



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

President's Message

During my term as your Free State Fly Fishers (FSFF) president, I have learned how fortunate we are to have a dedicated team of talented volunteers who perform multiple club tasks to “keep the lights on” as the saying goes. Without their efforts we would have no meetings, no guest speakers, no outings, no beer ties, no movie nights, no internet presence and no clubhouse. Unquestionably, we would have no club.

Now we have another effort underway to enhance your experience as a FSFF member – we have revitalized our newsletter. It will be a quarterly offering (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring) distributed electronically to members. Along with our website, our email group, our Facebook page and our meetings, our newsletter will keep members informed of the many activities that mark our very special club.

Please join me in thanking Rich Batiuk for assuming the job of newsletter editor. Also, a special thanks to each contributor, not only in this edition of our newsletter but in future offerings.

Indeed, Rich is completely receptive to your input and ideas for newsletter content. So, if you like what you see, and I'm sure you will, please let him know. Better yet, submit your articles and topic suggestions for future editions. This is your publication.

Now, a few words about local fishing in 2018. In short, fishing has been a challenge compared to previous years.

Our spring was chilly with abundant rain. High water deterred those of us who like to wade rivers and streams from getting out. Cold water delayed the spawn of bass in ponds and impoundments. The appearance of white perch in their familiar shallow water tidal haunts was several weeks later than normal. Excessive rain lowered Bay salinity and the resulting nutrient runoff caused a late spring algae bloom in western shore tributaries. As a result, striper catches were below normal on our side of the Bay Bridge. However, pickerel in Eastern Shore ponds gave us steady action during an otherwise slow first half of 2018.

The good news is that fishing is improving. No doubt a productive fall awaits us. FSFF members are fortunate to have at least 14 club outings remaining in 2018. We'll visit ponds, streams, rivers and tidal waters in pursuit of all our favorite game species. I encourage each of you to consider joining us on one of more of these outings.

Now, enjoy the pages to follow.

Thank you, *Mark*



A March pickerel at Unicorn Pond.

Upcoming FSFF Events

Club Meetings Doors open at 7:00 PM for members and guests to mingle and socialize, short club business meeting at 7:30 PM and the speaker and their presentation begins at 7:45 PM. Directions to the clubhouse located on the last page of the newsletter.



September 5: Lenny Rudow, “Casting in Shallows for Stripers, Specks and Reds” Angler-in-Chief of “Rudow’s Fish Talk” will be describing some of his adventures and sharing his fishing knowledge.

October 3: Dean Naujoks, “Enforcing Clean Water Laws for a Fishable, Swimmable, Drinkable Potomac River” The Potomac River Keeper will discuss what it will take to restore the Nation’s river back to health for both people and fish.

November 7: Ashlee Horne, “Patapsco River Shad and Herring Restoration” 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 big these ocean dwelling, Bay spawning fish.

Holiday Party



Join your fellow members on December 5th at 6:00 PM at Mike’s Crab House, Riva Maryland for this holiday tradition. In addition your course from a menu selection to be provided, there will be raffles for some truly outstanding prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and a lot of FSFF fellowship. See the Winter FSFF newsletter for more details and a signup sheet. For more information: Joe Slayton (410) 757-4646.

Beer Ties We will be in the porch area at the restaurant located at 584 West Central Avenue Davidsonville, MD 21035. You can check out their 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. More info: contact Frank Bowne 410-798-5474. Join us for beer, food, flies, and a lot of talking on:

- August 22nd
- October 24th
- December 26th

Club Outings Led by FSFF members, all club sponsored outings are open to all members and guests. Details and all necessary logistical information on each outing is posted on the club’s web site and emailed out in advanced to all members.

July TBD: Pond of the Month

Target Species: TBD

Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

August TBD: Potomac River at Brunswick, MD

Wade fishing for smallmouth bass and sunfish in a part of the Potomac River just perfect for covering a lot of water and structure.

Contact: Mark Bange 410-591-5254

Aug TBD: Pond of the Month

Target Species TBD

Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

August 25: Rappahannock River, VA

Join your fellow club members as we wade fish for smallmouth bass and a variety of sunfish upstream of Fredericksburg, Virginia in water with lots of riffles and pools.



