



— CLUB MEETING: SEPTEMBER 12, 7 PM —

Celebrating Bernard “Lefty” Kreh

By Larry Forte

At our next meeting on September 12th at Tuscarora High School in Frederick, we are going to spend the evening learning about and, yes, doing a bit of reminiscing about fly-fishing legend Bernard “Lefty” Kreh. Lefty passed away in March of 2018 and, as you know, he had a tremendous impact on the sport we all love. In October, the Friends of Lefty Kreh will unveil a statue of Lefty at Baker Park. For over 18 years, he wrote the Outdoor column for the

Baltimore Sun. He wrote over 30 books on fly fishing. He cohosted his own fly-fishing show with Tom Brokaw. He was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame and named Angler of the Year in 1997. Plus, he was a local boy: born and raised in Frederick, worked at Fort Detrick, and started his career at the Frederick News Post. Mr. Kreh was a lifetime member of PVFF and a dear friend of the club. I hope you can join us on the 12th.

56th Annual Banquet: Save the date!

By Larry Forte

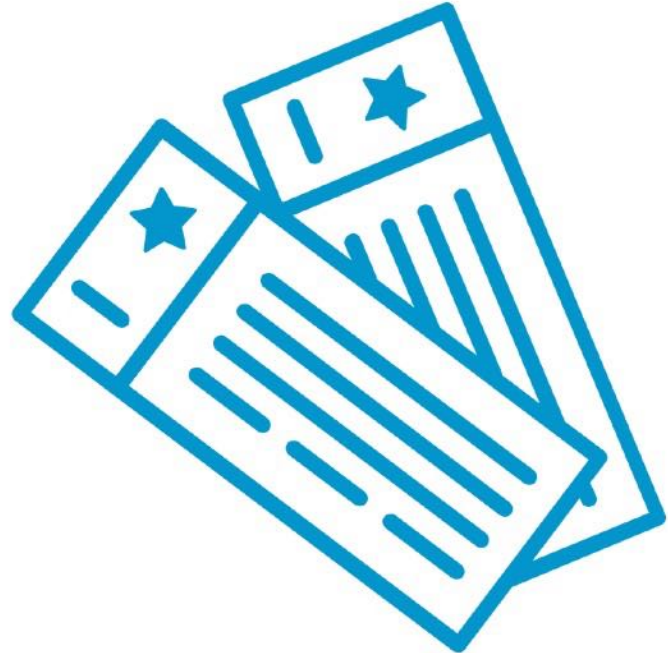
Our 56th Birthday Celebration and Annual Banquet is less than two months away and I really hope you can join us this year. It is always a fun evening. Great friends and fellowship, plenty of bucket and silent auction items, the St. Croix 8WT rod & reel raffle, the travel rod raffle, and much more.

We already have some exciting items for you to bid on and win! 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 either the



September or 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

Starting in September, the Friends of Lefty Kreh will have five exhibits in the downtown library and have five speakers over the next two months. The topics and speakers are:

- September 10 — **Fishing in Frederick County** presented by Dan Neuland
- September 24 — **Lefty Kreh/Citizen of Frederick** presented by Don Fine
- 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 Turbo Beetle

By Don Fine

Summer soon will end and now is the time to think about seasonal-transition fly patterns, which will be useful for a variety of fresh water species. As I began to think about an ideal fly pattern for our September tying session, I considered what artificial fly would both advance the fly tying experience for our beginner fly tiers, as well as provide yet another standard fly pattern for use at this time of year. For those reasons, our September 19th tying session will feature a very realistic and relatively easy-to-tie beetle pattern called the Turbo Beetle. In advance of the September 19th class, I suggest class participants search for and watch a YouTube video on tying this fly produced by Tim Flagler's *tightlinevideo*.

The next Beginner class will be held 7:00 PM on September 19th 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.'



***Note for all fly tying newcomers:** For the past several months our PVFF fly tying instruction has been broadened to provide monthly instruction for members who might never have tied a fly (true beginners), as well as for those who have some experience in fly tying and wish to expand their tying skills and broaden their knowledge of the natural species which we try to replicate.

Advanced Fly Tying: Hogan's Summer Smallmouth Fly

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering on September 20th at 7:00 PM, Don Fine will teach us the Hogan's Summer Smallmouth fly pattern which is an adaptation of a Clouser Deep Minnow. The club will provide all of the materials and hooks. We will meet in Room 108 at Trinity Church at 7:00 PM.

