



TVFF Club News

August 2023



August 17th Program

Andy Mahurin, Guide on the Caney Fork River



Our guest speaker this month is Mr. Andy Mahurin. He is a guide on the Caney Fork. If you'd like to find trout in Central Tennessee, give him a call! His bio is below and his website can be found [here](#).

"My love for fly fishing, trout and tying flies began when I first picked up a fly rod at 7 years old, but my love for outdoor adventure began long before that. Some of my favorite memories include fishing with my grandpa. My favorite species are rainbow trout and brown trout, but I also love to fish for smallmouth bass, pike, striped bass, and many other freshwater and saltwater species.

In 2017, I married my wife, Abbie. That same year, I attended Fly Fishing Guide School through Montana Fishing Outfitters out of Big Sky, Montana. We lived in Vermont for 5 years and when we had our daughter, we relocated to Middle Tennessee to guide full time on the Caney Fork River.

I work in partnership with Billy Medley of Medley Fishing School to offer guided fishing opportunities and casting lessons in Middle Tennessee. There is no greater feeling than sharing my love of fishing and the outdoors with others, and I look forward to fishing with you."

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Welcome New Members:

Jim Robinson
Mike Myszka
Aaron & Tammy Serafinowicz

This Month

- August 3 – BOD Meeting, 7 PM
- August 10 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- August 17– TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- August 24 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Bob Lowery
Secretary: Gary Jedlovec
Treasurer: Dave Bailey
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Fred Kaufmann
Conservation: Bob Lowery
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is **this month** August 3, 2023, at 7 p.m. in Room 201.

TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



August 10th , 7 PM

Bruised Balanced Leech – Andy King

Cost: \$3.00

This fly can fished with or without an indicator. It is tied on a jig hook and a straight pin is used to extend the bead forward of the eye. “Bruised” refers to the black and blue color scheme. [Balanced Leech - Bruised – YouTube](#), [Balanced Leech \(flyfishingthesierra.com\)](#)

Materials

Hook: 60 or 90 degree Jig hook, size 10

Thread: Black 140 denier

Other: Sewing Pin, 1/8 inch tungsten bead

Tail: Black Marabou, Ice Blue Flashabou

Body: Black/Blue Arizona SimiSeal

Collar: 4 Strand Rayon Floss, Orange or Yellow

Tools: Dubbing whirl, dubbing brush, wire cutter, hackle pliers



August 24th 7PM

Ol' Mr. Wiggley - Tom Vajentic

Cost: \$3.00

The Chernobyl Ant inspired Wisconsin guide Charlie Piette to create the Ol' Mr. Wiggley for smallmouth. It is a foam fly that features Silli Legs. [How to tie Ol' Mr Wiggley - YouTube](#)

Charlie Craven's column in the Aug/Sep 2023 edition of “Fly Fisherman” magazine also gives instructions for this fly.

Materials (Many other color combinations also work)

Hook: Size 1 or 2 wide gap hook, 3X long

Thread: 6/0 or 140 denier, color optional

Body: 2mm foam strip ¼ inch wide, Ice dub (Rusty Brown)

Legs: Copper Chrome Silli Legs (8per side)

Tail: Orange Silli Legs



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. Starting this month, fly tying is increasing to \$3.00 a session.



Fish of the Month

TVFF member, Connor Baker did some North Alabama smallmouth fishing. Several fish were caught on a green popper, using a 6wt flyrod, with floating line.



TVFF members, Dick Curtish and Everett Sharp visited our friends up North in Canada and targeted Pike on the fly. They caught some monster fish. Below are two of the biggest ones. Dick caught a 37 inch pike. Everett's fish is a whopping 42 inches! Fun trip!





July TVFF Recap

July Meeting

In lieu of a guest speaker for the month of August, we had an estate sale, selling Joe Tremblay's fly fishing and fly tying gear. Joe Tremblay was a dedicated member of the club, always ready to help new members fish and always eager to lead fly tying. He passed away a few months ago. All items sold went to the club.



July Fly Tying

We had great turnout for both July fly tying sessions. More than we have had in a long time. For the first session, we tied a Red-Butt Soft Hackle. For the second session we tied a classic Southeastern warmwater fly, the Stealth Bomber.





