



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

President's Message:

It's July. About as Summer as it can get. The Springtime trout fishing is behind us along with the Perch and Shad spawning runs and Pickerel fishing. We started revisiting beautiful tidal waters like this:



Yup, Striper fishing has been open in the Bay and tributaries since (approximately) June 1. Our 7, 8, and 9 weight rods have been getting some action with

those Bullet Head Darters, Articulated Crystal Buggers, and Striper Poppers since June 1 and will continue on hard until July 15, and then it all changes again!!! Yup, Striper season will close from July 15-31! Two weeks!!! What's a fly fisher to do???



This is Fishing Diversity Month. We get to check out our diversity depth in fishing. The third week of July feels to me like the Sunday after the

Super Bowl—I've been watching football games every Sunday since September, and all of a sudden, there's no Football game on Sunday. I've been Striper fishing for six weeks and then it's shut down. Can't even practice Catch and Release for Stripers. Well, here's some "Therapy" suggestions for my fellow club members...

Carp are still going strong. Call Joe Bruce and ask, "Is there any way that Pack Bait for Carp can in any way be considered a fly?" (You got to admit, that is a stretch).

You can go to the dark side and cast bait for catfish like the unnamed club members in these pictures:



You can go up to the Western Maryland Mountains and fish the tailwater fisheries (North Branch of the Potomac and Lower Savage River) for some nice trout:



You can go to the Adirondacks and chase Bass and Pike that are still active in cooler waters:



Go chase some White Perch with those Yellow on Yellow Clousers we tied:



Go to the Tangier Sound and chase some Specs:



Go to the Rappahannock River on July 29 with Luis and chase some Smallmouth:



Get your name onto the club's "Biggest Bluegill" Scoreboard:

There's a lot of things you can do, so do anything but sit on the

sidelines due to Striper season being closed! Go try something new. Carp/Catfish/tailwater trout/Smallmouth/ Perch/Pike/Largemouth: They're all still there and waiting for you to show up. And keep those lines tight!

See you on the water,

Gary

Gary Grey

2022 Free State Fly Fishers President

Upcoming FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

September is just around the corner when we gather back at the clubhouse begin our 2022-2023 calendar of club sponsored activities—monthly meetings, member-led fly tying sessions, open fly tying sessions, Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions, movie nights, outings, casting clinics, annual holiday party, spring swap meet and more—every month. Hardly a week goes by when the club does not have something scheduled to bring our members together! And we do have club activities underway in July and August so we are truly a every season, month, week, 24/7 fly fishing club!

Still don't believe we can keep you busy and focused on fly fishing....well just read the rest of the newsletter and check out the club website's events page at <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/events-2/> as you will find a truly amazing calendar of club sponsored events. So come out, learn something new, and keep in touch with your fellow members as you just might catch more fish the next time you go out fly fishing as a result!

Wednesday Club Meeting Presentations

Here's our current club meeting schedule.

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 from September through June. 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:

- September 3rd
- October 1st
- November 5th
- December 3rd
- January 7th
- February 4th
- March 4th
- April 1st
- May 6th
- June 3rd

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.



September 17: Tim Ruthemeyer's "Tying Flies with Foam—What You Really Need to Know"

More and more fly patterns are calling for the use of foam due to it never getting water soaked like deerhair poppers, its durability, its high visibility and even its realistic look. Tim will show us the

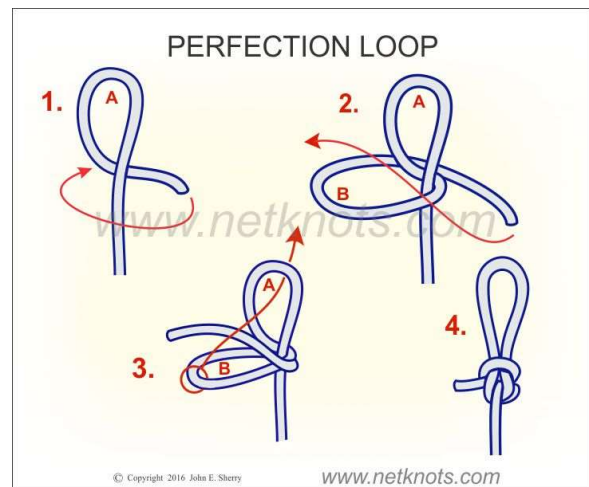
different types of foam, the different width foam comes in, illustrate the use of foam cutters, and, most importantly, share some of the secrets behind tying foam to the hook and manipulating the foam in many of the ways called for in many fly patterns.



October 15: Adam Bange's "Building Deerhair Poppers...by Stacking Hair"

Many of us use cork or rigid foam poppers when we fish for bass or panfish which work

effectively in many situations. But there are definitely times which call for casting a deerhair popper which usually sits deeper in the water at the surface and provides for softer "pop" when you strip you fly line. Adam will teach how to stack deerhair as an alternative approach to tying deerhair poppers. The major difference is stacking deerhair enables the fly tyer to achieve some truly incredible coloring of the resultant deerhair popper.



November 19: Joe Bruce and Duber Winters' "Tying Fishing Knots for Every Fly Fishing Situation"

We can make the most perfect cast, tie a fly which perfectly matches the hatch...but if the knot we tied connecting the tippet to the leader does not hold, we aren't going to land the fish! Our two

resident experts of fishing knot tying—Joe Bruce and Duber Winters—will be teaching up the handful of fly fishing knots we will ever need. And, most importantly, teach us how to tie them correctly! Joe will demonstrate the Albright, non-slip loop and Homer Rhoads knots. Duber will teach the back to back Uni Knot, the Clinch knot, the not the Duber knot loop knot, the popper-dropper rig and how to tie a 2 fly drop shot rig. This is a true hands-on session you can't afford to miss!



December 17: John Keough's "Introduction to Fly Rod Building" Class

Way back in 2020, thanks to John, the club started up a fly rod building class which was going to be kicked off by a Saturday Hands-on Session. But as we all know, COVID came along and shut down that opportunity. Well, John has agreed to re-start a fly rod building class, again, starting with a hands-on session to demonstrate what's really involved in building your own fly rods. He will sign up club members interested in diving in deeper for a continuing class, ending everyone having built their own fly rod.



January 21: Joe Bruce's "A Host of Fly Tying Techniques and Tips from a Commercial Fly Tyer"

There are many, many fly tyers not only within our club, but across the mid-Atlantic and beyond who have learned many new fly tying techniques from Joe, both in person and via his dozens of published books. Here's your incredible opportunity to learn what Joe have learned from his 348 years of tying flies professionally. (Yep, he taught George Washington how to tie flies instead of cutting down cherry trees for a hobby! Martha was very excited.)



