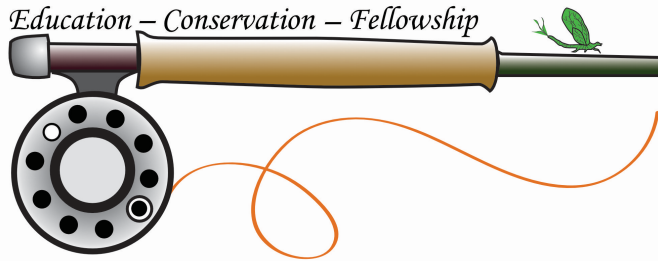


[View this email in your browser](#)

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



STREAMLINES

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Vol. 33, No. 4 | April 2024

Welcome to the new “Streamlines”

For the past couple of months we’ve been working on a new format for the newsletter. In addition to simplifying the production process every month, our goal is to make it easier for members to learn about our club’s wonderful events and activities. Ultimately we hope this will encourage more people to volunteer and participate.

If you were a member as of the beginning of the year we have signed you up to receive the newsletter. If you would like to unsubscribe there’s a link at the bottom. New members will manage their subscriptions themselves and will be directed to the sign-up form when they join.

We’d love your feedback on the new format, and also to have more members writing for the newsletter. If you have feedback, questions, or submissions please send them to pvff.newsletter@gmail.com.

And of course, huge thanks to Troy Kitch for his excellent work to make the newsletter happen for the past few years.



— Club Meeting: April 9, 7:00PM —

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

By Larry Forte

We have a great presentation for our April meeting as we welcome Capt. Tom Weaver. He was originally scheduled to speak at the January meeting, and we are happy he could reschedule.

Tom is the owner of Fish with Weaver, a fly-fishing guide service based in Annapolis. Specializing in various saltwater species in the Chesapeake Bay, Tom has set up his boat to put you in the best position to catch some remarkable fish on the fly, including Rockfish, Speckled Trout, Bull Reds, Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel, and Pickerel.

Hope to see you on April 9!



Project Healing Waters

The Legend of Jeb

by Andrew Frutiger

Jeb Stevens can flat out fish. Since joining the Frederick Chapter of Project Healing Waters, Jeb has completely embraced and immersed himself in the art and multiple disciplines of fly fishing. There has only been one fish that has eluded Jeb in the Mid-Atlantic and that was the native brook trout. This past month, Jeb checked that box with the help of Larry Forte and his good friend Peter Ring.

The thing about native brook trout is that they live in crystal clear waters, can see you coming a mile away, and are as skittish as can be. Jeb, armed with his own handmade bamboo rod, quickly learned that the brookies would not be easily caught. After a frustrating morning, the three re-grouped. Using caddis-like dry flies and some expert advice, Jeb laid the perfect cast down. The brookie came up and hit the fly but missed the hook. Jeb laid down another perfect cast, but the brookie missed again. On the third attempt, he was on and Jeb landed his first native brook trout.

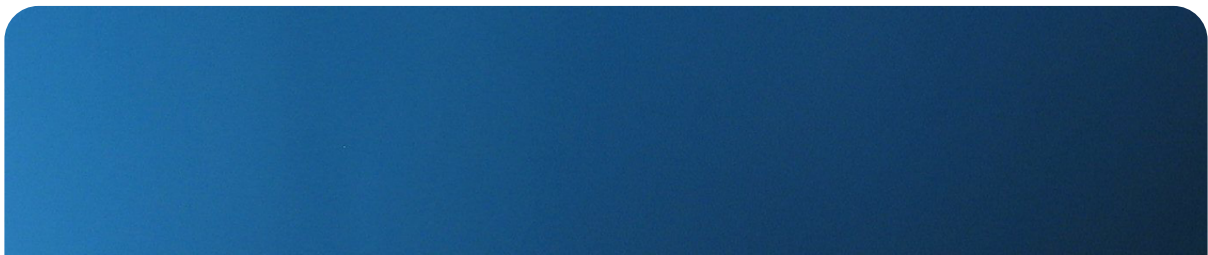
What made this so amazing is that this almost never happens. Usually after one or maybe two misses, the trout have all gone to ground and the water is dead. To catch a native brook trout on a third cast takes some truly divine intervention. After that, the water was much more forgiving, and many more natives were caught. It is stories like this that get us all out on the water, and it couldn't have happened to a better and more deserving person. Congratulations, Jeb!

