



TVFF Club News

March 2018



In this issue

- [TVFF Fly Tying Group](#)
- [Catch of the Month](#)
- [Fly Fishing Day at Hayes](#)
- [Elk River Update](#)
- [Scouting Trip Report](#)
- [Redeye Bass Slam](#)
- [TVFF Receives Generous Donation](#)
- [Proven Tips to Help You Tie More Flies](#)
- [Short Notes](#)
- [March Holidays](#)
- [Our Donors](#)

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This Month's Activities

- 3 Mar- Redeye Bass Slam
- 10 mar- Fly Fishing Day at Hayes Preserve
- 8 Mar- Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201
- 15 Mar- Club Meeting, 7 pm, room 201
- 17-25 Mar- Sowbug Fishing Trip
- 22 Mar- Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201



This Month Program

Joe Kostura

Joe is the head guide at Highland Outfitters in Linville, NC, a relatively new fly shop that offers guided trips on the South Holston and Watauga Rivers.

However, Joe's real passion is fishing and guiding the tailwaters in East Tennessee where he has spent countless hours over the last decade trying to perfect his craft.

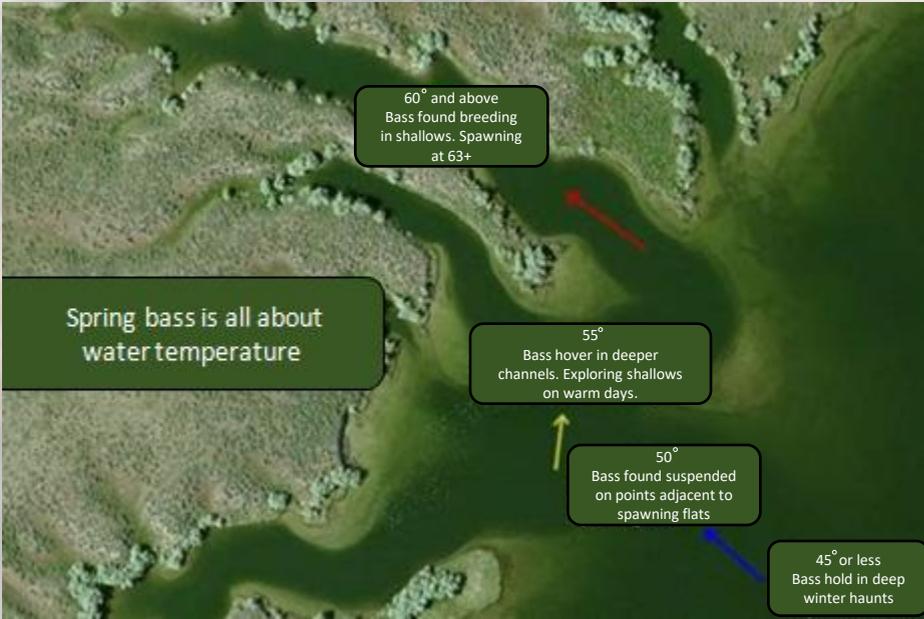
Joe will be giving us an in-depth look at what northeast Tennessee and northwest North Carolina have to offer.

Don't miss this great and informative program !



Updated Fishing Reports

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



60° and above
Bass found breeding in shallows. Spawning at 63+

Spring bass is all about water temperature

55°
Bass hover in deeper channels. Exploring shallows on warm days.

50°
Bass found suspended on points adjacent to spawning flats

45° or less
Bass hold in deep winter haunts



TVFF Fly Tying Group

8 March - Featured Tyer – Joe Tremblay

There is no doubt that bass find wiggling, diving flies irresistible, and the Wiggle Bug does just that. It's underwater action is similar to a flatfish lure or any number of crankbaits. The Wiggle Bug is tied without a weed guard: The guard would hinder its swimming abilities; when fishing, if the Wiggle Bug hits a snag, the lip causes the fly to flip up over the obstacle, allowing you to continue the retrieve. Use an open style knot that leaves a small loop of monofilament in front of the fly when you fish the Wiggle Bug, or it won't swim properly.



22 March - Featured Tyer – Jim Burchette

Jim will be coming to us from So. Pittsburg, Tn. A long time fly fisher and fly tyer, Jim will be tying a Gurgler variant. [Click here for Jim's bio.](#)

The Gurgler may well be the most popular and successful surface fly designed in recent years. Flytyer's often make their own adaptations to original patterns and variations abound. Tied in both large and small sizes and on either fresh water or salt water hooks and in a variety of colors to suit conditions or simply the tyer's whims.



