



TVFF Club News

July 2020



July 16 Program



Chris Scalley

The River Through Atlanta is one of the Southeast's premier fly fishing guide service. Based in Atlanta, they are experts when it comes to the 48 mile stretch of trout water on the Chattahoochee. Chris Scalley is a native Georgian and has been a Chattahoochee guide since 1994. As the founder of the River Through Atlanta, he spends roughly 200 days a year on the river with clients. He will be talking to us about the native brown trout population in the river and the unique opportunities when it comes to fishing "The Hooch"! Next time you are in Atlanta for a Braves game, make sure to look them up!



Next TVFF Board of Directors meeting will be August 6 at 7:00 PM.

Updated Fishing Reports

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

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

Welcome New Members

John Lindberg
Mark & Carolyn Little
Marc Hilden
Kimberly Posey

This Month's Activities

- July 9 Fly Tying – Virtual
- July 16 Meeting – Virtual
- July 23 Fly Tying – Virtual



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 online via Zoom video conferencing software until further notice.

9 July, 7PM via Zoom

Letort Hopper, Red Butt – Featured Tier , Steve Kerkhof

Cost: No charge (You can send a \$2.00 donation to TVFF, P.O. Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815, if desired)

Kit pickup at the church on Wednesday July 8.

The Letort Hopper pattern comes from Ed Shenk, a notable fly fisherman, tier and author in the 1950's and 1960's. I heard about it from a Kelly Galloup video. It is a low floating hopper pattern that is a good change of pace from the high floating foam patterns that the fish see today.

Materials: Size 10 or 12 dry fly hook; Tan, Yellow or White 6/0 thread; Dubbing – yellow, cream, Tan or Green; Turkey Tail or wing, Deer hair natural color.

The red butt fly comes from TVFF's own notable fly tier and author, Ted Crona. He got the pattern from a fisherman on Lake Guntersville who fished them on a three fly rig (see April Newsletter).

Thread: Black 6/0 , **Hook#8** Wet Fly, **Tail:** Clump of red wool , **Body:** Olive Fuzzy Stuff, **Hackle:** Gray hen shown, grizzly or brown are also good choices.



23 July 7PM via Zoom

Guide Choice Hares Ear Nymph- Featured Tier, Casey Jonas

The Hares Ear Nymph is a classic pattern. This one is tricked out with all of the options. Check out the [Tightline video](#) for a preview.

Hook: Size 14 nymph hook

Bead: Gold 7/64

Wire: Lead or lead free .015

Thread: Red 6/0 or 70 denier

Tail: Fur from Hares ear mask, or Zonker strip or pheasant tail

Wire: Gold BR size

Body: Hares mask dubbing

Wing Case: Flashabou

Abdomen: Dubbing or Peacock herl

Collar: Grizzly Soft Hackle

Head Cement



Kits will be available for pick up at the south door of Faith Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, 22 July, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. (You can send a \$2.00 donation to TVFF, P.O. Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815, if desired)

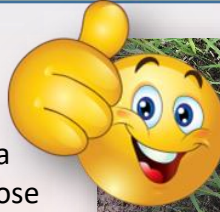
All are welcomed!

Join us for 2 hour sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7 PM.



Catch of the Month

Joe Tremblay issued a challenge last month to send a fishing picture to the newsletter. Everyone who made a submittal will receive a fly from Joe. After a vote by those attending the June meeting, Casey Jonas and Connor Baker were selected as the grand prize winners. Each will receive a Joe's frog or similar fly. Congratulations to everyone who sent a picture. Kirk Klingensmith, our speaker at the June meeting, had a slide that said **"A recent study has shown that 100% of people who don't go fishing don't catch fish"**.

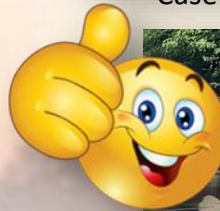


Casey's 18" bass from Aldridge Creek



Joe's great granddaughter

You can e-mail your picture to editor@tvff.club or Steve Kerkhof. Please include the fisherman's name, body of water, approximate date and any other interesting details.

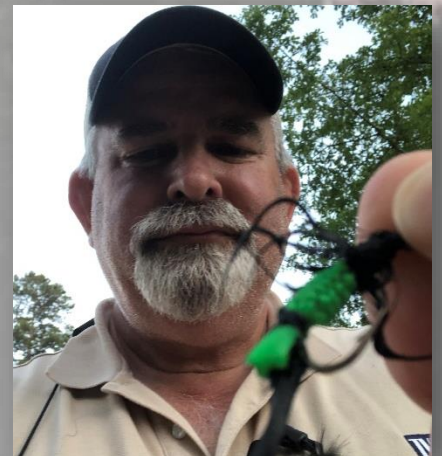


Connor's Sipsy Trout



David Darnell Tim's Ford Hybrid Striped Bass

Bob Lowery





Catch pg. 2



Debbie's bass from Jones Pond



Debbie's big bream from Jones Pond



Steve's Jones Pond bass



Joe's bass from Donovan Lakes

Building a Bamboo Fly Rod – by Casey Jonas

Starting on June 8th 2020 and continuing for 6 full working days, I built my first bamboo fly rod at Oyster Bamboo in Blue Ridge, GA. For those unaware, Bill Oyster is well known in the bamboo rod building world. He has made rods for President Jimmy Carter and The Carter Foundation, and his custom shop sells rods that are probably the most expensive new bamboo rods on the market.

