



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

President's Message

The importance of a club's leadership should never be underestimated. But in a well-run club it often goes unnoticed. And that's good. Our members enjoy activities running smoothly without disruption. They appreciate interesting guest speakers and many opportunities for camaraderie with fellow fly anglers. None of that happens on its own. It occurs in the FSFF because we have a talented and dedicated core group who volunteer to make sure the all the planning necessities are attended to.

At our November meeting you can play a critical role in our leadership. You can vote. In August the following individuals stepped forward for consideration as our 2019 elected officers:

President -- Rich Batiuk

First Vice President – Gary Grey

Second Vice President – Luis Santiago

Secretary – Frank Bowne

Treasurer – Tom Gooding

I announced these candidates at our September and October meetings. Also, at each meeting I asked if any other members were interested in running for the above offices. No additional candidates stepped forth. Each of the above members are running unopposed. You may, therefore, question why it's important for you to

attend our November meeting to register your vote. Let me offer a reason why.

Your vote is a great way to show your support and to say thank you to our 2019 candidates for agreeing to assume club leadership roles. I am extremely pleased that they volunteered for a new office, or to continue in their existing office, or to join the leadership ranks for the first time. They collectively have the experience and fresh approaches to ensure the FSFF continues its upward trajectory. So, again, I ask you to please attend our November meeting and to express your appreciation for our 2019 leaders with your vote.

Lastly, this is the final time I will address you in this newsletter as your president. It has been an honor for me serve you in 2018. During my term I marveled at the willingness of my elected teammates and appointed committee leads to suggest and pursue club initiatives. All I had to do was get out of their way and let the good things happen. And they did. From new outreach activities, to movie nights, to beer ties, to a revival of this newsletter, to a 50 percent increase in membership, the FSFF has been reenergized in 2018. I'm proud to have played a small role in that resurgence. I thank you for your support and trust throughout this year. I leave elected office knowing the club is in great hands for the future. I remain a proud FSFF member ready to help and support our incoming leadership team. I am confident each of you will do the same.

Sincerely,

Mark

Upcoming FSFF Events

Compiled by Frank Bowne and Rich Batiuk

Club Meetings Doors open at 7:00 PM for members and guests to mingle and socialize, there is a short club business meeting at 7:30 PM, and the speaker and their presentation begins at 7:45 PM. Can't remember a fellow member's name? No worries as we ask everyone to wear a name tag so we can all remember everyone's name.

Never been to a club meeting? We all started out in the same place, but you have come to the right place as we are always welcoming new members to join us. Whether you are just starting fly fishing or have been fly fishing your entire life, everyone is welcome to join! See the last page of the newsletter for more information and directions on getting to our (your) club house pictured below.



November 7: Ashlee Horne, "Patapsco River Shad and Herring Restoration" The Maryland Department of Natural Resources biologist with the Fishing and Boating Service's Anadromous Restoration Program will present on the success of efforts to bring these big ocean dwelling, Bay spawning fish back to healthy population levels.

January 2, 2019: Mark Kovach, "Fishing the Potomac for Over 35 Years" [*Invited but not yet confirmed*] Owner of Mark Kovach Fishing Service (MKFS Fishing), Mark has been guiding folks down

the Potomac River since 1979. Offering fly fishing instruction and intimate guided fishing trips, Mark will share decades of experience fishing on the nation's river. Whether you're an avid angler or a beginner, along for a guided trip or immersed in your first fly fishing class, you'll be sure to enjoy what is arguably the most scenic stretch of the Potomac River. Starting above Harpers Ferry, WV and ending in Brunswick, MD, MKFS fishes 8 miles of the Potomac through deep pools and class III white water. This stretch of the river is steeped in rich history and abundant natural beauty, not to mention great fishing. From bass fishing, to bald eagle sightings, and Civil War stories—you're in for a treat.



