



# TVFF Club News

April 2018



Lefty Kreh  
Feb 26, 1925 - Mar 14, 2018

## This Month Program Jeff Turner

Jeff is the owner of Blue Ridge Fly Fishing (BRFF), the premier fly fishing outfitter serving northwest Georgia and southeast Tennessee.

In addition to kayak and float trips on southern Tennessee and Georgia public waters, BRFF offers access to three exclusive properties where trophy trout are the norm.

Jeff will be telling us about the tailwater and small creek fishing available in north Georgia.

Join us on the 19th for some camaraderie and a great talk!"



## Updated Fishing Reports

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

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## This Month's Activities

- 12 Apr- Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201
- 19 Apr- Club Meeting, 7 pm, room 201
- 2 Apr- Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201

## News Flash!

Vote to retain McCartha law firm to complete incorporation to be held at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

[Details](#)



## TVFF Fly Tying Group

### 12 April - Featured Tyer – Wayne Causey

The Pink Pookie foam hopper created by Dean Reiner out of Hatch Finders Fly Shop in Livingston. This hopper pattern, with its foam bullet-head and foam wing, floats like a cork.

The pink foam body of the fly seems very unnatural for imitating actual grasshoppers, yet the trout see something in the color pink that they identify as being food.

Whether the pink foam is an attractor-color to the trout or just the right shade of color is hard to say. If you're looking for that "something different" hopper pattern, try this one out.



*Pink Pookie*

### 26 April - Featured Tyer – Glen Blackwood from Rockford MI (via Skype)

For the last 30 years, Glen has been a fly fishing instructor, guide, national sales manager, and now owns and operates the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company in Rockford, Michigan. [Click here for Glen's bio](#)

This fly was designed as a sunken spinner pattern that could be dead drifted, trailing behind a spinner or swung as a classic wet pattern. Originally it was tied as a gray drake bug, I have since sized it up and down.



*Gray Drake Sunken Spinner*

It can also be fished as a dry spinner as well with a little hackle smashing that will be discussed in tying session. This bug is a true guide fly as it is tied with two materials.

**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

Roger Bauer caught the chunky rainbow on Arkansas Spring River while on the TVFF spring outing to Mountain Home Arkansas.

This fish was one of dozens caught while on a float trip with guide Mike Crawford of Spring River Flies and Guides.

Congratulations Roger!



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

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





## Incorporation Update :

Members,

Thank you for your support in February's referendum to incorporate our club as a 501(c)3 FFI Charter Club. What seemed to be a rather uncomplicated matter became more so as new information was unearthed concerning the origin of TVFF and its finances. These revelations and other issues prompted the BOD to seek legal council before proceeding.

After consulting the Law Firm of McCarthy, the BOD concluded that it is in to the best interest of our club to retain professionals to complete the incorporation process. This will speed up the process and make certain it is done correctly.

The BOD feels that the cost of retaining McCarthy is acceptable to ensure a smooth and seamless incorporation of TVFF and proper transition of our current assets and liabilities. Active members were notified of the referendum via email on march 16<sup>th</sup> and provided a copy of the cost assessment for review.

An up or down vote will be held on whether or not to retain McCarthy at the April 19<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Active members will receive a ballot via email next week and may vote via return email, or in person at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have not yet paid your dues and wish to vote on this issue, you can do so at any time prior to the start of the April meeting.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to reach out to any of the BOD members.

Bill Pittenger  
President

## Catching Bass Close to Home

When I first discovered Jones Ponds in the spring of 2014, I was amazed at the quality and quantity of bass found in both of these small ponds. Three+ pound bass were not only common, they eagerly took a fly. I shared this with Fred Kaufman and Bill Pittenger and for the next month, we enjoyed some tremendous bass fishing just minutes from home.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to keep fish keepers out. Many whitened our good luck and the word quickly spread. Soon both ponds were lined with buckets as uninformed and uncaring fishermen proceeded to kill every trophy bass in the both ponds leaving only a few small yearlings.

In the 4 years since, the bass have recovered somewhat, but nothing like it was in 2014. Bill and I have experienced some success on topwater bugs with a few bass clocking in over a pound.

