a chartreuse Clouser Half & Half for the salt. Yes, streamers rule!

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

So, in addition to the woolly-bugger and Clouser for catching everything, I would include at least one nymph such as a gold-

ribbed hare's ear for trout, a popping bug for bass, and a bright green jig fly for shad. That should cover it!

### **What advice do you have for others?**

I have lots of advice! Learn your knots. Don't stress about casting. The ability to cast great distances is overrated. Catching fish is all about the presentation meaning the drift, the retrieve, and the depth. Get that fly into the zone consistently and you will catch more fish. If you learn how to tie your own flies, your fly-fishing enjoyment will increase.

### **What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?**

I may never get to do it but a trip to Seychelles for bonefish would be the ultimate experience for me.

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

Over the years, I have hosted a number of fishing trips to New York with PVFF members with many great moments such as Paul Gerlach slaying steelie after steelie on Canadaway Creek, Heather Montgomery landing a 30-pound Chinook on the Oak, John Brognard landing a steelhead at my fish camp on the Catt or shad fishing at Fletcher's Cove on the lower Potomac with Mark Richardson to name a few. Fishing with former PVFF member Bill Kulp in North Carolina is always a good time as well.

## **Seeking Newsletter Editor**

Do you have an interest in editing, design, and page layout? We are seeking a volunteer to prepare the monthly club newsletter beginning in the summer of 2023. Training will be provided. Contact me at [contact@troykitch.com](mailto:contact@troykitch.com) if you're interested.

— Troy Kitch



Mike Holland with an Ausable River brown trout

## Salmon, Salmon, Trout

*By Mike Holland*

I was originally going to use the title, “New York, New York,” but decided to go with Andy Mekelburg’s suggestion. Andy’s thought was to capture the fact that over the weekend of October 7, 2022, we fished for salmon on the Salmon River in Pulaski, New York, and then fished for trout on a different Salmon River near Malone before finishing fishing for trout on the West Branch of the Ausable River in Wilmington. My thought was that “if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere,” as Frank Sinatra sang so distinctly.

While we enjoyed the incredibly vibrant colors, the fishing was tough. The salmon were not running in the numbers we had seen in the past. They also seemed to be in a hurry as they did not seem to pause as much or as long as they have in the past. This fact made sight fishing more difficult. As we have previously, we used guide Greg Liu, who is one of the guides associated with the Douglaston Salmon Run ([douglastonsalmonrun.com/guides](http://douglastonsalmonrun.com/guides)). Greg did his part and Andy and I each took a nice King or Chinook Salmon. I also lost five, including one who smashed a mop fly and actually walked on his tail

for a bit.

Unfortunately, I lost him when he turned upstream and I slipped backward, which gave him the slack he needed to shake the hook.

For those interested in fishing for salmon on the Pulaski, I would strongly encourage you to purchase a day pass for the Douglaston Salmon Run (DSR). I would also recommend that you speak with PVFF's own Dan Neuland, as he is a wealth of knowledge. Also, it is important to note that nearby lodging accommodations are scarce so the further ahead you can plan, the better. Andy found the Tug Hill Resort ([tughillresort.com](http://tughillresort.com)) in Redfield, New York, and it was affordable and nice. While it rained the night we were there, they do have a nice fire pit and grill set up for guests.

After we finished fishing for salmon, we headed about three hours and 170 miles northeast of Pulaski to my family's farm in Brandon, New York. We enjoyed a delicious meal with my parents which featured literally homegrown steak. The next morning, we left to continue our fishing on the other Salmon River near Malone, New York. This Salmon River runs north into Canada and does not contain salmon; the Salmon River we fished first runs northwest from the Lighthouse Hill Reservoir in Altmar, New York to Lake Ontario.

In any case, we fished for a few hours in the cold with no success before heading over to the Hungry Trout Resort ([hungrytrout.com](http://hungrytrout.com)) in Wilmington, New



Ausable River in Wilmington, New York

York, which is near Lake Placid. It is located on the banks of the Ausable River in the shadows of Mount Whiteface and is near the other sites from the 1980 and 1932 Olympic games. When we arrived, we fished the Ausable behind the lodge but again were unsuccessful. However, as they were throughout the trip, the fall colors were magnificent.

The next day, we fished with guide Mike Egan (603-557-7503) from the Hungry Trout Fly Shop in an area known as the Bush Country. It is very remote and lightly fished and its pools are famously described in Ray Bergman's 1952 book "Trout." It was cold and rainy, but we had fun, which after all is the main point of fishing. I was thankful to catch several good brown trout, including one which rose to smash a pink Fat Albert. I will say the lowlight, if you will, was my falling – and getting completely wet - while crossing the river at the very end of the day. I mention this to stress the importance of being safe and taking your time, particularly at the end of the day. At least my phone survived and at least it was the end of the day.





## Outings Update

*By Mike Holland*

Thank you to those of you who organized, led, or joined outings in 2022. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have, and I look forward to more in 2023.

I appreciated Pete Ring and Andy Mekelburg leading an outing on November 19, 2022, to the Catocin Watershed near Pete's home in Thurmont, Maryland. While I was unable to make it due to a work obligation, I understand from Pete and Andy that we had a very good showing and that plenty of brook trout were caught (and released). I also appreciate Pete's willingness to host some additional outings in 2023 and encourage you to join him. I love fishing with Pete and always learn a lot from him; it is literally like fishing with a guide. So, be on the lookout for some outings with Pete in 2023.

