



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

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

It's Winter and I very much am looking forward to getting back to fishing. In my case I take a hiatus from fishing every Fall and start chasing deer and



geese in their hunting seasons. I had a great season this year... and you can see that my grandson

approves of our goose outing!



But... as I write this I can feel my fingers curling up around an imaginary fly rod as my long ignored fishing addiction kicks back in! I have a lot of catching up to do!

I did slip out December 12 to Concord Pond and caught a few Pickerel and wow, did that ever feel great. Particularly fun was watching a family of three otters watch me—they seemed to be playing “chicken” to see who could get closest to the fat guy in the kayak! Fun.

The weather is in control now, far more than usual. I'm writing this on January 4, the day after our 7" snowfall in Anne Arundel County. It was 14 degrees at my house this morning...plans for my Pickerel fishing trip on January 6 are not looking good...but that's all part of Wintertime fishing.

It's also about tying flies and replenishing our fly boxes. Wow, does our club have a lot of great fly tying sessions, Hands On sessions, and fly swaps coming up! Take advantage of them! They're detailed inside this newsletter.

The Pickerel are active, 2000 trout have been stocked in the Patapsco at Daniels, 2000 trout at Town Creek, and 2000 Trout at the Casselman—all favorite haunts of mine calling my name. The Yellow Perch will be swimming up the creeks soon!

So “get off the couch” (as an infamous FSFF member likes to say), get out those fishing gloves with the cut off fingers, your ice pick to chip the ice out of your rod guides, your breathable waders (yup, now don't you wish you held on to those old neoprene waders???) and get out there and chase these seasonal favorites. If the wind and snow cancel your plans, no problem, grab this newsletter and catch up on some of the great tips it brings to you.

See you on the water,

Gary

Gary Grey
2022 Free State Fly Fishers President

Upcoming FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

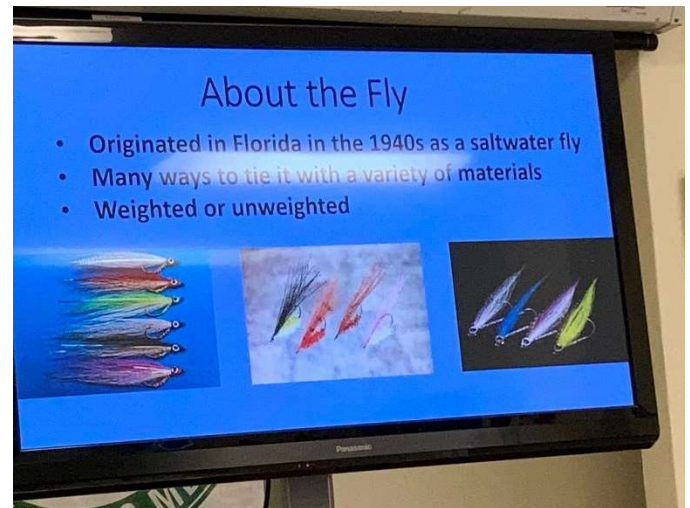
We are back to meeting together at the clubhouse, sort of! Yeah, we are masked up given we are on Anne Arundel County property and our clubhouse is officially a county building. And, yes for at least our February club meeting, we will be meeting virtually once again. But for all other club sponsored activities—fly tying sessions, Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions, movie nights—we are meeting in person at the clubhouse, with masks to protect ourselves and our fellow club members.

If you check out the club website's events page at <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/events-2/> you will find a truly amazing calendar of club sponsored events. For the next several months, the club is sponsoring 5-7 meetings, member-led fly tying sessions, open fly tying sessions, Saturday morning hands-on sessions, beer ties, outings, stream-side and pond-side classes and more per month. So come on out, learn something new, and keep in touch with your fellow members.



Wednesday Club Meeting Presentations

Many thanks to Gary Grey for temporally stepping in and filling the big shoes left by Mark Bange who stepped down as the club's Meeting Speaker Coordinator after several years in this critical club support role. We have a meeting speakers scheduled for months to come so read on!



February 2 Club Meeting – John McMinn--

Flyfishing for Backcountry Tarpon In this talk, John McMinn, joining us from White Clay Fly Fishers, will explore the backcountry - protected, mangrove-lined waters that are loaded with structure that holds varied bait and their predators. Fly anglers can use floating lines to catch a variety of fish including snook, jacks, redfish and tarpon. This game can be really challenging requiring quick, accurate casting and skilled fish fighting but the rewards can be correspondingly great. Tarpon fishing is some of the most exciting flyfishing -- it all happens so fast!

[**Editor's Note:** Please remember, our February club meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Information on connecting into this meeting will be emailed out and posted on the club's website. Hopefully, this meeting will be our last virtual meeting, but a final decision will be made by the club's leadership team prior to our March club meeting.]

March 2 Club Meeting - Erik Zolokovitz--Striped

Bass update and invasive species management A fisheries biologist from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Erik will present the latest information on striped bass populations in Chesapeake Bay and the status of the recreational and commercial fisheries. Erik will also discuss efforts to address the influx of non-native species and their effects on our Bay fisheries.

April 6 Club Meeting - April: Wayne McMasters-- Fly Fishing Opportunities in Tidewater, Virginia

Wayne is a fly fishing guide focused on Chesapeake Bay and its tidal creeks, rivers and embayments down in Virginia.



- October 1st
- November 5th
- December 3rd

There are no fly tying sessions scheduled for the months of July and August. We are taking a break so you can focus on fishing during the summer months.

[Editor's Note: The February 5th fly tying session is being converted to a Saturday Morning Hands-on Session about fishing for pickerel. The club's Swap Meet has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 7th so there will be no fly tying session on that date. And the club's annual Trap Pond outing and group lunch has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 21 so we have rescheduled the May 21 Saturday Hands-on Session to be led by Joe DeMeo on Tying Double Barrel Popper) to April 2nd.]

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):

- February 5th Joe Bruce pickerel fishing tips
- March 5th Mark Bange tying crystal buggers and gurglers
- March 12th Joe DeMeo tying Black Ant, Golden Retriever, and Everett's Fly
- April 2nd Joe DeMeo tying Double Barrell Seducer poppers
- June 4th
- September 3rd

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.



