



## Club Meeting: An Evening with Bob Clouser



Courtesy Clouser's Fly Shop @ clousersflyshop.com

At our next virtual meeting, on Tuesday, May 11, we welcome fly fishing and tying legend Bob Clouser. You don't want to miss this one! Here's an excerpt from an article from *Temple Forks Outfitters* ([tforods.com](http://tforods.com)), where Bob serves as an advisor:

Bob's love of the outdoors, especially fishing, led him into the fishing business. He continues to guide, teach, and share his enjoyment with others. Bob now teaches fly tying, fly casting and fishing. His casting demonstrations, using visual aids and casting weighted flies and lines, are very popular. Bob holds freshwater and saltwater fly fishing/casting schools at various locations around the country. He also hosts trips to great

fresh and saltwater fishing locations. Bob's lectures, tying demonstrations, and presentations are given nationwide.

He is sought after for his presentations on "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass" — catching smallmouth from top to bottom using flies — and "Fly Fishing Adventures" — about various species that can be caught on fly rod and flies. Bob's Fly Casting Demonstration, "Casting Weighted Flies and Lines" is highly sought after.

Bob has been featured in many fine fly fishing and fly tying videos and DVDs. Some of these are instructional videos which can be found in

Join us on Zoom: **May 11 at 7pm** — We'll email you the link.

retail shops across the country, and some have been presented on national television. Bob is also a prolific and highly regarded author of fly fishing and fly tying articles.

His articles have been published in national and regional magazines, as well as in fresh and saltwater publications. He has completed two books. "Clouser's Flies" contains 16 of his fly patterns, which are recognized worldwide.

His other book, "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth in Rivers and Streams,"— rated by Fly Fisherman Magazine as Best on the Subject — it contains techniques and flies for catching smallmouth bass. Bob enjoys doing freelance outdoor photography. Bob is the innovator of many fine fly patterns, all of which have gained worldwide

popularity. His flies include The Clouser Minnow, The Half and Half, Clouser Crayfish, Swimming Nymph, Crippled Minnow, Mad Tom, The Darter, Hellgrammite, E-Z Popper, Floating Minnow, and many others.

Bob's Clouser Minnow is claimed to be the most effective underwater fly ever developed, rated as #1 by Field and Stream Magazine. He has designed a fly line (The Clouser Taper) manufactured by Cortland that makes casting heavy wind-resistant fly patterns a dream to cast. He is on the advisory staff for Temple Fork Outfitters and has designed a line of rods (Clouser Series Fly Rods) with Temple Fork Outfitters. He is also on the staff of Rainy's Flies Inc. and Renzetti Inc.



Right to Left: Dave Fulton, Bob Clouser, Dan Neuland, Lefty Kreh, Bill Kulp, Bob Davis



Courtesy Clouser's Fly Shop @ clousersflyshop.com

## Let's Tie a Clouser Deep Minnow on Zoom

On May 4th at 7pm, PVFF Club Member Rick Loose will demonstrate, via Zoom, how to tie a Clouser Deep Minnow. Members who are interested in tying the fly while Rick leads the interactive session are encouraged to have the materials listed below. Join us to tie this fly or just to hang out with club members for an hour — we will send out the Zoom link on email. Here's an overview of the pattern and materials from Rick:

My goal with the materials list is to give everyone options in order to tie a couple flies without purchasing any new materials or hooks.

**Hook:** Bob's book "Clouser's Flies" was copyrighted in 2006. Prior articles called for a 3906B. The book calls for Mustad 3365A or 3366. My suggestion is any hook mentioned above plus any other hook 1X, 2x or 3X in a size 2 or 4. Stainless steel hooks in size 2 and 4 are fine as well.

**Thread:** Pale green, cream or gray in 3/0 or 6/0.

**Head:** 1/30 lead eye. My favorite is the red with black center.

**Lower Body:** White deer tail

**Upper body:** Chartreuse deer tail, light gray or light tan or pale blue do as well.

**Middle body:** Rainbow Krystal flash or silver Krystal flash

We won't do this during the session, however Bob coats the head with a 30 minute epoxy. That takes a drying wheel. Any of the new hard glues with the blue light will work as well. If you have any questions my contact info is [flyfishric@gmail.com](mailto:flyfishric@gmail.com) or 301-606-8074.

