

FALL EDITION



TEXAS COUNCIL



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

The Texas Line & Leader

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we published our Spring newsletter, we posed a simple question: "**What will this summer bring?**" As it turns out, the answer was a little bit of everything. Heat, drought, floods, and just about every weather extreme Texas can offer.

July brought yet another historic flood, replenishing many of our Central Texas lakes and providing much-needed relief for water supplies heading into the remainder of the year. Yet while some areas received too much water, others continue to struggle with persistent drought. Wildfires also became part of the story, including a devastating fire in Northwest Texas that destroyed a renowned kayak business and severely impacted a beloved Scout ranch that many Texans have visited over the years.

One thing becomes increasingly clear with each passing season: extreme weather is becoming more common, and its impact on our waters, fisheries, and outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to shape our future.

Fortunately, fall has arrived, hopefully bringing cooler temperatures and a calendar packed with opportunities for anglers to gather, learn, and enjoy the sport we love. Recent events such as

Flies and Pies, the Redfish Rodeo, the Smallest Fish Contest, and the Fort Worth Fly Fishers Fundraiser were tremendous successes. These gatherings not only provided great fishing experiences but also reminded us of the strong friendships and sense of community that make fly fishing so special.

And there's more to come. We still have **The Gathering, the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous,** and the exciting return of **TroutFest** later this winter. Then, before we know it, **FlyFest** will usher in another spring season. Across Texas, new clubs are forming, established clubs are growing, and many organizations are regaining momentum. The fly fishing community is alive and thriving.

While technology certainly has its place, there is something special about being part of a fly fishing club that cannot be experienced through a phone screen or laptop. The friendships, mentorship, shared experiences, and collective passion for conservation are best enjoyed face-to-face.

As we celebrate these successes, we must also recognize the challenges ahead. The future of our water resources, increasing demands from data centers, and the continued loss of public lands and access opportunities deserve our attention. Decisions being made today will affect Texas rivers, lakes, and fisheries for generations to come.

Now more than ever, it is important that our voices are heard. Regardless of your perspective, I encourage you to become informed, stay engaged,

Continued on Page 2.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-CONTD.

and participate in the conversations that impact the resources we all cherish. The future of fly fishing in Texas will be shaped by the actions we take today.

There is also exciting news coming from **Fly Fishers International**. With new leadership, a renewed strategic direction, and ambitious plans for the future, FFI is positioning itself to better serve clubs, councils, and individual members across the country. I encourage you to read more about these developments in this issue and learn how FFI is working to strengthen the future of fly fishing and conservation.

With so much positive momentum, there has never been a better time to get involved. Volunteers are needed at every level throughout Texas. Our local clubs need support. The Texas Council needs support. Communities across the state need individuals willing to share their time, talents, and passion.

Volunteering offers more than an opportunity to give back. It provides purpose, builds friendships, strengthens communities, and creates lasting memories. In a time when many people feel increasingly disconnected, volunteer service brings us together around common goals and shared experiences.

If you are looking for a way to make a difference, we would love to hear from you. Whether your interests lie in education, conservation, youth programs, event support, or club leadership, there is a place for you within our fly fishing family.

Together, we can ensure a bright future for fly fishing in Texas.

Tight lines,

Russell Husted

President, Texas Council
Fly Fishers International
rhusted@texascouncilffi.com

NETREKK~ FFI ~ TEXAS-COUNCIL-EXCLUSIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Announcing the NETrekk~ FFI ~ Texas-Council-exclusive incentive program that rewards participating clubs, drives member engagement, and advances FFI's Handle Fish Safely for Soft Release initiative. Safe Handling for Soft Release

NETrekk's innovative rubber nets are designed to protect fish during catch-and-release and provide safety for adventurous

fly fishers. This program leverages those safety & conservation benefits while creating meaningful rewards for Councils, Clubs and Members.

Every qualifying purchase generates a 10% donation back to the club for youth education, conservation, volunteer support, and outreach.

Program Highlights:

Texas Council Registered Partners qualify for a 90-day bonus period (Sept–Nov).

Every NETrekk purchase qualifies for an additional 5% for a 15%-member discount + 10% club donation. (Normally 10% + 10% discount & donate)

Council Achievement Bonus: If Texas Council clubs collectively reach 100 nets sold by 11/30/26, the Top 3 clubs (dollar sales, unit sales, participation rate = Nets sold divided by club members) each earn an additional 5% club bonus donation, (15% total club donation) and the Council earns 5% donation for all registered Texas council clubs combined November sales.

This program strengthens fundraising, increases member engagement, and supports FFI's conservation mission.

Fish with confidence & release with care.

Offer valid to registered Texas Council clubs thru 11/30/2026
Register by submitting your club profile at <https://www.netrekk.com/?ref=FFI>



FFI PARTNERS WITH ROSS REELS AND AIRLITE RODS

FFI Partners with Ross Reels and Airlite Rods to Grow the Fly Fishing Community Through Education

FFI Ross Reels Cimarron



The FFI Ross Cimarron reel brings together craftsmanship, original artwork, and a shared commitment to the future of fly fishing. Featuring Casey Underwood custom artwork created for this collaboration, this special-edition Cimarron celebrates mentorship, education, and the wild waters that connect anglers across generations. Every reel contributes \$35 to FFI to support their work and make fly fishing available for future generations.

[Click to Learn More About the FFI Ross Cimarron Reel](#)

FFI Airlite Vitesse Mentor



Built for the cast that teaches everything. The Airlite Vitesse Mentor Fly Fishers International rod was built with one purpose: making great casters. Developed in partnership with FFI and shaped by casting professionals with over 50 years of collective experience, the Mentor pairs the precision of the proven Vitesse fast-action taper with a white rod blank — the preferred choice of casting instructors worldwide. White blanks make rod tip path, tracking, and loop formation instantly visible to students, turning every cast into a real-time teaching moment whether you're on the grass or the water. Lightweight, responsive, and forgiving, the Vitesse Mentor gives instructors the feedback tool they need and students the foundations that last a lifetime.

[Click to Learn More About the FFI Airlite Vitesse Mentor Rod](#)

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 31ST, 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

FFI APPOINTS MATT JOCKERS AS PRESIDENT AND CEO

Jockers is a lifelong fly fisher and current Certified Casting Instructor, bringing decades of mission-driven leadership to the organization.

