



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

President's Message

Just when you thought we had a great set of club sponsored outings, activities and events, well, based on feedback from a growing number of club members, we are working to raise the bar once again. Here's some examples of what your Leadership Team—Gary Grey, Luis Santiago, Tom Gooding, Frank Bowne, Mike Mattia, and Mark Bange—will be working on in the coming months, but we will need other club members stepping up and helping out to make all this happen.

More Hands-On Opportunities have been requested by club members, particularly following are very successful February Icelandic Wool dyeing session, our all about fly fishing for pickerel session in March, and our June meeting devoted to learning more about fly casting. I will be working with your club Leadership Team to start lining up and scheduling more opportunities for demonstrations and hands-on activities between our monthly meetings. And, based on a vote by club members, we will continue to devote our June meeting to some type of hands-on activity or demonstration. If you have ideas on what you would like to see, let me or another Leadership Team member know what we could do.

More Focus on New Fly Fishers will be emphasized in the coming year as we continue to welcome more and more new members who are also new to the sport of fly fishing. For example, Duber Winters has offered to schedule some on-stream fly fishing classes geared towards learning how to read and fish the waters.

More Opportunities to Volunteer will be offered to club members, starting with upcoming Heroes on the Water events and expanding from there. We will need club members willing to take the lead on locating such volunteer opportunities and communicating them to our fellow club members.

And thanks... to **Mark Bange** for lining up speakers for our monthly meetings for 2019, to **Gary Grey** for scheduling our club sponsored outings through this year, to **Luis Santiago** for organizing our fly tying sessions, movie nights and the spring Swap Meet, to **John Scarborough** taking care of our clubhouse and cleaning the floors, to **Frank Bowne** for signing up our members, both new and current, and hosting our Beer Ties, to **Joe Bruce** for sharing his endless ideas on how to fly fish even better and for leading the great Icelandic Wool dyeing session this past February, to **Bob Ruck** for helping with our raffles at each monthly meeting, to **Mike Mattia** for leading our infamous 'pond-of-the-month' outings and helping Bob with the raffles, to **Duber Winters** for sharing his extensive fly fishing skills and experiences with club members, to **Tom Gooding** for keeping track of our growing finances, to **Cliff Young** for getting our club lots of good publicity, and to **Joe DeMeo** for his more than generous contributions to our monthly meeting and Holiday Party raffles prizes. Without these and other club members donating their time, we would not have the incredible array of club sponsored outings, events and activities throughout the year! So please step up and help make our club keep on being what makes it so unique.

Tight Lines,

Rich

More Opportunities to Support Your Club



There are always opportunities for you to get more involved in your club, but here are some very specific places where we need club members to help out. And we need some new faces helping make our club work for the full membership (not the same ole members who already have several roles already in the club!).

- **Swap Meet Coordinator** responsible for organizing our Spring Swap Meet, making it equally successful to this year's (thanks to Mark Bange and Luis Santiago)
- **Heroes on the Water Coordinator** for helping the club with volunteering for future events to help our veterans enjoy kayaking and fishing
- **Fly Tying Coordinator** for scheduling fly tiers for our Saturday morning tying sessions and help in setting up additional special fly tying sessions (to step into Luis Santiago's big shoes!)

If you see something you would be interested in taking on, please reach out to Rich Batiuk at a meeting, call him at 410-268-5226, or email him at richbatiuk@gmail.com.

Upcoming FSFF Meetings, Events and Activities

Compiled by Frank Bowne and Rich Batiuk

Club Meetings On the first Wednesday of every month, except December, July and August, the clubhouse doors open at 6:30 PM for members and guests to mingle and socialize, there is a short club



business meeting at 7:00 PM, and the evening's speaker and their presentation begins at 7:30 PM.

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.



September 4 2019: Winter Trout: Fly Fishing Tactics Duber Winters, FSFF member and active fly fishing guide and teacher, will make a return appearance and present "Winter Trout: Fly Fishing Tactics". He presented "Tips, Tricks and Techniques: Fly Fishing Fresh Water" at our April meeting, covering basics of rigging for trout, a little entomology, fly selection, knots, etc.

October 2 2019 Meeting: Sturgeon in Chesapeake Bay Ashley Horne, MD DNR. will discuss the history sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay and current conservation efforts to ensure that this fish remains a part of MD's future.

November 6 2019 Meeting: Working to confirm our speaker.

Holiday Party



Join your fellow members on **December 4th** at 6:00 PM at Mike's Crab House, Riva Maryland for this long held FSFF holiday tradition. In addition to drinks, dinner and dessert, 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.

