



# TVFF Club News

April 2026



## TVFF Club Meeting Tom Herrington, HOSSFLY Tier Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM



Tom Herrington with a cobia taken on the fly.

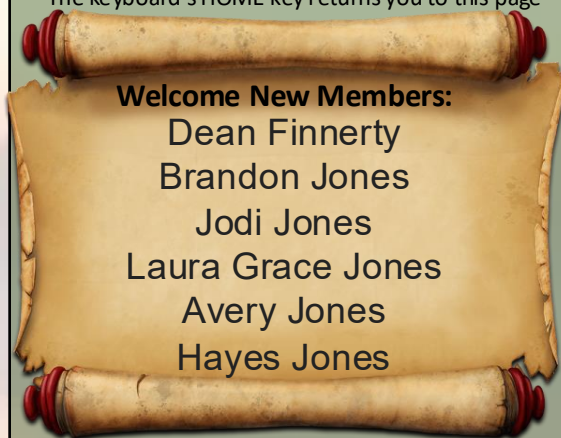
No, the HOSSFLY is not a fly pattern. Rather, it is one of the many facets of the angling career of Tom Herrington of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. He has been featured in, "On the Fly South." Over the last couple of decades, Herrington has become a pillar of the fly fishing community along the Gulf of Mexico, both as a fly tier and a founding member of the Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club or HOSSFLY. Add to that his prowess in fishing his creations and you begin to get a sense of what sets him apart. Tom has been flyfishing since the late 40s or early 50s according to stories from his late parents who gave him a flyrod when he was a toddler to keep him occupied so they could fish. He caught his first saltwater fish on the fly in 1968 while in grad school at GCRL. He is a Marine Biologist/Public Health advisor by education and work.

Tom is an avid fly tyer and fly developer/designer and his flies are published in the book, "Saltwater Flies of the Southeast & Gulf Coast". One fly the Chandeaur Special he first tied after Hurricane Georges. The Chandeaur Special refers to the color combination of olive bucktail or hackle and red Krystal flash most often used in tying deep minnows now. It's a very effective color combo for the islands off the gulf coast. Other fly's include the Firefly, the Pink Cactus Charlie, a Chandeaur Special Rattle Rouser. Please come and meeting Tom.

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### Welcome New Members:

Dean Finnerty

Brandon Jones

Jodi Jones

Laura Grace Jones

Avery Jones

Hayes Jones

### This Month

- April 9– Fly Tying, 7 PM
- April 16 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- April 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 May 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Red Ass Wet Fly and Mystery Fly – Jon Reinecke**

**Cost: \$3**

Will be learning two wet trout flies. One has a cheeky name (no pun intended) the the other has no name. Both catch fish, so enjoy!

**Materials (Red Ass)**

**Hook:** Firehole 609, Size 12

**Thread:** Red 8/0

**Body:** Peacock Herl

**Hackle:** Partridge

**Materials Mystery Fly**

**Hook:** Firehole 609, Size 12

**Thread:** Olive 8/0

**Body:** Olive Dubbing:

**Tail:** Red Floss



**April 23rd, 7PM**

**Disco Popper – Fred Kaufman**

**Cost: \$3**

A popular fly last year at Donovan Lakes, great for topwater bass. Just in time for the start of Spring.

**Materials:**

**Hook:** Stinger Hook

**Thread:** Any color strong thread

**Body:** Foam cut outs

**Tail:** Marabou or similar



***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.***

## March TVFF

### March Guest Speaker – Jonathan Craft, TVFF Member and Bass Fisherman

For the month of March, TVFF member Jonathan Craft spoke to us on the many different types of bass located here in the Southeast. He shared his knowledge on what he learned chasing different species of bass. We are fortunate in Alabama to have many different species of bass, from Smallmouth to Choctaw to the different species of Redeye. Bass are fun to catch and there are challenges through FFI and other local organizations to target these fish. Jonathan has probably caught more species of bass than anyone else in the world. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us Jonathan. Spring time is almost here and it will be time to catch some bass!



### Fly South Trip Summary

Nineteen TVFF members made the club trip to Fly South of Nashville on Saturday, March 21st. Fly South was a great host and had "all hands on deck" to accommodate our group at their new, larger location. There were rods, reels and fly lines to cast. Waders, boots, clothing and hats to try out. The fly tying department was especially busy with so many great materials to choose from. After spending the morning (and some of our \$\$ cash) the entire group made our way to a delicious lunch at Edley's BBQ. Thanks to all that participated!



## Fish of the Month

TVFF members Connor Baker and Cody Jansto explore local swamps in search of unique species, such as the Buffalo caught to the right. They also caught sight of an alligator (below), which are becoming more and more prevalent in North Alabama.



TVFF members Jonathan Craft and Connor Baker did a Tennessee Valley float this month in search of native bass. The fishing was slow, but the scenery was nice. Jonathan caught the only bass of the day, but any day on the water is a fun time.





