



TVFF Club News

February 2026



TVFF Club Meeting David Matthew Fly Fishing Thursday, February 19th 7:00 PM



Dave grew up here in Alabama, he learned to fly fish here on warm water species, and he has spent a lifetime floating the local waters in Alabama. Dave has been guiding warm water fly fishing for around 6 years and he is a Certified Casting Instructor, with Fly Fishers International for over 7 years. During that time he has had the privilege of teaching fly casting with some truly incredible instructors. An avid Flyfisher, he has chased Trout out west, Bone fish in the Keys and Tarpon in Belize, however Bass have always and will always hold a special place in his heart.. He can be found on Instagram @davidmatthewflyfishing.

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Welcome New Members:

Matthew Dishuck
Jesse Wright

This Month

- February 5 – BOD Meeting, 6:30PM
- February 12 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- February 19 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- February 26 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Dave Bailey
Vice President: Andy King
Secretary: David Heim
Treasurer: Vacant
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Brian Moore
Conservation: Jacob Franklin
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is **this month**
Thursday February 5th 2026, in Room 201 at the church. Members are welcome.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m.

February 12th, 7 PM

Ratchet Dazzler – Debbie Hill

Cost: \$3

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 or Gold fine wire

Body: Purple, Yellow or Green Floss

Throat: Yellow, Purple or Green hackle

Wing: Green or Purple or Yellow saddle

Topping: Golden pheasant crest

Eyes: Gold mono

February 26th, 7PM

Wally Wing Hatch Master – Mike Iffland

Cost: \$3

The "Wally Wing Hatch Master" is a popular dry fly pattern used to imitate specific mayfly species during a hatch. The technique for tying the distinctive, realistic-looking wings (Wally Wings) was developed by Canadian fly tyer Wally Lutz in the 1970s. Video [here](#).

Materials

Hook: Daiichi #1160 size 10

Thread: 70-140 Denier, can be yellow, white, brown, olive

Tail: mallard/wood duck flank

Wings: mallard/wood duck flank

Body: dubbed

Thorax: CDC (dubbing loop)



thefeatherbender.com

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.

January TVFF Club Meeting

Last month we had a very unique and fun guest speaker, Ken Holmes from Louisiana spoke with us about fly fishing for gar. Like most of the Southeast, gar are abundant in Louisiana. There are four species in Louisiana and catching all four of them completes the Louisiana Gar Slam. Louisiana's four native species are Alligator Gar, Shortnose Gar, Spotted Gar and Longnose Gar. There are several techniques for fishing for gar, but the easiest is sight fishing for them when they are on the surface. Gar can sometimes be picky, but in general they are not too difficult to catch.

For the past two Summers, Ken has started to host the Golden Gar Fly Fishing Tournament. This fun tournament in the center of Louisiana gives the winner bragging rights for the year. A small video by Ken can be found [here](#). Another new video by Ken can be found [here](#). This one tells the origin story of the Golden Gar tournament. Many thanks to Ken for speaking to our club! It was very interesting and we can't wait for summer to target some of our own Gar!



TVFF Classified Ads

TVFF has a classified section will for members to offer for sale used or unwanted fly fishing related items:

- Send a brief description and picture of the item(s) you wish to sell and include an asking price to the TVFF Communications Director at editor@tvff.club
- Provide your name, email and/or cell number
- All transactions are to be conducted between the buyer and seller. TVFF will not become involved
- Ads will not roll over each month, you must resubmit your request each month if needed
- This service is for current TVFF members and must include fly fishing related items only

Fish of the Month

Our lone submission this month is from TVFF member Jonathan Craft. While the cold weather has scared a lot of us away from fishing, Jonathan is out there getting after it and still landing native warmwater species. Below is a North Alabama Smallmouth Caught in January! Jonathan caught it on a subsurface streamer that you can see below. Good catch Jonathan!



10 Best Midge Flies for Winter Trout Fly Fishing

When the temperatures drop and summer hatches fade, midges become the primary—and often only—reliable food source for trout. These tiny insects hatch 365 days a year, making them essential for winter anglers. To help our club members make the most of the quiet winter rivers, here is a summary of the top midge patterns and tactics from Flylords. The full article can be found [here](#).