As for myself, up to this point I had never built any type of rod or even cast a bamboo rod. I had no idea what to expect. At 8:30 a.m. on the first day the 7 students introduced ourselves to one another, and by 8:45 a.m. we were holding culms of dried bamboo in our hands. Due to COVID safety measures, Bill and his shop manager Riley were demonstrating node filing and other rod building processes over the TV screens placed on the walls, and the workstations had plexiglass in between students. I was worried that safety measures might take away from the relaxed, intimate atmosphere described by previous students. However, COVID measures were pretty much the only thing taken seriously at the shop. The only hard rule? No politics. The laughs start on day 1 and continue to the final presentation of the rods on Saturday night. Bill and Riley are just as talented at teaching as they are rod building, and part of their skill was reassuring us that everyone who has sat down at one of their benches has left with a finished rod, and there isn't any mistake they haven't seen before or even made themselves.

As the week proceeded, the group cohesion formed quickly among students from all walks of life. I ate lunch on most days with a retired energy CEO and a retired paper company executive, and my work station was situated between a retired lawyer and a retired geologist. The geologist had spent 3 of the last 5 years in a hospital unable to walk or move his hands for most of the time due to a rare illness that struck him out of nowhere. He told his doctors that as soon as he was back home he wanted to build a rod at Bill Oyster's shop. He was worried, but, Bill and Riley were not worried at all.

After days of filing, flaming, scraping, straightening, beveling, planing, gluing, sanding, shaping, wrapping, sanding some more, and 3 coats of varnish, the geologist and I were both presented with our finished 7'9" 6wt bamboo rods that cast as great as they look. One student made a beautiful 3wt with a rattan grip, and his wife (who doesn't fish) had also made a rod and had Bill engrave her name on the butt cap.



Split Culm on workbench



Flamed Culm

Building a Bamboo Fly Rod

Although every step was supervised and assistance was available, the students built everything but the metal components and reel seat of the finished rods. At no point did I feel overwhelmed with the steps in the process, and at no point did I feel like I was in the middle of a global pandemic. Despite paying for the class, I feel indebted to Bill, Riley, and Dean the intern for the memories I made in such a short time, and the heirloom quality rod that I will one day pass on to someone else.



Straightening the strips over an alcohol lamp



Glued and bound to make a rod section



Planing form with tapered strip



6 strips glued

Building a Bamboo Fly Rod



Cork rings installed for grip



Grip shaped and ferrules installed



Wrapping the guides and ferrules



Sign your work



3 coats of varnish and complete



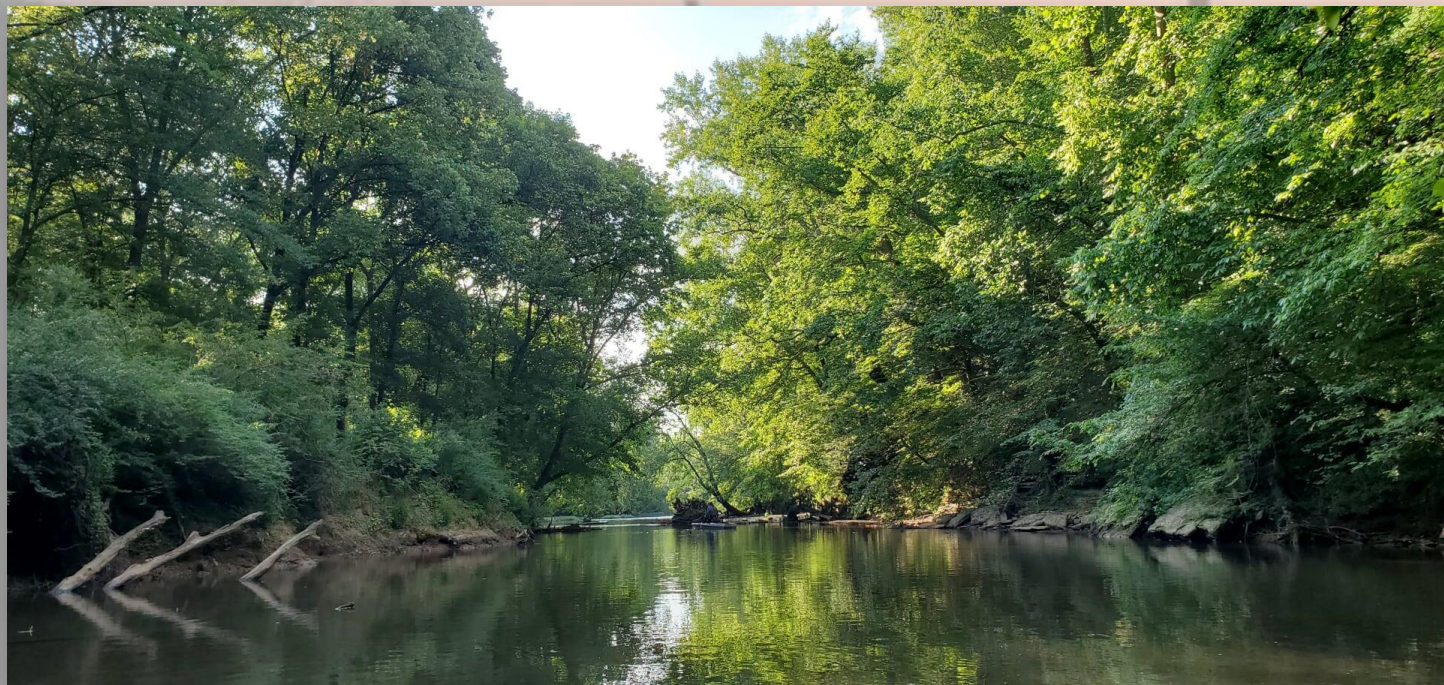
Floating the Flint - by Joe Tremblay

The Flint River winds its way 66 miles from Lincoln County, TN to the Tennessee River. Its crystal clear waters are home to a variety of bream, largemouth and smallmouth bass. For many years I waded the river near Oscar Patterson until the land owners, who had their fill of trespassers damaging their property and leaving piles of litter behind, finally posted their property. Now access is limited to public access points.

