



TVFF Club News

March 2024



John Agricola, Southern Culture on the Fly
Thursday March 21st 7:00 PM
Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201



Our speaker this month is John Agricola, a Southern fly tyer and fisher.

As a managing partner for Yellowhammer Fly Group LLC, Agricola is also an editor of southern based fly fishing stories for the online publication, Southern Culture on the Fly. The focus of this publication is to highlight how diverse and challenging fly fishing opportunities in the South can be.

Take some time to look at the current issue of Scof (<https://www.southerncultureonthefly.com>)

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Welcome New Members:

David Evans
Rob Forino
Don Miller

This Month

- March 14 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- March 21 – Club Meeting, 7 PM
- March 28 – Fly Tying, 7PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Andy King
Secretary: Rodney Durrett
Treasurer: Dave Bailey
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Brian Moore
Conservation: Bob Lowery
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is May 2, 2024, 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.



March 14th, 7 PM

Parachute Addams

Cost \$3.00 Tyer: Brian Moore

The Parachute Adams is perhaps the most important and versatile of all dry flies. It is a must have dry fly in a variety of sizes for fish all over the world. The white post gives the fly fisherman a focal reference point in all types of water. The pattern can be used as a mayfly or as a searching or attractor fly. Fly fishermen in all types of rivers, streams, and lakes should keep several sizes on the top row of the fly box.

Materials

Hook: Dry Fly Hook - size 10-16

Thread: 70 denier or about 12/0 Gray or tan thread

Tail: Coq De Leon or brown and Grizzly spade hackles

Body: Super Fine Dry Fly Dubbing - Adam's Gray

Post: EP Trigger Point Int'l Fibers - White
Brown and Grizzly saddle hackle feathers

March 28th, 7PM

Woolly Bugger with a twist & Dog Food Fly

Cost \$3.00 Tyer: Steve Kerkhof

The woolly bugger we'll tie came from the Rim Shoals fly shop on the White River. I used it to catch my first trout on a fly rod. As you can see in the picture the fly finally came apart. It has an interesting yarn "rib" wrapped with tinsel. We'll reproduce it. Bring some red thread if you have it. It will only show behind the bead but makes a hot spot. Black thread is fine too.

The second fly is a nymph that the bream found irresistible at Donovan lakes a couple of days last year. It was beat up before the turtle took it. You can ask Fred Kaufmann about that. The name is made up but it is another fly shop fly that looks a lot like fish food pellets. Some folks use cheap dry dog food for fish food, hence the name.



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.

Fish of the Month

To the right, TVFF member Greg Bayuga landed a nice Brown Trout on the Caney Fork!



Below, TVFF member Connor Baker took a trip to Gadsden to look at Noccalula Falls. He didn't have a chance to fish this time, but he did see some fly fishermen below the waterfall. If you zoom in enough to the picture on the left, you can see for yourself!





February TVFF Recap

Monthly Club Meeting – Group Seeks Water Sample Volunteers for Research

February’s guest speaker via ZOOM was Allie Cunningham, director of Science on the Fly. Science on the Fly seeks community partners to help study and protect rivers and streams through long-term river science. The goal is to continue cold water, clean rivers, healthy watersheds, abundant fish, and a bright future for fly fishing, Cunningham said.

Volunteers take river water samples for nutrients and organic compounds and send them to Science on the Fly. Science on the Fly, using resources at Woodwell Climate’s Environmental Chemistry Lab, analyzes the concentrations of nutrients such as nitrate, phosphate, silica, ammonium, dissolved organic carbon, and total dissolved nitrogen.

Science on the Fly’s goals are to understand changing watersheds, bridge the gap between science and public policy, and engage anglers to protect rivers and to educate peers, she said. Science on the Fly enables individuals to help steward our natural resources. Their website can be found [here](#).

February Fly Tying

For the month of February, we did two fun streamer patterns. The first session was the Kreelex, a trout fly invented by Chuck Craft. The second was a fun Mardi Gras stylized fly, the Datchett Razzler! Below are some pictures!





Rainbow in Maryland Breaks State Record

Retired fisheries biologist Jean-Phillipe Lartigue landed a massive Rainbow on Antietame Creek in Maryland. This 30 minute fight happened early February. The fish was more than 30 inches long and weighed approximately 17.5 pounds. The previous Maryland state record Rainbow was 14.2 pounds.

