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# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is official, we made it through Fall, and we are starting Winter, which is really a good thing. That means Spring is coming and in most of Texas, could start by the end of February and for sure in March. Sand Bass runs and most of our fish species begin to wake up.

Enough of the weather, Spring fishing and warmer times. I want to call attention to some of the things that have happened and about the things that will happen.

Several of our clubs started to open up a little and test the waters by resuming their annual events. Two events come to mind, one being Texas Fly Fishers fundraiser, the other Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers Octoberfish event in Fredericksburg. From reports I received both were very successful and they the clubs will continue their traditions. I am sure I missed many of your events, one of my goals is to have an on-going published list of events across the state. The easiest way for this to become a reality is for your club to designate someone to send your info to TX Council at my Email, I will make sure the event will be included on our website as well as our Newsletters.

I would like to outline some of the objectives we as your Board plan to discuss and implement as soon as possible in the new year. We expect to see a lot of action in all our board areas of responsibility, these actions will be focused on assisting our clubs, our FFi membership in general and attracting and educating potential fly fisher men, women, and young people. There will be a strong effort in the area of Women involvement and programs that will run in parallel with Women Connect a Fly Fishers International sponsored group of women fly fishers. The Youth program will be reenergized to introduce and educate our young fly fishers to the sport. The Texas Council will continue to look for areas around the state for conservation projects that our clubs and members can be involved in.

I need to add that for Texas Council, your clubs, and our members in general to succeed in the goals that are set, it is imperative that everyone find a way to pitch in and help by volunteering! Help can be defined in many ways, but it is best defined by you, and the fact that you find a way to contribute your time and energy. Your club and fellow fly fishers rely on members like you, like us.

I hope to see ya on our rivers, lakes and streams many times next year.

Have a happy and safe Holiday season,

Rick Haness President Texas Council FFi



# **FLYFEST 2022**

Not to look past winter this year, but wait I am. FlyFest 2022 is planned for March the 12th. This is the premiere fly fishing event of the year. The 7th annual event here showcased in Fort Worth, will bring so much for all to enjoy. Last year by far was the best fly fishing competition we have ever had. So many great anglers went toe to toe, for the many wonderful prizes, and the enjoyment of being the top angler until next year. The event was very well attended, with estimates in the thousands enjoying the day. So many things for all ages. To stay in tune with all of the activities, save this link for all of the details, as there may even be more things to do from last year. Not only can you see the tentative activities planned for this year's event, you can see a recap of last year's event, and how much fun was had. You can also stay in touch with FlyFest by following the Texas Council Facebook page, and Fish the Fort page as well. Hope to see you all there.

https://trwdflyfest.com/

Russell Husted Communications / Social Media Director of the Tx Council FFI

# **BASS ON THE FLY**

Join your fellow anglers On Saturday, May 6-7, 2022, for the annual World Championship Bass on the Fly tournament. This annual event is a key fundraiser for Reel Recovery and North Texas Patriot Anglers. With the second onset of Covid, fund raising events like the BOTF Tournaments need all the support and help possible. The tournament in May of 2021 raised a record amount and we are hoping to do even better in 2022.

Please put this on your calendar and share the attached flyer with everyone you know that might be interested.

Sincerely, Johnny Walker (Red) jwred@att.net (817) 480-0340

# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BASS ON THE FLY

# TWO DIVISIONS

- \*Boaters Division
- \*Kayak Division



# Catch & Release

\$70 per person Saturday, May 7, 2022 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Jerry Walker (214) 864-9443 www.bassonthefly.org

# Bass Fishing Tournament

Lake Fork Marina 275 Co Rd 1558, Alba, TX 75410 (903) 765-2764

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT:
ONLINE at www.ianglertournament.com



# TROUT FISHING

Texas Council Members. Trout season is here!! There are so many options for trout anglers to pursue this year, and your most accurate information will be provided by TPWD. Here is a link that will benefit you tremendously as you plan your trips this and next year.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout\_stocking.phtml

As noted in the link, temperature changes will have an effect on the actual stockings. Hopefully a more consistent weather pattern will keep the schedule on track, but this is Texas, so keep in touch with this information.

There are also other trout stockings going on throughout the state. GRTU, TRWD, and others participate in well done trout stockings.

https://www.trwd.com/trwd-trout-season-returns-for-its-34th-year-in-fort-worth/

GRTU is an amazing organization that has put together the best trout fishery program in Texas, and maybe in the Country!! You have to be a member to be a part of the program, and time slots fill up fast for use of the lease access program. Still worth checking out and a very worthwhile organization to belong to.

## https://grtu.org/

For the anglers that wish to go out of the state, there are great options in Oklahoma, with Broken Bow, Lower Illinois River, and Turner Falls State Park as your best options.

https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/trout-information

Arkansas has great options as well.

https://www.arkansas.com/things-to-do/sports-recreation/hunting-fishing/fishing?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIr6W5zKzZ9AIVwidMCh2TywrZEAAYBCAAEgJelvD\_BwE

For me, this is my favorite time of the year. The hunters are now out during their thing, the temps are very enjoyable, and fish are feeding up as we head into winter. Fewer anglers and warm lunches after a good am of fishing. Take advantage of this time, and prepare ahead of time. Speaking of preparing, winter time can be a challenge to deal with, and be quite dangerous if you do not prepare correctly. Remember to always let someone know where you are going, take a friend, and follow these great tips on how to properly dress for winter time trout fishing.

https://flyfishusa.com/blog/How-To-Dress-For-Winter-Steelhead-Fishing

So what are you waiting for? Get out there and enjoy!!!

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 PM CST on January 17, 2022

Meeting ID: 84 1917 0462 Passcode: 528314

This is a reminder that the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International will be held via Zoom at 7 PM CST on January 17, 2022.

The Agenda for the meeting will include election of new members of the Council Board for three-year terms commencing in January 2022 and such other business as may appropriately come before the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws of the Council.