Fred Kaufmann, Wayne Causey and I decided that it was time we explored a section of the Flint. After much debate we settled on a 5 mile section between Oscar Patterson and Winchester Road. Arriving at Oscar Patterson at 6:30, we unloaded and took one car to Brown Bear Kayak Rentals on Winchester Road for return shuttle and put in around 7:15.

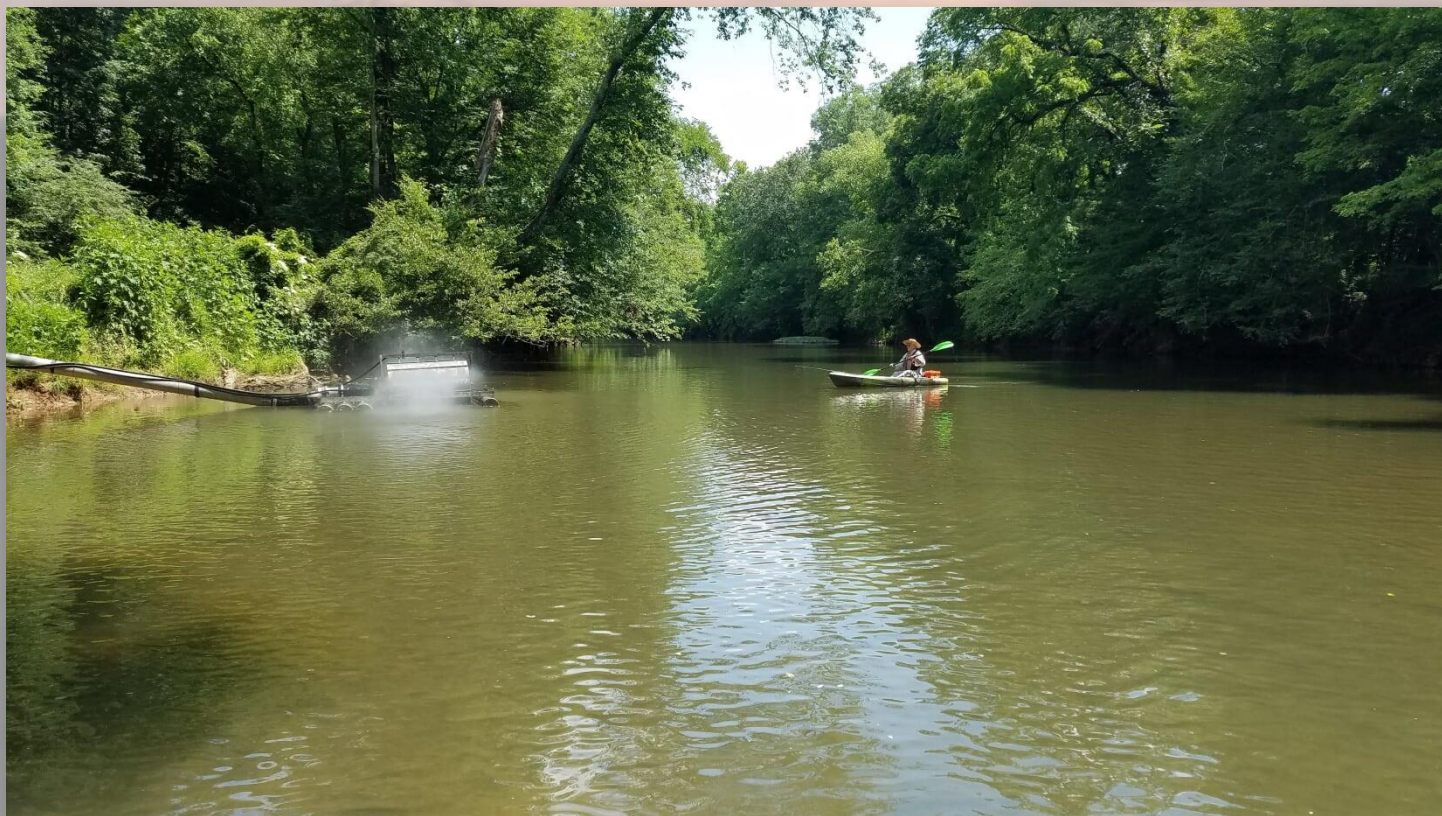
The water was lower than it was when I checked a week earlier but I was confident there would be plenty of water for the trip, especially since the Mountain Fork joined the Flint less than a mile downstream. As it turned out, there were many areas where ankle deep water required me to walk my Twin Troller through the shallows. The kayaks had a much easier time of it.

However, the river did not disappoint. Its crystal clear waters were free of litter and beautiful vistas were around every corner.





Not much remains of Bloucher Ford Mill located a ¼ mile downstream. The mill provided electricity, telephone service and irrigation in the early 1900's. Wayne is standing on what remains of the turbine housings. The Flint may no longer produce electricity but still provides farmers water for irrigation. Below, a self-cleaning filter removes debris from river water before being pumped to nearby fields.





We fished along the way catching a variety of bream and a few bass. There are a lot of fish in this section of the Flint. I saw many impressive smallmouths as I worked my way downstream but, they were just not interested.

I wish I could say that I caught a few smallmouths, but I only caught bream. Several factors worked against us:

- Recent increased fishing pressure due to the pandemic. The parking lot is chocked nearly every day.
- The first ½ mile or so is only a foot deep with a featureless bedrock bottom that holds few fish. Next time I'll paddled through this section without stopping.
- Finally, by the time we reached productive waters, the sun was high and the bass were cautious. An early start or going on a cloudy day will greatly improve your chances of landing some nice smallmouths.



But we did catch something



Fred with the best fish of the trip

But we did catch something!

