



# FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

## President's Message: Change of Season

One of the many things I truly love about fishing are the opportunities that are generated by the change of season. Of the several locations that I have resided in the US, this has held true in all of them.

While living in Pennsylvania and guiding on the Susquehanna River, early spring brought on sizeable smallmouth bass in great quantities. March until Mother's Day was prime time. Summer was the time to catch good numbers of bass but the big, heavy fish basically vanished after spawning was complete. Then again in the fall the large fish would feed heavily and while the numbers of fish caught was not that of the spring season, big fish (over 18") were once again catchable. And there are several other species in that region that would have their prime season including largemouth bass, shad and large rockfish on the Susquehanna flats.

In the Florida Keys, spring signaled the migration of tarpon. Resident or baby tarpon are viable targets throughout the year, but it wasn't until late March to early April that the large migrating fish came in to the Florida shoreline and started moving north through Key Largo to the delight of anxious anglers. Permit also got active in the spring as well as a host of other species of fish.

Here in Maryland we are so fortunate to have so many opportunities both here in our backyard and within a short driving distance as well. Of course we are all motivated to go fishing and target various types of fish and for different reasons. That said, be it fresh water or salt, the angling opportunities are great.

For me, I truly love fishing in the fall season. This is not to say it is my favorite, in fact, I can't say I do have a favorite season, but there is no doubt that I get excited to fish when the temperatures begin to moderate and the leaves begin to fall. The following is a brief list of angling opportunities that I look forward to when the leaves begin to change and fall.

**Trout:** Trout begin to get happy again as temperatures drop and water levels begin to reach for median flow. I don't fish for trout much through the summer months so when fall comes around I am chomping at the bit to work a trout stream. Falling leaves on to a mountain stream can provide a challenge, but water clarity is often great allowing for some fun and challenging sight fishing.

**Rockfish:** There is no secret these fish are facing serious challenge and adversity, but when they move in to the tidal rivers in big numbers they become a local favorite for anglers and I am one of many in that group.

**Great Lakes Steelhead:** Yes, we are talking about a 5-6 hour drive, but this fishing is pretty special if you hit it right. Years ago I fished the NY tributaries, but now only fish the Erie, PA tributaries. I like that area as there are many different size streams so if there is heavy rain one can fish the smaller tributaries that clear up more quickly.

**Largemouth Bass:** Definitely known for being a spring and summer target, I love to present flies to these fish in the fall as they move out of the heavy cover which is difficult to fish on fly and work the shallows for prey.

**Pickrel:** I had a great bite in October last year. I fish from a SUP and love to watch these fish eat flies in clear water.

**Redfish:** Whether it's intercepting these fish on migration routes or hunting them in shallow marsh fields from Texas through Louisiana to Florida and the Carolinas. Virginia reds on structure too! Fall through early winter is an awesome time to target big drum.

So what does your fall season target species list look like? Now is the time to put it together and fish the fall bite!

So let's fish!!

*Duber*

Duber Winters  
2024 Free State Fly Fishers President

## FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

Fall is upon us and we are once again gathering together at the clubhouse for the fully array of club sponsored meetings, events and activities.

Between our first Wednesday of the month club meetings, first Saturday of the month fly tying sessions, third Saturday of the month hands-on sessions, as well as fly casting clinics and swap meets, each month brings opportunities to enhance your fly fishing and fly tying skills...as well as add to your supply of fly fishing gear!

Just remember, any time, day or night, you can find out what the club has to offer you as members via our club website's events page at <https://fsff.com/index.php/events-2/>. Mark your calendars and come out and join your fellow members. Better yet, subscribe to the club's events so that they automatically appear in your smartphone's calendar.

## Wednesday Club Meeting Presentations



**November 6:** Joe Bruce. Our Guest Speaker for our November 6 meeting is our very own Free State Fly Fishers member Joe Bruce. Joe is among the most renowned fly fishermen in our club. He's an:

- Author of many fishing books for fishing both for tidal waters and fresh waters.

- Past Owner of "The Fisherman's Edge", an extremely well known and respected Fly Shop in Catonsville, Maryland, that was in business for 15 years starting in 1989. Many of our club members go back that far in knowing Joe.
- Early pioneer in local Snakehead fishing.
- Expert fly tier and designer and has led many, many Saturday morning fly tying classes.
- Expert kayak fisherman and has brought his kayak to our clubhouse several times to share how he outfits it...and much more.



Ever wish you had some time to just talk to Joe and ask some questions and get some answers? Well, this is your chance. Joe will present a very short program, probably 5-10 minutes max, and then just lead a question-and-answer session at our clubhouse. So come on out and ask your

questions!

**December 4:** Holiday Party. See the club news section of the newsletter for more details.

**January 8:** Jim Thompson, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Thompson will give a presentation on the work he has been doing with eel passageways in Maryland, especially as affected by recent dam removals in Maryland.

If you have ideas for club meeting speakers or would be willing to present to your fellow club members, please reach out to me at [garygrey74@gmail.com](mailto:garygrey74@gmail.com).

Gary Grey, FSFF Meeting Speakers Coordinator



of tools, materials, and techniques will be followed by an afternoon of tying a couple basic flies. Lunch will be provided to the participants.

We have already started up our September 2024-April 2025 fly tying sessions, but I am still seeking club members who are willing to share some of their favorite fly patterns with their fellow club members by leading a fly tying session. Please reach out to me at [imsantiago05@yahoo.com](mailto:imsantiago05@yahoo.com).

Luis Santiago, FSFF Fly Tying Sessions Coordinator

### **Saturday Morning Fly Tying Sessions**

The club's first Saturday of the month club member-led fly tying sessions are scheduled each month from September through April. Come join your fellow club members starting at 10 AM at the clubhouse at 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road Davidsonville, MD 21035 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. For most sessions, materials will be provided to all participants.

New to fly tying? You have come to the right place as each fly tying session is geared towards teaching fly tyers of all experience levels how to tie each pattern. And there is tying equipment available for use by anyone participating in these member-led sessions including 3 fly tying vises as well as assorted fly tying material in the back storage room available for use by everyone.

**November 2:** Mark Bange will demonstrate tying foam based flies.

**December 8:**

**January 4:** Rich Batiuk will walk through tying several effective smallmouth bass patterns.

**February 1:**

**March 1:**

**April 5:** Special fly tying session devoted to beginners led by Harry Steiner. A morning session

### **Saturday Morning Hands-on Sessions**

We are now into the seventh year of the club hosting Saturday Hands-on Sessions and we have scheduled a series of excellent sessions in the month ahead. And if you wondered what does a hands-on session look like, just look at the below photo from the September 21 session at which club members got to experience a first-hand look at how to pack for a long distance fly fishing trip.



