



 Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay

— CLUB MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 7 PM —

Kate Fritz with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

By Larry Forte

At our next meeting on October 10th, we welcome Kate Fritz, CEO for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. This organization is dedicated to restoring the Chesapeake Bay's rivers and streams through partnerships, collaboration, and individual and community stewardship.

In 1971, a group of concerned citizens, representing business, agriculture, conservation, academia, and government began gathering to discuss the declining “state of the Bay” and a lack of political commitment

to address it. Fifty years later, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is one of the oldest and well-respected non-profits working throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Join us to learn more about this effort and how you can get involved to help. For more information about the Alliance for the Chesapeake bay, visit their website at allianceforthebay.org.

Also, if you have any donations for the banquet, please bring them to the meeting.

56th Annual Banquet: Save the date!

By Larry Forte

Our 56th Birthday Celebration and Annual Banquet is just a few weeks away and I hope you can join us this year. It is always a fun evening. Plenty of bucket and silent auction items for you to win. We also have the St. Croix 8WT rod & reel raffle, the travel rod raffle, and much more. Plus, it is always a great evening to be with PVFF friends!

We already have some exciting items for you to bid on and win, including a **guided trip with Mike Heck** and **luxury lodging for two people for four nights near the Ausable River in New York!**

The banquet will be on Saturday, October 21st, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the AMVETS Valley Memorial Post #9 in Middletown, Maryland.

As a reminder, all items in the bucket raffle and silent auction are donated by both members and friends of PVFF. This tradition has served us well and it is amazing what is donated every year. This year, the list includes several fly rods, baked goods, selections of flies, and the list goes on. Another thing to consider is that we have items that are not fishing related and include adult beverages and a few tasty items.

Bring your spouse or friend and see what he or she can find to win and take home. This year, we are bringing back a couple of popular activities from last year, including a contest to see who can tie the best fly — while blindfolded!!

Head to our website to purchase tickets and register to attend. Just type **pvff.club** in your browser and look for the link to the banquet. The cost is \$30 per adult. Children 16 and younger are only \$5.00 each. This will help us get an idea of the number we need



to accommodate for this party. The banquet is also open to family and friends and is a great place to bring someone interested in getting into fly fishing. Also, you can bring your donation items to the October meeting. Again, save the date ... October 21st ... and go fishing as often as you can until then.

Banquet Donations Needed!

Monies raised during our banquet come primarily from donations by club members. The banquet is our main fundraiser for the year — these funds help pay for the various activities we offer throughout the coming year. The annual club dues do not cover all of our expenses. Donations can be a fly rod or some other piece of fly fishing equipment that you are no longer using, but it doesn't need to be fly fishing related. It could be a bottle of wine, your favorite bourbon or a gift basket. Please consider donating to the banquet. If you would like to contribute, you can bring your donation to the monthly meeting or to one of the fly tying classes this month. If you can't make a meeting, give me a call and I will pick them up!

— Larry (301-943-7533)



Lefty Kreh

Join Us for *Lefty Kreh in the Frederick Library*

By Dennis Allen

The Friends of Lefty Kreh has five exhibits in the downtown library with a number of presentations. Upcoming topics and speakers are:

- October 1 — **Fly fishing equipment and flies** presented by Don Fine
- October 15 — **Conservation for individuals** presented by Joe Starinchak
- October 29 — **The making of a Lefty sculpture** presented by Toby Mendez

We're celebrating Lefty and excited to introduce the general public to the sport we love. Come by and see the exhibits and, better yet, try to see one of the speeches. They are all at 2 PM.

I've had the honor of putting this together (with lots of help) and I gotta tell you, if you don't know Lefty and appreciate what he did for his family, his nation, and the fishing community you have missed something. Special thanks to Don, Dan, Larry, Toby, Sarah, Cory, and Joe.

Beginner Fly Tying: The Twitch Fly

By Don Fine

Fall is upon us and at last we are having some cooler temperatures. Time to ‘switch gears’ in our approach to fly fishing inland waters, particularly fly fishing for smallmouth bass and large panfish. In my search for a proven fly pattern appropriate for this time of year and for our beginner’s fly tying program, I came across the Twitch Fly, which was developed by Peter Charles in 2018. First thought when you look at the Twitch Fly is that it appears to be another Woolly Buzzer imitation (that is, a classic Woolly Buzzer without saddle hackle body, but with a cone head and rubber legs.) However, the difference in the two patterns is the manner in which the Twitch Fly is fished. The Twitch Fly is dead drifted in the current, as compared to the traditional stripping motion used in fishing a Woolly Buzzer.



