



# TVFF Club News

September 2025



## Alex Bybel, Tennessee Biologist Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM



Alex Bybel is a Rivers and Streams Biologist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Before coming to Tennessee, he worked in fisheries across multiple regions of the United States. This includes projects involving Brook Trout in Pennsylvania, Salmon and Trout in Alaska, imperiled fish in the Midwest and Chinook Salmon and Steelhead in Central Oregon. Since 2021 he has worked for TWRA in Region 2 (Middle Tennessee) with a focus on various aspects of flowing water fisheries management such as warmwater sportfish, non-game fish monitoring and Trout. Recently Alex has been seeking public opinion on the Tims Ford Tailwater fishery to incorporate that input into an updated Tims Ford Tailwater Management Plan

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\* The keyboard's HOME key returns you to this page

### Welcome New Members:

Mike Iffland  
Elijah Luna  
Randy Sexton

### This Month

- September 11 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- September 18 – Swap Meet, 7 PM
- September 20 – Aldridge Creek Cleanup, 9 AM
- September 25 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

### Officers and Directors

President: Dave Bailey  
Vice President: Andy King  
Secretary: Rodney Durrett  
Treasurer: Aaron Serafinowicz  
Membership: Debbie Hill  
Activities: Larry Hice  
Education: Brian Moore  
Conservation: Bob Lowery  
Communications: Connor Baker

### Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is this month November 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, at 7 p.m. in Room 201 at the church. Members are welcome.



## TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Stimulator, Tyer – Connor Baker**

**Cost: \$3**

The Stimulator fly was created by Jim Slattery in the early 1980s and named after a punk rock band. Randall Kaufmann significantly modified and popularized the design, which first appeared in the Kaufmann Streamborn catalog in 1982, becoming a highly successful and versatile attractor dry fly for various insects, especially stoneflies.

**Materials:**

**Hook:** Curved nymph hook, size 10

**Thread:** Fluorescent fire orange 6/0

**Tail:** Flared bunch of cow elk hair.

**Abdomen:** Orange dubbing

**Abdomen Hackle:** Brown

**Abdomen Rib:** Fine gold wire

**Wing:** Cow elk hair

**Thorax:** Reddish orange sparkle dubbing

**Thorax Hackle:** Grizzly



**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Heffner's Hook-up Hellgrammite, Tyer – Jonathan Craft**

**Cost: \$3**

A fun pattern that works on warmwater and cold water fish!

**Materials:**

**Hook:** 3X Long Nymph hook, size 6

**Thread:** 3/0 black

**Weight:** 0.035-inch lead-free wire

**Abdomen and Thorax:** Black ostrich herl

**Legs:** Black synthetic zonker

**Back:** Black think skin

**Rib:** Black wire



***All are welcome! 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. The sessions are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7 p.m.***





## TVFF President David Bailey – TVFFF Schedule of Events

*This month I want to review the TVFF schedule of events and activities that are planned for September through the end of the year.*

*The annual Joe Tremblay Aldridge Creek clean-up will take place on September 20 starting at 9 am. Participants will meet at Southside Park located at 16159 Chaney-Thompson Road. TVFF is responsible for cleaning up approximately ½ mile of the creek. September 20 is a bye week for Alabama football, and the water should still be warm. The Aldridge Creek clean up is TVFF's annual conservation activity and a strong turnout by the membership would be appreciated. Be sure to bring your waders and boots. Trash bags and "getter grabbers" will be provided. To sign up as a volunteer contact Bob Lowery ([rdlowery@tva.gov](mailto:rdlowery@tva.gov)) or Larry Hice ([lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com)).*

*September 11, 25, October 9 and 23 are scheduled fly tying nights as well as November 13 and December 11. TVFF members and non-members of all skill levels are invited to participate. Vises, tools and materials will be provided if needed. Cost per participant is \$3.00. Tying begins at 7 pm in room 201.*

