

# WINTER EDITION



# TEXAS COUNCIL



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

## The Texas Line & Leader

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Issue 4: Winter Edition 2024

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### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good day fellow fly fishers and interested readers,

I hope this message finds all of you in good health and spirits. We have many things we can be thankful for living in the great State of Texas. While writing this message I find myself reflecting on the many good times and experiences fishing has given us this past year and at the same time I am speculating on the exhilarating expectations in the coming new year.

Over the past year the Texas Council, along with our clubs and members, has made significant strides in supporting and growing our presence in our communities. The Council has actively participated in and supported many of the Fly-Fishing events held across Texas. Please note some of the events, to mention a few, held over the year.

- Dallas Safari Club Convention: The Council maintained a booth the entire time of their Expo held the first part of January with volunteer support from Dallas and Fort Worth Fly Fishing Clubs. Patty Leuken represented Women Connect, and was very instrumental in Signing up about forty new members to FFi and Women Connect rosters.
- Troutfest; one of the first events of the year and held outside of New Braunfels. This is well attended by fly fishers from around the state.
- Flyfest; held every year in March on the

banks of the Trinity River in Fort Worth with participation From the Fort Worth and Dallas Fly Fishers

- Texas Fly Fishing Fair; A new event presented by the Texas council. This event is slated to be held in several Locations in the state.
- The Mini Expo; and every August in Houston and presented by the Texas Fly Fishers,
- The Fly-Tying Group Rendezvous; held in Dallas this past September with the TXC maintaining a booth to at the event
- The Aggieldand Roundup, presented by the Aggieldand Fly Fishers in College Station, this 2-day event featured a general expo with all the fixins on Saturday and a Casting/clinic on Sunday, held specifically for Casters interested in strengthening their skills to become Certified Casting Instructors.
- Oktoberfisch; an event hosted in past years by The Texas Hill Country Hill Country Fly Fishers. This past year, The Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers co-presented with the Texas Council. The event presented activities centered around speakers, casting demonstrations, fly tying and local vendors, the Texas Council added their “Texas Fly Fishing Fair” programing.

THE EVENTS LISTED ABOVE AND MANY OTHERS OFFERS A CHANCE TO ENHANCE YOU EXPERIENCES BY BEING ASSOCIATED WITH FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL AND THE TEXAS COUNCIL. PLAN TO ATTEND AS MANY AS YOU CAN NEXT YEAR. I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

*Continued on Page 2.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- CONT.

One of the main reasons the Texas Council exists is to support Fly Fishers International whose mission is “to bring together the global fly fishing community to support fly fishing access and education so our sport can continue to grow in the future.” The Councils purpose is to support Fly Fishers International education goals and to assist our clubs and members through presentation of materials, skill sets educational materials in Fly Fishers International Learning Center, found on FFI’s web site.

The Council has identified several programs that will enhance the participation of fly fishing and improve the skills necessary to be successful in the Sport. Several of the programs the Council is concentrating on is the development of youth participation concentrating on this initiative educates our youth who someday will become active in our sport and clubs. Casting skills is another program the Council is actively concentrating on to improve participation by clubs and members to improve their casting skills. The Council is very interested in supporting is the growth of women in the sport of fly fishing, in the past several years the growth of women in the sport of fly fishing has seen a growth of over 30%. The council has identified several women to steward this effort. An additional goal for the Council is to have representation at public events (not necessarily fishing orientated) to gauge and identify interest in fly fishing to become members at the national, state and or local level. We have had some surprising success with this approach.

The coming new year will see several new Board of Director members. I encourage you all to identify areas you are interested in and offer your support and help; you will be surprised at the feeling of accomplishment you will experience. I want to thank the all the Board members who have served with me in the past 12 years of the Council’s existence. I personally want to thank all of you who have supported me for the last three ½” years, they worked very hard to make your fly fishing experience a great one. I am delighted to say that in the years I have served on the Board, from being the Director of Tying to President. I was privileged to have met many of the state’s most talented skilled tyers and honored to work with some of Texas’ greatest fly fishing board members, club leaders and volunteers.

