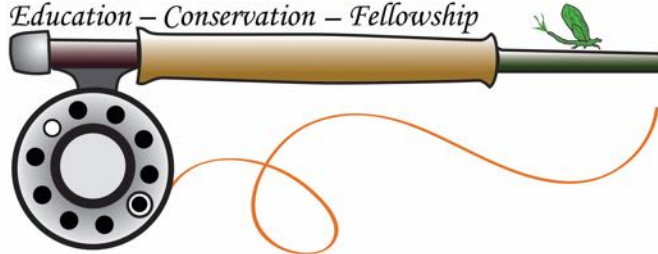


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POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



STREAMLINES

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Vol. 33, No. 10 | October 2024

We'd love your feedback (good or bad) on *Streamlines* 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.



Monthly Meeting
Tuesday October 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Tuscarora High School, Room A170
Program TBA



57th Annual Banquet

Good Friends, Stories, and Fellowship

by Rick Baseley

Our annual banquet is fast approaching. On October 19, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Middletown AMVETS Memorial Post #9 we will gather for the 57th time in the history of the club.

I really do hope that you will attend this year. Last year was my first PVFF banquet, and it was a lot of fun. I went home with lots of things that I “needed,” and I even won the privilege of using the club travel rod for the year. I had a great time and got to know my fellow members better. This year will be just as good or better.

We have exciting items for you to win! There will be lots of bucket raffles and silent auction items. We’re raffling off a new Orvis Recon 8-wt rod with an Orvis cassette reel! Another great raffle item is a deluxe fly-tying kit consisting of a Renzetti Traveler tying vise and a great set of tools from HMM. Valuable gift certificates, guided fishing trips and more. The list of items is too long to list here.

We still need items from members and friends of PVFF for the bucket raffles and silent auctions. Everything in the bucket raffles and the silent auction is donated by members or friends. This tradition is a great way of sharing our fly-fishing experiences, and it’s amazing to see what is donated each year. This year there will be fly rods, fly selections, a boat, and lots of other great items. You can bring your donation items to the next member meeting on Tuesday, October 8 or contact us and we will make arrangements.

The banquet is open to family and friends, and it’s a great event to bring someone to that’s thinking about getting into fly fishing. Bring your spouse or friend to see what they might win! There will also be lots of fun activities like blindfolded fly tying! It was amazing to watch that last year.

Head to the [PVFF website to buy tickets and register](#). The cost is the same as last year! If you’d rather buy your tickets at the event, please [let us know you are coming by signing up on the website](#) so we can give the AMVETS an accurate count of

attendees.

I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime I hope you can get out and enjoy these great temperatures fishing in your favorite streams.

Request for Donations

Funds raised during our banquet come primarily from donations by club members. The banquet is our main fundraiser for the year, and helps pay for the various activities we offer. Annual membership dues do not cover all of our expenses. Donations can be a fly rod or some other piece of fly fishing equipment that you are no longer using, but it doesn't need to be fly fishing related. It could be a bottle of wine, your favorite bourbon or a gift basket. Please consider donating to the banquet. If you are interested in donating an item or items, please send Sandy and Bob an email at sfacinoli@comcast.net or give them a call on (301) 639-8594, preferably with a picture of the items and your contact information.

Your contribution will help make our club's annual fundraiser a success!



Project Healing Waters

Thank You Jeb and Safe Journey

By Andrew Frutiger

As October approaches, the Frederick fly fishing community braces for a bittersweet farewell. Jeb, a beloved member of our angling family, is moving to Illinois. His departure leaves a void that will undoubtedly be felt by all who knew him.

Since coming to the Frederick area, Jeb has dedicated himself to mastering the art of fly fishing. His passion for the sport has extended far beyond personal enjoyment, as he has generously shared his knowledge and experience with fellow veterans through Project Healing Waters (PHW) and youth events.

