

There is no club meeting in July, so we hope you get out there and go fishing. Here are some images of the 300 trout delivered to our pen in May to hold you over. And check out our new aerator!

Beginner's Fly Tying: Three Variations of the Black and Peacock Spider Wet Fly

By Don Fine

Summertime is most definitely upon us, with more hot, sunny days ahead. So we put our pursuit of catching rainbow trout in cool mountain waters aside, and focus our attention on some of the 'warmer' fresh water species, such as smallmouth bass, crappie, and panfish. For these species some fly fishers might tie on a floating terrestrial, e.g. the foam ant or beetle which we learned to tie in our June class.

For our July 19th (note the date change) Beginner's class we will feature a somewhat different fish-food representation — a submerged insect. That is, we will be learning to tie three variations of the Black

and Peacock Spider, a classic wet fly pattern developed by a British stillwater fly-fishing pioneer, Tom C. Ivens, which dates back to the early 1950s.

As a follow-up to the July tying session, I would hope that 'class' participants will fish their Black and Peacock Spider patterns and report back as to which variation was most successful and for which fish species. Tight lines!

Join us at 7:00 PM on July 19th at Trinity United Methodist Church. 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.



Shown here: One variation of the Black and Peacock Spider wet fly pattern.

Note that there will be no Advanced Tying session in July.

Annual PVFF Picnic Wrap-Up

By Dennis Allen (images by Ruby Fine)

Another good picnic for PVFF. A sunny day sandwiched between two rainy days, the park was good, and the creek cooperated in the one-fly contest.

The one-fly contest was won by Seth Denbo for the 2nd year in a row with a record 19 fish in 2 hours. Go figure, that's a fish every six minutes. (Need to follow him around a few weeks to learn his tricks.) The three rigging and fly-changing contests were all won by Jeb Stevens (no tricks, just damn quick). The burgers, chips, and dessert were great. Don Lee's chicken was a hit as usual. And then all the standing around talking with friends – a sweet spot of the club.

Thanks go out to Larry Forte – grill master; Dirk Vandervaart – contest judge; Andy Mekelburg – trophies; Don Fine – giveaway flies; and Don Lee – chicken.

See ya next year!



The PVFF 3-Fish Challenge: Sign Up Today

By Larry Forte

Our current leader is Seth Denbo. While fishing recently on the Casselman, Seth caught and landed four different fish species: a brown trout, a rainbow trout, a brook trout and a striped shiner. Right now, he is the leader of the PVFF 3-Fish Challenge!

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!

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

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

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

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Project Healing Waters: Back on the Water

By Andrew Frutiger

Over the past few months, we have had the good fortune to be on the water at least once a month in addition to our monthly meetings at the American Legion. Whether it was up at Camp Airy in Thurmont or USGS in West Virginia, our veterans have been crushing it on the water.

Camp Airy this year was fantastic, although it was a ridiculously clear day and well attended, the fish stayed active almost all day. All of our veterans caught fish with the prize going to Scott Thompson who caught the only golden trout of the day for our group. A big shout out to our own Don Lee who held a master class on filleting the trout, as each veteran was able to keep as many trout as they caught. We are all still wondering how Jeb got all of the fish he caught home, since he only brought one cooler and pretty much emptied the pond switching between multiple rods, including a sweet Tenkara rod he likes to use to keep it fair for the fish.

After Camp Airy, it was on to the USGS private water in Leetown, West Virginia. These trout are massive and love to fight. You know it is a great place when you can catch your limit by noon. Randy Underwood brought in easily the largest fish, over twenty inches, to end of the day.



Donald Lee and Scott Thompson
with a prized golden trout

With the summer heat starting to kick in, we will be switching to more farm ponds and chasing anything from sunnys and bluegill, to large and smallmouth bass. If you have any ideas for potential outings, we would love to hear about them.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters — Frederick Chapter*.

Ohiopyle – The Heart of It All?

By Mike Holland

On Sunday, June 11, 2023, PVFF Club President Andy Mekelburg belatedly celebrated his (December) birthday by fishing the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. The Yough had been on Andy's and my fishing bucket list, and we were fortunate to have Rob Walters of laurelhighlandsguideservices.com guide us on a full-day float trip.

