



TVFF Club News

August 2021



August Speaker



TVFF member **Bill Walters** is our August 19 speaker. Bill has been fly fishing for 30-plus years. When he got to cast quality bamboo rods, he was hooked, so to speak, but the price of rods was out of his range. So he learned how to make his own rods. And 20 years later he is still making them.

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This Month

- Aug 5 - BOD meeting – 7 PM Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201. Members welcome
- Aug 12 - Fly Tying–Room 201/7 PM
- Aug 19 - Club meet – 201-7 PM
- Aug 26 - Fly Tying – 201-7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Connor Baker
Secretary: Gary Jedlovec
Treasurer: David Mahlik
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Fred Kaufmann
Conservation: Corey Pedigo
Communications: Dana Beyerle

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting will be Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201. Members are welcome to attend.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201 at 7 PM. There will not be a Zoom for fly tying in August.



Please bring a mask in case masking rules change

12 August 7PM Room 201 in person Sam's One Bug- Lead Tyer, Wade Blevins

Cost: \$2.00 in person

This fly is the creation of TVFF Member Sam Blevins, who passed away in 2005. Sam named it the One Bug because it is the only fly you need and it is durable enough to fish all day. His son Wade will tie the fly for us; to honor his father and because it is still Wade's favorite fly.

Materials:

Thread: 210 Denier to match body color

Hook Size 6 Nymph Hook, 2X Long

Body: ¼" Foam cylinder, white, yellow or orange

Tail: Marabou, same color as body or contrasting color

Flash: Krystal Flash

Legs: Medium round rubber legs

Additional: Razor blade to slit body, gel superglue, bodkin, needle threader

Optional: Clear Acrylic Sealer, Acrylic paint, Markers, or Nail Polish for spots,
Clear nail polish to topcoat spots



Sam's One Bug

26 August 7PM Rom 201

Frankenhopper - Lead Tyer, Joe Tremblay

Just as Frankenstein was made up from a number of "donors", the Frakenhopper is the results of several of "donor" patterns as well as several of my own innovations resulting in a somewhat "realistic" hopper pattern destined to catch both cold and warm water species.

Materials:

Thread: 6/0 color of body

Hook: Saber ### hopper hook

Wing: FTD Crystal Hair or Crystal Flash

Body: 2mm craft foam

Legs: Small Centipede legs



The Frankenhopper

All are welcomed! Fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or better yet, one of your own design.

Join us for 2 hour sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7 PM.

Health Notice: By attending the in-person session you accept responsibility for any and all associated health risks.

Catch of The Month: TVFF member **Dana Beyerle** caught (and released) these nice bass on a popper in an urban Huntsville creek using a split bamboo Heddon 20 fly rod that is older than he is. (Both Dana and the fly rod are from the first half of the last century.) We'd love to see your picture here. Send your photo with a brief description of tackle/fly and location caught, unless it's a "secret" spot, to editor@tvff.org.



TVFF member **Gary Davis**, who is also a member of the [Aquabonita](#) Flyfishers in Ridgecrest, Calif., donated this framed painting of a Soda Creek golden trout, *Salmo whitei* (Evermann), by artist Charles Bradford Hudson in 1904 (Framing by Paula Walke.) The painting is for a club fundraiser.

Fill-a-Box

Let's show our appreciation to Faith Presbyterian Church for the use of Room 201. Please bring one item from the list on [page 8](#) to the meeting on August 19th.

New E-Mail Address? If you get a new email address or want your TVFF email to go to a different address, email editor@tvff.org and we'll fix you right up. If you've missed an email, check your spam or junk folder.



Fishing the Big Hole 2021 by Joe Tremblay

After having to cancel last year's trip due to the pandemic, I was chomping at the bit for a chance to fish my favorite western river. The Big Hole is located in south west Montana and runs 153 miles to the Jefferson. Although not as well-known as the Jefferson, Madison or the Gallatin, the Big Hole is special.