As a reminder, the club's Saturday Hands-on Sessions are held on the third Saturday of each month from September through May at the clubhouse at 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road Davidsonville, MD 21035 from 10 AM to 12 PM unless otherwise noted. And you will find one page flyers describing each upcoming Saturday Hands-on Session and what you can expect to learn and experience first-hand posted on the club's website.



**October 19:** Joe DeMeo will demonstrate the steps he takes in batch fly tying, that is tying multiple flies of the same pattern

all at the same time.

**November 16:** Jim Delle Bovi is going to present on kayak fishing safety in tidal waters, something a growing number of us members will benefit from.



**December 21:** Rich Batiuk will talk about “What to Bring on Your Next Fly Fishing Trip: Sharing 45+ Years of Packing Experience”.

**January 18:** John Keough, who taught the club’s January-February 2023 fly rod building class, will discuss and demonstrate rod maintenance and how to do minor rod repairs.



**February 15:** Joe Bruce will share his gear and discuss his methods for catching one of his

favorite species of fish: carp.

**March 15:** Back by popular demand, Andy Grosko will repeat his truly hands-on presentation on aquatic insects that was so well received last year. And, yes Andy will be bringing live species to this truly hands-on session. All of the participants in this session will have the opportunity to pick through their own sample and identify the different critters we spend tying at our fly tying vises trying to imitate!



**April 5:** Beginners fly tying session (see page 3)  
**May 17:** Open

We still have one Saturday Hands-on Session which is open for club members to share their own hands-on experiences. Please contact me at [mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com) with your ideas for an upcoming hands-on session or your willingness to lead a session. We all have unique skills or experiences to share with our fellow club members—that’s what makes Free State Fly Fishers such a great club.

Mark Bange, FSFF Saturday Hands-on Session Coordinator

**Casting Clinics**

We are continuing the club’s series of casting clinics on the back lawn of the clubhouse as well as on-water casting, building on our successful two part September clinics. We will be planning similar clinics for this coming spring. Please email me at

[truthemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:truthemeyer@gmail.com) with any questions and suggestions for enhancing our casting clinics.

Tim Ruthemeyer, FSFF Casting Clinic Coordinator



### Wednesday Night Beer Ties

We're continuing another long held club tradition...Beer Ties at the Killarney House located at 584 W Central Avenue 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. What a great way to spend a Wednesday evening with your fellow

fly fishers.

The club sponsored Wednesday Night Beer Ties at 6:00 PM are on the fourth Wednesday night of every even numbered month throughout the year:

- October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- December 18<sup>th</sup> (date change due to the holiday)
- February 26<sup>th</sup>
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- June 25<sup>th</sup>

So bring your fly tying material and tools and a good appetite and join us for good food and drinks and definitely for great conversation!

Frank Bowne, FSFF Beer Ties Coordinator

### Club Sponsored Outings

We have a growing schedule of club sponsored outings, working towards our goal for the club to sponsor at least one to two outings every month of the year. And we also want to offer outings where members can fish from shore, wade a river or stream, cast from a kayak, SUP, canoe or boat, to a wide array of different species. We are a FLY FISHING club so let's get out fishing together.

- October 19** Ingram Pond/Millsboro Pond, DE
- October 23** Records Pond, DE
- October 31** Trussum Pond, DE
- November 1** Horsey Pond, DE
- November 9** Gunpowder Falls or Morgan Run for the Streamside 101 Class
- November 11** Ingrams Pond, DE
- December 13** Middle Chesapeake Bay Mainstem
- March 8** Gunpowder Falls or Morgan Run for the Streamside 101 Class
- April 9** Terrapin Park Lake Kent Island, MD
- April 11** Piney Run Lake, MD
- April 24-27** Western Maryland
- May 14** Cash Lake, Bowie, MD
- May 17** Mattawoman Creek, MD





For each of the above listed club sponsored outings you will find, on the club website's calendar of events, a one page flyer providing you with all the logistical information about each outing, including the fly gear and flies you should bring.

The club website also includes a continually updated and complete listing of all the club sponsored outings for the 2024-2025 outings season along with a list of outings which are in the planning phases. Right now we have a total of 35 outings completed, scheduled and in the planning stages. From the website's front page, click on the 'Events' and then the 'Outings Calendar' buttons at the top of the page to access the complete calendar of club sponsored outings.

Do you have some ideas for other outings the club can sponsor? Would you be willing to share one of your favorite places to fly fish with your fellow club members? Please contact me at [richbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:richbatiuk@gmail.com).

It's as simple as selecting a date and a place to fish. If you share some more details about what fish species will be targeting and what fly gear and flies you recommend, I will even draft up the one page outing description and ensure it gets posted on the club's website.

Rich Batiuk, FSFF Outings Coordinator

## Club News

### Honoring Dick Friis' Contributions to the Club

We lost long time club member Dick Friis in 2022. Dick was a truly outstanding fly tier who led countless fly tying sessions on tying trout flies. Mary Ann, Dick's wife, recently donated Dick's fly tying materials and tools as well as a number of fly rods, spinning rods, fly reels and spinning reels to the club in memory of Dick and all that he gave to the club over the past decades. Dick's rods are currently for sale at the clubhouse and his ample supply of fly tying materials and tools will be on sale during the club's May 3 Swap Meet.

### Renewing Your Club Membership

It's October so it's the perfect time to renew your club membership. Yes, it's the best \$15 per year investment you will ever make! And your membership renewal is just a click away: <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/join-or-renew-membership/>. Click, pay and support your club!

### Bay Bound Guide Service Light Tackle and Fly

Jonathan Bland grew up on Solomons Island, Maryland, and started fishing about the same time he was learning to walk. His passion for the sport has only continued to grow since then. After graduating college with an Environmental Studies degree he spent two summers in Grand Teton National Park as a fly fishing guide on the Snake River. Missing all the diversity in fish species to



target, he returned to Maryland, and began working for an environmental restoration company that specializes in improving the waterways and headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay.

He enjoys targeting

the variety of species the Chesapeake Bay offers throughout the year. Based out of Annapolis, there

are many great fishing opportunities usually within a short drive. He guides from a Jones Brothers Cape Fisherman which is well equipped with all the latest electronics and gadgets. It's truly a perfect boat for light tackle and fly fishing on the Bay. As a guide, he gets a lot of joy out of watching people pick up the sport and is always happy to teach a new angler. He focuses on providing engaging trips that showcase just how special the Chesapeake Bay is, and why we as anglers should respect and care for it."

