

# MID-ATLANTIC FLYFISHER

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MAC FFF, P.O. Box 24, Pylesville, MD 21132; [www.macfff.org](http://www.macfff.org); [Facebook](#)

## Big Summer Bass

By James Porter MAC President

One of my favorite hot weather fly fishing activities is hunting for big bass on top in small ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Best times are at sunrise or sunset and at night. The bass are much more active in the dark and low light periods and these times offer the angler much more comfortable temperatures. Bring bug repellent, forget about any ghost stories you know and experience some the most exciting fishing in my opinion.

The equipment should be a 7 wt rod with a shorter leader of 12-15 lb test. When a big bass slams your fly and pulls it down into the muck you need a rod with some backbone and a strong enough leader to wrestle the big fish out into open water. You will also be yanking your flies free from lily pads and other structure on many retrieves.

Best locations are where there is a lot of surface structure such as lily pads, logs, algae mats and reeds. When fly fishing, these areas are best accessed with a small boat where you can have your back cast over open water. I use a 12ft aluminum boat that I've had since I was 11 years old or a kayak. Rocky and grassy shore lines where rodents and snakes can be found offer good fishing as well when casting parallel to the shore line...during low light periods big fish will cruise into a foot of water or less looking for a meal. These locations generally offer the shore angler good casting room as well.

## CEO and President of FFF Visits Maryland

By Don Fine

On April 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Potomac Valley Fly Fishers (PVFF) was pleased to have the opportunity to host Mr. Philip Greenlee, CEO and President/Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). But before discussing recent events, just a brief history of how Mr. Greenlee's visit came about. It was less than a year ago that PVFF seriously considered dropping out of the Federation and yours truly was asked to send a letter echoing our discontent with the FFF organization to the Chairman of the Board. Shortly thereafter, I received a phone call from Mr. Greenlee (aka Phil) to which we discussed each of the concerns raised in the PVFF letter. At that time Phil apologized on behalf of the FFF and assured me that he would

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Regarding flies, bigger is better. Big bass want a meal and a larger presentation gives that impression and provides a nice target. I like to use saltwater poppers (bangers), mice imitations, frog imitations and gurglers (traditional and with some small legs on the sides). I prefer black as my go to color...with purple being a second choice. Cast the fly in between pads and into open spaces in the lily pad fields. Cast along the edges of algae mats, grass, lily pads, logs, stumps, rocks and shore lines.

Stripping can vary. A short pop with a short or long pause is extremely effective. I have had bass hit after a 10 second pause so definitely mix it up. If the bass hits and misses, which will happen often, doing a very slow, long strip can entice another strike.

This is a great way to beat the heat and have a heart pounding experience landing some very big bass during the hot summer months.

fulfill the promises of his predecessor. Among his promises he would visit clubs of the Mid Atlantic Council as well as visit the conservation project and PVFF trout pen on Carroll Creek, in Frederick, Maryland.

Separate from his visit and in the months that followed our initial conversation Mr. Greenlee assisted PVFF and two other MAC clubs in getting youth fly rod and reel combinations and fly tying materials for youth education programs. And with his guidance PVFF was able to feature an article on restoration of Carroll Creek last fall in the FFF Flyfisher magazine.

Earlier this spring Phil contacted me and asked for help with planning his spring visit to the east coast,

Please see *CEO of FFF* on page 4

## Learn to Fly Fish Clinic

The Federation of Fly Fishers' Mid-Atlantic Council is sponsoring a "Learn to Fly Fish Course" intended to get you started in the sport. For the more advanced flyfisher, this year we will be offering instruction on advanced casting and on-stream fishing techniques. The one-day course is a great value and will provide you with all the information and instruction that other, more expensive courses provide. All instructors are experienced, seasoned fly fishers who have fished across the country and abroad. The course is being held September 18, 2010, at the Devil's Backbone County Park on Antietam Creek in Washington County near Boonsboro, MD, and is limited to 40 students. *The minimum age is 14 years.* Plan to join us for a fun-filled day of learning to fly fish. Pre-registration is required. Please see reservation form on page 5.



Don Fine with a past Learn to Fly Fish Class

## Conservation 2010

By John Brognard

I have been passionate about conservation for many years even to the extent of taking on the roll of Conservation VP for the Mid-Atlantic Council of FFF. The opportunity to serve in this roll has given me the chance to work with individuals around our country committed to conservation of natural resources and preventing destruction of the environment that protects our native fish. This involvement has also given me some real insight into the problems we face nationally and locally and made me more determined to fight to protect our streams and rivers.