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 even numbered months, 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, fly tying, and a lot of talking on:

- August 28th
- October 23rd

Come and join us for the beer ties even if you don't plan to tie flies or if you want to start to learn—several members do so every time. For more information, or if you need us to loan you some fly tying tools for the Beer Tie, please contact Frank Bowne at 410-798-5474 or fsbowne@verizon.net.



2019 Bluegill Tournament Interim Standings

Our 2019 Bluegill Tournament has a distinct Delaware flavor. Each of our top three entries thus far originated in a Delaware pond.

Frank Bowne submitted our first entry of the year and he continues to hold the lead with this impressive 9-inch fish that he caught Blairs Pond on April 9th:



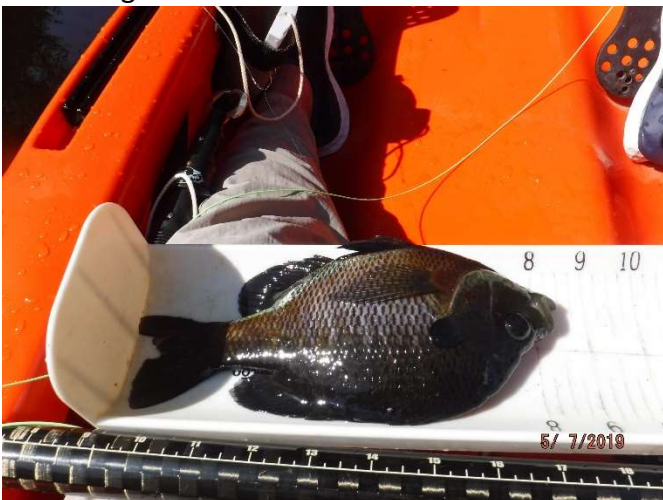
Frank used a blue topwater fly to entice the above bluegill.

Second place is currently held by Mike Mattia. His entry of 8.5 inches was caught on the same day in the same pond – Blairs on April 9th:



Mike used a yellow topwater spider to trick his chunky fish. [Editors Note: Come join us at a future Beer Tie and Mike will show you how to tie his infamous spider pattern!]

In third place is John Rentch with this nice 8.25-inch bluegill:



John pulled his entry from Ingrams Pond, also located in Delaware, on May 7th. A yellow bass popper encouraged the above fish to bite. [Editors Note: John tied this popper himself at the May fly tying session led by Mark Bange and caught the bluegill on a rod purchased at the club's March Swap Meet!]

Here's another photo of John's fish with the fly still in its mouth:



Clearly, that was a hungry bluegill to go after that big bug!

Our contest is far from over. We'll accept entries for 2019 until midnight, 15 November, 2019. The rules for the tournament are found on this link from our website:

<http://fs-ff.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/FSSF-2019-Bluegill-Contest.FinalPDF.pdf>

Remember to submit your entries to me, Mark Bange, mbange54@gmail.com along with the date you caught the fish, the location and a description of the fly you used. When possible, show the fly in the photo.

The photo, of course, is key to your entry. It must show the whole fish clearly and it must measure its length against a ruler. I received an entry that would have placed in the top three above. However, the entire fish was not in the photo and I had to disallow it.

Also, please make sure your entry was caught by a fly. There are imitation worm flies and there are real worms. An earthworm is irresistible to bluegills but it is not a fly and therefore not a suitable bait for our contest. I had to disallow an

otherwise top three entry that was caught by a worm, not a worm fly.

So, I encourage you to keep fishing for bluegills and please keep sending me your entries. The contest is far from over. At the same time, kudos to Frank, Mike and John. I have personally been trying my best to challenge them but I have not caught a bluegill this year whose nose passes 8 inches. Our top three placements to date have set the bar high. But let's give them a challenge.

A running tally of all entries will be posted on-line on the club's web site throughout the year, with updates at our monthly club meetings.

The prize will be the winning member's name on clubhouse plaque (with room for winners in years to follow) and a small trophy that member keeps. The prize and the trophy will be awarded to the winning member at the club's annual Holiday Party on December 4th.

Good luck to all.
Thank you,
Mark

Club Outings are all led by Free State Fly Fisher 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 in advance to all members. Gary Grey, our club's Outing Coordinator, is still working hard to schedule and ensure the club sponsor's over 30 different outings, targeting a wide variety of species in streams and rivers, on ponds and lakes, and out on the Bay. Plenty of opportunities to get out and fish.

Never fly fished before? Not a concern as the club member leading the outing will ensure you get some on-water instructional help from the members on the outing. Want to bring some of that other fishing equipment? Sure! At our

January 2nd meeting, John Veil introduced us to the fishing comfort zone and this club welcomes all types of fishing and anglers fishing in their comfort zone, regardless of what that is. But if you start catching more fish than your fellow members who are fly fishing, be prepared to share your secrets!!