At a recent PHW meeting, Jeb shared his inspiring journey into fly fishing. With his characteristic humor and wit, he recounted how his mother's advice to "keep it short and funny" shaped his storytelling style. Growing up in Buffalo, Jeb's early experiences with fishing were modest. However, his mischievous sense of humor was evident from a young age. His father's habit of signing Jim Kelly's name on Buffalo Bills merchandise led to countless pranks and a lifelong love of laughter.



Concentrating on the drift on Catoclin Creek during a club outing in 2022

After serving in the military, Jeb turned his attention to rugby, achieving remarkable success at the D2 level. Unfortunately, a career-ending injury forced him to rethink his athletic pursuits. It was during a wedding outing that Jeb's passion for fly fishing was ignited. A chance encounter with a dead fly in a tackle box led to a surprising catch, sparking his interest in the sport. With the support of the VA, he discovered Project Healing Waters and found his true calling. Jeb's involvement in PHW transformed him from a quiet observer into a dedicated mentor and friend. His infectious enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to fly fishing inspired many others to embrace the sport. Whether it was sharing casting tips or offering words of encouragement, Jeb was always there to lend a helping hand.

His absence will be deeply felt by the entire community, but his legacy will live on through the lives he has touched. As Jeb embarks on this new chapter in his life, we wish him all the best and thank him for the countless memories and friendships he has created. If you have any questions about Project Healing Waters or would like to make a donation to the program, please reach out to me at any time or go to the [Project Healing Waters - Frederick Chapter Facebook page](#).



Beginner Fly Tying

Thin Mint Bugger

By Don Fine

In selecting a new fly pattern for our October Beginner Fly Tying session, I chose the “Thin Mint Bugger.” This pattern will help us learn new tying skills and provide our class with a great fly the fall and winter months. Remember, as we select artificial flies for the colder months, fly anglers need to be proactive, knowing that during this time of the year, freshwater fish species do not have an abundance of food sources. Yet, despite their low energy requirements during the colder months, fish still need to eat whatever natural foods are available, and minnows contain significantly more energy than a tiny midge.

We look forward to having you Join us on Tuesday, October 15, at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 W. Patrick Street, Frederick. As always, we welcome those who have never tied an artificial fly to join our beginner fly tying classes. Materials for the fly pattern of the month are provided to all who attend. Vises and tying equipment are also provided for beginners.

*Whether you are a regular participant at our Beginner’s Fly Tying sessions, or this will be your first time attending; please reply to the PVFF Beginner’s Fly Tying Group email which will be sent to you several days prior to the class (dfine1443@gmail.com). It’s important that we know that you plan to attend, so we can have sufficient materials available session. Also, please let us know whether you will require a vise and tools for the session.



Advanced Fly Tying

By Larry Forte

Our advanced fly tying gathering this month will be on October 16th at 7:00 p.m. The fly and the tier still TBD. We will send an update as we get closer.

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’s a lot of fun!

We’ll meet in Room 108 at Trinity United Methodist Church (703 W. 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.

Want to join us via Zoom?

If you would like to attend but can’t make it to the church, we will make this meeting available via ZOOM. Please send me an email (lbforte@verizon.net) so that we can send you the Zoom link prior to the start of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

In addition to monthly in-person fly tying instruction, PVFF has a YouTube channel with a bunch of easy-to-follow step-by-step instructional videos.

PVFF YouTube Channel

Upcoming Events

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

October 8th, 7 p.m. — Monthly meeting

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

October 15th, 7 p.m. — Beginner's Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 207

October 16th, 7 p.m. — Advanced Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 108

October 19th, 4-9 p.m. — Annual Banquet

AMVETS Post 9, 409 Green Street, Middletown, MD

[Buy your tickets or register now!](#)

October 24th, 7 p.m. — Board of Directors Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 109

Come to the Banquet

News

Changes to Maryland DNR Stocking Program

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has announced changes to its trout stocking program for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 seasons. You can [read about the plans and learn more about the program](#) on the DNR website. And in his article “Trout, It’s What’s for Dinner” below, Dan Neuland provides some more details and gives his perspective on the changes.

