



Fort Worth

Fly Fishers

Est. 1985

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Message From the President

Hello fellow Fly Fishers.

Wow! The 2018 Fund Raising Festival (FWF4) at Wild Acre Brewery on March 3rd was a tremendous success. Our thanks to all those volunteers that made this event happen. I believe everyone had a blast and the funds that are raised go towards our 2018 programs, which include some great speakers, educational events and enhanced outings. We, as a club, also contribute to charitable organizations such as Casting for Recovery, Reel Recovery, and Patriot Anglers. Your participation in the auction will help fund these groups as well.

The Nolan River outing on March 17th was very well attended and from what I saw, the White Bass run was still in full swing. A big thank you goes to Russell Husted for heading up the outing and providing some helpful tips and tricks! If you missed the Burger Bar in Cleburne as a stop on the way home, you missed one of the best hamburgers around.

Russell will also host the Colorado trip to South Fork, Colo., on July 8-15. (Note: Those dates are correct – a week earlier than last year's.) Setting up lodging is up to the individual member, but the club will be based out of Foot Hills Lodge in South Fork. We will have group dinners and gatherings at that facility. Great Fun!

Finally, I will be recognizing the Board of Directors at our April club meeting. We have some very good folks who dedicate their time to running your club. The list of those folks is provided in this newsletter so I wanted to put a face to those names. Get to know them and let them know that you appreciate their work in making this a great club. It would also be the perfect time to express your desire to get involved.

Thanks again for helping make the FWF4 a huge success and for your involvement in this club.

Fish on!

Bryce Bezzant
President



March Workshop Report
Read more on page 3.



Record Striper
Read more on page 6.

Annual auction draws crowds, raises money for FWFF

Another year, another outstanding auction at the annual Fort Worth Fly Fishers Fundraising Festival, this one at Wild Acre Brewing Co. in Fort Worth. This is when the club comes together to pay for all our activities and charitable interests, and it was a great event. Many thanks to all our volunteers who made it happen!



of Directors for Fly Fishers International and member of the Board of Directors for AFFTA. She lives in Dover, Tenn.



Nationally Known Speakers Come for FWFF

May – On May 1 Rus Schwausch (pronounced “ss-wow-sh”) of EPIC Angling & Adventure will tell us about two fishing destinations-of-a-lifetime located in remote Alaska – Alaska Wilderness SAFARI and Alaska Wilderness OUTPOST. Alaska Wilderness SAFARI is written up in the book *Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die* as “arguably the most isolated coastal fishing camp in Alaska and one of the best places in the world to pursue chrome-bright, ocean-fresh salmon.” Alaska Wilderness OUTPOST is a rustic, early season camp offering excellent small stream fishing for rainbow trout, grayling, king salmon and more. You can find out more about his operations at www.epicaaa.com.

June – If you tie flies, you know the name Charlie Craven. Charlie Craven co-owns Charlie’s Fly Box, a fly shop in Arvada, Colo., and is a top-selling signature fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is a frequent contributor to magazines and top-selling author.

July/August/September – As things slow down in the heat of the Texas summer, we take a pause in the speaker’s circuit as our meetings focus on honing our fly fishing skills in tying, casting and other need-to-know information.

October – Global fly fisher and blogger Jeff Currier will make a repeat performance at FWFF. Jeff’s adventures have taken him to more than 60 countries on six continents and more than 385 fly-caught species -- and counting. That makes him one of the foremost authorities in fly fishing. Wherever he goes, Jeff brings a sense of humor.

November – TBA

December – Club Christmas Party

April Speaker

Jen Ripple, editor of *DUN Magazine*

Jen Ripple, editor and founder of *DUN Magazine*, is considered one of the most influential women in fly fishing, a demographic that is the fastest growing in the sport of fly fishing. A sounding board for women in this currently male-dominated sport, Jen has created a home base for women worldwide through *DUN* to connect and engage in the art of fly fishing. But hey, guys, also check out her motto on her business card: “Empowering Women, Not Ignoring Men.” Fair enough.