The Midge Life Cycle & Strategy

Midges go through four stages, but anglers focus on the larva, pupa (emergent), and adult. Because midges often clump together in "rafts" on the surface, they provide high-caloric value despite their small size. For winter success, you must be prepared to fish all three stages of the hatch.

Top 10 Patterns for Your Winter Box

1. The Larva Stage (Fish deep in the water column)

- **Tungsten Zebra Midge:** A simple staple (thread, wire, and bead). Use black in the morning and switch to red or brown as the day warms.
- **Rojo Midge:** Features a red glass bead to mimic hemoglobin and a white gill tuft. Great for technical water.
- **Dawkins DD Midge:** Uses two tungsten beads for extra weight to reach the strike zone in swifter currents.
- **Juan's Flashy Money Midge:** Uses midge tubing for segmentation and a touch of flash to stand out among thousands of natural drifting larvae.

2. The Emerger Stage (Fish in or just below the surface film)

- **Harrop's Hanging Midge:** Designed to sit in the meniscus with the body submerged. The CDC tuft acts as a great sighter for the angler.
- **No Mercy Midge:** A ultra-slim profile pattern. Its wing placement causes it to hang vertically, mimicking a midge struggling to break the surface.
- **Chironoflash Midge Pupae:** Includes a flash component to simulate the gas bubble midges use to float to the surface. Highly effective in late winter.

3. The Adult Stage (Dry fly fishing for rising trout)

- **Griffith's Gnat:** The classic "cluster" fly. It imitates multiple midges clumped together and is much easier to see than single-fly imitations.
- **Harrop's CDC Adult Midge:** A low-riding profile for picky trout. The CDC provides natural movement and a realistic footprint on the water.
- **Pat's Midge:** A versatile "cripple" pattern. It features an antron loop wing and mimics a midge that is half-stuck in its pupal shuck—an easy target for trout.

Pro Tips:

- **Watch the Rise:** If you see dorsal fins but no "snouts," trout are likely eating emergers just below the surface. Switch from a dry fly to a hanging emerger.
- **Rigging:** Don't be afraid to use a "Dry-Dropper" or a two-fly dry rig. Using a high-vis Griffith's Gnat as your "sighter" makes it much easier to track a tiny #24 emergent tied 12 inches behind it.
- **Technical Success:** Winter water is often low and clear. Use fine tippets (6X or 7X) and focus on drag-free drifts to fool educated tailwater fish.

Organza Ribbon Flies

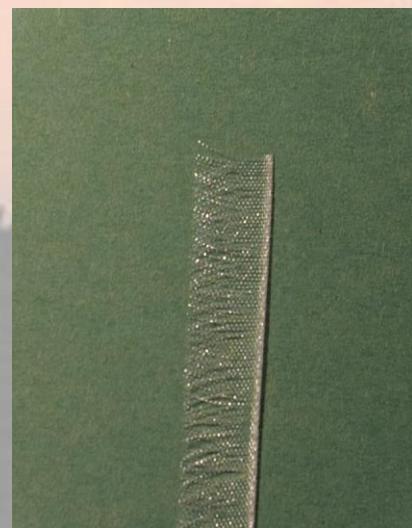
By Ted Crona

About 10 years ago, I was doing demonstration tying at the FFI International Fly Fishing Fair in Boise, ID, when I happened to see another tier using organza material for the flies that he was tying and now, probably because of my age (83), I can't remember his name; but, I have always remembered the organza material and kinda stuck it away as a memory. A few weeks ago, Hobby Lobby, opened a store in Scottsboro and I went there hoping to find some yarn and other tying material which I could use. Happened to run across some organza ribbon and it jogged the memory. The ribbon was cheap (\$1.99/spool) so I bought several spools and started working with it. As you can see, the photo shows that the ribbon comes in a variety of colors and widths.



Prepping the ribbon into suitable tying material does require some time and effort, but you will find the methodology is straight forward, logical and not difficult.

To start, you need to cut approximately 12-18" from the spool and then cut the piece longitudinally down the middle of the ribbon. Next, take a bodkin, and strip out all of the longitudinal fibers except for the fatter edge of the ribbon (as shown below). This, you will find is most time consuming part of tying the fly. You should not use tying scissors for this process; I use a cheap pair of shears. The following photos show the spool and the resulting cut ribbon.



It really doesn't make a lot of difference if the initial longitudinal cut is not perfectly cut. Slight waves are not noticeable in the finished fly. And, once you start using it, you may want to adjust the final width, by offsetting the longitudinal cut.

