



Fort Worth

Fly Fishers

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Message From the President

March marks the beginning of a busy season for Fort Worth Fly Fishers. Although events of the past year have disrupted many of our routine activities, we continue to identify opportunities to celebrate our sport while minimizing risks associated with the pandemic. March roars in with the 6th Annual TRWD Flyfest, set for March 13. This amazing event, located on the banks of the Trinity River, promises a fun-filled day with educational exhibitions, cooking demonstrations, friendly competitions, vendors and more. We still have opportunities for volunteers. This year we are offering double VIP points for members interested in assisting us for a day or for a few hours. For more information on how you can sign up as a volunteer, contact Joy Summers at msummers123@aol.com.

On March 20, Conservation Director Emily Craig will coordinate club volunteers for the Great American Cowtown Cleanup on the Trinity River. This is a great way to give back to the Trinity River and help protect this valuable resource. If you are interested in participating in this conservation initiative, contact email at eacbonedoc@bellsouth.net.

For more on these activities, see articles within this newsletter or visit our website at fortworthflyfishers.org.

Also on March 20 we will host our annual trip to the Nolan River to pursue white bass. This is one of our most popular outings and a unique experience for those who have not participated. The event will be hosted by Russell Husted, who can be reached at russellhusted@sbcglobal.net.

As with other club activities, we will continue to promote safe practices including masks in confined areas, whether indoor or outdoor, physical distancing and completion of our club Covid waiver. There is one printed in this newsletter, or you can download on [here](#).

Continued on page 2.



March Speaker: Anthony Carruesco
Read more on page 2.



FlyFest 2021 is March 13!
Read more on page 6.

Unfortunately, I must also announce that once again, we are forced to postpone our FWFF Annual Club Auction which was scheduled for April 3. While optimistic we would be in a better position to host this event in the spring, threats of the virus still linger, creating the need for caution. We will hopefully be back on track for fall, so keep your eyes open for the rescheduled event.

I hope to see you at one or more of these fun events as we enter the spring fishing season.

Stay safe,

David Hooper, President
Fort Worth Fly Fishers

March Speaker: Anthony Carruesco of California



Anthony Carruesco, owner of AC Fly Fishing in Redding, Calif., found a passion for fly fishing at a young age. He followed that passion to the foothills of gold country and beyond, to the vast tundra of Alaska, and finally back home to Northern California, where he turned his passion into a career. A natural leader, Anthony brings together a group of like-minded guides who want nothing more than to see their clients have a great time on the water. His confidence and positive demeanor

are infectious, and a trip with Anthony is certain to make for a memorable vacation. When he isn't guiding, you can find him chasing the white ball on manicured fairways or chasing anadromous fish on the coastline.

This will be an online presentation via Zoom. Watch your email for the link to the meeting from FWFF President David Hooper. His email is president@fortworthflyfishers.org, so put that address in your safe senders or contacts to be sure you receive it. If you do not have the link on March 2, we make every effort to post it on our [website](#); just go to the home page and look for the post on the meeting.

April Speaker: Chris Johnson, Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country



Chris Johnson is the owner and founder of Living Waters Fly Fishing, a fly shop and guide service based out of Round Rock, Texas. He has guided the Texas Hill Country since 2006 and has fly fished the heart of the state for over 20 years. Chris has been a licensed guide in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Alaska. Chris is an IFFF Certified Casting Instructor, Umpqua Signature Fly Designer, Tenkara USA Guide, and TPWD Angler Educator. He is also a pro

team member for Whiting Farms, Scott Fly Rods, Dyna-King, and Scientific Anglers. Chris is dedicated to sharing his passion for the sport and investing in the next generation of fly anglers. He often is a featured presenter and fly tier at fly fishing, outdoor, and community events throughout the state.

Chris and his shop have also been featured in several outdoor publications including Trout magazine, Garden and Gun, and Tenkara Magazine. He was also awarded the 2014 Man of the Year from the IFFF Texas Council, and in the same year, Living Waters was the recipient of the IFFF's prestigious Lee Wulff Award. In addition to fly fishing, Chris is passionate about film and photography. He co-produced the short film "Unspoken," in an effort to raise awareness for Rio Grande Cutthroat trout conservation. As a result, Living Waters is working with Trout Unlimited as a Gold Level endorsed TU Business to restore Rio Grande Cutthroat throughout their native range.

