



TVFF Club News

May 2017



**Remembering all who sacrificed as we celebrate
V-E Day & Armed Forces Day**

This Month Program – Jim Johnson

Jim is the owner of the Naknek River Camp

Founded the on the basic premise that Alaska was just too amazing to be kept as a playground for the rich.

Jim and his wife Phyllis set out to create Alaska's Affordable Alternative, featuring 10 comfortable cabins located within Katmai National Park, at the Outlet of Naknek Lake.

This unique location offers quick access to both the Naknek River with its prolific runs of salmon and trophy rainbow trout and to the wadeable wilderness streams that feed into the incredibly beautiful Naknek Lake.



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This Month's Activities

- 4 May – BOD Meeting, 7pm room 201 – Open to all
- 11 May – Fly Tying, 7pm room 201 Chubby Chernobyl
- 18 May - TVFF Club meeting, 7pm room 201
- 25 May - Fly Tying , 7pm room 201 Bully's Bluegill Spider



TVFF Fly Tying Group

The Warm Water Series continues with two great flies that are sure to please. Often overlook our warm water ponds and creeks are full of bream and small bass. You don't have to go far from home to enjoy a few hours wading a clear water stream or one the many small ponds just a few minutes from home. What better way to introduce kids to fly fishing that nonstop bream on a fly?

11 May - First up is Bryan Bouma tying one of his favorites, the Chubby Chernobyl. This fly will quickly show you the diversity of species that live in our creeks. Largemouth, red eye, rock and smallmouth bass as well bream of all species have fallen prey to hopper patterns.

25 May - Next up is Donald Dehm tying Bully's Bluegill Spider. This is the go-to fly for targeting bluegill. A great fly whether you're spending time with the Family or just have a hankering for some bream. As hard as they fight, I wish Bluegills would grow as big as bass. But then they would be Americas top game fish.



Chubby Chernobyl



Bully's Bluegill Spider

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

7 lb 14.4 oz large mouth bass caught on a white stealth bomber on April 21, 2017.

Mark landed the biggest bass during the 2017 TVFF Club Trip to Donovan Lakes in Marion Alabama.

Just a bluegill short of 8 pounds, this beauty did not give up easily putting up a fight to remember.

Congratulations Mark!

Send your fishy photos to editor@tvff.club



2017 Alabama Photo Contest

Enter you photos in in any of the 12 categories listed below and win prizes and recognition for your photographic talent. [Click here for details](#).

Entries will be accepted from April 1, 2017, through August 31, 2017. Entries must be submitted online. The contest is open to adults and youth. You may enter up to 10 photos all in one category or divide the 10 among several categories.

Categories include: Birds of a Feather, Watchable Wildlife, Cold-blooded Critters, Bugs and Butterflies, State Park Adventures, Sweet Home Alabama, Coastal Life, Water Under the Bridge, Nature-Based Recreation, Shoots and Roots, Advanced Amateur , Young Photographer



International Federation of Fly Fishers is now Fly Fishers International

Excerpt from FFI's President, Len Zickler, letter announcing the change and the reason for it.

"So why the change?

Change can be difficult, and we want you all to know that the process leading up to this evolution involved hundreds if not thousands of hours of in-depth discussions and thoughtful debate among board members and dedicated volunteers.

Rebranding and a potential name change was originally identified for consideration by the Strategic Planning Committee when it first met in May Of 2015. Why was it being discussed? Certainly, one key issue revolved around the name: based on research, fly anglers do not find the name "International Federation of Fly Fishers" appealing, nor did it sound like a modern organization. Looking at the average age of IFFF membership, organizational goals for growth, and a perceived lack of relevance among some fly fishing groups, we knew it was time to ask some hard questions.



The process of exploring potential rebranding began with the hiring of a marketing and branding agency, which was tasked with evaluating current recognition of the organization within the fly fishing community, and to document and analyze the thoughts and opinions of our members regarding our current brand presence.

Early on, questionnaires were sent to three sample populations: the general fly fishing community, current IFFF members, and members who had allowed their IFFF membership to lapse. Although the three sample populations were diverse in terms of their demographics and relationship to the Federation (members versus non-members), their comments were consistent.

