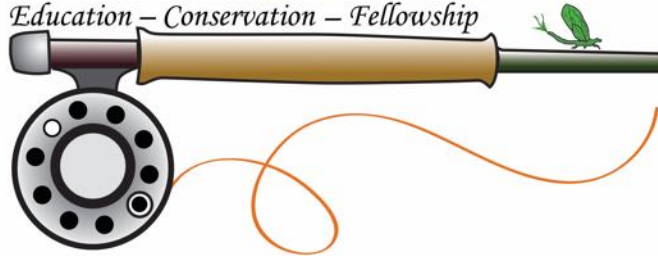


[View this email in your browser](#)

POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Education – Conservation – Fellowship



STREAMLINES

potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

Vol. 34, No. 1 | January 2025

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 January 14th, 7 p.m.
Tuscarora High School, Room A170
Program TBA



Project Healing Waters A Year of Reels, Travels, and New Beginnings for Project Healing Waters Frederick

By Andrew Frutiger

What a year it has been! From casting lines in crystal-clear waters to welcoming new faces and saying goodbye to some dear friends, 2024 has been a whirlwind of activity for Project Healing Waters Frederick (PHW Frederick).

This year saw our veterans embark on unforgettable fishing adventures. Several qualified for special trips to premier angling destinations, including the Muskegon River in Michigan and the Little Juniata River in Pennsylvania. Our beloved overnight retreat, Harmons Creek, also played host to our veterans twice – once with the Frederick Chapter and again with the entire region, emphasizing the growing importance of regional collaboration and joint trips.

Beyond the thrill of the catch, our veterans spent many days at the American Legion, honing their fly-tying skills, building custom rods, and perfecting their casting

techniques. These gatherings provided a space for camaraderie and shared stories, whether reminiscing about past adventures or planning future fishing trips.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the American Legion for their unwavering support. Not only do they graciously allow us to use their space each month, but they also consistently contribute to our financial well-being. A special thank you also goes out to Mission Barbecue, whose catering and unwavering support for veterans have been invaluable throughout the year.

While we bid farewell to Stars and Strippers, we cherish the memories of days spent on the bay and the camaraderie fostered at the Kent Island boating club. The news of Jeb Stevens and his wife's move to the Midwest brought a wave of sadness, but we are confident that we will find ways to share fishing adventures with him in the future.

We also welcomed many new members to the PHW Frederick family this year, along with Scott Thompson who stepped into the role of Chapter Project Lead.

As we turn our sights towards 2025, we encourage all our members to share their ideas and input for upcoming outings. Your contributions are invaluable!

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



Beginner's Fly Tying

Refocus the Fundamentals of Tying Artificial flies

By Don Fine

Over the past ten plus years the focus of our PVFF Beginner's Fly Tying class has been to learn the basic procedural steps in constructing a specific fly pattern. Our standard protocol, like many others in reference books and on the internet, for tying a specific fly pattern (such as a Woolly Bugger) details the step-by-step method for that pattern. Indeed, this approach is fundamental for the beginning tyer to understand the techniques for tying materials to a hook to create an imitations of natural fish food. Indeed, this is critical to tying a "good" imitation that induces a strike from the fish.

While this approach to teaching basic fly tying has proven successful for many of our club members, I feel that an additional element needs to be added to our beginner classes. That "element" is for our class to have a better understanding of the nature, qualities, and purpose of the natural and artificial components of the respective fly pattern. Having this understanding, I believe, is characteristic of a good fly tyer (and perhaps a more successful fly fisher).

The creative nature of an experienced fly tier, I would contend, is the reason why there is such a diversity of fly patterns found in fly tying books, catalogues, and on internet sites. Many fly patterns are variants of older patterns. Case-in-point, the Royal Wulff and Wulff dry fly patterns developed by Lee Wulff in the 1930's were based on the Royal Coachman first tied by John Haily in 1878. This is only one of many examples in which a classic fly pattern was modified to enhance its appearance and fish-catching ability. A review of the history of the development of new fly patterns is almost spell-binding to those engrossed in the construction and use of artificial flies.

