



# FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

## President's Message

Winter is upon us and I can't figure out if spring has come early with temperatures reaching the 60s followed shortly by wind chills down in the teens and now snow. The great news is your club has scheduled a host of activities, events and outings to keep you engaged with all aspects of fly fishing. Just read the rest of the newsletter to see!

Having been a member of Free State Flyers for past 33 years, I have seen this club go through some highs and lows like any volunteer-based organization. But through it all, members arose who believed in our core mission—fellowship through fly fishing—and they worked to provide the rest of the membership with many opportunities for just that.

A recent outing hosted by Mike Mattia on short notice to a pond in Edgewater is a case in point. One member showed up at parking lot with no plans to fish, but to just accompany the rest of us while we fished. And then another member showed up just as we were gathering for a group lunch to join us. In my mind, that is exactly what fellowship through fly fishing, and you don't have to be actually fishing to enjoy it!

So, as I step back into the role as club president again (the last time was when my 28 year-old daughter was turning 3, so I was clearly overdue), I want to build on the outstanding leadership of Mark Bange and all the members who worked hard to get our club active and growing once again.

Individual FSFF members who have really stepped up recently, took the lead on something or many things and helped us get to this point include: Luis Santiago, Mark Bange, Frank Bowne, Tom Gooding, Mike Mattia, Joe Bruce, Gary Grey, John Scarborough, Dick Friis, George Vincent, Joe DeMeo, Joe Slayton, and Wayne Blake-Hodges. One of my key jobs in the coming 12 months is to ensure this recognition list grows at least threefold by our December Holiday Party when we take time to recognize the contributions of our members.

Therefore, my key priorities for the coming year will be:

- Get more club members more involved in the operations of the club—leading a fly-tying session, making a presentation at a monthly club meeting, leading a club sponsored outing, organizing our annual holiday party, and much more;
- Increase the number of members taking full advantage of the wide variety of club sponsored meetings, events, activities and outings;
- Get members' approval of a revised set of by-laws for the club and address concerns about legal liabilities to continue to work to identify, address and remove any liabilities/vulnerabilities in how we operate the club; and
- Further diversify our membership in all aspects to build the foundation for the club to operate on decades from now.

Tight Lines,

*Rich*

## Opportunities to Support Your Club

Here are the current ways you can get more directly involved in supporting our club's sponsored meetings, events, activities and outings. If you see something you would be interested in taking on, please reach out to Rich Batiuk (410-268-5226, [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com))

**Spring Swap Meet Coordinator** We need someone to help organize the upcoming March 30 Swap Meet. What's involved? Working with Luis Santiago, Frank Bowne and Dale Reed on getting the word out via social media, the FSFF website, and newspapers and magazines, respectively. Setting up the clubhouse for the Swap Meet that morning. Encouraging members to bring their stuff to sell. So let us know if you can help your club.

**Lead a FSFF Sponsored Outing** Gary Grey is facing the daunting task of scheduling over 35 outings over the next year and needs your help. Being an outing coordinator is simple: 1) set the date, where to meet and when, 2) draft-up the one-page outing description, and 3) just show up and start fishing! Right now a core of 4-5 members are leading almost all of the outings. We are a fly fishing club, so let's get out fly fishing together. Learning about new places to fish, when and how to fish them and what are the best fly patterns is a key benefit of club membership. Please share your favorite place to fish with the rest of us. Contact Gary directly at 301-452-8863 or [GaryGrey74@gmail.com](mailto:GaryGrey74@gmail.com).

**Help with the Monthly Raffles** After a several year hiatus, we have restarted raffling off some great prizes at our monthly club meetings. Now Bob Ruck, who has been selling raffle ticket for at least the past 978 years, could use some help. We need an additional club member to help by setting up the prizes prior to the start of each of our monthly

meetings and periodically seeking donations for/purchasing additional prizes.

**Annual Holiday Party Coordinator** At the last-minute last November, Mark Bange stepped in and organized a very successful holiday party, with a record number of raffle prizes after Joe Slayton left the club suddenly due to family reasons. Prior to that, Cheryl Findlay organized at the least the prior decades' worth of holiday parties. Luckily, we now have a detailed description of the steps needed to be undertaken in planning this annual FSFF tradition. A host of members all contribute, but we need a lead member organizing those all those members' contributions.