# Beginner's Fly Tying: Bead Head Bunny Leech

By Don Fine

Our PVFF Beginner's fly tying classes have been a tremendous success over the past year, despite the handicaps of the COVID pandemic. Almost monthly more and more of our members are joining in and requesting materials in order to tie the 'fly of the month.'

I pause to reiterate that the focus of our monthly Beginner's program is to provide knowledge and skills in tying relatively simple fly patterns for fishing inland waters. In doing so, each "pattern of the month" incorporates new techniques and/or new tying materials, to help our club fly tiers better understand artificial fly construction and fundamental tying techniques, and to gain experience in using various artificial materials.

Admittedly, some of our tiers look forward to using their new flies on the water, while others merely enjoy this pastime activity and learning new tying skills. Such is the beauty of the 'art' of tying artificial flies, which has captured my imagination over the past 50 years.

So the fly pattern chosen for the month of May is the 'bead head bunny leech,' also referred to as a 'rabbit strip leech,' or several other descriptive terms



for the imitation of a fresh water fish food commonly called a leech.

Despite the many differences in materials and components of this pattern (as one would find on the internet and fly tying books), the common component in virtually all bunny leech patterns is the use of a thin strip of the hide of a rabbit. This material, which when wet imparts a life-like movement to the fly, such as can be observed in a fresh water leech, which moves about via snake-like undulations of its body.

With our progression into warmer weather we will find more opportunities to fish patterns like the 'bunny leech' when fishing for trout, bass and even large panfish.

## How to Participate in the Next "Fly Tying at a Distance" Session

No later than **May 10**, 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 **May 12**. Then consider sending us a photo of your fly and/or you at the vise to [contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](mailto:contact@potomacvalleyflyfishers.club).

# Advanced Fly Tying: Antonio's Quill Midge

By Larry Forte



Antonio's Quill Midge

**O**ur next Advanced Fly Tying session will be Wednesday, May 19th. Nina Cleven is going to show us how to tie the Antonio's Quill Midge. The thin body that a quill creates is a perfect imitation for midges and small mayflies.

If you are interested, please let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net). Hope to see you online later this month!

At our last virtual tying session, Martyn showed us how to tie a Peeping Caddis, a fly he learned to fish as a youth living in Wales, England.

Interested? We would love for you to join us. Here's how it works. Each participant is responsible for leading a tying session for a monthly meeting during the year. You select the fly and show how it is tied during the meeting. If we have 12 members, you will lead the session once per year.