For booking inquiries please reach out via phone (410-610-4971) or email at [blandjonathan.17@gmail.com](mailto:blandjonathan.17@gmail.com).

Hope to see you out on the Bay,  
Jonathan Bland

**Editor's Note:** Based on his outstanding presentation to the club at the September 4th meeting, I asked Jonathan to share more information about this guiding service so club members could take advantage of his expertise.

### **Club Tournament Updates**

#### **Our Biggest (and Smallest) Bluegill Contest**

Our 2024 bluegill contest has attracted an impressive collection of entries with only weeks to go until the closing date of November 1st.

#### **Biggest Bluegill Standings**

1. Rich Batiuk, 10.25 Inches, Blairs Pond, Kent County, DE, July 20
2. Andy Grosko, 10 Inches, Krimgold Park, Carroll County, MD, May 3
3. Mike Vlaikov, 10 inches, Private Pond, Howard County, MD, July 26
4. Luis Santiago, 9.5 inches, Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May 17
5. Larry Oakey, 9.375 Inches, Community Pond, Selbyville, Sussex County, DE, June 9
6. Amy Holstein, 9.25 Inches, Private Pond, Enoree, SC, April 7

7. Randy Wolf, 9 Inches, Private Pond, Caroline County, MD, April 7
8. Gary Grey, 8.75 inches, Blairs Pond, Kent County, DE, April 29
9. Chuck Gallegos, 8.5 Inches, Blairs Pond, Kent County, DE, April 8
10. Bill Smith, 8.5 Inches, Blairs Pond, Kent County, DE, April 8

#### **Smallest Bluegill Standings**

1. Andy Grosko, 2.9375 inches (2 and 15/16 inches), Piney Run Reservoir, Carroll County, MD October 16
2. Rich Batiuk, 3.1875 inches, Monocacy River, Frederick County, MD, July 24
3. Harry Steiner, 3.25 inches, Duck Pond, Millersville, Anne Arundel County, MD, May 20

Our winners will be announced and recognized at the club's Holiday Dinner on December 4.

#### **Our Biggest Pickerel Contest**

With the cooler weather upon us, many of us start thinking about casting for those toothed freshwater predators, pickerel. Our Biggest Pickerel contest starts on November 1<sup>st</sup> so take advantage of upcoming club outings to catch the next entry for our biggest pickerel contest!



Here's the link to our contest rules:

<https://fs-ff.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pickerel-Tournament-Flyer-Revised-for-2024-25.pdf>

Thanks to all for your interest and your entries.

Mark Bange, FSFF Pickerel and Bluegill Tournaments Coordinator

## **Rock On Charter Fishing**

Rock On Charter Fishing is a family business that takes pride in what we do. We fish all over the Middle and Lower Bay and have a network of captains, so they constantly stay on the fish. Come experience what the world-famous Chesapeake Bay has to offer. Rex & his family have fished the Chesapeake Bay area for the majority of the anglers' lives and have a combined experience of over 25 years. Bring your kids and learn to fish with Rock On!



The ROCF team is committed to providing you with an unforgettable fishing experience whether you want to hunt open water for Striped Bass (aka Rockfish), Perch, and Bluefish, disappear in the shallows to cast a fly at Bull Redfish or Cobia, sight fish the Eastern

Shore's islands for a mixed bag, or build your own custom trip. Our crew has the perfect combination of knowledge, experience, and expertise to put you on the fish!

During the Chesapeake Bay fishing charters season, anglers are able to chase various species of fish the Bay has to offer to utilize light tackle, fly, and live bait techniques. On each of its adventures, the crew tailors the perfect fishing experience based on its guests' skill sets and objectives with respect to the species targeted. Come and learn about some of the crew's exciting fishing adventures in the Chesapeake Bay's Middle and Lower Bay. The boat you'll be using is a nearly 30' Pathfinder that can safely take up to 6 guests, including accommodating those using wheelchairs. The boat comes with a toilet, a wireless trolling motor, and an ice box. The crew will take care of everything you need for a wonderful day on the water. Just remember to bring some food, and you'll be set to go.

Fly-fishing anglers will love our new Hewes 21 Redfisher. It will go extremely shallow for fishing the island. But can handle big water for days when there are birds and breaking fish all over the big water.

We take special joy in ensuring an amazing trip for anglers of all skill levels. If you're looking for an upbeat captain to provide you and your family with the trip of a lifetime, look no further!

Captain Scott Barmby  
240-372-1864

[scott@FishRockOn.com](mailto:scott@FishRockOn.com)  
<https://fishrockon.com/>

**Editor's Note:** Based on his outstanding presentation to the club at the October 2 meeting as well as all his contributions to the club, I asked fellow club member, Captain Scott, to share more information about his guiding service with all of us.

## **December 4 Holiday Dinner**

The club's long held traditional Holiday Dinner will be held on December 4th, 2024 at Mike's Crab House on the South River at the Riva Road Bridge.



The cash bar starts at 6:00 pm with dinner service to begin at 6:30 pm. The costs are \$45.00 per person except for \$53.00 for Broiled Crab Cakes.

You can submit your menu choices and make your payment on-line via: <https://free-state-fly-fishers-inc.square.site/shop/holiday-party/2>. You can also make checks payable to Free State Fly Fishers and mail with the completed menu form (emailed to all members) to: Gary Grey 105 W Virginia Ave Severn, MD 21144. Checks must be received by November 17<sup>th</sup> Payment cannot be accepted at the event.

Gary Grey, FSFF Holiday Dinner Coordinator





**December 4 Holiday Dinner Raffle**

As part of our upcoming Holiday Dinner, the club has long sponsored a truly outstanding prize raffle along with a 50/50 raffle. We depend on club members' donations for the prize raffle so here's your opportunity to

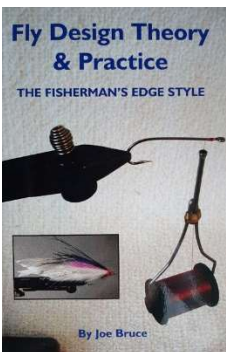
contribute to this year's Holiday Dinner raffle. We already have a series of fly rods and reels which will be raffled off, but we are still well short of the number of past years' raffle prizes which were upwards of 30!

I will be reaching out individually to a number of club members, but if I don't reach out to you, please consider donating a rod, a reel, a favorite fly fishing book, some type of fly fishing gear or fly tying tools, even hosting a fly fishing trip to your favorite place to fish. Please contact me at



[mnussman@asafishing.org](mailto:mnussman@asafishing.org) or (301) 873-7255.

