



FREE STATE FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

President's Message: Our Planning Season

"Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning." - Thomas A. Edison

As anglers, this is our planning season. The cold, snowy, and windy weather this January has curtailed outdoor time for most of us. It is a great time to peruse articles about new places to fish, review maps of waterways and their access points, and tie new flies. And it's an excellent time of year to learn from your fellow anglers.

Our FSFF club has multiple offerings to help you learn from your fellow anglers. It's one of the reasons I joined the FSFF club. I started coming to the first Wednesday of the month business meeting/guest speaker presentations several years ago. I found them well-worth attending, even though they were a long drive from my home. The drive back home always seemed shorter as it provided a chance to quietly reflect on insights from the presenter and fellow anglers at the meeting.

Our FSFF Fly-Tying Sessions and Hands-On Sessions, on the first and the third Saturdays of the month are another great opportunity to learn about different aspects of fly fishing. And in the process add some new fly patterns or skill to your repertoire. Most of these Saturday sessions are 2 hours, 10 AM until noon. A few are longer. The next one is January 18th, 2025 at which John Keough, an expert rod builder, will demonstrate and offer rod care advice. See you there!

Make sure to regularly check our FSFF calendar to know what is currently planned. For instance, on February 1st, Joe Bruce, author of several fly-tying books, will lead us through tying three flies, bullet-head darter varieties. These are popular chain pickerel flies and likely complement the 4 smallmouth bass patterns Rich Batiuk taught us in the January session. On February 15th, Joe Bruce will return to teach us methods to catch

the wily carp – an underrated quarry that is both smart and a dogged fighter.

Our final indoor event for February (as the calendar stands now) is the 'Beer Tie' hosted by Frank Bowne. This is a recurring FSFF event that is scheduled year-round on the 4th Wednesday of the even numbered months. Bring your own tying vice and materials, and tie while socializing and discussing your fishing plans or favorite brew.

Luis Santiago is our fly-tying sessions coordinator. If you have a favorite fly pattern or two, Luis would be glad to add you to the schedule to teach it. We still have one open date (in March) and are looking for volunteer fly tiers as the sessions resume in September. Experienced with some successful patterns? Consider teaching fellow FSFF members how to tie them.

Want some ideas? Just look at our January message board. Several snowbound FSFF with tying flies with everything from Kreelex to their dog's tail hair (don't laugh, it looked good!). Our message board is a wealth of information. Check it regularly for notices of upcoming events or changes to schedules because of weather events.

This past year, we enjoyed a variety of opportunities with our club. Too numerous to mention all here, but remember they were only possible because of diligent coordinators and members, like you, who volunteered. Whether it was attending an outing, maintaining our club house, or arranging our holiday dinner and raffle it all took planning. We would welcome your help in 2025.

Thank you in advance!

Andy

Andy Grosko
2025 Free State Fly Fishers President

FSFF Sponsored Meetings, Events and Activities

Snow on the ground, local waterways coated with ice, and temperatures holding around freezing – sounds like the perfect time to get ready for upcoming fly fishing opportunities! And what better place to do so than our very own clubhouse.

Thanks to our various club coordinators, we have a full array of club sponsored meetings, events and activities schedule for every month throughout the winter. 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, each winter month brings opportunities to enhance your fly fishing and fly tying skills.



And winter means the start of fly fishing show season. Our club is sponsoring ridesharing to both the Edison, New Jersey and Lancaster, Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Shows. And our club is once again hosting a booth at the Maryland Fly Fishing Show in March. All three shows are great opportunities to find that fly fishing gear you REALLY need, buy fly tying materials for those flies which will GUARANTEE you will catch a lot of fish, and LEARN from the seminars offered at each of these shows.

When those outside temperatures rise above 40 degrees, our club will be sponsoring outings targeting species which will take our flies during

the winter season. Fly fishing doesn't stop even in winter!

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

February 5: John McMinn, a White Clay Fly Fishers member, will give a presentation on Fly Fishing for False Albacore in the Harkers Island area of North Carolina.

False albacore are a common, small tuna found widely in the Atlantic Ocean. They are highly



migratory but when they visit nearshore areas they present hard-fighting, high speed targets

for fly fishers. John will give a presentation on fly fishing for false albacore describing the where, the when and the how of flyfishing for these ocean speedsters.

March 5: Misty Dhillon will present on destination fly fishing around the world.

April 2 : Ian Crabtree and Carl Shake of the Native Fish Coalition will discuss the charter and work of the Native Fish Coalition, a national coalition that supports and works toward restoring native fish species to their native habitats.

May 7: John Bilotta, a local fly fishing guide with international fly fishing experience, will present on fishing for 30" rainbows on the Naknek River in Alaska.

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.

Gary Grey, FSFF Meeting Speakers Coordinator



Saturday Morning Fly Tying Sessions

The club's first Saturday of the month club member-led fly tying sessions are continuing with more great opportunities to learn new fly patterns from fellow club members. 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, club 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 by session leader.

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.



February 1: Due to popular demand, Joe Bruce will be demonstrating the Bullethead Darter. We will be tying three flies. Joe will supply everything for the session but please bring some silver and pearl tinsel if you have it.

March 1: Still looking for a fellow FSFF club member to step up and lead this Saturday morning fly tying session.



April 5: Special fly tying session devoted to beginners led by Harry Steiner. The morning session's presentation will focus on fly tying tools, materials, and techniques will be followed by an afternoon of tying a couple basic flies. Lunch will be provided to the participants. See the Saturday Hands-on Session section of the newsletter for more details.

I am always 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 including on March 1. Please reach out to me at lmsantiago05@yahoo.com.

Luis Santiago, FSFF Fly Tying Sessions Coordinator

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 winter and spring months ahead as part of the 2024-2025 hands-on season.

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.



