



STREAMLINES



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April 2021

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Club Meeting: Keeping the Potomac River Clean (and Fishable) with Dean Naujoks

By Larry Forte

At our next virtual meeting, on Tuesday, April 13th, we welcome Dean Naujoks, with the Potomac Riverkeepers. The organization was founded in 2000 by a group of local community members who saw the need for stronger enforcement of federal, state, and local clean water protections in local rivers through grassroots advocacy and legal action. Riverkeepers are the eyes and ears of the rivers, the voice of the rivers, and the experts in the rivers — protecting the public's rights to clean water.

Dean's presentation will discuss investigating and eliminating sources of pollution for a fishable, swimmable Potomac River.

Their mission is to protect the public's right to clean water in the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers and their tributaries. They also stop pollution to enhance the safety of our drinking water, protect healthy river habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment.

The work of Potomac Riverkeeper Network spans the entire almost 15,000 square mile watershed which flows through four states (Virginia, Maryland,



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West Virginia, and Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia into the Chesapeake Bay. The one exception is the Anacostia watershed, which has a separate Riverkeeper program.

PRKN's programs, activities, and campaigns benefit all of the almost 6 million residents of the Potomac watershed, 75% of whom live in the greater DC metropolitan area, by improving the quality of water they drink, recreate on and in, and use in their daily lives. Visit them online at:

potomacriverkeepernetwork.org.

Join us on Zoom: **April 13 at 7pm** — We'll email you the link.

Beginner's Fly Tying: Cicada (*Magicicada cassini*)

By Don Fine



The fly pattern chosen for the April Beginner's fly tying is an imitation of a six-legged insect, i.e. a cicada. Why did we choose this pattern? For two reasons. First because we fly fishers are about to witness one of nature's 'miracles' which only happens every 17 years, specifically in this region of our country. The last big cicada hatch in our region of the United States was in 2004. And for those of us who had the opportunity to fish the cicada hatch then, it is an event forever etched in our fly fisher's memory. Second is that tying a cicada imitation

provides the Beginner's class with skills which can easily be applied to tying other artificial flies which mimic **terrestrial** insects (e.g. beetles, grasshoppers). If you are not familiar with this general term, terrestrials are those insects which live their entire lifecycle on land as compared to **aquatic** insects which live the majority of their lifecycle in the water. To learn more about the biology of a cicada, look to the article entitled "Everything a Fly Fisher Needs to Know About the Cicada" on page 4 of this issue of Streamlines.

How to Participate in the Next "Fly Tying at a Distance" Session

No later than **April 12**, head to the PVFF website to sign up for our *Fly Tying at a Distance* event. We will mail you the hooks and materials needed to tie this month's flies. All instructions for tying these patterns will be available online by **April 14**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vise to contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club.

Advanced Fly Tying: the Peeping Caddis

By Larry Forte

Our next Advanced Fly Tying session will be Wednesday, April 21st. Martyn Holland is going to show us how to tie the Peeping Caddis.

At our last virtual tying session, Randy showed us how to tie a couple of great flies for bluegill. Interested? We would love for you to join us. Here's how it works. Each participant is responsible for leading a tying session for a monthly meeting during the year. You select the fly and show how it is tied during the meeting. If we have 12 members, you will lead the session once per year.

If you are interested, please let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at lbforte@verizon.net. Hope to see you online later this month!



Peeping Caddis

Conservation Corner: PVFF Home Waters Clean Up

As spring arrives, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to remove trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, and parks as part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's *Project Clean Stream* — the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all 6 Bay states and DC. Check out the Alliance's website for all of the great work that they do at allianceforthebay.org. We hope you can join club members this year in cleaning up our Home Waters and supporting Project Clean Stream:

When: April 24, 2021

Time: 10:00 am -12:30 pm

Where: Catoctin Creek Nature Center

Stream: Catoctin Creek, "Our Home Waters"

Please send an email to davidkeane1968@gmail.com and DCook@frederickcountymd.gov if you would like to participate in this event.

— Dave Keane

Everything a Fly Fisher Needs to Know About the Cicada

By Don Fine

What type of insect is a cicada?

