



TVFF Club News

May 2024



**Joe Kaiser, Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission**

Thursday May 16th 7:00 PM

**Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201
and on Zoom (details to follow)**



Joe is originally from Minnesota. After receiving his bachelors in Aquatic Biology from Bemidji State University, He worked fisheries positions in Montana, Idaho, and Illinois before receiving his Masters in Fisheries Science from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He began working for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Trout Management Program in 2019. Professionally, he enjoys sharing his knowledge on fisheries science and management with fellow anglers! When he is off the clock, he enjoys bank and kayak fishing for a number of fish, and dabbles in multiple fishing techniques including fly fishing. He learned how to fly fish in Idaho, and the first fish he caught on the fly was a Westslope Cutthroat Trout out of the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

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Welcome New Members:

Bring a friend!

This Month

- May 2 – BOD Meeting, 7 PM
- May 9 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- May 16 – Club Meeting, 7 PM
- May 23 – Fly Tying, 7PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Andy King
Secretary: Rodney Durrett
Treasurer: Dave Bailey
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Brian Moore
Conservation: Bob Lowery
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is this month
May 2, 2024, at 7 p.m. in Room 201.

TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m.



May 9th, 7 PM

Brahma Bugger – Lead Tyer, Jacob Franklin

Cost: \$3.00

A fancy, more effective woolly bugger! Woolly buggers are always great!

Materials

Hook: 3X-long nymph hook

Thread: 140 Denier or 6/0, brown olive

Tail: Golden olive chickabou

Body: Whiting hackle soft hackle



May 23rd, 7PM

Squirrel and Herl Bugger – Lead Tyer, Brian Moore

Cost \$3.00

Everybody loves the Woolly Bugger, and a lot of streamer fishermen swear by patterns tied with zonker strips because of the great pulsating action these flies display in the water. So what if you combined the two and threw in some peacock herl for good measure? In a video from [Tightline Productions](#), Tim Flagler shows you how to tie the Squirrel and Herl Bugger, which manages to be buggy, fishy, and leechy all at the same time.

Materials

Hook: 3X-long nymph hook (here, a Dai-Riki #710), size 8

Thread: Black, 6/0 or 140-denier

Body: Peacock herl, 3 or 4 strands

Tail: Olive pine-squirrel zonker strip

Hackle: Dyed-olive grizzly

Head: Tying thread



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

Mid-April, TVFF member Greg Bayuga went fishing with our guest speaker last month, David Perry (of Southeastern Fly). Their goal being Tennessee Muskie! Forty minutes into the trip, Greg landed his first Muskie. Most anglers know the Muskie as the fish of 10,000 casts, making this a very special catch. In addition to the one landed, Greg had one other follow and another sighting of a Muskie. Nice picture Greg, hope your arm isn't sore from casting that 10wt rod with those huge flies for 10 miles! Congratulations on the Muskie!



ATTENTION ANGLERS - Tennessee's Muskies Need Your Help!

**Know the Regulations!
Practice Proper Catch and Release!**

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 80 to 175-pound, wire leader
- 50 to 100-pound, super-brad for main line
- 7 to 8-foot, 100-pound-test monofilament
- Cast and retrieve spinner
- Large dip net (see [ESB's Best Practices](#))
- Strong 100g-200g pliers
- Sharp bolt cutters with 1/8" blade with a new angle
- Jaw spreader and measuring stick/scale

- > Use heavy tackle to avoid leaving a lure in an escaped fish's mouth. **LAND MUSKIES QUICKLY!**
- > Use a large dip net and **KEEP MUSKIES IN THE WATER** to remove the hooks.
- > Muskies remain calmer if they are not taken out of the water.
- > If injury might result from hook removal, cut hooks with heavy wire or small bolt cutters.
- > Jaw-spreaders may be needed to help with hook removal. **KEEP RELEASE TOOLS READY!**
- > If a fish **MUST** be measured, use a marked stick or tape. **MEASURE MUSKIES IN THE WATER!**
- > If a fish **MUST** be weighed, attach scales to net. **NEVER ATTACH SCALES TO MUSKIES!**
- > Take pictures quickly and never hold vertically. **DO NOT PICK THEM UP BY THE GILL COVERS!**
- > **ALWAYS HOLD MUSKIES HORIZONTALLY** to avoid injuring the spine and gills.
- > Upon release, hold muskies horizontally in the water until they regain strength.
- > A strong push can often encourage tired muskies to recover more quickly.

