

— CLUB MEETING: JANUARY 9, 7 PM —

An Evening with Tom Weaver: Saltwater Fly Fishing on the Chesapeake Bay

By Larry Forte

Happy New Year! We have a great presentation to kick off 2024. Join us on Tuesday, January 9th, as we welcome Tom Weaver. Tom is the owner of Fish with Weaver, (www.fishwithweaver.com) a fly-fishing guide service based in Annapolis.

Specializing in fly fishing for various salt water species in the Chesapeake Bay, Capt. Tom Weaver has set up his boat to put you in the best position to catch some remarkable fish including rockfish, speckled trout, bull reds, bluefish, spanish mackerel and pickerel.

Hope to see you on the 9th!



Beginner's Fly Tying: Griffith's Gnat and Zebra Midge

By Don Fine

Just because its winter and some of the warmer-water species (e.g. smallmouth and largemouth bass) are not as active, that's no reason not to go fly fishing. There are two types of winter days which I enjoy my fly fishing; when the snow is falling in large flakes, or on a sunny afternoon when there is a midge-hatch. Nevertheless, the combination of warmer temperature and witnessing the repetitive rise of a fish taking one midge after another enhances my day on the water.

While there are hundreds of fly patterns which imitate midges* (ref. Midge Magic by Don Holbrook and Ed Koch, 1st edition, 2001) two of my favorite patterns are the Griffith's gnat and the Zebra midge. I consider these two flies (with the Zebra midge tied in several colors) will cover most fresh-water streams and rivers.

Join our Beginner fly tying class at 7:00 PM on January 16th, at Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick St. Frederick. As always, we welcome

fly fishers who have never tied an artificial fly to join our Beginner fly tying classes. Equipment and materials are provided to both newcomers** and club members.



*Midges are a subcategory of non-biting flies found in the same scientific Order (Diptera) as biting flies, e.g. deer flies, horse flies and gnats.

**Note for all fly tying newcomers. Our PVFF fly tying instruction has been broadened to provide monthly instruction for those who might never have tied a fly (i.e. true beginners), as well as for those who have some experience in fly tying and wish to expand their skills by tying artificial flies which imitate natural fish foods. If you are planning on attending and do not already have your own basic

equipment for fly tying, please let Don Fine (301-371-5617) know prior to the January 16th session, so a tying vise and tools will be provided.

Advanced Fly Tying: Mystery Fly with Donald Lee!

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on January 17th at 7:00pm, Donald Lee will show us how to tie a special fly. Not sure what that fly is as I write this, but I am sure that it will be fun to tie!! 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

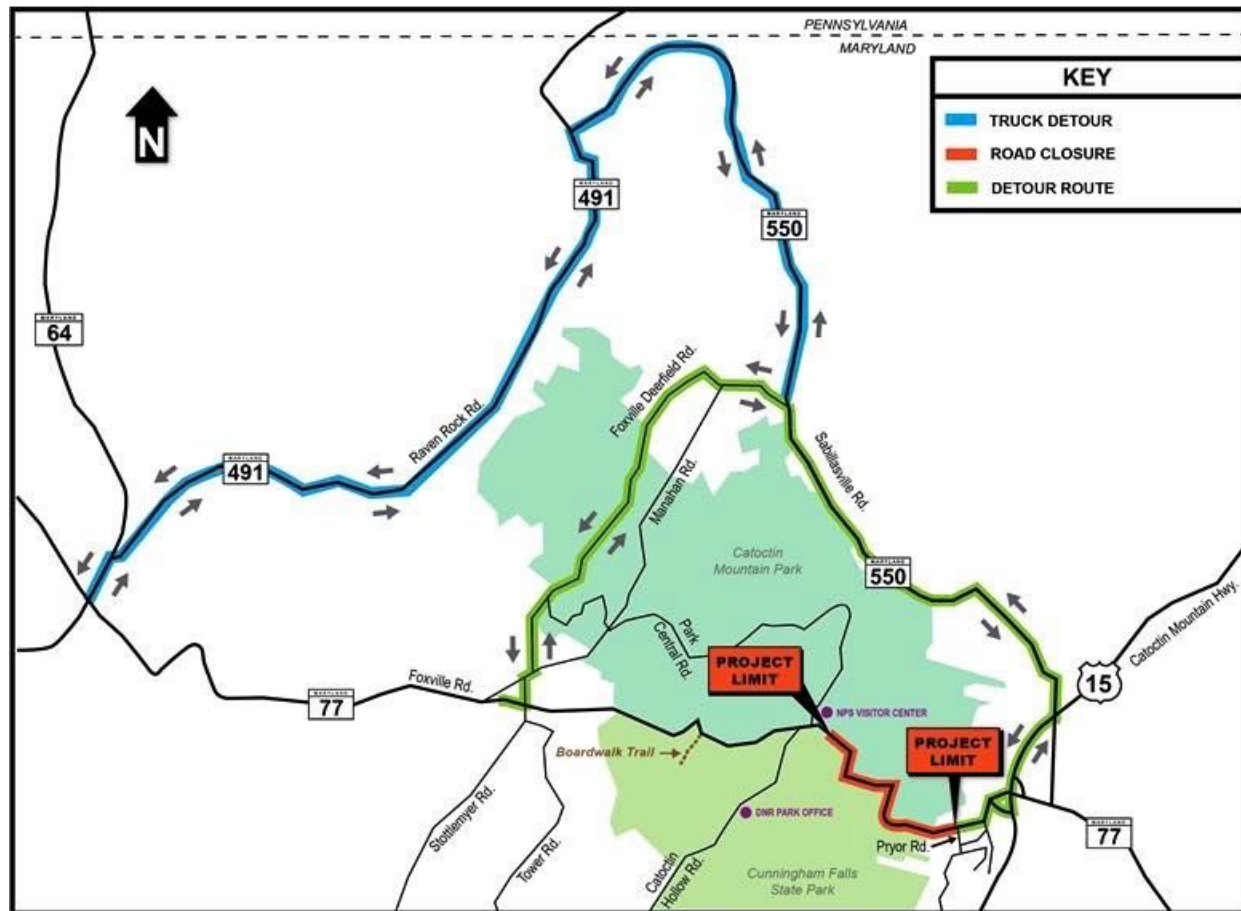
lbforte@verizon.net.

