



Dan Neuland at Fletcher's Cove

— CLUB MEETING: APRIL 11, 7 PM —

Fly Fishing from a Kayak

Outdoor writer Dan Neuland enjoys fly fishing from a kayak on local rivers and lakes, and in the Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributaries. He will speak at the April meeting on Tuesday, April 11th, to share his experience and insight into the growing interest in angling kayaks for fly fishers.

Kayaks are popular with fly anglers who seek the advantage of the expanded fishing opportunities that portable watercraft provide. Fly casting and fly line

management issues can make fishing from a kayak challenging for fly anglers. Fortunately, kayaks are now being made specifically for fly anglers. The presentation will look at recent innovations in kayak designs with attention to the specific needs of fly anglers.

In addition, Dan will present the types of sinking fly lines available for varying water depths and fishing locations. Casting techniques such as the water haul, the roll cast pick-up, and casting single-handed rods

with Skagit shooting heads will be introduced. Fishing tips and techniques such as positioning, back paddling, and trolling will also be discussed. Optional kayak accessories, including electric

motors, anchor systems, stripping baskets, and more will be included in the presentation.

Hope to see you there on April 11th at 7:00 PM, Room A170, Tuscarora High School, Frederick.

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 2023. Here are the details: tie twelve flies to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your flies to our April meeting.

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.



Project Healing Waters: Help Wanted

Our Project Healing Waters team is looking for help with our outings and monthly meetings. If you are interested in being a volunteer or would like to learn more about helping, just send me an email at lbforte@verizon.net — or give me a call at 301-943-7533. — Larry Forte

Seeking Newsletter Editor

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 if you're interested. — Troy Kitch

2023 PVFF Banquet: Save the Date!

Mark your calendars. The 2023 club banquet will be on Saturday, October 21st at the Amvets Post 9 in Middletown, Maryland. This will be our 56th banquet! Join us as we celebrate our club and our love of fly fishing.

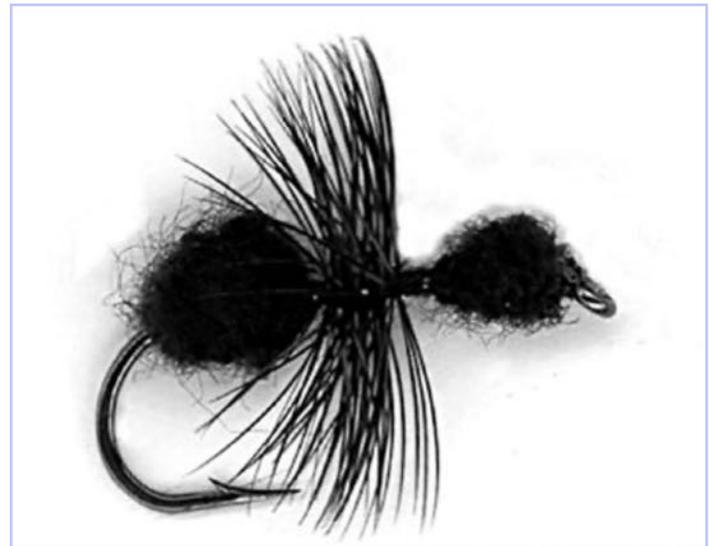
Beginner's Fly Tying: Foam and Fur Ant

By Don Fine

April is upon us and it is time to consider what other types of natural food will be available for consumption by freshwater fish species. For this reason, we chose the 'mighty' ant as our fly pattern for our Beginners class on 'tax day', i.e. April 18th. (Perhaps you thought that I chose the ant as the featured fly pattern because they are a role-model insect, hard at work helping in the decomposition of environmental waste. Wrong answer! Consider instead that ants are a good source of calories for fish — and they are easy for the fish to consume and digest. Theory has it that it is the formic acid in ants which the fish find 'tasty.'

For the April 18th class I chose two different ant patterns: a foam ant and a fur ant, thus imitating both a viable ant floating on the water surface and a non-viable ant suspended below the surface. While we chose the ant as our subject matter fly pattern, the tying steps for the ant are easily adaptable to other terrestrial insects such as hoppers, crickets, and beetles. In the words of club entomologist Mr. Dinkel: don't be afraid to bring your 'aunt' to the class. The more the merrier and she might also like to tie.

