

SUMMER EDITION



The Texas Line & Leader

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections, Resilience, and the Road Ahead

This time last year, we were looking forward to the dog days of summer—fly fishing adventures, time on the water, and memories waiting to be made. Little did we know what was about to unfold in our beloved Texas Hill Country.

Today, we pause and reflect on that difficult chapter—and everything that has happened since. Texans are resilient. We face what nature places before us, and we endure. We rebuild. We move forward—together.

So what will this summer bring? Hopefully nothing more than the familiar Texas heat. But one thing is certain: water will remain at the forefront of our minds. Drought conditions persist across the state, and with growing demand—including the rapid expansion of data infrastructure—water is becoming an even more critical and shared responsibility. It's not something we can take for granted.

A Summer That Began with Purpose

My summer kicked off in a way that reminds me why we do what we do. I returned to Outdoors

Texas Camp, deep in the East Texas woods at the Hawkeye Hunting Club near Center, for a week-long experience that truly made an impact.

We had the privilege of introducing an incredible group of young ladies to the world of fly fishing. There were countless “firsts”—first casts, first fish on a fly rod, and first flies tied.

Moments like these are what grow our community. They remind us that fly fishing isn't just a hobby—it's a lifelong journey. Watching that spark ignite in someone new is one of the most rewarding experiences we can have.

Celebrating Women in Fly Fishing

June is **National Women's Fly Fishing Month**, and excitement continues to build toward the BIG Day on **June 27th**.

We have some exciting news coming soon, including a special event dedicated to the women who are shaping the future of fly fishing in Texas. Stay tuned—you won't want to miss what's ahead.

Honoring a Legend

We also pause this month with heavy hearts as we remember a true legend in our community.

Casting icon **Bill Gammel** has passed away.

Bill's influence on the FFI Casting Program—and on so many of us personally—cannot be overstated. He was a teacher, a mentor, and a

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-CONTD.

friend. His legacy will live on through every angler he inspired.

We will be honoring Bill throughout this month and beyond in our newsletter and across social media. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

A Personal Journey Back to South Fork

Like many of you, I'm looking ahead to upcoming trips and time on the water. In just a few weeks, I'll return once again to South Fork, Colorado—a place that holds deep meaning in my life.

This year marks my **71st trip** to this special water.

It's more than a destination—it's part of my story. I first visited in 1985 with my father, and it became a tradition we shared until his passing in 2000. This year, I'll return to honor him at the very place I last saw him.

There will also be a tribute to my future father-in-law, **Tommy Bridges**, who passed away in the fall of 2025. A service will be held near a tree that marks one of the most meaningful places in my life—where I caught my first trout in Colorado and where countless memories were shaped.

Some places change us. That creek is one of them.

Looking Ahead: FlyFest 2026

While summer is just getting started, it's not too early to look ahead to fall.

Fly Fishers International **FlyFest 2026** will take place **September 24–26 in Redding, California**, presented by The Fly Shop.

FlyFest is FFI's signature event, bringing together anglers of all skill levels for three days of:

- Expert-led presentations

- Casting and fly-tying demonstrations

- A dynamic consumer trade show

Opportunities to connect, learn, and grow within the fly fishing community

One registration provides access to core programming, with optional smaller seminars available for those looking to dive deeper. The weekend wraps up with a community dinner and fundraising auction supporting FFI's mission and conservation efforts.

If you're considering attending, now is the time to start making plans.

Final Thoughts

As we move into the heart of summer, let's carry forward the lessons of the past year—about resilience, about stewardship, and about the importance of community.

We fish because we love the water.

But we stay because of the people, the stories, and the shared journey.

Here's to a summer full of meaningful moments—and making memories that truly last.

STRONG TURNOUT FOR BEGINNER FLY FISHING CLASSES ACROSS NORTH TEXAS

Our recent Beginner Fly Fishing classes, held in Coppell, Lewisville, and Carrollton, were a great success, drawing strong attendance and enthusiastic participation from new anglers across the region.

Each session focused on building a solid foundation in the fundamentals of fly fishing. Students were introduced to essential casting techniques, including the pickup and laydown cast, the roll cast, and effective line management through proper stripping techniques. While these skills are simple in concept, participants quickly learned that consistency and practice are key to developing confidence and proficiency on the water.

In response to growing interest, the Education Team expanded the curriculum to include guidance on fly fishing gear selection and purchasing. This addition provided valuable insight for beginners, helping them better understand equipment choices and feel more comfortable assembling their first fly fishing setups.

A highlight of the classes was the hands-on introduction to fly tying. Students had the opportunity to tie one of the most versatile and effective patterns in fly fishing—the Woolly Bugger. For many first-time tiers, this proved both challenging and rewarding, offering a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship behind the flies they will fish.

These classes continue to play an important role in growing the fly fishing community by welcoming new participants, building skills, and fostering a passion for the sport. We look forward to continuing this effort and encouraging even more anglers to get involved in future sessions.



FACILITATOR TRAINING: A 2026 GLOBAL ROLLOUT OPPORTUNITY

The goal of the FFI 2026 Global Rollout is to train as many FCSD Facilitators from FFI Councils and Clubs, and from diverse geographic regions, with the skills and knowledge needed to host and run a successful FCSD event of their own. To do this, the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Team has secured FFI funding to support training opportunities for its Councils and Clubs. Members of the FCSD Team have committed to being available to travel to conduct a day of Facilitator Training. Because funds are limited, travel costs are to be shared with the host organization.

Facilitator Training Structure

Facilitator trainees should have prior FCSD experience and have achieved at least the Bronze skill level (Silver level preferred).

Experience has shown that this format leads to a successful Facilitator Training (FT) event. The training day is divided into two parts: a morning session focused on training Facilitator Trainees, and an afternoon session that provides hands-on experience with volunteer casters for the newly trained Facilitators.

In the **morning session**, FCSD Team members will describe, explain, role-play, and demonstrate how to guide casters through level run-throughs. See agenda below.

In the **afternoon session**, newly trained Facilitators will have hands-on experience practicing and reinforcing the morning teachings with participating casters. This is a great opportunity to invite other FFI Clubs/Councils, organizations, and community members to join the hands-on casting experience. **A minimum of 24 casters is required for trainee success.**

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Facilitator Training led by expert FCSD Team Members

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch & Break. For Trainees and afternoon casters

Food is provided by the host club/council.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Foundation & Bronze Levels practice run-throughs

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bronze, Silver, Gold Levels practice run-throughs

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Q & A and Wrap-Up: Facilitator Trainees and FCSD Team

The Facilitator Training Agenda:

- Organizational steps that help support a successful FCSD event
- The ethos or atmosphere of an FCSD event
- The role of the Facilitator
- The role of the Helper/Volunteer
- Role of Greeting Table-the heartbeat of the event
- The Casting Skills Instruction Area and Courses
- How to conduct a group run-through on a Bronze skills assessment
- Light-Coaching Techniques vs Instruction
- Common Faults and Fixes
- Handling sticky situations
- Data collection

Criteria for a Visit from the FCSD Team

To make a visit practical and cost-effective, the following criteria should be considered:

- A minimum of 12 Facilitator Trainees
- Facilitator Trainees should have achieved at least Bronze or Silver Level. Trainees can also include CI Candidates and CIs.
- Afternoon FCSD Event: a minimum of 24 casters present.
- It is recommended, if at all possible, that there be representation from, and ideally collaboration with, at least three other clubs, councils, or organizations.