We have one more open fly tying session currently scheduled for **February 12th** as we had to use the March 12th open fly tying session to reschedule another club member-led fly tying session.

Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions

Thanks to our fellow club members' willingness to share their experiences, we have Hands-on Sessions already scheduled through 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.

In the past several months, Joe Bruce taught us how to make and use Mini Sink-tips for our floating fly lines in October, Mark Bange demonstrated all the steps involved in building and tying Greg Krebs' foam poppers in November, and Joe DeMeo walked us through how to go about tying better Clouser Minnows (still one of the best and most effective fly patterns!).



January 29: Joe Bruce's "Icelandic Wool and Hackle Neck Dyeing Session" 9 AM – 12 PM

If you don't already have a lifetime supply of Icelandic 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.**

[Editor's Note: This is the rescheduled date.]

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



April 2: 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.



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.



June 1: Wednesday Club Meeting—Casting clinic with Members Casting with Their Own Fly Rods 6:00-8:00 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 6:00 PM in the clubhouse and the casting clinic will start at 6:30 PM on the lawn behind the clubhouse.

[Editor’s Note: We have rescheduled Joe DeMeo’s Double Barrel Popper session to April 2nd due to scheduling the club’s Trap Outing for May 21st.]

Club Movie Nights

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 continue to be scheduled on the fourth Wednesday evening of odd numbered months throughout the year except July with the first movie starting at 7 PM:

- January 26th
- March 23rd
- May 25th
- September 28th
- November 23rd

Come hungry and ready to add your commentary to at the clubhouse 'theatre' where we welcome comments, laughter and lies about catching a brown trout the same size as up on the screen!

Wednesday Night Beer Ties



We're continuing 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 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 at 6:00 PM are on the fourth Wednesday night of every even numbered month throughout the year:

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



Streamside Fly Fishing 101 Classes

Thanks to your fellow club members, we have restarted 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. In addition to our Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions, fly casting clinics, and our club member lead Fly Tying sessions, here's ANOTHER way to learn and refine your fly fishing skills!

Please note that all Streamside Fly Fishing Classes are held different days of the week. As we get closer to each of these classes, we will be distributing and posting more details as well as information on signing up to participate.

- **Friday February 11:** Joe Bruce's "Pickerel Fly Fishing 101 on Concord Pond"
- **Saturday March 26:** Duber Winter's "Trout Fly Fishing 101 on Morgan Run"
- **Friday April 15:** Joe Bruce's "Shad Fly Fishing 101 on Deer Creek"
- **Friday May 6:** Joe Bruce's "Largemouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Piney Run Reservoir"
- **September:** Mark Bange's "Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Potomac River"
- **Tuesday July 12:** John Rentch's "White Perch Fly Fishing 101 on Wye River"

If you have an idea for a streamside fly fishing 101 class you would like for the club to sponsor, please let Rich Batiuk know at richbatiuk@gmail.com.



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: 6:00 - 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.

Trap Pond and Group Lunch May 21: The club is heading back to Trap Pond in Laurel, Delaware for our annual bluegill spawning cast-catch-release extravaganza complete with a group barbeque for lunch (and yes, including Susan Batiuk’s infamous double chocolate fudge brownies for dessert). Some members will plan to campout for the weekend—if you plan to do so, please make your campsite reservation as soon as possible.



Club Sponsored Outings

Thanks to the club’s new outings coordinator, Duber Winters, we are back to scheduling more club sponsored outings. Talk with Duber about leading an outing for your fellow fly fishers.

Adirondacks June 24 - July 1: Gary Grey is leading a Club trip to the Adirondacks in New York again this year. The trip will be from June 24 to July 1. This is a great opportunity to do some Northern Pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth, and trout fishing in a beautiful setting. You can camp in Lake Harris Campground or rent the Pilot House Cabin from the local outfitter for your stay.



Janes Island October 1: Luis Santiago scheduled our next club outing to Janes Island, Crisfield, Maryland for October 1. Every year the campground seems to get a bit busier and CCA is looking at the same weekend for the Red Trout tournament so please book a site early if you have any intentions of attending. If you happen to change your mind later the cancellation fee is minimal and if you decide to cancel later please offer the site here first perhaps some other club member could make use of it. Here's the link: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/eastern/janesisland.aspx>

See the club website's calendar of events for more details on these and other 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.



May 2022 Swap Meet

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 scheduled for **Saturday, May 7th** starting at 9 AM with Saturday May 14th scheduled as a rain date.



We welcome club members to ask for a table and sell your extra fly fishing equipment and fly tying material. Or you can donate your extra fly fishing stuff to the club to sell, with these profits going to support the club's operations.

