



# FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

## President's Message: We are Getting Back Together, Finally!

"Oh no, I forgot the net"! Well, let's just say that is **not** a thought that crossed my mind on my maiden voyage into this year's Fall fishing season! Five days of fishing on the club trip to Jane's Island this year, October 1-3 (I was there from Sept 30-Oct 4) yielded to me these two big



boys: a 14" Rockfish on a blue and white Clouser and a Lizard fish on a paddle tail!

That said, we had a great time and there's nowhere to go but up!

**It's Fall:** Our last easy shot at Rockfish this year. The water temperature is dropping, and our 14-16 striped friends are heading to the backs of tidal creeks (to the delight of our kayak fly fishing armada in the club!) where poppers and Clousers have a shot at them. Later they will be in mouths of creeks and open water where birds give them away—and we can throw bigger Poppers and Streamers at them. What a deal!

**It's Fall:** The DNR Fall Trout Stocking is underway. Usually DNR throws big ones at this time of year. Grab the 4 and 5 weight rods (maybe



that new Euro nymphing rod???) and you can chase Trout from Baltimore County to Garrett County. Try a #14 Caddis.

**It's Fall:** The vegetation, scum and gunk on pond surfaces is dying back—time for another shot at our long nosed, toothy friends in the Eastern Shore Ponds and tidal rivers. Bluegill will be waiting there too. If you didn't win the Club's Biggest Pickerel or Bluegill tournament this year, a new contest starts in November!

So, as one of our infamous club members would say, "**Get off the Couch**"!! Call another FSFF member! Grab those rods, step out into the crisp air under those dark blue beautiful skies, look for some birds and start throwing those poppers. Just don't paddle into my backcast when doing it!

I hope to see you out there.

*Gary*

## Upcoming FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

We are back to meeting together at the clubhouse, finally! Yeah, we are masked up given we are on Anne Arundel County property and our clubhouse is officially a county building. But it's great to be able to see each other in person and not have to stare at a computer screen to remotely interact with our fellow club members.

As described below and presented in much more detail on the club's website, every month has multiple club sponsored meetings, fly tying sessions, Saturday morning hands-on sessions and more scheduled. So come on out, learn something new, and keep in touch with your fellow members.



### Wednesday Club Meeting Presentations

Our September 1 meeting was canceled due to severe weather conditions, so Frank Lenik's presentation on California's Golden Trout Wilderness has been rescheduled to our January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting date.

**November 3 Club Meeting – Captain Tom Hughes – Fly Fishing Chesapeake Bay** Captain Tom Hughes with the Chesapeake Light Tackle/Fly Charter will be our November meeting speaker. Captain Hughes will discuss the incredible array of fly fishing opportunities across Chesapeake Bay. A number of

FSFF members have gone out fly fishing with Captain Hughes and speak very highly of his fly fishing and light tackle guiding skills. Here's where you can find more information on his charter and guiding services: <http://capttomhughes.com/>.

**January 5 Club Meeting - Frank Lenik - California's Golden Trout Wilderness** Frank Lenik, our valued FSFF member from Delaware, will be taking us across the country for the evening on a part travelogue, part science tour of the land of the golden trout. Frank will be talking about Inyo National Forest's Golden Trout Wilderness. For more advance information, please check out the following document on-line: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd531555.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd531555.pdf)







so you can focus on fishing during the summer months.

### **Saturday Morning Open Fly Tying Sessions**

Given the past interest in having opportunities to just get together and tie flies together during the colder months of the year, we are re-starting our open fly tying sessions. This means these sessions are not led by a specific club member, but the clubhouse is open starting at 10 AM for members to come together, tie some flies, and have time just to get together and talk for an hour or two. These open fly tying sessions will be held in the months of January through March on the second Saturday of each month.

- January 1<sup>st</sup> (date due to conflict on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> with a member led Saturday Fly Tying Session)
- February 12<sup>th</sup>
- March 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Saturday Morning Fly Tying Sessions**

We are continuing our first Saturday of the month club member led fly tying sessions. Come join your fellow club members starting at 10 AM at the clubhouse to learn how to tie several new fly patterns. In advance of each fly tying session, members will receive an email message listing the member leading that session, what fly patterns will be tied and any materials you need to bring to the session. This information will also be posted on the club website's calendar of events in advance of each fly tying session.

Club member led fly tying sessions are scheduled for (with the current session leaders listed):

- November 6<sup>th</sup>
- December 4<sup>th</sup>
- January 8<sup>th</sup> Rich Batiuk-Harry Murray's smallmouth bass flies
- February 5<sup>th</sup> Joe Bruce
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Mark Bange-articulated crystal buggers, foam poppers
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe DeMeo-foam spiders, Everetts fly
- May 7<sup>th</sup>
- June 4<sup>th</sup>
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- October 1<sup>st</sup>



### **Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions**

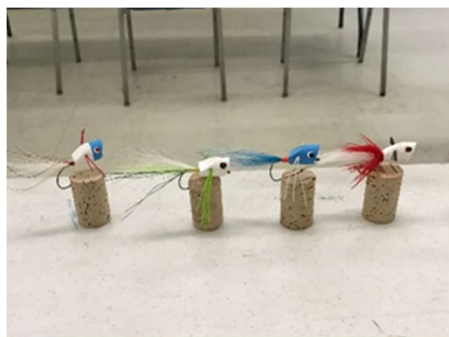
Since we re-started meeting in person, the club has already hosted two Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions. Ed Waleryszak took us offshore to experience fly fishing for a variety of different ocean species in September. And then in October, Duber Winters, Joe Bruce, Tom Parham and Mark Bange hosted a fly casting clinic geared towards helping members and guests with very different casting skills learn how to improve their casts.

There are no fly tying sessions scheduled for the months of July and August. We are taking a break

Thanks to our fellow club members' willingness to share their experiences, we have Hands-on Sessions already scheduled through next June. All Hands-on Sessions will be held on the third Saturday of the month at the clubhouse from 10 AM to 12 PM unless otherwise noted. No sessions are scheduled for the months of July and August.



**October 16: Joe Bruce's "Making and Using Mini Sink-tips for Fly Lines"** We all face times when we need to get our flies down deeper, but not too deep, to where the fish are, whether it's a pond, lake, stream, river or tidal embayment. Joe Bruce, our fellow fly fisher with way too many ideas on how to improve our fly fishing experiences, will teach us how to make our own mini-sink tips. No need to buy them anymore, as Joe will bring the needed materials and the know-how to this session. You only need to bring scissors, 3/0 black thread and a razor blade to this truly hands-on session.



**November 20: Mark Bange's "Building and Tying Greg Krebs' Foam Poppers"** Have you seen the price of poppers these

days?!? And have you seen how many poppers

some of us donate to the trees surrounding our favorite fishing ponds and lakes? Yep, it's time to learn how to make your own foam poppers. And if Mark Bange can make them look so good, so can the rest of us fly fishers. Come and learn how to make your own popper with no magic involved.