Expenses Could Include (for one or two FCSD Team Members)

- Travel, be it air or car
- Hotel, 2 nights
- Ground transportation
- Meals
- Paperwork

Next Steps

If you wish to discuss the possibility of an FCSD team member visiting your area, please get in touch with:

Marion Hiller

marionhiller069@gmail.com

360-739-0186.

FFI Facilitator Training Resource-FFI website
Facilitator Training

FFI FLY FEST 2026 LOOKING FOR A FEW FLY TIERS



Rooted in education, community, and stewardship, Fly Fest is a gathering that fly anglers will not want to miss.

Fly Fishers International's Fly Fest, presented by The Fly Shop, returns September 24–26 in Redding, California. Fly Fest is where the fly-fishing community comes together to learn, connect, and experience the sport at its very best.



Attendees will find world-class casting instruction, fly-tying demonstrations, educational seminars, conservation-focused discussions, and a vibrant consumer trade show featuring

many of the brands, outfitters, guides, and organizations shaping the future of fly fishing. It is an opportunity to discover new gear, build meaningful relationships, plan future adventures, and deepen your knowledge and skills both on and off the water.

For participants, Fly Fest offers an immersive experience that will leave a lasting impression long after the weekend concludes. For sponsors and exhibitors, it provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with a passionate and highly dedicated audience in an environment built on education, trust, conservation, and a shared commitment to the future of fly fishing.

Whether you are new to the sport or a seasoned angler, Fly Fest offers something for everyone. From beginners looking to learn the fundamentals to experienced fly fishers seeking to refine their skills and connect with industry leaders, this event promises to be an outstanding experience.

However, an event of this magnitude does not happen on its own. Volunteers are essential to its success, and we need your help.

As the Fly Tying Group Chair for this event, I am committed to ensuring that Texas



Council fly tiers are well represented. If you are interested in demonstrating your fly-tying skills and participating as a volunteer tier, I encourage you to sign up using the registration link provided below.

Interest in Fly Fest has been tremendous, and more than 60% of the available tying slots have already been filled. The remaining opportunities are going quickly, so if you would like to participate, please register as soon as possible.

There is a great deal of excitement building around this event, and we would love to have you join us in making Fly Fest 2026 a memorable and successful experience for all involved.

We look forward to seeing you in Redding this September!

[Signup for a demonstration tier here.](#)

By Sam Matalone



GEORGE DANIEL JOINS FLYFEST 2026 AS HEADLINE PRESENTER



Fly anglers attending Fly Fest 2026 are in for a special treat. Fly Fishers International (FFI) is excited to announce that internationally recognized fly-fishing author, educator, and competitor George Daniel will be joining the event as a Headline Presenter.

Hosted by [Fly Fishers International](#) and presented in partnership with [The Fly Shop](#), Fly Fest 2026 will take place September 24–

GEORGE DANIEL JOINS FLYFEST- CONTD.

26 at the Redding Civic Auditorium in Redding. The three-day event will bring together fly anglers from across North America for a celebration of learning, conservation, and community.

Known for his engaging teaching style and innovative approaches to modern fly fishing, Daniel has become one of the most respected educators in the sport. A former member of Team USA and accomplished competitive angler, he has helped countless fly fishers improve their skills through his books, seminars, and instructional programs. His presentations consistently draw enthusiastic audiences, and Fly Fest attendees will have the opportunity to learn directly from one of fly fishing's most influential voices.

Fly Fest is designed to bring anglers together to share knowledge, discover new techniques, and connect with others who are passionate about protecting the waters and fisheries we all enjoy. Whether you're picking up a fly rod for the first time or have decades of experience on the water, the event offers something for everyone.

Attendees can look forward to a full schedule of educational presentations, fly-tying demonstrations, casting instruction, a consumer trade show, and plenty of opportunities to meet fellow anglers. One of the unique aspects of Fly Fest is that all activities take place in a single location and are included in one affordable registration fee, making it easy to enjoy the entire experience.

The weekend will also feature a community banquet and fundraising auction on Friday evening, September 25. The banquet promises to be a highlight of the event, providing an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and support the conservation and educational mission of FFI. With George Daniel joining an already impressive lineup of presenters and activities, Fly Fest 2026 is shaping up to be one of the premier fly-fishing educational events of the year.

Registration is now open. For complete event details and registration information, visit [Fly Fishers International FlyFest 2026](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/flyfest2026). Hope to see you there!



NATIONAL WOMEN'S FLY FISHING MONTH & EVENT

Women's Fly Fishing Month is observed each June and is dedicated to celebrating the contributions of women to the sport of fly fishing. The month long observance encourages more women to become involved through education, mentorship, community engagement, and hands-on learning opportunities. It grew out of National Women's Fly Fishing Day, which is celebrated annually on June 27.

Fly Fishers International established Women's Fly Fishing Month in 2020 through its women-focused initiative, FFI Women Connect. Throughout June, the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International has highlighted female anglers from across our community on our Facebook page. It has been inspiring to see the variety of photos and stories shared by anglers, showcasing not only memorable catches and beautiful destinations, but also the friendships that have been formed through this remarkable sport.

Fly fishing is about much more than catching fish. It creates opportunities for mentorship, learning, and meaningful connections that span generations, backgrounds, and levels of experience. While we all enjoy celebrating a prized fish or a personal best, the photos shared this month also serve as a reminder of the relationships that are built along the way. The encouragement, knowledge, and camaraderie that come from fishing together are among the greatest rewards of the sport, and they continue to strengthen and grow our fly-fishing community.

Please be sure to SAVE The Date!! June 29th! Texas Council Women's Fly Tying Night!! Starting at 7pm. Join us for a fun night!!! It's National Women's Fly Fishing Month!!

President Texas Council FFI is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: National Women's Fly Fishing Month Tying Event
Time: Jun 29, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87810552150?pwd=3TRH7o9RZ4LBSnPBbth8jHANamhrwM.1>

Meeting ID: 878 1055 2150
Passcode: 034657

HONORING A LEGEND:

BILL GAMMEL

September 16, 1969 – June 5, 2026


We are saddened to hear that Bill Gammel passed away and his service was on Saturday, June 13. Bill was a lifetime member and current casting instructor. Bill and Jay meant a great deal to our casting certification program by producing the booklet called the Essentials of Fly Casting we used in the program for years. Sekhar Bahadur wrote a great article about Bill and Jay in the 2016 Loop summer edition. A great document to review and use to help with your casting journey.

