

# TVFF Club News

May 2021



## May Speaker – Drew Morgan



This month, our guest speaker is Drew Morgan from East Alabama Fly Fishing. Based out of Auburn, EAFF specializes in guiding on the Tallapoosa River. The Tallapoosa is a beautiful fishery with Redeye Bass, Spotted Bass and Striped Bass. Drew will be talking about what his guide service offers and will give some tips for fishing for these fish. EAFF employs several experts in warm water fly fishing. If you have a free weekend, pay them a visit this summer and support local Alabama guides! <https://eastalabamaflyfishing.com/>

### Board of Directors Meeting

The next quarterly BOD meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please request a Zoom meeting invitation by sending an email to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club).

### Updated Fishing Reports

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

### In this issue

- [TVFF Fly Tying](#)
- [Catch of the Month, Sunfish ID](#)
- [In Person Activities Resume](#)
- [The Valley Fly Fisher](#)
- [In My Dreams](#)
- [Arapaima, Flyvines, Email, Zoom](#)
- [April Mtg, Dues, May Picnic Social](#)
- [Free Fishing, Cfr, Fill-A-Box](#)
- [Job Jar](#)
- [Sponsors](#)

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

*Welcome New Member  
Joe Stegmaier*

### This Month

- May 6 – BOD Mtg - Zoom 7 p.m.
- May 13 - Fly Tying – 201+Zoom 7 p.m.
- May 15 - Picnic Social see [pg. 7](#)
- May 20 - Program –201+Zoom 7 p.m.
- May 27 - Fly Tying – 201+Zoom 7 p.m.



### BOD Minutes

BOD minutes are now available for review at the monthly meetings.

Members can read the minutes by simply asking the Club Secretary, David Hatfield.

## TVFF Fly Tying Group



Fly tying sessions will be conducted in person and online via Zoom video conferencing.

**No kit pickup.** Kits available in Rm 201 at the session or email to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club) to order a kit by mail for Zoom. Allow 5 days for delivery.

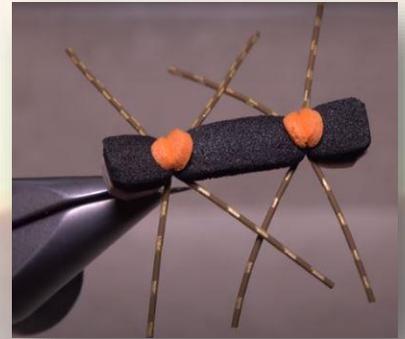
### May 13... - 7 P.M. Rm 201 and Zoom Chernobyl Ant - Tyer: Steve Kerkhof

Cost: \$2.00 in person, \$3.00 for kit mailed to your house

The Chernobyl ant was created by trout guides in Utah but it is a proven fish catcher for warm water species too.

#### Materials

- Thread: Brown 6/0, 140 Denier Thread  
Hook: Size 8, straight shank, round bend hook, 3X or 4X long  
Body: 2 strips, 2mm foam, 2 colors, we'll use tan and black strips are 1 hook gap wide, 1.5 x longer than hook, bright color foam for indicator (optional small chenille)  
Legs: Round rubber legs, color optional



### May 27 - 7 P.M. Rm 201 and Zoom Sofa Pillow – Tyer: Fred Kaufmann

Cost: \$2.00 in person, \$3.00 for kit mailed to your house

Learn to tie a Sofa Pillow fly, a variation on the stimulator pattern.

#### Materials:

- Hook: Size 4 terrestrial hook  
Thread: 210 denier GSP or similar heavy thread  
Body/wing: Elk hair, dark grey or rust and off white cream  
Rib: Copper wire  
Dubbing: Rust and golden or cream  
Hackle: 2 Furnace Hackles, 1 rust and 1 cream and black



### HOW TO GET YOUR TYING KIT

We have resumed tying at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201. Masks are required (church rules). Vaccination is not required but appreciated by the other tyers. Materials are available at the tying session. You may request a kit be mailed to you by sending an email to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club). The kit is \$2.00 in person at the session, or \$3.00 by mail, or you can join us via Zoom and use your own materials. The tyers have been donating the materials during the pandemic. The fee allows them to be reimbursed for the cost of materials.

**Health Notice: By tying in a group or receiving a kit by mail, you accept any and all health risks that may be associated with these activities.**

## Catch of the Month



TVFF club member **Greg Bayuga** landed and released this Silver King on a late-April trip at Lagune Los Corozos in Puerto Rico. It took a black tarpon toad on a 9wt Orvis Recon rod with Orvis saltwater line and a 50-pound tippet. (No telling what X that is.) Greg said he lost two in the 70-pound range.