*The September 18 monthly meeting will feature guest speaker Alex Bybel. Alex is a biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and has recently been working on an updated Tim's Ford management plan. This presentation should be interesting and informative for all TVFF members. Social hour is at 6:30PM with general meeting and speaker presentation starting at 7.*

*The October 16 monthly meeting will be the most important TVFF meeting of the year. At this meeting the 2026 budget will be presented to the general membership and the voting on the Board of Directors positions of Vice President, Secretary and Conservation Director will take place. If any current member is interested in any of the open positions please contact me at [dhb81252@gmail.com](mailto:dhb81252@gmail.com). The term for these positions is January 2026 through December 2027. There will be no speaker at this meeting. Social hour (1/2 hour) will begin at 6:30 with refreshments and light snacks provided. General meeting will start at 7.*

*The annual TVFF banquet, auction and sale are scheduled for Friday November 7, and the holiday party will be December 18. Mark these dates on your calendar. More details to follow on both events.*

*The annual TVFF swap meet was held on August 21 and raised \$450.00 for the club. Several members were able to sell or swap some of their personal items. Thanks to all participants and to those folks who donated fly tying tools, material and hooks to TVFF for resale at the event. Special thanks to Debbie Hill and Larry Hice for organizing the event.*







## Fish of the Month

TVFF member Andy King has spent the last few weeks running across the American West, angling in many beautiful locations. To the right, he is floating the Snake River, just outside Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Below is a good picture of one of the many brown trout he caught. Next to that is what looks like a juvenile Bighorn Sheep. To the far right, looks like Andy is getting too friendly with the local bear population! Be careful Andy!



To the right, Greg Bayuga spent some of his August targeting Tripletail in the Gulf! Tripletail is a saltwater fish named for its rounded dorsal and anal fins, which, along with its tail, create the illusion of three tails. They have a unique habit of floating on their side near the surface to mimic a dead leaf or debris. This behavior allows them to ambush prey. Highly valued by anglers, the tripletail is known for putting up a strong fight and for its delicious, mild-flavored meat.







## Fishing Montana

TVFF members, Connor and Craig Baker, recently embarked on a father-son fishing trip to Montana. They stayed at [On Demark Lodge](#), located between the towns of Craig and Cascade, to fish the legendary Missouri River.

The region is rich in history and natural beauty, situated at the border of Lewis and Clark and Cascade counties. This area was not only part of the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition but also home to the ranch of famed Hollywood actor Gary Cooper.

Despite challenging conditions, including strong winds and a significant amount of grass in the water, Connor and Craig, with the help of On Demark Lodge's expert guides, successfully landed several sizable wild trout. Their catch included both brown and rainbow trout, which they primarily caught using Hoppers, Zirdles, and Tricos.

Described as a "trip of a lifetime," the adventure was a lot of fun. If you're ever in Montana, the Bakers highly recommend giving Craig and Becky from On Demark Lodge a call. They'll get you all set up to fish the "Mighty Mo."





## Flip Pallot, conservationist and fly angler dies at 82

An influential figure in the fly-fishing world and a dedicated conservationist, Flip Pallot, has passed away at the age of 82 in Thomasville, Georgia, following complications from surgery. His death marks a significant loss to the community, as he leaves behind a legacy of passion for the sport and tireless advocacy for environmental preservation.

Pallot was perhaps best known as the beloved host of the popular television series "Walker's Cay Chronicles," which aired from 1992 to 2006. Through this show, he shared his vast knowledge and love for saltwater fishing, inspiring countless anglers to explore the sport. His career in media began even earlier, with appearances on shows like "The American Sportsman" and "Outdoor Life," and he was a key figure in the creation of "The Saltwater Angler."

Beyond his television presence, Pallot's contributions to the sport were profound. A graduate of the University of Miami, he served in the U.S. Army in Panama, an experience that ignited his lifelong passion for fishing in diverse and remote locations. He was a co-founder of Hell's Bay Boatworks, a company celebrated for its high-quality technical poling skiffs, which became a favorite among serious anglers. He also served as a brand ambassador for numerous fly-fishing companies, his name and expertise adding prestige to their products.