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!



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

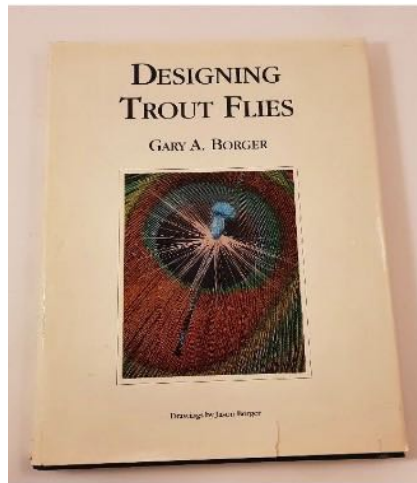
We are down to the last few weeks for our 3-Fish Challenge. So far, it has been a lot of fun. Several members have successfully completed the challenge. With the cooler weather, it is a great time to go fishing with a club member and try the challenge. The deadline is October 20th. The challenge is simple.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

Gary Borger to be Inducted into PA Fly Fishing Museum

The Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association is excited to announce that former Pennsylvania resident Gary Borger, award-winning fly-fishing author and FFI Master casting instructor, will be inducted into the museum there on November 4, 2023, at their fundraising banquet.



The banquet will be at the Masonic Lodge in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Hours are from 5 PM to 9 PM. Casual dress. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat ASAP. The link to reserve your spot is on our website, or search on "Gary Borger PA Fly Fishing Museum."



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

Meet a Member: Julia Falk

Coordinated by Mike Holland

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

I accompanied my dad (Craig Falk) on multiple fishing trips during my childhood. One of my early memories is from a vacation and there is a picture of me admiring a fish that he had caught. I started fishing with my dad when I was around 15 years old with my own rod and more independently with supplies. I was able to go on some guided trips and I learned so much more about fishing and how to properly fish. Just in the last couple years, I have started tying my own flies and I love using my own flies to catch trout. I joined the club prior to 2020.



Julia Falk

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

I like to fish in smaller streams and in limestone creeks. I love smaller streams since I can see the water and approach the pockets.

What is your favorite water to fish?

My favorite place to fish is in West Virginia since the water is so pretty and native brook trout give fisherman a run for their money. I also have a great time in Pennsylvania in those streams.

What is your best fly-fishing memory?

My favorite fly-fishing memory is fishing with my family on a family vacation and catching my first fish on my own rod and reel when I was around 15 years old. I was on a guided trip in West Virginia in the last couple years and I caught a 19-inch brown trout on a bamboo rod. I was afraid that the fish was going to break the rod. Luckily, I had the guide to help me, and the net was needed.

What is your favorite fly?

My favorite fly is a Yellow Sally since it is easy to see, and trout love to eat them in the summertime. Also, I like to use stimulators since they annoy trout and they come to the surface to look at them.

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

I would fish with a stimulator, yellow sally, mayfly, perdigon, and a stone fly.

What advice do you have for others?

My advice is to rely on your instincts on a stream and look for the pockets. There might be fish in the more turbulent water but honestly trout are prone to hiding out in pockets near rocks and waiting. The other key to fishing is waiting since sometimes there is so much noise or the fish are spooked. The best fish I have caught and released were ones that I waited for once the water had calmed down.

What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?

On my bucket list, I would be able to plan a week-long trip to West Virginia that would fit my work schedule.

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

In the past, I have participated in the Catoclin Creek Stream Clean up efforts. I have also had great memories of fishing on guided trips with Mike Holland and Pete Ring. The best times are when I can go fishing on a stream with my dad and spend the day reflecting and enjoying the outdoors.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 12** Club Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Sept. 16** Smith Creek Outing
- Sept. 19** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Sept. 20** 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
- Sept. 10**
Sept. 24
Oct. 1
Oct. 15
Oct. 29 Frederick Library: Lefty
Presentations
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

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLYFISHING

Jeb Stevens, Kraig Laskowski, Paul Kelly, Scott Thompson, and Billy Nolan ready for the day



Project Healing Waters: Stars and Stripers

By Andrew Frutiger

This past month, Project Healing Waters put on the annual Star and Stripers event at Kent Island Yacht Club. If it is not self-evident, the purpose of the event was a day on the bay for veterans chasing stripers. The morning couldn't have started out better, the local Hardy's supplied breakfast

(absolutely nothing healthy) and then, after some brief words, the veterans were paired with a captain and off they went. A huge thank you to all of the captains who donated their time and talents to the event!

