First Edition- A New Beginning

The first time for anything is, well, a bit daunting. We hope this first edition of our newsletter will be a welcome addition to your inbox and that you’ll be eager for each new issue. As a member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers in the states serviced by the Chesapeake Council this is your newsletter, so please let us know what it is you would like to see in it pages.

This newsletter, along with the council web site, is your link to what is happening within the council. From classes to conservation projects, we’ll keep you informed. We’ll keep you updated on issues that affect fly fishers and with concerns of our members. You can find a club in your area. Being our first issue we know there will be changes as we go along, so please stick with us. Enough about the newsletter, let’s talk about who we are.

The Chesapeake Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers announced its formation on August 23, 2013 to represent the federation’s membership and clubs from the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The new council’s first order of business is to revive activity between the region’s ten clubs that have been without central support for the last five years.

Marty Laksberg, council president, described the council objectives this way, “We plan to help enable our clubs to reach their fundamental goals through leadership programs, strong centralized communication and program support.” Mr. Laksberg went on to say, “In order to engage new and existing IFFF membership, we have identified and targeted areas in need of clubs and plan to reach out to members in those areas to make it as easy as possible for them to start their own clubs.”

The Chesapeake Council will be at the Lancaster, PA Fly Fishing Show held on March 1 and 2, 2014. They will be offering free fly fishing instruction at the IFFF Learning Center located at the IFFF booth. Basic fly casting, fly tying and knot tying will be taught throughout each day of the show.

For more information on the Chesapeake Council, or to find a club near you, visit their website at http://www.cciff.org.

Since 1964, the International Federation of Fly Fishers has been an organized voice for fly fishers. They represent all aspects of fly fishing from the art of casting instruction and fly tying, to the protection of our fisheries. The International Federation of Fly Fishers and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on a national and regional level. Today they have over 300 clubs.

The IFFF Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) was developed in 1992 to enhance the overall level of instruction in fly casting by increasing instructor knowledge, casting proficiency and teaching ability. A secondary goal was to create a common understanding of casting terminology and casting mechanics that would serve the fly-casting community, internationally and in North America.
Education

by Pete McCall

This is the first newsletter of the Chesapeake Council so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as VP of Education and share some ideas of how the CC can have value for you. I have been fly fishing for 43 years with my early years on the shores of Lake Erie and streams like Walnut and Elk Creeks in PA. I rode my bicycle to those streams before I was old enough to drive. After graduating from college with a degree in Mechanical Engineering I took a job at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland that began my career testing equipment for the Army. I now live in Maryland but within sight of PA. I have easy access to the Chesapeake Bay, Susquehanna, Potomac, Gunpowder, Yellow Breaches, Letort, and many other fishing destinations.

I have always been one of those kids who wanted to know how things work (I chose a good profession). My desire to know more about how things work led me to Joan Wulff’s Fly Casting Instructor School. It was actually the first year she held the Instructor School at her home in Lew Beach. I was certified as an instructor in 1996 and have been sharing what I have learned and continue to discover about fly-casting and fly-fishing ever since. This is a sport where the learning and discoveries never end.

So that is a little bit about me. There are several people in the CC who probably have similar stories of how they learned this sport. We even have a few fly fishing celebrities living in our region. One great benefit of the CC is that we can bring those experienced folks together with those new to the sport to share what they have learned and discovered. I count 63 certified instructors in the council today. Education is one of the foundations of IFFF whether you are talking casting, fly tying, fresh water or saltwater fishing. There is always something to learn when we bring these experiences together.

As the CC moves forward, we will be highlighting those clubs and venues where there is the opportunity to learn more about our sport. I hope to be able to work with clubs to bring some of those people with experience to your area. I plan to provide helpful advice and suggestions in future newsletters. My hope is that in the coming months, the CC can bring value to all of its membership and give those who have yet to become members, a great reason to join us. Contact the board with your great ideas, suggestions or if we can help you. We on the board are representatives for you the members. We need your help, your participation, your suggestions and your experiences to make the council a success. Come join us!
Conservation News

by Jim Kammel and Tom Cooper

Conservation is one of the founding principles of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Contributing over 40 years of conservation work, the IFFF is proud to continue protecting our fisheries and angling opportunities for the future.

"...the members and clubs of our region are actively involved in protecting the future of our sport."

The Chesapeake Council fully supports conservation efforts throughout our region. Whether restoring a Pennsylvania stream, cleaning up trash along the Potomac, or supporting local efforts to ensure clean water, the members and clubs of our region are actively involved in protecting the future of our sport.