August 9, 10 and 11: Janes Island, MD

Gary Grey is taking us to a set of tidal creeks and embayments on Maryland's Eastern Shore where you can catch speckled sea trout, striped bass and even flounder on flies—Janes Island State Park. This is the first of two trips to this tidal flats fishing wonderland. You can camp out for this outing and fish via kayak, john boat, or flats boat, your choice. Gary will be sharing more information via email and the club's web site on the outing including overnight accommodations at the park or in motels/hotels in the local area. Contact: Gary Grey at 443-795-1953 or garygrey74@gmail.com.

August TBD: Potomac River at Brunswick, Maryland

Imagine being able to wade across the entire Potomac River—under the right stream flow conditions, you can do exactly that at the location of this club sponsored outing. Not only that, this section of the river hosts A LOT of structure—rocks, ledges, pools and riffles—where there's a lot of hungry smallmouth bass. Contact Mark Bange at 410-255-7260 or mbange54@gmail.com.



August 24: Rappahannock River, Virginia
Join your fellow club members for another beautiful river offering smallmouth bass on the menu! We will be fishing a section of the Rappahannock River which has been referred to as a “rock garden” given all the structure all the way across the river. Contact: Rich Batiuk at 410-268-5226 or richbatiuk@gmail.com.

September 28 and 29: Janes Island, MD
Luis Santiago is leading a second outing to Maryland’s Eastern Shore where you can catch more speckled sea trout, striped bass and even flounder on flies. Luis has extensively fished these waters and can provide you with recommendations on where to fish, where to cast and which flies should prove most productive. You can camp out for this outing and fish via kayak, john boat, or flats boat, your choice. Contact: Luis Santiago at 209-485-5315 or lmsantiago05@yahoo.com



September TBD Bodkin Creek, MD: Mark Bange will be taking club members to one of his favorite places to fly fish on the Western Shore. Kayaks, canoes or boats will be required for this outing on the tidal waters as we fish for striped bass. Contact: Mark Bange at 410-255-7260 or mbange54@gmail.com

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 7 PM in the club house for drinks, snacks, and some very cool flicks that highlight fly

fishing across the country and around the world on:

- July 24th
- September 25th
- November 27th

Contact: Luis Santiago 209-485-5315 or lmsantiago05@yahoo.com.

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 tiers and fly tying sessions led by club members. There are two types of fly tying sessions currently sponsored by the club.



We have fly tying sessions scheduled for the **first Saturday of each month** except July and August at the clubhouse which are led by a club member who will teach everyone how to tie 1-3 different flies. The club will provide all the fly tying materials. These club member-led fly tying sessions are scheduled below for the coming months with the club member leading the session listed:

- September 7: Mike Mattia
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

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 (with accompanying photos), 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.

And then periodically, the club will sponsor **special fly tying sessions** featuring one of our own talented fly tiers, tying specific patterns or teaching the rest of us some unique fly tying skills.

Our former **Wednesday night open fly tying sessions** which the club hosted over the past year did not yield the desired level of attendance so those sessions have been canceled.

New to fly tying? No need for concern as all these fly tying sessions are set up to ensure everyone is learning something new. Don't have the listed fly tying materials for an upcoming Saturday club member-led fly tying session? No problem as the club will provide the materials for those who don't have them. Contact: Luis Santiago 209-485-5315 or Imsantiago05@yahoo.com.

Featured Fly

Predator Fly

By Luis Santiago

The Predator fly originated by Skip Morris is a versatile and effective fly. Originally designed as a floating dragon fly for trout it has found its home in bass and panfish fly boxes for years. Smallmouth bass love them as well. For all of you that need a little help getting on the board of our Panfish tournament this fly will definitely give you a little help.



Predator Fly, Tan

Skip Morris

Hook: Heavy wire, short-shank wet-fly hook (I like the Daiichi 1550), sizes 10 and 8 (8 and larger for largemouth or smallmouth bass).

Thread: Tan 3/0.

Tails: Pearl Krystal Flash cut short. Outside the Krystal Flash, fine yellow (or white or black) rubber-strand pushed through the foam body in a needle and bound to the shank.

Body, Head and Collar: Tan (or any color) foam sheeting, 2mm, cut into a strip, bound down the shank, doubled back for a head, trimmed for a collar.

Rib: Pearl Ice Dub spun on the working thread and spiraled up the bound strip.