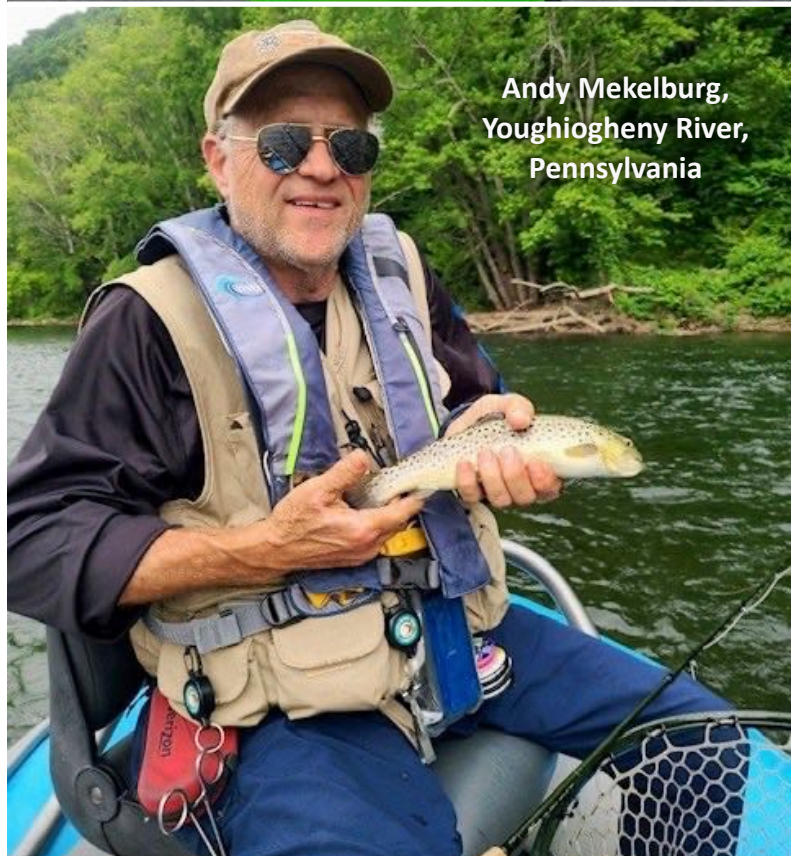
We put Rob's raft in at a private boat ramp literally in the backyard of his residence in Confluence, Pennsylvania. We then spent some time playing "baseball" to brown trout that were rising in the vicinity. That is how Rob described Andy and I taking turns to fish with each of us fishing until we struck out with three "strikes" or caught a fish. According to Rob's rules, a strike occurs when you fail to capitalize on a rise or take or lose a fish. I was pleased to see Andy get the first "hit" if you will by taking a smallmouth bass.

We were blessed with a nice caddis hatch, and I had a lot of fun working to get good drifts down to them. Rob taught us how to do the "Delaware Slide," which is when you cast out toward the bank and then move your rod upstream while taking out line. When executed properly, this allowed the line to drift downstream with minimal drag and resulted in some awesome takes. Over the course of the day, I used it to catch four really nice brown trout; I also had one "LDR" or long-distance release and of course failed to capitalize on about five other opportunities.

As we moved downstream, we did fish some streamers in an effort to entice the lunkers that live in the Youghiogheny. I switched to dry droppers until



Mike Holland with a nice Youghiogheny River brown trout



Andy Mekelburg, Youghiogheny River, Pennsylvania

we reached some pools where we were able to resume "hunting" brownies who were dining on caddis and drakes. As we did so, Rob taught me how to use a reach cast to avoid drag when fishing out over currents.

All in all, we enjoyed a long and successful float and day. While it fluctuated, the weather was nice overall and the scenery, which included a mink and some cormorants, was beautiful. Another memorable learning from our trip was the use of auto-inflate life vests. I had never heard of such a thing and was very happy to be introduced to them as they are not intrusive and provide the protection my wife and daughter have requested. Finally, when we finished in Ohiopyle, Andy and I enjoyed a nice meal at the Falls City Restaurant and Pub.