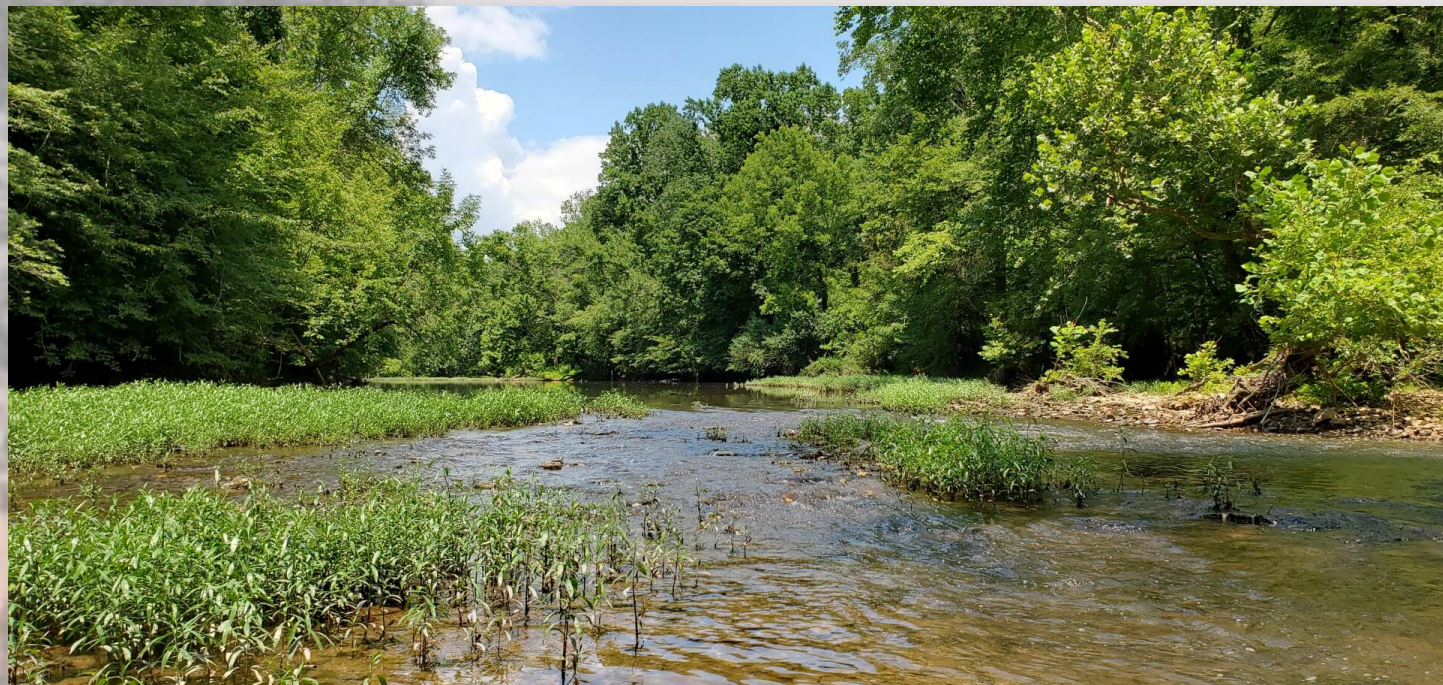


One of Wayne's bluegills

As far as I know, all the fish were caught on a white gurgler.

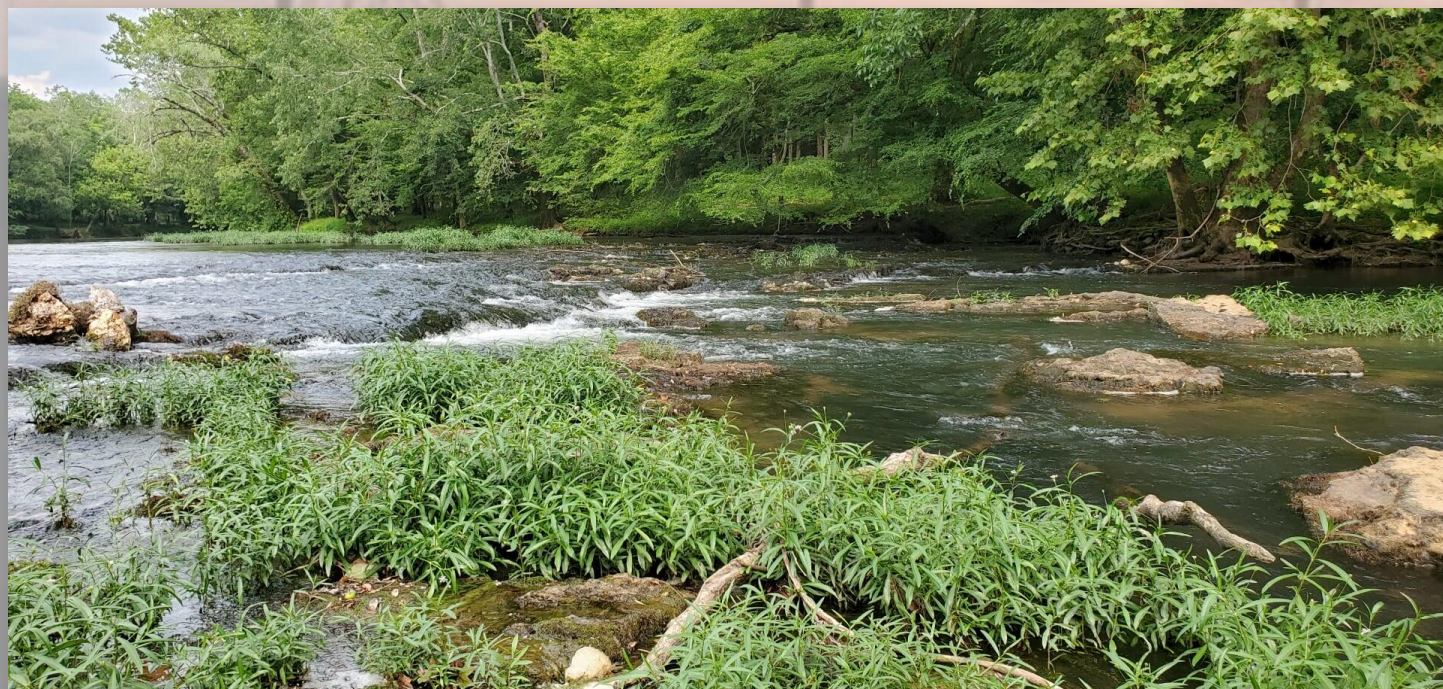


My
GOTO
fly



There were numerous areas where the low water made it difficult for my Twin Troller. Although it is designed for shallow water, it needs about 6" to navigate. There were about 20 areas where I had to walk my boat through and some were downright difficult.