After adjournment of the Membership Meeting, the Annual Council Board Meeting will be called to order for the purpose of seating the newly elected Council Board Members and the election of all officers of the Council for 2022. There will be additional agenda items relating to normal Council Board business. All Members who attend the Membership Meeting are invited to remain online to observe the business conducted by the Council Board.

Rick Haness, President (Acting)
Texas Council of Fly Fishers International, Inc.
Email with any questions: <a href="mailto:president@texascouncilffi.com">president@texascouncilffi.com</a>

Topic: Texas Council FFI's Annual General Membership Meeting Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 17, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019170462?pwd=N01uKzhPNXhjb E9EVTILZ1BORldOZz09

Meeting ID: 840 1917 0462

Passcode: 528314 One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84019170462#,,,,\*528314# US (Houston) +12532158782,,84019170462#,,,,\*528314# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 840 1917 0462

Passcode: 528314

Find your local number: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kduAsEDcK">https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kduAsEDcK</a>



# **2022 GRTU TROUTFEST TX**

Dates: Feb 18-20, 2022 Location: Lazy L and L, New Braunfels, TX, right on the Guadalupe River

### Banquet

- Keynote speaker: Carter
   Smith Executive Director
   TPWD
- Silent Auction with digital bidding
- Live Auction
- Door Prizes
- Great food, wine and local craft beer

#### Expo

- FREE Fly Casting Lessons on land and the river
- Presentations from guides, outfitters and experts
- Kids events: casting pond, archery and airguns
- Booths guides, shops, artists, gear manufacturers
- On water watercraft demos

https://grtu.org/troutfest/



## THANK YOU TRWD

For those of you in the DFW area, or just coming to visit, we want to call out a great organization doing great things here in Fort Worth. Especially the updates on the trout fishing programs throughout the area. There is also information about kayaking, horseback riding, geocaching, and so much more.

Thank you TRWD for all you do by providing us so many activities to enjoy in our urban settings. https://trinitytrailsfw.com/

Russell Husted

Communications / Social Media Director of the Tx Council FFI

# DALLAS SAFARI CLUB SHOW

The Texas Council will be at the Dallas Safari Club Show January the 5th, 6th and 7th. Come see us at the Texas Parks and Wildlife booth, in the Youth Section. We are also looking for some volunteers to greet potential new members, and let all know about the great clubs in Texas.





# **TEXAS FLY & BREW RETURNS TO MESQUITE**

Looking forward to spring fishing? Who isn't? Fortunately for those of us still stuck in winter, the 5th annual <u>Texas Fly Fishing</u> & Brew Festival is headed to Mesquite on February 26-27, 2022.

Unique to the Texas Fly & Brew is a focus on microbrewery beer. With their paid admission, festival attendees 21 years and older receive tasting tickets to sample a variety of locally handcrafted brews. Breweries selected to participate in this year's event include Four Corners Brewing Co, Sweetwater Brewery, Hop & Sting, and Tupps. All of the participating breweries will have personnel on hand to explain what sets microbrewed beer apart, why and how certain ingredients yield different flavors, and how to brew and taste different types of beer. Also returning is Dripping Springs-based Treaty Oak Distilling.

New to the 2022 Texas Fly & Brew iis a series of advanced courses for experienced anglers. "We're well-known as a safe space for complete novices--those folks who have never picked up a fly rod in their lives," says Fly & Brew Director Beau Beasley. "Our event draws scores of children, and we have about six times the national average for women's participation, compared to other fishing events. This year, we're stepping up our game to draw *experienced* anglers, too, with unique, highly specialized courses taught by regional and national experts."

"Advanced Tactics for Fishing Tailwaters" with author and guide Pat Dorsey focuses on how to correctly fish below dams and in coldwater rivers.

Full-time saltwater guide **Captain Gary Dubiel**, owner of <u>Spec Fever Guide Service</u> and a national pro-staffer for <u>Temple Fork Outfitters</u>, offers his unique "<u>How to Locate and Land Monster Redfish</u>," a class specifically designed for those who hope to land the redfish of a lifetime.

"Bourbon & Bass Bugs" is sponsored by Treaty Oak Distilling. Jamie Biel will explain how bourbon is made and what makes it unique; tastings will be included. Guide Greg Welander will review several bass bugs, and patterns will be given to students to take home for "research" purposes.

Interested in fly tying? <u>Fiber Flies Dubbing</u> owner **Jim Bensinger** will teach a "<u>Beginner Fly Tying</u>" class as well as a "<u>How to Tie Wet Flies</u>" class for intermediate to advanced fly tyers. No gear? No problem: All vises and materials will be provided by <u>Norvise</u>, which is sponsoring Bensinger's classes.

In cooperation with the **Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's** Take Me Fishing Program, professional guide Karlie Roland will offer a women-only "Becoming an Independent Angler" to help women hone their angling skills and meet their outdoor goals. Don't miss the "Breakfast Meet & Greet" with Karlie and other female anglers, which is open to the public but

limited to the first 50 women who sign up. Request a reservation by sending an email to <a href="mailto:fishutopia@comcast.net">fishutopia@comcast.net</a>.

The Texas Fly & Brew has partnered with **Chris Johnson**, owner of <u>Living Waters Fly Shop</u>, to offer a <u>variety of classes</u> specific to the Lone Star State.

Here are a few courses available to all general admission attendees: "A Man, a Fly Rod & a Kayak," taught by experienced fly fishing guide Jerry Hamon, owner of River Crossing Fly Fishing Guide Service, is for all who hope to fish safely from a kayak. Don't have a kayak yet but looking for pointers on what to buy? Hamon will cover kayak purchasing as well.

At the "Women's Panel: Ask an Expert" class, Dana Williams, former president of <u>Texas Women Fly Fishers</u>, will answer questions from the audience. Cybil Jones of <u>Dagon Apparel Company</u> will discuss how the right clothing will keep you on the water longer and make your fishing experience more enjoyable. Other guest speakers may participate.

New Mexico-based **Ron Kless**, competitive angler and a <u>Hardy</u> pro-staffer, will be presenting "Euro Nymphing: The Do's & Don'ts."

