



TVFF Club News

January 2017



This Month Program Tony Cox, Alabama Guide

Lifelong creek wader and fly fisherman, Tony was born and raised on the banks of the Tennessee River in Northwest Alabama.

Teacher by day/fly fishing guide in afternoons, weekends, holidays, June & July!)

Works at the fly shop at Alabama Outdoors in Florence every Tuesday night, and teaches casting and fly tying classes there regularly.



The club purchased a guided trip for 2 with Tony that will be raffled off at the end of presentation. All members in good standing (2017 dues paid) will receive a free ticket. Additional tickets will be available @ \$10 each.

[Click Here for details.](#)

In this issue

- [TVFF Fly of the Month](#)
- [Catch of the Month](#)
- [2017 Featured Guides](#)
- [TVFF Fly Tying Group](#)
- [TVFF Supports BSA Fly Fishing](#)
- [TVFF Spring Trip to the White River](#)
- [2017 Sowbug Roundup](#)
- [Fly Selection and Speed of Current](#)
- [Donavan Spring Trip](#)
- [Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics](#)
- [January Holiday](#)
- [Our Sponsors](#)



* HOME key returns you to this page

This Month's Activities

- 12 Jan – Basic Fly Tying, 7pm room 201
- 19 Jan – TVFF Club Meeting, 7pm room 201
- 26 Jan - Fly Tying, Pheasant Tail Nymph, 7pm room 201



TVFF Fly of the Month

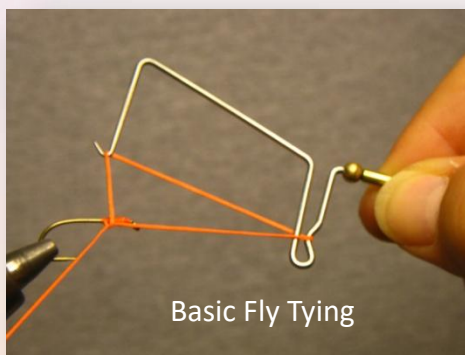
TVFF kicks off 2017 on the 12th with a Basic Fly Tying session followed on the 26th with a Pheasant Tail and a Hare's Ear Nymph.

If you have never tied, need some help or just want to refine your techniques, this is the session for you.

Reid Benton, assisted by experienced members will be on hand to provide whatever assistance you desire.

All are welcome. There is absolutely no experience needed and fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or even designed.

Join us for 2 hour sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM.



Catch of the Month

While many have put their rods up for the winter, Bill and I keep a watchful eye on the forecast looking for a break in the weather.

Warm water species will often become active after a warming trend and December the 26th of December, was no exception.

We caught a variety of fish. Bass, bluegill, shellcracker, red breasted sunfish and crappie. A great way to spend a winter morning.



Fishing Guides to be 2017 Featured Speakers Win a FREE guided fishing trip!

Three or four fly fishing guides will be the featured speakers at selected monthly meetings throughout the year. As an incentive, the Club will purchase a full day guided trip from the featured guide to be raffled off at the end of the presentation. You must be present to win.

The trip will be good for a 1 year period and will be for two, so you can bring a buddy. All active members (current year dues paid) attending these meetings will receive a **FREE** raffle ticket. Want to improve your odds? Additional tickets will be available to active members at \$10 per ticket.

The **January meeting** will start us off with fishing guide Mr. Tony Cox from Florence, AL. Tony guides on Cypress Creek, Shoal Creek, and Bluewater Creek for smallmouth, tail race trips below both Wheeler Dam and Wilson Dam for smallmouth, white bass and stripers and lake trips on Pickwick, Wilson, and lower Wheeler.





The Fly Tying Group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM in room 201.

The Fly Tying Group is looking forward to another year of tying innovative patterns that catch fish.

Starting with a Basic Fly Tying session designed to teach the basic skills required to tie effective flies and followed by Trout, Bass, Warm, Streamer series. Series consist of several sessions of 1 or 2 flies per session and timed to coincide with TVFF outings. Some series may require 2-3 sessions while others may require more.

We'll be tying trout flies in January and February in preparation for the March Club trip to the White River, followed with bass flies in March and April for the Donovan trip in mid April and so on.

Fly tying is fun, not all that difficult and a sure way to have just the fly you need. Join our ever growing Fly Tying Group and learn how to tie your own flies or expand your fly tying skills.

There is a nominal fee (usually \$2) to cover the cost of materials and all are welcome.



TVFF Supports BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program



Scout leaders David Cole and Daniel Beane from Madison's Troop 204 assisted by TVFF members Larry Hice, Bill Pittenger and Joe Tremblay braved 28 degree temperatures to further scouts in their quest for the BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge.

The scouts were enthusiastic despite the cold and eager to catch their first fish on a fly. Thankfully, the Madison County Lake trout pond did not disappoint as rainbow trout eagerly took wholly buggers and every scout caught several fish.

