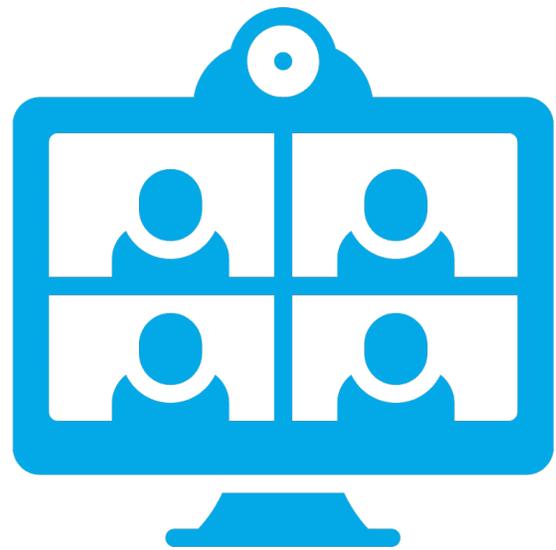


Join Us for a Virtual Gathering on Zoom

Monthly Meeting — June 9th

We can't get together in person, so we'd like to try meeting up virtually. Join fellow club members on June 9th at 7pm via Zoom videoconferencing. We will send out a web link for you to use to join in. If you've never used Zoom, here are the basics of what you need to know:

- You do not need to sign up for a Zoom account or install special software to participate. However, you certainly can do so if you'd like. At a minimum, all you need to do is open up the link in a web browser.
- You will need a video camera (webcam) if you want people to be able to see you.
- If you don't have a camera, you can still participate using audio. The invitation to the event includes several dial-in phone numbers.
- Zoom will give you the option to turn on your webcam and mic right when you log onto a meeting, but if it doesn't, use the buttons at the bottom left corner of the toolbar to turn on your camera and your microphone.
- You may "mute" yourself during the chat, which is recommended if you are not speaking.



- To learn more about Zoom, visit **support.zoom.us** for tutorials, frequently asked questions, and overview videos.

This will be an open forum. Come to share fishing stories, talk about fishing spots around our area, ask questions to other members about fly fishing and tying, share some of your tips and techniques, or show off some of your gear ... we are open to talking about anything and everything fly fishing and fly tying.

This is an experiment and we're not sure how it's going to go. But we do know that we need you to make it a success — we hope to see you online on the 9th!

Beginner's *Fly Tying*: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph

By Don Fine

This is the fourth installment in our series aimed at learning fundamental fly tying skills. Our goal is to tie a series of freshwater artificial flies, with each successive month's pattern increasing in complexity. We are thrilled to report that over 20 club members participated last month by tying soft hackle (wet) flies. If you missed any of our previous sessions, look for the link to the series in the sidebar of our website under the "TAGS" section. It looks like this:



TAGS

[Beginner's Fly Tying Series](#)

[Fly Fishing Tips](#)

[Help Wanted](#)

[Review](#)

[Special Events](#)

[Where to Fish](#)

The fly pattern chosen for June is the **Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph**. The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (*aka GRHE*) is a traditional artificial fly imitating an aquatic insect larva (i.e. *nymph*). Many fly fishers consider the GRHE nymph to be one of their fundamental patterns to carry and use as a 'searching' pattern, particularly when fishing 'new waters' (i.e., an unfamiliar stream/river), because it mimics a number of mayfly nymphs.

The origin of the Hare's Ear Nymph is not fully known. However, an English fly tyer is believed to have created the first hare's ear nymph using hare's ear dubbing* in 1910, as simply a modification on the long-lived Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear wet fly.

**Hare's ear dubbing consists of a course blend of underbody fur, along with the guard hairs from the ear of a rabbit.*

More information regarding the design and fishing of a GRHE will be found via our tying instruction sheet and instructional video which will be on the club website during the third week in June. Tiers are also encouraged to watch other instructional (e.g. YouTube) videos found on the internet, under the search topic: *tying a gold ribbed hare's ear nymph*.

How to Participate in our June "Fly Tying at a Distance" Session

No later than **June 15**, head to the PVFF website to sign up for our *Fly Tying at a Distance* event. We will mail you the hooks and materials needed to tie the *Light Cahill* wet fly. All instructions for tying this pattern will be available online by **June 19**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vice to contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club — we'll post all of the photos we receive on the club website!

Fly Swap 2020: Can You Match the Fly with the Name?