Looking for just the right kayak? Check out regional pro-staffers from Dallas-based <u>Mariner-Sails</u>.

"This is our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival, but actually anglers and vendors come from across the entire country," says Beasley. "Mesquite has done all it can to make us feel welcome and we look forward to partnering with them again. The spacious Mesquite Convention Center provides more room for vendors and sponsors and even allows specialty food trucks. A wide variety of specialty fly tyers will also be participating."

The Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival was honored to receive several first-place awards in various categories from the 2022 meeting of the Texas Festival & Events Association. "Our strong showing is thanks in large part to support from Mesquite, our amazing event team, and our excellent social media manager, Cece Liekar of The League Lady," says Beasley. "I accepted the awards on behalf of the Texas Fly & Brew team, but it was definitely a group labor of love to hold the first in-person fly-fishing event in the country since the pandemic. We had a very strong turnout in February 2021, and we expect to set a new record for vendors and attendance in 2022."

Major sponsors of the 5th Annual Texas Fly & Brew include the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Gangler's North Seal River Lodge, City of Mesquite, Trout Unlimited, Norvise and Fly Tyer. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.txflyfishingfestival.org">www.txflyfishingfestival.org</a> or call 703-402-8338.



# NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

## Fly Fishers International News for the Women Connect granted to hold the next Virtual Expo in November, 2022. **Program**

The FFI Virtual Expo was a real success, and plans are already underway to host the next FFI Virtual Expo on November 4-6, 2022

The FFI Women Connect Driftless Rendezvous film was released in mid-November showing 11 minutes of comradie, fishing, teaching, conservation, and FUN. We hope to use this film as a recruiting tool and to show what Women Connect is really all about. Thank you to John van Vliet and Catherine Smith of For Travel's Sake for the wonderful job making the film.

Women Connect will be sponsoring a photo contest this summer to support the 2023 calendar that we plan to publish as a fundraiser.

The third annual Bronze and Silver Tying Workshop hopes to be held in Mountain Home, Arkansas beginning March 27, 2022. In person Instructors will be Gretchen Beatty and Peggy Brenner. Al Beatty will participate virtually.

Women Connect declared March the month it will be emphasize involving youth in fishing and fishing related events. We have speakers lined up each week on the topic of fishing with youth. We will also have a Webinar covering this issue. The Liaisons will be spearheading this event on the council level.

June will be the Second Annual Women's Fly Fishing month.

## FFI Virtual Expo a Big Success

On November 5-7, 2021, Fly Fishers International hosted the first annual Virtual Expo. By all accounts the Expo was a real success. The number of registrations for the Virtual Expo was twice the size of the registrations for the previous in-person Expos hosted by FFI. The 2021 Virtual Expo generated many new FFI members. While several auctions were held leading up to and during the Expo, a "Last Cast" auction was held following the Expo, and the proceeds from the last auction are still being calculated.

Virtually every member of the FFI Virtual Expo Planning Committee has committed to continue their participation on the 2022 Virtual Expo Planning Committee, and during a recent FFI Board of Directors meeting, the authorization was

The 2021 Virtual Expo included 150 educational and instructional workshops. The planning for the 2022 Virtual Expo has already begun and will add many new workshops to include workshops featuring salt water fly fishing.

## 2021 Virtual Expo Film Competition

Fly Fishers International (FFI) is excited to announce the winners of the 2021 Virtual Expo Film Competition. The top 3 films have been recognized as the best among the more than two dozen films that were submitted, with the top film awarded a \$2,000 cash prize.

The contest was held in conjunction with the FFI Virtual Expo that featured over 130 workshops and drew almost 600 participants. Each film featured a short, compelling fly fishing story through the lens of conservation, education, community, destination, or the human condition. The winning films were chosen by a panel of judges from within the broader fly fishing community and will be aired during a special FFI Film screening as a part of the FFI Online series this winter.

The top film Becca Powell: Water is Life was submitted on behalf of Becca Powell by Justin Dodson and Matt Bornhorst. In the film, a series of life-changing moments led Becca to fly fishing as she faced the complete unknowns of a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Becca tackles the challenges with as much grace as she can muster, and two feet placed firmly in a river.

Tightened Lines was chosen as the second prize film. Directed by Hannah Roberts, this emotional mini-documentary follows an intimate, honest portrayal of a man in his 60s, Mark Roberts, who strives to fish regardless of his disabilities and any obstacles that confronts him.

The third prize film Until We Fish Together tells the story of Bryan Sung, a young American boy who was abducted by his mother to Korea. As his father tries to get him back from the foreign country, he learns fly fishing to cope with the loss. The film was directed by Jay Sung.

Prizes awarded for each top film were provided through the remarkable generosity of Cheeky Reels, Bird Marketing Group, John VanVliet and Catherine Smith of For Travels Sake, Snowbee Fly Rods, and FFI Life Member Larry Gibbs from Bonney Lake, WA who donated the \$2,000 cash prize for the



# **NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL-CONT**

winner. FFI is already looking ahead to the 2nd Annual Virtual Expo that will once again include a film contest.

FFI has the distinctive mission to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Formed by some of the most influential luminaries in the world of fly fishing and conservation back in 1964—and dedicated to innovative strategies to inspire a new generation of fly fishers—FFI provides opportunities for sponsors and donors to leave a lasting legacy in the sport we love.

### New Material for Fly Fishers International Learning Center

The Fly Fishers International Learning Center has become a primary source for fly fishing educational and instructional material for the fly fishing community. Virtually all of the material uploaded to the Learning Center has completed an editorial and quality assurance process before it is included in the Learning Center. The task of developing new Learning Center material is an on-going process as new material is constantly sought out and under review. For example, the Learning Center now has a new Saltwater Fly Manual, and 8 brand new casting instruction videos have been completed. The recent FFI Virtual Expo will generate brand new Learning Center material as a large number of Expo Workshops were recorded and will be uploaded to the Learning Center.