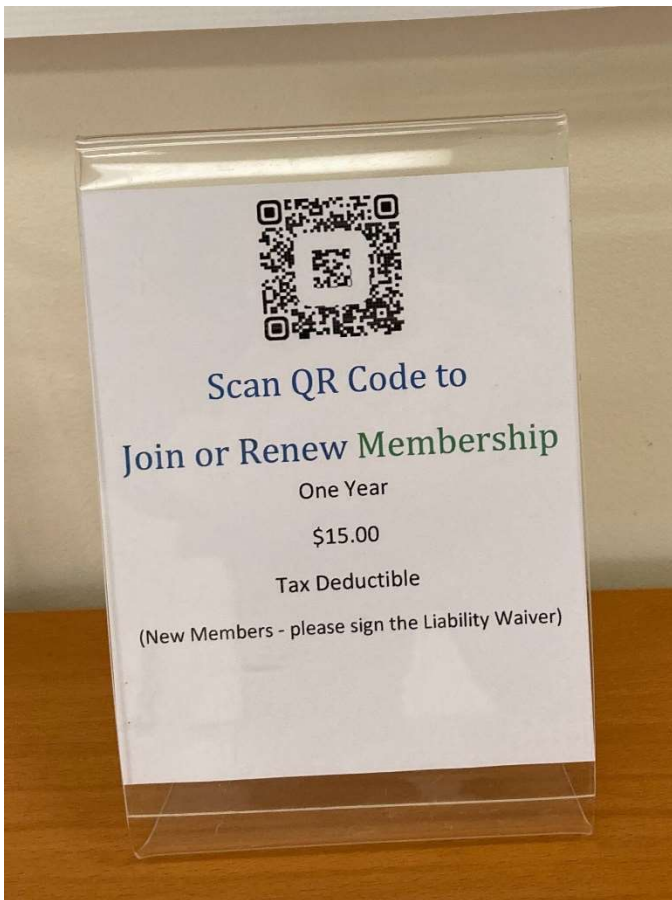
Club News

Pay for New/Renewal Memberships Electronically

Yes, our club is entering the 21st century! You can now renew your FSFF membership dues or make a donation on-line: <http://fs-ff.com/index.php/join-or-renew-membership/>. Also, if you haven't signed your Liability Waiver there is a link to it on the same page.

And if you want to pay your membership dues at the clubhouse you can point your phone's camera at the QR code on the back table.

Frank Bowne, FSFF Membership Coordinator



water, fly selection, knots and proper catch and release techniques. Nine club members have

already signed up for this April 16, 2022 day long class at Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tannery, Virginia. We will work with Duber to make a similar offer to club members next year!

2022 Fly Tying Swap Underway

Now that the holidays are over and winter sets in there is no better time to get back to your vises and replenish fly boxes. With that in mind we are happy to announce our next fly swap is now underway with 10 club members participating this year.



These fly swaps are always open to all members all levels. We encourage our new members and beginner tiers to participate. Swaps are designed to help motivate you. Practice and refine your technique, share thoughts and questions with fellow tiers and in return receive several new patterns for you to copy, fish and discuss.

Basically, an even number of club members each tie enough flies of two patterns to share two flies of each pattern with the participating members.

[Editor's Note: Now Ryan Harvey can get rid of that checkbook he only uses once a year to renew his club membership!]

Duberfly Trout School Offered to FSFF Members



Thanks to Duber Winters, members were offered a great opportunity a true on-water trout fishing school

experience. This comprehensive, on the water, interactive program offers trout fishing basics to the beginner as well as technical techniques and information for the seasoned angler. Presentations on streamer, dry fly and nymph fishing as well as on stream entomology basics are included. Guided fishing on premium private trout water accompanies instruction with a focus on reading



They can tie any pattern within a broad category—this year the category is bass fly patterns.

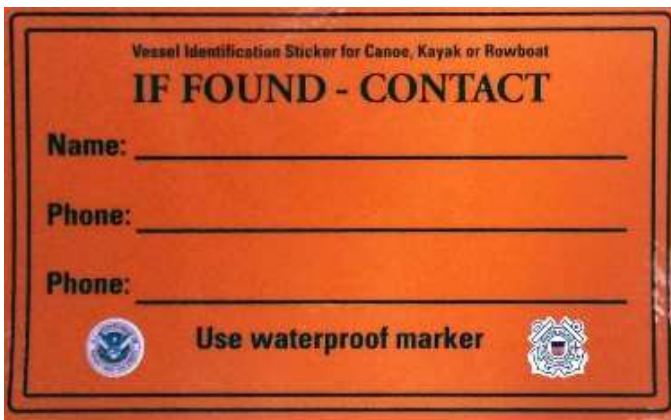
The Fly Swap Coordinator makes arrangements for the exchange of the labeled flies between the participants via mail and in person exchanges. Now that you know what a ‘fly swap’ is all about, please plan on participating next year.

Luis Santiago, FSFF Fly Swap Coordinator

“If Found” Stickers Now Available

FSFF members with kayaks or small boats, you can get your free "If Found" stickers at this web site: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-23-01&category=operation-paddle-smart>

Frank Bowne, Membership Coordinator



Increasing Trends in Fly Fishing and Fly Fishers

Driven in part by the pandemic, there is a trend for increasing outdoor recreation of all varieties, including fly fishing. According to 2019 Market Research, from 2018 to 2019 (Source: <https://flyfisherpro.com/blog/fishing-statistics/>):

- The number of people who went fly fishing grew by 100,000.
- Approximately 7 million Americans went fly fishing.
- There was a total of 76.7 million fly fishing trips in the US.
- People who went fly fishing did so on average 10.9 times.



In addition to the growth in the sport and the percentage of people looking to engage in outdoor activities in general, fly fishing also

presents some important demographic opportunities.

- 49% have an income of \$75,000+.
- The fastest-growing demographic of fly anglers were the people who identified as Hispanic. In the United States, the number of Hispanic fly fishing participation grew by 10%.
- While the majority of participants are male, there has been an increase in the number of women participating.



Maryland Fly Fishing Show Rescheduled

The Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show is now scheduled for March 19, 2022, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Mountain Epicenter in Aberdeen, Maryland. Go to the website for more details: <https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/>

Club Sponsoring Carpooling to 2022 Fly Fishing Show

The club is still planning to host a carpool to the 2022 Fly Fishing Show in Lancaster, PA on Friday, March 5th. Please sign up to carpool to this fly fishing show 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.

Rich Batiuk, Fly Show Carpooling Coordinator

Club Coordinator Positions

Our biggest current need for the club is filling the **Meeting Speakers Coordinator** position as Mark Bange stepped down from this Coordinator position last fall after several years in scheduling a series of truly outstanding club meeting speakers.

The club also wants to expand its in social media presence via its Facebook page. We need someone to take existing content from the multitude of club sponsored meetings, activities and outings and actively update the club's Facebook page as the club's **Social Media Coordinator**.

If you are interested in helping your club and scheduling meeting speakers or updating our social media, please follow up with Gary Grey at garygrey74@gmail.com.

Gary Grey, FSFF President

Carp on the Fly...Probably My Last Brood X Hatch

By Joe Bruce

While recovering from knee surgery, I started thinking about the cicada hatch this year.