**December 18: Joe DeMeo's "Tying Better Clouser Minnows"** Whether you fish for bluegills or trophy sized striped bass or pursue Northern Pike up in the Adirondacks, your fly boxes must include a host of Clouser minnows in various sizes and colors. Joe DeMeo will be sharing his ideas making the experience of tying Clouser minnows easier and more enjoyable, all resulting in a great looking fly.



**January 15: Joe Bruce's "Icelandic Wool and Hackle Neck Dyeing Session" 9 AM – 12 PM**



If you don't already have a lifetime supply of Iceland wool, then you definitely need to sign up for this Saturday Hands-on Session. If you signed up for the March 14, 2020 session and paid your \$20, you are good to go. Joe Bruce will lead us through all the steps of the wool (and hackle neck) dye process. This is truly a hands-on affair so come prepared to get busy and enjoy the laughs and continuous commentary. Please note that this Hands-on Session starts at 9 AM at the clubhouse.




guaranteed to become a better trout fly fisher as a result.

**April 16: Joe Bruce's "Tying Deer Hair Poppers and Spinning Deer Hair on Flies"** If you have never 'spun' deer hair, here's your opportunity to learn how to tie very effective deer hair poppers. Joe Bruce will break down what looks like a very complex process for tying a fly into a series of very doable steps. What separates deer hair poppers from cork or foam poppers is really how deer hair poppers float more submerged in the water surface and can provide a more 'life-like' movement in the water. So come and not only learn how to tie deer hair poppers but also how to spin deerhair for tying other equally effective flies like Muddler Minnows and Dahlberg Drivers.



**Course Topics**

- Why fish from a kayak
- Kayak choices
- Gear (Ancillary and Tackle)
- Lures and Flies
- What you'll catch locally
- Kayak fishing tactics
  - Reading the water
  - Trolling
  - Fly Fishing
- Safety essentials
- Local kayak fishing areas



PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS AS WE PROCEED.

**February 19: Mark Bange's "Kayak Fishing in Local Waters" class 10 AM – 2 PM** Back by popular demand, our now twice published kayak fishing author Mark Bange will be teaching his kayak fishing class **FREE OF CHARGE** to his fellow Free State Fly Fishers. Not only that, the club will be providing lunch (along with Susan Batiuk's famous Trap Pond Outing Cookout Lunch double fudge brownies for dessert)! Free class with free lunch—life does not get much better than this during the winter months for us fly fishers. Please note the 10 AM through 2 PM time frame for the class w/lunch.

**March 19: Duber Winter's "Hands-on tips for Improving Your Trout Fishing Experience"** As a club we are blessed with a number of club members who bring knowledge and experiences to share with fellow club members. Duber Winters is one of those members, bringing guiding, teaching and fly shop management knowledge and experiences to share with the rest of us. Get prepared for the coming trout fishing season by participating in this Hands-On Session—you are



### **May 21: Joe DeMeo's "Building, Tying and Coloring the Double Barrel Seducer Poppers"**

Once you fish a Double Barrel Seducer popper, you will wonder why you would ever go back to 'single barrel' popper in the future! Several of your fellow club members discovered just how effective these poppers are in fly fishing for BIG largemouth bass up in the Adirondacks. Those 'double barrels' really move the water in front of the popper to get the fish's attention, but still look like something living on the water's surface caused that movement. Joe DeMeo will walk us through all the steps, from prep to painting the poppers.



**June 1: Wednesday Club Meeting—Casting clinic with Members Casting with Their Own Fly Rods 6:30 -8:30 PM** We will continue to devote our June club meeting to a fly casting clinic, given the level

of club member participation in the past several years. This past June's clinic was truly outstanding, thanks to our casting clinic instructors—Duber Winters, Joe Bruce, Tom Parham and Mark Bange. Like we did back in 2019, the club will provide for a group dinner starting at 6:30 PM in the clubhouse and the casting clinic will start at 7:00 PM on the lawn behind the clubhouse.



### **Club Movie Nights**

The club's Movie Night Coordinator is back in action and bringing some incredible fly fishing videos to the clubhouse. Popcorn, candy and soda as well as for the latest and greatest in fly fishing flicks are just another reason why we have a great fly fishing club! Thanks to Luis Santiago, Movie Nights will continue to be scheduled on the fourth Wednesday evening of odd numbered months throughout the year except July:

- November 24<sup>th</sup>
- January 26<sup>th</sup>
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- May 25<sup>th</sup>
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Wednesday Night Beer Ties**

We have re-started another long held club tradition...Beer Ties at the Killarney House in Davidsonville. And yes, this is just an excuse for



club members, friends, family members and guests to gather together to drink adult beverages, eat happy hour bar food, talk, share fishing stories...and, oh yeah, tie flies. Thanks to Frank Bowne, the club's Beer Ties Coordinator, our Wednesday Night Beer Ties on the fourth Wednesday night of every even numbered month throughout the year:

- October 27<sup>th</sup>
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- April 27<sup>th</sup>
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- August 24<sup>th</sup>
- October 26<sup>th</sup>
- December 28<sup>th</sup>



### **Streamside Fly Fishing 101 Classes**

Thanks to your fellow club members, we have re-started our series of streamside (and pond-, lake-, and tidal river-side) fly fishing 101 classes which the onset of COVID stopped just as we got started. Please note that all Streamside Fly Fishing Classes to be held on Saturdays unless otherwise noted. As we get closer to each of these classes, we will be distributing more details as well as information on signing up to participate.

- February: Joe Bruce's "Pickerel Fly Fishing 101 on Concord Pond"
- April: Duber Winter's "Trout Fly Fishing 101 on Morgan Run"
- April: Joe Bruce's "Shad Fly Fishing 101 on Deer Creek"

- May: Joe Bruce's "Largemouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Piney Run Reservoir"
- June: Mark Bange's "Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Potomac River"
- July : John Rentch's "White Perch Fly Fishing 101 on Skipton Creek"

And if you have an idea for a streamside fly fishing class you would like for the club to sponsor, please let Rich Batiuk know. And if you want to teach a streamside class, Rich wants to hear from you!



### **Casting Clinics**

The club now has three casting clinics scheduled each year—one during the club's June meeting (as described above) and two more on Saturdays mornings during the spring and fall:

- Saturday April 9: 10 AM - 12 PM
- Wednesday June 1: 6:30 - 8 PM
- Saturday October 8: 10 AM - 12 PM

Casting instructors will be leading each clinic, providing instruction for all casting skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

### **Club Sponsored Outings**

See the club website's calendar of events for more details on upcoming club sponsored outings. And remember you need to have signed the club's liability waiver form prior to participating in a club sponsored outing.



And we will also have a 50/50 raffle to provide the opportunity for bringing home some holiday cash so you can purchase even more fly fishing stuff for yourself!

**PLEASE fill out the Holiday Party invitation form and mail in your check by November 19<sup>th</sup>.** Copies of the Holiday Party invitation form and the dinner menu choices are included at the end of this newsletter and are posted by the club's website in the calendar of events.

Thanks to Don Vance for continuing in his role of coordinating the Holiday Party and to Mark Jacobs for handling all the Party invitations and checks in his role as Club Treasurer. Without club members like Don and Mark stepping up and helping with the behind the scenes operations of the club, we could not provide so many unique opportunities to get together for fellowship through fly fishing!