## Fly Tying

Saltwater Fly Manual: this new manual includes recipes and tying instructions (with color pictures) for 23 standard salt water fly patterns from many parts of the world. The contributing authors for this Manual include:

Jerry Coviello Ron Mayfield (Texas Council) Peggy Brenner Captain Hugh "Unk" Smith Matt Traynor Captain Chip Smith Mike George

Workshop Recordings from recent FFI Virtual Expo:

The recent FFI Virtual Expogenerated 27 flytying demonstrations and fly tying classes that will be included in the Learning Center as Expo Workshops. The fly tying demonstrations will also be added to the Learning Center Fly Tying Video Library, which currently has over 2,000 fly tying video demonstrations Casting

8 new casting instruction videos: The Casting Board of Governors has approved eight new casting instruction videos to supplement the casting instruction videos already in the Learning Center. The new casting videos include the following topics:

- 1. Line Handling
- 2. The Reach Mend
- 3. The Belgian Cast
- 4. The Curve Cast
- 5. How To Put Slack In Your Cast
- 6. Casting from the non-dominant side
- 7. The Roll Cast Pick Up
- 8. The Change of Direction Cast

Workshop Recordings from recent FFI Virtual Expo:

Among the Casting workshop recordings to be included in the Learning Center is a two-day workshop hosted by Willy George, titled Virtual Video Casting Analysis. Participants recorded their casting form, then sent the video to Willy, where he incorporated the personal casting video into the instructional analysis "OnForm" software. Then the workshop participants discussed the analysis of each casting form.

## Fly Fishing Skills

Workshop Recordings from recent FFI Virtual Expo:

Expo workshop instructors had the option to allow their workshop to be recorded, or for their workshop to not be recorded. The Virtual Expo generated 8 new workshop recordings to be included in the Learning Center:

- 1. Stream Anatomy, Fish Habitat, and Fish Behavior: presented by Barry Webster (Texas Council)
- 2. Fly Fishing Equipment Storage Gear, Wading Equipment, and Clothing: presented by Jack Gillis (Texas Council)
- 3. Reading Water and the Water Column: presented by Dutch Baughman (Texas Council)
- 4. Fly Fishing Knots: presented by Dutch Baughman (Texas Council)
- 5. The Biology of Fly Fishing for Southern Bream and Black Bass in Northern Florida and South Georgia: presented by Tom Logan
- 6. Introduction to Kayak Fly Fishing: presented by Donald Dehm
- 7. Geometry How It Helps You Play and Manage Fish: presented by Karin Miller
- 8. Tenkara Can Improve Your Regular Fly Fishing: presented by Karin Miller



THE FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL **GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION**IS A COMMUNITY OF MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AND
ENHANCING AN ANGLER'S FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE.

Fly fishing guides and outfitters provide valuable services to members of the fly fishing community around the world each year. Many Fly Fishers International (FFI) members are guides who provide fresh or salt water fishing experiences to their clients. However, many fly fishing guides are not members of the current Guides & Outfitters Association or FFI.

The expanded Guides & Outfitters Association is an effective way to establish a program that provides its members substantial benefits that include the best industry liability insurance and assist them in developing new clients.

It is the mission of FFI to support and protect fly fishing opportunities around the world for "all fish – all waters." It further is our intent to support members of the Guides & Outfitters Association as ambassadors who assist in the achievement of the FFI mission.

### BENEFITS:

- » Insurance (United States only)
- » Travel and business programs
- » Access to FFI Learning Center materials
- » Promotion of services through FFI social media and publications

VISIT FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.





# **RELAX!**

Relax!

I have worked with over a thousand fly casting students and "Relax!" is by far the most common casting tip I give out. So, what the heck am I talking about by telling people to relax while casting a fly rod???

When learning to cast a fly rod it is easy to get frustrated and some people will react by tensing up. I have seen this happen both during casting classes and on the water fishing. Unfortunately, the more you tense up the more difficult it becomes to cast and the frustration level just continues to increase. It can be a vicious circle.

Using a "death grip" on the rod handle is one reaction. I have seen knuckles turn white because someone was gripping their rod handle so tight. Always remember that fly casting is NOT a power sport. We pay a lot of money to buy rods that are so light that they measured in fractions of ounces. A super tight grip is not required to cast a fly rod and a relaxed grip will cast better and will be less fatiguing to use on an all full day fishing trip. If you find yourself tensing up there is a simple trick to help your hand relax, simply stick out your picky finger. It is extremely difficult to have death grip on a rod handle with your pinky finger sticking out. Yes, I'm talking doing the same action that the Three Stooges used to do when holding a teacup. Sticking out both your pinky and ring fingers will be more comfortable for some of you and you can actually cast very well with just your index finger and thumb on the rod's handle. Play around with how many fingers you have on the rod handle and you'll find that a nice relaxed grip works better when fly casting than a very tight grip.

Couple of quick notes on using this technique. I suggest sticking out your pinky and making just a few casts when you find yourself tensing up. The goal is to remind your body to relax and not to spend the whole day fishing with your fingers sticking



out. I have found that my accuracy suffers without all my fingers on the handle. So, I use this technique for a few casts to relax my hand and arm and then I'll lower my fingers back to the handle for more rod control. Also, this is not my idea, I watched Lefty Kreh use this technique with a student. I shamelessly stole it because this simple action works very well.

Another common reaction is for a caster's rod arm to slowly get higher and higher until it is almost straight up in the air. Holding your arm this way limits your casting stroke length which can cause all kinds of problems with a fly cast. But to me, the biggest problem with holding your arm up in the air is that it is very tiring. Anyone remember holding your hand up in the air in school and waiting for the teacher? It doesn't take very long to get tired of trying hold your hand in the air. The same thing will happen while casting, the higher you hold your rod up in the air the quicker you will get fatigued. Using a casting style that allows your elbow to be held lower than your shoulder is a much less tiring casting style to fish all today. This is true whether you use an elbow forward or elbow to the side casting style. We can discuss casting styles another time, but the keys to picking a casting style to use are to ensure that it doesn't make your body hurt and it can put the fly where you need it to land.

