



# TVFF Club News

April 2017

"Everyone should believe in something;  
I believe I'll go fishing."  
-Henry David Thoreau



## This Month Program - Mike Proctor-Bjorgo

Mike is this month's Featured Guide and some lucky member will win a Full Day guided trip for two!

Mike is a Veteran Alaska guide and Former Paramedic who currently guides for trout, smallmouth, muskie, and rock fish (stripe bass) in his home waters of middle Tennessee.

Married with three kids at home, Mike enjoys spending as much time on the water with them as possible.

Mike's presentation will include what's happening on Tennessee waters. What's HOT and what's NOT.



The club purchased a guided trip for 2 with Mike that will be raffled off at the end of presentation.

All members in good standing (2017 dues paid) will receive a free ticket. Additional tickets will be available @ \$10 each.

Each member  
gets a  
FREE ticket

## In this issue

- [TVFF Fly Tying Group](#)
- [Catch of the Month](#)
- [Embroidery Roundup](#)
- [Earth Day Celebration](#)
- [Free Casting Clinic](#)
- [2017 Sowbug Roundup](#)
- [River News by Tim and Rhonda Page](#)
- [Ozark Up Date by Miles and Michelle Riley](#)
- [How to maintaining your rod and reel](#)
- [Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics](#)
- [April Holidays](#)
- [Our Sponsors](#)

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## This Month's Activities

- 13 Apr – Fly tying session, 7pm room 201 - Conclusion of Lunker Bass Series
- 17- 21 Apr – Club trip to Donovan Lakes
- 20 Apr - TVFF Club meeting, 7pm room 201
- 22 Apr - Earth Day at Hayes Preserve
- 27 Apr - Fly tying session, 7pm room 201 - Start of the Warm Water Series



## TVFF Fly Tying Group

The Lunker Bass concludes on the 13<sup>th</sup> just in time for the Club's Donovan outing with Dick Curtis tying a Hollow Fleye. Originally designed using buck tail by Bob Popovics, this updated version uses craft fur to create a fishy bait fish pattern.



Hollow Fleye



Hopzilla

Joe Tremblay follows with the Hopzilla. An original design tied on a bass worm hook that incorporates bits and pieces from half a dozen flies along with some innovations to create a truly weedless BIG bass fly that is easy and quick to tie.

The Warm Water Series begins on the 27<sup>th</sup> with Jack Barber returning to tie a Pistol Pete. A flashy spinner bream fly sure to attack both bream and bass.



Pistol Pete

With the Warm Water Series, we are returning to 2 flies of the same pattern per session. This format will give tyers the opportunity to improve on their first attempt at a tying an unfamiliar pattern.

**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

One of several great redfish caught by Mike Campbell while on a spring trip to the Gulf. After receiving this photo two questions immediately popped into my mind!

When are you going back? Can I go with you?

**Congratulations Mike!**



Send your fishy photos to [TVFF.website@Gmail.com](mailto:TVFF.website@Gmail.com)

## Embroidery Roundup

**Have shirts, jackets etc. that need the club logo?**

Bring them to the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Be sure to tag each item with your name and the logo of your choice, either Classic or Alternate. Logos will be embodied above the right pocket unless otherwise noted on tag.

Cost per shirt should be \$9 +/- . Exact cost per shirt varies depending on the number of shirts.



Classic



Alternate



## Earth Day Celebration – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Earth Day Celebration is annual event sponsored by the city of Huntsville and held at Hays Nature Preserve located on Hwy 431 just south of Hampton Cove. The event draws several thousand visitors and is an excellent outreach opportunity for the club. The festival is open to the public from 10 AM till 2 PM.

Since 2014, the Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers have displayed various items from fly rods to boats, tied flies, provided casting instructions and demonstrated fly fishing in Bar Lake for the thousands of visitors. Attendance has increased over the years with over 3000 visitors expected.

Members needed to demonstrate fly tying, give casting instruction and field questions about fly fishing in general.

New to fly fishing? Not a problem we need members with varied experience to assist.

Contact: Larry Hice at [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com) or call 256-508-2344



## TVFF Conducts FREE Casting Clinic

The Recreation Ministry of Whitesburg Baptist Church will be hosting a Fly Casting Clinic on Saturday, April 8, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Community Room at the Martha Fleming Center (located behind the Whitesburg Baptist South Campus.)

Reid Benton, TVFF Education Director and Certified Casting Instructor, will conduct a class is designed for “new to” fly fishing but will benefit all seeking to improving their casting skills.

The class is free and open to all, but bring a lunch.