Mike Nussman, FSFF Holiday Dinner Raffle Coordinator

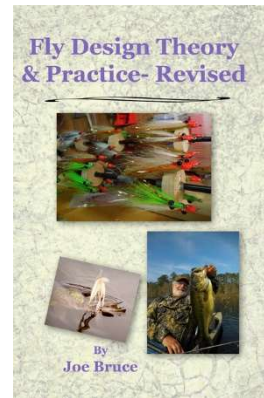


**Making an Old Book New**

Joe Bruce has recently published a revised version of His Original "Fly Design Theory and Practice" Book.

"I'm reworking what I have always thought was my best book...Fly Design Theory & Practice. The book is twenty-two years old and was

first published with black and white photographs, time to bring it up to modern times with many more images in color.



I have reworked some sections, added some tips and techniques for tying a durable effective fly in less time, and understanding what makes a better fly. All the patterns in the book are time-tested, some over forty-plus years. I know new tyers, as well as experienced tyers, will benefit from my over sixty years behind the vise."

For your own copy of Joe's latest book, contact Joe at [saltflies@comcast.net](mailto:saltflies@comcast.net). And with about 20 Joe Bruce books in my fly fishing library, I agree with Joe that "Fly Design Theory and Practice" is one of his best books.

Rich Batiuk, FSFF Newsletter Editor

**Duberfly Trout School Scheduled for March 15**

Want to really improve your fly fishing skills and techniques when it comes to catching trout on the fly, then here's the perfect opportunity for you.



Once again, our club President and long term guide/casting instructor is opening up his Duberfly Trout School to fellow Free State Fly

Fishers members.

This comprehensive, on the water, interactive program offers trout fishing basics to the beginner as well as technical techniques and information for the seasoned angler. Presentations on streamer, dry fly and nymph fishing as well as on stream



entomology basics are included. Guided fishing on premium private trout water accompanies instruction with a focus on reading water, fly

selection, knots and proper catch and release techniques. Morning coffee, and lunch are provided.

The Trout School is located at Double Spur Outfitters Star, Tannery, Virginia from 7:30 AM-3:00 PM at a cost of \$250. Please note there is a 10 anglers limit so the participants will have the full attention of the three guides teaching this in-the-stream trout school. Members can contact Duber directly via email at [Duberfly@gmail.com](mailto:Duberfly@gmail.com) to sign up or sign up at an upcoming club meeting.

**Never Too Young to Be Introduced to Fly Fishing**

Back in the summer Susan and I were babysitting our now 1 year old granddaughter, Avery. Well, Avery showed a lot more interest in my latest copy of American Fly



Fishing magazine than her pile of children’s books. Goes to show one is never too young to be introduced to the wonders of fly fishing!

And Avery’s mom (and our wonderful daughter who has out fished her dad more times than I want to remember) shared this dad joke with me: Question: What’s the best way to watch a fly fishing tournament? Answer: Live Stream.

So share your passion for fly fishing with family members, friends or even someone you run into on a river or lake or out on the Bay...you are never too young or old to become hooked on fly fishing!  
Rich Batiuk, FSFF Newsletter Editor

**How to Catch More Fish: The Sweet Spot**  
By Joe Bruce

It isn’t a sweet spot, but an area that produces the best fishing in the spring. The area is the first ten feet from the shoreline out. This is where the water is the warmest in the early season and this is where the bass are because the prey is there too.

I spent two days on a lake chasing bass with my



kayak with great success fishing in this area. I saw countless numbers of both bass boats and kayaks doing

what they do most of the time and that is stay offshore making fifty-to-sixty-foot cast perpendicular to the shore. The target water is the first ten feet, not forty feet out.

I paddled my kayak a few feet from shore and cast parallel to the shoreline. I like to make my first cast ten feet or so from the shore and then my next cast is a foot or two from the shoreline. In this way I have the advantage of maybe catching more than one fish within my casting range.



Yes, I must keep moving my boat in and out of the shore edge, but it is worth it to catch the fish there. I tell

fishermen all the time, “shallow water is the shoreline as fish can be in inches of water.”



Fishing the shoreline can't be done in a bass boat over an entire shore, but kayakers need to learn that they can. Some with pedal yaks, aren't going where I go unless they start using their paddles. I don't know if it is laziness or they read too

many bass magazines. They have a kayak not a boat, so use the craft to your advantage, move closer to shore.

When the pads start to fill in, they do what the bass boats do by moving to the edge of the pad field. The problem is as the water warms the outside edge it becomes devoid of bass as they are now under the cooler pads from the shoreline out to twenty or thirty feet. Fishing the outer edge line of the pads is a waste of time.

Again, pedal yaks won't get the job done without stowing the rig and breaking out the paddle and getting into the pad field.

Fishing close to shore requires a weedless presentation, I prefer fishing a weightless swimming fluke with a crank and pause retrieve and in any color but white. We want to make the bait look like a minnow, not an attractor pattern like white or chartreuse.

The kayak is the greatest fishing tool out there so use it to your advantage.

## **Places to Fish: Tokyo Bay, Japan - Fly Fishing for Japanese Sea Bass & Blackhead Seabream**

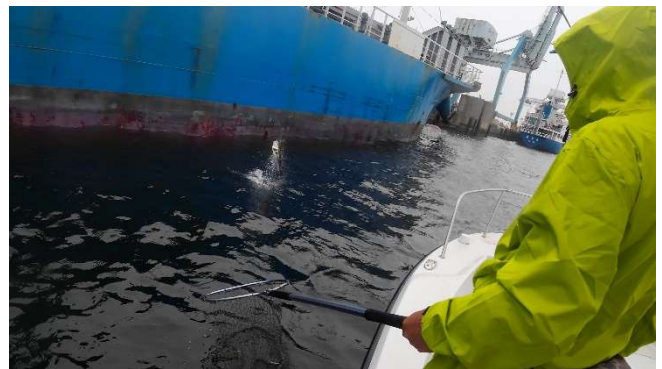
**By James Andrew**

As a I stood there, hunched over, emptying the last of my stomach contents into the sink, I

contemplated if my stopover in Japan had been worth it. In that moment, the answer was no. However, on later reflection, the alternative being just a few more forgettable days of regular life – it evolved to a solid yes.

The food poisoning had come just as I returned to my hotel from an amazing 4-hour trip, and while incapacitated to the point of having to delay my return home by a day it didn't hinder what had been a great fishing experience.