Chris is happily married to his wife Emily and together they enjoy fly fishing the world and raising their children in the sport.

May Speaker: Chris Taylor, Fisheads of the San Juan River



In 1999 Chris Taylor started Fisheads guide service on the San Juan River. Over the years business grew and in 2006 Fisheads became an Orvis endorsed guide service. Being named Orvis guide service of the year in 2008. In April of 2010 expansion continued and in addition to its world class guide service, Fisheads also became a full service lodge complete with guest suites, conference room,

restaurant—The Back Cast Café, catering and fly shop. Whether it is business or pleasure, novice or veteran, Fisheads friendly and knowledgeable staff is pleased to serve all of your needs during your stay on the San Juan.

FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS

KAYAK/PONTOON RAFFLE 2021

*3 Chances to Win

CONTACT BILL HODGES FOR TICKETS: bcolhodes@aol.com

1ST PRIZE

JACKSON "MAYFLY" 2019

Color: Color to Be Determined



The 2021 Mayfly is a fly fishing oriented sit-on-top, loaded with features to make kayak fly fishing more fun and user friendly. The MayFly has a versatile hull optimized for tracking, stability, and speed in popular fly fishing conditions and destinations, including tropical flats, slow-moving rivers, lakes and ponds. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by fly fisherman, particularly fly line management, the MayFly includes a myriad of design aspects to address the needs of fly fisherman creating the ultimate kayak fly fishing platform. Snag-free footrests and features, protected fly box storage, unique fly rod storage options, rod butt props for dealing with tangles, integrated and protected fly patches, and more cater to the high-performance features expert fly fisherman need while being versatile and stable enough to bring new anglers to the sport.



- NEW Elite Seating System
- Snag free wide open standing area
- Snag free one-piece foot brace system with line anchor to secure fly line while paddling
- Large stern well designed for JKooler or Orion 25 Cooler
- Snag free bungee flip down fly box holders lined with foam
- Storage for fly gear like nippers, forceps and tippet
- Bow hatch storage bin for fly vests, hip packs, or others items for easy access when wade fishing
- Hi-Lo, trimmable seating
- Aluminum accessory tracks
- Raymarine transducer scupper
- Standing pad
- Specialized fly rod storage with molded in reel pockets
- Rod butt props to help with line tangles

SEE SAMPLE
AT
"FLYFEST"
MARCH 13

2nd PRIZE

KI LAGOON 10XL

Color: To Be Determined



FEATURES OF LAGOON 10XL

Deck Pad, Skid Pad, Drain Plug, Cup Holder, Paddle Holder
Three Hatches, Perimeter Rope, Handles and Tracks,
Scuppers and Scupper Plugs, 2 Flush Mount Rod Holders
High/Low Metal Frame Seat, Removable Center Rod Holder

Length 10' Capacity 300 Lbs Width 33" Weight 55 Lbs

3RD PRIZE

CLASSIC ACCESSORIES -ROANOKE

8' Inflatable Pontoon

Color: Blue

features 2 armrest pockets,
this boat has room for all your gear.
With oars and a padded swivel seat, this
boat includes everything you need to get
out to the lake in comfort.

- Supports up to 350 lbs. (person and gear)
- Suitable for Class 1 river use
- 96 in. Long x 55 in. Wide x 27.5 in. High (to top of seat)
- Weight 39 Lbs



1 TICKET \$ 20
6 TICKETS \$ 100

Drawing WILL occur at Sept. 18, 2021, Wild Acre Brewery Company

Attendance not required to WIN.

www.jacksonkayak.com

www.kayakinstruction.com

www.fortworthflyfishers.org

Trinity River Volunteers Needed

The Cowtown Great American Cleanup is set for March 20, and the registration site is now open. To sign up, lick here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6a850d27f52643ab9d5e0a442bc95f>