It will probably be my last Brood X Hatch I will be 92 for the next one, don't think I will be in my kayak throwing the fly rod. I can't express what these hatches mean to me. I have now fished four

of them, starting in 1970 with my dad and I on Pretty Boy Reservoir. It is such a treat to be able to catch carp on a surface fly with such consistency.



If you have never fished carp on the surface, it will make you laugh, they aren't very good at it. Their mouths are underslung, so they must bring their heads out of the water to take the fly. It is funny watching them try to suck the fly in at the same time their lips are pushing it away. I think they get so tired and frustrated; they just move off. This happens with the real ones as well as the artificial flies. It is a sight to see.



One of the funniest situations is when there are more than one carp going after the fly, it is competition, one will usually speed

up to get the offering from the other carp. This aggression usually leads to a hooked carp. I believe they are swimming so fast with their mouth open the fly just goes in!

After the carp has taken the fly, they want to run away with it and when they realized they are hooked to something they don't like, they will charge to the bank to get rid of the foreign object.

This is a Chinese fire drill for the fly fisherman. He needs to stop the charge to the shore and yet be cautious to not apply too much pressure and pull the hook or break the fish off. This happened many times during this hatch to me and my fishing buddies.



The best technique I came up with was to take my fly rod holder and place it on the left side of my kayak and adjust the holder to a vertical

position, then after the carp was hooked, I would place the rod in the holder and back paddle as fast as I could to keep them out of the cover.

I had caught well over a hundred carp on this reel, and I can say, the drag is just about worn out. At the end of the hatch my drag on the reel wouldn't stop the carps run, so I would have to throw a wrap of fly line around the spool and then back paddle. What great fun, sorry it is over, but I will always have the memories of a great hatch and fly fishing for carp.

I had been lucky enough fishing Pretty Boy Reservoir to catch two mirror carp, my first ever on the fly rod and a muddler, a cross between a common carp and a goldfish.

[Editor's Note: This article was originally an email message from Joe to all club members shared on July 6, 2021. As a club, we are blessed with members like Joe who willingly share their fly fishing knowledge, teach others their skills, pass on a hand-off of flies on and off the stream or lake to others who's fly boxes are not yet overloaded, take time to contribute to many different ways to the success of our club and the enjoyment of our members. As Harry Steiner said in reply to Joe's group email message: "Thanks for sharing. It is

important to have persons like you who are willing to share your expertise and experiences to help others!" And the reply was vintage Joe: "It is my pleasure helping our members; it helps to keep me young."]

How to Fly Fish Even Better: Chain Pickerel on the Fly

By Mark Bange

I love to catch chain pickerel on the fly. Winter is prime pickerel season here in the Mid-Atlantic. While other warm water species we pursue either migrate to distant waters or become less active in cold waters, chain pickerel remain aggressive through the fall and winter in our tidal creeks and freshwater ponds.

Chain pickerel will hit topwater flies in cold water. But by far, streamers are the way to go with them during the colder months of the year.

My favorite pickerel flies are Crystal Buggers (regular and articulated) and Bendback Minnows. Most of them are on size 2/0 hooks to accommodate the elongated gaping mouth of a pickerel. If one of those flies do not work, you are either casting to barren water or the pickerel are in a rare non-aggressive mood.



Articulated Crystal Bugger

Color is your choice. I have lost track of the color combinations I have successfully used. However, you cannot go wrong with yellows and whites.



Also, the above flies are unweighted. I don't want them to sink fast. My typical retrieval method is to strip, strip and pause. The unweighted streamer will suspend in the

water column during the pause. Slashing hits come often on the pause and always from behind the fly or from the side. In fact, one of the most enjoyable aspects of pickerel fishing in cold weather is that pond and tidal waters are clear. You will see the fish strike your flies.

Another hint I offer to pickerel chasers is to use a perfection loop when tying a fly to the tippet. The loop gives the fly more range of movement, especially on the pause. The fly will literally turn sideways. I think that odd movement entices strikes.

Although chain pickerel can be caught on the fly while walking the shorelines of ponds and tidal creeks, I prefer to chase them in my kayak. Please note that I take cold water precautions in terms of clothing and other safety procedures when I use my kayak in winter. (That's a topic in itself.) A kayak gives me the advantage of fishing more areas than bank fishing allows. Further, it allows me to carry at least two fly rods rigged and ready. The rods I prefer are 7-weights. Articulated streamers can reach 4-inches in length and are easier to cast with a 7. Further, winds can kick up on ponds and creeks. The extra "oomph" provided by the 7-weight line is sometimes necessary on a breezy day.

The fish themselves also put up a respectable fight. The majority that I catch are in the 17-to-20-inch range. It's not unusual for them to go airborne after you hook them. Those that exceed 20 inches

usually have broad shoulders and are more likely to swim fast and pull hard when hooked than jump. They tend to stay underwater and come up reluctantly. Again, you'll be glad to have the extra backbone of a 7-weight rod when you encounter them.



A 22-incher caught on a Bendback Minnow. Notice the fish is hooked in the corner of its mouth. Because chain pickerel are a shallow water fish, I usually rely on a floating line. Rarely am I fishing in more than 5 feet of water for them. However, these fish are also fond of waters with a smooth surface. They do not like a wind-rippled waters. Their solution is to move a little deeper, perhaps only a foot or so. My response is to join them at that depth with an intermediate line. So, when I carry two rods, I have a floating line on one and an intermediate line on the other. I'll also use a different fly on each to see if the fish have a preference on that given day.

Pickerel are known for their sharp and numerous teeth. As a result, many anglers think they have to use steel leaders for them. I do not. I use bite tippets of 30-to-40-pound test mono. Remember, these fish approach your flies from behind or the side. They are not in the slightest leader shy. Only rarely am I bitten off. You will discover that most pickerel catches on the fly are hooked in the corner of their mouth. However, it is wise to check your tippet on a particularly busy outing of multiple

catches. When the tippet becomes roughened or shredded near the hook, it's time for a new piece of mono.



A few words are in order about where to find chain pickerel in tidal creeks and ponds. They like structure. They are ambush predators that hide near rocks, downed wood, pilings and vegetation. They then dart out at passing baitfish.

