

April 2021 Newsletter

# *The Tight Loop*

[www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org)



ANTIETAM FLY ANGLERS

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

a charter club of the Fly Fishers International

painting credit: Tom Renner





photo credit: David Hellane

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# Antietam Fly Anglers

## Virtual Meeting Minutes

### 3/18/2021

#### Attendance

Attendance was taken; 11 participants attended the virtual meeting plus the guest speaker, Morgan Lyle. Those in attendance were Bill Ruland, Pat Brezler, Frank Morrissey, Ken Oldham, Scott Robinson, Randy Underwood, Noel Gollehon, Bob Davis, Dave Hellane, Don Fine and Jim Crowell.

#### March 18 Virtual AFA Meeting

##### “Simple Flies” Presentation via Zoom

Morgan Lyle reviewed the highlights of his book “Simple Flies, Easy-to-Tie Patterns that Catch Fish”. Morgan’s premise is that over time there has been a tendency for fly tyers to create more and more complicated flies in an effort to create more realistic or complex patterns to lure in trout/fish. Morgan freely admits that sometimes more realistic flies that match the hatch are necessary, but in general, he feels much simpler, easy to tie flies reliably catch day and day out. He demonstrated the tying of the “Killer Bug” which is little more than a hook, some wire for weight and a few twists of yarn in lieu of dubbing. Morgan says that this is an extremely simple, easy to tie fly that reliably catches fish. He also admits that there are some time-tested flies like the “Copper John” which is an extremely reliable fly but anything but simple to tie. Morgan says that when he needs a “Copper John”, he buys it. He feels some much simpler flies fish equally well or better.

This was an excellent presentation and we thank Morgan for taking the time to meet with us and discussing his thoughts. “Simple Flies, Easy-to-Tie Patterns that Catch Fish” is an excellent book and we highly encourage members to get a copy. Thank you again Morgan for presentation.

#### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the February 18 Minutes were summarized. A motion to approve the minutes was made and the minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### Adopt -a-Highway Program

Bill advised that the Adopt-a- Highway signs are up for AFA’s section of MD 66. Three volunteers so far have agreed to participate in the cleanup 4 times per year. Those individuals and others need to complete and sign the Adopt-a-Highway Agreement and forward to Bill.

## Calendar Year Discussions:

### April Pared down Rendezvous

Bob Davis is working on the details concerning the April 24, 9:00 to noon event.

### April AFA Meeting

There will not be an April AFA Meeting.

### May AFA Meeting

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

It will be at the outside pavilion at the Mt. Aetna Retreat Center.

### September

No discussions regarding possible AFA Picnic.

### Fund Raisers

The Kula Cloth fund raiser was briefly discussed. Bill distributed a design with a fly-Fishing motif to members for review. He received positive responses from various members so he has proceeded with that design for production.

### Bamboo Fly Rods

Scott reminded us about buying and selling raffle tickets. Scott advised that he has sold 125 tickets.





photo credit: *David Hellane*

## Antietam Fly Anglers Calendar:

April 15—No meeting due to Rendezvous

April 24—Twelfth Annual Fly Caster's Rendezvous

**9:00 AM TO Noon, April 24, 2021**

**River-bottom Park, Williamsport,  
Maryland**

**Fly Casters' Rendezvous headliner is Dave  
Cleaves**

May 20 meeting—, "Presentation by DNR Police on  
their enforcement program." **It will be at the outside  
pavilion at the Mt. Aetna Retreat Center.**

June 17—Fishing at Mt. Aetna pond

no meetings over the summer and that the next  
meeting will be September 16th



# MD Adopt-A-Highway program

**SNA** **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**  
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY  
CLEANUP REPORT CARD

