

SPRING EDITION



TEXAS COUNCIL



*Educating,
Conserving,
and Fly Fishing
the Waters of the
Great State of Texas*

The Texas Line & Leader

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter brings in a great fishing season; it is about time. We have seen some crazy weather this winter, but it is Texas. What else would you expect?

The early part of this year saw Troutfest in all its glory. They always put on a very good event, and it continues to be a great and meaningful time from year to year. I am writing this message as Flyfest on the banks of the Trinity River in Fort Worth is concluding its 2022 production. The temperature this year started our very chilly but as the day is wearing on, the sun continues to shine. I understand a 25 3/4" trout is the leading big trout; that may be a Flyfest record.

It is about the time the white bass should be making their Spring spawn runs up the rivers and tributaries. It is a very sporadic run at this time because of the lack of rain throughout our state. Hopefully, this will change shortly.

I want to report that our board is in place and gearing up to get on with the business and purpose of the Texas Council of FFi. We are going to try some new methods to assist our clubs and attract new members to Fly Fishers International. Our efforts around the state will require a lot of volunteer help. If you are in a position to help, please let me know via our [Council's President Email](#). We can use all the help we can get.

The Council is planning some new sections on our website, one of which is to help us all locate fishing places in other sections of the state. The target to

get this up and running is by the middle of the year. You could help us along if you would offer some ideas of areas you know in your area as well as other locations.

I know I mentioned the following in my last message, but I think the following merits repeating.

"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 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." If you have suggestions, please let me know.

With the "pandemic" currently taking a back seat in our lives, you and your clubs might begin to plan more activities for your club members. Just remember to always be aware of your surroundings and react responsibly.

I hope to see ya on our rivers, lakes and streams many times this year. Have a great Spring and please get involved... you will be surprised of the results!

Rick Haness
President
Texas Council FFi

BASS ON THE FLY

Hello Everyone,

We are looking for a great turnout this year and hope to see you all there. I wanted to give you an update on the Tournament. We are scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 6:00am - 2:00pm. Anyone who is interested in doing Kayak Demos on Friday, please let me know. Don't forget the Big Sunfish Tourney on Friday afternoon, 3-6pm.

Registration is now open at: <https://www.ianglertournament.com/bass-fly>

Please register in the Kayak Division or the Boaters Division.

We have some nice prizes again this year from Sage, Reddington, TFO, Sims, Orvis and Grey Wolf Fly Shop to name a few. Also, you must be registered by April 22 to be eligible for the drawing for a Sage Fly Rod.

Although Lake Fork is low due to the repairs to the Dam, they are still catching a lot of big Bass so come prepared!

As a reminder, the Tournament proceeds benefit Reel Recovery and Patriot Anglers. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Be safe and many Thanks!

Jerry Walker
Bass on the Fly
World Championship Fly Fishing Tournament
<http://bassonthefly.org>
jerry.walker2544@gmail.com
(214) 864-9443

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

Sponsored by TEXAS COUNCIL of FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

FUNDRAISING – FLY FISHING RAFFLE 2022

3 Guided Fishing Trips – 3 Chances to win!

Trip 1: Guided trip in Rockport with Capt. Jeff Johnson at “Fly Fish Rockport.”

A full-day guided trip in the flats of Rockport for two. Rockport fly fishing is some of the best on the entire Texas Coast. With excellent year-round populations of Redfish, Speckled Trout, Black Drum, or other species such as Jack Crevalle and Tarpon.



Donated by: Captain Jeff Johnson

jeff@flyfishrockport.com

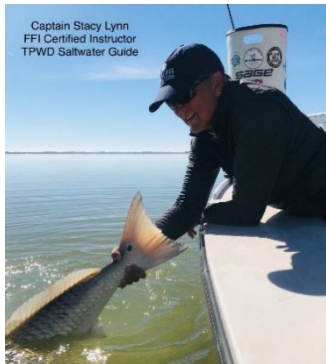
www.flyfishrockport.com

Expiration: April 1, 2023



Trip 2: Guided trip in the Galveston Bay area with Capt. Stacy Lynn.

The trip journey is for a full day for one/two anglers. Saltwater fly fishing instructions and guiding in Galveston or Rockport areas, possibly site fishing to Redfish.



Donated by: Capt. Stacy Lynn.

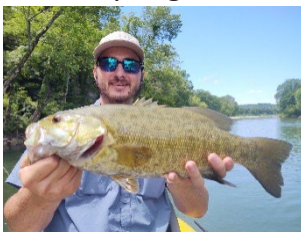
www.wowfishing.com

Expiration: Dec.31, 2023



Trip 3: Guided wade fishing, Lower Illinois River, NE Oklahoma with Donovan Clary.

A full-day of guided wade fishing for 2 persons on the Lower Illinois River. This river is a hidden gem in Oklahoma that contains stocked Trout, Bass, Bream, and several other species of fish species. Take advantage of extensive Donovan's experience.



Donated by: Donovan Clary

www.facebook.com/oklahomaflyfishing.net

Expiration: April. 1, 2023



TICKET PRICES

1 TICKET for \$20 or 6 Tickets for \$100

BUY TICKETS 3 WAYS

CALL 214-679-2682 - www.texascouncilffi.com

Email: president@texascouncilffi.com

Drawing

Oct. 22, 2022, at approx. 5:00PM

Attendance not required to WIN

Oktoberfish Fly Fishing Festival

Happy State Bank Expo Center
3785 TX-27 Kerrville, TX.



Grapevine FLY SHOP

Extensive Fly Tying Inventory

Dealers for Thomas and Thomas, Hardy Reels and Rods, Nautilus Reels

EP Fly Tying, Flymen Fishing, Sightcast, Semperfli, Hareline,

Mystic Rods and Risen Rods and reels and Monic Fly Lines.

122 N Main Street Grapevine Texas 76051

www.grapevineflyfishing.com

720-453-6878



8th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival
June 10th and 11th at Lake Athens Marina and RV Center

Featuring:

- Two Fly Fishing Challenges
- Casting Instruction
- Fly tying demos and instruction
- Casting contest
- Lots of prizes, food, fun and fellowship

Benefiting:
Healing Waters &
Casting for Recovery

Johnny -- (972)-697-7096 - johnny2448@gmail.com - johnnyonthefly.com

THE RETURN OF THE TEXAS FLY FISHERS (HOUSTON) DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL



On Saturday, February 12th, 2022, the Texas FlyFishers (Houston) celebrated the 29th Anniversary of the Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival.

The Festival was held at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center in Houston, Texas from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with lunch and refreshments provided for the tyers.

The Featured Tyer for the 2022 Festival was Jerry Coviello from Pennsylvania who is Chairman of the Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Board of Governors. In addition to classroom demonstrations by Jerry Coviello, Don Puckett, President of the Texas Fly Fishers, demonstrated several of his "Five Minute Foam Flies" and Dr. Rey Ramirez from Brownsville, Texas demonstrated techniques used to tie his saltwater "Macko Krimp Fly" pattern.

In addition to the featured classroom demonstrations, the area's top tyers were invited to exhibit their talents and to assist other tyers of all levels in improving their tying techniques in tying a wide variety of fly fishing flies used for both fresh and saltwater fly fishing.