## December 1 Holiday Party

Another long held Free State Fly Fishers tradition is coming back this year—our Holiday Party! Come join your fellow club members and their spouses and partners for good food, incredible raffle prizes and lots of holiday cheer. Once again, we will be gathering at Mike's Crab House on the South River at the Riva Road Bridge. Come join us for drinks starting at 6:00 PM with dinner being served at 6:30 PM.

You will want to arrive in time to carefully study all the raffle prizes being donated by fellow club members—we are talking fly rods, fly reels, fly boxes full of favorite fly patterns, books by our club authors, a piece of Frank Bowne's infamous flounder pottery, and even a painting by Don Vance. We are still taking donations from club members—please reach out to Rich Batiuk if you have a fly fishing related item you are willing to donate for the Holiday Party raffle.

## Club News

### Give a Club Membership as a Holiday Gift

Speaking of the holidays, are you having a hard time coming up with the perfect gift for someone special in your family or a close friend? You have come to the right place. Consider giving a FSFF membership for the coming year as a holiday gift. Rich Gallena gave his two sons and one of his friends each a FSFF 2021 membership as a gift. Talk about the gift that keeps on giving!



### **Kudos to Joe DeMeo**

"I am on the Board of Friends of the Light House, which conducts fund-raising events to support the mission of the Light House Homeless Prevention Center. A major event is BOUNTIFUL ON THE BAY. For this event Joe DeMeo donated several boxes of his beautiful hand-tied flies. His flies brought in \$465 through our auction. This will help feed and provide other services to those in need. THANK YOU JOE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND WARM HEART."

-Jack Prouty

**Editor's Note:** The above was extracted from an email Jack shared with all the club members via our group email system. Another example of one of our club members making a difference in our local communities.

### **Club Coordinator Positions**

Our biggest current need for the club is filling the **Meeting Speakers Coordinator** position as Mark Bange is stepping down from this Coordinator position this fall after several years in scheduling a series of truly outstanding club meeting speakers. Our fearless leader, Gary Grey, has stepped into the current void and is working to schedule speakers for the upcoming winter months. But he already has plenty of responsibilities in leading the club. If you are interested in helping your club and scheduling meeting speakers, please follow up with Gary Grey at [garygrey74@gmail.com](mailto:garygrey74@gmail.com).

Thanks to Duber Winters for taking on the **Outings Coordinator** role from Gary Grey. If you have ideas on outings that the club should sponsor, please reach out to Duber at [duberfly@gmail.com](mailto:duberfly@gmail.com).

### **Club Sponsoring Carpooling to 2022 Fly Fishing Shows**

Now that the dates for the 2022 Fly Fishing Shows have been published—Edison, NJ January 28, 29 & 30, 2022 and Lancaster, PA March 5 & 6, 2022 –

Rich Batiuk will take the lead again this year in planning for club sponsored carpools to the January 2022 Edison NJ and the March 2022 Lancaster PA Fly Fishing Shows. Please sign up to carpool to one or both fly fishing shows during an upcoming club meeting or other club sponsored event at the clubhouse. The sign-up sheets are on clipboards located on the back table in the meeting room.



### **May 2022 Swap Meet Scheduled**

It's not too early to start looking in your attic, garage, closets and even under your bed for that fly fishing equipment or fly tying material you know you will never use. We all know your fellow club members are more than willing to purchase your fly fishing stuff! The best time and place for this transaction is the next club sponsored Swap meet for the second Saturday in May (the 14<sup>th</sup>) with the third Saturday (the 21<sup>st</sup>) as a rain date.

### **New Fly Shop in Maryland**

The next time you are out in western Maryland, take time to visit the new Beaver Creek Fly Shop under new ownership. Check out their Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrecisionFlyandTackle/permalink/4337449349650808/>

### **Maryland Fly Fishing Show Rescheduled**

The Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show has been rescheduled for March 19, 2022 from original date in October 2021. The show will be located at Towson University at the West Village Commons, 424 Emerson Drive, Towson MD 21252  
Show time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
<https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/>



One of the east coast's premier shows, the Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectible Tackle Show brings together fishing enthusiasts throughout the mid-Atlantic region with high quality fishing dealers for a day of tackle review, sales, demonstrations, seminars, clinics and conversation.


### **Please Renew Your 2022 Club Membership Now**

You can access the club's 2022 membership application along with the liability waiver on the club's website at <http://fs-ff.com/index.php/join-or-renew-membership>. There is also a copy of the 2022 membership application included at the end of this newsletter. Please fill out your application, sign and date your liability waiver and mail both along with your dues to Frank Bowne at the address on the application.

### **Envision Frederick County November 13 Event**

The Frederick County, MD group focused on environmental preservation and good land use, Envision Frederick County, has invited Free State Fly Fishers members to participate in an event in conjunction with the discussion of conservation in their proposed Sugarloaf Livable Frederick Plan. Michael Kashiwagi of MD DNR will be talking about and demonstrating how DNR tracks the health of trout and other aquatic creatures in these streams.

## **Sugarloaf's Treasured Landscape**



### **Seen through the eyes of aquatic life**

***Join Envision Frederick County and  
DNR Regional Mgr Michael Kashiwagi  
for a demonstration on the impact of  
land use on aquatic species***

**Saturday, November 13**

**10 a.m.-11:30, Pinecliff Park\* (follow the signs)**

- **See an electrofishing demonstration**
- **Learn about seining-monitoring of species**
- **See samples of Bennett, Bush Creek & tributary species**
- **Join Envision for an impromptu hike afterward**

**Register Today**

[https://envisionfrederickcounty.org  
/calendar/sugarloaf](https://envisionfrederickcounty.org/calendar/sugarloaf)

*\*Pinecliff Park is off I-70 East, left off the South Street exit; cross the river and turn left*

### **Heroes on the Water**

Heroes on the Water, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, helps Veterans and their families relax, rehabilitate, and reintegrate through kayak fishing and the outdoors. Jim "Coop" Cooper is the Coordinator for Heroes on the Water Maryland Chapter. Through fellow club member Harry Steiner, Free State Fly Fishers members have volunteered at a number of Heroes on the Water over the past several years. Their motto—"Paddle. Fish. Heal."—matches well with our club's focus on "Fellowship through Fly Fishing". You can find more information about Heroes on the Water via the Maryland chapter's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HeroesOnTheWaterMarylandChapter?ref=hl>. And please volunteer to help at a future Heroes on the Water event.



## Places to Fish: Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary Ponds

By Amy Holstein

Sometimes we want the thrill of challenging ourselves to fish on the edge of our capabilities, or to work on a trip that involves detailed planning, long drives, airports, and guides. Other times, we get the itch to go somewhere local on the spur of the moment – somewhere the fishing may not be as challenging, but where we know we will find solitude, and where we will rarely, if ever, get skunked! One of those places for me is the ponds at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Merkle is approximately 40 minutes south of Annapolis. About 3.5 miles beyond the intersection of Route 4 and Route 3, turn left on Croom Road (well-marked/major traffic light). From this point the drive to the park puts you in a rural setting, making the rest of your travels relaxing and enjoyable. From Croom Road, take a slight left turn onto St. Thomas Church Road and follow from there to Fenno Road, which ends at the park.



