



## Join Us for a Virtual Gathering on Zoom

Monthly Meeting — July 14th



Anybody want to talk about bamboo rods or nearby brookie streams?

**J**oin fellow club members on July 14th at 7pm via Zoom videoconferencing. We will send out a web link for you to use to join the conversation. Thanks to those who joined us for our first “virtual gathering” in June! As in June, our next meeting 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 or tying, share your favorite flies to use in July, or get advice on gear.

We are open to talking about anything and everything fly fishing and fly tying. We hope to see you online this month.

New to Zoom? Visit [support.zoom.us](https://support.zoom.us) for tutorials, frequently asked questions, and “how to” videos.

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Foam Beetle and Grasshopper

By Don Fine

Over the past several months our Beginner's (virtual) Fly Tying sessions have been a great success. We are thrilled to report again that over 20 club members participated in June by tying two variations of the *Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear* nymph. As noted in previous issues of *Streamlines*, our goal for the Beginner's program is focused on learning fundamental fly tying skills. As such each month participants learn new tying techniques and use of new materials in tying the respective fly pattern(s).

With the coming of summer months, various fresh water fish opt to feed on larger insect species, such as grasshoppers, crickets, ants, and beetles. Insects such as these are commonly referred to as *terrestrials* — insects which live their entire life cycle on land. In contrast, an insect which lives predominantly all of its life cycle in the water is called an *aquatic* species.



We have chosen two terrestrial fly patterns for the July Beginner's (Virtual) Fly Tying: a **foam beetle** and a **foam grasshopper**. In tying these representations of terrestrial insects, tiers will learn techniques for segmentation of the fly and application of new synthetic materials which represent the body, wings, and legs of the fly.

During summer months fishing a terrestrial pattern as a single fly, in tandem with another terrestrial, or with a nymph dropper can turn a slow day into an event to remember.

As compared to the cold or cooler months when fish hunker toward the bottom of the stream or river, in warmer months the same fish are looking to the surface for something large to eat.

As last month, those who intend to participate will need to register in advance in order receive by mail the tying materials for the pattern. Details are below.

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

No later than **July 13**, 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 this month's flies. All instructions for tying these patterns will be available online by **July 15**. 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!

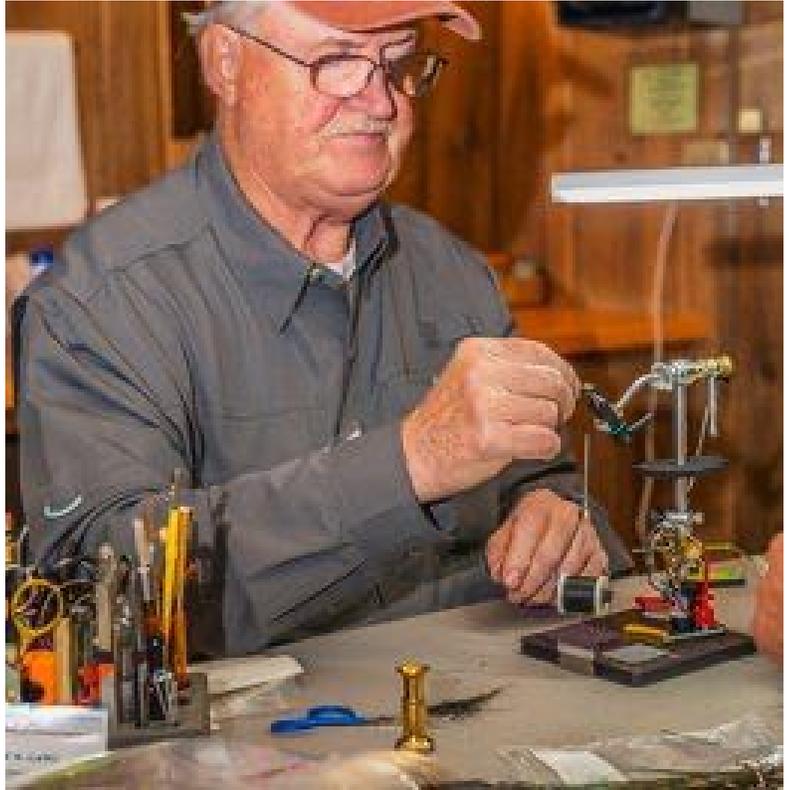
# ***In Memoriam: PVFF Member Ray Gano***

*By Don Fine*

Club member Ray Gano of Martinsburg, West Virginia, passed away June 17, 2020, from cancer. Because he lived a distance from Frederick, perhaps some of our club members never had the opportunity to meet Ray — yet those who regularly attend our picnics, banquets, and fly tying sessions would easily recognize him. Ruby and I consider ourselves blessed to have known Ray and his wife Sylvia, whom we met over 20 years ago in association with Creekside Anglers and Antietam Fly Anglers, two other fly fishing clubs to which Ray was an active member.

