

TVFF Club News

March 2026



TVFF Club Meeting

Jonathan Craft, Fly Fishers International Challenges (Basscatch & Suncatch) and the Redeye Bass Slam
Thursday, March 19th 7:00 PM



In this issue

- [TVFF Fly Tying Group](#)
- [February TVFF](#)
- [Louisiana Redfish](#)
- [How to pick a fly rod](#)
- [Sowbug Roundup](#)
- [Fly South & Edley's BBQ Trip](#)
- [Tallapoosa River Float](#)
- [TVFF Classified Ads](#)
- [March Holidays](#)

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

Welcome New Members:

Invite a friend to join!

This Month

- March 12 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- March 19 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- March 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 Thursday May 7th 2026, in Room 201 at the church. Members are welcome.

Alabama has more fish species than any other state. While Alabama is "trout poor", it is "bass rich". Fly Fishers International (FFI) has issued two fly fishing challenges that are meant to support the conservation of warm water fishes: the Basscatch & the Suncatch. The Basscatch challenge focuses on 19 species of black bass that are currently recognized (including 7 species of redeye bass). The Redeye Bass Slam can also be completed concurrently with the Basscatch challenge and both will be discussed. The Suncatch challenge focuses on catching different species of sunfish. The rules for the challenges will be discussed. While FFI considers these challenges to be a part of their conservation mission, completing these challenges will help improve your fly fishing prowess for any species. Tips on identifying, finding, and fly fishing for these fishes will be discussed. This will include tips on how to avoid having entries disqualified. Jonathan Craft holds two degrees in Marine Biology, has worked a decade in fishing retail, and has completed the Basscatch challenge and Redeye Bass Slam.

TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



March 12th, 7 PM

Chernobyl Ant– Debbie Hill

Cost: \$3

The Chernobyl Ant looks nothing like an ant, but could possibly resemble a mutant ant from the nuclear wasteland around Chernobyl...possibly. This is a staple dry-fly found in fly shops that can be fished by itself as solitary fly or as the dry-fly in a dry-dropper rig.

Materials

Hook: 3X long nymph hook, size 6-12

Thread: Black or Brown 6/0 or 140 denier

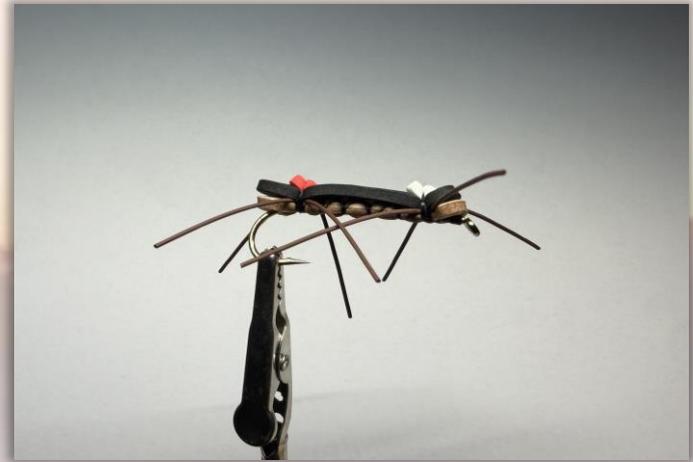
Underbody: Tan or light-colored foam

Overbody: Black or dark-colored foam

Legs: Round rubber legs

Hot Spot: Red, White, or Yellow foam

Adhesive: Head cement



March 26th, 7PM

Married Wing Flies “Colonel Fuller – Ted Crona

Cost: \$3

This week will be a bit different than what we normally do. In 2016 Ted Crona presented at the FFI Fly Fishing Fair on how to do married fly wings, he will do the same this week. He will include history and some keys to construction of these flies, and will demonstrate tying the "Colonel Fuller" and give out some tying material to do one. This is probably a fly that you wouldn't use in fishing but it teaches the tier some necessary skills if you want to progress to tying Atlantic Salmon Flies.



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.

February TVFF

Letter from TVFF President David Bailey on FFI Dues Increase and Knot Tying Class

TVFF was notified by FFI on Friday February 27 that annual membership dues would increase effective Monday March 2. The new dues structure is as follows: Standard dues increased to \$45.00 from \$35.00. Senior and Veterans \$25.00 to \$35.00 and youth is \$25.00. Dues notices sent out in February for the March /April time period will be honored under the prior dues structure, TVFF will absorb the cost difference for those 2 months. Effective May 1 the new dues structure will be in place. TVFF had no prior notice of the increase from FFI.

Starting with the March 19 meeting knot tying class will be conducted from 6:30 to 7PM for all standard TVFF meetings. This month Alan Douglas will be teaching the loop knot.

Pictures from the TVFF Rod Building Workshop

TVFF members Andy King and Dave Schlidt have been heading a rod building class for TVFF members. During the month of February the group had a lot of fun continuing to work on their rods. What a unique and fun experience! Thank you Andy and Dave for putting this on!



