

February 2020 Newsletter

The Tight Loop

www.flyfishersinternational.org

a charter club of the Fly Fishers International



ANTIETAM FLY ANGLERS
<https://www.afa-md.org/>

photo credit: *David Hellane*



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Sandy Robinson –Fund Raising



Antietam Fly Anglers

Meeting Minutes 11/21/19

Attendance

Attendance was taken; 12 members were in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

Ken summarized the 11/21/19 Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved without objection by voice vote.

Financial Report

Walt summarized the budget report; since the last report, a major expense of \$650 was for an insurance payment. The current balance is \$1584.23.

Officer Elections

The following officers were elected or reelected by voice vote:

- All current officer holders
- Sandy Robinson to Chair the Fund Raising Committee
- Frank Morrissey and John Hershey to the Board of Directors

Program Ideas.

Bill advised that we need other program ideas for February and future meetings. If we don't have a program for the February meeting, we may cancel the meeting. Bill is attempting to get Vernon Wilson from the Great Feather Fly Shop to give a presentation on Tenkara Fishing for the February meeting.

San Juan River Presentation

Noel Gollehon and Doug Hutzell gave a presentation on fishing the San Juan River in New Mexico. The section they fish is tail water below Navajo Dam. This is a cold water release dam resulting in consistent year around outflows and water temperatures around 45 degrees. The river below the dam is a bug factory due to nutrients coming from the reservoir. An abundance of year around food supports a large trout population, many of which are large. Trout don't appear to be shy. A video was shown of trout approaching a wading angler to feed on food kicked up by the wader's boots. Many sections of the river can be waded safely at flows below 1000 cfs. The river below the dam can be floated and guide services are available. The primary food source for trout is midges. As a result, tiny dry flies and midges in the size #20 to #26 range are fished. The entire water column has slim-like vegetation growing in it resulting flies being fouled with slime. The best way to remove the slime is to slap the water with the flies to clean them rather than trying to individually remove the crud. The slapping does not appear to spook the trout. Identifying the bite due to subtle takes requires some, practiced finesse. Once hooked, the next challenge is to land large trout on light tippets (5½ to 6X).

Thank you Noel and Doug for showing us an informative well prepared presentation. It has sparked all of our interests. We very much appreciate your taking time to share your experiences with us.

Program Ideas:

Penn's Creek Wade Fishing

will be scheduled for May 19, 20 and 21; two nights and three days. Mike Saylor, Bill Ruland, Ken Oldham, Dave Hellane , Walt Lachenmayr, Quincy Adams as well as Patrick Bresler and Frank Morrissey will be participating. All AFA members and potential participants must advise Bill Ruland of interest or changes so details can be finalized with the Feathered Hook Bed and Breakfast. Membership in Fly Fishers International (FFI)/ Antietam Fly Anglers (AFA) is required to participate in AFA functions.

Adopt-a-Highway Program

We are now signed up for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Details will be forthcoming when the signs arrive in the spring. We look forward to the club's participation.

Fund Raiser/Bamboo Fly Rods Renovation

Bill has arranged for two bamboo fly rods to be renovated and offered for fund raising purposes. One rod will be raffled in 2020 and the other will be raffled in 2021. FFI will provide a \$75 dollar credit toward the purchase upgraded the reel to the drag version of the Battenkill Reel and Beaver Creek Fly Shop offered to provide a fly line. Scott advised that he needs a detailed description of the rod, reel and line to be included on the raffle tickets.

AFA Trifold Development

It has been suggested that AFA needs a trifold pamphlet so we have something available to give out at AFA functions and display at local fly shops; all in an effort to get the word out about the club. Dave has agreed to develop a draft for our review.

Beaver Creek Fly Shop

Come join us on Saturday February 29th for our showing of the Fly Fishing Film Tour again this year! We have a new, bigger location this year at 28 south in Hagerstown. Tickets are available in the store and on flyfilmtour.com. If you plan on having dinner at the restaurant before hand, we highly recommend calling in a reservation. It's going to be a really fun event you don't want to miss!