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the program, please reach out to me at any time or go to our Facebook page: [Project Healing Waters - Frederick Chapter](#).

To support the local community, please check out [Donate to PHW - Frederick Chapter](#).

Beginner Fly Tying

CDC Caddis



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



<https://flic.kr/p/JHeHr>

By Don Fine

The pattern chosen for our PVFF Beginner's Fly Tying session on April 16 is the CDC Caddis. Perhaps you do not know what the acronym CDC represents? CDC is the fly

tier's abbreviation for Cul de canard, which is French for "duck's bottom." It refers to the feathers found near the preen gland on the duck's back. What's special about these feathers is that CDC feathers contains hundreds of tiny "hook shaped" fibers, which increase the surface area of the feather and catch small air bubbles. In brief, the CDC body of this fly, along with the deer or elk hair wing, provides for a better drift of the fly in the surface film than a traditional Elk Hair Caddis.

Being April, there should be good caddis hatches on several of our nearby streams, as well as on the Gunpowder River, and on several western Maryland trout streams and rivers. During the early season, I love to fish the little black caddis hatch, alone or in combination with a caddis emerger dropper. These little black caddis flies are relatively small (sizes 14 and 16), in comparison to late season hatches on Western rivers; the Great Gray Spotted sedge would perhaps be tied on size 8-12 dry fly hooks.

Join our Beginner fly tying class on Tuesday, April 16, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street, 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.

*If you plan to attend the April Beginner's class and do not have your own basic equipment for fly tying, please let me know (301-371-5617) prior to the April 16th session, so that we can ensure that a tying vise and tools are available for you.



Advanced Fly Tying

Hydropsyche

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, scheduled for April 17 at 7:00 p.m., PVFF President Martyn Holland will show us how to tie the swimming hydropsyche (a species of caddis) and, if we have time, we will tie the fetal hydropsyche.

This gathering is open to everyone, and I hope you can join us. Perhaps you are not sure if your skills are to the “Advanced” level yet? No worries. Come 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 United Methodist Church (703 West Patrick Street, Frederick).

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.



<https://flic.kr/p/buGSix>

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 of the same type to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your twelve flies to the May 14th 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 15. If you would like to participate or if you need my address, please send me an email at lbforte@verizon.net.

— Larry Forte



Fly Tying Saturday Recap

By Larry Forte

WOW! What a great event. The rain didn't discourage folks from coming to our "Beadhead Fly-tying Saturday" event. In fact, we may not have had room for anyone else 😊 The final attendance was twenty-seven, including our instructors. It was an amazing day. Learning to tie new flies was fun, but it was great to get to know fellow

club members!

Our instructors did an amazing job. Thank you, Seth, Dan, Donald, Mark and Martyn. We could not have done it without your help!

Now the question is – what do we do next year to top that?

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 format 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

[Renew or Join](#)



<https://flic.kr/p/2hJ6BXE>

Outings 2024

By Andy Mekelburg

As the Spring season is about to bloom, we are starting to line up our 2024 Outings. A few members have stepped up to host and we're expecting to add more to the line up. An outing is as simple as showing up at your choice of fishing spots and have others join you. One new feature we going to try, something I call "demographic" outings, in an effort to put people with similarities together. I'll be hosting the first three at Rockdale Run, a creek that runs through my property. No need for waders, experience or even equipment. I also invite those who don't fish to come out, plenty to do and see out here.

As you will notice, some of our outings have limited space for participants. If you want to come to an outing, send me an email at andymekelburg@outlook.com, make sure to put the title of the outing in the subject line.

Join an outing

Upcoming Events

Check our [website](#) for the latest club events.

April 9, 7:00PM — Club Meeting

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

April 13, 10:00AM - Frederick Youth Fishing Rodeo

Baker Park, Frederick

April 16, 7:00PM — Beginner's Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 207

April 17, 7:00PM — Advanced Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 108

April 25, 7:00PM — Board of Directors' Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 109

May 4, 10:00AM — Home Waters Stream Clean Up

Catoctin Creek Nature Center

Since we hold our meetings in a Frederick County High School, if classes or evening activities are cancelled due to **inclement weather**, our meeting will be cancelled. In the event of bad weather on the day of our meeting, please check your email and our club website before coming to the meeting.

