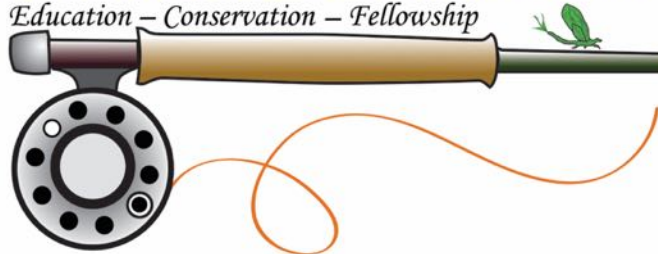


[View this email in your browser](#)

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



STREAMLINES

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Vol. 33, No. 11 | November 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 November 12th, 7 p.m.

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

Koby Fulks, one of the founders of rod company Rise Fishing, will be speaking on the state of the rod building/fly equipment industry. Koby likes a very interactive discussion and likes to answer questions, so folks should come armed with their queries. What really is the difference between a Sage, a Redington and a TFO? Is everything made in China or Korea now? Why do prices vary and do they truly reflect quality? And whatever you always wanted to know. This is bound to be a fascinating discussion so come on out and learn more about the industry that supports our wonderful pursuit.



Beginner Fly Tying

Hogan's Winter Leech

By Don Fine

In selecting the fly pattern for our November session, I chose Hogan's Winter Leech. This pattern will further enhance the tying skills of our Beginner's class as well as to provide a great fly for fishing into the winter months. As I have noted in previous issues of our Streamlines Newsletter, we fly fishers need to have diverse fly patterns that we can use throughout the four seasons of the year. A successful fly fisher will choose an artificial with reference to the natural food sources available to the fish.

We look forward to having you join us at the Beginner Fly Tying class on Tuesday, November 19th (at 7 p.m.)* 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. Materials for the fly pattern of the month are provided to all who attend. Vises and tying equipment are also provided for those who are newcomers to tying an artificial fly.

*Whether you are a regular participant at our Beginner 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 is important for Martyn Holland and I to know that you plan to attend, so that we can have sufficient materials available for our fly tying

session. Kindly let us also know whether you will require a vise and tools for the tying session.



Advanced Fly Tying

By Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on November 20th at 7:00pm, I will lead the session, during which we will tie the G&H Sedge dry fly that I used in Scotland to fool a couple of brown trout (see my article on this trip below).

John Goddard, an English angler and writer active through much of the middle of the twentieth-century, designed over 50 fly patterns. The most famous of these was the G&H sedge, a deer hair caddis pattern developed by Goddard and his friend Cliff Henry (hence the name).

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.

I hope you can join us. 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



Annual Banquet

57 Years and Still Going Strong

by Rick Baseley

The 57th PVFF Annual Banquet was held on October 19. It was well attended and, from where I was sitting, it looked like everybody was having a really good time. Congratulations to Pete, Randy, and Seth, the winners of the raffles. I hope everyone enjoys their silent auction and bucket raffle wins. Use them in good health!

Ryan Cooper, Trout Unlimited Project Manager, gave an engaging presentation on the projects that TU is working on in Western Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania to improve upstream water quality and habitat. I always love learning about good work that is happening that I had no idea about. Thanks to Ryan for his time and excellent presentation.

Thank you to the supporters of PVFF. When you are hungry make sure you check out our supporters: Rocky's Pizza and Kountry Kitchen in Thurmont, a.k.a. Friscos in Frederick, Dempsey's Grille and Fratelli's in Middletown. For great wine in a beautiful setting check out Links Bridge Vineyards. For taking care of yourself, try Farmhouse Fresh Products (thanks to Elise Mekelburg Kahn). If you need sporting goods or apparel go to Middletown Sportsland – a longtime supporter. Thank you to Fox Hollow Farm and Signal Financial Credit Union for your support.

For your fly-fishing needs check out Precision Fly & Tackle, Orvis, HMH Visers and the Dr Slick Company. Consider joining Fly Fishers International (FFI). I joined last year and am glad I did. Thank you all for supporting our club.

Thank you to Sandy Facinoli, Bob Graham, and Ruby and Don Fine for organizing the event. Thanks to Larry Forte, Andy Mekelburg, Troy Kitch, Dave Dowiak, and Martyn Holland for their support.

Tight lines and happy fishing until next time.





More [pictures from the banquet](#) can be found on the PVFF website.