This being my last message; I encourage all of you to participate in the continued growth and education of the great sport of fly fishing and support your clubs and FFI. The real joy of being involved is helping and being with one’s peers while enjoying the tranquility and solitude of being in the nature.

I would like to take this time to thank Russell Husted for filling in for me for the past several months, allowing me to concentrate on recovering from a menacing medical condition! THANKS RUSSELL.

I hope to see you all on the great rivers of Texas, the United

Stated and the World.  
Volunteer! YOU ARE NEEDED!!

Thanks all.  
Rick Haness  
Past President  
Texas Council, Fly Fishers International

For many, February brings us the best event of the year!! GRTU’s Troutfest TX is the largest event of its kind in Texas and brings out a crowd of over 4,000 people interested in fly fishing and preserving and protecting cold water fisheries.

## TFTX 25

**February 21-23 | Lazy L&L Campgrounds  
11699 River Rd, New Braunfels, TX 78132**

GRTU hosts this three-day event right on our home water, the Guadalupe River, at Lazy L&L Campground located at 11699 River Rd, New Braunfels, TX



78132, and it includes a fund-raising banquet, a Movie Night and a 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
- Movie Night
- Kids Events
- Door Prizes
- Great Food & Local Craft Beer

Hope you plan on attending and stop by and see us at the Texas Council booth!!



## BELGIUM CAST – NOT FOR FISHING IN BELGIUM

No more chucking and ducking when casting a weighted streamers or spending more time untangling an indicator rig than fishing. Use a Belgium Cast when casting with weight.

Casting instructors teach the 180-degree rule - a back cast and forward cast along a straight line made in opposite directions of each other. The Belgium cast sweeps the back cast to the side at about 30 degrees off the 180-degree line and then slowly drags the fly around in an elliptical or oval shape until it reaches the 180-degree target line at which time the forward cast is made. This accomplishes two important things needed when casting weight: (1) it avoids the abrupt change of direction when casting with the 180-degree rule and (2) it maintains constant tension on the back cast.

What is the problem? Or why does the 180-degree rule fail when casting weight? First, gravity causes the weight to drop quicker. The caster ducks to keep the fly from hitting the back or back of the head. Second, the momentum of the weight being casted in opposite directions coupled with an abrupt change of direction with a pause between casts results in loss of control of the fly. This loss of control is the big reason why indicator rigs end in tangled mess.

These problems do not exist with a Belgium Cast. The sweep of the back cast at a 30-degree angle keeps the fly away from the caster and dragging the fly around to the 180-degree target line avoid a pause, keeps the fly under constant tension, and avoids an abrupt change of direct.

So how is the Belgium Cast made? It is quite easy. On the back cast sweep the fly back at about 30 degrees off the 180-degree. Right before the line fully unrolls slowly drag the fly in an upward and oval shape until it reaches the 180-degree target line and then make the forward cast. Make this cast slowly, during the oval move circle up and around to the 180-degree line and do not pause on the back cast. Make sure to maintain constant tension during the oval circle up move.

Here are some great short videos which demonstrate the Belgium Cast.

FFI - <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources/Fly-Casting/Casting-Videos/>

Orvis - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw3urruyS18>

End Note – Other names for the Belgium Cast are the Oval Cast or the Elliptical Cast.

Jim Hund, MCI, THCI  
Board Member - Casting Instructor Education  
Texas Council FFI

## WORLDWIDE IF4 VIRTUAL EVENT

UNTIL DECEMBER 31 | [TICKETS ONLY \\$15!](#)

HURRY! This is your last chance to purchase tickets for the 2024 Virtual International Fly Fishing Film Festival! Watch anywhere you like with as many friends and family as you like for less the cost of a single ticket! Ticket sales are on sale now thorough December 31st and you will have access for a full 7 days!