February 18: Mark Bange's "Kayak Fishing in Local Waters" class 10 AM – 2 PM (with group lunch)

Back by popular demand and coming off two prior sell-out crowds (due to the offer of a free lunch with dessert!), Mark will be teaching his truly informative kayak fishing class. Given he updates his presentation and information delivery for every new class, if you have been in this class before, if worth auditing the class this time as you are guaranteed to learn something new. And who knows, maybe this time Mark will sell his fishing kayak to someone in the audience versus having to carry it back home after the class! 😊

March 18: Joe Bruce's "Everything You Need to Know About Fishing for Pickerel"

And speaking of being back by popular demand, we have asked Joe to come back (again) and share how in the heck he consistently catches all those HUGE pickerel, one after the other. Some of us are convinced he has learned about to speak pickerel and has found out exactly which colors they see

underwater and what retrieve drives them to attack a fly. And Joe will be bringing his fishing kayak, all rigged up for pickerel and will be actively demonstrating his pickerel fly fishing retrieve techniques. So come out and learn from the pickerel master.



April 15: Mike Mattia, Larry Oakley, John Rentch and Mark Bange’s “A Virtual Fly Fishing Tour of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore Ponds”
Not since the Beatles landed in the United States has there been such excitement about this new

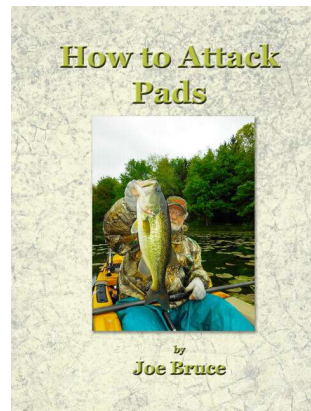


foursome and their upcoming ‘virtual tour’. Well ok, we promise not to ask Mike Mattia to sing or Larry Oakley hum in the background. But we can promise they will share some outstanding insights on where to fly fish on the Eastern Shore. See the one page

flyer posted on the club’s website’s calendar of event for this Saturday Hands-on Session for the menu of ponds to be the focus on this session.

May 20: Joe Bruce’s “How to Attack the Pads and Catch More Fish”

Only one person in our club could talk about “attacking the pads” and fill the clubhouse with fellow fly fishers interested in what he has to say.



Well, this is the topic of Joe’s recent book, now on sale with copies available at this Saturday Hands-on Session. There is years if not decades of photographic evidence that there are some very BIG fish just waiting under the lily pads for their next meal—just

look at the cover of Joe’s new book. Now we will all learn how to extract these fish from this heavy cover and document just how big they are ourselves with our own selfies!

June 7: Wednesday Club Meeting—Casting clinic with Members Casting with Their Own Fly Rods 6:30-8:30 PM (includes group dinner)

It wouldn’t be a June club meeting without another one of our extremely successful fly casting clinics. All of us who have participated in one of these clinics over the years has come away with some new insight into how to fly cast better. This include fly casting while sitting down in a kayak. Once again we will have a team of fly casting instructors available for all participating club members and guests to self-select which set of fly casting skills do they want to focus on for the evening. A truly hands on session. And a group dinner is included in the cost...yeah, it’s free, with drinks and dessert!



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:

- September 28th
- November 23
- January 25th
- March 22nd
- May 24th

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:

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

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 2022. 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.

- **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.

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.

Rappahannock River July 30: 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/astern/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.

Club News

New Partnership with Outdoor Afro

With the full support of our Leadership Team and the club members at our May club meeting, we have set up a partnership with Outdoor Afro. Outdoor Afro is all about celebrating and inspiring Black leadership and connection in nature. It has

created a unique model that equips dedicated volunteer leaders across the country with training, skills development, and ongoing support to activate their local communities. They have a set of members who are very interested in fly fishing. A number of these members joined us at our June fly casting clinic. And thanks to Duber Winters and Mark Bange, we will be hosting a 'introduction to fly fishing' seminar in August at the clubhouse for these Outdoor Afro members.



2022 Bluegill Tournament Standings

Here is our latest leaderboard:

First Place – John Rentch, 11.5 inches, 26 May, Blairs Pond, DE



Second Place – Rich Galena, 9.25 inches, 7 June, Alpine Lake, WV



Third Place -- Larry Oakey, 9.125 inches, 23 April, Private Pond, DE



Fourth Place – Pat Brophy, 9.0 inches, 7 June, Alpine Lake, WV



Fifth Place -- Mike Mattia, 8.75 inches, 10 May, Private Pond, DE



There is still time to find a 12" bluegill and take over first place. Entries will be accepted through Tuesday, November 15, 2022. You will find the 2022 tournament rules on the club's website at <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/bluegill-tournament-2022/>.

Mark Bange, Bluegill Tournament 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**.

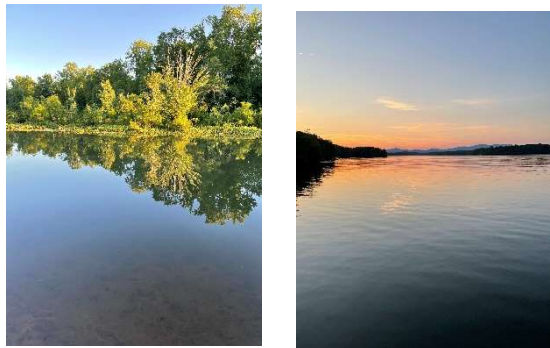
If you are interested in helping your club and scheduling meeting speakers or updating our social media, please follow up with Gary Grey at garygrey74@gmail.com.

Gary Grey, FSFF President

Club Members Move to South Carolina

Clearly we are going to need to establish a South Carolina branch of Free State Fly Fishers. Months ago, John Neely, long term Annapolis resident and FSFF member, moved to South Carolina to be closer to family. And recently, Amy Holstein also moved to South Carolina. "A few months ago, I made the big move to South Carolina to be near my daughter's family and spend time with my grandson (who changes just about every day!). I'm just starting to venture out to get in a little fishing on local waters for whatever I can catch from the grass or a pier. Attached are pics from Lake Robinson and Lake Cunningham - both have lots of boaters and kayakers with fishing rods. I also included my first catch here, at Cunningham (fish barely bigger than the reel but I was still elated!), and the monster mayflies that come to my desk window day and night! If anyone has had an experience fishing close to Greenville, or knows about fishing in the area, I would appreciate hearing from you!"

Some photos Amy shared with fellow club members from her new home state...



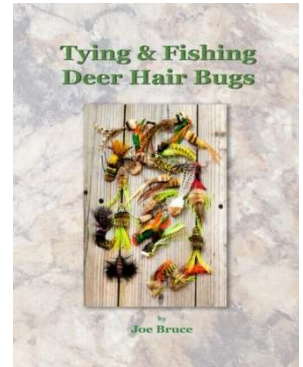
Joe Bruce's Latest Booklets

After telling us he was done with publishing books, our very own fly fishing author went ahead and published two more of this booklets.