Join us at 7:00 PM on April 18th at Trinity United Methodist Church.



Fur (top) and Foam Ants



IMPORTANT: For newcomers who plan to attend this session, please contact me in advance (dfine1443@gmail.com) to ensure I have tying equipment available for you.

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. — Andy Mekelburg

Advanced Fly Tying: Shrimp Pattern

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on April 19th at 7:00 PM, Nina Cleven will show us how to tie a freshwater shrimp pattern.

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.

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



Freshwater Shrimp

Just let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at lbforte@verizon.net.

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) and I will email you a copy. Good luck and happy fishing in 2023!

Lefty Goes to the Library!

By Andy Mekelburg

The Frederick County Library's main branch has agreed to host a Lefty display in September and October. This is timed to overlap with the hopeful unveiling of the Lefty Kreh Sculpture in Culler Lake, as well as being tied into the Frederick 275 anniversary. We will have 5 cases to display Lefty's history, books, pictures, and memorabilia. In addition, we can include any other appropriate fly fishing items. As part of this, they have also reserved

the Community room for programs, designed by us, on every other Sunday afternoon in that period. If you are interested in getting involved with this, please let me know –

andymekelburg@outlook.com. No library or fishing experience necessary. Be part of the team working to continue Lefty's legacy! Learn more at **friendsofleetykreh.com**.

Volunteers Still Needed to Help with Youth Fly Fishing Events

There are two events coming up that have reached to the Club looking for volunteers to demonstrate and teach fly fishing to kids:

1. The Annual City of Fredrick Youth Fishing Rodeo: Saturday, April 8

What: Help teach fly casting and fish for stocked trout.

Where: Whittier Park Lake (near Christopher Crossing) in the City.

When: Saturday, April 8, 10-12 Noon.

Doc Ledbetter is coordinating, let him know if you're interested at **leadbettermd@aol.com**.

2. Annual Fountain Rock Park & Nature Center fishing event for children: Saturday, April 29

What: Help teach fly casting and fish for stocked trout.

Where: Fountainhead Nature Center in Walkersville.

When: Saturday, April 29 1-4:00 PM.

Let me know if you are interested in volunteering for this one – **andymekelburg@outlook.com**.

— Andy Mekelburg



Dan Neuland at Fletcher's Cove

The Shad Run has Begun!

By Dan Neuland

March 23, 2023: It was late Wednesday afternoon when I decided to load my kayak and drive down to Fletcher's Cove on the lower Potomac River in Washington, DC. I had been waiting for the water temperature to reach 50 degrees. I took the GW Parkway to follow the traffic pattern on Canal Road. I arrived at Fletcher's at 4:30 PM. The tide was low and rising, and the clarity of the water looked perfect. I launched my kayak and peddled downstream toward Walker's Point. A strong wind blew upstream, and I had to retrieve my hat from the river along the way. There was only one boat anchored just out from the launch, and he was catching fish on his spin rod as I passed him. He looked happy! I started fishing as I drifted

past Walker's Point and I hooked and landed a fish on my first cast. The action was consistent. I caught fish while trolling, but most while swinging the fly. The wind continued until the last hour of daylight, and then the river went calm. The wind was not a problem, maybe a benefit, as it kept me from moving downstream. I never anchored. By adjusting my rudder in the current, the wind kept me in good position for casting. The shad were almost all hard-fighting hickories, with several big females 16-18 inches. Although few fishing boats were on the water, the river was busy with Georgetown crew teams practicing their sport. The cove was surrounded by the sounds of vehicles battling traffic as commuters headed homeward.