Jen is also a principal at Fly Squared Media, including *DUN* and other outdoor magazines. She is a member of the Board

Fly Tying 101 offers a great way to learn a new element of fly fishing

If you've always wanted to tie your own flies, but haven't gotten started, here's your chance. On Sunday, April 29, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fort Worth Fly Fishers will have a "Fly Tying 101" class for members who are beginners at fly tying. No previous experience is required. We provide all the tools and materials and will teach you the tips and techniques for doubling your fly fishing enjoyment by catching fish on flies that you have tied. We'll tie three basic flies that you can take home with you after the class.



Here are the details:

Where: St. Barnabas United Methodist Church, 5011 W. Pleasant Ridge Road, Arlington

When: 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., April 29

Attendance: Limited to 15 members

To enroll: Please contact our Tying Director, Barry Webster, at barrytwebster@gmail.com to reserve your seat in the class.

Sign-ups have already started. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Club members refine casting technique during March workshop with Frank Smethurst

Frank Smethurst, our March speaker, held a workshop on spey casting two days later on our own Trinity River. Eight participants got hands-on experience with the technique, which Jan Bates described like this: "What I thought was surprising was just how easy it was to learn the cast because it's really nothing more than a modified roll cast. It provides a way to get just a bit more distance when you don't have room for a back cast."

Sounds pretty useful in tight cover or just about any spot with limited space. Fishing started on still water and moved into the Clear Fork of the Trinity at Lake Benbrook. Judging by the photos, the technique was productive.



Jan Bates at the spey casting workshop.



Kevin Marlow had a big day at the workshop.



Anna Wadsworth with instructor Frank Smethurst at the workshop.

Fast fishing and hot burgers – a great outing on the Nolan River



Russell Husted

Hello fellow club members. Been a while since I have hosted an outing, and I hope I can start doing these again. The Nolan River is my favorite outing, as this place is really special to me, and many others in the club. So, when I was asked if I would host, I said no, I mean yes.



Gearing up in the dark

We were asked to move somewhere else, which we did. We moved around the block and parked on a side road to have a quick briefing, which woke up every dog in the neighborhood. Oh well, it was too dark to see our license plates. We had a briefing, and headed down to the river right at sun up.

We broke up into small groups, and it wasn't long before many were already having their rods bent from the feisty white bass, which run up into the Nolan each year from Lake Whitney. Conditions were pretty good – fresh, lightly stained water flowing.

I had informed the group ahead of time that chartreuse-and-white Clousers should work, and they did OK. But what the white bass really wanted this day was olive woolly buggers. Really, small flies in almost any color worked well that day. I believe the size of the fly is the most important element in these

conditions. As I visited with members up and down the river I saw a lot of folks having fun catching white bass, and today we had a bonus, as quite a few white crappies were caught as well.

I ended up landing about 20 and then decided, as others did as well, that a phone call to the local burger stand was needed. Calling ahead is a great way to line it out, due to the long line of others that have the same thought. When we arrived, the burgers were just being wrapped up for us to enjoy. The owners are great at names, as they remembered mine, and I have only been there once before. Yeah right!!!



Waiting for white bass on the Nolan River



Jeff Mitchell

truly enjoy with such a great group. I hope I can do more soon. Thanks for letting me host.

This was really a great outing. Most all caught some fish, and yes, a few caught quite a lot of fish. What made it great was seeing, being on the river, and doing what I



Russell Husted

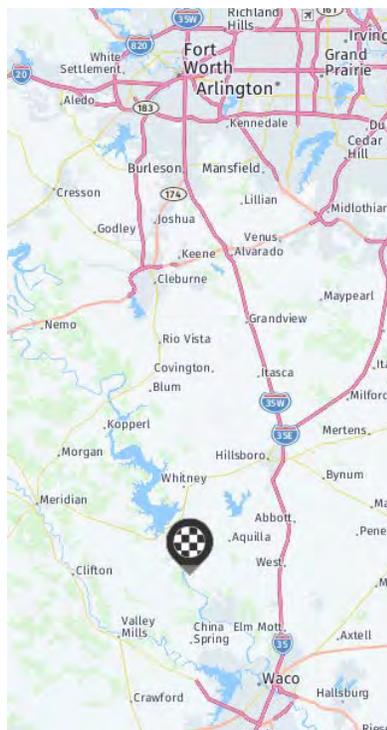
Quick Clinics

Starting at 6:45 p.m. before each monthly meeting, we hold Quick Clinics. A member of our club will present a brief review of tips for tackle, tying knots or catching a specific species of fish. Just arrive by 6:45 p.m. and look for a group in the back of the room.