Louisiana Redfish

Early February, TVFF members Connor Baker, Greg Bayuga, Steve Kerkhof and Andy King took a trip down south to fish in the Gulf and target Bull Redfish. Although the fishing was a bit slow, the group had success thanks to the help of expert guides Ben Cummings and Richard Schmidt. While down there fishing, the group stayed in Ocean Springs and got to experience first hand some of that renown Mississippi hospitality. Ocean Springs is a very nice town and has some great food. Richard brought some of the town's famous donuts from the TatoNut Donut Shop. If anyone is every interested in one of the Southeast's best fishery, be sure to look up Ben Cummings (Delta Fly Fishing) and Richard Schmidt (Richard Schmidt Fly Fishing).





How to choose your first flyrod

When any of us started out fly fishing, we probably noticed there are many rods to choose from. How to choose the right one for you? Well the best bet is go to your local fly shop and tell them where you are planning to fish, what flies you are going to throw, and what fish you are planning to target. However, if you don't have a local fly shop. Flylords Magazine has a guide for the differences in rods when it comes to weight length and which one may be right for you. The full article by Spencer Durrant can be found [here](#).

What does a rod's line weight mean?

Fly rods are rated based on the line they're designed to throw. The higher the number, the larger and heavier the fly that the rod can effectively cast and place in front of fish.

Does rod length matter?

Generally, the shorter a rod is, the more accurately that rod will cast your fly line and flies. But longer rods give you the ability to make longer casts, reach across water to ensure drag-free drifts, and a bit more power and backbone for fighting wind or large fish.

What about rod action?

A fast-action rod bends in the tip section of the rod. A moderate, or medium, action rod bends in the top-third to top half of the rod. A slow-action rod bends from the tip, all the way down to the cork grip. Generally, the slower a rod's action, the more feel and feedback you'll get during the casting process. This is key for learning how to cast a fly rod, since good fly casting all comes down to feeling the rhythm of the fly line moving through the air. Picking a moderate-action rod is your best bet. You get some of the benefits of a fast-action rod's forgiveness, but you retain enough feel and feedback that you'll quickly learn what a good cast feels like.

What kind of fishing will you be doing?

If you're like most people who take up fly fishing, you're probably interested in chasing trout in rivers or smaller lakes. In that case, rods in the 4, 5, or 6-weight range are your best bet. A 6-weight is better for larger dry flies and nymph rigs and is great for use with streamers. A 5-weight is the do-it-all rod of the trout fishing world. It's light enough to handle most dry fly work, but stout enough to throw streamers and heavy nymph rigs. If you'll primarily be fishing for bass, you'll want to look at 6, 7, or 8-weight rods. Bass flies are larger and heavier, so you want a heavier line weight to effectively put these in front of fish. If you plan to go after panfish or smaller trout, a 3, 4, or 5-weight might be a better choice.

How important is top-tier performance vs affordability?

Those top-tier rods are wonderful tools, and generally speaking, they're worth the money. You're getting the latest and greatest tech and materials, backed by a warranty that'll keep you fishing the rod for decades. But you don't need that rod. There are plenty of great options at more reasonable price points. Rods around \$200 are a good place to start. Going much lower than that price point means you'll end up with a rod that was built to sell at a certain margin, and not necessarily be a good fishing tool.



2026 Sowbug Roundup

The Sowbug Roundup is **THIS MONTH**. 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.

Mountain Home, Arkansas



TVFF 2026 Fly South & Edley's BBQ Trip

TVFF will be making a club trip to Fly South of Nashville (flysouth.net) on Saturday, March 21, 2026. If you haven't been to Fly South lately they have recently moved to a larger location. If you have never visited Fly South then you are in for a treat. Fly South is known for their customer service and will be able to help you with rods, reels, fly line, waders, boots, clothing, luggage, fly tying and materials. And the list goes on, but in short, they are a full service fly fishing shop. Their knowledgeable staff will help you try a rod or line, help you shop for fly tying material or discuss guide service with you to just about anywhere in the world.

After the morning spent shopping at a leisurely pace we will leave as a group to Edley's BBQ (edleysbbq.com), a multi-award winning restaurant not far from Fly South. Edley's is casual with a wide variety of menu choices. After enjoying lunch we will return to our original departure locations.

Please join your fellow TVFF members for this fun and interesting trip to Fly South. As we get closer to departure and members have signed up for the trip we will plan on best places to meet and carpool. The planned departure time is about 7:30 am for a 9:30-10:00 am arrival time at Fly South.

Are you interested?

What: Fly South shopping followed by lunch at Edley's BBQ

When: Saturday, March 21st departing at 7:30 am

Cost: Offer a few dollars to your driver if you carpool, Edley's lunch \$10-20, your purchases at Fly South

How: Sign up on the club trip sheet at the church or contact Larry Hice (lhice@plasticfusion.com)

If you have any questions please contact Debbie: debill522@gmail.com



Tallapoosa River Float fishing with East Alabama Fly Fishing

If you attended the February meeting, you were introduced to the East Alabama Fly Fishers by our speaker, Dave Matthew Horky. Dave is a guide for East Alabama Fly fishing and specializes in shallow water fly fishing for smallmouth bass, spotted bass and red eye bass. <https://www.davidmatthewflyfishing.com/>

East Alabama Fly Fishing provides one-of-a-kind drift boat fly fishing experiences for Tallapoosa Bass and Alabama Bass. Whether you are an experienced angler looking for something new, a die-hard bass on the fly angler, or a beginning angler, their expert guides are dedicated to tailoring an experience you'll never forget. <https://eastalabamaflyfishing.com/>

TVFF is planning a trip with East Alabama one of the first weekends in May. We would travel to the Alexander, AL area Friday afternoon/evening and float with the guides from East Alabama Saturday and travel back to Huntsville Saturday evening or Sunday. There will be an option for club members to fish Sunday also.