Eyes: Black plastic barbell eyes

Legs: Black-barred-yellow or Orange medium-diameter rubber-strand, one section bound on each side of the shank back behind the collar and against the body.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfu4lgEnj2Q&feature=share>

How to Fly Fish Even Better

Saltwater Panfish

by Joe Bruce

The fish smacked the fly hard enough to almost pull the rod out of my hands. It then sped down the bank for several yards, rolling its head, trying to get the stuck baitfish imitation out of its mouth. Its doggedness never waned until I grasped it as it got to the boat. The 11½ inch white perch was as fat as a butterball, and it was a fine fight on my three-weight fly rod.

Fishing for panfish in the salt is analogous to fishing for bluegill and crappie in a pond or lake. Like many of us, I cut my fly fishing teeth on freshwater panfish. I still love fishing for them, and I feel the same way about the saltwater variety. Here, in the Chesapeake Region we have white perch and yellow perch.

Saltwater panfish, of course, are not huge fish, but matching your tackle to them can make for a very pleasurable fishing experience. The most important piece of equipment is the sink-tip line. A 10-foot sink-tip, with the fastest possible sink rate, is the ticket here. Five to six inches per second sink rates are available from several line manufacturers. The fast sink rate is desirable to get the fly down in the target zone (near the bottom) and to keep it there as long as possible. Most saltwater predatory fish make a living by chasing their food, and the faster sink rate helps keep the fly down while you are stripping it at a brisk pace.

Leaders are remarkably easy. You only need to add a short tippet section to the end of the sink-tip line, a three or four foot section of 8 to 14 lbs. is all you need. Mono tends to float and you want the fly to

stay as close to the bottom as you can, so the need for the short leader

To complete your tackle system, just add flies. Experience has shown the best all-around fly is a yellow Clouser Minnow with some tinsel tied in. For perch, a size 4 stainless steel hook like a Mustad 34007 gets the nod.

Although I will use the same 10-foot sink-tip a different retrieve will ring the dinner bell for each fish. Starting with the least aggressive species -- the yellow perch -- a deliberate six-inch strip with a long pause (at least a full second) is required. The white perch is the bully of the saltwater panfish. He is an aggressive fish and requires a faster strip of six to ten inches, with a much shorter pause between strips.

Fishing for any of these panfish is very much like fishing a shoreline for bluegill or fishing for bass in a pond or lake. Work from point "A" to point "B" down the shore, looking for likely spots like downed trees, bulkheads, rocks or any place where baitfish or crustaceans could hide. This is not highly technical fishing, but it is certainly rewarding when you want a change of pace, and when you match the tackle to the job!

Get a 10-foot sink-tip for your lightweight rod and give these feisty brackish water fish a go!



Club News

New Fly Lines Donated by Joe Bruce on Sale for Only ~~\$20~~ \$15!

Joe Bruce has donated over 40 boxes of fly lines now on sale for only 15 dollars each. All lines are brand new and will be available at the club house for purchase at all upcoming club sponsored meetings and events. See Luis Santiago to make a purchase...just remember new fly lines today can run you \$75 to well over \$100, so this is truly a deal of a life time! So check your old lines, figure out which ones need replacing or which of your recently purchased rods and reels need a new fly line. Thank you to Joe Bruce for the donation for club fund raising.

Here's a list of the 32 remaining lines—pick them up on the table at the back of the clubhouse's meeting room next to the raffle prizes and pay for them at the next club meeting:

Weight 5

Cortland 444 Intermediate Clear Sink-Tip Rocket Taper WF-5
Cortland 444 Double Taper 10 FT Sink Tip DT 5 F/S Type 3

Weight 6

Cortland 444 Shooter Taper Sink-Tip ST 6 F/S

Weight 7

Cortland 333 Sinking Rocket Taper WF-7-S
Cortland 444 Rocket Taper Intermediate WF-7-S
Scientific Anglers Mono Core WF-7-S
Scientific Anglers Wet Cell Type V 550 Grains

Weight 8

Scientific Anglers Wet Cell II WF-8-S

Weight 9

Cortland 444 Salmon/Steelhead 24 FT. Sink Tip 325 Grain
Cortland 444 Salmon/Steelhead 24 FT. Sink Tip 325 Grain
Cortland 444 Steady Sink Sinking Rocket Taper WF-10-S
Scientific Anglers Wet Cell II WF-9-S
Scientific Anglers Shooting Line Saltwater .035

Weight 10

Cortland 444 Shooting Taper Floating ST10F
Cortland 444 Steady Sink Sinking Rocket Taper WF-10-S
Cortland 444 Steady Sink Sinking Rocket Taper WF-10-S
Cortland 444 Salmon/Steelhead Quick Descent 24 FT Sink Tip