A Fletcher's Cove shad

A lone shore angler successfully caught fish while casting shad darts from Walker's Point. A fly angler with chest waders appeared later, worked his way below the point, and tried wading out to reach the seam. He was in a precarious position with the rising water! I didn't see him hook a fish. Surprisingly, when hooked, the shad were not jumping; I only occasionally hooked a leaper as most went deep, especially when near the boat. My fly rod really got a workout, bending all the way to the cork at times. I used a 7wt rod with a 250-grain sinking line and a 20 lb Maxima tippet. My fly was a 1/16 oz chartreuse jig head with a green estaz body and a white marabou tail. After I landed 20 fish, I wanted to experiment with my 8wt rigged with an intermediate sinking line. I never got a hit — clearly, the fly wasn't getting deep enough. I then started casting my

10wt rod with a huge streamer that my brother made for me to catch big stripers. After about 20 minutes with no action, I couldn't resist the shad bite, so I returned to my 7wt. The fishing really picked up after the sunset, with almost a fish every cast. I landed only three white shad (Americans), which didn't happen until the last 30 minutes on the water. The biggest fish of the evening was an American that shook the hook while I was getting my camera. I ended the evening when I landed my 40th fish. Checking the USGS water data website, I noted the water temperature reached 51 degrees that afternoon.

The river will be filled with anglers in April, especially on the weekends. The evening shad bite may be the time to target as crowds diminish and the low light triggers the action.

2023 “Project Clean Stream” Event

By Dave Keane

Our club will once again be cleaning up our “home waters” and supporting “Project Clean Stream.”

As spring arrives, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to remove trash from local streams, creeks, rivers and parks as part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s Project Clean Stream — the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all six Bay states and DC. Check out the Alliance’s website for all of the great work that they do.

Dress for the weather, bring gloves, water and waders if you plan to work in Catoctin Creek.

We will be cleaning up along the entrance to the park, Catoctin Creek, and reforestation areas. The nature center will provide trash bags.

What: PVFF “Home Waters” Clean Up

When: Saturday, April 8, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Where: Catoctin Creek Nature Center – 2929 Sumantown Road Middletown, MD 21769

Send Dave Keane, Conservation Chair, an e-mail if you plan to attend the event at davidkeane1968@gmail.com.

Upcoming Outings:

- **TOWN CREEK, MARYLAND**

Date: April 1, 2023

Time: Leave the Frederick area between 7:30-8:00 AM; Location will be provided.

Outing Leader: Larry Forte

Note: We will fish the upper stocked section of Town Creek.

Contact: lbforte@verizon.net

- **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

- **ANTIETAM CREEK, PENNSYLVANIA**

Date: May 4, 2023

Time/Location: We will meet at 9:30 am in the parking lot that is located off Welty Road. Phil’s

number is 717-655-2150.

Details: We will fish the East Branch of Antietam Creek in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. This is a fly fishing only stretch, catch and release, and is located in Renfrew Park, which is one mile east of downtown Waynesboro on Route 16. The stream holds stocked and wild rainbow and brown trout and is scheduled to be stocked on May 1.

Outing Leader: Phil Cleven

Note: The trip is limited to five (5) anglers, including Phil.

- **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

Visit the “Outings” page on our website for the latest updates and more details about our upcoming fishing trips, as well as to easily sign up.

Meet a Member: Anthony Welch

Coordinated by Mike Holland

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

One year; I started in February 2022. I was spinner fishing for trout at Catoctin Creek and a couple of fly fishermen talked me into trying fly fishing. They tied a tippet onto my spinner line, added a nymph and a strike indicator, and showed me how to present it in a run. I caught two rainbow trout that day and then went home and bought an entry level (on sale) Quest 9 foot, 5 weight fly rod kit from LL Bean. I joined the club in February, 2022.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

So far, I have really enjoyed fishing for trout and smallmouth bass. Using nymphs and wooly buggers has been my most common type of fishing. I am very inexperienced using dry flies.

What is your favorite water to fish?

Catoctin Creek is close to my house, and I have done most of my fishing in that creek.

What is your best fly-fishing memory?

This January, I was fishing at Catoctin Creek in the snow and sleet, complete solitude, and I caught a beautiful 22" rainbow on a nymph (see picture).



What is your favorite fly?