Throughout the day, there were individual tying presentations of both fresh and saltwater flies and during the noon hour the Iron Fly Competition was held. The Iron Fly Competition is an event at which select tyers are given some mystery fly tying materials and then asked to create a fly from those materials. There are several "rounds" with each "round" containing fewer tyers until finalists are chosen and then an overall winner is selected. The 2022 Winner of the Iron Fly Competition was Orvis endorsed guide and experienced tyer, Kevin Hutchison <https://www.orvis.com/kevinhutchisontx/10NX.html>

So, mark your calendars now for the 2023 Texas Fly Fishers Dr. Ed Rizzolo which will be the 30th Anniversary of the event. The event is traditionally held the second Saturday of February which will be February 11, 2023.

Finally, if you are interested in participating as a tyer in the 2023 event, please leave a comment on the Texas Fly Fishers web site description of the 2022 event (<https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/01/13/29th-annual-dr-ed-rizzolo-fly-tying-festival-saturday-february-12-2022/>) and keep an eye out for the announcement of the 2023 event.

To all of those who attended as spectators and participants the Texas Fly Fishes (Houston) thank you for your participation.

A few photos from the 2022 event:



DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL-CONTD.



DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL-CONTD.



**This year we succeeded in getting 130 miles of the Trinity River
designated as a National Water Trail
We fought to protect Mary's Creek
We helped hundreds of people discover social distancing on the water
But we cannot continue without your help!
Join Trinity Coalition and make a donation today.**

Help us help our river!

TrinityCoalition.org



**TRINITY
COALITION**

Providing Conservation through Recreation



TEXAS COUNCIL FFI CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTORS PROVIDE CASTING INSTRUCTION AT TROUTFEST



With an expected attendance of 3,000+, Troutfest 2022, sponsored by the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, was held February 18-20 in New Braunfels, Texas.

The two day event included a key note speaker, silent auction, door prizes, fly tying demonstrations, a fly fishing film, food, kids events and booths staffed with shops, artists and gear manufacturers.

Additionally, the event included two days of casting instruction and one hour casting clinics. These casting activities were held both on and off the water and included not only individual instruction but also casting clinics addressing subjects such as accuracy, saltwater fly casting, casting in the wind, the double haul technique, switch/two handed casting, the differences in fly casting equipment, a general casting class for women and other subjects and techniques related to fly casting.

These two days of casting instruction were provided by Texas Council FFI Certified Casting Instructors from around the State of Texas and included: Jim Hund and Cameron Dunn from Lubbock, Gary Davison and John Slocomb from the Conroe/Willis, Texas area, Captain Stacy Lynn from Galveston, Rex Walker from the Dallas area, Andy Payne from Georgetown, Alan King and Steve Weaver from Bryan/College Station and Jim Richards from Houston. Additionally, FFI Master Casting Instructor Jeff Ferguson drove over from his home in Louisiana to participate.

All of the clinics were well attended by an enthusiastic groups of students and seemed to be enjoyed by the students as well as the instructors. So, if you are able to make it to the GRTU Trout Fest in 2023 be sure to stop by the casting instruction area for some casting practice/instruction and great fly fishing fellowship.

LAKE ATHENS FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

June 10th & 11th 2022
Benefits our Friends and
Project Healing Water North Texas
and Casting for Recovery

Schedule of activities:
Friday, June 10th Sunfish Challenge

3:00 PM- Check in:
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Sunfish Challenge
*Dinner & Presentations follow

Saturday, June 11th
Big Bass and Longest Stringer Challenge
5:30 AM: - Check in:
7:00 AM - 1:00 PM Big Bass and Longest Stringer Challenge
All Day - Tying Instruction and Demos
1:00 pm- Lunch, Awards, prizes, Social, Instruction, Casting Games and Competitions
*Boat and Small Craft Divisions
*Door Prizes: Vendors:
*TPWD instruction and Demos
*Great Food and beverages.
*Kids Fly Fishing Clinic
Fun and Fellowship for the whole family!

REGISTRATION FOR LAKE ATHENS FLY FISHING
FESTIVAL BY CLICKING THE LINK BELOW:

https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=135291

RED RIVER FLY FISHERS RENDEZVOUS

On a brisk Saturday morning, in the woods of the Eisenhower State Park sits a stand-alone building that is the gathering place for the annual Red River Fly Fishers Rendezvous.

This gathering of fly-tyers is made up of all skill levels from beginner all the way to master tyers. This group is always willing and eager to share a few stories and ideas about how to create and tie effective flies.

This event attracted three prominent Clubs from the angling community. Red River Fly Fishers, Dallas Fly Fishers and Ft. Worth Fly Fishers were all under one roof with about 40 tyers present and well over 700-800 years of combined fly-tying experience.

Red River Fly Fishers has been around since 2003 and they have sponsored the Rendezvous event for 7 years. They go above and beyond to provide a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere. Mr. Gene's wife Sherry even provided her famous pinto beans. They truly are delicious!

We just wanted to say thank you to Red River Fly Fishers for hosting this great event and for inviting fly-tyers from all over the state of Texas. We will look forward to making this a yearly event not to miss.

Paul Locklear
Area Chief, Dallas Fly Fishers
Member, Ft. Worth Fly Fishers

NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

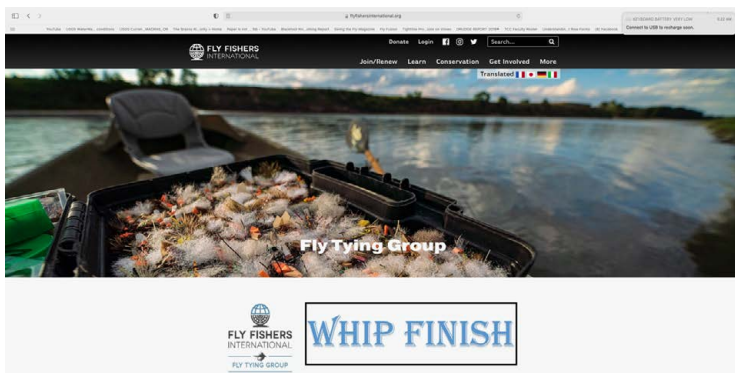
FLY TYERS:

The Fly Tying Group of the Fly Fishers International organization is providing a terrific resource to fly tyers, free of charge. This resource is the “Whip Finish Newsletter”. It is available to you at the FFI website: www.flyfishersinternational.org. At the website, click on “More”, then click on Whip Finish in the Publications column.

