

SPRING EDITION



TEXAS COUNCIL



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

The Texas Line & Leader

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG— AND SO HAS THE FLY FISHING!

Hooray for Spring! After an unusually mild winter here in Texas, it feels like the season has arrived early this year. Trees are already blooming, the grass is greening up, and wildflowers are popping across the state. Nature isn't the only thing waking up—our fisheries are coming alive, too.

As water temperatures rise, fish are pushing into the shallows, creating the kind of early-season action many of us look forward to all year. White bass are running up creeks and rivers, offering some of the most exciting spring fishing Texas has to offer. Meanwhile, largemouth bass and crappie are moving toward their shallow-water spawning areas, making them more accessible to anglers.

It's not just the sportfish getting active. Carp, buffalo, drum, and even catfish are now cruising the flats and runoff zones, feeding aggressively and providing fantastic opportunities for sight-casting and unexpected battles.

There's no doubt—this is one of the best times of the year to be on the water. Dust off the gear, tie up some fresh flies, and get ready, because Texas spring fishing is officially in full swing!

Before all this spring activity kicked off, several

fantastic events around the state helped get us excited and ready for fly-fishing season. February opened with the **Friends of the Fish Fair**, hosted by Judson Cole of Rio Anglers—a perfect way to set the tone for the pre-spring energy building across Texas. That same evening, **GRTU** held its "**Mend the River**" **Banquet**, a highly successful gathering that raised thousands of dollars to support ongoing Hill Country relief efforts.

And then came the big one—the event that truly signaled the arrival of Spring: the **10th Annual Trinity FlyFest**. Held along the banks of the Trinity River in Fort Worth, the festival drew thousands of attendees who enjoyed a beautiful day packed with activities, demonstrations, competitions, and community. It was an incredible celebration of fly fishing and the Texas outdoors.

A full recap of the FlyFest can be found later in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, what will Spring bring us this year? Hopefully plenty of great fly-fishing opportunities, more community events to enjoy, and—most importantly—**water**. Texas desperately needs it. While water scarcity is nothing new for our state, it's becoming an increasingly urgent challenge. Drought continues to grip much of our landscape, and many lakes and rivers are already at—or approaching—historic low levels.

Texans don't always help the situation, either. Our water-use habits put additional strain on limited

Continued on Page 2.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-CONTD.

resources, and emerging demands add even more pressure. Large new facilities, especially massive data centers being built across the state, require enormous amounts of water for cooling—raising valid concerns about long-term sustainability.

If the spring rains don't come through for us, we could be facing a harsh Texas summer, marked by water restrictions unlike anything we've experienced before. It's a sobering reminder of how precious—and finite—our water truly is.

Fly Fishers International Announces 2026 Membership Dues Update And Invites Members To Flyfest 2026

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has announced an upcoming adjustment to membership dues beginning in 2026. For more than 15 years, dues across most membership levels have remained unchanged, even as the costs of delivering programs, supporting the fly-fishing community, and operating the organization have steadily increased. After thoughtful review, the FFI Board of Directors has approved a modest dues adjustment to ensure the organization remains strong, sustainable, and equipped to serve anglers for years to come.

This change reflects FFI's continued commitment to high-quality education, conservation initiatives, community engagement, and the programs that make FFI such a valuable resource for fly fishers around the world.

Save the Date: FlyFest 2026 - September 24–26, 2026

As an FFI member, you know the important role fly fishing plays in our lives—and FFI has an exciting event planned to bring our community together. Mark your calendars for **FlyFest 2026**, taking place **September 24–26, 2026**, at the **Redding Civic Auditorium in Redding, California**.

FlyFest is designed for anglers of all ages and experience levels. Whether you're brand-new to the sport or have spent decades on the water, this event promises learning, inspiration, connection, and plenty of hands-on fun.

What to Expect at FlyFest 2026

FlyFest brings together the heart of the fly-fishing community under one roof, offering:

- **Educational presentations** from expert instructors

and seasoned anglers

- **Fly tying and casting demonstrations**
- **A full consumer trade show** featuring gear, outfitting, and industry partners
- **Built-in time for fishing, food, fellowship, and fun**
- **Small-group seminars** for deeper learning and real conversation
- **A community dinner and fundraising auction** to support FFI's mission

All primary activities are included with a single, accessible registration fee.

Registration Opens March 16

Members and guests are encouraged to register early once registration opens to the public on **March 16**. FlyFest is an opportunity to celebrate our shared passion for the sport, strengthen connections within the fly-fishing community, and support the mission of Fly Fishers International.

