# WINTER EDITION

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

COUNCIL

# The Texas Line & Leader

TEXAS

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Texas Council of Fly Fishers International Members,

As we welcome the new year, I am thrilled to share the exciting news that we have several new additions to our Board of Directors, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to our community. Please check out the roster of your Board of Directors for the year 2024 in this Newsletter.

In 2024, the Texas Council is set to expand its presence across the state, thanks to the dedicated efforts of last year's board. Their leadership has paved the way for significant milestones, including our debut at the Dallas Safari Club Sport Show and Convention. Another first awaits us with the revival of "Texas Meets UP with Fly Fishing." We are also continuing our participation at Troutfest in New Braunfels and Trinity River Flyfest in Fort Worth. These two events have a proven following and we are happy to be involved in meeting potential new and old enthusiasts of fly fishing.

A noteworthy initiative we have recently started is our quarterly Zoom program, connecting with clubs and members statewide. The program currently presents various educational aspects of seasonal fishing tips in the State.

In this Winter edition of our Newsletter, we are excited to present a newsletter filled with valuable content, thanks to your contributions. We encourage you to share more; be it information, photos, cooking recipes or anything you may think would be of interest to our readers and members. Let us strengthen our community's bond through sharing information.

As the holiday season approaches, I wish each of you a great and safe celebration. May you emerge on the other side even more dedicated to our shared passion for fly fishing. If you would like to be a part of our exciting new year, please contact me.

See you on the river!

Best regards,

Rick Haness President, Texas Council Fly Fishers International

### **CONSERVATION REPORT**

As the drought in Texas continues, along with the increasing use and need for water, this will be the major conservation issue in Texas for years to come, if not for the rest of our time here in Texas. We are seeing increasing numbers of new landowners in our state, who think they can use water as they see fit. That is not how this works, and the fight for water has been escalated to new levels and precedents. Dams that are restraining water from others, is not allowed without permission, and doing so is creating quite the problem for so many, and the environment. Many groups and agencies are doing their part, to keep this from happening, and putting procedures in place, so we can all have access to water.

One such group that is leading the charge in this effort, is the Llano River Watershed Alliance. <u>https://www.llanoriver.org/</u>

We cannot THANK this organization enough for all that they do, to lead, and help protect our rights for water. Not only are they leading the charge in the fight for water, but they do so much more! Including working to reduce waste water, lead watershed workshops, and assisting in cleaning up our creeks, and rivers. Highly suggest, checking out their site, reading their newsletter, and get involved.

Litter will also be an ongoing issue in Texas. The only solution to this issue, is for Texans to not litter. But history proves this will not happen, as we continue to damage our environment, and putting our future in jeopardy. We must be more pro-active, instead of re-active!! Really do not know what the answer will be, but we extremely THANKFUL, for the organizations leading the re-active process. Cleanups in the state of Texas are more common, each and every day. Just these past month's, there was the Brazos River Cleanup, the Colorado River Cleanup, Trinity River Trash Bash, Brushy Creek Cleanup, and so many more. Great to see so many groups, join up for a great cause.

There is exciting news from Fort Worth, as the city is following Baltimore's lead in the fight on litter. Baltimore has four litter paddlewheels, that can collect 50,000 pounds of trash a day. Is a shame that they are collecting that much, but thankful they do. Fort Worth should have their first litter paddlewheel on the Trinity this summer, or early fall. Great news for the city, and for those that use the river for recreation, like me!!

Check out the article about the paddlewheel.

https://fortworthreport.org/2023/10/26/after-years-of-waitingfort-worths-trash-wheel-on-trinity-is-rolling-forward-withpublic-dollars/

Water and litter, are not the only two issues we have in Texas. We must be better!! Seeing this really highlights, the many, many issues we are facing and will be facing, in years to come.



Let's not give up, and create a better us, for the future of us all.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/keep-texas-wild/ one-state/conservation-challenges

## DALLAS SAFARI CLUB CONVENTION AND SPORTS EXPO

We're thrilled to announce that the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International will be prominently featured at the Dallas Safari Club Convention and Sports Expo being held at the Kay Bailey Hutchenson Convention in Dallas, January 11-14. This exceptional event, drawing over 40,000 attendees, provides a fantastic platform to showcase the art and thrill of fly fishing on a global scale. To make this opportunity a success, we are calling for volunteers. Please text or email me to secure your time to contribute and help us expand the joy of fly fishing. Join us in making a splash at this premier sporting exhibition! https://www.biggame.org/

I am looking forward to hearing from you and in the least seeing you at the event. If you have not been before, be ready to be awestruck.

