



# TVFF Club News

June 2018



## This Month Program Dr. Bruce Stallsmith

Dr. Bruce Stallsmith is an associate professor in the Biological Sciences Department at UAH, specializing in ichthyology.

He has dedicated a career of research to the ecology and conservation of freshwater fishes of North America, including cyprinid minnows, killifishes of the genus *Fundulus* and percid darters.

Dr. Stallsmith is an expert on baitfish, and his presentation will focus on the characteristics and behaviors of baitfish native to northern Alabama.



## Updated Fishing Reports

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

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## The Golden Rule Fly Shop

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## This Month's Activities

- 9 June - TVFF Monthly Outing
- 14 June - Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201
- 21 June - Club Meeting, 7 pm, room 201
- 28 June - Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201



## Participation Award

Must be active member to participate

## Don't miss out!

Winning is easy! Simply pay your 2018 dues and attend any TVFF function.



# TVFF Fly Tying Group

## Articulated Series – Featured Tyer, Donald Dehm

There has been a movement in the last few years toward articulated flies and for good reasons. Big aggressive fish eat big meals and articulated flies allows the tyer to make bigger/longer flies while incorporating movement making articulated flies hard to resist.

For the next 4 tying sessions Donald Dehm will be demonstrating a different articulated fly, the Woolly Bugger, a Dungeon variation, followed next month by an articulated Popper and finally a Much Muppet.

Each fly in the series is designed to introduce new materials and tying methods.

**8 June – Articulated Popper**

**22 June – Munch Muppet**

**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 even designed.**

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

## Catch of the Month

Donald Dehm caught this bass in Virginia using one of Ted Crona patterns "The Fourth" that he tied in yellow and tan on a size 10 hook.

This 19.5 inch beauty was caught on a 5wt, and required skill and delicate handling to land on a 2.5lb. tippet.

Congratulations Donald!!!



*Articulated Popper*



*Munch Muppet*



Send your fish photos to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club)

Please include; location, size, species, fly, etc.



## TVFF Monthly Outing – Jones Farm Park 9 June 7AM

In an effort to engage anyone new to the sport of fly fishing, and in a return to the club's roots, TVFF is begin holding local monthly outings.

These outings will be geared toward those checking out fly fishing for the first time, who may not own waders or even their own rod and reel outfit (rod and reel outfits owned by the club will be available for anyone to use).

This is a great opportunity to get an introductory casting lesson, learn a knot or two, and catch a fish on a fly. All are welcome to attend.

Monthly outings will be on the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 AM. The location of the outing will change from month to month, so check the club's newsletter, website, and Facebook page for the location of that month's outing.

This month's outing will be on Saturday, June 9 at Jones Farm Park on 4 Mile Post Road in Jones Valley, west of Carl T. Jones Dr./Bailey Cove Rd. There are 2 ponds at the park that hold a good number of bass and bream.

Come join the TVFF at the next monthly outing, and remind yourself of what can be so great about this club and the sport we all love!

Please contact TVFF's Director of Activities, Larry Hice with any questions or for help with directions to the outing location. (cell: 256-508-2344, [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com)),



## Little River Canyon, by Henry Mahler

We arrived at 8:00 am at the parking lot for the Eberhart Lookout and trailhead which is located on the Little River scenic drive. We were the only people there. The picnic area next to the parking lot appeared to get little use and was overgrown and in need of work.

The access to the trail was well marked and the trail well maintained. After we got loaded up we started down the trail, and down is important to note because it was steep. It's a nice trail but it is steep and seems to get even steeper as you come up on the return trip.



As we approached the bottom, the trail opened on a nice deep pool. We could see a few bream on beds and some small redeye bass. As we assembled our fly rods together and rigged up, I could not help but notice the rocks that lined the banks of the river. No doubt the results of eons of erosion.

Brian and his wife started at the pool and worked upstream while I worked downstream, rock hopping to the next pool. Lots of rock hopping! In the next pool, I caught a pair of small redeye bass who were hanging out in the shade, under overhanging trees.

Redeye bass can only be found in the south with the greatest concentration in Alabama and southern Tennessee. This uniquely southern bass are found in small streams and rivers like the Little River. Although small by comparison they inhabit some of the most picturesque streams in Alabama.

Thankfully, I did not have to rock hop back upstream, because I found a trail that parallels the river.

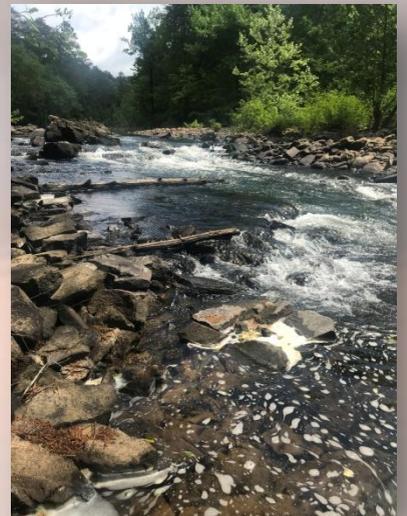
That trail connects to the main trail and I used the parallel trail to get back. I would recommend good wading shoes and some kind of wading stick to anyone wishing to fish the Little River.

The steep walk in and rocky bank seemed to keep the crowds away. We only saw one family that came to swim while we there.

I checked the Little River Canyon stream flow gage and it was reporting about 100 CFM. That flow was a good level

for wading.