To register, contact Jane Baker at 256-704-5678 ext. 715

Volunteers needed to assist. Contact Reid Benton at [rrbenton@knoloky.net](mailto:rrbenton@knoloky.net)





## The 2017 Sowbug Roundup – Larry Hice

The club's fall fishing trip was March 18<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo City, Arkansas. This trip coincides with a Fly-Tying conclave in Mountain Home. Roger Bauer, Reid Benton, Phil Cosco, Larry Hice and Mark Shepard stayed at Riley's Station on the White River, at the confluence of the Buffalo River. This is the fifteenth year the club has stayed in cabins managed by Miles and Michelle Riley and as always, the hospitality was great!

With little generation on the White River, early in the trip the group had several opportunities to wade and witness a great cadis hatch. However, the fishing was challenging with fewer numbers of fish caught than in previous years. With numerous bugs on the water and in the air, it was surprising that the fish were not biting.....perhaps they had dined earlier elsewhere.

Thursday evening, several club members visited with Johnny Chamness's widow, Linda, at a gathering of Johnny's friends in Gassville, AR. We shared memories of his participation in our club (he was a charter member), in their local club, at banquets and auctions. The following day Johnny's ashes were scattered at one of his favorite fishing areas in the White River, Rim Shoals.

If you enjoy fly tying, the North Arkansas Fly Fishers' Sowbug Round-Up is the place to be. Held at the Baxter County Fairgrounds in Mountain Home, AR, it's one of the premier fly tying gatherings in the country; and this was the 20th anniversary of the event. Every year more than 100 fly tiers from the US, Europe, and this year Japan, participate in the three-day event. A quick census of car tags in the parking area revealed participants from twenty-five states. The TVFF was represented by tiers Reid Benton and Ted Crona.

In addition to the tiers, there were vendors with great deals on everything fly fishing and fly tying. This included local fly shops, fishing guides, rod and net builders, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Dept; plus Dave Whitlock and Duane Hada were on hand to sale and sign their art.

All in all, it was an enjoyable trip with good weather, wadable water, good food and great company!





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## River News by Tim & Rhonda Page

Hello and Happy Spring ! We are beyond thrilled at the Opportunity to share info about the Elk and Duck River tailwaters with you all, so here goes!

**The Duck River**, tailwater below Normandy dam is stocked Monthly with rainbows beginning in November thru May or June. The last stocking was March 2, 2017. If the water gets too warm by May, the stocking will end in May.

There is not a generator unit on the dam at Normandy; however, they can and do spill for flood control when necessary. When we Get substantial rain, the Duck muddies up quickly and can be slow to clear.

The access points are at the Dam, at the bridge closer to Normandy that has a small gravel pull off, Cortner Mill, Dement Bridge and Three Forks Bridge.

Cortner Mill is private historical property that permits free access most any day except holidays from November to first of April. Beginning first of April, access is limited to Monday thru Thursday. This is because they host many, many special events like weddings, and corporate events at the restaurant there. SO, if you see a sign on the lane leading down to the access that says NO RIVER ACCESS today, please respect that and leave as the owner has an event. This is sort of a tough situation but it is better than having NO access there as it is a great place to fly fish.

Three Forks Bridge has an occasional stocking BUT it is below Dement and has large, slick rocks. Also, the water warms up quickly there. The Duck River has become a very popular hangout for recreational kayakers and canoers once the water is warm enough for them.

Current discharge from reservoir is 60 cfs with a predicted increase up to 70 cfs. This is a reasonably easy river to wade up to approx 250 cfs and then it can be challenging in some areas.

**Elk River update:** TWRA performs their annual shocking survey during early March and once that is completed stocking begins.

The Elk was stocked on March 16<sup>th</sup> with rainbows. In April and into early May, approximately 20,000 browns will be stocked during two or three stockings. This is usually the only time during the year that browns are stocked. The monthly stocking of rainbows will continue until early December.

The spill on the Elk is currently at 80 cfs. TVA updates the release for the next day by mid afternoon.



**Normandy Dam Access**

## River News Continued

Access points on the Elk are at the gravel bar below the bridge at the dam, Farris Creek Bridge and Old Dam Ford.

The trout are most abundant in the section of river between the dam and the nine river miles leading down to Farris Creek. Some trout still survive between Farris Creek and Old Dam but they are not as comfortable now as they were prior to the USFWS mandate to protect an endangered boulder darter and mussel. This mandate has been in place for several years.

