

There is no club meeting in August. Happy fishing!

Slate Run

By Don Dunkers

I had planned to meet some friends for a long weekend of fly fishing on Kettle Creek in Potter County, Pennsylvania. The date we chose was the first weekend of June, and the water levels were very low. Being retired, I decided to leave early in order to fish Pine Creek on my way over to Kettle Creek. It was lunch time when I arrived at Pine Creek, stopping first at the fly shop at Wolfe's General Store. The first thing I noticed as I walked down the steps into the fly shop was that the water temperature on Pine Creek was 68° F, so too warm to fish. I talked to a guy in the shop and asked if there were any places to fish that had reasonable temperatures. He recommended Slate Run, which was right across from the shop, a beautiful small tributary to Pine Creek...



He said to park behind Hotel Manor and there was a foot bridge across Slate Run where I could start fishing. It was well shaded and running at normal temperatures, although a little low. He also mentioned another spot further up Slate Run. To get there, take the dirt road and right past the S-turn there is a spot to park. From here, there's a trail that goes down to the stream with a nice pool at the bottom. He then made an off-handed remark about using a stick going down the trail swinging it in the grass, to which the snakes will slither away. So I went over behind Hotel Manor and walked up the stream fishing as I went. I came up to this beautiful pool full of some of the spookiest trout I had ever seen. As soon as a fly line hit the water they scattered. It didn't matter how far back or low I was from the stream, the pool was a no go. I finally caught a small brookie in the riffles at the outlet of the pool. By now, I was out of time and so I headed off to Kettle Creek.

Our group talked about fishing Pine Creek the next morning in hopes that the temps would drop overnight, and that it would be fishable for a couple hours in the morning, so we did that. Fishing was reasonable and we caught a few fish. But as the morning wore on, the temps were increasing and we needed to quit fishing Pine Creek, so I suggested Slate Run. My Fishing buddy that morning, let's call him Larry, was willing to try it as he is an avid small stream brook trout fisherman. As we drove up the dirt road to find the parking spot, I told Larry about walking down the trail with a stick like a blind man walking down the trail. As I came to find out later, he thought my concern was complete nonsense. We parked the car and geared up. I took the lead on the trail and was doing the blind man routine the whole way down, which turned out to be much further than expected. Slate Run is a truly beautiful piece of water. We came to the bottom of the trail, there were some serious looking fishy sections just downstream

of where we were standing. Well, Larry took off at a pretty good pace to those fishy sections. He was on a trail through some tall grass when I see him jump in the air and rapidly retreat yelling, "SNAKE!" I can distinctly hear the rattle, so no question that he found a snake. Being the first time we had ever run into a rattlesnake, we crept up to where we could see the snake but were far enough out of striking distance. We thought we would chase him away with a few rocks, but after hitting him a couple of times it became apparent that we were only making him mad and he was not moving!

We took a wide berth around the snake and continued down the stream, but somehow hearing a rattlesnake behind you does not help your concentration on fishing — but it is even worse when the rattling stops as you know he is somewhere around without knowing where! We decided this section did not look as fishy as it did without a snake, so we continued upstream. As we were going upstream, predominantly walking in the middle of the stream, there was this tree that had fallen and we needed to go around it. I went onto the bank, over the tree and back to the stream. We fished a few more minutes and decided to turn around and start working our way back. As I went up the bank and over the tree again, there was another rattlesnake apparently sleeping next to the path. I either missed it the first time through, or it just moved there in the last few minutes. Which means it was my turn to jump in the air, retreat, and yell "SNAKE!" At this point, having seen two rattlesnakes within a couple hundred yards of each other, we decided it was time to leave Slate Run.

Both of us walked in the middle of the stream until we were on the trail, but then there were two of us doing the blind man thing up the trail to the car. I do not think I will fish Slate Run again until the middle of winter!

