May 14th Program: Brook Trout with Matt Sell, MD DNR
By Larry Forte

I am looking forward to our May Monthly Meeting because this time, snow will not force us to cancel Matt Sell’s presentation on Brook Trout!

Do you like catching Brook Trout? I love targeting Brook Trout in the small mountain streams of Garrett County, Maryland (MD), so I’m eager to learn more about them. Please join us on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM as we welcome Matt Sell, Brook Trout Specialist for the MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Freshwater Fisheries Program. Matt has been studying Brook Trout for years. A great example is his 2012 study where he studied the movement of Brook Trout on the Savage River when he inserted small transmitters into the bellies of 16 Brook Trout and studied their movements on the stream.

As part of Matt’s presentation, he will focus on some Brook Trout basics... what they are, where they come from, what they need, etc. Plus, he will discuss some of the cool and interesting work that the MD DNR has done to better understand Brook Trout here in MD – specifically the results of two large-scale tagging studies.

Also, Matt will touch on some of the better Brook Trout fisheries regionally (where to fish) and discuss some of the tactics that he uses to target and (sometimes) catch large(r) Brook Trout.

Finally, as a special addition to the Meeting, Club member Mike Barancewicz will share some of his fly fishing pictures from his trip to Poland last fall.

It promises to be a fun evening. I hope you can join us on the 14th!

Beginner’s Fly Tying – May 20th
By Don Fine

This month’s Beginner’s Fly Tying session will be held on the evening of Monday, May 20th at 7:00 PM. As summer approaches many of us tend to be thinking about fly fishing for ‘warm water’ species; Crappie, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Bluegills and Sunfish. Perhaps it’s time to take off the insulated waders and wet wade, canoe, or kayak local rivers or just fish a pond edge. The May Beginners Fly Tying session will feature two versions of what I commonly refer to as a ‘Crystal Bugger’. One of the two patterns is weighted with ‘dumbbell eyes’ allowing it to be fished as a jig. Some years back I fished this jig pattern for Crappie and Smallmouth on a private lake near Chesapeake Beach, MD. What a day my partner and I had, catching one Crappie after another. While I am not sure who the first fly tier was to create this pattern, I will personally give credit to our PVFF member, friend and acclaimed fly tier Tommy Marks who first acquainted me with the fly.

As has been customary in past months the PVFF will provide all tying materials to tie this fly and if you do not have your own fly tying equipment, a set will be provided for use that evening.
We will again meet in **Room 207** at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street, Frederick.

**Fly Tying Roundtable – May 15th**
By Jon Thames

The next Fly Tying Roundtable will be held on **Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 PM** where our guest tier is no stranger to the Roundtable. This evening’s guest Tier will be Rachel Bernard as she will lead us in learning how to tie the “**Stimulator with Rubber Legs**”.

According to Rachel this fly works well on the Little and Big Hunting Creeks. I’ve had limited success on Big Hunting Creek so any fly that "works well" gets my undivided attention. Use this Simulator on Fishing Creek for Brookies. Tie it in larger sizes for Panfish, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass in rivers or ponds as the weather warms in late Spring and Summer. As Rachel pointed out this is also an excellent fly for Dry Dropper Rigs or as a tracking fly with smaller flies in fast water.

We will meet again in **Room 109** at Trinity United Methodist Church 703 West Patrick Street. As is our policy, the PVFF will provide the materials for this Fly so bring your tying equipment and vise. Loaner vices and basic equipment will be available. New tiers are always encouraged to attend!

**Fly Tying Roundtable Fall 2019**
By Don Fine and Jon Thames

Our PVFF Monthly fly tying events continue to be a tremendous success. In fact, over the past year the turnout at both the **Beginner’s** and **Roundtable** Fly Tying sessions has grown considerably, such that for the Roundtable sessions, the current room 109 at Trinity United Methodist Church is quite crowded. So as we look ahead to the Fall of 2019, we are considering changing the evening for the Fly Tying Roundtable from the third Wednesday of each Month, to the third Thursday of the Month. In doing so, we will have access to a larger room at the Church.