I don't expect these ponds will ever return to their former glory. There are to many uninformed and uncaring fishermen who needlessly kill fish. Now, when asked if I caught any, I reply with my standard response, "Just a few small bream".

If your after trophy fish, this isn't the place for you, but if you enjoy catching bream and small bass close to home, you should check out Jones Ponds.







## Fly Fishing Day at the Hayes Nature Preserve

Fly Fishing Day at Hayes preserve was a great success! Thanks to: Corey and Rebecca Pedigo, Reid Benton, Ted Crona, Chips Rosher, Brian Bouma, David Mahlik, Richard Curtis, Bill Pittenger, Donald Dehm, Denise Taylor, Larry Hice and Joe Tremblay for devoting their time and efforts ensuring the success of this outstanding outreach event.

Attendance was lighter than expected due to heavy morning rain. The rain did however, have a positive effect though. Even with a fourth of the expected turnout, volunteers and facilities were at the point of being overwhelmed. There is no way we could have handled the predicted two to three hundred expected visitors.

We will have to rethink this event. Increase our capability to handle larger crowds, moving as many activities outside as possible by utilizing tents and Canopies where possible, and of course increasing the number of volunteers.

Feedback was extremely positive and encouraging. All seemed to have a good time with some opting to venture outside in the fairly heavy rain for some hands on casting lessons. My kind of people!



**First fish on a fly!**



**Fly tying demo**



**Fly tying & Fly casting class**



**Learning to cast in the rain**



**Braving the weather**





## HUNTSVILLE'S EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Each year, the City of Huntsville's Green Team hosts Keep America Beautiful's Earth Day. Located at Hays Nature Preserve on the banks of the Flint River, Earth Day attracts more than 12,000 attendees. In 2018, Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This family-friendly event is a free festival aimed to provide activities and information that celebrates mother Earth and the many way communities around the globe work together for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

TVFF has been part of Huntsville's Earth Day Celebration since 2014 with fly fishing displays and fly tying demos. The success of TVFF's Earth Day event depends on support from our members. Members are needed to answer questions, assist with fly casting (practice rods), tie give away safety pin flies and assist as needed.

All you need to be part of this annual celebration is a willingness to share your experiences and love of fly fishing. Contact Larry Hice at [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com) or call 256-508-2344 and join us at Hayes Preserve for a fun day spreading the word.

### A BIT OF HISTORY

The global observation of Earth Day on April 22 is now in its 48th year of commemorating the day many historians recognize as the birth of the modern environmental movement. Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, helped organize a nationwide grassroots celebration on April 22, 1970, that eventually included more than 20 million people. Earth Day remains a watershed event in the environmental movement.

## Lefty Kreh (Feb 26, 1925 - Mar 14, 2018)

### The Man Behind The Legend

BY KING MONTGOMERY

In the world of fly-fishing, Lefty Kreh stands out as the best known and best loved outdoor writer and teacher in the world. And he has held that lofty niche for well over 50 years.

John Randolph, the respected former editor of *Fly Fisherman* magazine, says of Kreh: "Lefty Kreh's effect on the sport of fishing has been enormous during his lifetime. I consider him to be the best, and the most influential, sport fisherman in the last half of the twentieth century."

The venerable Nick Lyons; writer, editor, publisher and all around fishing philosopher, has this to say about Lefty:

"For he's a man of many parts, even in his eighties and it is hard, even with fine prose and a wealth of detail and stories, to get the full measure of this remarkable fellow. To have been privileged enough to hear him, sit across from him, fish with him, is to know more."

I am proud to call Lefty my friend, mentor, and frequent fishing partner for these past several decades. It's really easy being around this true legend, because Lefty is a homey, down-to-earth, real guy. He's embarrassed to be called a legend, but it's true, and it is quite a lofty status considering his humble beginnings.