Float Trips are 6 - 8 hours. Trips are from a drift boat style raft, include all fly rods and fly gear needed, lunch and, quality photos. Two anglers per raft. Coosa Bass and Spotted Bass are the primary targeted species. Members can use their own equipment and flies also. Nine-foot, 4-8 weight rods work well.

Cost for the guide is \$500.00 per raft and a deposit is required.

For additional information and to book a spot contact Larry Hice @ 256-508-2344 or lhice@plasticfusion.com



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: debhil522@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.

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](#).



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

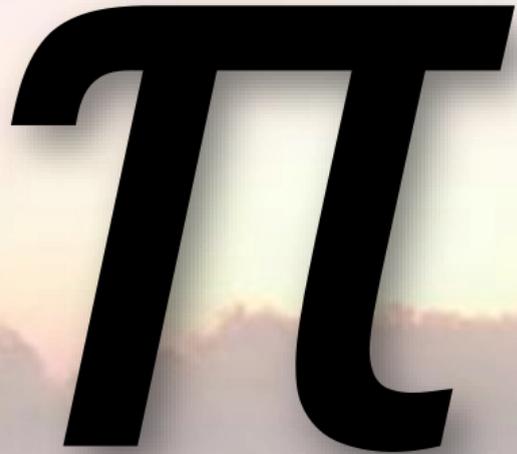
March Holidays

Pi Day – March 14th

You might have learned that $\pi = 22/7$ or 3.14 or 3.14159. It turns out that 355/113 is another very good approximation for pi. There are urban legends of various state legislatures passing laws to set $\pi = 3$. I have heard Indiana and Alabama both mentioned in those stories.

You might have been told that pi squared is the area of a circle but even little Johnny knows that pies are round.

What better day to celebrate the irrational number pie than on 3.14? The engineers I know think it is a great idea and should be celebrated with a slice of pi(e).



Tater Day – March 31st

Thanks to Wikipedia for the following:

Tater Day is a large festival in Benton, Kentucky.

It was started in 1843 as a celebration of spring, and a time when all of the townsfolk would get together and trade in sweet potato slips, used to grow the plants. It is also the oldest continuous trade day in the United States, in which goods such as guns, 'coon hounds, tobacco or livestock are swapped or sold.



Tater Day brings to town carnival rides, games, a market, a potato eating contest, mule pulls, and a "biggest potato" contest, which attracts large potatoes from across the county. The biggest part of the festival is the parade, which completes one circuit around the town. It includes political floats, Marshall County High School marching band, horses and buggies, clowns, vintage cars, horses, Miss Tater Day, and other things for which Marshall County is known. There is also Junior Miss Tater Day for little girls ages 5 to 12, and Little Mister, Tiny Miss, and Baby Miss Tater day pageants and floats for the younger kids. There is also an annual Tater day derby that is hosted at the dirt track at the Benton City Park.

Our Sponsors

“Click on ad for link”



Andy Mahurin Fly Fishing
Middle Tennessee

andymahurinflyfishing@gmail.com | (931) 252-8709
www.andymahurinflyfishing.com



NATURAL STATE
COTTER, ARKANSAS
FLY SHOP

JEFF PREDDY **THE Fly Hair Co.**
THEFLYHAIRCO.COM



THEFLYHAIRCO@HOTMAIL.COM 982-743-2992

Southeastern Fly




Riverside
Fly Shop

Alabama's Only Year-Round Trout Fishery
Brandon, MC & Randy Jackson

•Guided Trips •Kayak Rentals •Fly Fishing/ Tying Classes

(256) 287-9582
riverside@riversideflyshop.com
riversideflyshop.com

17027 Hwy 69 North
Jasper, AL 35504



BREEZY HILL
BAIT & TACKLE

3846 East Bailey Rd.
Monticello, IN 47960
(219) 253-8323

www.breezyhill-bait-tackle.com
breezyhillbait_tackle@hotmail.com



Tim's Flies & Lies Outfitters
384 Flowertown Road
Normandy, TN 37360
951-607-3645
951-759-5058
rhondalpage@cafca.net
Follow us on Facebook!

Tim Page
Rhonda Page

Specializing on Fly Fishing
on Elk and Duck Rivers



WAPSI
QUALITY FLY TYING MATERIALS
SINCE 1945

Wishes & Fishes

Guide Service  Group Trips

FLY SHOP

FlyFishArkansas.com • 870-445-3848 • Bull Shoals, AR

To become a sponsor
Contact Larry Hice
(256) 508-2344,
lhice@plasticfusion.com