Pallot was not only an angler but also a gifted writer, sharing his experiences and insights in his book, "Mangroves, Memories, and Magic." The book serves as a testament to his deep connection with the natural world and his belief in the importance of conservation. His most enduring legacy, however, may be his unwavering commitment to the restoration and preservation of the Florida Everglades and its fragile estuaries. He was a steadfast voice for this critical ecosystem, understanding that the future of the sport was inextricably linked to the health of the environment.

Flip Pallot's passing follows that of other fly-fishing legends, but his impact will not be forgotten. He is remembered by his family, including his wife, daughter, brother, and granddaughter, as well as a vast community of anglers and conservationists he inspired. His life's work demonstrated that a love for fishing could be a powerful catalyst for protecting the very places that make the sport possible. His influence will continue to ripple through the fly-fishing world for generations to come.



Photo: William Hereford

## Top 25 College Towns for Flyfishing

With college football season kicking off, we're excited to see Flylords' annual ranking of the best fly fishing colleges! While it may not be as official as the AP Top 25, this year's list seems to have corrected some head-scratching picks from the past year, like including Texas A&M (they belong in no Top 25 Poll). The 2025 ranking features a strong showing from schools out west, with Montana, Colorado, and Idaho well-represented. Did your alma mater make the cut, or do you think they missed a top contender? Full article can be found [here](#).

1. Montana State University – Bozeman, MT
2. University of Montana – Missoula, MT
3. Western Colorado University – Gunnison, CO
4. Appalachian State University – Boone, NC
5. Colorado State University – Fort Collins, CO
6. University of Wyoming – Laramie, WY
7. Penn State University – State College, PA
8. University of Miami – Miami, FL
9. Fort Lewis – Durango, CO
10. University of Utah – Salt Lake City, UT
11. East Tennessee State University – Johnson City, TN
12. University of Oregon – Eugene, OR
13. Boise State University – Boise, ID
14. Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA
15. University of Washington – Seattle, WA
16. University of Vermont – Burlington, VT
17. Western Carolina University – Cullowhee, NC
18. University of Idaho – Moscow, ID
19. College of Charleston – Charleston, SC
20. University of Maine – Orono, ME
21. Texas State University – San Marcos, TX
22. Gonzaga University – Spokane, WA
23. Tulane University – New Orleans, LA
24. University of Nevada – Reno, NV
25. Northern Michigan University – Marquette, MI



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## Wax Your Ferrules to Avoid Broken Fly Rods

Has anyone broken their fly rod where at the part where the male and female pieces connect? Those are called ferrules. Here, Tim Romano and Flylab breakdown the importance of ferrules! The article can be found [here](#).