There are five ponds within the park. Stump Pond is on the right shortly after entering the park. This one happens to be my favorite. The front end of the pond is easily accessible and favorable to long casts in multiple directions. There are currently lily

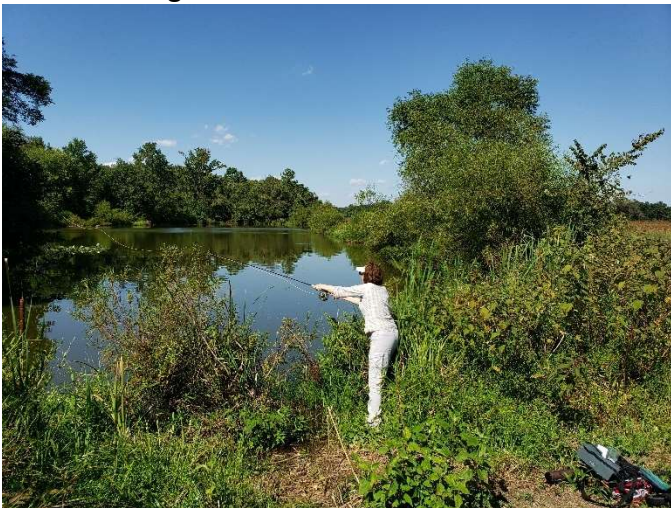
pads covering some areas, and navigating them when you see feeding fish at their edges can be a little tough. But, it is easy to reposition and sail in some very deep casts to other parts of the pond. This area is loaded with bluegill, and occasionally a largemouth bass may surprise as well. Following the groomed trail to the backside of the pond, there are a few places where shorter casts are possible, and where I tend to go in search of bass. The growth at the pond's edge is heavy, but there are some stealthy places you can see others have been, and where getting the tips of your boots wet will allow for laying down some nice side casts. A 6-8 weight rod, with 3-4X tippet and a variety of surface bugs (successful patterns, last trip - tan hopper, white popper with back end flash, blue popper, bumble bee), make for a lot of fun fishing



here this time of year.

The Visitor Center is located shortly beyond Stump Pond. It is unfortunately closed due to renovations. When open, the Center adds an educational and nature-oriented aspect to time spent at Merkle. Frog pond is the second pond in the park and is found close to the Center, but is very small and not fishable. There are several picnic tables shaded by pine trees outside the Center, situated slightly uphill from an expansive view of a large portion of the park which includes two more ponds: Windmill to the left and Merkle to the right. These ponds are a few minutes away via a groomed trail.

Windmill pond has the greatest population of fish, and is likely the most attractive pond in the park. It spreads deeply into a beautifully wooded area, and contains a large central island that provides significant structure at the most accessible fishing areas. I have had the most luck catching bass here with streamers (black or green wooly bugger, Patuxent Special, brown Clouser minnow) on the uphill side of the pond. Though this also tends to be the most popular pond in the park, during my last visit, I saw only one other person fishing it – always an added benefit for those seeking the peace of fly fishing. Before covid days, the areas along portions of the edge of the pond were well-groomed, allowing for a lot of nice casting and catching both bass and bluegill. I am still able to fish this pond, but it currently requires some creative navigation.



Ranger Danny Jones, Area Manager for Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, and I, will be working together to gather a group of volunteers to do some bushwhacking before the end of the fall season. Danny is able to provide all tools and equipment for this project. As always, the more people who post for a volunteer project, the less time it takes to meet the goals – this one being to improve the comfort of opportunities for all that fish the ponds at the park. Please let us know if you may be available for a few hours:  
[danny.jones@maryland.gov](mailto:danny.jones@maryland.gov);  
[aholsteinffsn@icloud.com](mailto:aholsteinffsn@icloud.com).

Merkle pond is directly across from Windmill. It is very shallow and for the most part contains little structure. Casting is quite easy, unless you want to get back in the weeds a bit and fish under the downed trees. Getting back there requires a walk through nearly knee-high light growth which is loaded with tan hoppers this time of year, making the choice of fly to start with easy! During my last visit, I had several hits on a hopper under the downed trees before finally catching a moderately sized bluegill. Based on the activity, though, I am certain there are larger and more plentiful fish in this vicinity. For those wanting to fish the structured areas of this pond, a 4 weight, 7'6" rod and floating, or slightly subsurface patterns would be optimal. On your way out, there is a nicely situated bench where you can relax and just take in the calm of this large and beautiful pond.

Upon leaving this area of the park, there is an entrance on the right to the Critical Area self-driving tour. This one-way tour loops around a completely different area of the park, passing through large fields of mature sorghum which in the fall, readily attract Canada geese that heavily gather at Merkle. At the far end of this road and on the right, there is a short access area to Catfish pond, the last pond in the park. I have not yet fished Catfish pond, but did take a look at it. The pond is visible from the pull off, and located approximately 500 feet within sparse woods. Catfish pond is relatively small, but appears to have adequate room for fly casting.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention easy access to fishing the Patuxent River via the park's pier, across from Catfish Pond. Approaching the end of a short trail, the trees part and provide a spectacular view of the Patuxent River. There is a bench on the pier, and adequate space for excellent casting. A large variety of fish can be found in this area at differing times of the year – stripers, channel catfish, blue catfish, white and yellow perch, and more.





Approximately two miles upstream is Patuxent River Park's pier and boat launch area. Only a short ten-minute drive from Merkle, Patuxent River Park also has a rental service for kayaks and canoes.

Additionally, there is a large fishing pier next to the boat launch. A 1-1/2 mile trip upstream and west to the Mount Calvert area, provides good fishing for snakehead and especially pickerel, when heavy growth of submerged vegetation tends to be found from August into October.



Overall Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary is quiet, and in my experience, never crowded. Should you suddenly find yourself up for a few hours of relaxing fishing, and visiting a place where you can take in the natural beauty of the area, I highly recommend a trip to Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary.

**[Editor's Note:** James Andrews has the responsibility for delivering a new 'Where to Fish' article for each newsletter. He is always looking for fellow club members to share where they like to

fish. Please contact James if you are willing to write an article for an upcoming newsletter.]

## **How to Fly Fish Even Better: Quick Success Leader System**

**By Joe Bruce**

Throw a size 8 fly to bonefish or panfish or a 2/0 saltwater or bass popper just by changing your tippets—this is the essence of this leader system. Change tippets from 8 lb. to 20 lb. with the same tapered butt leader. No need to carry four, five or six different leader sizes or as many different lengths and all the tippet dispensers. This is an efficient and effective way to approach different fishing situations as well as diverse species found on a given day in the salt or freshwater.

I carry pre-tied tippets in strengths from 8 lb. to 20 lb., in clear monofilament. Also I have a popper tippet with a 30 lb. bite on 20 lb. test so I have a handle to pull in the fish, as well as a wire tippet for those toothy fish that live in the salt.

Now my leader wallet takes on a whole new meaning. It truly is a leader wallet. There is no need in carrying extra tippet dispensers or leader packs that seem to find an area in my tackle bag or vest that I didn't even know existed.