## TEXAS COUNCIL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Well this may not be fly fishing related, but no wait, maybe it is? Yes it is. More and more fly fishers are turning to pickleball, as another way to exercise, and sharpen up our coordination, which is very much needed when fly fishing. We see this happening all across the nation and beyond. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport, which is also being enjoyed by fly fishers. And it is a great way to use as a fund raising opportunity, that clubs should be considering to do.

Last year, the Texas Council hosted it's first pickleball tournament in north Texas and raised over \$3800!!! It was super easy to organize, and we had 18 teams participate. Chicken N Pickle has a community outreach program, that supported our tournament, and they are so great to work with! There are other businesses that will also support 501C3's if you just check.

Now it is time for what will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Council Pickleball Tournament. January the 11<sup>th</sup> will be the date, and again so thankful for Chicken N Pickle to host us. They are so great to work with, and we can't wait to get the ball bouncing, literally!!! Stay tuned for the results in mid January. If you would like to come play, I'm sure we can make that happen.

# PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

**JAN 11TH, 2025 | 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: [rhusted@texascouncilffi.com](mailto:rhusted@texascouncilffi.com)



FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT US



SCAN ME



## TROUT STOCKING 2024 -2025

Let us start off with our home state, Texas. The stocking program in Texas is second to none. As the largest state in the Country, Texas has a vast amount of territory to serve the anglers, who look each year to pursue. And Texas Parks and Wildlife does an amazing job doing just that. With hatcheries around the state, TPWD strategically stocks, to keep us the angler engaged throughout the season. Add in GRTU's excellent program, along with holdover trout from previous years, this is looking up to be a great season. Many of us who live in North Texas, call the Brazos River our home location, and look forward to the many, many stockings they have in store for us.

Brazos River Trout stockings are on the following dates: 12/6/2024, 12/20/2024, 1/3/2025, 1/17/2025, 1/30/2025, 2/18/2025, 2/28/2025

The Hill Country is blessed with the most southern, trout fishery in the country, and what a gem it is! The Guadalupe River is well supported by GRTU, and TPWD. GRTU is a great organization to belong to, and has many excellent locations for their members to access. Consider joining and supporting the organization, and sign up for exclusive Trout Lease access locations. TPWD also stocks the Guadalupe, which keeps the population strong, throughout the year and beyond.

Guadalupe River Trout stockings are on the following dates: 12/6/2024, 12/13/2024, 12/20/2024, 12/27/2024, 1/3/2025, 1/10/2025, 1/17/2025, 1/24/2025, 1/31/2025, 2/21/2025, 3/2/2025

Other stocking locations across the state can be found on the TPWD site.

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout\\_stocking.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml)

And just to our North, there is some great trout fishing in Oklahoma. Broken Bow, Blue River and the Lower Illinois River to name a few places to go. These are three great options with the Blue River being the closest. Trout stocking has already begun at the Blue, so go get some!!

Oklahoma Trout stockings and program:

<https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/resources/trout-information>

Let us not forget about Arkansas. Some fabulous trout fishing and scenery there.

Arkansas Trout stockings and program:

<https://www.agfc.com/fishing/trout/>

Well that about sums it up. Hope this helps get you excited

about Trout Season. So get out there and enjoy for what many call their favorite time of year. Stay tuned to the Texas Council Facebook page for any updates that the club shares about trout fishing throughout the season.

## TRWD FLYFEST

Returning to the banks on the Trinity River, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Trinity FlyFest will be March the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Reel in the fun all day at this free community event featuring the BIG Trout Contest, open fishing, kid activities, expert presentations, vendors and so much more!! Last year's FlyFest was one of the best in recent memory, and plans are in place to make this year's event even better. Truly a time for all of the family to enjoy, FlyFest is place where we see an urban setting at it's best. So much effort goes into supporting the Trinity River for us, the residents of Fort Worth to enjoy. TRWD has events on the river, year round, bringing thousands of us together.