#### The Early Years

Bernard Victor Kreh was born in Frederick, Maryland on February 26, 1927. His father died when Lefty was six, leaving his mother and three younger siblings behind. The family survived on welfare for years and, as Lefty grew, he helped provide food and money by hunting, trapping and fishing along the nearby Monocacy River, a tributary of the Potomac. He earned the moniker "Lefty" by playing basketball and using both hands almost equally in shot-making and passing. (Lefty later coached a girl's basketball team that always posted superb records.)

After graduating from high school, Lefty headed to Europe with the U. S. Army for the final years of the Second World War. As an artillery forward observer he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in the dead of winter (to this day he hates cold weather); crossed into Germany over the famed Rhein River bridge at Remagen; helped liberate a concentration camp for Jews; and hooked up with the Russian Army at Torgau on the Elbe River near war's end. He won five battle stars.

While his artillery unit was preparing to deploy to the Pacific Theater to fight against the Japanese, the war ended and Sergeant Kreh headed home with millions of other young men.

#### Post-War Years

Shortly after the war ended Lefty met a man who would greatly influence his life. That man was Joe Brooks.



*Lefty Kreh at Pennsylvania's Yellow Creek fishing with the author in 2007*



*Lefty releases a chunky Spruce Creek, PA brown trout. Lefty is an expert trout angler but prefers smallmouth bass and other freshwater species. "No one ever got a heart attack fishin' a trout," he jokingly says.*





Lefty was doing some smallmouth bass fishing guiding on the upper Potomac River, and Joe Brooks hired him in for a day on the water. Brooks was a well-known fishing writer and one of the early saltwater fly fishing aficionados. On that day in 1947, Joe's fly rod out-fished Lefty's plug casting gear, and Lefty was hooked on fly fishing from then on. Brooks taught him to cast and helped him acquire his first fly fishing outfit. Brooks remained a friend and mentor to Lefty the remainder of his life.

Lefty wrote outdoor articles for the local newspaper and his easy, practical, and informal style found its way into national publications such as *Outdoor Life* and *Field & Stream* magazines. He was on his way.

### The Last 60+ Years

Lefty's fabled career includes tenure as the Director of the Miami Metropolitan Fishing Tournament; as a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, *The St. Petersburg Times*, and *The Baltimore Sun*; and has published outdoor articles and photographs in every major fishing magazine in the world.

He has authored over 30 books, most of which are still in print, and he's working on one or two others as I write this in the spring of 2015. He was a demonstration shooter for the Remington Arms Company; a consultant for the National Wildlife Federation, L. L. Bean, Bass Pro Shops, Sage, Scientific Anglers, and many other fine companies.

Currently he designs, tests, and markets fishing rods and accessories for Temple Fork Outfitters. One of his biggest contributions to our sport is his fly-casting ability and, more importantly, Lefty's ability to successfully teach fly casting in his books, videos, and in person. He fully understands the physics of the cast, you don't throw the line, he says, you unroll it in the air—and puts the concepts into plain, everyday language that, when applied, lead to good casting. His philosophy: you cast well, you catch more fish, you have more fun, and that's really what it's all about.

Lefty and I have fly fished and done outdoor shows together and spoken at various banquets and meetings around the region. We've fished together in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Maine, The Bahamas, and other locations.

"What's it like to fish with Lefty?" people often ask me, and I always tell them it's a great experience in which I learn something each time and, most of all, it's just a lot of fun just to be around a good guy.

*Note:* The John Randolph and Nick Lyons quotes at the beginning of this article are from the Foreword and Afterword, respectively, in the 2008 biography *All the Best: Celebrating Lefty Kreh* by Flip Pallot. King Montgomery and the others quoted above contributed a chapter. Contact him at kingangler1@aol.com.