Contact: Rich Batiuk (410) 268-5226

September 22-23: Janes Island State Park, MD

This overnight trip to a great Eastern Shore island fishing for striped bass requires access to a boat, canoe or kayak.

Contact: Luis Santiago 209) 485-5315



Sept/Oct TBD: Cape Henlopen, DE

This club outing enables all participants to experience wading from the beach and fly fishing from jetties for bluefish, spot, and croaker.

Contact: Bob Smith



October TBD: Eastern Shore Stripers

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

Contact: Mark Bange 410-591-5254

Oct TBD: Pond of the Month

Continuing the incredible series of “Pond of the Month” outings, join you fellow club members for flyfishing for largemouth bass, pickerel, and sunfish.

Contact: Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

Nov TBD Pond of the Month

Target Species TBD

Mike Mattia 443-570-4735

Nov 17: Morgan Run, MD

Fall flyfishing 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

December TBD: Pond of the Month

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 Ties, the club will be hosting fly fishing Movie Nights. Join us at 7 PM for popcorn, drinks, snacks, and some very cool flicks that highlight fly fishing across the country and around the world on:

- September 26th
- November 28th
- January 23rd

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:

- August 4th
- September 1st
- October 6th
- 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 for the fly tying materials for those who don't have them. Still trying to come up with an excuse not to join us for these fly tying sessions...good luck cause 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!

2019 Fly Fishing Show Schedule

The 2019 national Fly Fishing Show schedule was recently announced and its listed below. For more information, please visit: www.flyfishingshow.com.

Denver, Colorado: January 4, 5 & 6

Marlborough, Massachusetts: January 18, 19 & 20

Edison, New Jersey: January 25, 26 & 27

Atlanta, Georgia: February 1 & 2

Lynnwood, Washington: February 16 & 17

Pleasanton, California: February 22, 23 & 24

Lancaster, Pennsylvania: March 9 & 10

Watch for the Winter FSFF Newsletter for details on plans for FSFF trip to the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show in March 2019.

Where to Fish

Snakehead Fishing on the Transquaking River

By Gary Grey

Last year I was real interested in catching a Snakehead, and hearing that they were in the Blackwater River complex, elected to give the Transquaking River a try.

On July 27, 2017 I gave it a try. The day started out unbelievably promising. I arrived at the Transquaking River boat ramp on Drawbridge Rd, just SE of Cambridge, MD around 7:00 AM (sunrise was 6:00 AM). I parked my 4Runner and boat trailer (16' jon boat with 20 hp engine) in the parking lot and walked down to look at the boat ramp. A guy came walking down from the bridge to his car and opened his trunk, opened up a cooler in the trunk, and threw a big long, skinny fish in (maybe 7 pounds). I was wondering... He walked back to the bridge and tended to his four fishing rods. After I looked at the ramp and was walking back to my vehicle (less than five minutes later) he came down from the bridge, walked back to his car and repeated the process. I struck up a conversation with him, and he re-opened his cooler to reveal four or five, 5-10 pound snakeheads, and he had caught all of them in the last hour! In the time it took me to conduct a leisurely launch, he must have caught at least three more. He was fishing off the bridge with live minnows, maybe 30-pound test, and right along the spatterdock edge, and doing great!

The Transquaking River, in that section, is a beautiful, relatively undeveloped river (maybe three or four houses along the first mile downstream). It is a typical, headwaters section of a tidal, Eastern Shore river. Shallow water, slow tidal current, spatterdock areas along the edges, lots of coves and small creek tributaries. It was a beautiful river to explore, but definitely SHALLOW. During my four hours of fishing and exploring, running aground was a constant concern; my fishfinder showed the depths varying typically from 2-4 feet. This would be a much better river to fish in a kayak instead of a motorboat.

