



# TVFF Club News

April 2023



April 20<sup>th</sup> Program

## Shannon McCurley, Guntersville Fishing Guide and TVFF Member



April speaker Shannon McCurley is an avid fly fisherman and has been a fly tyer for more than a quarter century. His home water is Lake Guntersville. Shannon owned and operated North Alabama Fly Fishing from 2005-2018. And, he's been a TVFF member since 2010. Shannon will talk about targeting bass on Lake Guntersville.

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### Welcome New Members:

Russ Elrod  
Dave Shook  
Dave Picou

### This Month

- April 13 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- April 20 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- March 27 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

### Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof  
Vice President: Dana Beyerle  
Secretary: Gary Jedlovec  
Treasurer: Dave Bailey  
Membership: Debbie Hill  
Activities: Larry Hice  
Education: Fred Kaufmann  
Conservation: Bob Lowery  
Communications: Connor Baker

### Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is May 4, 2023,  
at 7 p.m. in Room 201.



# TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



**April 13, 7 PM**

**Damsel Fly Nymph– Fred Kaufmann**

Fun nymph to fish! Another good beginner fly.

**Materials**

**Hook:** Nymph Hook

**Thread:** Green thread

**Weight:** Damsel eyes

**Tail:** Green Marabou

**Body:** Green Dubbing



**April 27, 7 PM**

**Gurgler Class – Debbie Hill**

Debbie will be leading us in tying two gurglers of different sizes. Gurglers were a favorite fly of our good friend Joe Tremblay. To the right is a bass Debbie caught on this fly!

**Materials**

**Bass Gurgler**

TMC Hook 8089 Wide Gape #6

White thread 3/0 or 210 Denier

11-16# Hard Mason

5 Rooster Saddle Feathers

3mm thick Foam-7/16" Wide

White Estaz

2 Pair round rubber legs

Super Glue, Gel-type or similar

**Bream Gurgler**

Saber Hook 7017 Hopper #10

White thread 6/0 or 140 Denier

Fox Tail

2mm thick Foam-1/4" Wide

Pearl Tinsel Chenille

1 Pair round rubber legs

Head Cement or similar



**If you would like to help out with our fly tying group and lead a session, email [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club)**

***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.***

## Fish of the Month

Plenty of good fish were caught this month! The weather is warming up and folks are getting out there to catch fish! If you want to be featured in our newsletter, please send any fish pictures to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club)



TVFF member, Slade Lutz, caught this nice smallie in Lauderdale County.



TVFF member, Andy King, caught this nice trout in Arkansas during the Sowbug Roundup.



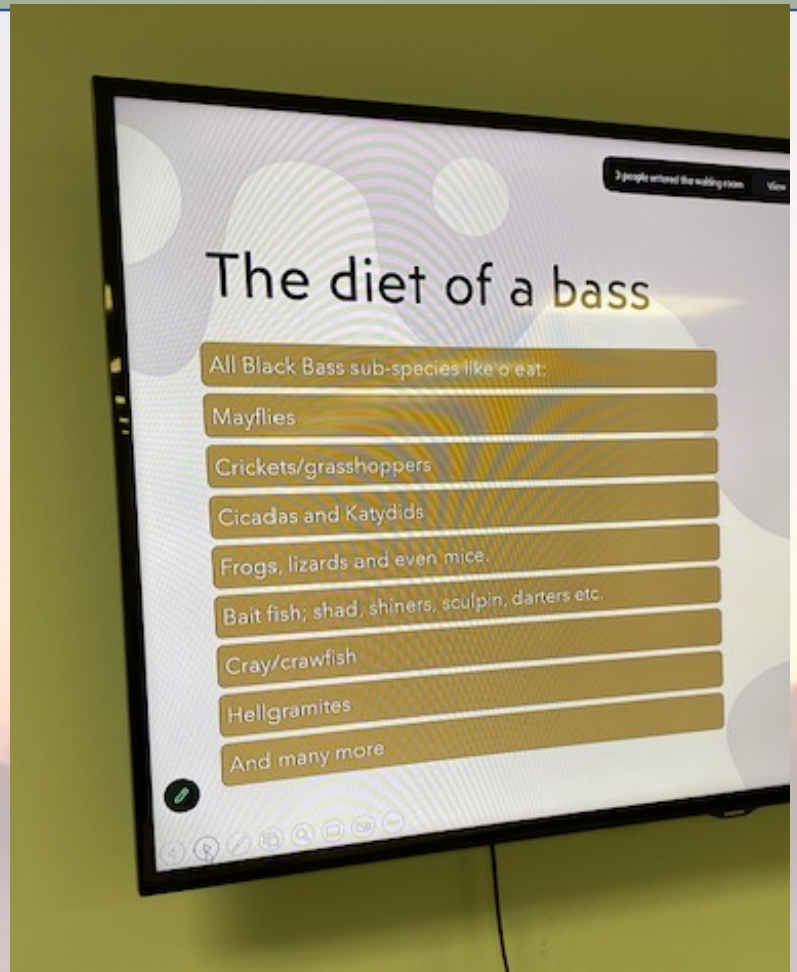
TVFF member, Casey Jonas, caught this big largemouth in a small pond in Morgan County.



