



TVFF Club News

May 2026



TVFF Club Meeting

Movie Night, *The Serengeti Rules*

Thursday, May 21st 7:00 PM



The Serengeti Rules is a 55 minute 2018 PBS production of the series "Nature" based on the book by Sean B. Carroll. The film explores the discoveries of five pioneering scientists whose decades of research laid the groundwork for modern ecology and offer hope that environmentalists today may be able to "upgrade" damaged ecosystems by understanding the rules that govern them.

Scientists discovered that removing certain species can cause entire ecosystems to collapse, identifying these as "keystone species". A keystone species is a species that has a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment relative to its abundance. The keystone species regulates entire ecosystems. Similarly, an ecosystem may experience a dramatic shift if a keystone species is removed, even though that species might have been a small part of the ecosystem. Keystone species play a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community, affecting many other organisms in an ecosystem and helping to determine the types and numbers of various other species in the community. In short, without keystone species, an ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether.

And what would a Movie Night be without **Popcorn, Soft Drinks and Junior Mints!!** TVFF will be providing the snacks to make this movie night a fun evening. Bring a "date" if you wish and please join us for *The Serengeti Rules*.

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Welcome New Members:

Join TVFF!

This Month

- May 7 – BOD Meeting, 7 PM
- May 14 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- May 21 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- May 28 – 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 **this month** **Thursday May 7th 2026**, in Room 201 at the church. Members are welcome.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



May 14th, 7 PM

Fur Strip Clouser Minnow – Connor Baker

Cost: \$3

Another fly from Bob Clouser’s book. This one is similar to a regular Clouser, just with an added fur strip. Bob Clouser will be a speaker later this year.

Materials (Red Ass)

Hook: Size two

Thread: White 6/0

Body: Bucktail (white and chartreuse)

Tail: Zonker strip

Flash: Crystal or silver

Eyes: Medium dumbbell eyes



May 28, 7PM

Landon Mayer’s Mini Leech Jig – Mike Iffland

Cost: \$3

Fun and useful fly. Tied on hooks size 12 to size 18. Work for a variety of fish. [Video](#)

Materials

Hook: Size 12 jig hook 60 degree

Body: Pine squirrel zonker

Head: Brass bead

Collar: Ostrich hurl

Flash: Crystal flash

Thread: Black or any dark color (olive or brown)

Head cement, super glue or sally hanson

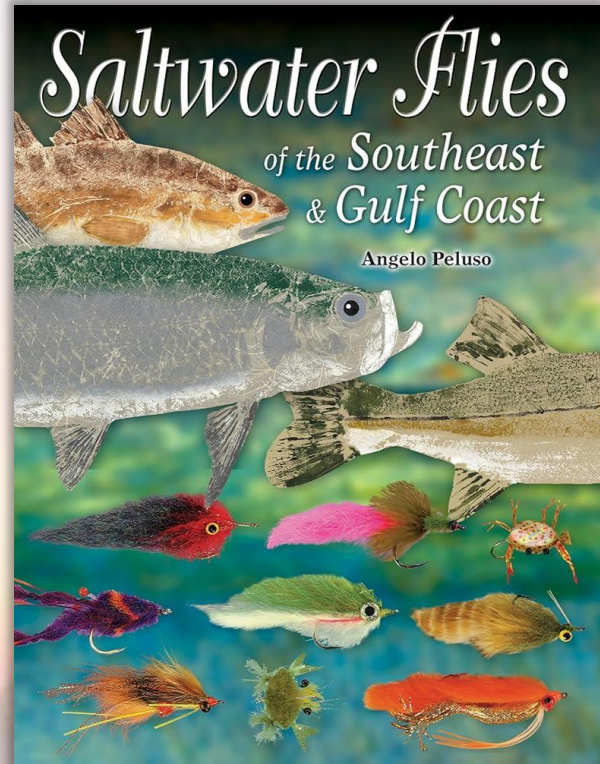


All are welcome! Fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or, better yet, one of your own design. The sessions are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m.