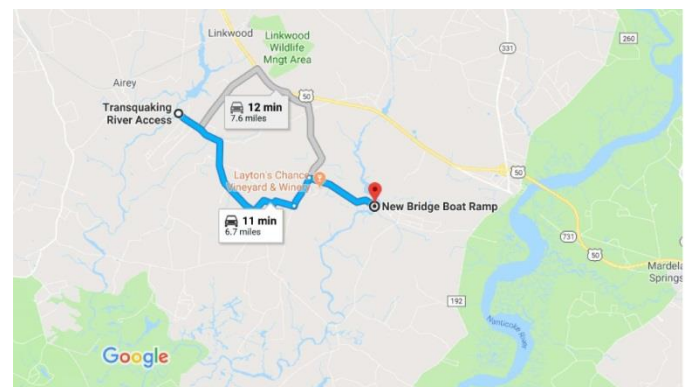
The “catching” portion of the fishing trip didn’t work out well—or “at all” would be a better word selection.

Utilizing the information Joe Bruce provided our club during his “Fishing for Snakeheads” presentation, I fished it with spinning gear using Zoom Horny Toads, some hollow frogs, Rapala floating minnows, and spinner baits, but with no luck.

After trailering my boat again, I drove the 7 miles over to the “New Design” boat ramp on the Chicamacomico River, which is a “sister” river to the Transquaking and feeds into Fishing Bay just above Bestpitch (which also has a large, first-class ramp). It was around Noon. As luck would have it, a Bass fishing club outing was ending up and in the 10 minutes I hung around the ramp, six boats came in, ALL of which had caught multiple Snakeheads. The Chicamacomico River is much, much bigger at the New Design boat ramp than the Transquaking River is at the Drawbridge Rd. boat ramp; it is much better suited for motorboats.

So, if you’re interested in chasing Snakeheads, and like Easter Shore tidal rivers, these are two very good options to consider. Both provide a good chance of catching Snakeheads, and also a beautiful environment to explore when doing so. If you try the Transquaking River, a kayak is your best choice; if you try the Chicamacomico, any boat will work.

Getting there: The Transquaking River boat ramp Drawbridge Rd. is about a 1.5-hour drive from Annapolis, Maryland.



What to Fly Fish With?

Try a “Jiggly”! Bob Popovics conceived this fly to produce a jiggling motion, in the tradition of the Clouser Deep Minnow, but with some significant variations. First, the cone head or Jiggy Head places the weight farther forward. This feature, along with a generally sparser dressing causes the fly to drop sharply between pulls when retrieving. Overall, the Jiggly gives a more streamlined minnow shape, making it especially suited for imitating thin baits like sandeels and spearing. Also, the head cannot break off, as lead dumbbell eyes will sometimes do when they strike a hard object.

Materials

Hook: Long shank, sizes 4-3/0

Thread: clear mono (or color to match the top bucktail)

Wing: bucktail, Flashabou

Head: jiggly head (or brass or tungsten cone head)

Eyes: prismatic

Tying Procedures

1. Slide a Jiggy head (or cone head) to the hook eye. For more weight or sharper jiggling action, you can wrap a few turns of wire around the shank and push it inside the head.
2. With the hook in the vise ‘upside down’ and the thread attached just behind the head, tie in a sparse bunch of bucktail hair about twice the hook length. Important: keep all the material on top of the hook shank. This is the most important factor in assuring that the fly rides hook up. If the bucktail material is spread around the hook shank, the fly will likely ride with the hook down.

3. On top of the bucktail hair, add several strands of Flashabou or other flash, extending beyond the end of the hair.
4. Add a sparse bunch of contrasting color bucktail, about the same length as the first bunch of bucktail. Tie off the thread and coat the wraps with head cement.

Additional Tying Notes and Variations

You can make the hook slightly Bendback style. Other options include using a rabbit strip instead of or in combination with the bucktail hair wing as well as including an extension of monofilament from the bend of the hook onto which are tied several saddle hackles to make an extra-long fly.

An olive and white cone head Jiggly is a great sandeel imitation. When using a cone head, place the eyes over the wraps and coat with a thin coat of clear 5-minute epoxy. If you use clear mono thread, you can secure the eyes with it before applying the epoxy. The thread becomes virtually invisible when you coat it.

Jiggies in blue, green, and tan over white effectively imitate the smaller baits on which false albacore and bonito commonly feed. They are among the top albie flies used on the east coast.

