

— CLUB MEETING: AN EVENING WITH CAPTAIN TOM MARTIN —

## Western Maryland Trout Fishing

*By Larry Forte*

Looking for something to do on Valentine's Day? Join us at our February meeting on Tuesday, February 14th, as we welcome Tom Martin, owner & operator of Heavy Water Anglers Outfitters and Lodge. What a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Bring your significant other and learn about fly fishing western Maryland.

Tom began his fly-fishing journey at a young age, growing up chasing trout in small mountain streams. When he realized he wanted to turn his passion into a career, he attended Sweetwater's Guide School in Livingston, Montana. After graduating at the top of his class, he was offered a position at one of Sweetwater's premier lodges in Alaska. In between

the Alaskan seasons, he put his main focus on guiding professionally back home in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and upstate New York for trout, bass, musky, and steelhead.

He offers instructional clinics from spey fishing to fly tying. His goal is to provide clients with the best knowledge, skills, and equipment in the industry to make their fly-fishing adventure the best it can possibly be.

Tom will be doing a Western Maryland trout fishing presentation. Come join us as he talks about their new lodge, all the great rivers where they offer trips, and some other local wading spots.

Hope to see you there at 6:30 PM: Room A170, Tuscarora High School, Frederick.



Tom Martin (right) with a client.



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Learn more and donate here:**

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

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Soft Hackle Wet Fly

By Don Fine

Our PVFF Beginner Fly Tying program for February 2023 will reintroduce basic steps for 'tying soft hackle wet flies'. For those unfamiliar with the term 'wet flies', these are artificial flies tied to represent the immature form of several of the major classes of fresh water 'invertebrate' insects; e.g. mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies. Traditionally, the wing materials of a 'wet fly' came from wing feathers of a chicken, turkey, goose, etc. And while these feathers closely imitated the immature wings (or wing casing) of an aquatic insect, the resultant fly pattern was often described as stoic (i.e. lacking life-like qualities).

The advent of using much softer materials to represent the wings of an emerging insect began nearly 500 years ago in a treatise written by Dame Juliana Berner. However, it was Sylvester Nemes, and several of his contemporaries who are generally credited with introduction of the 'soft hackle wet fly' in America.

Our next Beginner Fly Tying session will be held at 7:00 PM, on February 21st, 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 February fly tying gathering. That evening we will tie two of my favorite soft hackle patterns; the partridge and yellow and partridge and herl. See you then.



## 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

# Advanced Fly Tying: Little Black Stone Fly

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on February 15th at 7:00 PM, Seth Debo will show us how to tie the Little Black Stonefly. This is a great fly for spring trout fishing.

I hope you can 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 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).

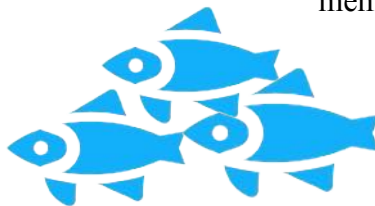
## The PVFF 3-Fish Challenge

By Larry Forte

Are you up for the 3- Fish challenge again? Last year’s challenge was a lot of fun so we are going to do it again this year. The club will have a 3-Fish Challenge for club members starting now and will conclude on October 15th. Can anyone beat Denny Grizzle, the 2022 Club Champion?

The same rules as before. Catch 3 of more fresh water species in ONE day with a fellow club member. Complete the challenge and you will be recognized at the Annual Banquet in October.

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! Just ask Denny. I have seen him on numerous fly-fishing shows since he won last year 😊.



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 Fresh water 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 and you can download this off our club website or you can send me an email ([lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net)) and I will email you a copy. Good luck and happy fishing in 2023!



An adult caddisfly

## Join Us for “Caddisfly Saturday” on February 18th

by Don Fine

Whether you are a beginner or more advanced fly tier, please join others of the same passion on February 18th as we tie a broad selection of flies which represent caddisflies at the various stages of their life cycle (larvae, pupae, and adult). You may be wondering why this ‘winter’ fly tying gathering will focus on tying caddisfly patterns. The simple answer is: if you are fly fishing for trout on a freshwater stream, river, or lake in North America, there are likely to be periodic hatches of one or more caddisfly species from early spring until late fall. In Gary LaFontaine’s classic book “Caddisflies,” he noted that caddisfly larvae and pupae were the predominant (45%) aquatic food form found in trout stomach contents. In comparison, in the same sampling, 30% were mayfly nymphs, and 15% other fly larvae and pupae, i.e. significantly less than the caddisflies.