Have a response or comments on these changes? Email us at pvff.newsletter@gmail.com and let us know what you think.



Maly keeping watch over the Catocin Mountain Fly Angler's Outpost

Catoctin Mountain Fly Angler's Outpost

Stop by!

By Ed Dizon

I recently opened an information “hub” on my property, which I’ve named the Catoctin Mountain Fly Angler’s Outpost. It’s a physical space, a shipping container actually, that includes large maps of local creeks — including Owens, Big and Little Hunting, and Fishing and Little Fishing — with pictures of the creeks and trout recently caught in them, rules and regulations, creek conditions, and fishing reports.

I’m retired, live in Thurmont, and have been fly fishing since I was 10 years old. Last spring when my son came to visit he said he wanted to fly fish. I hadn’t fished locally for about five years, opting instead for some well known rivers in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, New York, and Oregon. We tried Little Hunting Creek, and I was surprised to catch several wild browns. That’s when I started fishing the local creeks several times per week.

One thing I immediately noticed about fishing in the Catoctin Mountain region is that there are no fishing reports or creek conditions available online like one might find for Beaver Creek near Hagerstown or Yellow Breeches, Mountain Creek, or Big Spring Creek in PA. So the first thing I did was start documenting my outings and sharing them with other anglers I met, as well as PVFF member Kevin Haney, with whom I’d fished a few times.

The idea to create a physical space came after a trip to the Savage River, where I stopped in at Savage River Outfitters. I took a picture of a large map of the river and surrounding area with annotations for key locations. I found this incredibly useful and thought that it would be great to have such a thing for our local waters.

That’s when I cleaned out the shipping container and started designing the space. I consulted with Kevin, other anglers, Maryland DNR Freshwater Fisheries, and the town of Thurmont, and the concept became reality fairly quickly.

At this time the “Outpost” only provides information and is open by appointment only. I am not currently selling anything, but this may change as I learn more about what anglers want.

If you plan to be in the Thurmont area don't hesitate to send me a text or give me a call (443-422-4686) so you can come by for a visit. I'm a new member of PVFF and would love to meet other members. I welcome your suggestions for making the Outpost a valued resource for fly anglers wanting to test their skills in these historic waters.

Support the Club: Volunteers Needed

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

— Martyn Holland

[Volunteer](#)

Trout, It's What's for Dinner



By Dan Neuland

For some, stocked trout may not be tops on their list of culinary favorites, but I consider freshly stocked trout quite delicious. I won't intentionally kill a wild trout, but I look forward to the opportunity to serve fresh stockers as a family meal. Fortunately, thousands of trout are conveniently stocked in local waters each spring specifically for that purpose.

It has been my experience that on a productive outing for stocked trout in prior years, most of the fish I have landed were small rainbows, about 11 inches or less in length. These fish would weigh approximately a half of a pound each. A fish of this size is not noteworthy but just big enough to add to a family meal. If I was lucky, maybe a trout or two weighing one-pound each and measuring 12-14 inches would have been added to my daily limit of five trout.

Next spring, I expect to be adding more trout over 12 inches in length to my creel and maybe even a brown trout or two due to the recently announced changes in Maryland's trout hatchery program. In response to survey feedback from anglers, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is adjusting hatchery practices by releasing a lower number of fish this fall so that bigger fish will be stocked next spring. This shift from quantity to quality is related to lower spring source water flows in hatcheries due to excessive summer heat and drought-induced challenges,

according to a recent announcement from Maryland fisheries.