What we don’t know is what projects you’re doing to make it better? Over the coming months, we would really appreciate short articles about your conservation efforts to share with our members via this newsletter. Submit your article to communication@cciff.org. Articles should include photos and not be more than 400 words.

For more information on what IFFF is doing for conservation, grant opportunities, and awards, check out: http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Conservation.aspx

As the Chesapeake Council moves forward, we look ahead to hearing and sharing the great work members and clubs are realizing. Your efforts will help keep us fly fishing from the headwaters to blue water.
Surveying the Pool

by Tom Cooper

Any decent fly fisher worth the equipment they pine for won’t just walk up to a pool, wade in to the middle, and start casting. They’ll look the pool over and see where the fish are and what they’re doing. Before a fly fisher jumps into the water they’ll know what’s going on in the environment around them, and that is where we, the council, are now. We are surveying our pool of members.

Before we jumped into the water we needed to know a few things. The first question we asked was, “Where are our members?” By plotting member zip codes out on a map we were able to get a great visual of where you are. From there we could see gaps in the coverage by clubs and what clubs could service you. It is one step towards getting every Federation member affiliated with an IFFF club.

By understanding the issues some clubs are facing and others have overcome, we will be able to help clubs learn from each other. By discovering how one club has recruited younger participation we will be able to enable those clubs with aging membership to make a presentation that can reel in the future leaders of our clubs.

This is the inaugural communication, the first cast if you will, reaching out to bring us together. Communication is vital. We can help promote club events and make members aware of volunteer opportunities. Clubs can be alerted to conservation grant funding they might not have known about. For communication to be truly valuable, however, it must go both ways.

For us to enhance the partnership between the council, its members, and clubs we need your input. What is it you want from the council? What does your club need, or what can it share? We would love to hear your thoughts, ideas and questions. Just share them with us at Members@CCIFFF.Org. The more we understand about the pool we’re in, the better day on the water we’ll all have.
Featured Club
by Dan Davala

The nation’s capital has one of the most diverse fishers in the nation. To that end, the Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders was formed. We fish the Potomac River. We use single and two-handed fly rods. We teach all who are interested how to do the same.

From Great Falls to the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac supports both resident and anadromous fish that are susceptible to fly rod techniques. The Tidal Potomac River in the DC Metro area provides a world class fly rod fishery that many anglers overlook. Our fishing is year-round, and we target a wide variety of species. Whether you have a six foot two-weight, a fifteen foot ten-weight, or anything in between, you will find a use for it here.

The Potomac River is in fact a fine fishery, home to Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, varieties of Shad, Catfish and even the recent addition of Snakehead. With all of these fish in our backyard, you don’t need to travel hours to trout streams to fly fish, you can swing by the tidal Potomac on the way to or from work.

Unlike more typical clubs, TPFR doesn’t have meetings or lectures. Instead, TPFR periodically convene at a local watering hole to tie flies. Members and guests bring vises and materials to construct flies that fool our local fish while consuming the food and beverage of their choice. Beginners are welcomed to join the novice table and learn how to tie a basic fly, with vises and materials provided by TPFR. The cost is free, but please tip our gracious hosts. Find out when the next beer tie is on our events page.
The Fly Show: March 1-2, 2014; Lancaster, PA,

Virginia Fly Fishing Festival: Date TBD

Fly Recipe

Body  Unique Hair
Eyes  Holographic Stick-On
Glue/Epoxy  5 Minute Epoxy
Head  Silver Braid
Hook Size  2/0
Hook Type  Mustad Saltwater
Tail  SF Flash Blend

1. Put down a good base of white thread from the eye to the bend and back a couple times ending at the bend
2. Tie in the silver braid and wrap forward to just shy of the eye. Whip finish.
3. Clip the unique hair and flash blend to 4-6 inches. Tie in the unique hair (green) so the hair hangs over the eye away from the bend. Tie the flash blend (white, or shrimp) on top of the unique hair in the same direction. You can also add some flash if you want
4. Fold the hair/flash over the tie in point towards the bend of the hook, and make tight but wide spaced wraps to the bend and back to the eye, whip finish and clip
5. Add the eyes, mix the 5 min epoxy. I let the epoxy sit for 2-3 min o it is not too runny. "paint" the epoxy around the body to form a torpedo shape. Let dry and get fishing!!
Lords of the Fly: Cumberland Valley
TU/IFFF Hosts PA Fly Casting Championship

Fly casters competed in this “first ever” event for the honor of being named the best fly casters in Pennsylvania. Craig Buckbee of Burlington, New York, won first place in the Expert Division, and Derek Eberly of East Petersburg, Pennsylvania, was champion in the Angler Division.