TVFF member, Greg Bayuga, caught this nice bass in his neighborhood pond.

## March Meeting Recap

Our March speaker, Stephen Rockarts ([www.flyfishingalabama.com](http://www.flyfishingalabama.com)), specializes in guided trips on the Cahaba and Locust Fork rivers. Bass are the most-sought after fish on his trips. Stephen said the best bass fishing time is mid-spring through mid-May. He provided a list of preferred flies and poppers, and said red and green colors work best. Stephen owns Fly Fishing Alabama and has been designated a Fly Fisher of the Year for Alabama.



## March Fly Tying

For the month of February we tied a classic trout fly. The hare's ear nymph. Even using special dubbing mixed with a rabbit's mask. We had great turnout! Join us the second and fourth Thursday of each month!



## Wapsi Founder, Thomas Keir Schmuecker, 1933-2023

Fly tying, and fly fishing, lost an icon with the passing of long-time Wapsi Fly Co. owner Tom Schmuecker.

Tom, passed away March, less than 3 weeks after his wife Ann, leaving a giant hole in the family, Wapsi and the wider world of fly tying. Tom and Ann built Wapsi into the largest fly tying materials company in the world and was the creative mind behind a host of influential products including dumbbell eyes, without which there would be no Clouser Minnow.

Our condolences go out to the family, friends and all at Wapsi. Below is a brief history of Wapsi from their [website](#):

*In 1945, Lacey Gee of Independence, Iowa began a fly tying business. With some financial help and encouragement from the owner of Wapsi Produce Company, Lacey established the Wapsi Fly Company. Previously, he had been employed by the poultry processing plant, which provided a ready source of feathers. That, along with incentive, imagination and a good deal of skill in fly tying, became the basis for his new business. The name, "Wapsi", was a natural, as the buildings housing it were located on the banks of the Wapsipinicon River.*

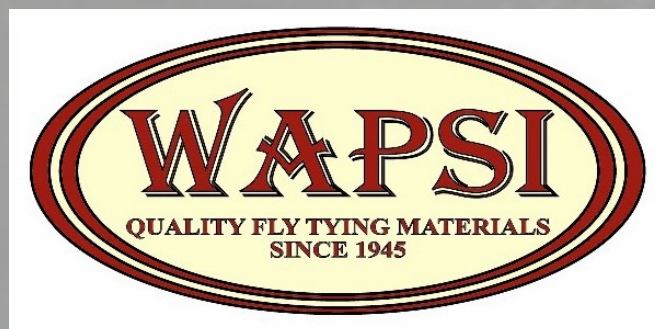
*Gradually the business prospered, ranking about number three in the country. Herters was number one, Universal Vise, second, and Wapsi, third. Universal and Wapsi gradually outstripped Herters who diversified into general sporting goods.*

*Tom and Ann Schmuecker were living on a farm near Amana, Iowa, raising boys, purebred Angus cattle, and Plymouth Barred Rock chickens. Ten years of careful breeding had produced a strain of fine crossbred birds. Tom was selling the production to Lacey. In 1973, Tom and Ann purchased Wapsi and moved their family to Independence, Iowa.*

*For the next five years, Wapsi continued to tie for major companies while gradually increasing the materials business. However, with the changes in the economy, fly companies began to produce flies overseas. In 1978, Tom and Ann moved their family and Wapsi to Mountain Home, Arkansas. The promise of milder climate, great fishing, and new facilities provided the incentive.*

*Changes were immediate. All production of flies stopped, and emphasis was solely on materials. Growth was rapid. In order to keep pace, Wapsi added new facilities and more employees.*

*Today, Wapsi fills 62,000 square feet with plans to continue expansion.*



# Fly Tying Thread Comparison Chart

Other than the hook, thread selection is probably the most important part of fly tying. When you head to a fly shop to buy thread, there can be an overwhelming number of options. Fly tying supply company, J. Stockard, created a chart to help you pick the thread that is right for you. That chart can be seen below. In addition, on their website, they provided information on different types of thread, comparing denier to aught, and brands. Find the full article [here](#).