Our agenda for **Caddisfly Saturday** will consist of tying a series of caddisfly patterns; starting with the most simplistic (e.g. muskrat nymph), then advancing in complexity (e.g. caddis pupae), into the fully developed emerging (e.g. emergent sparkle

pupae) and mature caddisfly (e.g. elk hair caddis). Simply stated, each tier will have the opportunity to tie (along with others) a minimum of five different caddisfly patterns. **Caddisfly Saturday** will also be conducted in the spirit of a Fly Tying Roundtable event; that is, cross-talk and interactive learning is encouraged.

The **Caddisfly Saturday** event will be held in room 207 at Trinity United Methodist church starting at 9:00 AM and will finish up before 1:00 PM. Light refreshments (coffee, water, pastries) will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

While there is no charge for the class, **please preregister for the event (no later than February 15th) by calling 301-371-5617 or emailing me at [dfine1443@gmail.com](mailto:dfine1443@gmail.com)**. Preregistration will facilitate knowing the quantity of materials needed and skill level of the participants. Preregistration will also help us determine quantity of fly tying equipment required for those who are ‘beginner’ fly tiers.

# PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

## Project Healing Waters: 2023 – Off to a Strong Start

By Andrew Frutiger

On the last Tuesday of January, we kicked off the year with our monthly meeting at the American Legion. Following dinner, there were several activities, including a casting clinic (indoors) and fly tying. Veteran Peter Rooney even finished building his rod for the upcoming season. Although no major fishing outings have been scheduled, we are hoping to get out on the water sometime in February, if the weather cooperates. If not, we will continue to meet at the Legion and are looking forward to the Fly Fishing Show in Lancaster in March (always a fantastic trip).

For those who have not attended, this is always a fantastic show but it is especially so for the veterans with vendors, exhibitors, and presenters making time to share tips and tricks to getting the most out of each fishing opportunity.



Colin Flournoy leading a fly tying session with Veteran Kraig Laskowski

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*.

## 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

# Meet a Member: Kyle Shenk

Coordinated by Mike Holland



Kyle Shenk

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

I have been fly fishing since my freshman year of college, so fall of 2016. I joined the club here in October.

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

I've done saltwater and freshwater fishing, but I mainly fly fish for trout. For me, fly fishing started out targeting brook trout in Virginia, so that's always what I go back to.

## What is your favorite water to fish?

I've been lucky enough to fish all over the country, so its hard to say. Out on the east coast, probably the Rapidan River. Out west, Granite Creek in Wyoming.

## What is your best fly-fishing memory?

My brother and I took a trip out to Yellowstone and fished a bunch of the rivers in the park. We went in early fall, so it was right when the elk were starting the rut. We were catching big browns right across the river from massive elk bugling and chasing cows. I had always seen them on TV, but you never realized just how big and how loud those bugles actually are until you're fifty yards away from them. Crazy experience.

## What is your favorite fly?

Probably a streamer of some kind. I love fishing a fly called the Boogey Man pattern just because it looks amazing in the water. Other flies might catch more fish, but none dart around in the water like that fly.

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

Woolly Bugger, Barely Legal, Elk Hair Caddis, Parachute Adams, and a Pheasant Tail.

## What advice do you have for others?

There are no rules for how to catch fishing while fly fishing. Just because you learned

how to fish a certain way doesn't mean that's the only way to fish. So, get creative and try new things that nobody has taught you. You'll be surprised by what works.

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

New Zealand. Sight fishing for +26in browns and rainbows on dry flies in the back country of New Zealand is definitely a bucket list fishing trip for me!

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

I've only been on one outing so far at Smith Creek, but it was a really fun river to fish. We were in a smaller group so there was plenty of water for everyone to fish. Got lucky with the weather as December fishing goes, so overall we couldn't have asked for a better day.

## Looking to Meet Members

By Mike Holland

Our club is blessed to have a humble and generous membership that has fascinating backstories and experiences. The "Meet a Member" articles are designed to introduce us to one another and to facilitate connectivity among club members.