April TVFF

April Guest Speaker – Tom Herrington, Gulf Salt Water Expert

Salt water fly fisherman and member of the Historic Oceans Springs Fly Fishing Club Tom Herrington was our guest speaker for the month of April. Mr. Herrington has a ton of experience fishing, specifically in salt water, and even more specifically in the Gulf. He still holds the decades old Mississippi record for Cobia caught on a fly rod. In addition to being an accomplished fisherman, Mr. Herrington is a great fly tyer as well, having a lot of his work featured in the book to the right, *Saltwater Flies of the Southeast & Gulf Coast*. One of his signature flies is the Chandeleur Special and it has caught countless fish off the coast of Mississippi. Of interest, Richard Schmidt is also featured in this book. For more information on his salt water flies, check out his [this informative document](#).



Tom Herrington with a cobia taken on the fly.

Fish of the Month

TVFF member Jonathan Craft (aka Catfish Jon) caught this beast on the TN river. He was using his 10 wt full sink line with a yellow dungeon. Heck of a catch Jonathan!



Left, TVFF member Greg Bayuga caught this Bigmouth Buffalo on the Elk River. This massive fish, put up a fight, but Greg was able to eventually land it. The Elk River is known for its trout. I'm not sure who was more surprised, this fish or Greg! Way to go!

Bottom left and center, White Bass TVFF member Connor Baker caught on the Tennessee River. All caught on Feather Game Changer.

On the right is an example of something that happens when you use treble hooks with barbs!



5 Flies for River Smallies

The following is from Fly Lords Magazine, authored by Max Inchausti. The entire article can be found [here](#).

Few things are better than river smallmouth—floating down a slow-moving river in summer, casting to likely hides, and waiting for a feisty bronzeback to dart out after your offering. Luckily for anglers across the country, these fish, once native to the Midwest and parts of the Great Lakes, can now be found throughout the country, even as far as Hawaii. Regardless of where you target smallies, here are five proven fly patterns to up your success rate.

Game Changer

Blane Chocklett's invention. Many different types. Has lifelike movement and perfect for a river.



Sneaky Pete

Less of a popper and more of slider. Pops seem to work less on rivers and slides often do the trick.



Murdich Minnow

Easy and effective Smallmouth fly. Looks like a baitfish pattern and can be stripped fast through the current.



Clouser Minnow

Developed by Bob Clouser for fishing for Smallies on the Susquehanna River. Very versatile and timeless fly.

Schultz's Swingin' D

Smallmouth love jerk baits and this fly by Mike Schultz aims to imitate just that. Aggressive articulated streamer with suspended action.





TVFF Chandeleur Island Fishing Trip

The clear waters of the Chandeleur Islands offer some of the best light tackle fishing in the country. From traditional targets like speckled trout and redfish to seasonal catches like pompano, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, jacks, cobia and the occasional tarpon, the fishing is simply superb.

[The Pelican](#) is a floating lodge that has been operating in Schooner Harbor since 1985 and our hosts have decades of experience fishing the Chandeleurs – they may look salty but they are as hospitable and knowledgeable as they come!

Where: Chandeleur Pelican, located in Schooner Harbor.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3s5rfUHx9pbZhCvc8>

When: 15 - 18 October 2026

What you will need: Rod, flies, and personal items, meals are provided so bring a big appetite . WIFI provided at the Pelican.

How: We will meet at Ocean Springs, MS and be taken to the Pelican by boat. 2 complete days of fishing, plus 2 half days.

Boats are provided for every 2 people. They have 5 boats.

Cost: Is split between the number of folks. Estimated \$1300.00

Contact: Greg Bayuga if interested. 256-503-1988.