Beaver Creek Fly Shop Open House April 11th

There will be vendors, bbq and all sorts of good stuff like years past! Mark your calendars now and hopefully you can join us! For more info check our website

Our Fishing Heritage #1

Not long ago, when some of us were in our teens, fly fishing was a very complex affair. Good rods were made from bamboo and extremely expensive. Fly line was made of silk, had to be dried and greased to make it float and fishing stopped when it became water logged. Leaders were made from gut and had to be kept moist in little round cans. They were delicate and expensive.

Fly fishing was an avocation of the well-to-do, not the working class. Participation in fly fishing peaked in the early 1920s in the eastern states of Maine and Vermont and in the Midwest in the spring creeks of Wisconsin.

WW II resulted in the development or refinement of resins, fiberglass, and nylons. During World War II, fiberglass was developed as a replacement for the molded plywood used in aircraft radomes (fiberglass being transparent to microwaves).

It was the development of inexpensive fiberglass rods, synthetic fly lines, and monofilament leaders, however, in the early 1950s, which revived the popularity of fly fishing. In recent years, interest in fly fishing has surged as baby boomers have discovered the sport. Movies such as Robert Redford's film of the classic novella by Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It*, cable fishing shows, and the emergence of a competitive fly casting circuit have added to the sport's visibility.

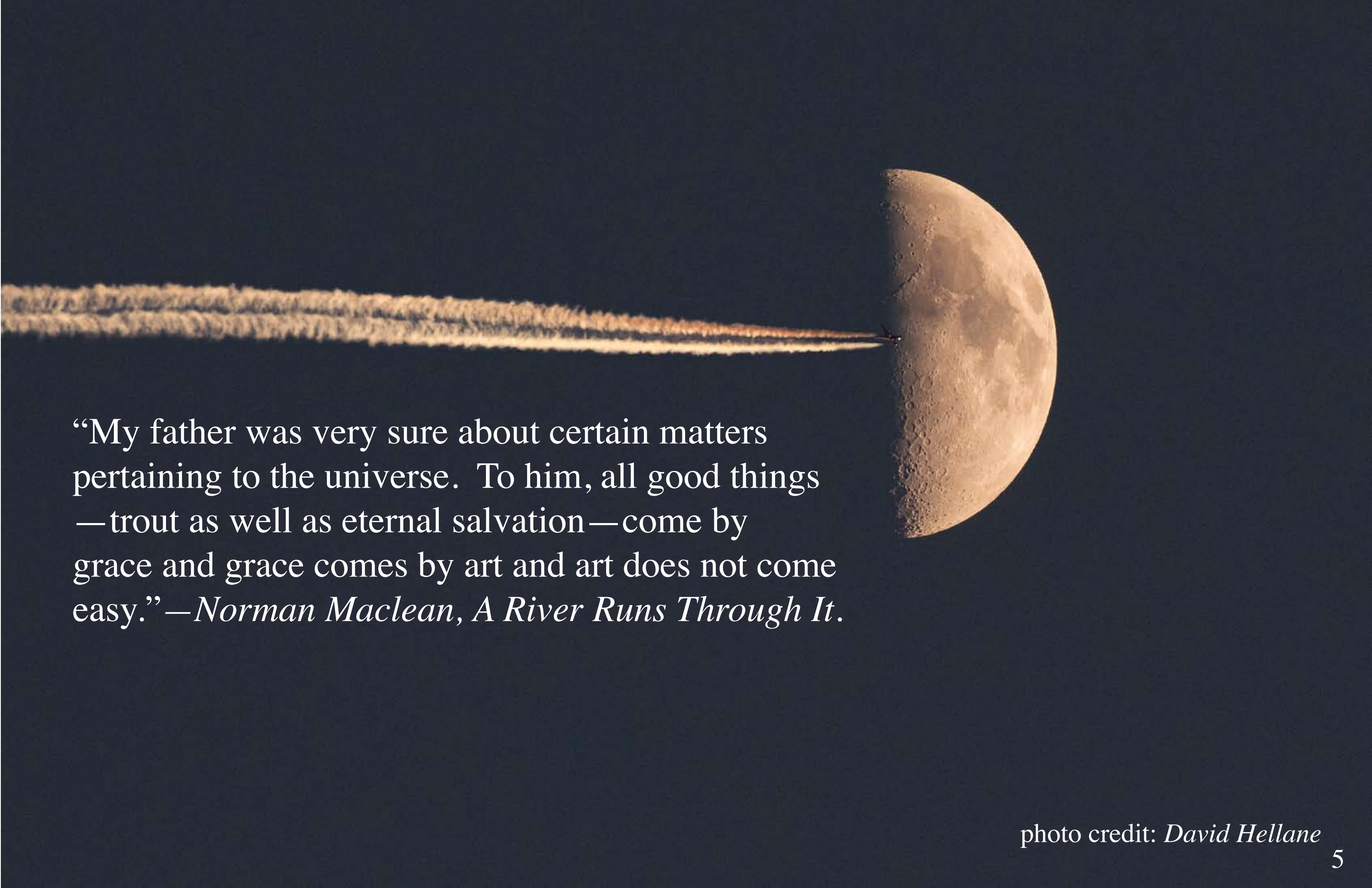
I am a boomer who discovered fly fishing in the early 70's and I think that was the time of the fly fishing renaissance. We had Joe Brooks, Art Flick, Doug Swisher, Carl Richards, Vincent Marinaro, Ted Trueblood, Ed Shenk, Ernest Schwiebert, Left Kreh, Jim Quick, and Charles E. Brooks, to name the brightest lights. They were filling the 'Bullet and Hook' magazines with their knowledge and cranked out hardbound books which I purchased and still use.