One of the most jarring results was that up to 88% of non-member fly anglers had never even heard of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (and we've been around since 1964). Another result made it clear that, while our core mission was still very relevant, there was a disconnect between what we do in the context of our mission, and what people think we do.

Overall, the survey results were quite clear: our organization needs to do a much better job of informing both members and the general public of what we do, and why that mission is critical to ensuring our opportunity to fly fish doesn't vanish. From protecting public access to passing on the art of fly tying, or teaching two-handed casting to addressing overcrowding and habitat degradation, there is a clear need for the voice of the fly fisher to be heard.

Therefore, leadership agreed a name change was central to this rebranding—and to signal, in no uncertain terms, a fundamental evolution was underway. Through further research and discussion, Fly Fishers International was recommended as the strongest name choice. The name incorporates elements of our current name, but is reconceived in a simple, straightforward way that emphasizes our primary market target—people who fly fish—while embracing the international presence that we continue to nurture and expand.

Finally, Fly Fishers International is also already echoed in the name of our organization's long-time publication, *Flyfisher Magazine*, offering another level of recognition among our current members, corporate partners, and the fly fishing community as a whole. *Continued on next page*

As many of you have rightly pointed out, organizational change will not simply occur with the change of our name. A great deal of hard work lies ahead. We recognize the need to do a much better job of increasing public awareness for the great work our organization continues to accomplish, and for taking better advantage of the partnerships, potential projects, and other opportunities that could benefit from FFI's help in making positive impacts.

But these efforts won't be nearly as effective without your help. Please join Fly Fishers International as we work together to cultivate conservation, education, and community within the sport of fly fishing."

Earth Day Celebration – April 22nd

Ignoring the ominous forecast, eight TVFF members arrived early Saturday morning setting up in anticipation of the 5000+ visitors projected to attend this year's Earth Day Celebration.

Luckily, we were able to get both canopies, the club's signs, the tying tables and literature up before it started to rain. And rain it did, the sky opened up and heavy rains threaten to make this year's Earth Day Celebration an Earth Day Disaster.

Fortunately the rain relented. At 10:00 the gates opened and the first determine visitors began to appear followed by ever increasing numbers as the weather continued to improve.

Ted Crona, Tom Wallace, Joe Tremblay and Bill Pittinger tied safety pin flies for the younger visitors while Kent Gilliland, Larry Hice, Walt Keller and Chips Rocher answered questions from curious guests and took turn to helping kids improve their casting skills with the club's practice rods.

Many expressed an interest in the club, fly tying and fly fishing for warm water species and signed up to receive the club's newsletter. I would not be surprised to see a few at our next meeting.

Earth Day continued unabated till 2:00 pm with no break for lunch. There's no need to feel sorry for us though, we managed to keep our energy level high by munching on free popcorn, cotton candy and hot dogs!

As the last of the visitors departed, we packed and loaded up before heading off to Big Cove BBQ for some much deserved rest and a late lunch provided by the club.

Earth Day is by far the best opportunity for the club to promote fly fishing. With the thousand people attending, it can be difficult to keep up so your help is always needed and appreciated.

Thanks to this year's volunteers for supporting the 2017 Earth Day Celebration.





The TVFF annual bass trip to Donovan Lakes - By Kent Gillian

I arrived at the Donovan Lakes Fishing Club and Inn, April 17 anticipating a great week of fly fishing for lunker bass. It didn't take long to get settled in the comfortable 1880 converted farm house, stock the refrigerator, and rig the rods and boats for the first evening's fishing.

It took about two hours of fishing to figure out the bass weren't as excited about the event as we were. An hour prior to sunset the bass became more active and while the white stealth bombers and poppers enticed the first bass, they weren't as active as in previous years. Most of us left the lakes that evening catching a few bass or having a few good strikes. By then we were all looking forward to a light dinner, prepared by our TVFF chefs, a few fish stories, and short night's sleep so as to be on the water again before sunrise. The fishing was pretty exciting for the first hour, but then the bass went back to their beds.

That was pretty much the pattern of the fishing for most of the week. The Donovan Lakes veterans believed the bass were still bedding, and by weeks end the fishing would improve; and it did. Gradually the number of bass caught, their size, and of course the stories, grew and grew.