February 6 2019: Joe Bruce, "Shallow Water Fishing" Owner since 2010 of Joe Bruce's Custom Flies (www.JoeBruce.net) and prior owner of the Fisherman's Edge Fly Shop from 1989 – 2004, Joe brings decades (and even more decades) worth of on-the-water experience to the club and audiences around the country. He will share countless tips, recommendations, and ideas for hooking up and landing a variety of fish from the skinny waters of ponds, lakes and tidal creeks and rivers. And his photos provide the proof he knows where and how to find and hook up fish in places where many of us have casted again and again to with no strikes.

March 6 2019: Michael Abramowitz "Safety While Fly Fishing" Michael's presentation will provide tips and methods to stay safe while fly fishing. What happens if you trip and

fall in the middle of the river and your waders start filling with water? Accidents happen and the best defenses are knowledge and preparation.

Michael's talk will cover the best methods to prevent the most common potential accidents that can occur on a fishing outing, whether at your local stream or a distant location. You will learn how to respond safely to incidents so you can get back to your passion, fishing, trying to net the one that got away.

Holiday Party



Join your fellow members on **December 5th** at 6:00 PM at Mike's Crab House, Riva Maryland for this long held FSFF holiday tradition. In addition to your course from a menu selection to be provided, there will be raffles for some truly outstanding fly fishing related (and beyond) prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and a lot of FSFF fellowship and stories (and likely half truths about the size) of fish released long distance. See the signup form near the end of this newsletter for instructions for placing for your menu choices for dinner. For more information, please contact Mark Bange at 410-591-5254.

Beer Ties We will be in the porch area at Killarney



House restaurant located at 584 West Central Avenue Davidsonville, MD 21035 on the fourth Wednesday of every other month, alternating with FSFF's Movie

Night. You can check out their excellent menu at <http://killarneyhousepub.com>. This is a chance to

socialize, eat and drink in a restaurant while tying flies and talking fishing from 6:00-8:00 PM. Please bring your vise, lamp, materials and tools. Join us for beer, food, flies, and a lot of talking on:

- October 24th
- December 26th
- February 27th

Come and join us even if you don't plan to tie flies or if you want to start to learn. Half the time we are so busy talking (you know who we are talking about), eating and drinking, we have to remember to tie off the fly locked in our vise before moving onto the next fly. For more information, please contact Frank Bowne at 410-798-5474.

Club Outings are all led by FSFF members. All club sponsored outings are open to all members and their guests. Details and all necessary logistical information on each outing are posted on the club's web site and emailed out in advanced to all members. In 2018, the club has scheduled and sponsored over 30 different outings, targeting a wide variety of species in streams and rivers, on ponds and lakes, and out on the Bay.

Oct 12: Pond of the Month—Killens Pond and Coursey Pond, Delaware



Continuing the incredible series of "Pond of the Month" outings, join your fellow club members for fly fishing for largemouth bass, pickerel, and sunfish. Two ponds on one day—fly fishing does not get much better than this! And plans for a group lunch between ponds is icing on the cake!! Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-473

Oct 22: Goodhands Creek, Kent Island, MD

Bring your kayak or canoe and join us on a fly fishing outing for striped bass.

Contact: Mark Bange 410-591-525



Oct 25: Wagamons Pond, Milton Delaware Join your fellow club members for fly fishing on a pond where several Delaware state record largemouth bass have been caught. Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

Nov 8: Gilbert Run Lake, southern Maryland Following up on a very successful outing this spring where Bob Ruck took the top honors in both largemouth bass and bluegill, join us for this fall outing. Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

Nov 16: Morgan Run, MD Fall fly fishing for trout is on the menu for this club sponsored outing on a stream with hungry brown and rainbow trout. Contact: Rich Batiuk 410-268-5226.