FFI announced that Matthew (Matt) Jockers has been named President and Chief Executive Officer, effective September 1, 2026. A lifelong fly fisher and current FFI Certified Casting Instructor, Jockers steps into the role with a deep personal connection to the sport and more than three decades of experience leading large, mission-driven organizations.

Jockers learned to fly fish at age nine on the Yellowstone River just east of Livingston, where his family counted legendary fly shop founders Dan and Helen Bailey among their close friends. Through his teens and twenties, he guided and worked as a horse wrangler and packer on ranches across Montana and Wyoming and spent three summers working the counter at Dan Bailey's Fly Shop in Livingston. Those early years on the water shaped a lifelong commitment to the sport and to the people and places that sustain it. Today, Jockers is an FFI Certified Casting Instructor and is pursuing his two-handed casting certification. He and his wife, Angela, live in Montana's Bitterroot Valley.

His professional career has been equally diverse. Over more than 30 years in higher education, he served as a tenured Professor of Literature and Data Analytics, as Associate Dean of Research at the University of Nebraska, and as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Washington State University. He also founded and led a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, helped launch three technology startups and, most recently, served as a Distinguished Research Scientist and Senior Engineering Manager at Apple.

"Fly fishing helped shape who I am, from my early days on the Yellowstone to the summers I spent working at Dan Bailey's," said Jockers. "What excites me most about FFI is the extraordinary community behind it. Across our clubs, councils and groups, and among our instructors, volunteers, Board and staff, there are people giving their time, knowledge and energy because they care deeply about fly fishing and its future. There is tremendous opportunity to build on that foundation, expand the ways we serve fly fishers and ensure FFI remains a strong and relevant voice for the sport for generations to come."

"Matt stood out because he brings together two things that were incredibly important to us in this search: significant leadership experience and an authentic connection to the community FFI serves," said Tilda Evans, Board Chair of Fly Fishers International. "He understands FFI as an angler and instructor, while also bringing the experience required to lead and grow a complex nonprofit organization. We believe he is exceptionally well positioned to build on FFI's strengths and lead the organization forward."

Jockers' appointment follows a national search conducted by a Steering Committee appointed by the FFI Board of Directors after Rhonda Sellers assumed the role of Executive Director in December 2023.

Sellers has served FFI in numerous capacities over many years and stepped into the leadership role at a pivotal time for the organization. Her steady leadership provided continuity while giving the Board the time needed to undertake a thoughtful search for FFI's next leader.

"Rhonda stepped forward when FFI needed her, and we owe her an enormous debt of gratitude," said Evans. "She brought experience, commitment and a deep understanding of this organization to a very challenging assignment. She has served FFI extraordinarily well, not only during this transition but throughout her many years with the organization."

Sellers will remain available to support Jockers and FFI through the leadership transition before retiring in 2027. FFI extends its sincere thanks for her years of service and wishes her the very best in retirement.

A LABOR DAY WEEKEND OF TWOS ON THE SOUTH LLANO

Having missed our annual spring trip to the Llano River, we were eager to return to a place we both love and deeply respect. With our calendars filling up quickly, we decided to take a chance on Labor Day weekend, hoping for a break from the Texas heat. As it turned out, that decision paid off in a big way.

This trip was just the two of us. After 41 years of marriage, my wife has become quite the angler, and sharing these adventures together has become one of life's greatest pleasures. We've made this journey many times before, and that's part of what makes it special. We know where we want to fish, where we like to stay, what restaurants we'll visit, and even which flies to tie on first. There's comfort in the familiar, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

The Weekend of Twos

As we reflected on the trip, a fun theme emerged:

- Two people on a Hill Country adventure
- Two float trips on the South Llano River
- Two flies used the entire weekend
- Two prized Hill Country gamefish

TRIP FOR TWO-CONTD.

- ☐ Two kayak flips
- ☐ Two rain showers
- ☐ Two rods and reels that met an untimely fate
- ☐ Two trips to the donut shop
- ☐ Two cups of coffee every morning
- ☐ Two memorable dinners
- ☐ Two celebratory drinks
- ☐ Two bruised knuckles from flies returning at near light speed
- ☐ Two beds in the hotel room
- ☐ Two tanks of gas
- ☐ Two stops for Hill Country wine
- ☐ Two lovebirds enjoying time together
- ☐ Two people grateful for a wonderful weekend

Conditions Couldn't Have Been Better

After researching river conditions, everything looked promising. Recent summer floods had refreshed the river, water levels were excellent, and reports indicated that the heavy aquatic vegetation that often chokes the river had been significantly reduced. Combined with cooler temperatures brought by a tropical storm system, it seemed like the perfect opportunity.

As we approached our first launch site, excitement quickly turned into confidence. The water was clear, the river looked healthy, and we knew immediately this trip had the potential to be something special.

What we didn't know was just how good the fishing would be.

The fly selection came courtesy of a recommendation from the folks at Living Waters Fly Fishing. Sometimes it pays to pay attention to social media posts from people who are on the water every day. Their suggestion? Kreelex Minnows in gold and silver, followed by a BC Streamer.

That combination proved absolutely deadly.

Throughout the weekend, Guadalupe bass, Rio Grande cichlids, redbreast sunfish, redear sunfish, bluegill, longear sunfish, largemouth bass, and even one particularly angry spotted gar all chased those two flies. The action was steady, exciting, and everything we had hoped for.

Of course, every Hill Country float trip comes with its share of challenges. The river is constantly changing, and obstacles can appear around any bend. This trip was no exception. We



TRIP FOR TWO-CONTD.

experienced two kayak flip-overs, lost a rod and reel, and spent time chasing equipment downstream.

It's all part of the adventure.

More Than Just Fishing

Or maybe it isn't.

While the fishing was outstanding, some of our favorite memories came from simply spending time together. Good meals, local beverages, conversations around the dinner table, and drives along the winding one-lane roads that make the Texas Hill Country so unique all added to the experience.

And yes, there was great music along the way.

The food was excellent, as always. We enjoyed our traditional stop at Pizza Junction and another visit to Lum's for barbecue. But this trip we wanted to try something new, so we headed to the Hill Top Café north of Fredericksburg.

It was exactly our kind of place.

Nothing happens particularly fast there, and that's perfectly fine. The atmosphere was relaxed, nostalgic, and welcoming. We enjoyed a wonderful meal while soaking in the character and charm of a place that feels untouched by time.