Texas Council Leadership

TPWD STATEWIDE TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT



The Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recently completed a statewide evaluation of the Rainbow Trout stocking program. In order to assess angler effort, Rainbow Trout harvest, and angler preferences and satisfaction, TPWD staff directly

TPWD TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM-CONTD.



interviewed 3,429 anglers across 102 sites during the 2024-2025 season. The survey included questions like: “How long have you been fishing today?”, “How many fish have you caught?”, “Are you satisfied with the Rainbow Trout Program?”, and “How much money did you spend on today’s fishing trip?”, among others. The results of the survey were positive and highlight the success of the program, as well as some areas for potential improvement.

According to the survey results, an estimated 75,000 anglers participated in Rainbow Trout fishing in the

public waterbodies surveyed during the 2024-2025 stocking season. Many of these anglers reported being relatively new to fishing for Rainbow Trout with 41% reporting that they have fished for trout for a year or less. Anglers were remarkably efficient with an estimated 237,675 Rainbow Trout harvested during the survey period, 75% of the total Rainbow Trout stocked by TPWD. Anglers who fished for 60 minutes or more had an average catch rate of 1.5 Rainbow Trout per hour. Rainbow Trout fishing in Texas has positive local economic impacts; surveyed anglers spent on average \$19.14 per trip, which equates to \$2,497,311 in direct expenditures across the state. When asked about their satisfaction with the Rainbow Trout stocking program, 87.4% of anglers stated they were satisfied, and 71.4% did not recommend any improvements to the program. Some anglers did offer suggestions for improvement, which included the desire for larger fish, more fish, and more stocking locations.

The Rainbow Trout stocking program in Texas is funded, in part, by local municipalities and communities near individual stocking sites. This partnership allows anglers to experience quality fishing opportunities close to home. Rainbow Trout fishing in Texas is also a fun and exciting way to introduce children and young people to the sport of



fishing; of the anglers interviewed during the Rainbow Trout evaluation survey, 30% were youth anglers. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is committed to recruiting, retaining, and reactivating anglers of all ages and skill levels. Providing unique fishing opportunities, like the Rainbow Trout Stocking program, is fundamental to inspiring the next generation of Texas anglers and conservationists.

SAVE THE DATE: FLYFEST 2026

Redding Civic Auditorium, Redding, CA
September 24–26, 2026

FlyFest brings the fly-fishing community together for learning, connection, and time with people who care deeply about the sport and the waters we love. Expect inspiring presentations, fly tying and casting demos, a vibrant consumer trade show, and plenty of space for fishing, food, fellowship, and fun. All under one roof!

For those who want to dive deeper, the weekend also includes small-group seminars, plus a community dinner and fundraising auction in support of Fly Fishers International.

Registration opens to the public on March 16.

More information:

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/flyfest>



TRWD RECOGNITION

Fly Fishers International (FFI) recently announced that the Tarrant Regional Water District has been awarded the Fly Fishers International Conservation Award. This award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations whose outstanding efforts protect and enhance our fisheries resources and the waters they depend on. “We are honored to be recognized by Fly Fishers International Fly Fishers International (FFI) recently announced that the Tarrant Regional Water District has been awarded the Fly Fishers International Conservation Award. This award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations whose outstanding efforts protect and enhance our fisheries resources and the waters they depend on. “We are honored to be recognized by Fly Fishers International,” said Matt Mancino, TRWD’s On-Site Venue Manager & Special Events Coordinator. “The FFI Conservation Award reflects our long-standing commitment to protecting and enhancing the fisheries and waterways that are vital to our region. We are grateful for our partnership with Fly Fishers International and the Fort Worth Fly Fishers.”



FRIENDS OF THE FISH FAIR

Friends of the Fish Fair was held Saturday, February the 21st. The Fish Fair was held at the Rio Guadalupe Resort. Huge thanks to Judson Cole and his team for doing an outstanding job organizing the event. It was great to see such a strong turnout and everyone having a fantastic time. Supporting local fly fishing clubs, fly shops, guide services, and the fly fishing community helps keep this sport strong for generations to come. Here are a few pictures from the weekend.



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PALO PINTO MOUNTAIN STATE PARK PARTNERS BUILD FISH HABITAT FOR THE NEWEST TEXAS STATE PARK

Great day Friday, January 30th, volunteering with Roger Lee and Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Partners to build fish Habitat for the Newest Texas State Park. Great day Friday, January 30th, volunteering with Roger Lee and Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Partners to build fish habitat. PPMSP is a great group of people and organization that makes a difference at the newest state park in Texas, which is NOW OPEN to the public. Roger and I, Paul Lund, stopped off at Hwy 16 Bridge to catch some trout to close out the day.