Beginning in January and continuing through the year, our PVFF tying classes will include the use of alternative materials in tying variant fly patterns to represent classic terrestrial, streamer, wet fly, dry fly, nymphs, annelids, crayfish, etc. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, when our beginner class will tie the March Brown spider, a variant of the classic (Frank) Sawyer pheasant-tail nymph. Our Beginner's class is held in room 207 at Trinity United Methodist Church, West Patrick Street in Frederick.

As always, we welcome club members 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 can be loaned to those who need them. 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



Advanced Fly Tying

A New Approach to Tying Foam Ants and Beetles

by Larry Forte

At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering, on Wednesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m., Terry Alexander will tie a foam ant/beetle fly and demonstrate a unique approach to tying ants, beetles, and a wide variety of other types of fish food — all using a technique that has been around for a long time.

The club will provide all of the materials and hooks.

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 is a lot of fun!

We will meet in Room 108 at Trinity Church. For those that prefer to join us via ZOOM, no problem. We will have a Zoom hook-up at the church for folks. Interested? Just let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at lbforte@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

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

January 14th, 7 p.m. — Monthly meeting

Tuscarora High School, Room A170

January 15th, 7 p.m. — Advanced Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 108

January 21st, 7 p.m. — Beginner Fly Tying

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 207

January 23rd, 7 p.m. — Board of Directors Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 109



Poppers a Poppin'

December fly tying

by Don Fine and Larry Forte

Since December is a busy time for many of us, we decided to combine our beginner and advanced fly tying classes for an evening of tying cork poppers. Nineteen members attended with everyone having the opportunity to tie at least two variants of his or her own design using a finished cork popper. In brief, more than 40 new popper flies were made.



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 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!

- January 11 - Big Hunting 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 lcsmoss63@yahoo.com. Please put the title of the outing in the subject line.

Join an outing



NoVA TU visiting Catoctin Creek in early February

The Northern Virginia chapter of Trout Unlimited plans to visit Catoctin Creek on Saturday, February 1. The occasion? Their monthly Fish With A Member series, which encourages new anglers to partner with more experienced ones on local waters. If you would like to help orient these new anglers to PVFF's home waters or just have questions, please reach out to Owen Williams (ewilliams11@gmail.com) who will be coordinating this trip. Owen belongs to both NoVA TU and PVFF.

Last Cast

By Martyn Holland



We did elect officers for the club at our monthly meeting in December. I very much appreciate some new people stepping up, and once again I would like to thank all who have served on the Board Of Directors in the past year.

I appreciate very much being given the opportunity to serve as President again as the first year really was a learning experience for me, and it will help to be able to move things forward with that knowledge. It will be two and done for me as someone with new ideas and drive should step up for the 2026 session. Hopefully more on that later.

The BOD for 2025 is as follows:

Position Elected

President Martyn Holland

Vice President Dirk Vandervaart

Secretary Andrew Frutiger

Treasurer Rick Baseley

3 year Director Kevin Haney

2 year Director Steve Clark

1 year Director Pete Ring

Past President Andy Mekelburg

In addition Pete D'Adamo will be our Conservation Liaison.

As a reminder BOD meetings are once a month in Frederick usually lasting an hour or so.

I hope that you all have a happy and healthy new year, and I hope to see you out on the river or at our meetings and events in 2025. We had some great outings 2024 and I am sure we will do more in the New Year. We will also have our fly tying sessions every month, our casting clinic, and many other events throughout the year. Remember that we have a mentor program if you would like to learn a little more about fly fishing and go along to a local stream with someone. Please take advantage of all PVFF has to offer, and as always let us know if there are things we can add in or change to make your experience better.

Happy 2025!

Martyn

Martyn9904@gmail.com



2025 PVFF Officers & Directors

President.....Martyn Holland
Vice President.....Dirk Vandervaat
Secretary.....Andrew Frutiger
Treasurer.....Rick Baseley
3 year Director.....Kevin Haney
2 year Director.....Steve Clark
1 year Director.....Pete Ring
Past President.....Andy Mekleburg

Copyright (C) 2025 Potomac Valley Fly Fishers. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)