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

One of the several bass caught by Dick Curtis on a Double Barrel Popper while on a February "Recon" trip to Kissimmee Chain of lakes in Lake Wales Fl.

The second, and certainly the most rewarding, recon trip taken by club members in search of a winter destination.

Although our timing was off and females were already on bed, the weather, wildlife and scenery alone made the trip worthwhile.

With some of the "fishiest" bass waters, and the promise of a fantastic top water bite, we're going back in November.

Congratulations Dick!





Fly Fishing Day at the Hayes Nature Preserve

TVFF in association with Huntsville's Operation Green Team and **ORVIS** will sponsor an introduction to fly fishing Saturday March 10th from 9:00am till 3:00pm.

Club members will provide participants hands on exposure to the sport including:

- Introduction to Fly Fishing
- Introduction to Fly Tying
- Basic Fly Casting
- Try your hand at fly fishing

Classes will be scheduled throughout the day starting at 9am.

We need as many club volunteers as possible to staff the event . TVFF will be responsible for all presentations, give basic fly tying and casting lessons, answering visitor questions and help them fish. So come shake hands, answer some questions, and maybe teach someone to fly fish!

Fly Fishing Day at Hayes Preserve has the potential of becoming the greatest Fly Fishing Event in North Alabama. Your help can make this happen.

Contact Larry Hice @ lhice@plasticfusion.com to let him know you will be there, your help is greatly appreciated.



Elk River Update from Tim's Flies and Lies

This is at bridge at dam on Elk on February 2nd as TVA continues to generate around the clock.

The observed lake level (red line) spiking almost 10 feet above the guide curve (green line) almost 10 feet so TVA will be generating until the levels are back in line with the guide curve. That may be for some time as rain continues to be in the forecast.

TWRA is gearing up for the annual shocking survey on the Elk around March 7th and once that is complete, the stocking on Elk will resume.

Annual Tennessee fishing license expire on the 1st of March. Time to re-new.



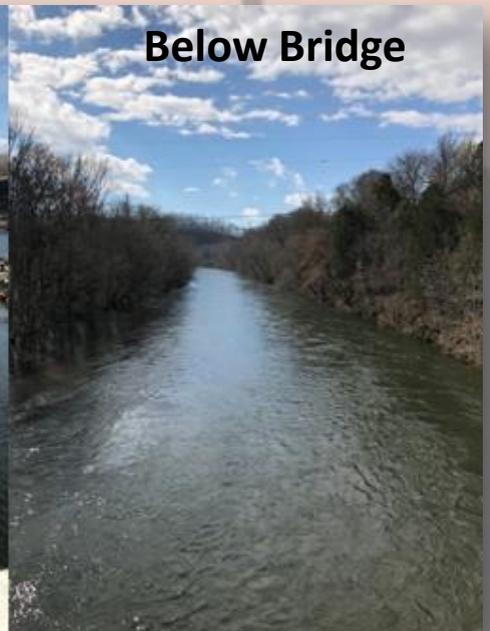
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Specializing on Fly Fishing
 on Elk and Duck Rivers



Above Bridge



Below Bridge



Scouting trip report – Joe Tremblay

For several years I've been searching for a winter destination, a destination that does not require a passport, is affordable and **warm**. A few years ago, I managed to talk Dick Curtis, Everett Sharp, and Chuck Gibbs to join me on a scouting mission to Grand Isle Louisiana in search of redfish. Our hopes were quickly dashed when, upon our arrival, locals asked what we expected to catch in January. It seemed that one of America's top redfish destinations is devoid of redfish, and most other species of fish, in January.

It took 2 years before anyone had the courage to suggest another scouting trip. This time it was Everett who suggested [Camp Mack River Resort](#) on the Kissimmee River just east of Lake Wales Florida.

With Wayne Causey replacing the now wiser Chuck Gibbs. We packed our gear and headed south to the promise land full of hope and anticipation.



The weather was perfect; the waters fishy, the accommodations were reasonably priced and comfortable. With literally a hundred lakes, ponds, rivers and canals, all within a short drive, we were truly in the promise land. Unfortunately we arrived either 2 weeks late, or a month early. The bass were on bed. Bummer....

However, all was not lost, the scenery and wildlife were right out of a National Geographic with lily pads, cypress trees and massive oaks with limbs dripping Spanish moss. We saw a flock of 20 wild turkeys, deer, countless birds, and alligators ranging in size from an 18" juvenile that just could not resist Dick's popper, to a giant as big as my boat that, I'll be forever grateful, did not find us appetizing.

Although the fishing difficult, we did manage to catch some of the smaller males and assortment of other fish including: chain pickerel, crappie and bream. I did have one **HUGE** bass push my popper out of its nesting area, a bass that will haunt my dreams for years to come.