Please stay tuned, to see the full scale of the event, as we get closer to the BIG day!! Mark your calendar, and prepare for an amazing day.

<https://trinityflyfest.com/>

See you there!!

## FFI CONSERVATION ACTION LETTERS

Fly Fishers International continues to lead the way in regards to conservation efforts across the country. Fly Fishers International submitted 2 conservation action letters recently to respective agencies. One letter is in support of a restriction on harvest of the Atlantic Striped Bass and the other letter supports a ban on Net Pen Aquaculture in Washington State. This is just one example of the effort that FFI does to help protect our fisheries, and there are plans to do so much more, including supporting local projects in Texas.



November 26, 2024

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Submitted via email to: [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org)

Dear Members of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

As part of its mission to advocate for “all fish, all waters,” Fly Fishers International (FFI) encourages you to take decisive policy action at the Board’s upcoming special meeting on December 16, 2024 to protect the Atlantic striped bass as well as support the many anglers and businesses that depend on this iconic species for both recreational enjoyment and, in many cases, their livelihoods.

It is FFI’s position that, in response to the current conditions of the Atlantic striped bass fishery, the Board must take immediate action to successfully rebuild the stock by 2029 and fulfill its management obligation to this species and your constituents.

We encourage you to be open-minded to any and all measures that ensure not only the long term viability of this fishery but - importantly to our members - its return to a state of abundance. Strong measures are needed now, regardless of how painful they may be in the short term, to avoid the potential and much greater hardships resulting from yet another collapse of this fishery in the not-too-distant future. This is a situation that we all should work hard to avoid.

Be courageous in your approach and take all necessary actions now so that in the future you can look back while enjoying the many benefits of an abundant Atlantic striped bass population, and know the right actions were taken at this critical moment to protect this beloved fish.

Most Sincerely,

Rhonda Sellers  
Executive Director

Dave Peterson  
Conservation Chair

**ALL FISH, ALL WATERS®**

2201 US Highway 10 West, Suite D4 / Livingston, MT 59047  
P 406.222.9369 / F 406.222.5823 / [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org)



November 26, 2024

Ms. Hilary Franz  
Commissioner of Public Lands  
Board of Natural Resources  
MS 47000  
Olympia, WA 98504-7000

Submitted via email to: [bnr@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bnr@dnr.wa.gov)

Dear Commissioner Franz and Members of the Board of Natural Resources:

We are writing on behalf of Fly Fishers International, a global organization dedicated to the support, enhancement and protection of recreational opportunities and enjoyment of fly fishing. We achieve our mission through teaching all aspects of fly fishing and through our advocacy for conservation of our natural resources. FFI represents the interests of 12,000 fly anglers in the United States and internationally.

We want to express our strong support for Commissioner Franz's proposal to change regulations to prohibit industrial finfish net pen aquaculture in Washington's marine waters.

As the Board of Natural Resources, you have the important job of protecting Washington's public waters and lands for everyone today and for future generations. We urge you to approve this rule that will ensure our public waters will be protected from the dangers associated with this industry, including daily pollution, the spread of harmful viruses and diseases, and catastrophic escape events like the Cypress Island collapse that released 260,000, viral-infected farmed fish into Puget Sound.

Puget Sound and its ecosystems represent a finite resource of great social, cultural, and economic value and we strongly encourage you to protect this irreplaceable public heritage. Given what is at stake, industrial net pen aquaculture is an unacceptable use of public waters that undermines the public's investments in the recovery of wild salmon, orcas, and the greater health of Puget Sound.

We applaud Commissioner Franz's initiative and encourage the Board to finalize this rule.

Most Sincerely,

Rhonda Sellers  
Executive Director

Dave Peterson  
Conservation Chair

**ALL FISH, ALL WATERS®**

1201 US Highway 10 West, Suite D4 / Livingston, MT 59047  
P 406.222.9369 / F 406.222.5823 / [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org)

# Casting for Recovery

A pink starburst logo with a registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned to the right of the main title.

