



# FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2022

### President's Message: Well FSFF'ers, IT'S SPRING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The hard water is gone. High winds days are fewer. Daylight Savings Time is here. Water temperatures are on the rise and are near perfect for every species we pursue. Dogwoods are blooming (so there are shad in the creeks!). Since the beginning of last Winter, our club has hosted ten fly tying sessions. We have learned to tie: squirmy wormies, Krebs poppers, Bendbacks, Clousers, Murray's smallmouth flies, articulated crystal buggers, ants, golden retrievers, Everett's flies, double barrel poppers and deer hair flies! We've had sessions on dying Icelandic wool, fly fishing from your kayak, taking better pictures, pickerel fishing tips, and casting clinics. I thought it might be a good idea to remind you of why we do this and what our club is all about:







Look like fun?? Yup.

So grab your rods, flies, leader wallets, waders, kayaks and let's get out there, put our toys to work, make some more memories, and enjoy our great hobby!

See you on the water,

*Gary*

Gary Grey

2022 Free State Fly Fishers President

## Upcoming FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

We are getting back to not only meeting together at the clubhouse, but also back to scheduling multiple and all different kinds of club sponsored activities—fly tying sessions, Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions, movie nights, outings, casting clinics, and more—every month. Hardly a week goes by when the club does not have something scheduled to bring our members together!

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

Here's our current club meeting schedule.

**May 4 Club Meeting:** Natural Resources Police Officer Kevin White is the meeting speaker.

**September 7:** Captain Tom Hughes, a Fly Fishing Guide on the Chesapeake, will discuss fly fishing in the Chesapeake Bay area.

**October 5:** Rudy Lukacovic, a retired Maryland DNR Biologist, is the meeting speaker.

**November 2:** Jim Delle Bovi giving a presentation entitled "Inshore Kayak Fishing the Delmarva Peninsula". Jim has spent about a year relatively systematically fishing the Delmarva Peninsula from Lewes, DE to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and will share his experiences with us.

**December 7:** Holiday Dinner and Party



### 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.

Member-led fly tying sessions are scheduled for:

- June 4<sup>th</sup>
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- October 1<sup>st</sup>
- November 5<sup>th</sup>
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>



The club's Swap Meet has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> so there will be no fly tying session on that date. 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.

### 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, Ed Waleryszak took us offshore to experience a very different level of fly fishing in September, 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!) in December.

Then in January, Joe Bruce provided 25 members with a lot of fly tying material during our "Icelandic Wool and Hackle Neck Dyeing Session", Mark Bange taught his "Kayak Fishing in Local Waters" class in February, and Duber Winter's got us ready for trout season with his "Hands-on tips for




Improving Your Trout Fishing Experience" in March. Then in early April, Joe DeMeo's taught us how to build, tie and color Double Barrel Seducer Poppers and Joe Bruce showed all of us that we can tie deer hair poppers and spin deer hair on flies. Given schedule conflicts with the club's May 7 Swap Meet and the May 21 Trap Pond Outing and Group lunch we rescheduled our May Saturday Hands-on Session to April. And our June Saturday Hands-on Session is our next casting clinic—read on for more details.

After we take a summer break, we will be scheduling the next year's worth of Saturday Hands-on Sessions. That line-up will include some of the following ideas put forth by fellow club members:

- Tying Fishing Knots for Every Fly Fishing Situation
- Building Your Own Fly Fishing Leaders

### 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.

- Everything You Need to Know About Fly Fishing for Pickerel
- Everything You Need to Know About Fly Fishing for Carp
- Everything You Need to Know About Fly Fishing for Snakeheads
- Tying Articulated Flies using Connectors
- An Introduction Fly Rod Building
- How to Attack Lily Pads and Catch A LOT More Fish
- Using Different Fish Catching Retrieves with Your Fly Rod
- Fly Tying Tips for Using Bucktails and Calftails
- Fly tying Tips for Feathers and More
- Rigging Your Kayak for Fishing
- Planning for and Going on Long Distance Fly Fishing Trips with Guides
- A Host of Fly Tying Techniques and Tips from a Commercial Fly Tyer
- Fly Fishing for Bonefish...for Everyone
- Fly Fishing Among Chesapeake Bay Marshlands
- Fly Fishing for Redfish

If you have ideas on topics you would like to see presented at an upcoming club sponsored Saturday Hands-on Session, please let Rich Batiuk know at [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

### **Casting Clinics**

The club is continuing to schedule three casting clinics each year—one during the club's June meeting (as described below) and two more on Saturdays mornings during April (recently held on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>) and October (scheduled for Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>).

These casting clinics are only made possible by Duber Winters, Tom Parham, Joe Bruce and Mark Bange donating their time and expertise to share fly casting skills with their fellow members.

Our casting instructors will be leading each clinic, providing instruction for all casting skill levels, from beginner to advanced as well as casting from kayaks and special skills training like casting sink tip and other weighted fly lines.



**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.

### **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:

- May 25<sup>th</sup>
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>



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:

- 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, including Duber Winters, Joe Bruce, John Rentch and Mark Bange, we have re-started our series of streamside (and pond-, lake-, and tidal river-side) fly fishing 101 classes. 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 May 6:** Joe Bruce's "Largemouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Piney Run Reservoir"
- **Tuesday July 12:** John Rentch's "White Perch Fly Fishing 101 on Wye River"
- **September:** Mark Bange's "Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing 101 on Potomac 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](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

### Club Sponsored Outings

Thanks to the club's 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. And thanks to Mike Mattia, John Rentch and other club members, we are re-starting our 'pond-of-the-month' outings and getting us out fishing even more.

**Smithville Lake April 22:** Mike Mattia is taking club members to a favorite Maryland Eastern Shore pond, filled with 8" and bigger bluegills, largemouth bass and pickerel.

**Western Maryland Trout Fishing May 15-18:** Gary Grey is leading club members on a long held club tradition of a late spring outing to western

Maryland to fly fish a number of the trout streams and rivers in the region.

**Ingram Pond May 18:** Mike Mattia is leading another pond-of-the-month outing to a favorite Delaware Eastern Shore ponds filled with a variety of fish species that can be caught on flies.



**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.



**Tuckahoe Pond May 27:** Mike Mattia is taking club members back to a favorite fishing spot of his and Sal Vespoint in Tuckahoe State Park. Lots of great

structure for the largemouth bass inhabiting this pond.

