



TVFF Club News

July 2026



TVFF Club Meeting Jones Pond Picnic Thursday, July 16th 6:00 PM



July is one of the warmest months here in the great state of Alabama! It is also the month where days are long. Fishing is great this time of year.

In lieu of our guest speaker, we will be having a picnic at [Jones Pond](#), located in Jones Valley, off Four Mile Post and behind Valley Bend Shopping Center. Please bring a chair and a snack to share! Make sure to bring your fly rod and your favorite bass flies! This is a good chance to socialize with other members. We will be meeting an hour early at 6:00 PM. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

Upcoming TVFF Events

- **July:** Family Picnic
- **August:** Annual Swap Meet
- **September:** Bob Clouser via Zoom (do not miss this one)
- **October:** Annual Membership meeting, attendance by all members greatly appreciated
- **November:** Annual TVFF Banquet and auction
- **December:** Holiday Fly tying and Party

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Welcome New Members:

Ron Eakes
Robbie Hill

This Month

- July 9 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- July 16 – Meeting/Picnic, 6:00 PM
- July 23 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Dave Bailey
Vice President: Andy King
Secretary: David Heim
Treasurer: Vacant
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Brian Moore
Conservation: Jacob Franklin
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is Thursday August 6th 2026, 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.

July 9th, 7PM

Lefty's Deceiver – Andy King

Cost: \$3

The picture right is of the original fly tied by Lefty. It is an older fly but still effective today. This fly is easy to cast and non-weighted. I usually fish it with a weighted line. We will tie it on a 1.0 hook. We will tie one white one and another variant. Video [here](#).

Special items you will need:

- Thread—Monofilament .006 is what I use. You can also tie it with white 140 Denier or 6.0 thread.
- UV Resin and UV torch
- Maybe a stacker



June 23rd, 7 PM

TBD

Cost: \$3

Looking for a fly tying leader. Please reach out to Brian Moore (cav_deuce@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer.

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 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Fish of the Month

Below, TVFF members Nick Morgan and Jonathan Craft do some North Alabama swamp fishing/exploring! Nick caught a nice Bowfin and Jonathan caught a nice Gar! Both unique finds and a testament to Alabama's aquatic diversity. Good job guys!



Right, TVFF member Jonathan Craft caught this nice Northern Alabama Smallmouth! He is on a quest to catch one every month this year. Jonathan is half way there!



Below, TVFF members Connor Baker and Jesse Wright went on the hunt for Warrior Bass. They both found their fish. Fun fish that put a bend in that 2wt.



Fish of the Month



Above TVFF members Connor Baker and Jesse Wright did some warm water fly fishing this month. The target species was smallmouth and they were able to find a few from the old raft. The fish were mostly hitting streamers, but the top water bite is starting to heat up!



Right and below, TVFF member Jacob Franklin caught these nice smallmouth! There are some nice fish and I bet they put up a fight!



Above, TVFF member Jacob Franklin, while on vacation with his family, caught this needle fish on the beach. Might be the only TVF member with that catch!

False Albacore vs Bonito – Everything You Need To Know

False Albacore and Bonito are very similar fish. They look similar, have the same mannerisms and live in a lot of the same waters. Fly Lords Magazine differentiates the two. The entire article by Nate Holmes can be found [here](#).

What is a False Albacore?

False albacore (Euthynnus alletteratus), also known as Little Tunny, Albies, Bonita, and Fat Alberts, are members of the Scombridae family, in the Euthynnus genus; somewhere in between true tuna and mackerel. Albies are often finicky with anglers and can be difficult to get a fly in front of, causing the obsession known as “Albie Fever.” Once an angler catches “the Fever”, it is impossible to cure and can only be treated with more albie fishing. Essentially being a “party-sized” tuna, albies give fly anglers a taste of bluewater fishing, close to home. Pound for pound, albies are one of the hardest-fighting fish I’ve ever encountered and would have no problem towing most fish their size across the Atlantic.

What is a Bonito?

Atlantic Bonito (Sarda sarda) is an often-confused fish. A quick Google search for “Bonito Fish” reveals that they are in the same family as albies. But the main photo Google uses for bonito is undoubtedly a false albacore. I’m not going to get into a scientific war with the largest source of information in the world, so I’ll just go off of what I know. Bonito, not bonita, is also a member of the Scombridae family, but in the Sarda genus. Bonito do run a bit smaller than albies and give up a little quicker, which makes them an awesome 7-8wt fish. A school of bonito slashing at a large baitball is most definitely a sight that gets the adrenaline going.

What Does A False Albacore Look Like?

Albies have a bright silver body with a green back. Along their back, they have a unique, black, squiggly pattern, different from any other fish. In the water, they look like missiles (they essentially are), with their pectoral fins jetting out of their sides acting as stabilizers. Even though they technically are not, every part of them screams tuna. Albies are also bigger on average than bonito.



What Does A Bonito Look Like?

Bonito resemble species of mackerel much more than albies. They are generally smaller than albies and are much skinnier. Bonito have a silver body with a blue or green back. Along their flank, they have black stripes, kind of similar to striped bass. Running with the mackerel theme, bonito have a nearly rectangular dorsal fin compared to albies, and noticeable teeth.