Nov 28 or 29: Eastern Shore River Details for this outing are still be firmed up, but Mike is planning to take club members to Marshyhope Creek near Federalsburg or the Choptank River in Denton, holding largemouth bass, pickerel and some stripers. Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

December 6: Smithville Lake, Maryland It may be cold, but Mike is still leading the club's "Pond of the Month" outings, so join your fellow club members for fly fishing for anything that will still be biting at this time of year. Mike has promised beautiful weather for this outing (no hurricances)! Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735



December 19: Unicorn Pond, Millington, MD We will be targeting pickerel in their wintertime habitats, casting fur and feathers that really look like fat minnows just waiting to be inhaled! Contact: Rich Batiuk 410-268-5226



Movie Nights On the months in which we don't have a FSFF sponsored Beer Tie, the club will be hosting fly fishing Movie Nights on those fourth Wednesday nights. Join us at 6 PM in the club house for pizza, drinks, snacks, and some very cool flicks that highlight fly fishing across the country and around the world on:

- November 28th
- January 23rd
- March 28th

Contact: Luis Santiago 209-485-5315

Fly Tying Sessions



One of the great benefits of being a FSFF member is having completely free access to a wide array of talented fly tyers. Club members will lead each fly tying session as scheduled below for the coming year:

- November 3rd
- January 15th

- January 26th
- February 9th
- February 23rd
- March 9th
- March 23rd
- April 6th
- May 4th

All fly tying sessions will be held at the FSFF clubhouse, starting at 10:00 AM. In advance of each scheduled fly tying session, members will be alerted as to flies to be tied during that session, what materials will be used, and which club member is leading that tying session. Those notifications will come via emails to all club members as well as updated postings on the club's web site. New to fly tying? No need for concern as these fly tying sessions are set up to ensure everyone is learning. Don't have the listed fly tying materials for an upcoming session? No problem as the club will provide the materials for those who don't have them. Still trying to come up with an excuse not to join us for these sessions...good luck because none of them are good enough to miss some great fly tying experiences, a lot of friendly chatter, and a lot of FSFF fellowship, all free and not available on the Internet! Contact: Luis Santiago 209-485-5315

March 2019 Lancaster Fly Fishing Show

Plan to join your fellow FSFF members in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, March 9th. The club will be setting up carpooling to the show as well as a group lunch and dinner for members. Look for more details in the winter 2019 newsletter. The 2019 Fly Fishing Show schedule is at www.flyfishingshow.com.

Icelandic Wool Dyeing Session

Join your fellow members in learning Joe Bruce's secret recipe for dyeing Icelandic wool, the principal material used in his very, very effective bullet head flies and many other fly patterns. Knowing that members are just 'dying' to

participate, Rich Batiuk will be circulating a sign-up sheet at the November and January meetings. We are asking members to share the cost of purchasing several complete Icelandic sheep skins. For a small price, you will receive several large sections of dyed wools in colors like chartreuse, brown, and black. A hint: Joe's secret dyeing formula begins with Kool-Aid! Contact: Rich Batiuk 410-268-5226

Featured Fly

Chuck Kraft's Kreelex

By Luis Santiago

The Kreelex is a Potomac River smallmouth bass favorite. Considered a top streamer by many guides it has the many characteristics that make it a go to fly at the top of the list. It's an effective streamer with many species, it's cast easily and is a very quick and uncomplicated tie. The fly can be tied with standard Flashabou but the Kreinik Flash is key to the fly's action.

Materials

Thread: 210 denier any color. I prefer mono, White or Red.

Hook: 3 or 4X long streamer hook

Body: Kreinik Flash

Eyes: Dazl-Eyes

The originator Chuck Kraft has a great tying tutorial on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=479&v=t3xaQTtpmWA



Where to Fish

Pocomoke River on Maryland's Eastern Shore

By Gary Grey

On the Eastern Shore of Maryland near Snow Hill lies the beautiful, tidal Pocomoke River. The headwaters of the Pocomoke are near Whiton, Maryland and the river runs through Snow Hill, the Pocomoke State Forest, Shad Landing State Park, Pocomoke City, and empties into the Pocomoke Sound, a little south of Crisfield.

A couple unique features of the tidal Pocomoke are its dark black tannin waters and cypress forest surroundings. Another extremely unique feature is that the headwaters section of the river is entirely canopied by cypress trees and it is beautiful. Since most of the river, at least from Pocomoke City upstream to the headwaters runs through the Pocomoke River State Forest, most of the shoreline is wooded; houses are a rare site.