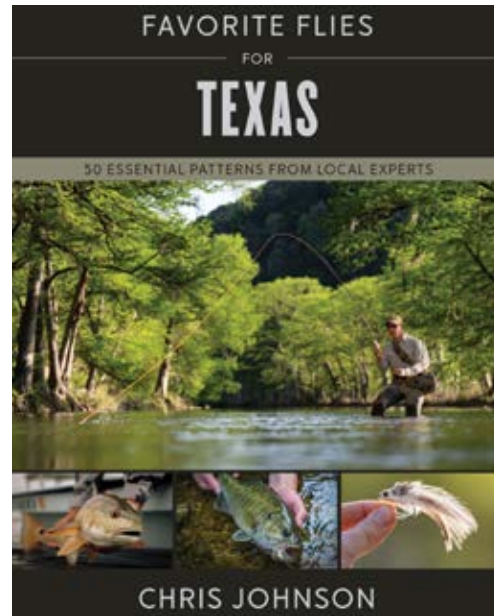
Thank you, Roger, for finding and informing me of this opportunity. This was a great event directly in line with our conservation goals.



CHRIS JOHNSONS NEW BOOK!!

In Favorite Flies for Texas, fly shop owner Chris Johnson shares 50 of the best fly patterns for the state as well as their histories, tips and tricks for fishing with them, and detailed fly tying recipes.

Read about how Andy Packmore's Redfish Crack, one of the most imitated fly patterns on the Gulf Coast, evolved into the icon we know today, or how Kevin Hutchison "bought" the rights to the Swamp Monster from Scott Sanchez in exchange for a beer. Learn the painstaking effort required to re-create the perfect wobble of Captain Tom Horbey's Spoon Fly, exactly how Chase Smith presents and retrieves his Scorpion, and more secrets behind many of Texas' tried and true patterns.



Hair Bugs and Poppers

While most of the signature patterns in this book are listed individually, there are two categories of flies that are undeniably essential as they pertain to Texas fly fishing: Hair Bugs and Poppers. These flies come in almost every shape, color, and size imaginable. Seeing that most modern-day Hair Bug and Popper designs are heavily influenced by those who were the true pioneers of bass fishing with a fly rod, it makes sense to feature these classifications of flies as a whole. Quite simply, there isn't enough space in this book to give every great hair bug and popper its proper due. The flies featured in this chapter are merely a sampling of the countless Hair Bug and

Popper patterns that have proven their worth in the Lone Star State.

HAIR BUGS

When it comes to bass fishing with a fly rod, in my mind, nothing rivals a hair bug for effectiveness. When cast, they hit the water with a very distinctive "splat" and have will allow one to work bass on their terms alone. While this can happen with a hair-bodied popper as well, I'd argue that it happens significantly more when fishing hair. The way the bugs manipulate water and release air bubbles when allowed to popper is truly unique among fly patterns.

Dirty bug, like the one pictured above, are a mainstay in every night chumming bass with a fly rod. The combination of their wobble, movement, and natural crawling away from the water makes them virtually impossible to over-pitch if used in the Texas. (Dirty bug tied by Chris Johnson)

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JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF FLY TYERS

By Barry Webster



Figure 1 tied by Peter Simonson

Forward by Sam Matalone:

I am a Life Member of FFI and have been tying flies for the better part of 5 decades. I was fortunate to have grown up around some extraordinary and skilled fly tiers who taught and encouraged me. I am forever grateful to them. Fly tying is my happy place, when I need to rest, relax and just get away, I go tie flies. As I started my journey, I tied Shad flies, then trout flies, then to more exotic flies such as steelhead, then hand carving balsa wood poppers, then Atlantic Salmon flies. As my skills improved, it became harder to find individuals who could help take my skills to the next level. That all ended when I joined the FFI's Fly Tying Group, I met some fantastic tiers, I learned new techniques, I started writing more tying articles and doing demonstrations. There was a large community of tiers whom I could connect with, there were skill development programs offered. (see the YouTube video of Fred Hannie at the bottom of this article) I took a class from [Peter Simonson](#) at Fly Fest 2025 where I learned to tie Carrie Steven's style streamers. I even learned how to dye substitute Indian Crow Feathers from the renowned Eric Austin whom I now consider a friend. All this for just becoming a member of the Fly Tying Group of FFI!

Join Today!



The Fly Tying Group, a specialized division of Fly Fishers International (FFI), one of the largest organized fly tying groups in the world, supports the growth and development of fly tyers of all ages and interests worldwide.

We honor the heritage of accomplished fly tiers who have set

the standard for world-class tying and provide opportunities for all tiers to:

- **Connect** with others in the tying community to build a network of lasting relationships.
- **Access** the online Buszek Resource Library, featuring exhibits from legendary fly tyers.
- **Learn** new techniques through accessible and relevant programs and events.
- **Develop** fly tying demonstration and instruction skills.
- **Achieve** recognition for developmental tying skills awards and instructor endorsement.