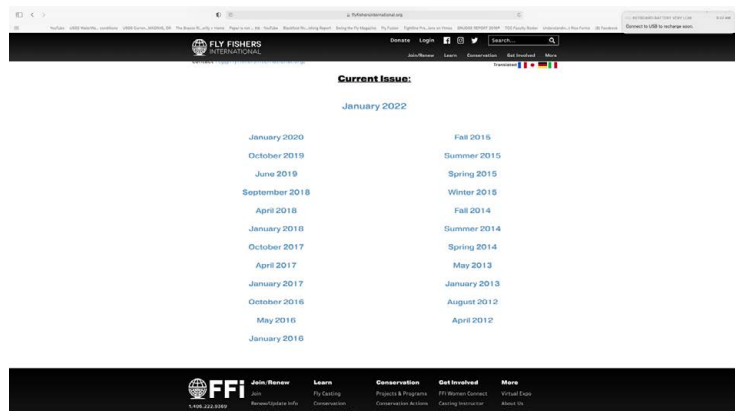
Whip Finish is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of Fly Fishers International (FFI). It is published quarterly as a major venue for informing members of projects and upcoming events of interest to them. Each issue contains articles that include planning and teaching tying workshops, helpful tying techniques and descriptions of tying materials and their unique characteristics that make them especially suitable for specific tying applications.

The Fly Tying Group Board of Governors has a Newsletter Committee responsible for the publication, and includes fly tyers with excellent personal fly tying skills and many years of solid experience. The Committee includes Texas Council members Barry Webster and Fred Hannie.

This is the homepage of the Whip Finish Newsletter:



Also on the homepage, you can access the archive of previous newsletter publications:



LEARNING CENTER:

The following educational and instruction materials are currently uploaded to the Learning Center or they are in the editing and quality assurance process:

1. Saltwater Flies Manual-Uploaded
2. Introduction to Fly Fishing-Uploaded
3. Fundamental Flies for a Beginner Fly Tier-Uploaded
4. Fly Tying Skills Award Program-Uploaded
5. Fly Tying Video Library-Uploaded
6. Recordings from the FFI Online series-Uploaded
7. Fly Casting Development Program-Uploaded
8. New Casting Instruction videos-In progress/some already uploaded (The new casting videos will present instruction for:)
 - Line Handling
 - The Reach Mend
 - The Belgian Cast
 - The Curve Cast
 - The Slack Cast
 - Casting from the Non-Dominant Side
 - The Roll Cast Pick Up
 - Change of Direction Cast
9. Youth Fly Fishing Education Program –In progress
10. FFI Virtual Expo Workshop Recordings-In progress
11. Quill Body Flies –In progress

VIRTUAL EXPO, 2022:

The 2022 Virtual Expo Planning Committee has begun meeting for the 2022 Virtual Expo to be held on November 4-6, 2022. The 2022 Virtual Expo will surpass the 2021 Virtual Expo in the number of educational workshops available and special programs. The 2021 Virtual Expo had 150 educational and instructional workshops and the 2022 Virtual Expo will have more, to include more workshops pertaining to saltwater fly fishing.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Conservation of our natural landscapes...our lands and waters... is fundamental to our enduring enjoyment and opportunities to fly fish. This natural infrastructure supports the essential habitats for fish and other wildlife and processes the clean air and fresh water necessary to all life including human. It is for these reasons that the Board Conservation Committee (Committee) pursues strategic activities on behalf of our members and community. Conservation Actions The Committee collaborates with our Conservation Partners to monitor major conservation issues

NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL-CONT

and provides scientifically and legally sound recommendations in the form of Public or Expert Opinion. Such Conservation Actions have been taken on 3 matters since January 1, 2022. FFI Insider was prepared to update members regarding a request of the National Forest Service to withdraw mining leases from approximately 225,000 acres of NFS lands in the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Comments were provided in collaboration with our Conservation Partners concerning recommendations concerning the Water Resource Development Act, Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act and protection of clean water in the Everglades. Science On The Fly A collaborative project is in planning with staff of "Science On The Fly" to add rivers and streams of importance to FFI members to SOTF's already robust simple size of waters where water quality samples are collected monthly for analysis and monitoring. Committee Members have coordinated with their respective Councils and Clubs to identify 23 such waters as candidates for sampling. Each water is of importance to fisheries for a variety of reasons and as part of the larger project will provide comparative data on a broader scale.

WOMEN CONNECT

1. Women Connect is dedicating March to Fly Fishing the Fountain of Youth. We will offer weekly programming all month on issues related to fishing with youth. April Vokey will be one of our speakers during the month. We will have youth speakers and tiers as well. Our Liaisons are working with each of the councils to have at least one event during the month in each council, within the parameters of what we can do with COVID still active.

2. March 27 – April 2 Women Connect offers the Third Annual Bronze and Silver Awards Fly Tying Workshop. COVID forced us to go virtual last year. This year we are planning to be in person again, meeting in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Gretchen Beatty and Peggy Brenner will be the instructors. We will also experiment with some virtual and in person presentations conducted by Al Beatty with the assistance of Patty Lueken. It is expected that Women Connect will offer hybrid programming in the future and this will be a great time to experiment with that format.

3. The Women Connect Facebook page has close to 1400 Facebook members now. These individuals can be members of FFI, or not. It is our hope to make many of these individuals FFI members in the future through our programming and outreach. In fact, it is happening. We are also going to concentrate on

improving our Instagram account this year in hopes of bringing in more young women.

4. Women's Programs started an Endowment at the end of 2021. The Endowment is currently called the Future of Women in Fly Fishing Fund at FFI Women Connect. We are currently working to finalize the governance documents with Jim Maus.

5. Women Connect submitted speakers for the Webinars that will be presented by FFI. The first speaker is Molly Semenikon February 28.

6. Women Connect will participate in the Virtual Expo 2022. Peggy Brenner will be the Chair of the Women Connect programming. Sandy Carpenter will be the Moderator of the Women Connect programs and most likely the entire Expo.

7. The month of June is the Second Annual Women in Fly Fishing Month. We have asked other women's groups to participate. Each Council will be offering activities organized by the Liaisons and Club Advocates.

8. The Trip Committee meets regularly and is putting together two trips this year in conjunction with local Liaisons, councils and clubs. The Driftless Group is formed and the group for the New York area is forming. The goal is for the local clubs/councils to plan and implement the programs, with Women Connect providing leadership, support and endorsement. We are also planning a saltwater trip to fish for Redfish out of Louisiana. The Trip Committee is identifying a commercial female group leader that will plan this program. This supports the goal Women Connect has to support female fly fishing businesses.

9. The Amazon trip will begin the middle of September. We thought the trip was full, but we are looking for one more person to make an even number of participants. Brazil has a 98% vaccination rate for COVID, with the natives that we will be around 100% vaccinated. The live aboard vessel will have only Women Connect members as customers.

10. Starting in February, Women Connect is sponsoring a photo contest. The winning photos will be used to produce a calendar that depicts the goals and mission of our Women's Programs. Anyone can submit photos, which must be submitted by July 31. The rules for the contest are being finalized now.

11. The Fishing and Tying Tuesday continues to expand,

NEWS FROM FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL-CONT

offering quality programming every Tuesday. This past Tuesday was “Black Out Tuesday” with a fly being tied from a material list and oral instructions only. This created a really fun environment, and some creative flies.

12. Women Connect is conducting a Fly Tying Workshop in Key Largo, Florida at the Ocean Reef Club Museum. Gretchen Beatty, Kathy Crofts, Sandy Carpenter and Patty Lueken will be conducting this two day workshop. In return, the Museum will donate to the Women Connect Endowment. Several great tiers contributed flies that we can sell to make extra money. Renzetti will provide the vises and tools.