Generous beyond belief, Ray Gano freely shared his expertise at the fly tying vise, and sharing with others numerous new fly patterns which he had developed. One of his favorite expressions was ‘*try this fly, it will knock the snot out of the fish.*’ Ray loved to teach fly tying and generously shared his time and tying talents with others. He especially enjoyed helping youngsters learn to tie, and generously gave copious amounts of tying materials to young fly tiers, several who are members of our club. Each year at banquet time, Ray would bring along a box of his hand tied flies, along with a specialty fly mounted in a shadow box which he had hand-crafted.

Beyond the ‘vise’ Ray Gano was a highly skilled and innovative rod builder. Many of the rods which he built were donated to charitable organizations. Ray’s expertise in fly rod building extended into restoring old classic bamboo rods (“sticks,” as he would say)



into first-class functional fishing rods. Beyond his participation in local fly clubs, Ray was active in Reel Recovery, a national non-profit organization that conducts free fly fishing retreats for persons living with all forms of cancer.

Ray Gano will be deeply missed and never forgotten by his countless friends and fly fishing colleagues. I will miss his humor, his smile, and the generosity of his time and talents. Ray is survived by his devoted wife, Sylvia; daughters, Sarah and Amanda; stepson, Mark; two grandsons, Aiden and Riese; sister, Norma and brother, Richard.

View Ray’s obituary and tribute wall online at the following address:

**[memorials.brownfuneralhomeswv.com/ray-gano/4245407/index.php](https://memorials.brownfuneralhomeswv.com/ray-gano/4245407/index.php)**

# Bucket List: Fly Fishing in the West

By John Brognard

*This article was originally published in the June 2013 issue of Streamlines.*



Fly fishing in Yellowstone. Image credit: National Park Service/Neal Herbert

Consider adding the West to the top of your bucket list. Over the years, Donna and I have spent time traveling in the Western States, particularly Montana, Wyoming, and up into Canada. Everyone knows about Yellowstone Park, but there is so much more to see and experience in and around the Park. Especially for fly fishers!

We hop in our car (already parked) at 4:00 am and head west. The first evening we spend the night in Blue Earth, Minnesota (1,000+ miles). Up again early next morning, quick breakfast and off across South Dakota and Wyoming. That evening we stay in Sheridan, Wyoming. Now we start our vacation, or as they say in the United Kingdom, we are on holiday. We start by crossing Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains. Several roads provide stunning views, and the opportunity to see wildlife. When we reach the western side of the mountains, the view is of a

vast arid valley, colored various shades of red, brown, and blue. It's an awesome sight.

Driving across the valley, we arrive in Cody, Wyoming. Cody has some very interesting museums (most especially the Buffalo Bill Museum), and the road leading to the west entrance to Yellowstone Park. This is a beautiful ride with sightings of moose, deer, and elk — and the first view of Yellowstone Lake from this route is breath taking. On another trip we headed north on route 120, then northwest on the Chief Joseph Highway that follows the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River through one of the most beautiful valleys we have ever seen and into Cooke City.

Cooke City is at the north east entrance to Yellowstone Park. We like Cooke City because it is less crowded, while providing easy access to Lamar

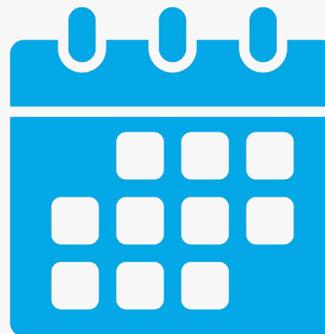
**(Bucket List continued)**

Valley, wonderful wildlife viewing and fishing in the Lamar and Yellowstone Rivers, Pebble Creek, Soda Butte Creek, and Trout Lake. After several days lodging at Cooke City, we head northwest over Beartooth Pass to Red Lodge, Montana. The road over the pass reaches almost 11,000 feet and provides opportunities to see rock marmots and various birds and animals that live here in this harsh environment. We stop to view the Bear Tooth, a jagged mountain that is visible in a pass between two other mountains.

The ride down into Red Lodge is a very beautiful switch-back road with a wonderful view of mountains and valleys. Staying in Red Lodge gives us the opportunity to fish the Stillwater River, Rock Creek, East and West Rosebud Creeks, and Mystic Lake. On another trip, we exited Yellowstone Park by the South Entrance, and fished the confluence of the Snake and Lewis Rivers. On this trip we parked our car in a picnic area behind the entrance buildings, walked along the Snake River to the confluence (good fishing), and we also fished upstream along the Lewis River. Heading south into Jackson Hole, Wyoming, we have a wonderful view of the Teton Mountains. We stopped at Jenny Lake, headed across to the other side on a tourist boat taking along our fly rods. At the far side of Jenny Lake, we have the option of hiking into the mountains or fishing for cutthroat trout in the lake. Later we stay in Jackson Hole and fish more in the Snake River. I recommend a float trip for some fun.

I'm just getting started with describing our western adventures and already I am running out of space. Montana and Wyoming offer wonderful fishing opportunities. One day near Ennis, Montana, we crossed a small stream. We stopped for a moment to look over the bridge into a hole literally filled with trout. An hour later we continued on our journey after both of us caught and released numerous cutthroat, rainbow, and cut bow trout.

It's a fishers' paradise out there in the West so consider adding a nice long holiday to your bucket list.