Be Safe on the waters and have fun. Rick Haness, President Texas Council, Fly Fishers International

### **PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Texas Council is hosting a Pickleball Tournament, January the 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am. That's right. You heard it here! Pickleball is the hottest sport, sweeping across the nation, that we can benefit from. This charity event will be hosted to raise money for the Council, which in turns supports the clubs in Texas. This trial run and format, will be used across the state, as a model for other fund raising tournaments. Live in the DFW and like to play Pickleball? Then sign up for the tournament and then it's game on!! There will be two levels of play. Social, and Competitive, for you to choose from. So get that paddle, and join us for a fun morning in Grand Prairie. Prizes, swag, raffle items, and so much mor

# TOURNAMENT

# JAN 20TH, 2024 | 10AM - 1PM

Two levels of play: Social and Competitive | Silent Auction and Raffle Items on site Prizes to be awarded | Proceeds to benefit the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International

## TEAM FEE \$100

- 3 games guaranteed
- Bring your own paddle
- Balls supplied
- Includes swag bag

LOCATION Chicken N Pickle 2965 State Highway 161 Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

TO REGISTER EMAIL: communications@texascouncilffi.com



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US



### **CASTING MATTERS: MAKING THE INVESTMENT**



By Cari Ray, Casting Director, FFI Texas Council

Much of what happens on the river is beyond our control as anglers—the wind, the weather, the flows, the fish. One thing we can control is equipment, often investing in the latest and greatest our money can buy. But many ignore the one investment likely to do the most to improve their fly fishing game. How do I know that? Well, out on the water these days I see a lot of thousand-dollar fly rods being subjected to hundred-dollar casts. I also see lots of anglers with decent casts that could be way more effective with a few tweaks. But I'm not here to disparage, I'm here to help. It's the reason I became a casting instructor in the first place.

I think this is partially a symptom of fly fishing having become a gear-obsessed sport with manufacturers reinforcing the idea that the latest technology, material, or taper design is the ticket to fly-fishing glory. There is no disputing the fact that advances in rod design and build technology have given us access to some killer tools. Even line tapers and coatings have gotten crazy good in recent years. But along the way, casting skill has been pushed ever further out of the limelight. The hard truth? Without a properly executed cast, the benefits baked in those beautiful feats of engineering remain completely inaccessible to the angler. I'd liken it to putting a 15-year-old with a learner's permit behind the wheel of a Ferrari.

In a society consumed with shortcuts to performance—10 tips for this, 5 hacks for that, the ONE secret that will unlock that yetunrealized level of success—it can be hard sell to tell someone there is no quick fix. But here's the good news. It's not like getting a root canal. Casting practice, done right, can be a ton of fun. You may even, like me, start going out on the lawn to cast for the sheer relaxation and enjoyment of it. Okay, let's assume for the moment that I've convinced you to make the investment in yourself. Beyond a lesson with a qualified instructor (which I still highly recommend), historically it's been hard to know just where to begin, not to mention how to understand exactly what condition your condition is in. Until now.

Enter the new FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program. It includes 4 levels of achievement: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. And since we can't expect everyone to be casting geeks like we are (though a girl can dream), the curriculum revolves around real-world fly angling applications. It includes the essential casts and skills to take fly anglers from a simple pick-up/lay-down cast all of the way to complex slack line presentations and bankable distance and accuracy. Because a pretty cast is nice, but I'm less interested in how good it looks than I am in how well it works! And you can choose your adventure, as they say. Maybe you want to work up to Gold, or perhaps reaching Bronze or Silver is sufficient for the frequency and scenarios you fish. In any case, I promise you that every cast you learn and master will enhance your enjoyment of the sport and lead to greater success on the water.

Any program is only as good as its accessibility and execution. So we're about to get busy. Over the coming months, we will be offering statewide virtual and in-person casting programming. We will also work with certified instructors, club presidents, and club casting leads to bring this outstanding program to your doorstep, giving you ample opportunity to learn, practice, and achieve whatever casting and fly-fishing goals you'd like to set. There's more to come, so stay tuned. It's our goal to shine a spotlight on the value of casting skill in the sport, make the necessary tools to achieve it available to everyone, and have a ton of fun in the process. Show up and we'll show you what we mean. We look forward to supporting you in the year to come. With your help, we think we can make casting cool again.