Threading the needle with a layover. With a conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, there was an opportunity to fish almost anywhere on the return home. Usually, these tickets cost no more than a direct return home, so for a few days' time and a hotel stay you can tack on some fun and breakup the long return home. Japan isn't your only opportunity here – there are many hubs as options where fishing is both doable – London, Dubai, Istanbul, and so on. On my way out I fished in a very small window of time I had in Singapore, no license needed, at the Bedock Jetty which provided an opportunity but no fish. A local, while running by at full speed, laughed at me for fly fishing. Believing I had come from New Zealand, he let me know there were no trout here...



Fly fishing in Japan had been on my mind and with some research I found a fishing opportunity with a local guide and captain and booked a trip. After a short 20-minute Uber from the airport, I found myself in Yokohama, a part of greater Tokyo. A stroll down the waterfront revealed not only

surprisingly clear water, but large fish milling around.

There is no requirement for a saltwater fishing license in Japan, and for freshwater it is location specific, having to do with who is responsible for the stocking. The process for that seemed a little cloudy and it wasn't my target. In the evening, I found several guys fishing over the edge of the breakwater – and while no license was required, in that location you were not allowed to “cast” so they effectively had a cane pole with meat on a hook. However, a fly rod and jigging a fly would have been equally suitable.



There were several angling specific parks in the area as well – breakwater/seawall type fishing options that came up quickly with basic research. It seems as though angling is common as long as you aren't in someone's way.

Meeting at 3AM for the charter, I was shuttled to an industrial area with a dead-end street that had a few boats moored on a makeshift floating dock. The guide provided all the gear and advice that was needed, and the captain took care of everything else.

We fished for Japanese Sea Bass by running right up against ships anchored in the Bay – the fish would hide out under the hull and a fly placed and worked along the edge would produce an explosion with them attacking your floating fly. In several cases, we had spectators from the ships we fished. After a few strikes I got several hookups which all ended in long distance releases. We moved into the docks to target fish along sea walls – which is where I pulled this beauty from, but it wasn't a sea bass to our surprise – instead Blackhead Seabream - a desirable catch and quite a fight.

My resource for this, and many trips to locations I am unfamiliar with, is Facebook. There are Facebook Groups of anglers for nearly any location and there is always someone willing to give you the basic info, or even to set you up with a guide. In this case, I found the “Tokyo Fly Fishing & Country Club - Friends Lobby” which was my resource for everything there.

So, the formula is simple: pick a place you want to fish; find a Facebook group; ask questions; book something or make a plan based on that; and hope for success but be willing to fail!

### **Featured Fly: Murdich Minnow Fly**

**By Harry Steiner**

The Murdich Minnow was originally tied for stripers (and it still catches them) but has become a staple smallmouth bass fly. Although the Murdich Minnow can be tied in an assortment of sizes and colors, this one is grey and white on a size 4 hook.

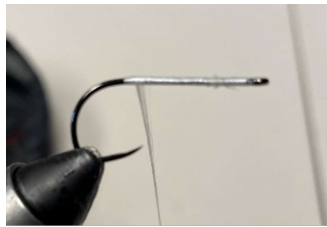
**Hook:** Size 4 (I use Firehole Sticks 811, any straight eye stinger or bass hook will do)

**Thread:** White size 6/0 or larger (I use gsp white)

**Tail:** Bucktail White  
**Body:** Pearl or white Estaz  
**Flash:** Pearl Flashabou/Silver Flashabou  
**Collar:** White EP Fibers or similar synthetic  
**Eyes:** 6MM or similar  
**Coloring:** Copic or similar permanent marker, Grey or Black



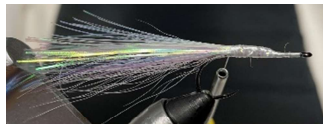
1. Start your thread behind hook eye extending to hook bend.



2. Take a small clump of bucktail at the bend and extend it back about 1.5-2 times the hook shank and tie.



3. Tie in 6-12 strands of Pearl Flashabou to extend slightly longer than bucktail.



4. Tie in a clump of Silver Flashabou at hook bend to extend slightly longer than the Pearl Flashabou and forward about hook shank in front of hook eye.



5. Tie in a large bunch of synthetic type fibers one side of hook in front of hook point. It should extend back just beyond the hook bend.



6. Tie in another equal bunch of synthetic type fibers on the other side of the hook as described in step 5.



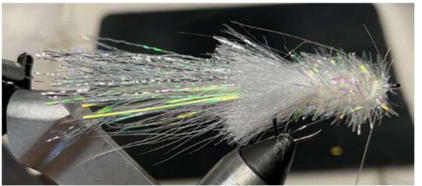
7. Now fold the Silver Flashabou that is facing forward back over the synthetic fibers and tie in. Trim to length of synthetic fiber collar.



8. Tie in Estaz and wrap forward to just behind hook eye, whip finish and cement.



9. Trim Estaz on each side of hook to accept eyes.



10. Remove eye from sheet with Bodkin and put a large drop of Zap a gap gel on back of eye while still on Bodkin.



12. Place eye on each side of fly, make about even placement, and hold in place for few seconds.



13. Use marker to color top of fly as shown.



**Fishing Murdich Minnow:** While you can fish the Murdich Minnow on an intermediate sinking line, its best with a floating line. This fly isn't meant to sink but just sit below the surface. It is best fished when tied with open loop knot to allow appropriate action of the fly.

### What is Special About Fly Fishing: The Cast By Andy Grosko

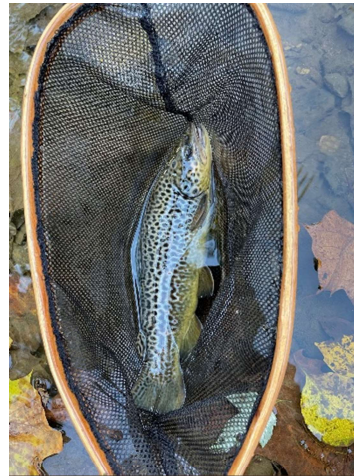
My first real memory of fly fishing was back in grade school, maybe 7th grade at the cafeteria table, listening to classmates Thomas McKinsey and Lous Serro talk about trout fishing. Thomas held up a couple of dry flies in his hand for our inspection. I listened in awe (and a little envy) as he vividly told how rainbow trout rose in splashing strikes to his dry flies on a Laurel Highlands (Southwestern PA) stream. Today, over 55 years later, I can still remember the dry flies – a black gnat pattern, and a similar pattern in all grey. Likely size 12.



