



PFFMA Newsletter

The 56th issue email newsletter for the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association

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Highlights from 2025 PFFMA Banquet & Museum Open House

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for our annual fundraising banquet on Saturday, November 1st. It was a truly special evening as we honored legendary angler and educator Joe Humphreys with the inaugural PFFMA Lifetime Achievement Award.

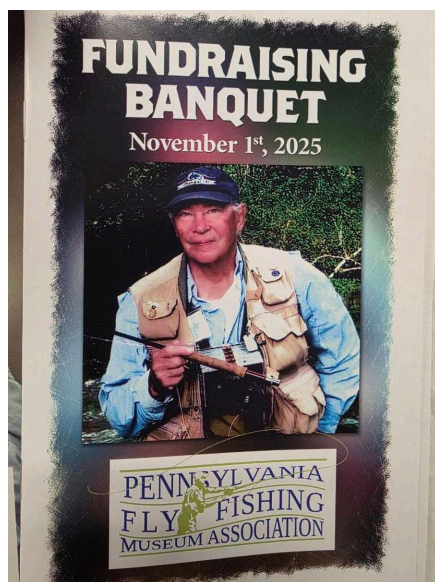
Your presence, enthusiasm, and support helped make this celebration one to remember. From the camaraderie in the room to the stories shared and the generosity shown, the spirit of fly fishing was alive and well in Plainfield.

Whether you traveled across counties or just down the road, we're grateful you chose to spend your evening with us at the West Pennsboro Volunteer Fire Company. Your continued support helps preserve the rich heritage of fly fishing in Pennsylvania—and ensures that future generations can learn from icons like Joe.

The annual banquet is the museum's largest fundraiser each year. The museum's display is the largest collection of Pennsylvania fly fishing related items in the state. The museum is grateful to each member and sponsor whose support has allowed the museum to build and promote PA's fly fishing heritage.

Save the Date for next year's Banquet: Saturday, October 17, 2026

Moments That Made the Evening Shine



The banquet booklet cover featured Joe Humphreys in his element—vest on, rod in hand, doing what he loves most.



With humor, humility, and a storyteller's heart, Joe brought the room to life—reminding us that fly fishing isn't just a pastime, it's a lifelong journey worth honoring.



A packed house at the West Pennsboro Fire Company—friends, anglers, and admirers gathered to honor Joe. Every seat was filled, every ear tuned in, as he shared stories that reminded us why we celebrate the PA heritage of Fly Fishing. The evening was a chance to reconnect, swap expertise, and celebrate the friendships that make this community special.



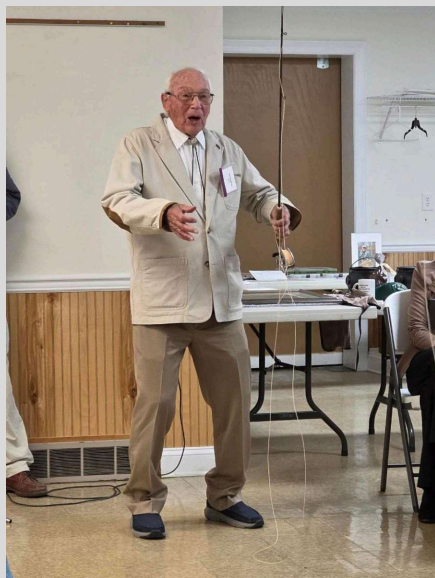
Rod Cross, PFFMA board member and evening emcee opened the banquet with warmth and purpose and guided the evenings activities.



Bob and Ruth Eichler traveling in from Maryland were recognized by PFFMA President Bill Skilton for their enduring support and ongoing volunteer contributions to the museum.



Long time volunteers Bob and Deb Krehely traveled from New Jersey to help with the banquet and were honored with a PFFMA volunteer award.



Joe Humphreys brought the banquet to life with a hands-on demo of his signature 'Bow and Arrow' cast. As he shared variations and stories from the stream.



Ed and Sue Bosley from PA were recognized by PFFMA President Bill Skilton for their outstanding volunteer service.



Ross Purnell, publisher and editor of Fly Fisherman magazine, made the trip to honor Joe Humphreys in person. His words carried the weight of admiration and decades of shared passion for the sport



PFFMA President Bill Skilton took the podium to set the stage for the evening's tributes—introducing Joe Humphreys and recognizing the volunteers whose contributions and dedication keeps our mission thriving.

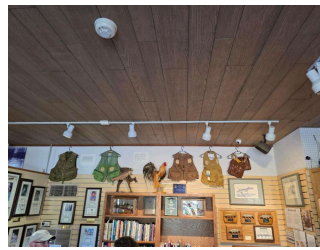
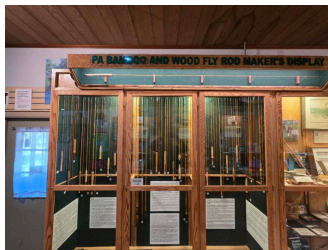
Museum Open House 11/2/25

The day after the banquet, the PA Fly Fishing Museum welcomed guests to a special Open House on Sunday, November 2nd. Visitors explored two newly unveiled exhibits that celebrate Pennsylvania's rich fly fishing heritage (see photos below).

The Bamboo and Wood Rod Makers Display featured thirty-six handcrafted rods spanning from the Civil War era to the present day—including several built by renowned rod maker Vincent C. Marinaro of Mechanicsburg, PA. This remarkable collection offered a rare glimpse into the evolution of craftsmanship and tradition.

Guests also enjoyed the debut of our Pennsylvania-Made Fishing Vest Display, showcasing vintage vests from the 1940s to 1970s, including pieces manufactured by the historic C.H. Masland Company of Carlisle. Special thanks to Ken Okorn for his contributions to this exhibit.

Outside the museum, attendees had the chance to cast a few rods, chat with rod makers and donors, and enjoy light refreshments in the crisp fall air.



PFFMA Newsletter Readers,

If you have any content contributions or book recommendations (for future 'Streamside Tippets' feature), I will enjoy hearing from you.

The museum is also looking to **expand our reach throughout Pennsylvania** - if you have a group interested in staying in touch with the museum contact me at mcsmy@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your support - happy reading.

Best regards,
[Mike Smoyer](#), PFFMA Board Member

About the Museum:

*The **Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association** promotes and preserves the history and heritage of fly fishing in Pennsylvania. It is a federally recognized non-profit and all-volunteer organization.*

The Association is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of fly fishing in all of Pennsylvania and to educating the public about the rivers, streams, and lakes of Pennsylvania and the importance of the aquatic life within them. PFFMA meets its goals through collecting, preserving, and curating fly fishing artifacts and developing educational exhibits.

*You can **help the museum** by sharing this monthly newsletter with your fly fishing network and have them sign up to receive museum updates.*

[Sign up for PFFMA Newsletter](#)

Become a PFFMA Member

By becoming a member and supporting the museum association, you will be providing valuable assistance in us reaching our goals by:

- Significantly expanding the displays throughout the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum,
- Funding research for exhibits, oral histories and video projects, building a research library to discover and document more of the Pennsylvania fly fishing influence and history,
- Providing environmental exhibits and programs that educate the public about the significance of the health of Pennsylvania rivers, streams, and lakes
- And much much more.

[**Become a PFFMA member**](#)



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