Enjoy [many other membership benefits when you support FFI's mission](#) of representing fly fishers and the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters.

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Want to Join or Renew? [Click Here.](#)



Fred Hannie's Yellow Jacket
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGRahXjWiA>



Figure 2 tied by Arron Culley

STEPHENVILLE YOUTH OUTING

On December 10th we hosted 21 of the Stephenville High School Youth Flyfishing at Texas freshwater fishery in Athens. All the students caught one or more rainbow trout and an occasional tree fly. We had some great volunteers Bill Slaughter, Robert Spangler and Johnny Martinez. I just wanted to thank them for taking time out of their schedule to assist in teaching and instructing students. Also, special thanks to Ms. Green for giving Dallas Flyfishers an opportunity to teach their students fundamentals of fly fishing.

Paul Locklear



**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!

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Providing Conservation though Recreation



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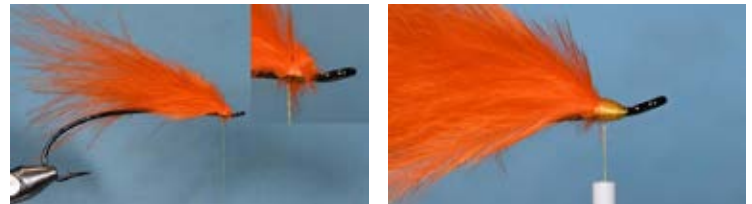
Personal fitting consultation: 833-634-7464

FLY TYING TIPS AND OTHER ASSORTED PEARLS OF WISDOM

By Sam Matalone



Recently, I was in a local fly shop and a young man was tying some bass flies using marabou for wings. He was using a lot of marabou to get “the right” action on the fly. It was an interesting tie to say the least. As he finished the fly, the head was out of proportion to the size of the fly. Not wanting to offend the young man, we got to talking about all the ways to make a marabou wing on a fly and during the discussion I explained the method I preferred. That is, when tying in the marabou, I strip barbules from the marabou barbs. Do I have you confused yet? A picture is worth a thousand words. See image below:



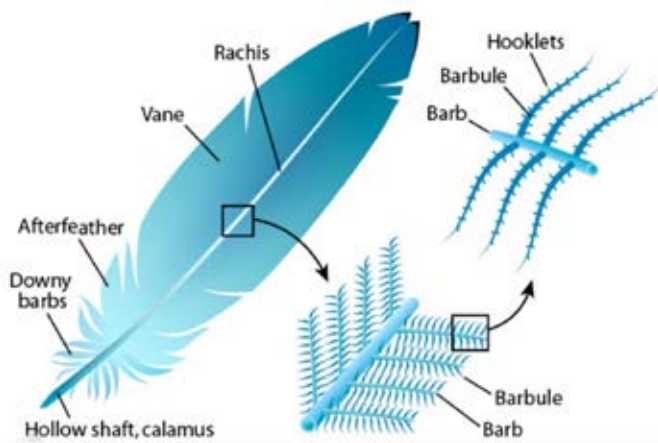
The pictures above do not have the barbules stripped off. Notice the large amount of material you have to cover up with thread.



The picture above has the barbules stripped off. The easy way to strip the barbules off is to run your fingernails over the end of the marabou. A similar fashion when you are stripping a single peacock feather.

(Please note I used the same bunch of marabou for both examples; I unraveled the 1st example. Using the same bundle all I did was strip the barbules and shorten the length by about 2 mm.)

Feather Anatomy



Extract from the Internet Arizona State University

The anatomy of a marabou feather consists of a rachis, the barbs are connected to the rachis. The barbules are on the barbs. I remove the barbules from the barbs anytime I must tie in marabou, whether it be for a tail, beard or wing.

Here are a couple of examples to show the difference.

POPPERS

Well, this segment is a little different than most. There are plenty of “how to” recipes online for poppers so I thought we might just have a discussion on poppers and how/when to fish them. Poppers seem to be everywhere right now.

For those of you lucky enough to attend Fly Fest ‘26 in Ft. Worth and see Chris Johnson’s presentation on his new book, “Favorite Flies for Texas” we watched Chris explain why poppers took up a full chapter. Poppers range from sculpted deer hair, soft and hard foam to Alvin Dedeaux’s flip flop popper.

Speaking of hard foam body poppers, ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers just completed their first full day class, “The Top Water Assassin’s Class”, on painting and stippling hard foam body poppers. The stippling style of finishing poppers has been elevated to an art form by Ronald Braud (see photo).



First of all, why fish with poppers? For me fishing poppers are my all time favorite way to fish.