Expect to See Alligators Throughout Alabama

This article is originally from Outdoor Alabama. It was authored by David Rainer. It can be found online [here](#). An excerpt of the article is below:

An American alligator was recently sighted in the Huntsville area, which many people consider to be beyond the home range of the animal. However, alligators have lived in north Alabama for at least 60 years, according to Chuck Sykes, Director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division.

"The first documented sighting was at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (near Decatur) in 1964," Sykes said. "They've been in north Alabama for a long time.

"I get it. People who are new moving into the area who are not used to it, I can see where they could be a little panicked the first time they see an alligator. But that is suitable habitat for alligators. There is not as much prime gator habitat as there is in the southern part of the state, but there is still quite a bit up north."

Jud Easterwood, WFF's Supervising Wildlife Biologist in District I in north Alabama, said some evidence exists that alligators were living in his district much longer than that.

"We've got alligators in Wheeler Refuge and Redstone Arsenal and the areas surrounding," Easterwood said. "We have historical accounts from the late 1800s of them being there."

In the middle of the 20th century, alligators were listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and protected for 20 years until they were delisted in 1987.

"We know the population is there," Easterwood continued. "We see them at Swan Creek (wildlife management area) occasionally and at Brown's Ferry Nuclear Plant."

Recently, the housing boom in the Huntsville-Decatur-Madison triplex has encroached into areas that are suitable alligator habitat.

"They are building subdivisions literally in swamps," Easterwood said. "They're bringing in truckloads of dirt and topsoil to build these pads to put the houses on. They're building right up against the Redstone Arsenal fence. They're building these well-manicured ponds these houses are going to go around. That means fish and turtles, food sources of alligators, so everything is there for an alligator. It's perfect for them.



Photo by David Rainer

Fly Tying Hooks Explained

When you go to a fly shop, hook selection can be overwhelming. There is usually an entire wall for tying hooks. There are many different types and many different sizes. Good news, this video and accompanying chart by Savage Flies on YouTube can help you! This video is tailored towards trout fishing, but very good info nonetheless. The entire video can be found [here](#). The accompanying comparison chart is below. Other hook comparison charts from Savage Flies can be found [here](#).



Fly Tying Hook Comparison Chart

Updated: Dec 2020

	Tiemco	Mustad	Dai-ichi	Dai-Riki	J.Stockard	Partridge	Saber
Dry Fly							
Standard	100	R50-94840	1100	310	105	L5A	7010/7013
1x long	5210	94833	1170	300	115	L2A	7011
2x long	5212	94831	1280	280/730		H1A	

	Tiemco	Mustad	Dai-ichi	Dai-Riki	J.Stockard	Partridge	Saber
Wet, Nymph							
1X short, 2x strong, sproat	3769	3906	1530	075	207	G3A-L	7021
1X long, 1X strong, sproat	3761		1560	60	217	G3A-L	7230
2X long, 1X strong, round	5262	3906B	1280		225	H1A	7031
3X long, 1X strong, sproat	5263	R73	1720	710	235	H1A-L	
3X long, 1X strong, curved	2302	80050	1760	270	720H	K12-ST	

	Tiemco	Mustad	Dai-ichi	Dai-Riki	J.Stockard	Partridge	Saber
Streamer							
3X long, 1X strong	9394	9672		730			7040
4X long, 1X strong	9395		1750/2220	700	245	D4AF	7041
5X long, 2X strong		R75-79580					
6X long, 1X strong	300	3665A	2340				7042

	Tiemco	Mustad	Dai-ichi	Dai-Riki	J.Stockard	Partridge	Saber
Misc							
2X long, standard, hopper	2302		1270		430		7017
Shrimp, caddis pupa	2487	80250	1120/1130	135	500	K4A	7051
Swimming nymph	400T	80150	1770				
Stonefly nymph		81002	1730	700B			

Colt Actionrod Restored

TVFF member Jim Burchette, recently had an article published in [Global FlyFisher](#). In his article, Jim walks us through the process of restoring an old fiberglass fly rod, Actionrod. It is interesting to see the process. Clearly it is time consuming, but the final results are worth it! A summary of the article is below, the entire article can be found [here](#).

The history of Actionrod is confusing. They were a subsidiary of several different companies. Originally manufactured in Detroit, they can now only be found on places like Ebay.

The first step in restoring the rod was to remove the grip and reel seat. Then the guides had to be removed as well as the paint, essentially creating a blank. To remove the paint Citristrip was applied. After Citristrip dried, varnish was applied, creating a beautifully finished new looking blank. Jim then gathered all his components for restoration, shown below.