**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, yellow perch, 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.



**Rappahannock River July 29:** Luis Santiago will be leading a day-long float trip down a section of the Rappahannock River. Don’t miss this opportunity to fly fish one of Virginia’s best smallmouth bass rivers along with your fellow club members.

**Janes Island October 1-2:** Luis Santiago scheduled our next club outing to Janes Island, Crisfield, Maryland for early October. Every year the campground seems to get a bit busier and CCA is looking at the same weekend for the redfish 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/estern/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 any club sponsored outing.

### **May 2022 Swap Meet**

It's that time again! Take a careful look in your attic, garage, closets and even under your bed for all 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 7<sup>th</sup>** starting at 9 AM with Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Here's answers to all your Swap Meet related questions...

**Who can come to the Swap Meet?** The Swap Meet is open to everyone so reach out and bring a friend, your neighbor, your kids, your grandkids, or even someone you see walking on the street that morning!

**What will be available for sale at the Swap Meet?** Short answer—everything fly fishing related and more, including:

- Fly rods and reels
- Fly lines
- Fly fishing related equipment like waders, wading boots, vests, rain jackets, travel bags and more
- Fly tying equipment and tools from vises to hackle pliers to everything in between
- All forms of fly tying materials from bucktails to hackle necks to hooks to chenille and lots more
- Fly fishing and fly tying books

Please note that Joe Bruce has donated (literally!) a truck-load worth of fly tying materials, including hundreds of colored bucktails, thousands of hooks along with boxes of his fly fishing books to the club. All these items will be on sale at the Swap Meet.

**Will there be non-fly fishing related equipment for sale as well?** Yes, very likely as many of us fish using spinning and baitcasting equipment as well. (But we draw the line at selling live bait at this Swap Meet!!)

**Can I sell my fly fishing stuff at a table?**

Absolutely! Please email Mark Bange [mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com) and Rich Batiuk [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com) to reserve a table.



**If I am selling things, what time do I need to show up?** We are asking sellers to come to the FSFF clubhouse by 8:30 AM the morning of the Swap Meet to set up. (Mark and Rich will be there by 7:00 AM to set up tables and A LOT of fly fishing stuff donated to the club for selling.)

**Where will the tables be set up?** Tables will be set up both inside of the clubhouse and outside of the clubhouse along the sidewalk from the parking lot to the clubhouse.

**Will food be served during the Swap Meet?** Yes, we will be serving coffee and donuts.

**Is there any charge to participate in the Swap Meet or sell at a table?** No, like just about everything related to our club, your membership covers the operation of the Swap Meet. And there is no charge for non-members participating in the Swap Meet.

**Can I use a credit card?** Unfortunately, no as we don't have Internet service at the clubhouse. Recommend you bring lots of cash or checks, though some of the sellers may have access to Pay Pal or other similar services via the cell phones if you also have an existing account.

If you still have questions, please email Mark Bange [mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com) and Rich Batiuk [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

## Club News

### Pay for New/Renewal Memberships Electronically

Yes our club has finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century! You can now renew your FSFF membership dues or make a donation on-line: <http://fsff.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



### First 2022 Fly Tying Swap Big Success!

Thanks to Luis Santiago and his organizational skills, 12 club members participated in the year's first club sponsored fly swap, each receiving a truly incredible assortment of bass flies from fellow club members!



Basically, the participating club members each tie enough flies of two patterns to share one fly of each pattern with each of the participating members. The Fly Swap Coordinator sets the type of patterns to be tied at the beginning of the Fly Swap—this time it was bass flies, one floating fly pattern and one sinking fly pattern.

These fly swaps are always open to all members at all levels. We encourage our new members and beginner tiers to participate. Swaps are designed to help motivate you. Practice and refine your techniques, share thoughts and questions with fellow tiers, and in return receive a host of new fly patterns for you to copy, fish and discuss. You can tie any pattern within the broad category.

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 in our next club sponsored fly swap to be scheduled soon.

Luis Santiago, FSFF Fly Swap Coordinator



### **Club Coordinator Positions Still be to Filled**

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 it's Facebook page. We need someone to take existing content from the multitude of club sponsored meetings, activities and outing 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](mailto:garygrey74@gmail.com).

Gary Grey, FSFF President

### **Parking in Front of the Clubhouse**

For those club members who need to park in front of the clubhouse for various reasons, we have been asked by the Nursery School NOT to drive through the back side of their property. Polly (head of nursery school) is afraid that a child might dart out in front of a car/truck.

Here's a new way to drive to the front of the clubhouse—it's longer, but will satisfy the nursery school. Drive past the nursery school about 1/2 up the road to a blacktop path (on the left) which leads to the playground. Make a left (watch for the drainage ditch) and drive down to the corner to a gap in the vegetation (that is where the mowers get to the lower area for mowing), then drive around to the east side of the clubhouse to the front. Its longer (and doable), but keeps everyone happy.

We want to keep our Davidsonville Family Recreation Center neighbors happy (and safe)!

John Rentch, FSFF Clubhouse Coordinator



### Club Members We Recently Lost

Long term club member **Tom Gooding** passed earlier this spring. A member since the mid-1980s, Tom was the club's treasurer for many years stepping in the big shoes left by Cheryl Finley, the prior long term club treasurer. Tom had recently purchased a new kayak and was looking forward to getting back out on water with fellow club members. The next time you sit down in one of the chairs in the clubhouse, you can thank Tom as he organized the purchase of all 48 of the padded seats at the clubhouse replacing the original chairs which were older than then many club members!

**Dick Friis**, a Free State Fly Fishers member for many decades, passed earlier in April. Dick was well known for his excellent fly tying skills, particularly when it came to tying tiny trout dry flies. He took a many fly fishing trips to Alaska and other well know places to fish around the country, always coming back with LOTS of stories to share! Dick had also served as Club House Coordinator and Fly Tying Instructor for our club.

### Using the Club's Library's Books and DVDs



Fellow FSFF Club Members-

Bored? Waiting for the weather to get better? Are you just thirsty for knowledge? Then come checkout the FSFF Library! Books and DVDs can be borrowed by members monthly at no

charge! Now that's a deal! You can find the complete list of the books available for loan on the FSFF website (just as soon as Luis Santiago updates the website - Thanks, Luis!).