When you see someone's photo and learn a little bit about them, you will be less hesitant to reach out them or join them on a fishing outing. You may find someone who loves to fish for the same species or on the same waters as you do and thus a fishing companion. The articles also are intended to be educational by showing you other members' favorite flies, waters, club memories, and bucket list items.

For those featured, we try to make it as easy as possible. I send a standard questionnaire for the person to complete and return along with a photo of their choice. I edit it lightly, primarily for typos, and send it to our newsletter editor, currently Troy Kitch, and the person for review. Once it is finalized, it is included in a newsletter.

Since we started, we have had the privilege of regularly featuring club members who have provided a wealth of information. However, I could use your assistance as we continue. Due to my work schedule and geographic location, I am not able to attend our club meetings in-person and connect with as many



A few of our members at an outing to Savage River in October, 2021

members as I would like. Accordingly, I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you would like to be featured or have someone to recommend. Those featured can be any level of experience and expertise. They do not have to be world-class anglers; all they need to be is a club member who is willing to share their perspective and experience.

If you wish to be featured or have a recommendation, please send me a note at [michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com](mailto:michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com).





Big Hunting Creek

## Letting Go

*By Kevin Haney*

**I**t was a forgone conclusion that I wasn't going to catch any fish. I was trying to be honest with myself but it had been weeks since I had got my trout fishing fix and the pools, riffles, and waterfalls of Big Hunting Creek were calling to me. They called in a deep background voice, more primal and subconscious than conscious. But, for a trout fisherman, that voice once heard cannot long be ignored. The usual summer drought conditions that visit the mountains of central Maryland every year area had extended themselves into the fall and the water was about as low as it ever gets. However, it

had rained several inches a few days before and the weather was a bit cooler, so I thought I would give it a try. Now, Big Hunting Creek is known for the high degree of difficulty in catching its fish and the low water conditions compounded that difficulty by many further degrees. Still, when you get the trout itch, you must, sooner or later, scratch it. So, I set off early one morning with my Granger bamboo rod, 1930s Pflueger Medalist reel, a well waxed silk line, and absolutely no expectations of even seeing a single fish.

When you fish small streams, there is a sense of intimacy that you cannot achieve on bigger waters. Big Hunting Creek, in contradistinction to its name, only rarely gets over 30' wide as it cuts through the layers of Catoctin greenstone and schist in a series of waterfalls, boulder-filled plunge pools and braided riffles that are achingly beautiful. It seems to scream "Trout live here!". You half believe, if you spent enough time here, that you could come to know every nook, cranny, and hole where a trout might live. That intimacy is why I enjoy fishing these smaller streams. Bigger waters too have their charms, but I learned to fly fish for trout in these small Catoctin streams and they will always be my home waters, will always be where I come back to.

I got to the creek after a short 15-minute drive from home. The day was one of those late fall gems, when the leaves were at their peak color and the air was comfortably cool without being chilly. The diffuse light coming through the canopy was turned all kinds of shades of yellow, orange, gold and green by the leaves. The water, though low, was still refreshingly cool and playful. Even if I lived up to my expectation of not seeing a single fish, it was a good thing just to be on the stream and to enjoy the many beauties it had to offer.

Now, I know going fishing without the expectation of catching any fish might seem a waste of time to many, an eccentricity, perhaps, of older folks who can afford to go fishing pretty much any time they wish and have won their fair share of epic piscatorial battles in their youth. However, I try to adopt the attitude that is called "Zen mind" by the adherents of that most ancient and wise philosophy. One aspect of "Zen mind" is letting go of the memories of the past, expectations of the future, and just being totally in the present moment, whatever that moment may bring. In other words, just being rather than doing. If your only goal is to catch fish, that single-mindedness and focus can blind you to marvels that are taking place all around you. The gentle singing of the waters, the hum of the caddis flies hanging in the late autumn air, the kingfisher in the tree, all

might be missed. And if you do come home empty handed, you will count the whole endeavor as a failure which, to my way of looking at it, would be a shame.