By mid-week, Bill had the lead with a 5 lb. 2oz. bass, but Dick, Larry, and Joe were all contenders for second place. Fortunately, the others members were all catching 2 ½ to 4 lb. bass. These Donovan bass are hard to forget with their impressive thrashing strikes on our top water bugs.

Then there was Thursday, with the Curtis – Pittenger noodling incident that provided lots of laughs as both told their versions of the incident. The only thing certain is the two of them did produce a 4+ lb. bass.

Friday morning, April 21 we were all wishing the bass would make their beds and attack our bugs before we packed up and headed back to Huntsville. They did, long enough for Mark to land a 7 lb. 14oz. and Joe a 5 lb 2oz.. bass. What a finale!

We have to thank those club officers and members for making this a fantastic and memorable trip. Thank you Dick, Joe, and Larry for bringing your boats. The trip wouldn't have been possible without your generosity.

For those TVFF Club members that have not had an opportunity to attend a Donovan Lakes trip, the dates are set for next year's trip! Take the opportunity to go some year – you won't forget it.



The BIGGEST - 7lb. 14.4 oz.



The smallest – 5.3 inches



The Great Noodling Incident – by Joe Tremblay

The annual Club Trips to Donovan are always entertaining and a source of fish tales to be told and retold at TVFF outings for years to come. This year was certainly no exception and is sure to go down in TVFF annals as the year of “The Great Noodling Incident”.

We arrived to Donovan to find most of the bass on their beds signaling less than aggressive fish for the coming days. Sturdivant Lake’s lunker bass were guarding a bed about every 3 feet along shoreline for at least 300 yards and Donovan Lake had the similar situation along more than a mile of its shoreline.

But all was not lost. The unusual spring weather had interrupted the annual spawn and enough females had not returned to their beds to give everyone the a shot at a nice fish or two every day.

As is the custom, pictures of the days catch were shared and admired by all during lunch and dinner breaks. Table talk was dominated by fly selection and how to best present them. Everyone joined in touting their favorite fly or color making for some lively discussions.

Table talk continued along these lines for several days with the occasional fish tale injected here and there to liven things up, when out of the blue, Bill dropped a bomb. *“If someone noodles a bass, does it count?”*

What did Bill say? Did Bill just suggest that someone had noodled a bass off it’s bed? Can’t be! Not a fly fisher!

After the roar died down and a semblance of calm had returned, Bill continued “Dick noodle a 4 lb 14 oz bass earlier today”. Stunned by the possibility that a fly fisher of Dick’s standing would resort to noodling a bass was more than anyone could stand. We had to get to the bottom of this and soon.

Dick denied any wrongdoing as he recounted his version of the incident in great detail. Claiming he was merely trying to free the fish that had become entangled in several feet of water under a submerged tree and had no choice but to lip the fish. Bill on the other hand insisted that from his vantage point, it looked a lot like noodling.

FLW and B.A.S.S. tournament rules were perused for guidance. Witnesses were questioned, photographic and forensic evidence (tooth marks left by the bass on Dick’s fingers) were examined, in short, every aspect of the alleged noodling incident was examined from every possible angle. No stone was left unturned, no question was left unanswered in our quest for the truth.

After hours discussion and thoughtful deliberations interrupted by periods of uncontrolled laughter, it became clear that Bill, unwilling to let a good fish tale go untold, chose to interpret Dick’s deep water lipping as noodling, thus laying the foundations of another TVFF fish tale certain to be embellish is told and retold as for years to come.



The Alleged Noodler



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River News by Tim & Rhonda Page

Hello, you fish lovin' folks! Hope all is well!

2017 TWRA Annual Elk River Shocking Survey

TWRA shocked up an abundance of brown trout in the average size of 10"-12" range. Several more were shocked up in the 16"-28" range. There were many more browns in the 11"-16" range size in 2017 than in 2016 so they appear to be thriving despite the low rainfall and quite warm conditions we experienced in much of 2016. The number of larger browns shocked up in the 16"-28" range from 2016 and 2017 appeared to be almost equal. So, hopefully the regulation to protect the browns is helping.