### ***Recommended Leader Butts***

#### **3.5 Foot Tapered Butt for a 7' or 8' leader**

24 inches of 50 pound (40 inches)

12 inches of 40 pound (36 inches)

6 inches of 30 pound (30 inches)

#### **5 foot taper butt for 8' or 9' leader**

30 inches of 50 pound (46 inches)

15 inches of 40 pound (40 inches)

9 inches of 30 pound (33 inches)

#### **7 foot taper butt for 10' or 11' leader**

48 inches of 50 pound (64 inches)

24 inches of 40 pound (48 inches)

12 inches of 30 pound (36 inches)

### 10 foot taper butt for 13' to 14' leader

72 inches of 50 pounds (88 inches)  
36 inches of 40 pounds (60 inches)  
18 inches of 30 pounds (42 inches)

To complete this system, loop a three or four-foot piece of any strength tippet from 8 to 20 lb. to the 30 lb. section of the butt. (Note the inches listed within the parentheses are the recommended cut length of leader material to start out with prior to tying any knots.)

### Big Game Fly Leader:

24 inches of 50 pounds (40 inches)  
12 inches of 40 pounds (36 inches)  
48 inches of 30 pounds (60 inches)

### Giant Fly Leader:

24 inches of 50 pounds (40 inches)  
36 inches of 40 pounds (48 inches)

### **Leader Bench**

I have made my own leaders for years and I have found my leader bench is invaluable to producing leaders. It consists of

- 1- 1" x 4" x 24" wooden board
- 1- 1" x 4" x 12" wooden board
- 1- ½" x 6" wood dowel



You will need two wood clamps to secure the bench to a desk. I have drilled a ½" diameter holes for a six inch ½" dia. dowel for making my loops.



### **Fly Fishing Equipment: A Few Things to Consider When Purchasing a Fly Reel**

**By Duber Winters**

Over the years I have had the pleasure of working in several tackle supply shops, fly fishing retail stores and trade shows and one question that would repeatedly arise would be "Why should I spend a lot of money on a fly reel if all it does is hold the line and I will never actually reel in the fish?". And while there is or at least can be some truth to this question I think it is good to consider various factors before making such a purchase.

**What species will this reel be used for and what kind of water will you be fishing?** It is relatively safe to say that that if your primary target is panfish on a lake or small stream the function of the reel as it relates to retrieving the fish will likely be limited. So for species that rarely get larger than 12" or so I think most anglers will agree that stripping the fish by hand is not only sensible but prudent. If brook trout are the primary target and you are fishing small mountain streams then once again it is not likely that you would be reeling in the fish on the fly rod. In fact I have witnessed anglers wanting to reel in fish and actually lose the fish by trying to switch over to cranking the reel and not keeping enough pressure on the fish. This can result when the fish are smaller or swimming towards the angler allowing for the hook to dislodge.



Larger bodies of waters, especially rivers can hold larger trout and for an angler that would target those fish, one could consider a better quality reel with a better drag system. Typically trout are fished with very light tippet material and when that is combined with any type of flow or current and the angler is fishing a streamer a quality drag system can be the difference in landing the fish of a lifetime or not.

Most species of fish, including both fresh and salt water fish that can be larger by nature could be reeled in by the angler and, therefore, a drag system of the reel could be utilized. Carp, musky, salmon to name a few and virtually all saltwater species have the ability to run and pull drag and test the drag system of a reel.

**Drag systems:** Most mid-level reels made today feature a stacked washer disk system that applies more pressure as the drag knob is rotated. The components of the system will vary from one manufacturer to another which can affect the performance of the drag and the reel as a whole. These drag systems have advanced greatly in recent years allowing anglers to get a reel with a decent drag at a relatively low price.

**What is the reel made of?** Fly reels are typically made of ABS plastic, metal that is poured in to a cast or is carved by a machine from bar stock aluminum. Of course any of these can be functional however the plastic reels can actually bend when there is considerable torque. I fished a plastic reel for about a month while guiding in South Florida. The little tunny that I was chasing while trying the reel not only shredded the cheap gears but actually warped the frame of the reel so the spool could not be removed. A bar stock aluminum reel is the best option if budget allows. Again, the target species should be considered.

**What is the retrieval rate or line pick up?** The amount of line that the reel picks up per revolution

of the spool is critical when playing fast fish that are swimming in the anglers direction. Most anglers that fish efficiently want fast line pick up even when they are just reeling up the line to move on to the next stop.

**Size of the arbor...** A standard arbor reel has very limited backing capacity and the slowest line retrieval rate. Mid arbor reels hold more backing and pick up line faster than the standard arbor. Large arbor reels hold the most backing and have the quickest pick up. Large arbor's are best for salt water applications and for fish that will pull line off the reel and backing as well.

**Does this reel balance my rod?** If the reel is too heavy for the rod then you will have to compensate for poor balance in your casting stroke. If it is too light then the rod will be tip heavy and again the angler will need to compensate which will affect the cast. It is recommended to bring the rod along when shopping for a new reel to be sure there is proper balance somewhere in the cork.

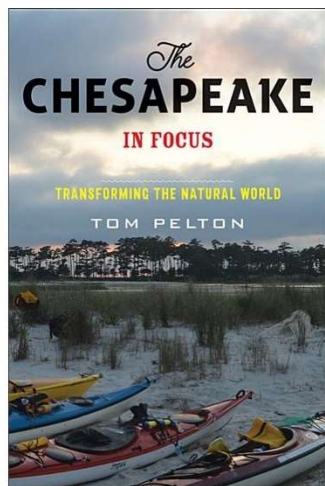
**Does the quality of the reel match the quality of the rod?** When purchasing a quality fly rod it makes little sense to put a lower quality reel on the rod. Generally speaking it makes the most sense to match the quality of the reel to the rod. An overall quality set up of a rod, reel and fly line will put the angler in the best possible position for success no matter what situation the angler is faced with. A quality rod and reel setup will also instill confidence which is a common trait amongst successful anglers.

**[Editor's Note:** Thanks to Duber for his contributions to this regular club newsletter column. Future newsletters will continue to explore other types of fly fishing equipment and share insights into how to make better choices when it comes to selecting and purchasing fly fishing equipment. Contributions from other fellow club members are always welcome!]

## **Book Review: *The Chesapeake in Focus – Transforming the Natural World***

**By Mark Bange**

The Chesapeake Bay is the heart of Maryland. That's true geographically by its central location bisecting our state. That's also true as an economic engine drawing 18 million people to its watershed seeking a livelihood from or near its waters. Is it possible that we can love the heart of our state to death by ignoring its cries for help? Author Tom Pelton has presented a case for that belief in his 2018 book, *The Chesapeake in Focus – Transforming the Natural World*.