April outing changed to joint event April 21 on the Brazos with Fly Fishing International

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 21, for an upcoming free event: The combined local outing/Texas Council Fly Fishing International outing from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Jack McCrary's on the Brazos river. **NOTE: This is a change from the originally scheduled outing to Lake Caddo. That trip will not take place.**

You will need a valid Texas fishing license your rods, gear, and flies to participate. If you don't have gear contact Les Jackson keebranch@yahoo.com. The Brazos has many species in this area and it might be an opportunity to catch five or six different fish species all while wading upstream or down. For those with kayaks, padding up stream and down can be fairly easy.



Lunch will be provided by the Federation in the RV park near the river. Bring the beverages of your choice along with sides. We expect to see members of other clubs at this event. We will meet in the in the camp area near the river. For more information, or to volunteer to help our beginners, contact Les Jackson, keebranch@sbcglobal.net or 817-253-0943.

For directions, see the map or click this [link](#). And bring a friend!

Les Jackson
Education Chairman

Fly Fishing 101 April 14 at Southwest Nature Preserve in Arlington



Southwest Nature Preserve fishing pond

Beginners, listen up! On Saturday April 14, you can get hands-on instruction close to home with a free Fly Fish 101 outing set for from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Southwest nature preserve, 5201 Bowman Springs Road in Arlington. You do NOT need rods or flies, but participants age 17 and older DO need a valid Texas fishing license.

On hand will be volunteer casting instructors to demonstrate the basics as well as some "fishing instructors" who will help you learn how to mend line in moving current, adjust flies for the best depth to catch fish, and help you learn the best way they know how to catch warm water fish in area lakes. Lunch will be provided up in the park. And for those who wish to remain fishing will continue. We will meet in the parking lot. For more information, or to volunteer to help our beginners, contact Les Jackson, keebranch@sbcglobal.net or 817-253-0943.

For directions, see the map or click on this [link](#). Bring a friend!

Les Jackson
Education
Chairman



First-Person Report: Adam Tate and the record striper on the Trinity River

This is an installment of what we hope will be a regular feature in the newsletter. Member Adam Tate was chasing sandies and stripers in the Trinity when he hit the jackpot. Adam provided the report and photos presented here. If you've taken a great trip and want to share the experience with FWFF members, get in touch with newsletter editor [Jim Fuquay](#).



netted the fish, and my eyes opened wide! A large white bass!! I checked the tongue for one tooth patch and measured: 17 inches on this beaut!



I put the white bass back in my net and held it in the water while I checked my phone. The catch and release record for the Trinity is 15 inches, but for a TPWD record you need a witness. I looked around. Nobody. It was a crummy day with the weather blowing in, so I took some photos and released the fish, I wouldn't get the record. I went home proud, but also burning inside. I fished it three more times with the water temp measuring anywhere from 48 to 58 degrees without a single hit. That fish was a fluke, pure luck, no reason to expect a repeat — until two weeks later.

On Feb. 5 I was trying to gear up to host Landon Mayer a day before he was set to speak to our monthly membership meeting in Fort Worth. I get a thrill out of creating the speaker presentation schedule for the club, but I get a bigger thrill pushing my skills and taking some of the best fly fishers in our nation out here on our home waters. But, I also I freak out.

Last year Landon and I went to LLELA at Lake Lewisville and chased buffalo with success. I know LLELA has a pretty high success rate in the colder months, but we had been there, done it. After wrapping up some work, I made it back to Fort Worth and thought, "Hmmm, I know it's way too early, but I need to check my spot on the Trinity." I ran home, changed, grabbed my favorite craft fur Clouser, and out the door I went.

Cast after cast, nothing. My mind was telling me, "Adam you are about 2-3 weeks too early." But I rarely — OK, never — quit when I hear that voice. So, I switched my presentation, and... WHAMM! The fish stayed in the current, so I couldn't size it up at first. Truthfully, I didn't know what I had, but it was no dink. I

I walked up to the apartment after work and found my roommate Andrew heading out the door to wet a line. Of course, I told him I'd catch up. As I walked out I checked back on my Instagram and saw it was exactly one year ago that I caught my largest white bass on the Trinity. But I'd been skunked those previous three trips, so after we both tried what we know with nothing to show for it, I remember looking over at him, and we both shook our heads.