You will find remnants of lily pads and spatterdock in our ponds even as winter starts. Fish the edges and gaps of that vegetation as best you can with a fly. A Bendback Minnow is a good fly choice for fishing near vegetation because it rides with the hook point up. It's almost weedless and easily threaded through sparse fields of vegetation.



As winter arrives, the vegetation disappears. The water also gets colder. Chain pickerel will move

from the edges of structure then to slightly deeper waters. It's no longer effective to pound shorelines, riprap or downed wood. In fact, it pays to remember where the vegetation was during the warmer months. The roots and stems of that growth will still exist under the surface. Chain pickerel love to congregate in that deeper water on those roots. So, cast to those spots, now in open water with no visible signs of vegetation, and you will be pleasantly surprised.

The above is a starkly abridged version of coldwater pickerel fishing. They are just the key points, briefly discussed. But they will give you a good start if you have never pursued these fish on the fly or want to achieve more success with them. If you have any questions about the above, please email me – mbange54@gmail.com

Places to Fish: Float Fishing the North Branch of the Potomac River

By Denis E. LaCroix

The reclamation of the North Branch of the Potomac River, which runs between Maryland and West Virginia, is arguably the crown jewel among restorations of rivers killed by acid mine drainage from coal operations in the Appalachian Mountains. Where once the North Branch flows had a pH of less than 3.0, now a new and vibrant river flows through and a cold water trout population thrives. From the metropolitan areas of the bustling I-95 corridor, it is possible to be on the restored North Branch within a few short hours' drive – and in only minutes more to be casting to big browns.

Saving the River

The reclamation of the North Branch is the result of several factors. Besides numerous environmental laws enacted since 1970, there has been marvelous cooperation between major mining and paper companies and Maryland, West Virginia, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Maryland Bureau of Mines has installed lime dosing towers in the North

Branch watershed. These towers release lime at controlled levels, resulting in a neutral pH of 7.0 in the river. The proper pH level is necessary to enable a variety of life forms to emerge and establish the basis of the aquatic food chain.

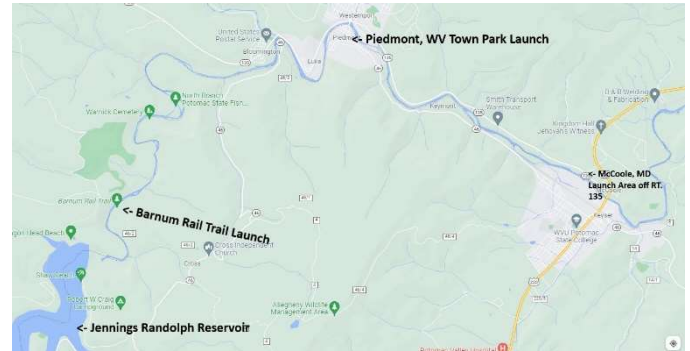
Controlled water flows from the Jennings Randolph Dam by the Corps of Engineers ensure a constant flow of very cold water throughout the summer. Aggressive restocking by both Maryland and West Virginia from the late 1980's to the present has resulted in a premier multi-species fishery.



The cold water releases from the reservoir keep the North Branch cold enough all year to support natural reproduction of brook and brown trout. Limited reproduction of rainbow trout also occurs, according to Maryland DNR. Farther downstream, the river restoration has allowed smallmouth bass to flourish once again. Largemouth fare well in the lower stretches of the North Branch which ends with its confluence with the South Branch and forms the rest of the Potomac River.

The best way to fish the North Branch is by a guide or canoe/kayak float trip, as the put-ins along the North Branch's length often are primitive. The wading can be treacherous with slime covered rocks, especially in the very fast water in the North Branch's reaches below Blue Hole at Barnum, WV.

There are only four public ramps. The first is at Barnum Rail Trail, Elk Garden, WV (just south of the Dam), the second at Town Park in Piedmont, WV (very limited parking, fills up on weekends), the third at Black Rock in McCoolle, MD at the Fishery Management Area off RT. 135, and a fourth at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds.



Float Trips Down the River

Some 21 miles of the North Branch above Jennings Randolph Reservoir are stocked by Maryland DNR in two different zones with about 14 miles used as a put-and-take fishery and the remaining 7 miles used as a delayed harvest area within Potomac State Forest in Garrett County, MD.

Downriver from Jennings Randolph, the tailwaters of the dam create an amazing trout fishery, where there are native brookies, browns, rainbows, and cutthroats. This area of the fishery is managed under put-and-take regulations and catch-and-release regulations.

Downstream to Cumberland the river has been reborn into an excellent smallmouth bass fishery. Since 1997, according to Maryland DNR, smallmouth bass have once again been reproducing in the river. The smallmouth fishing can be very good here.

Float trips of 4-7 miles as described below as fishing the North Branch below Jennings Randolph Dam is for all intents and purposes a float trip. Check with Maryland DNR before your trip as there

are occasional summer kayak events that close the river.

Trip 1: From Barnum Rail Trail, Elk Garden, WV just downriver from the base of Jennings Randolph Reservoir to take out at Piedmont, WV has brook trout, brown, rainbow, brown trout, as well as cutthroat trout transplanted from Montana. Very limited wading near Blue Hole at base of Jennings Randolph dam, waders will be ripped by the bramble bush.

Trip 2: Most guided trips are from the Piedmont, WV town park just over the bridge from Westernport, MD to Black Rock in McCoole, MD, about 8 miles. Limited wade fishing from shorelines of both towns. Rainbows, browns, and smallmouth bass with some largemouth bass and muskies at lower part of float.

Trip 3: Professional guides have to pay an annual fee to take out at a private area bridge approximately 7 miles below at Black Rock. Yes, you will get towed as this is privately owned road and bridge. Ditto for wade fishing, your vehicle may not be there when you return from wade fishing. No alternative take outs in this area that I am aware of.

Trip 4: From Spot #3 has good fishing BUT a very dangerous 10-12 ft. partially collapsed dam, which needs to be portaged around with difficulty. Don't do this trip unless with a knowledgeable guide.