Always check the generation schedule for Tims Ford and the release schedule for Normandy before making the trip so you aren't disappointed. You can check daily water release on the web or by downloading the free TVA Lake Info APP. [TVA Lake Info and APP](#)

Once the generation ceases on the Elk, the water will recede at the dam within about 45 minutes so you can wade. It won't recede at Farris Creek for approximately 6 hours once generation ceases.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER**, tailwater rivers CHANGE every time generation or heavy releases occur so that favorite hole that normally holds a nice trout may have filled in a there may be a new deep hole in another area so use extreme CAUTION when maneuvering your way around a tailwater!

On the Elk, due to the USFWS protective order, generation ceases from end of May until early to mid October. If we were to receive substantial rainfall in the summer, TVA could increase the spill BUT they are not supposed to run the generator during this period. For safe wading on the Elk, the spill should be approx 350 cfs or less. You can check the release at [tva.gov](http://tva.gov) under Lake Levels, check your lake or download the TVA app.

Fly suggestions for both tailwaters: Olive woolly bugger size #8-#12, hares ear, beaded or not #12-#14, as well as prince, red copper john and BHPT in the same sizes. A tan Elk Hare Caddis #14-16 works well when you see top water activity and black zebra midge #14-#18 when activity is just below the surface.

**New Barrier at Tims Ford:** TVA put up signage and posts around mid March to stop autos from driving onto the gravel bar below the bridge at dam on the Elk. While I understand it is a safety concern for vehicles parked there long term; the blockage would also halt launching of any trailored boats. The post blocking access has been TEMPORARILY removed. However, it may not stay down long term. I will update when I have more info. Meantime, please feel free to voice your concerns/opinion direct to TVA at the email or number listed. I have been told that public input is one of the only ways to create change with TVA. For more information, contact TVA at 1-800-882-5263, email [plc@tva.com](mailto:plc@tva.com) or on the web [www.tva.com/plc](http://www.tva.com/plc).

**The Fly Shop:** Our shop is 10 minutes from the Duck River and offers lots of fly fishing gear including TFO, Redington, Cortland and RIO as well as a great supply of fly tying materials.

We have a shipment of 2017 NuCanoes arriving by March 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are looking for a nice, stable fishing kayak/canoe, give me a call to schedule a no obligation demo. We will go to Normandy and try it out on the water. Much better to try before you buy! I promise; I am NOT a high pressure sales person. I want everyone who decides to buy a NuCanoe to love their purchase! Just give me a call @ 931-607-3645 or 931-759-5058 if you have any questions!



**New Barrier at Tims Ford**





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## Ozarks Update by Miles and Michelle Riley

**Spring has sprung** and winter is “officially” gone... Tis the season to be fishing. It is good to see the cycle of life returning to the Ozarks, more specifically Buffalo City. Aside from the Riley “farm hatch” of lambs, baby goats and chicks, the aquatic insect life on the White and Buffalo Rivers are waking up early this year.

**White River:** The caddis are rushing to the water’s surface on calm, low water days and hatching as the afternoons warm-up. Expect the peak of the hatch to at least through April and into May.

Unfortunately, stocked trout do not seem to always respond to this top water action, but they always seem interested in the emerger. Remember, lower water...smaller flies. Weary trout and larger trout always seem to respond better to little bugs. Don’t forget the midges (18’s & 20’s)!

**Generation:** Bull Shoals powerhouse has been lightly generating for the last several weeks. The flows have fluctuated between minimum Flow (700cfs) and 13,000cfs. Bull Shoals Lake is still 5-6 feet below power pool but rising as we get more spring rains.

Spring operating plan established by the Corps:

Releases from Bull Shoals are dependent upon the seasonal regulating stage at Newport, AR. From 1 December through 14 April they regulate to 21 feet except, if a natural rise exceeding 21 feet occurs, then they regulate to the lesser of the observed crest or 24 feet.

From 15 April through 7 May - Regulate to 14 feet except, regulate to 21 feet, from 15 April through 30 April, and 18 feet, from 1 May through 14 May, if the four-lake system storage exceeds 50% full.

**Translation:** The farmers downstream from Newport need a “spring break” from flooding in order to plant their crops. Generally speaking, we see low generation below Bull Shoals between April 15 and May 15. With that being said, I will add the disclaimer for Buffalo City. The river levels in our area are greatly affected by the flow of Crooked Creek (4 mi. upstream) and the Buffalo River (out our front door). Spring rain can blow-out the river here from time to time.



**White River Cutthroat**



## Ozarks Update Continued

The beautiful thing about tail water is that, in spite of the natural flow of these two Blue Ribbon smallmouth streams which can mess up the fishing in the White, clear water is not hard to reach by driving to Rim Shoals. If generation is present, there is a seam line where the clear and muddy water meet that is very productive to fish, but must be drifted in a boat. Tandem rigs with a colorful weighted fly for the bottom (Y2K or San Juan worm) with a nymph for the top fly, while fishing under an indicator.