GROUP NAME: Antietam Fly Anglers  
MARYLAND ROUTE: MD 66, south of I-70  
CLEANUP DATE: 4/10/2021  
# OF PARTICIPANTS: 6 LOCATION OF BAGS TO PICK UP  
# OF BAGS FILLED: 13 Beaver Creek Fly Shop  
OTHER TRASH (NOT IN BAGS): cardboard parking lot  
TOTAL HOURS IN CLEANUP: 9 hours trucks  
COMMENTS: Unusual Items or Circumstances - none  
SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS - none  
PROBLEMS - none  
CHANGES IN GROUP: New members, members leaving, change in Group Leader?  
Please return completed form (along with Participant(s) Agreement(s)) to:  
Richelle VanMeter, AAH Coordinator  
MD STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
Hagerstown Maintenance Complex  
18320 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21740-1526  
e-mail: Rvanmeter@mdot.maryland.gov  
Tel: 301-791-4790  
Fax: 301-791-4694

On Saturday, April 10th, Antietam Fly Anglers conducted our first cleanup for the MD Adopt-A-Highway program. The road we adopted is MD 66. We clean up from in front of the Beaver Creek Fly Shop down to the entrance of the Beaver Creek Golf Club. It took us about 1½ hours. We collected 13 bags of trash. A special thanks to Mike Saylor, Doug Hutzell, Ned Strange, Walt Lachenmayr, and Frank Morrissey for helping out. If you would like to help in the future, send an email to [bruland3@outlook.com](mailto:bruland3@outlook.com) and I'll send you're the participation agreement. This is a great way to fulfill our club's community involvement and it gets the club's name on the highway.







photo credit: David Hellane

*“Catch-and-release fishing is an ecological necessity, not my preference. The practice smacks of bad faith, an inauthentic act.—Christopher Camuto, “Caught By The Way,” In Praise of Wild Trout (1998)*





## Our Fly Fishing Heritage #5

Let us do some time travel this month. Not forward time travel because I'm not smart enough to predict the future. I want to go backwards because I have documentation which keeps my faulty memory on track. I am not a hoarder. Those people keep all kinds of worthless junk. Call me a pack rat instead, and not a conscious pack rat. I am an absent minded person who keeps valuable stuff because I forgot to throw it away.

Let us go back to 1975 and examine the Orvis spring 1975 catalog. Oh yes, Gerald Ford was our President. I bet his name was dimly present in your memory bank. At that time bamboo was the most desirable rod material. Glass was coming along but had some undesirable traits. On page 6 of this catalog is a 6 1/2 foot Madison, 2 3/4 oz., 4 wt., bamboo rod, complete with a Madison 4/5 reel, and WF4F Orvis line for \$161.00. There are spots on the page because I drooled over this advertisement again and again. Never bought the rod because my wife had another baby and we had to buy a starter house and a new car. We still live in our starter house and suspect that it is now our ending house. Life denied me this fishing rod. Hooks, Mustad dry fly hooks cost \$3.90 for a box of 100. What was a four cent hook now costs twenty seven cents.

I bought one neck and only one neck in the next 30 years. It was an Orvis grade A grizzly neck that cost \$12. I treated those feathers like they were made of gold. In my new J. S. Stockard catalog a grade A Keough neck costs \$100.

Other products like a spool of floss or a spool of thread were 40 cents. A spool of lead wire was also 40 cents.

If you purchased only flies (many were 80 cents) the cost of shipment and guaranteed delivery was 50 cents.

At that time 100% Polypropylene yarn was a very big deal. Fly tyers bought it wrapped around cardboard cards. Three yards cost 30 cents. We cut it into 3/8 inch lengths and used a coffee grinder to turn it into dubbing for dry flies. Life was simple. Poly dubbing was for dries and animal hair was for nymphs. Most nymphs were tied with muskrat fur and some black bird hackle.

I'm holding in my hand a small plastic disk that contains 6 pound monofilament that was made by the Fred Arbogast Company in Akron Ohio. It contains 15 yards of monofilament and it cost 25 cents. Fred carved fishing lures at his house after work days at the Akron Tire and Rubber Company. He invented the Hula Popper and the Jitter Bug. You could not read one of the "Hook and Bullet" magazines in 1975 without seeing an Arbogast advertisement. Fred died in 1947 but his family carried on and expanded the business which has since disappeared. In 1975 Arbogast was a big deal.

How could so many things change so much in only 46 years? It doesn't seem that long ago.

Pat Brezler



# 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

The Feathered Hook Fly Shop 814-349-8757

AFA is on facebook



photo credit: David Hellane