Intrigued by my classmate's story, I began to read all the fly-fishing articles I could find. No Internet back then, but my Field and Stream magazine subscription carried a monthly column, Tap's Tips; one I particularly recall described how to tie and fish a spun deer

hair bass bug. My monthly Pennsylvanian Angler magazine had a similar column accompanied by step-by-step photographs on how to tie (and fish)

the featured fly. Enthused by these instructions, I bought a Thompson Model B fly tying vise, some thread and a couple boxes of Mustad Model 3366 hooks (at about 33 cents a box of 50 or 100) via Reeds Tackle mail order catalog. So, now I had some "Fly Fishing" fishing techniques, a bunch of amateur-tied flies – streamers and bass bugs, but still no fly rod. No worries, as my spinning rod, rigged with a plastic bobber for weight, could easily cast a fly. I learned from an Abu Garcia Annual Magazine article about a trout angler using that rig with a dry fly in alpine lakes with great success.



Undaunted, I used a spinning rod, to cast home-tied marabou streamers to Laurel Hill Creek smallmouth bass and caught my first smallmouth bass on a fly. It first attacked the red and white plastic bobber pinned 4 feet above the streamer, until I jerked the bobber

away. That aggressive smallmouth bass could not resist the streamer flying by and slammed it instinctively. Oh, what a feeling! To entice a strong gamefish into striking a home-tied fly. That was a connection – observing fish behavior and then as an angler responding to it to invoke a strike. This fisherman was hooked. Now if only I had a fly rod.

For my 16th birthday, my father bought me a Sears and Roebuck fly reel and matching 8-WT grey fiberglass fly rod, a matched outfit endorsed by the baseball Hall of Famer, Ted Williams. I can connect back to that day, as clearly as if were yesterday - being as happy as can be on a bright last day of September. Modern for its time, this signature outfit was my connection to real fly fishing. It was the only fly rod I fished for decades and decades. Its power made it easy to present my homemade spun deer hair Tap's Bugs to largemouth bass and

to enjoy the surface strike on a fly rod. Yet the limberness of the fiberglass permitted fly fishing for trout and sunfish with light tippet and daintier flies. It has earned its place of honor as a keepsake and connection to the past in my current collection of modern graphite fly rods. By-the-way, Mr. Ted Williams has also earned another place of honor. For his work in promoting the sport of fly fishing he was posthumously inducted into the Fly-Fishing Hall of Fame in 2022.



Fly fishing takes me to places I may have missed discovering otherwise. It has taken me far away to isolated locations such as the Woods River in Alaska fishing with a borrowed fly rod over vast runs of sockeye salmon. Just me, the salmon and a simple home-tied fly they liked. And a long-distance connection to a friend who lent me his 9-WT Loomis for the trip. And to the Ten Thousand Islands at the southwest edge of Florida were the Everglades' freshwater mixes with the Gulf of Mexico to create a fertile paradise that attracts snook, redfish, gar, tarpon, exotic cichlids and alligators. Just ask fellow Free State Fly Fishers Gary Gray and Frank Bowne how exciting it is to fish with alligators tailing one's kayak. The alligators' toothy grin makes one realize the value of teamwork with a long-handled net to dip rather than hand-lip a hooked fish. However, most discoveries I find are on trips to local lakes, ponds, rivers and streams Maryland, Pennsylvania and

Delaware. Once on location, the very nature of fly-fishing places me (and all fly fishers) up close and personal to observe details in nature.

Anglers and their target fish are often in closer proximity, in fly fishing than in any other form of fishing. Frequently only a few rod lengths apart. And often in clear, shallow water. This forces the angler to move stealthily and observe intently. Fully connecting with the fish in this way thoroughly disconnects me from worries of the day, or distractions of the news media. But to me it is even more than that. It is an opportunity to immerse oneself in the present and use what you have and what you know to connect with success on an outing. In whatever way you define success that day.

### **Favorite Fly: Landon Mayer's Mini Leech** **By Luis Santiago**

Every few years I run across a pattern that quickly becomes my go to confidence fly. A fly I will tie on to start a day when I don't know what to start with and a fly I will turn to when fishing is tough. The sky rocketing popularity of Euro-Nymphing and Jig fly variations have brought many new variations of flies to the market, but few have found the success of Landon Mayer's Mini Leech.



The Mini-Leech has many of the fine qualities that have made other classic patterns incredibly

popular over the years. What I would consider a guide fly, it is quick to tie in its simplest form with just a few materials. Recommended materials can be easily substituted if needed without ruining the fly's action. The scalability of the fly from sizes of

16-8 gives you wide variety of sizes. Finally, and most importantly, the universal availability for the food source. It is incredibly appealing to a large number of species.

Since I began using this fly I have captured various trout species in Montana and Maryland Euro-nymphing, dead drifting and under indicator with sizes from 14-12. Smallmouth and largemouth bass have fallen to this fly on the Potomac and Monocacy rivers using a size 10 jig hook and Canadian smallmouth bass loved it bottom bounced on a #8 jig. A carp snatched up the fly on a vertical jigging presentation and several white perch on the Severn River could not resist a slow retrieve.

Here's a must see YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rukSwNtbNpo>

**[Editor's Note:** Thanks to Luis for kicking off a new newsletter column. Each of us has that one fishing fly that we consider our favorite for a host of reasons. I will be asking club members in the months ahead to share their favorite fly with their fellow fly fishers. Please say yes when I ask for 2-3 paragraphs of text and a photo of your favorite fly!]

## **Feature Article: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (especially for chain pickerel fly anglers)**

**By Mark Bange**

At the start of each school season, the retailer, "Office Depot" has a TV commercial with a happy parent skipping down the aisles of the store buying school supplies. The background music is Andy Williams singing his famous Christmas song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The parent in the commercial is overjoyed because the kids are going back to school. But even though my children are adults now I can relate to that commercial because for me, the fall is the most wonderful time of the year.

The reason for my glee is the chain pickerel – *Esox niger*, cousins of northern pike in the fish family *Esocidae*. To me the fall denotes the time of year when chain pickerels become active in our tidal creeks and millponds. And the best thing is that they remain active all winter until our other warmwater target species begin to spawn in the spring. So, the chain pickerel is a great target species for those of us who fish local waters from kayaks or other small watercraft during the time of year when other warmwater species either migrate to distant waters or become dormant.

There is another thing about the chain pickerel that



make them a desirable target species. They chase flies with abandon. In fact, they will slash with incredible speed at

your streamers in the heart of winter when water temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Simply stated, the chain pickerel is a terrific fish to pursue with a fly rod from the fall through the spring. Indeed, I have caught them in ponds midwinter when skim ice covered the shorelines. The result is that pickerels are my primary kayak flyfishing pursuit in fall and winter – precisely the period when the other I fish I catch in my kayak are less likely to bite. Further, they grow big and strong and they attack flies aggressively. Let's look further at this fishery.