January 18: "Repair and Care of Your Rods". 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.

An expert rod builder, John will offer and demonstrate rod care advice to include:

- The best way to store them
- How to clean guides, handles and the rod itself after saltwater use
- Making emergency repairs on the water

- Replacing tips
- Modifying rods -- for example shortening the handles of conventional rods
- How to avoid breaking them during use.

February 15: "Carp Fishing – The Lawn Chair Method". Joe Bruce will share his gear and discuss his methods for catching one of his favorite species of fish: carp.



Remember when you were kid and you sat on a muddy creek bank with your Zebco pushbutton reel and cast a worm or bread

ball on a hook under a bobber to catch panfish? You waited patiently for a bite. You excitedly jumped up when you saw your bobber disappear. You pulled in another yellow shiner or perhaps bullhead.

Well, you can still sit on a local tidal shoreline, toss out a bait and wait for a bite. But now your bite will result in a fish that pulls as hard as any redfish you've ever caught. Your gear will be a little more sophisticated: nine-foot rods, bait runner reels, special terminal tackle, an electronic bite sensor and yes, a lawn chair. Let Joe Bruce show you the gear, his special homemade carp bait and his methods for catching these huge fish in our local tidal waters. You'll thoroughly enjoy his talk. It may even inspire you to haul your own lawn chair to local shorelines.

March 15: "Local Shad Fishing Opportunities and Techniques". Tom Parham will present a seminar on shad fishing just in time for the spring migration of these remarkable fish in our local rivers. Shad have been aptly dubbed the "The Nation's Founding Fish" due to their importance as a food source for indigenous populations and the



European settlers of our country. Tom will show members the gear and flies he uses to catch two species of shad – American and Hickory. And he will discuss the best techniques and locations to catch these remarkable fish. You won't want

to miss this timely and informative hands-on session.

April 5: "An Introduction to Fly Tying". Have you wanted to tie your own flies but didn't know how to begin? Or have you tied flies in the past but need a refresher to broaden your capabilities? Harry Steiner will meet your needs with his primer on fly tying.



He will show you the basic tools required. He'll discuss hook varieties and applications. He'll address the most

common fly tying materials from natural furs and feathers to the manmade items. He will cover manual techniques from loading your hook into the vise, applying the materials to the fly and completing the whip finish at the end. Participants will have an opportunity to apply what they have learned onsite.

Note: Preregistration for this session is required. Please email Mark Bange at mbange54@gmail.com to register for this session so he can get an accurate count of the number of participants when ordering lunch.

May 17: "All About Aquatic Insects". Back by popular demand Andy Grosko will repeat his hands on seminar that he debuted last spring. And it was truly hands on. Andy brought many living examples of aquatic insects that he caught locally



to our clubhouse. He explained and showed us the metamorphic life stages of the insects from larva to pupa to adult. His

presentation revealed precisely how popular trout flies imitate these insects and why they work so well to catch fish. 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!

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 series of Saturday Hands-on Session, please contact me at 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 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:

- February 26th
- April 23rd
- June 25th

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, totaling over 30 outings. 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. To access the continually updated FSFF outings calendar, go to: <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/outings-2024-2025/>.

January 20 (being rescheduled due to ice) : Cockey's Creek (Magothy River), MD. Adam Bange and Mark Bange will be taking club members to a place known for a large pickerel.



March 1: "On The Water Fly Fishing 101 for Trout" on Gunpowder Falls. This free streamside class focused on trout will be led by Duber Winters and John Bilotta, fellow club members, FFI casting instructors, fly fishing outfitters and guides. Duber and John will demonstrate techniques and present anglers with modern rigging options to approach trout in a variety of situations

This club sponsored event is part of a continuing series of club sponsored Saturday sessions focused on hands-on demonstrations of all aspects of fly fishing.

Never fly fished for trout before? This is the perfect opportunity to learn directly from industry professionals right on the water. Been trout fishing on area streams and other trout streams and rivers, but have not caught much? Your luck will turn to new skills to hook into trout after taking this FREE streamside class.

The day will start with a demonstration by John and Duber then anglers will start to fish and work the stream. John and Duber will be fishing and wading the stream working with each of the participants and offering advice in real time.

During this hands-on, streamside event, Duber and John will cover the following topics:

- Fly fishing equipment you will need for trout fishing
- Casting techniques
- Wading techniques
- Choosing the right flies for the stream conditions and time of year
- Reading the water and knowing where to cast
- How to handle your fly line depending on whether you are casting dry flies, nymphs, streamers or terrestrials.

Please email Duber Winters to sign up for this event at duberfly@gmail.com.

March 11: Concord Pond, DE. Joe Bruce will be leading this outing to a club favorite Eastern Shore pond which yields good sized pickerel and largemouth bass.



April 9: Terrapin Park Lake Kent Island, MD. John Rentch will be taking participating club members to Kent Island to chase bluegills, crappie and largemouth bass.

April 11 to 13: Pocomoke River-2 day overnight trip at Shad Landing Park. Gary Grey is leading this overnight outing to a great Eastern Shore river

which offers something for everyone, including



pickerel, bluegill, crappie and largemouth bass as well as amazing scenery. Club members interested in participating are

encouraged to go to the club's website and download the detailed outing flyer with all the information on this outing: <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/event/04-10-25-04-13-25-outing-pocomoke-river-md/>.

April 15: Piney Run Lake, MD. Andy Grosko is going to bring club members out to his territory of Maryland in search of largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch on a great place for fly fishing from shore or via boat.



April 24-27: Western Maryland. Promoted the club official Western Maryland outing coordinators, Tom Barnes and Andy Grosko will be leading a long term traditional club outing targeting brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout across multiple

different waters. More logistical details will be posted soon on the club's website at: <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/event/04-24-25-04-27-25-outing-western-maryland/>.

