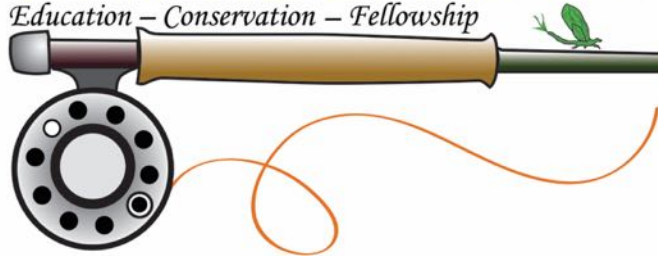


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POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



STREAMLINES

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Vol. 33, No. 12 | December 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 December 10th, 7 p.m.

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

The meeting this month will include the very important annual elections of new Board of Directors members, so please come out and help elect the volunteers who work to make PVFF the great club that it is. Once the elections are complete, there will be a round robin discussion about fishing local rivers and streams.



Fly Tying

Classic Poppers

By Don Fine and Larry Forte

Because of the busy holiday season, our December fly tying event will be a combined class. On December 18th at 7 p.m., we will have a class for all levels of fly tyers, in learning to tie classic popping bugs*, with each tyer having the opportunity to tie his/her-own pattern(s) using pre-cut foam or cork material. Join us that evening in room 204 (lower level) at Trinity United Methodist Church to learn how to make popper flies.

*Brief history – “In the late 1800s, tackle makers were experimenting with buoyant materials such as cork and lightweight wood, shaping them into floating flies and lures. The rudimentary shapes didn’t resemble much, but they caught the attention of both fish and anglers. This encouraged creative folks like Edmond Warren (he received a patent for a fly hook incorporating an attached, nonabsorbent material), William J. Jamison (he made the first commercially available floating cork-body lure called the Coaxer), and Ernest Peckinpaugh (the creator of the modern-day popping bug). These craftsmen, among others who were regionally based throughout the United States, had very influential bug-making techniques that are still incorporated in today’s modern topwater bugs.” Steve Schweitzer, “[The Pop on Top: How to Craft Classic Balsa Poppers](#),” *Fly Tyer*.

As always, we welcome fly fishers who have never tied an artificial fly to join our class. 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. Kindly let us also know (dfine1443@gmail.com) if you will require a vise and tools for the tying session.

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

PVFF YouTube Channel



Project Healing Waters Just One of Those Days

by Andrew Frutiger

Sunday at Catoctin Creek Park was picture-perfect: clear skies, warm temperatures, and a gentle breeze. The trout were visible, seemingly eager to feed. Yet, despite our best efforts with a variety of flies, from delicate dries to weighted nymphs, the fish remained elusive. Even young anglers with spinning gear struggled to entice a bite.

Such days on the water serve as a reminder of the fickle nature of fishing. They make us appreciate the truly great days when the fish cooperate. However, the most important aspect of our outing with Project Healing Waters was the camaraderie and

shared experience.

Back at the parking lot, there was no disappointment or early departure. Instead, we lingered, discussing the day's events, sharing tips, and looking forward to future PHW events like Harmon Creek in December. This is the true essence of Project Healing Waters: no matter the outcome on the water, it's always a great day when we're together.

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](#).

