

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

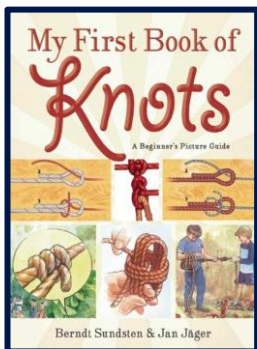
## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **Wednesdays:** Preschool Mornings @ 10 AM
- **November 17:** Gallery of Trees Begins @ 7 PM
- **November 25:** Christmas Market 2023 -- *Vendors of all kinds ... Click Below for more information!*  
[Christmas Market Info](#)

### Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



#### **My First Book of Knots** By Berndt Sundsten

What is more memorable than a child first learning to tie his shoes? Or wrapping his first Christmas presents? Knots aren't easy to learn, but they are very helpful—whether you are five years old, ten years old, or even fifty years old. Here is a children's picture book that will help parent and child learn together by simplifying the craft and bringing the reader into the world of knots through beautiful, detailed illustrations.

## Knot Just Any Stitch



My great-grandmother, Mattie Clyde, used to sew. My father watched her create many things during his youth, but one powerful story that he recently shared was his memory of her making nets. He vividly remembers Grandma Mattie wearing her bonnet and sitting on her porch with white, cotton twine in her lap. She would tie knot after knot while breathing the shore's salty air perfumed by her son's fish house just down the path.

Fishermen cannot do their jobs without proper equipment--boats, lines, anchors, and nets to name a few important tools of their trade. I have always known that fishing was the way of life for my ancestors, but never have I better understood the entanglement of our shores and their lives until now. For some reason, the realization that my great-grandmother's hands (as did numerous other hands of wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters) literally tied the knots to ensure her fishermen could provide food, shelter, and livelihoods for her family and community has moored me tighter to my special heritage.

Grandma Mattie used a fid to measure and create the uniform marsh needed for each net. The fid was handmade of wood with rounded edges. She placed it alongside each knot to measure where the next knot would go. A form of weaving, this was something women did mostly from necessity, but there was much enjoyment in the process, too. Making nets allowed the women time to see what was going on from their porches and converse with their passersby; this is the part Daddy remembers the most! Often on his way to the landing Grandma Mattie would holler, "Wayne, come here! You're gonna have a heat stroke!" One day she even gave him one of his granddaddy Cleveland's Sunday hats as a reprieve from the sun. And, if you know my dad, you know he still has that hat!



Henry (my grandfather), Tilton, Hubert, Cleveland, Mattie holding Nola Mae, Clara, Mabel, and Cora

# The Science of Knot Tying

*Knots are studied in topology, which studies properties that are unchanged by continuous transformations. Knots are examples of embeddings, since they are loops living in in 3-dimensional space.*



**Click on the knot to the left and learn how to tie a proper fisherman's knot!**

## Surfing the Net

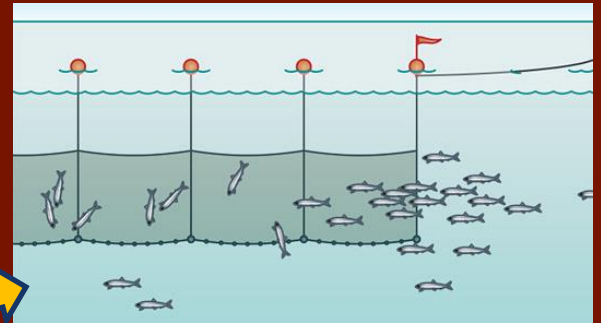
Those of you who think commercial fishermen use one simple net that can be used to catch any type of fish are quite mistaken. Nets differ according to the type of fish being caught. Some common nets used by our local fishermen are:

**Gill nets** are versatile and can be used to catch a variety of fish — from trout to flounder. They have openings large enough to allow a fish's head to pass but not wide enough for its body. When the fish tries to back out of the webbing, it is caught behind the gills, hence the name.

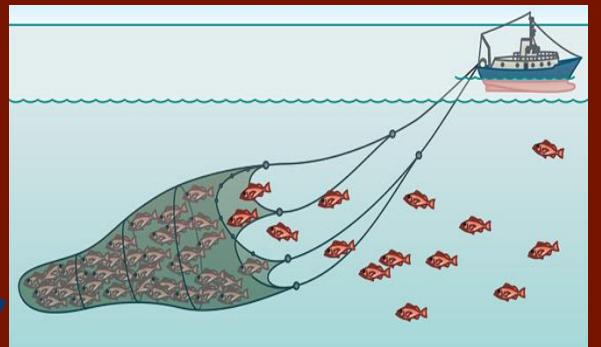
**Trawl nets** are flattened, cone-shaped nets that are lowered into the ocean or sound to reach the bottom. They are dragged along by the power of a boat. Shellfish or fish are swept into the mouth of the net and pile up at the cod or back end. In North Carolina, a bycatch-reduction device and a turtle excluder are required.

Fishermen may tow from one to four trawls behind their boats. Periodically, the trawl is winched aboard the board to empty the catch. Trawls can be rigged to catch shrimp, crabs, flounder, spot, and croaker.

**Pound nets** are complex and have three sections: the leader, the heart, and the pound. The leader is a long stretch of webbing that extends to the shore and stops fish from swimming downstream, guiding them toward the heart. The heart is the funnel that channels fish into the pound, or the trap. The pound is a webbed box with no top and no means of escape for the shad, herring or flounder that swim inside.



*photos above and below from <https://worldoceanreview.com>*



*photo below from <https://www.researchgate.net>*

