



TVFF Club News

September 2022



Niki Sother, COH Green Team September 15th 7 PM



Huntsville native Nikole Sothers, our Sept. 15 speaker, is manager of the city of [Huntsville's](#) landscape management program. In this role, she represents the Green Team, which focuses on keeping Huntsville beautiful. She was director of horticulture for Huntsville Botanical Garden where she was employed for 28 years. Her interests are people, the outdoors and plants, which are a perfect match for her current position.

TVFF Annual Banquet – Mark your calendars, the end of year banquet and auction is coming up, Friday November 18th. If you would like to donate anything please contact Larry Hice. More information on [page 8](#).

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Welcome New Members:
Fred Willuhn

This Month

Faith Presbyterian Church Rm 201

- September 8 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- September 15 – Club Meeting, 7 PM
- September 22 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Dana Beyerle
Secretary: Gary Jedlovac
Treasurer: Dave Bailey
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Fred Kaufmann
Conservation: Bob Lowery
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is **November 3, 2022**, 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.



September 8, 7 PM

San Juan Worm – Fred Kaufmann

Cost: \$2.00 in person

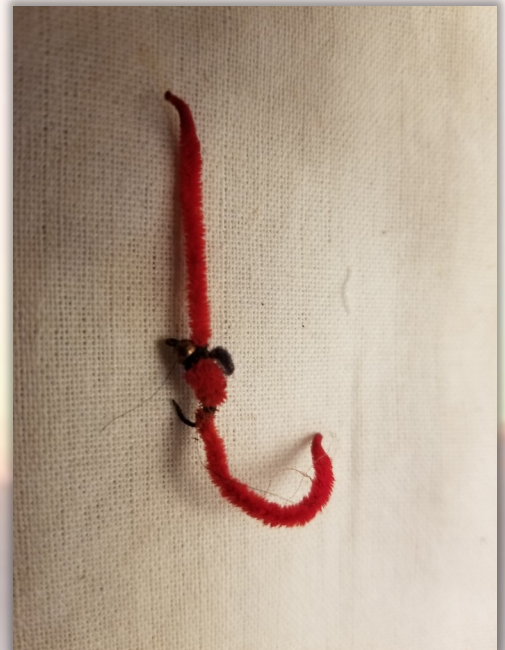
Easy to tie and effective fly. Name originates from the San Juan River in New Mexico where the fly was invented.

Materials:

Hook: Size 14 – 18 scud or emerger hook

Body: Chenille

Head: Bead



September 22, 7 PM

Clouser Minnow – Connor Baker

Cost: \$2.00 in person

Classic fly pattern developed by Bob Clouser. Probably one of the most effective streamers. Works great in salt water, for bass, and for trout.

Materials

Hook: #1/0 Tiemco 811S

Thread: White 3/0

Eyes: Red lead eyes (medium)

Belly hair: White bucktail

Center Flash: Krystal Flash

Top Hair: Chartreuse bucktail

Other: Gel super glue, bodkin



Health Notice: By attending the in-person session you accept responsibility for any and all associated health risks. Please bring a mask in case of masking rules change.

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

TVFF members Joe Tremblay, Bill Pittenger, and Debbie Hill went on a trip to Montana to visit Joe's brother-in-law. While there, they spent a significant amount of time fishing the Big Hole River. To the right and directly below are pictures of Debbie's very nice brown trout. Both taken by Joe. To the bottom right is Joe's nice brown trout. Joe was doing what he loves, fishing and spending time with good friends. The club misses him dearly.