The river is extremely boat accessible. Several roads cross in the headwaters area for canoe/kayak launching and there are first class boat ramps in Snow Hill, Shad Landing State Park, and Pocomoke City.

BOAT RENTALS

One of the most popular methods to fish and explore the Pocomoke is to rent a canoe/kayak from Pocomoke River Canoe Company, located on the river at the drawbridge in Snow Hill. You can rent a canoe or kayak there, and for a nominal fee they will portage you upstream and drop you off at Porters Crossing and you can paddle back downstream through the canopied section of the river to Snow Hill. This section of the river is canopied for about the first hour of a three-hour leisurely paddle (if you fish your way down, add a couple hours). If you have your own boat/kayak, they will portage that for a nominal fee also.

THE FISHING

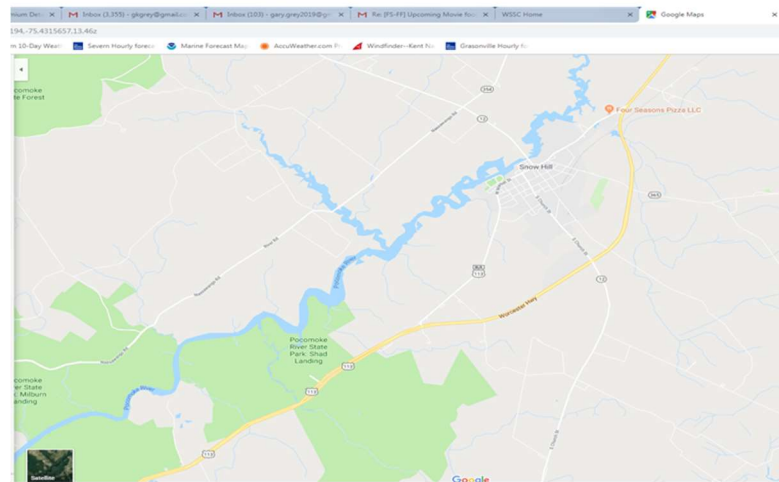
The Pocomoke has a thriving Largemouth Bass population, along with Crappie, Bluegill, Catfish, and no doubt other species. It is a popular destination for Bass

Club Tournaments many bass boats can be seen on summer weekends. Ski boats and skiing are popular there too. There are heavy sections of Spatterdock lining both sides of the river virtually everywhere, and this provides great habitat for bass. It's hard to go wrong fishing the edges of these areas and the open areas inside the Spatterdock fields. Standard approach to tidal river fishing tactics applies here.

LODGING

Snow Hill is around a 2.5-hour drive from Annapolis, so staying overnight is always a good option. Fortunately, a few good options exist for this. Shad Landing State Park is about a 10-minute drive south of Snow Hill. It is a first-rate family campground with hundreds of campsites (virtually all shaded under mature Loblolly Pine trees), mini-cabins, hot showers, a camp store, a boat ramp and marina (canoes and kayaks can be rented in this marina too). There are also Bed and Breakfasts in Snow Hill, and hotels/motels in Pocomoke City.

Do yourself a favor and try fishing this great river.



Newsletter Editor's Note: What more information on what the fish are biting? Two excellent sources: MD DNR's weekly fishing reports—sign up via DNR's website. And Fish Talk magazine offers a free weekly fishing report as well—sign up online at fishtalkmag.com. Both weekly reports cover Maryland freshwater, Bay and coastal fishing locations.

How to Fly Fish Even Better

Consider the Color Yellow

by Joe Bruce

It's all around us. Late morning through early afternoon the sun burns the sky with it, the autumn leaves projects it amidst all its fall beauty. Birds carry it as they go winging through the air, the pasture grasses radiate it on a breezy summer afternoon and yes, some of the fishes in our waters are painted with it. For a fisherman the color holds another special place, it catches fish.

Is it for the reasons above that fish are drawn to yellow? It might be it is something that they have seen all their lives. It's natural in nature. Maybe this is why it is so effective on a fly or lure. They know it is good to eat.