The address we have on file if you want to send a card to his family is:

6327 Nowlin Dr
Baytown, TX 77521

[Read his obituary here.](#)

THE LOOP - SUMMER 2016

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Bill Gammel, a man with dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt and glasses hanging from his neck. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a warm, orange-toned wall with a computer monitor visible behind him.

Casting Masters Then and Now

Bill & J.W. (Jay) GAMMEL

by Sekhar Bahadur, London, England

Jay and Bill Gammel, father and son, wrote the seminal fly casting work, *The Essentials of Fly Casting* (the 'Five Essentials' or the 'Essentials'-see Appendix) in 1990. Their work is regarded as among the most influential on fly casting and its instruction. Jay taught sociology at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. He passed away in 1997 after a long illness. Bill is an MCI and Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) Emeritus who worked on several committees, including leading the committee which designed and introduced the Two Handed Casting Instructor program.

Bill twice won the IFFF's Colliander Cup for casting excellence. He teaches biology at Lee College in Baytown, from which he received one of his degrees.

In 2014 the International Federation of Fly Fishers CBOG established the Jay Gammel Award for Fly Casting Instruction which recognizes lasting contributions to the teaching of fly casting instruction through written publications, instructional course materials, or electronic media.

Master Casting Instructor Sekhar Bahadur interviewed Bill Gammel.

SB: *Bill could you tell us a bit about your father?*

BG: Dad was an athlete in high school and college. He went to college to play baseball for Southern Methodist University and walked on the football team. Most American football players at major college programs are recruited by the coaching staff and offered scholarships to attend. (Walk-ons, the few unrecruited members of the student body who try out for and are actually selected to play for the teams, are generally considered highly motivated overachievers who have overcome long odds against them.)

Dad hurt his shoulder playing football and effectively ruined his baseball career. He and his wife moved to back to Baytown and he finished college at the University of Houston where he also earned his Master's degree. Right out of college he turned to golf and was very close to a scratch golfer. After my brother Cliff was born, Dad took up bow fishing, because it could be done at night after mom and Cliff were in bed. This led to a brief conventional tackle fishing period and then on to fly fishing.

It was Dad's ability to watch the great ballplayers and break down what they were doing that helped him learn fly casting. He was constantly reading. An FFF member's wife was the local librarian, and perhaps because of that the Baytown library has an extensive fly fishing and casting section. Dad read them all twice.

What he loved most was spending time with his family. He was a great dad, waiting for us to get out of school with the boat ready. We hunted and fished together a great deal. Family vacations were a group decision. He decided that we were going back to the Madison River and Yellowstone Park for the 18th year and he let my mom decide when she wanted to go. Her options were late June or early July. Today, my mom spends late June and early July with my family on the Madison River.

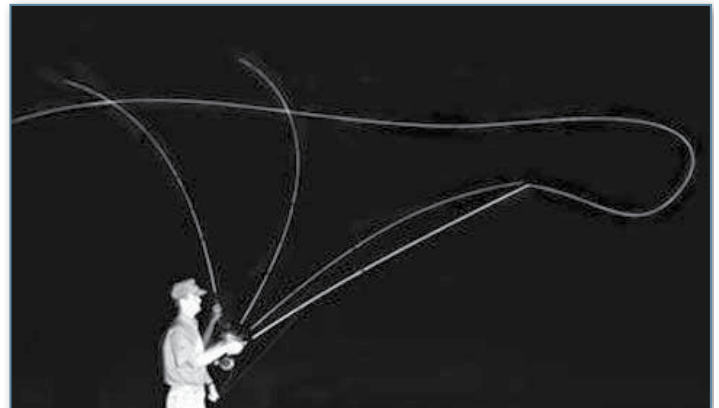
SB: *How did he get started in fly casting?*

BG: His fishing began with a bow in his hand. After mistakenly shooting an 8-pound largemouth bass, he began fishing with conventional tackle. His brother-in-law heard he was fishing a lot, so he introduced Dad to fly fishing. In true Dad form, he quickly became obsessed with fly casting and was casting in the yard every moment he was not fishing. My uncle lived in Dalhart, Texas which is just a few hours from Red River, New Mexico and southern Colorado. Dad fished his way north from there to Glacier Park in Montana, settling on the Madison River as his favorite spot. When it was not summer, he spent a lot of time fly fishing the Galveston Bay complex. He was one of, if not the first, to fly fish the upper Texas Coast.

Appendix

Bill and Jay Gammel's Five Essentials of Fly Casting:

1. There must be a Pause between each stroke, which varies in duration with the amount of line outside the rod tip.
2. Slack line should be kept to an absolute minimum.
3. In order to form the most efficient, least air resistant loops, and to direct the energy of the cast to a specific target, the caster must move the rod tip in a Straight Line.
4. The size of the casting Arc must vary with the length of line past the rod tip.
5. Power must be applied in the proper amount at the proper place in the stroke.



SB: *My condolences on his passing. I know he courageously battled illness for several years. Could you tell us the story of his last cast please?*

BG: Dad had a rare form of cancer that ruined the efficiency of his lungs. He went to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and basically checked in as a guinea pig. There was no cure for what he had and the average was two years to live. Dad turned his two years into a little more than nine. One of the things that kept him alive was a steroid called Prednisone. You are not supposed to take this stuff for more than six weeks. Dad took huge doses for nine years. This sapped the calcium from his bones and made them very brittle. In the summer of 1996, we believe he broke his back in five spots. This was the source of a great deal of pain, especially while fly casting.

In the fall of 1996, he was sent home from the hospital and told to get his will in order if it was not already updated. He asked to go out and cast. He asked for a chair, so I jumped up and got the lawn chair from the garage and he walked out the front door using a walker and wearing a full body plastic brace.

I placed the chair in his spot and he sat down. Instinctively, he stripped off the whole line and began to cast. As the line lengthened he began to haul. At the first haul he grimaced in pain and let the cast fall. He rested a minute and said, 'I can't do anymore of that.' He cast a few pick-up-and-lay-down casts and then shot one with no haul. It draped over the neighbor's fence. He stripped in and did it again. The fence was around 95 feet away and he threw the line over the fence. He handed me the rod and struggled to his feet. As he turned to his walker he asked me to reel the line in for him because he was done.



The next day he entered the hospital for the last time and died on January 5, 1997, two days after his 60th birthday.