One definition of Conservation is: "the careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion." I think this really defines my understanding of the word, but today the effort to conserve has become much more difficult. This is because we are faced with expanding development,

more open land for farming (fewer fence rows), less green space and more and more impervious surfaces.

We are confronted with the fact that so many people seem to disrespect our natural resources. A prime example being the amount of trash (two truckloads of beer & soda cans, fast food containers and all sorts of plastic) we collected when we did our cleanup on Big Hunting Creek last year. Many of our local streams do not have fencing and riparian buffers to prevent livestock and chemicals from entering the streams. We have problems with intersex fish in the Monocacy and Potomac. We have out dated sewage treatment plants dumping raw sewage into our rivers and streams. One worldwide problem, although some is originating locally, is the huge amount of plastic trash collecting in ever

Please see *Conservation* on page 7

*Conservation: "the careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion."*

## 2010 Youth Fly Fishing Camp - Myersville, MD

The Mid-Atlantic Council (MAC) of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) held its Eleventh Annual Youth Fly Fishing Camp on Sunday 6 June 2010. The FFF is proud of its history of teaching young people about the great sport of fly fishing, as well as helping to develop future stewards for both the sport and the environment.

The MAC volunteer instructors receive no compensation for their work. Rather they enjoy the simple gratification of helping a young person learn more about this lifetime passion.

This year fourteen youth ranging in age from 10 to 15 were in attendance at the one day camp. The camp was held at Catoctin Fish & Game and was sponsored by Potomac Valley Fly Fishers and Harford Fly Anglers. The tuition included a lunch for the student and the parent(s) and provided all materials necessary for participating in the camp and learning to fly fish.

Students received a basic instruction manual and instruction in: fly tying, entomology, fly casting, basic equipment and knots.

Thanks go to the following people for their help making that day a success: John and Donna Brognard, Frank Thompson, Chuck Dinkle, Joe Gobble, Jay Davis, Steve Sedler, Don Fine, Charlotte and Pete McCall. An



*Youth and Instructors from 2010 Youth Camp  
Photo taken by Dan Neuland*

article was published in the Federick News post by Dan Neuland describing this great program. See Dan's article at [http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/archives/display\\_detail.htm?StoryID=112144](http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/archives/display_detail.htm?StoryID=112144)

## Welcome Back Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Article by Jim Rainey, CVTU-FFF Contact (2rainey@comcast.net)

Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CVTU) is the oldest TU chapter in Pennsylvania and the second oldest TU chapter in the nation. Among our founding members were legendary fly fishers and conservationists Vince Marinaro and Charlie Fox. CVTU's 488 members are extensively involved in a wide range of coldwater conservation and fly fishing education activities.

Historic Letort Spring Run in Carlisle has received much of the chapter's attention over the years. In 1981 CVTU was instrumental in having a sewage treatment plant discharge flow relocated from the Letort. Surveys in 1984 and 1985 documented a low-density wild brown trout population not capable of sustaining a significant fishery. CVTU members then annually stocked 9,000 fingerling brown trout. By 1999 water quality and habitat had recovered, and brown trout reproduction was sustaining the population.

2002 saw CVTU complete restoration of a 1,000 ft. section of severely degraded stream habitat. A 2005 survey of a portion of the Letort documented a wild brown trout population far in excess of the minimum criteria for Class A status, leading the PA Fish and Boat Commission to add three miles of Letort Spring Run to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams.

Big Spring and Yellow Breeches Creek have also received extensive CVTU attention. The chapter has been instrumental in removing several old dams on the Yellow Breeches, with the goal of restoring the 'Breeches' to its historic natural streambed.