The rainbows also appeared to have fared well even with what appeared to be adverse conditions in 2016. Rainbows in the 14"-15" range were much more abundant this year than last. In the 16" and up size range, however, they were virtually nonexistent. I do know that there have been quite a few of these larger rainbows harvested in the last 4-5 years. Maybe TWRA will consider imposing a regulation on them at some point but it appears their current focus is on making the Elk a trophy BROWN trout stream.



TWRA Shocking Boat

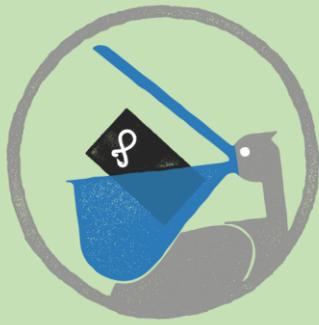
Elk and Duck Rivers Stocked

In the last few weeks, Dale Hollow has stocked 20,000+ browns as well as the normal stocking of approx 3,000 rainbows in the Elk. The Duck was also stocked with the monthly stocking of rainbows mid month. The Duck and the Elk will possibly be stocked again in the first couple of weeks of May with rainbows. However, if we continue to get a lot of rain, it will depend on generation on the Elk and spill on the Duck. When generation or high spill are occurring, TWRA will advise Dale Hollow to wait before stocking during these high water conditions return to normal when possible.



Below Tims Ford Dam

We received a lot of rain on April 21-23 and it looks like TVA will be generating on the ELK and releasing high spill on the DUCK for a while since the lakes are full!!! There will also be a stocking of brook trout around the end of May if things go as planned. Always check TVA.gov for Normandy/Duck and Tims Ford/Elk before making the drive up so you won't be disappointed.



The Waide

The fly fishing blog for those who wade.

The 5 Bass Flies You Should Carry At All Times

April 12, 2017 Ben Duchesney



Bass and other warm water species get a bad rap for being easy to catch anywhere, but show a largemouth or a smallmouth the same lure or fly a few times and they'll be as picky as a stuck up rainbow.

That's why soon after ice out, when everyone and their grandmother has gone bass fishing for the first time since last season, bass are already starting to smarten up. It takes the right flies in your flybox now that separates from the everyday angler to the fly angler that actually hooks up.

1) Woolly Bugger

I know. You're probably thinking this is a cheaps hot since I even listed the woolly bugger as a fly you always need for trout in the article linked above. I can't say it enough though, any fly guide I talk to, no matter where I am in the world, says their go to fly is the woolly bugger when they're not sure what else to throw.

The fact that this simple fly has so many variations that make it even better means you can have a whole box full of woolly buggers and always be throwing something different. Plus, all of them will work.

2) Clouser Minnow

Everyone, including me at times, always thinks of the Clouser Minnow as a saltwater fly, but that's only because it works so well in the salt. What they might not know is that Bob Clouser, who invented the pattern, actually designed it for his favorite species, smallmouth bass.

The perfect blend of weight, simple and effective profile make this fly work no matter what species you're throwing, but especially for bass. I love to tie it up sparsely, with minimal bucktail so that the shape is as translucent as possible to mimic my local baitfish. I could fish all day long only throwing a Clouser Minnow and catch fish from sunrise to sunset. I love this fly so much I'm even getting it tattooed onto my arm.

3) Crawfish Patterns

As often you'll hear bass anglers talking about crawfish you'd think they would be the main forage for bass all year long. In reality, the only time fish are keying in on this tiny freshwater lobsters is during The Spring. That's why having a wide array of colors, sizes and stages of crawfish is smart when filling your flybox this time of year.

The best part of fishing crawfish patterns is watching them eat. Like fishing for bonefish or striped bass on the flats, you can cruise the shallows of your local lake or pond casting crawfish patterns to smallmouth bass and watch them chase down their prey all day long. The only difference is you can actually see these bass coming. Usually.

4) Topwater Popper

You can't always fish a popper during the Spring like you can while you're wearing board shorts and drinking a cold one on those long Summer afternoons, but you can every once in a while. Whenever there is a string of warm, sunny weather, I'll tie on a topwater popper and see if any bass are happy enough to want to come out and play. If I see any interest at all, that's all I'll throw for the rest of the day.