This section of the river is for kayaks and canoes during low water. Keep in mind that high water is often stained and rocks etc. may not be visible.





We arrived at Brown Bear Kayak Rental after 5. I was wet and tired. The worst obstacles of the trip, including a 2 foot water fall, occurred within the last ½ mile.

As you can see, it's a long way from my boat to the parking lot. We debated how best to load my boat before Fred took me to pick up my car.

Fortunately, Brown Bear includes loading your boat on your trailer as part of their river access fee. That alone is worth the \$10 fee. So while Fred took Wayne to his car, three strapping young men pick up my boat and carried it up the bank where we could load it on my trailer.



Unfortunately, Fred and Wayne returned before we got it loaded ruining a perfectly good hoax.

Would I do it again? You bet! But next time I'll use a kayak or do a lower section.



Outdoor ALABAMA Weekly

BY DAVID RAINER

Scoggins Brothers Complete Redeye Slam in One Day

By DAVID RAINER

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

When the Scoggins brothers accept a challenge, there's no turning back.

The firefighter brothers, Kevin at Hueytown and Steven at Hoover, revert to their roots to decompress from the stressful life as first responders. They find their solace casting flies in the many beautiful streams and creeks that crisscross the state. Native to those drainages is a fish that is the object of their affection and challenge – the redeye bass.

"Kevin and I grew up about 10 minutes through the woods from a small creek in Jefferson County," said Steven, the eldest of the pair at 46. "We fished small creeks our whole life, and it's pretty much molded us. Years later, we got into fly fishing. We both watched *A River Runs Through It*, and it weighed on our minds that we really wanted to try that. We bought a couple of fly rods from Riverside Fly Shop outside Jasper."

Steven said he started catching fish in the streams that he regularly visited, but he wasn't sure what he was catching. His research indicated they might be redeye bass. The more research he did, the more he decided to focus on redeyes and the streams and rivers they inhabit. He also discovered that each drainage has a different species of redeye.

"I really started searching out those streams with redeyes," he said. "When my son, Kaden, got old enough to go with me in 2013 or 2014, we started going to these streams. We went to the Warrior River drainage.

"This was before redeye fishing got popular. I remember when Kaden and I caught our first redeyes on a fly. We doubled up, and I remarked at the time that this was the hardest-fighting small fish I've ever seen in my life. They're just so strong. My love for them grew out of that."

[Click here to keep reading](#)