I went through the solemn ritual of putting on my hip boots and vest and rigging up. Sometimes, with all of the gear and equipment you need when you fly fish, that ritual almost makes me feel like a renaissance knight preparing for battle, or an astronaut getting ready for a spacewalk. I try to let that mindset pass before I start fishing. When I first get to a stream, I like to just sit on the bank awhile, taking in the environment and enjoying the moment without the pressure of having to be doing anything in particular. This is the time to really look at the stream and figure out where the fish are likely to lay, where they will be feeding, where you will need to be to cast to them, and how you are going to get there. Then, when you actually start fishing, you can just do it without having to think about what you need to do. After the mental work is done, you can just relax and calm your mind before beginning the work at hand.

The early morning light shone through the autumnal canopy and where it struck the water, it illuminated spots of shimmering gold on the stream bed. In the low water conditions on that day, it was no surprise that no fish were rising. Bumping nymphs along the bottom of the deeper pools would probably be about the only way to catch the wild brown trout that lurked in the depths. However, that type of fishing does not really appeal to me. Call me a dry fly snob if you wish, but fishing dry flies is always my first choice. Fishing when I cannot see my flies is just plain disconcerting for me. So, I compromised and tied on a dry dropper rig with an elk hair caddis dry fly and a little weighted Prince nymph on a 4' dropper. After casting to the likely spots in the pool with no result, I placed my fly on the hook keeper and slowly ambled up to the next pool. A kingfisher flew upstream and let out a loud call as it passed, seemingly measuring my poor fishing abilities against his own. It was very evident that he was

laughing at me, and I'm quite sure he was having better luck than I.

Those who know the lower gorge of Big Hunting Creek know that, while it is very beautiful, it is also very rugged and difficult to traverse. So you have to go slowly, gauging just where to put your feet for every step, especially if you are not as nimble as you used to be. However, being unburdened by the need and drive to catch a fish, I somehow felt lighter was able to go slowly and really take in the surroundings. Letting go of the need to achieve anything in particular, I felt a deep connection to the stream, rocks, trees and all the life surrounding me, exuberant in all its autumn ripeness. I knew, deep down in the depths of my being, that I was a part of it all. That connection, that feeling, once experienced, will make the brief adrenaline rush of

catching a fish pale in comparison. I think that connection is what is missing from modern life, and why our society seems sick at times.

I ended the day at the President's Pool, so called because it is just down the road from Camp David and was where the presidents fished when they were there, if they were fly fishers. That spot also holds good memories for me since it was where I caught a 15" brown trout on a cicada imitation during the hatch a couple of years ago. But on this day it was no surprise that no trout wanted to show themselves. I guess I just wasn't "presidential" enough for their liking. So, at the end of the day, my expectations of neither catching nor seeing a single trout were completely fulfilled. And the best part of it all was that it was perfectly OK with me.



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Kevin Haney, Proprietor

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PVFF Home Waters — Catoctin Creek

## Fishing, Not Catching

*By Mike Holland*

I love and often use the cliché that our sport is called “fishing, not catching.” On more than one occasion, including two recently, I have found that to be all too true. However, for me at least, I do not have to catch a fish to have fun. While it sure helps, I love nature, the sound of water, forest canopies, bright blue skies, and the friends with whom I fish. I once worked for a legendary Chairman in the House of Representatives and vividly remember him telling me that “Legislation is the art of persistence.” So, it is with fishing.

On December 30, 2022, I closed out the year by fishing Antietam Creek with fellow club members Larry Forte, Andy Mekelburg, and Pete Ring. Thanks to Pete, and his relationship with the landowner, we were able to fish some waters in Leitersburg, Maryland, that border the Pennsylvania state line. As a group, we caught about ten brown trout, primarily on various nymphs. Unfortunately, my contribution to the effort was about ten lost flies.

Thus, I am now 0 for 2 on Antietam Creek. One of the nice things about the past is that it can help to give hope for the future; my past experience with Beaver Creek, where it took me a couple of trips before I finally caught a nice rainbow, will take me back to Antietam Creek in due time.

More recently, on Martin Luther King Day, Andy, Luke Tomanelli, and I fished the club’s home waters, Catoctin Creek. It was a beautiful day, bright blue skies and a temperature that climbed to about 50 degrees. After a day that involved a forgotten rod segment, a broken rod, and no fish, John Lennon’s lyrics, “Nobody told me there’d be days like this,” came to mind. I think we collectively ended up with two to four bites.