The new grip, reel seat were added, then the guides were wrapped with red and green thread. The result was a beautiful custom rod! Check out the pictures below and make sure to read Jim's article linked above.





King Fisher Classic

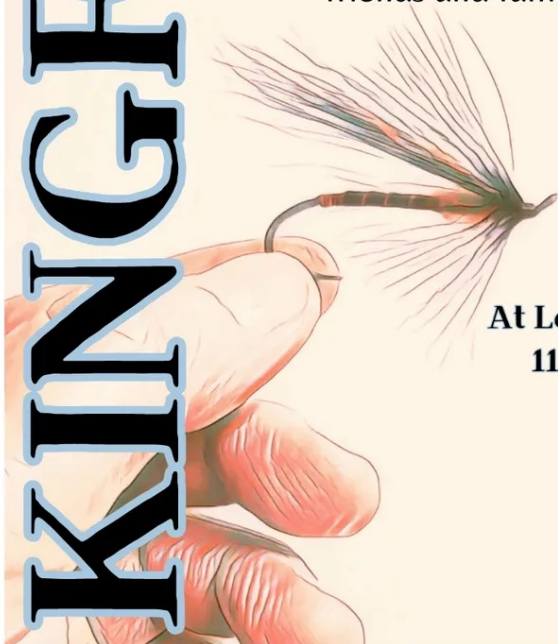
KINGFISHER



CLASSIC

**COME JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION
OF THE ART OF FLY TYING!**

Some of the world's most gifted fly tyers and designers will be demonstrating their artistry with hooks, tubes, feathers, hair, fur and synthetics. Tyers will demonstrate how to tie every genre of flies. Learn from the masters and tie some flies of your own. Bring your friends and family!



October 28, 2023

9-4:30 PM

**At Lee University School of Business
1120 N Ocoee Street Cleveland, TN**

PRESENTED BY:

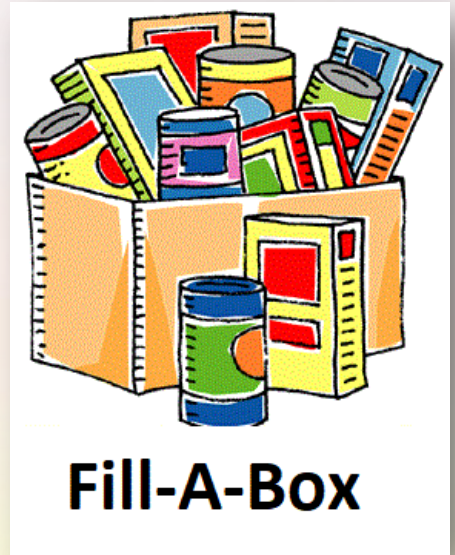


Southeastern Council

A FREE EVENT!

Food Drive Box

Faith Presbyterian Church has a community food drive box outside of the church, in their parking lot. This box receives and distributes food staple items to members of the community in need. If you would like to help, please bring non-perishable items to place in the box. Faith Presbyterian Church has generously let us use Room 201 for years. The least we can do is provide food to members of their church community in need.



Hats for Sale

Depending on your style, we have two options. A cotton lower profile charcoal colored hat, and a dark green olive colored trucker hat! A picture of each hat is below and Debbie is modeling the green one. Each hat is \$20, and all money goes towards the club. Get yours just in time for Spring fishing. Who knows, it might even be your lucky hat! See David Bailey, Connor Baker, or Debbie Hill to get yours.

Update: There are only a few of each color left, get yours while supplies lasts.



August Holidays

Watermelon Day

August 3rd, Thursday

Watermelons are a staple in the the Summertime, especially in the South! Consisting of mostly water (92%), watermelons are full of vitamins and antioxidants. Today, make sure to cut open a watermelon and enjoy with the whole family! Seedless or with seeds, you can't go wrong with a nice juicy watermelon!



Lazy Day

August 10th, Thursday

I think we have all felt a little lazy from time to time. Some weekends, mostly when fishing conditions are bad, I just want to lay on the couch all day. If I waste the entire day, usually I end up feeling guilty. August 10th, relax and don't feel guilty! You are partaking in a great holiday! However, we do have fly tying that day, so don't be so lazy that you don't show up!



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