**Fly Tying Leads** Under Luis Santiago's leadership, we now have different members leading each of the monthly club sponsored fly tying sessions scheduled on the first Saturday of each month. Luis is now looking for members to lead these fly tying sessions starting in late summer and well into the fall and winter. So, come and share your favorite patterns with your fellow fly fishers. We all learn a lot by others leading these sessions. Please share your insights and your ways of tying certain patterns by leading a tying session in the fall or next winter.

**Got an Idea for What the Club Could be Doing?** We are always looking for other ways to enrich our individual and collective fly fishing experiences. If you have an idea, please talk to Rich Batiuk or one of the other members of the club's leadership team—Gary Grey, Luis Santiago, Tom Gooding,

Frank Bowne, Mike Mattia, and Mark Bange. And read on as one recent new idea is described in this newsletter as a new club-sponsored year-long competition.



## Opportunities to Support Your Club (Continued)

**Mentor New Club Members** Starting last year, we added a question to our membership application: “Would you like to be assigned a mentor to help you learn the sport?” Well, several of our new members have said, yes! So, we need several members to step up and be willing to team up with a new member and mentor them in the ways of fly fishing.

**Pay Your 2019 Club Dues** Yes, it’s that time of year once again. Your \$15 for the annual club dues buys you A LOT! Just see everything described in this one newsletter. Please see the annual dues form at the back of the newsletter and bring a completed version to the next club meeting and provide your form and cash/check to Frank Bowne. The 2019 membership form is also accessible on-line on the club’s website at: <http://fs-ff.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MembAppWithFFIQuestionAnd2019Dues.pdf>

## Upcoming FSFF Events

Compiled by Frank Bowne and Rich Batiuk

**Club Meetings** On the first Wednesday of every month, except July and August, the clubhouse 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.



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.



**February 6 2019: Joe Bruce, “Shallow Water Fishing”** Owner since 2010 of Joe Bruce’s Custom Flies ([www.JoeBruce.net](http://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.

**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:

- February 27<sup>th</sup>
- April 24<sup>th</sup>
- June 26<sup>th</sup>

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 vises before moving onto the next fly. For more information, please contact Frank Bowne at 410-798-5474 or [fsbowne@verizon.net](mailto:fsbowne@verizon.net).

**FSFF Biggest Bluegill Tournament** Get out those Sneaky Pete poppers, wooly buggers and your other favorite bluegill flies as we are starting up the first annual Free State Fly Fishers Biggest (Darn) Bluegill Tournament this January.

The rules are very simple:

1. Must be a FSFF member
2. Must be caught on fly with flyrod in 2019

3. Entries by photo (with ruler if possible, to measure catch) [see the illustrative photo which is not a 2019 entry in the next column]
4. Longest bluegill mouth to tail wins

Start submitting your photos of your big bluegills to Mark Bange at [mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com). A running tally of all entries will be posted on-line on the club's web site throughout the year, with updates at the 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 in December.

**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 advanced to all members. In 2018, the club 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. We are planning a similar number of diverse outings in 2019.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!!

### January 21: Ingram Pond, Delaware



Join your fellow club members for the winter fly fishing for up to two-foot long freshwater barracuda...commonly called pickerel...on this productive pond in Delaware. More details on this outing are posted on the club's website. Contact: Gary Grey at 301.452.8863 or [Garygrey74@gmail.com](mailto:Garygrey74@gmail.com)

### January 30: Chipman or Horsey Pond, Delaware

Pickerel is back on the fly fishing menu as our incredible series of "Pond of the Month" outings continues in 2019. Mike "Never Seen a Pond We Can't Fish" Mattia is back to leading us to some new ponds and some very familiar and productive ponds across the mid-Atlantic states. Contact: Mike Mattia at 443-570-4735 or [mmmattia2013@yahoo.com](mailto:mmmattia2013@yahoo.com)