May 14: Cash Lake, Bowie, MD. John Rentch will be taking fellow club members in pursuit of panfish and pickerel.

May 17: Mattawoman Creek, MD. Tim Ruthemeyer will be taking outing participants down to southern Maryland for fly fishing on very productive tidal creek, targeting largemouth bass and snakehead.

May TBD: Piney Run Reservoir, MD. Joe Bruce will be sharing one of his home waters with fellow club members targeting largemouth bass and a variety of panfish.

May/June TBD Rappahannock River Float Trip, VA: Rich Batiuk will be leading a return float trip to a very productive smallmouth bass river with side servings of green sunfish.



June 21-28: Adirondacks, New York. Once again, Gary Grey will be leading some lucky fellow club members to a bit of northern paradise when it comes to fly fishing for northern pike, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass. (Don't miss this opportunity to fly fish these waters!)



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, where to meet and at what time as well as the fly gear and flies you should bring.

The club's 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 33 outings completed (14), scheduled (12) and in the planning stages (7). From the website's front page, click on the 'Events' and then the 'Outings Calendar' buttons at the top of the page...or click on <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/outings-2024-2025/> to access the complete and continually updated 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? If so, please contact me at 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

Renewing Your Club Membership

Now members, new and renewing, can pay their 2025 club membership dues (still only \$15) online via the club's website at <https://fs-ff.com/index.php/membership/> AND you can also electronically sign your liability waiver on-line at the same time. The club adopted a liability waiver drafted by legal counsel several years ago to ensure all the club's leadership, coordinators, fly tying leaders and outing leaders are protected when they are engaged in club sponsored activities at the clubhouse and elsewhere. Thanks for renewing your 2025 club membership and supporting your club!

Frank Bowne, FSFF Membership Coordinator

Club's Insurance Coverage Being Expanded

The club's Leadership Team is working on updating the club's insurance coverage. The club's future insurance needs will be now covered through an insurance policy sponsored by Fly Fishers International or FFI of which FSFF is a member. Beyond the current insurance coverage which only covers club officers, this much broader and specialized insurance policy has been specifically tailored to the needs of fly fishing clubs like Free State Fly Fishers to ensure all our club meetings, events and other activities are fully covered.

Gary Grey, FSFF 2021-2022 Past President



Duberfly Trout School Offered to FSFF 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.

Date: Saturday, March 15 2025

Location: Double Spur Outfitters Star Tannery
Virginia

Time: 7:30-3:00

Cost: \$250.00

Sign up, contact Duber Winters at 703-576-7661 or Duberfly@gmail.com.

Duber Winters, FSFF 2023-2024 Past President

New Night Light Walkway to FSFF Clubhouse



Thanks to John Rentch, FSFF Clubhouse Coordinator, for working with Anne Arundel County to have a new night light installed by the county near the clubhouse. This will certainly make it easier (and safer) to walk from the parking lot to the clubhouse and back for our evening meetings.

Keeping the Clubhouse Open

Thanks to John Rentch and Gary Grey for shoveling the snow on the walkway from the parking lot to the FSFF clubhouse, ensuring the members could get to the January 8th club meeting.



Outstanding Holiday Dinner and Raffle



Thanks to Gary Grey for working with Mike's Restaurant to host the club's annual Holiday Dinner, complete with drinks and dessert. And thanks to Mike Nussman

for compiling 32 incredible raffle prizes from fellow club members and (with his son and daughter-in-law) setting up everything on tables which went on and on and then some.

The best news was every table at the dinner had someone who won at least one



raffle prize. But the names of several members winning multiple prizes have been withheld to protect them from other club members bribing them to sit next to them at this December's holiday dinner!

Andy Grosko, FSFF 2025 President



Ridesharing to Fly Fishing Shows

Once again, the club is offering ridesharing to the upcoming Edison, NJ and Lancaster, PA Fly Fishing Shows. For a ride to the Friday, January 24 Edison,



NJ show, please contact Mark Bange at mbange54@gmail.com. For a ride to the Saturday, March 15 Lancaster, PA show sign up at the February 5 or March 5 club meetings or email Rich Batiuk at richbatiuk@gmail.com.

Rich Batiuk, FSFF Fly Fishing Shows Rideshare Coordinator

Maryland Fly Fishing Show Coming Up

The Maryland Fly Fishing Show is the closest show to fellow club members. The event details as shared by the show sponsors include:

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: West Village Commons, 424 Emerson Drive, Towson, MD

Venue: Over 10,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space, breakout seminar rooms, a casting patio, and a spacious lobby.

Our 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.

Enrich your experience with our Speaker Series, featuring both local and nationally renowned personalities throughout the day. And enjoy and learn from our Fly-Tying Series, free for everyone to watch and learn from the best tiers in the country.

Take advantage of special show pricing from our vendors on a wide range of products and services.

When hunger strikes, visit our on-site Einstein Bagel shop, offering a full breakfast and lunch menu throughout the day.

For more information and updates, go to <https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/welcome-2/> or get updates on our Facebook page.

[Editor's Note: Free State Fly Fishers will have a booth set up at this year's show like we did last year so stop by when you are at the show.]

Club Tournament Updates

Our Biggest (and Smallest) Bluegill Contest

Our 2024 bluegill contest finished with a truly impressive collection of entries as of the closing date of November 1st.

Biggest Bluegill Final 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 Final 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 were announced and recognized at the club's January 8th meeting.

Our Biggest Pickerel Contest

Our contest is now two months old with five months to go. Six members have entered eight fish thus far. This is a good reminder to all contestants that you're allowed one entry on the Largest Fish leaderboard which you can combine with a prior entry to participate in the Largest Duo category. The sum of your two largest entries determines your placement in the Largest Duo rankings.