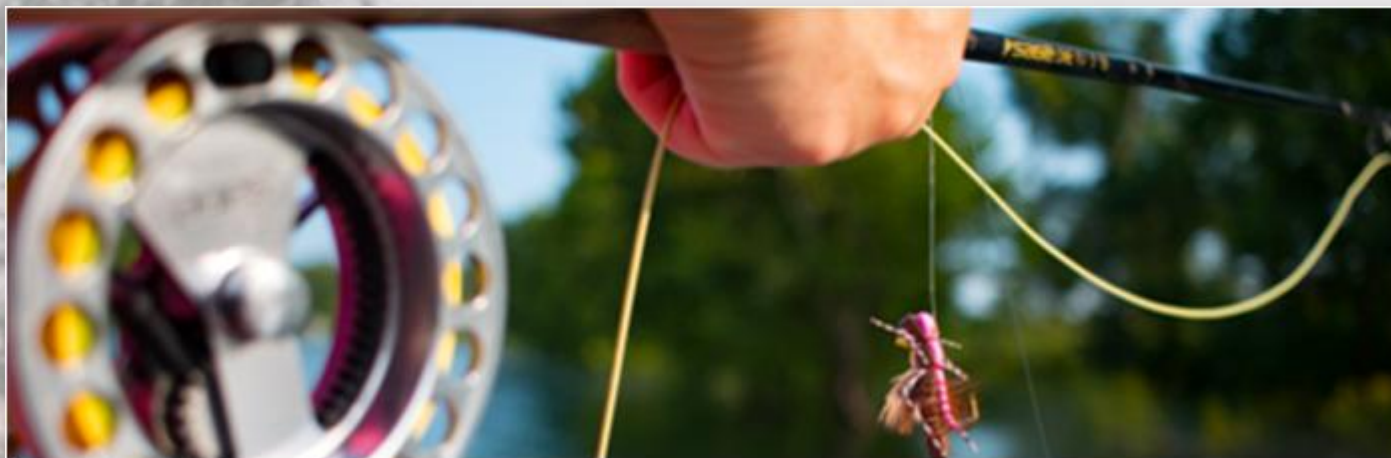


*Lefty loves to teach fly casting and fishing. He says he doesn't want to just demonstrate his vast knowledge, he wants to share it. Here he assists a student on Spruce Creek in 2007 at the Master's School of Fly Fishing run by Tom Zaco.*



*On one of his annual Maine trips with the author, here in 2009, Lefty hefts a healthy Sebasticook River smallmouth bass as guide Bob Dionne and L. L. Bean's Mac McKeever look on. The Sebasticook, a tributary of the Kennebec near Waterville, Maine, is one of Lefty's favorites*





## Upcoming Hopper Trip to Arkansas – by Larry Hice

After discussions with several club members about a possible late summer hopper trip, I canvassed several guides at the recent Sowbug Roundup and surrounding fly shops.

The guides recommended the third and fourth weeks in August and the first week in September as potentially the best time for hopper fishing in the Mountain Home area. Labor Day weekend starts on August 31<sup>st</sup> and Miles Riley indicated that lodging would be crowded and the river would be a zoo with all the vacationers taking advantage of the long weekend.

With that in mind, I've set up a trip departing Huntsville August 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> and returning on August 30<sup>th</sup>. I have six participants committed so far and that fills the River Villa cabin at Riley Station.



To and make it cost effective, we would need enough additional members to fill a second cabin. Both the Bunk House and Cedar Gables are currently available. The Bunk House sleeps 3-6 and Cedar Gables sleeps 6-7. To review the lodging go to [www.rileysstation.com](http://www.rileysstation.com). If you're interested, let me know as soon as possible so I can arrange for additional lodging.

Wade fishing should not be a problem in August but the most effective way to fish hoppers is from a boat casting to the banks. So plan on some addition expense for boat rentals, meals, gas and AR license plus \$325+/- depending on the number of participants for a week's lodging.

This trip will require a nonrefundable deposit of \$100.00 paid to the TVFF treasurer by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information, contact Larry Hice @ [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com) or 256-508-2344





# North Arkansas Fly Fishers Sowbug Roundup Trip Report

At some point, the weather always plays a part to play during the annual club trip to the Sowbug Roundup. This year Monday was plagued with high winds and rain making fishing near impossible but provided a great opportunity to the tour of the areas fly shops.

Roger Bauer and Larry Hice, Roger more so than Larry, had great success on the Norfolk using size 22 and 24 zebra midges. Roger is an expert in enticing reluctant trout in taking midges so it's not surprising he did well at Heckerman access.