So, what do you do if you find yourself tensing up and your elbow starts to rise higher and higher? The first step is to take a break. OK, I know, this sounds silly, but letting go of the rod and taking a short break really does work. Put your rod in your other hand and let your casting arm relax, wiggling your fingers helps. A 30 second break without holding your rod can make a big difference. The "stick your pinky out" technique mentioned earlier will also help to force your arm to relax.

The key point of this ramble is to be aware of your body while out fishing or practicing your casting. If you find your hand or arm starting to tense up, take a break and RELAX! Using a relaxed grip and casting style produces better results and is more enjoyable to use all day on the water.

Have fun! Rex Walker FFI CI





Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that conducts **free fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from all forms of cancer.** Combining expert fly-fishing instruction with directed "courageous conversations", the organization offers a unique experience for men coping with

"This was the best time of my life! It's by far the best thing out there for men with cancer."

Retreat Participant

cancer, a time to share their stories; learn a new skill, form friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of their recovery.

Retreats are conducted over a two-and-a-half day period at a comfortable facility with onsite or nearby fishing access.

All meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment are provided at

**no cost to the participants.** Retreats are led by professional facilitators, trained retreat coordinators and expert fly-fishing instructors. A maximum of 12-14 men are invited to participate, to ensure the

quality of the instruction and to create a powerful. small-group dynamic.



"I discovered that while fly-fishing, I was in another place. In this place there was no cancer, no pain and no fear."

Retreat Participant

"This retreat was so much more than fishing; this was a life-changing experience."

Retreat Participant

"Reel Recovery is a gift. Being here has given me the strength and courage to move forward with my life."

Retreat Participant

### **GOALS**

- **Provide a safe, reflective environment** for the participants to discuss their disease and recovery with other men with shared experiences, thereby providing support and information to help them in their recovery.
- **Provide expert fly-fishing instruction** that enables the participants to learn a new skill, form a healing connection with nature, and participate in a sport they can continue throughout their recovery and lifetime.
- Provide participants information about cancer-related resources, both in the local community and nationally to facilitate networking and enhanced management of their recovery.

If you would like to be a participant, volunteer, or make a donation please contact us. National: Toll Free 800-699-4490 <a href="mailto:info@reelrecovery.org">info@reelrecovery.org</a> <a href="www.reelrecovery.org">www.reelrecovery.org</a> <a href="www.texasreelrecovery.org">TX: Mike Emerson 817-894-7832</a> <a href="mailto:mgemerson1944@gmail.com">mgemerson1944@gmail.com</a> <a href="www.texasreelrecovery.org">www.texasreelrecovery.org</a> <a href="www.texasreelrecovery.org">OK: Martin Weaver 405.808.7116</a> <a href="www.okieflier@att.net">okieflier@att.net</a> <a href="http://reelrecoveryoklahoma.org/">http://reelrecoveryoklahoma.org/</a>



# **ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Texas Council of Fly Fishers International (FFi) will be called to order a Special Meeting to present to Texas Council FFI members the slate of candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors of the Texas Council of FFi.

The meeting will be held on January 17, 2022, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be presented through a "Zoom" access codes can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter, this meeting can be attended by anyone, but voting can be only by members in good standing of Fly Fishers International. Voting will take place through electronic voting via Zoom.

The first part of the meeting will cover topics as outlined in the agenda found in another part of this Newsletter. Immediately after adjournment of the General meeting. The Board will reconvene and elect officers for the 2022 term.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Just remember the Special meeting is to be on the 17th of January 2022. There will NOT be a meeting on our normal meeting day which is the 2nd Monday of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact me at president@ texascouncilffi.com

I would like to hear from you.

Rick Haness President, Texas Council FFi

# **KAYAK - DRAWING 2021**

The Texas Council offered this past year was won, picked up and immediately made its journey to new waters in the State of Washington.

The story is a unique one. The winner, Kevin Goy bought one ticket while attending Octoberfisch this past October. As the day went by he visited the Texas Council booth many times looking more apprehensive each visit. The ticket "jug" was filling with kayak tickets and Kevin was seeing his odds diminishing as the hours then minutes pasted away. Time was really short, and Kevin felt the need to make his odds a little better. He bought one more ticket. It was the winning ticket. Now Kevin was in a dilemma as he was in the middle of relocating to San Antonio to start a new job, I said he could take his time as I had to make arrangements to get the kayak to him.

A few weeks passed by when Kevin called in a rush, asking if he could get the kayak asap, I said sure but what was the rush. He said that he was moving to Washington to a piece of property right on

a river that he could Kayak on any time of the day any time of the year.

So, the real story is you should buy more than one ticket to support the Texas Council.

It could dramatically change your life.

Rick Haness President, Texas Council FFi

# 29TH ANNUAL DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL



Anyone interested in fly tying or fly fishing in general will want to consider making plans to attend the 29th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival to be held in Houston, Texas. This year's festival will take place on Saturday, February 12th, 2022.

Details with regard to the location and schedule can be found on the Texas Fly Fishers web site https://texasflyfishers.org As always, this event is open to the public. Coming from all areas of Texas and the surrounding states, tyers of all skill levels and disciplines will be on hand to demonstrate their particular talents, patterns or styles of tying. This great event usually draws upwards of 50 tyers demonstrating cold water, warm water and saltwater flies.

The featured tyer for the 2022 Festival will be Jerry Coviello. Jerry won his first fly tying contest in 1990 at the World Fishing and Outdoor Show in Suffern, New York and is a life member of the Fly Fishers International, a member of Trout Unlimited, and serves in leadership roles in the Fly Fishers International Fly (FFI) Fly Tying Group. Additionally, Jerry serves on the FFI Fly Tying Group's Board of Governors and as a FFI Fly Tying Award Evaluator. Jerry is also a Fly Tying Field Editor for FlyFisher Magazine.

From its humble beginnings in April, 1993, the Festival has grown into one of the top fly tying events in Texas, consistently attracting the top fly tiers from all over the country. So, please consider making plans to be at this great event; come on out, watch some great fly tyers and spend the day socializing with others interested in the world of fly fishing.