Tying and Fishing Deer Hair Bugs Booklet

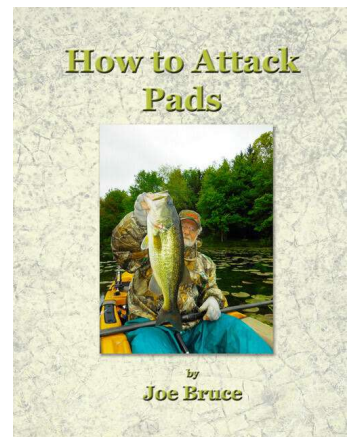
From the author himself:

"Some of the club members asked if I could make my PowerPoint presentation available. I have expanded it into a booklet that is going to press today. I have included one of our member's fine art deer hair bugs. I have a page dedicated to Adam Benges's creations. The booklet will be available on my site as soon as they get back from the printers. They will sell for \$9.95."



How to Attack the Pads Booklet

And again, from the author himself: "Just sent my new booklet to the publisher. Fishermen were always asking how I fish pad fields, so I decided to do a booklet describing how I attack them. It will be available on my website... joebruce.net soon. And of course, I will bring some to the next club meeting."



[Editor's Note: My Joe Bruce fly fishing books collection includes all the books and booklets which Joe have published over the decades...except his bonefish books. And his two latest books have already found a place in my fly fishing library. His simple, yet information rich books have definitely enhanced my fly fishing experiences.]

Featured Fly: Golden Retriever

Material List

- Mustad R73 Streamer hook, size 10, 3XL, or equivalent
- Gold brass or tungsten bead, 5/32"
- .020 lead or non-lead wire
- Estaz, petite, peach or gold
- Blood quill marabou, tan
- Danville flat waxed thread, 210 denier, red, or equivalent

Tying Procedure

1. Put the bead on the hook through small hole first and place the hook in the tying vise. Make 12 wire wraps and push wraps tightly against bead.



2. Make a small thread dam behind the wire wraps and wind thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in tan marabou that is the length of the hook shank.



3. Tie in the Estaz with the fibers pointing down. Estaz is directional and we want the fibers to lean toward the back of the fly. Make an even thread body and leave the thread at the bead.



4. Palmer the Estaz to the bead and tie off. Spacing of the Estaz wraps is slightly larger than 1/32". Make a small thread collar to secure the Estaz, whip finish, and apply head cement or Hansen hard as nails polish.



The Golden Retriever can also be tied on a jig hook so the point rides up in the water column. Firehole #523, size 10 works well for this application.

[Editor's note: The Golden Retriever is very likely one of the most effective fly in terms of how many different fish species have been caught using this fly pattern. Watch out woolly buggie and Clouser minnow, you all have some strong competition!]

How to Fly Fish Even Better: The Fly Rod is Not Always the Answer

By Joe Bruce

Guys don't disown me as a club member. We all love the long rod; we also like to catch fish and the fly rod has some built-in limitations. Maybe being a purist, it doesn't matter, but I like a pull on the line. I can practice casting in my backyard.

It isn't that you can't create a fly that will handle heavy cover or lily pad fields it is the fly line itself. As I age, I want less and less frustration when out on the water. I use gear to eliminate this. Throwing the fly rod in a lily pad field is difficult or in a spatterdock field it is impossible, the spatterdock is like fishing in a forest on the outgoing tide. Even when the pads are more open in the early spring the fly line will still go where you don't want it.

The fly on the end of the leader can handle it, but the line has a sneaky way of sneaking under the pads and if the fly is weedless it will tend to get hung up under the pads. The fly rod isn't always the best weapon. This takes away the joy of using the fly rod to me after unhooking the fly several times and destroying the area I wanted to fish.

I know some will want to fish the fly rod. Please do. But I feel we all like a little reward from our time spent on the water. These times are more precious as we age. Paddling over to retrieve the fly caught under lily pads is counterproductive. Especially, since you had to paddle over water you haven't fished yet. And have alerted fish of a presence.

I have spinning gear along with me and I highly encourage you to bring one with you on your next trip. No one will give you that hard of a time. I was once called "Spinner Joe" because I had a spin rod with me instead of fly rods. Hey, I like catching fish.

I even had a DNR friend take my picture and put it in the DNR magazine, showing me with a spinning rod in my hand. Not a far stretch considering we were doing a study on the effects of circle hooks on stripers.

I am usually armed with a fluke. This is my search pattern. This works well for aggressive fish. It can also be slowed down for the neutral and passive ones. My two-prong attack is flukes and the fly rod.



But I have started using an old standby, the plastic worm. I like a 6" twister tail worm. It is just as effective today as it was in the early fifties. I rig it weedless with no weight. I skim it across

the pads very slowly. At times it is more effective than a frog. It can be dropped between the pads and let sink and brought up to the surface again and continue the retrieve. It works well for bass, pickerel, and snakeheads.

No clue what the fish think it is, I never had seen a bass eat a snake, but I feel they do, I think it is a worm. Add worms to your arsenal. It is simple just need a worm hook and a worm and you are in business.

It is very effective for snakeheads, gliding it over the hydrilla beds, especially when there are holes

in the network. Slowly drag it across the grass and let it fall in the holes and bring it back up and continue the retrieve. I was reluctant to use them for snakeheads until I found out that snakeheads weren't just biting lures, but actually inhaling them like bass. Didn't take me long to figure out the worm would work. It has been extremely successful on snakes.



So, if you can see clearly try something besides the fly rod in certain situations

and bring the spin gear with some flukes and worms. Your frustration level will take an upturn to a more enjoyable day on the water.

Places to Fish: Locust Cove Cartop Boat Launch – Downs Park, Pasadena
By Mark Bange

The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks has done an outstanding job granting kayakers and canoeists access to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. With 533 miles of shoreline, Anne Arundel County is a prime area for kayak anglers. The county has obliged their interests with 20 designated launches from the northern part of Anne Arundel County to the south. Paddlers can now easily enjoy water adventures on each of the county's major rivers and creeks. In the summer of 2018, the county opened a launch site on the west side of Downs Park in Pasadena. It provides direct access to Bodkin Creek and three other adjacent creeks via Locust Cove. With plenty of parking and a flat paved path approximately 70 yards to the water, it provides easy access for cartop boaters. Its serene entry point belies the largess of nearby waters.



A shaded, paved and flat path to the launch leads to a sandy beach with entry into quiet protected water. However, bigger waters are just a short paddle away.