Upcoming Events

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

November 12th, 7 p.m. — Monthly meeting

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

November 19th, 7 p.m. — Beginner's Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 207

November 20th, 7 p.m. — Advanced Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 108

November 21st, 7 p.m. — Board of Directors Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 109

News

Big Hunting Creek Working Group to Meet

by Kevin Haney (Coordinator, Big Hunting Creek Working Group)

The Big Hunting Creek Working Group will be meeting on Wednesday, November 20 at 1 p.m. in Thurmont. This is a working group coordinated by PVFF and includes representatives from Trout Unlimited, the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, Catoctin Mountain National Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The goal is to address issues affecting the trout fishery in Big Hunting Creek and the other nearby Catoctin streams.

At the meeting on November 20th, we will discuss our ongoing projects and hear a presentation from the Maryland DNR on the results of their trout population surveys this summer. We will also be distributing the “Fly Fisherman’s Guide to Big Hunting Creek” brochure that the group has updated and printed. Any interested club members are invited to attend.

If you would like to attend, email Kevin Haney at kevinhaney1@outlook.com for the details.



Meet a Member

Jay Blincoe

How long have you been flyfishing?

I've been fly fishing for about 10 years. I grew up fishing in small ponds and lakes in Virginia. Moving to Frederick gave me the opportunity to pursue fly fishing with all of the small streams and rich fly fishing culture we have here.

What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

Probably smallmouth fishing simply because in the bigger rivers, you're oftentimes more apt to catch something more often when going for more fickle trout. It's exciting to throw bigger flies across the Potomac, but ultimately it comes down to smallmouth being such a hard fighting and exciting sport fish. That and it's easier to thread line through the eye of larger flies as I get older.

What is your favorite water to fish?

I haven't fished extensively outside of the region, but I'd say the Beaverkill river in the Catskills.

What is your best fly fishing memory?

Fortunately for me, a family member has property in the Catskills, and I've been fortunate enough to fish the Beaverkill river from time to time. A few years back on the 4th of July, I landed a large trout on a reverse cast just after a bald eagle flew over. A movie worthy moment in American fly fishing!

What is your favorite fly?

I don't really have one, I largely just guess based on rough observation. I'll say that recently I bought a Spotted Lanternfly pattern. The more we can encourage fish to go after them, the better!

Tell us more about yourself. What do you enjoy doing besides fishing?

I love to cook, I'm active in the local bluegrass scene as a musician, listen to a lot of music of varying genres, and am also an avid cyclist. I use my bicycle to quickly get from point to point when fishing if I'm able. I'm an avid gardener, live in downtown Frederick, have two dachshunds, and being the owner of an old house, spend most of my fishing time at the Home Depot.

What advice do you have for others?

I don't really have any advice about fishing, but as above, I have a broad range of activities and experience in my personal and professional life. As far as fly fishing — like anything else — just be patient and despite the skill level or experience of other folks, just try to enjoy being out there and not getting too frustrated. I give this same advice to musicians just starting out who may be intimidated by others.

Otherwise, try and get some sleep, some exercise, eat lots of vegetables, and be patient and kind to those around you.

** Alternate, shorter answer: Buy a jetboil for those colder days** A hot cup of soup streamside in the fall is incredible.

What is your bucket list flyfishing trip?

Upper Midwest for Pike or Muskie.

When did you join the club?

A few years ago in November, if I recall. I really like the outings and the annual dinner.

Do you have any memories of past club events or members you'd like to share?

The latest Monocacy wade for smallmouth was great, as I did reasonably well, but moreover I got to experience a member catching their first smallmouth, so that was a nice moment to witness as someone fishing just upstream. Notably, it was a young woman who caught this fish, so it was nice to see some diversity in the club outside of our usual demographic.

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

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!

- November (date TBA) - Catoctin 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, email Pete D'Adamo at lcssmoss63@yahoo.com. Please put the title of the outing in the subject line.

Join an outing

Outing Photos

Owen's Creek, Saturday October 26th









.....



Fishing for Native Browns in Scotland

By Larry Forte

This past June, my family and I had an amazing vacation in Scotland. The scenery was beautiful, the weather cooperated (it rained only one day during our trip), and the whisky was incredible. Add a day of fly-fishing, and you have a perfect vacation!

A couple of months before our trip, I reached out to YouFishScotland, based in Inverness. My wife arranged for us to be there for 4 nights. I explained that this was a family vacation and that I would not have any fly-fishing gear or waders with me. Plus, I had no transportation. They said no problem, and they would provide everything. They could not have been easier to work with.

For my day of fishing, I had three options. Inverness, which is at the northern tip of Loch Ness, is known for its salmon fishing on the River Ness. Also, you can also fly fish for large browns in Loch Ness from a boat. However, when my guide gave me

the option to fish a couple small mountain streams, my decision was easy. I wanted to catch a native brown trout.