## Thread Comparison Chart

Brand	Thread	Material	Size	Denier	Strength
<b>Size 20 and Smaller Flies</b>					
Danville	<a href="#">Spider Web</a>	nylon mono	18/0	30	4
Semperfli	<a href="#">Nano Silk 24/0</a>	4 strand GSP	24/0	20	
Semperfli	<a href="#">Nano Silk 18/0</a>	4 strand GSP	18/0	30	95
Semperfli	<a href="#">Spyder 18/0</a>	polyester	18/0	30	14
Semperfli	<a href="#">18/0 Classic Waxed</a>	polyester	18/0	30	13.7
UNI	<a href="#">Caenis</a>	single strand	20/0	20	3
UNI	<a href="#">Trico</a>	polyester	17/0	40	4.5
UNI	<a href="#">Clear Mono-line</a>	nylon mono	-	-	16
VEEVUS	<a href="#">14/0</a>	polyester	14/0	-	16
VEEVUS	<a href="#">16/0</a>	polyester	16/0	-	14
VEEVUS	<a href="#">GSP 30</a>	GSP*	-	30	>25
<b>Size 10-22 Flies, low bulk</b>					
Danville	<a href="#">Unwaxed Flymaster</a>	nylon	6/0	79	16
Danville	<a href="#">Waxed Flymaster</a>	nylon	6/0	79	16
G. Griffiths	<a href="#">14/0 Sheer Ultrafine</a>	polyester	14/0	72	10-16
Semperfli	<a href="#">Nano Silk 12/0</a>	4 strand GSP	12/0	50	126
Semperfli	<a href="#">12/0 Classic Waxed</a>	polyester	12/0	70	17.25
UNI	<a href="#">Waxed Midge</a>	polyester	8/0	72	16-19
UNI	<a href="#">Nylon 70</a>	nylon	-	70	15
VEEVUS	<a href="#">10/0</a>	polyester	10/0	-	25
VEEVUS	<a href="#">12/0</a>	polyester	12/0	-	17
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra 70</a>	nylon	6/0	70	13-16
<b>Size 10-22 flies, low bulk plus high strength</b>					
Semperfli	<a href="#">8/0 Classic Waxed</a>	polyester	8/0	105	26.5
VEEVUS	<a href="#">6/0</a>	polyester	6/0	-	>32
VEEVUS	<a href="#">8/0</a>	polyester	8/0	-	>32
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra GSP 50</a>	GSP	-	50	64

Brand	Thread	Material	Size	Denier	Strength**
<b>Size 10-20 flies, high strength</b>					
Danville	<a href="#">3/0 Mono</a>	nylon	3/0	115	>25
Semperfli	<a href="#">6/0 Classic Waxed</a>	polyester	6/0	150	33
UNI	<a href="#">6/0 Waxed</a>	polyester	6/0	130-135	29-33
VEEVUS	<a href="#">GSP 100</a>	GSP	-	100	>100
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra 140</a>	nylon	-	140	33-44
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra GSP 75</a>	GSP	-	75	98
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra GSP 100</a>	GSP	-	100	128
<b>Large files and other high strength needs</b>					
Danville	<a href="#">Flymaster-</a>	nylon	-	230	60
Danville	<a href="#">Flat Waxed Nylon</a>	nylon	-	210	65
Danville	<a href="#">Flymaster-140</a>	nylon	-	140	
Semperfli	<a href="#">Nano Silk 6/0</a>	4 strand GSP	6/0	100	134
Semperfli	<a href="#">3/0 Classic Waxed</a>	polyester	3/0	220	39.3
UNI	<a href="#">Big Fly</a>	polyester	-	400	100
UNI	<a href="#">3/0 Waxed</a>	polyester	3/0	213-220	32-40
UNI	<a href="#">Nylon 210</a>	nylon	-	210	53
UNI	<a href="#">UnDer Body</a>	stretch nylon	-	630	
VEEVUS	<a href="#">GSP 150</a>	GSP	-	150	>150
VEEVUS	<a href="#">GSP 200</a>	GSP	-	200	>200
VEEVUS	<a href="#">Kevlar Natural</a>	Kevlar	-	200	
Wapsi	<a href="#">Ultra GSP 200</a>	GSP	-	200	>250

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**Definitions & Notes:** Denier (textile industry convention) - gram weight of 9,000 meters of thread. Size is by aughts (0), an older, less accurate definition with the more '0's' indicating finer thread. GSP denotes gel-spun polyethylene. Strength is defined as breaking strength in ounces. This data was collected from several public sources. We have done our best to provide accurate information and welcome updates and corrections.



## Spring Strategies for Smallmouth

We just hit Spring last month, which means smallmouth fishing is about to pick back up in the Tennessee Valley. Fishing for smallies in the summer might be the best time of year, but Spring can be productive. A Fly Lords article by Stone Miller lays out five key strategies for catching smallmouth bass in the Spring. A synopsis of the article is below, and find the entire article [here](#).