I am still not sure which fly is which. Mike Holland sent me a list of flies for our trip to Smith Creek and I ordered them all. The small Copper Johns and different midges seem to be my current favorites.

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

Zebra Midge, Copper John, salmon egg pattern (salmon color), red Squirmy Wormy, and Woolly Bugger.

What advice do you have for others?

Look for coaches when at the creek or river (experienced fisherman who are willing to give tips). Use the roll cast often in small creeks with nymphs.

What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?

None yet.

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

The second month I joined, Andy Mekelburg invited me to his house to teach me how to use the fly rod by fishing in his stream. He

was patient with me and invited me to join him for lunch where we had a great chat. It was a wonderful introduction into the basics and I am very grateful for his time.

That same spring, I was on a PVFF club trip to Smith Creek and constantly losing flies and tippet due to my casting technique. Aaron Weddle came over and took time to teach me how to roll cast. His teaching was excellent and transformed my entire experience since I was able to spend much more time fishing (then re-tying tippet and flies).



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

friendsoflefykreh.com

Outing Report: Little Hunting Creek

By Pete Ring and Mike Holland

Pete Ring: On Saturday, March 4, I led an outing to Little Hunting Creek. Club members who joined me included Victor Ezerski, Craig and Julia Falk, Vince Leon-Guerrero, and Jarrett Macdonald. The group met at 1 PM at Catoctin Furnace on the Catoctin Furnace Road in Thurmont, Maryland. Several members were a bit late due to the tanker fire in Frederick that closed down 15. Sadly, the driver of the tanker lost his life.

We had a bit of rain the day before and the forecast was calling for some high winds which can make for some challenging conditions. The water levels were up and a bit off color, but I have found that higher water flows can have an advantage of bringing out the trout to feed. The wind was more of a concern for me as it can really blow your line and flies around. That being said, if I waited for the best conditions I would rarely get out. As it turned out, the wind was not blowing hard enough in the canyon to be much of an issue.

There is a trail that leads from the Catoctin Furnace to the Manor area that follows the stream. This includes a foot bridge across Route 15. Parking at the Furnace is free, but the Manor area has a small fee. In the summer months there are a lot of picnickers at the Manor area enjoying the cool stream and I will bypass this area and start fishing upstream of there.

It turns out that the park service is updating the trail and had it closed. We ended up getting into the water downstream of Route 15. While others were rigging up, I tossed out a Copper John under a strike



Pete Ring on Little Hunting Creek, Maryland

indicator on the edge of a small current seam. On the second cast, my indicator disappeared under the water, and I set the hook on a pretty little 10" wild brown trout. This was a promising start.

One of the things that have been a challenge to me with bringing groups of people to these small streams is how to spread everyone out so everyone can fish in water that has not already been spooked. Part of the enjoyment of fishing with others is the time spent getting to know others and sharing the

experience together. What seems to work best for these outings, so far, is to pair up in groups of two and spread out by 100 yards or more and fish upstream. The pairs can then take turns fishing the holes. This gives the best opportunity for all to catch fish.

Craig and Julia started at the Manor area, Vince started downstream of Catoctin Furnace Road, Vic kept fishing where we first got in, and Jarret and I headed upstream through the culvert under Route 15 and above the manor area. Vic, an experienced fly fisher, was able to catch a nice brown from the pool below the culverts. Vince, who fishes for brook trout in Shenandoah National Park, caught one above the Manor area. Jarret has been fishing Catoctin Creek catching the stocked trout but had yet to catch a wild trout. We worked hard to get him on one, but unfortunately, it did not work out as had hoped. Craig and Julia, whom I have fished with up at Fishing Creek, were unable to get one on either, though we all enjoyed being outside and on the water.

Towards the end of the outing I started thinking that with the high flows, my nymph was being pulled unnaturally by the strike indicator. I decided to remove the indicator and “tight line” the nymph. This is something I do not have much experience doing with a 7-1/2’ rod and no indicator line. To my surprise, on the second drift I hooked up on another 10” brown. This is something that I will keep in the back of my mind to try again.