Although the day did not go as planned and the stripers did not cooperate, all of the veterans had a great day on the water. Jeb, Kraig, and Paul managed to bag at least one striper, while Mr. Nolan crushed the biggest oyster I have ever seen. Not to be out

done, Scott Thompson had the absolute best boat on the bay, with multiple decks and awnings. I am not sure a ton of fishing was done, but there was plenty of rest and relaxation.

The fishing wrapped up around noon and we were all treated to lunch at the club under a massive tent where the story telling could commence, along with some fantastic door prizes. Billy Nolan, ever the gentlemen, re-gifted his door prize to a very excited

young person, making their day. With that, the day ended and we all headed back west to get ready for monthly meeting and our next fishing trip.

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*.

The August Doldrums

By Mike Holland

It seems to me that many anglers choose to take the month of August off from their regular trout fly-fishing. Whether it is family vacations or back to school preparations or choosing to avoid the heat due to a perceived notion that there is a low probability of success. I am originally from New York State's "North Country" and I well remember my father regularly telling me that it was too hot to fish, especially as the water levels of our rivers diminished.

Clearly, heat and water levels are factors that can have an impact and require adjustments. However, adjustments are needed throughout the year and if you want to be successful in less-than-ideal weather and water conditions, well, you need to be willing to fish in less-than-ideal weather and water conditions.

I choose to fish this August. While I worked hard and sweated, I had a lot of fun and learned a few things. As they used to say years ago on the "Wide World of Sports," I felt the "Thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

On August 8 and 9, 2023, I fished Spruce Creek, a famous limestone creek, in Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania at Evergreens Farms. While I had



Blackfoot River,
Caribou County, Idaho

fished the same section last year, I decided to stop by the Spruce Outfitters on my way. I was eager to get on the creek but am very pleased that I made the choice to take the time to stop. The owner, Allan Bright, is a local legend who guided in the area for 25 years. I was reminded of what a special community exists in our sport when he very generously took an hour or so to review my fly boxes and his offering of flies to select some that would provide a good chance of success.

When I arrived, it was about 3 pm and hot. Nonetheless, I headed to the creek and specifically

headed to the section where I caught two very nice brown trout last year to the date. As I caught them last year on a foam beetle, of course, that is what I tried first. And it did not take long for a nice brown trout to rise and take the beetle. I set the hook and began working to bring it in when suddenly, the line went slack. As I reeled in my line, I knew in my heart that it was due to a poor knot. Sure enough, there was the tell-tale curly pig's tail at the end of my line where the beetle had been.

I switched to black and yellow ant, size 16 or 14, that was from Murray's Fly Shop in Edinburg, Virginia. Again, it did not take long before I had a nice take. This time, I was able to bring in a nice 13- or 14-inch brown trout. After taking a break for dinner, I went to a different section of the creek which had leafy cover thanks to overhanging branches. I switched to a caddis and chartreuse nymph dropper which I had tied and ended up taking a nice brown on the dropper.

Much later that night, I went fishing again as I wanted to experience fishing for brown trout with a mouse fly at night. I had a headlight and some mouse flies and went back to the stretch of the creek I had started on earlier in the day. I used the light to tie on flies and to determine where to cast before turning it off. It was thrilling the first few times a trout bumped my mouse fly and exhilarating when I was able to land a nice 16-inch brown trout.

I rounded out my time on Spruce Creek the next morning when I again took a nice brown trout on a hopper dropper combination. It took the nymph, which may have been one I tied. This time, however, as I was working to land it, I somehow stepped on a nest of wasps. Despite some very strong stings, I was able to land and quickly release it so that I could exit the area.

On August 15, I was blessed to fish the Salmon River near Malone, New York near the Canadian border while visiting my family farm. While the



Salmon River is stocked annually, it is a challenging freestone river which flows north into Canada. New York State has done a great job of providing angler access on the river generally and there is angler parking on the Flat Rock Road not far from this spot. The spot, however, is where I finally caught a nice rainbow on a green flashback nymph on the last cast as the sun was setting. It was a very beautiful setting but tough fishing. It is a water that those who enjoy Euro-nymphing would very much enjoy.