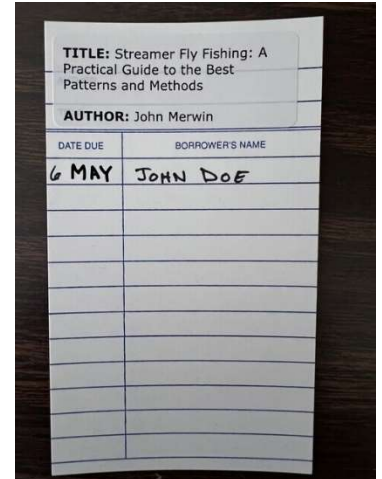
### HOW TO CHECKOUT A BOOK:

1. Find the book you want to borrow from the bookshelf located in the front left corner of the clubhouse.



2. Locate the library card on the inside of the book cover.

3. Remove library card and fill in Date DUE & Borrower's Name. Books/DVDs are loaned on a monthly basis. (Example: You find a book you want to read during the April 6 club meeting. Write May 6 in the Date Due block and then print your name).



4. File the library card in the CHECKOUT CARD BOX behind the month the book/DVD is due. (The box is located on the second shelf from the top.)



5. Take your book home and enjoy!

Tight Lines & Fishy Brains,  
Kristi Blake, FSFF Club Librarian

**Current Standings on the 2021-2022 FSFF Biggest (and Smallest) Pickerel Contest**

With the contest ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, here's the current standings. Looking for a 24" pickerel to knock Adam out of first place!!

**1st Place:** 23.75-inches, Adam Bange, Cockey Creek, Magothy River



**2nd Place:** 23-inches, Don Vance, Severn River



**3rd Place:** 22.25 inches, Mark Bange, Ingrams Pond



**4th Place:** 22-inches, John Rentch, Urieville Lake



**5th Place:** 20.5-inches, Rich Galena, Severn River



**6th Place:** 19.75-inches, Larry Oakey, Severn River



**Smallest:** Pat Brophy, 12.75-inches, Severn River



**Duber's Trout School a Great Success**

So for 8 fellow Free State Fly Fishers, it was back to class, Trout School that is. For one entire Saturday on a private stream filled with large rainbow trout, we learned how to more effectively fly fish for and catch trout. Imagine spending the day with a very experienced trout fly fishing guide who is also your personal instructor, helping you master several different trout fly fishing techniques on deep pools to shallow riffles. And on top of that, you are fed a delicious hot lunch with all the fixings. And on top of that your day starts with stream



entomology with a dozen live species of trout food, a walk through dozens of effective trout flies, and



then an instream demonstration of nymphing, stream fishing and dry fly fishing (complete with a trout caught by your instream instructor during the actual demonstration). All of this and you also get



to spend the day fly fishing with your fellow Free Staters.

Thanks to our very own club member, Duber Winters, for opening this spring's Trout School to club members first, we all got a front row seat in the classroom and three outstanding instructors. Everyone caught multiple trout and we all learned a host of new techniques, methods and casting approaches, supported by hands on instruction.

Please see the end of the newsletter for a series of photos from our adventures at Trout School! Given a future opportunity to participate, I strongly suggest you take full advantage of the opportunity as you will never look at a trout stream the same!

Rich Batiuk  
FSFF Stream-side 101 FF Classes Coordinator

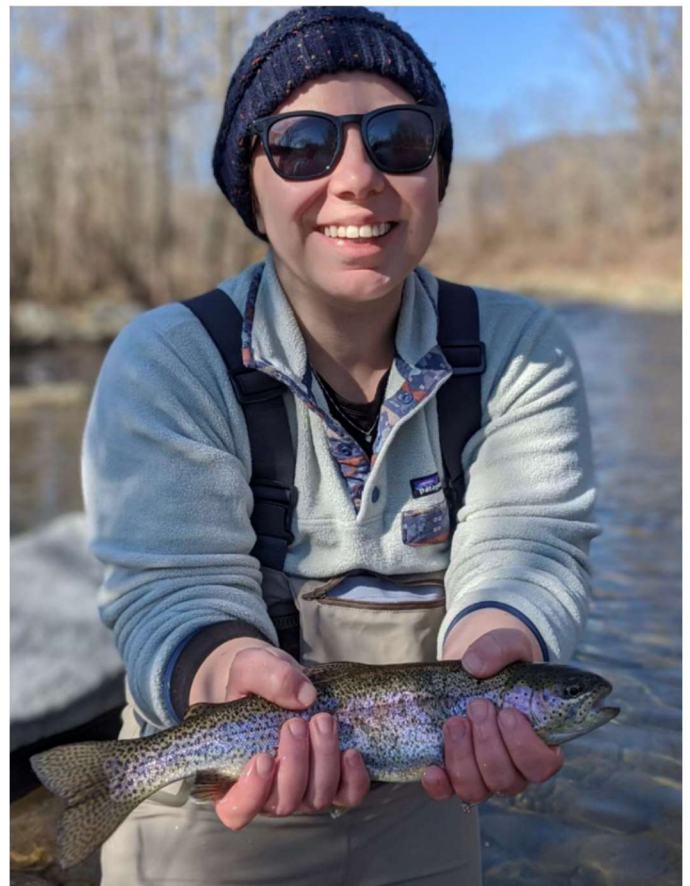
### **Another Great Learning Opportunity**

Some of you will remember her excellent presentation during a club meeting while we were still meeting via Zoom. Kaitlin Groundwater founded Hook Set Fly Fishing in 2019, which provides guiding and fly-fishing instruction on

rivers and streams in Virginia. She specializes in two-to-four-hour introductory fly fishing lessons that include instruction on casting, knots, entomology, and fishing on a local pond for bass and panfish. Lessons are customized to the angler's interests and areas for improvement to help build skills needed for self-sufficiency and success on the water.

She also guides on trout streams throughout Virginia and on brook trout streams in Shenandoah National Park. In the summer months she leads kayak trips for smallmouth bass on the Rappahannock River. She is eager to share her deep knowledge and love for the sport with anglers of all skill levels.

If you are interested, please contact her via email: [hooksetflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:hooksetflyfishing@gmail.com) or phone: 571-324-2198. Kaitlin was part of the instructor team at the recent Duber Trout School along with Duber and Mike Hatfield.