The initial impression Pelton offers to his readers is the immensity of the Chesapeake Bay. Here are a few of the staggering

statistics: Fifty billion gallons of water flow into the bay's 4,480 square miles of surface area daily from more than 100,000 streams, creeks and rivers. One million three hundred thousand acres of its watershed are covered by hard surfaces – roofs, asphalt and concrete roads, driveways and parking lots which channel rain and contaminants to the bay. One hundred and fifty thousand new residents annually are joining the 18 million people who already live here. The bay's watershed is 64,000 square miles including neighboring states. Eighty-seven thousand farms with 6.5 million acres of crops leak fertilizers and other pollutants into the bay. Indeed, agriculture is the largest source of pollution in the Chesapeake. And here's perhaps the most telling statistic: The land to water ratio of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is 14 to 1 which is

the highest of any coastal body of water in the world. That ratio and the bay's relatively shallow average depth of 21 feet, make it difficult for the Chesapeake to absorb the impact of so much human activity.

With that stage set, Pelton organized his book into four sections. The first is a description of "The Waters". Here the author writes about seven distinct rivers or areas of the Chesapeake. That section will be particularly interesting to many FSFF members because he discusses the very waters we have waded, boated and kayaked during our club outings. Particularly intriguing is his coverage of the historical significance of those areas. He mentions the activities of indigenous inhabitants, the arrival of European settlers 400 years ago and the role of the bay in the War of 1812 to cite just a few examples.

In the second section, "The People", Pelton describes the activities of seven individuals who have influenced the condition of the Chesapeake, each trying to reverse negative environmental trends in their own ways. He mentions two Maryland governors, a mayor, a Maryland Department of National Resources (MD DNR) official and three citizens who were moved to action. In each case, they fell short of their goals. But importantly, through legislation, the creation of conservation programs or their dedication they raised awareness to the problems facing the Chesapeake so that others could continue the cause.

In the third section, Pelton discusses "The Wildlife". Here he expands on the history and current state of Oysters, Blue Crabs, Eels, Striped Bass and Sturgeon in the Chesapeake. Again, many FSFF members will relate to these topics. Most of us have fished for stripers and we know their numbers in the bay are declining. We know about the struggle to restore sturgeon in the bay thanks to Ashley Horne of the MD DNR who was a guest speaker for the FSFF in late 2019. And most of us



know that oysters are now harvested at a small fraction of their late 19<sup>th</sup> century numbers. Pelton covers the impact of poor water quality and disease on bay oysters. He mentions that blue crabs replaced the importance of oysters as a seafood product in the Chesapeake after WWII and that remains the case today. Eels are another significant seafood taken from the Chesapeake. We may think of them as crab bait, but Pelton points out that Chesapeake Bay eels are regularly found on the dinner tables of Europe and Asia today. Throughout this wildlife section the message is clear. The demand for these creatures can easily outstrip their tenuous existence – especially if we do not improve their habitat in the bay.

In the final section of the book, Pelton discusses, “The Policies”. Here he describes the efforts of regulators at state levels and the federal government’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pelton outlines the differing approaches of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania in addressing pollutants leaching into the bay from agriculture and urban sprawl. He describes the tension between the states and the EPA in the states’ abilities to meet federally mandated water quality metrics. Finally, he addresses the dissonance between regulators and the Chesapeake’s watermen who face both declining populations of their target species and legal restrictions that they feel are excessive and a threat to their way of life.

Balancing these many competing interests to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay has been and continues to be difficult. Politics and special interest groups are pervasive forces in the struggle. Yet, progress has been made thanks to the federal Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act and their amendments. Also, since 2010, the EPA has literally placed the Chesapeake on a diet. It’s called “Total Maximum Daily Load” TMDL which sets goals to reduce the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution into the bay. Our February guest speaker, Tom Parham, mentioned TMDL

metrics during his FSFF presentation on the MD DNR’s “Click Before You Cast” program. So yes, this book should be of interest to each member of the FSFF. A healthy Chesapeake Bay will make a better environment for us to pursue our angling pastime and will result in more fish for us to catch.

The author concludes with 10 recommendations to make the Chesapeake’s cleanup happen even faster. You can decide if his thoughts are feasible or perhaps draconian. But there is no doubt that ***The Chesapeake in Focus*** will raise your awareness of how the bay arrived at its present state. You will understand how difficult the cleanup effort is. And you will appreciate the hard work of those engaged to make that happen. I highly recommend this book.

**The Chesapeake in Focus – Transforming the Natural World**

Author: Tom Pelton

252 Pages

Published: 2018

The Johns Hopkins Press -- Baltimore

It’s available from online booksellers and at the Anne Arundel County Public Library.

**[Editor’s Note:** Mark Bange is offering a free FSFF membership renewal to the reader who identifies the specific connection in the book to our club. If you know the answer, please follow up with Mark for your free 2022 membership renewal!]

**Book Review: Fly by the Seat of Your Kayak -- A Guide to Simplified Kayak Flyfishing in Tidal Creeks and Freshwater Ponds**  
By Rich Batiuk

Recently, Mark Bange shared an email message with all club members:

“Dear Members,  
I have written a second kayak fishing book. I

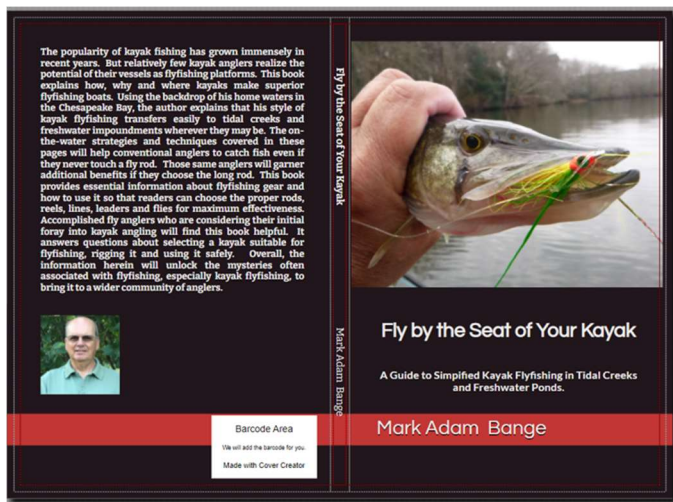
published my first in 2016. *The Simple Joys of Kayak Fishing -- Tips and Tales from an Old Guy in His Plastic Boat* was my “letter of appreciation” to the hobby of kayak fishing. It was a little bit of kayak fishing instruction and a little bit of storytelling about what makes kayak fishing so much fun. It sold well and remains available on Amazon. There is a copy in our FSFF library and I have a few copies if you are interested in owning one.

Ever since I wrote that first book, I have had another in mind – a “how to” book about kayak flyfishing. I recently finished it. The title: *Fly by the Seat of Your Kayak -- A Guide to Simplified Kayak Flyfishing in Tidal Creeks and Freshwater Ponds*

It is now for sale on Amazon for \$17.98.

[https://www.amazon.com/Fly-Seat-Your-Kayak-Simplified/dp/B09BYDSTJX/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=fly+by+the+seat+of+your+kayak&qid=1628513230&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Fly-Seat-Your-Kayak-Simplified/dp/B09BYDSTJX/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=fly+by+the+seat+of+your+kayak&qid=1628513230&sr=8-1)

The book is nine chapters, 165 pages with color illustrations.”



Soon after his second book was available on-line, I purchased my own copy and started reading. Here’s my review of Mark’s second book.

