

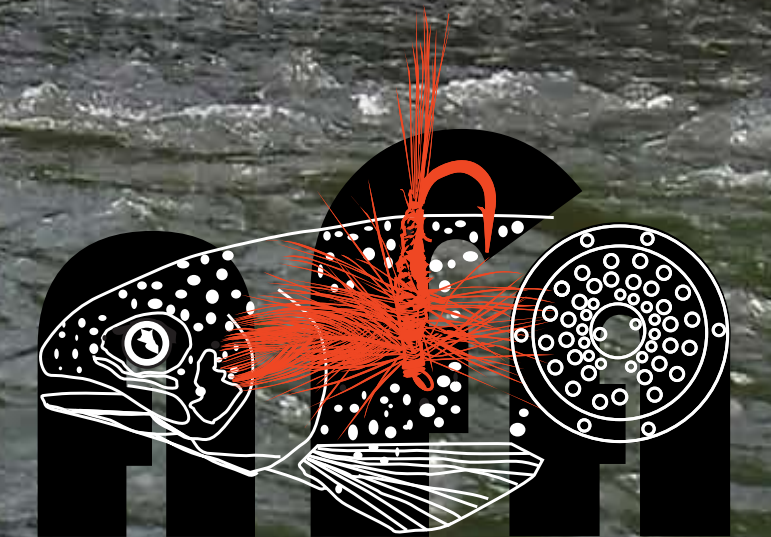
June 2020 Newsletter

# The Tight Loop



[www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://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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Antietam Fly Anglers

#### News Items:

Mike Saylor passed his Bronze Award fly tying level. Congratulations! Apparently he is the only Marylander that has achieved it.

Our fishing trip to Coburn, PA, and Penns Creek was a great success. We all caught fish and we feasted on Darren's BBQ pork butts and grilled shrimp. The Feathered Hook B&B and fly shop is a great destination. We hope that you will join us when we schedule another trip.

Apparently the sign has come in for the Adopt-A-Highway program. We are waiting on the highway department to release the sign and provide us the training before we can move forward with the program.

We canceled the picnic and postponed the raffle drawing until next year. I think we have heard from most folks that they are ok with the delay. If you would like your money returned, let us know and we will do so.

We are thinking about a float trip on the Potomac on Friday, June 26th. Let us know if you are interested. We are allowed to fish in MD now so let us know if you would like to come along.

On Thursday, June 18th, at 7 pm, we will be having a Zoom meeting instead of a meeting at the Aetna retreat center. Mike Kashiwagi from MD DNR will be doing a presentation on Smallmouth Bass. The particulars on how to sign on and attend the meeting will be sent via MailChimp prior to the meeting.



Darren Wishard and guide  
Aston Boone





Ken Oldham with one of many browns.



Jim Crowell caught his browns on dry flies and nymphing.







*President's message* (I don't remember what you called this before). Fly Fishing remains a solace, an activity that draws us away from the troubled country we inhabit. It remains ever a thing that renews us, at least for a time, so we can recover our equilibrium. I'm reminded of the unsure steps while wading—never quite sure if the next one will tumble us. But then, we settle in, cast out and forget the almost spills and the maybe troubles and enjoy it all.

This is the last newsletter until September. Get out and do some fishing.





## Our Fishing Heritage #3

Submitted by Patrick Brezler.

**In the autumn of 1970 I requested five books on fly fishing for Christmas. My wonderful Santa delivered them on Christmas morning and I still refer to these fantastic references. One of the books was Art Flick's new Streamside Guide. It is a small book intended to be carried in a fishing vest. My copy is 4 1/4" X 7" and it contains tiny black and white pictures of Mayflies which all look the same to me.**

**On page 100 he states "Forget your Fan Wings, Bivisibles, and the like for just a short time, and try instead all of the three following patterns: Grey Fox Variant, Dun Variant, Cream Variant."**

**Here is his recipe for the Dun Variant:**

**Wings – none**

**Body – few turns from Rhode Island Red cock's hackle,  
well soaked**

**Hackle – natural dark dun**

**Tail – dun barb or spades, very long**

**Hook – No. 12 short shank**

**Thread – Olive**

**I liked Mr. Flick immediately. Tying on wings was a curse for me. They were never balanced left and right, one was always longer than the other, they made my tippet twist in midair, and they landed on their sides on the water. Art Flick was the man carrying the flaming torch of truth – No Wings. End of discussion, Amen!**

Next, I read A Modern Dry-Fly Code by Vincent C. Marinaro. This was a thoroughly researched book which traces the history of our sport to merry old England and the first of our brethren who studied and wrote about using an angle to catch the wily trout who sulked in the gin-clear waters of chalk streams. Mr. Marinaro was truly a scientist and his outdoor lab was Carlisle PA's Letort. He consulted with learned biologists and accurately described what trout can see when they look up at insects which float overhead. He learned that trout have ultra violet vision and he experimented with UV materials to construct his flies. He was a cutting-edge experimenter and fly tier.

But, he learned and documented that the most important part of a fly was the wings. He also wanted the wings to be located in the center of the hook for good balance and the hackle needed to form an "X" in front of and behind the wings. He believed that a dry fly that is going to catch fish doesn't need a body. You can wrap one around the hook to keep your friends from laughing at you but it is meaningless to trout if the wings and hackle are correct. And what about tails, you ask? Forget them too. They never touch the water on healthy mayflies.

Which man was correct? I don't know and I don't care. I never see mayflies hatching and so I tie Caddis flies. The fascination we have with fly fishing depends upon the mystery of why we can catch some fish someday and not a single fish on other days. The anticipation we experience on the way to the stream is rarely rewarded. If it were frequently rewarded, we would stop fishing.

*Henry David Thoreau said "Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after".*



David Hellane with guide Aston Boone  
on Penns Creek.





# The Feathered Hook Fly Shop and B&B

Darren is serving up bison burgers!





photo credit: *David Hellane*



The quote for the month: “If, as I suspect, trout fishing is something of a disease, then it is also something of a therapy in itself.”

*Tom Sutcliffe, M.D., Reflections on Fishing*



# 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:

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# AFA information:

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**Just a reminder.**

**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

