



Free State Fly Fishers Outing

When: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Where: South Fork Shenandoah River Float Trip

Outing Coordinator: Rich Batiuk, richbatiuk@gmail.com, 410-507-0785

Meeting Time/Location: We will meet at 8:45 AM at the Elkton VDWR Boat Ramp, unload our kayaks and canoes, and transfer our cars to the take-out location at the Shenandoah Landing and River Park Ramp. If you plan to participate on this club sponsored outing, please let Rich Batiuk know in advance so he knows who to expect to be at the launch site that morning.

Directions to the Fishing Location: The Elkton VDWR Boat Ramp is located at 15917 Old Spotswood Trail, Elkton, VA 22827. Basic directions are US-50 W to I-495 N to I-66 to US-29 S and then US-33 W to US-33 BUS E/Old Spotswood Trail to the boat ramp. The Shenandoah Landing and River Park Ramp, located at 315 Morrison Rd, Shenandoah, VA 22849, is 6 miles and a 10 minute drive from the Elkton VDWR Boat Ramp.

Species of Interest: Smallmouth bass, green sunfish.

Equipment Needed: Recommend bringing 5-6 weight of rods with floating and intermediate lines. Strongly recommend having two if not three fly rods rigged up with floating and intermediate lines (or least a sink tip at the end of one of your floating lines) and ready for switching depending on the habitats you are casting to throughout the float. The fish are not leader shy so recommend a 7-9' leader for casting with your floating line and a 6' leader with your intermediate line both with 2x or 3x tippets. Strongly recommend bringing either a sit upon kayak or canoe as you will have the option of getting out of your watercraft to wade fish parts of the river and may need to get out to move through shallow sections of the river. Also recommend bringing an anchor appropriate for your watercraft as fishing the riffles and the subsequent pools will yield smallmouth bass.

Recommended Flies: Bring your own favorite smallmouth bass patterns. My favorites include wooly buggers and krystal buggers in black, olive, and brown; Clouser minnows in all white, white/olive/peacock herl, and white/yellow; modified girdle bug (#6 nymph hook, wraps on non-lead wire along the hook shank, yellow chenille body, two sets of white rubber legs, krystal flash tail) poppers with rubber legs; gurglers; and Clouser's floating minnow. And specific to the South Fork, recommend you bring blue poppers, damsel fly/dragon fly patterns, Harry Murray's Blond Perch Bucktail and Harry Murray's Strymph in black and olive.

Also bring a good selection of your favorite panfish flies including wooly buggers, crystal buggers, Golden Retrievers, bluegill bullies, poppers, gurglers and spiders.

License Required: Virginia fishing licenses are available on-line at <https://license.gooutdoorsvirginia.com/Licensing/CustomLookup.aspx>.

Other Trip Logistics and Fishing Information: We will be taking a 7 mile float trip starting from the Elkton VDWR Boat Ramp down to the Shenandoah Landing and River Park Ramp. This section of the river is well upstream of where the club's past float trips have been located, putting us on a much less fished section of the river which was highly recommended in a recent American Fly Fishing magazine article devoted to the South Fork. Please note our put-in boat ramp is about two hours 50 minutes/152 miles from Davidsonville so please plan your travel

accordingly.

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.

Liability Waiver: It is mandatory that any trip attendees of this trip sign the FSFF Liability Waiver and submit them to Frank Bowne, FSFF Membership Coordinator. Copies of the waiver can be accessed on the club's website at: <https://fs-ff.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Liability-Waiver-With-Printed-Name.pdf>.

Trash Removal: And please remember we are asking all outing participants to try and pick up five pieces of trash during each outing.