## Sunfish ID

The fish we call bream have the scientific name Lepomid. Click the picture for a link to Koaw's website where he provides an identification guide. The website has a link to a YouTube video that offers details on green sunfish, pumpkinseed, red-breast, long ear sunfish, and hybrids.



## In Person Activities Resume

Club members, we had a good turnout on our last fly tying session in April. So, we're going to resume in-person activities beginning with our May 6 board meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church, corner of Whitesburg Drive and Airport Road, Room 201. Masks are required (per church guidelines). Zoom will still be available for those who prefer distancing. Members are welcome at the Board meeting but we ask that members who wish to attend the Board meeting, do so via Zoom.

Our fly tying on May 13 and 27 will be at the church, in-person, regardless of vaccination status. The sessions also will be available via Zoom. We are ending kit pickup on the Wednesday before the tying session but will offer the option to have kits mailed to your house. We have resumed collecting the \$2.00 fee for tying at the church or \$3.00 to have kit(s) mailed to your house. Send an email to [editor@tvff.club](mailto:editor@tvff.club) to request a kit. Please include your mailing address. Allow 5 days for delivery. You will receive a reply telling you how to send payment to the tyer. The tyers have been donating the materials since we stopped tying in person. Your donations have gone to TVFF, and are appreciated, but the tyers weren't reimbursed.

We will have an outdoor [Social/Picnic](#) on May 15 from 4-6 PM at Southside Park near Challenger School on Chaney Thompson Road in south Huntsville. Bring your own food, drink, and lawn chair just in case the table seats are full. There are tables, restrooms, access to Aldridge Creek, and the Greenway. Hope to see you there.

At long last, we will resume our in-person club meetings at the church on May 20 at 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. for social) regardless of vaccination status. Masks must be worn per church rules. The speaker in May will be via Zoom. The meeting will be restricted to 20 persons but if there are more we will set up video access in an unused room of the church. Also, Zoom will be available for those who want to join from home.



Left to right: Dick Curtis, Joe Tremblay, Steve Kerkhof, Fred Kaufmann,  
Not pictured: Bill Pittenger, Roger Shippey, Ricky Brooks and Larry Hice.  
(photo Larry Hice)

Back to normal? No, we aren't there yet, but it is a start. We had 8 tyers in the tying session on April 22. It sure was nice to see some faces that I haven't seen in over 1 year. Note, church guidelines say the speaker doesn't have to wear a mask while speaking. Everyone else was masked.

## The Valley Fly Fisher Newsletter (see next page)

A couple of months ago Tony Barber, contacted TVFF saying he was cleaning up and found printed copies of a couple of years of the club newsletter from the 1990s, when he was the editor. He asked if we wanted them or if he should throw them away. Joe Tremblay took them and has been scanning them so they can be stored on the TVFF website. See the next page for a sample.

## In My Dreams: *Fishing the Morpheus Pool* by Tony Barber

Even through my waders the water feels cool as it swirls gently about my legs. The few leaves that remain upon the tree limbs rattle dryly as a light breeze weaves along the river course. The rose colored sun hangs low just above the distant hills, and on this late fall afternoon provides scant warmth.

There is a dull ache in my casting arm for it was many hours ago when I dropped my first caddis imitation upon the nose of a hungry rainbow. This has been a day unlike any day I've had before, for from the moment I arrived there began a steady hatch of Caddis flies coming off the water. I try to recall the number of trout; rainbows, and browns, I have caught and released this day, but I cannot—more than twenty I think. Regardless of the number, it is the spirit of the fish I recall, their fighting ability; the rainbows launching themselves into space, performing midair acrobatics — the browns diving deep, burrowing into the waters' darkness in fruitless effort to rid themselves of the invisible pull upon their jaw.

The rise forms, fewer now, have taken on a purple-pink pastel hue in dull mimic of the western sky. The time when I should have left for home has passed but I hate to relegate this perfect day to memory. So I stand thigh deep in the slow current of a large pool preparing for one more cast—one more perfect cast, for this day my loops have been tight, my presentations perfect, and not a single fly left in a tree top.

I search the pool looking for the rise that will betray the feeding trout and provide a target for the final cast... There! Against the far bank, just downstream from a partially submerged log, are slowly expanding, tell-tale circles—much like the rings of a target encircling a bulls-eye. The distance to the rise is far more than I would normally attempt, but this day I'm certain I can reach it.