## Featured Fly: Foam Lady Bug

By Tim Ruthemeyer

As we enter Spring, Lady bugs will soon be on many fish menus. I make mine using River Road Creations Foam Cutter. You can get various cutters and a great book at <https://www.riverroadcreations.com/>.

### Materials List/Components:

Tool: Foam Cutter

Hook: Standard dry fly, Size

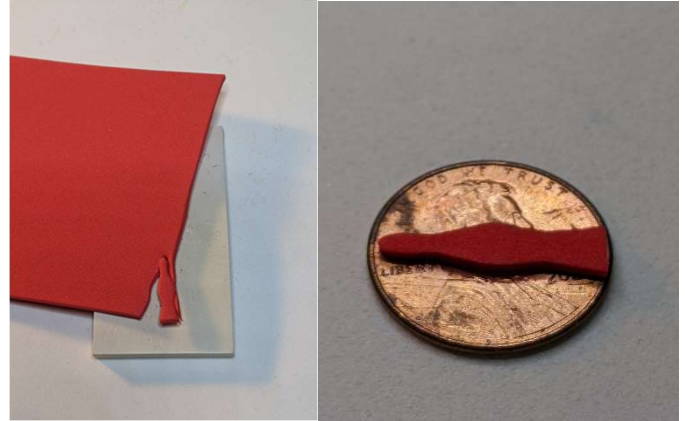
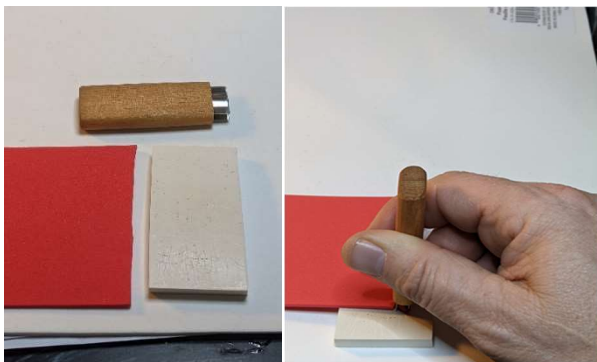
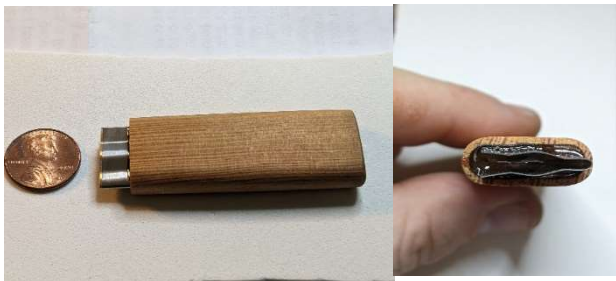
Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 black

Body: 2mm foam red or orange (I do use a little thicker foam and it still works)

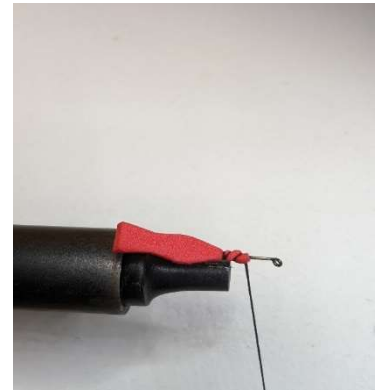
Dubbing: You can use it, but I prefer using peacock herl

Markings: Fine point permanent marker black for the dots and making the head

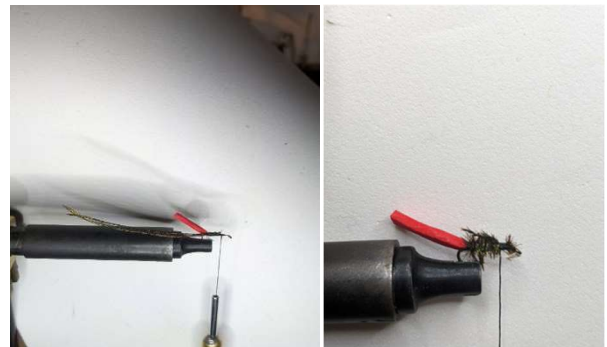
Using the foam cutter is easy. Just press down and make a cut. I use my scissors to trim the final pattern. Each cutter comes with a thick pad to cut on. This protects your cutter from getting dull.



Attach the thread at the center point of the hook and wind back in even turns to the end of the hook shank. Then tie in the foam body. To start, the body should be pointing away from the hook. Tie it in using the tag end of the body. Start with open turns of thread and then use successive smaller turns to create a smooth base.



Now tie in the peacock herl. I use two or three and sometimes twist it as a rope. Go all the way up to about one or two eye widths from the end of the hook.



Pull the foam body over the peacock and tie it down with five or six wraps. Pull the newly created head section back and whip finish right behind the



hook eye. Whip Finish and cut the thread. You can also trim down the head as needed.



Now take the marker and make dots on the back of your ladybug. Also, blacken the head area. Now let's go fishing!!!

[Editor's Note: Tim was asked to share a fly pattern which demonstrated how to tie flies using foam.]

## **Places to Fish: Merrimack River Valley** **By Denis E. LaCroix**

Merrimack River Valley goes from the White Mountains of central NH to coastal northern MA. The Merrimack River rises at the confluence of the Pemigewasset and the Winnepesaukee Rivers in Franklin, NH. (a.k.a. Penni & Winni to locals) at the base of the White Mountains. The Merrimack River Flows southward for 117 miles where at Lowell, MA, it takes a ninety degree turn to the

Atlantic Ocean to Salisbury Beach and Plum Island, MA. The high dam in Lawrence, MA divides the Merrimack River into fresh water above the dam and brackish water, below the city of Lawrence to Haverhill, MA and then saltwater to the Atlantic Ocean.

A bit further up the Pemigewasset River are two specific spots worth noting that fellow club member James Andrews has had great success at on two late spring/early summer visits as follows:

Spot 1A: Just East of Bristol, NH the Pemigewasset River flows South, and on the East side of the River Coolidge Woods Road follows along the River. From the intersection of Old Bristol Road and Coolidge Woods Road travel approx. ½ mile South. On your right will be a large rock extending into the River (that's the spot!) and on your left will be a gravel parking area. Park there and head down to the rock. I have caught Yellow Perch, Smallmouth Bass, Brook Trout, and Fallfish from here. The rock is a bit limiting in terms of locations to fish (aside from swimming across the river which opens up a few more options), but it has been surprisingly productive.



