



# TVFF Club News

July 2018



**We dare not forget that we are heirs of that first revolution.**

**John F. Kennedy**



## This Month Program - Swap Meet

The Swap Meet is opened to all comers and is a great opportunity to swap or sell your excess gear or to find that "must have" item you've been looking for including work by Shawn Haynes a local woodworker and artist.



In addition fishing and fly tying items, past items have included tools, camping, boating and hunting gear as well as a never ending supply of fish(y) tales.

## 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

- 5 July - TVFF Monthly Outing
- 12 July - Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201
- 19 July - Swap Meet, 7 pm, room 201
- 26 July - 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

### Munch Muppet - Featured Tyer, Donald Dehm

**12 July:** An articulated bass fly of Donald's creation. Originally scheduled as the last fly in the Articulated Series, but delayed due to travel requirements, the Munch Muppet can best be appreciated when wet.



*Munch Muppet*

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hopper Variant - Featured Tyer, Donald Dehm



**26 July:** Inspired by Ted Crona's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hopper, Donald will be tying a variation that produced last month's Catch of the Month.

Hoppers are a great choice for summer and fall top water fishing and are eagerly taken all species.



*4<sup>th</sup> of July Hopper Variant*

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

David Darnell holding a healthy 10 lb carp caught on a crawfish colored #6 Tarpon Toad on Tims Ford Lake.

Carp are notoriously difficult to catch on a fly and put up a terrific fight once hooked. This one took 110 ft of line on an 8 weight rod before David was able to coax it back to the boat.

Congratulations David!!!



*Tarpon Toad*



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 5 July 7AM - 10AM

TVFF monthly 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. The location and time of the Outing may 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 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.

Although the official start is 7 am, the early bird gets the worm. So come a little early and improve your odds.

Come join us 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)),





## South Holston and Watauga Trip Report - by Joe Tremblay



**Elk River near Banner Elk**

Departing Huntsville an hour later than planned, we quickly settled in for 7 hour drive (6 hour not counting stops) to our hotel in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. Arriving safely, Bill and I checked in before heading to Highland Outfitters Fly Shop in nearby Linville hoping to meet up with our guide Joe Kostura. Unfortunately Joe was on the water but the well stocked offered lots of eye candy and an opportunity to stock up on items I was running short of.

You may remember Joe, his March presentation on Tennessee's trout waters inspired Bill Pittenger and I to book a 2 day June trip in the hope of getting in some dry fly time. By now your probably wondering. Why book with a North Carolina Guide if your going to fish Tennessee. The answer is simple. Joe knows his stuff!

Joe picked us up at our motel and we headed out the South Holston full of anticipation. However, on the way Joe sadly informed us that the combination of low water and the unusually hot temperature had adversely impacted the summer hatches. So we would have to resort to Plan B, midges under an indicator.

When Joe says low water he means low water! We scraped bottom more times than I can remember and even had to get out of the boat at one point to help get over a shallow riffle. Low water or not, Joe put us on fish. I cast to several 24"+ browns but the combination of crystal clear water and low flow meant that my prey had a clear view of us and was not going to be fooled. I could almost read its mind, "Been there, done that".

Bill did manage to hook a nice healthy female in one of the deeper pools while I manages to catch some average and smaller than average fish. I was surprised to hear the South Holston and Watauga Rivers had not been stocked in the last 30 years and all the trout were actually wild. Although we did catch some rainbows, the vast majority of fish caught were brown trout.

After a stream side lunch, a small sulphur hatch provided us with some dry fly time. We landed several fish, including a rainbow, before the sulphur disappeared and we were back to midges for the rest of the day.

Next morning Joe again picked us up at our hotel and we headed to the Watauga for more midge fishing. This time I would be in the front of the boat. I have never seen so may wild fish in a river! Hundreds of trout would scamper as the boat approached. It was truly impressive. Joe informed us that the Watauga doesn't have a lot big fish but makes up in numbers. I cant argue with that, I caught at least 3 time more fish than the previous day, including an 18" brown which was my biggest fish of the trip.

You can reach Joe through [Highland Outfitters](#) or email him at [Joe@highlandoutfittersnc.com](mailto:Joe@highlandoutfittersnc.com)





Bill loose in the "candy" store



Loading up for day 1





Supervising the launch on the South Holston



South Holston dry fly brown





Healthy 20" brown



Yep.... It rained





# Dally's How To: 10 Beyond Basic Fly Fishing Tips



Step outside your comfort zone, the rewards are worth it. First cast first brown trout. Steve dally image

So you have your first fly rod, and probably are catching some trout, maybe with a bobber, or a bugger or if you are lucky a dry fly.