Check out the YouTube link to an interview with Ed Shenk. Ed is now 89 years old, and lives in Carlisle. He rattled off most of the names above as men he knew and he tied flies for some of them. He invented the Letort cricket and Shenk's minnow which remain popular.

Bill Ruland asked me if I wanted to write some short pieces about these guys for the Antietam Fly Anglers' Newsletter and I said that I would. I will use cut and paste information from the internet when the material is available. This material will be referenced by footnotes.

Next time I'll write about Joe Brooks.
Submitted by *Patrick Brezler*.

Wikipedia.org (Fly fishing)
2 Wikipedia.org (Fiberglass)
3 Wikipedia.org (Fly fishing)



“My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him, all good things —trout as well as eternal salvation—come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy.” —*Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It.*

AFA information:

Next AFA Meeting

Mt. Aetna Retreat/Nature Center 7:00 PM.

Mt. Aetna is located off I 70 at Exit 35.

Take Route 66 N and then Right on Mt. Aetna Road.

Address is 21905 Mt. Aetna Road



Calendar:

February 20th – meeting will be a board meeting to discuss future club activities, fund raising, and efforts to expand our membership and meeting attendance. Board members and all others, both members and non-members, are invited.

March 7 & 8, 2020 –Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster, PA, there will be a Casting Instructor Continuing Education session held in the Lancaster Environmental Education Center on March 8th. See Bill Ruland for further details.

March 14th –Maryland Fly Fishing Show and Collectible Tackle Show, Towson, MD, . We are looking for volunteers to man our booth.

March 19th– Our meeting program will be with Michael T. Kashiwagi, Western II Regionals Fisheries Manager, MD DNR. Program to be announced in the next newsletter.

Spring 2020—start benthic sampling

April 16th– program TBD

April, 25th– **Annual Fly Casters Rendezvous**

May 19 through 21 2020—**trip to Penn's Creek**

June,27th–AFA picnic

Shawnee State Park trip this summer

July, Potomac float trip?

AFA information:

Just a reminder.

Bob Davis organizes the Bob Abraham Fly Casting Club every Saturday at River Bottom Park at 9 a.m., weather and other fishing plans notwithstanding.

We typically go to breakfast beforehand at 7:45 a.m. at the Farmers' Market in Hagerstown, Come join us. All you might lose is your tailing loops!

Scott Robinson is the contact for the fly tyers' roundtable and beginners' fly tying instruction. Come to the meeting, meet Scott, and arrange for some fly tying instruction!

Don't forget to support your local fly shops:

Beaver Creek Fly Shop 301-393-9090

Hunting Creek Outfitters 301-668-4333

White Fly Outfitters 304-876-8030

AFA is on facebook