Colin, my guide for the day, picked me up at our AIRBNB at 9 a.m. and off we went. The drive to the stream was about an hour up into the mountains. At first, I was a little concerned. As we are driving, Colin said to me: "I have never taken a client to this stream before." Okay — not what you want to hear from your guide. However, he followed-up with "My mum went to school with the owner of the farm, and no one fishes this stretch of the stream, except me." Now that sounded better.

We arrived at the stream and checked in with the owners. The scenery is just incredible. Being from around here, you expect to see the mountains covered with trees and foliage. Not in this part of Scotland. Instead, you see beautiful mountains with very few trees.

We walk about a ¼ mile to the stream and the first thing I noticed was the color of the water. Instead of crystal-clear water, it's dark brown. This is a result of the peat in the soil. The stream connects two lochs. Resident brown trout in the stream are between 8 and 10 inches. However, larger browns migrate down from the loch above during the summer and are between 12 and 15 inches. The cool thing about the brown trout is that they are natives whose ancestors have been around since the last ice age. Not something that you will ever catch in the US.



Colin rigged-up my 3wt with a G&H sedge dry fly (size 12) and a copper john (size 14) dropper, about 36" from the dry fly. On my 3rd cast, my sedge paused and went under water. I lifted my rod and set the hook on my first native brown trout, caught on the copper john. What a great start to a fun day; I had met my goal.

The stream varies between 15' – 30' wide with a few trees along the bank. For the next 4 hours, we worked our way upstream. The action was steady and the fishing was a blast. The majority of the brown trout were caught with the sedge dry fly. I was mostly blind casting to fishy looking spots. However, a couple of times I did fish to rising trout.

One of the highlights was catching 2 brown trout at the same time. I was fishing a section with a couple of trees along the opposite side the stream. Colin had me cast up and under one of the hanging branches. As the sedge drifted under the branch, it paused for a second. I lifted the rod and set the hook with the copper john. Just as I did that, another brown came up and hit the sedge fly. Colin immediately yelled: "You have 2 trout on!" I tried not to get too excited. Fortunately, Colin jumped into the stream with his net and landed both fish. That was pretty cool. Without Colin, I know that I would not have landed both.

It was a day to remember! I'm still smiling just thinking about it. If you travel to Inverness, Scotland, I recommend Colin and the folks at [YouFishScotland](#).

Last Cast

By Martyn Holland



Our 2024 Banquet was a great success thanks to the organizing committee of Rick Baseley, Don Fine, Ruby Fine, Bob Graham, and Sandy Facinoli. As we all know, these things do not organize themselves and a lot of effort went in to the planning and execution of the event which went without a hitch! Thanks are also due to Larry Forte and Andy Mekelburg who helped the process.

What impressed me most about the evening was how everyone seemed to enjoy the chance to catch up with others, swapping fishing and non-fishing stories and enjoying each other's company.

There were three people recognized for their contribution to the club

- Don Fine - On behalf of all of those that have been taught to tie flies and enjoy the thrill of catching fish on flies that you tie and in recognition of all of the work that is put in to the Beginners fly tying and ensuring that each event is planned out and executed so well and we would like to recognize Don Fine and thank him for his contributions to PVFF.
- Pete Ring - In recognition of many outings that he has organized and led which have allowed so many to experience new places to fish we would like to thank and recognize Pete Ring for his contributions to the PVFF family.

- Dave Dowiak - One of the most challenging jobs in our club is the management of memberships and ensuring the availability and the safety and protection of club member information. While the tools that we have to do this need some improvement, and we look forward to doing that shortly, Dave Dowiak has done a great job managing the process and keeping the information under control. We would like to recognize Dave Dowiak for his hard work and contributions in this area.



We also had an interesting presentation from Ryan Cooper, a TU Project Manager, regarding projects in the upper Potomac water system. It was impressive what an impact some of those projects have had on the native fish population in the area.

Thanks again to all who attended the banquet. It was a fun event and I look forward to seeing all of you there next year.

Recently learned of the passing of John Gierach who by far was my favorite fly fishing author. His works were very light, humorous and readable and he never took anything too seriously often making fun of himself and others in the fly fishing world. I will miss his works as I always looked forward to his next set of commentaries on life and the world of fly fishing. He will be missed.

I had a rare weekend just passed where I got to go out fly fishing twice in three days, once for smallmouth on the Juniata in PA and once for trout in the Gunpowder. Both were excellent experiences and very relaxing. I have to say that the Juniata trip was the best as I got to go with my son which is a very rare privilege these days. It was a very special day floating down the river casting for smallmouth.

The Gunpowder trip just made me realize that there are so many beautiful rivers in our area and that I need to get out more. Fishing trip anyone?



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](#)