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Organza Ribbon Flies (continued)

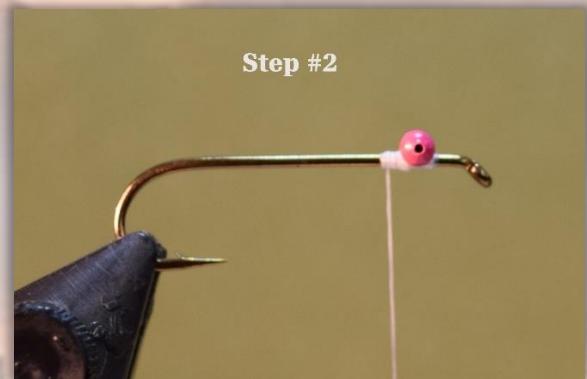
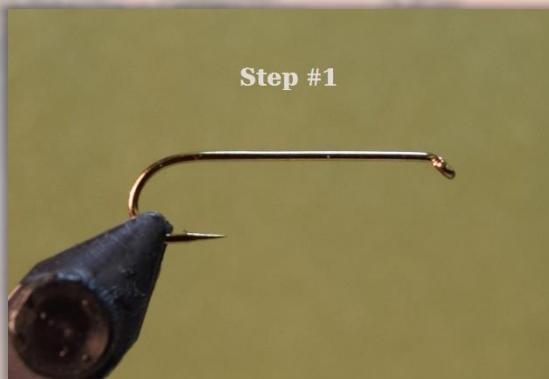
By Ted Crona

The organza ribbon fly can be used in many variations as it is mainly a body material. Using that, I tied a minnow pattern with the following materials:

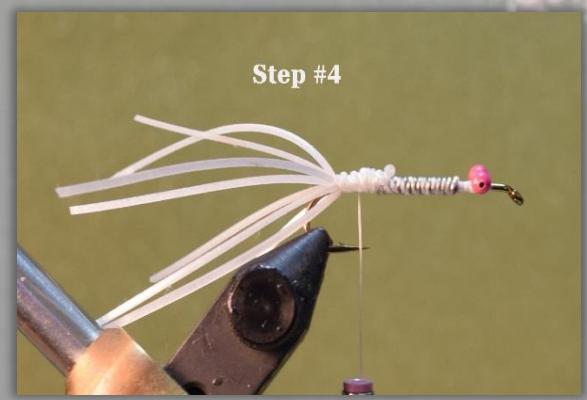
- Thread – White 6/0
- Hook - #8 4X long streamer hook (I used #1720 Daiichi)
- White Silicone Legs (I used Jann's Netcraft 653 Wht Prl Satin)
- Hot pink chain-bead eyes
- White yarn – narrow (can use dubbing instead)

Tying an Organza Ribbon Fly

1. Mount hook to vice:
2. Using white 6/0 thread, attach hot pink chain-bead eyes approximately one eye length behind the eye using criss-cross figure 8 wraps and fix with a drop of super glue:



3. Attach 0.020 lead wire along the approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook length, allowing a space for attaching the tail:
4. Attach silicone legs as the tail of this fly, and as stated earlier, an option would be to use marabou for the tail. The tail is done by taking 2 pieces of the skirt lengths and doubling them twice, ending up with 8 strips:

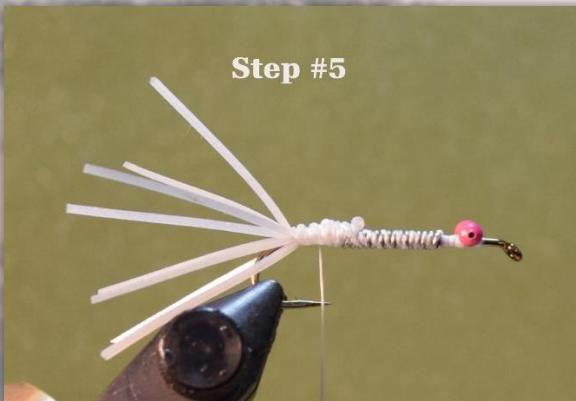


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Organza Ribbon Flies (continued)