Antietam Creek may sound familiar to some Civil War history enthusiasts. The Battle of Antietam (or Battle of Sharpsburg) was fought just a few miles downstream from the park that Lartigue caught his rainbow. It is considered the most bloody battle in the entire Civil War (and often referred to as the bloodiest day in American history). Taking place on September 17, 1862, the armies of Union General George B. McClellan and Confederate General Robert E. Lee amassed a total of 22,727 casualties. Although the McClellan's army had more casualties, this battle is considered one of the turning points of the war. Giving the Union favor over the Confederacy.

Lartigue caught his Rainbow on eight pound test line with a specialized 12 foot spinning rod. His rod was baited with an earthworm. Lartigue decided to keep the fish and eat it. Although this is quite impressive, it would have been more impressive on a fly rod!

For more on Lartigue's fish, see [Outdoor Life](#).



Raffle and Club Fundraiser

Former TVFF President David Darnell has graciously donated to our club a ready to fish Fishpond chest pack, chock full of streamside essentials and flies. This setup is designed for a local Southeast tailwater, such as the Elk River. This donation is in memory of Joe Tremblay, who passed away August of 2022. This entire setup will be raffled off during the May meeting. Tickets are on sale now and until the moment of raffle. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Please see Dave Bailey or Steve Kerkhof to purchase tickets. Pictures of the item and an itemized list of everything is below.

Pack Includes:

- Fishpond San Juan Chest Pack
- Anchor Double-Cut lead shot 6, 8, 10, 12 selection
- Whistle (new, unused)
- Fly holder/spinner
- Fishpond retractor
- Dr. Slick Crossfire mitten clamps
- Sr Slick double snap nylon coil
- New Zealand strike indicator kit
- Fishpond Floatant Bottle Holder "Brown trout"
- Nite Ize #2 locking carabiner
- Loon Aquel floatant
- Extra spool white indicator wool
- Fishpond Tacky fly patch
- SA Absolute Trout 3, 4, 5X tippet spools
- SA Absolute Trout leaders 3 pack 9' 4X
- Tacky Original Fly Box loaded with flies





Sowbug Roundup – A top ten fly tying show!!

TVFF member Larry Hice is planning his annual trip to the Sowbug Roundup! He is planning to head there Wednesday, March 20th and return Sunday, March 24th. The event is in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Right near the renown White River. This is a great opportunity to see some of the best tyers in the world practice their craft and get some deals on fly tying necessities. If you have any interest in fly tying, this is a must go to event. If you would like to go, please contact Larry at lhice@plasticfusion.com or on his cell at (256) 508-2344. Provided are some more details below:

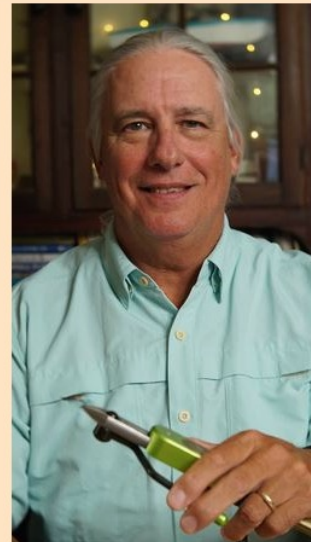


**The 2024 Sowbug
Celebrating The Elegant Wet Fly**

**March 21st - March 23rd of 2024
9:00am to 4:00pm
Baxter County Fairgrounds
Mountain Home, AR**

**All things fly tying and fly fishing brought to you by:
The North Arkansas Fly Fishers**

Featured tiers for this event include Tim Flagler and Davy Wotton. However, there will be many many more just as talented tiers. All three days of this event are \$10. For more information, please check their [website](#).



**Sowbug Roundup Special Event
Davy Wotton - Tim Flagler Tie-Off**

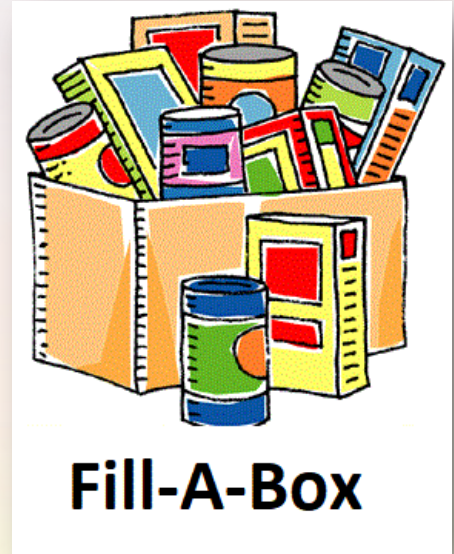
they will be tying the

**Classic March Brown
Traditional Wet Wing Fly**

**Friday, March 22nd, 2024 at 4:00pm in
the Seminar Room**

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.