**October through December – The Fun Begins** At this time of year, water temperatures are dropping from about 70 degrees Fahrenheit to 50 degrees. For the most part, pickerels are still stationed tight to shorelines and structure. However, a chilly night will drive them to deeper water perhaps 10 to 20



yards offshore. As the sun rises and warms the shallows, pickerels will return to their preferred structure-oriented locations – deadfall, riprap, seawalls, etc. Sometimes depending on water clarity, you can see them basking in the sunny shallow waters.

A good approach as air temperatures drop for pickerel fishing is to sleep late. Yes, sleep in! Wait until noon or early afternoon to start fishing. There is no need to be on the water at dawn as you would to target bass in lowlight conditions. Let the sun do its work. An increase in the water temperature of only a degree or two can stimulate pickerels to bite. Your most productive times on the water will be in the afternoon. Fish then, not sooner. In fact, I continue late morning/afternoon arrivals for pickerel fishing through March.

Another thing to consider in October through December, especially in ponds, is the vegetation. The abundant fields of lily pads and spatterdock are dying for the season. As their leaves and stems turn yellow and wilt, they consume oxygen. Pickerels are still attracted to the vegetation but they may not be directly under it due to the decaying greenery reducing available oxygen. They are more likely to be on the periphery of dying lily pads and spatterdock or in gaps in that growth. Precision casting is helpful then. Hitting the edges and gaps with your casts is vital. Streamers and even topwater flies will work for pickerels at this point in the season.

### **January through March – More and Bigger Fish**

In these months, the water temperatures in our creeks and ponds continue to fall to their lowest points of the year which is the high 30s, low 40s. That happens in January and February. However, it is also during those two months that I catch more and larger pickerels on the fly than I do in the fall. I believe there are two reasons for that. The first is water clarity. Chain pickerels are visual ambush feeders. As water temperatures fall, water clarity increases. In fact, one of the best things about

fishing for them at this time of year is that you will often see them strike your shallow water streamer presentations. Always, they will make an angled attack from behind your streamer. Their strikes will be lightning fast despite the near freezing water temperatures. So, I believe my pickerel numbers increase simply because they see my flies better.

As to why I catch larger fish at this time of year, I believe it has to do with their impending spawn. They are early spawners, triggered to reproduce when waters reach 50 degrees. That happens here in the Chesapeake region in March. My pre-spawn catches in January and February include the larger roe laden females between 20 and 24 inches in length. When I start to catch slimmer fish with their fins ragged from spawning activity in March, I know the best of my chain pickerel season has passed.

In January through March, I often see anglers mistakenly fishing for pickerels the same way they do in fall. The fish are unlikely to be hugging shorelines in mid-winter, yet I will see kayakers and boaters pound the shorelines with casts. Cold mid-winter nights and lack of cover send pickerels to deeper water. If the water temperature is in the low 40s or high 30s, they may hang out in that deeper water throughout the day.

This is when your knowledge of a particular body of water is important. A good place to target for pickerels in mid-winter is where the lily pads and spatterdock were visible on the surface during warmer months. In January and February, those surface areas will be clear of vegetation, but the root structures and rhizomes for those plants remain on the bottom. Those roots provide cover for bait fish which in turn, attracts pickerels. Instead of fishing in 2 to 3 feet of water, you will now be targeting 4 to 5 feet of water. Intermediate fly line is helpful. It may take your flies only a few inches deeper than floating line, but

sometimes those extra inches are critical in enticing strikes.

Another advantage of intermediate line occurs in winter when there is a breeze blowing and you cannot find leeseide protection and calm water. Pickerels like smooth water on the surface. An ideal spot, all other factors aside, has a surface like a mirror with no waves or ripples caused by wind. When the surface is choppy, even a little, pickerels are generally reluctant to rise high in the water column. Streamers fished deeper are often the ticket to success. The intermediate line will cause the streamers to run at a depth that attracts those fish reluctant to come up in the water column. That is why when I fish for pickerels, I carry two 7-weight fly rods, one with floating line and one with intermediate line. So, slightly deeper water in the heart of winter is a wise tactic to add to your pickerel techniques. And deeper water with structure on the bottom is the best.

### **Tidal Creek vs. Millpond Pickerels**

Even though the chain pickerels found in our millponds and tidal creeks are the same species, there are differences in fishing for them in those locations. First, I find that pond pickerels are easier to catch. Also, I generally catch larger pickerels in ponds than in tidal waters. I believe the reason for that is that pond pickerels are likely to be the apex predators in their environment. In tidal Chesapeake creeks, striped bass and now snakeheads can keep pickerels in check. I believe tides themselves impact pickerel catches. A major falling tide can remove all water from places where pickerels normally inhabit. I believe that large variations in tides disrupt pickerels' feeding patterns because it moves them from their preferred hunting areas. And it takes them a while to adjust even when the tidal flow returns. Finally, salinity in our tidal waters is something pickerels have to contend with. They are tolerant of salinity to a degree, but too much either due to drought or winter road salt runoff, may cause their populations to fluctuate. Experienced tidal pickerel

anglers are well aware of these population cycles. Those who fish for pond pickerels know their catches are more reliable from year to year.

### **Gear, Flies and Techniques**

Although I have caught chain pickerels on a 4-weight fly rod as a bycatch when targeting panfish, I recommend a 7-weight rod when targeting them. I prefer a 7-weight for two reasons. The first is that the flies I use for them are large. A 7-weight rod casts those larger flies with less effort. My streamers are tied on size 2/0 hooks and some are articulated making them up to 4 inches in length. My streamer favorites are articulated Crystal Buggers and Bendback Minnows, both tied on size 2/0 Mustad 3366 hooks.



My topwater flies also tied on size 2/0 hooks may be wind resistant foam or made of stacked deer hair, the latter of which get heavy when soaked.

Fly colors are your choice. I have caught pickerels



on every color combination imaginable but you cannot go wrong with yellow and white. Presentation of the fly remains

key in my opinion; more important than color. For that you will have to experiment to discover what they want on a given day. Always I start with a strip, strip pause action for streamers and topwater flies. Then I vary the speed of the retrieval and length of the pause until I discover what works. Interestingly, the retrieval speed effective on a

given day may have nothing to do with the water temperature. I have found that fast retrieves work in the coldest water on some days and the reverse is true on others. In that way chain pickerel are unpredictable.