Join our Beginners Fly Tying session (to tie the Twitch Fly) on Tuesday evening, October 17th, at 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick St. Frederick.

Advanced Fly Tying: Foam & Fuzzy Inchworm Flies

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on October 18th at 7:00 PM, Martyn Holland will teach us the foam inchworm and the fuzzy inchworm fly. The club will provide all of the materials and hooks.

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. 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.



The PVFF 3-Fish Challenge: Time is Running Out!

By Larry Forte

We are down to the last few days for our 3-Fish Challenge. So far, it has been a lot of fun. Several members have successfully completed the challenge. With the cooler weather, it is a great time to go fishing with a club member and try the challenge. The deadline is October 20th. 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. 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! 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

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 10** Club Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Oct. 17** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Oct. 18** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
- Oct. 21** PVFF Annual Banquet
4:00 - 9:00 PM
Ammvets Post 9
Middletown, Maryland
- Oct. 26** Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109
- Oct. 1** • Fly Fishing Equipment and Flies
Oct. 15 • Conservation for Individuals
Oct. 29 • The Making of the Lefty
Sculpture
**Frederick Library "Lefty Kreh
Presentation Series"**
2:00 PM
C. Burr Artz Public Library
Frederick, Maryland

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



The jetties at Sandy Point State Park provide structure that attract baitfish and stripers.

Fall Striper Fishing at Sandy Point State Park

By Dan Neuland

Fall is a great time to target striped bass in tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. A few years back, PVFF member Larry Forte showed me some photos of several nice stripers that he caught one evening in late October while standing on one of the several rocky structures that extend out into the bay at Sandy Point State Park. The fish were impressive catches in addition to the fact he was catching them from shore with his fly rod. I have had the striper bug ever since, not sure if I should thank or blame Larry?

Fishing for stripers at Sandy Point State Park is exciting when weather and water conditions align in October and into November. As fall water temperatures drop in the tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, the baitfish begin to migrate. The colder air temperatures start to chill the water temperatures and put fish on the move. Stripers are waiting to ambush baitfish such as menhaden and anchovies when they enter the Bay.

The fish remain in casting distance from the jetties well into the month of November.



The daily limit on stripers is one fish per day minimum size 19 inches - maximum size 31 inches.

Colder temps are favorable but only to a point. The close to shore bite doesn't last forever. At some point in late November or early December, the water temperatures will drop below 50 degrees and the fish will move to deeper water. The deeper water surrounding the Chesapeake Bay Bridge piers is well-known for holding stripers year-round.

I have had good luck fishing for stripers at Sandy Point both in the evening and early morning hours from my kayak. There is a soft launch located off the north parking lot at Sandy Point for kayaks. On bright days, the striper action seems to turn off soon after the sunlight hits the water and then the bite turns on as the sun sets. It is the low light conditions that seem to be the trigger, so it is best to look for overcast conditions.



A Clouser Half & Half in chartreuse and white is a great striper fly. I use size 6 saltwater hooks to tie this pattern.

Before making the drive to Annapolis for stripers, check the weather and most importantly the wave heights which are directly related to wind speed. I also check the tides as the moving tide will stimulate fish activity as well as reposition fish. I believe a dropping tide is best as the faster current

concentrates the fish into a smaller area, usually downstream of the jetties and other structures that create some slack spots in the current.

For fly anglers, I recommend a 7 or 8-weight rod with an intermediate sinking line or sink tip when fishing from shore. From a kayak a full sinking line works well in the deeper water. My favorite striper fly is a chartreuse Clouser half and half.

I've Been to Paradise

By Mike Holland

We all remember songs from our childhood. For me, Charlene D'Angelo's "I've Been to Paradise, But I've Never Been to Me," is a song that instantly takes me back to my childhood in New York's North Country. As I have grown older, the song's lyrics and haunting message about lost opportunities has really resonated and prompted me to do what I can to enjoy life (and fish).

Thus, as soon as I knew my work schedule was going to take me to Idaho the week of August 20, 2023, I was determined to fish the South Fork of the Snake River, which many, me included, consider to be an angler's paradise. I also was hopeful that one of my close friends, who lives in Idaho and lost his wife in December, would join me.

Before his retirement in 2011, my friend and I had spent eight years working together. Over the course of that time, we spent many hours traveling across Idaho but had never fished together. In fact, while he had grown up in a family with an outfitting business, he really had

Good to know

Sandy Point State Park charges \$3 per vehicle from October 1st – April 30th. The park closes at dusk through October but switches to a 4:00PM closure in mid-November. Park rangers announce the park closure and begin patrols to encourage attendees to vacate. The closure does not apply to active anglers who are allowed to fish all night if desired.



not fished in years until we fished the Snake River on August 24.