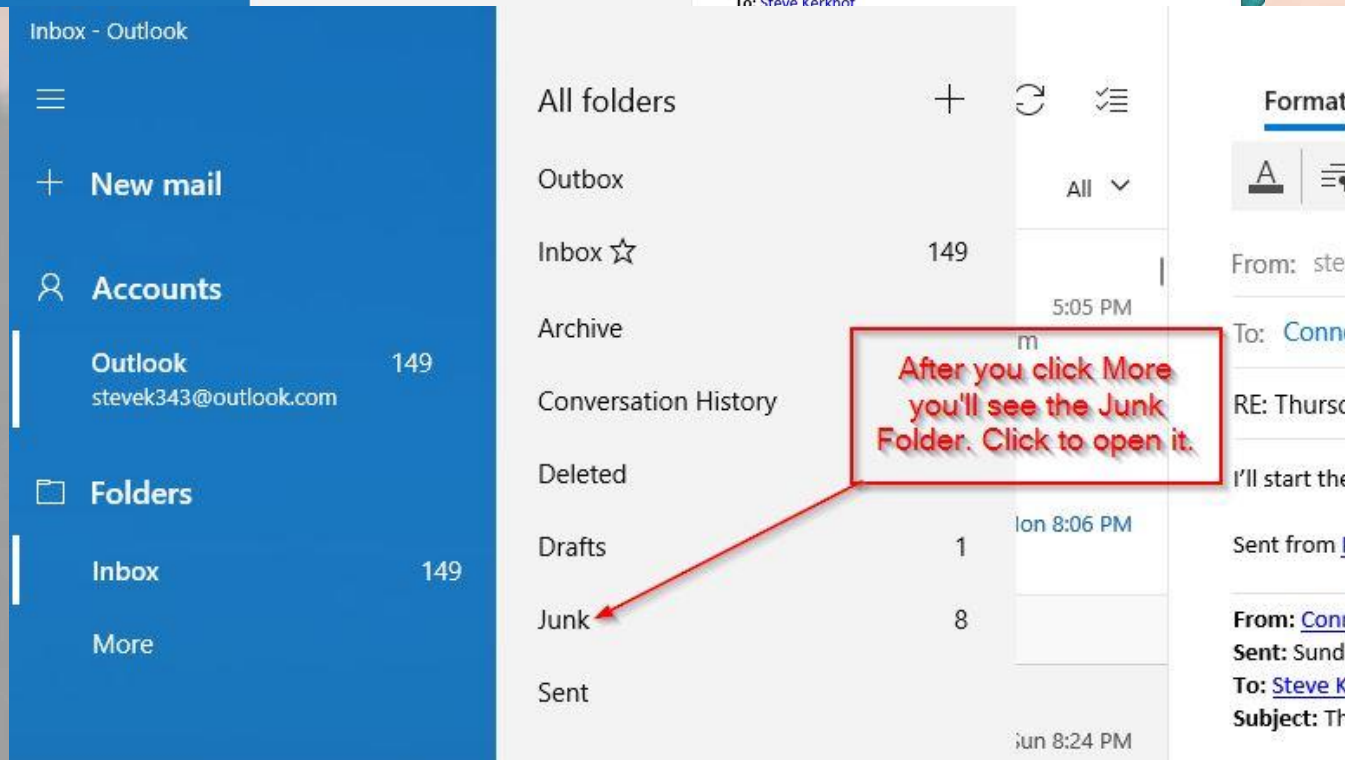
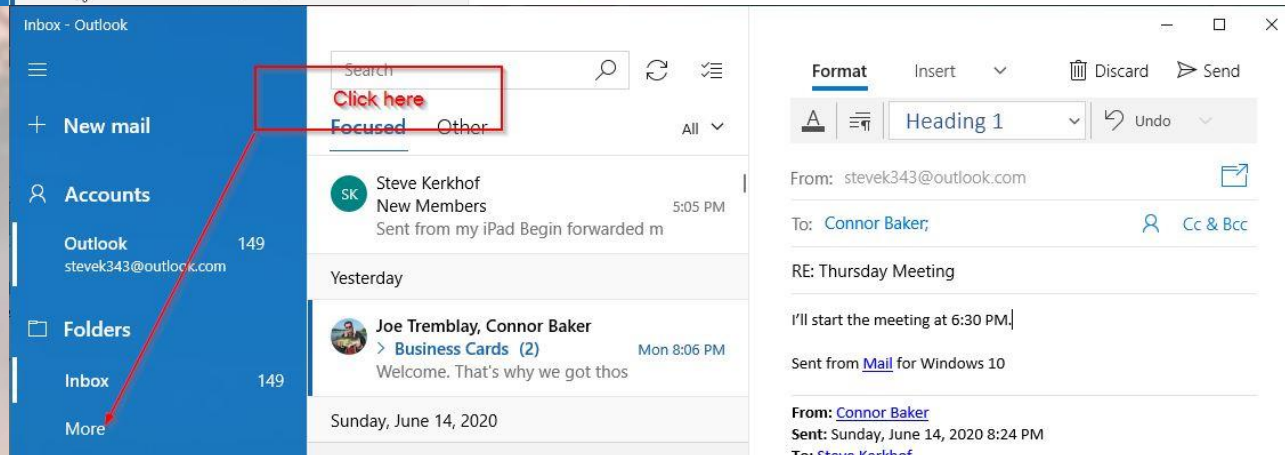
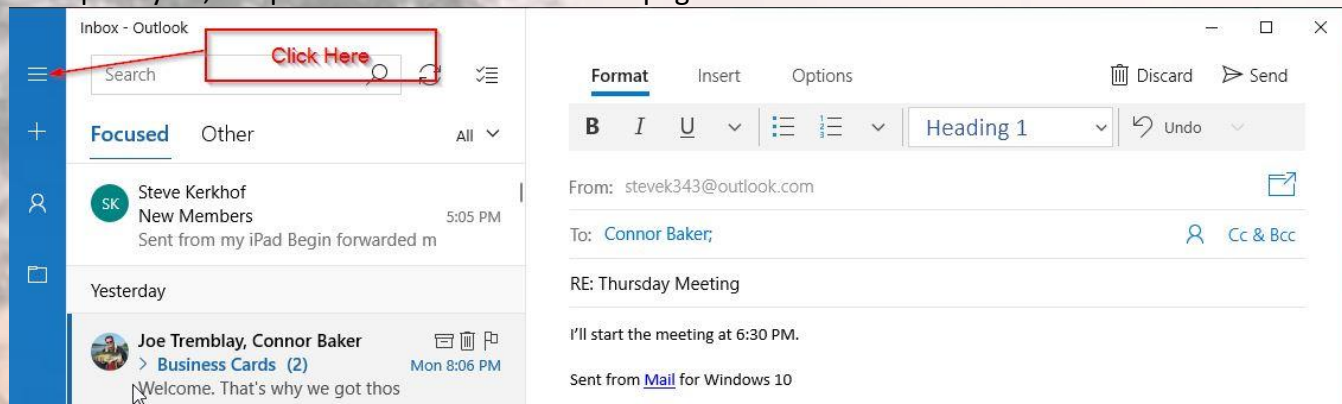
Zoom Meeting Instructions