SB: *How did the Essentials come about?*

BG: Judy Lehmborg was the Vice President of Learning for the FFF and they had a booklet series going and needed a casting pamphlet for beginners. She approached us in 1988 when I was 18. It took us about two years to write 24 pages. We developed the Essentials for

the booklet. My Dad and I had several years previously started a deep and through study of fly casting and had worked some of this out, but not in the form it actually took in the booklet. We traveled with our video camera to FFF events and worked very hard to separate substance from style in order to figure out what good casts fundamentally had in common. I was very good at mimicking casters like Lefty Kreh, Joan and Lee Wulff, Jim Green, Mel Krieger, Chris Korich and Steve Rajeff, and we had hours of videotape of many of them, especially Chris and Steve, casting and teaching.

SB: *What technology was available to you?*

BG: Just a home video camera, and a VCR with a remote - thank God, we had just gotten a TV with a remote too!

SB: *How did the Essentials become a cornerstone of our casting program?*

BG: I don't know exactly. This may sound boastful but I don't mean it to be. Jim Green [a founding CBOG Member, Fenwick rod designer, and World Casting Champion at age 17] told me at a Conclave in Livingston, Montana that we had written in 24 pages what everyone else had tried to write in 300. If that was the sentiment in the room then they probably believed that it was as good a summary as anyone would write. The casting program never truly adopted it as far as I know.

It really just became part of the fabric of casting instruction of the IFFF because over time so many people began to speak of the Essentials.

SB: *What led to your generous decision to donate the rights to the IFFF?*

BG: Dad and I never felt as though the Essentials were ours. We just happened to be the ones that collected them into one spot and weeded out all of the things that were stylistic and not essential. We never thought about it being generous. In hindsight, it could not have worked better for me. I was an 18 year old kid from Texas who was a very good caster. However, no one knew me and there was no reason they should read what I had to say. The FFF had a promotional vehicle that was not otherwise available to me. So I have benefited greatly, if you want to be well known among a couple of hundred people who care.

SB: *Starting with what isn't essential, what did you decide fell into the style category?*

BG: Some of them include: Grip, Stance, Casting Arm position, Use of Wrist, Drift, and Hauling.

SB: *The full text of the Essentials mentions stroke length as a practical substitute to use with students in place of the Arc width Essential. Could one argue stroke length itself is also essential to cast beyond certain distances or above a certain speed?*

BG: Technically yes, but it depends on how strong the caster is. I would say it was a matter of style to choose to use a longer stroke on

a longer or faster cast, and would be hesitant to say it was essential. With that said, most casters do widen the arc by lengthening the stroke.

SB: *The original Essentials start with Pause and Slack and then go onto Straight Line Path of the rod tip, Arc and Power. Why did you choose this order?*

BG: Frankly there was no real reason behind the original order. We didn't really know at the time how the Essentials fit together. It wasn't until I started teaching using the Essentials and trying to apply them to every situation that I came to understand how they work together.

SB: *In your 2002 video, 'Teaching Yourself to Fly Cast - Learning the Essentials', why did you change the order of the Essentials?*

BG: I taught the Essentials to thousands of students over more than a dozen years before shooting the DVD. I came to understand that the Straight Line Path of the rod tip is the overall Essential and it is presented first in the video, followed by Arc, Timing (Pause), Power and Slack. The first Essential is that the caster should avoid tracking errors in the horizontal plane (assuming the rod is vertical). The next four Essentials work together to make the rod tip path straight in the rod, or vertical plane as well. Dad and I talked a lot about the Essentials being linked and how 'you can't mess one up without messing up the other' (Straight Line Path was always 'the other').

In other words a Straight Line Path with no up and down movement is a result of the other four Essentials, and a Straight Line Path with no right or left movement is an essential direct action by the caster.

SB: *The 180-Degree Rule is not mentioned in the original Essentials, but is covered in depth in your video. Would you make it part of the Straight Line Path Essential if you were writing today?*

[The 180-Degree Rule suggests that the rod tip path during the casting stroke should be an extension in the opposite direction of the fly line's position when the casting stroke begins.]

BG: Yes, the 180-Degree Rule is really good teaching terminology and I use it often. I would use it in the description of the Straight Line Path Essential if I were rewriting it.

SB: *In your article 'Making Adjustments on the Fly...! in the Summer 2010 Loop, you made changes to what determines the appropriate Arc width and Pause length, which Dr. Gordy Hill called 'an epiphany' in his online MCI study group. Can you please give us some background?*

BG: I generalized by saying that instead of just depending on line length, Arc and Pause, depend on the bend in the rod and the time it takes the line to straighten, respectively. This covers line length and also other factors such as speed, the effect of wind on the rod, and different equipment or anything else requiring an adjustment in arc and/or pause length. Rod bend and the time the line takes to straighten are really the fundamental points.

SB: *Although it is mentioned in the full text of the Essentials as part of Power, should Stop be the 6th Essential?*

BG: There is no doubt that the caster needs to stop or slow down - you can accelerate all day and never form a loop. We started with a longer list of Essentials and whittled it down to six.

Needless to say I turned an 18-month master's program into just shy of three years. I wanted to be thorough.

I learned a lot; most notably, don't ever push off a metal fence post while the electro fishing rig is on. It won't end well.

SB: *How did you become the Federation's first Certified Casting Instructor?*

BG: In 1992 at Conclave, Mel Krieger started to demonstrate the new instructor assessment tasks to a fairly large group and then he called me up and asked me to do them. I guess I must have done OK because he made me the first CI on the spot!

SB: *I understand you folks had some epic cast-offs at Annual Conclaves. What were some of your favorite memories?*

BG: Yes we have had some great casting contests. Usually at about midnight at the Holiday Inn in Mountain Home, Arkansas. The Southern Council conclave was the site of many great casting sessions.

At the IFFF event in Idaho Falls, Bruce Richards, Tom White, Rick Hartman, Paul Arden and I stood on the lawn of the hotel and cast. This turned into one of the most epic cast-offs I have ever seen. We cast distance, under tables, through windows, and capped it off with Rick and me putting a fly on the roof of a four story hotel that was only 50-60 feet in front of us (that's straight up). It was one awesome display by all of them and probably a good deal of luck on my part. Paul threw a cast through a second story balcony door and across a lady's room and she was standing on the porch making smart mouth

Stop was actually the sixth Essential but my Dad and I decided it was just power applied in the opposite direction to the cast in order to form a loop and it therefore should be part of Power.

SB: *You made reference earlier to a change you would make if you were writing today. Given how your thinking has advanced over more than a quarter of a century, would you consider producing an updated version of the Essentials?*

BG: Yes I see them differently than they were originally written but I don't have any plans to rewrite them. That little booklet has taught a lot of people how to cast. Many have tried to pick it apart and have not had much success. I don't think I could improve it without Dad.