The roles were reversed on Wednesday when Larry and Roger fished the back of the island at Riley Station. The Riley's are always great host providing great accommodations over the last 15+ years the club has attended the spring Sowbug Roundup and fall Fly Fishing Fair.

In case you're wondering where Reid Benton was during this time, well Reid came down with a touch pneumonia and after getting medical attention on Tuesday at Med Express, an urgent care facility in Mountain Home, was confined to the lodge for several days and not permitted to fish the remainder of the trip. He was better by Thursday and able to attend the Sowbug.

The high point of the trip was a guided trip on the Spring River. Fed by Mammoth Spring, the Spring River is one of the few trout streams that is not fed by tailwaters and is not impacted by generation schedules.

Mark Crawford of [Spring River Flies and Guides](#) provided Larry and Roger a remarkably enjoyable and fruitful trip down the Spring River. They met Mark at his fly shop. A work in progress with off the grid solar power and water system. Custom built with the help of family and friends.

Security for the solar powered shop is provided by a full sized Rottweiler and surrounded by free range chickens.

Mark considers the chickens a "renewable resource" to be utilizes one feather at a time for his unique flies. If you need some of Mark's flies during the week text Mark at 870-955-8300 and he'll "hook ya up."

A day on the Spring River with Mark was most enjoyable. Mark's cheerful attitude, knowledge of the river has earned him high praise for his clients. He specializes in children and novice fly fishers so there is little pressure to perform.



**Mark's "off the grid" fly shop**



**Free range rubber legged woolly bugger**



Don't misunderstand; Mark will put you on fish! Both Larry and Roger landed over 15 rainbows in the 14 to 18 inch range using a technique that not many are familiar with. Mark instructed us to cast their large nymph or woolly bugger upstream while drifting. This method allows the fly to go deep to the bottom as the boat drifted resulting in many strikes.

Mark said that you could fish with an indicator but would not "do as well" as the depth of the river constantly varies. Fishing without an indicator allows your fly to follow the contour of the bottom thus improving your odds of hooking up. It takes a little getting used to it, but you can't argue with the results.

The 2018 Sowbug Roundup got in full swing on Thursday making it one the best attended ever! Over 150 expert tyers from around the world demonstrated how to tie flies including our own Reid Benton, who had recovered by then, and Ted Crona.



*Roger's chunky rainbow*



*2018 Sowbug Roundup*



*Presented to Reid by Sowbug Organizers*

Congratulations Reid for being selected as the featured tyer on Friday. In addition to fly tying demo, the Sowbug offered seminars on how and where to fish, fly-casting classes and programs aimed at youngsters. The Sowbug is the place to go for your fly fishing and tying needs. Numerous vendors were present offering great deals on all your fishing and tying needs.

## Trip Report – Sipsey Outing

A small group of TVFF anglers got together on March 24 to fish the Sipsey near Jasper, AL. The wind wasn't doing us any favors, and we were sharing the river with a crowd, but that did nothing to sap our enthusiasm.

Only one fish was caught, but the difficult conditions and uncooperative fish were more than made up for by the excellent hospitality at Riverside Fly Shop.

The Sipsey is stocked monthly, so there are always plenty of fish in need of an education. This fishery is definitely worth another visit! - Brian





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## Tim's Flies and Lies River Update

### TWRA Builds New Ramp and Pier

This is a great new ramp and pier is the latest addition on Normandy Lake at Barton Springs boat launch. Improvements also include lots of structure around it to improve the fish habitat once lake level is up. For those interested in a weekend trip, there are two campgrounds conveniently located on Normandy Lake.



**TWRA Builds New Ramp and Pier**

**Duck River:** Below the dam on the Duck River, quite a few 14 inch rainbows have been caught along with many other healthy rainbows. The Duck was last stocked on March 21 so fishing should continue to be good for some time ,Pretty much any nymph, woolly, midge will work as these fish have seen very little pressure due to high release from reservoir.

**Elk River:** TWRA has completed the fish shocking survey and will stock the Elk early April.





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