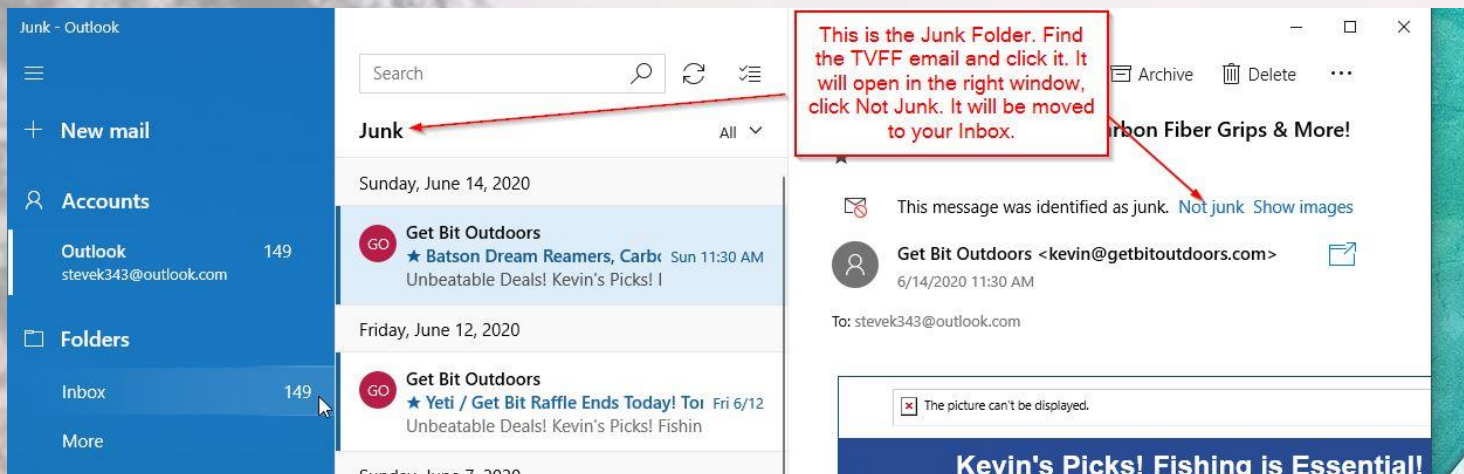
You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation in the TVFF reminder email that is sent on Sunday evening before a scheduled fly tying night or club meeting. There are 3 ways to join the meeting. You can copy/paste the link in the invitation into your browser OR go to <https://zoom.us> and click "Join A Meeting" 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 you and hear you in 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.



Find Your Junk Folder

There are at least two long time members who stopped receiving the newsletter and other TVFF emails. Both had Outlook email addresses. The problem was the TVFF emails were being sent to the Junk folder. The pictures show how to find the Junk Folder in the Windows 10 Mail App and describes what to do. This is a temporary fix, the permanent fix is on the next page..