Trip 5: Some limited shore fishing area at Allegheny County Fairgrounds.

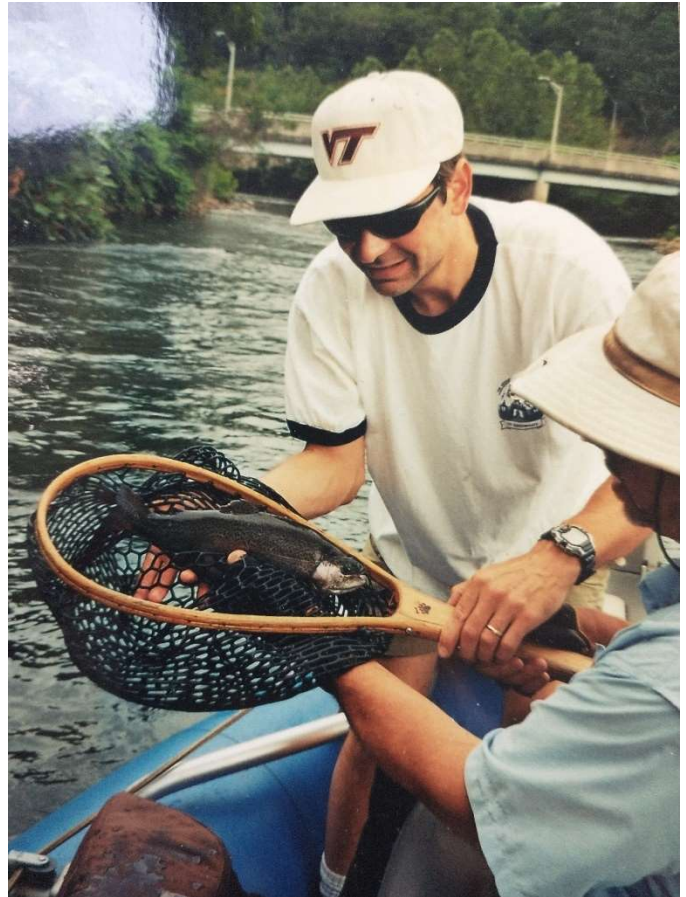
Wade Fishing and Alternate Canoe/Kayak Options

Wade fishing areas above the Jennings Randolph reservoir I have not done, but there are many pull offs and there are miles of lightly fished wade fishing.

A search of canoe/kayak launches in the area will provide some fodder for additional areas to check

out as well – much of the fun is exploring and finding new spots! There have been several newly added access points, such as the Allegheny County Fairgrounds launch.

Important Note on Wade Fishing: In some areas there is ABSOLUTELY no wading on the West Virginia side of the river. It is a U.S. Army property based on local knowledge & information. Be aware of local signage.



What To Use

Besides floating through some of the best eastern mountain scenery, the colder water upper part trout fishery is best fished with a floating 4 to 6 weight line with a visible floating fly and a 3 foot 4x to 5x fluorocarbon leader with a sinking nymph. The transition area between Westernport, MD and Cumberland, MD not only has football-shaped fat browns and rainbows up to 20 inches, brookies and cutthroats but also smallmouth and largemouth bass, very large sunfish, and stocked tiger muskies. This section is loaded with an abundance of forage

fish, dace, and black suckers. Small in-line Mepps type spinners, size 0 to #4, small buzz baits and small minnow crank baits work very well. Fly Fisherman should use 5 to 7 weight sink tip fly lines and larger Clouser style streamers, flash flies, and wooly buggers, especially in the deep pools. Except during periodic insect hatches such as the cicadas, minnow-imitating streamers and lures are used exclusively in the transition area.

An abundance of wildlife can be seen along the riverbanks. These include deer, wild turkeys, ospreys, eagles, and an occasional black bear. Unlike overcrowded destination western rivers in Montana and Utah, fishing the North Branch is virtually an unspoiled and primitive experience. Check with Maryland DNR (www.dnr.state.md.us) to get the latest regulations, restrictions, and license requirements.

North Branch Guides:

Ken Pavol, North Branch Angler, (240) 321-1495, kenpavol@gmail.com

William Heresniak, Eastern Trophy Guide Services, Eastern Trophies Fly Fishing, (571) 212-2570, www.eastertrophies.com

Savage River Outfitters, Swanton, MD (703) 517-1040, www.savageriveroutfitters.com

Sang Run Outfitters, (301) 616-3814

Savage River Angler, (703) 999-8505, savageriverangler.com

Savage River Fly Shop, Swanton, MD (703) 517-1040

Maryland Mountains Fly Fishing, (304) 303-0564 tonytill@yahoo.com

[Editor's Note: Share your favorite place to with fish with your fellow members. Reach out to James Andrews at jandrews555@gmail.com.]

Currents Standings for 2021-2022 Biggest Pickerel Tournament

Our annual biggest pickerel tournament is underway and producing some great outcomes!



1. Adam Bange 12/12/21 Cockey Creek, MD 23.75-inches Bendback



2. Mark Bange 11/04/21 Ingram's Pond, DE 22.25-inches Bendback



3. John Rentch 12/17/21 Urieville Pond, MD 22 inches Bendback



4. Rich Galena 12/28/21 Severn River, MD 20.5 inches Bendback



5. Larry Oakey 12/24/21 Severn River, MD 19.75" Bendback

Thus far 6 members have caught and entered 123.75 total inches, or more than 10.3 feet of pickerels in our contest. And this year we have added a place in the tournament for the smallest pickerel.



Pat Brophy is currently the holder of the 'smallest pickerel' award with his 12.75 inch pickerel caught on 12/27/21 on the Severn River, MD on a red and white calf tail fly.

The rules for the 2021/2022 tournament are available on the club's website at: <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/pickerel-tournament-2021-2022/>. And check out this same page for updates on the tournament standings. The tournament runs through April 30, 2022 so there is plenty of time to get out fly fishing for these freshwater barracuda. Thanks to Judge Mark Bange for coordinating both the biggest pickerel and biggest bluegill tournaments for the club.