This is greatly different from an attractor color like fluorescent chartreuse or fluorescent pink. These colors spark an "instinct strike". Where yellow, a natural color, the fish know that it is good to eat. This can and will make a difference in your fishing, depending on what kind of mood the fish are in. Are they in an aggressive mood, the peak of their activity level? Chartreuse will certainly work here or are they in a neutral or non-aggressive mood, where a little coaxing is needed to get them to feed? Yellow will get the nod here.

Ask most saltwater fly fisherman their favorite color and most will pick chartreuse, but asked a "color challenged" (politically correct term for a red/green colorblind person) what color he likes.... I'm colorblind and I will pick yellow every time. The way I interpret the color chartreuse in the water, is it looks yellow to me, after a foot or so of depth. Do you think the fish might see it the same way? Is it the shade or color? I know the color wave

lengths on fluorescents have greater penetrations in the water, but, what is the fish seeing.

As a colorblind person I was asked in my shop numerous times why I tie the heads of my chartreuse flies with chartreuse thread? It isn't because I think that chartreuse thread is the right color for the fly head, it's because this is the only way I could differentiate the yellow flies from the chartreuse ones.

The color yellow is not exclusively a saltwater fly color. It is used in all the waters...cold, warm and salt. Combinations of yellow with other colors have been on the scene for generations... yellow and red, yellow and white poppers, yellow and red shad darts, Yellow Sally trout flies. The list goes on and on.

Absolutely any patterns can be converted to yellow. How about an all yellow hopper? Take a close look of the underside of just about any mayfly. Is it not some shade of yellow, going from a light cream to a darker yellow? Yellow is a natural color. When fish aren't quite in the mood, send them something like "yum-yum yellow" it might make a difference in your catch rate.

Newsletter Editor's Note: We FSFF members are very fortunate to have Joe Bruce as a fellow FSFF member. Joe has willingly given his time and shared his significant fly fishing experiences to the club through leading fly tying sessions and being a featured speaker at club meetings—see the Upcoming FSFF Events section for more information on his February 6th meeting presentation on "Shallow Water Fishing" and his upcoming "Icelandic Wool Dyeing Session". And continue to look for his "How to Fly Fish Even Better" in future quarterly FSFF newsletters for even more ideas and techniques to improve your fly fishing experiences.

Fishing and Conservation Issues

CCA Tagging Striped Bass Program: Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Maryland is sponsoring a Maryland Striped Bass Tagging Program, asking its members to become citizen-scientists and help tag stripers. It's important for the participants in the tagging program to understand exactly how to tag striped bass. Here's the how to video, available at www.fishtalkmag.com/blog/how-tag-striped-bass-cca-maryland-tagging-program, produced by Fish Talk Magazine. Here's how the tagging program works:

- If you are not a CCA member already, join up.
- Attend a tagging seminar—these are held at many regular CCA meetings and are listed on the CCA website at www.ccamd.org.
- Order your supplies on-line or via the tagging seminar.
- Refresh your memory on how to best handle and safely release the fish.
- Catch some striped bass and tag them.
- Fill in the data on the tagging card(s) and mail them to the American Littoral Society.

[Source: Fish Talk Magazine]

Keep Your Caught Fish Wet When Dehooking Them A reminder from Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The extremely high temperatures we experienced this past summer, combined with low salinity levels in the Bay and tidal waters, can seriously stress fish like striped bass. If at all possible, it's important to keep the fish in the water while dehooking them and avoid touching them. Handling the fish disturbs their layer of slime, which increases the changes of the fish developing sores and bacterial and viral infections. Whenever water temperatures are in the upper 70s or above, striped bass are facing stressful conditions. [Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources/Fish Talk]

Fly Fishing Has Highest Rate of First Time Participants: The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's 2018 special Report on Fishing reported that fly fishing has a

higher rate of first-time participants than any other type of fishing. [Source: AMC Outdoors]

Fish in Support of a Great Cause: On Saturday, November 3rd you can participate in Fish for a Cure—Charitable Fishing Tournament & Shore Party. Join a growing list of sponsors, boats, and shore party goers to raise funds for the survivorship programs at Anne Arundel Medical Center's Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute. A lot of the money raised comes from the Captain's Challenge whereby every boat's captain and crew take on the responsibility to fund raise on their own and the boats are ultimately ranked by just how much benefit they provide to the common cause. For more information go to www.fishForACure.org. For sponsor information, contact Kelly Accinelli at 443-610-7292 or kaccinelli@aahs.org.

