



TVFF Club News

April 2024



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Welcome New Members:

Joe Shelton

This Month

- April 11 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- April 18 – Club Meeting, 7 PM
- April 25 – 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.

David Perry, Southeastern Fly Thursday April 18th 7:00 PM Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201



David Perry will be our guest speaker for April. He has been guiding and calling the waters of Middle Tennessee home for over two decades.

David began fly fishing in the Great Lakes State of Michigan while in grade school. After moving to Knoxville, Tenn. as an adult, a friend reintroduced David to fly fishing. They fished the small streams of Smoky Mountains, East Tennessee tailwaters and into North Carolina multiple times a week and refreshed David's skills as an angler.

Upon moving to Murfreesboro and buying a drift boat, David's friends encouraged him to start guiding anglers because of his desire to help others catch fish on the fly.

David specializes in terrestrials, nymphs, streamer techniques and works very hard to make every client a better angler. His dedication to new anglers and seasoned veterans shows each day on the river.

To spend a day in the casting braces of the fishing vessel Southeastern Fly, call, text or email David and book your day on the water. Please visit his website [here](#).

TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



April 11th, 7 PM

Cicada– Lead Tyer, Connor Baker

Cost: \$3.00

Get ready for Cicada season this Summer!

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S- 6

Thread: 6/0 - Fl. Orange

Body: Fly Tying Foam - 6mm - Black

Wing: Hareline Thin Wing - Light Dun

Over-Wing: Para Post Wing Material - Dark Gray

Over-Wing: Para Post Wing Material - Fl. Orange

Wing Cover: 1MM - Black

Legs: Medium - Speckled Orange

Eyes: Maxima Chameleon Leader Material - 30 lb



April 25th, 7PM

Montana Nymph & Slow-Sinking Spider – Lead Tyer, Debbie Hill

Cost \$3.00

These two flies might not seem related, but they do use similar materials and techniques. Both are quick and easy to tie so everyone attending will have one of each of these versatile, fun-to-fish flies to take home. There you can try out variations of these standard patterns. Be Creative!!

Montana Nymph

Hook: Mustad 53S or Daiichi 1270, 3x long, curved, #6-12

Thread: Black 6/0 or 140 denier

Underbody: Lead wire .015, optional

Hackle: Black rooster

Body: Black & Yellow, fine chenille

Head Cement or similar

Slow-Sinking Spider

Hook: Mustad 9671 or 3906B, 2x long, #10-12

Thread: Black 6/0 or 140 denier

Body: Black & Fluorescent Yellow, extra-fine chenille

Legs: Round Rubber Barred Yellow/Black, medium

Head Cement or similar



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

March 29th, TVFF member Aaron Serafinowicz and his wife Tammy went on a fishing trip near Blue Ridge in North Georgia. Together they caught about 25 rainbow trout. It was a great way for Tammy to celebrate her birthday by catching a 22 inch rainbow trout. Aaron's largest was 20 inches. The rest were between 10-15 inches. Way to go Aaron and Tammy, looks like a fun time and the weather looks great.



TVFF member Andy King visited his family in North Arkansas, and took some time to fly fish for trout. He fished from his drift bloat and caught some nice Rainbows! Good work Andy!



March TVFF Recap

Monthly Club Meeting – John Agricola, Southern Culture on the Fly

[Southern Culture on the Fly](#) managing Editor John Agricola was the guest speaker at the Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers March meeting on the 21st.

What is Southern Culture on the Fly? “I want it to explain what it means to be a fly fisherman,” said Agricola, who learned the art and craft of fly fishing from his father.

Agricola, a Gadsden native, in addition to editing the online magazine dedicated to fly fishing, art, and photographs, is also a carp fly fishing guide on Neely Henry Lake for [East Alabama Fly Fishing](#).

Agricola and East Alabama Fly Fishing also provide guided fly fishing for Alabama Bass (spotted bass), Tallapoosa Bass (formerly known as redeye bass), and striped bass on the Tallapoosa River.

When you think of fly fishing, carp seldom come to mind but after hearing Agricola describe its intricacies, carp fishing with a fly rod appears to be the supreme challenge. Strip and drop is a common method of fishing.

Agricola said carp are skittish fish that can be found in shallow water, hence their wariness of an angler.

Agricola has also written for [The Drake magazine](#) and [The Flyfish Journal](#).