**Calendar of Events**

- July 13**      Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- July 14**      Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (check your email for the web link)
- July 15**      Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- July 22**      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

# Tying the Egg Pattern Steelhead Glo Bug

## Project Healing Waters

By Andrew Frutiger

In our fourth installment of online fly tying seminars, Colin Flournoy led our veterans through and incredibly effective and easy to tie egg pattern. The pattern only requires yellow and orange GloBug yarn, thread, and a hook, and is great for most streams in the area and beyond whether you are fishing for monster salmon or our local trout. The only recommendation is to make sure your egg pattern is based on the size of the fish that will be laying them. The recommended method for fishing this pattern is on a stream (speed doesn't matter) and bouncing the egg about six inches off of the bottom using a split shot tied below the fly.



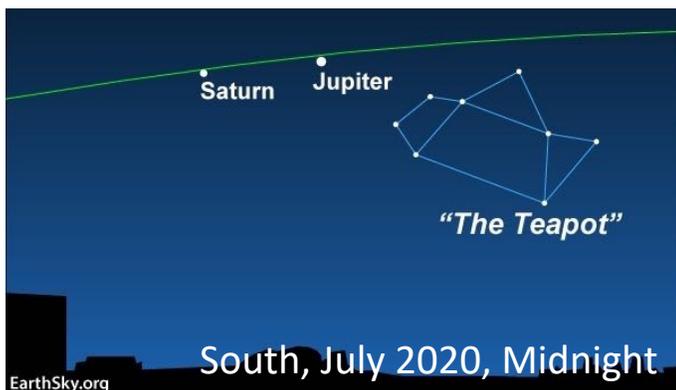
After tying the pattern, it was more education with Larry Forte and Don Fine. Larry walked the veterans through a practical guide to fly lines, leaders, tippet, and how to put them together (18 – 20 inches of tippet in addition to 9ft leader). Don finished the event with his dozen “must have flies.”

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](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters* — *Frederick Chapter*.

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## Astronomy Minute: June 2020

By Russ Hanson



**Saturn and Jupiter** – Due to our faster orbit, the Earth is catching up to Jupiter and Saturn and will soon pass them. Jupiter will be in opposition on July

14 and Saturn will be in opposition on July 20. That is, the Earth will pass between them and the sun. On those dates, the planets will be exactly opposite the sun in our sky, and they will be about as close and bright as they generally get. Where to look? They'll rise in the east after sunset and follow the ecliptic across the sky. The ecliptic is the plane of the solar system along which the sun, moon, and planets appear to move across our sky.

**Venus** – Venus continues to move away from the sun in the morning sky and is at its brightest on July 10. Look for it to pop over the eastern horizon about an hour or so before the sun.

# Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

Spring became summer and we are still crawling into our waders and tying those last critical flies before setting out to our favorite stream for what I call “comfort fishing.” The advanced fishers are always looking for that extra degree of difficulty, like a tree overhand ceiling at seven feet, or fishing the Savage River during the water release, or wading the Salmon River without a wading stick! And that’s all fine. However, sometimes you just want to go fishing. Go to your usual place, follow your routine, and cast — just getting into a rhythm with rod and fly. I sort of feel like we’re at this stage right now with coming out pandemic restrictions.

We are now “officially” allowed to fish and, according to our members who participated in our June virtual meeting, people are getting out. We received reports from about fishing all over the area and beyond. My thanks to everyone who participated in the meeting. Thanks to some good reviews, we’re going to try it again this month. (I remember when *Zoom* was just a sound my son’s Mustang made). Help me out, participate and give us some stories — you know I’m going to call on you anyways!

It’s been interesting to watch see how the club is evolving to meet member’s wishes, through technology and other means. The work Don and Troy do on the “Fly Tying at a Distance” has been going great. We mailed out 22 packages of material and Don’s YouTube videos are rising fast on the charts.

This last club meeting also gave us a chance to solicit ideas directly from our members. We talked about accepting credit cards and Dennis, our Treasurer, has done the follow up investigation. The initial costs are a couple of hundred dollars, plus transaction fees. Everyone seems in favor on the face of it, however we’re also trying to assess how many



## Trout Stocking

By Dave Keane

In early June, Otter Valley Fish Camp was stocked by members of PVFF and the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (BOJC). Our club has been partnering with BOJC for a number of years now to stock this stream and purchase extra trout for both *Fishing with the Masters* for BOJC and our annual outing for Project Healing Waters. Since most activities are shut down due to COVID 19, hopefully the trout will continue to grow and our veterans can have an opportunity to fish for them later this year. Thanks to all the members who came out and helped with the fish stocking!

members would prefer using a credit card. More to come. We are also following up Kevin Haney’s suggestion on a mentor program. We are trying to blend his idea with creating a list of members who anyone can contact to go fishing with. Any suggestions on either of these ideas (or anything else) are gratefully accepted.

Lastly, as you know, we’re still in limbo in planning any future live event — banquet, outings, meetings, live fly tying, etc. The Board is closely monitoring the situation, with safety of our membership as our top priority. In the meantime, let’s go out and catch some fish.

