

## **Free State Fly Fishers Pocomoke River Outing, Snow Hill, Maryland**

**When:** Friday-Sunday, April 11-13, 2025

**Where:** Pocomoke River State Park, Snow Hill, Maryland Eastern Shore of Maryland, (Worcester County). It's about a two hour drive from Annapolis to Snow Hill.

**Outing Coordinator:** Gary Grey, [garygrey74@gmail.com](mailto:garygrey74@gmail.com); 443.795.1953 cell.

**General trip description:** The Pocomoke River is a delightful tidal river on the Eastern Shore of Maryland river running from just above Snow Hill, Maryland (the county seat of Worcester County Maryland) through Pocomoke City, Maryland, and then out to the Tangier Sound.

It is a tidal river with black stained water due to the tannins from the Bald Cypress trees lining each side of the river. It is a particularly beautiful, picturesque river. If you've fished Trap Pond or Trussum Pond in Delaware and experienced the Bald Cypress trees there, this is, in general, the same thing but in a river format.

We will be fishing the Snow Hill area of the river which is a very small town with just a handful of houses along the river. The rest of the area is undeveloped and tree lined by the dense Bald Cypress swamps on each side of the river. There is a beautiful picturesque white drawbridge in Snow Hill which the State will open, for free, upon our advance request so we can pass through and fish either side of the bridge. Next to the bridge is the Pocomoke River Canoe Company. The area we will be fishing will be that general area. The Pocomoke River Canoe Company rents canoes and kayaks, and I am currently trying to confirm that they will rent to us, even though we will be there pre-season.

There is a very gentle tide in this section of the river. It is famous for boy scout trips, girl scout trips, etc, many getting their first taste of canoeing and kayaking in this stretch. It's a great setting for kayak or canoe fly fishing.

**The Fishing:** We will be targeting Yellow Perch, White Perch, Pickerel, Blue Gill, LMB, and anything else that decides to tug on the end of our line.

**Fishing Access:** A boat of some sort is mandatory to fish this area. Kayaks, canoes, and jon boats, smaller center consoles, etc. all work fine.

**Overnight accommodations:** Two good ones are: Rent a mini-cabin in the Shad Landing section of Pocomoke River State Park, or camp in a campsite in Shad Landing Campground in Pocomoke River State Park. There is another campground in Pocomoke River State Park called Milburn Landing campground. It has campsites and

two mini-cabins. The problem with Milburn Landing is that it is far away from Shad Landing. Milburn landing is about 4.5 miles downstream from Shad Landing, and about a 30 min drive by road, so coordination and meeting up of members located in both sites is difficult.

- Mini Cabin in Shad Landing: Gary has reserved mini-cabin #180 in Shad Landing area of Pocomoke River State Park, and Ryan has reserved #185. Unfortunately all of the other 7 minicabins have been reserved, so no additional mini-cabins are available at Shad Landing as of this writing on January 4, 2025. There is one mini-cabin available at Milburn Landing; per the above, it is not ideal, but better than nothing. You can reserve a cabin by going on the Maryland Park Service website for cabin and campsite reservations: “parkreservations.Maryland.gov”.
- Camping: Shad Landing Campground in Pocomoke River State park. Reservations are also made on the same website as cabins, ie, “parkreservations.Maryland.gov”. If you are going to camp, please take a spot in Shad Landing campground, not Milburn Landing campground (there are plenty of sites in Shad Landing campground).
- I have three members in my cabin, so it is full. Possibly Ryan has room in his for other members, please check with him.
- If the cabins are all full and you don't want to camp, there are Airbnbs in the area, but I don't know much about them.

#### **Meeting Time/Location and Directions:**

- Meeting time and place: Each day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, outing participants will meet at 10:00 AM at the boat ramp in Byrd Park in Snow Hill, MD. There are two boat ramps in Byrd Park; we will meet at the one closest to the Snow Hill town center.
- Directions:
  - Byrd Park is a municipal park inside the Snow Hill City Limits. We will be launching from a boat ramp in Byrd Park. Put “Byrd Park, Snow Hill, Maryland” into your Google Maps and you will drive right to the ramp.
  - Shad landing section of Pocomoke River State Park: put “Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing” into your Google Maps GPS.

**Meals:** Details on meals will be worked out by the attendees. Possibly we'll cook a big cauldron of chili at the mini-cabins or go out to local restaurants.

**Species of Interest:** Yellow Perch, White Perch, Pickerel, Blue Gill, LMB

**Equipment Needed:** Fly Rods, 4wt/5wt/6wt. Floating and intermediate lines. Anchors for your boats.

**Recommended Flies:** Articulated Crystal Buggers, Bendback flies, bullet head darters, Woolly Buggers, and more.

**License Required:** Tidal water so you need a Chesapeake Bay Sport fishing license.

**Trip sign-up deadline:** To attend this trip as part of the FSFF Outing you must sign up no later than Sunday, April 6. I need some time to work on any behind the scenes trip related issues such as putting together contact information for the group and verifying that all attendees have a Liability Waiver on file with the club.

**Communication:** If you have one, please bring your VHF mobile radios and tune them to channel 68. That will make on-the-water communications quite easy (and facilitate lying while still on the water).

**More Information:** The trip will be discussed at the January, February, March and April club meetings.

**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.

**SAFETY:** Safety is a paramount concern on all FSFF outings. Please be safe out there as it is your responsibility to stay within your capabilities and practice safety at all times. Check with the Outing Coordinator for more information on the fishing and boating conditions if you have any concerns or questions. If boating, always wear your PFD. The water will almost certainly be below 60 degrees, so water temperatures present cold water immersion safety concerns. It is the attendees responsibility to understand the danger of cold water immersion and to have a plan to protect themselves should they fall in. If you have any questions, ask the Outing Coordinator.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY,** enjoy the fellowship of your fellow members through fly fishing and tight lines!