Spot 1B: Another ½ mile down Coolidge Woods Road is a much better wet wading spot. One evening I lost track of the Fallfish I caught – they were taking the fly on nearly every cast as evening approached.

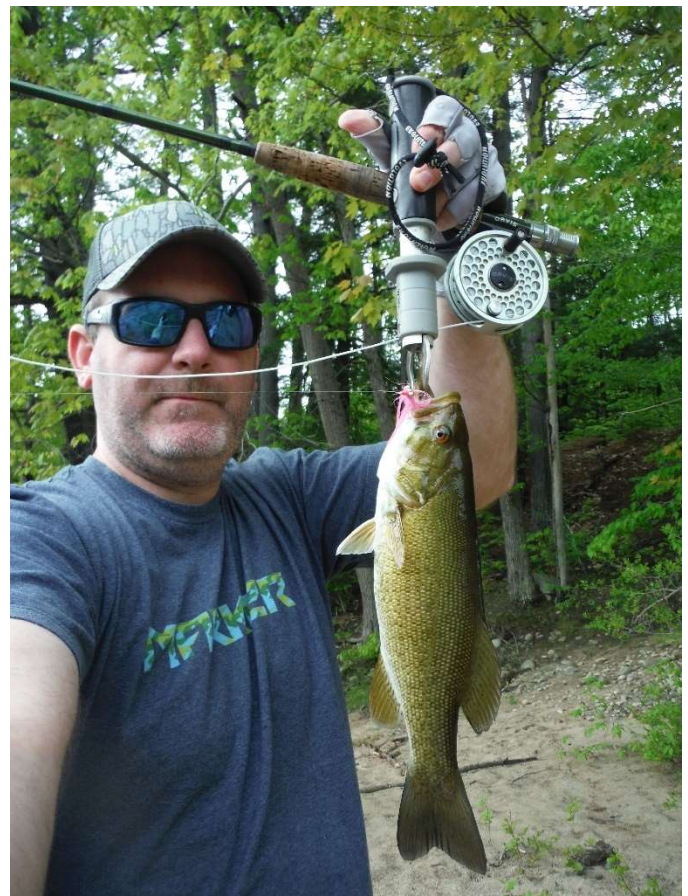


Spot 2: The Holiday Inn Express in Tilton, NH is literally an island on a tributary to the Pemigewasset River. Before checking in I was able to land several nice Smallmouth Bass. There is excellent wet wading access on the North side of the parking lot.

Important Note: The use of lead is strictly prohibited in New Hampshire – so be sure to pack your flies and tackle accordingly with alternatives.

Depending on where you are fishing, the Merrimack River is home to both fresh water and saltwater species. From Franklin, NH and south to Manchester, NH, I have caught N.H. State stocked Brood Stock Atlantic Salmon, rainbow trout and smallmouth bass in this area having cold water. Southward from Manchester NH to the Lawrence, MA dam, the freshwater section above the large Lawrence, MA dam has a plethora of tributaries and feeder creeks. The usual assortment of fresh water species e.g. pickerel, largemouth bass, crappie, northern pike, carp, panfish, etc., are readily available in the many small tributaries flowing into the Merrimack River. There are a plethora of areas available along Rt. 3/3A in NH & RT. 110 MA between Lowell eastward to the dam in Lawrence, MA as well as below the Lawrence, MA dam for shore bound as well as boating anglers. Many locations are available with a quick search on YouTube or Google Maps.

Below the high Lawrence, MA dam the brackish water section has a mix of both fresh & saltwater species such as stripers, Atlantic salmon, shad, bass, pickerel, perch, sunfish, crappie, carp, etc. Around the Newburyport area, saltwater species including cod, pollack, bluefish, and the stripers feed on the copious supply of sand eels as food. Unfortunately, the presence of the large population of Harbor Seals has affected the Merrimack River fishing quality near the Merrimack River mouth. Noteworthy item is that the town of Newburyport, MA is the official home of the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Salisbury Beach State Park & Plum Island area is my favorite East Coast surf fishing area. I fish it whenever I visit my brother in Newburyport, MA. Surf fishing is readily and easily available at both sides of the Merrimack River mouth and the Plum Island beach reserve. Venturing on either jetty should be avoided. Both are slime covered and dangerous. You do not want to fall into the swift current!





Several Private Guide services, party boats, and the very best coastal surf fishing stores are available in Newburyport, MA and Plum Island, MA. Excellent boat and kayak access is available at Salisbury State Park and Cashman Park in Newburyport, MA. Small boaters in typical center console type should be most seriously advised to avoid near the Merrimack River mouth especially during the near end of low tide. The falling end of the double swell tide is most treacherous with swells and waves reaching upwards of 15 feet.

The combination of outflowing river and incoming ocean tide with the extremely strong fast moving at tidal conversion makes the Merrimack River mouth the second most dangerous ocean mouth on the east coast with the shifting shoals of Oregon Inlet, NC. being the worst. This is most definitely the place where the Newburyport, MA Coast Guard is continuously rescuing unaware swamped boaters. By the same token, this the part of the Atlantic Ocean where the Wicked Tuna boats fish. I have been mackerel fishing when the boats were surrounded by Bluefin Tuna exploded while feeding on mackerel. Awesome sight!

#### Local Guides & References:

Roger Aziz, Jr., Merrimack Valley Fishing Tours; (978) 975-0586; Merrimack River above & below Lawrence, MA.

Mark Beauchenes, Fish NH Guide service, (603)753-2993, nhbassguide@hotmail.com

Steve Gallant, Newburyport, MA,  
[SteveGallant41@gmail.com](mailto:SteveGallant41@gmail.com)

Capt. Dave Rimmer, Newbury, MA, 508-954-0169

Capt. James Goodman, ShadowCasters Charters, 978-463-7755.

Capt. Rick Montello;. North Coast Angler Charters, [www.northcoastangler.com](http://www.northcoastangler.com)

**[Editor's Note:** Share your favorite place to with fish with your fellow members even those well outside of our mid-Atlantic Region. Reach out to James Andrews at [jandrews555@gmail.com](mailto:jandrews555@gmail.com).]