Sure there is big trout, and there is few better places than right here on the White River tail-waters. But surely that's not it? you may ask.

Truly you are scratching the surface, fly fishing's modern evolution is has added new tactics, new species, new places and just more fishing than we thought possible 20 years ago. The fly fishing world has a bunch to offer, so here are ten suggestions to take you beyond the basics:





**Volunteer:** A great way to broaden your outlook and meet fellow travelers is to sign up for volunteer groups like Trout Unlimited, the FFF clubs or the various Friends of organizations which work for fisheries management and/or watershed conservation across the country. New friends open the doors to new water, new experiences or simply some fun on your home water. Try [Arkansas' White River #698 Chapter of TU](#)



Mississippi Johnson's casting skills make him very accurate.

**Keep Casting:** Never in the history of fly fishing has one maxim spawned so much bad language as "I catch all my fish inside 30', so I don't need learn to cast further". In reality if you can only cast 30' then fly fishing is forever going to be a trial of knots tangles and other dramas.

Having thirty feet of line out is really where all the fun starts, the rod and line will truly start harmonizing, line speed comes easier. Windy days become easier, you should tangle less, and what were seemingly hideously heavy anchors like a #6 conehead now fly from the rod.

If you can cast 50' with ease then 30' casts will be easier, more accurate and with less tangles. Next step will be 60' casts, then the Double Haul, try single handed spey casts if you are wade fisher, or backhand casts if you boat fish a lot. Better casting skills means more accuracy, more days fishing in all kinds of weather, more types of fish species or tactics come into play, and more fun.

Most decent fly shops should be able to help you improve your casting, or recommend someone who can. Or if its convenient give us a call 870 435 6166.



**Learn To Sight Fish:** It doesn't which "billion fish per mile" waterway you head to, fly fishing is always more productive when you are fishing "where the fish are, not where they aint." Being able to read the water, and spot individual fish is an art worth acquiring.

I happened to be indoctrinated in a place where making a cast before you had spied your quarry was deemed to be alongside worm drowning in "bad form". So during our long closed winter season I'd patrol river, lakes and ponds, trying to improve my sight fishing skills. Looking for fish, any fish at first But like those magic paintings fish started popping out of nowhere.

Get a good pair of sunglasses (Costa or Guideline with us), some sunlight and go looking. You are looking for things out of the ordinary in the myriad of movement under the surface, a shadow going upstream, or across, a white mouth.



Would you do this yourself?: Riverside BLT, potato salad and Bacon Pringles under Cotter Bridge.

**Take A Guide Trip:** We hear the line all the time, "I'm not ready to go on a guide trip". The truth is no-one is skilled enough **not** to go on a trip, particularly when you are travelling.

The best guides can teach you how to cast, untangle your knots, suggest the right gear to suit, serve you lunch, wrangle the boat and release all your trout unharmed while making it seem relatively effortless.

The right guides will ensure you catch more fish than you would have on your own, have more fun and if they can't cure that persistent tailing loop will probably have you working on a hack to keep you fishing until you can get it cured.

You will learn plenty, you will catch more fish and have a great time. A must on new water for us all.

[Book A Trip With Dally's.](#)





**Start Tying:** I have poked fun at a couple of fly fishing maxim's but the one about the satisfaction of catching fish on your own flies holds true. Finding fish and casting to them is only half the challenge, next figure out what they are eating and feed it to them.

If nothing else taking up fly tying teaches you about trout food and its imitations, Local tying materials company Wapsi make several great tying kits to get you started, focusing on the patterns that work locally. Swing by the shop and check them out

The North Arkansas Fly Fishers Club runs a good beginners tying class, every year and there is a font of information [on YouTube](#). Start with the Davy Wotton Midges and Sowbugs off our You Tube tying video channel and work your way up.



Fy fishing can take you to spectacular place, Steve Dally image.

**The Big Trip:** Anticipation is everything in fly fishing, but there is truly something special on setting off on that Big Trip. You have planned, prepped and now you are stepping into a car or on a plane with nothing ahead but fishing.

And there are so many options even here in the lower 48: Everyone should do Yellowstone and the waters surrounding it. Go see [Kelly at the Slide Inn](#), hit up [Miles Nolte](#) if you are in the Bozeman/Livingston area, or [Pete Widener's crew](#) for Sheridan WY area.