Sponsored by the Volunteer Musky Hunters Club - www.volunteermuskymuskyhunters.com



MUSKIES, Y'ALL!

THE SECRET'S OUT: TENNESSEE'S HUMBLE COLLINS RIVER IS A TRUE BIG-MUSKY FACTORY.

By Colin Moore

When it was announced that a muskie was caught in the Middle Tennessee woods last March, it was the first annual Musky Fly Fishing World Championship in March 2012, reactions among the contestants likely ranged from disbelief to cynical acceptance, with plenty of snuffed grins. After all, the Tennessee muskies are best known for largemouth bass, mountain muskie and even speckle trout—though not necessarily in that order. Muskies? No way. The Collins River seems far better suited for trotlines

and catch than for the regal "fish of 10,000 casts."

But didn't Yule Jackson Kayak team member James McBoon many casts to catch a 36-inch musky from the distance, even to win the cash-and-release event and, in the process, let the general cat out of the bag. Indeed, as unlikely as it might seem, some of the smallest waterways in Middle Tennessee and the Carolinian/Tennessee are currently home to sizeable numbers of muskies more frequently associated with the upper Midwest and the Northeast.

A BOUNDING SUCCESS

A slow-moving river in no hurry to get anywhere, the Collins meanders northward and through some of the most scenic hill country in the Volunteer State. Because it's fed by a mixture of warm-water creeks, it also supports a fairly good bass population, but the prospect of tangling with a big musky is the main attraction these days.

Whatever it takes for muskies to thrive, the Collins has it. Bismuths in the diatom class, and even a few walking 50 inches, are caught from the river each

year. These are no fish for beginners; when you hook one of any size here, you better be prepared to stay a while.

The region's generally warm river systems and a long growing season are partially responsible, but this is also an other conservation success story in a state where muskies had become relatively sparse by the turn of the century. Stocking programs and the cooperation of anglers who practiced catch-and-release helped revive the dwindling population on the Collins and its connected waterways, such as the Casey Fork and Great Falls Lake.

SPRINGTIME IS PRIME

Though muskies might grab a lure or sucker any time of year, early spring—before the fens of recreational boaters and kayakers show up—is the peak season to fish for them. The best action can occur anywhere from a few miles below McMinnville upstream to where the Collins meets up with the Casey Fork and the Rocky river at Rock Island. And muskies are frequently encountered in those two rivers as well.

"April and May can be phenomenal," says guide Steven Paul of Tennessee

Musky Fishing Guide Service—"But sometimes the biting really starts cranking up in March. Weather trumps everything. It all depends on the severity of the previous winter and how active the fish get in general."

The best bite during the spring is suggested by the signs, when the toadly muskies forage eagerly as they travel upstream to drop their eggs in feeder creeks or suitable structure. Their aggressiveness is also their weakness, allowing conventional and fly anglers alike to cash in.

More Fish of the Month

Mid-April, TVFF member Andy King caught this Brown Trout on the Elk River. After being hooked, this fish broke Andy's leader above the indicator. Andy wanted his indicator back (being some can be expensive nowadays), so he grabbed it out of the weeds. The fish was still hooked and landed! Great story Andy, and pretty fish!



Want to see the world's smallest catch! That record probably goes to TVFF member Jon Reineke's son. He caught this small bug on a tiny Perdigon. I'd say that Perdigon looks pretty similar to that bug. Your son had a good choice of fly on that day!

TVFF member Connor Baker caught this largemouth bass on a small pond in Morgan County. He was fishing with a massive crawfish pattern on a 7wt rod. This bass might be his personal best, rivaling the bass he caught at Donovan Lakes in 2021.