### February 7: Wagamon Pond, Delaware

Go on-line and order your 2019 Delaware fishing license as the First State has some great ponds and lakes which the club will be fishing at throughout the year. Mike is taking us to a new Delaware pond for some Crappie (not crappy!) and pickerel fly fishing. More details and outing logistics will be posted on-line and shared with club members. Contact: Mike Mattia at 443-570-4735 or [mmmattia2013@yahoo.com](mailto:mmmattia2013@yahoo.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 pizza, drinks, snacks, and some very cool flicks that highlight fly fishing across the country and around the world on:

- January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- March 27<sup>th</sup>
- May 29<sup>th</sup>

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 tiers. There are two types of fly tying sessions sponsored by the club.

We have fly tying sessions scheduled for the **first Saturday of early month** 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:

- February 2: Rich Batiuk
- March 2: Mike Mattia

- April 6: Walter Marcella
- May 4: Mark Bange
- June 1: Luis Santiago

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 on the **third Wednesday evening of every month**, the club will host open fly tying sessions at the clubhouse where members can come and tie flies and anyone can receive one-on-one instructions from more experience fly tiers. The open fly tying sessions, which run from 6:30-8:30 PM, are scheduled below for the coming months:

- January 16
- February 20
- March 20
- May 22
- June 19



**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 club member-led fly tying 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

### **January 2019 Edison, New Jersey Fly Fishing Show**

Plan to join your fellow FSFF members in Edison, New Jersey on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday January 25-27. The club set up carpooling to this show at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> club meeting. The 2019 Fly Fishing Show schedule is at [www.flyfishingshow.com](http://www.flyfishingshow.com).

### **March 2019 Lancaster Fly Fishing Show**

Plan to join your fellow FSFF members in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The club is setting up carpooling to this show as well as a group lunch and dinner for members. Sign up at the February 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting and join the seven members who already signed up at the January FSFF meeting.

### **Icelandic Wool Dyeing Session February 16**

A total of 20 members signed up for what will likely be only the first of several future wool dyeing sessions using Joe Bruce's 'secret' recipe (hint: Kool Aid is an ingredient!). More details being sent out to these participants, including how to pay your \$20. Contact: Rich Batiuk at 410-268-5226 or [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

### **February 23 Fly Tying at Bass Pro Shops**

We have been invited to tie flies on Saturday, February 23 during the seminar weekend for the Bass Pro Fishing Classic so there should be a good crowd. We will be set up in front of the fly shop and we will have the opportunity share fly tying with members of the public and the chance to attract new members. If you are interested in

joining us in tying flies, please sign up at the February 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Contact: Rich Batiuk at 410-268-5226 or [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

**March 30 Swap Meet** Start going through all those fly rods, extra reels, unused flies, fly boxes and all your other fly fishing stuff you have been accumulating for years, heck, decades! Now is the time for you to sell what you are no longer using to your fellow members or members of the public. Mark your calendar for our annual Swap Meet on Saturday, March 30, 2019 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the clubhouse. See the flyer near the end of this newsletter. (And we still need a club member to take the lead for coordinating this Swap Meet. Talk with Rich Batiuk if you are interested in helping.)



### **“All About Fly Fishing for Pickerel”**

**Saturday Session** Joe Bruce has offered to host a Saturday morning session to share a host of tips and recommendations for fly fishing for pickerel on a day on which our regular fly tying session is not scheduled. Given the positive response from members at our January 2nd meeting, we will set a date for later this winter and let all members know.

### **Kayak Fishing Course March 9 and May 11**

On Saturday, March 9 and then again on May 11, 2019, Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) will offer a one-day, 4-hour adult education noncredit course on Kayak Fishing at its Arnold Campus. The

course will be taught by FSFF members Mark Bange and John Veil.

They have developed a comprehensive curriculum on kayak fishing that covers:

- Factors to consider in selecting a paddle or pedal-driven fishing kayak
- Essential gear – PFDs, paddles, rods, reels, lines, leaders and lures
- Ancillary equipment – carts, rod holders, fish finders, VHF radios, etc.
- Safety on the water
- Effective kayak angling techniques and strategies:
  - Reading the water
  - Using structure to your advantage
  - Lure selection and use
  - Trolling
  - Casting
  - Fly fishing
- Tidal and freshwater species you can catch from your kayak
- How to target those species.
- Specific locations to launch your kayak for the best fishing in Anne Arundel county and beyond.