I love the Henry's Fork, or the Green and missed the Snake, and I've skipped too much of Colorado. Your fancies might be for the north woods: try the Driftless in Wisconsin or head up around Grayling and the Holy Waters of the AuSable. Or you might prefer New Orleans and redfish, or Florida and tarpon and bones. Just do it.



**Take A Kid Fishing:** You might not have the amazing facility we have at Dry Run Creek to take kids fishing. But a panfish pond, a bent rod, and a big smile on a small face is better than going fishing yourself.

Sometimes you don't even need the rod: I watched my wife, a pre-K teacher, entertain & educate her class of four-year-olds at Dry Run last year. Yep the fish were entertaining but they really got excited feeding the small fish at the hatchery and checking out the bugs I extracted from under the stones.



The trick to the kids fishing thing is go somewhere easy ( use live bait if you have to), take lots of (healthy) snacks and drinks, and work to their attention span.

If your child wants to spent more of their time checking out flowers, a dead crawdad or a puddle, so be it. Early on you just want fishing to be a time out. There is lots of time to get serious about fly fishing.

Though a panfish popper a guiding hand and some bream is a good time for most ages. We start out Dry Run guides trips with 10-year-olds but everyone is different.

### **Twig Water or Big Water:**

We are, by nature, creatures of habit. I know local fly fishers, who might travel far afield to fish, but have never fished the Norfolk, only the White and vice versa, and plenty of devotees of a size 10 olive woolly.

There's 2 things I kick myself for not pursuing harder: small streams "blue lining" the mystery of finding a blue line on a map and finding out what is there. Small light rods for tight quarters, small fish and high

entertainment. I've always through rods under 7'6" felt well "right" for trout which is funny given the amount of time I spend with an 8wt and an 8" streamer for trout. But if logic came into it we'd all be fishing "minors". Swing by the shop and let's cast a few.

I really miss the scent of saltwater too, never having lived more than 20 minutes from the ocean until I got to Arkansas. You can go chase the big glamour species or mess with the smaller fun stuff like rock bass.



**Artistic:** Given the total absorption needed at times, just to untangle the line from around your gear, its curious how many artistic fields fly fishing has inspired.

Drawing, painting, poetry, and prose, literature and crime novels, even the art of photography. Perhaps if we paid more attention we might catch more fish, but I prefer it how it is. There is inspiration in great art: great images that look at the everyday in a new day are inspirational, Duane Hada's paintings put you in a moment on our waters and I love great stories. Duane does trout and river scene painting classes at his [Rivertown Gallery](#).

**And for number 11: Don't forget to fish**

## July Holidays

### National Hot Dog Day

**Date When Celebrated :** Third Wednesday in July

Hot dog, hot dog, hot diggety dog! Today is *National Hot Dog Day*, On this date, we celebrate one of America's favorite summer sandwiches. It is only fitting that this dog gets its day.

Its summertime. Hot dogs are center stage on the grill, and at picnics all across America. They are at the ballpark. They are sold from carts on street corners in every city. It's not hard to find them. We consume hundreds of millions of hot dogs on the Fourth of July alone.

Enjoy *National Hot Dog Day* to the fullest. Have a couple of hot dogs for lunch or dinner. And, don't forget to cook a few on a stick at the evening campfire.

**What's in a hot dog?** Don't ask, and we won't tell. Sometimes, its best if you don't know. Happy *National Hot Dog Day*!

**How many Hot Dogs do we eat?** We consume so many hot dogs, in so many venues, that the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council hesitates to forecast consumption. But, it does report that each year we buy over 837 million packages of hot dogs at retail outlets, and over 24 million hot dogs at baseball stadiums alone.

### Hammock Day

**Date When Celebrated :** Always on July 22.

Summer is in full swing. It's time to slow down and to relax. During the [Dog Days](#) of summer (and all of the other summer days, too), there is no better place to slow down and relax, than on a hammock under a shady tree.

Hammock Day is appropriately celebrated right in the middle of the [Dog Days](#) of summer (July 3 though August 11th).

Hammock Day exists to enjoy summer as it should be enjoyed.

People celebrate Hammock Day by spending as much time relaxing on it as possible. Getting out of your hammock to get a snack, or your favorite summer beverage is okay. But, it is not a day for work. Cutting the lawn is forbidden on this day.

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







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