The Keel Eel, a simple sandeel or elver imitation, can be fashioned from Super Hair or Ultra Hair on a long shank, Bendback hook.

Fishing the Jiggy

Attach the fly to your leader with a loop knot for better action, and use the same retrieves as described for Clouser Deep Minnow.

How to Fly Fish Even Better

What to Do with the Fly Rod in the Summer

by Joe Bruce

Any and everything is the answer; well almost everything. The chain pickerel will be tapering off along with the yellow perch, but all other species are in full gear. This causes a little problem -- what to go for. I simply can't do it all, so I usually do what I haven't done for a while. This is either smallmouth bass (my first love) or saltwater.

For the last couple of decades, the spring and summer water levels in the smallmouth rivers have been too high for safe boating and especially wading. Spring fishing for smallies is one of the best fisheries when you can get on the water. It's pretty easy, just throw any pattern behind an eddy and there will be fish. A #1/0 yellow or white Clouser or a Bullethead Darter and you are in business.

This fishery holds up all through the summer into late fall. I usually have two outfits with me, no matter in a boat or wading. I have a 7-weight fly rod with a popper usually and a spin rod with a plastic worm or a twister tail grub on when the fish seem to prefer the bottom instead of the top.

As far as the salt, I really enjoy the tributaries of the Bay where I can take my kayak and fish down the shoreline much like I would do fishing a pond, casting to the structure looking for white or yellow perch and small stripers. Here is a place for your trout outfits. My outfit consists of a 4 or 5 weight rod with a 5 or 10' sink-tip, a four foot piece of 14 lb. test and #4 yellow Clouser Minnow. Note how I use the same colors, saves time on tying and reducing tying materials needed.

Good places to launch a kayak to experience this kind of fishing are creeks like Spa Creek in

Annapolis or Weems Creek. On the Eastern Shore I like the Wye River, but I don't launch at the landing. I go over the Skipton Creek. The Talbot county ramps have no permit to launch kayaks.

Another creek on the Eastern Shore I like is Trappe Creek, again no permit is needed. This creek has a large population of channel catfish and on a trout rod they will give you all you want in a fight. Eight and ten pound cats are not uncommon. This usually is a very peaceful creek without much boat traffic. Again, start at point "A" and keep going until you are tired. A great way to spend a summer day.



Fishing and Conservation Issues

Preventing Spread of Invasive Organisms: The next time you go fishing, keep in mind that your boat, your equipment as well as your boots could be carrying some unwanted organisms to your next fishing destination. If you still have a pair of felt soles on your wading boots, besides being illegal in Maryland, you need to take extra care to not transfer invasive organisms between waters. Porous materials (e.g. felt soles, neoprene, shoe laces) can hold organisms and remain moist for days and are, therefore, much more likely to transport organisms. Such porous items should be cleaned, disinfected if possible, and allowed to completely dry in the sun.

Because boats/canoes/kayaks are made of a smooth hard material, cleaning and rinsing would suffice. Please do so after every time you use them. And finally, try and clean your fly lines after trips to ponds to help stop the spread of algae to the next waterbody.

Have you seen a Dolphin in the Chesapeake Bay?

Scientists want to know! Researchers at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science have been studying dolphins in the Bay and its tributaries for years. In 2017, they launched a citizen science effort called *Dolphin Watch*, and now there's a new app (available on iPhone and Android) to make reporting sightings easier. Scientists say there appear to be hundreds, if not thousands, of dolphins coming into the Bay during summer months. One reason for the large pods may be that they're feeding on big schools of fish — possibly a reflection of the bay's improving health.

It's impossible to know if there are more dolphins now than in years past. Another purpose of the Dolphin Watch program is to give scientists more data about dolphins in the Bay now, to provide a baseline to track changes in dolphin populations in the future.

Dolphins spotted in the Chesapeake are bottlenose dolphins. They spend their lives traveling up and down the Atlantic coast, summering in the mid-Atlantic, then heading south for the winter.

