

— CLUB MEETING: NOVEMBER 14, 7 PM —

Beaver Creek Fish Kill Update, Fisheries Questions Answered with Michael Kashiwagi

By Larry Forte

At our next meeting on November 14th at 7:00 PM, we welcome Michael Kashiwagi, Freshwater Fisheries Western II Regional Manager with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He will give us an update on the fish kill at Beaver Creek this past summer.

This past August, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources found about 400 dead brown trout in the stream and along the banks. The department is currently running tests to determine the cause of death.

After he gives us a Beaver Creek update, Michael will also be available to answer any fishery-related questions that you might have. Hope to see you on the 14th at Tuscarora High School!

Maryland DNR staff investigate August's Beaver Creek fish kill.



Beginner's Fly Tying: Two Egg Patterns

By Don Fine

Fall is upon us and winter is not far off. In the last two weeks, the Maryland DNR has announced a number of trout stockings of our state's ponds, lakes, and even some streams

(those which have appreciable water this time of year). It's time to change from fly patterns which worked when there was an abundance of hatching aquatic bugs (damselflies, mayflies and caddisflies), and size down to much smaller fly patterns (e.g. midges) — or patterns which simulate other fish foods that are prevalent during the colder months, such as fish spawn or aquatic worms.

This month our Beginner's Fly Tying class will be learning to tie two proven 'winners' for late fall and winter fly fishing: the **bead-head salmon egg** and **Estaz egg** patterns. As noted in a recent internet listing by Loren Williams regarding the success of



egg patterns he states, “more likely the patterns’ success is due to some appealing nature that only the fish know. In fact, I think many of these patterns work precisely because they do not look like the hundreds of real eggs tumbling by. They get the attention of the fish and the fish react by taking the fly.”

Join our Beginner's Fly Tying session on Tuesday evening, November 21st, at 7:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick St. Frederick.

Advanced Fly Tying: Nitro Caddis Fly

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering on November 15th at 7:00 PM, I will teach the **Nitro Caddis** fly. This is a great fly for me when I am not sure what the trout are taking. 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 Winners

By Larry Forte

Congratulations to Denny Grizzle (left) and Seth Denbo (right). They were Co-Champions this year, shown above accepting their awards from Andy Mekelburg.

Each club member caught 4 different species. Nice job! You have been awarded all PVFF club bragging rights for the next 12 months!

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

Conservation News

By Dave Keane



Nathan Drager works with Chesapeake Bay Foundation Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Manager Brenda Sieglitz to plant a tree on his farm in Marietta, Pennsylvania. The tree is one of 200 the partnership helped Drager plant to protect a stream that runs into the Susquehanna River. Image credit: Codi Yeager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

In October we had the pleasure of having Kate Fritz, CEO of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, speak at our monthly meeting. Her talk focused on things we can do in our community to help improve water quality.

She shared with us companies that support conservation and clean water like Giant Food, Hershey Chocolate, and Turkey Hill Ice cream. I'm certainly doing my part in supporting clean water by eating lots of Turkey Hill ice cream!

For the last 50 years, the Alliance has worked to bring together communities, companies, and conservationists to improve the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay. PVFF has been participating in Project Clean Stream for many years, sponsored by this organization.

Also in October, we had the Lefty Kreh lecture series where we heard from Joe Starinchak,

conservationist, who spoke about the need for actions to combat climate change.

We learned how forever chemicals in the Potomac River are affecting the bass. He talked about the need to dispose of prescription drugs responsibly and encouraged us to get involved with our local government. His presentation led to more discussions regarding choices that we make each day that can affect our climate.

This author believes conventional farming that includes Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, (CAFOs) and farming monocultures of annual crops such as corn, soybeans, and wheat are negatively affecting our soil, climate, waterways and our health. Tilling soil is an antiquated practice that releases CO₂, causes erosion and disrupts beneficial microbial and fungal activity. Changing our farming practices from conventional farming to regenerative farming

could help heal our soils and begin to reverse years of damage. Regenerative farming builds healthy soils by integrating animals with rotational grazing, discourages tilling of soil, and eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers. Below are a few links exploring the benefits of regenerative farming.

- Kiss the Ground documentary: kisstheground.com/kiss-the-ground-film
- Lower Susquehanna River Keeper article on CAFO's: lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org/educate/issues-2/concentrated-animal-feed-operations-cafos/
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation on Regenerative Agriculture: www.cbf.org/issues/agriculture/regenerative-agriculture.html

Here are some things you can do this fall to help conserve resources and protect our environment:

Let your leaves lay! Yea, your neighbors may talk about you and your husband or wife may think you're getting lazy, but leaving the leaves lay has many benefits. Many insects and other organisms depend on overwintering leaf litter for survival. Bumble bee queens burrow down into the soil to overwinter, and a thick layer of leaves is extremely beneficial to their survival. If you need to get them off your lawn, rake them into a pile or into your gardens. This will help return vital nutrients, carbon, and organic matter back to the soil. Bagging and removing leaves from your property is depleting your soil of much needed organic matter. Healthy soil absorbs more carbon and water than poor compacted soil.

