

March 2021 Newsletter

The Tight Loop

www.flyfishersinternational.org



ANTIETAM FLY ANGLERS

<https://www.afa-md.org/>

a charter club of the Fly Fishers International

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photo credit: David Hellane

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Sandy Robinson –Fund Raising

Antietam Fly Anglers

Virtual Meeting Minutes

1/18/2021

Attendance

Attendance was taken; 13 participants attended the virtual meeting and 1 guest. (Bill Ruland, Pat Brezler, Frank Morrissey, Ken Oldham, Doug Hutzell, Walt Lachenmayr, Scott Robinson, Mike Saylor, Ned Strange, Randy Underwood, John Hershey, Noel Gollehon, Chuck Dinkel and guest presenter, Bill Anderson).

February 18 Virtual AFA Meeting

Bill Anderson, President of the Little Juniata River Association (L JRA), gave a presentation titled “Little Juniata; from Sewer to Class A”. The Little “J” was a fishless, polluted river prior to 1973 due to untreated municipal sewage, industrial chemicals and papermill waste being dumped into the river. Since then, pollution sources have been corrected and the river has developed into one of the top trout streams in the east. Wild trout density is second only to Spring Creek in PA. The Little “J” has 32 miles of trout water, 20 miles of which is defined as Class “A” trout water and the longest Catch and Release section anywhere in PA. Also, The L JTR has been instrumental in stopping the stocking of fingerling brown trout in the Little “J” when it was proven that only 1% of the fingerlings survived and the river had an entirely self-sustaining population of wild brown trout. This past year had historic low flows in the river which you would think would lead to warm water and trout kills. Instead, the water in the river was actually colder due the many springs that feed the river. The L JTR has been instrumental in influencing trout management such as the current catch and release, all tackle regulations. Currently, LJRA is participating in a program with the PA Fish and Boat Commission for the purchase of fishing and river access easements with numerous properties to perpetually preserve access to the Little “J”. In another case, L JRA directly reimburses annually the cost of a property owner’s liability insurance to allow continued access the property. A thank you goes to Bill Anderson for presenting an excellent and informative program.

Adopt -a-Highway Program

Bill advised that the Adopt-a- Highway signs are up for AFA’s section of MD 66. At least six volunteers are needed to sign-up and agree to cleanup 4 times per year. Bill has asked for volunteers to contact him.

Calendar Year Discussions:

March 18 Zoom AFA Meeting

Bill has contacted Morgan Lyle, author of “Simple Flies”. Morgan Lyles will be presenting a Zoom program defining his unique ideas about how simple is better and summarizing the content of his book, “Simple Flies”.

March 6 & 7 Lancaster Fly Fishing Show

The show is cancelled, however, we understand that there will be a virtual show possibly involving movies.

Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show

Still listed as a date TBD on their website.

April Pared down Rendezvous

Bod Davis was not available to discuss a pared down Rendezvous so further discussion will be put off to another time.

April /May

No discussions regarding possible events.

September

No discussions regarding possible AFA Picnic.

Fund Raisers

Kula Cloth: The Kula Cloth fund raiser was briefly discussed. AFA may need to participate in the cost of a custom design that is estimated to be \$400. Further discussions are needed. There was a brief discussion regarding using an off-the-shelf, generic design instead of a custom design. There was some concern about using a AFA logo for general distribution.

Bamboo Fly Rods

Scott reminded us about buying and selling raffle tickets.

Election of Officers

Bill asked for nominations for officers. No nominations were made. Mike Saylor made a motion to keep the current set of officers. Scott seconded the motion. The motion was put to club members and the motion was carried without objection.



photo credit: *David Hellane*

Antietam Fly Anglers Calendar:

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

March 18— Zoom meeting with the presentation, “Simple Flies” by Lyle Morgan.