Think, Adam: if you were a fish, where would you be? I switched it up and felt a tick. Was it for real or did just debris in the water? I repeated the same line but this time made sure to have zero slack this time. But the way the fly line ripped out of my hand, I don't think it would have mattered this time.

"ZZZZzzzzzzzz" went my reel as 8-weight line spilled out! I knew the fish was big, but it was also running downriver. Big fish and smart! I finally got the upper hand, and pulled him out of the current. Still, the fish stayed deep. Bigger fish! Then I remembered I had tied on a trailer, a tiny size 14 jig-style fly for

First-Person Report- *Contd.*

running whites. On 8-pound test! Please don't be on my bottom fly!!

My Clouser up top was on 20-pound fluorocarbon. Please be the Clouser! Then the fish kicked into a new gear, as if it just woke up from being on the kids' playground and realized it's actually fighting for gold in the Olympics. The battle was on. I yelled out to Andrew, "Homie I'm going to need your help!!" We were watching carefully for the first surface, and when it came it did not disappoint. I saw the tail splash as the fish maneuvered itself back away from me, and I almost lost my marbles.

This was going to break my personal record. I knew it instantly. Last year I landed a 24-inch hybrid on March 2, so I knew they were here. I threw my net to Andrew, knowing I needed leverage and so making my way up the bank to gain any advantage I could. Then it was in the net. And this time I had my witness.

I was shaking. "We've got to measure it," I told Andrew. The tape stretched 25.25 inches. I thought it was a striper, since there didn't seem to be the typical broken lines sported by hybrids we catch in lakes. Anywho, I made sure to get all the necessary measurements, and we released the fish. After some online debates, I decided it would be best to contact TPWD and visit with their fish biologist. In the morning, I was informed that indeed it was a hybrid striped bass. Yay, better for me, I just nailed the new Texas State Flyrod Catch and Release record! I brought this record home to Fort Worth! I was going to go after it this Summer with my dad out west, but what a beautiful blessing to come this early in February.

Thanks for reading,

Adam Tate
@reeltatetales

"He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters"

Take Advantage of Fly Fishing Educational Opportunities in 2018

For those of you who are new to the club, we have an active education program available to everyone. Once a quarter we organize a local fishing outing, which we call Fly Fish 101, dedicated to helping first timers and those with little experience fly fishing and teach them to cast, make contact with a fish and land it. In the past, we have visited the Southwest Nature Preserve in Arlington and Camp Carter in Fort Worth. In fact, on Jan. 20, more than 60 people attended our joint club outing/ Fly Fish 101 event on the Brazos River below the Possum kingdom dam near Graford. On this particular event, we focused on learning trout techniques, given that the Brazos had been stocked with rainbow trout for several weeks.

Our next Fly Fish 101 is set for April 14 at Southwest Nature Preserve, 5201 S. Bowman Springs Road. If you're a novice and want to take the full "tour," we will have casting help as well as instruction on tying on tippet and how to make fly choices for catch bream and bass. If you just want some tips, we will have mentors on location to help with that, too. Stay tuned for details.

Here are the club's other scheduled educational programs (these are all on a Saturday):

July 7 -- [Panther Island](#), 480 N. Taylor St., Fort Worth (this is a Kayak 101 event)

Sept. 8 -- Fly Fish 101 at [Camp Carter](#), 6200 Sand Springs Road, Fort Worth

Nov. 3 -- Fly Fish 101 at [Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area](#) (LLELA), 201 E. Jones St., Lewisville (at the intersection of Jones and Kealy streets)

Les Jackson
Education Director



SAVE THE DATE

April 6 & 7, 2018

4TH ANNUAL LAKE ATHENS FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

benefitting North Texas Project Healing Waters.
Serving wounded Veterans.

Join us on beautiful Lake Athens for a fun weekend of fly fishing, casting instruction, fly tying, angler education, vendors, good food and door prizes.

Donor and Vendor opportunities are still available.
To get involved & more info contact:



Fly of the Month: *Bass Gurgler*

With warmer weather quickly approaching, our thoughts generally turn to pursuing those pesky bass. Our April 2018 Fly of the Month fits that thought to a tee. From the creative tying desk of Dave Etgen comes the “Bass Gurgler”. Perfect for causing those largemouth bass (and maybe other warm water species) to jump up and take our fly.