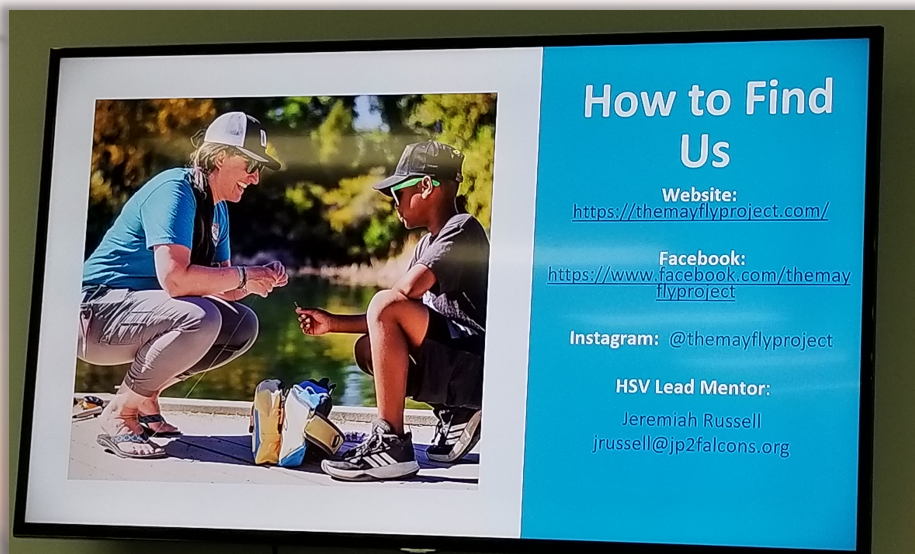
To the left is a rainbow trout TVFF member Greg Bayuga caught on the Elk River during a float trip! Nice rainbow!



August TVFF Recap - Swap Meet

August 18th – Club Meeting

Our August speaker, [Mayfly Project](https://themayflyproject.com/) director Jeremiah Russell, explained how the new program (in north Alabama) aims to help foster children through an introduction to fly fishing. Dr. Russell is the administrator of a private school in Huntsville and organized the Mayfly Project that recruits adults who mentor children through fly fishing. The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to support children in foster care not only through fly fishing but also by introducing them to their local water ecosystems.



Hopefully, it will connect them to a rewarding hobby, Dr. Russell said. “Above all it teaches friendship,” he said. Dr. Russell said the Mayfly Project will begin mentoring in 2023. The program includes fly tying, fly casting, and a fishing trip. “This is a great therapeutic tool to take a sport we love and help kids,” he said. Dr. Russell can be reached at jrussell@jp2falcons.org.



August – Fly Tying

For August we had two good dry flies we tied! First Slade Lutz led us in tying of the Hippy Stomper! A small floating fly with similarities to the Chubby Chernobyl and Fat Albert. For the second session, President Steve Kerkhof showed us how to tie a classic bass popper with precut foam materials. Both were good ties! Join us if you have any interest in tying!

Outdoor Alabama – Fishing Licenses Expire September 1

Whether you want to spend quality time with family and friends by fishing in one of the Alabama reservoirs or enjoy the beauty while fishing an Alabama mountain stream, quiet wetland or Mobile Delta. Alabama is the place for fishing. The Alabama State Public Fishing Lakes are great places to experience the thrill of catching big largemouth bass or bream in a secure setting. The sport of Alabama bass fishing will challenge the most ardent competitor. And pond sportfish management information will allow you to develop your own fishing paradise. To support fish management and aquatic resources, purchase a fishing license.

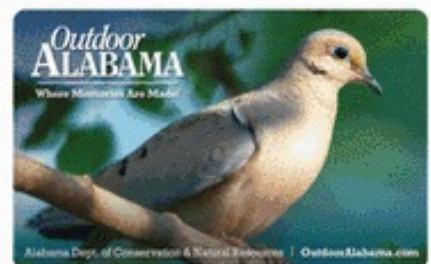
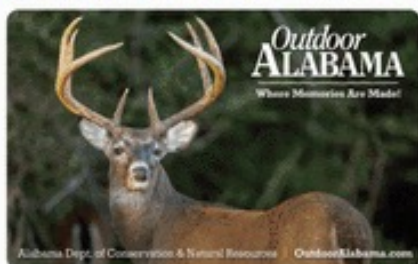
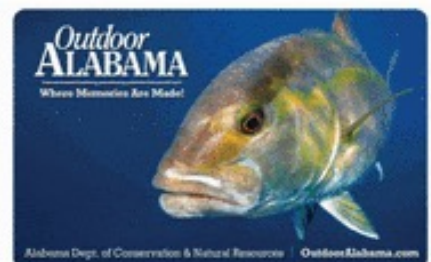
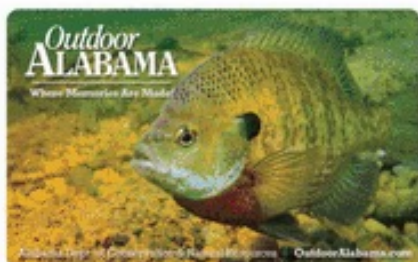


Your purchase of an Alabama fishing license financially supports the protection and enhancement of Alabama's aquatic resources. Except for the issuance fees and Internet or telephone convenience fees, 100% of your license fee goes to management of, protection of, and education about Alabama's natural resources. Your purchase also help us gain matching federal funds available from excise taxes on anglers' and boaters' equipment and gasoline purchases.