The Largest Duo winner will receive a Bass Pro gift certificate along with the top three finishers in the Largest Fish category. And yes, it is possible for the Largest Duo winner to finish out of the top three in the Largest Fish category.

Largest Pickerel Standings



1. Jonathan Bland, 24.25 inches, Black Hole Creek, Magothy River, December 29
2. John Rentch, 22.75 inches, Cockey Creek, Magothy River, December 8
3. Rich Gallena, 22.25 inches, Brewer Pond, Severn River, November 27
4. Don Vance, 21.5 inches, Severn River, November 13
5. Adam Bange, 21.25 inches, Cockey Creek, Magothy River, November 9

6. Frank Bowne, 19.75 inches, Concord Pond, DE, November 19

Largest Pickerel Duo Standings

1. Rich Gallena, 42.75 inches, (22.25 inches, Brewer Pond, Severn River, November 27 +20.5 inches Manresa Pond, Severn River, December 17)
2. John Rentch, 42.25 inches (19.5 inches, Concord Pond, DE. November 19 + 22.75 inches, Cockey Creek, Magothy River, December 8)

Here's the link to our contest rules:

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

So, keep those entries coming. Our contest provides multiple award opportunities. But you have to enter your catches to play.

Mark Bange, FSFF Pickerel and Bluegill Tournaments Coordinator

FSFF On-Line Features

Yes, Free State Fly Fishers is on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FSFFMD>. The club's Facebook page is set up to share pictures, meeting and outing information. Feel free to join and comment. If you have a photo you want to share or a report on a recent club event, please feel free to email it to Scott@fishrockon.com.

And we are on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/@fsffmd. We are always looking for new videos to share on-line.

You will find our club's website on-line at: <http://fs-ff.com/>. If you have pictures of fly fishing gear you want to sell, fishing news or fishing pictures, especially pictures you took on a Free State Fly Fishers outing, that you would like posted on the club's web site, please send them to Frank

Bowne at fsbowne@verizon.net or Luis Santiago at lmsantiago05@yahoo.com.

Frank Bowne, FSFF Membership Coordinator

How to Catch More Fish: The Most Important Tool to Ensure Success

By Joe Bruce

There is no guarantee because you hook a fish it will be netted or boated. A lot of things can happen from hookups to the net. The hook placement being one of them. We can't do a thing about where the hook lays in the fish's mouth. But we can help in one important way.

For years I have been a knot and hook freak. I want a good knot, if I feel the knot didn't close right, I cut it off and retie it, and **I want a sharp hook**. For some reason, these two essentials to catch more fish are often overlooked.



A lot of fishermen think if it a new hook, it is sharp-not in all cases. Most hooks today are chemically sharpened, meaning they use an acid-base to form the point. This does form a sharp point, but then the manufacturers bronze over the hook to keep it from rusting. **Consumers like a shiny hook!**

For years, tying flies for my shop and commercially I never sharpen the hook or bent down the barb until I was ready to fish. It doesn't matter if it is a fly, jig, or bait hook, they all receive sharpening and

debarbing when I'm ready to fish them. Every hook is not fished at the same time, so, banging around the tackle box or rusting can be a problem with the point if sharpened ahead of time. I want a sharp point, I sharpen them in the field.

Here is a perfect example of how some fishermen feel about their hooks. This has happened countless times in my fly shop, a customer comes in and asks, "What can I do to catch more fish." My answer is always the same, "Sharpen your hook!" Of course, this isn't the answer they are looking for, but it is the first thing to do to catch more fish!

I read many reports about fishermen losing fish, they state all types of reasons why, but not one of them mentioned their hook wasn't sharp enough, they assumed it was a new hook, it must be sharp, WRONG. Instead, it was a bad hook set, the fish was coming toward me, and the fish spit the hook. If a hook is truly sharp most times then the slightest pressure will set the hook.

The "thumbnail test" is a good way to make sure your hook is as sharp as it can be. Take the hook point and touch the top of your nail, if it stays there without the slightest movement it is sharp. If it drags ever so much, it isn't sharp enough. Sharpen with a fine-grit diamond file until it is.

I like to use a diamond-shaped point, meaning the hook has two "vees" on top and bottom. Don't apply a lot of pressure. Two strokes heading away from the point are the starting point, creating the four sides. Check with the "thumb test." You might need to add a stroke to ensure the point doesn't roll over.

Want to catch more fish, than take time to sharpen the hook!

Places to Fish: The Chesapeake Bay

By Captain Scott Barmby

The Bay is a GIANT body of water. Where are the best places to fish? As our seasons change and the target species change, the best locations change,



we fly fish in the winter and early spring? Let's take a look.

Targeted fish: striped bass on fly.

Equipment: Use an 8WT-10WT rod. Intermediate or sinking line with a 4'-6' fluorocarbon leader. Flies are Clouser Minnows or other baitfish patterns.

Birds are the key to fly-fishing the bay in the winter. Find the birds and the striped bass are under them. Use your electronics to see the depth and use the line that will get there. They can be school size bass to GIANTS in the 40" plus range. Be ready for either. Also, any warm water discharge will be holding bait and striped bass.

We fish in the Middle Bay from Eastern Bay to the Patuxent River from December through March when the season closes. The places we like are the mouth of the Choptank River, Poplar Island, and the Calvert Cliffs power plant.

The other method is to use your electronics and find fish deeper on drop offs and ledges. We target them with sinking lines. Same flies but different fishing techniques. Doing a long drift and dumping all the sinking line out and just strip back SLOWLY will work. March can be magical! BIG FISH are here, and they have been on top feeding during March the last few years. They like BIG bait flies and be ready...they will PULL.

To sum it all up "It Depends" on places and how to fish. But winter has been the best time for trophy striped bass headed to and from the rivers to spawn.

Featured Fly: Tequeely Streamer

By Harry Steiner

Tequeely is a great smallmouth streamer fly as well as for trout.