FFI Online Week 3 – We're Ready, Are you?

We're floating into week 3 of FFI Online – join us for new live Masters of International Fly Tying workshops. Tiers from around the world will join this season to bring their skills and knowledge to your screen!



Davie McPhail
Master of International Fly Tying - Scotland
Davie will be demonstrating how to tie his McPhail Caddis Pupa and CDC Bubble Caddis.
Tuesday, March 8th
5 pm EST | 4 CST | 3 MST | 2 PST
Wednesday, March 9th
7 am JST | 9 am AEDT

Philip Rowley
Masters of International Fly Tying Canada
Philip Rowley is an expert in still water fly fishing. Phil is from Canada and will be tying two of his famous still water flies.
Thursday, March 10th
8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
Friday, March 11th
10 am JST | 12 am AEDT

April Vokey
Fly Fishing with Baby 101
FFI Women Connect
Monday, March 14th

8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
Tuesday, March 15th
10 am JST | 12 pm AEDT

Mike Morphey
Masters of International Fly Tying England
Tuesday, March 15th
8 pm EST | 7 CST | 6 MST | 5 PST
Wednesday, March 16th
10 am JST | 12 pm AEDT

Barry Ord Clarke
Masters of International Fly Tying Norway
Saturday, March 19th
1 pm EST | Noon CST | 11 MST | 10 PST
Oslo, Norway 7 pm
Sunday, March 20th
6 am JST | 8 am AEDT

George Daniel
Eastern Waters Council
Learn more
Tuesday, March 22
7 pm EST | 6 CST | 5 MST | 4 PST
Wednesday, March 23
9 am JST | 11 am AEDT

More details & classes coming soon!

Dutch Baughman



Fort Worth Fly Fishers Fundraising Festival FWF4

Come one Come ALL



April 2, 2022

5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

at

WILD ACRE BREWING COMPANY

Fort Worth, Texas

BIGGER and BETTER

Beer and Wine, Dinner, More diverse and expanded variety in Prizes and Silent Auction items for the fisherman and non-fishing attendees of the Fundraiser. Larger Variety of Live Auction Items, including the guides but also destination Lodging venues and vacation areas that would be of interest to the whole family. Chances to win one of 3 fishing/adventure related items. Also check out the "Rod" wall, this portion of the Fundraiser has become a crowd favorite.

\$20/PERSON

(PACKETS PICKED UP AT EVENT)

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://fwff2022.eventbrite.com>

IT'S AN EVENT YOU CAN'T MISS



Fort Worth Fly Fishers (501c3)

P.O. Box 1133

Fort Worth, Texas 76101

www.fortworthflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

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.



BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE IN FLY FISHING



The Boy Scout Merit Badge in Fly Fishing is now available. The FFF hopes some of you will become merit badge counselors. Check the Boy Scouts of America website for counselor forms and click on the "Get Involved" to find a troop near you. The Meritbadge.com website is another excellent tool for finding Scout information.

This merit badge can be taught in about 18 to 20 hours plus a ½ to 1 day on-the-stream fishing experience. Plan a 1 to 3 day course on the weekend or 2 to 3 hours in the evening each week at the scout meeting to teach this badge. Tailor your schedule to the scouts and volunteers.

Some requirements can be met by including the scouts in your club's current fly tying, fly fishing or casting classes. This would lower your volunteers' commitments. Be sure to have a "merit badge counselor" sign off on each scout for each requirement met.

This program covers all aspects of fly fishing, including a fishing trip component. So, plan a ½ to 1 day fishing trip to finish the on-stream requirements. Make insect observations, look for flying insects, roll rocks, and "Match the Hatch" with flies your scouts have tied. Assist the scouts in catching at least 1 fish. If you fish in "catch and release only" waters - release the fish. If you fish on a "put and take" stream discuss cleaning and cooking the fish or schedule a separate time for the scouts to get together and cook fish using "put and take" fish or market fish. HAVE GREAT FUN!

Requirements (direct from the BSA website)

1. Do the following:
 - Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while fly-fishing, including cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and sunburn.
 - Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.
 - Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fly-fishing.
2. Demonstrate how to match a fly rod, line, and leader to achieve a balanced system. Discuss several types of fly lines and explain how and when each would be used. Review with

your counselor how to care for this equipment.

3. Demonstrate how to tie proper knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing:
 - Tie a backing to a fly reel spool using the arbor knot.
 - Attach backing to fly line using the nail knot.
 - Attach a leader to fly line using the needle knot, nail knot, or a loop-to-loop connection.
 - Add a tippet to a leader using a loop-to-loop connection or blood knot.
 - Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using the improved clinch knot.
4. Explain how and when each of the following types of flies is used: dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, streamers, bass bugs, poppers, and saltwater flies. Tell what each one imitates. Tie at least two types of the flies mentioned in this requirement.
5. Demonstrate the ability to cast a fly 30 feet consistently and accurately using both overhead and roll cast techniques.
6. Go to a suitable fishing location and observe what fish may be eating both above and beneath the water's surface. Explain the importance of matching the hatch.
7. Do the following:
 - Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fly-fishing resources.
 - Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Describe how to properly release a fish safely to the water.
8. Obtain and review a copy of the regulations affecting game fishing where you live or where you plan to fish. Explain why they were adopted and what is accomplished by following them.
9. Discuss what good outdoor sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. Tell how the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations.
10. Catch at least one fish and identify it. If local fishing and health regulations allow it, clean and cook a fish you have caught. Otherwise, acquire a fish and cook it.

For more information and a Sample Agenda [CLICK HERE](#).

Jack R. Gillis
Vice President Education



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 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.

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

Retreat Participant

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 info@reelrecovery.org www.reelrecovery.org

TX: Mike Emerson 817-894-7832 mgemerson1944@gmail.com www.texasreelrecovery.org

OK: Martin Weaver 405.808.7116 okiefler@att.net <http://reelrecoveryoklahoma.org/>

GOOD STUFF

Let's talk about some good stuff! My father once told me 'The only ship that will not float is a partnership.' That has been my experience for the bulk of my career but my most recent venture, Good Fly, is the sole exception. ***Good Fly is a non-profit that offers free fly casting and fly-fishing programs to reduce stress and anxiety.*** This venture even has three partners making it more unlikely to survive. The difference? Shared values, common goals, and people I truly value. Those values and goals can be best summed up by the words **Good Water, Good Manners, and Good God.**

Good Water

I often ask myself what the word conservation really means. To me as a human. To me as a Texan. To me as a community member. Through the years that word certainly has been misused to fit the narrative of a political agenda. My purpose here is not to unwind or redefine this term but to consider what it means to us as fly fishers.

It is easy to see how protecting a watershed from pollution is noble. Setting land aside to protect it from development that would forever change the ecology makes sense. It is important to support conservation efforts far away from us not only because it is noble to do so but also to ensure that when calamity strikes at home, we have allies from around the world to help. But what is conservation in our own backyard? What can we do in addition to donating to causes a continent away?