Seeing that we have several months before the start of our Fall fly tying program, we would appreciate feedback from those who regularly attend the Beginner’s fly tying, if this change would be problematic.

The Beginner’s Fly Tying will continue to meet in Room 207 on the 3rd Monday of each month, and the Roundtable Fly Tying will meet in Room 108 at Trinity United Methodist Church on the 3rd Wednesday in May, until a decision is made.

**PVFF 2019 Fly Swap Reminder**
By Larry Forte

If you signed up for the Fly Swap don’t forget to bring your dozen flies to our May 14th Meeting.

At the end of the Meeting, you will go home with a dozen different flies tied by your fellow Club members. If you would like to be a part of the Fly Swap please contact me at: lbforte@verizon.net.

**PVFF Project Healing Waters (PHW) – Frederick Program**
By Andrew Frutiger

It’s amazing to see how fly fishing is bringing this group of veterans together, no matter what the task or how new they are, they continue to work as a team and successfully meet every challenge we present them with.
April is Rod Building Month and I was truly impressed with how the veterans are not only meeting this challenge but helping each other as if they had been working together for years. As Don Fine led the first in a series of rod building classes, with assistance from other PVFF members, the veterans dug right in, sanding and marking their blanks, preparing their cork handles, and most importantly, finding the rod’s spline. As each veteran rotated and bent the rod looking for the spine, there were at least 2 or 3 other veterans there to lend a hand if needed so that each member of the group felt confident that they had found the right mark. By the end of the class, every member of the group felt extremely confident in their work and excited about the next class and eventually getting out on the water with their own flies and fly rod!

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com. To learn more about the program and follow our Chapter’s progress, follow us on Facebook at: Project Healing Waters – Frederick Chapter.

Our next PHW Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 PM at our NEW LOCATION, the Francis Scott Key Post #11 American Legion, 1450 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD.

Conservation News
By Dave Keane
Davidkeane1968@gmail.com

2019 PVFF “Project Clean Stream” Clean-up

On Saturday, April 6th, fifteen members from the PVFF gathered along the banks of the Catoctin Creek to participate in the annual “Project Clean Stream”. The weather was beautiful and it was a great day to be outside. We all worked our way along the road and eventually down along the banks of Catoctin Creek and some of its tributaries.

As the fishing season heats up, take a few minutes out of your trip and pick up some trash on your way out of the stream. Clean water is vital to all aquatic life. Nothing is more frustrating than visiting your favorite fishing spot only to find discarded worm containers, beer cans and cigarette butts!

Once the clean-up was completed, some members were smart and went back down to the river to fish. Thanks again to all of the members for cleaning up our “Home Waters”. A special thanks goes out to all of the members who brought their children and grandchildren.

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Upcoming Club Outings
By Larry Forte

It’s time to go Fishing! We have 2 Outings planned for this month & sign-up sheets will be available at the May Meeting. Here’s the current list of upcoming Club Outings for you:

1. Gunpowder River – Northern Baltimore County, MD on Thursday, May 16th at 2:00 PM. Additional Information – TBD.
2. Tankara Outing – Monocacy Aqueduct, Frederick County, MD on Thursday, May 23rd at 4:00 PM. Additional Information – TBD.
3. Monocacy River – Frederick, MD on Saturday, June 22nd. Additional information – TBD.
4. Conococheague Creek – Washington County, MD Wade Trip on Thursday, July 4th. Additional information – TBD.
5. Big Run State Park – Garrett County, MD in September. Additional Information – TBD.
6. New York Salmon River Trip – We will hold 2 trips this Fall to Pulaski, NY.
   1.) September 20th to 22nd
   2.) October 11th to 13th
   Additional Information – TBD.

If you can’t attend the May Meeting, just send me an email at: lbforte@verizon.net and I’ll add you to the list.