You'll be hearing from us again soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more about the FCSD program, check out the angler's guide here: <u>Fly Casting Skills Development</u>. Have questions? We'd love to hear from you, so just reach out.

If you're a club president or casting lead, please direct communications to: Cari Ray, CI

Texas Council Casting Director – Angler Development cariray@texascouncilffi.com

If you are an FFI certified instructor or interested in becoming one, please direct communications to: Jim Hund, CI, THCI, MCI Texas Council Casting Director – Instructor Development jimhund@texascouncilffi.com



Using "OnForm" Coaching Tool

iPad required



Andy Payne FFI Certified Casting Instructor

Send a text to phone # below to express your interest

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Enhancing the lives of women with breast cancer by connecting them to each other and nature through the therapeutic sport of fly fishing.

Learn more at castingforrecovery.org



Austin Orr

Keira Quam

David Hudnall

Tim Gikas

Jim Hund

Vacant

## **COUNCIL FFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2024**

On December the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Texas Council held their annual general meeting during a zoom call. Invites were sent out to all clubs and members. The slate of potential officers was presented during the meeting, and the results of the election were unanimous. Other council was discussed after the election. The recording of the call, can be seen or heard using this link.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5a6KpEyQrRpFT9Euf4FpOl6wSE6ru3puMtiW7M5kOR4MAUPzAkzbLEbEq2fFye8y. hlAf0BH-Tw2QaozL Passcode: 0.U8uur7

So let's welcome to you, the Texas Council FFI Board of Directors for 2024.

- President
- Vice President / Conservation
- Education
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership
- Communications
- Casting
- At Large Casting
- Fly Tying

Richard Haness Russell Husted Dani Rose

- Vacant
- Michael Quigley
- Brett Morehead
- Katie Cowen Cari Ray
- Jim Hund
- Mike Hawkins

- Youth
- Women's
- TPWD
- Webmaster
- At Large
- At Large

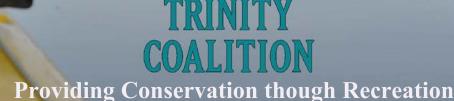
We cannot THANK the Board Members that have ended their great service to the Council. We wish them the best, and hope to continue seeing them at our events in 2024!!

- Jack Gillis
- Jim Richards
- Reid Winger
- Dutch Baughman
- Barry Webster
- Stephen Weaver
- Ron Mayfield
- Jacob Sherwood

Super excited for what the year will bring to you the members. Stay tuned for all of the details, and places we will be in 2024. We are always looking for more volunteers, so hope that some of you can support the council in some way throughout the year.

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. Elep us help our river! TrinityCoalition.org







### LINE MANAGEMENT – CASTING'S SANCHO PANZA

The namesake in Miguel de Cervantes' 17<sup>th</sup> century novel Don Quixote is an extravagant, perhaps crazy minor noble traversing the Spanish countryside in search of chivalrous adventure. By his side, and mitigating ruin throughout, is his dutiful companion -- Sancho Panza.

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, our casting seems a misadventure. Fortunately, casting too has a constant companion – one that can mitigate problems and help us catch fish – line management.

Everything from presenting the fly to the fish and delivering the fish to the net requires the angler to effectively manage line. Casting without good line management? That's as pointless as fighting windmills. So, let's consider ways we might improve our line management.

Before Fishing: Fishers are well served by stretching their fly lines and leaders out immediately prior to fishing. This effort helps to reduce line "memory" and thereby minimize its penchant for twisting around a reel seat, a branch, or itself.

Fishing in the Water: Fly Fishers standing in a stream, or a lake are presented with perhaps the easiest situation in which to manage line. Anglers stripping in floating line to manage slack or to retrieve a streamer, do well in simply depositing the reserve line on the water adjacent their body, allowing it to trail down stream or float harmlessly nearby – taking care not to allow it to entangle their legs.

Fishing from the Bank: Anglers standing on or near the bank of a stream, lake or pond are often bounded by trees, shrubs, weeds, and sundry other troublesome natural features seeking to cut short their perfect cast, or excellent mend, or well played fish run. Here, anglers are well served to collect working line into large coils draped upon the line hand. When ready to recast and extend line, the angler can open his line hand and allow the coils to speed to their destination. This activity requires skill and warrants practice apart from fishing.