The American conservation ideal emerged as a concept in the early part of the 20th century. As the nation industrialized and urbanized, an awareness developed that the traditional exploitation of natural resources that early Americans took for granted was not sustainable. The Dust Bowl of the 1930's was proof of concept. In the latter part of the 20th century, Conservation got confused with environmentalism but is distinguished by the *planned* use of natural resources rather than pure activism.

Webster's Dictionary defines Conservation as:

1 : (n) **a careful preservation and protection of something**

Especially, planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect; water conservation wildlife conservation

We oft think of conservation as a verb, but Mr. Webster says it is a noun. A plan. It has intent. It is a purposeful mind set. Not something that we do but that we embody. If we are to harken back to the original meaning, I think Mr. Webster may have it just right. We must have purpose to keep from allowing the water we fish to be exploited, destroyed, or neglected.

This requires a plan to put into action. Plans take forethought and require attainable goals. To be a good steward daily might be as simple as planning ahead by carrying a small trash bag to remove debris from water and lands that we fish. On another level it could be developing a plan to build support that leads to legislation that punishes entities that abuse the world around us.

Put simply we need a plan to prevent

What has been proven throughout history is the old saying "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail." Conservation is a plan that encourages action to save the very thing that holds our passion. That is **Good Water.**

Good Manners

When we assign value to something, we tend to protect it. We do not trash it. The simple courtesy of saying 'thank you' or 'please' can both diffuse tense situations and create an environment of mutual respect. This respect is the key. By respecting each other we recognize that the other has value.

We all have witnessed when one human does not value another and is abusive. If you ever fish the San Juan River under the Navajo Dam in New Mexico, you have surely witnessed a rude individual begin fishing over another fisherman's pod of fish or even worse walk right through that pod without regard. I dare say that individual is not really a member of the fly-fishing community. We do not own those fish, but it is a sign of personal respect or courtesy to walk around and give that person who was there before us room to fish without assault. Overall, the fly-fishing community is a very courteous group. I think this stems from an appreciation of the land and a value assigned to those around us that have a similar view. It is important to conserve these relationships and keep them from being exploited, destroyed, or neglected. That takes **Good Manners.**

Good God

If we have established that the waters we fish and the community we form is worth protecting, then I think we must be thankful for those things. You may have different beliefs that I do, and I can respect that, but if we look around us and take in the beauty and wonder of this world, we must believe in something larger than ourselves. If we do not, then we focus on ourselves. We will tend to put more value on ourselves than those around us. We will tend to see the world as something we must exploit for our own gratification and that protecting it would be wasteful for our own good. Acknowledging something larger than ourselves and being thankful for the privilege of living in a world where water runs free and fish swim in clear cool water is important to our wellbeing. For me that higher power is a **Good God.**

So, what do these things mean to us as fly fishers? I believe they are inseparably linked. It takes being thankful for and assigning value to, the waters we fish and the people in this community, to have the desire to conserve and protect them. These are the values we try to exemplify and teach at all Good Fly Events. The bulk of our participants have never held a fly rod. By educating future fly-fishers with the expectation of these values we ensure that the very thing that holds our passion will be there for generations to come. **Good Water, Good Manners, Good God.**

Cast for Calm, Fish for Fun!

Alan King, CCI

Co-Founder Good Fly Inc.

FLY FEST 2022 RECAP

Exciting news from Fly Fest 2022. It started out a little chilly, but ended up being a beautiful, and memorable day. Thank you so much to the many volunteers that came and supported the event. Fishing was slow last year, but that all changed on Saturday with some enormous numbers of trout caught during the Orvis Big Trout Contest. The main event of the Fest was so much fun to watch as many of us did so with food and spirits from the many vendors that catered the event for us. It was great seeing so many of us connecting and enjoying the day. Special recognition goes out to Adam Chastain and Bridget Kirk. In their first heat they caught 21 trout, and put them in a tie for a fish off later in the afternoon. Then they caught another 5 trout to win the overall contest. Check out all of the winners from the day on the recap from TRWD. Some amazing numbers put up this year.

The other events at the Fest were also well attended and very well executed by the volunteers that were so professional at what they do. Fly Tying, Presentations, Casting Classes and Games, River Buddies, and more. Very well done, and a great show was put on to the thousands that attended and came from all over the area to attend. Heard of many from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and a few from farther away. This is truly the premiere fishing event in Texas, as said by so many. TRWD again did an amazing job marketing and hosting this great event. Thank you to the Fort Worth Fly Fishers for your commitment to the Fest and for all you do. Texas Parks and Wildlife for their great job of executing the many that looked over their booths. And to the Texas Council for all of their support. Great job again supporting the Fest. What is really special about this event, is to see so many families, and kids at the event. The catfish pond was packed, along with the face paintings, and rock wall climbing. Great way to introduce kids to fly fishing.. A great bonding time had by all. A very special moment for me was when I met Cline McMurry. Cline came to the Texas Council booth, and I tied a few flies for him. He is so passionate about fly fishing and it was great to meet him and his family. Cline and I will be friends forever. Stay strong my friend!!!

TRWD, all I can say is wow!!! Again, an amazing job done by all of you!! It takes an army to put on event like this, and TRWD always shows up big time. I truly enjoy working along side with all of you, and have created a special bond with you and the organization. I look forward to many more years of growing the event, and going bigger hopefully. Thanks for all you do for the event, and for the river we all love.

Special recognition also goes out to Frank Smethurst, who has been an amazing ambassador for the event, and urban fly fishing. Frank has been with us for all of the events and is always excited about coming back to Fort Worth for this gathering. So special to have you on the team, and working with you educating others on the value this river has on the community. And thank you Chris Johnson for coming back with the fest team, and sharing your passion for the fly fishing group here in Texas. You do such a great job sharing your passion as well, and promoting conservation for our waters in Texas.

And could not forget the sponsors that helped fund the event. Orvis and Coffee & Caddis as the Champion Sponsor's, and especially thanks to Acme Brick for again letting us use your awesome location to be the host of Fly Fest 2022. So fortunate to be able to have an event of this stature along the bank of an awesome urban setting or our beloved Trinity River. Can't wait for FlyFest 2023 as we continue to serve the fly fishing community and show our support of the many activities that can be enjoyed in Fort Worth.

I also want to mention the Fish the Fort / Trinity Trails social media campaign. Great job informing us all of the activities that were happening during this year's trout season and events at Fly Fest. Stay in touch with the social media pages as they outline activities throughout the year.

I really enjoyed my time as a presenter and tier, and shared my passion for my favorite fly and many of your's too, the Clouser Minnow. I was fortunate years ago to see Bob in Fort Worth, and he inspired me to make this fly my go to pattern, along with the many variations I was able to share with the group. Hope I made him proud.

Till next year.

Read more about this event and other activities in the Texas Council FFI Spring Newsletter Edition and follow us on Facebook.