The evening was spent at the Inn at Barons Creek, providing a comfortable and peaceful retreat after long days on the river. Before heading home, we squeezed in a little shopping, stocked up on Hill Country wines, and made one final stop at a favorite local taco shop.

Why We Keep Coming Back

As we drove home, we talked about all the moments that made the weekend memorable. The fish. The scenery. The laughter. The mishaps. The meals. The conversations.

Trips like this remind us why we continue making the journey year after year.

The South Llano offers more than great fishing. It provides an opportunity to slow down, appreciate the beauty of the Texas Hill Country, and spend meaningful time together in a place that never seems to lose its magic.

We'll be back.

Until next spring.



7TH ANNUAL BRAZOS CLEANUP

We're gearing up for the 7th annual Brazos Cleanup on Saturday, November 14. Make plans to join us for another awesome day of making an impact for the betterment of the Brazos.

This year, all donations for the post-cleanup meal will go directly to the local volunteer fire departments who have battled the Ross Fire in the surrounding area.

RSVP at brazoscleanupproject.com
Sponsorship opportunities are available!

BRAZOS CLEANUP PROJECT

A large group of volunteers, including men, women, and children, are posing for a group photo in an outdoor setting. They are standing in front of a red banner that reads 'K Damsters'. The background shows trees and a cloudy sky.

**7TH ANNUAL
BRAZOS
CLEANUP**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
12PM - 4PM
PK BRIDGE - HWY 16**

**VISIT BRAZOSCLEANUPPROJECT.COM TO RSVP
PARTNERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

REACH OUT FOR INFO: BRAZOSCLEANUPPROJECT@GMAIL.COM

NORTH TOLEDO BEND RENDEZVOUS

Rendezvous began as a camping and fishing event in 1989, and within two years, evolved into its current format. Each Fall, fly tiers and other fly fishing enthusiasts from across several states - along with their families - gather for a weekend of fly tying, fly casting, food and fishing. With only a minimal fee to cover lodging and meals. The event is open to everyone! The excellent facilities at North Toledo Bend State Park are ideal for a Fall weekend fly tying retreat. Activities take place at the park's group facility, which features a commercial kitchen and dining hall, and lodging available for up to 150 people in 5 heated log bunkhouses (30 beds each). There's also a heated central shower and restroom building with nice night lighting on all the sidewalks. Rendezvous continues to be a gathering for some of the top fly tiers in the country, most of whom have been featured at regional and national expos. Whether you come to tie, or come to watch and learn, or just partake the great scenery, fishing and on-the-water location, you'll be glad you came!

Fees (family or individual are the same): \$40 for weekend, includes lodging \$20 one night, includes lodging \$10 just for the day.

Again, if you come as a family, the rate for the entire weekend for the whole family is just \$40! Be sure to sign in at our registration table in the dining hall.

For complete details, go to <https://rendezvousannually.blogspot.com/>



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

Help us help our river!

TrinityCoalition.org



**TRINITY
COALITION**

Providing Conservation through Recreation



INTRODUCING JILL WHITFILL



I'm so excited and honored to be serving as the Chair of Membership for FFI Women Connect. When I think about what brought me here, I realize that my connection to fishing began many years before I ever picked up a fly rod.

My very first fishing adventure was when I was eight years old at my aunt and uncle's summer home on Possum Kingdom Lake in Texas. My grandmother introduced me to fishing, and I was hooked—literally and figuratively! Those early days on the water gave me a love for fishing and the outdoors that has stayed with me throughout my life.

Fishing was always something I enjoyed, but fly fishing was a different story. It was one of those things that lived on my bucket list for years. As I approached retirement, I finally decided it was time to give it a try. Fly fishing is truly what I suspected my soul needed in retirement and has become so much more. I've fallen in love with the rhythm of the cast, the beauty of rivers and lakes, the challenge of learning something new, and, most importantly, the people I've met along the way.

My professional life has been quite a journey as well. I spent 44 years working as a nurse, paralegal, and professor of nursing. Throughout my career, I found myself drawn to leadership, teaching, communication, innovation, and bringing people together. As a nurse educator and simulation leader, I had the opportunity to help people build confidence, learn new skills, think creatively, and discover that they were capable of more than they sometimes realized.

I think those experiences have shaped the way I see membership.

To me, membership isn't just about adding names to a list. It's about creating a place where people want to belong. It's about making connections, sharing experiences, learning from one another, finding a fishing buddy, learning to tie or sharing one's passion for conservation. It is also about encouraging and celebrating personal accomplishments, both small and large.

I want Women Connect to be that kind of community.

I'm especially excited about connecting women across the United States and around the world. We may fish different waters and have very different experiences, but there is something wonderfully common about standing beside a river or lake

with a fly rod in your hand. There are stories to share, lessons to learn, places to explore, and friendships waiting to happen.

As we move forward, I hope we can make Women Connect a community that is welcoming, creative, innovative, active—and most of all, fun. I want us to make it easy for women to get involved, whether they are brand new to fly fishing or have been chasing fish with a fly rod for years.

I'm looking forward to listening, learning, and working alongside all of you. I have a lot to learn about fly fishing, fly tying and conservation, but I know something about people, relationships, leadership, and building communities—and I'm excited to bring those experiences to this role.

After all, I may have started fishing at eight years old, but I think this fly-fishing adventure is just getting started.

I hope we can share a lot of casts, laughs, stories, rivers, lakes, and adventures together.

I'm so glad to be on this journey with you.

Jill Whitfill

Chair of Membership, FFI Women Connect



TEXAS WILDFIRES IMPACT A COMMUNITY CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS



This summer brought more than the challenges Texans have come to expect. We anticipate the heat, low water conditions, and long stretches without rain. What many of us did not expect were the devastating floods and wildfires that affected communities across our state.

One of the largest wildfires this year was the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto County, an area that holds a special place in the hearts of many Fort Worth Fly Fishers members. For decades, anglers from our club have traveled there to fish the Brazos River, kayak its scenic waters, and enjoy the beauty of North Texas. Many of us consider the Brazos to be a second home. More recently, members have also enjoyed exploring the new Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, which continues to grow in popularity. And if you ever find yourself in the area, a stop at Mary's Café is almost mandatory for what many claim is the best chicken-fried steak in Texas.