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](http://castingforrecovery.org)





# TEXAS COUNCIL CASTING PRESENTATION AND GENERAL MEETING

As always, there will be draws for prizes following each virtual screening AND one lucky ticket holder will be the recipient of our year-end GRAND PRIZE!

December the 16th, the TXCouncil held its annual general meeting and election, along with an awesome presentation from CI Bill Campbell on Fly Casting Accuracies. If you missed it, you're in a good spot as the meeting was recorded.

Thank you Bill for your time, and presenting to us!!!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84811200000?pwd=QelvobAER...>

Passcode: 5#!A\$x1c

And thank you for the group that stayed after the presentation and attended the general meeting and election. Look in the newsletter for the recap and plans for 2025.

During the general meeting, the board for 2025 was selected, and then later approved by the Executive Committee of the TXCouncil. Here is the board for 2025.

- President Russell Husted
- Secretary Laura Durden
- Education OPEN
- Communications OPEN
- Membership Brett Morehead
- Treasurer Michael Quigley
- Casting Jim Hund
- Casting Ron Ridgeway
- Tying Mike Hawkins
- Webmaster Tim Gikas
- Womens Beth Beirman
- Youth OPEN
- TPWD OPEN
- At Large David Hudnall
- At Large Grants Rick Hanes

There are still positions open, that will be filled as the year moves along. If you would like to be a part of this awesome group of volunteers, that are primed to do great things in 2025, please join us. Simply contact us, and we will discuss the process with you.

Thank you for considering.

**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 though Recreation





## DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL

Dear Fellow Fly Fishing Enthusiast,

The Texas FlyFishers would like to extend an invitation for you to tie with us at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Terrace United Methodist Church located at 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055. Hours are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. As a tyer, along with a complimentary lunch and refreshments, your name will be put in a tyers only drawing.

This years Featured Tyer is Josef Borski.

Along with the general fly tying in the main venue, there will be 1 Hour Classroom Sessions and, our Annual *Iron Fly* Competition.

If you have any friends that might be interested in joining us, please feel free to pass this information along to them. We don't want to miss anyone. Our contact information is listed below.

A point of note; Due to health concerns, I will be turning the reins over to Howard Finley however, I will still be involved with the Festival planning. I have listed Howard's contact information below.

Since its beginning in April, 1993, the Festival has grown into one of the area's premier fly fishing events, consistently attracting tyers from all over the country. With your support, it is the hope of the Texas FlyFishers that the Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival will continue to grow back to pre-Covid numbers. I hope you will make plans on being on hand for this great event.

Regards,  
Chris Summers  
Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival Chairman

Please RSVP to either  
Chris Summers - [csumers@comcast.net](mailto:csumers@comcast.net) - (281) 692-8962 or,  
Howard Finley at [fixerman1000@aol.com](mailto:fixerman1000@aol.com) 304 610-4227

## BRAZOS RIVER CLEAN UP PROJECT

The 5<sup>th</sup> Brazos River Clean Up Project has come and gone. But the event will be remembered as a HUGE success. On a beautiful fall day, an eager, conservation minded group, met for an afternoon, to clean up the Brazos River around the Possum Kingdom tailrace area. And the Fort Worth Fly Fishers were there as well to support. Putting in the effort now, will ensure we have a beautiful stretch of water to fly fish this trout season. The club has been fishing this area, since its existence, in 1985!! The Brazos Clean Up Project was formed, because a group was determined to change the life of the river, and restore it to its naturally beautiful state, with the goal of reducing waste in the area every year, and hopefully prevent the need to continue the project. Changing the focus from reactive to proactive, is the

key to the success of the project, going forward. But until we get to that point, the project will continue.