~ Fish are predator hunters and will absolutely explode on top water poppers. Sometimes fish take the popper in one bite. Others attack the bug to kill it and then circle back for an easy meal. That is why it is importance to use a “strip set” because if the hook up is missed it gives the fish a second shot to attack!

~ Poppers float so they can be fished almost anywhere: shallow water, lily pads, and very effectively against dams—anywhere bass ambush prey.

~ The flat or concave face on the bug when striped causes a disturbance that fish can feel and perceive as prey in distress. Fish feel this disturbance with their lateral lines making poppers effective in low light conditions.

~ Pretty simple to fish: Cast to a likely holding spot and let the ripples fade and strip, repeating with various speeds and force.

~ Most effective in warmer water when fish are feeding on top water.

Poppers are found in a plethora of colors; my personal opinion is that you could probably get by with black for low light and a chartreuse for brighter days and an attractor. Silhouette and size, as usual, are more important. I might add a white pattern to imitate a cripple bait fish.

While technically not a popper, diving deer hair bugs move a lot of water and cause a disturbance in the water that bass cannot ignore. The Dahlberg Diver and Dave Whitlock’s diving frog are probably the best examples of these flies. Fished with about three feet of sinking line, the sinking line and the floating bug puts a bow in the fly line and when the line is stripped, the bug dives under the surface and slow floats naturally back to the surface.

When a bass explodes on a popper, it is more than just a typical strike, as many anglers remember the moment more than the fish. The sound of the pop, the pause, and the sudden eruption on the surface remind us why topwater fishing is so special!

Mike Hawkins



TRINITY FLYFEST

I'm still riding the high from the incredible success of the **10th annual Trinity FlyFest**. Having been part of this spectacular event since the beginning, I can say with confidence that this year delivered the **best weather on record**. With sunshine and temperatures in the 80s, a massive crowd turned out to enjoy the celebrations.

Attendees soaked up a full lineup of presentations, fly-tying demonstrations, casting lessons, kids' activities, food trucks, craft beverages, and of course, the highly anticipated **BIG Trout Contest**. Add in a record number of sponsors and vendors, and the day was filled with wins across the board.

The BIG Trout Contest is always a highlight, and this year did not disappoint. Anglers hauled in **huge numbers of trout**, much to the delight of participants and spectators alike. Watching the action from the hillsides overlooking the river—cold craft beer in hand and delicious bites from local food trucks—made for an unforgettable experience. Final contest results will be released soon and will be available on the FlyFest website: <https://trinityflyfest.com/>

A special thanks goes out to the **Tarrant Regional Water District** and the **Streams and Valleys** organizations. Hosting an event of this magnitude is no small task, and they execute it seamlessly year after year. Recognition is also due to the **Fort Worth Fly Fishers**, whose dedicated volunteers truly bring the festival to life. You see them everywhere on-site, serving in countless ways. **And to all of the presenters, tiers, casting instructors, vendors, and sponsors, we Thank You as well.**

Here's to another incredible year on the Trinity—already looking forward to the next one!



SCARBOROUGH CASTING COMPETITIONS

Scarborough Renaissance Festival



Fly Casting Competition

Live near the Waxahachie area or plan on attending the Scarborough Renaissance Festival? If not, here is a BIG reason to consider doing so!!

Then check out this fun event planned for April 11th at Scarborough Renaissance Festival. Casting and Distance Fly Casting Competitions starting at 11am. Participants will be asked to send an email to info@kingflyrods.com. Then you will be sent a response with a code that will give prospective entrants a complimentary admission on the day of the contest.

What a fun way to spend a Saturday in North Texas!! Enjoy the day, and all of the festivities!!! And stop by the King Fly Rod's booth, and check out some amazing bamboo fly rods, and chat fly fishing with Skip King.

<https://kingflyrods.com/>

DALLAS FLY FISHERS AUCTION RECAP

This past Monday, many of us made the trip to Plano for the Dallas Fly Fishers Annual Fundraiser. The auction was extremely well done, and it was great to reconnect with so many friends we've made over the years—and to meet some new ones as well. If you weren't able to attend, you truly missed a good one.

I honestly can't remember ever seeing that many rods offered at a fundraiser before. It looked like well over 50—no kidding! The auction was thoughtfully organized, with several areas in play: the silent auction, raffle buckets, "buy now" tables, and of course the main event—the live auction. The live auction featured an impressive selection of items, which kept the energy

high and the room fully engaged. Some fantastic bids were made, and it was great to see so many smiling faces walking away with winning items.

Another bonus was the spread of finger foods, desserts, and beverages—a very welcome addition while everyone browsed, visited, and shopped. It's always a treat when an event includes a nice variety of goodies to enjoy along the way.