Bass on the Fly

It is April, which means the weather is getting warm and bass are getting hungry! We are lucky to live in North Alabama, with world renown largemouth fishing, and some great smallmouth fisheries as well (even several other types of exotic black bass). The following article is from Fly Lords Magazine. These five tips are a good refresher for those anxious to get back on the water! The online article can be found here: [Five Tips for Successful Bass Fishing](#). Article was written by [Meat Market Flies](#) in August of 2018.

1. Fish the Fly

This is probably one of the most important elements to having more success bass fishing, it's also the number one thing I see most people do incorrectly. I know it's easy to get into the "strip...strip...strip" rhythm, but as a fisheries biologist who spends an unreal amount of time looking at baitfish, I can tell you for certain that animals rarely ever move like this. I'll change up my retrieve constantly bass fishing. I'll add long pauses, short fast strips, long slow strips all in the same retrieve. Baitfish and other prey animals tend to do a lot of darting and your retrieve should reflect this.

2. Choose the Correct Gear

This is one of the most overlooked elements in bass fishing. You need to be fishing the right rod for the right situations. We use anywhere from a 6-8 weight rods depending on the size of bug we are throwing, and how much vegetation is in the body of water we are fishing. The amount of vegetation is key because bass love to peel into reeds, grasses, algae or any other vegetation around them when hooked and you'll want a rod with a stronger backbone to steer them out of this.

In addition to choosing the correct rod, the line you choose with your set up is crucial, I personally believe that the line is the most important and most underrated part of your fishing set up. You need to have more than just your "all-rounder" trout line when bass fishing. You'll be throwing bigger bugs that require a line with an aggressive front taper and large head to turn over the flies.



Photo Courtesy of Fly Lords

Bass on the Fly (cont.)

3. Offer a Substantial Meal

This is a very important element to bass fishing. I usually never fish flies under 3 inches when bass fishing and usually I'm closer to 6 inches with my bass flies. This is for a couple reasons. Bass absolutely inhale food, and they will inhale your fly. I've seen dozens of pictures of guys with small poppers or streamers lodged in the gills or deep in the gut of bass, and while these are extremely hardy fish they still deserve to be treated with respect and hooking a fish in the gills will most likely result in mortality. The other main reason I fish big flies for bass is that they are major predators! They spend the majority of their year eating baitfish well over 2 inches. I'm fortunate enough to have a bass pond out my window and this year I witnessed one of the larger bass in the pond take a gosling. These fish are opportunistic and will gladly take a shot at what appears to be a high-calorie offering.

4. Read Your Surroundings

Just like on your favorite trout stream you need to be able to read the water, even on a lake or pond. Fish around structures, sunken logs, rocks, and even pieces of trash like tires or abandoned shopping carts can work. You also should pay attention to vegetation. Not all grasses hold fish. If you watch the bait chucking bass fisherman on TV they understand this perfectly. You won't see them fishing those uniformly growing grass beds that look like a manicured lawn. They do fish around the grass beds that look like they had a bad hair day, and the transition zones leading up to the grass line. If you really want to get nerdy about it, different species of grasses respire (take up oxygen) at different rates than other species. Knowing your aquatic vegetation will help you understand what grasses hold fish and what grasses don't.

5. Time of Day is Crucial

This one is pretty simple, just like in trout fishing, bass fishing can be hot or cold and the time of day can determine this. In the dog days of summer you'll want to be on the water either early morning or late evening (personally I prefer late evenings), and during the colder months, the exact opposite tends to be true.



Photo Courtesy of Fly Lords



Photo Courtesy of Fly Lords



Photo Courtesy of Fly Lords

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.

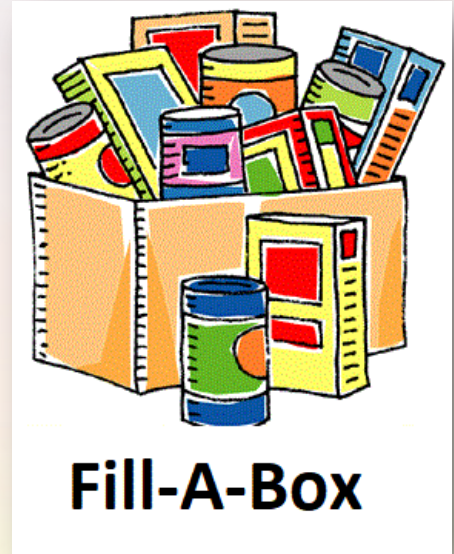
Pack Includes:

- 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



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.