Fishing from a boat. Fly fishers on a boat or kayak will want to ensure their immediate surroundings are especially tidy so as not to present any unnecessary trappings to their fly line. Poorly positioned tackle, nets or fasteners may contribute to an already rich collection of required boat catches.... trolling motors, seats, and boat captains. Many find depositing working line into stripping baskets or mats to be helpful in managing line. Others do well in simply stripping the line onto the water – though they must then be cautious of its location in relation to boat accoutrements. Regardless, anglers should maintain good awareness of where their feet are to avoid standing on fly line.

When traveling. Fly fishers moving from one fishing location

to another – whether by foot, boat, or even car (if stowing in rod racks) should utilize the "hook, wrap, then tap" technique. This method involves the angler hooking his fly to the third- or fourth-line guide, then wrapping the line around the reel seat to secure a firm tension. The angler can then move to the next fishing location without much threat of fashioning a bird's nest. When ready to fish again, our good angler simply pulls the line off the reel seat and offers a firm tap to the rod -- about halfway up – this tap releases the fly from its seating and makes line/ leader immediately available for a quick cast.

Control Position Transitions. One line control skill essential to all environs is a smooth transition between the two line-control positions -- Casting Position and Fishing Position.

Casting Position is utilized when adding distance during casting. In this position, the line hand is slightly separated from the reel while the angler crimps the line between the pointer finger and thumb of his line-hand. The rod hand does not contact or control the fly line when in casting position. When extending line, the angler may release pressure between line hand finger and thumb or allow line the slip unfettered through an "OK" formed by those same two digits.

Fishing Position should be an angler's default line control position. In this position, the angler crimps the line against the cork of the rod handle with his pointer finger (or middle finger if preferred). From this position, the fly-fisher can cast a static distance, reduce cast distance, retrieve line, set the hook, or play a fish – stripping in line or releasing pressure and allowing the fish to run. Line adjustments in fishing position require the line hand to retrieve line from behind the line crimping finger.

The transition between casting position and fishing position can be challenging -- especially for new fly-fishers – and should be



purposely rehearsed during each casting practice.

So, let us endeavor to practice our line management skills just as we practice casting, our for perfection is the goal. Impossible you hold? We must dream. For as Don Quixote said, "to dream the impossible dream, that is my quest." And so, it is for all fly-fishers.



## CASTING'S SANCHO PANZA-CONTD.

### Terminology:

- Casting Hand -- typically, the dominant hand, holding the rod
- Line Hand typically, the non-dominant hand, holding and adjusting the line when fishing
- Working Line an amount of line, determined by the angler, off the reel, and idling beside the angler when fishing. Used to lengthen the cast.
- Control Position describes one of two positions at which the line length is controlled Casting Position or Fishing Position

Steve Weaver, CCI Texas Council Casting Director Co-founder, Good Fly Inc.

### **BAMBOO RODS FROM SKIP KING**



Alright all of you bamboo fans, or want to be's. If you have the passion for a new, customized bamboo rod, with your color of wraps, choice of reel seat, and weights from 2 -8, designed especially for you, the time is near!! Skip King, owner of King Fly Rods, will be back in Texas this spring, and can hook you up!

I met Skip last year, after seeing his work, and set up on social media. I specifically went to connect with him, and we met at Scarborough Fair near Waxahachie, where he has a seasonal, booth . When I arrived at his booth, I knew this was going to be something to see, and it was. I admired his rods for quite some time, and realized this was indeed something special. We then went to cast a few, and then it turned from something special, to I have to have one! We've all been there! It's like that new car smell. Now I want to fish one!! With plans to get my own, I will do both this spring.

Once winter heads on out, that day will come. Casting these special creations is a gift, and brings to mind the wonder of the history of bamboo rods. Now you too, can have history fly fishing bamboo rods. Come see Skip at the Scarborough Fair, and check out these magnificent rods. If you like, and I know you will, customize your rod from him.