We truly appreciate the club's effort in putting this all together. Having organized events like this ourselves, we know just how much work it takes behind the scenes. Well done to everyone involved, and here's hoping the funds raised lead to many great things ahead.



CASTING

Spring has arrived. This is perhaps the best time for fishing small creeks and rivers for bass, and blue gill. This article focuses on equipment considerations and casting techniques to improve fishing in what many times are tight quarters.

1. Equipment.

Consider down sizing to a 7 1/2 to 8 foot rod. Line taper should be considered. The Lines with a short front taper work well. Examples are bass bug taper, Texas taper, or even a single handed Spey line. A similar consideration should be given to the leader. Shorter leaders of 7 to 7 1/2 feet work well.

2. Casting.

The go to presentation is the roll cast. When executed correctly distances to 40 feet and beyond are easily achieved. The three most common faults which kill the cast are (1) introducing slack between D loop formation and the forward cast; (2) too much power in the forward cast and (3) failing to stop early. Those faults result in a huge loop with no energy. Here are the steps needed to properly execute a roll cast which creates a narrow loop which will turn over the fly:

1. Cant the rod out a little so the angle is at about 70 degrees. Lift to about the waist. Drag the line back slowly.
2. When the hand reaches the shoulder circle the rod back, up and in until the rod hand is at the ear (as if you were listening to a phone call on a cell phone). The rod should be in a 1 to 1:30 position (key position) with the angle of the rod a little off vertical.

This circle back up and in move must create a D Loop behind the rod with part of the fly line, leader, and fly in the water (anchor). The bigger the D Loop the better.

The point where the anchor leaves the water (point P) is VERY important. When at the key position, point P should be slightly in front of the caster.

3. Once the hand gets to the ear (key position) don't stop. Doing so collapses the D loop and creates slack. The forward cast is the same as an overhead cast. Apply power in a slow smooth rate of constant acceleration and STOP no later than a 10 o'clock rod position. As the loop unrolls only then drop the rod tip to the water.

Most people feel that the D loop lacks enough mass to load the rod so the response is (1) too much power and (2) no stop or a late stop. As stated this is exactly the opposite of what is needed.

This is a link to a Roll Cast demo:

<https://share.google/jBkNStmEUhE2fNXCK>

FISHING TIPS

Now that you have the right casting technique to use, what is next? Getting the fly in the strike zone effectively is the most important task, in regards to creek fishing. But there is more to it than that. Here are some best practices to use as well, as the casting technique.

Present Flies Quietly

Small creeks = spooky bass.

Try:

Sidearm casts to reduce splash.

Let the fly land softly by stopping your rod tip high.

Avoid false casting over the fish; keep line away from them.

Use the Right Flies and Retrievals

Best Flies for Texas Creek Bass

Small poppers (size 6–8)

Clousers (chartreuse/white is a Texas classic)

Small crawfish patterns

Woolly Buggers (olive or black)

Retrieval Tips

Popper: soft *blip-pause-blip* rhythm.

Streamers: short strips, then pauses (bass often strike on the pause).

Crawfish patterns: crawl slowly along rocks; bass can't resist.

Approach Stealthily

Small creeks demand ninja-level stealth.

Try:

Stay low and avoid skyline exposure.

Walk softly—bass feel vibrations.

Cast *upstream or upstream-diagonal* to avoid being seen.

Target Key Holding Water

Bass in small Texas creeks love structure:

Undercut banks

Fallen trees and roots

Deep pockets below riffles

Shade lines

Confluences or bends

Make multiple casts—bass often ambush only after they're triggered.

Now, if you can put half of this all together, you should be in a position for a successful outing. Put it All together, and it will be a walk in the park. Get out there and enjoy the BEST time of year to go creek fishing!!!

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



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 - 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 non-profit activities both across the state and nationally. With our growing group of over 1,000 members throughout the state, our newsletter is uniquely positioned to reach niche market customers for your business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact us at: president@texascouncilffi.com
or
communications@texascouncilffi.com

Thanks,

Your Texas Council

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/>

Rio Anglers
<https://rioanglers.com>

EZEYEFly
<https://ezeyefly.com>

Panther City Flies
@panther_city_flies

The Fly Hair Co.
theflyhairco.com

Matagorda Loops
www.matagordaloops.com

SPONSORS UPDATE

Excited to announce that Ron Ridgeway, from Matagorda Loops is a NEW Sponsor of the TXCouncil. Ron is currently one of our Casting Directors, and is saltwater fly fishing guide, and instructor. If you are interested in chasing some Redfish in the Matagorda area, give Ron a call. It is time to hit the salt for sure. Thank you Ron for being our NEW Sponsor, and for all that you do for the Council.