I do have some takeaways from that day that are worth sharing. First, in my view, always bring a backup rod and a larger fly box with a variety of flies other than the ones you plan to use on the water. While you may not need the backup rod yourself,

someone in your party may very well need one and it is good to be prepared, particularly when most of us often have to travel some distance to fish. As for the larger box of flies, friends can forget flies and changes in conditions throughout the day can make you wish you had a different fly. In our case, we planned to primarily nymph and did so. However, in the late afternoon, we started to see some hatches. As I had had no success with any of the nymphs and streamers I offered, I decided to try my father's favorite fly, the Royal Wulff. I cast it several times into several riffles with no rises. However, as I was reeling it in, I twice had some subsurface takes.

A less than pleasant takeaway, is to invest in a magnetic rod holder to place your rod in when you are getting ready. Similarly, never place a rod in a



Pete Ring, Andy Mekelburg, and Larry Forte at Antietam Creek

vehicle door joint. Along the same lines, always look for an improperly placed rod before you close a door. These perhaps seem obvious but I share them with the hope that you will never lose a rod to a door.

My final takeaway is gratitude for those involved in the club's fish stocking program. It really is a public service. We saw a number of anglers on the water and I am proud that our club helps to provide an opportunity for them to enjoy fishing.

## Learn Sinking Line Casting Techniques: March 12th

By Dan Neuland

Regan Burmeister, who runs the annual Shad Day Casting Church at Fletcher's Cove has extended an invitation to PVFF members to learn tips on casting sinking lines. The event will be held on Sunday, March 12th, 2023 (8:00 to 11:30). Burmeister will discuss a wide variety of sinking lines AND even demo two-handed rods for shad and other fishing opportunities.

Burmeister is the president of the Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders. TPFR is a charter club of Fly Fishers International which focuses on the unique angling opportunities in our Nation's River. The tidal

Potomac River in the DC Metro area provides a world class fly rod fishery that many anglers overlook. From Great Falls to the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac supports both resident and anadromous fish that are susceptible to fly rod techniques including shad, striped bass and white perch.

Fletcher's Cove is located at 4940 Canal Road NW in Washington, DC. PVFF members interested in carpooling to this event should contact Dan Neuland at [danneuland@verizon](mailto:danneuland@verizon).

# It's Time for Our Annual Spring Fly Swap!

*By Larry Forte*

As we have for the past few years, our club will host a spring fly swap for 2022. Here are the details: tie twelve flies to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your flies to our March or April meeting. If we're still not meeting in

person at this time, I will share details on how to drop your flies off. After I get everyone's flies, I will mail you a bunch of different flies tied by club members. The deadline to have your dozen flies to me is April 15th. If you would like to participate, please send me an email at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).



Stock up on a variety of flies with the fly swap.

# Upcoming Outings

## LITTLE HUNTING CREEK, MARYLAND

**Date:** March 4, 2023

**Time/Location:** 9AM @ Catoctin Furnace, Maryland

**Outing Leader:** Pete Ring

**Note:** Limited to eight people so sign up now.

**Contact:** pete@lhc-inc.com

## YELLOW BREECHES, PENNSYLVANIA

**Date:** May 12, 2023

**Time/Location:** 9 AM @ Barnitz United Methodist Church, Carlisle, PA

**Outing Leader:** Seth Denbo

**Contact:** sdenbo@gmail.com

## SMITH CREEK, VIRGINIA

**Date:** April 22, 2023

**Time:** 9 AM @ Susie Q Farm; directions will be provided upon reservation.

**Outing Leader:** Mike Holland

**Note:** There is a \$100 rod fee payable to Mossy Creek Fly Shop.

**Contact:** michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com

## But wait, There's More!

Visit the “*Outings*” page on our website for more details about our upcoming outings, as well as to easily sign up. And while you’re there, be sure to take a look at our “*Events*” page to see everything that’s coming up, viewed as a list or on a calendar. We’ve added details here for many events throughout the region that are **not listed in this newsletter**, such as the upcoming Maryland Saltwater Fishing Expo and the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Show.