Peeping Caddis

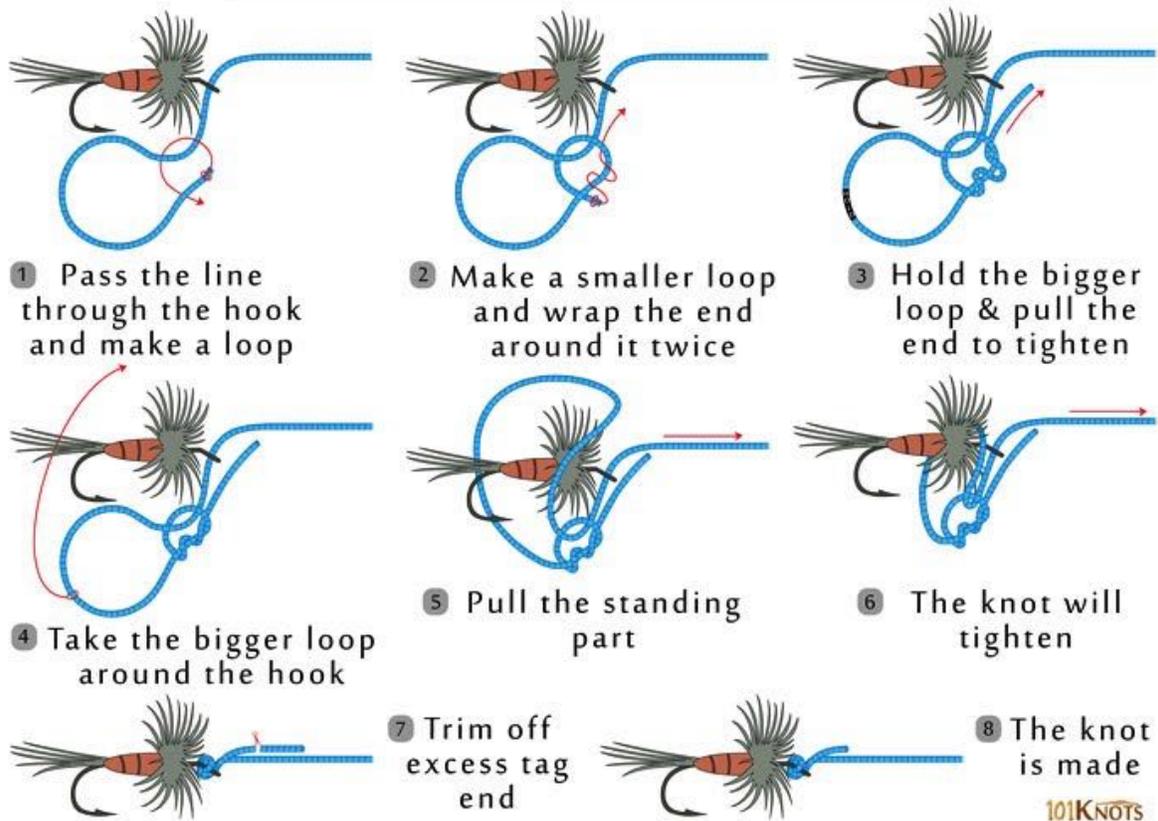
# Tackle Tips: *Tying the Turtle Knot*

By Kevin Haney

If you are looking for a strong, easy knot to tie on a fly, especially if your eyesight is not all that good and you are using fine tippets, consider the Turtle Knot. It is named after Major William Greer Turtle, a 19th-century English angler who popularized the knot but did not claim to have invented it. It is most often used to tie on a fly with a turned up or turned down eye. Advantages of this knot are that it can be

tied with the fly out of the way, and when finished the line emerges parallel to the hook shaft, giving a better set when a fish is hooked. There are several variations to this knot and this one would be considered the "Improved Turtle Knot." Lefty Kreh suggests tucking the tag end through the large loop before tightening the knot onto the hook eye, but that is optional.

## Turtle Knot Instructions



Graphic courtesy knots101.com

## Do you have fly fishing tips to share?

We are seeking submissions for "Tackle Tips." The above article will give you an idea of what we're looking for. If you would like to share tips and tricks on any aspect of fly fishing, send us an article! Submissions should be no longer than 350 words. Bonus points if you also send us an image to use.



Right to Left: Craig Falk, Ashu Rao, Dennis Allen, Phil Cleven

## Conservation Corner: Catoctin Creek Clean Up

By Dave Keane

On Saturday, April 24th, members from our club volunteered their time to clean up our Home Waters. They also branched out and collected fallen tree shelters within the reforestation areas. The weather was beautiful and the park was

busy with visitors. Thanks to the following members for working on Saturday to make our waters healthier and clean: Ashu Rao, Todd Cunningham and daughter, Craig Falk and daughter, Phil Cleven, and Dennis Allen.



Cicada flies tied by Nina Cleven (April Beginner's Tying Session)

# Project Healing Waters: Getting Closer

By Andrew Frutiger

As many of you know, Project Healing Waters has been completely virtual for the past year, remaining active in what has been referred to as Phase 1. During this time, veterans have had the opportunity to tie multiple fly patterns and studied how to use them on a variety of water. Recently we moved into Phase 2, allowing one veteran and 1 volunteer to get together, outside, and put those flies and tactics to use. Although there have been some one on one outings to get veterans back out on the water, we have begun shifting our focus to Phase 3. Phase 3 is when up to 10 total people (veterans and volunteers) are able to participate in an outdoor event. The team is working through the



logistics and are hoping to have our first in person meeting (with as many as 10 of us gathering) in May. Additional Phases (4-5) include indoor activities and overnight outings respectively though no dates have been set at this time.

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*.

