



# TVFF Club News

October 2017



Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught

## This Month Program — April & Nathan Cunningham



Favored by natives...

April and Nathan, recently returned from a trip to Alaska's Naknek River region, will share with us the in and outs of fly fishing Alaska style.

## Updated Fishing Reports

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

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## This Month's Activities

- 12 Oct - Fly Tying, 7pm room 201
- 19 Oct - TVFF Club meeting, 7pm room 201
- 26 Oct- Fly Tying, 7pm room 201

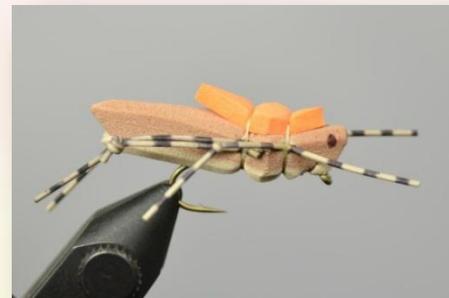


# TVFF Fly Tying Group This Month's Flies

**12 October**- Featured Tyer – Joe Tremblay

The Morrish Hopper is probably the most realistic and effective foam hopper imitation tied. In late summer, every fly fisherman knows fish are keying on hoppers and other terrestrials.

Once your standby patterns get refused or snubbed, it's time to tie on a Morrish Hopper. This pattern has the right profile with its carved and trimmed two tone foam body and enough wiggle with its rubber legs to fool fish in any conditions. Although there are a number of steps in tying the Morrish Hopper, this durable fly is really quite easy to tie once you get the hang of trimming the foam body.



**Morrish Hopper**

**26 October**- Featured Tyer – Cpt. Jesse Males

Coming live from Florida via the Internet. Cpt. Jesse Males will demo one of his signature flies, the Poppin' Flats Shrimp.

An amazing realistic shrimp pattern that really gets the attention of reds, sea trout, snook, and baby tarpon.

With action very similar to a gurgler, once a fish sees this fly it rarely turns it down! Tied on a 1/0 Mustad S71SNP-DT.



**Poppin' Flats Shrimp**

**All are welcomed! 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

Larry Hice with a Donovan bass. Caught on a Stealth Bomber during the cold spell between Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Note the jacket, not the normal early September attire in South Alabama.

Congratulations Larry



## Rainbow City Fly Fishers sponsor Great Cub Scout Fishing Rodeo



Sunday, October 17 – The Rainbow City Fly Fishing Club of Gadsden, Al sponsored the Great Cub Scout Fishing Rodeo. Nearly 30 scouts participated and all caught fish!

The Rodeo also provided four Boy Scouts a great opportunity to complete the fishing requirements and earn all four a Fly Fishing Merit Badge. Everyone had a tremendous time.



## On a mission for Redfish - [Donald Dehm](#)

The largest Kayak Fishing Event in the nation was awaiting me in Grand Isle, La. I began the journey to the epic fishing grounds on a beautiful Thursday morning, keeping an ever-watching eye on Hurricane Harvey a few hundred miles off the coast of Texas.

The drive from North AL to South LA was, by Google estimates around 8 hours, but after stopping for gas, getting out the stretch the legs now and then, and of course to ensure the kayak and other equipment was fine, I arrived in 10 hours and 15 minutes. My mission was to catch some Redfish, Trout and any other saltwater species on the fly rod as well as to promote Floating Feathers Kayak Fly Fishing School.

I arrived at Grand Isle, LA around 6:30 Thursday evening, stopped to get some photos and drove the length of the island to just get a feel for everything. Checked into the Cajun Holiday Motel and enjoyed speaking with Ms. Millie, who is a pleasure to talk with and has a wealth of knowledge about the area, and some good advice about fishing as well. I unpacked the bags and began to mentally prepare for the fishing and the tournament that would take place over the next few days.



Welcome to LA



Arrival on Grand Isle



The Bridge at Grand Isle



For those that are unaware of Grand Isle, LA, it is a premiere saltwater fishing destination. Some of the best Redfish and Trout fishing you will ever encounter is found here, as well as other saltwater species, in the backwaters, inshore, and offshore.

The area is not the pristine beaches that one may expect to find in Panama City Beach or other locations on the Gulf Coast, no 5-star resorts or white sand. The accommodations are made for those who are fishing all day and really only need a place to sleep and shower before heading out again. If you want luxury, Grand Isle is not the place to go, but if you want to do some fishing for many saltwater species, this place has to be on your bucket list.