Matagorda Loops

FLY FISHING

Let's go chase some Redfish on beautiful Matagorda bay!
Sight fishing for Reds, Drum, Speckled Trout and Flounder on an 18' poling skiff with Capt. Ron Ridgeway (also an FFI Casting Instructor).
Located in Matagorda, Texas

979-248-8477
www.matagordaloops.com

Also sharing with you, what some of our other sponsors have been spending their time out on the water. This includes Jeff Preddy from the Fly Hair Company, Chris Schatte from Beavers Bend Fly Fishing Guide Service, Randy from EZEYEFly Company, Michael Rios from Panther City Flies, and Alan King from Good Fly. Thank you for being a sponsor, and for supporting the fly fishing community in Texas!!!

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please let us know.



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



Broken Bow Fly Shop

Beavers Bend Fly Fishing
The Original Guide Service & Outfitter
580-583-4412

HONEY HOLE ANGLING
YOUTUBE . PODCAST . ONLINE STORE
HONEYHOLEANGLING.COM
INFO@HONEYHOLEANGLING.COM
210-584-0946

f i y t e

GOOD FLY
"Casting Flies to Renew the Mind and Refresh the Spirit"
<https://www.goodfly.org/>
Stephen L. Weaver
Co-Founder
sweaver@goodfly.org (979) 383-4415

RIO ANGLERS
RIO GUADALUPE RESORT
AT FOURTH CROSSING

Float Trips - Wade Trips
Casting Lessons - Sunset Cruises

512-940-5965
www.rioanglers.com
judson@rioanglers.com

Welcome our new sponsor,
The Hair Fly Company,
owned by Jeff Preddy!!

JEFF PREDDY THE Fly Hair Co.
THEFLYHAIRCO.COM

theflyhairco.com
theflyhairco@hotmail.com
972-743-2992

EZEYEFLY

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

PANTHER CITY FLIES
ALWAYS ON THE HUNT
@panther_city_flies

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!



THANK YOU!

Club Leaders

The active FFI clubs 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 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 2025:

Club	President	City
Abilene	AJ Gretillat	Abilene
Aggieland Fly Fishing Club	Alan King	College Station
Alamo	Karson Foster	San Antonio
Austin	Manuel Pena	Austin
Celina	Rob James	Celina
Collin	Kevin Grogan	Plano
Conroe	Zach Griffin	Conroe
Corpus Christi		Corpus Christi
Dallas	Dave Smith	Dallas
East Texas	Bubba Headrick	Longview
Fort Worth	Kay Jackson	Fort Worth
Kekoa	Chris Gorman	Melissa
Lonestar	David Hudnall	Tyler
Lubbock	David Crawford	Lubbock
Montgomery	Chuck Holmes	The Woodlands
New Braunfels	Pat McQuinn	New Braunfels
Pineywoods	Walter Mclendon	Lufkin
Red River	Cathy Case	Sherman
Rowlett	Derrick Meis	Rowlett
San Gabriel	Rene Salas	Georgetown
TAMU Fly Club	Issack Weatherford	College Station
Texas Fly Fishers	Don Pucket	Houston
Texas Hill Country	Jim Hines	Fredericksburg
TWFF	Katie Cowen	Texas
Waco	Robert Evers	Waco

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 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 seated 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. We still have some openings on the Board, and need to fill these positions. Email addresses of the entire board, and information all about the Texas can be found here.

<https://dot.cards/russellhusted>

President	Russell Husted
Treasurer	Michael Quigley
Membership	Brett Morehead
Conservation	Paul Lund
Casting	Jim Hund
Casting	Ron Ridgeway
Women's	Cynthia Casados
Youth	Paul Locklear
Tying	Mike Hawkins
Social Media	Karson Foster
TPWD	Blake Thornton
At-Large	Rick Haness
Webmaster	Sam Matalone
Vice President	
Secretary	
Education	



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.lsfclub.org
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
Texas A&M Fly Fishing Club	College Station	getinvolved.tamu.edu/org/flyfishing

Note: PHWFF clubs serve only disabled veterans.



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

CONSERVATION / EDUCATION / COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

BENEFITS:

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

VISIT FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.





FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Give back the sport you love!



EVERY MEMBER COUNTS AT FFI

FFI members are the cornerstone of our organization, enabling us to achieve our mission. When you join FFI you add your voice to the community of fly fishers working to welcome new people with educational materials, and expanding FFI's impact with our Conservation Partners. Join today and make a difference with FFI.



If you are a member, we thank you for your support! If you aren't yet a member, please **JOIN** us **TODAY** at flyfishersinternational.org/join

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS AT FFI

We are asking you to step up and make an additional contribution to support our ongoing efforts. You might wonder, what are we doing?