Beginner Fly Tying: Hogan's Summer Smallmouth Fly

By Don Fine

Summer is well upon us and our attention has turned away from fishing some of the colder water species. So, it's time now to get out on the rivers, ponds, and lakes where we might find smallmouth or largemouth bass, perhaps pickerel, or perch actively feeding on crustaceans, minnows, etc. In looking for a relatively new (albeit simple) pattern for our August Beginner class, I came upon Hogan's Summer Smallmouth fly. While this pattern greatly resembles Bob Clouser's classic Deep Minnow, I found that it is an easier fly to tie for our Beginner's class and one which we all could fish with this time of year. Perhaps Hogan's Summer Smallmouth pattern will become another go-to fly for each of us.

The August Beginner class will be held August 15th, 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church. As always, we welcome fly fishers who have never tied an artificial fly to join our Beginner fly tying classes;



equipment and materials are always provided to newcomers (and PVFF club members) to the 'world of tying artificial flies.'

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.

Advanced Fly Tying: Crayfish Pattern (Redo)

By Larry Forte

The June tying did not go as planned. So, we are going to try again. At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on August 16th at 7:00 PM, Ray Ouellette will show us how to tie a crayfish pattern. This is ideal for fishing the Potomac and Monocacy rivers this summer.

We will meet in Room 108 at Trinity Church at 7:00 PM.

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: 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

The PVFF 3-Fish Challenge: Sign Up Today

By Larry Forte

Are you up for a fly-fishing challenge?

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 21st.

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.

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!



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

friendsofleftykreh.com

A Savage River Reminder of Lefty's Legacy

By Mike Holland

Several years ago, when I finally realized that I was not immortal and that life passes far too quickly, I began to make it a priority to fish on, or in close proximity to, my birthday. So, on Saturday, July 1, 2023, I celebrated my birthday by fishing the Savage River with PVFF club President Andy Mekelburg and Pete Ring.

I selected the Savage River because it is a beautiful tailwater with wild brown and brook trout relatively close to our homes. Additionally, it is a challenge with difficult terrain and very wary fish; a technical river as they say.

A few years ago, Andy and I fished the Savage on my birthday. Andy caught a beautiful brown in the Ph.D. pool, and I got skunked. So, this time, we hired a guide, Ryan Cooper, who was referred to us by the Savage River Outfitters.

We were blessed with a beautiful and productive day and saw some things one does not see that often. Specifically, we saw some osprey and a dead timber rattlesnake. It was several feet long and on the side of the road, below a rocky outcropping. Its presence highlighted an uncomfortable suspicion I had about



the area; to put it bluntly, “It looks pretty snaky.” To me, this just reinforces the need to be careful when walking in rocky terrain, to step on, not over logs, and to look before you put your hands on or under rocks or underbrush.

I caught two brown trout on the smaller side on nymphs and Andy caught two, including one about twelve inches long. Pete was Euro-nymphing and had a very good day as he caught ten fish, including one about sixteen inches long. In the afternoon, I spent the last forty-five minutes or so trying to entice a very nice brown trout. I tried some dry flies and spent a good amount of time offering nymphs. While I did so, I had the opportunity to make a lot of casts and was quite pleased to be able to consistently make some accurate, long ones. However, the biggest lesson I learned was the need to have an ample supply of small, traditional nymphs like size 18 pheasant tails, hare's ears, and midges in your fly box.

As for Lefty's legacy, we learned during the day that he once gave Ryan a casting lesson. Additionally, Ryan's grandfather worked for the electric company and regularly checked Lefty's meter. It never ceases to amaze me how many people Lefty shared his knowledge with and the residual impact his life continues to have. In fact, Ryan graduated from Frostburg State with a degree in fisheries management and works for Trout Unlimited managing brook trout habitat projects in five West Virginia counties.

If you would like to contact him to discuss his guide services, you can reach him at **ryancooper3193@gmail.com**.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Aug 15 | Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207 |
| Aug 16 | Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207 |
| Aug 24 | Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109 |
| Sept 16 | Smith Creek 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

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. — Larry Forte

Gone Fishing

Andy Mekelburg is fishing out west, so there's no Last Cast this month. Here's a shot of Andy on the San Juan River.



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 _____