

Free State Fly Fishers Smithville Lake Outing

When: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 (Rain/Foul Weather date: Wednesday, Feb 19)
Outing coordinator will determine if bad weather date will be invoked and will notify participants.

Where: Smithville Lake, Caroline County, MD

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/hotspots/smithville.aspx>

Outing Coordinator: Mike Mattia, mmmattia2013@gmail.com; 443.570.4735 cell.

Meeting Time/Location and Directions for Car Pool or “Caravan”: Those wishing to carpool can meet the outing coordinator between **10:30 and 11:00 AM** at the parking lot of the Bay 50 Shopping Center, 1544 Whitehall Road Annapolis, MD 21409. The shopping center is just off eastbound Route 50 prior to the Bay Bridge and is east of Angler’s Sport Center on Whitehall Road. The caravan will leave promptly at **11:00 AM**.

Directions to the Fishing Location: Take Rt.50 east towards Easton. Make left onto Rt.404. Go thru Denton and make a right onto Noble Rd. (If you drive into Delaware you have passed Noble Rd.) Look for split rail fence on right. Parking lot and boat ramp will be behind fence. The lake is approximately 45 miles or 55 minutes from the Bay Bridge.

Gathering Place at the Fishing Location: Approximately **1:00 PM**, hard to predict given we will be stopping for lunch on the trip to the lake.

Species of Interest: Bluegills, crappie, largemouth bass and pickerel.

Equipment Needed: A kayak, canoe or Jon boat will provide maximum access to the lake. There is limited shore fishing at the dam and from a small pier near the ramp.

Boating: If boating, always wear your PFD and if water temperatures are below 60 degrees F, have a plan to protect yourself from cold water immersion hazards should you fall in. Water temperatures will be below 60 degrees on this outing.

Rods: 4 wt. to 7 wt. Smithville is a shallow body of water. Its deepest point (7 to 8 feet) is at the dam. Those who fish from shore at the dam may find sink tips useful. For those in canoes, kayaks or boats, floating or intermediate lines will suffice with rods of sufficient backbone to throw larger streamers for pickerel. Lighter rods will work for crappie and bluegills.

Recommended Flies: Streamers such as Clouser Minnows, Bullethead Darters, Woolly Buggers and Crystal Buggers in hook sizes 6 through 1/0 will attract each of the fish named above. Surface action is possible for our trip. Poppers (size 2 to 6) and Rubber Spiders (size 6 and 8) may attract bass and bluegills respectively.

License Required: Maryland Non-Tidal (Freshwater).

Trip Logistics, Fishing and Other Information:

Timeline: Anglers should plan to begin fishing by **1:00 PM** and should allow for roughly a 3 to 4-hour session.

Lunch: The group will collectively decide on a place for lunch. One good candidate is “J&R” Country store, which is approximately two miles further down Noble Road from Smithville Lake at the intersection of Noble Road and Bloomery Rd.

Miscellaneous: I believe this 43-acre lake will be a treat for those who have never fished it. It is ideal for fly fishing. It has a stand of Bald Cypress trees like Trap Pond and good fish populations. .

Photos: As with all FSFF events, participants are encouraged to take pictures during the outing to share with other club members via our website and Facebook page.

SAFETY: Safety is a paramount concern on all FSFF sponsored outings. On all FSFF sponsored outings, please be safe out there as it is your responsibility to stay within your capabilities and practice water safety at all time. Check with the above listed outing coordinator for more information on the fishing conditions if you have any concerns or questions. If boating, always wear your PFD and if water temperatures are below 60 degrees F, have a plan to protect yourself from cold water immersion hazards should you fall in. Most importantly, enjoy the fellowship of your fellow members through fly fishing and tight lines!

On all FSFF sponsored outings, we ask that our members and guests Pick up Five pieces of trash you run across wading the river or kayaking the pond—small trash bags to be provided.