The area is home to several historic landmarks and businesses, including Worth Ranch, a long-established Boy Scout camp, and Rochelle's Canoe & Kayak Rentals. Sadly, both suffered significant damage from the Ross Fire.

Rochelle's has a special connection to the Fort Worth Fly Fishers. For many years, they have supported our club's float trips on the Brazos River, including the legendary twenty-mile trek that takes at least two days to complete. Countless memories have been made on those waters. Some of those adventures have become club folklore, documented and retold by



longtime members, often generating as much laughter as they do nostalgia.

The unfortunate reality is that Rochelle's experienced extensive damage from the fire. Beyond servicing our multi-day float trips, they have provided access to some of the finest fly fishing opportunities the Brazos River has to offer. While shuttle and rental services remain available and river access continues, the road to recovery will be long before operations return to the way they were.

When we learned of the devastation, it brought both sadness and a desire to help. As we followed updates from the family on social media, we witnessed an overwhelming outpouring of support from individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the region. Inspired by those efforts, the Boards of Directors of both the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International voted to provide financial assistance, each contributing \$500 toward the recovery effort.

September 10 was a humbling and rewarding day. Debbie Williams, Cynthia Casados, and I traveled to Rochelle's to



personally deliver the donations and offer our support. We had the opportunity to visit with Buddy and see firsthand the devastation caused by the Ross Fire.

During our visit, we presented two checks totaling \$1,000: \$500 from the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and \$500 from the Texas Council FFI.

Buddy expressed his sincere gratitude, and we left knowing that while our contribution could not undo the damage, it demonstrated the strength and compassion of the fly fishing community. More importantly, it let the family know they are not facing these challenges alone.

TEXAS WILDFIRES-CONTD.

The needs remain significant, and Rochelle's continues to do the best they can under difficult circumstances. They remain open for business, though much of their operation is currently being conducted outdoors. We encourage anyone who has enjoyed the Brazos River, participated in a float trip, or benefited from Rochelle's hospitality over the years to reach out to Buddy and



see how you might be able to help. Whether through business patronage, donations, or simply spreading the word, every act of support makes a difference.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Debbie Williams and Cynthia Casados for

joining me on this meaningful visit. It was a powerful reminder that fly fishing is about much more than casting a line. It is about community, friendship, and helping one another through life's most difficult moments.

Standing Together

The Ross Fire may have scarred part of a landscape we cherish, but it has also revealed something equally powerful: the generosity and resilience of the people who call this community home. As anglers, conservationists, and friends, we have always shared a connection to these waters. In times like these, that connection becomes even more important.

Together, we can help ensure that the places and people who have given us so many memories can continue creating them for future generations.

LOCO TRASH BASH

It's official. Loco Trash Bash number 8. Saturday October 24th. 7:00 til 3:00 immediately followed by the after party. Free food, drinks and prizes. Come on down and join in the fun and help clean up our home waters. Sign up at the link in our profile.#locotrashbash2026



THE GATHERING

The Gathering on October 11, 2026, is quickly approaching.

This is an opportunity for all who instruct in any capacity, to spend a day sharpening their skills instructing and casting. Instructors spend a lot of time working with students and often neglect the fact that they need to learn new instructional and casting skills to improve their ability to serve students.

Come Fish and Cast with us!

Feel free to forward this to anyone you may know that would be interested.

[Register](#)

THE 2026 GATHERING OF CASTING INSTRUCTORS

Hosted by Good Fly, TX Council of FFI, & Fly
Fishers International

Sunday, October 11, 2026

8:00 am - 3:00pm

Milican Reserve, College Station, Texas
(includes breakfast and lunch)

Your registration includes an invitation
to join us for an afternoon of food,
fishing, drink and fellowship.

Saturday October 10, 2026

2:00 to 7:00 pm

Fishing and Socializing on a private
pond in the area. (TBA)
(includes dinner and drinks)

Gathering Reservation Required

Registration is open for a day of sharpening
your casting and instructing skills.

For anyone who instructs or is seeking CI.
Led by FFI Master Casting Instructors.
We will focus on casting and instructing the

**Elbow Forward/West Coast
Method of Casting and Instruction**

SCHEDULE

7:15AM

Sunrise Devotional on the Dock

8AM

Breakfast & Intros

9AM-11:30AM

Introduction to the Elbow Forward/
West Coast Casting Method with:

Jim Hund, MCI, , Jeff Ferguson, MCI,
Jeffrey Graham, CI

(Learn to cast and instruct in this style)

12PM

Lunch

1PM-3PM

Cast Around

Get help with any aspect of your casting and
instruction from the cadre of instructors
(Additional time with the morning session topic will be
available if desired in the cast around period)



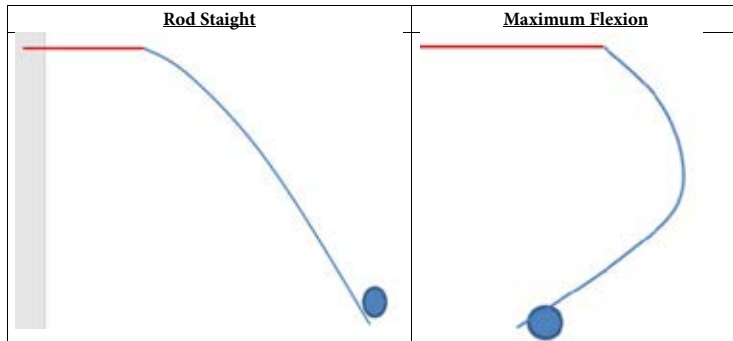
Register at www.goodfly.org

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED AND FILLS QUICKLY

ROD POSITIONS DURING THE CASTING STROKE

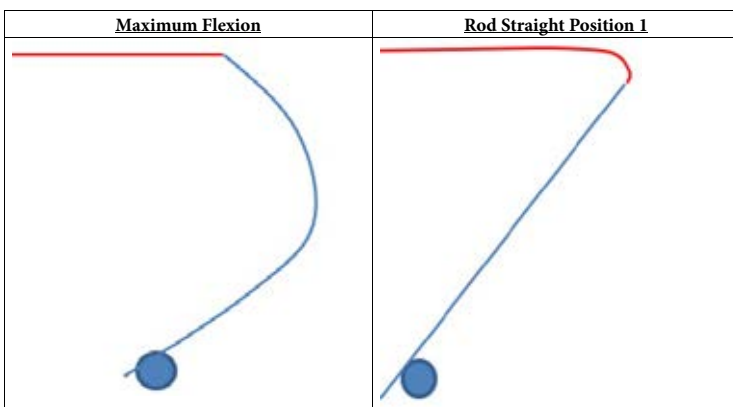
At the beginning and at the end of every casting stroke – whether a back cast or a forward case - the rod is straight. During the stroke (1) power is applied to bend the rod; (2) power is reduced to unbend the rod; and (3) power is stopped to return the rod straight. This article discusses the positions of the fly rod during this process.