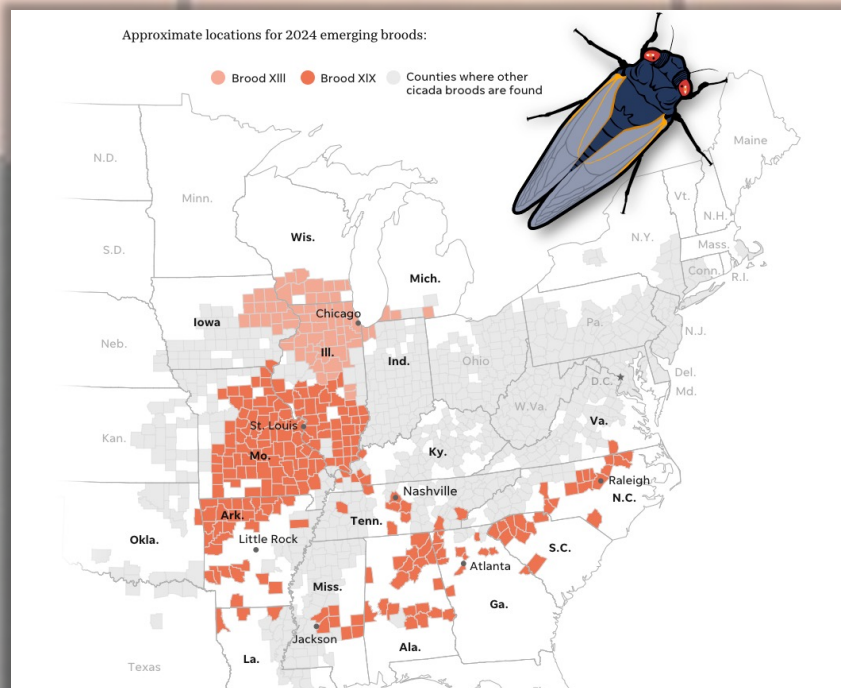
FFI Fly Tying Group

FFI has an online Fly Tying Group that meets the the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month thru April at 7:00 PM CT. For more information please view their website [here](#). They have some neat flies they tie. This is a good place for a beginner to tie from the comfort of their own home.



'Trillions' of Cicadas

Spring and early summer Brood XIII and Brood XIX will be hitting the Midwest and Southeast! One of the rare times that two broods emerge at the same time and overlap in some places. Lucky for us, Brood XIX will hit Northeast Alabama and Central Tennessee starting in late May and ending sometime in June. This will be a good time to go fishing. We have a few months upcoming, so be sure to tie your Cicada patterns, there are plenty on YouTube to choose from! Map to the right shows where the Broods are taking place!



March Holidays

National Napping Day

Date When Celebrated : March 11

National Napping Day is an unofficial holiday which is celebrated annually the day right after the return of daylight savings time. The purpose of this holiday is to give everyone a chance to catch up on some much-needed rest after the clocks have sprung ahead. In several studies, it has been shown that even a 20 or 30-minute nap can have a positive effect on mental alertness and cognitive ability. So grab your favorite blanket and lay your head down for a few moments on this lazy holiday.

Nap Facts

- Naps around 20 or 30 minutes are best for improved short-term alertness.
- Napping three times a week results in a 37% decrease in heart related deaths
- Naps can improve performance by 34%
- In Ancient Rome, it was common to take a nap after lunch
- 60 million Americans are sleep-deprived at any one time
- Humans are the only mammals to plan or delay naps
- Just thinking about a nap can lower blood pressure
- Most mammals nap



National Meatball Day

Date When Celebrated : March 9

For years, meatballs have taken a back seat to spaghetti but that is no longer the case thanks to the introduction of National Meatball Day – a holiday which is celebrated annually on March 9th. This unofficial holiday is the perfect day to celebrate the little orbs of meat that make so many dishes so special. So whether you like meatballs on your spaghetti, love Swedish meatballs or simply flip over meatball subs, then this holiday might just be the one that you want to celebrate.



As far as historians know, meatballs were first created around the 2nd century B.C in China. From there, it's believed that the meatball moved across the Mideast and finally traveled trade routes to make it throughout Europe. While many people think that meatballs came to the United States from Italy, that isn't the case. Spaghetti and meatballs were actually an invention of Italian-Americans. Later on, these Italian-Americans would then introduce meatballs to Italy. Today, just about every culture on the planet has their own form of meatballs.



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