Back at the parking lot we stood around telling fishing stories and discussing possibilities of other outings. In April, Vince is going to take me to the Shenandoah, of which I have never been. Vic shared his adventures of fishing around the world and locally. For me, the icing on the cake was when Vic showed us his split cane bamboo rod he made. This is something that I am very much looking to do in my lifetime. For me, this is what these outings are about. Before PVFF it was hard to find someone that shared my passion for fly fishing and I spent a lot of

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 1** Town Creek Outing
- Apr. 11** Club Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Apr. 18** Beginner’s Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Apr. 19** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
- Apr. 27** Board of Directors’ Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109
- Apr. 22** Smith Creek Outing
- May 4** Antietam Creek Outing
- May 12** Yellow Breeches Outing

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.....Russ Hanson
- 1 year Director.....Dirk Vandervaart
- Past President.....Larry Forte

time fishing by myself. Now, the more I go on these outings, whether leading or attending, I come away with more opportunities for adventuring with others.

Mike Holland: We are blessed that Pete is so willing to generously share his time and knowledge of the Catoctin Mountain Watershed. He has fished the area since 2010 and shared that he literally has spent one year fishing just Little Hunting Creek. When you fish there with Pete, it truly can be like fishing with a guide as he is very quick to share advice and guidance if you wish.

We have another outing to the Catoctin Mountain Watershed, date to be determined (TBD), scheduled for July 29. While we will have to limit the number of participants on a first-come basis, it does provide an opportunity to fish with Pete and other members in one of the best hidden gem fishing areas of which I am aware.

If you do not want to wait until July 29 and want to strike out on your own or with a fishing buddy, it is

Last Cast

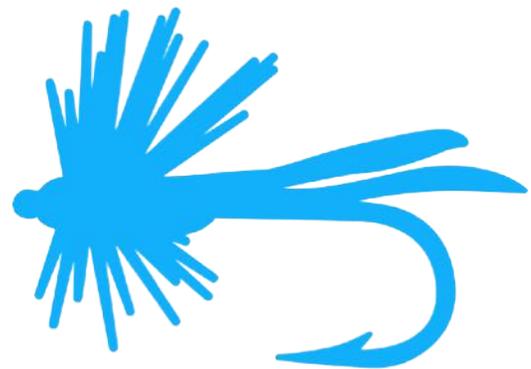
By Andy Mekelburg

Ready, set, fish! The Spring fishing season has officially begun — get out to the streams. The first signs of warm weather and grass growing mean going out without gloves. We have several outings planned this season, so check this issue out and sign up. The beauty of this area is that we have a tremendous amount of great fishing options within less than an hour, and if you push it a little more, you can get out to Western Maryland, Virginia, the Gunpowder, and shad fishing in DC.

There are many interests in fly fishing that attract people to our club. One of the main ones is finding new places to fish and new people to fish with. We have over 130 Members of all levels of skill and experience. Our members have fished all over the place, so it's a good time to come to our meeting on April 11 to meet them or suggest an outing. Also,

pretty easy to find Catoctin Furnace and Little Hunting Creek. Common questions people have is what size rod and weight line to use. You can use anything from a 9 foot, five weight to a 7 foot, three weight. It really just depends on where on the creek you are going to fish. As Pete says, an 8 and an half foot or 8 foot rod is probably ideal. As for flies, you can have a lot of fun with caddis dry flies and nymphs but other go to attractor dry flies and nymphs work well too. These include Stimulators, Copper Johns, Pheasant Tails, and Zebra Midges. If you have further questions, reach out to Pete or me and we will do our best to answer your questions.

In closing, I found it noteworthy that Pete shared that the group shared some good fellowship and that some future fishing plans were made among participants. In addition to helping club members get out and fish with other members, that is one key goal of our outing efforts. We hope club members will continue to participate in and lead outings as the year continues.



make sure you come to our annual casting clinic on May 9.

The outings, mentoring program, and rod loaner program are all parts of our effort to meet that desire to have new experiences and meet new people. Don't hesitate to initiate action — if you want to learn to fly fish, fish at a new location, or meet with fellow fishers, just let us know. It's what we're all about!

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 _____