The 17-year cicada, *Magicicada cassinii*, is a six-legged insect classified in the scientific order *Hemiptera*, commonly called true bugs.

Are cicadas like or related to locusts?

No! While cicadas are classified along with other six-legged insects and are similar in shape and size to a grasshopper or a locust, they do not eat vegetation like these two insects.

Are cicadas harmful?

No! They are not harmful to humans or any animals. And while they can be harmful to young plants, they are actually beneficial to older plants, since the cicadas actually prune off the dead branches of a tree or plant thus allowing the plant to conserve energy.

What happens during the 17 years between cicada 'hatches'?

Once the eggs hatch from a 'current' generation, the young cicada "nymphs" fall to the earth and lie dormant for the next 17 years.

But why don't they hatch every year and why might some hatch in shorter periods, e.g. 13-17 years?

There are several theories given for this lengthy cycle and differences in the cycling period. One is that the cycling period avoids synchronization with populations of their predators, such as killer wasps which prey upon the cicadas.

I've heard that about cicadas in other parts of our country (e.g. VA, WV and NC) having their hatch in a different year. Is this true?

Yes it is. Brood IX (i.e. 9) hatched in those areas in 2020. The brood which will be prolific in our area of the eastern United States is Brood X (i.e. 10).

Which is the most prolific brood of cicadas?

Brood X is the most prolific of known generations through history.

How far does Brood X extend?

The range of brood X is west to Missouri, south to Georgia, north to Michigan and east to Long Island, NY.



I understand there was a cicada brood present in 2020. So why do different broods of cicadas have different 17 year cycles?

It is thought that different cycling lengths enhance their chance of survival in the event of cold winters. This is because cicadas evolved in more temperate climates, so extremely cold winters decrease their chance of survival.

Ok, so how long have cicadas been around?

Perhaps back 1.8 million years to the Pleistocene Epoch (last Ice Age). This was a time when our Earth was dominated by a number of mammal species, along with highly developed plants and the appearance of humanoid species. Who knows? Perhaps our ancient ancestors feasted on the 17 year cicadas, or used them as fish bait?

Are cicadas harmful, and dangerous to eat?

While they are disgusting, they are safe to eat (if you care to do so), as compared to stink bugs (which I know fish do not eat). Cicadas provide an abundance of energy for fish. There are stories (e.g. from Lefty) of fresh water fish gorging on cicadas, such that their bellies were full of devoured cicadas.

My last question, what fly can I use that represents a cicada?

There are many fly patterns which imitate cicadas. Many great representations are found on the internet. Our Beginner fly tying program for the month of April features one of the many cicada fly patterns.

First Outing of the Year: Catoctin Creek Nature Center

By Andy Mekelburg

On Friday, March 12, we held our first (hopefully of many) outings to our home waters at the Catoctin Nature Center. Bill Webster, Patrick Keegan, and Seth Dembro (all “enrolled” in our new mentor program) were joined by Denny Grizzle and myself. It was a beautiful day out and it happened to be the day after the DNR stocked the creek. Some advice for those who follow the stocking schedule — if you go fishing the day after a place is stocked, make sure you have your fishing license. There were a large number of fishers up by the bridge where most of the fish was stocked, leaving us to the spot below “Overlook.” (Note to readers: This last sentence seems to be written in code, but if you go to the Nature Center, you’ll understand what I’m saying).

Well, we saw a lot of fish and used a lot of different flies, with Patrick being the successful fisher for the day. However, practice is always good and it was nice to be outside to start getting the rust off.

In the end, we declared the first outing a rousing success with good fun and great fellowship!