Largemouth bass can be a lot of fun on the fly, especially after a very long Winter.



Find out what you should be putting in your box this month, if you don't already have one of ours.



The trick to actually catching fish on a popper fly instead of just getting failed swipes and blowups without a hook up is patience. Instead of setting the hook as soon as you see the fish strike, wait an extra second until you feel the weight of the fish on your line. Also, sometimes bass just swipe at the fly trying to stun their prey. If a fish swipes, but doesn't take it, pause the bait and wait for them to come back. Chances are they will.

5) Topwater Frog

Just like the topwater popper, a frog doesn't always work, but when it does it's probably the most exciting way to fish this time of year. The Spring is growing season and the lily pads in your local fishery are going to start filling in the shallows and coves in full force any day now. As the pads and stalks rise, so do your chances of catching a bass on a topwater frog.

Look for ambush points in the field of lily pads. Anything like points, edges, or empty pockets where bass can hide underneath and wait for something to cross above is where they're most likely to be sitting. Give plenty of action on the retrieve to make the fly look like it's swimming, but don't forget to add in lots of pauses. Even long, 30-second pauses can be effective at fooling a big Spring bass into exploding onto your frog fly.



Bass sometimes surprise you and will even eat a small dry fly, so make sure to stay well stoked with a variety of flies.

Reprint from The Wade fly fishing blog. For this and other great articles go to <http://postflybox.com/blog/>

**Little River
Outfitters**

Fly Shop & Fly Fishing School

The Fishing Report for 04/25/17

(Report posted daily, click on logo for update)

Little River is flowing at 1,150 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 3.54 feet on the flow gauge. Median flow for this date is 233 cfs. The water temperature is 54.9 degrees.

Streams in the Smoky Mountains are slowly receding from record rainfall this weekend that amounted to 4" to 6" in the Smokies and the Tennessee River Valley. We are hoping, barring any more rain, that the streams will be fishable and may be waded by the weekend. The ground is saturated, so waters will recede slowly.

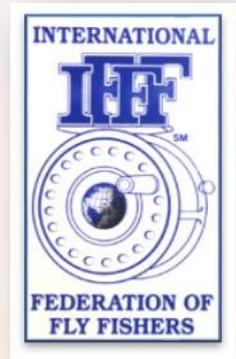
We are looking for a Little River Townsend gauge reading of around 2.5 feet. The river needs to fall about a foot in Townsend for fishing to be closer to normal and safe to wade. Smaller streams could be fishable sooner.

I saw Little River several times yesterday, from Townsend to Maryville. The river was rolling and stained. Little River Road, from Metcalf Bottoms to the Townsend "Y" is still listed a "closed" by the Park Service due to a rock slide caused by the heavy rain. It was closed at this time yesterday morning. I'm sure workers have been trying to get the road open and safe, as quickly as possible.



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.



May Holidays

V-E Day

Date When Observed: May 8

Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) commemorates the end of fighting in Europe during World War II. After years of war, The Third Reich of Nazi Germany was defeated. Millions of people were killed. Adolf Hitler, Germany's Dictator, had committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin.

The German Army ceased fighting on May 2, and formally surrendered unconditionally, on May 7th. The surrender of all German forces was arranged for May 8 at 11:01. The Allied countries planned to celebrate victory, and the cessation of hostilities.



Did you Know? The original planned date for the celebration of *V-E Day*, was May 9th, 1945. But, journalists caught wind of the plans. So, the U.S. and Britain moved the date up by a day to May 8th. Russia kept to the original planned date for May 9th. Russia still celebrates V-E Day on May 9th.

Armed Forces Day

Date When Celebrated : Third Saturday in May

This is simply a day to salute sharply all of the men and women in all branches of military, who protect you and our country. They can be called upon at a moment's notice to perform a risky and perilous mission for freedom and country. They train diligently both physically and mentally, so they will be prepared to prevail in any mission they face.

Just how did it all begin? Well, each branch of the military had their own day of celebration. But, on August 31, 1949 then Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day. President Harry Truman also announced the holiday in a presidential proclamation on February 20, 1950. All branches of the military were asked to celebrate on this day and they complied on the first Armed Forces Day which was held the following year on May 20, 1950.



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



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