They stress easy-to-master, highly effective techniques. Further, they’ll have a sampling of their own tackle and two kayaks present in the classroom to demonstrate rigging possibilities.

So, look forward to a conversational session where Mark and John share their kayak angling knowledge and answer your questions about the hobby. You’ll also get a copy of their slides and a certificate of completion from AACC.

Here is the link to AACC’s winter 2019 noncredit course catalog:

<https://www.aacc.edu/media/college/2...2018.10.22.pdf>. Their course “Kayak Fishing” is on page 68.

The course number is AHC-504-101. There are numerous ways to register and they are found



here:

<https://www.aacc.edu/apply-and-regis...-registration/>. Enrollment is presently underway.

Both Mark and John have each written books on fishing. Mark's book, entitled *The Simple Joys of Kayak Fishing: Tips and Tales from an Old Guy in His Plastic Boat*, is available on-line at:

[https://www.amazon.com/Simple-Joys-Kayak-Fishing-plastic/dp/1530929547/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1546302523&sr=8-3&keywords=kayak+fishing+bange](https://www.amazon.com/Simple-Joys-Kayak-Fishing-plastic/dp/1530929547/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1546302523&sr=8-3&keywords=kayak+fishing+bange)

John's book, entitled *Fishing in the Comfort Zone: Choosing Fishing Techniques, Tackle, and Locations to Make Your Fishing Experience More Enjoyable with an Emphasis on Light ... Fishing from Kayaks and Other Small Boats*, is available on-line at:

[https://www.amazon.com/Fishing-Comfort-Zone-Techniques-Experience-ebook/dp/B01CKJP4YU/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1546253101&sr=8-1&keywords=John+Veil+fishing](https://www.amazon.com/Fishing-Comfort-Zone-Techniques-Experience-ebook/dp/B01CKJP4YU/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1546253101&sr=8-1&keywords=John+Veil+fishing)

## Featured Fly

### Black Nose Dace Bucktail Streamer

By Luis Santiago

In 1947, Art Flick, an accomplished and innovative fly tier from the Catskill Region of NY, published his best-known book "Art Flick's Streamside Guide." Here is where the Black Nose Dace Bucktail Streamer was first introduced. Art invented the Black Nose Dace Bucktail Streamer to imitate the dace and chubs that lived in the stream. Today this is one of the most popular flies to catch trout and bass with.

The Black Nose Dace is a simple fly to learn how to tie; one of the tricks is to keep it sparse. This fly will teach you how to work with bucktail and tinsel. This fly is tied on a streamer hook, which is

5X to 7X long in sizes 4 through 12.



### Materials

**Hook:** 5X to 7X long shank Hook sizes 4 through 12

**Thread:** Black 6/0 or 70 Denier

**Tail:** Red Yarn

**Body:** Silver Mylar Tinsel

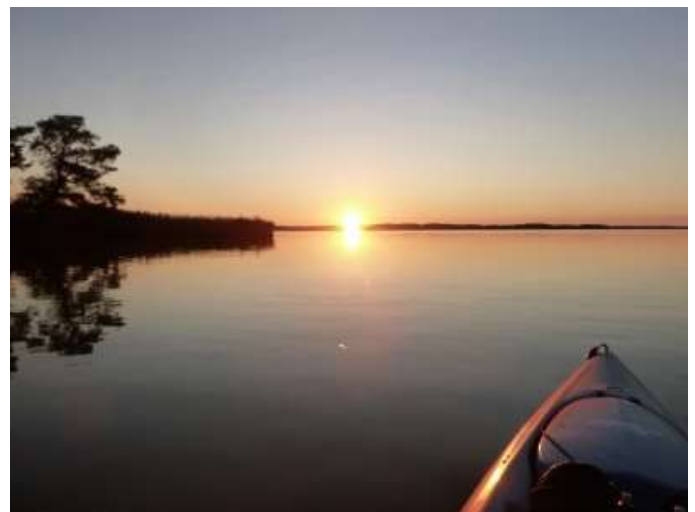
**Wing:** Brown over Black over White Bucktail