As power is applied the rod begins to bend. Bend occurs from the resistance the fly line puts on rod tip. Ideally, bending should occur at the moment power is applied. The more slack in the fly line at the moment of power application the longer it takes for the rod to bend. At the point of deceleration, the rod should be at the point of maximum flexion. This depicts the respective rod position at the start of a forward cast and the point of maximum flexion:



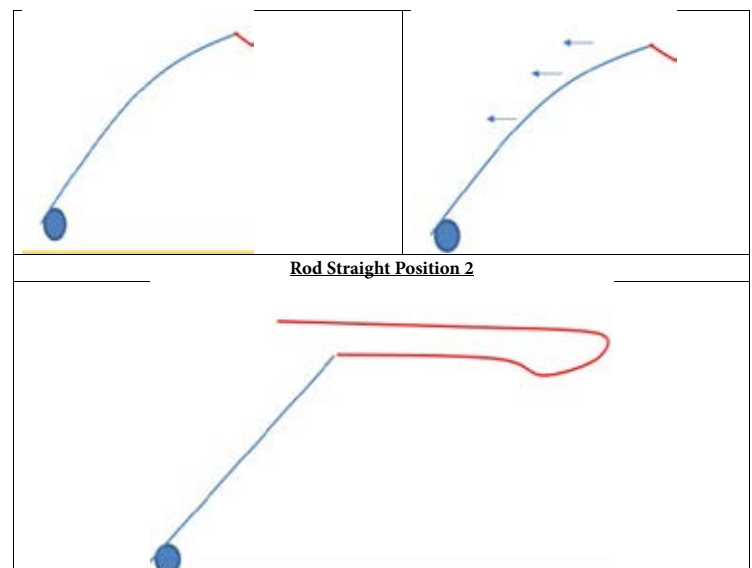
To achieve the optimal load at maximum flexion two things need to occur: (1) lack of slack so that rod begins bending the instance power is applied; and (2) power must be applied by pulling the rod with constant rate of acceleration. Pulling loads the rod in the butt resulting in a deeper bend.

Letting off the power decelerates the rod causing the rod to come out of maximum flexion into rod straight position 1 (RSP 1). This depicts the position of the rod from maximum flexion to RSP 1:



How the rod transitions from maximum flexion to RSP 1 is critical. Optimal deceleration should “pull the rod straight.” Pulling the rod straight unloads the rod from the butt to the tip resulting in optimal transfer of the energy stored in the line to the rod. Pushing prematurely unloads the butt – dissipating energy.

Loop formation begins at RSP 1. The fly line overtakes the rod causing propagation of the loop. The rod then counter flexes followed by rod rebound and rod vibrations until the rod returns to Rod Straight Position 2 (“RSP 2”):



Back to the first sentence of the article – the rod is straight when the cast starts and when the case ends. The key to better casting involves how power is applied to achieve maximum counter flex, pulling the rod into RSP1 and then abruptly stopping the rod so it counter flexes, rebounds, and returns to RSP 2.

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TEXAS COUNCIL FFI NEEDS YOU!!!

Texas Council FFI, is now preparing to put a slate of officers together, for an election to name the Board of Directors for the 2027 year. There are Board positions open, if anyone is interested in putting their name on the slate, for the 2027 election. There are many rewarding aspects of serving as a volunteer. We are reviewing the current slate of officers, and will send out an official list of positions that will be open in an email that will be sent out in October.

For a volunteer serving on the **Texas Council of Fly Fishers International Board of Directors**, the rewards are not financial, but they can be very meaningful both personally and professionally.

Personal Rewards

- **Giving Back to the Sport:** Helping ensure the future of fly fishing through conservation, education, and community outreach.
- **Making a Difference:** Seeing programs, events, and initiatives you helped create benefit anglers, clubs, and local communities.
- **Lifelong Friendships:** Working alongside passionate volunteers from across Texas often leads to strong personal and fishing relationships.
- **Personal Satisfaction:** Knowing your efforts are helping preserve opportunities for future generations of fly fishers.

Leadership and Professional Growth

- **Leadership Experience:** Serving on a board develops skills in governance, strategic planning, budgeting, communications, and project management.
- **Broader Perspective:** Exposure to statewide initiatives and the challenges facing clubs and conservation organizations.
- **Problem-Solving Skills:** Working with diverse clubs and stakeholders strengthens collaboration and decision-making abilities.

Fly Fishing Opportunities

- **Expanded Network:** Access to club leaders, FFI leaders, certified instructors, guides, conservation partners, and industry representatives throughout Texas and beyond.

- **Learning Opportunities:** Increased exposure to educational programs, conservation projects, casting instruction, fly tying, and emerging trends in the sport.
- **Event Involvement:** Participation in programs such as FlyFest, outreach initiatives, conservation projects, and club development efforts.

Supporting the Mission

According to the Texas Council, its role is to support Texas clubs, coordinate education and outreach efforts, and advance FFI's mission of conservation, education, and community. Serving on the board provides a direct opportunity to influence and strengthen those efforts. [tcffi.org]

Recognition and Legacy

- Helping build programs that continue long after your term ends.
- Mentoring new volunteers and future leaders.
- Leaving a lasting impact on Texas fly fishing and conservation efforts.
- Being remembered as someone who helped grow the community rather than simply participate in it.

A Simple Way to Say It

The greatest reward of serving on the Texas Council Board is the opportunity to leave fly fishing better than you found it while building friendships, developing leadership skills, and helping others discover the sport we love.

Interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

Please contact us at

rhusted@texascouncilffi.com

Thank You for considering

NEW BRAUNFELS FLY FISHERS

2026 HOLDOVER TOURNAMENT

REGISTRATION REQUIRED • PRIZES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

NOV. 7
**GUADALUPE
RIVER**



\$75 PER PERSON • GUIDED BOAT \$200 PER PERSON

8AM

**MEET AT
RIO GUADALUPE RESORT**

8:30AM – 3:30PM

**FISHING AT
GUADALUPE RIVER**

4:00PM

**DEADLINE RETURN TO
RIO GUADALUPE RESORT**

PRIZES INCLUDE: HALF-DAY GUIDED TRIPS, FLY FISHING GEAR & GIFT CERTIFICATES

TO REGISTER OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: RON DEMEYER RON.DEMEYER@YAHOO.COM (830) 481-3405
OR ED FINGER EDPFINGER@YAHOO.COM (956) 572-6730

THIS IS A CATCH, PHOTO AND RELEASE THAT IS MORE GOOD FUN THAN SERIOUS TOURNAMENT

*All data on species caught, size and location will be submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife
to help track the ability for trout to survive in the Guadalupe River throughout the year.*

TEXAS FLY FISHERS HOLD 39TH ANNUAL REDFISH RODEO

This past weekend, the Texas Fly Fishers gathered in Aransas Pass for their 39th Annual Redfish Rodeo, continuing a tradition that has become one of the club's most anticipated events of the year. With excellent fishing opportunities, great fellowship, and a strong turnout, the weekend once again demonstrated why this event remains a favorite among members and guests. [\[Redfish Ro...highlights | Outlook\]](#)

A total of 25 participants took part in the weekend's activities, including the awards banquet on Saturday evening. The event brought together longtime Rodeo veterans as well as several new faces, helping to strengthen the club's tradition of welcoming anglers of all experience levels. [\[Redfish Ro...highlights | Outlook\]](#)

Saturday night's banquet was held at Mickey's Bar & Grill in Aransas Pass, where participants enjoyed a seafood dinner and awards presentation. The restaurant provided a private room for the group and delivered excellent service throughout the evening, helping make the gathering a memorable conclusion to a successful day on the water. [\[Redfish Ro...highlights | Outlook\]](#)

2026 Redfish Rodeo Winners

Longest Redfish

- First Place: Jeff Baker, winner of a Sage Rod & Reel Outfit.
- Second Place: Scott Schwarting, winner of a Region Fishing 8-Weight Rod & Reel.

Most Total Inches of Redfish

- Palmer Jones, winner of an Orvis Hydros Reel.

Most Spots on a Redfish

- Aaron Salazar, winner of an Orvis Hydros Reel.

One of the most inspiring stories of the weekend belonged to Palmer Jones, who recently took up fly fishing. According to information shared following the event, he caught his first redfish during a July outing, tied his first fly at the club's August meeting, and then went on to capture the "Most Total Inches of Redfish" title during the Rodeo with five redfish, including three fish totaling 57½ inches.

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants who helped make the 2026 Redfish Rodeo another outstanding success. As the event concludes its 39th year, anticipation is already building for the 40th Annual Redfish Rodeo in 2027.

Tight lines, and we'll see you on the Texas coast next year for the BIG 40th year Celebration and unified Texas Council Competition!!!!



SKINNY WATER SHRIMP

Skinny Water Shrimp: A Fall Favorite for the Texas Coast

With fall finally arriving and encouraging fly-fishing reports coming from the Texas coast, now seems like the perfect time to share the **Skinny Water Shrimp** fly pattern. This proven coastal producer should find a place in every saltwater fly angler's box during the coming months.

One of the advantages of this pattern is its versatility. It can be tied as presented for shallow-water applications, or bead-chain eyes can be added to help the fly sink a little deeper when conditions require it. Either version offers a natural shrimp profile that can be highly effective for redfish, speckled trout, and other coastal species.

Several club outings and coastal fishing events have already taken place this season, and more are on the horizon. The **Fort Worth Fly Fishers** will be heading to the coast during the first weekend of October, providing members with an excellent opportunity to put this pattern to the test. With fishing reports continuing to improve, many anglers should find the Skinny Water Shrimp to be a timely addition to their fly selection.

Adding to the excitement, **Ron Ridgeway of Matagorda Loops** has been sharing positive reports from the coast. If you're looking to experience some of the best fly fishing Texas has to offer, Ron is an outstanding guide and a great resource for anglers wanting to explore the Matagorda area. His local knowledge and dedication to providing a quality experience make him an excellent choice for a coastal fly-fishing adventure.

Whether you're planning a coastal club trip, a guided excursion, or simply a weekend on the flats, the Skinny Water Shrimp is a pattern worth having ready this fall. Tight lines, and enjoy the season on the Texas coast!

<https://matagordaloops.com/>

Tying the Skinny Water Shrimp Variant

Materials:

- Any large hook. Not a heavy one
- Black or Orange Thread
- Polar Chenille in Root Beer Color
- Orange Chenille
- Sparkle Minnow Body Brush
- Rubber Legs
- 80lb Tippet
- Black Beads
- Glue



Step One: Insert hook into the vice, and tie in some tan craft fur.



Step Two: Create eyes for the fly, with 80 lb tippet, and some black plastic beads. The tippet is cut to an inch in length. Then use a lighter to slightly melt the end of the tippet. While the tippet is still soft, push on the end of it, creating a mushroom type head. This keeps the bead from coming off of the tippet. Add a drop of glue to secure it even more.



Step Three: Tie the eyes onto the fly.



Step Four: Tie in two rubber legs, your choice of color.

SKINNY WATER SHRIMP-CONTD.



Step Five: Tie in a two inch section of Sparkle Minnow Body Brush, in a Tan or Rusty Olive color. Wrap the brush around the hook, tie down, then cut off excess.



Step Nine: Wrap the Polar Chenille up the hook, and tie off.



Step Six: Tie in a three inch Polar Chenille in Root Beer Color.

Step Ten: Whip finish the fly.

Step Eleven: Use a wire brush to tease up the fibers.



Step Seven: Tie in a three inch section of Orange Chenille, and tie off.



Step Eight: Wrap the Orange Chenille up the hook and tie off.



BEGINNER FLY FISHING CLASS HOOKS NEW ANGLERS

Despite the late-summer Texas heat, sixteen eager students gathered on a Saturday morning to take their first steps into the exciting world of fly fishing. The Beginner Fly Fishing Class provided participants with hands-on instruction in both fly casting and fly tying, giving them a solid foundation for future adventures on the water.