On December 17, 2022, I led an outing to Smith Creek, a private spring creek near Broadway, Virginia. I was joined by Andy, Roberto Tartaglio, and Kyle Shenk. The water had come up and was opaque. While it was a little chilly at times, the skies were bright and sunny, and we had some success. We

certainly enjoyed the Glazier hotdogs Andy cooked for lunch. For those who wish to buy them, you can do so at [glazierhotdog.com](http://glazierhotdog.com).

Kyle did very well with a silver woolly bugger-like streamer and caught about ten fish over the course of the day. Likewise, Andy caught four nice rainbows with woolly buggers, including one at the end of the day on the proverbial "last cast." I was pleased to catch a nice rainbow about 12 inches long on a bead-head pheasant tail in a riffle at the end of a bend. I later had two long distance releases (LDRs) in the same riffle on a prince nymph that I had tied myself. Tellingly, one of those LDRs was due to a breakoff or knot failure. As Dan Neuland advises this month, learn your knots.

I will lead two outings to Smith Creek in 2023, on Saturday, April 22, and Saturday, September 16. In my view, the beauty of Smith Creek is that it is easy to access and provides a variety of water – riffles, runs, and pools with different degrees of openness. I love that you do not have to worry about beating other anglers for parking or holes and that it is extremely friendly for beginners.

One of the primary reasons people join the club is to have the opportunity to fish with other anglers and to



learn about new locations. Thus, we are and will be working to get other outings on the books. However, we would very much welcome outings organized and led by other club members. It would be great if some folks would agree to host outings to local waters like

Beaver Creek, Catoctin Creek, Morgan Run, the Gunpowder, Savage River, Yellow Breeches, etc. If you want to host an outing, please let me know and we will get it on the website calendar.

## Last Cast

*By Andy Mekelburg*

**T**he end of the old year, the beginning of the new year — a time to reflect and look ahead. Last year was a banner year for PVFF as everyone emerged from the pandemic and headed to the streams! Membership has grown to 162, a historic high for us. Now that you're with us, get involved in our various aspects of the sport. Members join for various reasons – meeting people

with similar interests, enjoying the outdoors, the thrill of the “tug,” and fly tying to name a few. We have a great group of volunteers that make all these pieces flow well, without looking like we're sweating. Our volunteers like to share their passion with their fellow members, so a big thanks to them. Participate in what interests you, let us know if we are missing anything.

I've successfully fished in every month of 2022. By "success," I mean that I was out on the water — not necessarily catching anything. Many thanks to Mike Holland who was my main motivation as our Outing Chair. I'm hoping to repeat my success in 2023, although it would be nice to catch a fish each time. We're already starting to put some dates on the calendar, so let Mike know ([mikehollandjr@hotmail.com](mailto:mikehollandjr@hotmail.com)) if you have a suggestion for a place to fish.

Don Fine and Larry Forte continue to have our fly tying activities honed to a fine edge. Don, leading the beginner's sessions, elevates the activity by not just showing how to tie the fly, but explaining its history, how to fish it, and how many fish he has caught with it (joking on this last one). Speaking for the fly tying members who attend, Don's the best! And Larry has created a great program with the advanced tiers. We rotate so that each month, a different member leads the tying. The creativity and artistry that comes through has been a great pleasure. Let Larry know if you want to teach your fellow members or just join the group.

Our efforts to honor Lefty Kreh — hometown hero and widely recognized as the greatest fly fisher of all time — has gone extremely well. Thanks to the many members who have contributed and helped with the effort. It's been a bit of a different "fly fishing activity" than our usual. The entire Frederick community has been supportive of this; the City Council and Mayor have approved the placement of our Lefty statue and we have raised almost all the funds for the project. Our artist, Toby Mendez, has been progressing nicely on the sculpture and I'm somewhat hopeful that Lefty will be "placed in the lake" sometime in 2023. The Fly Fishing Show has graciously provided a booth at their shows to us for free, so we are planning to be at the events in Marlborough, MA, Edison, NJ, and Lancaster, PA. It should be fun to see the reaction of the wider fly fishing community on our efforts. So far we have had tremendous support from all that have heard of

## Calendar of Events

- Jan. 10** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM  
Tuscarora High School  
Room A170  
Frederick, Maryland
- Jan. 17** Beginner's Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 207
- Jan. 18** Advanced Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 108
- Jan. 26** Board Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 108

## 2023 PVFF Officers & Directors

President.....Andy Mekelburg  
 Vice President.....Martyn Holland  
 Secretary.....Owen Davis  
 Treasurer.....Dennis Allen  
 3 year Director.....Dave Dowiak  
 2 year Director.....Kevin Lynn  
 1 year Director.....Dirk Vandervaart  
 Past President.....Larry Forte

our project. Let Don Fine know if you want to help at the shows — we get free passes for volunteers!

My thanks to everyone who contributed to our club's success over the last year. We've had some new people step up to volunteer, which is greatly appreciated, and I invite all to get involved — it makes participation all that more enjoyable. Our Board of Directors meets on the 4th Thursday of every month and all members are invited to attend. We are a member run, and driven, group so the more you put into it, the more you get out.

I look forward to seeing you on the stream in 2023. Happy fishing and tight lines!

**POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS**

**P. O. BOX 3001**

**FREDERICK, MD 21705**

[www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_