# TEXAS COUNCIL

# LEFTY'S DECEIVER (OLIVE VERSION)



Fly tied and photos by Jerry Coviello

Fly Fishers International (FFI), as part of the "All Fish, All Waters' initiative, created a Saltwater Fly Tying Manual of 23 standard fly patterns from many parts of the world. Several top tiers from across North America contributed to the manual and it now available for download on the FFI website – <a href="http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/">http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/</a>. Click on 'Learn' -> 'Saltwater Fly Tying Manual' to download the manual.

One of the main contributors to the manual was Jerry Coviello. Jerry is the Chairman of the FFI Fly Tying Board and has won several awards for his fly tying skills and contributions to the fly tying community. Jerry is a good friend of mine and we collaborate on FFI Fly Tying programs on a regular basis. He is one of the most experienced fly tiers and sitting with him for even a few minutes will increase your tying skills - which is why the Texas Fly Fishers has invited Jerry to be the featured tier at the Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival in Houston on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Check the Texas Fly Fisher website (https://texasflyfishers.org/) for details of the fly tying festival.

Below is an example of the one of the flies in the FFI Saltwater Fly Tying Manual – the classic Lefty's Deceiver as tied by Jerry Coviello.

Lefty Kreh designed this fly in the 1950's and it's continued popularity is because it is great bait fish imitation that can be tied in various colors and sizes. Enjoy Jerry's tying description and hopefully we'll see you at the Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival in Feb.

Thanks

Ron Mayfield Director of Fly Tying – FFI Texas Council Umpqua Fly Designer FFI Certified Casting Instructor

# Lefty's Deceiver

**Materials:** 

**Hook**: Saltwater (any size you need to tie) Fly tied on a 3/0 **Wing**: Tied at the Bend of the hook 6 to 12 Ewing White saddle Hackles with an olive Ewing Grizzle hackle tied on each side and 10 to 15 strands of Olive or Gold Kyrstal Flash

**Body**: Silver Mylar

Beard: 1/2 inch of red Krystal Flash

Collar: White Bucktail and on each side a short olive Grizzly

Ewing Saddle hackle.

Topping: 10 to 15 strands of Olive Krystal Flash and 10 to 15

strands of Peacock Herl

Head: Green Translucent Solarez Bone Dry



# Step 1

Place your hook in the vise.



### Step 2

Select 10 white saddle hackles. Separate them into two groups of 5 saddle hackles each. Select two olive grizzly saddle hackles



## Step 3

Create the wing, place the dull sides facing each other. On the outside of the wing put a olive grizzly saddle hackle on each side. I like to add head cement on the stems of the hackle so the wing is one component



# LEFTY'S DECEIVER (OLIVE VERSION)



Step 4 Tie the tying thread one eye length behind the eye.



Step 10 Bring your thread to one eye length behind the eye. Tie in silver Mylar for the body



Step 5 Bring your thread to the bend of the hook



Step 11 Wrap the silver Mylar Tinsel from the eye to the bend and back to where your thread is and tie off the Silver Mylar Tinsel



Step 6 Tie the wing at the bend of the hook. Securing the hackle stems to the shank of the hook.



Step 12 The Top Collar Cut and stack a bunch of white bucktail. Tie the stacked bunch behind the eye but leave room for the head. Should be about 2 eye lengths behind the eye.



Step 7 Bind down the hackle stems to the shank of the hook



Step 13







Step 9 Tie in same amount of Krystal Flash on the far side of the wing



Step 14 Tie in a short olive grizzle hackle on both sides of the collar



# LEFTY'S DECEIVER (OLIVE VERSION)



Step 15
Tie in 10 to 15 strand of red Krystal flash for the Beard. Cut them to a half inch in length



**Step 17** Tie in 10 to 15 Peacock herl for the topping



Step 16
Tie in 10 to 15 strands of lime green Krystal Flash for the topping



**Step 18** Whip Finish





# Covid Guidance Policy Updated from Previous Versions

## Pending Approval by the Board of Directors November 29, 2021

As the Covid pandemic continues to develop throughout the United States and internationally, FFI remains flexible to amend the policy governing our organization's operations during these difficult times. All previous versions of the policy are replaced by the policy set forth in this document.

The leadership of FFI, its councils, and clubs purchasing insurance through the FFI Insurance Program should be aware that the organization's major carriers have excluded any and all claims arising from infectious diseases, including Covid. There will be no claims paid or legal defense funds available in the event of a claim. Decisions whether to participate in organized events should be made with a clear understanding of the impacts of that exclusion.

- Consistent with previous policies, members, clubs, and councils should follow state and local guidelines for Covid;
- As such, if Clubs and Councils wish to participate in shows or events that are conducted in compliance with state and local Covid guidance, they may do so;
- FFI HQ does not make decisions on planning, execution, and attendance for clubs and councils
  that opt to participate in fly fishing shows, events, and/or gatherings. Clubs and councils
  expressly assume the risk of any liability, causes of actions or any claim for damages that arise
  from any Covid-related issues due to their participation in any fly fishing shows, events, and /or
  gatherings;
- Because casting exam events are approved through a centralized process, they are still under the jurisdiction of FFI HQ, but may be held if in compliance with state and local Covid guidance, and must also follow the guidelines outlined below:
  - Proof of vaccinations for both examiners and candidates will be required.
  - Masking and social distancing for indoor gatherings is strongly recommended.
  - Outdoor activities where people are gathered should include social distancing and masking where practicable.
- Any person with any symptoms of illness must not attend an FFI sanctioned and/or sponsored events, regardless of entity sponsoring such event.
- Volunteers participating in events, whether sponsored by HQ, Councils, or Charter Clubs must sign a Hold Harmless agreement and return it to the FFI HQ/Council/Charter Club program coordinator prior to the event.
- Testing for Covid infection and/or proof of vaccination <u>may</u> be required by event organizers; such testing may include the rapid antigen test or PCR test administered by a health care professional.