I lay out a couple of false casts to the rear of the rise to check for the proper distance. On the third forward cast I kill the line's forward motion high and allow the fly to fall slackly to the water, two feet in front of where I suspect the trout to be lying. Slowly it drifts, one foot, then two. Nothing. Another foot. And another. Still nothing. Thinking I have missed, for the only time that day, I move to pick up the fly and go home.



Just then the fly disappears and the line goes tight. Almost before I can react the water boils from the thrashing of a large fish; a mighty fish. In the pale light I see a slab of golden flank as the fish rolls near the surface, then dives, looking to return to that safe place in the deepest darkest part of the pool. The line sings as it is ripped from the reel and speeds through the guides. I feel the line vibrate rapidly and I imagine it is from the shaking of its large head. I let him run and apply only slight pressure to the rim of the reel trying merely to hang on and turn his head away from the submerged log. He does turn and I breath a sigh of relief knowing that if he had made it to the log he would have broken me off. I begin to play him with light but even pressure for I know my tippet is fine and light, yet I play him with a sense of confidence.

As the big brown turns I'm able to take back some line and I am thankful for the small gain. He then runs upstream taking back the line he had just given me. He moves to the head of the pool where the current is stronger. I know this is to my advantage for here he must fight the current and the rod; he finds he can not. As he turns downstream I am forced to strip in line by hand in order to keep pressure upon him. As he moves to the tail of the pool I wade downstream with him in order to neutralize the slight current; however, I am able to again get him on the reel.

Over a period of several minutes this scenario is repeated again and again. His runs are shorter now and with less energy. Eventually his large speckled snout comes to the surface and I am able to drag him to the net. He is magnificent. I remove the hook from his lower jaw and hold him lightly into the current allowing the water to flow across his gills. Soon he is strong enough to swim away and with a strong kick of his tail he is gone. But that's good for I know I will see him again—In my dreams.

**Editors Note: Tony Barber was a TVFF member when he wrote this article for *The Valley Fly Fisher*, the official TVFF newsletter of the 1990s.**

**By the way I've fished that pool often, in my dreams. – Joe Tremblay**



**Will it take a Woolly Bugger?** This arapaima is a nasty looking finned creature, nasty as in tough, mean, maybe dangerous. The press reported a specimen of arapaima was found on the bank of Caloosahatchee between Fort Myers and Cape Coral, Fla. Notice in the second photo in the New York [Post](#) story, there's a hook in its mouth, maybe two. My guess is someone caught it and when he or she pulled it in, thought it might be Jaws and cut the line. Gonna need a bigger boat, that's for sure. If this fish is in Florida waters, it can't be food for the native fish. The fish was reportedly three-to four-feet long. It can grow to nearly 10 feet. Maybe it can start eating swimming pythons in the Sunshine State. (Citron / CC BY-SA 3.0)



## 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.



**New E-Mail Address?** If you get a new email address or want your TVFF email to go to a different address, email [editor@tvff.org](mailto:editor@tvff.org) and we'll fix you right up. If you've missed an email, check your spam folder.

## Zoom Meeting Instructions

You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation in the TVFF reminder email that is sent on Sunday evening before a scheduled fly tying night or club meeting. There are three ways to join the meeting. You can copy/paste the link in the invitation into your browser, OR go to <https://zoom.us> and click “Join A Meeting” in the upper right of the screen, OR if you have installed the Zoom app then you can open the app and enter the meeting number and password from the invitation. If prompted, you should click yes to allow Zoom to use the camera and microphone on your computer, then we can see and hear you during the meeting. You may be placed in a Zoom “waiting room” when you first join. Be patient and you will be admitted to the meeting by a host or cohost. This is another layer of security for our online meetings.

## April speaker Tracy Doughty

Thank you Tracy Doughty for your informative presentation on the COVID pandemic as it relates to Madison County and north Alabama. Tracy is Huntsville Hospital's Vice President of Operations and will become the hospital's President and Chief Operating Officer on July 1. Tracy said efforts to contain the COVID virus are "going very well," but he cautioned that masks, social distancing, and common-sense precautions are still very much in our future. He said at least 100,000 COVID vaccinations had been given in Madison County (as of mid-April). He said annual vaccination boosters probably will be needed.