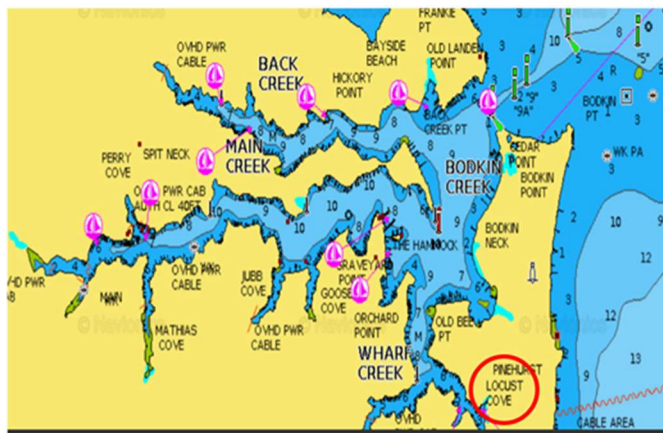
A pleasant half mile paddle along a narrow channel through woodlands and past creek-side houses brings you into a large body of water that is actually the confluence of four major creeks – Wharf, Bodkin, Main and Back, each between one and two miles long. The creeks have numerous coves, tidal ponds and points of land to explore.

And if they were not enough to occupy your interest, the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay itself are less than a mile and half from the launch. Big cargo ships and cruise ships make the turn for Baltimore or the Bay at that precise spot (Bodkin Point) on their routes. The huge vessels are fun to spot and provide enjoyable large rolling wakes to negotiate in your kayak long after he ships pass Bodkin Point.



Wharf, Bodkin, Main and Back Creeks meet here with access to the Patapsco and Chesapeake Bay.

I thoroughly enjoy paddling from the Downs Park launch because of its scenery, both manmade and from nature's hand. Bald eagles roost in old weathered trees near the launch or glide overhead. There are sandy beaches and natural shorelines hundreds of feet long with tall reeds of phragmites growing at the water's edge. Redwing blackbirds cling to the reeds and sing their distinctive call as you paddle past. Ospreys soar on updrafts far above the water, seeking fish for their chicks. In fact, there are three active osprey nests a short distance from the launch. The nests' occupants whistle warnings as you approach them but otherwise they do you no harm. Year-round resident Canada Geese are fearless and often will lead their lengthy string of progeny across your path or actually swim beside you for some distance. The large houses and estates on Bodkin Point provide more visual interest as do the many boats docked along numerous piers. Moving through the channels of the four creeks are large and small sailing vessels, charter captains taking fishing clients to big water or impressively appointed cabin cruisers traveling to and from the Bodkin Yacht Club.



Navionics chart of area. I have circled launch site (Locust Cove) in red.

As much as I like the scenery of this launch site, I paddle it primarily because I am a kayak angler. I love to fish from a kayak. The launch offers access to habitat that holds pickerels, white perch, yellow perch, snakeheads, channel cats and striped bass. I have caught each of those species in these waters

via lures or flies in shallow water near structure (piers, downed wood, riprap and phragmites). As the above chart shows, there is variable water depth in the creeks and numerous points of land jutting into the water to target with casts on a moving tide. Shallow water near deeper water is a striper magnet. Add structure in the form of dock pilings or riprap, and you have the perfect setting for high catch numbers of both white perch and stripers.

There are miles and miles of such structure to target in the four creeks. In fact, one of the things I find humorously ironic is when I see fishing boats heading to deep water in search of striped bass. I know they are foregoing plenty of legal sized stripers in shallow water as their boats speed past me to the Patapsco and then to the Bay. But I'm not complaining. I wave and they wave back, undoubtedly never suspecting that my catch may equal theirs, at a far lesser financial cost, I might add.

While a double digit north or northwest wind can build big waves in the open water where the four creeks meet, the creeks themselves provide plenty of lee-side protection. Tucking into them allows me to continue fishing even when the wind is strong. I have found many areas that offer calm water and fish-laden shorelines.

White perch and stripers are my typical catches in summer. In fact, a "can't miss" area for them is the long stretch of riprap in the Patapsco River from the mouth of Bodkin Creek to The Chesapeake Bay itself. That riprap culminates at Bodkin Point which is approximately 1.9 miles from the launch. When the tide is flowing, Bodkin Point is a striper haven. Snakeheads are prevalent in these waters in the summer too. They lurk in the vegetation and downed wood at the very backs of the creeks. However, while I see them often, they are elusive and not easy to catch. I hook and lose far more snakeheads than I get into my net. Pickerels are extremely susceptible to streamer flies in winter

and provide a great cold water kayak angling opportunity for me in these waters largely protected from strong northwest winds.



Protected inlets, geese and good fishing structure abound.

Given the variety water it offers from calm wind-protected coves on four creeks to the wide-open Chesapeake, the Locust Cove launch at Downs Park has become a favorite Anne Arundel destination for paddlers. Touring kayakers and kayak anglers alike have plenty of room to share their respective desired waters.

To reach Downs Park, take MD 100 East to Mountain Road (Route 177). Drive east on MD 177 to 8311 John Downs Loop Pasadena, MD 21122. The park is open daily. Entry is \$6 per vehicle. Reasonably priced annual and senior passes are available for those who intend to make repeated visits. The parking lot provides ample room for loading and unloading your gear onto grassy areas for a soft landing of your kayak. Also, the paved path to the water has no steep grade to climb on the way back to your vehicle.

I live only minutes from Downs Park. As a result, I use the Locust Cove Launch often because it is both convenient and productive as a fishery. For gear, light to medium light spinning rods rigged with 3-inch paddletails on light jigheads, ¼ to ½ oz. crankbaits and small 1/8 oz. perch spinners will catch any of the of the species I mentioned. I fly fish these waters with 5 to 7 weight 9-foot rods with floating and intermediate lines. I use the

following flies: foam poppers, Clouser Minnows, Bendback Minnows, and articulated Crystal Buggers. Hooks sizes range from 2 to 2/0. If your kayaking skills are such that you can negotiate bigger waters, I will escort you to Bodkin Point and beyond to chase after stripers. If you desire calmer waters and tugs from perhaps two dozen white perch on a typical summer outing, I can show you the areas in the wind-protected, calm water creeks that consistently produce them.

I can also show you where snakeheads reside but with no guarantees that you'll actually catch one. I am much better at "long distance release" snakehead fishing, than actually boating them.

Finally, if you want a trip in often overlooked pickerel waters, I will host you when the weather cools. Call, email or chat with me at a meeting and we'll make plans to visit these waters.

Thank you,
Mark Bange
410-591-5254
mbange54@gmail.com

Fly Fishing Equipment

List of Basic+ Fly Fishing Gear

By Rich Batiuk

This list of basic fly fishing equipment was based on list originally published by Orvis and modified to reflect 45+ years of fly fishing.