Skip will be at the Fair, from April the 6<sup>th</sup> through May the 27<sup>th</sup>. A limited amount of time to see him, so make that time count. <u>https://www.srfestival.com/</u>







## **TEXAS COUNCIL'S TROUT SEASON!!**

As Fall winds down, excitement builds for many of us in Texas, as it is now TROUT SEASON!! The Texas Council will again, cover the season, from start to finish, as we did last year. We kicked off the season, December the 7<sup>th</sup>, with an amazing slate of speakers, that shared their experiences with us. If you missed the presentation, you are in luck, as it was recorded for you to review, share, and use as you wish. Loads of information was shared, and special THANKS again goes out to the speakers.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Mjp3Ae80VW-3W1NPSUtKYXZTV1Q9Fu-E5xFWZROQ1Sx9MB-NejGO-IIIHAyd9e9uk2.gvd5ad13OD\_fWAZg?start-Time=1701997386000 Passcode: Wh&%Bh4A

As mentioned, the council will be keeping you totally informed about events, stockings, techniques, and will share some amazing photography with you, throughout the season. Follow us on Facebook, and Instagram. Need some additional support, advice? Email us, and we will be glad to assist.

Hope to see you on the water.

Russell Husted communications@texascouncilffi.com

### **TROUT ROUTES**

During our Trout Season presentation, we were excited to hear from Erik Johnsen from TroutRoutes. Erik presented functions of this amazing application, and how it can help you, the angler. Last summer, I used the trial run on the application in Colorado, and was totally impressed. I was able to download maps onto the phone, and use them without service, which is crucial in the high mountains. During this time, our group found new waters, that we have not fished before. After he demonstrated the Pro functions of the app, it was more evident than ever, that I need this app!!! Now it is on my phone, and will stay here!!!

Erik has shared with us a discount code for the Texas Council to use. So check out the app and trial run. After seeing the potential here, you too will sign up and go with the Pro!! Here's the discount code that will activate 30% off the first year of TroutRoutes Pro to anyone interested (the typical annual rate is \$58.99; with the discount code the first year is only \$41.30).

Discount code: TXFFI30

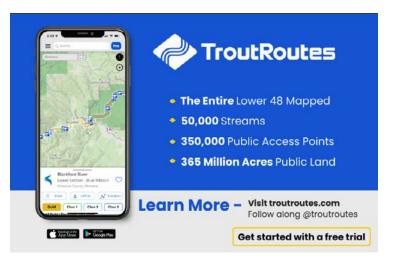
This can only be applied on the website, so direct your members to <u>maps.troutroutes.com</u>

to sign up for a new account. If folks already have an account, have them reach out to me directly, or feel free to have anyone

reach out if they have any questions.

Erik can be reached at: <u>ejohnsen@troutroutes.com</u>

Hope to see you on new waters!!!



### **EZEYEFLY HOOKS**

This past summer, when I attended TroutFest in Denver, Colorado, I met Randy with the EZEYEFLY Hooks company. I was most, impressed with his display of oversized hook eyes on, his selection of flies that he had on display. Thousand of flies on the patterns we use all of the time. The enlarged hook eyes, make it a breeze to tie on, even in the worst of conditions. This is extremely helpful, especially as we grow older, and the eye sight starts to decline, like it has in me! I bought several dozen of these flies, and brought them back to me in Texas, then proceeded to start tying and sharing with others. Myself, and all friends that I shared these with, have enjoyed the hooks, and purchased some from Randy. And now I will be purchasing my second order, so I can be in the trout game this season.

Another cool quality of these hooks, is they work so good when tying flies with beads. The large hook eye, allows the tier to push that bead right up against the eye, and secure, with no chance of the bead going over the eye of the hook. You would think the large eye would alter the success of the pattern, but I am here to tell you that is far from what I have experienced. This last week, I caught over 40 stocker trout, on the same fly! And it still looks like it could catch another 40!

So go check his website and order you up some today! <u>https://ezeyefly.com/</u>



# 31st Texas Fly Fishers Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

# Featuring Fly Designer, Tyer and Angler Lester Lehman

Saturday, January 27, 2024 8:00 am – 4:00 pm



## Lester Lehman

Les is an experienced fly tyer with over 25 years in the fly fishing industry, who has fished and tied fly patterns for both fresh and salt water destinations, including Montana, The Yucatan in Mexico and the Bahamas.

