

October 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:

October 15—Monthly meeting normal time at Mt. Aetna retreat center **outdoor pavilion**. we will here the ACWA presentation on water quality and benthic sampling. 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.

I received no input on a book or DVD review.

*3 Our October meeting 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, We will discuss the input from Ned Strange on the **draft pamphlet**. With that discussion, we will discuss a possible mission statement as outlined in the draft.*

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 #4

I am not sure when the nymph craze really took hold. Fishing with nymphs is nothing new but never seemed to get a lot of traction until recent times. My first serious exposure to nymphs came in a book called **"Fishing the Nymph"** by Jim Quick, which was published in 1960. It is a primitive book; not one color page in the entire book, not a single picture, all of the images are pencil sketches.

However, Mr. Quick does describe strike indicators which were frequently hand made from medicine bottle corks. Thread, it was always Danville prewaxed and Hooks were always Mustad. A bit of flash would be produced from Christmas tree icicles. In those days Mustad hooks came in small boxes of 100 and they were wrapped in a neatly folded piece of waxy paper that kept them from rusting. I think that I was paying about \$1.79 for a box of hooks. That sounds like a bargain until I tell you that I was working for the minimum wage of \$.90 an hour.

Jim Quick did not sugar coat the difficulty of nymph fishing. He called it an art form that was difficult to master but would almost always fill a fisherman's creel. Oh, before this is forgotten, he recommended tying an open overhand loop in a leader and inserting a removable split shot into this loop before crimping with pliers. This makes it easier to attach the split shot without dropping it into the stream and prevents it from sliding towards the fly when cast.

Another great book about this this topic is **"NYMPHING, A BASIC BOOK"** by Gary A Borg-er published in 1979. This book too is without photographs. The author makes one statement that sounds heretical. He states that if you are casting a heavy fly and want distance you should use a level line. He points out that tapered fly lines were created to make the least possible disturbance on the water when presenting a dry fly. They worked but didn't provide a lot of distance.

Our Fishing Heritage #4

Ergo, weight forward tapered lines were invented and dominate the fly line market to this day. His idea is worth thinking about. He also shows the reader how to make a dubbing loop and spin it. Today there are probably 10 different companies making tools to spin dubbing loops. Why the sudden excitement?

Do you remember Ted Trueblood? He was an outdoor writer who had a monthly column in Field & Stream magazine. In the early 1970s Field & Stream ruled the "hook and bullet" press. In one magazine he described a nymph called a "Brassie". It was constructed by stripping the plastic coating from a copper wire which could be found in broken radios or at an electronics fix-it shop. It was a simple fly made by wrapping the copper wire around a hook.

There was no need for thread and it was a good idea to taper the body a bit towards the eye. It was a miracle fly on western streams.

YouTube has changed the world. Videos made by skilled nymph fisherman and gifted tyers with lots of new hook styles and synthetic materials have fueled the nymphing craze. Many things have changed in the past 50 years but one thing has not. Nymph fishing is still an art form and it is difficult to learn.

Patrick Brezler

photo credit: *David Hellane*



“A trout’s brain is very small. It is sometimes said that a dry-fly fisherman ‘pit their brains against those of the trout.’ No-one has ever levelled a bigger insult at us.”—*Dermont Wilson, Fishing the Dry Fly*

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