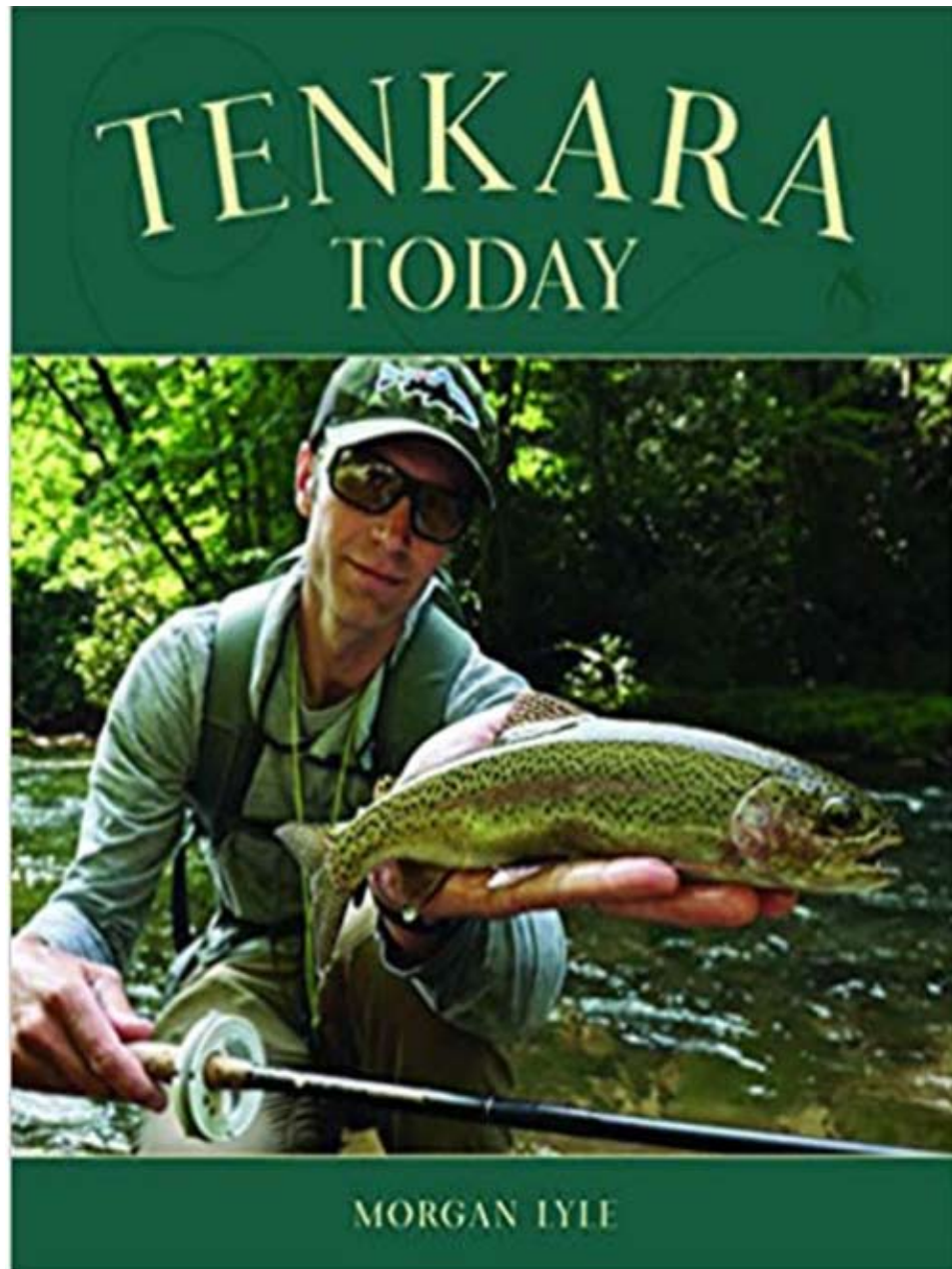
April 15—No meeting due to Rendezvous

April 24—Rendezvous (tentative)

May 20 meeting— tentative—, “Presentation by DNR Police on their enforcement program.”

June 17—Fishing at Mt. Aetna pond

“Morgan Lyle’s book”



Morgan Lyle, our speaker this month, has also written a wide-ranging book on Tenkara. Published in 2019, Morgan’s book is much more than how-to. If you are thinking at all about starting to fish using the Japanese traditional approach to fly fishing, this is the book for you. He brings to bear information from multiple sources that are familiar to most of us, including the Trow brothers from the Mossy Creek Fly Shop and George Daniel (pictured on the cover). Highly recommended!



photo credit: *David Hellane*

“It’s just that the longer that I fish, the more I long for simplification and lightness.” —*Tom Sutcliffe, M.D., Reflections on Fishing (1990)*

From Scott Robinson:

Here's my recommendation for a fly to imitate a cicada. Just go to this link: <https://flysandguides.com/how-to-tie-cicada/>. As you probably know, this year will be the emergence of the broad X 17-year cicada. Tie some up!