Youtube video link:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEli0IR4i38&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEli0IR4i38&feature=youtu.be)

Step by step tying instructions:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/FlyoftheMonth/PreviousIssues/2019-1%20January%20-%20BND.pdf>





## Where to Fish

### Maryland's Catoctin Creek

By Ken Moser (principal author) and Rich Batiuk (newsletter editor)

For those of you who like to fish trout, there is a great location to try that is only about an hour away from Baltimore. The stream is Catoctin Creek. The stocked portion is located within the Catoctin Creek Nature Center located between Middletown and Jefferson, Maryland.

The Catoctin Creek Nature Center has a large parking. There are also bathroom facilities at the center, which is good after the morning coffee and hour drive. The park opens at sunrise and closes at 6:00 PM.

The access to the stream is excellent. There are paved and nice trails to get to the stream. It is about a ¼ to ½ mile walk to get to the stream depending on where you start. The beginning of the stocked area can be accessed by taking the path that goes down behind the old barn foundation. The stocked portion runs for about ¾ of a mile. The stream flows relatively straight for about a third then turns right and goes through some rocks and riffles and then opens up into a very long flat pool. Wherever you see a trail to the creek, that is where the fish were stocked. It's pretty easy to figure it out.

The stream muddies quickly with a hard rain and takes a day or two to clear. You can get a feel for stream condition by accessing state streamflow data and clicking on Catoctin Creek tab under the Potomac River section.

You will be able to catch three species of trout: Rainbows, Browns, and Goldens. This is a relatively small stream, so rods designed to throw 2-4 weight lines are the best equipment. During the spring

when the water is clear, go with light 6X to 7X tippet for the best results.

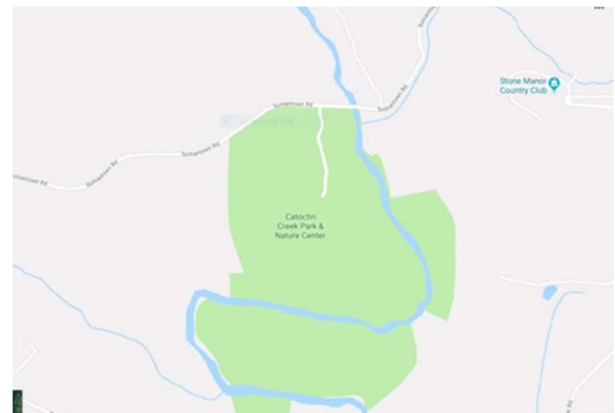
Rising fish can be caught with CDC BWO, size 18-20, but remember these are stocked fish so don't get too complicated. Presentation accounts for more.

If you are fishing a slow long pool, move very slowly. The fish will know that you are there if you make enough noise and move. If you find rising fish, stand still and they will come back to you.

There are opportunities to fish from the shore but if you want to go into some of the long pools the water will come up to your waist in areas. By mid-April, until cooler weather, waders are optional.

From mid-April or so to the end of May this stream is excellent also for bluegills, chubs, and smallmouth bass (up to 18"). At the end of May you'll start to be eaten alive by the deer flies and horseflies. Still good fishing but not much fun fishing with long sleeve shirts, pants, and head covering in 80-degree weather.

[Newsletter Editor's Note: Long-term former FSFF member and past president Ken Moser contributed this article for the winter newsletter from his warmer home down in Florida. If you have questions about this excellent place to fish, please direct your questions to Ken at [mosemac@aol.com](mailto:mosemac@aol.com).]



# How to Fly Fish Even Better

## Consider the Color Yellow

by Joe Bruce

### Chain Pickerel

It's the season of the chain pickerel. This is a fish with antifreeze for blood. I have even caught them under the edge of ice. They are the perfect fish for curing "cabin fever."