SB: *Turning to you now, if we may: I understand you found creative ways to use your fishing skills in your studies!*

BG: I developed a fishing method that would be useful as a lake management tool. I have a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Texas A & M University. My specialization was warm water ecology. At A & M that means you study largemouth bass management. The standardized method of collecting fish is with an electro fishing boat. It is expensive and you can't get a heavy boat into many private lakes in Texas. So when I got to the Southwest Texas State's Master's Program and found out my major professor was a semi-pro bass fisherman, I did what anybody would do. I proposed developing a standardized fishing method that would result in statistically sound data without the electro fishing rig. It worked great for the largemouth bass with basically a 1:1 ratio between conventional fishing and electro fishing data. I found bluegill on the other hand for some reason did not require as much real fishing data!



comments at us. Then Rick wins by putting the fly through the door, across the room, and into the sink. We were there laughing, joking and making all kinds of noise, all with 100 feet of line out and not six people stopped to watch. We could not even draw a crowd at the Conclave.

This was different years ago when Dad and I would travel to West Yellowstone to the FFF Conclave. Twenty-five years ago Steve Rajeff, Dad and I stepped out the door of a West Yellowstone Conclave so Steve could show us the new Loomis IMX fly rods, and the three of us had a crowd of close to 100 people standing there watching Steve Rajeff, a kid, and an old man throw 100+ foot casts for an hour. There was no instruction, just casting.

Twenty years later Tim Rajeff, Katherine Hart and I were casting at the conclave in Livingston, Montana. We were 100 to 105 feet from a fence and we were trying to throw a fly through the gap between the fence and the building it was adjacent to. This gap was about three inches wide. We cast and cast and every time we thought someone had gotten it through we would run up to the post to look. Two grown men running around making fools of themselves while repeatedly casting 105 feet and no one stopped to watch. I finally won this world championship of casting when Tim made the mistake of answering his phone. While his back was turned I threw a cast high into the wind and let the wind blow the loop into the building. The line fell along the side of the building and perfectly straight about five feet past the post in that little gap. Tim could not believe it and Katherine and I never told him.

SB: *What advice do you have for casting instructors?*

BG:

- Never quit seeking the cutting edge of learning.
- Never be scared to blow up someone's stroke and start over. Even yours. I would start over at the basics and rebuild my stroke from scratch every spring.
- Listen to the quiet ones. The ones running their mouths are probably not nearly as good as you.

SB: *Have you ever had a casting student you just couldn't help? What would you recommend an instructor in that situation do?*



BG: Well, I probably helped them a bit, but yes, I have had students that I was never able to help reach their goal. It was always with the student who wanted to reach a distance goal. I have never had a student that I could not teach to fish at a reasonable fishing distance.

SB: *Do you have much time to fish, teach, speak or demo casting at shows?*

BG: I am fishing more now that my kids are older. We have been taking a trip to Montana every summer. We fish Arkansas a couple of times a year. My kids play baseball and that kills a lot of spring fishing. I would do more of all of it if given the opportunity. However, when I stopped traveling to stay home with the kids, my teaching also fell off. I still don't want to travel a lot, but would do more than I have.



SB: *Are there any noteworthy casters in the next generation of Gammels?*

BG: No, they won't practice. They are OK with being good enough. If they would cast as much as they play baseball they would be great.

SB: *Do you do much two-handed casting?*

BG: No. I am very proud to have been a part of the Two-Handed Casting Program, but it is not my thing. I have used two handed rods in helping wounded warriors with arm weakness. This was great to help them to overhead cast. They were able to cast all day on a guided fishing trip.

SB: *Are you working on any casting or fishing related publications that we should look out for?*

BG: My new book 'A Sportsman's Pursuit' is a collection of short stories that end in a Christian message. It is basically a book of lessons learned in the outdoors from a lifetime of hunting and fishing. I am also working on a YouTube page aimed at reaching the young digital media crowd. My college students don't have DVD players. If I want to teach that generation about fishing, casting, or Christ, it is going to have to be online.



About Sekhar Bahadur Sekhar is an MCI and a casting coach for the British Fly Casting Club. He and his wife have two grown daughters.

They divide their time between London and Greenwich, Connecticut.

Contact him at www.londonflycasting.com, or sekhar.bahadur@gmail.com

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING TO FLY RODS: FAST MAY NOT BE BETTER

We all know the fly rods come in different lengths, line weights, and actions. What do those mean and how do they impact how the rod works. Over the last 30 years fly rods have transformed from being heavy and full flex made from fiber glass to lighter and stiffer made from high modulus materials such as carbon and boron.

Rod action simply refers to where the rod bends when put under a load. How do you assess the action of a rod? Simply hold the rod at the butt, grab the tip, and bend the rod. Look at the shape of the bend and where the rod bends. A slower mid flex rod will have a rounded bend which ends lower in the rod. A fast rod will have a parabolic shape where the bend ends closer to the tip.

Fiberglass rods bend closer to the butt and thus are full flex rods. Their actions are slow because it takes longer to bend (load) the rod and longer to come out of bend (unload). Modern rods made from high modulus materials bend closer to the tip meaning that less of the rod bends. They load and unload much faster.

Rod manufacturers have created the mindset that fast is better. Perhaps that is the true for certain situations such as fishing in salt water, but a fast stiff rod in the hands of the average fly caster is not optimal. Why? Fast rods are hard to properly load leaving the caster without the ability to feel the tip and feel the rod bend. This results applying too much force and too much speed in the casting stroke. Too much force and speed create little margin for error resulting in many casting faults.

When using a fast (tip flex rod) consider overlining the rod – use a line with one or two line weights greater than the line weight marked on the rod. That line weight number is nothing more than what the manufacturer assigned to the rod – it is not based on an objective industry standard. The extra mass in the heavier line will create a deeper bend in the rod. Better yet this will occur with a slower casting stroke made with less force. In the process, the caster will feel the rod bend and unbend with greater control over the cast.

Jim Hund, MCI, THCI
Board Member - Casting Instructor Education

**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!
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Help us help our river!

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**Texas waters demand respect —
For the fish, for the current, and for the
fly fishers who enjoy the sport.**

NETrekk's combination telescopic wading staff and folding rubber landing nets give fly fishers the stability, reach, and control to wade confidently and release fish with care.

Built from recyclable aircraft aluminum, *NETrekk's* innovative designs support the fly fisher and FFI's Handle Fish Safely for Soft Release principles across the Lone Star State.

**Choose gear that reflects your commitment to
conservation and the future of Texas fly fishing**



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Designed to Adapt. Built to Endure



10% Discount & free shipping over \$100.00

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GIRLS CAMP – PASSING IT ON



This past week, I had the privilege of spending time with an incredible group of young ladies at the Texas Outdoors Camp in Center, Texas. Our home for the week was the beautiful Hawkeye Hunting Club, a top-notch location that provided the perfect setting for learning, laughter, and outdoor adventure.