## The Evolution of a Kayak Angler

By Mark Bange

I have been a kayak angler for ten years. A lot has changed for me in that time. I've owned five fishing kayaks -- two pedal boats and three paddle boats. I presently have three fishing kayaks. I've written two kayak fishing books, and there has been a noticeable evolution in my fishing tactics and preferences and prowess between those two books.



I started out just happy to catch fish. Often in those years I would troll with my 2012 pedal-driven Hobie Revolution in the Severn River and Whitehall Bay. It was easy then to rack up big numbers of stripers.

I remember one spring day when my buddy and I combined to catch over 100 stripers trolling over 13 miles back and forth between Greenbury Point and Hackett Point. I was so tired at the end of that outing that I actually pedaled through breaking fish to head back to the ramp. I had had enough. My friend shouted at me, "You're leaving fish behind!" I hollered back, "I don't care!"

I have never used cut or live bait in my kayaks. I have always fished with lures or flies. The easiest and most effective lure I have used is a jig and paddletail. If I was stranded on an island and needed to catch fish for food, a jig and paddletail would be my lure of choice. No other lure I have used is as effective in catching a variety of species. On occasion you have to finesse a jig and paddletail by changing speeds or bouncing it off of the bottom to catch fish. But most of the time, a steady retrieve or merely dragging it behind your kayak will catch fish. I believe that's why kayak trollers use it so often. It's hard to not catch fish with a jig and paddletail.



However, like many anglers, my preference in catching fish is with topwater. Fly rod poppers are my favorite flies to use. Of course, fish have to be willing to come up to attack those offerings. And as many know, that is dependent on certain times of year, certain times of day and certain conditions on the water itself. Then there is the matter of setting the hook. It takes some patience to wait for the precise moment to strike back after a surface hit. Fish are more apt to spit a popper back at you than a jig and paddletail. So, you may indeed miss strikes on top. It's part of the game.

Another evolution during my decade of kayak fishing is that I carry far less gear onboard. I've seen other kayak anglers do the same in time. Now I carry fewer lures and flies and I change lures and flies infrequently. I've learned that skill in fishing a particular lure or fly is more important than the

actual offering I cast. My point is that if fish are present and willing, it's relatively easy to get them to strike if your presentation is good. That means a well-placed cast and imparting the proper action to the lure or fly is much more important than retying constantly to find the "hot lure/fly" of the day.



I should add here that I haven't routinely trolled in my kayak since my early years of kayak fishing. After the novelty of catching so many fish wore off, I found it boring. I believe trollers are always going to catch more fish than those who pick their spots and cast. If they happen upon a school of fish, dragging a lure through them repeatedly is going to yield plenty of catches. However, as I wrote in my latest book, some folks are more concerned with how they catch fish than how many. I'd rather entice a finicky largemouth bass, a bowfin or even a chilled tidal speckled trout to bite with precision casting than troll for fish.

Also, I no longer use a fish finder like many kayak anglers do. I used to. But I found that dealing with the finicky intricacies of my Lowrance unit was more trouble than the value it provided in the shallow water, structure-oriented fishing I prefer. Additionally, going back to my early flyfishing river-wading days, I learned to find fish visually by reading the water. I prefer to do that now in my kayak. I never feel that I am fishing blind no matter where I fish or how often I have visited a particular body of water. Certain truisms hold about locations where fish are likely to be in both tidal and freshwater. I can usually spot them. Am I leaving fish behind by eschewing electronics? Perhaps. But for me, how I catch fish is more important than



how many I catch. Besides, I still catch plenty if the fish are willing. Even if they're not agreeable, I enjoy the outing.



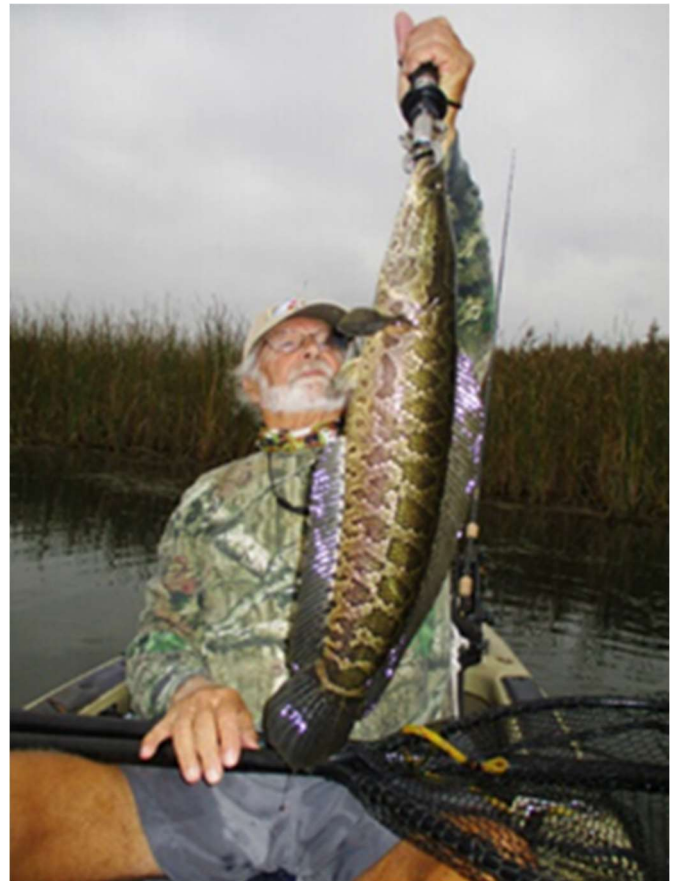
A final change for me in my 10 years of kayak fishing is that my preferences have moved from big tidal water to creeks and ponds. I think some of that is due to my age. I no longer want to be dodging motorboats and big waves in my kayak a mile or more from shore. I prefer calmer waters. Also, I believe freshwater fish in general provide more of a challenge to catch than hyper-aggressive tidal fish. Case in point, I've had stripers and white perch and tidal pickerel strike a lure or fly that was merely dangling in the water over the gunwale of my kayak. I've never had a largemouth bass or a pond pickerel do that. It just seems to me that freshwater fish are fish harder earned. I like that. I feel more accomplished than catching fish after fish during a tidal water feeding frenzy.