I don't know who had the most fun. The scouts, or those of us who got to shared in the excitement of their first catch on a fly.



TVFF Spring Trip to Arkansas's White River

The Spring trip to Arkansas for a week of fabulous fishing is planned for **Saturday, March 18th through the following Sunday, March 26th.**

This trip coincides with the annual Sowbug Roundup, which is a conclave sponsored by the local fly fishing club, North Arkansas Fly Fishers in Mountain Home, AR. Check out the event web site for details and photos at www.sowbugroundup.org. It's a great event and an opportunity to restock on fly fishing gear & fly tying supplies!!

If you are interested in joining the trip to Arkansas a non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required and notification of your intentions to join should be made as soon as possible so the club can finalize lodging arrangements. If you have questions, contact Larry Hice @ 256-508-2344 or email @ lhice@plasticfusion.com. Time is running out to sign-up for this trip with "last call" being at the February club meeting.

Remember – this is the most cost effective fishing trip available. For less than \$500, this "all inclusive" 7 day trip allows you to fish some of the best trout waters around and to attend an enjoyable and informative fly fishing conclave.

Also, as most of you know, long time TVFF member, Johnny Chamness passed last year. During the club's stay in Mountain Home, there will be a special memorial at the 2017 Sowbug for Johnny.

Johnny was an avid "emissary" for the sport and served as auctioneer for the TVFF banquet, the Sowbug Roundup and the Fall Conclave in Mountain Home.

His ashes will be interred on the banks of the White River.



2017 Sowbug Roundup



The 2017 Sowbug Roundup, a “Celebration of Fly Fishing,” will be held on March 23, 24, and 25 in Mountain Home, Arkansas. This three day event is celebrating its 20th anniversary by showcasing exhibition fly tyers, both domestic and international. In 2016, over 140 tyers attended to demonstrate timeless skills and share new ideas in technique and materials.

Audience admission to the event remains at \$5.00 for the entire three days. Children aged 12 and under are admitted free. Included in the admission cost are beginning fly tying classes and a variety of seminars related to fly fishing. There are special events for the kids including a free drawing for fly fishing gear. A specially selected group of vendors showcase fly fishing, fly tying, and related goods and services. Dave and Emily Whitlock and several of the premier rod vendors have been regular attendees for a number of years.

Mountain Home is located in the beautiful Arkansas Ozarks minutes from the White River and the fabled Norfolk River tailwaters. Both rivers are renowned for their huge brown trout. From here, there is easy access to Branson, Missouri and the Branson-Springfield Airport. Because Ozark weather in March is usually quite mild, the area is a sought after destination for our friends from the more northern states. The March Caddis hatch on these rivers provides truly memorable dry fly and soft hackle fishing.

Lodging opportunities are diverse and abundant ranging from state and federal campgrounds, private RV parks, fishing resorts, and motels to high end fly fishing B&B's. The Sowbug Roundup provides a great excuse to step out of winter and experience fishing in some of the country's finest tailwaters.

Over the years Sowbug has cemented its reputation as a high quality offering in a warm and friendly atmosphere. So start planning now. Don't miss an opportunity to attend Sowbug Roundup 2017. For more information, go to the website – www.northarkansasflyfisher.org or visit the Facebook page to follow what promises to be the biggest and best Sowbug gathering yet.



THE NEXT GENERATION

Fly Selection and Speed of Current

Written by *Alex Lafkas*

Reprint from Flymen Blog. A click on Flyman logo will take you to their website.

Over the last 20 years of streamer fishing I've encountered many different situations.

I've fished fast Western rivers, Southern tailwaters with variations of speed based on dam flows, and slow Midwestern streams and lakes.

One of the most important factors I have found to maximize fly action is having the correct weight for each situation.

Flies swim differently depending on the amount of weight added and the materials used to counteract that weight.

I frequently tie a fly pattern in a variety of weights. The general rule is the less the speed of current, the less weight is needed on your fly.

Slow, still water = unweighted flies.

Select a fly with no weight, or little weight, on lakes and in slow sections of river.

Make long casts and use the fly line, not the fly, to get depth.

Most of the pools on Western rivers fall into this category, and the majority of Midwestern rivers have sections of very slow water..

Typical patterns I use in still/slow water

situations are Willen's Mini Double Nickle, Super Zoo Cougars, CJ's Sluggo, Great Lakes Fly Double Deceivers, and Modern Deceivers.

The style of fly Blane Chocklett ties by reverse tying, or using his signature Body Tubing, with deer hair or bucktail on shanks is phenomenal in this speed of water.