## Calendar of Events

- Feb. 2** Board of Directors’ Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 109
- Feb. 14** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM  
Tuscarora High School  
Room A170  
Frederick, Maryland
- Feb. 15** Advanced Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 109
- Feb. 18** Caddisfly Saturday  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 207
- Feb. 21** Beginner’s Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 207
- Feb. 23** Board of Directors’ Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 109

### 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



Andy Mekelburg with Betsy Clark of Housatonic, Massachusetts, at the Friends of Lefty Kreh booth at the Fly Fishing Show.

## Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

I've had an interesting "fishing" experience these last couple of weeks attending the Fly Fishing Shows in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and Edison, New Jersey, with others representing the Friends of Lefty Kreh (FOLK). Thanks to Ben Furimsky and the Fly Fishing Show for providing from free space to us at the shows to tell people about the project.

While I know there have been a number of newspaper stories and magazine articles (check out the January 2023 Frederick Magazine) about Lefty and the Project, I was interested in seeing what kind of reaction we would get from people outside of Frederick. I can say I was pleasantly surprised. First of all, I only came across four people who hadn't heard of Lefty; just about everyone else had seen him in person at something or the other in New England or other places. The number of stories we



heard were amazing, from Lefty sitting down with someone just to chat, an impromptu lesson, or just observing him demonstrating at a show or club meeting. The impact he made on the people we met was amazing.

We raised quite a bit of funds by having a raffle. Many thanks to Justin and Precision Fly and Tackle for donating gift certificates for prizes. They have been our best corporate contributor and participant, Many thanks to Bob Clouser who worked his fingers to the bone to support us. He personally tied 200 half and halves and put them in a nice plastic sleeve with an autograph which we gave to those who bought \$25 worth of tickets. After their interest in honoring Lefty, the “Clouser” (as we called it!) really sealed the deal for the contribution. We received contributions at the show from over 200 people.

Many thanks to Bob Alperin (who none of you know, except Don Dunker) and Don Dunker. Bob is a friend of mine, who had never heard of Lefty, came down from New Hampshire to help me set up. He’s a new Lefty convert. Don Dunker gets great kudos for coming up to help us out as well. Many of the vendors were happy that Don came, as well. We had fun and passed out a lot of candy.

I took a few days off to try to recover my voice and then headed to the Edison New Jersey Show. This show was larger than Massachusetts and had a lot more people attending. Our team for this one was Steve Weinstein, Don and Ruby Fine, Dennis Allen, Heather Templeton, and Sarah Costlow. For those of you that do not know Heather, she was born and brought up in Frederick (as Heather Warner), who now lives with her husband and children in North Carolina. She was close to Lefty and was with him on many occasions, as well as just fishing with him. Sarah first joined FOLK and then PVFF, after meeting with us about the project from the perspective of the Friends of Baker Park, who we worked with in siting the future sculpture.

Again, the stories about Lefty (and Bob Clouser) thrived, just about everyone had one. Barry and

Cathy Beck stopped by the booth to show their support as well. Again, over 200 people contributed. The highlight for us was the reception on Saturday for the vendors after the show (now we know what goes on behind the locked doors). Crosscurrent Insurance, Kismet Outfitters. and Oakbrook hosted this event, providing beer and entertainment. Between the three companies and through the great efforts by our own Heather and Bill Dawson — an industry representative who has been very helpful — they received donations from vendors at the shows, then held a live auction and raffle. They turned over half the profits to us and the Fly Fishing Museum, as part of their efforts to help nonprofits. The event was successful behind my wildest hopes and greatly shortened the time that it will take to “put Lefty in the water.”

While we obviously looked at these shows as a fundraising opportunity, just as valuable was spreading the word to the fly fishing community. We have always viewed this project to not only honor Lefty, but to be a landmark for the whole fly fishing community. We were successful at spreading and the reaction has been gratifying, with everyone supporting the concept.

We will be at the Lancaster Show on March 4 and 5. I hope to have my voice back by then. If you want to help, let Don Fine know, or if you’re there, stop by and say hi — we’ll give you a piece of candy. I also need to give a shout out to Larry Forte. Larry was able to use his work skills to help us assemble a professional looking booth that we could be proud of.

Thanks to all our FOLK volunteers and to all our PVFF Members who have supported this project from the beginning. It’s going to be great and it’s going to happen in 2023!

**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 \_\_\_\_\_