First and second runners up in the Expert Division were Giuseppe DeAngelis of Irvington, New York, and Eric Richard of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania. Angler Division first and second runners up were Rod Cross of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and Darren Wishard of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Accuracy and distance components challenged each contestant, with intermittent winds further testing casters’ skills. In the distance event, casters earned points for the distance they cast, less points deducted for how far their casts landed to the right or left of a center line of a ten-foot-wide lane. Dave Rothrock of Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, earned the maximum distance score of 980 points in the Expert Division, while Angler Division champ Eberly scored 800 points for his distance cast.

Contestants made a total of eight casts to randomly placed targets between twenty-five and sixty feet in the accuracy component. Casts landing inside a 30-inch diameter circle scored 500 points, while casts within a 54-inch outer ring earned 300 points. Buckbee’s 2400 points were best in the Expert Division, while Eberly and Cross both scored 2400 points in the Angler Division.

Other registered casters were Tom Cooper, East Norriton, Pennsylvania; Michael Costello, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania; Bob Davis, Hagerstown, Maryland; Eddie Matuizek, Springsdale, Pennsylvania; and Robert Stouffer, Hagerstown, Pennsylvania. Casters did not need to be Pennsylvania residents.

“We were pleased with the outcome of this first-ever Pennsylvania fly casting championship,” said chief judge Jim Rainey. “It was my pleasure to organize this event. Unfortunately, I won’t be involved in next year’s competition as I’m retiring and moving to western North Carolina. But who knows, maybe I’ll see if there is interest in a “NC Fly Casting Championship.” Or perhaps one organized by the Southeast Council of the IFFF. I think that every IFFF council should sponsor such an event. Perhaps the winners then could compete at the IFFF national conclave.”

The competition was organized and conducted by the Cumberland Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, which is an affiliate club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Champions and runners up in each division received trophies, and BASS Pro Shops donated gift cards to the winners. Venue for the event was the Carlisle Sports and Outdoor Nationals show at the Carlisle Fairgrounds. The American Casting Association provided valuable assistance in devising the structure and rules for the contest.
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VP Conservation: Dan Davala
VP Communications: Jim Kammel
VP Membership: Ken Tidy
VP Development: Diane Tidy

FROM THE EDITOR

This is our first newsletter of the new Chesapeake Council. The waters we fish reach from the mountains of PA to the flats of VA. We are ready and willing to take your input and make this a publication that not only meets your needs, but also expands the sport of fly fishing in our region. If you have an idea for an article, or want to include a favorite fly, drop us a line.
I want to welcome everyone to the first edition of Watershed Moments, along with the new Chesapeake Council. The Chesapeake Council Board of Directors and I are here to support our members and member clubs through conversation, education, and establishing relationships with other communities of anglers with a passion for the sport of fly fishing and conservation.

We are just starting to get our “waders in the water” and, as a Council, are working hard to make sure we get things right and stay the course. We will have bumps in the road ahead of us but they can and will be overcome with open communications.

The Chesapeake Council is an individual membership organization that is enhanced by local fly fishing clubs. These clubs bring the resources of the Council and Federation to the grass roots level. Members bring their talents in fly fishing education, conservation and restoration to the Federation and its members.

To keep the lines of communication open, we have setup a website (http://ccifff.org), this newsletter, and the Council’s Membership VP is reaching out to all IFFF member clubs to introduce the Chesapeake Council.

I was with members of the Board at the Casting Competition in Pennsylvania on the September 7. The Council Board’s goals are not out of reach, and are based on goals that our Members and Clubs have embraced. These goals, issues and areas of concern are near and dear to our Members, Clubs and the Council’s hearts.

The Chesapeake Council is here to help with these objectives through awareness and education. With the team effort of our Members and Clubs, we know we can work through our objectives to meet the goals we believe are the best way forward for this club, its members and the communities of water that we value.

The Council Board of Directors understand that actions speak louder than words and over the coming months, we will work to place these words into motion. But the Council Board of Directors cannot do it alone; we need the help of our Membership and our Clubs. Every activity, engagement, and discussion that you, as a member, are involved in, will move us that much closer to achieving our goals.

A famous fly fisherman and conservationist, Charles K. Fox, once said, “The angler forgets most of the fish he catches, but he does not forget the streams and lakes in which they are caught.” We believe that we are stewards of those same lakes and streams and are motivated to see that those waters continue to be accessible and healthy for everyone else to build their own memories.

The Board and I look forward to what lies ahead in establishing the Chesapeake Council…please join us.