## 250 Years of American Independence

To celebrate 250 years of independence, the TVFF board wants to challenge our members to see how many fish the club can catch. The goal of course seeing how close our club can get to 250 fish. To participate, please send Brian Moore ([cav\\_deuce@yahoo.com](mailto:cav_deuce@yahoo.com)) an email with the number of fish you catch between 4/1 and 7/1. Size doesn't matter, just the number caught. The final results will be tallied at the July event. There might even be an award for the club member that catches the most. I can't think of anything better than fishing to celebrate our freedoms we have as Americans. God Bless the USA!



### Upcoming TVFF Events

Below are TVFF's events through the end of the year. Hard to believe it is already April.

- **April:** Speaker – Tom Herrington
- **May:** Film Night
- **June:** Short Meeting starts at 6PM at Aldridge Creek, Fishing between 6:30 and 8PM (prizes for most fish caught, largest and smallest)
- **July:** Family Picnic (location TBD)
- **August:** Annual Swap Meet
- **September:** Bob Clouser via Zoom (do not miss this one)
- **October:** Annual Membership meeting, attendance by all members greatly appreciated (2027 budget presented for approval / election of new officers)
- **November:** Annual TVFF Banquet and auction
- **December:** Holiday Fly tying and Party

## A guide to wet wading

Personally, I prefer wet wading. Waders are nice for colder weather, but I try to wet wade as long as possible. It is just easier and it is nice to feel cool stream water on my legs and feet. April is the time of year that wet wading becomes the norm, at least in Alabama. Likely we will wet wade until September or October. Below is Fly Lords' guide to wet wading. The entire article was put together by Ross Reels and can be found [here](#).

### Footwear

- Boots – Boots with wool socks and gravel guards are great for wading in rugged conditions. I like to wear this combination when hiking more technical streams.
- Shoes – I recently bought the new pair of Orvis wading shoes with the half millimeter neoprene socks. They are great for leisurely fishing or wearing on a boat.
- Sandals – Texas or Chaco's are comfortable for very hot weather. However, they don't protect you from the elements as well as the other options.

### Clothing

- Quick dry shorts are a good option. However, they won't protect from sunburn as well as pants. My go to set of clothing when wet wading are quick dry fishing pants, a sun hoodie and a hat. Sometimes, I'll even wear gloves. My body is completely protected from the sun and my clothes dry quickly.

### Water Proof Gear Storage

Depending on how long my trip is and how long I am from the car will determine what size fishing bag I bring with me. Typically I bring a sling pack. This holds enough for several hours. A full backpack is hard to access while fishing and a chest pack just doesn't hold enough.

Wet wading is very fun. I love to cool down and get wet. Usually when I wet wade, I end up doing some swimming as well. Alabama gets hot and is the perfect state for wet wading.



## Best Beginner Fly Rod of 2026

There are a lot of good fly rods on the market and you don't need an expensive one to catch fish. The beginner rods catch just as much fish as the ~\$1000 Sage fly rod. Below are Flylords Magazine's top beginner fly rods in 2026. The entire article by Spencer Durant can be found [here](#).

### **Best Overall** – Douglas LRS 9' 5-wt

- Rod action: Medium-fast action
- Lifetime Warranty
- Pros
  - Plenty of reserve power
  - Excellent Warranty
- Cons
  - Not ideal in windy conditions



### **Runner-Up** – Orvis Clearwater 9' 5-wt

- Rod action: Medium-fast action
- 25 year warranty
- Pros
  - Available in almost any length and weight configuration
  - Fast action that handles wind
- Cons
  - A bit too heavy



### **Best for Dry Flies** – Redington Classic Trout 9' 5-wt

- Rod action: Medium action
- Lifetime original owner warranty
- Pros
  - A purpose-built fly rod with dries in mind
  - Wallet-friendly
  - Time-tested
- Cons
  - Not the greatest build quality



### **Best Value** – Redington Wrangler 9' 5-wt

- Rod action: Medium-fast action
- Lifetime original owner warranty
- Pros
  - Extremely affordable
  - Versatile performance
  - Backbone
- Cons
  - Not as much feedback during casting



### **Honorable Mentions**

- Fenwick Aetos 9' 5-wt
- Echo Carbon XL 9' 5-wt



## Free Online FCSD Facilitator Training Class

The FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program is a fun and supportive way to improve casting skills at the angler's own pace. Skills are organized into four progressive levels—Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, with each level building on the previous one, moving from essential fundamentals to more advanced techniques.

Every skill learned applies directly to fishing. Participants develop the ability to deliver a tight, efficient loop exactly where it needs to go, gain confidence casting in a variety of wind directions, and improve their presentation and distance techniques all leading to greater success on the water.

FFI Councils and Clubs are increasingly recognizing the value of hosting stand-alone FCSD events or incorporating FCSD into existing activities such as before their club meetings. The FCSD Team has been contacted by many FFI Councils and Clubs requesting FCSD Facilitator Training via Zoom, and the time has come to offer it.