Licenses can be renewed here:

[Freshwater Fishing Licenses – Resident](#)

[Freshwater Fishing Licenses - Nonresident](#)



Smithsonian Magazine - Largest Freshwater Fish Caught in Cambodia

The entirety of this article published June 21, 2022 by Margaret Osbourne can be found on the Smithsonian Magazine website [here](#).

The world's largest freshwater fish, a 13-foot-long, 661-pound stingray, has been discovered in the Mekong River in Cambodia. Scientists say the animal is a hopeful sign for the river, which faces threats from human encroachment and development, damming and climate change, per a statement from FISHBIO, a fisheries and environmental consulting company.

The giant freshwater stingray (Urogymnus polylepis) was caught on June 13 by a local fisherman, who alerted scientists from the Wonders of the Mekong project, a joint Cambodian-U.S. research and outreach initiative.



[Wonders of the Mekong via Facebook](#)

Globally, about 70 percent of giant freshwater fish are endangered, Hogan tells the AP. Many of these species have relatively long lives and can take a long time to mature, so if they're fished before reaching that maturity, they don't have a chance to reproduce. Many also require large areas to survive and grow. Stingrays take up to four years to reach sexual maturity and are relatively slow-growing for the batoid family of fishes, which includes relatives like sharks.

The Mekong River, which runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, is home to several giant fish species. This particular section—south of Stung Treng in northeastern Cambodia—may be an important breeding ground for the stingrays; four females of the species, including this one, have been caught in the area recently, per the AP. Last month, a group of local fishermen caught a 400-pound female stingray in the same stretch, writes Mongabay's Carolyn Cowan.

The newly discovered stingray breaks the previous freshwater fish record held by a 645-pound Mekong giant catfish captured in 2005.

Hatch Magazine – Catching a Pacific Sailfish on the Fly

This excerpt is from Hatch Magazine. It was published August 15th, 2022, and authored by Stu Apte. The entirety of this article can be found [here](#).

How would you like to cast your fly to a fish that might be longer than your fly rod? That's right, longer than your 9-foot fly rod. If you want an adrenaline rush almost equal to landing on an aircraft carrier, you might want to try a pacific sailfish on fly. You will be close up and personal with your adversary and it's not as difficult as you might believe. In more than 40 years of fly fishing for Pacific sail, I've helped scores of people catch their first. My first was at Club de Pesca de Panama, now called Tropic Star Lodge, in 1964.

Picture this scenario: The Ocean, glassy smooth, as the Pacific often is. The sky, gray and almost threatening, a thunderstorm brewing on the horizon. Your crew has rigged three softhead teasers with the belly-strip from a bonito sewn inside. Suddenly, the tip of a bill appears behind the far teaser. You feel this in your gut; a sailfish is checking out your teaser.

Your captain or mate sees it first and shouts, "He's coming, he's coming!" Or, "VELA! VELA!" – "SAIL! SAIL!"

Your David/Goliath adventure is about to begin. In about three seconds, all hell is going to break loose. The sail will grab the teaser, but the mate will snatch it away. Two or three times. Now the sail is mad as hell. That's when you drop that popper three feet behind its tail.

Visit Hatch Magazine's website for the complete article, with the gear you will need and tips to catch your first sailfish.