- Rod and reel
- Extra reel spools (floating vs. intermediate vs. sinking lines)
- Fly fishing vest (or fanny pack, sling pack or backpack)
- Fishing licenses
- Fly boxes filled with flies for the species you are targeting
- Leaders in a leader wallet

- Tippet material (from 0x to 7x depending on species you are targeting)
- Sink tips (from 3' to 10' lengths)
- Stripping guard (for finger)
- Thermometer
- Snips on a zinger
- Forceps
- Hook sharpener
- Leader straightener on a zinger
- First aid kit
- Soft cloth for cleaning glasses/sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Suntan lotion
- Lip balm
- Hat
- Polarized sunglasses
- Rain jacket
- Net
- Cell phone/small camera
- Water bottle

Trout

- Strike indicators
- Fly floatant
- Split shot
- Waders
- Wading boots
- Wading staff

Pickerel/Pike

- Shock tippet material (e.g., 30 lbs. test when targeting pickerel, pike or other toothed fish)

Kayak/Canoe/Boat

- Multiple rods and reels (floating vs. intermediate vs. sinking lines; different weights)
- Small duffel bags with zippered compartments for storing fly fishing gear
- Stripping basket
- Rain pants

Late Evening/Night

- Head lamp/small flashlight

To prevent you from forgetting key fly fishing equipment, I recommend you include an index card where you store your fly fishing equipment which lists all your key gear. Use it as a checklist as you gather up your gear prior to every fly fishing trip—I guarantee it will prevent you from forgetting your essential gear...but only if you remember to use it as a checklist. This also enables you to tailor exactly what fly gear you need (or don't need) to bring out fishing.

Kayak Fly Fishing

Summertime Kayak Fishing Safety

By Mark Bange

We're fortunate here in the mid-Chesapeake Bay region to enjoy year-round kayak fishing as long as we follow safety precautions commensurate with the season. Most would think that summer is the safest time of year to kayak fish. After all, Chesapeake Bay water temperatures range from the high 80s to 90 degrees Fahrenheit in summer. Our threat of hypothermia is almost non-existent. But still, we must be vigilant and adhere to safe kayak angling techniques. I will cover summertime kayak fishing safety in this article.

Heat and Humidity

As a lifelong Maryland resident, I'm well acquainted with its heat and humidity. In a word, our weather can be stifling. Add to that the exertions of paddling or pedaling and heat exhaustion can ruin a good day on the water. I recall a mid-day outing in summer when my son Adam and grandson Aidan fished in Bodkin Creek near my home in Pasadena. We actually didn't travel far on the water that day but the temperatures were in the mid-90s. When we returned to the launch site and it was time to load up our gear to go home, I felt the full impact of the heat. I could not lift my 70-pound Hobie Revolution kayak to the roof of my van. I felt dizzy.

Fortunately, Adam was present to complete the loading for me. I drank some cool water and rested long enough at the launch site to drive the short 3 miles home. But that event was a reminder to me of how quickly heat can overcome us. It was also a reminder that it's wise to avoid solo kayak angling in weather extremes.

So, what can we do to cope with the heat of a Maryland summer? The first thing I suggest is to dress properly. Ironically, that means to cover up your skin. I wear long pants, shoes and socks and long-sleeved shirts and a wide brimmed hat in summer. My goal is to cover my skin from the harmful impact of the sun. My summer fishing attire is just that – it's intended for warm weather fishing. The material is lightweight and the shirts are loose-fitting and vented. But they also are designed to protect me from the harmful rays of the sun. I am actually cooler in that attire than I would be if wearing shorts and a tee shirt. And the most important thing is that my "cover-up" clothing prevents sunburn which can lead to skin cancer. (On that note, and despite my clothing regimen, an annual visit to a dermatologist is part of my routine health care. On my last visit in May, the doctor removed three pre-cancerous spots from my face.)

The second thing to do is to hydrate. I carry two 17-ounce water bottles with me on summer outings. It's not unusual for me to empty both of those bottles on a typical summer outing. Then in my van or truck, I keep a cooler with cold water at the ready when I return to the launch. Some carry Gatorade or other sports drinks. They're fine for hydration too. But I prefer water. The important thing is to replenish the fluids in your body that you lose to perspiration while kayaking.

A final thing you can do to avoid heat exhaustion is to alter the time-of-day you fish. Avoid mid-days when the sun is at its peak. As long as there is sufficient light, an early morning outing or early evening outing can be a pleasant and productive

fishing experience. Now, this is not always the best time for fishing, especially in tidal waters where tides stimulate fish activity. But if you can find moving water early in the morning or late in the day, you'll beat the heat and also encounter willing fish.

Boat Traffic

I enjoy fishing the tidal creeks of the Magothy, Severn and Patapsco Rivers in my kayak. In the winter they are an excellent pickerel fishery. It's rare in the cold weather months that I see a moving boat in those creeks. Most vessels are wrapped in plastic and moored at their docks. However, that changes in summer. Boats are everywhere and they're moving fast, creating wakes even in "No Wake Zones."

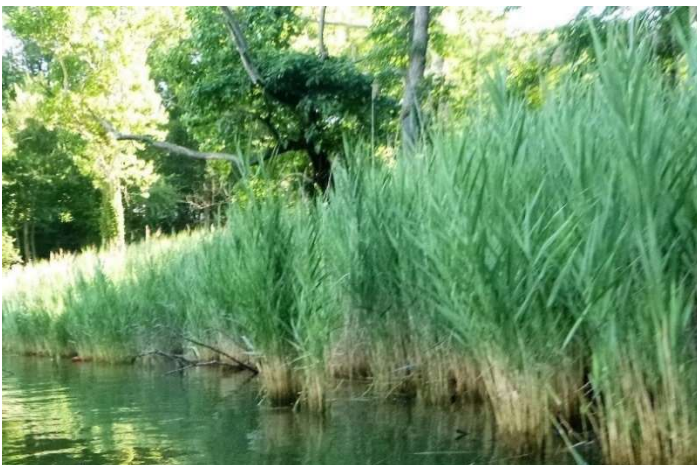


Boats on the Severn...wakes on the way.

The first thing to remember while fishing in your kayak is that boaters may not see you. You're sitting low to water, you're in a very small vessel and you're often tight to structure fishing in places where a typical boater does not expect you to be. So, it's wise for you to watch out for the boaters. Do not assume that they see you. They probably do not.