Trout stocking program changes

- For the fall of 2024, the hatcheries will stock approximately 3,000 brown trout and 12,000 rainbow trout. This represents a 30% decrease from 2023, but the trout will be larger, averaging slightly over a pound each.
- Additional fish will be held from the fall to the spring of 2025 to increase the number of trout available in the spring and allow for several more months of growth in the hatchery.
- Hatcheries staff are working to increase the number of trophy-sized trout stocked, mostly with trout in the three-to-four-pound range.
- DNR is also planning to stock more brown trout in the future. Anglers can look forward to approximately 12,000 brown trout during the spring 2025 season.
- An additional 2,000 “holdover” brown trout that will average about a pound each will be new for 2025.

What size is a trophy trout?

The presence of trophy trout may be the best outcome stemming from the new changes. A trophy trout is defined by Maryland fisheries to be a trout weighing 3-4 pounds. Trout of that size would measure anywhere from 20- 22 inches, according to my calculations. Of course, each angler will define what a trophy trout is for them, but the species of trout and the habitat in which it is raised needs to be considered. A wild rainbow trout spawned and raised in a stream might be only 15-16 inches in length, while a stocked rainbow trout from a hatchery would be over 20 inches. Both could be considered a trophy.

Keep in mind, all trout are cold water species and require cool, oxygenated water to survive. Trout stocked in local ponds and streams each spring are not likely or even expected to survive from season to season due to warm water conditions, hence the put-and-take regulations on most stocked waters. Brown trout are more likely to holdover as they are more tolerant of warmer water with less oxygen than other species of trout. I agree with the plan to raise more brown trout at Maryland hatcheries. Brown trout tend to be more challenging to catch than their rainbow and brookie cousins as their dining habits tend to be more discriminating. They are, however, voracious predators and will dart from cover to chase a streamer.

With hopes of catching some delicious table fare, more put-and-take anglers like me will be headed to their favorite fishing holes across Maryland next spring. I would have to be having a really good day, but I might just hook into and land a trophy-size trout myself. Admittedly, that has happened only on rare occasions for this angler and yes, I do have a photo or two to prove it. With hundreds of more trophy trout being raised and released, everyone's chance of catching a trophy next spring may be slightly better!

Upcoming Outings

Club outings are a great way to meet people, learn from fellow members, and have a fun day out on the water. There are some great outings coming up this month!

- October 26 - Owen's Creek

Click the button below for more details and to register for upcoming outings.

If you want to join an outing, host an outing, or have any questions, please email Pete D'Adamo at lcsmoss63@yahoo.com. Please put the title of the outing in the subject line.

Join an outing



Outing Report

Monocacy River Walk and Wade

By Steve Clark

Our day started with air temperatures in the upper 50's/low 60's and light fog. A total of four of us hit the water. After a quick review of local entomology and fly selection, some went upstream, I went downstream like I did the last outing. The river is different depending on the put-in point, something I was not aware of and honestly quite surprised.

I have been fly fishing for approximately two months — my rod this day is a 9' TFO 7 wt.

Downstream: I wade across the river where the water is shallow and then started throwing my bead head with a brown pattern. My cast was not warmed up, but I stayed out of the trees and focused on the fundamentals — pausing on the back cast and not rushing the forward cast. After a few throws, I got the rhythm down and focused on the water seams and how I was going to approach fishing further downstream. Short still water, faster mid river, and then still water on the other side. Walking downstream in the waist-deep water, I hook a couple of sunnies. After a few more casts, I try to resolve the lack of fish issue by changing to a crayfish. I try jiggling the line but still no change. Getting frustrated I started looking for other members in the group and head upstream.

Upstream: as soon as I passed the put-in spot, the water became very shallow, very clear, and much faster than I had experienced down stream — again, this was very different and quite surprising to me. I changed my fly from the crayfish to a brown/black small streamer. I watched Denny Grizzle fishing in calm water on the seam nearest the shore using a dabbling technique. Denny offered that today was his 78th birthday and he had caught approximately 50 fish — red eye, small mouth bass, and bluegill from the list he readily provided. Moving upstream a bit more I see Bob Wolfe casting to a mix of fast and slow water. Denny suggested that we go over the island that separated the main from a smaller side branch.