Bay Underwater Grasses at Record Levels: Scientists at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science reported record

setting levels of underwater grasses in 2017, mapping over 105,000 acres along the Bay's 10,000 miles of tidal shorelines. Back in the early 1980s, less than 34,000 acres were mapped. This more than threefold increase in underwater plants means more habitat for fish and crabs, food for ducks and geese, protection of shorelines from eroding waves, and more signs that the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem is recovering. And for us FSFF members, more underwater grasses = more structure = more fish = more places to cast = more fish per cast! [Source: Chesapeake Bay Program]

Outdoor Recreation Important Part of Nation's

Economy: For the first time, the federal government has included the effects of outdoor recreation as part of its annual assessment of the national economy. Outdoor recreation comprises 2 percent or \$373.7 billion of the United States' Gross Domestic Product. According to Outside Magazine, this is comparable to industries like construction (4.3 percent) and legal services (1.3 percent). Data from the Outdoor Industry Association shows that residents in the Chesapeake Bay's six state watershed spend more than \$52 billion annual on outdoor recreation and 700 outdoor recreation companies in the regional employ 1 million people. So as fly fishers, our spending helps our regional and national economies! [Source: Chesapeake Conservancy]

Fishing Camp? Where Do I Sign Up! That's right, Trout Unlimited sponsors fly fishing for trout camps. TU chapters and councils operate 25 camps and academies across the country. The programs range from multi-day casting or fly-tying clinics to overnight camps. To learn how you can get involved or to enroll a young person in camp, visit www.tu.org/camps. [Source: Trout Unlimited]

Bluefish Fisheries Management Plan Forecast Changes:

For more information, see the www.mafmc.org, and provide comments by July 30th on the plan considering switching recreational catch to commercial fishermen. [Source: Baltimore Sun]

FFI's Fall On The Fly

The Chesapeake Council of Fly Fishers International (FFI) will hold *Fall On The Fly* at Susquehanna State Park in Havre de Grace, Maryland on Saturday, September 29, 2018.



All fly fishing clubs

within the Chesapeake Council region (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC) are invited to host a table to share their club activities, teach a skill, hand out freebies, hold a raffle, etc. at the Saturday event.

If you are interested in representing FSFF at the table or helping in any way; let Frank Bowne know (410-798-5474).

Classes for intermediate and Beginning Fly Fishers

3 hour classes on the water (need some fly fishing experience):

Dry Fly Fishing - Phil Gay, MCI

Steelhead Fishing - Gary Kell, MCI

Saltwater Fishing - Capt. Pete Greenan, MCI

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing Classes (any level):

Understanding Fly lines, Leaders & Tippetts (1.5 hours)

Casting with a Coach; 1 on 1 instruction (30 minutes)

Introduction to Fish, Food & Flies (1.5 hour)

Mends that Matter; when & how to mend a cast (1.5 hour)

Mastering the Mechanics of the "haul" (1.5 hour)

Analyzing the Cast - problem definition & resolution (1.5 hour)

Preparing for the CI Exam (1.5 hour)

Bronze, Silver & Gold Fly Casting Challenge (any level):

The FFI's new program for improving your fly casting capabilities will be demonstrated and taught throughout the day

Used Fly Fishing Equipment Sale: If you have any gear in good working order that you would like to sell, set your price and bring it along. Tags, labels and a receipt will be provided. Accounts for equipment sold will be settled at the end of the day.

Silent Auction: Includes a guided trip with Capt. Pete Greenan's Gypsy Fly Guide Service out of Sarasota (region) FL.

<http://www.floridaflyfishing.com/FishingTrips.htm>

Beer Tie: Coakley's Irish Pub, Havre de Grace, MD, 6:00 PM

Casting Instructor Certification testing is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2018 also at Susquehanna State Park. This was announced on FFI's website:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Casting/CalendarofEvents/tabid/616/Default.aspx> a couple of months ago

and immediately sold out. If you are still interested in taking the exam, please call Dianne Tidy at 410-287-9405 or email: tidys@comcast.net We may be able to schedule more tests!

Online registration will open on August 5th, 2018 on the <http://ccffi.org/> website.

Registration in Advance is required. Class space is limited!