The girls participated in a wide range of activities including shooting, archery, outdoor skills—and of course, fly fishing, which was my role for the week. Each morning and evening, we headed to two scenic East Texas ponds to fish. The water held plenty of opportunity, with large bluegills and small bass keeping things interesting. While the biggest fish managed to elude us this time, the excitement and enthusiasm never faded.

During the day, we focused on building skills—casting, fly tying, and understanding the fundamentals of fly fishing. We also made time for good meals and a bit of rest... at least for some of us!

Beyond the mechanics, we emphasized proper fish handling and the importance of catch-and-release practices—an essential part of conservation and stewardship of our waters. It was rewarding to see these young anglers not only learn new skills but also develop respect for the resource.

We even managed a few quick trips into the town of Center for some well-earned treats, adding a little extra fun to an already memorable week.

This was my third time serving as an instructor at this outstanding camp, and it continues to be one of the most rewarding experiences I'm involved in. Seeing so many first-time fish caught on a fly rod is something special—it's the beginning of a lifelong journey for many of these young ladies.

And it made the week even more meaningful as we celebrated **National Women's Fly Fishing Month**.

I'm truly thankful for the opportunity to share my passion and spend time with such a wonderful group. Experiences like this remind me that it's not just about fishing—it's about connection, confidence, and creating the next generation of anglers.





WHEN THE RIVER ROSE

A reflection on the Texas Hill Country floods of July 4, 2025

The Texas Hill Country has always carried a certain kind of magic.

Rolling limestone hills, cypress-lined rivers, quiet mornings broken only by the sound of flowing water—it's the kind of place that draws anglers, families, and dreamers alike. For many, it's where traditions are built: summer camps, weekend retreats, early mornings chasing fish before the heat of the day sets in.

But on the morning of July 4, 2025, that same landscape reminded all of us just how powerful—and unforgiving—nature can be.

A Night That Changed Everything

Most folks went to bed that night listening to the steady rhythm of rain on rooftops. Nothing unusual for Texas. Maybe even welcome after months of dry conditions.

But before dawn, everything changed.

Rain began to fall harder—then harder still. In just a few hours, parts of the Hill Country saw rainfall totals that would normally take months to accumulate.

The rivers responded quickly.

Too quickly.

Along the Guadalupe River, water levels surged with a speed few had ever witnessed—rising more than 20 feet in an incredibly short span, turning a peaceful river into a wall of moving force. [en.wikipedia.org], [theenviron...alblog.org]

There was little time to react. Cabins, homes, and camps that had stood for generations were suddenly in the path of something unstoppable.

Flash Flood Alley Lives Up to Its Name

Those who know the Hill Country understand the risks. This region has long been called “Flash Flood Alley,” where steep terrain and thin soils funnel water straight into creeks and rivers.

And yet, even for those familiar with its moods, this was different.

The land, hardened by drought, couldn't absorb the sudden downpour. Instead, water raced across the surface, feeding creeks that became torrents and rivers that became something

else entirely.

Storms didn't pass through—they stalled, pouring relentless rain over the same ground, hour after hour.

What followed was not a slow-rising flood, but a rapid, overwhelming surge.

Lives, Memories, and Communities Lost

As daylight broke, the extent of the devastation began to reveal itself.

Communities along the river corridor—especially in Kerr County—had been hit the hardest. Entire neighborhoods were swept away. Vehicles tossed aside like driftwood. Campsites erased.

Families were separated in minutes.

By the end of it, more than 130 lives were lost, making it one of the deadliest flood events in Texas history.

Among the most heartbreaking losses were those at a summer camp along the river—children and counselors who had gathered for what should have been a week of laughter, learning, and lifelong memories.

It's hard to put into words the weight of that kind of loss. For the families, for the communities, and for anyone who has ever spent time along those rivers, it felt deeply personal.

The Strength of Community

And yet, in the midst of tragedy, something else always rises.

Neighbors became rescuers. First responders worked tirelessly, pulling people from rooftops, trees, and fast-moving water. Helicopters filled the skies. Boats crisscrossed swollen rivers.

Across Texas—and far beyond—people stepped up.

Donations poured in. Volunteers showed up with supplies, food, and helping hands. Churches and community centers became shelters. Complete strangers became lifelines.

It didn't erase the loss, but it reminded us who we are.

Lessons Written in Water

In the months that followed, the conversations began.

How do we prepare better?

WHEN THE RIVER ROSE-CONTD.

How do we warn faster?

How do we protect the people and places we love?

New flood warning systems and sirens began to take shape. Emergency response plans were revisited. Hard questions were asked—and continue to be asked—about how something so devastating can be prevented in the future.

But perhaps the most important lesson is one we've always known, yet sometimes forget:

Water commands respect.

A Personal Reflection

For those of us who spend time on the water—whether casting a fly, teaching a class, or simply standing in the current—we understand the beauty of a river.

But we also know its power.

The same river that gives us peace can, under the right conditions, take everything in its path.

As anglers and stewards, we're called not just to enjoy these places, but to respect them... and to help others understand them.

Because the story of the Hill Country is not just about what was lost—it's also about what remains:

- A resilient community
- A shared love of the outdoors
- And a renewed commitment to learning from the past

Closing Thought

"It's not just about the fishing... it's about the adventure."

But sometimes, the adventure reminds us just how much is at stake.

And how important it is that we take care of these waters—and each other—every time we step in.

HILL COUNTRY RELIEF EFFORT AND FUNDRAISER

From Tragedy to Unity — Texans Showing Up When It Matters Most

July 4th is a day of celebration across Texas. Families gather outdoors to enjoy camping trips, cookouts, fishing, boating, and fireworks—sharing moments that define what it means to live and thrive in the Lone Star State. As our nation approaches its 250th birthday, this Independence Day was meant to be another proud chapter.

Instead, it became a day many Texans will never forget.

A devastating storm swept through the Hill Country, dropping more than 20 inches of rain in a short period of time. The result was catastrophic—lives lost, homes destroyed, and communities forever changed. For many families, the emotional and physical toll will last for years to come. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those affected by this tragedy.

Like so many others across the state, I felt the impact deeply.

Just prior to the July 4th weekend, I had spent two incredible weeks in East Texas teaching fly fishing skills to young campers at Texas Outdoor Camps. Those experiences—watching kids learn, build confidence, and create lasting memories—are moments I will carry with me for a lifetime. That connection made the news of the disaster even more difficult to bear. To hear that some young campers would never return home to their families was heartbreaking beyond words.

In the days that followed, many of us were glued to the news, trying to process what had happened.

But as the shock began to settle, something equally powerful emerged—the unmistakable spirit of Texas.

Across the Hill Country and beyond, people stepped up in remarkable ways:

- Search and rescue teams worked tirelessly
- Volunteers delivered food, water, and essential supplies
- Communities mobilized to support cleanup and recovery efforts

It was a reminder of who we are as Texans—resilient, compassionate, and ready to help our neighbors in times of need.

