

Free State Fly Fishers Western Maryland Outing

When: Thursday-Sunday, April 20-23, 2023

Where: Western Maryland, Garrett County

Outing Coordinator: Gary Grey, garygrey74@gmail.com; 443.795.1953 cell.

Overnight accommodations: several options exist, two good ones are: Motel (Casselman Inn) and Camping (Big Run State Park).

- Motel: The Casselman Inn is located in Grantsville, MD very close to the Casselman River. Web address: www.thecasselman.com. Phone: 301.895.5055. Please make your own reservations if you are staying at the Casselman.
- Camping: Big Run State Park, <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/bigrun.aspx>. Big Run State Park is located approximately 30 minutes from Grantsville, in the Savage River State Forest, and next to Savage River Reservoir. Big Run State Park is a relatively primitive campsite. It has composting toilets, but the well pump is out of service. Water can be picked up at New Germany park on the way in (Big Run Park is a sister park of New Germany, so camping in Big Run gets you access to New Germany including water and hot showers). There are no hook-ups in the campsites. Some cell phone providers do not have coverage at Big Run State Park. We will be camping in the wooded lot section of Big Run State Park, not the open field area next to the reservoir. **Gary has reserved campsite 74.**

Meeting Time/Location and Directions: This will be discussed and decided upon before the trip by the attendees. It is approximately a 3.5 hour drive from Annapolis to Big Run State Park.

- Note: This is a trip where you may want to consider having your own vehicle (instead of carpooling) because there are multiple fishing locations (Casselman, North Branch Barnum, North Branch Kitzmiller, Lower Savage fly fishing area, upper Savage River, and the Youghiogheny River) and different people may want to go to different places. Without multiple vehicles, you may not get to go where you want to go.
- If you plan to go, but are going on a different timetable, please let Gary know.
- Reservations:
 - Big Run State Park: New a couple years ago, you now can make reservations for campsites at Big Run State Park (you never could before). If you are camping there, I recommend you select a campsite near campsite 74.
 - Casselman Motel: You can google Casselman Motel in Grantsville and make reservations directly with them.

Communication:

- Cell phones do not work in many of the areas we will be fishing in, for example, some don't work at Big Run State Park, so it will be important to agree to a meeting schedule (such as is described in "Meals" section below) ahead of time. This means, for example, if you're at the Casselman Inn in Grantsville you can't count on calling someone at Big Run campground. A meeting schedule will be worked out by the travelers shortly before the trip.

Fishing Locations: As mentioned above, there are many places to fish. Big Run State park is more or less centrally located between the Casselman, the North Branch at Barnum, and the lower Savage fly fishing area. More information on fishing locations will be provided at a later time. I will be fishing in Barnum, mid-afternoon-dark at least one of the days, and traveling to and from Big Run State Park via Savage River Road (around the reservoir). Anyone is free to ride with me or follow me if unfamiliar with the area. The Casselman river and the lower Savage river are easy to find. Most fishing in this area is wading fishing. Per John Neely's presentation to the club a couple years ago on trout fishing in Western Maryland, there is a relatively new opportunity to float down the North Branch in a kayak or canoe starting just below Westernport, but I've never done that and am unfamiliar with any details associated.

Trip Logistics and Fishing Information:

- **Meals:** If the group is split, ie, some are staying at the Casselman Inn and some are camping at Big Run, a good possible plan would be to have one meal on Friday at the Casselman Inn (an early dinner would be good, say 4:30 PM, thus allowing time for fishing the evening hatches) and one meal at the campsites on Saturday or Sunday (a picnic lunch would be good at Noon). These details will be finalized by the travelers before the trip. Campers please bring your own food. Note that the camping area is relatively remote, so you will want to have all your supplies with you before you leave Grantsville. There used to be a little country store, BJ's, on the Upper Savage River near the campground, but I think it has gone out of business.
- **Weather:** We will only go if there is very good weather. Many of these rivers/creeks wash out and get too muddy to fish with over 1" of rainfall. We will need good weather for two days before the trip (arriving on a sunny day to a high muddy river is no fun) and good weather during the trip (keep water conditions fishable plus camping in the rain is not much fun!).

Species of Interest: Trout

Equipment Needed: Fly Rods, 4wt/5wt.

Recommended Flies: Woolly Buggers, Muddler Minnows, Caddis, Griffin knat, hare's ear nymph, peacock nymph, and any other classical trout flies and nymphs.

License Required: Maryland State Fishing License with a Trout Stamp

Sign-up: The trip will be discussed in general at the April 5 FSFF meeting. Immediately following the April 5 FSFF meeting, there will be a detailed informational meeting open to those interested in going to answer any questions about the trip. Please email or call Gary before April 10 if you want to go.

Directions to Big Run State Park from the Casselman Inn (you can do this on Google Maps):

The Casselman Inn, 113 Main St, Grantsville, MD 21536

- Head east on US-40 ALT E/Main St/National Pike toward 1st St
- Continue to follow US-40 ALT E/National Pike, go 1.8 mi
- Turn right onto New Germany Rd, go 8.2 mi
- Turn left onto Big Run Rd, go 5.0 mi
- Arrive at "Tee" intersection of Big Run Rd and Savage River Rd, right at the reservoir. This is the center of the park. We will not be camping in this area of the park (open field), but we will utilize the message board located in this area, next to the composting toilet, to communicate with visitors (as cell phones are not dependable in this area).
- 10368 Savage River Rd, Swanton, MD 21561

Directions from Big Run State Park to Barnum, WV (North Branch, Potomac River). This is on Google Maps. Directions:

Big Run State Park, 10368 Savage River Rd, Swanton, MD 21561

- Head west on Savage River Rd toward Big Run Rd, go 2.2 mi
- Turn left to stay on Savage River Rd, go 2.5 mi
- Turn left to stay on Savage River Rd, go 6.1 mi
- Turn left onto MD-135 E, Enter West Virginia, go 0.3 mi
- Turn right onto WV-46 W, go 5.4 mi
- Turn right onto Barnum Rd, go 0.2 mi
- Turn left to stay on Barnum Rd, go 1.2 mi
- Arrive in Barnum, WV

Drive down to the big parking lot at the river.

LIABILITY WAIVER: It is mandatory that any trip attendees of this trip sign the FSFF Liability Waiver. If you haven't signed one, you CANNOT be a part of this trip.

WADING SAFETY: The only way to fish most of the rivers we will be visiting is by wading. Slippery rocks and fast water will be encountered virtually everywhere. To attend this trip, you must be able to negotiate slippery rocks and fast water. It

is the attendees responsibility to access his/her own capabilities to safely negotiate these conditions.

SAFETY: Safety is a paramount concern on all FSFF sponsored outings. On all FSFF sponsored outings, please be safe out there as it is your responsibility to stay within your capabilities and practice water safety at all time. Check with the above listed outing coordinator for more information on the fishing conditions if you have any concerns or questions. **If boating, always wear your PFD and if water temperatures are below 60 degrees F, have a plan to protect yourself from cold water immersion hazards should you fall in.**

Most importantly, enjoy the fellowship of your fellow members through fly fishing and tight lines!