The Ride the Bull 8 (RTB 8) Tournament began on Saturday morning, so I took some time on Friday to scout the fishing area and then do some heavily needed fishing for Redfish and Trout. I found the Kayak Launch around the middle of the island and launched the Jackson Kayak Mayfly. I had the flies, net, safety gear all ready to go, so I prepped the Orvis Fly Fishing Outfits to catch some Grand Isle backwater Reds and Trout.

The fishing began with a few Ladyfish hitting a Popping Flats Shrimp from Backwater Fly Fishing. This, of course, was not the targeted species, but they can be fun to catch, and I enjoyed them none the less. I saw a few swirls in a back pocket and had to cast over some grass to get the fly in front of the fish. When I finally got it back there, after a few casts, the fish exploded on the fly with authority and purpose. I set the hook and fought it for a few moments and then brought my first Redfish on the fly to the kayak. I was, to say the least, happy, alright ecstatic to catch my first Redfish on the fly.

I then paddled around for a few more minutes and began casting to the deeper waters that butt up next to the shallows, this is when a good size Speckled Trout inhaled my Popping Flats Shrimp fly and came out the water fully to do it. This was my first of those species on the fly as well. I had a great time fishing that day and ended up catching some more Ladyfish and losing a few decent other fish before heading back to shore to go to the RTB 8 Captains' meeting.



**Poppin' Flats Shrimp**



**First Redfish on the fly**



**First Speckled Trout on the Fly**



**I was really happy with this fish**

I think I should take some time to tell you a little about the Ride the Bull Tournament so that you can get some background on what the tournament is about. This tournament is an annual event, and this was the 8<sup>th</sup> year for the tournament. The premise of the tournament is to catch the heaviest Bull Redfish.

To be a Bull Redfish in LA the length of the fish must be at least 27". The top 5 anglers win their choice of kayaks and prize money. There are also great prizes for 6 - 10 place as well as best in Youth, Lady Angler, and heaviest fish on the Fly rod.

This year the event was held on August 25 and 26th at the Bridge Side Marina in Grand Isle, LA. The Captains' meeting was held on Friday afternoon with free food, free entertainment, and plenty of people to talk with. The Safety meeting was held at 7 am Saturday morning and the fishing began shortly thereafter. This event allows fly rods, artificial baits, and live/dead bait to be used.



All competitors are allowed on the water, however, they cannot fish or leave the marina area until the "shotgun" start is official. This year there were 530 competitors racing to get to their spots once the official start was given. There were all kinds of kayaks, stand up paddle boards, and canoes in this year's event, some tandem and we even saw one triple person Hobie kayak, that thing was huge! Out of all the people fishing this year, only 117 Bull Redfish were officially caught. Some anglers caught multiple fish, so the number of people who caught qualifying fish was around 90.



The awards ceremony was postponed for around two hours as a 15-year-old Youth competitor hooked into a Bull Redfish 10 minutes prior to the Tournament stop time. The young man's father and I talked about how his son had caught large fish before this event and how he was confident his boy would be able to bring in the fish for weigh in. Unfortunately, the young angler's line snapped as the Monster Bull Redfish was just getting within reach of the Kayak. He was using lighter tackle and it just couldn't withstand the stress of that large of fish. The young man did end up winning the Youth division with other fish, so it was still a good day for him.



**Waiting for the official Start**



**Searching for BULL REDS**



**A few last cast on this Spot**

Though I was one of the over 400 anglers that did not catch a Bull Redfish, I had some great fun. As far as I know I was the only fly fisher, let alone the only one who used a fly rod exclusively for this event. I was told that I was a "purist", but I liked the feeling of being the underdog.

It did make me questions whether I crazy for trying to compete against all these other anglers that were using live bait. Was I naive to think that I could fish in such a tightly confined area with sometimes no more room than 20 or 30 feet to cast in? Maybe in both cases the answer is yes, but I had fun, made some great friends and even got a few photos out on the water.

As the tournament came to a close, I decided to return to the spot I fished the day before the tournament, possibly I felt the need to redeem myself. It was just before sunset when I hooked a Redfish, again on the shrimp fly, caught about a dozen Ladyfish, missed a huge Trout all before paddling back to the Kayak Launch. I headed back to the Motel and fixed a ham sandwich, tossed some chips on a plate and ate dinner with my friend while enjoying the view of the Marsh from our balcony.



