

September 2020 Newsletter

The Tight Loop

www.flyfishersinternational.org



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

a charter club of the Fly Fishers International

photo credit: David Hellane



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Antietam Fly Anglers

Calendar:

September 17—Board and planning meeting at Mt.

Aetna retreat center **outdoor pavilion.**

October 15— Antietam Conococheage Watershed Assn presentation <http://www.acwamaryland.org/>

November 19—Penns creek presentation by The Feathered Hook fly shop (tentative)

December 17—No meeting

Calendar:

January 21— Meeting

February 18— Meeting

March 6-7—Lancaster Fly Fishing Show <https://fly-fishingshow.com/lancaster-pa/>

March 13—Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectible Show <https://marylandflyfishingshow.com/>

March 18— Meeting

April 15—No meeting due to Rendezvous

April 24—Rendezvous (tentative)

May 20— Meeting

June 17—Fishing at Mt. Aetna pond



Here it is. I'm anticipating that we will be flexible with the meeting locations and times. That is, if there is a presentation that would benefit from a Zoom meeting, we will do it. If it is an on-stream meeting, that could work also. We might even couple breakfast with a meeting sometime. To help us make the newsletter/meetings more useful, I'd like:

- 1 Feedback on the history information written by Pat Brezler.*
- 2 I would like to have at least one review each issue. The review could be about a trip, a fly fishing book or DVD, a YouTube video, a fly etc. I'd soliciting volunteers to write these articles. Please email be your willingness to do so, the subject your would like to address, and when you think you would have it ready for publication. Thanks.*
- 3 Our meeting next week is a general planning meeting. If you can't make it but would like to submit an idea, send it to me and we will discuss it. Also, the pavilion at the Mt. Aetna center does not have wifi but we should be able to tie you in by phone. Let us know if you would like to list in and we will see if we can make that work.*
- 4 With our fund raising issues with COVID-19, do you think we should now have dues to make up for the short fall?*

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".

photo credit: *David Hellane*



“...not everything about fishing is noble and reasonable and sane...Fishing is not an escape from life, but often a deeper immersion into it, all of it, the good and the awful, the joyous and the miserable, the comic, the embarrassing, the tragic, and the sorrowful.”—Harry Middleton, *Rivers of Memory* (1993)

“Tying Threads” by Bill Ruland

AFA information:

Next AFA Meeting
Mt. Aetna Retreat Center outdoor pavilion 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



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AFA information:

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