Tenkara Outing
By Jon Thames

Join us on Thursday, May 23rd at 4:00 PM for the Club’s first Tenkara Outing! We will meet at the Monocacy Aqueduct, located at Mouth of Monocacy Road in Dickerson, MD. We will park and walk down the Towpath to fish the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. This is a particularly good spot for spawning Bluegill and Sunfish with a good chance of catching a Smallmouth Bass. These should make for a fun couple hours of fishing!

No waders are required as we are on the Towpath so all you need are some flies, line and of course, your Tenkara Rod.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Jon at: jonthames24@gmail.com or Troy Kitch at: chezkitch@gmail.com.

Shad Trip to Fletchers Cove
By Dan Neuland

The PVFF Shad Trip to Fletcher's Cove on the lower Potomac River was attended by Dan Neuland, Mark Richardson and Sam Edland on Sunday, April 14th. The shad were biting despite the heavy rain that raised the water level and made the water semi-murky. The loss of clarity did impact the numbers of fish caught by fly anglers but seemed to have less effect on the spin anglers casting lures. The sky was overcast and misty rain fell throughout the morning.

We fished from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM, Mark in his canoe, Sam in a kayak and I was using my twin hull kayak. I was using a jig tied with Bright Green Estaz and a White Marabou Tail. My rod was a 7-weight with a 350-grain sinking line. Besides a number of Hickory Shad, I was able to land two American Shad, my first this year. I hooked a monster shad that unfortunately broke the tippet during the battle, the only time I had a shad actually break 8-pound Maxima tippet! That fish, an American Shad, looked to be about 5 lbs! It reminded me how important it is to retie leaders from time to time after casting heavy flies.

The current was stronger than on a previous trip the weekend before due to the rise in water level and we worked harder to hook fish. We found keeping the watercraft in the eddy produced by the rocky point downstream from Fletcher's while casting into the current was the most productive. I hooked three Shad trolling my fly as I paddled upriver that morning while most of my fish were hooked deep in the run while stripping a fly.

The American Shad lay deeper in the run than the Hickory Shad. The American Shad are distinguished from the Hickory Shad by their larger size, more of a "football" shaped body and a lower jaw that does not extend well beyond the upper jaw. A Hickory Shad's lower jaw is noticeably longer that the upper. The Cormorants were everywhere on the river gulping down Herring.
While stripping flies I inadvertently snagged a Herring three different times. The Shad season continues into May followed by Striper fishing into June.

Dan Neuland with a Potomac River Shad.

“Catoctin NatureFest”
By Larry Forte

On Saturday, May 4th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the PVFF will be attending the Catoctin Creek Nature Center’s 2019 “Catoctin NatureFest”! This is a great event to help support the Nature Center and our “Home Waters”. We need help staffing the Club’s Information Table. If you would like to help at the event, please send me an e-mail at: lbforte@verizon.net.

Do You Have a Kayak or Canoe to Loan to Club Members???
By Lynn Ashe (Fish Hunter)

Do you have a watercraft (canoe, kayak, other) that you would be willing to share? The Club has several float trips coming up on the calendar, but there are some Club members who do not have a vessel for the trips. Please shoot me a text message with your name, email address, phone number, and type of craft that you are willing to share. I will put together a list for the members. My number is 301-639-4520. Thank you!

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

A.) PVFF Family Picnic, “One Fly Challenge” & Casting Competitions
By Dave Keane

When: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

Where: Catoctin Creek Nature Center, Shelter #1
The Club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls, tableware and water.
Please bring a dish for everyone to enjoy. An online sign up will be created to let the Club know who is coming and what side dish they will be bringing.

“One Fly Challenge” Competition prior to the picnic.
Details:
• Competition will run from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
• Check-in at Pavilion
• Lose your fly and you are done for the day
• Catch the most fish and you win!!
• Winner will receive a $25.00 gift certificate from Beaver Creek Fly Shop

NEW THIS YEAR, A CASTING COMPETITION!!!
Come out and enter our first Casting Competition! A prize for the best Youth and Adult casters will be awarded. More information will be provided at the May Meeting.