Unweighted flies have more side-to-side action and hover on the pause. When weight is added, the fly falls on the pause, which can be a trigger, but so can a pause where the fly suspends. Trout tend to favor the fly with a fall in colder water situations, and it will typically outproduce unweighted flies in water temps under 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

Using a two hand strip, or "burning", the fly in slower water can have tremendous results. The typical problem I've had with fish in slow water is they follow but don't eat frequently. By speeding up the retrieve, the fish have a tendency to attack instead of follow.

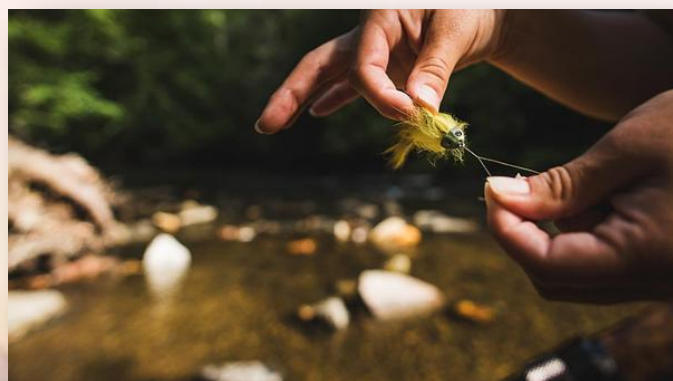


Photo by Clifton Alan Broyhill of Southern Culture On the Fly

A general rule I use concerning speed of retrieve is a slow retrieve in fast water and a fast retrieve in slow water.

Fast, shallow water = medium weight flies.

Lovechild Sculpins. The larger fly on the left (tied with a small Fish-Skull Sculpin Helmet) will get much quicker depth penetration but in slower currents will lose much of its action. The smaller fly on the right (tied with a mini Fish-Skull Sculpin Helmet) will have more side-to-side action in its fall. In fast currents most of the side-to-side action will be muted.



In faster water that isn't deep, some weight is needed to get the fly down, but too much and it'll be on the bottom. Some examples of these type flies are Sex Dungeon, Conrad's Sculpin and Schmidt's Viking Midge.

I tend to tie with mini and small Sculpin Helmets, small and extra-small lead eyes, and smaller Baitfish Heads. When these lighter weights are used and the weight is in balance they'll cast with ease and also have some side to side movement on the fly during the fall.

The speed of fall is controlled by using materials that drag or are buoyant. By adding a deer hair head or wrapping one of the many Enrico Puglisi brushes directly behind the weight you can maximize the action.

Another advantage to the lighter weight is that casting is much easier with a little less weight than a true "heavy" fly. Success in streamer fishing has a lot to do how many casts you can put out per day.

With a little less weight it is much easier on your arm and shoulder so you will last longer. It's also much safer.

I guide around 180 days a year and not everyone I take fishing is an expert, which is why I started to tie with less weight. Most anglers can cast a well-balanced fly but the moment the weight overrides the fly's material it becomes a very difficult cast, which is more of a lob than a cast. Rods will break and I've seen a baseball cap stapled to a fisherman's head with a heavy fly.

Fast, deep water = weighted and traditional jig-type flies.

Most of the time, in fast water, fish are pinned to the banks.

Maddin's Circus Peanut, CJ's Sculpin, and a list of Galloup's patterns (Nancy P's, Barely Legals, etc.).

In these situations your fly needs achieve depth next to the bank.

I tend to use small and large Sculpin Helmets, medium and large lead eyes, larger Baitfish Heads, and large cones.

Other than just the amount of weight, you should consider the materials you're using.

When tying for maximum depth, use materials that'll give you profile without bulk. I like my flies to carry a large profile, but want them to also be able to fall quickly in the water column.



*Tips Up jig-style fly created and tied by Kelly Galloup.
Photo by Gunnar Brammer.*



Many of the flies I tie are with bucktail and schlappen feathers. These materials, when used sparsely, will create a large profile.

Rabbit and marabou will give you good action in the water but they soak up so much water they become harder to cast.

Bucktail and feathers will stay light in the water and out, and cast like a bullet.

Many of the new body wrap materials do not hold moisture and will help meet your needs. I use many colors of UV Polar Chenille and Senyo's Aqua Veil Chenille.

Putting it all together.

Every streamer box should cover all of these categories. No one fly or one weight will cover all situations. When I fish, I usually have multiple rods rigged for the different situations.

Usually I have a Sage Method with an InTouch OutBound 37' sink tip and an unweighted fly and a Sage SALT with an InTouch Striper sink tip on the other with a weighted fly which is selected depending on the river or flows for the day.

I run this system because the Method is the best distance casting rod I have fished and I use long casts with unweighted flies to cover slower sections of river.

In close, the Method isn't as accurate as the SALT so I switch over to the shorter sink tip and weighted fly to pick the structure in the faster water.

I know anglers will benefit from switching flies from section to section; I see it all the time in the winter on White River in Arkansas. Flows vary from 1,500 to 18,000 cfs and every day is different.