According to the local fishermen, November is the prime time for topwater bass. When asked one replied, "It's hard to cast a popper without getting a strike" as bass fatten up for the coming winter. So, undaunted, we reserved the cabin for the 4th through the 11th of November with full intention to revisit Camp Mack at the height of the topwater bite.

[Camp Mack's Green House](#) accommodates 6 comfortably and there are 2 spaces available to the first 2 adventurers to place their deposits of \$196 to cover cost of lodging for a week of Florida bass fishing. Other expenses include your share of the camp food bill (\$30-\$40) and share of the gas to get there.

Interested, contact Joe Tremblay at jotremblay46@hotmail.com



KICKOFF EVENT

What: Kickoff the Redeye Bass Slam 2018
When: March 3rd @ 2:30
Where: Cahaba Brewing Co. Birmingham
Why go?: Network with other anglers, get info about the Redeye Bass Slam, door prizes, free brewery tour!

The Redeye Bass Slam 2018 is a movement to get anglers out fishing for redeye bass in hopes that we raise awareness for better conservation, research, and management of redeye bass.

This is not a tournament but more of a challenge. To complete the slam, anglers must catch all species of redeye bass in one calendar year.

There are a couple of events with prize raffles and the chance to network with other anglers.

The first event is Saturday, March 3, at Cahaba Brewing Company in Birmingham, AL.

TVFF receives generous donation



When first contacted, Donald Dehm envisioned using the donation of fly tying materials at our monthly fly tying sessions and at outreach events. However, it soon became apparent that the “few boxes” Mr. Joel Miller of Owens Cross Roads referred to, was in fact a carload of fly tying materials.

A cursory look revealed everything from beads and hooks to feathers and fur. It seems Mr. Miller had purchased the entire stock of a defunct fly shop and no longer had use of these supplies. More than enough to meet our fly tying needs for years and an ample supply remaining for use as fund raisers.

Thank you Mr. Miller, your generous donation is greatly appreciated and will be remembered for years to come.



5 Proven Tips to Help You Tie More Flies

Feb 12, 2018 by Daniel Podobed

Reprint from *The Flymen Fishing Co. blog*. For this and other great articles go to <https://flymenfishingcompany.com/blogs/blog>

Fly tying season is upon us.

I don't know about you, but before I started tying flies full time I would get super excited at the beginning of fly tying season only to have my excitement fade into disappointment heading into spring when the fishing started to get going and I hadn't even tied 10% of the flies I planned on tying.

It doesn't have to be this way for you.

1. Ask yourself where you are going to fish.

Are you going to fish only your local river all year, or are you going on a fly fishing vacation to an exotic location? If you normally only fish your local creek for trout, you'll prepare your boxes differently than an adventure angler who will fish 10 states and dozens of rivers for multiple species.

Fly selection and speed of current

Once you know where you are likely to fish, and when you are likely to fish there, you can start doing research on hatch charts, condition reports, and any other resources to give you the best idea how to best prepare your boxes.

2. Schedule the time.

It sounds lame but if you don't schedule time to tie flies, you inevitably won't find enough time to fill all the boxes you want to have ready. Depending on your level of ambition, you may only want to fill 1 new box of the hottest euro nymphing patterns, or you may want to fill 6 or more boxes. It doesn't get done by putting it off and tying only when you feel like tying.

Tying season is typically December through March, which gives you 121 days minus a few holidays. If you tie





just 3 flies per day during this period, then by April 1st you will have 363 new flies, or just over 30 dozen! Conversely, if you only tie a dozen flies once a week when you manage to squeeze it in, you'll end up with 204 flies, or just over 17 dozen.

30 dozen, or roughly half of that? I know which one I'd choose.

3. Don't skimp on fly production.

This goes back to Tip #2, but it needs to be said. While you could tie 363 one-off patterns, it would make for a hectic day on the water when you lose the one fly that is working. It would also take much more time than tying in production sequences. My general rule of thumb when tying is as follows:

- New Patterns

The latest and greatest Instagram euro nymph. I wouldn't waste my time tying more than 3 of any color/size because it is new and unproven. Once it's proven successful you can increase fly box space for it.

In fact, if you are going to test many new flies I recommend having a test box so you don't take away needed space for proven patterns.

- Proven Patterns

These are flies that catch fish year in and year out. They will always have a spot in your box. Woolly Buzzer. [Skulpin Bunny](#). Zebra Midge. When I sit down to tie these flies, I tie a minimum of 6 at a time. If you are ahead of schedule, tie a dozen.