On August 20, I found myself in Idaho for work for the week. The first several days, I fished the public access area at the Fox Hills Ranch on the Blackfoot River Road. It is a beautiful river but challenging to fish as it is lined with willows and tall grasses. It also does not present a lot of opportunities to wade fish. On Sunday evening, I was able to catch three small fish on dries (caddis). I think one was a whitefish and another may have been a trout minnow. While not what I had hoped for, it was good to practice casting, knot tying, and different sized dry flies. I also enjoyed fishing at night underneath the Milky Way with the company of ducks and a beaver.

On August 23, I was able to fish a stretch in the morning before work. It was tough fishing amidst the tall grass and in the face of very few rises. I was thrilled that I was able to find the right combination

(Dave's Hopper and Bead-head Pheasant Tail) to hook into a very large fish (I am guessing a 20-inch Cutthroat) but disappointed when I lost it after a spirited fight. After fighting for about ten minutes, it got downstream and I made the (very conscious) mistake of trying to "horse" it back upstream, only to have it roll over in some rapids near a rock and escape. I know I should have played it longer but was afraid of playing it too much and having it die. When I asked my wife if I "caught" the fish, she asked me, "Did you get it in the net?" I knew the

answer to the question when I asked her and will put it down as an LDR (Long Distance Release).

These experiences, while perhaps not yielding stellar results, were fun, soul refreshing, and educational. It reinforced for me that fishing is not about catching the biggest or most fish but rather about taking time to enjoy our environment and life, which goes far too quickly, and trying to learn and apply learnings. In short, don't let lean days on the water or a perception that you are not fishing at the right time keep you from going back and enjoying your time in beautiful settings.

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

It has been a great summer for "bucket list" fishing for me, as previously reported in July and August. I got to voyage to Alaska and arranged a short flying float trip to an isolated lake to fish for cutthroat trout, making Alaska the 49th state I've visited, only North Dakota left. In August, I was able to float the San Juan in New Mexico with my son-in-law. While I had fished there once before (last year as a matter of fact), it is such a great fishing spot that it remained on my list. Both trips were great. We caught a bunch of fish, experienced a new environment, and bonded through our shared outdoor experience. I've included the picture of my son-in-law, Nabeel, who had never done any fishing before and caught a beautiful fish within the first 10 minutes on the water, by Navajo Dam. The look on his face is just priceless, bringing back memories of how new fishers get hooked!

So now I'm spoiled, I had a small list and achieved it with some great fishing experiences. Now I need to start establishing the next list of bucket locations. Let me know if you have any suggestions, particularly in North Dakota.

The next two months are very busy and very exciting for the club. We have several activities planned for both PVFF and the Friends of Lefty Kreh. We kick

things off in September with our own Dan Neuland making a presentation on Lefty at our September meeting. This is in parallel with our taking over the C. Burr Artz Public Library Branch in downtown Frederick for a two-month exhibit on Lefty, his legacy, fly fishing, and conservation in the public display cases. In addition, we will be hosting lectures every other Sunday and various aspects of fishing and Lefty's life. Many thanks to Dennis, Lea Allen, and Sarah Costlow for their hard work on this.

This leads up to the unveiling of Lefty's sculpture, currently scheduled for October 14. This is the culmination of our club's efforts over the last two years and one that deserves the thanks of many, many people. Not only those who volunteered their considerable time and effort, including bi-weekly zoom calls, using the work skills we had to accomplish great things and learn new skills (grant writing, among others). Thanks to the many club members who helped make this a success through their donations and support, a special shout out to Bob Clouser and Jackie Prock for their many contributions. The Frederick community has also been an important partner in this effort. From the generous contributions of local foundations and families, with the leadership and support from the



Nabeel's first fishing experience was a good one!

City's elected representatives and staff employees, as well as community groups such as the Friends of Baker Park. With this project there were so many inflection points where we needed someone to help and they did!

Our annual banquet, the social highlight of our fishing year, is being held on October 21 — make sure you buy your tickets soon, they're going fast! This is also a good time to go through your equipment and other items hiding in your basement or attic to donate to our auction and bucket raffles.

We already have some good “stuff” lined up, but the more we have the more we can raise and the more auction and raffle action our attendees can have.

Amidst all this action, we have planned an outing to Smith Creek (thanks to Mike Holland) down Interstate 81 in Virginia — always a favorite for those who attend. It's important to make sure that no matter how many activities, events, and celebrations we schedule, the heart and soul of PVFF is all about fishing!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

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 _____