



PFFMA Newsletter

The 59th issue email newsletter for the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association

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April on the Rise

Some fishing days announce themselves long before you ever step into the water. Earlier this week, mine started with a call from my wife as she was driving to Washington, D.C. for business. "Bugs are crashing into the windshield," she said — the kind of report that makes any Pennsylvania fly fisher sit up a little straighter. Warm April sun, a light breeze, and insects already airborne before my second cup of coffee.

Later that morning, during a Teams video conferencing call for work, I glanced out the window and saw the same thing she had described: clusters of bugs circling in loose, drifting columns. Enough activity to convince myself to go fishing later in the day after work. The day was unseasonably warm for Central Pennsylvania, bright and breezy — the kind of weather that sets the day up for my favorite — dry fly fishing.

By the time my work activities concluded, I was on Spruce Creek a little after five. I could see a few fish rising from my truck while getting ready. With the breeze at my back conditions for dry-fly fishing were as close to perfect as April ever gives us.

As the sun dropped behind the trees to my left, the stream seemed to wake up even more. My plan was to fish a calm section of the stream and occasional rings appeared frequently. To start, I tied on a small CDC caddis, later switching to an Elk Hair caddis on a twelve-foot leader, and the trout approved of both. Each cast upstream brought that electric moment of possibility for a take.

It was my first time out this year, and it will be a tough day to beat as the season unfolds. But like a great round of golf, what happened on that Thursday evening in Central Pennsylvania has me eager to assess that theory again — and hopefully soon.

Submitted by Michael Smoyer, PFFMA Board Member

Museum Announcements:

1) The Museum will host an **Open House on Saturday, June 13th** starting at 10 a.m., with live casting and fly-tying demos throughout the morning. Visitors can tour the exhibits

and meet the volunteers behind our programs. We'll also recognize the donors whose rods and support helped bring the new rod display to life.

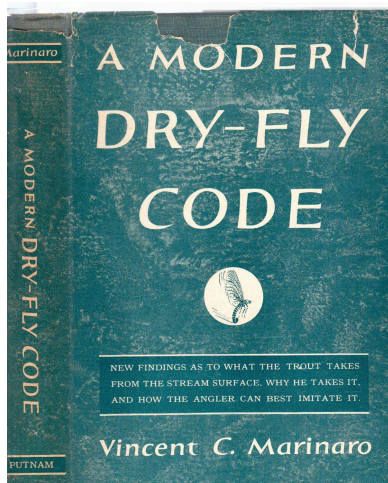
2) Due to the interest shown at the annual banquet, the museum recently secured new inventory of Museum coffee mugs and etched glassware. The items will be available for purchase at upcoming shows and museum open house.

3) Mark your calendars now for our **Annual Banquet scheduled for October 17, 2026**, a highlight of our year and a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, supporters, and fellow stewards of the sport. **Barry Beck** will be the speaker and will be reminiscing and discussing some of his past experiences with Pa Fly Fishing legends.

'Streamside Tippets' - Vincent Marinaro



The Vincent Marinaro display at the museum is a tribute to one of Pennsylvania's most influential spring-creek anglers. The exhibit showcases Marinaro's handcrafted rods, signature flies, and personal tools, along with photos and notes that trace his lifelong study of trout behavior on the Letort. It's a clean, focused look at the craftsmanship and curiosity that helped shape modern dry-fly fishing.



***A Modern Dry-Fly Code* (1950) Reference:
pp. 82–85**

Vince Marinaro in ***A Modern Dry-Fly Code***, wrote about the subtle surface cues that selective trout respond to during evening caddis activity. Those same insights shaped the rods, flies, and tools now displayed in the museum's exhibit.



Museum Coffee Mugs & Glassware

With artwork by Ed Shenk and Tom Maxwell, the museum offers coffee mugs, low and high ball glasses, and wine glasses available at upcoming fly fishing shows and museum open house.

Upcoming Fly Fishing Activities & 2026 Museum Events

- Museum Open House -- June 13, 2026
- Annual Museum Banquet -- October 17, 2026

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.

For museum updates you can also check out the [museum's facebook page](#)

PFFMA Newsletter Readers,

If you have content contributions or book recommendations (for monthly 'Streamside Tippets' feature) I would enjoy hearing from you. And, **please forward this newsletter to your friends in the fly fishing community and encourage them to sign up** - link is below.

Thank you for your support.

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

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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.

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Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum | 101 Shady Lane | Carlisle, PA 17013 US

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