B.) Saturday, October 26th – PVFF 52nd Annual Banquet
By Andy Mekelburg

It is not too early to mark your calendar for the Club’s Annual Banquet and Celebration. It will be held on Saturday, October 26th, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the AMVETS Post #9 in Middletown, MD. We have some exciting plans for this year’s event, starting with a change from past menus, our Banquet will be catered by Lt. Col. Big Jim’s Tennessee BBQ! As this is the beginning of the fishing season, as you sort through your equipment, now would be a good time to set aside some items to donate for the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle. We will also have a Thomas & Thomas Rod Raffle and much more! If you have any ideas and/or suggestions, please let Andy Mekelburg, Banquet Chairman know. See you there!!!

Banquet Donations Needed!
By Larry Forte and Andy Mekelburg

Monies raised during our Banquet come primarily from donations by Club members.
The Banquet is our main fundraiser for the year and these funds help pay for the various activities we offer throughout the coming year. The $12.00 annual Club dues that everyone pays, does not cover all of our expenses.

Donations can be a fly rod or some other piece of fly fishing equipment that you are no longer using, but it doesn’t need to be fly fishing related. It could be a bottle of wine or a gift basket. Please consider donating to the Banquet.

If you would like to make a donation, you can bring your donation to any Monthly Meeting or contact Larry at: lbforte@verizon.net or Andy at: andymekelburg@outlook.com

**Membership**
By Ruby Fine

We have had a few members who have not paid their yearly dues so I'm assuming they are not renewing their Membership. Sorry to see you leave. However, on the brighter side, we have had 11 new members join since January 2019! If you see Adam Wilcox, Steve Naugle, Albert Quillin, Dennis Allen, Larry Birriel, Philip Nowaik, Mark Richardson, Steve Sohn, Joseph Walther, Michael Malloy or Lenny Abraham, take a minute and chat with them and share your fun and luck at fishing!

**Special Election**
By Larry Forte

As you know, the position of Club Treasurer is currently open. Chad Baker volunteered to serve as Club Treasurer until a new Treasurer could be found. The good news is that a Club member has volunteered. As a result, we will conduct a **Special Election at our May Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, May 14th**. We will accept all nominations for the temporary position of Treasurer at the Meeting. The term will run from June 1st thru December 31st, 2019. This position is open to all Club members.

**Shenandoah National Park Fly-Fishing – Part V – Central Section – “C”**
By Jerry Tarbell

Continuing the series on “The Park”, as I said in the February installment, it will take several articles to cover all that you can find to fish in the Central Section of “The Park”. So get out your map and let’s continue our journey in the Central Section!

We have now reached the two most famous streams in “The Park”. The Rapidan River became famous even before Harry Murray named a fly after it. He was writing articles about it and it was the first stream in “The Park” to go to Catch & Return regulations. Its fame is also attributable to a couple of Presidents. There are people fishing it that might not know “The Park” has any other streams. The Conway River is its next-door neighbor to the South and shares the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area with it. Both streams get a lot of action.

The fortunes of these two beauties suffered a big hit in June of 1995 when a heavy convection storm settled in on the top of the mountain above them. It rained hard for at least two days and the amounts that fell are guestimates because the gauges overflowed! Farms and homes were lost and fish were found in the middle of fields when the water receded. The streams were a mess for several years afterward. If you want to see it, there is video on the Internet of the Route 29 Bridge being washed out by the Rapidan’s floodwaters. One tributary, Garth Run was devoid of fish completely and has since been restocked with Brookies from other streams in an attempt to revive it. I will be checking it out this Spring for current status. The other streams have recovered in the 23+ years since the flood and are good again.