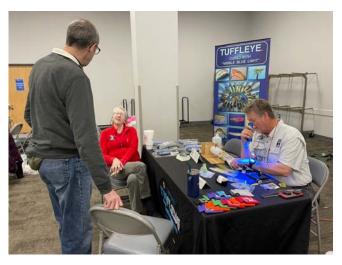
## Photos from the 2023 Festival:













### 31ST TEXAS FLY FISHERS DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL



The TexasFlyFishers have been hard at work putting together the 31st Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival. For 2024, fly designer, tyer and angler Lester Lehman (Les) will be the featured tier.

Les is a long time fly designer, tyer and angler who has fished, guided and taught throughout the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. Additionally, he has had fly patterns published in books such as: Fly Patterns for the Texas Coast by Greg Berlocher and 'Bassin' With a Fly Rod by Jack Ellis.

The Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival attracts tyers of all disciplines from all over Texas and neighboring states. The 2024 Festival is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024 and will be held at Terrace United Methodist Church, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055. The tying will begin at 8:00 am and will finish at 4:00 pm. There will be no charge for admission and food and drinks will be available also at no charge; although, a small donation for those items would be appreciated.

Along with the general tying in the main venue, there will be 1 Hour Classroom Tying Sessions lead by Les Lehman and other talented tyers. Additionally, from 10 am to 2 pm, instruction, including the necessary tools and materials, will be available for any youngsters and beginning fly tyers to learn the basics of the great hobby of tying flies. For any leader of youngsters involved in Scouting or other youth activities, this might just be the perfect opportunity to expose them to fly fishing and fly tying. So, there will be many learning opportunities throughout the day; from learning to tie ones first fly, to learning as an observer from the many talented tyers, to attending classroom fly tying instruction from some of the best fly tyers in the country. For any who currently tie flies at any level and just want to connect with others with similar interests, feel free to bring your own tools and materials, have a seat and join in on the fun.

Additionally, during the noon hour, the Annual Iron Fly Competition will be held. For this activity, the club will supply 10 – 12 intrepid tyers with a pack of 12 materials. Once the command is given, the contestants will have a short time to look over the materials, design and then 15 minutes to tie their entry. The kicker, is that there is a "mystery" material included that must be used in the pattern. The entries will be scored on (1) Number of materials used in the entry - 1 point per each materials / 12 points total; (2) Balance and Symmetry of the pattern - 5 points; and (3) Creative use of the materials - 5 points. The 3 top entries will then participate in "Tie Off" for the Championship for which the format, rules and scoring will be the same as the preliminary round. The Champion will receive a trophy and bragging rights for one year. This is a really fun event for everyone present. To see the amazing flies the participating tyers can create with such a vast array of materials is very impressive and entertaining.

Since its beginning in April, 1993, the Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival, named to honor one of its early founders, Dr. Ed Rizzolo, has grown into one of the area's premier fly fishing events, consistently attracting the top fly tyers from all over the country. This event could not have reached the level of notoriety it has obtained without the support of the fly tying community and others who are interested in fly fishing. With your continued support, it is the hope of the Texas FlyFishers that the Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival will continue to grow. The Texas Fly Fishers in Houston, Texas hope you will make plans to be at this great event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Texas Fly Fishers (Houston)

Below is the link for the tyers and volunteers to sign up and then report their hours with TPWD. They will be covered with insurance and also helps the state with hours for our federal grant. Attached is a sheet to have volunteers sign who are not certified. The first sheet indicates the information you would use to report online. The second sheet is or people to sign.

https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp\_details/225669

### **TROUTFEST TX 24**

February 16-18 | Lazy L&L Campgrounds

GRTU's Troutfest TX is a nationally recognized event, and the largest of its kind in Texas, bringing out a crowd of over 4,000 people interested in fly fishing and preserving and protecting cold water fisheries. We host this three-day event right on our home water, the Guadalupe River, and it includes a fund-raising banquet, and weekend Expo.