Materials Needed:

Hook: Streamer hook #2-6

Bead: Gold Bead to match hook size used

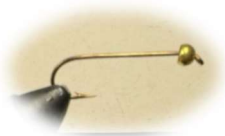
Thread: 6/0 Black

Tail: Marabou-Yellow over black over yellow

Body: Root beer Estaz

Legs: Medium Yellow rubber or silicon legs, 3 sets of two

NOTE: The above was one of the original color combinations but you can certainly experiment with different colors.



Place bead on streamer hook and put in vise.



Tie in a clump of yellow marabou about length of hook shank near the bend in the hook.



Repeat with black marabou.



And repeat with yellow marabou.



Tie in strand of Estaz at hook bend and leave it hanging.



Tie in two strands of rubber or silicon legs approximately the length of hook shank off each side of hook.



Then repeat two more times one set about midway up hook shank and the last near the beadhead.



Now start winding the Estaz forward working between the legs and then tie in behind bead head.



If you used strip legs you can now separate the legs or if you used single legs doubled then you are done!



What is Special About Fly Fishing: Everything!

By Rich Batiuk

Part artistry, part discovery, fly fishing taps into your senses of sight, smell, touch and hearing. You not only experience the natural world around you, but also the energy transferred from your arm to your fly rod while casting, the subtle feel of fish first taking your fly, the strong tug at the end of your line, and the feeling of wonder as to what fish have I caught and how big is it and are there others still out there ready to be caught.

You find your subconscious continuously working away at the next challenge—should I try a different



fly, where should I cast next, fast retrieve or slow it down, go deep or stay on the surface. You are more attentive to the wind, the weather, the sun angle, shadows and temperature. You become immersed in your surroundings, concentrating on how can you imitate a minnow, a crayfish, a mayfly, or a grasshopper to entice a hungry fish to seek your fly as its next meal.

You will join with a community of others from all walks of life who have shared similar experiences and may have expanded into the wonderful world of tying flies, recreating with fur, feathers, foam and thread every imaginable item on a fish's menu or just expanding their ownership of gear and fishing flies to reflect the wide variety of fish species they fly fish for. All of this is why I so enjoy everything that is fly fishing!



Favorite Fly: Modified Gurgle Bug

By Rich Batiuk

This very simple fly is my favorite for four simple reasons.

It catches fish. Lots of fish. Fish of many species.

Over the past three decades of fishing this fly, I have caught at least 19 different species including: bluegill, green sunfish, red breast sunfish, shellcrackers, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, red eye bass, bullhead, yellow perch, white perch, white crappie, black crappie, fallfish, striped bass, brown trout, rainbow trout, pickerel, and northern pike. Just by changing the hook size, I have been able to catch both different species as well as larger fish.

It's very simple to tie. I always remember Mike Mattia's view on tying flies: "Keep it single, button simple." The list of fly tying materials only has four items: pearl krystal flash, yellow chenille, non-lead wire, and white rubber legs. You can easily change



the size of the hook, change the color of the chenille, change the color of the rubber legs, or change the color of

the krystal flash. However, I have found the combination of yellow chenille, white rubber legs and pearl krystal flash by far works the best. Mixing in some pearl flashabou in with the krystal flash makes this effective fly even more irresistible to fish!

It's easy to fish. Even though it's a weighted fly, it casts well given it doesn't have a lot of wind resistance. In shallow water conditions, I will fish it with a long leader and a floating line. In waters with a bit of depth, an intermediate line and a

short leader works perfectly. In either situation, retrieves with short strips followed by time to let the fly settle down through the water column are all that is needed to draw fish to strike. The rubber legs provide the fly with motion and the krystal flash will catch the available light and flash underwater. And a light weight fly rod, 3 or 4 weight, is perfect for casting this fly.

Finally, the fly has strong sentimental value to me.

My personal name for this fly is the “Tom Gooding’s Shenandoah Smallmouth Bass Killer” which goes way back almost 30 years ago when I first met Tom on a FSFF sponsored South Fork Shenandoah River outing, catching a ride with him from Annapolis and spending the day floating down the river. He shared with me this yellow looking fly with all these white legs sticking out. Well, several casts and several hookups later, I was literally hooked on this fly. Little did I know Tom and I



would shortly become lifelong friends, frequent fishing buddies and neighbors for the coming decades. A long time FSFF club member including many years as Club Treasurer, we lost Tom several years ago. But I still remember him when I tie on this fly on my leader, knowing I was about to catch fish and that Tom was equally enjoying watching me land another fish on the fly he introduced to me so long ago!

[Editor’s Note: This is the second article for this 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: Blessed be the Dragonfly By Andy Grosko

This past June, while fishing in Canada, about 900 miles north of our Granite Maryland Community, I developed a new respect for the dragonfly; it became my protector. Despite my clothing being saturated with insect repellent and being covered from ankles to head in a full-body fine meshed screen suit, the gnats, mosquitoes and little blackflies found ways to disrupt my fishing. Biting through my socks, piercing my ears to the point of bleeding, injecting anticoagulants that swelled and made my exposed skin itchy for days. But I found one savior, the dragonfly that would hover a few feet from me and regularly dart into the cloud of biting insects that surrounded my fishing boat. One by one it would catch and eat the mosquitoes and other nuisance insects, even as I slowly maneuvered the boat around the lake. What a true blessing the dragonfly was.



Despite the great fishing, I have no desire to return to Lost Lake because of famished pest insects, but I did develop a new respect for the dragonfly and want to share some information about this marvelously adapted predator insect. Dragonflies predate the dinosaurs - fossilized giant dragonflies have been found to be over 300 million years old; dinosaurs date back only 240 million years. Dragonflies evolved into thousands of species, about 5,000 species of them exist today. Some, like the giant fossilized ones, had two-foot

wingspans. Those are long extinct, but plenty of dragonflies with wings spanning only a few inches exist today; both in the Americas and throughout the world.