Fly fishing education activities included the following recent activities. We conducted our fourth annual Ladies Fly Fishing course on May 22, and hosted Project Reel Recovery, a group of male cancer survivors, on June 6-8. CVTU hosted the annual Rivers Conservation & Youth Fly Fishing Camp June 20-25, and

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which was set for April 15<sup>th</sup>. Our face-to-face meeting that evening included PVFF President John Brognard, myself, our wives and the newly appointed MAC President, James (Jim) Porter. Together we traveled to the Antietam Fly Anglers (AFA) club meeting at Mt. Aetna Conservation Center near Hagerstown, where Mr. Greenlee candidly discussed his views and answered questions (to a large assembly representing PVFF, AFA and Creekside Anglers, a charter club from West Virginia) on reorganization of the FFF. Among his comments we were assured that Mr. Greenlee holds firm to the principle that the FFF mission is to provide support to the councils, the clubs, and the individuals that make up these fly fishing organizations, rather than the previous administration that the clubs should pay homage to the FFF. I would say without hesitation that all in attendance felt assured that major changes in the FFF organization have taken place in less than a year since Phil's appointment as CEO and President, with more good yet to come.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Phil returned to Frederick where he met John Brognard, Chuck Dinkel, Karen Baker and

me at the PVFF trout pen. Later that morning John and Chuck escorted Phil to Monocacy Middle School in Frederick where he had the opportunity to see our Trout in the Classroom (aka TIC) program in action. Later that day Chuck and Mr. Greenlee traveled to Beaver Creek in Washington County where they met with Doug Hutzell, who gave the duo a tour of the restored "catch and release" sections of the Beaver Creek and an overview of the next section of the stream that is scheduled for restoration.

Mr. Greenlee's visit to our MAC clubs not only fulfilled his promises, but was more than expected. Phil (as he prefers to be called) has been a fly fisher since childhood and in the years that followed he served as president of several clubs and councils on the west coast. Phil's fondness for the FFF led him to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors prior to assuming his current responsibility as CEO and President of the organization. Phil is a passionate, committed, and enthusiastic gentleman, who I believe has and will continue to do good things for the FFF and for us all.

MAC FFF could use your help. Please contact one of our officers if you have time to help out.

*MAC FFF wishes to thank those clubs who have remained in MAC and especially those that have had the confidence to rejoin.*

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Streets to Streams, a conservation and fly fishing education program for disadvantaged and probationary youth. Future educational events include hosting disabled veterans enrolled in Project Healing Waters (September '10), and the Pennsylvania Fly Tying Championships (February '11). CVTU group activities included recent trout fishing trips to Pine, Penns, and East Licking creeks. Our annual Limestoner Banquet will occur in March '11.

Mid-Atlantic Council members who wish to order our popular book of fly tying patterns: CVTU's Favorite Flies, a spiral-bound volume containing 53 patterns found effective on central Pennsylvania and other waters, please go on-line to the chapter's website ([www.homestead.com/cvtu/](http://www.homestead.com/cvtu/)).

FFF members are welcome to attend our chapter meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Our chapter newsletter *Tight Lines*, accessible thru the website, provides details on times, locations, and programs.

## Fly Fishing Course Registration

*Please Print*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Novice or Advanced? \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W): \_\_\_\_\_

(C): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check for **\$50.00 per person** to FFF-MAC

And send to:

Don Fine

8712 Baltimore National Pike  
Middletown, MD 21769-9401

*The course will be held on September 18, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Devil's Backbone County Park on Antietam Creek near Boonsboro, MD. More information on the course and directions will be sent to you when we receive your registration. All equipment, refreshments and a lunch will be provided.*

No license is required.

The National Fly Fishing Fair &  
Conclave 2010  
August 24-28  
West Yellowstone, MT  
[www.federationconclave.org](http://www.federationconclave.org)

**MAC FFF now has a Facebook account  
check it out...[MAC FaceBook](#)**

Here is a list of some of the local clubs in the MAC area and their websites. Please check each of them out.

