



TVFF Club News

February 2024



Allie Cunningham, Science on the Fly
Thursday February 15th 7:00 PM
Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201



Our guest speaker this month will be Allie Cunningham, Director of Science on the Fly. Science on the Fly was founded by the Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole Research Center) and Fishpond. Science on the Fly are leaders in climate change science and fly fishing gear design. Together, along with a growing list of partners, they strive for cold water, clean rivers, healthy watersheds, abundant fish, and a bright future.

Presentation will be conducted using Zoom. With the option to join from home or from Faith Presbyterian Room 201.

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This Month

- February 1 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- February 8 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- February 15 – Club Meeting, 7 PM
- February 22 – 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
February 1, 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.



February 8th, 7 PM

Kreelex – Connor Baker

Cost: \$3.00

Designed by Mr. Chuck Craft, this easy to fly was originally intended for trout, but is good for almost any fish. It uses a special material called kreenik, which gives it a lot of movement in the water and gives it flash. See a video [here](#) tied by Tim Flagler.

Materials:

Hook: Long-shank streamer hook

Thread: Thread, white, 140-denier

Body: Kreelex flash, gold and silver

Eyes: Plated lead eyes



February 22nd, 7PM

The Datchett Razzler – Debbie Hill

Cost: \$3.00

What do you get when you cross "A River Runs Through It" and Mardi Gras? The Datchett Razzler! Have some fun and tie this easy fly.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 79580 or 9672 (3x or 4x long Streamer) #4-12

Thread: Yellow or Purple or White 6/0-3/0 or 140-210 denier

Tail: Yellow or Purple grizzly saddle

Butt: Yellow or Purple ostrich herl

Rib: Gold oval tinsel

Body: Purple, Yellow or Green Floss

Throat: Yellow, Purple or Green hackle

Wing: Green or Purple or Yellow saddle

Top: Golden pheasant crest

Eyes: Gold mono



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

Late January, TVFF members Greg Bayuga and Andy King went fishing for Redfish with Captain Ben Cummings, our guest speaker last month. They were fishing just off the Chandeleur Islands in Louisiana. Each caught four massive fish, all eight being over 30 inches. Great trip and amazing fish! I'm sure they put up a great fight!



This past month has been quite cold in North Alabama. For a week here, it was pretty much too cold and too icy to even leave your house, let alone go fishing! However, for our friend to the right, the cold did not seem to bother him to much. Nice bass!



Rare Atlantic Salmon Caught in London

The first Atlantic Salmon in 200 years was caught in London. According to the Sun, Hector Rodriguez, a Cuban-born resident of London landed one on the River Wandle, a tributary that feeds into the River Thames. The weight of the fish was approximately three pounds, and yes he was using a fly rod.

With the industrial revolution in England, pollution increased and subsequently, the fish population decreased. This one fish may be a one off thing, or may be the sign of an improving fishery. Either way, the fish was safely released and hopefully more will be caught again soon.

The entirety of this article can be found [here](#). It was authored by Alex West and published earlier this month.



