



— CLUB MEETING: MARCH 12, 7 PM —

## A Trip to Yellowstone National Park

*By Larry Forte*

I really hate snow — especially when it interferes with my fly fishing meetings! Fortunately, Mr. Dunkers was available to come back for March.

At our meeting we will take a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Not only is it one of the most beautiful places in the world, it offers some of the best fly fishing you will ever find.

Club member Don Dunkers just spent five weeks there last fall. This was not just a long vacation at the

park. Don retired a few years ago and decided to work at the park this past fall. When not working, he was fishing. The program is called Helping Hands. Basically you work after the majority of seasonal employees go back to school. He started in mid-September. The cool thing is you work and stay in the park. Sounds like an awesome GIG!!!

Hope you can join us on March 12 (Room A170, Tuscarora High School) to learn about fly fishing in the park and the Helping Hands Program.

At our March meeting, Dan Neuland will also give us an update on the upcoming shad season at Fletchers. The shad will be arriving later this month.

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph

*By Don Fine*

Our next Beginners Fly Tying session will be held at 7:00 PM on March 19th. The pattern chosen for the class to tie that evening is the Bead Head PT (pheasant tail) nymph. The Pheasant Tail nymph came into existence in the 1950s, a product of Mr. Frank Sawyer's experimentation and

observations on the English River Avon, where he served as a stream-keeper during that era. Mr. Sawyer designed his PT nymph to imitate a variety of nymphs, particularly those of mayflies and small stoneflies. Nevertheless, the PT nymph has endured decades of fly fishing. A search of the most popular nymph patterns for spring fishing will generally show the PT nymph in the Top 10 flies to carry.

Mr. Sawyer's original pattern (which was primarily pheasant tail feather fibers for both the tail and wing case, and copper wire wrapped around the hook shank to imitate a segmented abdomen) indeed was more simplistic than the PT nymphs sold in fly shops, and tied by fly fishers today.

Those persons relatively new to fly fishing might ask, why has the PT nymph remained on the top 10 list for many fly fishers? Perhaps the simplest answers are: the PT nymph is not only an excellent



representation for many small nymphs found in fresh water streams and rivers, but also the PT nymph closely represents the nymph form of the Baetis species (in particular) of mayflies which are common to our area of the United States.

Join our Beginner fly tying class on Tuesday, March 19th at

Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick St., Frederick to tie the PT nymph. 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.

\* 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 me (301-371-5617) know prior to the March 19th session, so I can ensure a tying vise and tools are available for you.

## Advanced Fly Tying: TBD

*By Larry Forte*

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on March 20th at 7:00 PM, the fly and the tier are still TBD. We will send an update as we get closer. 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](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).





American shad, also called white shad are larger than hickory shad. Both species can be caught on the lower Potomac River at Fletcher's Cove.

## Gearing Up for the Shad Run

*By Dan Neuland*

The annual migration of American and hickory shad along the Atlantic Coast has begun. Soon the shad will be entering the Chesapeake Bay on their way to spawning grounds on the Susquehanna River and the lower Potomac River. Shad can be caught beginning around mid-March, with April and most of May being the prime dates. A sink-tip fly line on a 5wt rod is all that is need for the smaller tributaries such as Deer Creek and Octoraro Creek on the Susquehanna River. Full sinking fly lines on a 7-8wt fly rod are more suitable for the heavier flies used on the deeper section on the Susquehanna below

Conowingo Dam and the lower Potomac River. Boat anglers have the advantage on the larger rivers. Anglers can rent rowboats at the historic Fletcher's Boathouse or launch their own kayaks and canoes at Fletcher's Cove on the lower Potomac River. PVFF members interested learning more about to the lower Potomac River at Fletcher's Cove should view the shad Powerpoint available on the PVFF website's Outing page. These slides provide details on what to expect and how to be successful at catching shad with fly gear. Email me at [danneuland@verizon.net](mailto:danneuland@verizon.net) to receive updates on upcoming shad outings.

# Fly Tying Saturday

By Larry Forte

It is time to fill your fly box and for me, early spring fishing means bead head flies!

If you have similar ideas, you should plan on joining us for our special fly tying event on Saturday, March 9th, at Trinity United Methodist Church.

We are going to focus on bead head flies! All skill levels are welcome

We will have 5 club tiers, each one tying their favorite bead head fly, including a pheasant tail nymph, brassie and bead head stonefly nymph.

Plus, we will provide all of the materials and hooks. Each tier will be demonstrating how to tie their fly. You can learn how to tie all of them or just the ones you want to tie. Beginners are welcome to come to

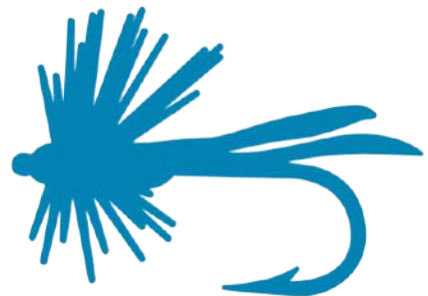


either observe or participate in the tying if you are comfortable tying without one-on-one instruction.