You are going to fish these regularly and they produce. It doesn't take much more time to prep for 6 zebra midges than it does 1, so why limit yourself?

- Confidence Flies

Confidence flies are your best-performing flies and the flies you fish on every outing. This is something that spawned from the european nymphing guys, and something I adapted when organizing my fly boxes. I have two confidence fly specific boxes. One for bulk where I will have upwards of 3 dozen of any one pattern per color/size, and one smaller working box that I fill every day before I go to the river.

Examples include: The Walts Worm, The Frenchie Nymph, [Double Barrel](#) Popper, etc.

[3-minute fly: Tie The Frenchie nymph](#)

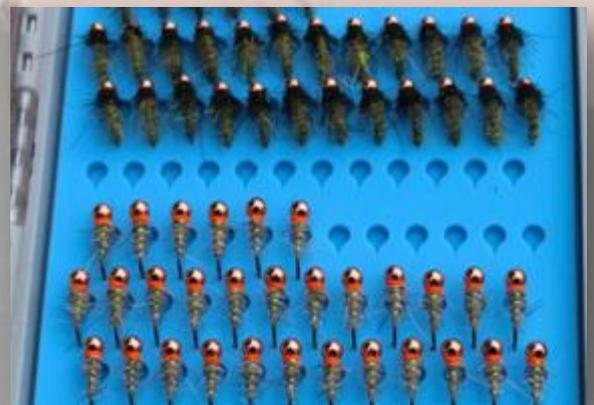
Whatever your top 6 flies are that produce year round regardless of location, I recommend tying a minimum of 12 per color/size. I often have many more in my bulk box ready to refill if I lose some flies on the water.



Thug Buggers tied with Fish-Skull [Baitfish Heads](#)



Proven Patterns - Sculpin Bunny



Confidence Flies

4. Tie with purpose.

Casual and professional fly tyers alike tie for many different reasons. Beyond all else, we enjoy creating something new. There is no better feeling than tying a fly that you later catch a fish on.

But with busy schedules and distractions all around you, you need to be clear what you are sitting down to do. Sure, you are going to "tie flies," but are you there to get away from your job, spouse, the world, etc., or do you want to get stuff done?

I tend to tie in 3 different modes and each has drastically different results on my fly boxes.

Mode 1: Production Mode

I sit down, pick my pattern off my pattern list, prep the necessary components, and bang them out. 3, 6, 12, 48 — it doesn't matter when you are focused on getting it done. Time doesn't apply. I've looked up more than once only to realize I tied for 10+ hours, and it felt like I just sat down.

Mode 2: Research and Development

Tyers come across new materials, tools, even techniques, and there needs to be an appropriate time for this creative outlet. I set aside one day per week just to try out new materials I've accumulated. If I didn't, I would never get to use them. This is best enjoyed with a good beer, and a game on in the background!

Put on a podcast and have fun experimenting.

Mode 3: Zombie

Fly tying is a great hobby, but sometimes your mind just isn't there. I never realize I'm in this mode at first, but there are some telltale signs that you can spot to figure it out sooner, rather than later.

[Where the heck is my bobbin? The messy fly tyer's guide to organizing fly tying materials](#)

You start tying without a purpose. You aren't tying orders, you aren't trying something new... you are just tying, and usually you are starting and stopping at different points to check Facebook, or watch Instagram Live videos. You might sit down to tie 6 zebra midges, but after the first you move onto something else. If you can't tie 6 thread midges in a row (takes about 3 minutes), you clearly aren't focused. You might be annoyed, or just plain tired. Everyone has bad days. But you don't need to compound it by tying 12 flies that don't look anything alike.



Fish-Skull [Sculpin Helmets](#) + [Living Eyes](#) ready for streamer production.



Experimenting with Surface Seducer [Howitzer](#) baitfish popper heads.



If I'm not tying for production (my own boxes, or orders), or doing some R&D with the newest Flymen Fishing Co. material, why am I tying? That is when it's best just to clean the bench and take the dog for a hike or go fishing.

Nothing good will come from tying in zombie mode. You'll only waste materials, dirty your bench, and end up disappointed.

5. Share the experience.

When I sit down to tie flies, I typically do so while listening to college football, music, or a fly fishing podcast in the background. This is great because it helps as you tie hour after hour staring at the same area for prolonged periods of time.

If you have a bunch of flies to tie there is no better way to pass the time than tying with a friend or two. Sit down with your lists, break out your favorite beverages and have fun. It doesn't have to be an all-day affair — a couple hours will suffice and the time will pass quickly. At the end you'll have a pile of files ready to be sorted. Best of all, if anyone is having any trouble you have someone next to you that might be able to figure out a solution. You can learn a lot by watching how someone else ties their flies.