# TEXAS COUNCIL SUPPORT LETTER



Thank you for your support of the Texas Council and Fly Fishers International. Just as the Texas Council focus is on the member clubs, the larger FFI focus is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters continues by focusing on conservation, education and a sense of community.

To align ourselves with this national strategy, the Texas Council is focusing on our local clubs. Our goal is to provide a source of community feedback, support, direction and funding to assist local clubs with the grassroots movement and avocation that is fly fishing.

To this end, our council is seeking funding to help. We will always be grateful for donations we receive, but in 2020 we will also focus on raising funds through our newsletter. We will promote the FFI Texas Council and our newsletter through the Texas Council website, social media, through our clubs across the state , and through the National FFI website.

The Texas Council newsletter has been in place for many years now, and has successfully promoted both commercial and non-profit activities both across the state and nationally. With our growing group of over 1,000 members throughout the state, our newsletter is uniquely positioned to reach niche market customers for your business.

Please consider advertising in our Council's newsletter. We have a very affordable advertising rate for the reach you will receive with your ad, which includes placement in all four newsletters.

Prices for advertising with the Texas Council newsletter's four issues are:

- Business Card \$50 a year
- 1/4 page color ad \$100 a year
- 1/2 page color ad \$200 a year
- FULL page color ad \$300 a year (That's only \$75 a season!)

The newsletter will be published four times a year. Each edition will publish at the beginning of each season, as follows:

Deadline for content and advertising Spring Deadline: **March 1st**Newsletter sent out **March 20th** 

Summer Deadline: **June 1st**Newsletter sent out **June 21st** 

Fall Deadline: **September 1st**Newsletter sent out **September 22nd** 

Winter Deadline: **December 1st**Newsletter sent out **December 21st** 

Thank you for your support in the past, and we look forward to your future involvement with the Texas Council to promote fly fishing across Texas.

Contact us at: president@texascouncilffi.com

or

communications@texascouncilffi.com

Thanks,

Your Texas Council

# **THANK YOU!**



### Club Leaders

The 22 active FFI clubs (including 3 Project Healing Waters Affiliates) that make up the Texas Council require a commitment of time and effort from approximately 200 dedicated, unselfish men and women who provide leadership to these clubs. Each club (except PHW Affiliates) elects the following positions, at a minimum: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Conservation Chair, Education Chair, and Outings Director. Most clubs would also designate leaders in Casting, Fly Tying, Womens Programs, Youth Programs a Webmaster/Social Media Director and a Fundraising Chair.

This effort amounts to thousands of hours of personal time and talent committed to the success of the broad mission of FFI; *Preserving the Legacy of Fly Fishing for All Fish, All Waters*\*

Members of the Texas Council Board and the leadership and staff of FFI thank all of you for the hard work and dedication you apply everyday toward our pillars of Conservation, Education and Community.

Here are your current Clubs and their Presidents for 2020:

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Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	Gil DeShazo
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	Todd Fleming
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	Dave Bush
Dallas Fly Fishers	Dallas	Julia H. Bell
Fort Worth Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	David Hooper
Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers	Fredricksburg	Tim Lafferty
Lonestar Fly Fishers	Tyler	Mike Maris
Lubbock Fly Fishers	Lubbock	David Crawford
New Braunfels Fly Fishers	New Braunfels	Dan Cone
Pineywoods Fly Fishers	Lufkin	Walter McLendon
Red River Fly Fishers	Sherman	Gene Brown
San Gabriel Fly Fishers	San Gabriel	James Reese
Texas Fly Fishers	Houston	Don Puckett
Texas Women's Fly Fishers	Statewide	Dana Williams
Collin County Fly Fishing Club	Wylie	Kevin Grogan
Collin County Fishers (PHWFF)	Plano	Jerry Walker
Kekoa Outdoors	Melissa	Chris Gorman
Rowlett Fishers (PHWFF)	Royce City	Derrick Meis
SCTX Fly Fishing Club	Georgetown	Tony Saviano
Conroe Fly Fishers (PHWFF)	Conroe	William Huegel
Corpus Christi Fly Fishers	Corpus Christi	Reese Hunt

## **Volunteers**

Your Council Board is composed of 16 directors serving in various capacities very similar to the structure of Club Leadership. Since the members of the Council Board come from eight different clubs within the Council, with rare exception we must meet electronically. In 2020, along with millions of other people we upped our game and now use Zoom for our meetings. Being able to see the director who is speaking improves understanding and meeting efficiency.

The Council is an extension of FFI with the primary purpose of assisting in the delivery to our Clubs and Members the benefits and opportunities provided by FFI. All of the Directors are fully dedicated to the same mission and objectives as our Clubs. In 2021 we will focus heavily on enhancing the flow of communication in both directions between the Members of our Clubs, FFI and the Council by sharing knowledge across the entire organization.

The Council will be seating new board members in early January and we are always looking for volunteers to serve on our Board. If you are interested please contact any of the directors to start a conversation. Email addresses of the entire board can be found at <a href="https://tcffi.org/">https://tcffi.org/</a>

President – Rick Haness Casting Director – Austin Orr Treasurer – Reid Winger Secretary - Jim Richards

Board Member at Large - Dutch Baughman

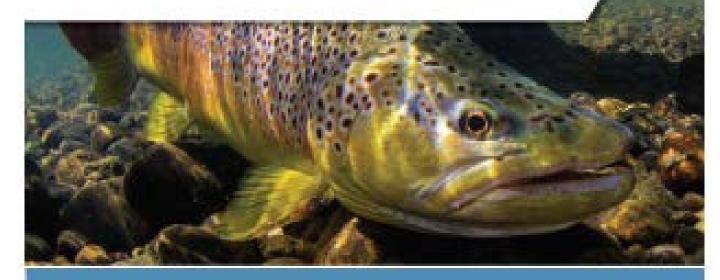
Tying Director – Ron Mayfield

Women's Program Chair - Gwen Sitton Vice President Education - Jack Gillis Vice President Membership - Rick Haness Vice President Conservation - David Reichert