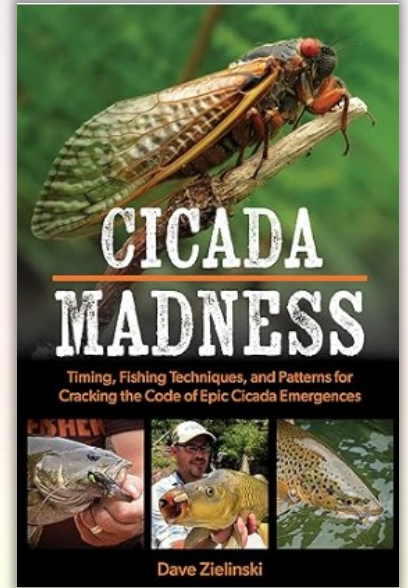




April TVFF Fly Tying

April 11– Lead Tyer: Connor Baker, Cicadas

In preparation for Brood XIX TVFF member Connor Baker led the fly tying group in tying Cicadas (pictures below). Come this month, they should start fishing good in parts of Alabama, Tennessee and much of the Southeast. To tie your own, reference the Fly Fish Food video [here](#). Also, for those interested in the science behind Cicadas and targeting fish with Cicada flies, a good reference is [Cicada Madness](#), by Dave Zielinski. Its an informative read with a lot of patterns in the back.



April 25– Lead Tyer: Debbie Hill, Cicadas

Debbie Hill lead us in tying two flies perfect for chasing bream and small bass, the Montana Nymph and Slow Sinking Spider. Both work good as droppers under a dry fly or under and indicator. The spider is especially deadly with the moving legs. If you catch any nice fish, send pictures to editor@tvff.club



Stocked vs. Wild Trout

The following summary is from Hatch Mag, it is a good article on the differences between stocked and wild trout. This article was published April 25th, by renown fly fisherman George Daniel. The entire article can be found [here](#).

General consensus is that wild (or native) trout or spooked more easily than stocked trout. Different tactics need to be used when fishing for each fish. Below are some proven methods for each.

Stocked Trout

Stocked fish are used to eating on the surface. They were raised eating pellets while being grown, but carry that behavior after being stocked. Here are some proven techniques:

- **Swing It** – Cast the fly out and let the current drag it near and towards the surface. Swinging a big fly causes the fly to ride high in the water column, similar to pellets.
- **Easy Hook Set**– A swung fly is easy to hook the fish. Fish swim up and hook themselves.
- **Rough Water** – New anglers that stir up the water won't always spook stocked fish. The noise sounds similar to feeding time when pellets were thrown on the water.

Wild Trout

For wild trout, you need to be as stealthy as possible, they typically spook more so than stocked trout. Here are their techniques:

- **Getting the Drift** – They want to eat something that looks like natural prey. This is typically insects drifting naturally with the current. Dead-drift is the best technique, don't forget to mend!
- **Setting the Hook** – More complicated than stocked fish. Often wild trout takes are very delicate, so be ready to set the hook. React quickly.
- **When to Swing** – During heavy hatches, and as large insects travel in the water, swinging flies works.
- **When to Play it Safe** – Keep rod tip low to avoid spooking fish, but keep it high when fishing for stocked because it encourages movement on water.



Photo Courtesy of Hatch Mag

Raffle and Club Fundraiser

Former TVFF President David Darnell has graciously donated to our club a ready to fish Fishpond chest pack, chock full of streamside essentials and flies. This setup is designed for a local Southeast tailwater, such as the Elk River. This donation is in memory of Joe Tremblay, who passed away August of 2022. This entire setup will be raffled off during the May meeting. Tickets are on sale now and until the moment of raffle. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Please see Dave Bailey or Steve Kerkhof to purchase tickets. Pictures of the item and an itemized list of everything is below.

Pack Includes:

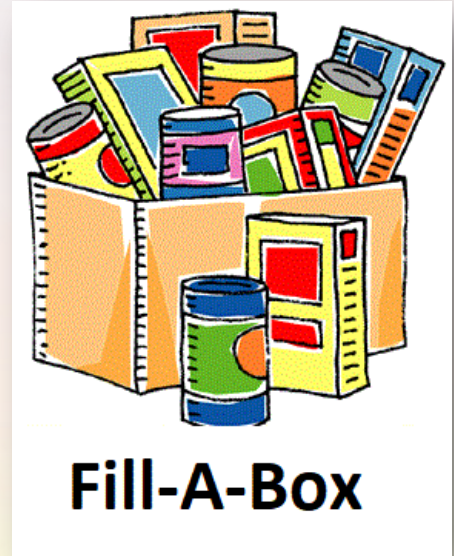
- Fishpond San Juan Chest Pack
- Anchor Double-Cut lead shot 6, 8, 10, 12 selection
- Whistle (new, unused)
- Fly holder/spinner
- Fishpond retractor
- Dr. Slick Crossfire mitten clamps
- Sr Slick double snap nylon coil
- New Zealand strike indicator kit
- Fishpond Floatant Bottle Holder "Brown trout"
- Nite Ize #2 locking carabiner
- Loon Aquel floatant
- Extra spool white indicator wool
- Fishpond Tacky fly patch
- SA Absolute Trout 3, 4, 5X tippet spools
- SA Absolute Trout leaders 3 pack 9' 4X
- Tacky Original Fly Box loaded with flies