By Dave Keane



Thanks to the members who participated in the fly swap. Our club is very fortunate to have such talented fly tiers. On the right is a list of those who participated and what fly they tied. Can you match the fly names to the flies in the photo? It's a small photo, that's part of the challenge!

- Dave Keane: **Zebra Midge**
- Troy Kitch: **Rainbow Warrior**
- Paul Dobson: **All-Purpose Emerger**
- Rob Morgan: **Slump Buster**
- Larry Forte: **Frenchie**
- Karen Baker: **Golden Retriever**
- Don Fine: **Foam Hopper**
- Andy Mekelburg: **Mop Fly**
- Lynn Ashe: **Gray Hackle Yellow**
- Martyn Holland: **Diawl Bach**
- Susan Kleit: **Squirmy Wormy**

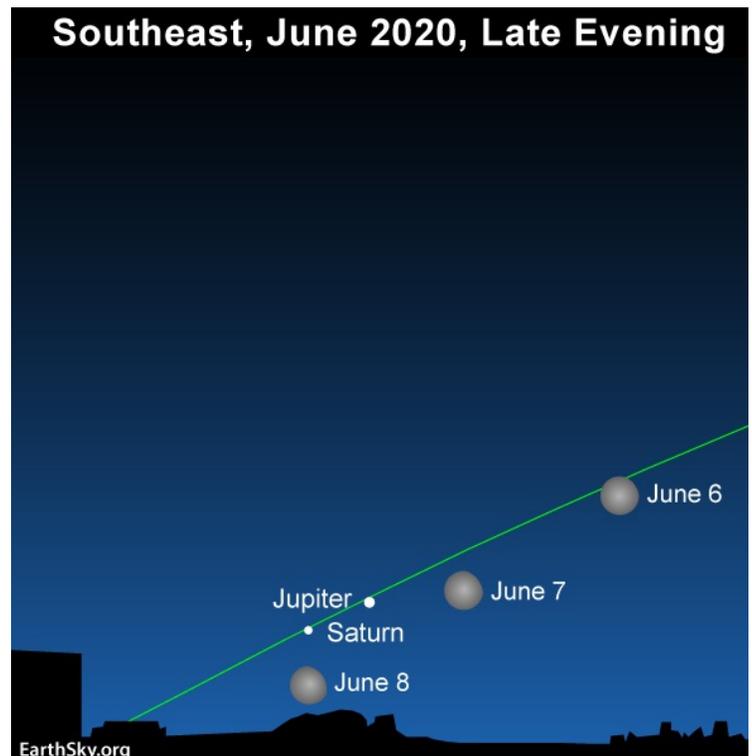
Astronomy Minute

By Russ Hanson

Venus: It is sinking into the glare of the setting sun. But, by the end of the month, it will have crossed the face of the sun and will start preceding it in the morning sky.

Saturn and Jupiter: They are racing out so far in front of the sunrise that they will start to appear over the southeast horizon by mid-late evening as June wears on. They will come out a little earlier each evening. Keep an eye on their relative positions.

Wishes: If you like to wish upon a star in the early evening, you can do so safely in mid-June. You won't be deceived by any planets. The brightest star in the sky, Sirius, will be visible in the western sky. But it will soon be following the constellation Orion into the glare of the sun. That means the solstice is near. Summer begins June 20th!



Project Healing Waters: Tying the Wired Stonefly Nymph

By Andrew Frutiger



In our third installment of online fly tying seminars, Colin Flournoy led four of our veterans through one of the more challenging patterns they've attempted to date, the wired stonefly. Colin was then followed by Larry Forte, who walked the group through something near and dear to all of us: a practical guide to fly fishing equipment.

The evening started with a 10-minute YouTube video by **InTheRiffle.com** on the wired stonefly, where everyone was able to see the stonefly pattern tied in its' entirety before making their own attempt. After the video, Colin walked the group through tying their own versions of the pattern. Each veteran worked through the fly at their own pace with plenty of questions and retakes but, in the end, everyone nailed the fly. I am always impressed how quickly all of our veterans have taken to tying and how full their fly boxes are with their own flies. In addition to tying flies, it's also a good thing to know where to fish them. This is why it is always fantastic to have Don Fine on hand to talk about what sizes you should tie the fly in, as well as where to fish them. In this case, the wired stonefly can be tied anywhere from size 8-12 and fished locally in



clear, mountain fed streams like Big Hunting Creak or the Savage. It can also be fished on the North Branch of the Potomac.