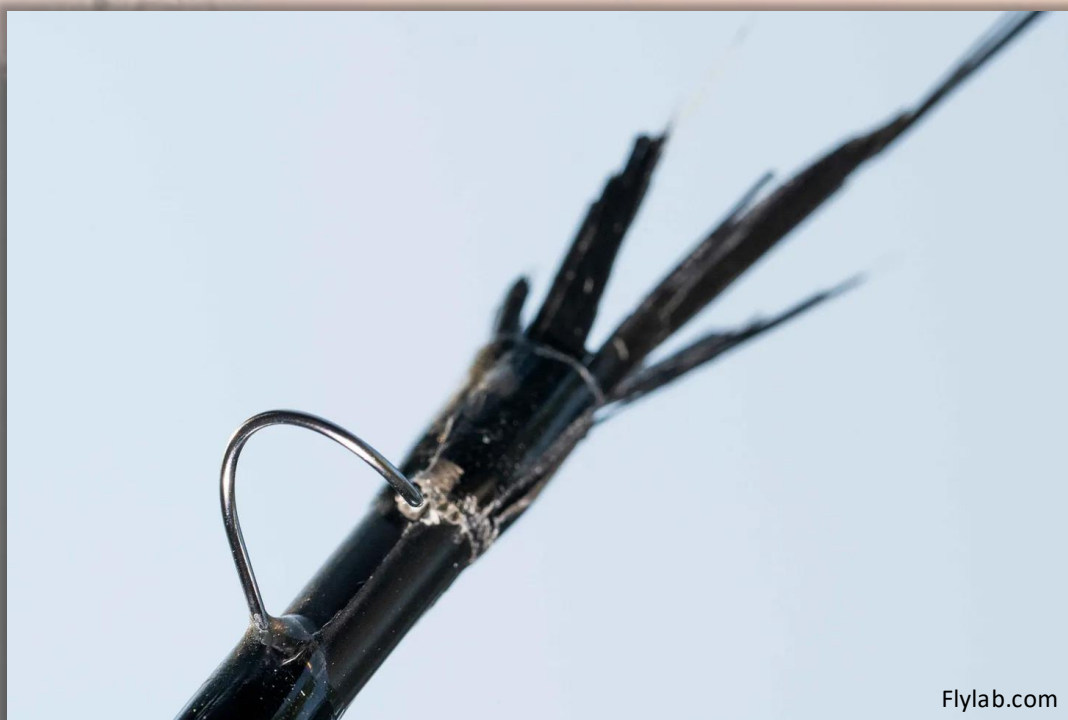
*How many of you take the time to wax your rod ferrules a couple times a year? I know I usually don't, and I've paid the price of broken rods too many times to count.*

*Finally after doing that very thing on a tarpon trip a couple weeks ago, I came home and took out every rod I owned and did them all at once. Breaking a rod anytime is a real drag, but when you're on an expensive trip where you've traveled somewhere far away it stings even more.*

*Here's the problem: The male and female section ends of rod ferrules can become loose after repeated casting. The ferrule is the part of the rod that joins the sections of the rod together. The hollow (female) portion at the end of a rod section receives the male end of the next section. After a time the male end can slip to the very edge of the female end and when enough pressure is applied (like a hard cast), it can actually crack or "blow out" the blank wall, resulting in a broken rod.*

*Here's the solution: Many manufacturers actually give you a little package of paraffin wax to help keep your rod pieces together when you buy a rod. Take this wax before the first time you use your rod and apply it to all of the male sides of the ferrules. If the manufacturer doesn't provide you with any, simply get a candle or chunk of beeswax and gently brush it forward towards the top of the male ferrule, coating the entire piece. If your rod is old and has been used a lot, remember to clean out the female side with a Q-tip or something similar before applying wax.*

*Now your rod pieces should hold together much longer and tighter, minimizing the chance of a silly rod break.*







## ***Joe Tremblay Aldridge Creek Cleanup***

The annual Joe Tremblay Aldridge Creek clean-up will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. Participants will meet at Southside Park located at **16159 Chaney-Thompson Road**. TVFF is responsible for cleaning up approximately ½ mile of the creek. September 20 is a bye week for Alabama football, and the water should still be warm. The Aldridge Creek clean up is TVFF's annual conservation activity and a strong turnout by the membership would be appreciated. Be sure to bring your waders and boots. Trash bags and "getter grabbers" will be provided. To sign up as a volunteer contact Bob Lowery ([rdlowery@tva.gov](mailto:rdlowery@tva.gov)) or Larry Hice ([lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com)).



## ***Share Your Favorite Fly Fishing Guides!***

Many of us love to travel and experience new waters, often with the help of a great fly fishing guide. We're starting an exciting new initiative to build a comprehensive list of recommended guides from around the country, with the goal of making it available on our website!

Imagine planning your next fly fishing adventure to Colorado or Louisiana and being able to find a trusted guide recommendation right from a fellow club member. Your input will not only help your fellow anglers but also give some well-deserved recognition to the hardworking guides who make our trips so memorable.

If you've had a fantastic experience with a fly fishing guide, we want to hear about it!

When you submit your guide, please include as much detail as possible:

- State
- Body of Water
- Name of Outfitter (if applicable)
- Guide's Name
- Website

Please send your submissions to Mr. Rodney Durrett at [radurrett@gmail.com](mailto:radurrett@gmail.com) or directly to [info@tvff.club](mailto:info@tvff.club). Thanks for helping us create this valuable resource for the club!