If you are interested in fishing the Youghiogheny, I encourage you to do so. In addition to its beauty and relative solitude, it provides the feel of fishing on a western river, for those of you who enjoy doing so or wish to have a similar experience.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

What a month June was for me for fishing experiences! First, reported elsewhere by Mike Holland, we floated down the Youghiogheny in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, followed by our Annual PVFF Picnic, and topped off by a once in a lifetime opportunity to fish in Alaska. Now if June was one day longer, I would add a trip to the Savage River, but I'll save that for next month.

The float trip down the Yough was a great first start. Not too far a drive from my house, around two hours, it's not that far from Deep Creek Lake and Nemaquin Woodlands Resort. The weather was great and the meet up and shuttle to the raft went flawlessly. Our guide, Rob, did an excellent job of putting us on the right seams. As we saw a fish rise, Rob would get us in position to float a dry fly to the correct position. It worked, we caught fish! I'm hoping to get Rob to come to speak to a future club meeting to speak about this excellent fishery.

As to the picnic, I only have three words to say – "Don Lee's chicken!" We had an excellent crowd including some of our new members. Dennis Allen

Calendar of Events

- July 19** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- July 27** Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109
- July 29** Catoctin Watershed Outing
- 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
 1 year Director.....Dirk Vandervaart
 Past President.....Larry Forte

did his usual marvelous job putting it all together. The food was plentiful and the water flowed like wine. We had some unique contests created by Dennis. The rest of the club learned what I already know: my eyes aren't great, and I am slow stringing a line. First step is to admit it. Lots of fun and ardent competition. The one-fly contest was won, once again, by Seth Denbo, in a prodigious feat of catching fish — although the trout seemed elusive.

As to Alaska, I had the opportunity to go on a cruise from Seattle, up to Skagway and the glaciers and back. (I won't "bore" you with the complete

Andy and Corey Mekelburg in Alaska



travelogue, at least not in this column), but rest assured it was everything I expected but better, including the weather, which was hitting over 70 degrees and sunny every day. My son, Cory, accompanied me on this trip and it so happened that I had arranged this fishing adventure on Father's Day.



I booked a fishing trip out of Ketchikan which was our first stop on the cruise. We met our guide coming off the ship and he drove us to the fly shop. Nice shop with a decent selection of everything, including some Clouser Minnows (thought of you, Bob and Jackie!). After providing us with waders and boots, we took our gear down to the dock and boarded a float plane. It was a clear day and the 30-minute flight was scenic and majestic. We landed in a remote lake far away from anyone and anything.

Our quarry were cutthroats, ones that had probably seen few fishers. We started off wading the shelf around the lake, probably 10-20 feet from shore. Using a sinking tip line, we cast beyond the shelf and let the fly sink before stripping in. I was able to catch one relatively quickly, taking the pressure off everyone. Cory caught one not that long after.

Our guide Nick suggested we get in the boat to hit some of the productive areas he knew. This boat they had out there was this unique vessel, that could actually fold up so that it can fit on a pontoon of a float plane for transportation. Seemed almost like

plastic, but was sturdy and smooth. We found some very productive areas and I ended up with at least 10 catches (and probably as many misses) and Cory caught 6. The fun part was that the water was so clear, you can see the trout going after the fly, and if you weren't able to set in time, it would keep coming back. Lots of fun.

After four hours of fishing, the plane came back to retrieve us (whew!) On the flight back we spotted a pod of orcas that our pilot circled a couple of times, what a sight. Flawless landing and taxi up to the dock. As our guide was stepping onto the deck, he dropped his phone into the water, which they said was 60 feet deep. Yes, it was surprising that it wasn't me that did that, but the problem was that he had taken all the pictures of us holding fish! So, you'll have to take my word on it – yes, we caught fish, they were beautiful and my biggest was 20". The only proof is in our memory of a fantastic trip.

Fishing trip to Alaska — another bucket list item checked off!

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 _____