Club News

Upcoming TVFF Banquet and Auction

Mark your calendar for the TVFF Banquet and Auction on Friday November 18th. Registration begins at 6:00. We will have a catered dinner beginning at 6:30 PM, followed by the Auction. This is our main fundraiser for the year so we want to see all of you there. We also need donations for the Auction and Raffle. We welcome donations of new, used and handcrafted items. Bring your donated items to the Banquet. Contact [Larry Hice](#) with any questions about donations. Additional information will be provided in the November newsletter



Chamness Award Nominations

Know someone deserving of recognition? Nominations are being accepted for the 2022 Chamness Award. It's named after **Johnny Chamness**, one of our founding members whose dedication and service were instrumental to the club's success. Although Johnny never held office, his service to the club continued unabated until the years and health issues forced him to limit his activities. Johnny's countless contributions were officially recognized in 1998 with the creation of the Johnny Chamness Award for excellence in service.

In keeping with the spirit of service to the club, the Chamness Award is presented to members who have provided invaluable service to the club through their contributions of time, energies, and support of club functions, activities, events and goals. Nominations are easy. Simply submit the candidate's name along with the reason you feel he or she is deserving of the award to [Steve Kerkhof](#), our most recent recipient. Please keep your nomination confidential so the recipient can be surprised. You can also mail your nomination to TVFF, PO Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815. Please submit your nominations by October 21st.



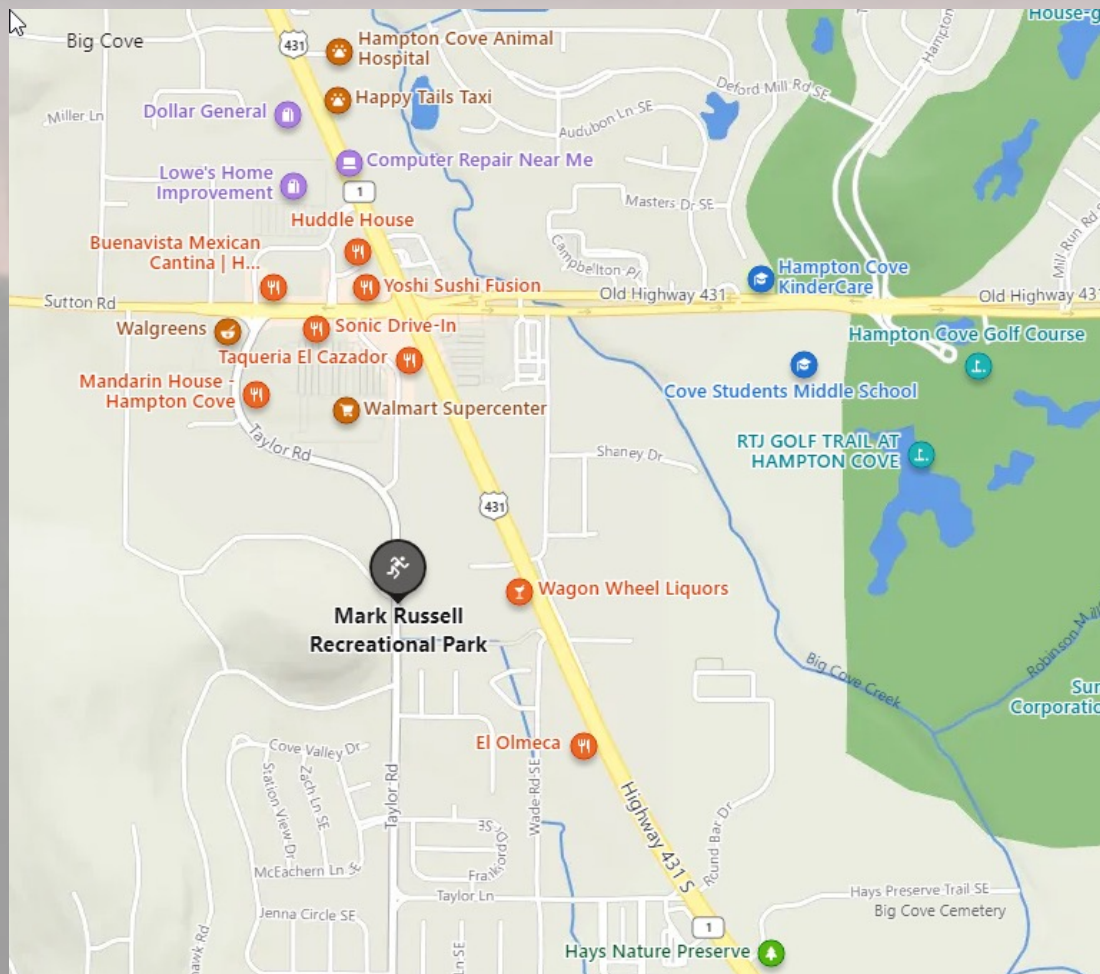
Casting for Fly Fishing Class

Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers is offering Casting for Fly Fishing class on Saturday September 17th from 9:15 AM to Noon at the Mark Russell Recreation Center, 429 Taylor Rd, Huntsville, AL.