I got up Sunday morning and began the trip back to AL with no regrets about anything that weekend. I set out to have fun, catch fish that we don't have in Northern AL, and make some new friends. I accomplished that mission fully and therefore, had nothing to be disappointed about, except maybe that I didn't stay longer.



One of the most interesting things about the trip was that I got to see a 30-foot Sperm Whale that had sadly passed away. The Wildlife and Fisheries personnel there to take samples and figure out what happened to the Whale.

I got some photos of the Whale on the beach and spent some time talking with authorities about the Whale. I came away with the appreciation of seeing something that most will never get to. I am not sure the cause of death has been released yet, some say it may have been due to Hurricane Harvey. I had never seen a Sperm Whale this close up before, their mouths are skinny, but long, their tongues are really big.

I plan on returning to Grand Isle to fish with friends and make some more great memories. I will be back next year for the Ride the Red Bull, fly rods in hand and armed with the knowledge gained this year and the hope of landing a Grand Isle Bull Redfish.

My next fly fishing trip is in early October. I will be heading to Huntington Beach State Park, South Carolina for a gathering of Kayak Fishing enthusiasts and more saltwater fishing action. I will take the lessons learned on the Grand Isle trip and use them to help catch me some more Redfish, Trout, and maybe even a Flounder or two.

Links:

Backwater Fly Fishing (Poppin' Flats Shrimp fly): <https://backwaterflyfishing.com/>

Floating Feathers Kayak Fly Fishing School: <https://www.kayakflyfishingschool.com/>

Ride the Bull: <http://www.ccalouisiana.com/cca11/index.php/ride-the-bull-kayak-tournament>

Bridge Side Marina: <http://www.bridgesidecabinsandmarina.net/>

## 2017 TVFF Board of Directors Elections

The success of our club depends greatly on the participation of its members and their willingness to serve. Every year we canvas our members looking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity for you to serve the club and our community.

The term of office for Vice President, Secretary, Education Director, and Conservation Director run out at the end of December. Nominations to fill these important positions are being accepted.

Think about the impact you could have on the club, fellow fishermen, and your favorite fishing holes! It doesn't take years of experience. All it takes is a willingness to serve.

Still worried? don't be. You won't have to start from scratch. Much of the ground work has been done and current and outgoing board members stand ready to assist you.

[Click Here](#) to submit your name, or nominate a friend, for any of the following positions; Vice President, Secretary, Education Director, or Conservation Director. Be sure to state which position you wish to serve in.

Your participation is vital to the growth and well being of our club.





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## River News by Rhonda Page

Happy Fall Ya'll!

Are you ready for some cooler temps? I sure am!  
I don't really have a lot of news this month BUT the ELK River was stocked with rainbows on September 14<sup>th</sup> and fishing has been really good whenever TVA allows for recreational flow of 240 cfs.

Some browns and nice brook trout have been caught at the dam over the last few weeks. Olive woollies size 10, black zebra midges size 18-22 and standard nymphs continue to work well.

The Duck River stocking will begin in November with rainbows stocked monthly thru May or June.

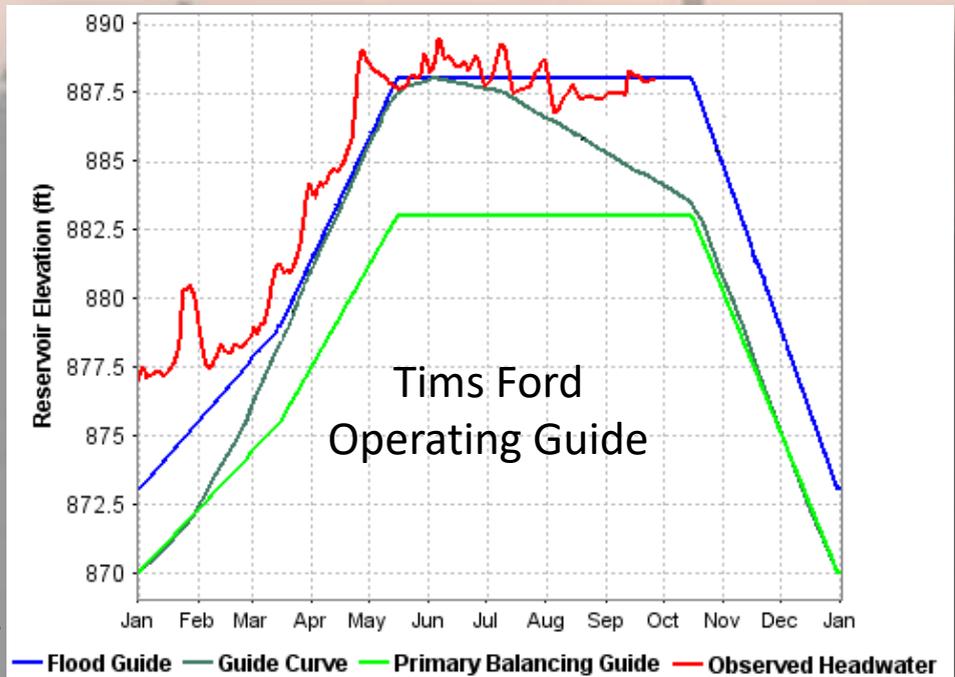
REMEMBER, TVA currently plans to begin the annual lake draw down around mid October and it will most likely be heavy generation until winter pool levels are achieved.