## Annual Dues Reminder from TVFF's Membership Director

TVFF is now collecting annual membership dues for the coming year of TVFF/FFI. These membership dues are for your renewal through May 1, 2022. Remember, dues must be paid through TVFF to be considered a TVFF member and, automatically, an FFI member. Check your inbox for an email from TVFF Membership Director **Debbie Hill** with the amount of your dues based on your specific membership type. Contact [Debbie Hill](#) with questions. When you mail your check please include any update on your contact information so you can receive the latest TVFF and FFI information. Send your check made out to TVFF to: Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815.

## May 15 Picnic Social

Come see your friends from TVFF at this outdoor event. It is a bring your own picnic event with an opportunity to say hello and share news with friends you haven't seen in over a year.

**Where:** Southside Park,  
16159 Chaney Thompson Rd S.E.  
In Southeast Huntsville

**When:** Saturday May 15, 4-6 P.M.

The park is adjacent to Aldridge Creek and the Greenway. There are opportunities to wade the creek or take a leisurely stroll on the Greenway beside the creek.

There are also restrooms, pavilion, and picnic tables at the park.

You should bring something for yourself to eat and drink. A lawn chair or blanket would be a good idea too. The park also features an archery range, dog park and disc golf. Check the City of Huntsville website for additional information about the park. [Find a Park - City of Huntsville \(huntsvilleal.gov\)](http://huntsvilleal.gov)



## Alabama Free Fishing Day (click article for more info)

### This year's Free Fishing Day is June 12, 2021

Each year, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources designates a "Free Fishing Day" for the public to fish recreationally in public waters without a fishing license.

The event is part of [National Fishing and Boating Week](#), which runs June 5-13, 2021.

State Public Fishing Lakes still require a fishing permit on Free Fishing Day, and fishing in a private pond requires the pond owner's permission. Some piers may also require fees and permits.

### Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

On the right is one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to the Alabama Casting for [Recovery](#) retreat in 2019. Since CFR retreats were put on hold due to Covid this past year, there were no TVFF fly boxes donated. TVFF would like to renew this project this year. If interested, choose a fly and tie or purchase 14 of them. When you have your set or multiple sets of 14 flies ready for collection, bring them to any club activity or contact Casting for Recovery [volunteer Debbie Hill](#). TVFF will provide the boxes for your donated flies. This fall we will be filling the fly boxes that will be donated to the Alabama Casting for Recovery retreat. Debbie keeps a list of flies that have been tied or purchased, but duplicates are welcome. <https://castingforrecovery.org/>



### Fill-A-Box (When we meet at church)

**Faith Presbyterian Church** sponsors this to assist seniors in our area who are identified as food-insecure. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list to the next meeting:

- 1 box of low-sugar, high fiber CEREAL
- 1-2 boxes of instant OATMEAL; 1-2 boxes of BREAKFAST BARS
- 4-5 cans of TUNA, HAM, CHICKEN
- 6-8 cans of low-sugar FRUIT; 6-8 cans of SOUP
- 6-8 cans of low-salt VEGTABLES
- 3-5 boxes of LOW-PREP MEALS (Hamburger Helper, Mac n' Cheese)
- 2-3 bottles/jars of Condiments (mayo, ketchup, oil, etc.)
- 1 jar of PEANUT BUTTER; 1-2 packs of SNACKS/DESSERT



## Fill-A-Box



# TVFF Job Jar YOU CAN HELP!

**Click on a Job listed below and send an email to volunteer or to obtain additional information. This is your opportunity to support TVFF without signing up for a long term commitment. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.**

[Manage the TVFF Job Jar](#) - Update this page monthly and coordinate requests.

[Provide flies for the TVFF Casting for Recovery \(CfR\) Fly Box](#) – Tie or purchase 14 flies of the same pattern for the TVFF CfR Fly Box. Contact the [TVFF program manager](#) prior to selecting the pattern to avoid duplicates. Fly boxes will be donated annually.

CfR provides free healing retreats for women breast cancer survivors in various stages of treatment and recovery. CfR's retreats offer women opportunities to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

[Club News Contributor](#) - Provide the Communication Director content of interest geared toward our members such as activities, articles, trip reports, etc.

[Official TVFF Photographer\(s\)](#) - Photograph TVFF events and email photos to the Communication Director.

[Safety Pin Flies](#) - Tie some safety pin flies to be given to visitors at TVFF outreach activities. This simple to tie pattern is very popular with younger visitors. Demand is always great and outstrips our supply; we never have enough.

[Manage TVFF Calendar](#) - Update TVFF Google Calendar with events provided by BOD.

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