1. **Fish with an Indicator** – Big fish can be found in Spring. However, they are holed up in a deep pool. Rig a crawdad or hellgrammite a few feet below a dropper or indicator and fish slow. This is similar to trout nymphing. Might not be the most fun fishing, but can be effective.
2. **Swing flies** – As the water warms, fish will begin to move out of the depths of winter holes, into shallower parts of the river, and will often congregate in bigger open runs. As the water temps rise, fish will become more aggressive. From early to mid spring, primarily in bigger holes, a sinking baitfish pattern should be utilized.
3. **Low and Slow** – Similar to swinging, but instead of using a baitfish, strip a large crawdad, free of an indicator, as low and slow as you can. Dark brown and orange can work great!
4. **Poppers** – This can be a great way to target large male fish in the area they will build a pre-spawn bed. When male fish are building beds to attract females, they have a small home range, usually in shallow water. They're not likely to attack a baitfish or move much at all, but popping a boogle bug or deer hair popper over beds can induce a strike.
5. **Baitfish** – You want a fly that will fish sub-surface, but still work at varied speeds. Fish these flies just like you would a fluke on spin tackle. You can always catch smallmouth chasing baitfish, but I prefer to utilize these flies in the later days of spring or on irregularly warm days early in the year.



A neat podcast on smallmouth fishing, featuring local guide and friend of the club, David Perry, of [Southeastern Fly](#), can be found [here](#) on Wet Fly Swing.

## Hats for Sale

Hats are back! We have bought hats. These hats will be on sale during the April meeting and anytime after until sold out. Depending on your style, we have two options. A cotton lower profile charcoal colored hat, and a dark green olive colored trucker hat! Each hat is \$20, and all money goes towards the club. Get yours just in time for Spring fishing. Who knows, it might even be your lucky hat! See David Bailey, Connor Baker, or Debbie Hill to get yours!





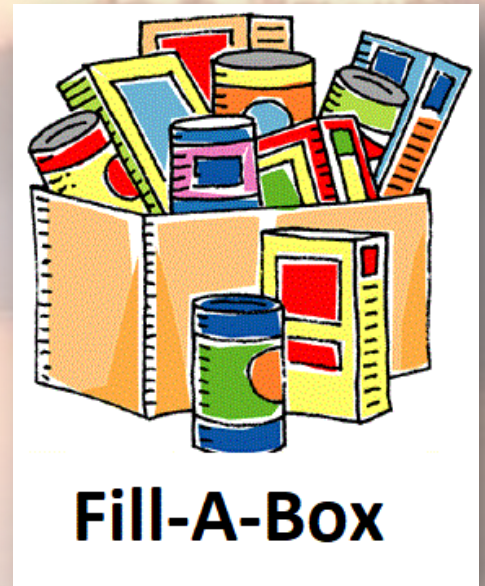
## ***Fly Line Recycling***

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 Flyvines. It is a small thing you can do to be kind to the environment and support our conservation efforts.



## ***Food Drive Box***

Faith Presbyterian Church has a community food drive box outside of the church, in their parking lot. This box receives and distributes food staple items to members of the community in need. If you would like to help, please bring non-perishable items to place in the box. Faith Presbyterian Church has generously let us use Room 201 for years. The least we can do is provide food to members of their church community in need.



## **Your Attendance is Requested**

Earn a chance to win a free one-year TVFF/FFI membership. For each TVFF meeting that you attend on Feb 16, Mar 16 and Apr 20 or by attending a TVFF tying meeting on Feb 9, 23, Mar 9, 23 and Apr 13, you are eligible to enter the drawing. The more meetings you participate in the better your chances to win! The winner will be drawn and announced at the TVFF meeting on April 20. The free one-year membership can be applied to your existing membership to extend it for an additional year or you may use it to pay for a new member you would like to recruit. See you at an upcoming meeting!



## April Weird Holidays

### Peach Cobbler Day

April 13<sup>th</sup>

Blackberry cobbler is good, strawberry cobbler works for some folks but I'd say peach cobbler is my favorite. One source says the dish originated in the American West but it seems purely Southern to me. Georgia is known as the Peach State but Alabamians know the best peaches come from Chilton County.

Celebrate the day by making a peach cobbler. Fruit on the bottom with a sugar sprinkled crust on top. Yum! Warm cobbler with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top is better yet.



### National Haiku Day

April 17<sup>th</sup>

Haiku is a form of poetry from Japan. Matsuo Basho (1644-1694), pictured at right, is considered a master of the form. Three verses that do not rhyme with a meter of 5-7-5 syllables. So here are two Haiku for the day.

He ties with great care  
Old fingers gnarled but nimble  
Certainty rising

The fly lands gently  
The fish sees, rising slowly  
then slowly descends



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