Yellow Perch Commercial Season Modified Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently announced modifications to the commercial yellow perch season in the Bay's tidal tributary rivers. The commercial season will now run from December 1st through March 31st in 2019. Commercial landings targets have been established for specific tidal rivers—should those commercial targets be met; those specific rivers will be closed early to commercial fishing. According to Maryland Department of Natural Resource's statistics, the 2018 harvest levels were just shy of the total allowable landings in the Chester river (10,290 out of 10,318 pounds), well below in the Patuxent River (under 500 of 2500 pounds), and well below in the Upper Chesapeake Bay (33,502 out of 59,662 pounds). [Source: Fish Talk Magazine]

More Access to Steelhead Alley for Pennsylvania Fly Fishers: This past spring, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission voted to acquire new property and easements on Elk, Conneaut, and Crooked creeks in Erie County in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Fly fishers pursuing steelhead and other gamefish on these three Pennsylvania renowned Lake Erie tributaries will soon enjoy expanded stream access. [Source: Fly Fisherman Magazine]

An Invitation From

Free State Fly Fishers

to join us at our

**Holiday Dinner on December 5th, 2018 at
Mike's Crab House on the South River
at the Riva Road Bridge**

Cash Bar at 6:00 pm

Dinner service to begin at 6:30 pm

For more information contact Mark Bange at 410-255-7260 or mbange54@gmail.com

Cost: \$38.00 per person except for \$40.00 for Broiled Crab Cakes

Make checks payable to Free State Fly Fishers and mail with the following information to:

Thomas Gooding
3126 Anchorage Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403

Checks **must** be received by **November 22rd**
Payment cannot be accepted at the event

Name: _____

Entrée choice (see next page): _____

Total number of tickets: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Names of other guests in your party (Please include their first names): _____

_____ and their entrée choices _____

FSFF DECEMBER 5TH 2018
HOLIDAY DINNER AT
MIKE'S RESTAURANT & CRABHOUSE

3030 Old Riva Road – Riva, MD 21140
410-956-2784/410-956-0488 fax

GROUP DINNER ENTRÉE SELECTION
\$38.00* PER PERSON

SERVED IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM

CHOICE OF ONE ENTRÉE

- BROILED CRAB CAKE PLATTER--~~\$40.00~~ PER PERSON
- STUFFED FLOUNDER
- RACK OF RIBS
- ORANGE ROUGHY
- FRIED CHICKEN

Please let us know as soon as possible of special Dietary Needs in advance.

ALL ENTRÉES SERVED WITH:

- SIDE SALAD
- POTATAO
- ROLLS & BUTTER
- COFFEE, TEA, AND SODA

* Except if you are ordering the broiled crab cake, then the cost is \$40.00 per person.

FREE STATE FLY FISHERS LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: [Mark Bange](#)

First Vice-President: [Rich Batiuk](#)

Second Vice President: [Luis Santiago](#)

Secretary: [Luis Santiago](#)

Treasurer: [Tom Gooding](#)

Directors: [Bob Smith](#) / [George Vincent](#) / [Denis E. LaCroix](#)

FSFF Coordinators:

Clubhouse Coordinator: [John Scarborough](#) / [Mike Price](#)

DFRC Representatives: [Mike Price](#) / [John Scarborough](#)

Club Librarian: [Luis Santiago](#)

Chesapeake Council – FFI Delegate: [Frank Bowne](#)

Membership Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)

Social Media Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

Webmasters: Luis Santiago / [Frank Bowne](#)

Outings Coordinator: [Rich Batiuk](#)