The Big Hole is the last habitat in the contiguous United States for native river-dwelling Arctic grayling. Grayling require cold clean water and are found only in the upper section of the Big Hole. They are a rare catch and past trips only yielded 2, but this year I caught 7.



This had nothing to do with my fishing skills but rather, due to the low water conditions caused by a seven year drought and warmer water temperatures. These two factors forced the graylings to abandon their traditional hard to reach waters for cooler water in the deeper pools making them vulnerable.



Low water and smoke from surrounding fires.

The promise of catching brook, cutthroat, rainbow and brown trout on a hopper is what keeps me returning to the Big Hole year after year. I carry dozens of hopper variations in 3 large fly boxes, enough to furnish 10 fly fishers for the week, but this year, I did not use any. Conditions had changed so much that trout were not taking hoppers. As a matter of fact, they weren't taking much of anything resulting in only a dozen trout landed during the entire week. But all was not lost.

The trico hatch on the Big Hole is phenomenal! At times it looks like it's snowing. In the past I ignored tricos in favor of hoppers. After all, hoppers are much easier to fish, but even so, the trico hatch is hard to ignore and on my last trip I decided I would take my 3wt along on my next trip. Just in case.

Arriving at the confluence of Mud Creek, I spotted some large fish in an eddy taking what appeared to be BWO. I tied on a #14 parachute purple haze and manage to land a big brown. I was sure it was 24" when I landed it. I even sent an email stating so. But when I measured my rod later that afternoon I discovered it was a little over 20". The best I can figure is that it was so hot that day that by the time I got back to Butte the picture had shrunk. The brown put on a long hard fight and took a long time to revive in the warmer water. By the time it did so the BWO hatch was over and it was on to tricos.



After getting past the learning curve, I caught a slew of mountain whitefish, 7 grayling, some browns and a brook trout. Most of mountain whitefish were in the 10 to 16" range and were fun to catch and served as a valuable teaching aid. I will forever be grateful for the lessons learned at their expense.

The fly of the day was a Quigley's Midge Cluster. It accounted for many of the fish caught. This fly is especially productive during the height of the hatch. It's easy to see among the thousands of naturals that litter the water and the fish love it. Next year I'll have a box full of trico patterns along with the boxes of hoppers.





Montana is always exciting, and this year was even more so as we managed to get up close and personal with a 700-800 lb. cow elk. Thank God it was only a glancing blow or you would probably not be reading this now. I'm sure the herd was escaping the nearby fire when it charged across the road. I'm happy to report both the truck and the elk were able to continue on their way.

We also had to contend with the Trail Creek fire north west and the Alder Creek fire south east of our fishing location. Both fires were close enough to cause concern. The smoke is visible over the cab and bed of the truck. Still, it was great to be back on the Big Hole and I'm already planning next year's trip.



