

May 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 2/20/20

Here is the minutes from the Board Meeting. However, as you are all well aware, most of the below events were cancelled to comply with the various state orders in response to the COVID-19 virus.

Board Officers and Membership in Attendance:

Bill Ruland, Dave Hellane, Ken Oldham, Scott Robinson, Sandy Robinson, Craig Wright, John Hershey, and Frank Morrissey.

Meeting Minutes

The January 16, 2020 Minutes were summarized by Ken. Scott made a motion to accept the minutes as written; John seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

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

- Conservation activities; further discussion is needed.
- Membership: We had lengthy discussion on ways to increase membership with many good ideas:
- Promote ourselves as a regional source for fishing local streams including what to fish for and where; access points for local hot spots; tap into local fishing experience and expertise.
- Attract youth members by plugging into youth groups; participate in supporting youth groups and youth events such as the Washington County Youth Fishing Rodeo. The Isaac Walton League was mentioned as a source.
- Program ideas; Better meetings are needed to attract and keep new members. To attract quality speakers, we will need to pay quality speakers. More funds will be needed to support those efforts.

FFI Fly Tying Skills Award Program

As I would imagine most of you are, I've been quarantined at home and daydreaming about fishing the spring hatches but we are currently prohibited from fishing the catch and release waters that most of us prefer. Rather than sit at home and sulk I decided to enroll in the **FFI Fly Tying Skills Award Program**. This program is sponsored by the Fly Tying Group within FFI. The basic idea is that every fly tier should be able to master certain skills as one progresses from beginning fly tier to a highly skilled master tier. The program has **Bronze, Silver and Gold** levels of achievement. For the Bronze Award you have to tie 3 copies each of a Gray Goose Midge Emerger, Gold-ribbed Hare's Ear, Woolly Bugger, Partridge and Orange and Pheasant Tail Variant (a simple hackled dry fly).

You also have to tie three copies of three other similar flies of your own choosing. You then mail them to a grader/coach who critiques the flies and assigns a passing or failing grade. I've personally finished tying the Bronze flies and I'm waiting to hear if I passed. I've also started tying the flies for the Silver Award. I think I can handle them without too much trouble but I'm not looking forward to the Gold level. There are only about 150 FFI members who have even achieved the Bronze Award and a cursory scan of the list by me leads me to believe that there have not yet Marylanders to get any award. It would be cool if multiple members in our club could start to work on getting the Bronze Award. If you have any questions let me know.
michael.saylor@myactv.net

Submitted by Michael Saylor

Our Fishing Heritage #2

Joe Brooks (Joseph White Brooks) 1901–1972 was an American Fly Fisherman and popular writer about the sport of **fly fishing** during the mid-20th century. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1901. He wrote for the leading fishing and outdoor magazines of the day and was the outdoor editor for **The Baltimore Sun**. He also wrote ten books about fly fishing, several of which are still considered leading authorities on the subject. He is listed by a leading online fly fishing publication, **Fly Fishing Frenzy**, as one of the 10 most influential fishermen ever. And the IGFA (International Game Fish Association) and others said he did more to popularize and expand fly fishing than any other individual.

Brooks was born into a family that owned a successful insurance business. Joe worked in the business during his early life but soon realized he did not enjoy the business world and decided to become a professional fly fisherman and writer, the two passions he enjoyed most. He first began to write for small local Maryland sporting and community publications. But as his popularity gained he started writing for national publications like **Field and Stream**, **The Fisherman**, True Fishing Annual, Fishing Waters of the World, Ashaway Sportsman, and **The Saltwater Sportsman**. It was not long after this that he was hired by **The Baltimore Sun** as their outdoor editor. In 1953 he began writing for **Outdoor Life**, one of the most prestigious sporting magazines then and continuing today, and in 1968 he became the publication's fishing editor.

Joe Brooks was a mentor to and friend of one of the top fly fishermen ever to cast a line, **Lefty Kreh**. Kreh credits Brooks for introducing him to fly fishing, encouraging him to start writing about the sport and getting him one of his first jobs in the fishing industry. The job was with the **Miami Herald** running their Metropolitan Miami South Florida Fishing Tournament.

Joe Brooks pioneered fly fishing for species that previously were thought impossible to catch with a fly. He is also one of the first to pioneer "adventure fly fishing" by traveling to remote places around the world that had never been fly fished before.

In 1964, **Curt Gowdy** of ABC Sports produced a segment about fly fishing on **ABC's Wide World of Sports** featuring Joe Brooks. The two fly fished in the Argentinean Patagonia and the segment was so popular that a spinoff show was created to focus on outdoor sports such as hunting and fishing. The show was called **The American Sportsman** and the first show aired on January 31, 1965. The show ran for over 20 years and was one of the most popular shows on Sunday afternoon television often beating out other major sports programming carried in the same time slot. Joe Brooks was a regular on the show over the following years.

Joe Brooks taught many celebrities to fly fish and became lasting friends with them, including **Bing Crosby**, **Ted Williams** and **Jack Nicklaus**.

Joe Brooks died of a heart attack on September 20, 1972 in Rochester, Minnesota. He is buried in Paradise Valley near Livingston, Montana, one of his favorite places to fish.

Joe was one of three men who founded the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock. The annual meetings of this organization have been held every year since 1939 in nearby Thurmont. Thousands of boys have been introduced to fly fishing by this prestigious organization. To join, you must be sponsored by a member. If you sponsor a boy, you must commit to a lot of time and money.

Here is the link to BOJC: <http://www.bojcmi.org/history/bojc-history>

In his book "FlyFishing", he writes about fishing the East Branch of the Antietam near Waynesboro and also Beaver Creek. We step in his footsteps when we fish these waters.

Submitted by Patrick Brezler.

photo credit: *David Hellane*



The quote for the month: “Every once in a while, angling provides an episode one can keep for life. It is not necessarily about big fish, though it sometimes is, nor about great difficulty overcome. Rather, it’s a kind of poetic singularity. Sometimes you’re even aware of it as it’s happening.”—*Thomas McGuane, The Longest Silence*

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:

May 19 through 21 2020—**Penn's Creek trip is still on. More information will be forthcoming as it gets closer.**

The May 21st meeting is cancelled due to the Penn's Creek trip.

Normally we have a June meeting where we fish in the pond behind the Retreat Center. This year, we may schedule Mike Kashiwagi from DNR to discuss bass fishing in the Potomac. More information will be given next month.

June, 27th—AFA picnic at Bob Abraham's place. However, depending on the COVID-19 response, we may need to cancel it. Our raffle, which was going to be drawn during the picnic, may need to be postponed since we have had limited opportunity to sell tickets. Again, we will update you as soon as is practical. About the Shawnee State Park and Potomac float trips, we will be taking a wait and see approach.

Our breakfast and casting on Saturday has been suspended. We will let you know when it is restarted.

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