8 Fly Fishing Myths and Misconceptions

Hatch Magazine put together a list of the 8 biggest misconceptions when it comes to fly fishing. There are a lot of “influencers” out there trying to tell you how to fish, but sometimes they can give bad advice. Below puts to bed some of those myths. The entire article by Todd Tanner can be found [here](#).

Flies

Flies are important, but what is more important is how you fish the fly. There is no magic fly that will make you catch fish, presentation of said fly is more important. Fishing your favorite fly with confidence in my experience is the best way to have fly fishing success.

Fast Action Fly Rods

Fly rod companies act like fast action rods are the end all be all for casting far and accurate. However, for beginners, fast action rods are harder to cast and less forgiving. Most all of the same can be done with a moderate action rod.

We Should Strive to Make Fly Fishing as Easy as Possible

Big companies are striving to make fly fishing easy. Fly fishing is inherently not easy, it takes practice to cast and tie knots and understand flies. Making it easy defeats the purpose of solving the rewarding puzzle of catching a fish on your own.

Using Two Flies at Once Doubles Chances of Catching a Fly

Fishing two flies can sometime be beneficial. However, sometimes it can be the opposite. Bottomline, it isn't a sure thing to double success.

Fly Casting is Overrated

Better casters catch more fish. You can be a mediocre caster and catch fish, but the best casters always catch more.

Weight Forward Fly Lines Are Better Than Double Taper Fly Lines

Weight forward fly lines are the hot thing. However, double taper fly lines offer a cheaper and equally good option.

Don't False Cast More than Absolutely Necessary

If false casting works and is enjoyable for you, then do it as much as you want.

Success is All About Size and Numbers

Don't get bogged down in the number or size of fish you catch. Enjoy the experience. Enjoy the hunt for fish, the time spent with friends and the serenity of nature.

TVFF News

Faith Presbyterian Church – Food Item of the Month

Thank you to all that brought cereal and Spam to last month's TVFF meeting for donation to the ongoing food pantry drive at Faith Presbyterian Church. This helps FPC in their efforts to provide extra food to seniors that need a little extra help each month. The item for the month of June is **canned Peas and/or canned Green Beans**. If you are able to donate a box or two please bring those to the upcoming TVFF meetings (either fly tying or picnic). We will collect your donations and get those to the Food Pantry.



TVFF Hats for Sale

TVFF has embroidered caps for sale. The caps are currently available in several colors and are available as long as they last. Price is \$25.00 per cap. As always, cash or check.



TVFF America's 250th Fishing Challenge

To celebrate the semiquincentennial of America's Independence. We thought it would be fun to see how close TVFF could collectively get to catching and landing 250 fish. We started this challenge in April and ended this month. As a club, TVFF caught 422 fish, shattering our goal of 250. The member that caught the most fish is Dean Finnerty, with a whopping 125 fish! Great job everyone and thank you to all that participated. God Bless America!

Other News

TVFF is Collecting Empty Thread Spools

If you have empty thread, wire, floss, or tinsel spools, please bring to a future TVFF meeting (fly tying or monthly meeting). Debbie Hill will be collecting these. Instead of throwing them away, they will be repurposed. If you have any questions please contact Debbie: debhill522@gmail.com



TVFF Classified Ads

TVFF has a classified section will for members to offer for sale used or unwanted fly fishing related items:

- Send a brief description and picture of the item(s) you wish to sell and include an asking price to the TVFF Communications Director at editor@tvff.club
- Provide your name, email and/or cell number
- All transactions are to conducted between the buyer and seller. TVFF will not become involved
- Ads will not roll over each month , you must resubmit your request each month if needed
- This service is for current TVFF members and must include fly fishing related items only



Video: The Biggest Lie Fly Shops (Accidentally) Tell Beginners

Think you need a different fly every time the fish stop biting? That might be the biggest lie beginners hear in fly fishing—and most fly shops don't even mean to tell it.

In this video, Fly Fish Food breaks down one of the most common misconceptions in fly fishing and explain why constantly changing flies often isn't the answer. You'll learn what really matters when fish aren't cooperating, including presentation, depth, speed, and location.

Link to video can be found [here](#).

July Holidays

July 4th

This day is a triple play. There is the holiday that we all know -

Independence Day (USA)

The Second Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence in 1776 but other notable events have occurred on this day:

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th in 1826.

"My Country 'Tis of Thee: was written for a July 4th celebration in Boston in 1831

The U.S. Military academy in West Point, New York was opened on July 4th, 1802

There are some less notable National days recognized on this day

National BBQ Ribs Day

After all, besides apple pie and baseball, a nice slab of ribs would be a great way to celebrate the 4th.

But this next one is a little harder to connect with the 4th.

National Caesar Salad Day

The Caesar Salad was created by Chef Caesar Cardini at his restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico. It gained notoriety when the chef prepared the salad at the table of some Hollywood celebrities during an Independence day weekend in 1924.

The salad is famous for it's dressing which is sometimes prepared at the table as Chef Cardini did. If your waiter asks you what dressing you want on your Caesar salad, you probably shouldn't trust his wine recommendation either.

National Strawberry Sundae Day

Date celebrated: July 7th

All good people enjoy a strawberry sundae. I might not wait until July 7th. I might be enjoying mine on July 4th. The Caesar salad can wait.



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EAST ALABAMA FLY FISHING
Photo by Craig Godwin



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To become a sponsor
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