Larry Forte took some time at the end of the night to help everyone understand the history of fly fishing and how to sort through all of the equipment that is out there, and how to choose the right tools for the type of fishing they'll do. If you are ever looking for

a primer on fly fishing equipment, Larry has an excellent presentation.

Favorite quote of the night: *"The Post Office is going to be busy delivering fly tying material to my house."*

Question of the night: *In what era did the first recorded example of fly fishing occur?*

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at **andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com** or go to our Facebook page at **Project Healing Waters - Frederick Chapter**.

The Decline of Smallmouth Bass in Potomac

The Bay Journal published a story in May about a study from the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center that found links between climate change and the decline of Potomac smallmouth bass. In short, intense rainfall and development are reducing populations of not only bass, but many other fish species in the river. Go to **bayjournal.com** and search on "bass potomac" to get the full story.

Last Cast: The Future May Be Murky (But We Can Still Go Fishing)

By Andy Mekelburg



So, it was a delayed Spring season, but at least it started. After being “released,” I went with a friend of mine (driving separately) to Mossy Creek, which is near Bridgewater, Virginia. It’s a private stream winding through farmlands. We caught some good size rainbows. There were quite a few monster brown trout. From the water they looked like they were almost two feet long. I didn’t see any out of the water, as they barely looked at anything thrown at them. Cold conditions, but we were out of the house and in nature!

The following week, I went out with my same friend to our home waters of Catoctin Creek. I can report that there were probably 50 of our fish drifting in

front of me at an unnamed location there. They remained there after I left, untouched. One would have thought that after not seeing any flies for a couple of months they would be hungry, oh well. I can say that there are no small trout in there! Thanks Rick and team.

While I was out, I only thought of fishing, clearing my mind of current issues. It was me against the fish. That is the beauty of our sport. The focus on the water in front of you, replacing thoughts of anything else.

To say the least, it’s been an incredible couple of months. It was so nice to be out and communing with nature. Americans are smart, we do what we

(Last Cast continued)

have to do to overcome obstacles and remain optimistic about the future. Not that it's over and we can let our guard down. We've all learned a lot of non-fly fishing things and we need to adapt those to the changing circumstances. In the midst of this, I would like to thank our board and volunteers for stepping up to continue to think about what our members need. We aren't a health care group, except for the contribution fly fishing makes to our mental health. It's been an interesting challenge for us, but new innovations like "Fly Tying at a Distance" was launched to keep our fly tying members engaged. Great effort by Don and Troy in making that happen. In addition, thanks to Dave Keane for keeping the fly exchange on track — I look forward to receiving and using them.

The future is as clear as the Monocacy after a hard rain. One of the club's obstacles is the issue of gatherings of more than 10 people. Thanks to you, we're very popular! Unfortunately, this has led to the postponement of the June 9 annual picnic. The board continues to monitor the situation and we will look month to month.

We are going to try something new for our June Monthly meeting, in lieu of the picnic. We are hosting a *Zoom Virtual Meeting on June 9*. I realize that having a good speaker is one of the strengths of our monthly meetings, but a lot of the value is just to be around other fly fishing enthusiasts, swapping fishing stories.

Typically, we don't have monthly meetings in July and August, so we hope to get back up and running by September. But honestly, nobody knows and we surely don't want to put anyone at risk. We are still planning on holding our annual banquet on October 24 at the Middletown Amvets, but this will be subject to current operating conditions.

We could use your input. As you know the banquet provides the majority of our funds to operate the club. We are going to have to push hard for as many

donations as possible, given the tougher changed economic climate, so any help you can give, starting now, would be greatly appreciated! Let Karen Baker (kbcbab@aol.com) or myself (andymekelburg@outlook.com) know if you have a contribution. In addition, it's prudent to think about what we can do for fundraising, in case of cancellation. Please send me your ideas on this at .

I look forward to hearing your fishing stories in June and hopefully seeing you all safely, securely, and soon.

— Andy Mekelburg

Calendar of Events

- June 9** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (check Juyour email for the web link)
- June 15** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- June 19** Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- June 24** Board of Directors' Meeting Conference Call, 7:00 PM

2020 PVFF Offices & Directors

- President.....Andy Mekelburg
- Vice President.....Dave Keane
- Secretary.....Karen Baker
- Treasurer.....Dennis Allen
- 3 year Director.....Russ Hanson
- 2 year Director.....Lynn Ashe
- 1 year Director.....Troy Kitch
- Past President.....Larry Forte