Take care and fish on!  
Rhonda @ Tim's Flies and Lies

Note: Tims Ford's lake level (red line) is currently at the Flood Guide (blue line). Almost 3 ft above the guide curve (green line). The level needed to keep the reservoir ready for flood events .

3 feet doesn't sound like all that much, but when spread over a 10700 acre lake it comes out to be 10.5 billion gallons of water.

That will take a lot of generating and some time to reach the desired levels.





# Fly fishing hacks: How to not forget anything on your next fishing trip

Sept 12, 2017 by John Zimmerman

Reprint from *The Flymen Fishing Co. blog*. For this and other great articles go to <https://flymenfishingcompany.com/blogs/blog>

**“Rod, reel, pack, waders, boots, lanyard. Oh yea, socks!”**

I have repeated this mental check list at least 1,500 times over the last 10 years.

Being organized from the moment you leave the house to having an organizational system in place for when you’re on the water will keep you fishing more and spending less time looking for that stream thermometer you left at home anyway!

I started getting organized in my fishing habits after arriving at the South Holston River (a 2.5-hour drive for me) one winter day and realized that in my morning grog (or hangover if I’m being honest) I took off with no waders and no reel. I vowed that would never happen again.

Here are my tricks for never again showing up at the river without a rod or boots or a reel or fly boxes – something that each of us has done, even if we’ll only admit to ourselves that we went on a hike that one day instead of fishing because we packed two left-foot boots!

## 1. Keep all your fly fishing gear in the same place.

Keep it in the same part of the same room. All of it stays right there together.

In your excitement to get to the river or hitch up the boat, you’re far more likely to forget an important piece of equipment if you’re having to go to different parts of your house or storage unit to gather individual items.

Here’s how I do it:

All of my reels are lined up on a table by line size. This helps me make sure that when I pluck a rod from the rod racks, I don’t pick up a mismatched line to go with it.



All of my rods are organized in the rod racks first by weight and then by length. It makes it really easy for me to walk into my equipment room and pluck exactly the rod that I want because of how they’re organized. I save a lot of time this way. Time saved in the rod room = more time in the river.

Waders and boots are gathered together and organized by size; pairs are tied together by the shoestrings in an easy to remove loop knot – remember that two left boot jab from above? Yeah, that happened. Fly boxes never leave the storage tub unless they’re getting refilled.

## 2. Buy one of those \$15 tubs from your local discount store.

This tub will be your new best friend in fly fishing.

You think I'm kidding, but if you follow these instructions for packing your tub, you will never arrive at the river without something you need again and your stuff won't go missing in your car from getting jostled around on those backcountry roads on your way to your favorite blue line.

Imagine your process when you arrive at the stream. For me, this is how my process goes when I pull up to the river:

- I put my socks and waders on.
- Then my boots.
- Then I grab my rod and joint it together.
- I then affix the reel.
- I then pull off enough leader and line to run the fly line through the guides. Now it's time to get serious. Fishing is coming soon.
- I put my pack on and dangle my lanyard across my shoulders and neck.
- I examine the current leader to see if it needs to be replaced. If it does, I reach into my pack and pluck a new one from the pack. If it doesn't, I pull off a yard of fresh tippet and tie on.
- I reach into my pack, select a fly box, tie on a fly. I'm ready to fish.



What on earth does that have to do with getting organized? I pack my tub in reverse order of my gearing up process.

