



FALMOUTH FLATS FLY FISHERS

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES



Date: 16 April, 2024

Meeting Itinerary:

- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Fly Tying
- 7:00 – 8:50 p.m. General Meeting
 - Fishing Reports / PHW Shad Day Review
 - Upcoming Events review
 - Snakehead Kayak Day overview and fishing techniques
 - Author Beau Beasley “Healing Waters” book presentation)
 - Raffle

Club Business / Activities:

- General Business:

(1) Flies for Casting for Recovery (CfR): CfR conducted their Spring event early. All flies tied / donated will be distributed at the Fall event.

(2) Upcoming support to Northern Virginia TU Shad Day (19 April). FFFF anglers will meet at Ficklen Island parking area @ 6:00 to find sites along Ficklen. TU anglers will arrive @ 7:00 and fall in on the sites. Most FFFF anglers will then leave (for work) around 8:00.

(3) Secretary has provided options to Professor Stebar (UMW Biology Department) on supporting their Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) with a fly fishing portion. We recommended a casting class followed by fishing at a local pond, but this will require students over 16 years of age to have licenses. Professor Stebar believes he may be able to fund the licenses. He will let us know dates and numbers of students by late-May.

- Recent Fishing / Fishing Reports:

(1) Shad still along the Rappahannock, but inconsistent. Falmouth Beach area hit and miss. Ficklen Island area strong.

(2) 13 April PHW Shad Day support review: 25 PHW anglers, 5 PHW mentors, 14 FFFF volunteers / guides. Ficklen Island group (3 PHW anglers, 2 FFFF guides, 1 random angler) caught in excess of 100 shad and a snakehead. Falmouth Beach group (22 PHW anglers, 12 FFFF volunteers) had limited success – approximately 20 fish.

- Finances / Budget: No Updates / new information (Treasurer out of town).

- Membership: New member gear bags provided to Eric Stone, Deb Stone, and Gary Markum (note -owe 2XL shirt to Gary for gear bag).

- Upcoming Events / Activities Discussions:

-- 19 April TU Shad Day (above).

-- 20 April Earth Day – Club Booth. Standard fly tying and casting instruction. Craig, Ross, Art, Andrew, Lars, and Pete A will support. Pete A will bring rods/reels and tying kits.

-- 27 April recon trip to Switzer reservoir. Postponed until May – date TBD.

-- 4 May Snakehead Kayak Fishing Trip. Sign up sheet provided. Meet at Brooks Road parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

-- 1 June Club Day at Cedar Creek. Sign up sheet provided. Limit / cap number of adults at 24 this iteration (we had 30 participants last trip, which was too much pressure on the stream and limited opportunities).

- Other / Miscellaneous: None

Presentation Overview:

(1) Upcoming Snakehead Kayak Day at Crow's Nest: Overview and Fishing Techniques

Trip overview provided by Lars. Successful techniques provided by Andrew. Lessons Learned video from 2023 trip shown. Presentation posted to web site. Video available in Video Gallery of web site.

(2) Beau Beasley discussion about his new book *Healing Waters*.

- Recognized veterans in the room, provided background on how he became involved in fly fishing and writing.

- Discussed development of this book. He declined offers to write it for two years. Finally agreed when he became aware how much PHW was helping veterans. Went to a PHW retreat and connected with a medic (Beau was a senior EMT). Decided to focus the book on the stories and experiences of the veterans. Began to attend PHW events.

- The book took nine years to complete. Initially, nobody would agree to be in the book. Finally some agreed to interviews with a full review and editing authority. The review and coordination process would often take 20 to 30 rounds. As more agreed to be interviewed and included, more wanted to participate.

- Provided overviews of 6-7 overviews select PHW veterans from the book.

Attendance: 24

- Members: Pete A, Mark Bailey (new member), Kevin B, Jim C, Craig C, Dave D, Dana G, Brian H, Ross H, Lars H, Gary Markum (new member), Charlie N, Ginger N, Andrew S, Sam S, Eric Stone (new member), Deb Stone (new member), Art R, Rob R, James T, Henry T (family member), Jeremy W,

- Visitors / Prospective Members: Jacob Stone (family member), Pete B