The biggest problem with both streams is access. The roads from the bottom out of the Criglersville, VA and Wolftown, VA areas are not well maintained and I personally do not like driving them. However, I was recently told that they have been worked on due to the heavy rains last year and are better than they were the last time I tried them. If you try them, your vehicle should be a 4WD and anything less could have difficulty. For the Rapidan River, there is a fire road from the top but it is about 4.5 miles long as it twists its way down from Big Meadow to Camp Hoover (i.e. Rapidan Camp). The fire road down from Bootens Gap to the Conway River is shorter but in lousy shape.

Way back in the early eighties, I was among those that fished the Rapidan regularly.
I’ve since discovered a lot of other streams and haven’t fished it lately. Frankly, I think a lot of the others are better streams. There are some nice fish in it, but the Rapidan still suffers from too many fishermen. President Herbert Hoover liked it so much that he built the first presidential retreat right in the fork where Mill Prong and Laurel Prong meet to form the Rapidan. The only President to be there since Hoover was Jimmy Carter, who stayed there with Roslyn for a weekend. Yes, Jimmy fished it. White House staffers can still use the cabins so be prepared.

So if you don’t mind driving a nasty road or hiking a long way down from Big Meadow to fish a stream where you are more than likely to be searching for a stretch where there isn’t already somebody fishing, have at it. The road from the bottom, if you want it, is Route 649 out of Criglersville, VA. Personally I’d rather fish another stream.

The Conway River can be that stream. It does support a good population and some of them in the lower section are reproducing Brown Trout. Higher up the River it’s all Brook Trout. Route 615 out of Graves Mill, VA can get you up into the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area to the Conway River, but this is some ugly road and I’ve been hiking down to the headwaters from Bootens Gap at Mile Marker #55. I like that headwater section in spite of the fact that there are some rustic campsites along it. I use the Campsites for access to the stream. This is a stream I try to hit just about every year, sometimes in both Spring and Fall.

There are some tributaries to look at. At the bottom of the Rapidan, the Staunton River has recovered as it caught that flood very badly. Access is from a trail that is located from the dead end of Route 662 out of Graves Mill, VA. This road used to go all the way up along the Rapidan, but the flood took care of that permanently. The Staunton River is a decent stream, steep in parts, which can yield mixed results from year to year.

The Pocosin is the lower tributary of the Conway River and Harry Murray likes it. I find it below average most years. Bottom access is from the town of Fletcher, VA. There is also top access from a trail at Mile Marker #60 that takes you past an old church complete with a grave yard. There is also a Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), cabin there. Higher up there is a thing called Devil’s Ditch. Harry says it is aptly named. Be prepared to face a devil of a gorge with all the trimmings of tough navigation. However, some of the places that are harder to get to have the most Trout because few people try it. So here’s one for you if you like that sort of thing.

There is also South River, but it has only a small headwater section in “The Park”. I tried it from the bottom off of Route 642 near Stanardsville, VA with below average results. It might be a good stream further up from where I was fishing, but that might be a bushwhacking hike.

In my next installment will be in the South Section of “The Park”. I can cover it all in one article because I don’t know much about it. I’ll spend some of it talking about tactics. Continue to exercise!

Last Cast
By Larry Forte

Someone once told me that for a Fly Fishing Club, we don’t fish much. I understood what he was saying. At the time, he was on the Board and we were talking about a bunch of upcoming PVFF events and very few including actually fly-fishing. Part of me thinks that is a good thing. As I have said in many columns, having an active Club is awesome. However, fly fishing is what this is all about. Lately, given the weather and other PVFF events, my time on the water has been limited.
The good news is that has changed over the past several weeks. The Club put together 3 fun Outings for everyone and I was able to attend 2 plus sneak in a quick trip to Penns Creek.

On Sunday, March 31st, 15 of us fished the Upper Patuxent River. I showed up 20 minutes early and the parking lot was already full of PVFF members ready to fish! That is the most I have seen at a Club fishing Outing. I have never fished this stream before but it was an enjoyable day. I struggled to catch a fish but had a great time. I know Paul Dobson had great luck as he landed 9 Trout! Thanks Steve Naugle for putting this together.