Bonus Tip: Keep a pattern list.

When it's time to tie flies you don't want to be searching for a fly pattern to tie. To keep track of them, I like to use a program called Evernote. It's a free computer program that is easy to use, and you can easily import fly pictures from your favorite blog or social media page. I used to use a plain notebook for this, but it's a lot easier to remember why you wanted to tie a certain fly with a picture than without one. It also helps that you don't have to read your rushed handwriting to figure out the recipe. You can then easily sort your lists into categories like caddis nymphs, streamers, etc., and have a visual clue when you go to tie them.

Of course, if you don't like to use digital programs you can simply keep a journal. Best advice: be as detailed as possible on the fly and the recipe. I would also write a reminder why you want to tie the fly. Do you think it will work for an upcoming hatch, or river condition?

About Daniel Podobed III:



Daniel Podobed is a custom fly tyer and designer and the owner of [In Pursuit of Trout](#), a website for fly fishers and tyers to learn tips and tricks to become better anglers and tyers, faster. His inspiration for In Pursuit of Trout spawned from his realization that when he was first taking up fly fishing he almost gave up on it due to a lack of direction and immediate success. He says, "I would hate to see anyone give up on this sport before they got to meet some of the kindest, and most generous people or visit some truly beautiful corners on this Earth. Fly fishing can bring that to you." Follow In Pursuit of Trout on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram @inpursuitflyco](#).

Short Notes



Planning a trip to the Louisiana marsh for some redfish?

Improve your chances of success, hire a guide! Not just any guide will do. TVFF has compiled a short list of proven guides. This list is available to TVFF members on request.

Interested? Contact Brian Bouma boumab@gmail.com

How to remove a twist in your fly line, better yet, to avoid the twist.

The fourth episode of season two of RIO's "How To" series features RIO sales manager Zack Dalton explaining and demonstrating the difference between fly line twist, and line memory.

In this film Zack describes how to avoid getting twist in a fly line in the first place, but also illustrates what to do to get rid of twist in a line if it happens. In addition, Zack talks about line memory, and shows how easy it is to remove this from a RIO fly line.



Zack's tips are very neat indeed and well worth learning, and any angler that has ever had their fly line jam in the rod guides because of coils or twist, will find this film hugely beneficial.

Fish the Sipsev – 24 March

Want to catch some trout but not able to spend a week in AR?

Come fish the Sipsev on Saturday, March 24. Meet Brian Bouma at the [Riverside Fly Shop](#) parking lot (17027 Hwy. 69 S., Bremen, AL 35033) at 8 a.m., and carpool to the water from there.

Contact Brian (256-468-8218, boumab@gmail.com), for directions to the shop, or with any questions.

Come enjoy some camaraderie and bend a rod with the TVFF!"



Come across a good tip? Share it by sending a link or description to editor@tvff.club

More February Holidays

When celebrated: March 17th.

Saint Patrick's day is in honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles, as Ireland is known. It is truly a day of celebrating Irish history, ancestry, traditions and customs.

Saint Patrick's Day has many symbols and traditions, from shamrocks and leprechauns, to green beer and Corned Beef and Cabbage. Saint Patrick's Day parades are popular in many cities around the U.S. Interestingly, the first St. Patrick's Day parade did not take place in Ireland. It took place in New York City, in 1762.

Are you Irish, me lads and me lassies?! Well, the saying goes everyone is a little Irish on Saint Patrick's Day.

Roots of Tradition: Saint Patrick's day is held in honor of Saint Patrick, the missionary who brought Christianity to the Irish people in the 400's AD.

Erin Go Braugh is perhaps the most common Irish term you will hear. It means "Ireland Forever".

Did You Know? Over 34 million Americans are of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland!



Spring Equinox

When celebrated: March 20th

Ah, Spring! A time when "a young man's thoughts turn to thoughts of love" ...and outdoors and fishing and gardening and..... let's not leave out the ladies. Spring brings out these thoughts and more, for both ladies and gentlemen.

So, let's go and enjoy what many believe to be the best season of them all!

The Spring Vernal Equinox brings days and nights in equal proportions. It is simply the day when there is exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of nighttime. But, did you know that this is only true on the Equator? For the rest of us, the timing is a little sooner, or later, depending upon where we live on the planet. We won't go any deeper than that, as this a fun site, not a science course.

The other thing to note is that the Spring Equinox is just a calendar date. From a standpoint of weather in your area, real spring arrives sooner or later depending upon where you live in the Northern Hemisphere.

Did you know? The Persian New Year begins on the Spring Equinox.

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



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