



TVFF Club News

April 2021



April Program – Tracy Doughty



Tracy Doughty, [Huntsville Hospital's](#) Vice President of Operations, will be our featured speaker this month. Doughty will become the Hospital's President and Chief Operating Officer on July 1. He will take questions, address concerns about getting back to normal, discuss the COVID vaccines, and what to expect after getting one. This month marks one year since we moved to virtual meetings. It has been a long year and we want to thank everyone for hanging in there. However, with the greater number of vaccinations and more states opening up, it looks as if normalcy is on the horizon.

Updated Fishing Reports

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

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* The keyboard's HOME key returns you to this page

Welcome New Members

George Fant

This Month

- April 8 Fly Tying - Virtual and Rm. 201 -7 p.m.
- April 15 Program - Virtual 7 p.m.
- April 22 - Fly Tying Virtual and Rm. 201 -7 p.m.



BOD Minutes

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

Members can read the minutes by simply asking the Club Secretary



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m. and online via Zoom video conferencing software until further notice. Access to in-person sessions is restricted to individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID19.



April 8, 7 p.m

Adult Damsel Fly - Featured Tyer, Joe Tremblay

Cost: \$2.00 (See Pg. 4 for additional info.)

This fly is a direct result of YouTube's [Damsel in Distress Video](#). I first tied this fly 5+/- years ago and made a few improvements since then. Like most flies I tie, it's a combination of features I liked from other patterns as well as my own ideas. This fly will catch all species and can be tied in a variety of colors to match damselfly nymphs in your favorite waters.

You will need; a lighter, tweezers, and a black Sharpie.

Materials:

Thread: Black 8/0

Tail: 3/32" foam cylinder, color of choice

Parachute: White

Hook: Saber #10 or compatible light caddis hook

Wing: Badger hackle

Body: Black dry fly dubbing or peacock herl

Eyes: Black mono eyes



Damsel Fly

April 22, 7 p.m.

Fat Albert - Featured Tyer, Fred Kaufman

Cost: \$2.00 (See Pg. 4 for additional info.)

Often the biggest and baddest bug in the fly box, the Fat Albert might need a row all to itself. The titanic of terrestrial patterns, this fly is truly unsinkable! No matter if your fishing cold or warm water, the Fat Albert looks like a juicy steak to hungry fish, so hold on tight as they eagerly race to take your fly!

Materials:

Thread: Black 140 denier

Hook: Hopper hook, #8 or #6

Wing: White poly yarn

Body: Tan and brown 2mm foam

Legs: Black round rubber



Fat Albert

TYING KIT PICK UP LOCATIONS

Tying kits available in **Huntsville** at the south door of Faith Presbyterian Church and in **Madison** at the Hwy 72 in Madison Super Walmart parking lot (behind Panda Express) from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the tying session. We will resume collecting a \$2.00 fee for each kit.

Health Notice: By attending the in-person session or obtaining a tying kit, you accept responsibility for any and all associated health risks.

Catches of the Month - TVFF member **Connor Baker** caught this nice spotted bass on the Tallapoosa River near Wadley in east Alabama on the last day of winter. Connor said the river was beautiful and there were few people. "It was really great, some of the best water I've fished and there were massive bass everywhere," he said. He used a white streamer, an 8-wt rod, and intermediate sinking line.

TVFF member **Everett Sharp**, below, caught this 7 ½ - pound beauty on a private pond near Moultrie, Ga., in February. This appears to be gravid female, judging by the belly. The bass looks to be getting ready to bed soon. Congrats on a real nice fish, Everett. It's a great start to the 2021 bass season.



You can e-mail a photo(s) to editor@tvff.club. Include angler's name, where caught, and on what tackle set-up and fly/popper.



This notice is required by the TVFF Bylaws: The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 6 at 7:00 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. All members are welcome. For meeting details request a Zoom invitation by sending an email to editor@tvff.club.

March Speaker David Perry. Thank you David Perry of [Southeastern](#) Fly for our March presentation. David is a veteran fishing guide on the Elk River and Caney Fork in southern and middle Tennessee respectively, in addition to other destinations. David said presentation with a good, clean drift and location (near the bottom) using nymphs, white streamers, and wooly buggers, are successful tactics. He predicts good fishing on the Caney and Elk this spring. This year's anticipated cicada hatch, should it develop later this year, could be a bonus especially for carp. David guides half-day, three-quarter, and full-day trips.



Faith Presbyterian Church Covid-19 Building Use Policy

Faith Presbyterian Church will allow us to begin meeting in Rm 201 again subject to the following guidelines.

1. In Room 201, group size is limited to 20 persons, all other rooms, the limit is 12 persons.
2. All participants shall wear face coverings. (Presenters are excused from this requirement while speaking to the group).
3. All participants shall follow social distancing protocols of at least six feet between each person.
4. Group refreshments are discouraged.
5. Any trash be removed from the room and placed in the dumpster on the north end of the parking lot.

All group leaders must sign the liability release below and communicate these policies to the participants.

Receipt of Policy and Liability Release

By signing below, I acknowledge receipt of these policies and commit to my group's compliance with them. I further acknowledge that by engaging in group activities I and the members of my group accept the risks involved in gathering together and release Faith Presbyterian Church from any and all liability from illness or injury that may be incurred by any participant.

The Session of Faith Presbyterian Church reserves the right to alter or rescind this policy and the use of the building if deemed necessary due to increased health and safety risks.