Thanks Brian for setting up the trip and introducing me to the Little River.





# The Wade

The fly fishing blog for those who wade.



## If I Could Only Fish One Dry Fly It'd Be . . .

March 27, 2018 Spencer Durrant

Nothing puts the cap on a great day of fishing quite like sitting around a fire and shooting the bull with your buddies. Eating more hot dogs than you should, staying up way too late, and watching your buddies have one too many beers is part of the fly fishing experience that keeps us coming back.

It's around these campfires that we have the best conversations, too. A while back I was in Oregon with my good buddy Ryan and his son Josh. We'd trudged back to camp in pitch-black dark since the moon wasn't up and we'd fished until we couldn't see our flies. I'd have kept fishing streamers in the dark, but Ryan informed me it's illegal to fish after dark in that part of Oregon.

We got a fire going while Josh and I talked about the big brown he'd landed on a size 22 rusty spinner. Ryan is one hell of a camp chef, so we sit back to let him work on our steak and potatoes.



None of us drink, so we skipped the part of the night where guys get too buzzed and went straight to rambling about the machinations of fly fishing. I think most anglers do this more than they realize, but they see it as exploring the unknown areas of the sport. It's really just guesswork, since most of what we know about fishing amounts to a guess and enough experience to validate guessing that way again.

Ryan's a dry-fly purist, and an hour or so after dinner he asked me what fly I'd fish if I could only use one dry for the rest of my life.

"Elk hair caddis, size 14," I said immediately. I didn't even have to think about it.

Ryan wasn't impressed. He ties some of the smallest, most intricate flies I've ever seen, and I've personally witnessed him hook, fight, and land a 22-inch brown on a size 30 parachute midge.

"I'd use that midge we were using today," he said, referring to a pattern of his own creation. "It looks enough like something stuck in the surface film I think it'd work everywhere."

"Caddis are everywhere," I countered.

He shrugged. "So are small bugs."

That got me thinking if my choice of a caddis was smart. Unless you've reached some sort of angling nirvana where you don't need to use more than one pattern like the rest of us mortals, the idea of using one fly is purely academic. It's fun to entertain, though.

If I had to choose one dry fly to use forever, though, this is what I'd take into consideration before making a snap decision.

**Size:** Size matters, folks. The single most important thing you're matching a dry fly hatch is to match the size of most of the bugs coming off. A size larger or smaller helps if the hatch is thick.

**Shape:** Most bugs have some sort of tapered body, with a sparse tail and some sort of legs. The Adams is such an effective fly because it mimics all of these characteristics without looking too much like something else.

**Type of water:** If you fish tailwaters more often, you'll need more "accurately tied" flies. These flies are tied to be as close a match as possible, and some tailwaters have spawned their very own flies.

If you're into small creeks and streams, you don't need something as technical. Fish in this type of water don't have the luxury of being as picky as their tailwater counterparts, so you can get away with less realistic-looking flies.

**So what's my fly?** My chosen pattern would be one developed by my grandfather. I've dubbed it the Durrant Family Special (which you can get with a subscription to Postfly) but it's just an Adams with an elk hair wing tied behind the hackle.

*Spencer Durrant is a fly fishing writer, outdoors columnist, and novelist from Utah. His work has appeared in Field & Stream, Hatch Magazine, TROUT Magazine, Sporting Classics Daily, and other national publications. He's also the managing editor for The Modern Trout Bum. Connect with him on Twitter/Facebook, @Spencer\_Durrant.*



## Support Your Local Artist

Shawn Haynes is a local woodworker and artist. Shawn is a vendor at the Decatur Farmer's Market, and produces high quality wooden toys and puzzles.

In addition, he has begun making hand painted wooden fish for display. Each piece is custom made from locally-sourced pine as he finds inspiration (no two are the same).

All of the pieces shown below are in the \$40-45 price range. The long edge of the mounting boards is roughly 18". Shawn always has more pieces in the works, and is open to custom/commissioned pieces.

This local artist would love to hear from you!

*Shawn Haynes 256 345-9345 [brotherswoodwerks@gmail.com](mailto:brotherswoodwerks@gmail.com)*



## June Holidays

### National Doughnut Day

**Date When Celebrated :** Always the first Friday in June

National Doughnut Day honors the Salvation Army "Lassies" of WWI. It is also used as a fund raiser for needy causes of the Salvation Army.

The original Salvation Army Doughnut was first served by Salvation Army in 1917. During WWI, Salvation Army "lassies" were sent to the front lines of Europe. These brave volunteers made home cooked foods, and provided a morale boost to the troops. Often, the doughnuts were cooked in oil inside the of the metal helmet of an American soldier. The American infantrymen were commonly called doughboys. Salvation Army lassies were the only women outside of military personnel allowed to visit the front lines. Lt. Colonel Helen Purviance is considered the Salvation Army's "first doughnut girl".

On National Doughnut Day, look to see if your local doughnut shop, or other organizations, are offering free donuts to solicit donations for the Salvation Army or for another needy cause. If you find them, please be generous.



### Flag Day

**Date When Celebrated :** Always June 14th

Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers.

Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible.

Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans.

Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!

**Did you Know?** There is a very special ceremony for retiring the flag by burning it. It is a ceremony everyone should see. Your local Boy Scout group knows the proper ceremony and performs it on a regular basis. If you have an old flag, give it to them, and, attend the ceremony.

For more on Holiday Insights, traditions, fun & facts visit <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>



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