The project was not to start till 12pm, so a group of us decided to test the clear, cool waters of the Brazos River, to see if we could land some of the local basses. While looking for stripers, and white bass, we soon found out that was not going to happen, but were pleased to see a few spotted bass eat our flies. Congrats to Zane Moore and Jim Smith on their catches.

While the early am fishing might have been slow, it was nice getting some casting practice in and seeing the resident cliff dwelling goats!! Then a quick lunch and the clean up project began. The river was actually in pretty good shape in regards to litter, so we switched gears and started picking up trash that was above the watershed.

The **Fort Worth Fly Fishers** were represented well. Not only because of our efforts, but we were lucky in regards to the raffles.

Dale Hayward won an Orvis Reel and boots.  
Jim Smith found the top trash prize by finding a complete backpack, loaded with gear and boots!!  
And I won a guided fly fishing trip with Brazos on the Fly!!

Great to see so many friends and working with such a great group focusing on conservation.

Sharing a note from Grant.

Woke up exhausted but with a heart full of gratitude for what we were able to accomplish yesterday. We witnessed a community of people who are all passionate about the Brazos come together for one collective effort. For 5 years, we have made an impact on the Brazos by removing thousands of pounds of trash each year, all with the help of volunteers who are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to join in our mission. We are grateful to each and every one of you. See you all in 2025! Always remember to leave it better than you found it.

A special thank you to the individuals, groups, and businesses who stepped up in big ways for us: **Graham Savings Orvis Fly Fishing Fatties on the Fly Brazos on the Fly All Hands Craft Cocktails Real Ale Brewing Company Cavett CreativeLone Star Dry Goods PDBBQ Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery-Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fort Worth Fly Fishers Rochelle's Canoe Rental KC Dumpsters, LLC**

For those of you who volunteered for the Brazos River Clean Up Project, please turn in your VIP Points. Conservation projects bring you double the points!!!! Were you not able to attend? Please try and make it to the next one.

# BRAZOS RIVER CLEAN UP PROJECT-CONT.



# THE DEENA FLY



The Deena is a fly originated by Bill Wilmert, a guide and owner of Stoney Point Flies in Heber Springs, Arkansas.

Bill tied my dad and me a Deena at an FFI Conclave in Loveland, Colorado years ago and it has been a top producer for me ever since. I brought the fly back to our club in Texas it is on the top fly in everyone's fly box. I have caught three species of trout, large and smallmouth bass, bream, crappie, catfish and even pond stocked tilapia! Bill told me the fly came about as a bit of a mistake, he had an order for some olive wooly buggers and didn't have all the materials he needed so the Deena was developed. The size as well as materials can be varied and still maintain the style and it will still catch fish. The fly can be tied in olive, white/gray, bronze and tan, this is one of my versions:

1. Hook - TMC5262 (any heavy wire 2X streamer hook will work)
2. Tail - Marabou (olive, white, gray, tan)
3. Body - or dubbing to match tail
4. Wing - Mallard Flank
5. Collar (optional) - CDC (split thread dubbing technique)

\*The Deena can be tied using round lead wraps at the thorax or a bead head to get the fly down in varying currents.





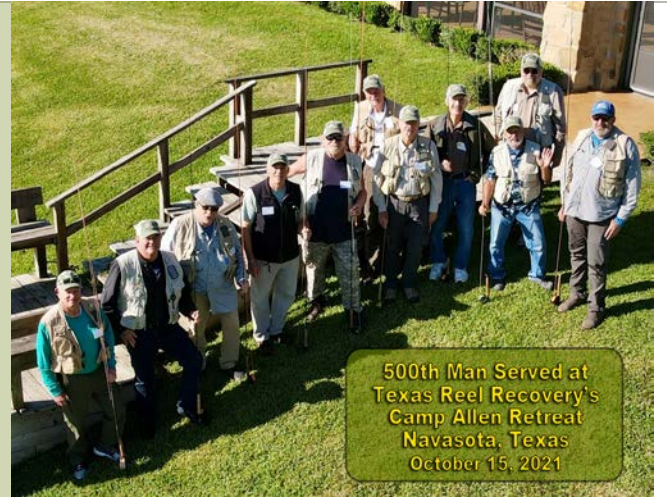
# REEL RECOVERY

*Be Well! Fish On!*

To find out more on how you can participate,  
call or check out our website:

**800 699 4490**

[www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org) - [info@reelrecovery.org](mailto:info@reelrecovery.org)



500th Man Served at  
Texas Reel Recovery's  
Camp Allen Retreat  
Navasota, Texas  
October 15, 2021



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](mailto:smith.reelrecovery@gmail.com)**

**Rafael Torres 512 560 4380 - [torres.reelrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:torres.reelrecovery@gmail.com)**

**Navasota, TX - 5/03 - 5/05 & 10/25 - 10/27**

**Dave Steffek 713 202 0101 - [dst8ff8k@att.net](mailto:dst8ff8k@att.net)**

**Rusty Dunn 337 344 4385 - [dunn.reelrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:dunn.reelrecovery@gmail.com)**

**Glen Rose, TX - 4/26 - 4/28 & 10/04 - 10/06**

**Mike Tabor 817 894 0018 - [tabor.reelrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:tabor.reelrecovery@gmail.com)**

**Bill Shaw 817 925 2046 - [shaw.reelrecovery@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:president@texascouncilffi.com)

or

[communications@texascouncilffi.com](mailto:communications@texascouncilffi.com)

Thanks,

Your Texas Council

## TEXAS COUNCIL SPONSORS

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 [communications@texascouncilffi.com](mailto:communications@texascouncilffi.com)



**BEAVER'S BEND**  
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[www.beaversbendflyfishingguideservice.com](http://www.beaversbendflyfishingguideservice.com)



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**Stephen L. Weaver**  
Co-Founder

[sweaver@goodfly.org](mailto:sweaver@goodfly.org) (979) 383-4415



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Welcome our new sponsor,  
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**EZEYEFly**

- Barbless flies and hooks with larger eyes
- Makes for easier threading of your tippet
- No affect on the fly's performance



Visit our website at [EZEYEFly.com](http://EZEYEFly.com) and use the promotional code **TXCNCLFFI** to get 10% off your order (good thru April 30).

# TEXAS COUNCIL SPONSORS



Beavers Bend Fly Fishing Guide Service  
<https://www.beaversbendflyshop.com/guided-fly-fishing-trips/#book-trip>

Good Fly  
<https://www.goodfly.org/>

Honeyhole Angling  
<https://honeyholeangling.com/>

King Flyrods  
<https://kingflyrods.com/>

Rio Anglers  
<https://rioanglers.com>

EZEYEFLY  
<https://ezeyefly.com>

Panther City Flies  
[@panther\\_city\\_flies](https://panther_city_flies)

The Fly Hair Co.  
[theflyhairco.com](https://theflyhairco.com)

My name is Michael Rios and I'm a lifetime angler. I started Panther City Flies as a way to bring people to high quality, well-tied flies that actually...catch fish! From trout to redfish I can get it done. I specialize in bass streamers for our local rivers and lakes in North Texas. I am the creator of the Golden Ticket, and Dive Bomber, two flies that have been making waves (pun intended) in the fly fishing community. I am the current Fly Tying Chairman for the Fort Worth Fly Fishers. Panther City Flies, Always on the Hunt!

## King Flyrods

Bamboo. The ultimate experience in a flyrod.