Cortland 444 5 FT. Sink Tip WF 10 F/S Type 6
Cortland 444 10 FT. Sink Tip WF 10 F/S Type 6
Cortland 444 9 FT. Ghost Tip WF-10-F/I
Cortland 333 Floating Saltwater Taper
Scientific Anglers Shooting Line Saltwater.035 SL
Scientific Anglers Wet Cell Monocore WF-10-S
Scientific Anglers Air Cell Ultra Tarpon Taper WF-10-F
Scientific Anglers Air Cell Ultra Tarpon Taper WF-10-F
Scientific Anglers Mastery Series Tarpon Floating WF-10-F
Scientific Anglers Mastery Series Tarpon Floating WF-10-F
Scientific Anglers Wet Cell WF-10-S

Weight 11

Scientific Anglers Shooting Line Saltwater 042 SL
Scientific Anglers Saltwater Specialty Series WF-11-S

Weight 12

Cortland 444 Rocket Taper Intermediate WF-12-I
Cortland 444 Shooting Taper Sinking ST 12 S 380 Grains

Club Member Looking for New Fly Reel

If you have a weight 5 fly reel you want to ensure goes to a good home, please contact Ray Robi at rayrobichaud82@hotmail.com. Please save Ray from going on-line and ordering a new fly reel!

Joe Bruce's Latest Book and More!

The book is entitled "Shallow Water Tips & Techniques, Rigging for Success." It's available through Joe's website, www.joebruce.net, by purchasing directly from Joe, and it is available through Amazon as a paperback and an eBook. The book is paperback and if purchased through his website or directly from him, he will add a color insert. The book sells for \$19.95 with the insert and the eBook is \$5.95.



Wear that PFD on the Water!

On one weekend in July, the Annapolis area had 4 major water accidents with several lives lost. Unfortunately, several of them could have easily been saved had they worn PFD's. I urge all our club members and followers of this page to think about water safety every time you are out on the water. Situations spiral out of control very quickly out there as we all know. Wear your PFD's, leashes, safety kill switch harnesses. If your PFD is uncomfortable you are less likely to wear, so look into one you will enjoy wearing, your life depends on it. Below is a link to an article with a few great recommendations for a comfortable upgrade: https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/fishing-pfds-life-savers-part-1/7714848?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

Contributed by Luis Santiago

The Art of LDR or Long Distance Release

So what is an Long Distance Release or LDR for short as originally conceived by our very own Glenn Davis? Here's my definitions, with apologies the Master of the LDRs himself. It lies somewhere between a strike and actually landing a fish. Here's three definitions to choose from, all three of which can be used at any time and interchangeably, all depending on who's around you when you are fishing:

One, beyond the initial strike, you actually feel the fish on the line for at least 3-5 second count—add that LDR to your total fish caught count for the day.

Two, your fishing buddy sees not only the strike but the fact you have actually hooked the fish followed by the long distance release—add that LDR to your total fish caught count for the day.

Three, there are no witnesses around, you just know you had a fish on your line, clearly the biggest one of that species that you have EVER caught with the fly line, but the fish gets off before

you can bring it in, add that LDR to your total fish caught count for the day...and tell anyone you see "The fish was THIS BIG!" (holding both arms open wide like you are going to hug your favorite grandmother).

So the credit (or blame) goes to my Trap Pond fishing buddy, Glenn Davis, for coining the term LDR. Someone else who wrote up this story is to blame for the wide ranging definitions of what really is an LDR. Regardless, according to some unwritten version of the Free State Fly Fishers by-laws, if you are a club member, LDRs can be included in any total fish caught count for any day fishing, whether it is a club sponsored outing or not. And keep those arms open wide as possible when telling the story about the BIG ONE that got away just after being labeled a LDR!

Contributed by Rich Batiuk

Where to Fish

Fishing Eastern Tennessee By Jack Prouty

For those interested in an alternative fishing experience, I recommend a 2-3 day trip to Bristol, Tennessee. Here you can fish the tail waters of the South Holston and Watauga for trout. This is an annual trip that I have been doing with a group of guys for the last ten years. Most recently, we fished these waters in early June of this year, where we caught about 50 trout per boat and averaged at least one 18" trout or larger per person (8 of us fishing). Here are the particulars for a fishing trip to the South Holston and Watauga:

South Holston and Watauga Overview

The South Holston River is a tailwater trout fishery located in the upper Northeastern corner of the state of Tennessee near Bristol. It is stocked with rainbow trout by the (TWRA) Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. This is one southern tailwater that has a substantial population of wild brown trout. They are all wild. In addition,

the stocked rainbows holdover from year to year because the stream stays cool even during the summer months. It is probably the best tailwater in the Southeastern United States. Fly fishing the South Holston River ranges from difficult to easy depending on the type of fish.