On that date, he picked me up at my hotel in Idaho Falls and we drove over to The Lodge at Palisades

Creek. On the way there, we were blessed with a beautiful Idaho sunrise. The blessings did not end there.

We had a productive and fun day catching some nice cutthroat trout, rainbows, a brown, and a cutbow trout. However, it was the friendship and natural beauty that made this day truly memorable. A special thank you to guide Cole Sutheimer and Assistant Manager Shayde Stotts for all they did to make the day special.

We saw bald eagles and osprey and enjoyed a very rare sighting of four bull moose together. We had a nice golden retriever jump in the water and follow our boat until we successfully convinced him or her to head back to their home on shore. While I caught some nice fish, it seems like I lost more. What really made the day particularly meaningful for me was the fact that this was my friend's first-time fishing after a very long hiatus from flyfishing and I saw him catch several nice cutthroats. Additionally, he said our experience has prompted to begin fishing again.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

While some look at October as the end of the fishing season, I tend to look at it as the beginning of the Fall season. It's been a hot and dry summer, water levels are down everywhere — to such an extent that we cancelled our Smith Creek outing in September. Even Rockdale Run has been down, although the fallfish are still hanging around. However, the rains in the last week or two are starting to make an impact and make me optimistic for fishing opportunities in the upcoming months.

In the meantime, since fishing has slowed down, I've been busy on the other activities that the club has been working on. For those, October is a really big month.

There definitely were fishing lessons learned or reinforced. I fished from the back of the drift boat, which is always challenging for me, and I will admit that it was a slow day for me until I fished from the front of the boat at the end of the day. When fishing from the back, it is so important to try to cast your line forward enough to get a decent drift while simultaneously working to avoid crossing the other person's line in front of you. Conversely, when fishing from the front, it is particularly important to cast far enough downstream to provide you and the person in the back the ability to get good drifts.

Another reminder for me that day was that setting the hook is an eternal challenge. You will be too slow, too fast, too hard, and too soft. The good news is that the only way to get better at it is to go out and fish.

If you want to fish the South Fork of the Snake River, I encourage you to check out the team at the Palisades Lodge online at: tlapc.com/about/.

The sculpture of Lefty Kreh will be unveiled to the public on October 14, starting at 10:00 AM. Come on down to Culler Lake in Baker Park in downtown Frederick to celebrate the culmination of a lot of work, donations, and fond memories. While you are down there, stop by the C. Burr Artz Library to visit our display on Lefty, Fly Fishing, Conservation, the Sculpture process and more, as we have taken over the display cases there during September and October. Even better, we've been making presentations in the library Community Room every other Sunday. Our first two presentations, Dan Neuland on fishing in Frederick County and Don Fine on the Life of Lefty, were well attended and well received. What else would you expect from those two!



The unveiling of the clay model of Lefty Kreh earlier this year. The completed sculpture will be unveiled in October. From left: Doc Ledbetter, Dennis Allen, Don Fine, Ruby Fine, Sarah Costlow, Andy Mekelburg, and Toby Mendez.

I'm looking forward to the 14th to see "Lefty in the Lake" in real life. It's been an incredible effort to have been involved with; the time and effort that the members of the Friends of Lefty Kreh went through were amazing, with Zoom calls every two weeks and lots of stuff in between. Thanks, team! With generous contributions from local Frederick area foundations, businesses, individuals, the arts community — as well as the state of Maryland and the fly fishing community — we were able to turn a vision into reality and truly honor a hometown hero. Looking back over the time we've worked on this, through the thousands of people we've spoken to, there was only positive energy on this. Even those not familiar with his life or even fishing came to be supportive when they realized the impact he made on the world at large. I've been proud to be associated with this initiative and the team that pulled it off! We have planted Frederick's stake in the ground as a fly fishing destination.

The other big event this month is the Annual Banquet on October 21. Larry Forte and Don Fine

(yes, those two again!) have been working to make this another great PVFF event. At last month's meeting, members started to fill my car with donations, but I can report that there's still lot of room in our barn to accept more. We've also received donations of the use of a house or cabin, a day of fishing on Rockdale Run, and a guided trip with Mike Heck, so think broadly as you donate. Everything is gratefully accepted! Use our next general meeting on October 10 to bring in more items. Also sign up to attend and get ready to have some fun.

After reading through this, you're probably thinking: what are we going to do in November for an encore to top October? The answer is simple – Trout Pen! Rick Loose and his team have been plumping up the trout for November stocking. Look for my email soliciting volunteers. Call me optimistic, but I think October and November fishing will make us forget about the August doldrums.

Tight Lines!

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 _____