Some kayakers rely on a small orange pennant flag mounted to the back of their kayaks as a way to increase their visibility to boaters. I can tell you from firsthand experience, that flags do not work as well as kayakers think they do. Especially from a

distance, the orange flag melds into background colors. The best way to increase your visibility is to put reflective tape on your paddle blades. Moving paddles, especially those embellished with tape are far more visible than a flag. You can test this yourself. The next time you are on the water, take notice of what you see first of a fellow kayaker in the distance – a flag or their moving paddles. I guarantee you will see their paddles first. As I am fishing in my kayak, my head is on a swivel. I know where all moving boats are within a hundred yards of me or more in all directions. If I see one coming my way that is making a large wake, I cease fishing long enough to point the bow of my kayak into the oncoming wake. Your kayak can sustain substantial waves bow first or at an angle much better than if those same waves hit your boat broadside. Fortunately, I have never been capsized.



Great environment for fish at the base of these plants...and swarms of biting insects among the stems and leaves are waiting to feast on you.

Insects

Sod banks or tall stands phragmites tight to the waterline are tremendous targets for your casts. In summer you will find willing white perch and stripers at the bases of this vegetation, especially on high moving tides. If you are a wise kayak angler, you will paddle close to these structures and cast parallel to them. And when you do, you'll be greeted with swarms of hungry black flies and other biting insects. It's amazing how they can first

sense your presence and then find open skin on your well-clothed body. But they will. It's hard to strip fly line and swat bugs at the same time. I have missed fish as a result of ill-timed bug bites.

So, insect repellent is a must for summertime outings. Any of the sprays, like "Off" and "Deet" do a superb job to keep the insects away. However, as you apply the repellent to your skin make sure you get none on your fly line. It may react chemically and damage your line. But you will be glad to have those repellants onboard when ravenous swarms of insects hear the dinner bell ringing in your kayak.

Vibrio

Another threat kayak anglers face in summer is something we cannot see. Vibrio is a family of bacteria that thrives in warm estuarine water. The Chesapeake Bay's shallow creeks are an ideal summertime environment for this organism because their waters can get very warm in summer, much warmer than water temperatures in the open Bay. While not all kinds of Vibrio cause harm to humans, some may create severe illness in people who eat seafood tainted with it. However, the primary concern for kayakers is that Vibrio can enter fresh wounds or existing open cuts in your skin and cause serious infections.

I have never encountered a case of Vibrio. It is a relatively rare occurrence. Yet, each summer you will read stories of Chesapeake Bay Vibrio infections in the local press. Also, it can baffle doctors, especially if you do not inform them that you were exposed to warm brackish water if you present yourself to physicians with a cut or wound that will not heal. They will need to know that you were possibly exposed to Vibrio to offer effective treatment.

On one occasion I impaled my left thumb fairly deeply with a hook I was removing from a stubborn summertime pickerel in Weems Creek. That pickerel got ample revenge on me as blood was soon flowing down my thumb and pooling in my

palm. I applied pressure to the wound to stop the bleeding. Then I opened a small plastic box I carry onboard that contains rudimentary first aid items. Among them are pre-dampened alcohol pads that I used to thoroughly clean the cut. Then I applied antiseptic ointment to the area. I covered it with a band aid and kept on fishing. When I got home, I cleaned and dressed the wound again. It healed on its own and I had no further issues. But that may not have been the case if I had not dealt with the injury immediately in the manner I did.



A few helpful things to carry onboard just in case...

Conclusion

Heat, boat traffic, insects and lurking bacteria can pose problems for kayak anglers in summer. I have offered simple remedies to deal with each of those issues. And, let’s not forget the threat of drowning which can occur in all seasons. I did not mention it directly in this article because it should be routine for all kayak anglers to always wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while on the water. I certainly do.

Now that you are well prepared for safe summer kayak fishing, I encourage you to enjoy what it offers. Perhaps the best benefit is that when other fish species become elusive during the warmest days of the year, retreating to deep, cool waters, white perch remain in the shallows ready to

entertain us with double digit numbers of catches on most outings. Clousers, Bendbacks, Woolly Buggers, and even Bluegill Bullies and shad flies suspended under a strike indicator are irresistible to white perch. Hooked on a 4 or 5 weight rod, a 10 to 12-inch white perch at the end of your line will fully demonstrate that it is a cousin of striped bass on the piscatorial family tree. I never tire of catching them. You won’t either.



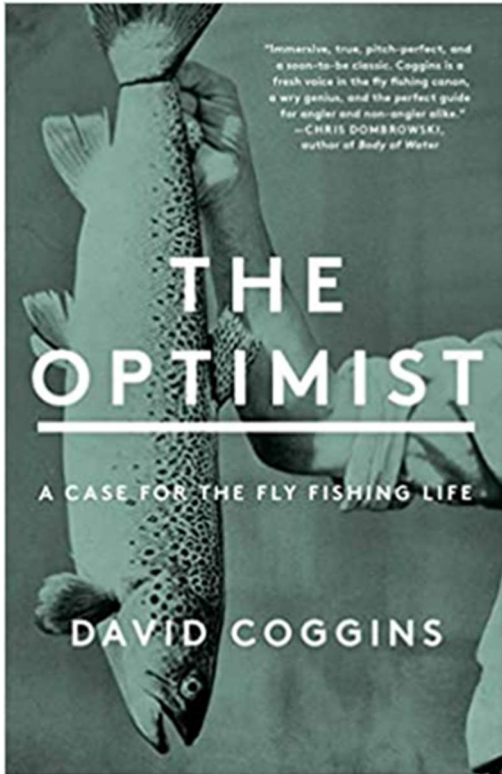
A summer white perch caught on shad fly used a dropper.

[Editor’s Note: I have asked Mark Bange to write a regular column in our quarterly newsletter about kayak fly fishing...liberally borrowing from his two wonderful books on this subject. He agreed!]

Featured Article: Book Review
The Optimist A Case for the Fly-Fishing Life by David Coggins
By Mark Bange

The Optimist is a wonderful title for a book about angling. It’s especially appropriate for a book about fly-fishing. Let’s face it. Catching a fish on the fly is no small task. There are far more utilitarian ways to catch fish. We can use spinning gear to cast lures much farther than we can toss a fly line. We can troll for miles with conventional tackle hoping to drag lures through schools of fish that hook themselves with little tactical assistance from us. Or we can even entice fish to come to us

by resorting to, gasp, cut or live bait. Each of those methods will usually provide more activity on the ends of our lines than casting feathers and furs relatively short distances. Yet, we persist as fly anglers, cast after cast shunning more productive ways of catching fish. How we catch fish is far more important to us than how many we catch.



Therefore, to be a dedicated fly angler means you are an inherently optimistic person. The next cast out hundreds you've already made could produce the fish of a lifetime. And that is

the premise of David Coggins' book, ***The Optimist -- A Case for the Fly-Fishing Life.*** It is that quest for a positive outcome, often against stiff odds, that causes us to endure epic bad weather, moody fish, taciturn guides, and a host of other indignities on our fishing excursions. We endure these things and yet willingly continue our pursuit of fish with the long rod.