### Maryland

Antietam Fly Anglers, Hagerstown, Md 21741

<http://www.antietamflyanglers.org/>

Free State Fly Fishers, Davidsonville, Md 21035

<http://mysite.verizon.net/freestateflyfishers/>

Potomac Valley Fly Fishers, Frederick, Md 21705

<http://www.pvflyfish.org/>

### Pennsylvania

Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, Prospect Park, Pa 19076

Cumberland Valley TU/FFF, Carlisle, Pa 17013

<http://cvtu.homestead.com/>

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers, Kimberton, PA 19442

<http://www.djflyfishers.org/>

Keystone Fly Fishers, Oil City, Pa 16301

<http://www.keystoneflyfishers.com/>

West Penn Fly Fishers, Aliquippa, Pa 15001

### Virginia

Eastern Blue Ridge Fly Fishers, Culpeper, Va 22701

<http://www.blueridgeflyfishers.org/>

Falmouth Flats Fly Fishers, Fredericksburg, Va 22553

<http://www.ffflyfishers.org/>

Massanutten Chapter TU/FFF, Harrisonburg, Va 22801

<http://massanuttentu.com/>

Northern Virginia Chapter TU/FFF, Burke, Va 22015

<http://www.nvatu.org/>

Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders, Centerville, Va 20121

<http://www.tpfr.org/>

### West Virginia

Creekside Anglers, Martinsburg, WV 25403

<http://www.creeksideanglers.org/>

# Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Trip

By Rob Lurie flycaster516@yahoo.com

Recently I received an e-mail from a fellow FFF Casting Instructor from Montana. “Would I contact a Marine Veteran from Wilmington, NC, that had been in Montana on a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Trip (PHWFF)? He wants help with his fly-casting when he returns home.”

Gabe and I first met at a local pond. After that first meeting we attended a PHWFF meeting together about an hour north of Wilmington. Gabe had been thinking of starting a chapter closer and asked if I would help.

The Wilmington DAV Hall offered their meeting room. Amy, a local reporter, attended the first meeting and interviewed the Veterans in attendance. She watched our fly tying, took a few pictures, and wrote a great article on PHWFF and us which appeared on the front page of the Local Section a few days later.

Our trip to Pennsylvania included nine Veterans. We arrived on a Friday afternoon meeting with some of the local fly fishers. After we had dinner, we sat together and tied flies. I helped Henry, a Korean War Veteran, as he tied his second-ever fly; a size 10, brown chenille bodied soft hackle.

On Saturday morning after a brief roll casting review, we fished and Henry caught his first trout with the fly he tied less than 12 hours earlier. One of the locals offered to let us fish some private water. Following an ATV, we headed down a 2-lane road. After a mile or so, the road narrowed to a lane and a half. We moved over so a couple of Amish Buggies going the other direction could pass. The road narrowed again, crossed over a one lane wide bridge and became a dirt road. A quarter mile later I turned to Gabe and jokingly asked, “Do you hear banjo music?” Pausing he said, “I’m starting to hear it in surround sound!” The dirt road became a dirt path in the woods. It was well worth the effort. Everyone caught fish. The fish of the day was a rainbow, about 8 pounds, caught on a 5 weight.

Sunday, we fished Spring and Elk Creeks in the morning. Gabe and I were offered the chance to fish water that had not been fished in almost five years. We followed ‘Max, the Trout Man’ down that

same dirt road from the day before but today going even further. Pulling off into a large field, we set up our gear and were taken by ATV across the field and into the woods. We stared into a pool about 20 feet wide, 2-4 feet deep and about 50 feet long where fish were steadily rising. I was left there while Max took Gabe down stream about an eighth of a mile.

I watched the fish feeding for a while. My fly of choice was a #12 Joe’s Pheasant, a one-feather fly I designed from the first pheasant my son Joe, shot. I crawled within 10 feet of shore and made a roll cast toward the head of the pool. The fly drifted about 20 feet and a rainbow grabbed it. I released the trout and stepped back to let the pool calm down. After about 5 minutes I repeated the crawl and half-a-dozen casts. Using this method for the next hour and a half, I was able to catch another four fish.

Max and I went to check on Gabe. Gabe had not fished much over the weekend. He had caught a few fish earlier, but he appeared to becoming a bit frustrated. I asked if he wanted help, but he said no. I made a couple casts to the head of the pool, and hooked another rainbow, probably adding more to Gabe’s grief. Max said he was going to head back. We thanked him for the opportunity to fish here and he left. I suggested to Gabe that we take a break. He is a former Marine who spent time in Iraq. In addition to PTSD, he has a bit of a stubborn streak, so I got both Fatherly and Officer-like. As we talked, I took the fly and leader from my line and replaced his fly and leader with it. I told him to roll cast toward the head of the pool and let the fly dead drift. On the second drift he hooked a fish. He caught two more in the next half hour. It was getting late, so we headed back to the truck. Gabe was much calmer on the walk back. And the banjo music finally stopped.