Experienced instructors from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) introduced students to the fundamentals of fly casting, including the pick-up and lay-down cast, the roll cast, and proper line management techniques. Throughout the session, participants learned that successful fly casting is built on one simple principle: practice. By focusing on repetition and consistency, students gained valuable skills and confidence that will continue to improve with time on the water.

The class also featured an introduction to fly tying, where each student learned to tie a Woolly Bugger, one of the most productive and versatile fly patterns used by anglers around the world. Beginning with the three essential elements of every fly, a hook, thread, and tying materials, students were guided through the process of creating their own fish-catching fly.

As participants quickly discovered, fly tying is both a skill and an art. While fly patterns can become increasingly sophisticated with experience, the fundamentals remain the same: thread control, proper material placement, and attention to detail. The pride on the students' faces as they completed their first flies reflected both their accomplishment and their excitement to continue learning.

The enthusiasm displayed throughout the class demonstrated the growing interest in fly fishing and the value of introducing newcomers to the sport. With continued practice and future instructional opportunities, these new anglers are well on their way to developing the skills and confidence needed to enjoy a lifetime of fly fishing.



CONSERVATION UPDATE

TRWD Trash Bash at Panther Island – September 19

Six club members dedicated their Saturday morning to conservation by participating in the **TRWD Trash Bash** at Panther Island. Working along the riverbanks and trails, they helped remove litter and improve one of Fort Worth's most popular outdoor recreation areas, demonstrating the stewardship that lies at the heart of our sport.

After a productive morning of service, Les and Paul enjoyed some time on the water and were rewarded with a few fish, proving that a day spent giving back to the resource can be both meaningful and memorable.

A sincere thank you to **Jim, Austin, Chris, David, Les, and Paul** for representing the club and for their continued commitment to conservation. Their efforts help protect the waterways we enjoy today and ensure they remain healthy and accessible for future generations of anglers.



Marine Creek Lake Adopt-A-Trail Cleanup – August 20

Our club continued its commitment to conservation on August 20 with another successful **TRWD Adopt-A-Trail Cleanup** at Marine Creek Lake. Through TRWD's Adopt-A-Trail program, organizations like ours have the opportunity to make a visible and lasting impact by helping keep local parks, trails, and waterways clean for everyone to enjoy.

Despite the Texas summer heat, eleven dedicated volunteers spent the morning collecting litter along our adopted trail section and the shoreline. Their efforts resulted in the removal of **21 bags of trash**, a discarded rug, and the day's most memorable and mysterious discovery, affectionately dubbed **"It's a Cone!"**

CONSERVATION UPDATE-CONTD.

A heartfelt thank you to **Jim, Donna, Roger, Don, Michael, Tom, Robert, Bill, Mark, Russell, and Paul** for their hard work and dedication. Their willingness to give their time and energy reflects the stewardship values that define our club and helps ensure that Marine Creek Lake remains a beautiful resource for anglers, hikers, and the entire community.

Events like these remind us that conservation is more than a principle, it is something we put into action together.



While the cooler weather brought more fish to hand and a few larger trout, the benefit from using a guide was the knowledge gained from spending time on the water. The methodical approach to reading water, breaking down a run, selecting the best position, and achieving a natural drift provided valuable lessons at every stop. Watching others analyze a stretch of water, execute the cast, and being rewarded with a trout is such a thrill. More than once, I found myself wishing I had experienced this when I first began fly fishing.

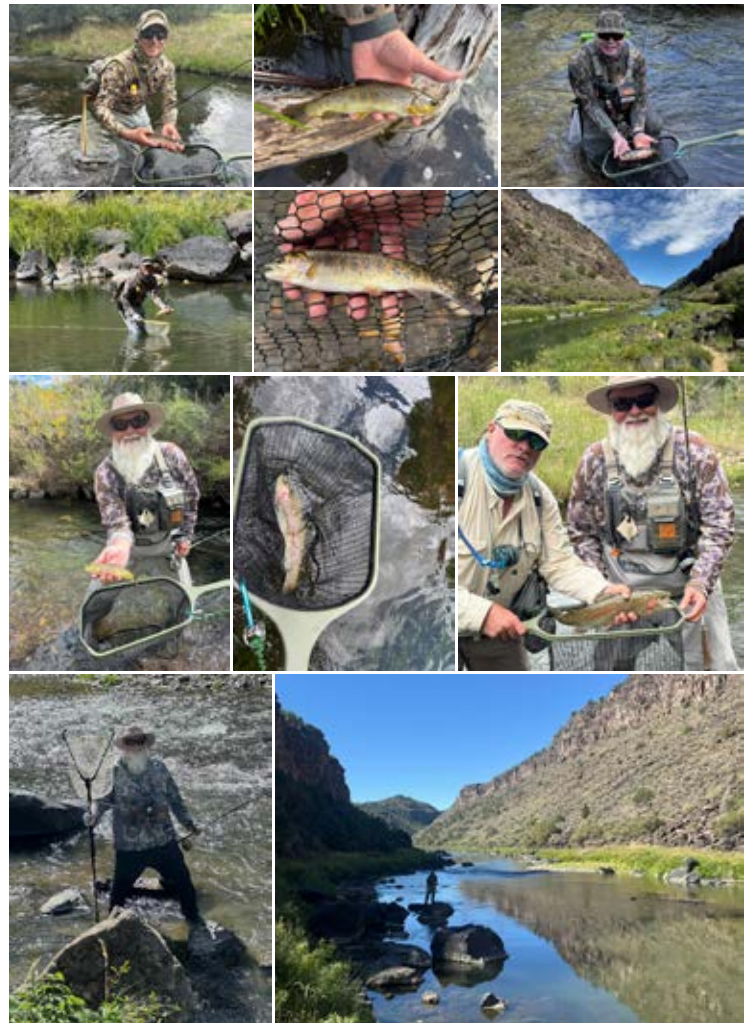
Thank you to **Doc Thompson** for sharing his expertise and passion for these remarkable fisheries, and to **Brett Morehead** and **Jim Smith** for the camaraderie and unforgettable experiences. Exploring new waters, learning new techniques, and sharing adventures with good friends are among the greatest rewards our sport has to offer.

Fishing New Mexico with Doc Thompson... Twice!