Apparently, there is another entirely different area of the river — for those keeping count, now there are three different types of water in a very small area. Again, a big surprise for me. I walked upstream in the feed from the main branch where the water was calm and threw a few with no luck. Walking downstream, I came across the hole that Denny referred to and started throwing my fly into the water — boom, first redeye of the day. Small in size, but it was success and a bright moment in what had been a frustrating morning. Again, focusing on the fundamentals, I roll cast directly near the logs and caught another redeye. Three or four more caught, I started walking down the side branch and looking at the water. I saw hundreds if not thousands of small schools of fish and realized that I was in the nursery. I stopped for a moment and noticed — no noise. Complete calm other than a clumsy deer falling into the water and then crossing the water behind me. I noticed multiple ducks flying overhead, a bald eagle, and then two kingfishers skirting the tree line. It was a surreal moment and made the entire day for me.

Trying to read the water, I looked at the seams and started throwing to structure in the slow water. Remember, I'm very new and have a laundry list of mistakes on just

about each cast. I watched the fish react with each cast — saw the schools spooking and taking off when the line slapped the water. When I pulled the line out quickly after a bad cast also spooked the schools — it was an ah hah moment and I did my best to adjust. By the end of the day, I stopped slapping my line, raised my rod to keep the line taut and avoiding dragging. It was an awesome feeling regardless of not catching much.

I have noticed that each time I cast, I figure something else out. If I'm casting at a hula hoop in my yard and get frustrated, I stop and go to youtube to watch videos of how it's done and then try to duplicate the form — it's been an incredible journey.

Honorable mention: I met Seth Denbo last weekend when making my first attempt at brook trout. I did everything wrong but had a great time and learned an amazing amount in the short time of walking the stream with Pete Ring. The first time on the Monocacy I was with Pete's outing and remember watching Pete get into the water and take off. He waded across the river, went downstream and then disappeared in the bend of the river. Have never seen anyone wade walk that fast before while casting, until today. I remember the guidance Seth provided on turning rocks over and looking at the bugs. Then he went upstream and I went downstream. Even when I followed later in the morning, Seth was nowhere to be found. Seth put Pete's wade and walk performance to shame.

I had a great time, learning more than I can say. I can't wait to fish the same water with improved skills and hope to catch bigger fish with the right fly, better form, and a greater understanding of the water and where the fish are in the water column.



Outing Report

Monocacy River Float

By Karen Baker

It was a cloudy and cool morning when we set out from the Park Mills boat ramp on Saturday, September 21. Four of us, Pete Ring, Steve Clark, Pete D'Adamo, and I, set off in our various kayaks to fish the Monocacy River. There was plenty of water to float, although there were definitely some shallow places to watch out for and even some small rapids to negotiate (no one swamped their boat) but I took in some water when I didn't negotiate a quick turn. I kept that secret until now.

The river was not as clear as it sometimes is, but also not as dark as it can be. Everyone caught fish, including smallmouth bass, rock bass, and various types of bream. The wildlife was abundant, too, with herons, turtles, kingfishers, a snowy egret, eagles, and an osprey. Eagle-eyed Steve saw a river otter and rescued a baby snapping turtle from the river. There was something very big that rose out of the water several times that made such a big splash I thought a deer had jumped into

the water. Steve saw it, too, so I have a witness to my story!

I think the catch of the day was Pete D'Adamo's 10-inch smallmouth bass on a popper.

We fished and floated for about 3 hours and took out at the Monocacy Aqueduct. It's always a fun time on the river, especially if you are catching fish and hanging out with fellow PVFF anglers!

Let's do it again next year!

Postscript

Check out this new video from Visit Frederick starring our very own Dan Neuland talking smallmouth fishing on the Monocacy. And see if you can spot cameo appearances by a couple of other PVFF members.



2024 PVFF Officers & Directors

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