Russell Husted



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

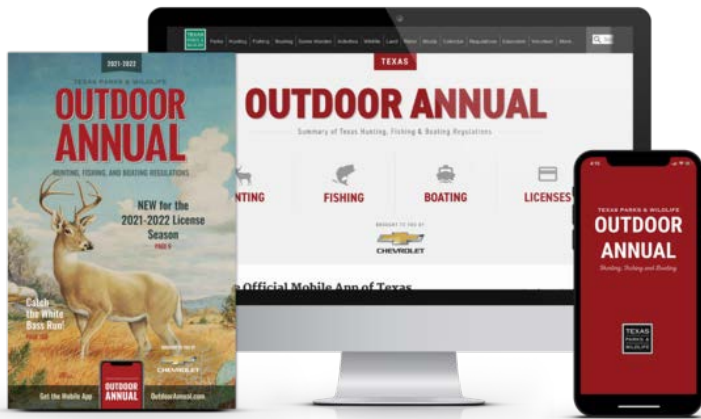
The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is expanding public fishing and paddling opportunities in the state with the addition of two leased river access sites on the South Llano and Blanco Rivers through the River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) program.

A new era of Toyota ShareLunker is underway! Anglers who reel in any largemouth bass at least 8 lbs. or 24 inches can participate simply by entering their lunker catch information. Complete Entry Requirements online or in the new ShareLunker mobile app during the year-long season (January 1 through December 31).

No matter where you are, you can purchase a fishing license online and legally fish starting NOW!

Did you know you can now use a mobile device to show proof of hunting and fishing licenses for activities that do not require tagging or physical stamps? Just enter your license information in the Outdoor Annual mobile app "Licenses" section of the app. You must however carry your ID.

Remember this spring and summer that you can make special memories by taking visiting family and friends fishing in a state park – no fishing license required! Many state parks loan conventional fishing equipment and basic tackle. Check out the details.



Spring fishing is heating up! Before you head to the water, make sure you know the regulations. The Outdoor Annual is your go-to resource for Texas fishing regulations.

There are 3 easy ways to access this year's Outdoor Annual:
Visit OutdoorAnnual.com
Use the Outdoor Annual mobile app
Pick up a printed copy at a license retailer when you purchase your license.

WHITE BASS ON TENKARA

April showers bring May's flowers. In Texas, April showers also bring white bass, or as we call sand bass. With the hopeful spring rains, the creeks and rivers get swollen from the fresh runoff, which warms the lakes and triggers ideal spawning conditions for white bass. The bass sense the changes in the water and group up to begin their annual run into the creeks and rivers. They come by the thousands, and can be found in large numbers during these conditions. If you find a large pod of white bass, and use the right technique, catches of over 100 bass a day are very common. And can be done easily if conditions are right.

For as long as I can remember, we would target white bass with a 3 to 5 weight rod, and use small Clousers, or minnow imitations to catch white bass. This technique has always been the combination that works best. Over the years, we discovered that the smaller the fly, or even the sparser fly, they would work so much better. So we started tying smaller flies using less materials. Then we discovered a pattern that was made famous by the late Andy Moreau. Andy tied simple, small jig flies that white bass could not resist. The flies were just strands of floss tied on a very small jig hook. They only took about 1 minute to tie one up, and we called them fast and ugly flies!!! But boy did they work. The experiment continues.



Then I found some jig head hooks my friend David Crawford made. These jigs were tiny. 1/125th of an ounce. We made some Andy Moreau jig flies with these new hooks, and it totally changed the way we fished for white bass.

The jigs were so light, they would never sink to the bottom of the creek or river if there was current. So when your line slightly moved when drifting these flies in the river, you knew you had a strike. Another thing we found out was that these small jig flies were actually indestructible, and would last all day, while catching as many white bass as you could handle.

Then I was introduced to Tenkara. Fascinated by this new technique, I quickly used an Ito in Colorado for trout fishing. It was awesome, and I immediately fell in love with how easy it was to control a drift using a high stick technique. After a very successful trout trip, we return home and I started creek fishing for sunfish, perch, gills, or anything that would hit a fly in my favorite summer creeks. The seasons change, and the Ito gets stored away till spring. Then it hits me.

WHITE BASS ON TENKARA-CONTD.

Why not use a Tenkara rod for white bass?

So the story unfolds. The Ito is loaded up with a handful of micro jigs, and it's off to the favorite spring time river for white bass. I locate a large pod of sandies, so we call them, and it's not long to see if the experiment works. A simple cast, and let the small micro jig swing downstream, and I feel a hard take. I swing the Ito downstream, and the micro jig is set into a very nice sandie. The sandie made some several hard runs, and it felt so good on the Ito.



A quick release, and I am back at it. The next cast, another nice sandie. As I mentioned earlier, if you find a pod, and conditions are right, numbers can be had rather quickly, and today that was the case. In the next hour, an additional twenty something sandies fall prey to the micro jig on the Ito rod. The story ends with a new, successful arsenal for my favorite style of fishing.

Many more trips were had this spring, with similar results. But as the world turns and the seasons change, I am back to creek fishing for gills and perch, and soon to Colorado for trout.

Tenkara is definitely a year round way of fishing.

Russell Husted

CONSERVATION NEWS

Texas Drought and Wildfire's

As I sit here and write this article, my heart goes out to the many Texas residents that were affected by the recent wildfires, in west and central Texas. Carbon and Ranger seem to be the hardest hit communities. I personally have friends that live in the area, that have had significant issues to deal with, but thankfully still alive to be able to rebuild. The death of the Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley was extremely sad, as she raced in to alert more residents of the imminent danger, and was overcome by the smoke and flames. God bless her and her family.

The wildfires were the largest to have ever occurred in Texas, which is a result of a long drought and a very dry La Nina condition. The majority of the state is experiencing some level of a drought condition currently. And now that we are beginning to get some rain, more sad news to report as tornadoes are running through north Texas. If conditions do not improve, wildlife, livestock, and all of us will have to deal with this for quite some time.

Water Issues

As our cities and population continue to grow, water will always remain an issue to be dealt with. How much do we have? What controls are in place? And now we are dealing with what to do with waste water? Currently, there are three areas of concern that the Texas Council is aware of, and our intention is to support the communities that are questioning the plans on these developing issues. Waste water being released into waterways is nothing new, and will continue to be a practice that we will see being used. What concerns many, will be what is the quality of the water as it is released into these waterways? And how will it affect the waterways, and businesses around the water ways?

The three areas of concern in the state currently are in Round Rock, Granbury, and Fort Worth. There are and will be many others. The issue in Round Rock is the most concerning, as the City of Round Rock has an on-going issue with excessive untreated wastewater being discharged into Brushy Creek, that is drastically affecting the water quality east of Round Rock. There are currently multiple groups working with the city for a better solution, and one group is Living Waters Fly Shop, and owner Chris Johnson. Their team is rallying other organizations and citizens to get involved, to protect our waterways. There is really good news about Brushy Creek, west of town. Chris is reporting that the fishing there is outstanding there. Especially with Guadalupe Bass, Sunfish, and his favorite, the Rio Grande Cichlids. Stop in at Living Waters Fly Fishing to get all of the latest information. Please read this article that explains the issue, and why this is an environmental disaster in the makings.