Lunch will be provided. Hope you can join us. If you want to join us, register on our website or send us an email ([lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net)).

## It's Time for the Spring Fly Swap

As we have for the past few years, our club will host a spring fly swap for 2024. Here are the details: tie twelve flies to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your flies to May meeting. You can also mail them to my house. After I get everyone's flies, I will mail you a bunch of different flies tied by club members. The deadline to have your dozen flies to me is May 15th. If you would like to participate or if you need my address, please send me an email at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).



— Larry Forte

# Last Cast

By Martyn Holland

Yet again Winter played games with our planned monthly meeting, and I apologize that it caused the cancellation of the February gathering. Holding meetings at a school or any government site has its advantages and disadvantages. We will discuss ways forward at the next Board of Directors' meeting, but suggestions or ideas are certainly welcome. Perhaps we will look to revert to Zoom meetings in the event of a cancellation, which obviously has been a viable alternative in recent years.

Hopefully everyone saw the note in the Feb.

[Streamlines](#) regarding the Youth Only Trout Fishing Day on March 23. This is a great opportunity to take someone under the age of 15 and help them catch a trout, especially their first trout, and then prepare it for eating. It would be a great memory for them and you. Maybe they can also learn from your fish cleaning and cooking skills. I still remember my first vacation away from the family, camping in North Wales, cleaning a sea run brown (called a sewin) that had been caught the night before, with a plastic knife. I then cooked the fish in a pan with butter in front of the tent for breakfast. The taste of that fish still lingers with me as a fond memory!!!!

At the January Board of Directors meeting, I was struck by the number of touchpoints that we have with the larger fly fishing community, and thereby with the community as a whole.

We are involved with [Project Healing Waters](#), working with veterans to introduce them to fly fishing, fly tying, and rod building. It is a group with which I am particularly familiar, having taken part in the PHW group based at Marine Corps Quantico while I worked there for 5+ years. I learned much working with the Marine veterans (and others from different armed forces), and it was always a rewarding and humbling experience. We all have

## Calendar of Events

<b>Mar. 9</b>	Fly Tying Saturday 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 207
<b>Mar. 12</b>	Club Meeting at 7:00 PM Tuscarora High School Room A170 Frederick, Maryland
<b>Mar. 19</b>	Beginner's Fly Tying 7:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 207
<b>Mar. 20</b>	Advanced Fly Tying 7:00 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Frederick, Maryland Room 108
<b>Mar. 23</b>	Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day
<b>Mar. 27</b>	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 Vandervaat
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

skills and support that we can pass on in life, and this is the ideal opportunity.

We recently became involved in a working group to safeguard and improve the fish population in Big Hunting Creek. Kevin Haney is spearheading that



effort for us. Although progress will be slow, look for updates in the coming months as I am sure that there will be opportunities for us to get involved in tasks to help improve the health of this great little creek.

Through Dave Keane we are in the mix in a broad swath of conservation efforts. Dave also highlighted in his [February Streamlines article](#) opportunities to attend youth camps focusing on conservation. This is perfect for those budding DNR and Forestry aspirants. Take a look and see if there are young people you know who would be interested and could benefit from this.

We also continue to follow the story of the August 2023 fish kill at Beaver Creek. From Pete D'Amato's update it sounds like we may never know for certain what caused the event, but we will continue to try to make sure that we do everything possible to prevent such disasters from happening again.

If you would like to be involved in any of these efforts, or if there are other local challenges that we

## Upcoming Outings

We have a bunch of outings planned for the Spring. To see what's coming and to sign up, head to our website Outing page for details. You'll find it listed under "Programs." Outings will also be available to view from our website's Events calendar.

should consider taking on, then let us know. We can add items at the monthly meetings or to the Board of Directors meeting agenda. We are fortunate that we do have some resources to be able to help new initiatives, and we certainly have a terrific group of people who are always willing to step up to help.

Trout stocking has started and Spring is just around the corner so tie those flies, clean those lines, wipe those polarized glasses, and check the waders for leaks. Then get out there and fish!

## For Sale

This **beautiful fly tying desk** was custom built by the talented Jeff Strine of the [Stoney Creek Company](#) of Carlisle, PA for PVFF member Paul Murphy and is in excellent condition. It is the Shenandoah design with a cherry finish. The desk is a 15-drawer, full-size, fly tying desk with dual drop-leaf extensions, 3-tool stations, and a large center drawer. Tying materials and tools are not included. The original cost was \$2,850. It is available for \$2,250. or best offer. Local pick-up only. Please contact Judy Murphy at [judy.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:judy.murphy@gmail.com) for dimensions and further details if interested.





## POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Year \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL APPLICATION and LIABILITY RELEASE

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. Also I 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](http://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:

Dave Dowiak, PVFF Membership  
8920 Bloomfield Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

**Dues for calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31**

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_