FFI Members: \$50 includes any classes and lunch

Non-FFI Members: \$70 includes FFI membership, any classes and lunch

Gate Entry: \$15 includes lunch, access to displays, free classes or demonstrations

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been the leading voice of fly fishers since 1964. Some of us may remember it by its old name, International Fly Fishers Federation (IFFF). It represents the sport of fly fishing including casting instruction, tying and education about the

protection of salt and fresh water fisheries. Fly Fishers International and its regional Councils are the only national and regional level advocates for fly fishers.

Fly Fishers International has two types of clubs, charter clubs and affiliated clubs. Each club can take advantage of both FFI national and regional council programs and events. Free State Fly Fishers in an affiliated club.

Affiliated clubs can take advantage of:

- Eligible for FFI liability insurance at reduced rate
- Rod Incentive Program
- Industry Partner Program (discounted equipment for clubs)
- Annual Conservation Grants
- Regional/National Awards
- Club Listing on FFI website
- Calendar Postings on National/Regional Web Sites
- Access to loaner equipment
- Flyfisher Magazine (1 copy)
- Online FFI ClubWire monthly newsletter

Editor's Note: Frank Bowne is the Free State Fly Fisher's representative on the Chesapeake Council of Fly Fishers International

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: Joe Slayton

Publicity Coordinator: Dale Reed

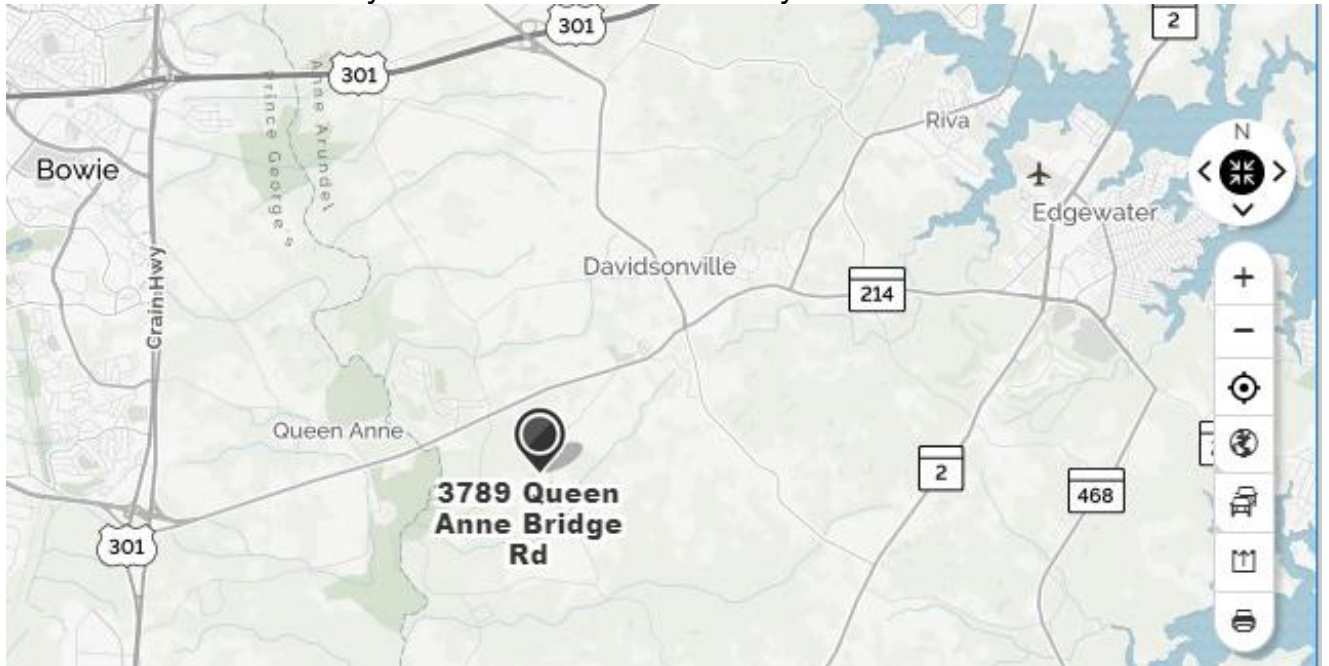
Raffles Coordinator: Bob Ruck

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 meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, September through June (except December), starting at 7:30 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