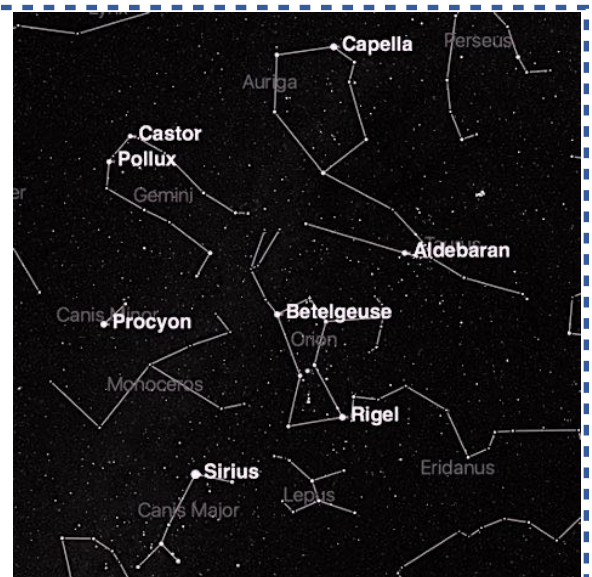


We have several outings lined up in April, and just added an afternoon at the Gunpowder. Go to the website and register. The whole intent of the outing program is to get people together for fishing. If you want to go somewhere, or just want company, let Mike Holland know and we’ll do our best.

Astronomy Minute

Back to Orion One Last Time — Winter is over and Orion is sinking in the west. Now is the time to star-hop to three locations on the east side. First, follow the three stars of his belt to the left to locate Sirius. The “Dog Star” is the brightest star in the sky. Next, draw a line from Rigel through Betelgeuse to find Castor and Pollux the Gemini twins. Lastly, look left from Betelgeuse to find Procyon which is the eighth brightest star in the sky. Procyon is from the Greek and means “before the dog.” It is so named because Procyon precedes Sirius over the eastern horizon. Happy viewing!

— Russ Hanson



Tackle Tips: *Is Your Line Too Light?*

By Kevin Haney

If you have trouble casting a given line on a particular rod and are wondering if perhaps the line is too light, there's an easy way to tell. Put the reel with the line you want to cast on the rod, strip out 20-25' of it, and flip it out in front of you. Lift into your backcast with a nice sharp stop and let the line fall to the ground behind you. Do not look back or forward cast, just let it drop.

Flip the line back out in front of you and do it again, three or four more times. What you're looking for is that little 'tug' on the backcast that says that the rod is being bent by the line's mass and the line has fully straightened out behind you. If you aren't feeling a tug with 20-25' of line out, it doesn't matter what is written on the rod — the line is too light. Try the next line weight up. Once you are feeling the 'tug' of a fully loaded rod, you have the correct line weight for that rod.

Think of the rod as a spring that needs to be fully loaded in order to cast well. If you want to use too light a line for the rod, there's nothing wrong with that. You'll just have to work harder to load the spring, meaning more arm motion on the back and forward casts, along with harder stops at both ends of the cast. It's best to let the rod do as



much of the work as possible. With longer casts, you can use a lighter line to load the rod — shorter casts can be made easier by using a heavier weight line. And don't worry — you can't break a rod even by using a line several weights above the recommended one.

Do you have fly fishing tips to share?

We are seeking submissions for a new monthly column we're calling "Tackle Tips." Our first entry is above, so you can get an idea of what we're looking for. If you would like to share tips and tricks on any aspect of fly fishing, send us an article! Submissions should be no longer than 350 words. Bonus points if you also send us an image to use with your article.

Project Healing Waters: the 2021 Fishing Season

By Andrew Frutiger

Whether you're a glass half full or half empty fly fisherman, we can all agree that opening day still holds weight and is something to look forward to each year. Now that the 2021 fishing season is officially underway, it is time to get outside and fish safely. Although we cannot fish together as a group, individuals and small groups can all still get out there (following Governor Hogan's guidelines) and put all of those flies, casting, and fishing strategies we have been practicing to work.

Our Frederick Chapter of Project Healing Waters has spent the better part of the past twelve months tying an assortment of highly effective flies for the coming season. They have tied everything from mop flies to Woolly Buggers to egg patterns to midges and much more.



Combine these flies with the virtual casting clinics, as well as fishing strategies for each type of water and species, and our veterans have an incredibly strong base to start the season. I am looking forward to our upcoming virtual meetings to hear some great fishing stories.

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*.



Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

Happy Spring, finally! We held our first official outing, appropriately enough, at our home waters at the Catoctin Nature Center. It was nice to be in warm weather and cool waters with fellow fishers. It brings back the enjoyable experiences of fishing, whether you catch a lot of fish or none. If you've looked at PVFF's motto, it's *Education, Conservation, and Fellowship*. All three were experienced during this outing.

The club is in the beginning discussions with the Sustainable Monocacy Commission to create a public recognition space for Lefty Kreh somewhere in Frederick County. Lefty was one of the founders of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers almost 53 years ago. He was born in Frederick and graduated from Frederick High School. When he was seven, his father passed away, leaving him the eldest of four children. He fished, hunted, and trapped on the Monocacy as a youth to support his family.

After high school, Lefty enlisted in the military as an infantryman fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. After he came back from World War II, he did shift work in the biological warfare labs at Fort Detrick, giving him time to pursue his passions for fishing and hunting, and to again help feed his family

These humble beginnings led him into a career as an outdoor writer, starting with the Frederick News Post, which still reprints his columns to this day. He wrote 32 books, appeared on countless TV shows, led instructional videos, and designed a fly, "the Lefty Deceiver," that was so famous it was put on a postage stamp. He is probably the most well-known fly fisher through the world. However, with all this, there has been no Frederick County recognition for its home town son. We hope to change this.

People like Lefty — and Bob Clouser, who will be joining us at our May General Meeting — provide a link between the beginning of the popularization of

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 2** Smith Creek, VA Outing
- Apr. 10** Town Creek, MD Outing
- Apr. 12** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- Apr. 13** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- Apr. 14** Beginner's Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- Apr. 21** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- Apr. 25** Smith Creek, VA Outing
- Apr. 28** Board of Directors' Meeting Conference Call, 7:00 PM

2020 PVFF Offices & Directors

President.....Andy Mekelburg
Vice President.....Dave Keane
Secretary.....Karen Baker
Treasurer.....Dennis Allen
3 year Director.....Dave Dowiak
2 year Director.....Troy Kitch
1 year Director.....Russ Hanson
Past President.....Larry Forte

fly fishing to where we are today, where more and more people are joining this pursuit. The equipment and technique changes that have evolved come from those who spearheaded the sport in its early developments. “They” say that ignoring the past will cause us to repeat the problems in the future. In this case, I would say that studying the past and the people who shaped it can only lead to more positive developments.

Upcoming Outings

The following are summaries of planned club outings for the upcoming months. Head to our website for more details and to sign up for a trip. Note that these planned dates are weather- and water-level dependent, so if you sign up, be sure to check your email the evening before and morning of a given trip to make sure it’s still on.

SMITH CREEK, VA

Date: Friday, April 2, 2021

Location: Premium stretch of trout water on Smith Creek managed by Mossy Creek Fly Fishing

Species: Trout

Outing Leader: Mike Holland

TOWN CREEK, MD

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021

Location: Upper Stocked section of Town Creek, near Flintstone, MD

Species: Trout

Outing Leader: Larry Forte

Sorry if this seemed like a history lesson, but our club and its individual members have made a real worldwide impact on fly fishing — and sometimes we need to remind ourselves of our past accomplishments to inspire our future actions.

Hope to see you out in the waters soon!

SMITH CREEK, VA

Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021

Location: Premium stretch of trout water on Smith Creek managed by Mossy Creek Fly Fishing

Species: Trout

Outing Leader: Mike Holland

GUNPOWDER, MD

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021

Location: Upper Section of the Gunpowder

Species: Trout

Outing Leader: Larry Forte

MONOCACY RIVER, MD

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021

Location: Monocacy River, leaving from the boat ramp on Park Mills Road at 8:00 am

Species: Bass

Outing Leader: Karen Baker

Classifieds: Visit Our Website to Buy or Sell

Did you know that we now have a classifieds section on our website? We currently have a variety of vintage fly rods and reels, a tying vise, and a switch rod for sale. We also have a member seeking antique bamboo rods and vintage reels. Head to our site to get the details — and send us an email if you have something to add to the list.

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

P. O. BOX 3001

FREDERICK, MD 21705

www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club



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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 _____