Grab a five to eight weight rod with floating line and a streamer style pattern and you are setup for pickerel. They have teeth, so a bite tippet is in order. I have a leader for pickerel that consists of a three-foot piece of 50 lb test double surgeons to four feet of forty pound. The fifty is looped to the line and I use a two-wrap loop knot for the fly. After a bunch of pickerel, I will cut the loop and retie the fly. I have even been cut off on forty-pound, but not often. I like mono better than wire because wire can kink.

My pickerel arsenal is short: I use articulated Bullethead Darters is their preferred color yellow, followed by a white tail and yellow Bullethead and all white.

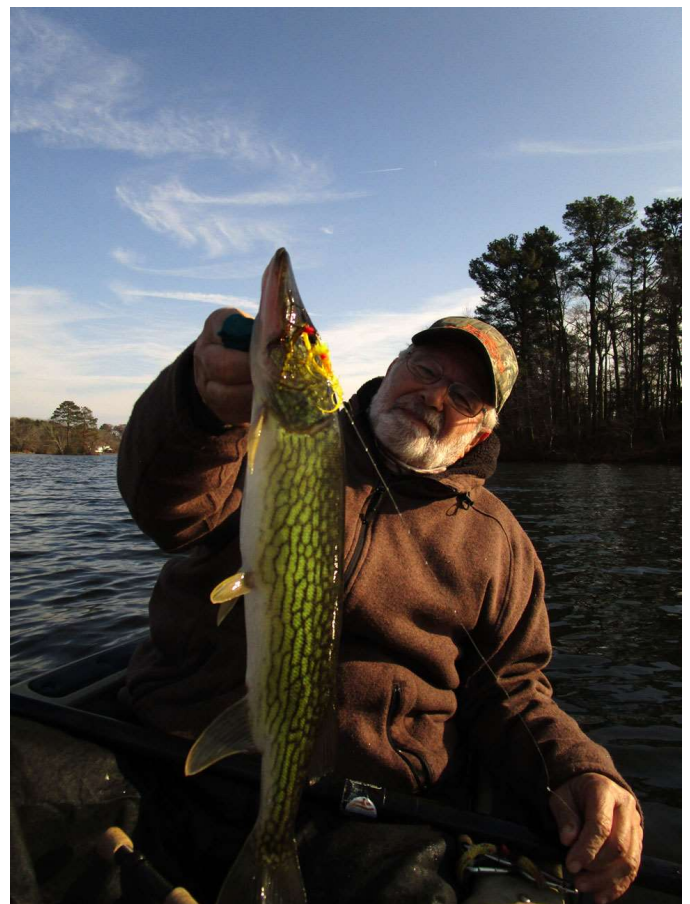
Pickerel like a roof over their head so if pads or grass are still around fish these areas, not right in the pads but around them. As winter keeps moving on, they will abandon these flats and take up residence on the shore with trees and structure. At this point it is like fishing for bluegill just fishing down the shore going from point "A" to point "B," fishing any available structure.

My general retrieve is a six to twelve-inch strip with a second or two pauses in between.

I also like to carry a spinning rod rigged with a swimming fluke (paddle tail) as my locator. I can cover more water with the spin. If I get a blowup,

miss, or slash at the bait I drop the rod and grab the fly rod and cast it back over the area of the blowup. I will catch this fish 90% of the time. The pickerel can "light-up" in winter, especially to the supple movement of the bullethead. It's like feeding them candy. So, if the temps get over forty degrees with winds less the ten, I'm going pickerel fishing to fight off "cabin fever."

I have written a book on chain pickerel with many tips and techniques to catch these aggressive fish. It's available at my website: <http://joebruce.net/>



*Newsletter Editor's Note: What to learn even more? Well, you have come to the right place. See the Upcoming FSFF Events section for more information on Joe Bruce's February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting presentation on "Shallow Water Fishing", the upcoming "Icelandic Wool Dyeing Session" Joe is leading on February 16 and Joe's "All About Fly Fishing for Pickerel" Saturday Session.*