250 Years of American Independence

To celebrate 250 years of independence, the TVFF board wants to challenge our members to see how many fish the club can catch. The goal of course seeing how close our club can get to 250 fish. To participate, please send Brian Moore (cav_deuce@yahoo.com) an email with the number of fish you catch between 4/1 and 7/1. Size doesn't matter, just the number caught. The final results will be tallied at the July event. There might even be an award for the club member that catches the most. I can't think of anything better than fishing to celebrate our freedoms we have as Americans. God Bless the USA!



Upcoming TVFF Events

Below are TVFF's events through the end of the year. Hard to believe it is already May.

- ~~April: Speaker~~ Tom Herrington
- **May:** Film Night
- **June:** Short Meeting starts at 6PM at Aldridge Creek, Fishing between 6:30 and 8PM (prizes for most fish caught, largest and smallest)
- **July:** Family Picnic (location TBD)
- **August:** Annual Swap Meet
- **September:** Bob Clouser via Zoom (do not miss this one)
- **October:** Annual Membership meeting, attendance by all members greatly appreciated (2027 budget presented for approval / election of new officers)
- **November:** Annual TVFF Banquet and auction
- **December:** Holiday Fly tying and Party

TVFF News

Faith Presbyterian Church – Food Item of the Month

Thank you to all that brought canned fruit to last month's TVFF meeting for donation to the ongoing food pantry drive at Faith Presbyterian Church. This helps FPC in their efforts to provide extra food to seniors that need a little extra help each month. The item for the month of May is **Granola Bars and Breakfast Bars**. If you are able to donate a box or two please bring those to the upcoming TVFF meeting on May 21st. We will collect your donations and get those to the Food Pantry.



Alabama River Alliance – Protecting Rivers

May 13, Alabama River Alliance will be at Campus 805's cafeteria to show a few videos from their Southern Exposures film series on river conservation and empowering Alabama residents to take action to protect our rivers. Of particular interest is the film on veterans fly fishing the Tallapoosa River. Be sure to be there to support this great cause. Details are below and the Alabama Rivers website can be found [here](#).

HUNTSVILLE

Wednesday, May 13

at Campus 805's Cafeteria

Mix and Mingle at 5:30 pm | Films Start at 6 pm

Q&A + Discussion After

More info coming soon!

STORIES THAT INSPIRE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
AT CAMPUS NO. 805 CAFETERIA
 2620 Clinton Ave West in Huntsville

MIX & MINGLE WITH FOOD & DRINKS AT 5:30 PM
 FILMS BEGIN AT 6:30 PM
 Q & A + DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW

TVFF 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



Share Your Favorite Fly Fishing Guides!

We're building a comprehensive list of recommended fly fishing guides for our website. Help fellow club members plan their next trip by submitting your favorites. Email your guide submissions to radurrett@gmail.com or info@tvff.club. Please include: State, Body of Water, Outfitter, Guide's Name, and Website.



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](#).



Classified Ads

TVFF member, David Heim is selling this 5/6 wt White River fly reel. Brand new out of the box and never used. Asking price is \$40. If interested, please text David at 256-652-5402.



Add unused items to newsletter:

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 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

May Weird Holidays

National Train Day

May 9th

A holiday observed on the Saturday closest to May 19th. It was started by Amtrak in 2008 to spread word on the advantages of traveling by railroad. Emphasizing the history and societal impacts of the railroad.

May 10th is the anniversary of pounding the golden spike in Promontory, Utah. Amtrak has distanced itself from promoting the holiday due to budget cuts, but fans of the railroad continue to celebrate it. The largest celebrations take place in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles.



World Turtle Day

May 23rd

Started in 2000 by the American Tortoise Rescue. It was created to raise awareness on turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats. Some folks promote it by dressing up as a turtle.

As fisherman, we have often run ins with turtles. Sometimes they can be a nuisance when fishing, stealing our flies and accidently getting hooked into one. But next time you see one, appreciate them and enjoy them!





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EAST ALABAMA FLY FISHING
Photo by Craig Godwin



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8:30 am Faith in the Morning &
10:30 am Traditional



To become a sponsor
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