From the first paragraphs in the introduction, Mark draws the reader into what feels like talking with a very knowledgeable friend willing to help you learn without making you feel you are asking dumb questions. He anticipates the questions before you have a chance to even ask them.

Other fishing book authors throw facts followed by their opinion at you. Mark has a conversation with you, sharing his experiences with you along with his lessons learned, just like you were sitting with Mark next to an Eastern Shore pond, about to go out kayak fly fishing. He never tells you what to do or buy, but make darn sure you are loaded with good information to make good decisions, whatever that decision is. I frequently found myself nodding in agreement with what he wrote and how he wrote it—words backed by much experience!

Mark is very clear throughout the book in terms of what his book is meant to teach and share with you and what is not—an in-depth fly tying or casting manual. At the same time, he works systematically through all aspects of fly fishing from a kayak, from kayaks to flies to tools to techniques and strategies. But he does not present a very dry resuscitation of a host of facts and figures. He shares information and insights for your consideration. Just read Chapter 4 on Accessories and you will be convinced. The subtitle says it all—“Less can be more or certainty enough.” (I can just see Joe Bruce smiling!)

Are you an active kayak fly fisher? Have you considered getting a kayak and using it for fly fishing? Are you just interested in reading good books about fly fishing? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you need to order a copy of Mark’s latest kayak fishing book.

Some of you fellow kayak fly fishers may be saying to yourselves, “I already know how to fish from a kayak. Why do I need to own and read Mark’s book?” Well, besides we Free State Fly Fishers



always support each other, you will learn some new insights to help you be a better kayak fly fisher...or it will validate you are already one.

Then, learn to tie a basic fly like a Woolly Bugger. That fly will teach you most of what you need to know about tying. You will learn how to apply materials to the hook so they stay put and don't roll. You will learn how to palmer hackle. And you will learn how to tie a half hitch knot at the head. Once you have mastered those steps, you can easily tie any of the flies I have showed you in this book.

Finally, and this is the best tip I can give you, join a local flyfishing club. I belong to two clubs in the Chesapeake region – The White Clay Fly Fishers of Delaware and the Free State Fly Fishers of Annapolis, Maryland. Both offer regularly scheduled fly-tying sessions to their members and guests. Both have talented tyers among their members who will generously share their expertise to get you started in the hobby. Each of these clubs has an internet presence easily found with a web browser.



*The Free State Fly Fishers of Maryland and the White Clay Fly Fishers of Delaware. Two great sources of flyfishing information and fly-tying instruction here in the Chesapeake Region. Most likely, your local area has a flyfishing club too.*

Regardless of the reason why you choose to purchase and read Mark's latest book, here's just one example of the prose you will enjoy reading taken from the last chapter:

“The very act of fly fishing is its gratification. The cast—watching a line unfurl in a tight loop toward a distant target with precision is one of the delights of flyfishing. It requires a degree of manual coordination and timing. But it's easily mastered. When it all comes together, it's a wonderfully satisfying achievement to drop a fly on target with a well-executed cast.”

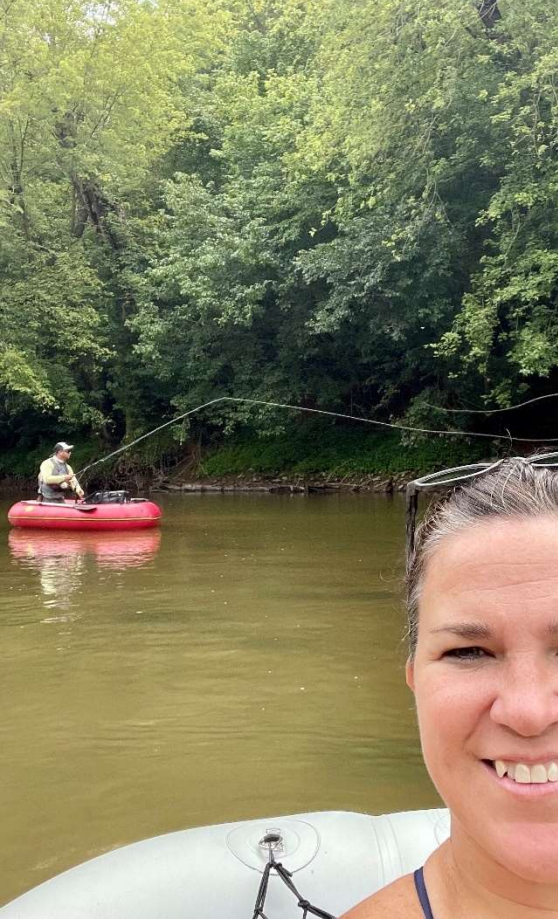
Only I am left with one remaining question. Now that we know his full name is Mark Adam Bange and he is an accomplished author this being his

second book, do we have to now refer to him as Sir Mark or Lord Bange or can we call him Adam? Wait, that's his son's name so I guess we will just have to go with Sir Mark!

**And now some photos of fellow Free State Flyers from the past months...and, more importantly, the fish they caught!**







08.13.2021









*An Invitation From*

**Free State Fly Fishers**

*to join us at our*

**Holiday Dinner on December 1st, 2021 at  
Mike's Crab House on the South River  
at the Riva Road Bridge**

*Cash Bar at 6:00 pm*

*Dinner service to begin at 6:30 pm*

For more information contact on Don Vance at 443-875-5100 or [donalde Vance@gmail.com](mailto:donalde Vance@gmail.com)

**Cost: \$40.00 per person except for \$53.00 for Broiled Crab Cakes**

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

Mark Jacobs  
689 Carlisle Drive  
Arnold, MD 21012

Checks *must* be received by **November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Payment cannot be accepted at the event**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée choice (see next page): \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ and their entrée choices \_\_\_\_\_

**FSFF DECEMBER 1st 2021  
HOLIDAY DINNER AT  
MIKE'S RESTAURANT & CRABHOUSE**

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

**GROUP DINNER ENTRÉE SELECTION  
\$40.00\* PER PERSON**

SERVED IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM

**CHOICE OF ONE ENTRÉE**

- BROILED CRAB CAKE PLATTER--**\$53.00 PER PERSON**
- STUFFED FLOUNDER
- 13 OZ NEW YORK STRIP
- BROILED SALMON
- SEAFOOD IMPERIAL
- BEEF OR CHICKEN KABOB

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

**ALL ENTRÉES SERVED WITH:**

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

\* Except if you are ordering the broiled crab cake, then the cost is \$53.00 per person.







## **Free State Fly Fishers, Inc. Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Express Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement**

### **Read carefully before signing**

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in the fly fishing and other activities (“Activities”) sponsored by the Free State Fly Fishers, Inc. (“FSFF”), I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin, do hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions in this agreement (this “Agreement”). I understand that the inherent hazards and risks associated with participating in FSFF Activities, the movement of equipment related to the Activities, as well as travel to and from the Activity sites is potentially dangerous and physically demanding and hazardous. I am mentally and physically sufficiently fit to participate in such Activities. If at any time I believe the conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation, and assume all risks inherent in my decision to do so. I understand that the Activities are dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage; any injuries may be compounded by negligent emergency response of FSFF; I am voluntarily participating in the Activities with knowledge of these dangers involved; and I agree to accept and assume any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage, whether caused by the negligence of FSFF or otherwise.