If you go out with one fly every day you will succeed some days and fail on others.

By switching your approach when conditions change you will catch more fish than ever because you will be effectively fishing all the water you float or wade through.



Alex, a member of the Flymen guide program, is a fly fishing guide at the Old AuSable Fly Shop in Grayling, Michigan and Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher in Cotter, Arkansas.

He's passionate about fly fishing, guiding, and fly tying and has been since his first introduction to it. He's been a fly fishing guide in Northern Michigan since 2000, and has been fly fishing the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers for over 20 years.

As an instructor, he's patient and willing to share his vast knowledge of trout and the rivers they live in with clients. His

college years took him to Montana where he spent days and nights fishing the Yellowstone, Beaverhead, Madison, and many other great rivers.

Years ago he began heading to Arkansas from January through March to fish and guide on the White and Norfork Rivers for the winter months. He introduced the guides and fishermen on the White River to the big streamer game, a technique which is now considered one of the most effective to target large browns on the Southern Tailwaters.



2017 Donovan Lakes Club Trip

The Club trip to Donovan lakes scheduled for April 2017 is full. Wanted to go? Don't despair, April is a long ways off and lots of water will flow under the bridge between now and then. Contact Larry Hice and get your name on the stand-by list. Replacements will be called in the order they signed up. lhice@plasticfusion.com

Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics

- Fly anglers understand and obey laws and regulations associated with the fishery.
- Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers conserve fisheries by limiting their catch.
- Fly anglers do not judge fellow anglers and treat them as they would expect to be treated.
- Fly anglers respect the waters occupied by other anglers so that fish are not disturbed.
- When fishing from a watercraft, fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft or unnecessarily disturb the water.
- Fly anglers respect other angling methods and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to all anglers.



January Holidays

New Yeays Day. New Year's Eve is when all the fun and festivities are. We see out the old year and ring in the new. While it is often thought of as a time to drink and be merry, many people take it as an opportunity to eat and be merry. Drinking is not as much a part of the event as it was decades ago, if only because of tougher drunk driving laws.

New Years' Day on the other hand, is a time to relax and enjoy the start of a bright and promising new year....a new beginning. It is a time to be with family. After all, you haven't seen your mother in law since last year.

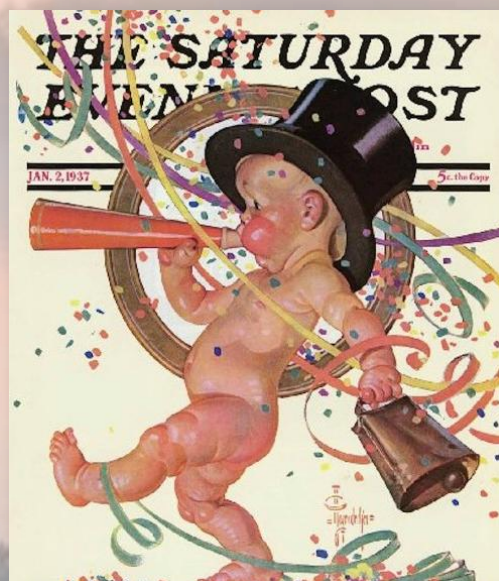
So, enjoy everything about New Year's....it only comes once a year.

To many Americans, the ball dropping at Times Square in New York City signals the start of the new year in this country. The ball was first dropped in 1908.

New Years Trivia: Did you know that a raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.

Did you make a New Year's resolution? Millions of people do. It's easy to make resolutions, yet much harder to accomplish them.

As you get well into January, those unaccomplished New Year's resolutions hang over your head. Lucky for you, there is a [Ditch Your New Year's Resolutions Day](#)



For more on Holiday Insights- tradition, fun, facts visit <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>



Our Sponsors:

- Cabela's: <http://www.cabelas.com/>
- Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher: <https://theozarkflyfisher.com/>
- Feather Craft Fly Fishing: <http://www.feather-craft.com>
- Fly South: <http://flysouth.net/>
- Golden Rule Fly Shop: <http://www.goldenruleflyshop.com/>
- Hookers Fly Shop: <http://hookersflyshop.com>
- Hunter Banks Co: <http://www.hunterbanks.com>
- International Federation of Fly Fishers: <http://fedflyfishers.org/>
- Mike Proctor-Bjorgo Tennessee Trout & Muskie Guide (931) 273 2577
- Orvis Co. Inc: www.orvis.com
- Riverside Fly Shop: <http://www.riversideflyshop.com/>
- Rivertown Gallery, Duane Hada: <http://www.rivertowngallery.com/index.html>
- Tim's Flies & Lies: (931) 759-5058
- Wapsi Fly, Inc: <http://www.wapsify.net/>
- Wishes and Fishes: <http://www.theflyfishing-store.com/>