Plant a native tree. Planting in the fall is the best time to plant a tree and the cool weather allows the tree roots to establish. Trees provide so many environmental benefits including cooling, stormwater control, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat.

Get to know a local farmer that practices regenerative agriculture. Make the choice to buy your products from local farms rather than the big box stores that most likely truck their goods across the country.

Stop buying bottled water and other single use plastic items. Purchase a high quality made in the USA stainless steel or glass re-usable water bottle.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Nov. 14 | Club Meeting at 7:00 PM Tuscarora High School Room A170 Frederick, Maryland |
| Nov. 15 | Advanced Fly Tying 7:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 108 |
| Nov. 22 | Beginner's Fly Tying 7:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 207 |
| Nov. 30 | Board of Directors' Meeting 7:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 109 |

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 Vandervaat
 Past President.....Larry Forte

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Project Healing Waters: Help Wanted

By Andrew Frutiger

As we near the end of 2023, I wanted to take a minute and thank all of those who donate and have supported Project Healing Waters financially over these past years. Without the generous support of all of you who donate, we would not be able to make the positive impact this program has on our veterans. PHW Frederick has had considerable growth in the years since our founding, in both veteran participation as well the variety of programs and opportunities we are able to offer. With increased growth comes an increased need for sponsorship. This year PHW has made it much easier to donate directly to the Frederick Chapter so that your dollars stay here in the community.

I cannot stress enough the importance of this program and what it means to those that served our

country. Watching veterans, many who are new to fly fishing, find a path to healing through our sport as well as acceptance into an unbelievable community is an incredible gift — one I look forward to being part of for many years to come. But we cannot do this without your support, so please visit the link below and support our local chapter.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the program, please reach out to me at any time at andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com.

You can support the Frederick Chapter of Project Healing Waters online by visiting:

projecthealingwaters.networkforgood.com/projects/63663



2023 Town Creek Outing



Bucket Raffle

2023 Club Banquet

Images by Dan Neuland. Many more images from the evening are available on our website at pvff.club.



Club members gathered for the banquet.



Lynn Ashe shares Halloween treats with children at the event.



Corwin Robinson



Don Lee

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

October was a monumental month for PVFF. A large crowd gathered on October 14 at Culler Lake to celebrate the life of Lefty Kreh and attend the unveiling of his sculpture. Perhaps in a bit of symbolism, it rained while the speeches were being made and stopped just in time for the crowd to line the lake edge to see the dramatic piece of art revealed. Many thanks to our speakers — Mayor O'Connor, Sen. Ron Young, Lily Renzetti, Victoria Kreh Huffman, and Michael Kreh (Lefty's brother). More thanks, if possible, to all our members and the people and organizations that contributed to the cause — incredible support from a wide range from fishers to arts and charitable foundations.

I know that we now have a permanent marker for a man who helped bring fly fishing into the modern era, as well as a lasting symbol of our group's and our sport's place in the Frederick community. We had an incredible team of volunteers who met virtually every two weeks for over 2 years performing what, looking back at it, seemed like an impossible task. But each member had a unique talent that made the whole greater than the individual. These "Friends of Lefty Kreh" are: Don and Ruby Fine, Dennis Allen, Wayne Leadbetter, Sarah Costlow, Heather Templeton, Steve Weinstein, Dave Keane, Larry Forte, Cory Mekelburg, Dan Neuland, and Seth Denbo. I would include Toby Mendez in that list — not only was he the creative genius and artist to create the sculpture, but he also worked with us as part of the team to get it done.

Go to Baker Park to see the sculpture, it is particularly stirring at sunset!

We also held our annual banquet in October at the Amvets in Middletown. We had a higher attendance



than we had hoped for, over 60 Members and their families. We successfully raised a bunch of money according to our treasurer Dennis Allen but, more importantly, we all had a great time! (Also, I'm down to one box and one bin of fly vises and tools in my barn!) It's always fun to get together with fellow club members, spouses, families, and friends. Don Fine and Larry Forte pulled off a great event, run smoothly with the able assistance of many of our fellow club members who helped set up, take down, sell tickets, run prizes, and much more.

I always look forward to this event and, particularly this year, it was a great chance to recognize all the members who contributed to the club's success over the last year. I appreciate the amount of time that people contribute to helping the organization, I know from experience it takes a little time away from fishing but makes up for that in the reward of being able to contribute to the greater good! We're always looking for more volunteers, so let us know or come to our monthly board meetings, open to all.

October was fun and memorable, but now I am very much looking forward to our next outing – Smith Creek, November 18!

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** _____