- **Protecting the Places We Love to Fish:** We collaborate with our partners to make sure the voices of fly fishers are heard on critical issues. Such as Bristol Bay, Okefenokee Swamp, and dam removals on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.
- **Developing Educational Materials:** We create resources to help YOU enhance your skills, including the Fly Casting Skills Development and the Fly Tying Awards Programs.
- **Introducing New Fly Fishers to the Sport:** We provide essential information for beginners. Watch for our series coming out in the Summer of 2024 featuring Kayla Lockhart.

We simply cannot do it without **YOU**. Please donate today at flyfishersinternational.org/donate



FFI Membership Benefits

PUBLICATIONS



» *Flyfisher* magazine is a bi-annual publication this available for purchase or viewable online for free.

» The *Loop Journal* is a digital magazine, a medium through which talents, knowledge, and ideas of our fly casting professionals are shared.

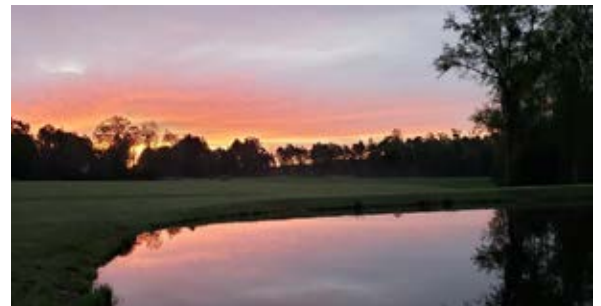
» *Whip Finish Journal* is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of FFI and is published quarterly online.

» *The Osprey* is published by a consortium of like-minded conservation organizations, including FFI, and is a journal for salmon and steelhead conservation. For more info, visit www.theconservationangler.org/osprey.

» Insider and Dispatch emails, keeping members up to date on current activities from within our membership, clubs, and councils, as well as FFI's work in conservation and fly fishing education.

CONSERVATION

Fly Fishers International is dedicated to the protection and conservation of aquatic habitats and fly fishing opportunities, and strategically partners with conservation organizations to create a stronger voice for all of us. FFI's Conservation Committee, along with our members, clubs, and councils, take action at a national, state, and local level that have a direct impact on important conservation issues. FFI continues to play a role in the preservation of Bristol Bay, the protection of the Boundary Waters, the restoration of the Florida Everglades, and conservation of countless other rivers, streams, estuaries, and ocean resources that our members enjoy across the globe.



EDUCATION



The FFI website represents the premier source of fly fishing education material found anywhere online. Our quality-selected library of videos, articles, manuals, and workshops developed by FFI and sourced by some of the foremost experts in the world will inspire any level of fly fisher to improve their skills. So whether you want to learn the basics of fly fishing, polish your casting skills, twist up new fly patterns, or learn about conservation, the FFI website is here to deliver generations of fly fishing knowledge found in a single online resource. We also provide youth and women programs to provide additional support to those anglers.

FLY FISHING BENEFITS



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

CHECK OUT THESE EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

As a member of FFI, you can enjoy special discounts from these partners

VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/SUPPORT-FFI/
JOIN-RENEW/MEMBER-BENEFITS](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/support-ffi/join-renew/member-benefits) TO SEE FULL BENEFITS.



THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS PROVIDE DISCOUNTS TO CERTAIN SPECIALLY GROUPS INCLUDING CASTING INSTRUCTORS, FLY TYING GROUP MEMBERS, AND GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org)
ALL FISH, ALL WATERS®



1201 US Highway 10 West, Suite D4
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-9369 | www.flyfishersinternational.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

- General 1-Year - \$45
- General 3-Years - \$115
- Senior (65+) - \$35 *
- Veteran - \$35 *
- Youth/Student (22 and under) - \$25 *
- Business - \$200 *
- Lifetime - \$2000
- Lifetime Premium - \$2500 **
- Fly Tying Group 1-Year - \$20
- Fly Tying Group 3-Years - \$48.50

- Fly Tying Group Lifetime - \$285
- FFI Women Connect 1-Year - \$20
- FFI Women Connect 3-Years \$50
- Guides Association 1-Year - \$40
- Guides Association 3-Years - \$95
- Casting Renewal 1-Year - \$45
- Casting Renewal 3-Years - \$120

(Casting Renewal is for certified instructors only)

More options available
online. Use device
camera to open URL.



Printed Copy of the *Flyfisher Magazine* ___\$20/yr

Online Version is included with membership. Login at www.flyfishersinternational.org

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

*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multiply price by number of years)
 **Includes rod of your choice from vendors like Orvis and TFO.

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 _____

NEW MEMBERS: Is there an FFI Club or Council that you would like to receive credit for the Incentive Program?

Total Charge \$ _____ Name on card _____

Credit Card / check # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ Zip _____