**Buffalo River:** This is the time of year when the Buffalo River smallmouth are starting to wake up. Crawfish are becoming more active. The minnows are stirring. Water surface temperatures are nearing 55 degrees.

Clouser minnows and crawfish patterns fished on a moderate sink tip line will invite the strike. Fish the clousers in the tail outs of the shoals and the fast runs. Crawfish are better fished in the deeper outside bends of the river in 4-8 feet of water. Use a hand roll pick-up to give a slow presentation around the submerged boulders.

Look for bench type rocky structures heaved up in a deep hole and concentrate fishing the deep water leading into it and also on the backside of the bench. If you see a trough/drop-off along the bank with current flow, rock Or wood... Mr. Smalljaws will be there waiting for your fly.

A reminder for the trout fisherman, because of the warm water influence in our area, the minnow population is always abundant. This is wooly buggie water. Black, olive, brown and grey are the staple colors.

I prefer bead heads. I like to slide a bead on my tippet and then tie on the fly. You can fish a variety of color combinations of beads and woolys in this "Texas Rig" style.

Remember the rule of thumb for the covering water, if the catching is fast, fish slow...and if the catching is slow fish fast.

**More about Riley Family Outfitters:** Rileys is the most versatile and friendly outfitter in the mid-section of the White River. Please see our new [web site](#) and cabins for rent. We offer rental boats, canoes, kayaks and shuttles on and off the river. We can accommodate families and groups of all sizes. *Mention that you are a TVFF member and receive 10% off lodging any time of year.*

Fly fishermen are always welcome to wade in from our location for free (water levels permitting). We invite your phone calls or emails ([870-425-4221](tel:870-425-4221) - [info@rileysstation.com](mailto:info@rileysstation.com)) for up to date river and fishing reports.



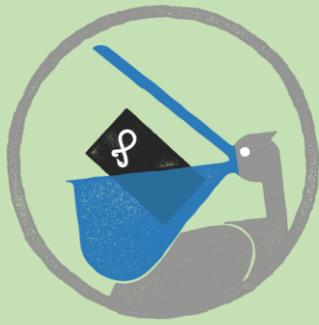
Early Spring Smallmouth

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# The Wade

The fly fishing blog for those who wade.

## How to Maintain your Fly Rods and Reels

March 3, 2017 Ben Duchesney



*John Schips, is the primary contributor for the [flannelfishermen.com](http://flannelfishermen.com) blog*

Every fisherman knows that without a fully functioning rod and reel, going fishing would be a nearly futile effort. While you could tie a hook to a line, put some bait on it, and dip it into a lake hoping for a catch, this is generally not the most popular fishing method considering the advanced fishing technology we have nowadays.



If you have a fishing rod and reel that you want to keep using for many years to come, we recommend following some guidelines to help take care of it and make sure you can have a functioning rod and reel for a long time. A fishing rod that is properly taken care of can last you years, whereas a rod that is neglected might just break down that next time you take it out on the water. There's nothing worse than feeling a massive trophy fish strike your fly or bait, tugging on the end of your line and having the tip of your rod snap off, or your reel freeze up, right as you are hauling it in.

If you want to make sure your fishing equipment stays in working order and continues to serve you in your efforts to snag massive fish, follow these tips to make sure that your fishing rod never fails you out on the river or lake.



**That's a pretty nice reel you have there; hate to have someone drop it on a rock.**

### **Use Socks & Tubes**

Fly rod socks and rod tubes should be your first line of defense when trying to keep your rods safe. The covers will keep your guides from scratching against the tube and the tube itself will keep the rods from snapping during transit. You can also get rod socks in any color you want, which allows you to match them to the colors of your rods for easy identification.

### **Use Rod Holders**

If you have fished for any significant amount of time in your life, you've probably had the experience of setting your rod against something while you step away, only to look back as it slipped and crashed to the ground. When this happens either on a boat or on land, it can snap guides or reel seats off of your rod and maybe even tangle your leader.

You can prevent this by keeping them in rod holders or rod lockers. This will also prevent your entire fishing rod from disappearing over the edge of the boat while you aren't looking, as a monster fish dives to the bottom of the lake with your fly, and your rod attached at the other end.



**Don't drag your nice fly reel through the dirt or mud, balance it on your boots if you have to put it down.**

### **Clean your Rod and Reel**

After you're done fishing for the day you should rinse off your rods and reels to get rid off any leftover sand, grit, dirt, or residue from saltwater, and make sure to dry them off. You also need to take off any flies you were using while you were fishing, so they don't get caught on your clothes or in your lines.