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Cicada

Recipe:

Hook: TMC 2302
Thread: Danville 6/0 Black
Body: Bug Bodies #4 Ant Style
Underbody: Peacock Herl
Legs: Round rubber legs painted with prism color marker / Orange
Wing: Orange Deer Hair
Foam Post: Orange 2mm Foam


Step 1.
Start the thread close to the eye of the hook.

Step 2.
Tie in three stands of peacock herl where you started the thread and wind back to the bend. Note: When selecting the herl make sure you cut the butt ends up about an inch or two so you are up in the good section of the stem.




Step 3.



Proportion the foam to hang more off the back of the hook, but leave a little to be off the front of the eye also. There are all types of foam bodies you can use and most tiers probably use 2mm sheets of foam and cut to shape for lots of foam body dries. I like these particular ones for several of my "foam" patterns because they are easy to use and make awesome bodies for lots of terrestrials. When tying down make sure you tie each wrap on top of each other as you're securing the thread on the hook shank. A little trick I learned along the way to keep the foam from spinning around the hook shank is to lift the foam up and tie in front of it as you're making wraps to lock it in. I do this a few times so I know the foam will not shift. Once you tie it down you will want to keep the thread on top of the foam and not in front on the hook shank. Note: Most of all the bug bodies I use for bigger flies are always the ant bodies in #4. They also come in white and I paint these in several colors to make other big foam hopper patterns.




Step 4.
Something Eric Schmuecker showed me a long time ago. Put a round rubber leg in the vise, clamp it down and pull it and twist it several times. Get a permanent marker on and make a line down the whole strand as you are holding it tight. Let go of it and you should have segmented lines. How to get the tighter is to twist more and if you want them wider then only twist a few times. I usually prep the legs before I sit down to a dozen of them.




Step 5.
Tie the legs on each side. Make sure you have enough legs to go up the fly and form legs the same length you see on the back. The three strands of herl you have hanging off the bend of the hook go ahead and make one wrap in-between the legs to hide the thread wraps. Then lift up on the foam and wind forward almost all the way up the hook shank. Trim off the excess and position the thread where you see it in the picture.



Step 6.
Fold the foam over and tie down the next section. Repeat the same step as you did with the back, lift up the foam and tie in front of it to secure it. This will really lock in the entire piece of foam and it shouldn't shift at all.


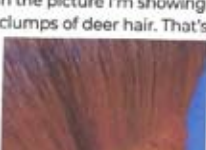


Step 7.
Tie down the legs in the front by folding them up along the side of the foam. Secure them with a few thread wraps on each side, but be careful on thread build up. You'll be tying a lot of stuff in this one section with a lot of wraps stacking on top of the next one.


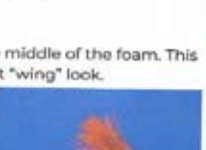


Step 8.

Cut a clump about a pencil width in size. Note: In the picture I'm showing you to cut way down on the hide when cutting clumps of deer hair. That's standard when working with elk or deer hair.





Step 9.
Stack the hair in a hair stacker and get the tips even, measure it to where the tips butt up with the tail end of the foam in the back, or maybe a little shorter. I trim the butt ends before tying down so there is no cutting excess when tying down the hair. Note: You'll know if you tied too much deer hair if you notice it pushing out the sides. The hair should all be on the top.



Step 10.
Cut a small square of 2mm foam and tie it in the middle of the foam. This will also help lay the deer hair flat and give it that "wing" look.

Step 11.
If you want to hide your thread wraps in the front then tie in one strand of peacock herl and make a few wraps. Tie it down, trim the excess and whip finish the fly. I usually do mine in front of the foam behind the eye of the hook (not on top of the foam).



[Click here for more tying patterns](#)

<https://flysandguides.com/how-to-tie-cicada/>

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

The Feathered Hook Fly Shop 814-349-8757

AFA is on facebook



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