Dragonflies are an aquatic stage insect for most of their life cycle. Their eggs hatch in 1 to 3 weeks. Scientists have found some species adapted to cyclic flood and drought periods whose eggs may survive for months or years until water habitat returns. Once hatched the aquatic dragonfly nymphs (sometimes called naiads) grow through a series of molts - from 8 to 15 depending on species. This typically takes 10 months to 6 years to complete. During this time they are voracious



underwater predators, feeding on mosquito larvae, tadpoles, fish larvae and whatever else they can catch. The dragonfly nymphs are well-adapted for catching smaller aquatic creatures. Their lower lip is a clawed-basket and can be shot out like an arm to catch prey. Their 6 long legs enable them to sneak up on their prey. If necessary, they can quickly fill their abdomen with water and expel it through their butt to 'dart' at prey. Or to escape from a larger predator. When they complete their last molt, that 'instar' of the nymph will be fully equipped to transition to the adult, flying stage of the dragonfly.

Most of us are familiar with the acrobatic flying adult dragonfly, but here are some amazing abilities they possess that were news to me. Evolving with compound eyes, containing over 28,000 facets, dragonflies have the ability to see 360 degrees. Their eye take up a large portion of their head. Because their 4 wings can move independently, dragonflies can easily hover, fly directly up, directly down, forward or back, just like a helicopter. In addition, they are among the fastest flying insects. Some research stated their speed as up to 35 mph. Other research articles

claimed 60 mph. Either speed is much faster than their common prey, the mosquito, which can only achieve at most 1.1 to 1.5 mph. This explains why they can catch and eat about 100 mosquitoes a day. Adult dragonflies use their legs to catch insects in flight and can eat them inflight. Their



success rate as a predator is excellent - about 80% to 90%. Compare that to tigers and wolves which have achieved successful kills only on 10% to 20% of attempts.

Wings of the dragonfly have several unique features which, in addition to independent movement, have antibacterial properties. Scientists found dragonfly's textured wings have nanopillars. This feature tears the covering of bacteria bodies and kills them. The textured wings are also believed to help dragonflies glide during long-distance migration of some species such as the global skimmer dragonfly that researchers are discovering to travel over 11,000 miles non-stop; much further than the Monarch butterfly.

Blessed be the dragonfly - beneficial predator insect, that is antibacterial, never damages agricultural crops and is a thing of beauty in flight. Did I mention they eat mosquitoes?

Fly Fishing Equipment: Organizing Your Fly Fishing Everything...Tackle, Books, Flies and Fly Tying Materials

By Rich Batiuk

Given we are right in the midst of winter, now is the absolute perfect time to take a step back and re-think how you have all your fly fishing everything, from gear to books to flies to fly tying materials, organized and stored. It actually all boils down to the following four key steps.

First, set a goal. For example, my goal is to know exactly where everything I owned related to fly fishing (and fishing in general) is stored so I don't spend any time searching for what you need for packing for an upcoming fishing trip or for tying a specific fly pattern. Then, start with finding a common place where you will store all your fly fishing everything....tackle, books, flies, and fly tying materials. Next, set up your logic for how you plan to go about organizing your fly fishing everything. Finally, use a host of mechanisms for organizing and storing every single rod, reel, wading boot, hackle neck and popper. Done!

Find Space to Organize Your Fly Fishing Stuff



Ideally, devote a room somewhere in your house to storing and organizing your fishing stuff. This room can still have other functions besides storing

fishing gear and fly tying materials. At a minimum, have a closet set aside for storing and helping you organize your fly fishing equipment.

Consider building a fly tying/fly fishing desk designed specifically for storing and organizing your fly fishing equipment and fly tying materials...or something similar which provides the ability to store and organize your fly fishing related stuff. Having access to a set of drawers is truly



invaluable—I store my fly tying equipment and tools as well as smaller sized fly tying materials in my fly tying desk's set of 8 drawers. And set aside some dedicated space for tying flies—I use my fold-down desktop as the surface on which I tie flies.

Go to Your Local Crafts Store For Storage Boxes!



I use bead storage boxes (available from local fabric and craft stores) for storing and organizing all my hooks for fly tying—note the hook descriptions included in each storage square. And all my hooks are organized first by types of hooks followed by increasing sizes.

I use the same storage boxes for storing and organizing my bead heads, cone heads, barbell eyes, small jig heads. Note I organize by types and sizes so I know where to look for what very quickly.



This desk drawer is used to organize and store my fly fishing tools—I use a kitchen utensil organizer to divide up more storage areas.

Get Creative in Setting Up the Means for Storing and Organizing

I built a rod case storage rack decades ago—one of the best possible organizers! It holds the 10 fly rods I use the most, organized by rod weight—#3 to #9 weights—so I could find the right rod in the dark...almost!





Bookshelves are not just for books! One of my built-in bookcases is devoted to storing and organizing my fishing books, fishing gear and fly tying materials. Look at all the ways you can use bookshelves to store and organize your fishing stuff.



I use a series of bead storage boxes to store and organize all my flies. Sets of wooden drawers provide excellent storage for fly tying materials—I

purchased these from Ikea. There are a wide variety of sets of drawers you can use to store and organize your fly tying materials.



I store my fly reels in a series of reel carriers. My reels are organized by the different line weights and then by floating, intermediate and sink

tip, from 3 weight all the way up to 10 weight lines.

And remember the golden rule...if you don't put it back where it belongs, your organization system can't help you find what you are looking for!