TVFF Guidelines for Fly Tying Sessions at Faith Presbyterian Church in April

Our goal is to resume in-person activities for all events as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will begin the process with the fly-tying sessions because they have fewer people than a club meeting.

The April Club Meeting on April 15th will be by Zoom only.

The first in-person meetings at the church will be for the **April 8th and April 22nd Fly Tying** sessions. The in-person tying sessions will be for those who are fully vaccinated. There will still be a Zoom Meeting for those not yet vaccinated or who prefer to tie from home. We will resume collecting a \$2.00 fee for fly tying kits at kit pickup and from tyers at the church. This fee is to reimburse the lead tyer for the cost of materials. Thank you to those who have donated to the club for tying sessions during the past year but be aware that your donation went to the club and the tying leaders have not been reimbursed.

Venite piscemur. Fly fishing might have been “discovered” by the Roman Claudius Aelianus near the end of the 100s. (*History of Fly Fishing*, by [Dub](#) Paetz). “He described the practices of Macedonian anglers: “...they have planned a snare for the fish... They fasten red wool. . . round a hook, and fit on to the wool two feathers which grow under a cock’s wattles... color are like wax. Their rod is six feet long, and their line is the same length. Then they throw their snare... the fish, attracted and maddened by the color, comes straight at it, thinking from the pretty sight to gain a dainty mouthful; when, however, it opens its jaws, it is caught by the hook, and enjoys a bitter repast, a captive’.” In his book “*Fishing from the Earliest Times*”; however, William [Radcliff](#) (1921) gave the credit to Martial (Marcus Valerius Martialis), born some two hundred years before Aelianus, who wrote: “...Who has not seen the scarus rise, decoyed and killed by fraudulent flies...” . Radcliff writes that it was not until the end of the 15th century that fly fishing was practiced as a sport by the upper classes of England, although an exact date is unknown. It may have been around 1496. In any event, it’s a wonderful sport and pasttime. So, “come fish.”

TVFF member **Ted Crona** wrote about the Red Butt Fuzzy Stuff wet fly last year. Here’s his [article](#) about the fly and its attributes. Ted says he’s been tying the fly ever since he watched a fisherman at Guntersville Lake cast three red-butt wet flies and haul in three bream on a single cast. Ted says he uses silk floss and some “fuzzy stuff” for the fly’s body. It works on bream and, Ted assures, other fish as well. Ted’s article is on Page 6 of the April 2020 TVFF Club News. You might also enjoy this article on red tag flies from [Global Fly Fisher](#) (see the pictures at the end) and this GFF [article](#) by TVFF member Jim Burchette.



Zoom Meeting Instructions: You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation in the TVFF reminder email that is sent on Sunday evening before a scheduled fly-tying night or club meeting. There are three ways to join the meeting. You can copy/paste the link in the invitation into your browser, OR go to <https://zoom.us> and click “Join A Meeting” in the upper right of the screen, OR if you have installed the Zoom app then you can open the app and enter the meeting number and password from the invitation. If prompted, you should click yes to allow Zoom to use the camera and microphone on your computer, then we can see and hear you during the meeting. You may be placed in a Zoom “waiting room” when you first join. Be patient and you will be admitted to the meeting by a host or cohost. This is another layer of security for our online meetings.

2021 Donovan Lakes Club Trip Update. The trip is full but just in case there's a cancellation, we have a stand-by list. The outing includes accommodations at the Donovan Inn and four days of fishing at one of the country's best bass destinations. Those on the trip to Alabama's Black Belt will be able to access [Donovan's](#) eight private lakes that are stocked and managed for bass. The trip is scheduled Monday, May 24, to noon Friday, May 29. Thank you **Joe Tremblay** for setting this up.



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.

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.





Annual Dues Reminder from TVFF's Membership Director

TVFF is now collecting annual membership dues for the coming year of TVFF/FFI. These membership dues are for your renewal through May 1, 2022. Remember, dues must be paid through TVFF to be considered a TVFF member and, automatically, an FFI member. Check your inbox for an email from TVFF Membership Director **Debbie Hill** with the amount of your dues based on your specific membership type. Contact [Debbie Hill](#) with questions. When you mail your check please include any update on your contact information so you can 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.

The 15th annual Fly Fishing Film Tour is going [virtual](#) through April 4 with a net full of amazing films. Tune in right from your living room for fishing action, giveaways, and unforgettable storytelling ranging from the remote wilds of Eastern Russia to Utah's Flaming Gorge and beyond. Come into the fly shop, buy anything and you can use our special QR code to save \$5 off a ticket for the online show. You will also get entered into the \$10,000 value raffle.

Casting-for-Recovery Fly Boxes

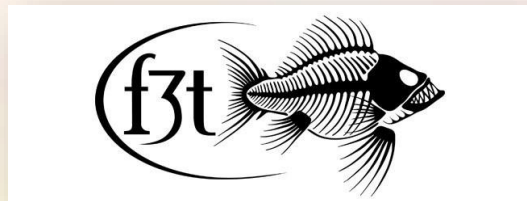
On the right is one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to the Alabama Casting-for-[Recovery](#) retreat in 2019. Since CFR retreats were put on hold due to COVID this past year, there were no TVFF fly boxes donated. TVFF would like to renew this project this year. If interested, choose a fly and tie 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 **Debbie Hill**, a Casting-for-Recovery [volunteer](#). 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 is keeping a list of flies that have been tied or purchased, but duplicates are never a bad idea.

<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.



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