Like many, I felt compelled to do something. I just didn't know when or how the opportunity would come.

HILL COUNTRY RELIEF EFFORT AND FUNDRAISER-CONTD.

Then it did.

A group of passionate young men began organizing a fundraising event at Middleton Brewery near San Marcos—an event centered around fly fishing, fellowship, and giving back. The concept was simple but powerful: bring people together for a day of community, featuring a live auction, raffles, casting games, fly tying, and great local beer—all in support of Hill Country flood relief.

It didn't take long to get involved.

When I reached out and asked how I could help, the answer was immediate: **"Yes—you can."**

From that moment forward, we became one team—focused, driven, and determined to make an impact. With just three weeks to organize the event, the challenge was significant. But through constant communication, teamwork, and a shared purpose, everything began to come together.

And on **August 2nd**, it all paid off.

The turnout exceeded expectations. The brewery was filled throughout the day with supporters who came to enjoy the event, but more importantly, to contribute to a meaningful cause. There was plenty of laughter, great conversations, and a shared understanding that while we were having a good time, we were also making a difference.

The results spoke for themselves:

- Over **300 pints** of local beer sold
- A full day of fly fishing-related activities and community engagement
- An incredible **\$11,000 raised** for Hill Country relief efforts

More than the numbers, it was the spirit of the day that made it unforgettable—a community united for a purpose bigger than itself.

July 4th will always be remembered for the tragedy. But August 2nd will be remembered for how Texans responded.

I could not be prouder of what was accomplished.

A special thank you goes out to Calvin, Jose, Russell, Grant, and Chris for their dedication and hard work in bringing this event to life. Appreciation also goes to Alvin and Jerri, who made the trip and played a huge role in selling raffle tickets throughout the day. And of course, a sincere thank you to Middleton Brewery for opening their doors and supporting this effort in such a meaningful way.

If you find yourself in the San Marcos area, Middleton Brewery is well worth the stop—not just for the beer, but for what they represent: community, generosity, and heart.

👉 [Visit Middleton Brewery](#)

For a closer look at the event, be sure to watch the recap featured on the Wildlife Outdoors Podcast:

👉 [Watch the event recap](#)

In times of hardship, Texans come together. And when we do, there's no limit to the difference we can make.



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GET READY FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL TEXAS COUNCIL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT!

Who's ready to play some pickleball? We know quite a few who are—and we hope you'll join us!

The Texas Council of Fly Fishers International is excited to host our **3rd Annual Pickleball Tournament** on **Saturday, October 24th, beginning at 10:00 AM**. After the success of our previous two tournaments, we're thrilled to once again partner with **Chicken N Pickle in Grand Prairie** for another fun and meaningful event.

Players of all skill levels are welcome. Brackets will be organized by experience level to ensure competitive and enjoyable play for everyone. When you're not on the court, you can take part in the fun with treats to enjoy, bucket raffles, and exciting auction items available for bidding.

All proceeds from the tournament will directly support the Texas Council as we continue our work assisting fly fishing clubs across the state. Many of these clubs rely on support to grow and thrive, and this event plays an important role in that mission. We remain committed to preserving the legacy of fly fishing for all fish, in all waters, through conservation, education, and stewardship across the great State of Texas.

Join Us for Community Night

Before the tournament, we invite you to a special **Community Night at Chicken N Pickle** on **Tuesday, September 22nd, from 6:00–8:00 PM**.

This informal evening is a great opportunity to:

- Enjoy a relaxed game of pickleball
- Experience the great food Chicken N Pickle has to offer
- Learn more about the Texas Council and how we support fly fishing throughout Texas

Save Your Spot

We encourage everyone to sign up early to secure a place in the tournament. Whether you're competing, spectating, or simply stopping by to visit, it promises to be a great time for a great cause.

We look forward to seeing you there!



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

OCT 24TH, 2026 | 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

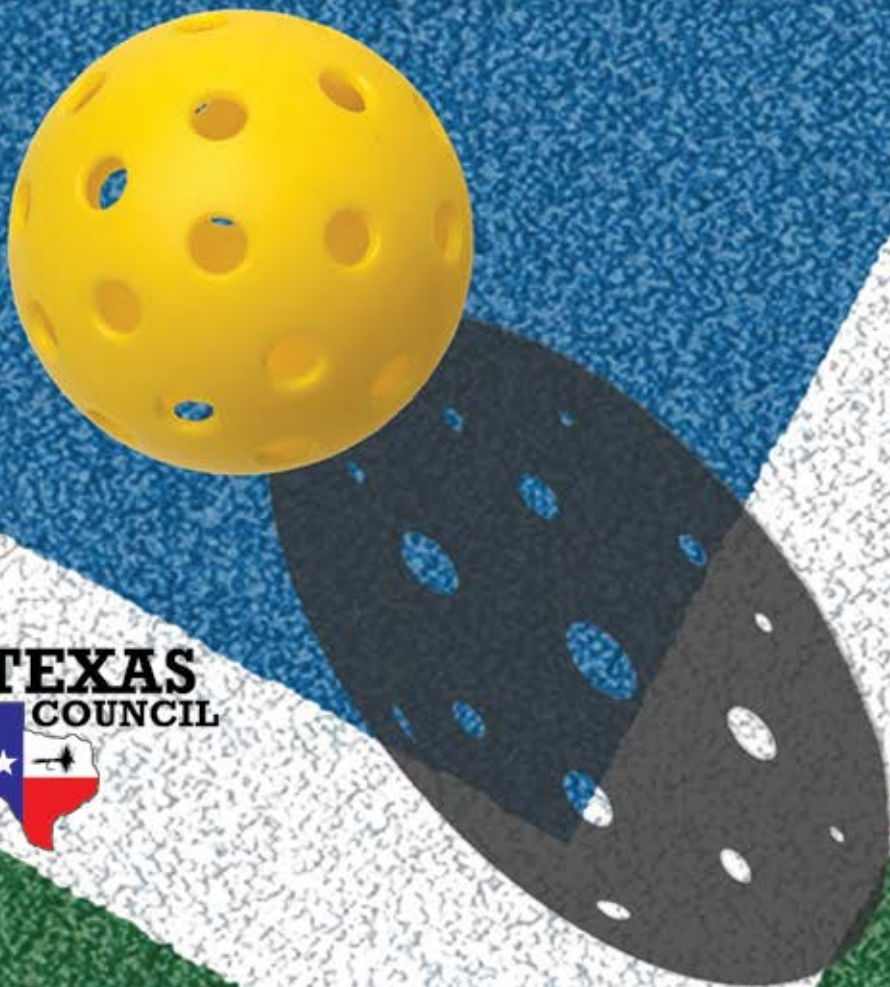
TEAM FEE \$100

- 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



FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT US



SCAN ME

COLORADO 2026

Summer is here—and for many of us, that means one thing... **Colorado!**

This trip remains my favorite week of the year. In fact, this summer marks my **71st visit** to a place I proudly call my second home—**South Fork, Colorado**. Over the years, I've seen just about every condition imaginable in this region: wildfire recovery, low water, high runoff, extreme heat, and everything in between. Each season brings its own, unique challenges—and its own lessons.