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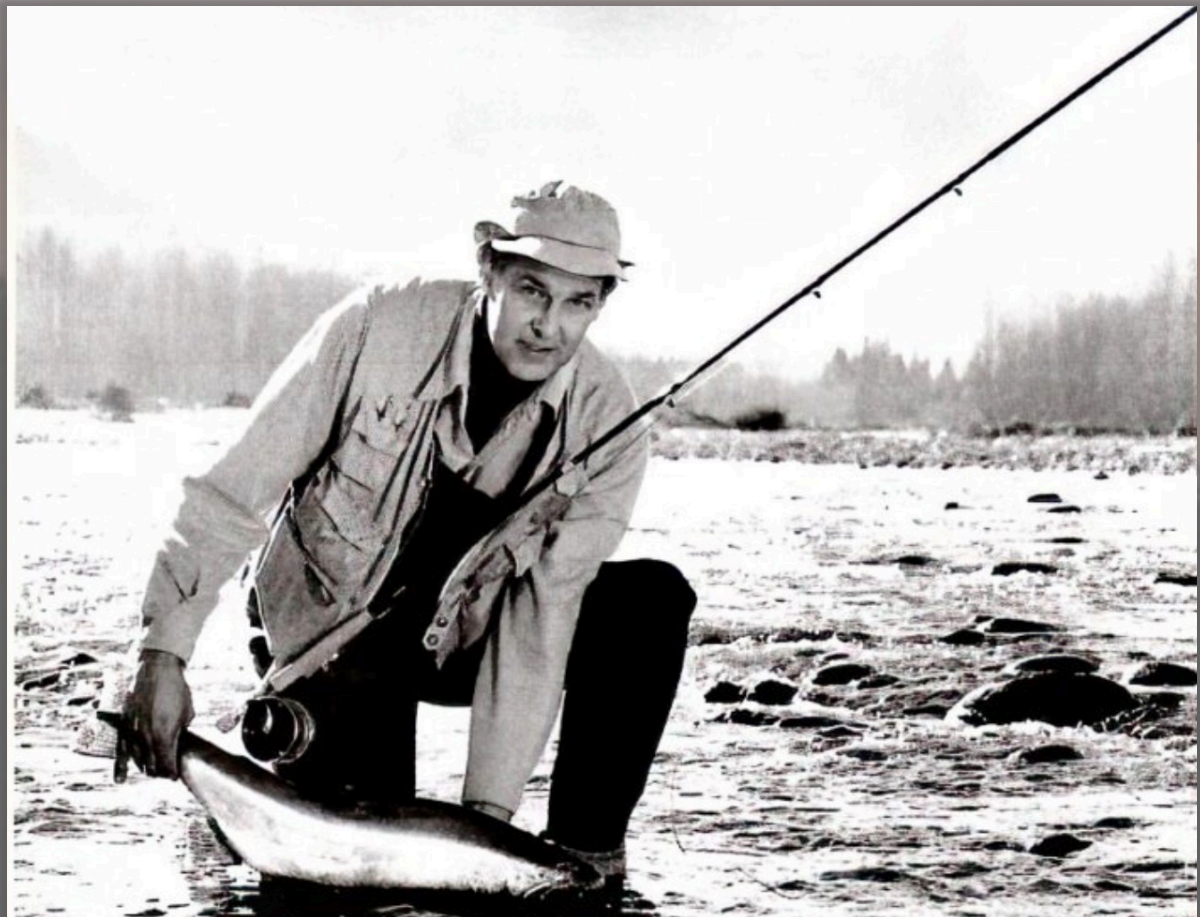
Don Green, Founder of Sage Fly Fishing Passes

This past week, legendary fly rod designer and businessman, best known as the founder of Sage, Don Green passed away. Below is a short message from Sage's Instagram page, @sageflyfish.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of Don Green, our legendary founder of Sage.

Among many things, Don was a man of immense integrity, a passionate angler, and a pioneer of modern fly rod design. Don's influence on fly rod performance stretches well before Sage came to be, dating back to the 1950's – his innovation using graphite material revolutionized fly rod design forever. Through all of his accolades, Don remained a humble man, never seeking the spotlight, driven by the simple goal of making the finest casting rods for anglers around the world. He empowered those in the field to be the spokespeople for his work. Those he tasked with this responsibility were, and are, some of the finest the fly fishing world has ever seen. This organically created a sense of ownership with Sage, and a belonging to a community and culture that his rods were creating – everybody wanted to be a part of it, it was infectious. Don's legacy lies in that culture, which lives strong to this day, and will continue well into the future.

"Sage is a small company with our stated goal to build high performance, well-balanced aesthetically pleasing rods that will give years and years of enjoyment and will perform in a way that will enhance the fishing experience. I can guarantee that Sage will continue to research new materials as they are developed and will continue to search out new ways to build a better fly rod." – Don Green, 1984.



Top Tips and Tactics for Targeting Redfish

As you can see in the fish of the month section, members Andy King and Greg Bayuga caught some nice fish. They fished with our last month's guest speaker, Captain Ben Cummings. His specialty is Redfish and he will put you on some nice fish! If interested, his contact info can be found [here](#).

While on the topic of redfish, Yellow Dog FlyFishing published an article on their top tips for targeting redfish. This article was written by Carter Lyles. A summary of it is below, but the full article can be found [here](#).