We will start with a classroom session to provide an overview and to introduce concepts and terminology. Then you will learn how to tie a couple of useful knots. This will be followed by a casting lesson and time to practice. Fly rods will be provided. The class is free.



The casting class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, indoors otherwise. Dress for the weather. A hat, and sunglasses or other eye protection are recommended. There is no charge for the class but the class size is limited. Open to men, women and children 12 or older when accompanied by an adult. To sign up call the Mark Russell Rec Center at 256-650-4747. For questions about the class call Fred Kaufmann, 256-679-6789 or Steve Kerkhof, 256-541-6868. For membership information about TVFF send an email to info@tvff.club.



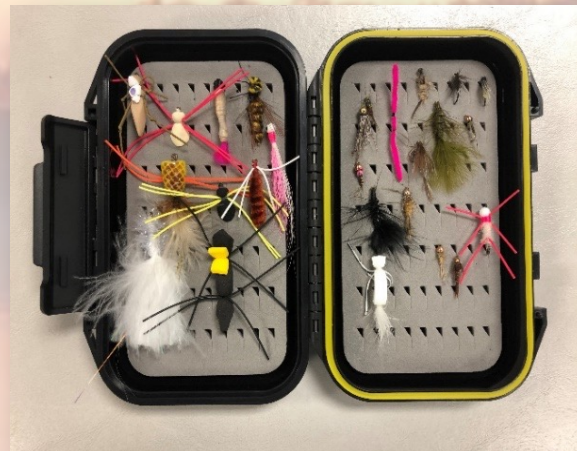
Fly Line Recycling

Flyvines is a Montana company that “upcycles” used fly line into bracelets, lanyards, dog collars, sunglass straps and other useful items that give used fly line a second life. The picture shows used fly line collected by TVFF in 2019 that didn’t end up in a landfill. The pandemic kept us from doing that in 2020 but we’d like to participate again this year. If you respool your fly reels with new line then please coil it up and bring it to us. TVFF will pack it in a box and send it Flyvines. It is a small thing you can do to be kind to the environment and support our conservation efforts.



Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

On the right is one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to the Alabama Casting for [Recovery](https://castingforrecovery.org/) retreat back in 2019. TVFF is always looking for more flies to add to the box for future events. If interested, choose a fly and tie or purchase 14 of them. When you have your set or multiple sets of 14 flies ready for collection, bring them to any club activity or contact Casting for Recovery [volunteer](https://castingforrecovery.org/) **Debbie Hill**. TVFF will provide the boxes for your donated flies. This fall we will be filling the fly boxes that will be donated to the Alabama Casting for Recovery retreat. Debbie keeps a list of flies that have been tied or purchased, but duplicates are welcome. <https://castingforrecovery.org/>



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

Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors this to assist seniors in our area who are identified as food-insecure. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list 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 (Hamburge rHelper, 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.

September Funny Holidays

Hobbit Day September 21st

The Hobbit (There and Back Again) by J.R.R. Tolkien was published on Sept 21, 1937. In his book Tolkien wrote about Middle Earth, a world inhabited by Dwarves, Elves, Wizards, Hobbits and Men at a time when Dragons still existed. Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, was the unlikely hero of the story.

Hobbits love to eat and they ate several meals a day. The idea that I like is "second breakfast". That is the meal between breakfast and the midday meal. So you can celebrate Hobbit Day by fixing yourself a second breakfast. Maybe a hobbit will drop by.



Cheese Pizza Day Sept 5th

Cheese pizza is a favorite at my house and many others. While I saw one account that said pizza was invented in New York City, everyone in Italy would disagree.

By one estimate 3 billion pizzas are sold in the US every year.

So celebrate the day with a slice, but if you want pepperoni then you'll have to wait until September 20th for Pepperoni Pizza day.



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