**Keynote Speakers** 

Presentations from Guides, Outfitters, Gear Manufacturers and Experts from Around the World Live Auction & Online Silent Vendor Expo with Guides, Fly Shops, Artists, Outfitters, Gear Manufacturers, Rod Builders Fly Casting Lessons On Water Watercraft Demos Live Auction Movie Night Kids Events Door Prizes Great Food & Local Craft Beer

https://www.grtu.org/troutfest-tx/troutfest-tx-2024/



### WINTER FLY PATTERN

Yes it is trout season, and trout do love streamers!! This simple, natural, and cost efficient pattern is ideal for the frugal fly tier, like myself. <sup>©</sup> Larger trout will key in on small baitfish, and this simulates the native small minnows in most, if not all waters in Texas. The pattern takes a very short amount of time to tie, and uses very, inexpensive materials. Starting with the hooks. Most of my fly's that I fish don't stay in my possession very long, and tend to end up in rocks, trees, or other obstructions. Hence, the hooks I buy are from Academy, and are Eagle Claw Plain Shank Live Bait hooks. Put them in a vice, and give them a quick bend. 50 hooks for \$5!!! That's right. Inside joke. The body of the fly is yarn from Hobby Lobby. Made by Yarn Bee, the material is called Fur the Moment, and the color I used was Mink. 62 yards of it, in one package. Should last a while, and tie a massive amount of streamers. Probably never used up in a lifetime!! Lol. The eyes are black bead chain, that I get from any hardware store, for like \$1 a foot. The rest of the materials are black or brown thread, tan marabou, and a pheasant tail feather for the collar.



Step 1. Put hook in vice, and give a slight bend. Can be done with your fingers

Step 2. Attach thread to hook







Step 3. Tie in two black bead chain eyes, just like you do to a clouser



### WINTER FLY PATTERN-CONTD.



Step 4. Tie in a bunch of tan marabou



Step 7. Tie in a prepared pheasant tail feather



Step 5. Tie in a strip of the mink yarn



Step 8. Wrap the feather around the hook, and tie off

Step 9. Prepare some

black dubbing on the

thread onto the head

Step 11. Whip finish the fly, and cut the thread. Apply cement, or some kind of glue, adhesive

Wrap the

the

on

thread

Step 10.

dubbing

of the fly



Step 6. Wrap the yarn around the hook, to right behind the bead chain eyes



Step 12. FISH the Fly!!!

Hope you enjoyed the pattern. Use it, catch a trout, and send a pic of it to us so we can post in social media, to support Trout Season!!!

### tcffi.org

## TRINITY FLYFEST 2024

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 FISHING, FAMILY FUN & FOOD

Fort Worth's Urban Fishing Celebration returns to the Trinity River on March 9, 2024. Reel in the fun all day at this free community fest with the Big Trout Contest, open fishing, kid activities, expert presentations, vendors and more.

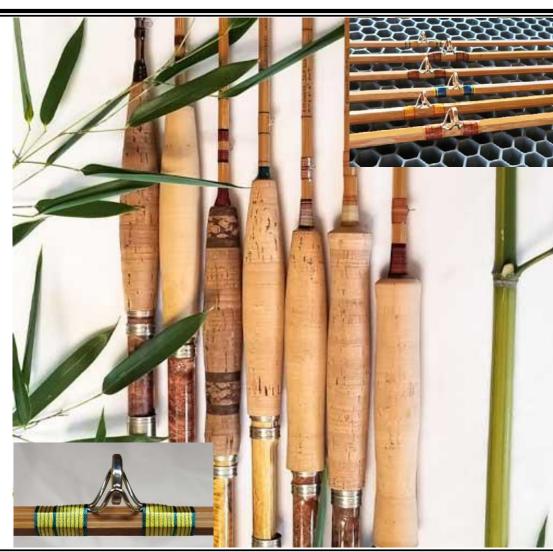
What we have planned for this year: Big trout contest Fly tying area Casting Expert presentations Open fishing Food trucks Wine & beer Live music Kids activities Outdoor sports vendors



https://trinityflyfest.com/

# King Flyrods

Bamboo. The ultimate experience in a flyrod. Beautiful, Natural, Traditional. We make affordable, exquisite, handmade, bamboo fly rods. Order a custom rod for yourself or a family member today. <u>www.kingflyrods.com</u> King Flyrods on Facebook 540.558.8585 Come cast our rods April and May at Scarborough Renaissance Faire.







To find out more on how you can participate, call or check out our website: 800 699 4490 www.reelrecovery.org - info@reelrecovery.org





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

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 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.