Recipe:

Hook: Mustad 3366, TMC 8089, Gamakatsu B10S

Thread: Danville flat waxed nylon - white

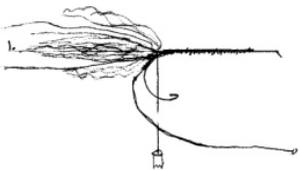
Weed Guard: Mason Hard Mono 12 - 16 lb.

Tail: Krystal Flash, Bucktail, Marabou

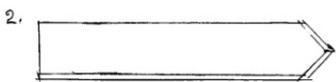
Body: 3-mm Foam, Grizzly hackle, Red hackle throat

Legs: Medium round rubber

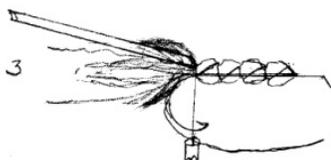
Step 1: Tie in weed guard, bucktail, flash and marabou at the bend of the hook.



Step 2: Cut a 3-mm foam strip. Cut wide as the hook gape, 2-1/2 times the hook length.

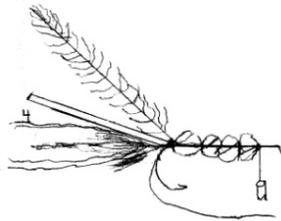


Step 3: Tie in the foam strip from the hook bend to about 3 eye diameters lengths from the hook eye (creating about four body segments).



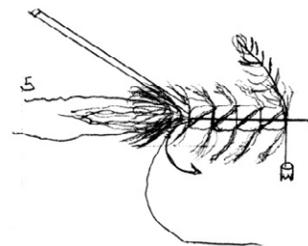
segments).

Step 4: Tie in the Grizzly hackle at the hook bend and advance



the thread to a point at first body segment.

Step 5: Palmer the hackle to the front of the body segments. Tie



in the Red hackle and make one turn of the hackle for the throat.

Step 6: Fold the foam over the body and tie down, creating a head. Trim the length of the head if necessary. Add a pair of legs to each side. Tie down the weed guard behind the eye. Dave prefers a white body with chartreuse and black tail and legs. Yellow works well also.



Barry Webster
Tying Director





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 coping 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. Retreats are conducted over a two-and-a-half-day period at a comfortable facility with onsite or nearby fishing access.



“This retreat was the most uplifting and rewarding experience of my life.” -- retreat participant

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 experience and to create a powerful, small-group dynamic.

In 2017 Texas held six retreats serving 70 courageous men living with cancer. We held 2 retreats each in Glen Rose, Navasota and Waring. We hosted our 2nd retreat in partnership with Project Healing Waters to serve only Veterans and Active Military men living with cancer.

2018 SCHEDULED TEXAS RETREATS:

Navasota, TX (Mar 16-18); Waring (April 6-8); Glen Rose (April 13-15) Waring (Sept. 21-23)

Veterans Only: Glen Rose, (Oct 12-14); Navasota (Nov. 2-4)

If you would like to be a Participant please apply on-line or contact us:

National: Toll Free 800-699-4490 info@reelrecovery.org www.reelrecovery.org

Texas: Mike Emerson 817-894-7832 mgemerson1944@gmail.com



REEL RECOVERY

EVENT TO BE HELD AT
WILD ACRE BREWING CO.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 • 5:30PM-9PM • 1734 E. EL PASO ST #190

COME AND HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS AND FRIENDS

Be Well! Fish On!



To our friend and the man that said it best.
Warren Wolf 1951-2011

WIN EXCURSIONS, COLLECTIBLES, AND LOCAL SWAG

Join us at Wild Acre Brewing for cold beers, sizzling fajitas, premium silent and live auctions, and an overall inspiring evening that you won't forget. It is our goal to pay for 60+ fighters and survivors of cancer to attend a unique fly-fishing getaway for men. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

REGISTER AT WWW.REELRECOVERY.ORG

\$60 Ticket
\$600 VIP Table of 6

Our Generous Sponsors



TELEOS
MARKETING

CALENDAR – AT A GLANCE

APRIL

April 3
Club Meeting

April 21
Joint outing on Brazos River with IFF

MAY

May 1
Club meeting

May 18-20
Camping and fishing at Bill Ward's Ranch, Mexia

JUNE

June 5
Club meeting

June 16
Outing to Paluxy River, Glen Rose

OUTINGS 2018

In 2018, our club plans to provide more organized fishing trips that members can take advantage of. Once a quarter we will have an overnight trip that will also serve as an education session for new fishers. On these trips, the Club will pay for guides to explain the area and take the attending members to locations where they can actually catch fish. This was done at our Broken Bow trip in November and was quite a success. It's also a great membership benefit.