Free State Fly Fishers' Beginner Fly Tiers' Recommended List of Fly Tying Tools and Materials

By Mark Bange, Luis Santiago, Joe Bruce and Rich Batiuk

Given the club has a number of new fly tiers, several members collaborated and developed the following recommended list of fly tying tools and materials for beginner fly tiers. Believe us, you can spend a life time collecting an incredible array of tools and materials for tying an equally dizzying array of flies targeting hundreds of different fish species. With the following set of starter tools and materials, we know you will be positioned to tie enough different types of flies to catch anything from trout to bluegills to rockfish to carp!

Fly Tying Tools

- Vise
- Lamp
- Scissors
- Bobbin
- Bobbin threader
- Bodkins
- Hackle Pliers
- De-barbing pliers
- Hair stackers
- Razor blade/Exacto knife

Fly Tying Materials

Hooks

The hooks you will need depend on the types of flies you are planning to tie (for the species of fish you are planning to target). Therefore, here's the key sets of hooks and sizes you can choose from to start with.

For dry flies, we recommend Mustad 94840 (or comparable in other brands) and sizes 10 through 16.

For most of the flies we tie in the club you'll need a sproat hook (straight eye) or a streamer hook, longer shaft with downturned eye.



For the sproat hook, we recommend Mustad's 3366 for tying Clousers, crystal buggers, foam poppers, gurglers and other flies targeting a range of freshwater fish, from bass to bluegills. It has been around for a long time. Look for sizes from 6 to 2/0.

For streamers, like the wooly bugger, we recommend use a Mustad 9672. It's inexpensive and comes in a variety of sizes. You can also get it in "x" lengths. You might see it in 2x. That means the shaft is a little longer than the regular 9672. The 3366 and 9672 are bronze hooks. They'll work in the Bay and in all the ponds we fish. But if you want a stronger sproat for bigger fish—think pickerel, striped bass—look at the Mustad 3407 which comes in cadmium or the Mustad 34004 which is stainless steel.

We recommend you keep a stock of the above hooks on hand. With them, you can tie most any fly you would typically use. If a fly comes up that needs another kind of hook, we recommend buy a small pack for that specific fly.

Thread

We recommend using a flat waxed, denier 210 for most of your flies. In terms of colors, we recommend you start with black and firehouse red, and expand from there.

Head cement

You can purchase head cement or you can use Sally Hansen's Hard as Nail—yes, this is a favorite of many of your fellow club members.

Feathers and Tails

For feathers, we recommend having several sets of *saddle hackle* for use in palmering wooly buggers, as tail feathers for poppers, and other flies. One set of saddle hackles will last you a long time. Here's some colors for you to consider: chartreuse, yellow, and grizzly.

Marabou is a key material for tying the tails on many flies even poppers given the action it gives when the fly moves through the water column. For colors, consider: chartreuse, yellow, red, and black.

Bucktails are the key ingredient in a number of very useful streamer flies and are the material for tying Clouser Minnows. The following colors will get you started: natural (white, brown), yellow, chartreuse, olive, and blue.



Chenille

For tying bodies for a wide array of flies, we recommend you buy *chenille* (start with medium size) in colors like yellow, black, olive and chartreuse. Consider also adding some *estaz* or *cactus chenille* (think sparkling chenille) in colors like silver, yellow, red and black.

Other Tying Materials

Buying some white and black *rubber legs* will enable you to add legs to your poppers as well as good bass and panfish flies—that extra motion on the surface and down in the water will help entice even more fish to strike.

With the above fly tying materials, you can tie many varieties of flies. When you start tying specialty flies you'll get the stuff you need at the time – like *dumbbell eyes*—for tying Clouser Minnows for instance.

You should also consider foam cylinders for poppers or *precut foam popper* and *ant/spider bodies* that are available commercially for tying very effective flies for bluegills, bass and pickerel.

Where You Can Purchase Your Fly Tying Tools and Materials

Bass Pro Shops has a reasonable assortment of fly tying tools and materials in their White River Fly Shop in the store.

Tochterman's Fishing Tackle, located at 1925 Eastern Avenue in Baltimore has an entire upstairs room devoted to fly tying materials.

Feathercraft is great on-line source of an incredible array of fly tying tools and just about any type of fly tying materials you can think of.

<https://www.feather-craft.com/>

Feature Article: The Inclination of Horses and Fish

By Mark Bange

We can lead a horse to water, but...

Everyone reading this article can finish that sentence. Indeed, we cannot make the horse drink. The above has become an adage that means we cannot force an outcome. I submit that the horse maxim applies to fly-fishing. We can present a fly to a fish, but we cannot make the fish strike it.

Even if we are the most gifted of anglers, we succeed only when the fish permits. And the fish always plays the most critical act in our joint skirmish. A fish has to bite our fly if we are going to catch it. Our success depends on that impulsive, unpredictable act. That's a truth that dents our ego. How many times on a slow day have we tried different flies to entice fish to bite? Does that always work? How about downsizing or changing the color of our flies? No luck, huh? Maybe we've moved to a different pool on a stream or to the inlet of a millpond. No bites? Vary the retrieve, of course; that should do it. Uh oh, still no action.



The above happens to each of us regardless of our fishing prowess. It validates that the fish we pursue always have the final say in our success. A fish's decision to attack our fly is an act of chance. Think about that. We do what we can to entice a strike, but the fish is driven by forces other than the logic we anglers apply to our pursuit. We try our best to outsmart a creature with a minuscule brain that has been on the earth over 500 million years.

By the way, fish have existed on this planet 1,700 times longer than we have. They thrive by instinct in lieu of judgement. Humankind can only hope to do as well but frankly, my money is on fish (and perhaps cockroaches) to survive in a world after we have ruined it for human habitation.

On the other hand, we anglers do occasionally find success in our contests with fish. We trick them into biting an object that has no nutritional value and, in many cases, looks absolutely nothing like the natural foods that fish consume. We may think our catches affirm humans as masters of our universe. But again, our successes would not have happened without the fish obliging.