Food Drive Box

Faith Presbyterian Church has a community food drive box outside of the church, in their parking lot. This box receives and distributes food staple items to members of the community in need. If you would like to help, please bring non-perishable items to place in the box. Faith Presbyterian Church has generously let us use Room 201 for years. The least we can do is provide food to members of their church community in need.



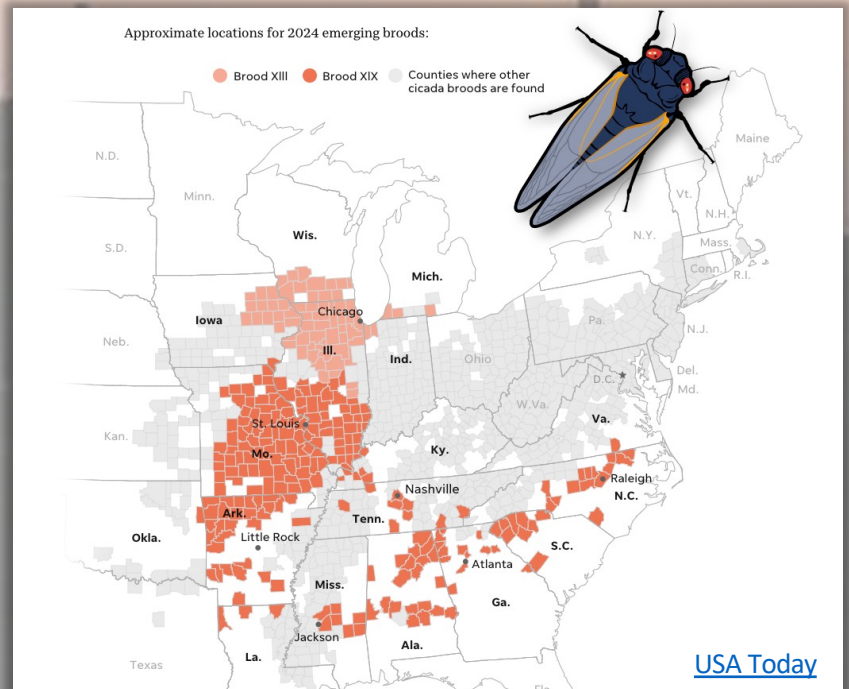
TVFF Fly Tying Raffle

For the next several months, at every fly tying we will be raffling off old tying equipment from the Estate Sale we had last year. One dollar gets your five tickets. This is a good opportunity to get cheap tying material. Make sure to bring an extra dollar or two next fly tying and get in on this.



'Trillions' of Cicadas

Spring and early summer Brood XIII and Brood XIX will be hitting the Midwest and Southeast! One of the rare times that two broods emerge at the same time and overlap in some places. Lucky for us, Brood XIX will hit Northeast Alabama and Central Tennessee starting in late May and ending sometime in June. This will be a good time to go fishing. We have a few months upcoming, so be sure to tie your Cicada patterns, there are plenty on YouTube to choose from! Map to the right shows where the Broods are taking place!



May Holidays

Pizza Party Day

Date When Celebrated : Third Friday in May
(May 17th)

Who remembers in school when your teacher would reward all the good kids at the end of the year with a pizza party. Whether it was for those that read the most books, or the kids that had perfect attendance, pizza parties were a special day (I only got to celebrate one once).

On this third Friday of May, take a trip to your favorite pizza joint and treat yourself (and family) to some pizza. Unfortunately it isn't on a Thursday, or maybe we could coax our president Steve into buying us some pizza. Wherever you get your pizza, just stay away from the barbecue chicken pizza, get something that tastes good!



National Sunscreen Day

Date When Celebrated : May 27

The sun in Alabama can be fierce! It never fails that when I fish, if I don't cover up, some part of my body gets burned. My wife will then scold me! May is that time of year when it starts to get really bad. On this day in May, make a point to read up on the dangers of skin cancer and importance of sunscreen. I wear nothing under SPF 50. Take care of yourself so you can fish for a long time!





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