Support the Club: Volunteers Needed

As we are a member run organization, we always are looking for members that want to volunteer to help. Whatever your imagination or talents can contribute to your fellow members. If you can spare an hour or two a month, join the effort! — Martyn Holland

Time To Renew Your Membership

Please go to our website or use the form at the end of this newsletter to renew dues for 2024 or to join as a new member. Whether you renew online or in-person at our club meeting, note that you can purchase more than one year at a time. — Dave Dowiak



Maryland Rt. 77 along Big Hunting Creek to be Closed

Maryland Route 77 between Pryor Road and Park Central Road in Thurmont, a span of two miles, will be closed for approximately four months in order to replace a sewer line and to perform road work. Starting on Thursday, January 4, crews will close this section of MD 77 in both directions to begin the work. Motorists will be detoured using MD 77 to US 15 (Catoctin Mountain Highway) to MD 550 (Sabillasville Road) to Foxville Deerfield Road and back to MD 77. The Cunningham Falls lake area will also be accessible via Catoctin Hollow Rd. Work is expected to be completed in May 2024. During this time, the only access for fisherman will be to park at the Catoctin National Park visitor center and walk downstream along the creek. — Kevin Haney

Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

This is my last Last Cast punctuating the end of my term(s) as president of the club. After 4 years, I'm ready to pass it on to others and try to fish a little more. It's been a fun, challenging, and rewarding experience. COVID hit just a few months into 2019 shortly after my election, I remember clearly Mike Heck being our last live speaker, before the school was going to close for a couple of weeks. How little we knew then and perhaps, now. However, the club surged during the closing of everything and we have continued to thrive. Dave Dowiak reports that we have 196 members, that's amazing to me and a testament to our thriving group!

We do see fluctuations in our membership where we have — large amounts of turnover adding over 70 new members and then losing a bunch. Our mission has always been to serve the needs of the membership and provide the activities that they joined the club for. I encourage everyone to speak up to let the board know what you would like the club to do. Of course, be ready to help. As a member-run organization, we only exist to do what the members would like, let us know.

I do have many fond memories of the last 4 years — the banquets, the virtual banquet, outings, trout stocking, fly tying, picnic, the Lefty Kreh Sculpture, and so much more. The great benefit of being president was that I got to participate in so much of what we did. The best and most meaningful memories are the people I've met and served with. What I treasure most about the club is the spirit of openness displayed by everyone. We share fish reports, water conditions, flies that are working, and so much more. To me it meets one of our three values — fellowship.

I do want to thank everyone that worked with me over the last four years to make a difference for the

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 9** Club Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tuscarora High School
Room A170
Frederick, Maryland
- Jan. 16** Beginner's Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 207
- Jan. 17** Advanced Fly Tying
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 108
- Jan. 25** Board of Directors' Meeting
7:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Frederick, Maryland
Room 109

2024 PVFF Officers & Directors

- President.....Martyn Holland
- Vice President.....Dirk Vandervaart
- Secretary.....Owen Davis
- Treasurer.....Rick Baseley
- 3 year Director.....Kevin Haney
- 2 year Director.....Dave Dowiak
- 1 year Director.....Russ Hanson
- Past President.....Andy Mekelburg

club. Many good people willingly volunteered their time and their expertise to aid our efforts. One person can make a difference, but can't do everything themselves. It takes a team. It's one thing to join a club and participate in activities, it's another thing to volunteer to help — it's fun, I encourage everyone to volunteer.

I look forward to seeing how Martyn and the newly assembled team (still time to jump onboard) takes the club to the next level. I'm not going anywhere, but I hope to fish more, let me know if you want to go out. I'm open!



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 _____