## Astronomy Minute

**Planet Viewing** – Both Mercury and Venus have swung behind the sun and are entering our evening sky. I think of these inferior (orbits closer to the sun) planets as the yo-yo planets due to the paths they take in the sky. Of course, Venus is the most spectacular. It will continue to rise higher in the sky and reach its greatest elongation (apparent distance from sun) in the August-September timeframe. It will then slide back down towards the sun and pass in front of it at the end of the year. I look forward to seeing the “evening star” again. We also have a chance to see Mercury at its greatest elongation on May 16. Let’s hope for clear skies!

— Russ Hanson



# Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

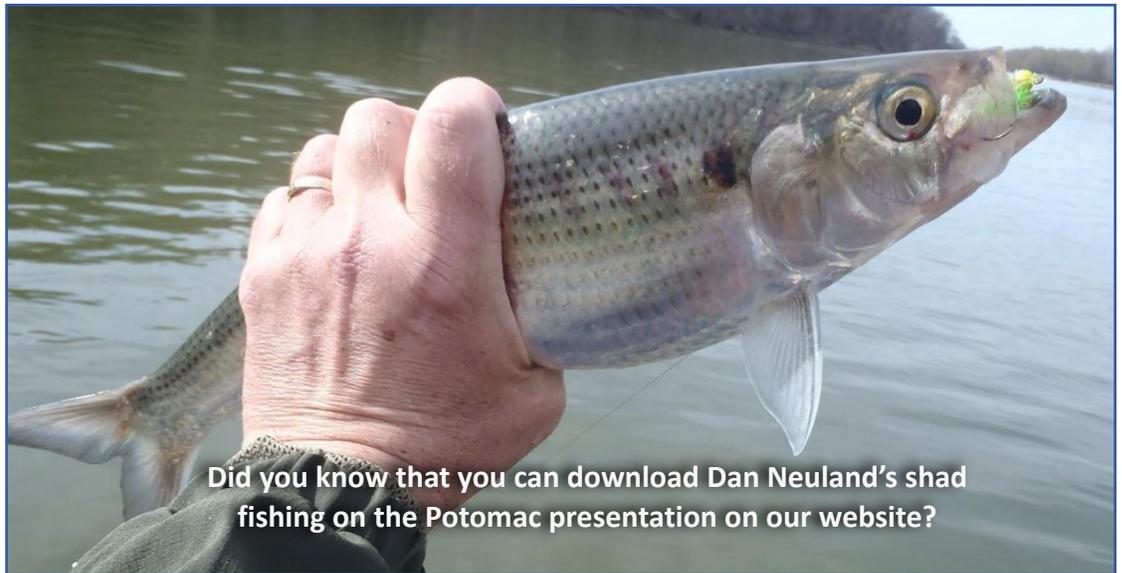
Ah, some warm weather and no rain to cause flood conditions. This describes the perfect spring fishing weather for me. Not that I fish as much as I'd like (especially on the weekend), but when I do it's great. Of course, then the wind picks up and my fly goes everywhere!

In between lawn mowing, which seems like every other day, I've been able to enjoy spring fishing. At my home waters, I have actually caught a couple of the goldens. As you expert fishers know, the golden trout are much tougher than rainbows to catch, for whatever reason. I like having the goldens there, as a target, knowing that for every one I see, there is usually a rainbow which will actually go for the fly I cast.

Last weekend, I went on the PVFF Outing to Smith Creek, in Virginia, a little north of Harrisonburg, with club member Mike Holland. I caught a big rainbow, almost 20 inches, which was exciting. More fun was catching a small sunfish and, while pulling it in, a monstrous brown trout was following it in. Eventually the sunfish got off thanks to the barbless hook, but I immediately tied on a Kreelex Fly (see June Advanced Fly Tying), although it didn't achieve the same results. As the day progressed, the weather warmed up, and we were able to take a layer or two off and bask and fish in the nice day. Great outing. It's a very peaceful location. Aside from the fishing, the only excitement around is the neighbors, who live on the other side of

the creek, who have to drive through the water to get to their farm.

In April, I went with Dan Neuland down to the Potomac fishing for shad. We met in Urbana around 4:45 a.m. to miss the one-way lanes on the Clara Barton. For extremely detailed driving, parking, and fishing advice, Dan's presentation is posted on our website. We had a lot of fun and in the time that I was not untangling my line or getting the watercraft back upstream, I actually caught a bunch of fish.