The river can be waded when they are not generating power and fished from a drift boat when turbines are running. You can access the river in only a few places where wading is possible. The main attraction is the wild trout and extensive sulphur hatches.

Caution should be used anytime you are fishing a tailwater, so be sure to check on the discharge schedule and keep an eye out for changes in the depth. The TVA dam discharge schedule information is available on-line. The schedule will tell when the best times to fish the river are, depending on whether you are wading or fishing from a drift boat

The thing that makes it a desirable stream to fish in the eyes of many anglers are the large aquatic insect hatches. The stream is full of trout food of all types. The Blue-winged Olive and Sulphur mayfly hatches can be incredible. It also has some great caddisfly hatches. This provides dry fly fishing opportunities far better than most tailwaters. There are plenty of times you have to fish subsurface using nymphs, streamers, wet flies, soft hackles, scuds, black fly imitations and other ways.

Our Typical Trip

The South Holston is located near Bristol, TN, approximately 6 hours and 46 minutes from Annapolis. The Watauga is about 45 minutes from the South Holston. Given the distance, I recommend a 2-3 day fishing trip. What our group typically does is drive down early Thursday morning so we can wade fish that afternoon and early evening. Then we use guides on Thursday and Friday. Depending on water flow we may use drift

boats for a full day or, if half day, wade in the morning and drift in the afternoon. We then head home on Sunday.

Given the issue of the discharge schedule and keeping your eyes open for changes in depth if wade fishing, I highly recommend the use of guides or fishing with someone very experienced with the South Holston/Watauga.

Recommended Guide

I highly recommend Ollie Smith of Blue Ridge Anglers. Contact information for him: 828-773-7751 and ollie@blueridgeanglers.com. Ollie has 30 years of guiding experience and was named by North Carolina magazine as one of North Carolina's top 5 legendary guides. Ollie roomed in college with the organizer of our trip and has guided for the group over the last 14 years. He also has a team of guides that we have also great experience with. All are very knowledgeable, good people, and work together as a team if you are a large group (we typically are floating 4-6 boats). Cost for a 2 person full day float is \$475 plus tip; a 1 person float or half-day trip is \$375. Ollie and his guides provide all the flies and lunch. I also use their equipment, which is often a 10 foot, 4 weight.

Flies Used

While I typically used the flies provided by the guides (these are proven flies that they know work well on these waters), I still bring some Sulphur dries, blue wing olives, and a variety of #16 dries such as black zebra midges and patterns I have tied up from ones they gave me the year before. However, we always stop at the local fly shop for tips on what is biting as well as the "can't miss" fly we have to have.

South Holston Fly Shop
608 Emmett Rd
Bristol, TN

On our float trips we mainly use 2 small droppers with an indicator, unless we see a hatch on. We will

also fish a dry Sulphur with a dropper. On our last trip we caught a number of fish on the dry Sulphurs which is always enjoyable.

Equipment and License

You can go on-line to get a Tennessee fishing license. We always get the 3 day license. We use 4 and 5 weight rods with floating line. The guys carry 10' 4 wt. rods so I typically set aside my 5 wt. Winston and use theirs. In fact, I am going to order one of these 10' 4 wts. as I really enjoyed fishing with this rod.

Just to whet your appetite, here is a picture of the fat, 21 inch brown trout caught on our early June trip. If you have any questions or want more information, don't hesitate to email me jackprouty1@gmail.com. Good fishing!!



Editor's Note: Thanks to Gary Grey for taking the lead on ensuring we can read about a new place to fish in every FSFF newsletter! So when Gary asks you to write up an article in the next newsletter, please say yes. It's easy giving up all your secrets about your favorite place to fish. Jack did! (Thanks Jack.)

Featured Article

Fly Fishers International

By Frank Bowne



Fly Fishers International (FFI) is a nonprofit organization with a mission driven by three pillars: Conservation, Education, and Community. It ensures the legacy of fly fishing in any waters and for any fish. This differentiates it from that other large conservation organization which concentrates on just the trout species. FFI covers all angles of fly angling from habitat protection to casting and fly tying.

In conservation, FFI identifies projects to fund through its Small Grants Program. The Education Committee has scholarships and education grants to aid future generations. The Committee also hosts a Learning Center, an in-person and online resource for the delivery and presentation of educational material.

Casting Instructor Certification is one of FFI's key programs. There are three certifications: Certified Casting Instructor (CI), Master Casting Instructor (MCI) and Two-Handed Casting Instructor. These programs establish standards for casting instructors, administer fair and consistent tests, hold teaching workshops as a required part of certification, conduct clinics at FFI shows, develop instruction reference material, maintain communication between certified instructors and facilitate idea exchange among instructors worldwide.