The question for us to ponder is what makes fish aggressive some days and passive on others. I don't have the answer, nor do I think anyone has that answer. Assuming you are regionally and seasonally correct in your approach, i.e., not casting grasshopper patterns to ice flows, you can do everything "right" and still be blanked. You can monitor the tides, read the currents, target structure, consider the water temperature, match the hatch and even consult mystical Solunar Tables, which I believe are just this side of reading your horoscope in the newspaper. But if it gives you confidence, go for it.

My point is that we are going to fail more often than succeed when we fish, especially when we consider how many casts it takes on average to produce a catch. On second thought, don't consider that. It's humbling. Our "batting average" will be far worse than a weak hitting shortstop who plays only as a late inning defensive replacement. Most likely our average will have a zero after the decimal point. At worst, the shortstop will have a numeral one there.

So, should we stop our seemingly futile efforts at tricking fish with fur and feathers? Of course not! If fly fishing was too easy it would be boring. It should not be like the duck pond game at a carnival where every floating rubber duck selected wins a prize. That's great for children. Presumably we're beyond the need for the instant gratification of childhood by catching a fish on each cast. Fly-fishing exemplifies very definition of persistence.

Therefore, we take delight in all that fly-fishing encompasses; reading the water, selecting what we think is an appropriate fly, unleashing a tight-looped cast to a precise spot, and appreciating the environment in which it takes place. Then, we relish successes when they occur, however infrequent. Any fish we catch on the fly is a good catch. We should measure our outings by our fulfillment from the complete fly-fishing experience, not if or how many fish we catch. Otherwise, we are placing ourselves at the mercy of a creature reacting to primeval stimuli honed by millions of years of evolution. No one can fully predict or comprehend that. But we can still enjoy the impulsivity of our prey when it happens.

So, we cannot make that horse drink. Nor can we guarantee a fish will strike our fly. But the very act of trying provides the gratification that keeps us making cast after cast after cast. It's the best we can do. It's what we like to do. Plus, fly-fishing is a wonderful act on a beautiful stage. That makes it worthwhile too. Surely, all FSFF members can agree on those points.







FREE STATE FLY FISHERS, INC.

2022 Membership Application

Name: _____
(First) (Last)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____

If renewal → Is this a new address, phone number or email address? ___ Yes ___ No

Dues: \$15.00 per year

Payment Method: Cash _____ Check _____

Make checks payable to: FREE STATE FLY FISHERS, INC.

May we share your contact information with other club members? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a member of Fly Fishers International? ___ Yes ___ No

Give the completed application and payment to Frank Bowne at an upcoming meeting or send the completed application and payment to:

Frank Bowne
3523 Tallyho Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035-2436



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 2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: [Gary Grey](#)

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

Second Vice President: [Luis Santiago](#)

Secretary: [Frank Bowne](#)

Treasurer: [Bill Smith](#)

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: Vacant

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

Outings Coordinator: [Duber Winters](#)

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

Biggest Bluegill/Pickereel Tournaments Coordinator: [Mark Bange](#)

Meeting Speakers Coordinator: Vacant

Fly Casting Clinics Coordinator: [Rich Batiuk](#)

Fly Tying/Fly Swap Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

Beer Ties Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)

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

Streamside 101 Fly Fishing Classes 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](#)

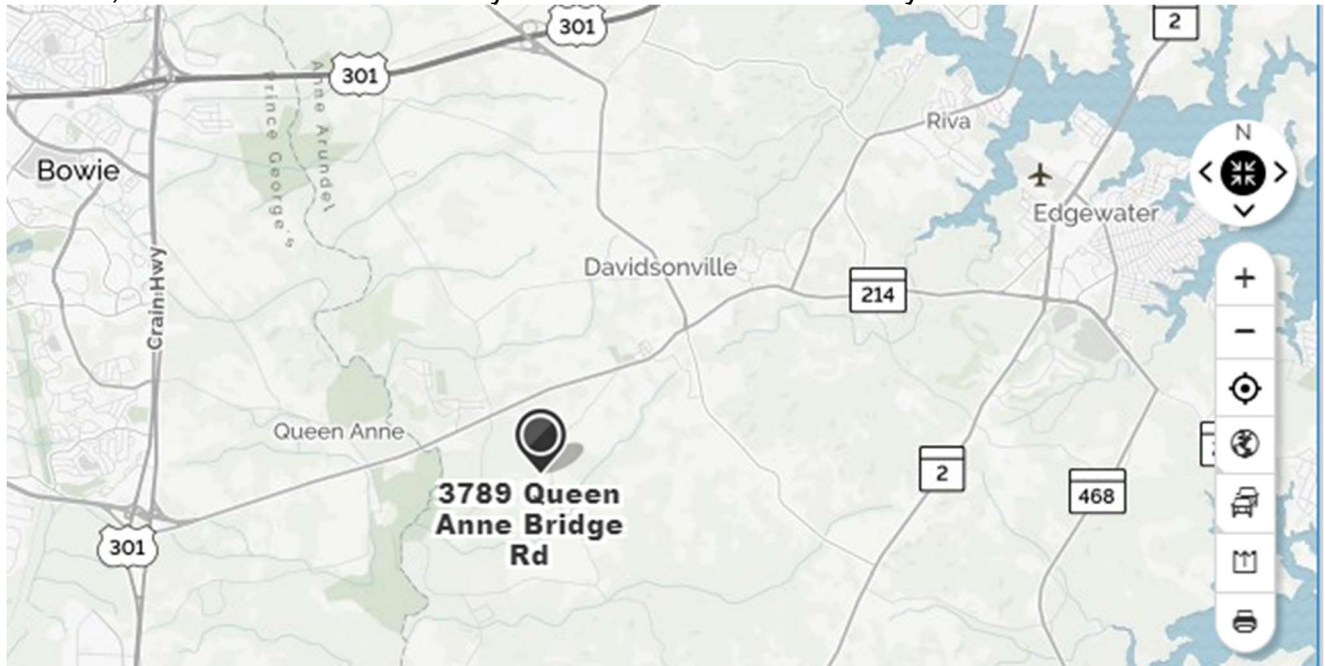
Please contact the appropriate FSFF leadership team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.

“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