Upcoming Events

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

December 10th, 7 p.m. — Monthly meeting

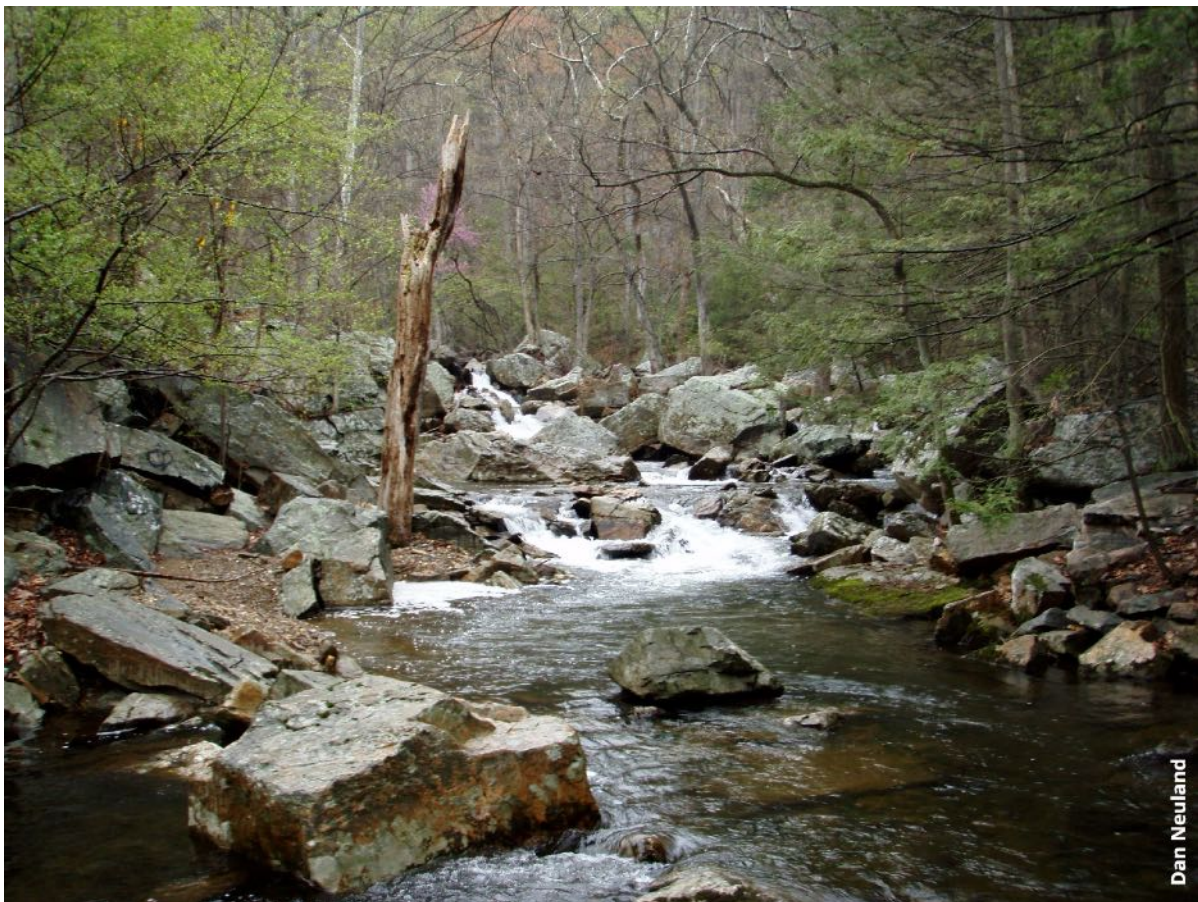
Tuscarora High School, Room A170

December 18th, 7 p.m. — Fly Tying (all abilities)

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 207

December 19th, 7 p.m. — Board of Directors Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 109



News

Big Hunting Creek Working Group

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

The Big Hunting Creek Working Group met on Wednesday, November 20. This working group — coordinated by PVFF, with representatives from Trout Unlimited, Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, Catoclin Mountain National Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources — works to address issues affecting the trout fishery in Big Hunting Creek and other nearby Catoclin streams.

The working group discussed ongoing projects and heard a presentation from Michael Kashiwagi, DNR Regional Manager ([Freshwater Program - Western II Region](#)) on the results of their trout population surveys this summer. Key takeaways from Kashiwagi's presentation include:

- Recent drought conditions, particularly during the fall spawning seasons of

recent years, have resulted in weak survival rates for the past three spawning seasons throughout the region.