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2022/03/07/round-rock-warns-people-stay-out-brushy-creek-city-searches-pipeline-breaks/9415054002/>

Adverse water quality issues in Granbury and Fort Worth are still preventable. Both cities are planning on building sewage / water treatment plants with releases into a current waterway that will be altered in some way, potentially affecting the future quality of that waterway. There are actions currently being raised in the courts, that can potentially prevent, or allow a better option to be put in place, to keep waterways from being altered. Fingers crossed the two sides will agree on the best possible solutions, as we deal with the issues that arise from growing populations and businesses. If you would like to read about these issues further, here are some articles that show the intent, and problems that could occur from these releases.

Granbury News

<https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/article245493480.html>

Fort Worth News

<https://www.trwd.com/tceq-announced-public-meeting-on-marys-creek-water-reclamation-facility-due-to-public-concerns/>

CONSERVATION NEWS-CONTD.

TPWD Kayak Access / Lease Program

Most of the rivers and streams in Texas are publicly owned. However, the land surrounding them is often private making river access a challenge. TPWD's River Access and Conservation Areas (RACA) program leases private lands to open up fishing and paddling access to the public. They currently have 22 leases spread across the state. Check out their [video](#) below to learn more about how we are working to help people enjoy our Texas river's.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/lease_access/
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/raca>

Together, we can make a difference!

Russell Husted

Communications / Social Media Director, Texas Council FFI

PRACTICE YOUR CASTING



I cast my first fly while standing in the South Fork of the Boise River just beneath Anderson Ranch Reservoir on a beautiful day in May 1992. The fly didn't travel very far. I tried again with greater effort, such effort that my Nike cross-trainers slipped on the stream bed. The ensuing scramble to remain vertical split my polyvinyl "condom" waders at the crotch, filling them with water and concluding my inglorious introduction to fly-fishing.

Two casts. If trout were present, they were amused. As were my companions.

During my four years at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, I had many opportunities to cast and to catch. I cast and caught for 26 years and became a decent fly-fisherman. But one thing I didn't do, ever, was practice. If I'm going to be waving a rod about in the air, I might as well be standing in a stream and fishing I reasoned.

In 2017 I took my first-ever casting lesson from Mr. Rusty Dunn. Rusty offered many helpful tips to improve my casting, but first

among them was to practice. Casting is the indispensable skill of fly-fishing. If you can't cast reasonably well, you limit your opportunity to catch fish. And while you can certainly be a good fly-fisher with only an adequate cast, any improvements you make to your casting will enhance your fly-fishing. And, as with any endeavor, the best way to improve is to practice.

Practice Tips:

1. Practice properly. The Roman philosopher Publilius Syrus said "practice is the best of all instructors." This can be true, but only if we avoid negative learning and practice proper casting. Want to tighten your loops, lengthen your roll cast, or improve your double haul? -- learn from an accomplished caster or certified instructor and practice those learned skills. A review of Fly Fishers International Learning Center resources can also be of great assistance.
2. Practice regularly. In his book "Outliers" Malcolm Gladwell describes a rule for success he calls the "10,000-hour rule." The rule suggests that true expertise in any endeavor is achieved by practicing that thing for 10,000 hours – Mozart composed, The Beatles played, and Bill Gates programmed for 10,000 plus hours to acquire their expertise. Has anyone practiced casting or fly-fished for 10,000 hours? Probably not. But, by practicing 2-3 times a week for 15-20 minutes per practice, we'll be moving in the right direction. We'll call this "the 2-3 times a week for 15-20 minutes per practice to improve our casting" rule.
3. Practice with purpose. Have a focused plan for each short practice session. Work on loop control or reach mends or accuracy. But avoid working on all three during one session.
4. Practice on grass. Grass is usually the best place to practice. Grass is more readily available to most of us than is water and when on it, we are not tempted to fish and can thus focus on our cast. Because roll casts utilize water tension to load the rod, they are best practiced on water when available.
5. Practice with "flies" of various weight and size. "Yarn flies" are excellent aids for most purposes, but a caster may wish to occasionally practice with hookless weighted or bulky flies – which may require modification of the caster's standard speed or stroke.
6. Cast with variable winds. Practice with wind at various positions to the caster – such as you would experience on the water. Practicing "wind-casts" will prepare you for the conditions you'll experience on your next trip to the coast or canyon.

Casting is fun good people. We like fishing yes, but we choose to fly-fish because we enjoy casting. So, get out to the backyard and cast...you've got a lot of hours to log.

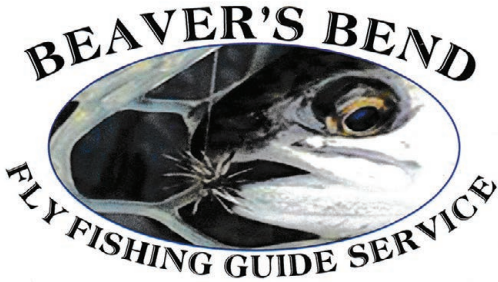
A final tip. Avoid polyvinyl waders – inexpensive yes, but quite unforgiving.

Stephen Weaver

TEXAS COUNCIL ADVERTISING SUPPORT

The Texas Council wants to thank you for your support. Our goal has always been to promote fly fishing in Texas, and help the organizations that do just that. We are fortunate for these businesses and individuals, and will highlight them in the newsletter, and on social media as well.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) to see more about these groups.



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SCARPION FLY

There are many great fly tiers in Texas, so instead of showcasing my favorite patterns, I'm planning to highlight tiers from different parts and ecosystems across Texas. For this newsletter, I'm focusing on the Texas Hill Country rivers. There are so many beautiful limestone, clear rivers across the Texas Hill Country – Colorado, Guadalupe, Llano, San Gabriel, Sabinal and San Marcus just to name a few. These rivers hold several species of bass, sunfish and sometime cichlids. But the big bruiser in all of the streams is the common carp. Sight casting in the clear shallow streams to a +10 lb. carp is exciting and a hook up will test your landing skills.

One young and innovative tier in the Texas Hill Country is Chase Smith. I had the pleasure of meeting Chase and discussing with him his patterns and how he designs them. As you will see, he puts a lot of thought and time into his designs. Chase's pattern of choice for big carp is his Scorpion fly. Thanks, Chase.

From Chase - The Scorpion is a fly that I developed for Hill Country carp, but it has evolved into a well-rounded, all-purpose fly that has fooled almost every species in the area. Bass, gar, catfish, trout, panfish, cichlids, grass carp, common carp, buffalo carp, freshwater drum—even sheepshead, redfish, and black drum at the Texas coast—all have fallen victim to the buggy, catch-all look that has made this fly a Hill Country staple.

From the supple rabbit hair at the tip, to the foam wrapped down the shank, to the soft hackle that obscures the beadchain eyes: each part of this fly has been meticulously pared down over time until just the fishiest and most essential components are left. The Scorpion is quick to tie, always rides hook point up, and has plenty of micro-movement from the natural materials to entice even the most discerning of carp. The soft hackle wrapped in front of the eyes also helps soften the fly's profile and reduce the splash and noise as it hits the water.