The second reason that I prefer a 7-weight rod is that any pickerel outing is going to require numerous casts. You will need to cover a lot of water and cast to many areas. Given their predatory instincts a pickerel is going to attack your flies when it wants to. If it is not in the mood, it will ignore your best presentations. I have learned that it is wise to move to a new location to find a fish willing to strike rather than trying repeated casts to a likely pickerel-holding area. Still, because you will constantly be on the move, you will make numerous casts per outing. It is less fatiguing to cast large flies on a rod of the appropriate weight than to force those bigger flies to the target with an under-powered rod. Finally, a 24-inch pickerel is going to give you a respectable tussle. That is the third reason I prefer a 7-weight. Pickerels are strong, fast, powerful swimmers. You will be glad to have the butt section of a 7-weight to brace against your forearm to subdue the fish.

Regarding the fight, a chain pickerel is remarkably re-energized when you get it close to your kayak or watercraft. After years of trying to subdue them with fish grips while avoiding their sharp teeth (and still getting bit) I decided to carry a net. The net has been a positive difference maker. I find that it significantly reduces the struggle of both the fish and the angler. I highly recommend all pickerel anglers to use one.

As for leaders, a tippet of 30-to-40-pound test mono is sufficient to prevent bite-offs. You do not need wire tippets. On floating line, I use an 8-to-9-foot leader tapered down to a 30-pound test tippet. On intermediate line I use a straight length of 30-to-40-pound test mono 3 or 4 feet long. Even though tippets of the above weight are sufficient to prevent a chain pickerel from biting through them,

it pays to inspect your tippet after each catch or near miss. They may not bite through it, but their teeth will nick or shred the mono. Therefore, carry extra mono and replace your tippets as needed during an outing.

So, here it is fall again. If you are one to put away your fly-fishing gear in October, I hope this article gives you pause. There is a species of fish in our tidal creeks and millponds waiting to entertain you from now through spring. Indeed, fall is the start of the most wonderful time of year for pickerel fly anglers.

## Conservation Corner

### Changes to Maryland DNR's Fall Trout Stocking 2024

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) is making changes to trout stocking in 2024 into 2025 in response to survey feedback from trout anglers and [heat and drought-induced challenges](#) faced at the hatcheries over the summer.

Fishing and Boating Services periodically surveys anglers to receive feedback on their preferences and opinions. Results from these surveys help guide our management approach and the services provided. A recent survey of Put and Take trout anglers suggested that many anglers would prefer to catch larger trout, even if they caught fewer trout overall.

In response, Maryland DNR will be implementing a number of changes to the trout stocking program:

- For the fall of 2024, the hatcheries will stock approximately 3,000 brown trout and 12,000 rainbow trout. This represents a 30% decrease from 2023, but the trout will be larger, averaging slightly over a pound each.
- Additional fish will be held from the fall to the spring of 2025 to increase the number of trout available in the spring and to allow for several more months of growth in the hatchery.

- Hatcheries staff are working to increase the number of trophy-sized trout stocked, mostly with trout in the three to four pound range.
- DNR is also planning to stock more brown trout in the future. Anglers can look forward to approximately 12,000 brown trout during the spring 2025 season.
- An additional 2,000 “holdover” brown trout that will average about a pound each will be new for 2025.

[Fall trout stocking](#) will begin in early October as soon as water levels and temperatures are acceptable for trout.

#### Trout Stocking On-line Resources:

- Specific trout stocking details and locations can be found on our [trout stocking map](#).
- Fishing licenses and trout stamps are available for purchase [online](#).
- Read DNR’s [FAQ page](#) to have your trout questions answered.
- Consult the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing for [closure dates](#) and [special management area restrictions](#).
- Learn about the [coldwater hatcheries](#) where trout are produced

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

#### Upcoming Fly Fishing Shows



As the weather turns colder, the fly fishing show season starts to heat up. Starting this coming January, tis the season for fly fishing

shows for us Free State Fly Fishers!

#### Fly Fishing Show – Edison, New Jersey

Scheduled for January 24-26, this is the largest fly fishing show located near our clubhouse. Once again, the club will sponsor carpooling to this show. Please sign up at any upcoming club meeting for a free ride up and back from this fly fishing show on Friday, January 24.

#### Fly Fishing Show – Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Coming up on Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16, you can also catch a ride to this fly fishing show on Saturday, March 15. Please sign up at any upcoming club meeting to join the carpool

#### Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectable Tackle Show

Scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the West Village Commons, 424 Emerson Drive, Towson, Maryland. FSFF will have a table at the show.

At the heart of this fly fishing show is a resolute mission: to celebrate and champion the exceptional independent vendors who offer the finest in fly-fishing products and services. If you’ve attended these shows before, you know firsthand the caliber of artisans and craftspeople that make this event truly special.

The vendors include skilled rod makers crafting bamboo, glass, and graphite masterpieces, dealers in classic collectible tackle, creators of specialty fly-fishing products, local and regional fly shops offering unique treasures, gifted fly tyers and artists, and expert guides from the east coast and beyond. And the Speaker Series features both local and nationally renowned personalities throughout the day.

For more information and updates, visit their website at

<https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/welcome-2/> and follow them on Facebook.







## **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 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: [Duber Winters](#)  
First Vice-President: [Andy Grosko](#)  
Second Vice President: [Luis Santiago](#)  
Secretary: [Frank Bowne](#)  
Treasurer: [Bill Smith](#)  
Member-at-Large: [Ryan Harvey](#)  
Directors: [Gary Grey](#) (Past President) / [Mike Mattia](#)

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Clubhouse Coordinator: [John Rentch](#)  
Davidsonville Family Recreation Center Representative: [Mike Mattia](#)  
Club Librarian: Vacant  
Chesapeake Council – FFI Delegate: [Frank Bowne](#)  
Membership Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)  
Facebook Coordinator: [Scott Barmby](#)  
YouTube Coordinator: [Frank Bowne](#)  
Webmasters: [Luis Santiago](#) / [Frank Bowne](#)  
Group Email Coordinators: [Luis Santiago](#) / [Frank Bowne](#)  
Outings Coordinator: [Rich Batiuk](#)  
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Bluegill/Pickrel Contests Coordinator: [Mark Bange](#)  
Meeting Speakers Coordinator: [Gary Grey](#)  
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Swap Meet Coordinators: [Rich Batiuk](#) / [Mark Bange](#)  
Movie Night Coordinator: Vacant  
Holiday Dinner Coordinator/Raffle Prize Coordinator: [Gary Grey](#) / [Mike Nussman](#)  
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/>

**Our YouTube Channel:** <http://youtube.com/@fsffmd>

**Email Us:** [fsffmd@gmail.com](mailto:fsffmd@gmail.com)