My brother-in-law's new truck



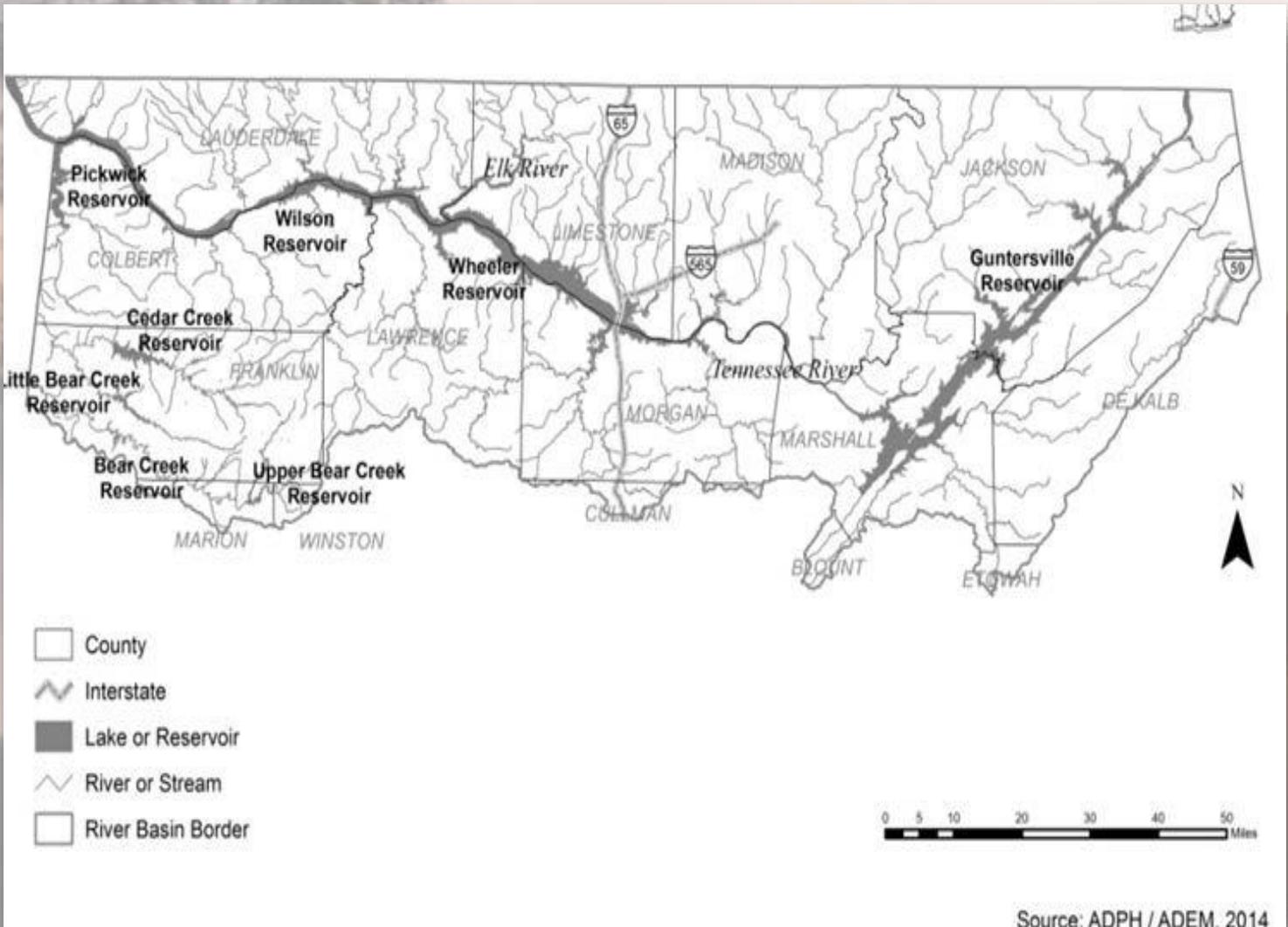
Alder Creek Fire
north east of Wise River



Trail Creek Fire
west of Wisdom



Public Health Advisory: The Alabama Department of Public Health has issued a fish-consumption [advisory](#) for fish caught in certain waters in the Tennessee Valley. The Alabama Department of Emergency Management, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources collected samples of specific fish species for analysis from various water bodies throughout the state during the fall of 2020 (492 samples; 41 collection stations), the ADPH said. The ADPH assessed the analytical results to determine whether any of the tested contaminants in the fish may give rise to potential human health effects. Click on [link](#) for the advisory. Pages 13-17 show the advisory warnings for north Alabama.



A Better Cast Catches More Fish

Visit [FFI-Online](#) to see this video and many more.

Updated Fishing Reports

- [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) – Little River Outfitters (Daily)
- [White and Norfolk Rivers](#) – Cotter Trout Lodge (Weekly)





Fly Line Recycling

Flyvines is a Montana company that “upcycles” used fly line into bracelets, lanyards, dog collars, sunglass straps and other useful items that give used fly line a second life. The picture shows used fly line collected by TVFF in 2019 that didn’t end up in a landfill. The pandemic kept us from doing that in 2020 but we’d like to participate again this year. If you respool your fly reels with new line then please coil it up and bring it to us. TVFF will pack it in a box and send it to Flyvines. It is a small thing you can do to be kind to the environment and support our conservation efforts.



Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

On the right is one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to the Alabama Casting for [Recovery](#) retreat in 2019. Since CFR retreats were put on hold due to Covid this past year, there were no TVFF fly boxes donated. TVFF would like to renew this project this year. If interested, choose a fly and tie or purchase 14 of them. When you have your set or multiple sets of 14 flies ready for collection, bring them to any club activity or contact Casting for Recovery [volunteer Debbie Hill](#). TVFF will provide the boxes for your donated flies. This fall we will be filling the fly boxes that will be donated to the Alabama Casting for Recovery retreat. Debbie keeps a list of flies that have been tied or purchased, but duplicates are welcome. <https://castingforrecovery.org/>



Fill-A-Box (When we meet at church)

Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors this program to assist food-insecure seniors in our area. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list to the next meeting:

- 1 box of low-sugar, high fiber CEREAL
- 1-2 boxes of instant OATMEAL; 1-2 boxes of BREAKFAST BARS
- 4-5 cans of TUNA, HAM, CHICKEN
- 6-8 cans of low-sugar FRUIT; 6-8 cans of SOUP
- 6-8 cans of low-salt VEGTABLES
- 3-5 boxes of LOW-PREP MEALS (Hamburger Helper, Mac n’ Cheese)
- 2-3 bottles/jars of Condiments (mayo, ketchup, oil, etc.)
- 1 jar of PEANUT BUTTER; 1-2 packs of SNACKS/DESSERT



Fill-A-Box



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
VIRTUAL
EXPO
2021

Fly Fishers International Virtual Expo is Nov. 5-7. Great activities are planned. Check the [website](#) for more information. You can be a sponsor or exhibitor for between \$500 and \$3,000. Instructors will be online for seminars and workshops covering casting, tying, fly fishing skills, and conservation. Also, there will be auctions and raffles. Inquire at ffiexpoauction@flyfishersinternational.org.

Your Film Talents Are Needed. The FFI also is sponsoring a [film](#) festival for all to tell their fly-fishing-related stories through film. Experienced or novice, young or old, close to home or in exotic locations, all are invited to submit their original films. Entries will be selected by a panel of judges from the fly fishing community whose identities will be confidential until after the contest. Expo registrants will also vote for a Fan Favorite of those selected by the judges. Submissions must be fly fishing related, and can feature topics related to conservation, education, community, destination, or just a good ol' fishing story. All submissions must be original material and submissions can not have been previously released in any form, including social media platforms, video posting websites, or elsewhere on the internet. Entries also cannot have been in any other fly-fishing film festival or competition. Top prize is \$2,000. Entry deadline is Sept. 10.



TVFF Job Jar YOU CAN HELP!

Click on a Job listed below and send an email to volunteer or to obtain additional information. This is your opportunity to support TVFF without signing up for a long term commitment. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

[Manage the TVFF Job Jar](#) - Update this page monthly and coordinate requests.

[Provide flies for the TVFF Casting for Recovery \(CfR\) Fly Box](#) – Tie or purchase 14 flies of the same pattern for the TVFF CfR Fly Box. Contact the [TVFF program manager](#) prior to selecting the pattern to avoid duplicates. Fly boxes will be donated annually.

CfR provides free healing retreats for women breast cancer survivors in various stages of treatment and recovery. CfR's retreats offer women opportunities to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

[Club News Contributor](#) - Provide the Communication Director content of interest geared toward our members such as activities, articles, trip reports, etc.

[Official TVFF Photographer\(s\)](#) - Photograph TVFF events and email photos to the Communication Director.

[Safety Pin Flies](#) - Tie some safety pin flies to be given to visitors at TVFF outreach activities. This simple to tie pattern is very popular with younger visitors. Demand is always great and outstrips our supply; we never have enough.

[Manage TVFF Calendar](#) - Update TVFF Google Calendar with events provided by BOD.

“Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men (and women) into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary.” — Humorist Patrick McManus (From Aquabonita Fly Fishers club.)



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