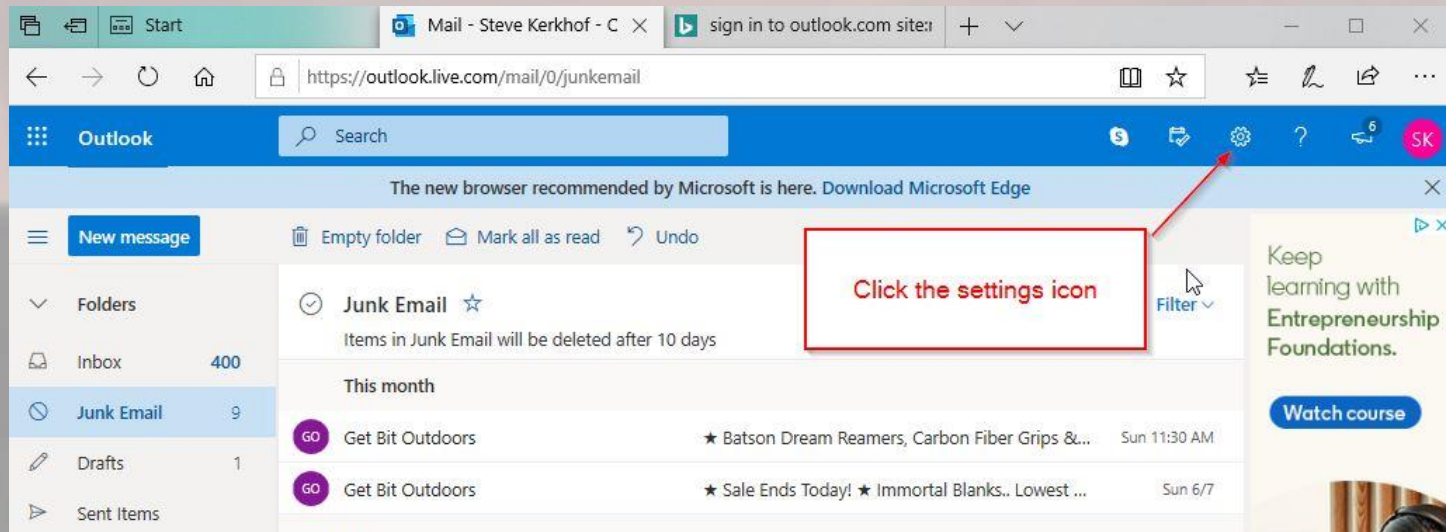


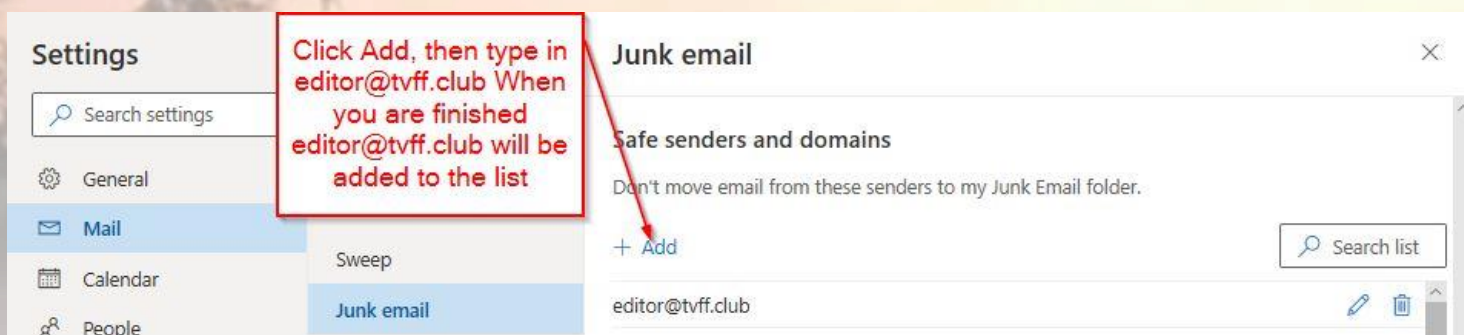
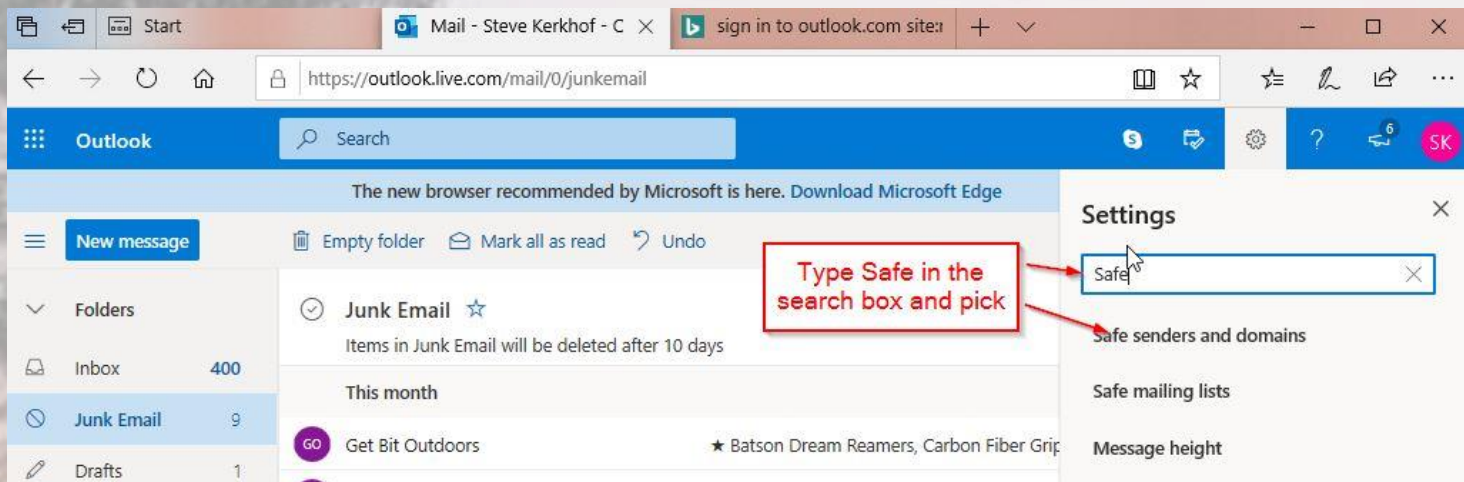
Add editor@TVFF.club to your safe senders list

You must do this step by logging into your Outlook account from your browser. Enter this search phrase into your favorite search engine: **sign in to outlook.com site:microsoft.com**

Or click this link for instructions:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=sign%20in%20to%20outlook.com%20site:microsoft.com&form=B00032&ocid=SettingsHAQ-BingIA&mkt=en-US>





Whew! That's it, you're done. Please share this with any member you know who is not receiving their TVFF e-mails. The newsletter is always available at the [TVFF website](https://www.tvff.com).

GMAIL Users

Check your SPAM folder. At least one member has reported that their TVFF e-mails have started going to the Spam Folder. I'll research that and report next month.

The new [FFI Online](https://www.flyfishonline.com) service provides a variety of weekly programs on fly fishing, casting, and tying experts for entertaining and instructive live online discussions and fly fishing talk.



Note from TVFF Membership Director

It is time to renew your TVFF/FFI membership. We run on a May 1 renewal schedule for dues. If you need to renew make a check payable to Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers (TVFF) and mail to:
P.O. Box 12841,
Huntsville, AL 35815.

Please contact Debbie Hill at debhill522@gmail.com with any questions about amount due or when it is due. Remember, dues must be paid through TVFF to be considered a TVFF member and then automatically an FFI member. Debbie checks the PO Box about once a week and will notify you by email when she has received your dues.

Thank you for your patience,
Debbie

Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

The picture shows one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to Casting for Recovery last year. We would like to do it again. If you are interested then just tie 14 copies of any fly that you'd like to tie. Bring your flies to any club activity and we will get them to Debbie Hill, our Membership Director and a Casting for Recovery volunteer. TVFF will provide the boxes if you provide the flies. **Debbie is accepting cash donations to purchase fly boxes for 2020.** You can find out more about Casting for Recovery here <https://castingforrecovery.org/>. There will be further details about when the flies are needed in a future newsletter.



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

Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors this program to assist seniors in our community that are identified as food insecure. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list below 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.

July Funny Holidays

Thread the Needle Day

July 25

I think of thread the needle when I have to thread a bobbin. Fly tiers also have a large version of a needle threader to assist in the task. Besides the literal sense of the term there are also metaphorical meanings. In sports it means throwing or hitting a ball in a tight spot. It can mean finding a path between two opposing viewpoints, like between your spouse and your mother. It turns out there is a yoga pose named threading the needle that is supposed to be good for shoulders and backs. Looks like it could be a good warm up stretch before fishing. Or good for a trip to the chiropractor.



National Hot Dog Day

July 22

Blame Congress. Apparently the day was created in 1991 to coincide with an annual hot dog lunch on Capitol Hill on a Wednesday in July.

Of course eating a hotdog at a baseball game is a summertime tradition. While we don't have baseball right now there is nothing to stop you from enjoying a dog.

There is a famous hot dog stand in Atlanta, near the Georgia Tech campus, called the Varsity. You step up to the counter to order where there is a worker shouting "Whadya have, whadya have". There is also a sign that says have your order in mind and your money in hand. They pride themselves on quickly serving as many people as possible. There is a lingo that goes with ordering. The standard order is two hotdogs with mustard and chili. That is two dogs. If you don't want the chili it is a naked dog. If you want it to go, then it is two dogs walking. The onion rings there are special too.

No matter where you get it or how you dress it, make it a point to celebrate Hot Dog Day.



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