Webmaster - Tim Gikas Youth Director - Austin Orr TPWD Liaison - Keira Quam Past President – Jerry Hamon

Social Media / Newsletter - Russell Husted

# KEEP OUR FISHERIES HEALTHY





RELEASE FISH PROPERLY

GOBARBLESS & LEAD-FREE



PACK OUT ALL TRASH

CLEAN YOUR BOATS, BOOTS & WADERS





CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL ORG



# **Texas Council Clubs**

Club	City	Website/Email
Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	www.facebook.com/abileneflyfishers
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	www.alamoflyfishers.org
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	www.austinflyfishers.com
Collin County Fishers (PHWFF)	Plano	jerry.walker@projecthealingwaters.org
Collin County Fly Fishing Club	Wylie	www.collincountyflyfishing.org
Conroe Fly Fishers (PHWFF)	Conroe	txfritz4134@suddenlink.net
Corpus Christi Fly Fishers Inc	Corpus Christi	www.lmflyfishers.com
Dallas Flyfishers	Dallas	www.dallasflyfishers.org
Fort Worth Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	www.fortworthflyfishers.org
Kekoa Outdoors	Melissa	www.kekoaoutdoors.org
Lone Star Fly Fishers	Tyler	www.lonestarflyfishers.com
Lubbock Fly Fishers	Lubbock	www.lubbockflyfishers.org
New Braunfels Fly Fishers	New Braunfels	www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsflyfishers
Pineywoods Fly Fishers	Lufkin	www.pwff.org
Red River Fly Fishers	Sherman	www.rrff.org
Rowlett Fishers (PHWFF)	Royse City	derrick.meis@projecthealingwaters.org
San Gabriel Fly Fishers	Georgetown	www.sgflyfishers.com
SCTX Fly Fishing Club	Georgetown	flytyerfred@gmail.com
Texas Fly Fishers	Houston	www.texasflyfishers.org
Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers	Fredericksburg	thcff.org
Texas Women Fly Fishers	Statewide	<u>www.twff.net</u>

Note: PHWFF clubs serve only disabled veterans.



# ALL FISH, ALL WATERS ...ALL IN!

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

5237 U.S. HWY 89 SOUTH | SUITE 11 | LIVINGSTON, MT 59047 | 406-222-9369

# PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN FFI

# **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Access to exclusive features and content on our website including:

- The New Learning Center
- The Flyfisher magazine
- The Tying Times newsletter and Fly of the Month
- The Loop The Journal of Fly Casting Professionals
- The Fly Tying Video Library (over 300 videos!)
- Exclusive Discounts on Hotels, Car Rentals and Insurance
- Searchable Casting, Fly Tying, Guide and Club Directories
- Fun Fly Tying and Casting Challenges

Discounted entry into FFI events

**FFI Decals and Patch** 

Most importantly, the knowledge that you are helping to preserve fish habitats, the education of our next generation of fly fishers and our on-going conservation efforts.



# AT THE FFI HEADQUARTERS IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

- The 2018 FFI Annual Fair held in Boise, ID, was jam packed with hundreds of workshops, seminars, famous authors and over 100 expert tiers and casters sharing their skills.
- FFI just launched the Learning Center with online classes in Fly Casting, Fly Tying, Fly Fishing Skills, and Conservation Education for the benefit of FFI members and the fly fishing community.
- Our ever-growing fly fishing museum includes the 7th fiber-glass rod ever made, the Fritz Gerds collection that includes over 150 fly plates, and an impressive collection of Lee Wulff memorabilia.
- FFI has provided grants and joined our partners in fighting mining proposals on the Menominee River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, in the pristine Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota, in Alaska's Bristol Bay and the Yellowstone Park watershed in Montana. These efforts will protect thousands of river and stream miles that impact our opportunities to fly fish.

PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

# FFI TEXAS COUNCIL IS AT WORK IN YOUR REGION!



We now have 19 clubs throughout the state!

Visit www.texascouncilifff.com to learn all the happenings in your council

### Llano River Flood:

With YOUR help, the Texas Council (TXC) is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife to create a strategic plan to help restore the storm ravaged Llano River in Texas. The long-term outlook for fish populations depends on how riverside landowners and communities respond to the aftermath of downed trees and other debris deposited along the river.



# **Hill Country Youth Ranch:**

The TXC awarded Hill Country Fly Fishers (one of its local clubs) an educational grant to purchase fly rods for the Hill Country Youth Ranch of Leakey, Texas.

The youth ranch is a non-profit organization that helps abused and orphaned children.

YOUR support helps provide therapy for these kids through fly fishing!

# Fairs/Shows/Clinic:

YOUR membership dollars allow the TXC and its clubs to be committed to offering tying, casting demos, and Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badges throughout the year. The council and its clubs are also very involved in Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters.





YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
HELPS US CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS
AND
SO MUCH MORE!



# 5237 US Highway 89 S #11 Livingston, MT 59047 406-222-9369 | www.flyfishersinternational.org

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**

General 1-Year \$35	Fly Tying Group 1-Year \$20	
General 3-Years \$90	Fly Tying Group 3-Years \$48.50	
Senior - (65+) \$25 *	Fly Tying Group Lifetime \$285	
Veteran - \$25 *	Guides Association 1-Year \$30	
Youth/Student - (22 and under) $$20 *$	Guides Association 3-Years \$70	
Business - \$100 *	Casting Renewal 1-Year \$45	
Lifetime - \$1000	Casting Renewal 3-Years \$120	
Lifetime Premium - \$1500 **	(Casting Renewal is for certified instructors only)	
Printed Copy of the <i>Flyfisher</i> MagazineUS resid	dents - \$10/yrInternational residents - \$20/yr	
(All members have access to our magazine by logging into www.flyfishersinternational.org)		
NOTE: -General memberships include spouses, cohabita -Lifetime memberships include spouses and coh -In order to join a specialty group (Guide, Fly Ty	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase **Includes custom built TFO rod. Refer to:		