Looking ahead to **Colorado 2026**, it appears we may once again face conditions that test our adaptability. Changing snowpack levels, shifting runoff timing, and unpredictable weather patterns can all influence how—and where—we fish. But as we've learned time and again, these challenges are part of what makes the experience so rewarding.

Preparation is key. Understanding the water, adjusting techniques, and approaching each day with flexibility will make all the difference. Whether you're a seasoned angler or making your first trip, there's always something new to learn in these waters.

Join us as we prepare for the adventure ahead. We'll be covering:

- Key fishing areas in and around South Fork
- Techniques for adapting to changing conditions
- Seasonal fly selection and presentation strategies
- Current outlooks and what to expect this year
- Practical tips to help you make the most of your time on the water

Colorado has a way of bringing us together, challenging us, and reminding us why we love this sport. No matter what conditions we encounter, the memories, the camaraderie, and the time on the water make every trip worthwhile.

Here's to another great year in Colorado.

President Texas Council FFI is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Colorado 2026

Time: Jun 30, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83432166731?pwd=cebl6OsPWvhQHmpNZDVkTBF0yxKtrS.1>

Meeting ID: 834 3216 6731

Passcode: 495734



FLY TYING

This foam ant is one of the easiest flies to tie and one of the most productive top water foam bugs on the water. A great fly for beginners!

Hook: Mustad 9671 Size 12
 Thread: Nano Silk 50d Black
 Underbody: Semperfli Straggle String
 Body: Drilled Foam Cylinder
 Legs: Semperfli Ice Straggle Chenille

*The bodies are drilled from foam blocks using 5mm or 6mm Gunville Foam Cutters from Hairline.

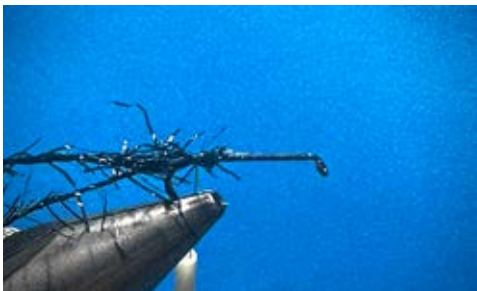


As with a lot of top heavy patterns, if the thread base is not secured to the shank, the material will tend to roll on the hook shank. The best way to avoid this is by using Dave Whitlock's method to secure the thread to the hook shank: Before starting the thread, use a file to ruff up the shank and coat with super glue.

•Start the thread one eye width from the eye of the hook and wrap with touching turns to the hook point, pushing the glue rearward.



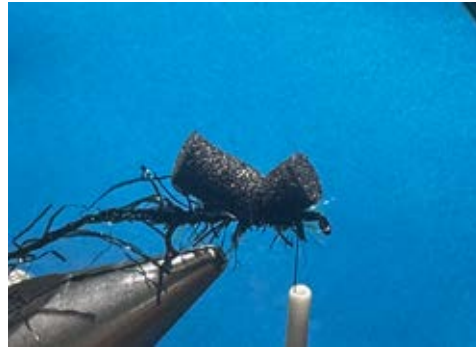
•Tie in the Semperfli Straggle String and Ice Straggle string at the bend of the hook.



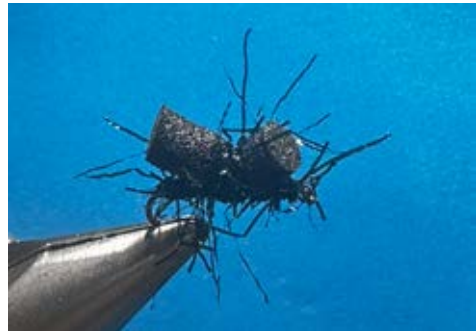
•Wrap the Straggle String forward to the initial tie in spot and tie off.



•Move the working thread 1/3 back down the hook. Tie in foam cylinder with 1/3 to the front of the hook and 2/3 towards the rear of the hook. Secure with one additional wrap behind and one wrap in front of the foam.



•Wrap the Ice Straggle Chenille forward, over and around the foam.



•Tie off the chenille at the hook eye and whip finish.



CONSERVATION UPDATE

FFFF Partners with Texas Parks & Wildlife for Habitat Restoration

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers were honored to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife this June for two aquatic habitat restoration and vegetation planting projects. A special thank you to Cynthia Fox Holt with TPWD Inland Fisheries—recently featured on the FFFF Podcast—for organizing and coordinating these important conservation efforts.

June 11 – Generations Park, Bedford

Six FFFF members volunteered to help plant more than 450 aquatic plants, including:

- American Water Willow (*Justicia americana*)
- Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia cordata*)
- Eel Grass (*Vallisneria americana*)

June 18 – North Park, Haltom City

Four club members joined another planting effort, installing the same native aquatic vegetation at and below the waterline. It

was muddy, hands-on work, but our volunteers didn't hesitate to jump in and get the job done!

These projects are a great example of what can be accomplished when multiple organizations and volunteers work together to improve fish habitat and strengthen our local ecosystems.

A heartfelt thank you to Cynthia Fox Holt, Zane Moore, Roger Lee, Jim Smith, Don Newport, Guy Sawyer, Rick Messina, Paul Lund, and all the other volunteers who contributed their time and effort to these successful events.

Together, we're making a difference—one plant at a time.

#FortWorthFlyFishers #TXCouncilFFI #Conservation
#TexasParksAndWildlife #HabitatRestoration #FlyFishing
#CommunityService #InlandFisheries

Paul Lund



Casting for Recovery



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

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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
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"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



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Casting Lessons - Sunset
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www.rioanglers.com
judson@rioanglers.com

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



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](https://www.instagram.com/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.rfff.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.

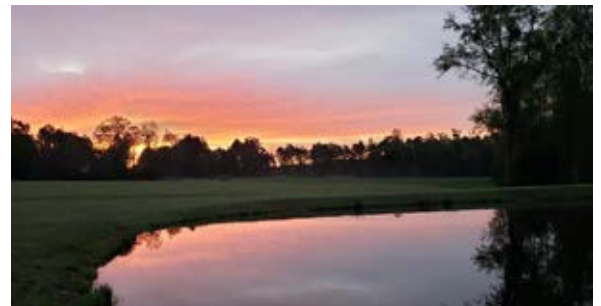
» *Whip Finish Journal* is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of FFI and is published quarterly online.

» *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®



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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 _____