- Rain and increases in water levels in late summer and into the spawning season tend to result in high survival rates. High water in wintertime is as bad or worse for a year class of trout than drought because high water right after the eggs hatch tends to wash the hatchlings into areas where survivability is unlikely.
- A good year class can result in strong adult numbers, particularly for brown trout, through several years of low spawn survivability. Historically, there are good and bad spawning years but the overall adult population is largely unaffected from year to year as long as there is a good spawn year every three or four years.
- Brook trout populations, except in Fishing Creek, are in decline all along the Catoctin front. While brown trout typically live as long as six years or more, brook trout typically live only three years. As a result, multiple years of weak spawning numbers result in a decline in adult populations much more quickly than is the case for brown trout. The result in Little Hunting Creek has been a substantial decline in brook trout except in the stream's extreme upper reaches. The situation for brook trout is even more dire in the upper reaches of Owens Creek. Brook trout have not been present in numbers capable of reproduction in Big Hunting Creek for several years, though they remain present in the High Run tributary.
- Big Hunting Creek, owing to cold water release from Hunting Creek Lake, is the stream with the best water temperature from a trout perspective; Fishing Creek, owing to a wholly undeveloped watershed and strong springs, is the second best in the Catoctins; Owens Creek, which has similarly protected headwaters, has not had good temperature or flow in the past several years.
- The spawn on Beaver Creek, west of the Catoctin Ridge, was weak in 2023 owing to the drought. The stream's main limestone spring near Hagerstown saw an unusually diminished flow that year, which came after a major fish kill (whose cause remains unknown). The decreased spring flow affected the operation of the Albert Powell trout hatchery.
- Interestingly, the absence of brown trout in the upper reaches of Beaver Creek below the hatchery appears to have allowed for rainbow trout fingerling escaping the hatchery going uneaten. An unusual number of fingerlings were recorded in the 2024 stream surveys, presumably because the brown trout were not present to eat them.

You can view [the slides from Kashiwagi's presentation](#) on the PVFF website.

If you would like to attend future meetings or have any questions about the working group, email Kevin Haney at kevinhaney1@outlook.com.



News

DNR Seeks Comments on Regulations Changes

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has proposed changes to the Put-and-Take trout stocking program. The changes include:

- Modifying the areas managed as Put-and-Take areas.
- Modifying the areas managed as Closure 1 areas.
- Eliminating the Closure 2 designation.

To [read the proposal and submit comments](#), visit the DNR website.

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, you are welcome to contribute to your fellow members. If you can spare an hour or two a month, join the

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!

- Date TBA - Catoctin Creek (The outing planned for November will be rescheduled for a future date. Check the club's [Outings](#) page for updates.)

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 lcsmoss63@yahoo.com. Please put the title of the outing in the subject line.

Join an outing

Last Cast

By Martyn Holland



In December every year we elect officers for the club at our monthly meeting, and, as we come to that time in the year, I would like to thank all who have served on the Board Of Directors in the past year. I certainly have enjoyed being part of the Board, seeing firsthand how we operate as a club and also being able to have a voice in how the club is run and where we put our focus.

Yes I did say that I enjoyed volunteering for the club as do many others so this is now your opportunity to help the club move forward whether in the same direction or in a different one. We are looking for at least four new BOD members (indicated in red below). It would be great to have some new faces along with new ideas so that we can all benefit.

- **President** Martyn Holland
- **Vice President** Dirk Vandervaart
- **Secretary** Owen Davis
- Treasurer Rick Baseley
- 3 year Director Kevin Haney
- 2 year Director Steve Clark
- **1 year Director** Russ Hanson
- Past President Andy Mekelburg

BOD meetings are held in Frederick once a month and usually last an hour or so. I find that as President I spend another couple of hours a month on club matters – really not a lot of time at all. Yes I know that “never volunteer for anything” is a common semi joke, but give it a try and you might be surprised how much impact you can have – looks good on the resume, too!!

I know I mentioned the passing of John Gierach last month, but what is really ironic, and perhaps a lesson to us all, was that his last book was titled “All the time in the world.” Don’t put off getting out there to fish, especially with family and friends. There are always reasons not to but time is short, so make the most of it.



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

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