Materials: Hook: Ahrex Saltwater Minnow SA280 Size 8 or 10 or equivalent hook
Eyes: 4mm Beadchain Eyes
Tail: Rabbit zonker
Foam Wrap: 2mm craft foam
Legs: Any Silicone legs
Body Wrap: Soft Hackle Feather
Thread: 140 denier

Step 1: Place the hook in the vice, leaving enough room to wrap up the bend a decent amount

Step 2: Wrap a nice, even thread base on the hook. Leave your thread dangling right at the hook point when you finish. This is where the beadchain eyes will be tied in, leaving plenty of space to put several soft hackle wraps in front of the beadchain eyes.

Step 3: Tie in the beadchain eyes.

Step 4: Snip a small clump of rabbit off of the zonker and tie it in. You will want to wrap up the bend of hook a significant amount so that the rabbit will be sticking almost straight up when the fly is sitting on the river bottom. Remember that the fly will be hook point up when you fish it. You will want the rabbit fur to stick out about the hook shank's length or a little longer.

Step 5: Capture a thin 2" long strip of the 2mm foam with your thread right where you stopped wrapping the rabbit fur.

Step 6: Wrap your thread until it is in front of the beadchain eyes. Then wrap the foam with tight overlapping wraps until it is just behind the beadchain eyes and capture it there with your thread.
Step 7: Wrap back over the foam a little bit so you have an even surface to tie in the legs.

Step 8: Cut two lengths of rubber leg about an 1" long. Wrap one of the 1" sections of rubber leg around the thread and slide it down the thread until you can capture it just behind the bead chain eyes on the side nearest to you. The leg should splay out in a V shape when you capture it. Repeat the process with the other 1" section of rubber leg on the opposite side of the fly.

Step 9: The legs should both be at about the same angle. Use tight wraps to make them stand out more and loose wraps to bring them closer. I prefer the legs to stand out at a 45 degree angle or more and try your best to make the angle match on each side.

Step 10: Tie in a Soft hackle feather by the tip just behind the beadchain eyes (I like Whiting 4B hen saddles for this fly).

Step 11: Move your thread to the hook eye and make one full feather wrap behind the bead chain eyes.

Step 12: Wrap the feather in-between the beads on the beadchain eyes to move it in front of the eyes. I like to wrap the feather six or seven times in front of the beadchain eyes with close wraps. Capture the feather at the hook eye with your thread.

Step 13: Snip of the tag end of the feather, clean up the head with some thread wraps, and then whip finish. I like to add a little water-based head cement as well.

I have caught hundreds of carp and tons of species on this fly. Black, craw, gold, and olive are my favorite colors, but there are plenty of ways to easily mix up the colors. I like to add red foam as a hot spot sometimes, or use a small pheasant feather in place of the soft hackle. Hope you enjoy the pattern and good luck on the water!

SCARPION FLY-CONTD.

A little about Chase Smith:

Chase Smith grew up in the Hill Country and attended Schreiner college in Kerrville. He played soccer for Schreiner and received a degree in finance despite spending every other moment hunting or fishing. He lives in Kerrville and sells flies through his website www.fishchaseflies.com. You can also find his flies at several of the Orvis shops around Texas and at the Living Waters Fly Shop in round Rock. Feel free to reach out to Chase via email fishchaseflies@yahoo.com or on Instagram @fishchaseflies.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



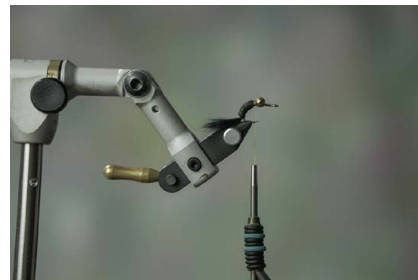
Step 4



Step 5



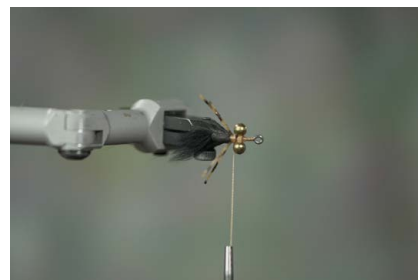
Step 6



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9

SCARPION FLY-CONTD.



Step 10



Step 11



Step 12



Step 13



Finished Fly



Ron Mayfield
Tying Director

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:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 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. 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 <https://tcffi.org/>

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Rick Haness |
| First Vice President | Jack R. Gillis |
| Secretary | Jim Richards |
| Treasurer | Reid Winger |
| VP - Conservation | Vacant |
| VP - Education | Jack R. Gillis |
| VP - Membership | Brett Moorehead |
| Presidents Club Liason | David Hooper |
| Communications | Russell Husted |
| Fly Tying | Ron Mayfield |
| Webmaster | Tim Gikas |
| Womens Outreach | Gwen Sitton |
| Casting | Stephen Weaver |
| Youth Outreach | Austin Orr |
| FFI At-Large | Dutch Baughman |
| At-Large | Barry Webster |
| TPWD Liason | Keira Quam |
| Past President | Vacant due to resignation |
| At-Large | Jacob Sherwood |

KEEP OUR FISHERIES HEALTHY



KEEPEMWET* &
RELEASE FISH PROPERLY

GO BARBLESS & LEAD-FREE



PACK OUT ALL TRASH

CLEAN YOUR BOATS, BOOTS & WADERS



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

KEEPEMWET* is a registered trademark of CORKERWET FISHING®

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 | www.twff.net |

Note: PHWFF clubs serve only disabled veterans.



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!**



**Please join us in our fight to
preserve and protect our fly
fishing heritage, so future
generations can enjoy it too.**

FFI TEXAS COUNCIL IS AT WORK IN YOUR REGION!



We now have 19 clubs throughout the state!

*Visit www.texascouncilfff.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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General 1-Year \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group 1-Year \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General 3-Years \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group 3-Years \$48.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - (65+) \$25 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Group Lifetime \$285 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran - \$25 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Guides Association 1-Year \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student - (22 and under) \$20 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Guides Association 3-Years \$70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business - \$100 * | <input type="checkbox"/> Casting Renewal 1-Year \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime - \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Casting Renewal 3-Years \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Premium - \$1500 ** | (Casting Renewal is for certified instructors only) |

Printed Copy of the *Flyfisher* Magazine ☐ US residents - \$10/yr ☐ International residents - \$20/yr

(All members have access to our magazine by logging into www.flyfishersinternational.org)

NOTE: -General memberships include spouses, cohabitating partners and children under 18 years of age.
-Lifetime memberships include spouses and cohabitating partners.
-In order to join a specialty group (Guide, Fly Tying, Casting) you must also maintain an FFI membership.

*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multiply price by number of years)

**Includes custom built TFO rod. Refer to: <http://www.tforods.com/fly-fishing/custom-fly-rods.html>

Membership Number (renewals) _____ New Member

Name _____

Business Name (for Business memberships only) _____

Business Website _____

Street Address / PO Box _____

City/State/Zip/ _____ Country _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Club Affiliation _____

If you are a new member, is there an FFI Club or Council that you would like to receive credit for the Rod Credit Program? _____

Total Charge \$ _____ Auto Renew? ☐ Yes, I want to save time & resources!

Credit Card or check # _____ Exp. Date _____

☐ Please do not share my information with organizations outside of FFI.