Coggins describes the optimism of fly anglers by taking us on a journey to a different fly-fishing location in nine of the ten chapters of his book. Where his book differs from other angling destination anthologies is that he does not always catch the biggest fish. In fact, he does not always catch what he set out to find. Along the way he shares stories of these pursuits:

Wisconsin's Smallmouth Bass
Montana's Cutthroat Trout
Bahamian Bonefish
Patagonian Rainbow Trout
New York's Striped Bass
Canada's Atlantic Salmon
Maine's Brook Trout
England's Brown Trout
New York's small stream trout

Like many of us in the FSFF, Coggins honed his flyfishing skills by casting poppers from a canoe to smallmouth bass. He describes the joy of the cast in words all FSFF members can or will eventually relate to:

"Gradually I realized I didn't have to think about the timing as much. It started to come naturally to me...Mastering casting's sense of timing happens through repetition – the body has to internalize it; the mind can't just enforce it. Ultimately, the rod feels less like a tool than a part of you."

But this is not a book about fly fishing techniques. The guidance he offers is incidental to the stories he shares about the various locations he has visited and species he has sought. He highlights just how far in miles and effort an optimistic fly angler will go to catch a fish. And he does it with subtle humor throughout. For example, he had this to say about travelling on a dirt road in the North Woods of Maine to get to an isolated fishing camp:

"The road just keeps going. How far? About 20 miles. How long is that? About an hour in your own car. Less in a rental."

Each of the chapters was fascinating. He discusses gourmet meals prepared river-side in Patagonia. Yes, part of the travel package included a chef. He mentioned the decline of stripers in New York and the concern their demise is causing guides and anglers there. He talked about the difficulty of landing big salmon in Canada. He failed in that

endeavor. But perhaps the chapter I enjoyed the most was the one about Brown Trout in England.

There is no public access to water there. Segments of rivers are rented by anglers from outfitters. Plus, there are rigid rules. Topwater flies only during the hatch. No nymphing is allowed then. And our beloved wooly buggers are forbidden because they are deemed “unsporting”. I can only imagine what the Brits would think of our Bulleheads and Articulated Crustal Buggers. They would likely throw up in their afternoon tea if we tied one on. And yes, there are designated sites along the water where you can stop for that classic afternoon British refreshment.

The Optimist by David Coggins is not only a good title for a book about fly-fishing, it’s an excellent read. It will surely resonate with experienced FSFF members who have traveled far on fishing excursions. And will provide promise and hope for what our hobby has in store for our newer members just learning their way as fly anglers.

The book is 239 pages published by Scribner, Copyright, 2021. It is available in the Anne Arundel County Public Library and via Amazon.

2021/2022 Pickerel Contest Winners

Our 2021/2022 Pickerel Contest ended on 30 April. Congratulations to our winner, Adam Bange, who cast a Bendback Minnow to catch this well fed 23.75-inch pickerel in Cockey Creek (Magothy River) on December 12, 2021.

Adam’s name will join our 2020/2021 contest winner, John Rentch, on the clubhouse Pickerel Tournament Plaque. Individual awards were distributed at our June Meeting.

We had 15 entries and numerous shakeups on the leaderboard during the contest. Adam’s fish held the top spot through most of the tournament. But Dan Vance almost surpassed him in April with a



very nice 23-inch catch in the Severn. And our third through fifth place finishers, yours truly, John Rentch and Rich Galena each submitted entries larger than 20 inches. Larry Oakey just missed 20 inches with a 19.75-inch catch. We caught some impressive fish in this contest.

By far, the top fly used was a Bendback Minnow. Everyone on our leaderboard, except for Don, who used a Pistol Pete fly, relied on a Bendback.

The Severn River produced three of our top six catches. The Magothy River offered the largest fish. The Eastern Shore Ponds of Ingrams and Urieville were the sources of two of the fish on our leaderboard.

And not be forgotten, Pat Brophy caught the smallest pickerel on a fly, a 12.75-inch fish from the Severn River that hit a red and white calf tail fly. As both judge and participant, I want to thank everyone who pursued and entered their catches. You made the contest fun and interesting and displayed good sportsmanship throughout.

Each of the above fish can be seen on our website at this link: [Pickerel Tournament 2021/2022 \(fsff.com\)](https://www.fsff.com)

And that brings me to the final person to recognize as an important contributor to the

tournament. Frank Bowne, our website administrator, kept our website leadership board current with photos and relevant data of the catches. And he also kept me straight when I had inadvertently omitted an entry late in this contest. Thank you, Frank!

Good luck and tight lines to all,

Mark Bange
Pickerel Tournament Coordinator

[*Editor's Note:* This article was based on the May 2, 2022 email from Mark to FSFF members. I wanted to be sure we published the final standings in the club newsletter. And for the record, this year's winner, Adam Bange, has no idea who this Mark Bange guy is. No relationship whatsoever!!]

Feature Article: The Bluegill – Small Fish, Big Fun

By Mark Bange

Small and feisty, bluegills get little respect from hardcore anglers. They're by-catches for many seeking their next 5-pound bass. Or they're a target fish for your grandchildren who are dangling garden worms under a bobber as you introduce them to fishing. In some places they've become a nuisance. Sent to Japan as a gift from the U.S. in the 1960s, they've overpopulated freshwaters and been designated an invasive species – the Nippon version of a snakehead.

But warmwater fly anglers know better. We relish the opportunity to catch these aggressive, colorful sunfish on both topwater and subsurface flies. We know that a spring to summer outing on a pond or tidal creek can yield nonstop bluegill action on our 3, 4 and 5 weight fly rods. Plus, an 8 to 9-inch bluegill can put quite a bend in our rods. They fight far above their weight. They're simply great fun to pursue.

Bluegill catches on the fly increase when water temperatures reach 60 to 65 degrees. That's the

magic aphrodisiac, the "little blue pill" for bluegills. The males, awash in their most regal colors of orange, purple, blue and black will head to shallow water only several feet deep where they will excavate what appears to be a small crater on sand or gravel bottoms. That location becomes their domicile, their honeymoon suite and eventually their nursery.



Bluegill beds are the lighter circles on the bottom.

Evidently size matters to female bluegills. They are attracted to the largest and most colorful males who steadfastly guard their saucer-shaped homes. They enter his home willingly, the nuptials ensue, and then after smoking the obligatory cigarette, the male chases the female away. Yes, the male bluegill is a single parent. Give him credit for that. He protects the nest and eggs as they hatch which can take up to a week. He continues to guard the nest until the babies are big enough to swim away. That can be another ten days.

However, not all male bluegills are as noble as the nest-builders I mentioned above. Smaller and younger males, do not build nests. They wait nearby and crash the honeymoon suite of a nest builder to join in on the action – a threesome! That means a single bluegill nest may contain eggs fertilized by two or more males. Some of the nest-building males will actually remove the eggs fertilized by the cad male visitor. Others don't

seem to mind sharing their genetics with smaller males.