Did you know that you can download Dan Neuland's shad fishing on the Potomac presentation on our website?

They put up a nice fight. Follow Dan's instructions to the letter and you can't go wrong, he has shad fishing down! Also, I found out that Orvis has a decent warranty on their rods.

For now, in between the lawn and fishing, the club has some upcoming events I'm looking forward to. Next Tuesday, May 4, Rick Loose is leading a special fly-tying session on the Clouser Deep Minnow. Send me an email ([andymekelburg@outlook.com](mailto:andymekelburg@outlook.com)) if you want to participate. Following that is our general meeting, at which Bob Clouser will appear. Looking forward to hearing from a legend.

Lastly, I'm looking to enlist volunteers in helping us move the Lefty Kreh recognition site (I don't know what else to call it yet) to actualization. We have received a vigorous head nod and help from Frederick county staff in placing something in public recognizing Lefty. We just need to decide what we want, how we're going to pay for it, and where it should be located. We need your help in formulating, then implementing, what we feel is appropriate. Please let me know if you want to join in this effort.

Enjoy the spring fishing, I look forward to hearing everyone's stories. Let us know if you have any ideas for an outing.

## Upcoming Outings

We have one outing on the docket. Head to our website for more details and to sign up. Note that all planned dates are weather- and water-level dependent, so if you sign up, be sure to check your email the evening before and morning of a given trip to make sure it's still on.

### GUNPOWDER, MD

**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021

**Location:** Upper Section of the Gunpowder

**Species:** Trout

**Outing Leader:** Larry Forte

## Classifieds: Visit Our Website to Buy or Sell

Did you know that we now have a classifieds section on our website? We currently have a variety of vintage fly rods and reels, a tying vise, and a switch rod for sale. We also have a member seeking antique bamboo rods and vintage reels. Head to our site to get the details — and send us an email if you have something to add to the list.

## Calendar of Events

- May 4** Clouser Deep Minnow Tying Event — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- May 10** Beginner's Fly Tying Online Sign-Up Deadline
- May 11** Virtual Club Meeting — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- May 13** Beginner's Fly Tying Instruction Available on PVFF Website
- May 13** Gunpowder Outing
- May 19** Advanced Fly Tying Group — Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM (the link will be sent out via email)
- May 27** 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.....Dave Dowiak  
 2 year Director.....Troy Kitch  
 1 year Director.....Russ Hanson  
 Past President.....Larry Forte

**POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS**

**P. O. BOX 3001**

**FREDERICK, MD 21705**

[www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](http://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club)



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



**POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS**  
**MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL APPLICATION and LIABILITY RELEASE**

**Year** \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers (PVFF) is (1) to promote fly fishing as the most sportsman-like and enjoyable way of fishing and the most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our resources; (2) to provide advice, suggestions and assistance to club members; (3) to publicize the best practices and techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and other related subjects; and (4) to maintain liaison with other organizations of sportsmen and conservationists. By my joining PVFF voluntarily, I understand there are risks involved and will not hold the PVFF club, board of directors, and officers responsible for any injuries, accidents or death as a result of participation in the activities of the Club. I also grant PVFF permission to photograph me and/or my family at any activities and also to publish them in our monthly newsletter, at the meetings and any PVFF fly fishing functions.

Website: [www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club](http://www.potomacvalleyflyfishers.club)

The undersigned being in agreement with the above does hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

If family membership, other names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address for e-mailing newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Fly Fishers Int'l (FFI) member? Circle **Yes or No**      **Yearly Dues:** \_\_\_ \$15 single \_\_\_ \$20 family      \$ \_\_\_ Donation

How did you hear about PVFF? \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Fly Shop \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Interested in a volunteer position? \_\_\_ Officer /Board of Directors \_\_\_ Committee/Chair \_\_\_ Banquet \_\_\_ Trip Organizer \_\_\_ Teaching Fly Tying \_\_\_ Other Activities

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO POTOMAC VALLEY FLY FISHERS.** Mail your check with this completed form to:

**David Dowiak, PVFF Membership**  
8920 Bloomfield Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

**Dues for calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31**

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_