So, if you're an experienced kayak angler, new to it, or just thinking about it, call or email me at [mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com) or 410-591-5254. I love to talk about kayak fishing. I'll share with you what I've learned in a decade of fishing from plastic boats. And especially for FSFF members, I'll explain why a kayak and a fly rod make an excellent pairing. I'll leave you with a deeper appreciation for a hobby that will grow with you as your angling skills and fishing interests evolve. Finally, both books I've written on the topic are available for free in our FSFF library. Or if you'd like to purchase copies of your own, I have a few left. Again, call or email me if you are interested.

## How to Fish Even Better Before I Wet a Line By Joe Bruce

This is not about prepping gear for a fishing trip, it is about checking the water conditions, temperatures of both air and water, weather and wind. These are all factors to consider in choosing the waters to fish.

Many times, over the years I have changed where I was planning to go because the elements were not favorable for the body of water I had chosen. Here are my favorite internet apps.



*Google Earth* is a great app for locating a fishing area. And there is an archive timeline that is good for looking at different years and season changes showing the location of grass and pads that hold fish in the warmer month, but these areas hold fish in the colder months also. They still relate to the cover. This time archive is located at the bottom of

the map illustrated by a clock symbol. Just click on it and scroll across the years.

When I need to refresh my memory on water depth I go to *i boating navigation charts*. This app covers the whole United States giving depths for most bodies of waters, rivers, and saltwater. It is invaluable.

*Weatherbug* is my choice for weather events, pretty accurate and gives hourly as well as a ten-day forecast. It gives weather warnings and lightning strikes with its app. I have used it many times to check where the bad weather is heading and I take the necessary precautions. There is also a Doppler Radar map showing weather cells and how they are moving.

*Windfinder* is another good source for checking wind directions as well as speed. Using this I have been able to change my plans where I was going or at least know how long I can stay until the wind chases me off the water.

A good app for checking tide changes is *Tides Near Me*. Another tide reference is on the *MD DNR web site* giving tides. MD DNR gives the rivers and creeks, whereas the *Tides Near Me* gives the towns associated with the rivers and creeks. Both are good to double-check against each other.

[Waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=flow&group\\_key=basin\\_cd](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=flow&group_key=basin_cd) is a USGS water gauge reading for Maryland. It is updated hourly so you can get a good idea of what a particular body of water is doing after a rain episode.

This has saved my bacon more than once stopping me from going to water that might not be fishable, but it also shows how fast the water is falling and could it be fishable the next day. I usually look at this the morning before I'm about to leave to ensure the water is fishable.

Following along with water conditions, this one comes from the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [weather.gov/marfc/WaterTemperatures](https://weather.gov/marfc/WaterTemperatures) for the Middle Atlantic Region. It is good to see how the water might fish compared to water temps. Very important in the spring and fall.

These are my favorite apps. I look at them every time I'm planning a fishing trip and will check them numerous times before my trip. They are very important to my success. I can control my fishing gear but can't control the weather, I need help. There are probably another hundred apps out there, but this list gives me a pretty good idea of what I should expect for my day out on the water. Give them a look-see, your fishing success will improve!

**[Editor's Note:** This article was originally emailed by Joe Bruce to all club members earlier in April. Joe DeMeo recommended two additional on-line resources for you to check out when fishing the Bay:

*Click Before You Cast:*

<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/clickbeforecast.cfm>

*Eyes on the Bay:*

<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/index.cfm>

## **Fly Fishing Equipment**

### **Check Your Safety Equipment/Gear Article**

**By Luis Santiago**

Every year around this time we start to hear stories of close calls and tragedies on the water. I bought a new VHF radio yesterday and today listening to the emergency channel sure enough an overturned kayaker needed assistance on the Severn. Very often a situation that could have been avoided or easily remedied spiral out of control due to poor planning, panic and or lack of safety gear. Novice and experience boaters fall victim every year to



complacency. With that in mind, my yearly reminder that safety should be on your mind each and every outing. We have some incredibly experienced kayakers and boaters on here and I look forward to hearing suggestions and that one piece of safety gear you never leave home without. Here's my suggestions below to get you started.

Check your flares, whistle or signaling device. Consider purchasing a VHF radio. If you can afford it, get one with GPS and automatic distress signaling. Spend some time on YouTube and learn how to use it. Phones are great, but remember if you have it in a dry bag below you may have trouble getting it quickly in an emergency. On the water rescue will be much faster than calling land in most cases.

Check your PFD, invest in one you love and wear it. If you have an inflatable (not recommended IMHO) make sure it is charged and free of corrosion.

Carry an anchor. If you find your vessel disabled or can't make headway best to anchor and not drift away with the current from you last known location. The anchor rope can substitute for a tow line when needed.

Consider carrying bilge pump or something you can use for bailing.

Carry a knife or cutting device in easily accessible location.

Think about what emergency situations may present themselves and how you would react or avoid those situations.

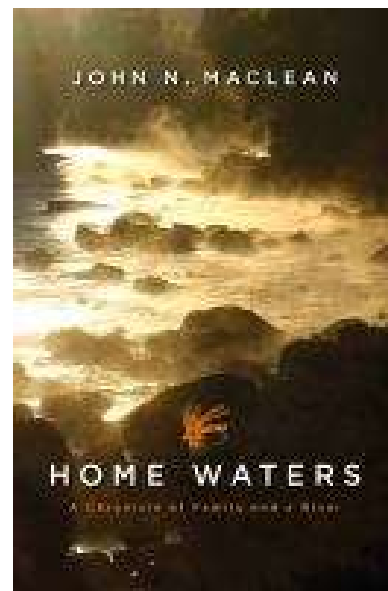
If you choose to boat alone let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back. Practice getting back into your kayak when overturned.

Always check the weather report and respect mother nature.

Be safe out there and tight lines, Luis Santiago

**[Editor's Note:** Based on an email shared with all club members in April 2021. Given the excellent advice Luis shared with us, I figured this advice was worth publishing in our newsletter again this spring. Please share your recommendations for safety equipment/gear you always carry when you venture out on the water with the rest of us.]