By Ted Crona

5. Trim the silicone legs to a desired length. You will note that doing this trim will cause the legs to fan out, but not to worry, you will see that the organza ribbon will cause it to close down.
6. Attach the organza ribbon as close to the tail as possible and begin winding it forward towards the chain bead eyes making sure that the it wraps towards the rear of the fly and bring the thread to just behind the chain-bead eyes:



7. Tie off the ribbon just behind the chain-bead eyes and cut off remainder:
8. Tie in small narrow white yarn at the point where the ribbon was tied off, just behind the chain-bead eyes:



9. Using the yarn, tie around the chain bead eye and use criss-cross wraps to cover the eye:
10. Finally, tie off the thread using a whip finish just behind the hook eye and apply a drop of head cement:



Organza Ribbon Flies (continued)

By Ted Crona

As I had stated, there are options available. Here are some of the other variations of flies using some of the other colors of organza ribbon:





2026 Sowbug Roundup

The Sowbug Roundup is almost here again. Great event for anyone interested in fly tying. Located in Mountain Home Arkansas. Scan the QR code below for more information or visit the website [here](#).

Baxter County Fairgrounds
MARCH 26TH - 28TH | 9AM - 4PM

29TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL

SOWBUG ROUNDUP

Presented by North Arkansas Fly Fishers



Al Ritt
Author, Fly-Tying Instructor
Al is a well-known figure and "true ambassador" in the fly-tying community, serving as a fly-tying instructor, demonstration tyer, fly designer, and is a pro staff member for several major fly-fishing companies.



Chris Johnson
Founder, Living Waters Fly Fishing
Chris is dedicated to sharing his passion for the sport and investing in the next generation of fly anglers. He often is a featured presenter, fly tier, & outdoor conservationist, at community events throughout Texas and beyond.

Free Admission
for adults accompanying
children 12 and under.



scan me

Mountain Home, Arkansas

Other News

TVFF is Collecting Empty Thread Spools

If you have empty thread, wire, floss, or tinsel spools, please bring to a future TVFF meeting (fly tying or monthly meeting). Debbie Hill will be collecting these. Instead of throwing them away, they will be repurposed. If you have any questions please contact Debbie: debill522@gmail.com



Maggie Valley Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival

Tight Lines in the Smokies: The Maggie Valley Fly Fishing Festival

Set against the backdrop of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Maggie Valley Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival is the premier gathering for Southeast anglers. This high-energy event blends technical expertise with mountain heritage, making it a must-visit for anyone who lives for the tug on the line.

Highlights include:

- **Pro Instruction:** Casting clinics and fly-tying demos from regional legends.
- **Gear & Guides:** A massive vendor village featuring the latest rods, reels, and local guide services.
- **Community Spirit:** Local food, live music, and a shared focus on cold-water conservation.

Whether you're looking to refine your reach cast or just grab some new streamers for the spring hatch, this festival offers the perfect atmosphere to talk shop and celebrate the sport.

More information can be found [here](#).



February Holidays

Clean Out Your Computer Day February 10th

It is a good time to do some spring cleaning on your computer. A hard drive that is over 90% full can cause slowdowns. Delete unneeded files and folders, Create new folders to organize the stuff you have collected this year. Check that antivirus software is up to date. Uninstall programs and apps you no longer use. Perform a backup.

And if computers are not your thing you can make this clean out your fly box day instead.



Do a Grouch a Favor Day February 16th

It is self explanatory. Find a grouch and do them a favor. Maybe you can find someone who is having a bad day and turn their frown upside down.

Can't find a grouch? If you notice that everyone is doing you a favor this day, then it could be that the grouch is you!





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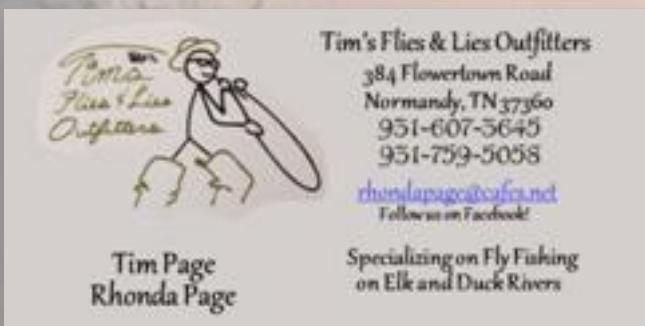
"Click on ad for link"



Andy Mahurin Fly Fishing

Middle Tennessee

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lhice@plasticfusion.com