## 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. 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 Flyvines. It is a small thing you can do to be kind to the environment and support our conservation efforts. Please bring your fly line to David Bailey or Debbie Hill, and reach out with any questions.



## Chamness Award Nominations

Know someone deserving of recognition? Nominations are being accepted for the 2025 Chamness Award. It’s named after **Johnny Chamness**, one of our founding members whose dedication and service were instrumental to the club’s success. Although Johnny never held office, his service to the club continued unabated until the years and health issues forced him to limit his activities. Johnny’s countless contributions were officially recognized in 1998 with the creation of the Johnny Chamness Award for excellence in service.

In keeping with the spirit of service to the club, the Chamness Award is presented to members who have provided invaluable service to the club through their contributions of time, energies, and support of club functions, activities, events and goals. Nominations are easy. Simply submit the candidate’s name along with the reason you feel he or she is deserving of the award to [Tom Wallace](#), our most recent recipient. Please keep your nomination confidential so the recipient can be surprised. You can also mail your nomination to TVFF, PO Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815. Please submit your nominations by our October meeting.



## Outdoor Alabama – Fishing Licenses Expire September 1

Resident and non-resident fishing licenses expire this month. If you are under the age of 65, make sure to get your license before you forget! Remember, 100% of your license fee goes towards management and conservation of our fisheries. Get your licenses renewed here [Freshwater Fishing Licenses – Resident](#) and [Freshwater Fishing Licenses – Nonresident](#).

*Outdoor*  
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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT  
OF CONSERVATION AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES



## Orvis 20 Days in September Contest



For the last 10 years, Orvis has put on a "20 Days in September" fly fishing challenge. The idea behind their challenge is to get fly anglers out on the water right before the weather cools down and the fishing slows. Also associated with this is a photo contest. While spending your 20 days on the water make sure to tag Orvis in your photos on Instagram or Facebook. Anyone can join and there are sweet prizes to be won for the best photo! For more information, please check out the Orvis [website](#) or visit our local Orvis store in Bridgestreet. A summary of the rules and prizes are below.

- 1. Make an honest attempt to get on the water 20 times during September.** Doesn't have to be a full day, but just go when you can. Go at lunch, before or after work, et al.
- 2. This is not just about trout.** This is not a trout specific contest! Bass, bream, carp, gar, if you are fishing for those, then that counts!
- 3. Take pictures of your fish, the water, your fellow anglers, the flies you're using, or anything else.** This isn't a fish picture contest, but a fishing picture contest. You don't have to have pictures of fish to enter for a day. Just pictures of you fishing trying to catch fish.
- 4. Post your photos to the Orvis Fly Fishing Facebook page or on Instagram, tag us at @orvisflyfishing, and include the hashtag #20sepdays.**

At the end of the month, Orvis will look through the photos and select 10 finalists of the best photo. There will be an online vote for those 10 finalists.



First Place: Helios Rod of your choice



Second Place: Orvis Mirage Reel



Third Place: Drift Hoodie

## September Holidays

### Positive Thinking Day

**Date When Observed:** September 13<sup>th</sup>

This holiday is all about seeing the glass half full—even if it's completely empty. It's a day to find the humor in everyday frustrations. Got a flat tire? Now you have an excuse to listen to that podcast! Stuck in a long checkout line? It's the perfect time to practice your people-watching skills. This holiday encourages us to find a silly, optimistic spin on life's little annoyances.



### Ask a Stupid Question Day

**Date When Celebrated :** September 28<sup>th</sup>

Originating with teachers trying to get students to speak up, this holiday is now an excuse for everyone to ask all the ridiculous questions they've ever had. It's a day to embrace curiosity without fear of judgment. Ever wondered if a fish gets thirsty? Or why a round pizza comes in a square box? This is your day to ask away and enjoy the hilarious answers you might get.







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