**Featured Article: Book Review**  
**Home Waters – A Chronicle of a Family and a River**  
**By Mark Bange**



It's hard to imagine a single book that has had a larger impact on a hobby and an area than *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean has had on fly fishing and the Blackfoot River of Montana. The story is fiction; however, it is based on the life experiences of the author. In this case, the author's

father, John Norman Maclean, indeed was a Presbyterian preacher in Montana. The reverend was a fly angler and he taught that skill to his sons. The first sentence of the book and the first words spoken in the resulting movie are poignant: "In our family there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing." The Reverend's youngest son and Norman's brother, Paul, was perhaps the best fly angler of the family. He actually did use a technique called "shadow casting" as Gary Borger replicated in that famous scene in the movie. And

it's also true that Paul was murdered when he was 32 years old.

In *Home Waters – A Chronicle of a Family and a River*, John N. Maclean, son of Norman, grandson and namesake of his Presbyterian minister grandfather and nephew of Paul, tells the story of his family. He explains how the famous book authored by his father came about and how it changed the Blackfoot River for both good and bad. In it, we learn that the Macleans' were an extremely literate family. The patriarch John Maclean read the bible in Greek and he drilled into his sons the importance of brevity in writing the English language.

You may remember the scene in the movie where he took a red pencil to essays written by his boys as they anxiously watched him edit their work. They were taught well. Norman became an English professor at the University of Chicago for 40 years. Paul, during his short life, was a newspaper writer in both Montana and Chicago. Grandson John N. Maclean became a foreign correspondent based here in the D.C. area.

But even as generations of the family moved on with their careers, they returned annually to a rustic cabin built by the reverend Maclean in the 1920s on Seely Lake, Montana near the Blackfoot River. The cabin remains and is visited today by John N. Maclean and his sons.

In *Home Waters*, John N. Maclean explains what life was like for his father and uncle growing up in Montana in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He describes the stunning beauty of the surrounding countryside. He pays tribute to resident smoke jumpers and the dangers of their profession. He talks about fly fishing, because he has continued the family tradition. He specifically mentions the Blackfoot River, Seely Lake and other nearby waters and his pursuit of rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout therein.

But most revealing is his description of his uncle Paul. He sheds light on Paul's demise. He writes about his uncle's demons with gambling and drink. He writes about his father's attempts to help his uncle through his struggles. The portrayal of Paul by Norman in *A River Runs Through It* is true in those regards. But Paul was not murdered in Montana as depicted in the movie. I'll leave it to you discover where and how it happened. Also, I found it intriguing that Norman Maclean wrote his famous book in 1976 when he was 74 years old, after he retired from teaching at the University of Chicago. John says his father wrote it in tribute to the Reverend MacLean and the troubled Paul.

The book was turned down by two major publishers. One said, "It was a nice book but not saleable." Another said, Norman "wrote the wrong book, especially for one who writes as well as he does."

Well, we know the end to that story. Those publishers were wrong. Thank goodness for fly anglers that *A River Runs Through It* was not stuffed away, long forgotten on yellowing paper in a bureau drawer in a Montana cabin. If you want to know the story behind the book that sparked increased interest in fly fishing, and even more detail about Montana's trout waters, I highly recommend John H. Maclean's *Home Waters – A Chronicle of a Family and a River*. It's available at the Anne Arundel County Public Library.

















## **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.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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/Pickeral 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](#)

Swap Meet Coordinators: [Rich Batiuk](#) / [Mark Bange](#)

Movie Night Coordinator: [Luis Santiago](#)

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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.

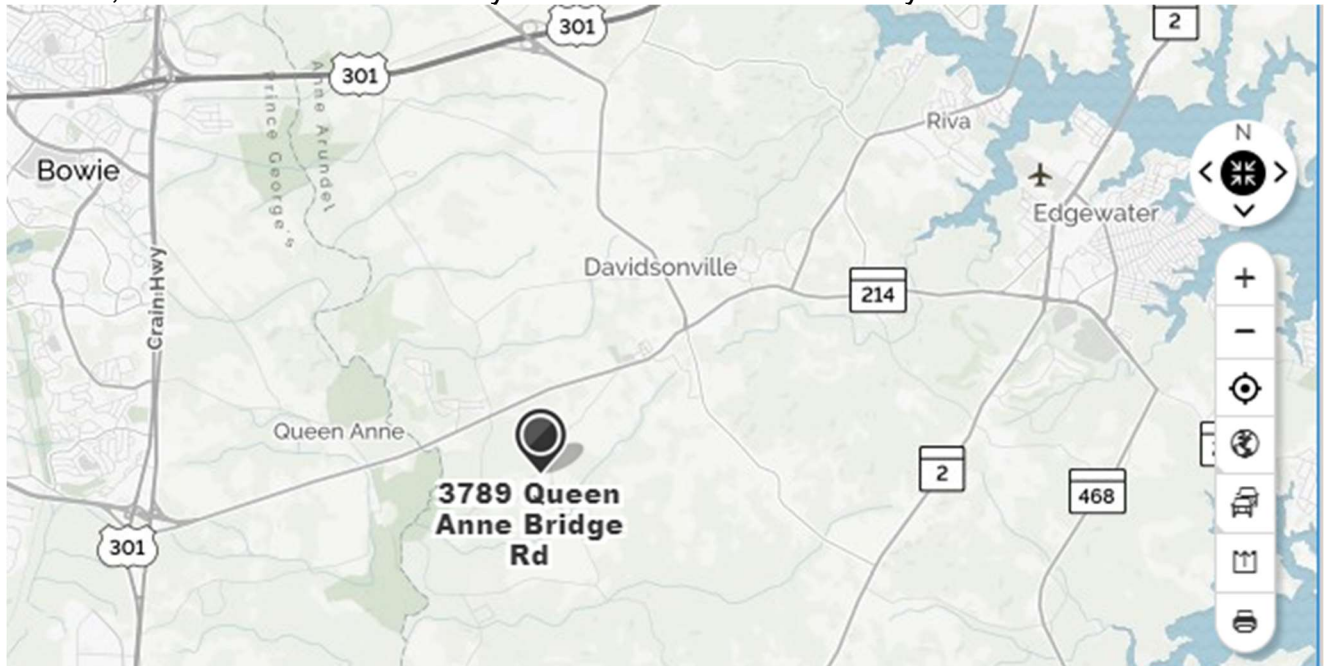
**“Fellowship Through Fly Fishing”**





## 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)