Pond-of-the-Month Outings Coordinator: [Mike Mattia](#)

Speakers Program Coordinator: [Mark Bange](#)

Publicity Coordinator: [Dale Reed](#)

Raffles Coordinator: [Bob Ruck](#)

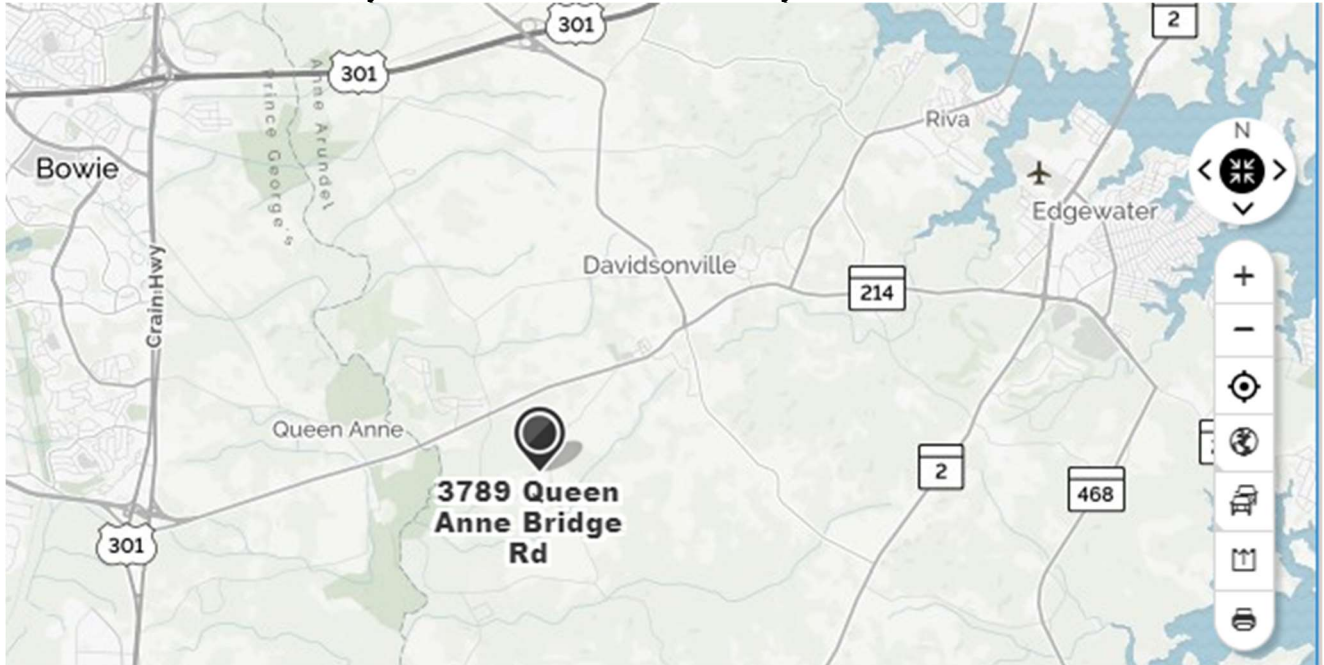
Newsletter Editor: [Rich Batiuk](#)

Please contact the appropriate FSFF leadership team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.

“Fellowship Through Fly Fishing”

Directions to the FSFF Clubhouse

Free State Fly Fishers (FSFF) meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, September through June (except December), starting at 7:00 PM, at our **clubhouse** located at 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Rd., Davidsonville, MD 21035. The club house is on the grounds of the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, an Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks facility.



Directions: From Route 50, take Exit 16 to Route 424/ Davidsonville Road South. At the second traffic light, take a right turn onto Route 214/Central Avenue West and then take a left turn on Queen Anne Bridge Road. Take a left-hand turn into the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center through the open gate. Walk along the

parking lot and around and past Ford Hall to the clubhouse using the above map.

Our Website: <http://fs-ff.com/>

Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FSFFMD/>

Email Us: info@fs-ff.com