The best product to use for residue removal is something biodegradable such as Simple Green. Use a toothbrush to scrub away the residue. After your rod is dry you can wipe it off once more quickly with a soft cloth for any remaining residue. If you find you're having a tough time getting the cork grip as clean as you want, try sanding it very lightly with fine-grit paper. This will lift off any remaining surface residue, just be careful not to sand too much. Even after a light sanding, it's always a good idea to apply another waterproof seal to the grip.

Reels can be a little more complicated, depending on how much you want to do on your own. If you are completely unfamiliar with the inner workings of a reel and don't have a "dummy reel" to practice on, you're likely better off having it serviced at a tackle shop. If you do plan on cleaning it yourself inside and out, here are a couple tips that might help.

First, after rinsing and drying the reel, disassemble the reel carefully after removing the spool. You can use simple grease or oil to lubricate the components, and greasing the gears is a good idea too. While greasing the gears remember to apply the grease to the bottom of the teeth and not the top, so that the grease doesn't fly everywhere. Lastly, wire brushes can actually harm your reel after multiple cleanings. Instead, try a small toothbrush, as this will be much more gentle on the smaller metal components, yet still firm enough to be effective.



**Before storing your rod, even for brief periods, make sure to give your reel a good clean first.**

### **Use Proper Storage**

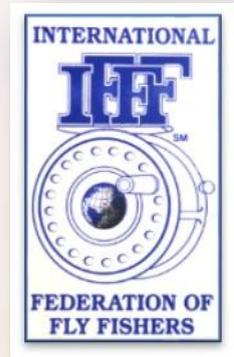
When not in use, it's important to make sure your rods are properly stored in some kind of storage rack. This will prevent your rods from curling or from bumping into each other and possibly getting tangled. Try to avoid leaning your rods against one another as well. Although it's quite common to see fly rods stored away in the corner of a garage somewhere, this is actually not a good idea as it leaves them incredibly susceptible to taking damage on the tips, reels, guides, and blanks. If you are storing your rods away for more than two days at a time, another important thing to remember is to loosen up the drags, so that the fishing line doesn't tighten up and break or pull on your rods and bend them.

A rod is a fisherman's best friend on the water, and just like a best friend, you want it to be around for a long time. Keeping your rod clean and reel sufficiently oiled, as well as stored properly, will make sure that your fishing rod will be around for years and never fail you in the middle of a catch. Follow these tips and even the cheapest of rods will last much longer than you expect it to.

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

## 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.



## April Holidays

### April Fools Day

**Date When celebrated :** April 1st (Today's the day!!!!)

Traditionally, *April Fool's Day* is an opportunity for playing jokes or tricks on one another. The stranger and the more absurd the better. The challenge is to carry out a trick that is believable, if only for a little while.

Tricks are most successful if played earlier in the day before a person is wise to what is going on. Younger children are also more gullible.

All tricks or jokes must be harmless and in good taste for the unsuspecting "victim".

### Origin of April Fool's Day

We do not know the exact origin of this day. It appears to have a number of possible origins, and may have evolved from any number of them. Some of the origins date back to the days of the Roman Empire.

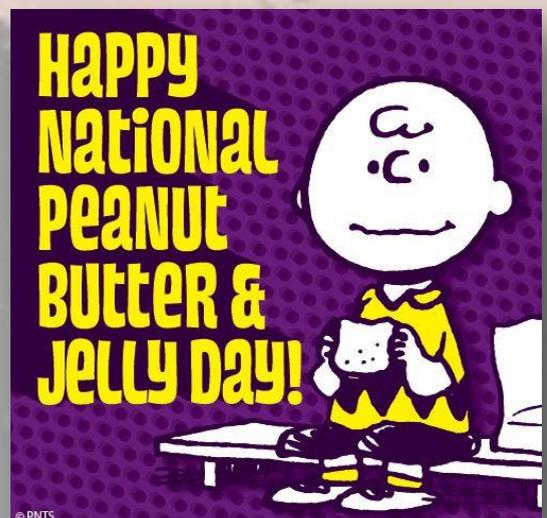
*Happy April Fool's Day*

### National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day

**Date When Celebrated :** Always April 2

National celebrates the "PB and J" sandwich. Its the favorite lunchtime sandwich of American kids, and many adults, too. Some kids practically live on Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches.

**Origin of "National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day":** Our research did not find the creator, or the origin of this day. It's referred to as a "National" day. We did not find any congressional records or presidential proclamations for this day. But, we believe America's favorite lunchtime sandwich deserves a national day.





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