Likewise, after laying eggs and being chased from the scene, the female bluegill is not finished with her spawn. No indeed. She looks for another suitable male, another night on the town, so to speak. She will visit multiple nests during the spawning season which can last well into the summer and she may lay up to 80,000 eggs in a single spawning season.



This colorful bluegill fell for a Crystal Buzzer

Given such prolific spawning, it's easy to see how bluegill populations can overwhelm a pond without sufficient predation or in the case of Japan, a country. They can pose a problem for fisheries managers trying to maintain a healthy balance among various species in a body of water. On the other hand, they are critical links in the food chain. Delaware, for example, will stock immature 3-inch bluegills into their ponds to create forage for healthy and larger bass populations.

So, why are bluegills good fly rod targets once water temperatures reach 60 degrees? The answer is simple. Their overwhelming desire to procreate brings them to our reach. Even though bluegills thrive in northern waters, they are not as active when water temperatures drop. As summer ends, and water cools in the fall, they depart from the shallows. They descend to deeper waters where their metabolisms slow significantly. They don't eat much and they don't move around much. They

hover together in schools throughout the winter. But in spring and summer, warming waters and longer daylight hours flip their metabolic switches into active mode. The males stake out territories and build nests. The females roam this bluegill redlight district and have multiple one-nighters with the handsomest males. And they do this throughout the summer. All this requires energy and that means bluegills are hungry.


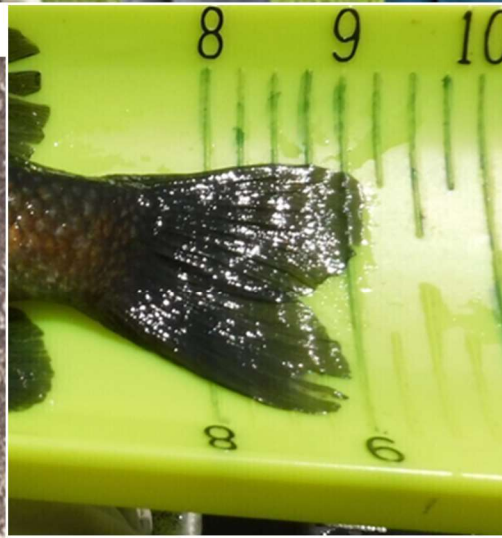
Added to their insatiable hunger is the fact that male bluegills are vigilantly guarding their nests from predators -- especially the threats we pose with our fly rods. Our small foam spiders, bass poppers, wooly buggers, etcetera are invasive in their eyes and must be removed. Males will chase, slap their tails at and or bite any foreign object near their nests.

Hence, spring and summer bluegills are great practice for beginning fly anglers learning how to set the hook. No doubt many fly anglers can say that their first catch on a fly rod was a bluegill. And many fly anglers, even after they have mastered trout, and other fresh and tidal water fish species on the fly, return to bluegills as a warm water pursuit.

As members of the Free State Fly Fishers, we have an added incentive to pursue these colorful fish. Our 2022 bluegill contest is presently underway. There is room on the leaderboard for your entry and perhaps a place for your name on the clubhouse plaque for landing the largest bluegill of the year. Good luck to all who participate in our contest.



This trail dedicated to
Jim Gracie
 An avid conservationist and leader of the Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Jim was instrumental in working together with the Department of Natural Resources to negotiate an agreement with the City of Baltimore establishing a minimum flow of cold water from the Prettyboy Reservoir, thereby securing the healthy and ideal habitat necessary for the proliferation of wild trout, and establishing the Gunpowder River as a world- renowned Blue-Ribbon trout stream.



Adam Bange's amazing deer hair poppers!



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: Vacant

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](#)

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

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](#)

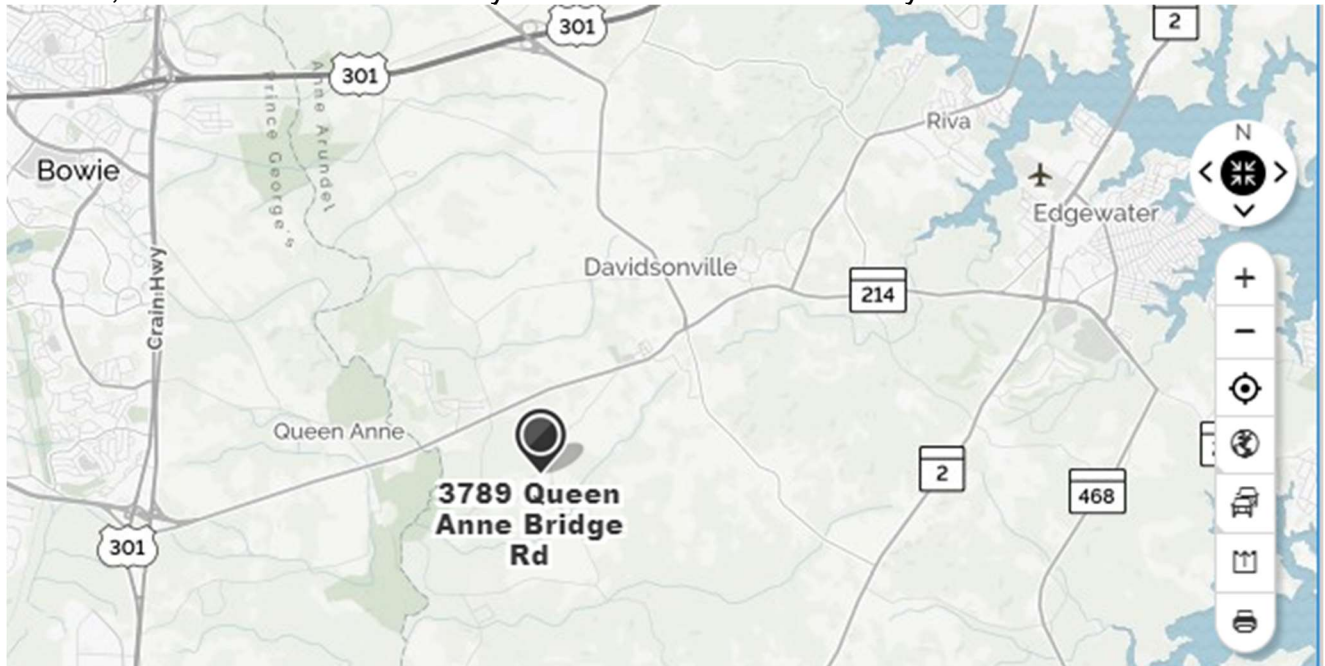
Please contact the appropriate FSFF leadership team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.

“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