## Fishing and Conservation Issues

**Healthy Striper Reproduction in Maryland** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently published the findings from its annual young-of-the-year striped bass survey for 2018. Fisheries scientists documented an index of 14.8, slightly above the annual average of 11.8. While this isn't a banner score (at times the index has peaked at over 50 and at a low point in 2012, was less than 1.0), it represents a solid spring for reproduction and a slight improvement over last season's young-of-the-year index of 13.2. Twenty-two sites were surveyed via seine net to establish the index, resulting in the collection of almost 2000 newly hatched stripers. Maryland Department of Natural Resources also reported that white perch and American shad had above-average spawning seasons, as well. [FishTalk]

**Good DE/MD/VA Coastal Bays Report Card** The latest Delaware/Maryland/Virginia Coastal Bays Report is out with good news. The grade: B-, which is its highest yet. The Report Card is a collaborative effort between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the National Park Service. While the Chesapeake Bay rightfully garners most of the headlines in our region, it's important not to neglect the many coastal bays lining the Delmarva coast, which we visit to fish for everything from flounder to bluefish—and in some rare cases in Virginia coastal bay, also provides one of the northernmost tarpon fisheries in existence.

**Record Freshwater Flow** It's official, the Chesapeake Bay experienced a record-breaking amount of freshwater flow this summer. The U.S. Geological Survey said that this past August freshwater ran into the Chesapeake Bay at an average rate of 133,000 cubic feet per second, eclipsing the previous record of 96,000 cubic feet per second set in 1955 thanks to a pair of hurricanes. So yes, our epic rainfall and the resulting super-saturation of the ground left us with more river flow than not one but two hurricanes. According to

watermen, the initial impact could be immediately seen on the soft clam populations, and during the summer and early fall harvests saw huge numbers of dead and dying clams. Though there is sure to be further news of repercussions, the abnormal freshwater flow's impact on other Bay life has yet to be determined. [FishTalk]

**Oyster Recovery Partnership Plants 11 Million Baby Oysters** In July, the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) teamed up with the Severn River Association, and planted 11 million baby oysters in the Severn River as part of their "Operation Build a Reef" initiative. ORP's planting boats, Robert Lee, move between the Severn River Bridge and the Naval Academy Bridge, dumping oysters into the water. [What's Up Annapolis]

**More Funding for Chesapeake Bay Restoration** Maryland recently announced that 18 recipients would be receiving funding via the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast Bays Trust Fund, to improve water quality. "These 18 implementation-ready-projects, totaling \$22 million dollars of investments, will have a long-lasting, positive impact on the Bay and our environment and build on our historic investment in Bay restoration efforts," said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in a press release. Projects that made the list range from headwater stream restoration, to deepening stormwater management ponds to fencing cattle out of floodplain areas. Since its creation in 2007, the Trust Fund has supported over 2200 such projects. [FishTalk]

**Federal Taxes Benefiting Hunters and Fishermen** Federal excise taxes are paid by the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and fishing gear. Last year, these taxes totaled more than \$1 billion. The resultant money is divided among state fish and wildlife management agencies. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources received \$11 million last year. The Department uses these revenues for programs that benefit wildlife, fish and their habitats, including species not hunted or fished, such as butterflies and birds. The money has helped reverse population declines of species including elk, and in Maryland, has helped pay for work to map populations of amphibians and reptiles and to grow species such of the black-banded sunfish. [Baltimore Sun]





# FREE STATE FLY FISHERS’ Fly Fishing and Fly Tying SWAP MEET BUY, SELL, TRADE

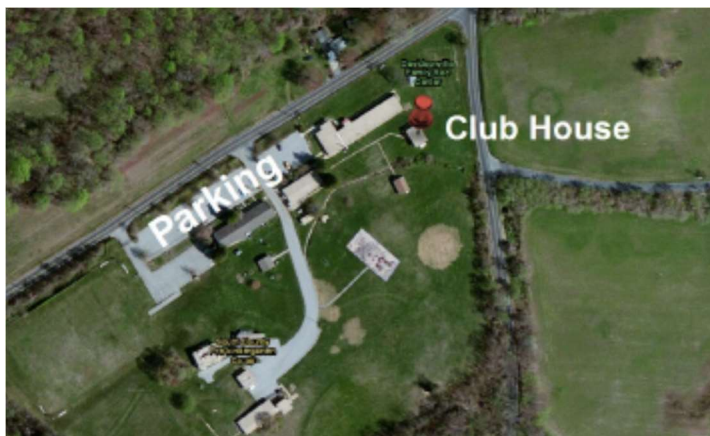


SATURDAY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
10 AM to 2 PM

Location:

Free State Fly Fishers’ Clubhouse  
Davidsonville Family Recreation Center  
3789 Queen Anne Bridge Rd  
Davidsonville, Maryland

- Open to the public with no entrance fee
- A wide array of fly fishing and other fishing related rods, reels, equipment and books will be available for sale
- Fly tying equipment and materials will also be on sale
- For further information on-line, go to: <http://fs-ff.com/> or visit our Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/FSFFMD/>
- Or email Free State Fly Fishers at: [Info@fs-ff.com](mailto:Info@fs-ff.com)



**Directions to Free State Fly Fishers’ Clubhouse:** 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.

# 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: [Dale Reed](#)

Raffles Coordinator: [Bob Ruck](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Rich Batiuk](#)

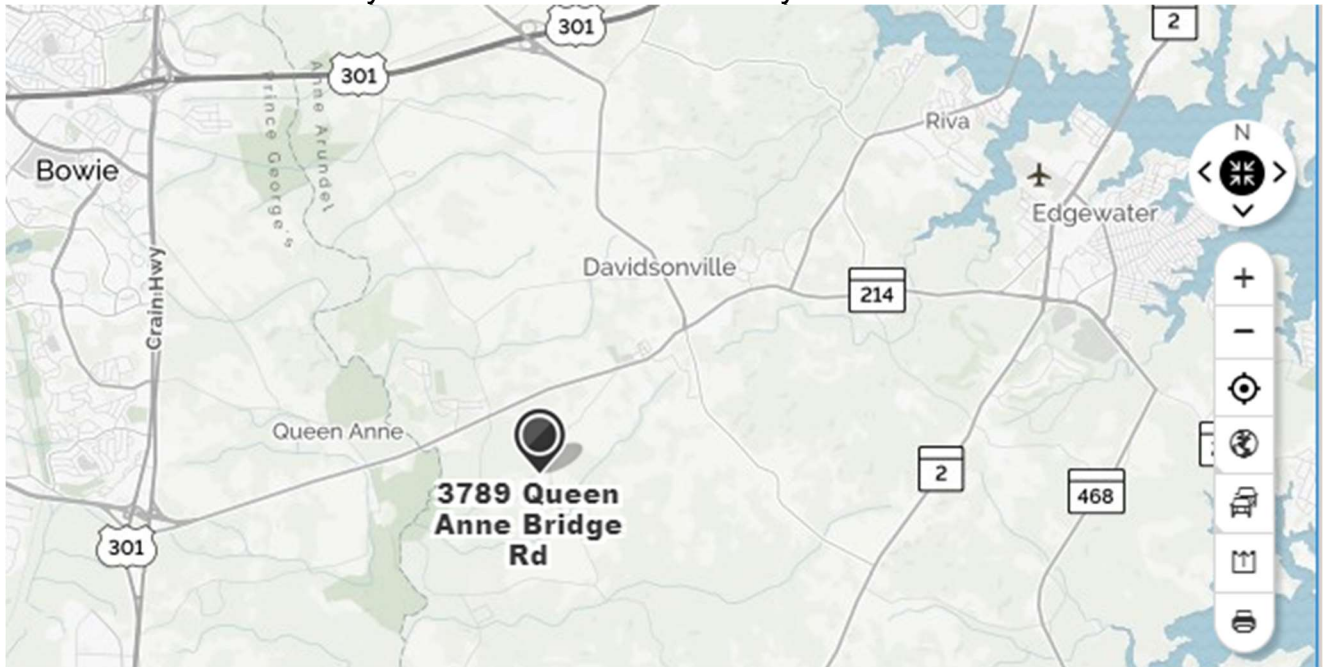
Please contact the appropriate FSFF leadership team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.

**“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](mailto:info@fs-ff.com)