



TVFF Club News

July 2021



July Meeting - Club Gear Swap

Annual Swap Meet July 15, 7 p.m.

A wise club member once answered to the question, "How many fly rods and reels are too many?" He said, "N plus 1." So true. This month's meeting is our annual swap meet, open to members and non-members. If you have any unneeded fly fishing gear, bring it to sell or trade. If you need gear, this is a perfect opportunity to find a good deal. Rods, reels, fly line, vests, waders, boots, nets, wading staffs, hooks, fur, feathers, and books. It's a perfect chance to get to know each other and socialize! Faith Presbyterian Church, corner of Airport and Whitesburg, room 201.



Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting will be Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, corner of Whitesburg and Airport Road, Room 201. Members are welcome to attend.

The church has updated the guidelines for meeting at the church. Those who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear a mask.

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*Welcome New Member
Wade Blevins*

This Month

- July 8 - Fly Tying-201/Zoom 7 PM
- July 15 - Swap meet-201/7 PM
- July 22 - Fly Tying-201/Zoom

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Connor Baker
Secretary: Gary Jedlovec
Treasurer: David Mahlik
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Fred Kaufmann
Conservation: Corey Pedigo
Communications: Dana Beyerle

TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201 at 7 PM. Because of lack of demand and spotty Wifi at the church there will not be a Zoom for fly tying in July.



8 July 7PM Room 201 in person or on Zoom

Soft Hackle - Featured Tyer, Ralph Shuey

Cost: \$2.00 in person

The soft hackle can be fished effectively in the entire water column, from top to bottom. It is able to catch fish anywhere, anytime - with the added bonus that you can catch A LOT of fish with it. This simple but deadly fly, and the various techniques used to fish them, have been passed down from angling generation to generation. The materials are simple ; less is more when tying this fly.

Materials:

Thread: 6/0 color of body

Hook: Dry fly hook from 18 to 14

Body: Tying thread

Thorax (optional): Dubbing or peacock herl

Hackle: Hungarian partridge or other suitable hen hackle

No Zoom Mtg for Fly Tying in July.



Soft Hackle

22 July 7PM Room 201 in person or on Zoom

Mylar Minnow - Featured Tyer, Ted Crona

Cost: \$2.00 in person

Note: This is one of my "must have" bream flies. White, yellow, and gray ultra-chenille also make great bodies.

Materials:

Thread: 6/0 white

Hook: No. 10 TFS 9395 or equivalent

Body: Chartreuse ultra-chenille

Tail: Teased pearl iridescent mylar tubing

Back and belly: Pearl iridescent mylar tubing

Head: Silver chain bead eyes



Mylar Minnow

Health Notice: By attending the in-person session you accept responsibility for any and all associated health risks.

Catch of The Month:

Fred Kaufmann's grandson **Gabriel's** first venture with a fly rod – a nice little spotted bass.



Fred's grandson is continuing a sport that goes back thousands of years. "The use of the fly rod was well known to the Macedonians, who were described by Claudius Aelianus in the 1st century A.D. For them, such fishing had already outgrown its elementary purpose of catching fish. Ever since then, fly fishing has occupied a strong position in the sport of angling. [In 1496] ... fly fishing in England had already changed its character to fishing for pleasure and (to) become a sport for gentleman. Our modern-day fly fishing culture is the sum of the collected enthusiasm of centuries." - *The Complete Book of Sportfishing*, 1988, AB Nordbok, Gothenburg, Sweden, Goran Cederberg, editor

Renew your Membership: TVFF membership dues for 2021-2022 (through May 1, 2022) can be sent to **Debbie Hill**, TVFF's membership director. Dues must be paid to be considered a TVFF member and a member of Fly Fishers International. If you are unsure of the amount of your dues, do not hesitate to contact Debbie at debhil522@gmail.com. You can pay your dues at any club meeting. If you choose to mail your check please include a note with any new contact information you may have... email, home address, and phone numbers. Let's keep your details up to date so that you may receive the latest TVFF and FFI information. Send your check made out to TVFF to: Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815



BOD Minutes

BOD minutes are now available for review at the monthly meetings.

Members can read the minutes by simply asking the Club Secretary,

Donovan Lakes Trip Report



Top row, L to R: **Bill Pittenger, Greg Bayuga, Steve Kerkhof**. Bottom row: **Connor Baker, Joe Tremblay, Dick Curtis**.