### **I acknowledge and agree that:**

1. I expressly waive and release any and all claims, now hereafter known, against FSFF and its officers, directors, employees, agents, affiliates, successors, and assigns (collectively, “Releasees”), on account of injury, death, or property damage arising out of or attributable to my participation in the Activity, whether arising out of the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. I covenant not to make or bring any such claim against the Releasees, and forever release and discharge the Releasees from liability under such claims.
2. I will wear and properly use all of the appropriate protective and safety equipment. However, I am aware and understand that protective gear cannot guarantee the participant’s safety and gear.
3. I acknowledge that FSFF volunteers who lead FSFF Activities, outings, trips, or workshops are not professional leaders, guides or instructors, nor are they certified by an organization requiring certain skills or knowledge of safety practices. I am at all times fully and solely responsible for my own safety and well-being during trips, classes, courses and events involving fly fishing and related Activities conducted under the auspices, sponsorship or leadership of FSFF, its officers, agents and members, as well as in transit to and from such activities, and that I must consider and evaluate my ability to handle the conditions present at all times.
4. In the event that I am injured during an event, trip, workshop and/or other Activity of FSFF, I give permission for other participants to administer first aid and to seek medical assistance as deemed

necessary. I intend that the releases, waivers, indemnity agreements, and assumptions of risk contained in this agreement shall fully apply to any claim whatsoever on account of first aid treatment or service rendered to me during my participation in FSFF Activities, even if caused by the negligence of releasees or others.

**I hereby release, covenant not to sue, save and hold harmless, and agree to promptly indemnify** FSFF, its officers, directors, coordinators, outing leaders and other volunteers (“the releasees”), from liability and responsibility whatsoever for any and all liability, claims, demands, losses, injuries, damage to property, causes of action or other damages, including but not limited to the costs of litigation and attorneys' fees, that I, my estate, heirs, survivors, executors, or assigns may have for any and all personal injury, disability, property damage, wrongful death, and/or other losses, damage, and/or claims arising out of or resulting from or in connection with the Activities, whether caused by active or passive negligence of the releasees or otherwise.

This Agreement is the sole and entire agreement of FSFF and me regarding the Activity and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous understandings, agreements, representations, and warranties, both written and oral regarding the Activity. If any part of this Agreement is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, that shall not affect any other part of this Agreement. This Agreement is binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the Releasees and me and is made pursuant to and shall be governed by the laws of Maryland, without giving effect to any principles of conflict of laws. Any claim or cause of action arising under this Agreement shall be brought in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County or the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland and I hereby consent to the jurisdiction and venue therein.

**I have carefully read this agreement, have been given the opportunity to review it by counsel of my choosing, and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release and waiver of liability to all releasees and that by signing this agreement I am giving up important legal rights.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** **Date**

**Signed on Behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name of Minor), as that Child’s Parent or Legal Guardian**



## **FREE STATE FLY FISHERS 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

President: [Gary Grey](#)

First Vice-President: [Duber Winters](#)

Second Vice President: [Luis Santiago](#)

Secretary: [Frank Bowne](#)

Treasurer: [Mark Jacobs](#)

Directors: [Rich Batiuk](#) (Past President) / [Mike Mattia](#)

### **FSFF Coordinators:**

Clubhouse Coordinator: [John Rentch](#)

DFRC Representative: [Mike Mattia](#)

Club Librarian: [Kristi Drake](#)

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

Membership Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)

Social Media Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

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

Outings Coordinator: [Duber Winters](#)

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

Meeting Speakers Coordinator: [Mark Bange](#)

Fly Tying Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

Beer Ties Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)

Saturday Hands-on Sessions Coordinator: [Rich Batiuk](#)

Movie Night Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

Holiday Dinner Coordinator: [Don Vance](#)

Publicity Coordinator: [Ryan Harvey](#)

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

Door Prizes Coordinator: [Joe DeMeo](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Rich Batiuk](#)

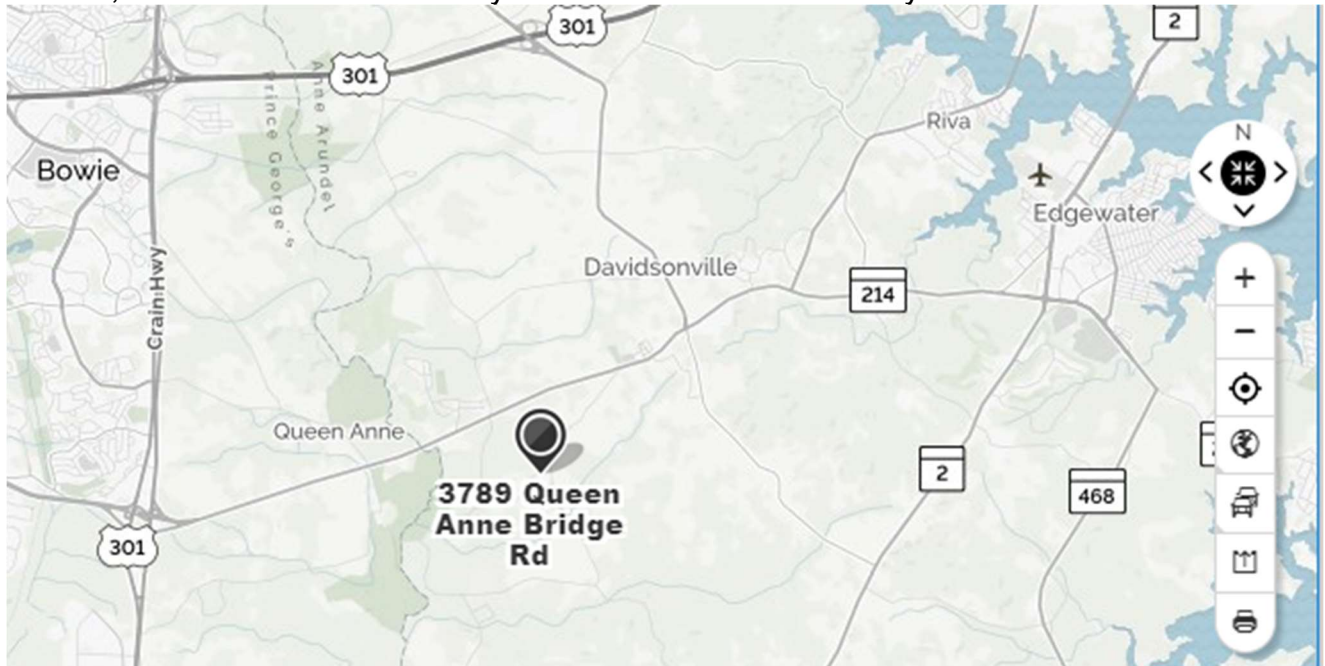
Please contact the appropriate FSFF leadership team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.

**“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:** [fsffmd@gmail.com](mailto:fsffmd@gmail.com)