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**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](http://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*®

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 2024:

Club	President	City
Abilene	Rick Meyers	Abilene
Aggeland Fly Fishing Club	Hurshell Sullivan	College Station
Alamo	Karson Foster	San Antonio
Austin	Vacant	Austin
Collin	Kevin Grogan	Plano
Conroe	Zach Griffin	Conroe
Corpus Christi	Reese Hunt	Corpus Christi
Dallas	Dave Smith	Dallas
Fort Worth	Kay Jackson	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	Fredericksburg
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 <https://tcffi.org/>

Texas Council President	Rick Haness
First Vice President / Conservation	Russell Husted
Education	Dani Rose
Membership	Brett Morehead
Treasurer	Michael Quigley
Secretary	Laura Durden
Women's Outreach	Beth Bierman
Webmaster	Tim Gikas
Casting	Cari Ray
Casting	Jim Hund
Tying	Mike Hawkins
Youth Outreach	Austin Orr
TPWD Liaison	Keira Quam, FFI
At - Large	David Hudnall

# KEEP OUR FISHERIES HEALTHY



KEEPEM<sup>WET</sup>\* &  
RELEASE FISH PROPERLY

GO BARBLESS & LEAD-FREE



PACK OUT ALL TRASH



CLEAN YOUR BOATS, BOOTS & WADERS



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

[FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG)

KEEPEM<sup>WET</sup>\* is a registered trademark of OCEANWET FISHING®



## Texas Council Clubs

Club	City	Website/Email
Abilene Fly Fishers	Abilene	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/abileneflyfishers">www.facebook.com/abileneflyfishers</a>
Aggieland Fly Fishing Club	College Station	<a href="https://www.aggielandff.org/">https://www.aggielandff.org/</a>
Alamo Fly Fishers	San Antonio	<a href="http://www.alamoflyfishers.org">www.alamoflyfishers.org</a>
Austin Fly Fishers	Austin	<a href="http://www.austinflyfishers.com">www.austinflyfishers.com</a>
Collin County Fly Fishing Club	Wylie	<a href="http://www.collincountyflyfishing.org">www.collincountyflyfishing.org</a>
Conroe Fly Fishers (PHWFF)	Conroe	<a href="mailto:txfritz4134@suddenlink.net">txfritz4134@suddenlink.net</a>
Corpus Christi Fly Fishers Inc	Corpus Christi	<a href="http://www.lmflyfishers.com">www.lmflyfishers.com</a>
Dallas Flyfishers	Dallas	<a href="http://www.dallasflyfishers.org">www.dallasflyfishers.org</a>
Fort Worth Fly Fishers	Fort Worth	<a href="http://www.fortworthflyfishers.org">www.fortworthflyfishers.org</a>
Kekoa Outdoors	Melissa	<a href="http://www.kekoaoutdoors.org">www.kekoaoutdoors.org</a>
Lone Star Fly Fishers	Tyler	<a href="http://www.lssfclub.org">www.lssfclub.org</a>
Lubbock Fly Fishers	Lubbock	<a href="http://www.lubbockflyfishers.org">www.lubbockflyfishers.org</a>
New Braunfels Fly Fishers	New Braunfels	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsflyfishers">www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsflyfishers</a>
Pineywoods Fly Fishers	Lufkin	<a href="http://www.pwff.org">www.pwff.org</a>
Red River Fly Fishers	Sherman	<a href="http://www.rrff.org">www.rrff.org</a>
Rowlett Fishers (PHWFF)	Royse City	<a href="mailto:derrick.meis@projecthealingwaters.org">derrick.meis@projecthealingwaters.org</a>
San Gabriel Fly Fishers	Georgetown	<a href="http://www.sgflyfishers.com">www.sgflyfishers.com</a>
Texas Fly Fishers	Houston	<a href="http://www.texasflyfishers.org">www.texasflyfishers.org</a>
Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers	Fredericksburg	<a href="http://thcff.org">thcff.org</a>
Texas Women Fly Fishers	Statewide	<a href="http://www.twff.net">www.twff.net</a>

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



**PLEASE RENEW  
TODAY!**

# FFI TEXAS COUNCIL IS AT WORK IN YOUR REGION!



*We now have 19 clubs throughout the state!*

*Visit [www.texascounciliff.com](http://www.texascounciliff.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!**



**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](http://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.