[Editor's Note: This article was based on the December 16, 2023 Saturday Hands-on Session presentation. You can access the full presentation on the club's website at: <https://fs-ff.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Dec-16-2023-Organizing-All-Your-Fly-Fishing-Stuff-FSFF-Hands-on-Session-Presentation.pdf>. This article is the first

of a series of three articles focused on not only organizing your fly fishing gear and tying materials, but also packing for a local fly fishing outing (spring 2025 newsletter) and for a long distance travel to your fly fishing location (summer 2025 newsletter).]

Conservation Corner

Nontidal Fishing License and Trout Stamp Costs Proposed to Increase

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) is entrusted with managing resources for the public good, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish and wildlife populations and the health of our ecosystems. DNR is proposing to increase fees to purchase freshwater fishing licenses and trout stamps for the first time in 17 years.

The department's costs for monitoring, producing, and stocking freshwater fisheries have increased significantly due to inflation. However, the prices for freshwater fishing licenses and trout stamps that account for the majority of the funding for that work have not kept pace. The trout stamp price has not changed since 1992, while the cost of producing, stocking, and monitoring trout increased by 129%. Current expenditures in the program exceed revenue from licenses.

If the Maryland legislature approves the DNR-sponsored bill in its current form, the annual nontidal resident fishing license would increase to \$32 from \$20.50, and the trout stamp for residents would increase to \$20 from \$5. Nonresident fees would also increase. The proposed fees were recommended by a workgroup that consisted of members from the department's advisory bodies, which represent the range of interests of Maryland's freshwater angling constituency. Working together, the department and the workgroup explored options based on inflation, price benchmarking with fees of neighboring states, and current national/local average fees for

comparable licenses and stamps before moving forward with this bill. Although Maryland's rates would be slightly higher than those of neighboring states, the new license fees would provide enough revenue to prevent the need to increase the fees again in the near future.

DNR took a significant amount of time and consideration before proposing the new license fees. The agency is committed to providing world-class freshwater fishing opportunities throughout the state.

Questions? [Read the FAQ](#) about the proposed bill. Those interested can track the bill on the [Maryland General Assembly website](#).

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Practicing Catch and Release the Best Way

For many years, I have been collecting articles from an array of fishing magazines and other sources which have addressed the topic of catch and release. Here's a sampling of the two of the best and simplest guides.

The *Keep Fish Wet* organization has distilled the principles for science-based best practices down to three short phrases:

- 1) Minimize air exposure;
- 2) Eliminate contact with dry and hard surfaces; and
- 3) Reduce handling time.

The *International Federation of Fly Fishers* has published a pamphlet which walks through the components of practicing catch and release. The focus is on the time it takes to land and release your fish and the way you handle it is critical to its survival.

Tackle

- Use tackle and line strong enough to bring fish in quickly.
- Use flies or artificial lures. Fish caught on artificial lures are more likely to survive than fish caught with bait.

- Go barbless. Barbless hooks allow for a quicker release and decrease injury to fish. They are also safer for you.

Landing Your Catch

- Land fish quickly before they are played out.
- Use a knotless or rubber mesh net. Nets minimize damage and handling time.
- Never gaff a fish you intend to release.

Remove the Hook

- If possible, remove the hook quickly and gently while keeping your fish in the water.
- Use a hemostat to back the hook out of its entrance hole.
- If your fish is hooked deeply, cut the line near the hook.

Handling Your Catch

- Minimize the time your fish is out of water.
- Wet your hands when handling your fish.
- Measure and photograph with the fish in the water.
- Never toss a fish back. Gently support the fish facing into the current until it swims from your hands.

Reviving Your Catch

- If the fish does not swim out of your hands, you may need to revive it.
- Move the fish gently back and forth underwater until it swims free.
- From a boat, revive a fish by leaving it underwater in the landing net with the opening facing into current until the fish swims free.

Why Catch and Release

- Releasing fish is a management tool for the development of high-quality fisheries, particularly for heavily fished species.
- If the fish is undersized, is a protected species, or you have caught your limit, proper release is mandatory.

Did You Know

- Summer temperatures increase stress on fish and make quick and careful catch and release critical to their survival.
- On high temperature days, taking time to revive your fish by gently moving it back and forth underwater until it swims from your hands will increase its survival chances.

- Leaving a fish in the water gives it oxygen for quicker recovery and also supports the fish's weight, reducing stress on its internal organs and spine.

Photo Tips

- Have both camera and photographer ready to take the picture before the fish is handled.
- Wet your hands before handing fish.
- Hold your fish horizontally and support its weight with both hands, one under the belly and one around the base of the tail.
- Photograph the fish in the water if possible
- If you take the fish out of water, hold your breath, when you have to breathe it is time to put your fish back.

Rich Batiuk, FSFF Newsletter Editor

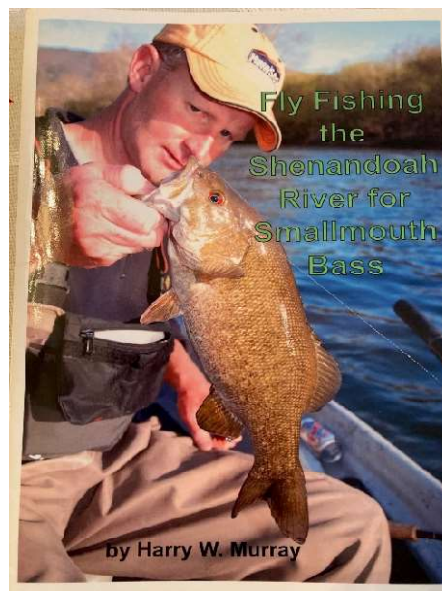
Book Review: *Fly Fishing the Shenandoah River for Smallmouth Bass* by Harry W. Murray

By Rich Batiuk

I will admit it up front—fly fishing for smallmouth bass in a river is my favorite way to fly fish. And the South Fork Shenandoah River is one of my favorite smallmouth bass rivers to fly fish. And I am a big fan of Harry Murray's smallmouth bass patterns and my fly fishing library holds several of Harry's books. So yep, I am likely biased toward this book even before I purchased it and read it.