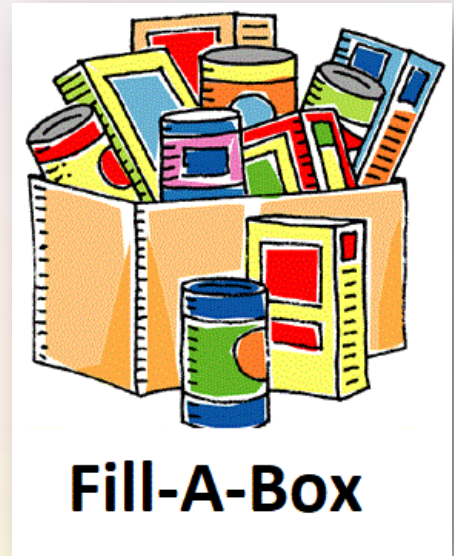
1. **Not just for Fall fishing** – A lot of people think redfish are best in the fall (October/November) that is simply not true. As you can see, Greg and Andy caught some monsters in late January.
2. **More opportunities to connect** – Redfish are pretty forgiving, and sometimes you can have multiple chances catching the same fish.
3. **For redfish, it's all about the eat** – Redfish aren't like tarpon or bonefish that take out a lot of line. However, redfish can have aggressive eats. They will bulldog down in the water and can take some effort to land.
4. **Practice makes perfect** – If you are on a trip using salt water tackle and you are a trout fisherman. Make sure you practice with that gear. Casting a 10wt rod 30 feet is different from a 4wt trout rod.
5. **Spot a redfish before it spots you** – An easy way to spot them is to not look for the entire fish but their pectoral fins. It will help you spotting them at a distance.
6. **Avoid these simple mistakes** – Don't move your feet on the skiff when around fish; don't slam hatches on the skiff; frequently check your leader to make sure oysters or sharp rocks haven't damaged it; if you spook a fish immediately cast and try again.
7. **Listen to your guide** – Probably easiest tip on this list, listen to your guide. If he tells you to cast somewhere or fish a certain way, do it! He has done this before
8. **Be ready** – Always be ready and on the lookout, no telling when a school might appear.





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.



FFI Fly Tying Group

FFI has an online Fly Tying Group that meets the the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month thru April at 7:00 PM CT. For more information please view their website [here](#). They have some neat flies they tie. This is a good place for a beginner to tie from the comfort of their own home.



Atlanta Fly Fishing Show

The Fly Fishing Show is coming back to Atlanta. This is a fun event every year. There are plenty of casting demonstrations, famous tyers and lots of swag. This year's event is February 2, 3, and 4. Kids and military get a discount. For more information, check out their [website](#).

FFI Southeastern Council will have a booth there. If you'd like to sign up as a volunteer, please see their form [here](#).



February Holidays

Chinese New Year

February 10

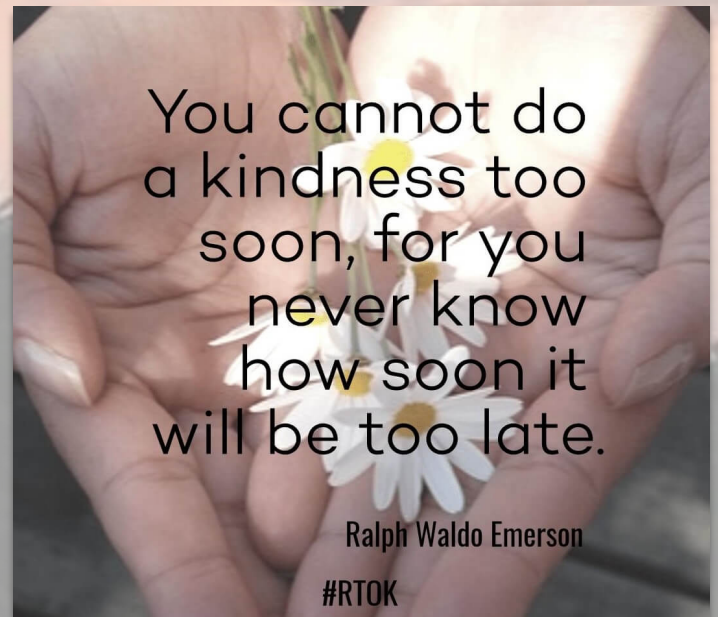
Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year (Spring Festival), is one of the most important holidays for the Chinese (and Koreans, Vietnamese, et al). Signifying the beginning of the New Year on the Chinese calendar, many Chinese honor their ancestors and spend time with family. Popular activities include lighting firecrackers and giving money in red envelopes to the younger family members. On a day like today, go find your favorite Chinese restaurant and celebrate the start of the year of the dragon.



Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 17th

It is always nice to do something kind for someone else. Going out of your way to make someone else's day actually can make you feel good. On this day, go out of your way to help someone. Help an old lady cross the street or say something nice to someone that looks like they might be having a tough day. We shouldn't confine being nice to someone to a single day, but it is a good start. Start today but try to make kindness a part of your everyday routine.



You cannot do
a kindness too
soon, for you
never know
how soon it
will be too late.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

#RTOK

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