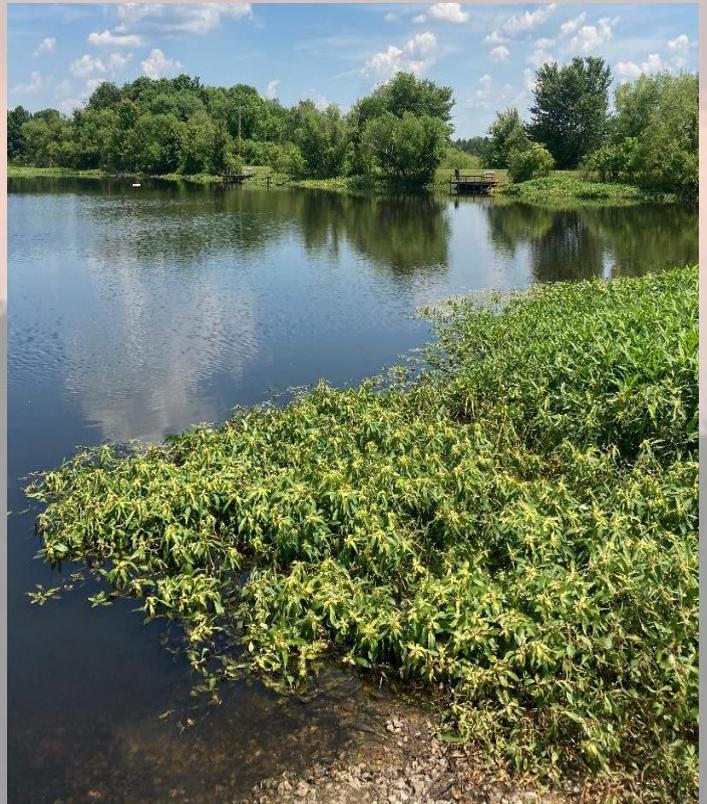
The last week in May, we had our annual TVFF trip to **Donovan Lakes** in Perry County. Six of us enjoyed five days of largemouth bass fishing! Lucky for us, the weather was perfect all week, with hardly a cloud in the sky. All six caught respectable-size bass, with a few of us even catching our personal bests. We arrived Monday afternoon and left Friday morning, which gave us plenty of time to learn the water and figure out where best to fish. The fly of choice this trip was **Joe Tremblay's** white popper and thank goodness he tied two dozen of them! I think by the end of the trip, he was nearly out! Fishing early morning and later in the afternoons gave us plenty of time at lunch to drink root beer floats, get to know each other, and share fish stories. TVFF has been going on this trip for over a decade and there are many fantastic stories to be heard! Thanks to **Joe, Dick, and Steve**, for bringing boats down for all of us to use! Special thanks to Joe for setting this trip up. It was well organized! – **Connor Baker**. (**Editor's Note:** In keeping with the implications of page 6, we'll leave it to these six guys to claim the biggest fish.)

At the suggestion of Chris Greene, Head of the Fisheries Division for Alabama DCNR, who was our speaker for the February meeting, we took a tour of the Marion Fish Hatchery. It was an interesting and informative trip. We saw catfish fry and got an in-depth explanation of the striped bass breeding process. When Irby Pope, our guide, started talking about breeding alligator gar, one of us blurted out "What the heck for?"!

It turns out goldfish are a good food source for largemouth bass plus they are excellent at eating the algae in a pond. You should take the tour if you get the chance.

Of course we wanted to know which pond held the breeding largemouth bass. To our surprise our guide told us. While some imagined making a night time excursion to that pond, no one did.







Are you a “fibberman?” Take this little “truth” test from [Fly Tyer](#) magazine. A few “honest” results are posted.

ARE ALL FISHERMAN LIARS?

Total up your points and tell us in the comments below!

Have you ever...

- 10 points** - Purposefully trespassed to fish?
- 10 points** - Lied about the size of a fish?
- 10 points** - Tied a fly using “less-than-legal” materials?
- 10 points** - Swam to retrieve a fly?
- 10 points** - Taken a photo with a fowl-hooked fish?
- 10 points** - Added scent to a fly?
- 10 points** - Told a stranger directions to the bad holes?
- 10 points** - Caught a catfish on the fly?
- 10 points** - Went swimming in your waders?
- 10 points** - Gotten skunked in the last year?
- 10 points** - Took credit for another tyer’s fly?
- 10 points** - Broke a rod in a door/window?
- 10 points** - Got in a fight over a fishing hole?
- 10 points** - Lied to about the cost of your gear to a spouse?

“My score was 50, but I don’t see where breaking a rod in a door, or catching a catfish on a fly should count. I have caught several catfish on wooly buggers. They put up a good fight. Probably could take out another 30 points for catfish and 20 more for evil thoughts when bait fishermen get 30 feet downstream from me.” – **Joe Tremblay**.

“I did catch a large catfish fishing on a neighbor’s boat dock several years ago, checking out one of my wooly bugger creations. AND, I counted 10 points for a shouting match I got into one day, at the same boat dock, with two fishermen in a large bass boat who were encroaching on the spot that I was fishing at.” - **Ted Crona**.

“My total was 60.” – **Steve Kerkhof**.

“I can think of a few I am guilty of! Sadly I went swimming in my waders recently.” – **Connor Baker**.

“Mine was 10. (Which may or may not be true!)” – **Dana Beyerle**.



June Meeting: Agri-businessman, farmer, cattle rancher, and author **Raymond B. Jones**, left, joined us in June as we renewed in-person meetings, this one at Jones Ponds, which were developed by the city on land donated by the Jones family. Ray told several stories about the area and farm. He donated receipts of the sale of copies of one of his books, *Citizen Soldier – Carl T. Jones*, who is his father, to the club. TVFF President **Steve Kerkhof** presented Ray a certificate of appreciation. Thank you, Ray. (Photo contributed)



Seen on front of **Ted Crona's** vehicle.

New E-Mail Address? If you get a new email address or want your TVFF email to go to a different address, email editor@tvff.org and we'll fix you right up. If you've missed an email, check your spam folder.



The Fly Fishers International Southern Council Fly Fishing [Fair](#) is back at Mountain Home, Ark., Sept. 17-18, 2021, at the Baxter County Fairgrounds. Organizers are planning a tying-centric return. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid 19. More details later but mark these days. Check out [FFI](#) for future events.



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 retreat in 2019. Since CFR retreats were put on hold due to Covid this past year, there were no TVFF fly boxes donated. TVFF would like to renew this project this year. 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 **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 (Hamburgere 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.

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