So in my tub:

- My pack and lanyard are at the bottom.
- My reel and fly rod are in the middle.
- My waders and boots are at the top.

If you pack your tub in reverse order of how you gear up:

- You'll be efficient in your gearing up time (which means more time fishing) because the next thing you need is the next thing in the tub.
- You'll never forget what you need at home!

## 3. Organize your pack!

I watch so many clients waste our time on the river digging through their vests or their packs looking for this thing or that, which many times they don't even have to start with!

In the front of my pack, I keep all of my spare leaders organized and rubber bound together by length first and then by size.

Everything that goes on a leader is also in that section of my pack; tippet rings, strike indicators, splitshot, etc. If goes on a leader, it's with the leaders!



The next section of my pack is where the flies are kept.

I organize this section by fly weights and fly kinds.

Nymph boxes on the right; streamers, dries, midges, eggs and worms, on the left.

Everything that gets added to or used to deal with a fly is with the flies—silicone products for water proofing, shammy material for drying off waterlogged dries, etc.

#### 4. Organize your boxes by kinds of flies and by sizes.

There's nothing worse than going through your boxes looking for that one fly you know you have but you can't find it because it's blending in with all the other ones.

I organize my boxes by size first and then by kind. All of the 14s in a nymph box, for example, are lined up by rows of kind. Then all of the 16s are lined up in rows of kind.

And yes, I am that OCD that I replicate my row organization in the sizes! You don't necessarily have to do that...

#### Put it in action.

Getting and staying organized will save you so much time getting to the river, preparing to fish once there, and while you're fishing.

More time saved on the exterior stuff = more time fishing = probably more fish caught.

Use these tips to get and stay organized for your next 10 years of fishing.

And if you're really good, you'll do all of this the night before so that your morning hangover doesn't deter your efforts!



Fly box full of [Surface Seducer Double Barrel Bass Bug poppers](#).

#### About John Zimmerman:

John Zimmerman (right) is co-owner of [Upper Creek Angler](#) and co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of [Casting for Hope](#) with Taylor Sharp (pictured left).

*Upper Creek Angler is a guide and custom-built fly-rod service based in Morganton, NC.*

*Casting for Hope is a regional nonprofit that serves women and families in Western North Carolina following a diagnosis of ovarian or other gynecological cancer through financial assistance and retreat programs.*

*Casting for Hope's flagship fundraiser is the only official Trout Legend Gold-Level fly-fishing competition on the east coast and one of just three in the United States.*



## September Holidays

### Frankenstein Friday

**Date When Celebrated :** last Friday in October

Frankenstein Friday celebrates the birth of Frankenstein and its creator. Frankenstein is one of the best known horror characters, dating back to the 1800's. We can't imagine the Halloween season without the presence of Frankenstein, lurking somewhere in the darkness.

Frankenstein was born in 1818 when Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, at the age of 21, wrote the story "Frankenstein".

Frankenstein's Mother: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Frankenstein's Father: Boris Karloff

To celebrate this day, we suggest you read the novel, or see a Frankenstein movie.

**Quote for the Day:** "Puttin' On the Ritz"

**The Origin of Frankenstein Friay:** Ron MacCloskey, the creator of this special day, by awarding "The Franky" to someone who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of Frankenstein. Maybe next year, you will receive the coveted "Franky" award.



## Halloween

**Date When Celebrated :** Oct 31st

It's absolutely Halloween. And, Halloween is absolutely the best holiday of the year. It is the favorite for many of us, as there is no stress, no overload, and no "Holiday Depression". It's just absolutely fun.

You will absolutely find the best of the net here. Seen a neat one? Seen a scary one? Seen a fun one? Email it to us to share with others.

Bats, the Bizarre, Dracula, Ghosts, Witches, Graveyards, Ghouls, Haunted Houses, Halloween Movies, Paranormal, Halloween Parties, Pumpkins, Skeletons, Scarecrows, Vampires..... You name it, we'll take you to it.

**Quote for the Day:** "Home is where the haunt is!"

**Did you know?** Kids beware! About 9 t of 10 parents admit to sneaking a treat from their kids treat bag.

**The Origin of Halloween:** It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from Celtic harvest festivals that may have pagan roots, particularly the Gaelic festival Samhain, and that this festival was Christianized as Halloween. Some academics, however, support the view that Halloween began independently as a solely Christian holiday.

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





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