FFI is committed to the support, enhancement and preservation of tying as a historic element of the fly-fishing sport. The *Tying Times* quarterly newsletter, a video library and Fly Tying Skills Awards Program round out the robust list of offerings.

FFI currently has two types of clubs for those that are associated with the organization, Charter and Affiliated Clubs. Each club has the opportunity of taking advantage of both FFI national and regional council programs and events. In a Charter Club, members join as individual members of the Fly Fishers International. No annual club dues are collected from Charter Clubs and they fall under FFI's non-profit 501(c) (3) status. FFI Headquarters files group tax returns for all Charter Clubs and they are eligible for the FFI Liability Insurance program at a reduced premium. Charter clubs get legal advice from an experienced non-profit attorney. Free State Fly Fishers of MD is an Affiliate Club within the [Chesapeake Council](#) region of FFI.

Charter and Affiliate Clubs are all entitled to participate in the following programs:

Rod Incentive Program—for every 12 new FFI memberships the club gets a free fly rod or \$75 credit with a supporting member company in the Fly Fishing Industry.

Conservation Grants—are awarded frequently and average \$1000 - \$1500; can be more for bigger projects.

Regional and National Awards—National awards are given within each region; but someone has to apply for them

Loaner Equipment—rods, reels, tying equipment are available free of charge for events.

FFI Liability insurance provides coverage for commercial general liability, directors' and officer's liability, excess liability, incidental property coverage, and coverage at an event. Charter Clubs have access to the FFI Attorney, and all Charter Clubs have FFI's 501(c)3 non-profit status.

Affiliate Clubs do not have access to the FFI Attorney nor are they a part of FFI's 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

FFI club and Individual membership includes any Chesapeake Council activities and there is discount attendance for members at events such as last fall's "Fall on the Fly" day in Maryland. Support from Chesapeake Council members including CI's and MCI's for club shows, teaching events and meeting speakers.

Grants are available for conservation projects that will have an impact on local fisheries (think stream clean-up or restoration; oyster beds, beach clean-up and erosion projects, etc.). FFI works with other non-profits under the [Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Program](#). Discounts are available to members from hotels, etc. on the [FFI website](#). Discounts are available from fly fishing industry partners (listed on the [FFI website](#)) and a club can contact FFI for assistance with bulk purchases such as rods or vises, etc.

The Annual Fly Fishing Expo that changes locations – has great educational opportunities and the local fishing is usually first class at these locations (next one is in Bozeman, Montana). Our regional council of FFI – the Chesapeake Council, of which I am a board member, holds or participates at smaller local events.

Your attendance at any of these events of course is welcome or The Chesapeake Council can always use your help at events such as the spring Lancaster PA Fly Fishing Show. _ There is a **CASTING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CICP)** coming up in our area (Monkton, MD) on September 21-22, 2019. See [the website](#).

All FFI members get the FFI Newsletter and group emails from the FFI and FFI-Chesapeake Council so they hear about what is going on in the world of fly fishing regionally and nationally and can relate that news to FSFF. Currently we have 8 FSFF members

who can do that and I try to announce FFI-Chesapeake Council activities on the FSFF web site and FSFF group email. When someone new joins FFI who isn't a member of a local club, FFI-CC looks at their address and recommends that they check out their local club, including FSFF. Last year I emailed 5 FFI members in central and eastern MD who were not FSFF members and some of them joined FSFF.

Lastly, The Chesapeake Council can always use some more officers and board members. Let Frank Bowne (fsbowne@verizon.net) know if you're interested.

Conservation News

Upper Potomac Smallmouth Bass Populations

The upper Potomac River supports Maryland's most popular smallmouth bass fishery. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Freshwater Fisheries Program monitors the status of the fishery through annual juvenile and adult monitoring surveys. Recent recruitment surveys have shown juvenile smallmouth bass numbers to be below long-term average values. High river flows in late spring (May-June) have been shown to be a major factor contributing to this reduction in juvenile numbers. High river flows during and immediately after smallmouth bass spawn can scour nests, displace fry, and limit juvenile growth and survival. Elevated spring flows experienced in 2016-2018 have resulted in consecutive years of poor recruitment and low year-class strength. While the number of larger adult smallmouth bass has remained steady, there are concerns about declining catch rates after multiple poor year-classes of young fish.

In a management action to try and improve juvenile recruitment, the Freshwater Fisheries Program is planning a pilot smallmouth bass supplemental stocking program on the upper Potomac River beginning in the spring of 2019.