It seems like every year, we try to fish Town Creek and every year, it gets rained out. This year wasn’t any different. After cancelling one trip, we changed plans and fished the Casselman River on Sunday, April 7th. It was a fun day and the water was perfect. The Casselman is a great river to fish this time of year. For about a 30 minute period, there was a feeding frenzy as Trout steadily rose to take a Blue Wing Olive.

I also was able to get in a quick trip to Penns Creek. The fishing was a challenge due to some rain the day before, but it was fun to fish one of my favorite streams with some good friends.

I am happy to finally get back on the water and I hope you have had some luck as well. The streams, when fishable, are full of trout. I know our “Home Water” at the Catoctin Creek Nature Center has been stocked a couple of times this Spring. Get out and go fishing, It’s what this is all about!

In closing, if there is anything you would like to see improved with our Club or if you are interested in getting more involved with the PVFF, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for reading this issue of “Streamlines”.

I hope to see you at our Monthly Meetings, upcoming Fly Tying Classes or other Club events!

Larry Forte
lbforte@verizon.net
301-943-7533
## Monthly Calendar of Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14th</td>
<td>Monthly Club Meeting</td>
<td>Tuscarora High School</td>
<td>7:00 PM – Room A170</td>
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<td>Roundtable Fly Tying</td>
<td>Trinity U.M. Church</td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
<td>Gunpowder River Club Outing</td>
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<td>May 22nd</td>
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<td>Trinity U.M. Church</td>
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<td>Tenkara Club Outing</td>
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## PVFF Officers & Directors 2019

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Larry Forte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Dave Keane</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Karen Baker</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>3 year Director</td>
<td>Lynn Ashe</td>
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<td>2 year Director</td>
<td>Andy Mekelburg</td>
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<td>1 year Director</td>
<td>Russ Hanson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Don Fine</td>
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MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL APPLICATION and LIABILITY RELEASE

The purpose of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers (PVFF) is (1) to promote fly fishing as the most sportsman-like and enjoyable way of fishing and the most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our resources; (2) to provide advice, suggestions and assistance to club members; (3) to publicize the best practices and techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and other related subjects; and (4) to maintain liaison with other organizations of sportsmen and conservationists. By my joining PVFF voluntarily, I understand there are risks involved and will not hold the PVFF club, board of directors, and officers responsible for any injuries, accidents or death as a result of participation in the activities of the Club. Also I grant PVFF permission to photograph me and/or my family at any activities and also to publish them in our monthly newsletter, at the meetings and any PVFF fly fishing functions.

Website: www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club

The undersigned being in agreement with the above does hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers.

Applicant’s Name: ______________________________________  __________________________________ Date:_____________________________

(Last)             (First)

If family membership, other names: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(Street)     (City / Town)  (State)  (Zip Code)

Phone Number: ___________________________   E-mail address for e-mailing Newsletter ___________________________________________________

Applicant’s signature: ____________________________________________________________________________

Are you a Fly Fishers Int’l (FFI) member?  Yes or No

Yearly Club Dues: ___ $12 Single   ___ $17 Family   $ ________ Donation

How did you hear about the PVFF?  ___ Friend     ___ Facebook     ___ Club Website / Internet     ___ Club Newsletter     ___ Fly Shop     ___ Other

Interested in a volunteer position?  ___ Officer /Board of Directors   ___ Committee/Chair   ___ Banquet   ___ Trip Organizer   ___ Teaching Fly Tying   ___ Other Activities

Please make check payable to Potomac Valley Fly Fishers or PVFF and mail with this completed form to:

Ruby Fine, PVFF Membership

8712 Baltimore National Pike

Middletown, Maryland 21769-9401

Dues for calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31

Cash_________  Check#_________  Amount_________  Date_________

Card given_________  New_________  Renewal_________  Life_________