Conservation News

Annual Stream Clean Up at Our Home Waters

On May 4th, from 10:00AM to noon our club will be gathering at Catoctin Creek Nature Center to clean up our Home Waters. We will meet at 10:00AM at the Nature Center and head out to the road and stream. Please email Dave Keane to register for the event at davidkeane1968@gmail.com.

Members should wear long pants, waterproof boots, and gloves. The nature center will provide trash bags.

Catoctin Creek Nature Center, 2929 Sumantown Road, Middletown, MD 21769

Looking for Volunteers for Frederick Youth Fishing Rodeo

The City of Frederick is holding their annual youth fishing “rodeo” on Saturday, April 13, from 10:00AM to noon, at Culler Lake in Baker Park. They have invited PVFF and Friends of Lefty Kreh to come and demonstrate and teach kids the sport of fly fishing. We will meet by the Lefty Kreh Sculpture. This is a great opportunity to impart your passion with the next generation of fishers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andy Mekelburg (andymekelburg@outlook.com).



Last Cast

By Martyn Holland

We had a great turnout for the March Meeting (yes, it actually took place) and those who attended enjoyed insights into what flies to use for the upcoming shad runs. The PVFF web site has a great presentation on fishing for shad on the Potomac. Of course shad do run in other rivers. I personally plan to do some kayak fishing on the Occoquan before the publication of this newsletter, so other opportunities exist.

Don Dunkers also gave us a fascinating insight into the fishing in Yellowstone National Park and the many rivers and locations accessible there. I am sure that there were many in the audience who were envious of him spending six weeks in the park, although we know that there was some work involved.

In the fly tying meeting this week, someone mentioned tying flies as an “art form.” It got me thinking. Sure, we can tie some beautiful flies -- well, some people can -- and this is often evidenced by the fascinating multifaceted creations on the cover of Fly Tyer magazine. But are fish really connoisseurs of finer art forms? I have to say that I have caught fish on some really ugly and straggly flies. When tying, don't be put off by the thought that you have to be a Michelangelo as if the most beautiful of flies are the only ones that catch fish. Often the simplest are the most effective.

As I mentioned at the monthly meeting, I recently attended an update on the Beaver Creek fish kill situation where several fly fishing groups were represented. Representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) laid out the events and investigatory process that was followed. It was a very candid discussion and I was impressed with the knowledge and openness of the people who spoke.

The updated presentation on the findings is on the DNR website and is a decent read. In summary, no one has been able to identify the “smoking gun” despite exhaustive testing and investigation. We are now seven months from the actual event, so the hope that a specific cause will be identified gets less likely. Here are a couple of key points:

- DNR was on site (coincidentally) the morning of the event and was able to conduct immediate testing
- MDE was there by late morning due to proximity of staff to conduct additional

testing and sampling

- A temperature monitor at site did not show any spikes in temperature
- There was no evidence of a direct lightning strike
- All upstream sources (farms, quarry, the Albert Powell Fish Hatchery, springs, homes, etc.) were reviewed and produced normal results, so no obvious source was identified
- Potential runoff of 6PPDQ from I-70 was discussed. 6PPD is an antioxidant and antiozonant that helps prevent the degradation and cracking of rubber compounds caused by exposure to oxygen, ozone, and temperature fluctuation in tires. There is still work to analyze soil samples to validate if this could have been a cause
- Because of the volume of water during the event, any runoff of pollutants would have been significantly diluted and therefore not as impactful
- Six sample dead trout are still in the hands of MDE with no plans yet for action. They are willing to release them for analysis provided a coherent plan of action

Future actions noted:

- MDE and USGS to coordinate testing of soil samples for 6PDDQ contamination
- MDE to approach MDOT to review a plan to improve stormwater runoff from I-70
- MDE seeks plan for fish testing from any interested party

I am sure that I missed something on this topic and will discuss this further at our next meeting.

The sun is shining, the temperature is rising, insects are hatching, and the list of outings on the PVFF website continues to grow. Time to get out there!



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 Mekleburg

Copyright (C) 2024 Potomac Valley Fly Fishers. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)