Supplemental stocking of hatchery reared juvenile fish can be effective in helping boost year-class strength and contribute to the overall fishery.

A stocking plan has been developed to collect a small number of adult smallmouth bass this spring and move them to a state hatchery for spawning. The resulting fingerlings and adult brood fish will be stocked back into the river in sections that have experienced recent low levels of recruitment and juvenile survival. Monitoring will be conducted to determine growth, survival, and distribution of stocked juvenile smallmouth bass as well as their contribution to the fishery. [Editor's Note: MD DNR's 2019 plan to spawn SM bass failed. The fish they captured refused to spawn in the ponds they were held in. The story is on the MD DNR website.]



All parts of the pilot project will be documented and posted online for the public and anglers to follow. More details on the smallmouth bass supplemental stocking program are available in a [project plan outline](#) and [slide presentation](#). If you have additional questions or would like to provide feedback to the upper Potomac River smallmouth bass supplemental stocking plan, please complete the [Potomac River Smallmouth Bass Survey](#).

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Some photos shared by members as well as taken at club sponsored events...these all represent Fellowship Through Fly Fishing at its best!

FREE STATE FLY FISHERS LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: [Rich Batiuk](#)

First Vice-President: [Gary Grey](#)

Second Vice President: [Luis Santiago](#)

Secretary: [Frank Bowne](#)

Treasurer: [Tom Gooding](#)

Directors: [Mark Bange](#) / [Mike Mattia](#)

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: [Gary Grey](#)

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

Speakers Program Coordinator: [Mark Bange](#)

Publicity Coordinator: [Cliff Young](#)

Raffles Coordinator: [Bob Ruck](#) / [Mike Mattia](#)

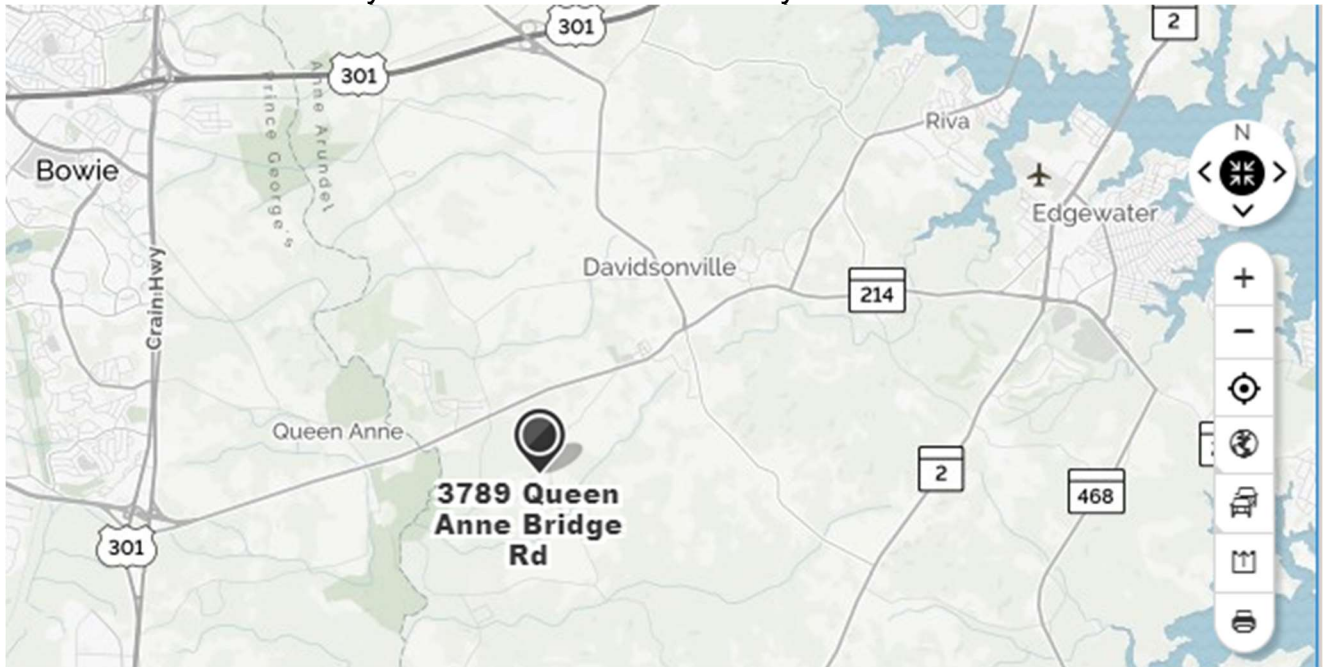
Newsletter Editor: [Rich Batiuk](#)

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