If you want to have a great experience on fishing the Shenandoah River, this book will help you find the right place to fish...along the North Fork, South Fork and mainstem Shenandoah River which combined provide us with 150 miles of smallmouth bass fishing opportunities! In 24 pages, Harry Murray breaks this large river system and its watershed into very bite-sized pieces.

He starts with a bigger picture perspective on the river as a whole and how he likes to fly fish the river through the seasons. And true to Harry's personality, he inserts suggestions for where to cast his recommended favorite flies. Within this up



are reference throughout the rest of the book.

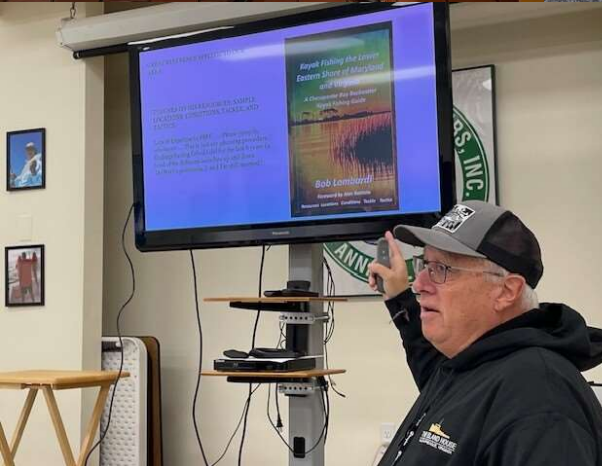
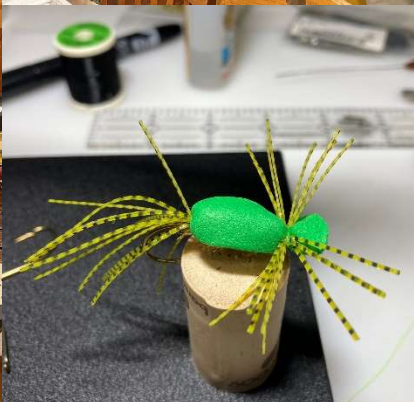
The next section of the book provides the reader with a breakdown of the North Fork, the South Fork and the mainstem Shenandoah River, describing each section by section. Not only does the author provide descriptions of each section, he also provides specific directions on how to access each section and the river conditions you can expect to encounter.

In the third and final section of the book, Harry Murray shares his recommendations for both the flies to fish and where to fish them for the spring (April to mid-June), summer (June-August) and fall (September-October) seasons. The book included color photographs of 20 different fly patterns he recommends.

For planning a trip on the Shenandoah River, this book provides us fly fishers with a literal travel guide not only how on to access all sections of the river, but how to fish the river using which recommended patterns.

You can order a copy of this book through Murray's Fly Shop online at <https://www.murraysflyshop.com>.

front section, there is a full page map illustrating the location and name of each of the 22 landings located along the North Fork, the South Fork and the mainstem Shenandoah River. Each of these landings





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

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First Vice-President: [Andy Grosko](#)

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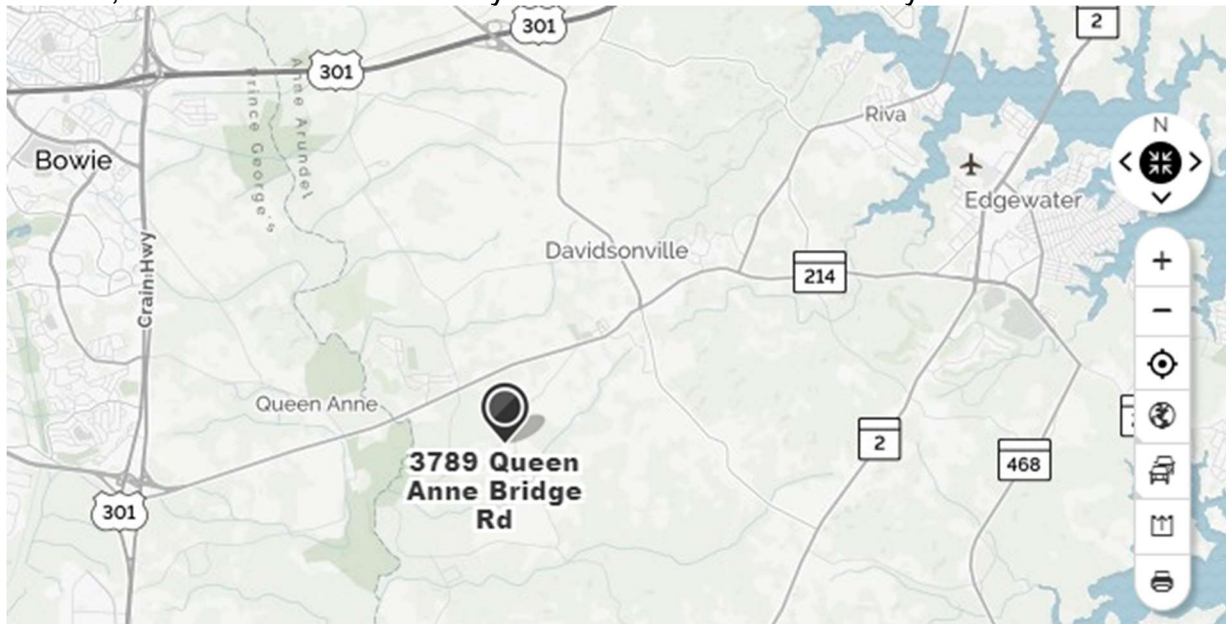
Please contact the appropriate FSFF Leadership Team member to get answers to any questions about Free State Fly Fishers and upcoming club sponsored events.



“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