Standing: Myron, Gabe, Gil, Al and Blair; Seated: Henry, Ryan, Kevin and Rob

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expanding sections of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

All this would lead you to believe that we don't have a chance to overcome all the problems and maybe we should just throw in the towel. NOT SO! We need to fight even harder. Look at our web site ([macfff.org](http://macfff.org)) to find numerous Conservation organizations in our area making strides to protect our natural resources. We are correcting erosion problems in our streams, fencing our livestock, planting riparian buffers, stopping the influx of chemicals and waste into our rivers and cleaning up our streams.

I am inspired by the efforts of the Antietam Creek Watershed Association for the effort to clean up the Antietam Creek; The work done on Beaver Creek to reduce erosion and plant riparian buffers. The Monocacy Catocin Watershed Association is working to stop erosion into the Monocacy. The Potomac Riverkeeper is going after polluters to stop chemicals and waste from entering our rivers and streams. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is going after Government organizations to force them to follow through on promises to clean up the Bay. Last fall 200 people turned out to plant trees on Little Catocin Creek. Conservation groups, including PVFF, restored a wetland along Carroll Creek, reduced erosion and planted a riparian buffer with shrubs and trees.

I am encouraged that more and more people are concerned about clean water. More people are

getting involved in efforts to protect our natural resources. Our MAC clubs are some of many grass root groups helping to protect and restore. We are trying to prevent invasives from getting into our streams by providing wader cleaning stations. We have speakers at club meetings to enlighten us on environmental issues. We have started a yearly cleaning up Big Hunting Creek. Members of the clubs are helping plant trees. We are involved, but we can do more! If you have an idea or suggestion of an area where we can make an impact, please present your ideas. If you are not a member of an organization that is working for clean water, please consider joining one. Information on programs in Maryland can be found on Maryland Greenprint (<http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/>). Free programs are presented frequently at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Conservation Training Center in Shepardstown, W.V. (<http://www.training.fws.gov/> for info).

“Brought into right relationships with the wilderness, man would see that his appropriation of Earth's resources beyond his personal needs would only bring imbalance and begat ultimate loss and poverty by all” John Muir.

Please consider devoting some time to protecting that same water and the fish that we so enjoy.

## Cycle of Nature

By Don Fine

In those idle moments when my mind turns from work, I reflect back on the years spent on lake and stream and my most memorable experiences fly fishing. But I must say that top of the list are the two trips with spouse and friends fishing the Aniak River in Southwest Alaska. I reflect back on the sights, sounds and smells of those two trips. Waters heavy with salmon, arctic char, rainbow trout, grayling, and northern pike yielded an even deeper appreciation and understanding of the cycle of nature that has been going on for hundreds of thousands of years in the northwest rivers feeding the Pacific Ocean.

I think about the mystery of the

myriad of chum, silver, king, sockeye and pink salmon that traverse these rivers to a destination literally hundreds of miles from the “ocean home” where they matured into breeding adults, now returning some 3-5 years later to the site of their birth.

I recall clearly the salmon defending their “redds”, attacking our flies and other natural intruders trying to protect their eggs, and seeing other aquatic species, most notably the char, rainbow and grayling cruising in wait behind the spawning female salmon devouring any spare eggs that fail to lodge in the streambed gravel.

My memory is clear of the lethargic, dying, and dead salmon, lying on the river bank or floating downstream - that yearly provides food for bears, birds of prey and

*“Make a difference in the life of a child by introducing them to fly fishing.”*

Please see *Nature* on page 8

MAC FFF  
P.O. Box 24  
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**Conserving, Restoring,  
Educating Through Fly  
Fishing for ALL Fish in ALL  
Waters.**

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check out our Facebook link on  
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other creatures that travel the river bank. And I remember too the deteriorating carcasses of the once strong and beautiful salmon littering the river banks, and seeing too insects laying their eggs in the decaying salmon flesh, from which hatch larvae. The larvae then with the remaining flesh float the river, providing food for the other fresh water species that gorge themselves with nature's protein needed to subsist through the frigid Alaskan winter.

And thou we recall the helplessness felt as we saw the strong salmon's life end, the feeling grows bright as we recall the still pools and stream eddies where salmon offspring (frey), from a previous year's spawning, that will soon return to the great ocean to grow and return again. The strong and beautiful salmon will return again to their birthplace in the late summer of a future year, bringing in full nature's cycle.

**Due to the rising cost of printing and postage, MAC will be sending all future newsletters via email. If you haven't given MAC your email, please consider doing so. The newsletter will also be posted at our website:**

**[www.macfff.org](http://www.macfff.org)**

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