We welcome anyone to volunteer as hosts for any of the 2018 outings. This also offers you the opportunity to take part in our VIP Volunteer Program that offers numerous prizes and incentives.

Outings will be set for the 3rd weekend of the month and may be changed in any extraordinary circumstances.

Roshan Ali
Outings Director

| DATE (2018) | LOCATION | SPECIES |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| April 21 st | Joint outing on the Brazos River with IFF | Large Mouth Bass |
| May 18 th – 20 th | Camping; Bill Ward's Ranch – kayak fishing; FF101 with Les | Bass, Panfish |
| June 16 th | Paluxy River at Glen Rose | Large Mouth Bass |
| July 8 th – 15 th | Weeklong Trip: Colorado High Country | Trout |
| August 18 th | Lake Texoma | Stripers |
| Sept 15 th | To be determined | |
| Oct 19 th – 21 st | Overnight: Coast Trip - guide provided; kayak fishing | Redfish, Speckled Trout, Drum |
| Nov 17 th | Urban Wilderness | Panfish |
| Dec 15 th | LLELA, Elm Fork of the Trinity | Buffalo, Trout |

Fly Tying Groups Around Town

One of the best ways to improve and learn new tying skills as well as make new friends is to attend one of the tying events held in our area on a weekly basis. If you are a seasoned and experienced tyer, many of us would be glad to learn a new pattern or technique from you. If you are new to the whole mystifying ordeal of putting thread and feathers on a hook, do not be intimidated. Come and watch, enjoy a cold one, and catch up on recent fishing reports.

Fort Worth

Backwoods:

1013 Foch Street

Fort Worth TX 76107

817-332-2423

Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Call ahead for details and information.

Stephen Woodcock is the Backwoods fly fishing manager and go-to guy for all your fly fishing needs. Stephen was instrumental in getting many club members into fly tying. Backwoods fly tying nights are well attended with lots of knowledgeable tyers that are willing to help and share.

Arlington

Cafe Acapulco

4001 W. Green Oaks Blvd., Suite 121

Arlington TX 76016

817-483-4171

Thursday nights: Dinner and drinks start at 5:15-5:30 p.m.

Tying starts at 6:30 p.m.

This event is usually headed by FWFF members who rotate in leading the class. The Mexican cuisine and cold drinks served by Lynda get the program rolling before tyers start making the fur, feathers and lies fly. If you don't mind a bit of rabbit fur in your salsa or peacock herl in your PBR, come join us!

Grapevine

Bass Pro Shop: Fly Fishing Department

2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051

Wednesday Night: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 10:00 a.m.

Led by "The Roadkill Round Table", this group has been tying for 35 years but welcomes new members.

FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS 2018 Board of Directors

| Position | Board Member |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Bryce Bezant |
| Vice President | Rick Hanes |
| Treasurer | Harold Hilley |
| Membership | Sharon Leissner |
| Secretary | Jan Bates |
| Speaker Director | Adam Tate |
| Outings Director | Roshan Ali |
| Tying Director | Barry Webster |
| Communications | Jim Fuquay |
| Conservation | Eric James |
| Social Relations | Jim Bass |
| Education | Les Jackson |
| Legal | Laura Walters |
| Auction/Raffles | Anna Wadsworth |
| Director at Large | Kay Jackson |



FWFF
P.O. Box 1133
Forth Worth, TX 76101
WWW.FORTWORTHFLYFISHERS.ORG

Our Purpose

"The purpose of our local club is to provide a forum for the meeting and exchange of ideas among members concerning the art of fly fishing."
Federation of Fly Fishers, Southern Council 2002 and 2003 Club of the Year, Texas Council 2014 Club of the Year