By Paul Lund

A guided trip with **Doc Thompson**, purchased at last year's Fort Worth Fly Fishers auction, turned into two memorable adventures in the mountains and rivers of New Mexico. In late August, Brett Morehead and I set out to explore new water and chase trout in some of the region's scenic fisheries. While summer heat and low flows created challenging conditions, the trip provided plenty of opportunities to learn, explore, and enjoy the beauty of the Southwest. Over several days, we fished two different rivers targeting brown, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, creating memories that will last far longer than any fish story.

The experience continued when I returned in early September for a second trip with Doc, this time joined by Jim Smith. Cooler temperatures and improved conditions made for some enjoyable fishing. Once again, we explored two different rivers, but the highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the **Rio Grande**. The hike along the river offered breathtaking scenery as we navigated boulders, negotiated challenging trail sections, and waded through rugged terrain in pursuit of trout. Along the way, we encountered the unexpected sights that make every adventure unique, especially around the area's famous natural hot springs. As they say, "Don't look, Ethel!"



ALTO FLIES & PIES

Submitted by Mike Hawkins

Before the first fly was finished, the Louisiana Sports and Hall of Fame Museum in downtown Natchitoches was already alive with the sounds and smells of the weekend: bobbins clicking, scissors snipping, coffee steaming and laughter rolling between tables crowded with hooks, feathers and thread. Tiers from across the Ark-La-Tex-Oma region had come together for two days of fly tying, good food, conversation and plenty of time at the vise.

That was the spirit of the third annual Flies & Pies Fly-Tying Event, held September 18 and 19 in historic Natchitoches, Louisiana.

And it all started with food. A Potluck with a Passport.

Friday evening's potluck dinner was the perfect way to begin the weekend. The Ark-La-Tex-Oma (ALTO) Fly Tyers' name isn't just a name—it was on full display around the dinner table.

Dishes arrived from across the region, from Lake Charles and the Freeport area to East Texas and Dallas.

It was the kind of meal no one wanted to rush. After all, the weekend was just getting started.

Saturday at the Vise

Saturday morning, the focus shifted from the dinner table to the tying bench.

More than 25 fly tiers gathered at the museum, setting up vises and spreading out hooks, feathers, fur, foam, thread and every other material a tier might need. Then the room came alive.

A steady rhythm of scissors, bobbins and whip finishers mixed with conversation, laughter and the occasional request for a particular material. At one table, someone demonstrated a technique; at another, a tier leaned in for a closer look. A beginner asked a question, and an experienced tier was happy to answer.

Everyone Has Something to Teach

One of the gathering's greatest strengths was the range of experience around the room.

Beginners, intermediate tiers and advanced tiers worked side by side. There was no strict division between teachers and students. Instead, knowledge moved naturally from one vise to the next.

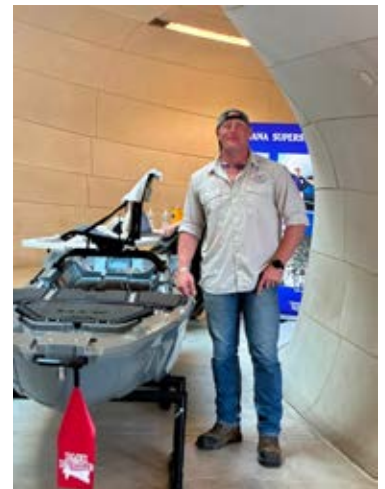
Beautiful flies. Fishy flies. Flies designed for specific species or situations. And, as often happens when tiers gather, a few patterns too interesting to leave at home.

Many of the flies tied and donated during the event became part of the day's raffle, giving participants a chance to take home a hand-tied creation from another member of the group.

The raffle added excitement to the afternoon, but it also highlighted the generosity of the tiers who donated their work.

More Than a Day at the Vise

By the time the final flies were tied and the vises began disappearing from the tables, the third annual Flies & Pies had delivered exactly what its name promised: flies, food and plenty of fellowship.



ALTO FLIES & PIES-CONTD.

The weekend brought together people who traveled across state lines and down back roads to spend time pursuing a shared passion. At the tables, skill levels mattered less than curiosity and a willingness to share. Around the dinner table, regional dishes became part of the experience.

And throughout it all, Natchitoches provided a fitting backdrop—a historic Louisiana town that gave the gathering its own sense of place.

The Story Continues

As the last flies were packed away and the weekend drew to a close, there was already something to look forward to.

Plans are underway for the fourth annual Flies & Pies Fly-Tying Event.

If the first three years are any indication, the next gathering will bring another room full of vises, materials, laughter and stories—and a potluck table that once again proves how far the Ark-La-Tex-Oma Fly.

That's Flies & Pies.



COMMUNITY NIGHT

Great night out at Chicken N Pickle in Grand Prairie!! Really pleased with the turnout, and mingling with great friends. Good was amazing and the drinks were cold!! First guest at our booth was Mr Mike Renzitti!!! You might recognize the name, and yes we all know that name in the fly fishing business. He was excited to see us out? And we had a great short chat. Will be hopefully able to chat again!!

Thank you all who came out and a SPECIAL Thank You to Chicken N Pickle!! And to Shelbi who helped arrange the night and to Daphne for being a great server to us!!



Casting for Recovery

A pink fly fishing lure with a starburst-like head and a segmented body is positioned to the right of the title text.

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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



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Stephen L. Weaver
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- No affect on the fly's performance



@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	George Prochaska	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	Billy Pickard	Houston
Texas Hill Country	Jim Hines	Fredericksburg
Texas Women	Joan Swartz	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.lsffclub.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

Photo courtesy of Kastine Coleman



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.

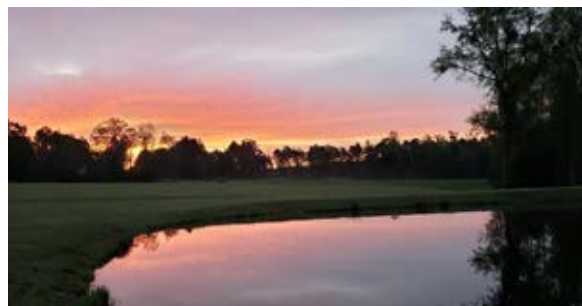
» *Whip Finish Journal* is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of FFI and is published quarterly online.

» *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 _____