This year, six 90-minute online FCSD Facilitator Training sessions will be offered. These sessions are designed for those interested in starting an FCSD event for the first time, as well as for those already hosting FCSD activities who would like additional management strategies, proven tips for success, and a chance to ask questions based on their experiences.

A key goal of the FCSD program is to keep the assessment process engaging, encouraging, and efficient, helping participants progress through the skill levels while making thoughtful use of volunteer time.

Upcoming Online FCSD Facilitator Training Sessions:

- Saturday, April 11 — 9 AM Pacific and 4 PM Pacific
- Saturday, July 18 — 9 AM Pacific and 4 PM Pacific
- Saturday, August 22 — 9 AM Pacific and 4 PM Pacific

Two time slots will be offered each day to better accommodate individual schedules and our international audience.

Registration will be handled by FFI and can be found [here](#).



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

## TVFF 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](mailto:debhill522@gmail.com)



### Share Your Favorite Fly Fishing Guides!

We're building a comprehensive list of recommended fly fishing guides for our website. Help fellow club members plan their next trip by submitting your favorites. Email your guide submissions to [radurrett@gmail.com](mailto:radurrett@gmail.com) or [info@tvff.club](mailto:info@tvff.club). Please include: State, Body of Water, Outfitter, Guide's Name, and Website.



### 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](mailto: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

## Other News

### FFI Fly Tying Instructor Program 3-Week Workshop

The FTG will provide a three workshop series dedicated to the new Fly Tying Instructor Program. The three workshops will be provided as zoom sessions and will begin in April. After the three workshop series, Fly Tying Instructor Program Evaluations will be available by zoom and at the FTG Rendezvous.

The workshop series is free of charge but registration to attend the workshop series will be required so we can provide you with the zoom access link for the workshop. To register for the workshops, or ask questions, send an email to: [ftginstructor@gmail.com](mailto:ftginstructor@gmail.com)

### Maggie Valley Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival

Tight Lines in the Smokies: The Maggie Valley Fly Fishing Festival

Set against the backdrop of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Maggie Valley Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival is the premier gathering for Southeast anglers. This high-energy event blends technical expertise with mountain heritage, making it a must-visit for anyone who lives for the tug on the line.

Whether you're looking to refine your reach cast or just grab some new streamers for the spring hatch, this festival offers the perfect atmosphere to talk shop and celebrate the sport.

More information can be found [here](#).



### Gulf Coast Classic

The Gulf Coast Council (GCC) of Fly Fishers International (FFI) is proud to present our 4th annual Gulf Coast Classic fly fishing festival, to be held Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 2026, at the Learning Campus of Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

This unique facility offers state-of-the-art theatre area, several meeting rooms, outside facilities, and much more. The adjacent state park offers miles of hiking trails, bike paths, a large brackish lake with both freshwater and inshore species, bike and kayak rentals, and white sand beaches. Gulf Shores offers something for all!

For more information, visit the website [here](#).

## April Holidays

### National Beer Day

**Date When Celebrated :** April 7

This day was established to not only honor the history of beer but also to celebrate the Cullen–Harrison Act – an act which allowed people to buy, sell and drink beer that had 4% alcohol by volume and was signed by FDR in 1933. The day in which it went into effect, over a million and a half barrels of beer were sold. Other countries which celebrate a National Beer Day include Iceland (March 1<sup>st</sup>) and the United Kingdom (June 15<sup>th</sup>).



In 1919, the Volstead Act became law and by 1920, the entire United States was subject to Prohibition. This meant that beer, wine and grain liquors had all become illegal. While Prohibition wouldn't become repealed until December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1933, U.S citizens received an early break 8 months earlier when Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Cullen-Harrison act on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1933. After he signed the bill, FDR is reported to have said, "I think this would be a good time for a beer." And many Americans agreed with him because huge groups of people flooded breweries and taverns all over the country. In fact, by the end of that day, over 1.5 million gallons of beer ended up being sold. Beer has been enjoyed by Americans ever since.

### NATIONAL Grilled Cheese Day

**Date When Celebrated :** April 12

National Grilled Cheese Day is an unofficial holiday which celebrates one of the most popular comfort foods on the planet: the grilled cheese. On this holiday, which just so happens to fall on April 12<sup>th</sup>, people all over the U.S and the world make themselves their favorite version of a grilled cheese sandwich. Which probably means this is one of the most delicious holidays on the calendar.

If you want to be technical about it, the pairing of bread and cheese together is something which has happened since ancient times. In fact, it was the ancient Romans who really made a point of serving bread and cheese together. However, the grilled cheese of today is really sort of a modern concoction. And it only came about because of two very important inventions: bread slicers and modern American cheese.



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**EAST ALABAMA FLY FISHING**  
Photo by Craig Godwin



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