TVFF Membership Renewal

Many of our TVFF members renew their membership on May 1st of each year. Remember to pay TVFF directly. TVFF will then forward those dues to Fly Fishers International for renewal in that organization as well. If you are unsure of your renewal date contact Debbie Hill, Membership Director.

- Dues are the same as last year:
- \$35.00 for General Membership
- \$25.00 for Senior (65) or Veteran

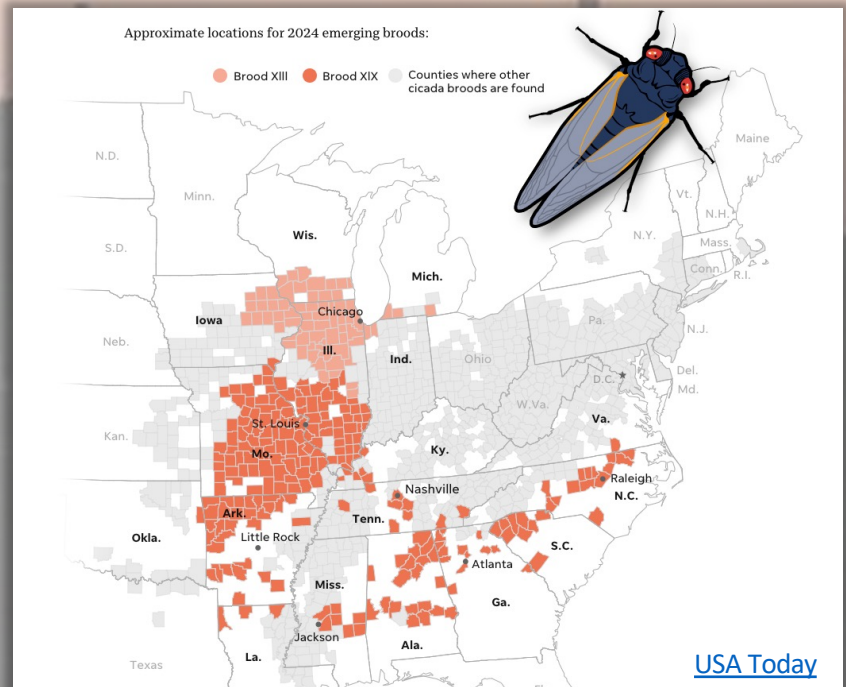
You may pay in person at any meeting or mail a check to:

TVFF
P.O. Box 12841
Huntsville, AL 35815



'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!



April Holidays

National Beer Day

Date When Celebrated : April 7

This day was established to not only honor the history of beer but also to celebrate the Cullen–Harrison Act – an act which allowed people to buy, sell and drink beer that had 4% alcohol by volume and was signed by FDR in 1933. The day in which it went into effect, over a million and a half barrels of beer were sold. Other countries which celebrate a National Beer Day include Iceland (March 1st) and the United Kingdom (June 15th).



In 1919, the Volstead Act became law and by 1920, the entire United States was subject to Prohibition. This meant that beer, wine and grain liquors had all become illegal. While Prohibition wouldn't become repealed until December 5th, 1933, U.S citizens received an early break 8 months earlier when Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Cullen-Harrison act on April 7th, 1933. After he signed the bill, FDR is reported to have said, "I think this would be a good time for a beer." And many Americans agreed with him because huge groups of people flooded breweries and taverns all over the country. In fact, by the end of that day, over 1.5 million gallons of beer ended up being sold. Beer has been enjoyed by Americans ever since.

NATIONAL Grilled Cheese Day

Date When Celebrated : April 12

National Grilled Cheese Day is an unofficial holiday which celebrates one of the most popular comfort foods on the planet: the grilled cheese. On this holiday, which just so happens to fall on April 12th, people all over the U.S and the world make themselves their favorite version of a grilled cheese sandwich. Which probably means this is one of the most delicious holidays on the calendar.

If you want to be technical about it, the pairing of bread and cheese together is something which has happened since ancient times. In fact, it was the ancient Romans who really made a point of serving bread and cheese together. However, the grilled cheese of today is really sort of a modern concoction. And it only came about because of two very important inventions: bread slicers and modern American cheese.





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lhice@plasticfusion.com