Contact our fantastic volunteers and join us for Reel Recovery's 2024 Texas Retreats

Waring, TX - 4/12 - 4/14 & 9/20 - 9/22 Tony Smith 210 232 2623 - smith.reelrecovery@gmail.com Rafael Torres 512 560 4380 - torres.reelrecovery@gmail.com

Navasota, TX - 5/03 - 5/05 & 10/25 - 10/27 Dave Steffek 713 202 0101 - dst8ff8k@att.net Rusty Dunn 337 344 4385 - dunn.reelrecovery@gmail.com

Glen Rose, TX - 4/26 - 4/28 & 10/04 - 10/06 Mike Tabor 817 894 0018 - tabor.reelrecovery@gmail.com Bill Shaw 817 925 2046 - shaw.reelrecovery@gmail.com





### **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 nonprofit 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: <u>president@texascouncilffi.com</u> or <u>communications@texascouncilffi.com</u>

Thanks,

Your Texas Council

## **TEXAS COUNCIL SPONSORS**

TEXAS FFi COUNCIL

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. If you are interested in advertising your business or service with the Texas Council, please contact Russell at <u>communications@texascouncilffi.com</u>





**GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION** 

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.



## 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*<sup>®</sup>

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 2023:

There are your current Glubs and their Freshuents for 2025.				
Club	President	City		
Abilene	<b>Rick Meyers</b>	Abilene		
Aggieland Fly Fishing Club	Hurshell Sullivan	College Station		
Alamo	Karson Foster	San Antonio		
Austin	Kathi Harris	Austin		
Collin	Kevin Grogan	Plano		
Conroe	Zach Griffin	Conroe		
Corpus Christi	Reese Hunt	Corpus Christi		
Dallas	Julia Bell	Dallas		
Fort Worth	Brett Morehead	Fort Worth		
Kekoa	Chris Gorman	Melissa		
Lonestar	David Hudnall	Tyler		
Lubbock	David Crawford	Lubbock		
New Braunfels	Dan Cone	New Braunfels		
Pineywoods	Walter Mclendon	Lufkin		
Red River	Jim Kelly (temp)	Sherman		
Rowlett	Derrick Meis	Rowlett		
San Gabriel	Rene Salas	Georgetown		
Texas Fly Fishers	Don Pucket	Houston		
Texas Hill Country	Jeff Schroeder	Fredricksburg		
TWFF	Joan Swartz	Texas		

### 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 <u>https://tcffi.org/</u>

Texas Council President	Rick Haness
First Vice President	Jack Gillis
At - Large	Barry Webster
Membership	Brett Morehead
Communications/ Social Media	Russell Husted
Conservation	Russell Husted
Treasurer	Reid Winger
Secretary	Jim Richards
Women's Outreach	Dani Rose
Webmaster	Tim Gikas
At - Large	Dutch Baughman
At - Large	Jacob Sherwood
Casting	Stephen Weaver
Tying	Ron Mayfield
Youth Outreach	Austin Orr
TPWD Liason	Keira Quam
FFI At-Large	Dutch Baughman
At-Large	Barry Webster
TPWD Liason	Keira Quam
Past President	Vacant due to resignation

# KEEP OUR FISHERIES HEALTHY





# GO BARBLESS & LEAD-FREE

# PACK OUT ALL TRASH

# CLEAN YOUR BOATS, BOOTS & WADERS



CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / CONHUNITY FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

SECTION 17-1 a suggest a desidence of CD (1998) 7 (1999)

## **Texas Council Clubs**



Club	City	Website/Email
Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	www.facebook.com/abileneflyfishers
Aggieland Fly Fishing Club	College Station	https://www.aggielandff.org/
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	www.alamoflyfishers.org
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	www.austinflyfishers.com
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
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.



# 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.

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

### 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 fiberglass 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.



# The TXC awarded Hill Country Fly Fishers (one of its local clubs) an educational grant to purchase fly rods for the Hill

**Hill Country Youth Ranch:** 

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 Flyfisher MagazineUS residents -	\$10/yrInternational residents - \$20/yr	
(All members have access to our magazine by	logging into <u>www.flyfishersinternational.org</u> )	
<ul> <li>NOTE: -General memberships include spouses, cohabitating pa -Lifetime memberships include spouses and cohabitati -In order to join a specialty group (Guide, Fly Tying, Cas</li> <li>*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multip **Includes custom built TFO rod. Refer to: <u>http://www</u></li> </ul>	ng partners. sting) you must also maintain an FFI membership. oly price by number of years)	
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 the	nat you would like to receive credit for the Rod	
Credit Program?	-	
Credit Program? Total Charge \$ Auto Renew?	·	

 $\hfill\square$  Please do not share my information with organizations outside of FFI.