We are requesting that everyone register individually or as a family. This way you can choose the size of gloves and t-shirt(s) that you want. On the registration form there is a question that asks you to choose your preferred location for clean-up. **To be a part of the FWFF team effort, please click “Other (Choose your own)” and then type in “Trinity River Behind Press Café”.**

- Hub 8: Trinity River (Panther Island to Mayfest Low Water Dam) Optional kayak rental: \$10 ea.
- Hub 9: Trinity River (I-35W to Belknap at Riverside Park)
- Other (Choose your own)

As a reminder, Fort Worth Fly Fishers was invited to participate in this year’s Cowtown Great American Cleanup by adopting a section of the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. This event is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Organizers have asked us to concentrate our efforts on the stretch of river between the Press Café and Lower Dam #2, which is where the river flows under the Hulen Street Bridge. This section was chosen because some parts are quite shallow and could be cleaned by people in waders. There is also a section that is deeper that could be cleaned up by fishers in kayaks. The back-up date is Sunday, March 21, for us “river rats” in case the weather is rainy or extremely windy.

This event is sponsored by Keep Fort Worth Beautiful, and KFWB provides gloves and trash bags to all registered participants. Event t-shirts are also provided to the first 5,000 registrants! An overwhelming percentage of FWFF members indicated that they would like to see more conservation activities, so **now is your chance to volunteer and earn VIP bucks, too.**

Emily Craig, FWFF Conservation Director, is club coordinator for the cleanup, so if you have any questions, please contact her at eacbonedoc@bellsouth.net or 859-396-6389. You can also contact club President David Hooper at hoopertx@sbcglobal.net. We will send more information to registered volunteers as we get closer to the date.

Thanks for volunteering!

March 20 Outing : Annual White Bass Run on the Nolan River



FWFF member Anna Wadsworth with a Nolan River white bass.

The time is near for my favorite season of the year: Springtime and white bass fishing. Every spring, white bass run up creeks and rivers for their annual spawn. Large numbers of white bass, AKA sand bass, can be concentrated in small sections of water, exposing themselves to be caught on a variety of flies and tactics. My favorite fly to use on sand bass are simple: the jig fly, Clouser minnow, bent-back minnow and a few other simple patterns.

Gear recommendations:

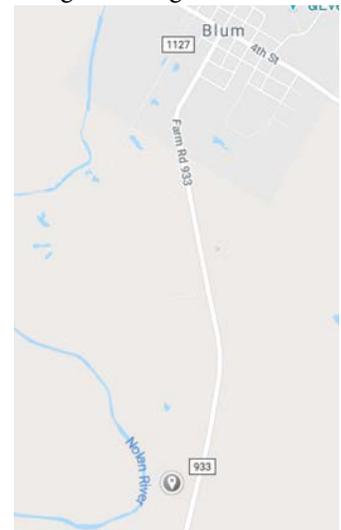
- 9-foot, 5-weight or 6-weight rod with floating line
- Intermediate sink tip line always works well for getting flies deeper
- 7-foot to 9-foot, 3x or 4x mono leader
- Flies: Minnow imitations like Clouser Minnow, Cypert Minnow, Murdich minnow, The Moreau Fly

Please join the club’s March 20 outing on the Nolan River near Blum off Texas 933. A short distance from Cleburne, the Nolan River is one of my favorite white bass locations. With clear water, limestone bluffs and cedar trees, the Nolan is a beautiful place to go. We will meet in Blum for a briefing, then head on down to the parking area off Texas 933 to gear up and chase some sandies (as white bass are called in Texas).

The outing is a day trip and we will spread out on the river to avoid crowding. The Burger Bar (109 N. Anglin St. in Cleburne; 817/645-9031) is just off US 67, has great burgers and fries, and orders can be called in ahead of time. To sign up or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Outings host Russell Husted at russellhusted@sbcglobal.net, (972)-567-4155 or Outings Director Chris Patnode at chrispatnode@benekeith.com, (817)819-5519.

NOTE: We have a new Covid-19 waiver form that is printed nearby. Please either print one and sign it (next page) or be prepared to sign one at the outing.

Thanks, and see you there.
Russell Husted



Release and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. **COVID-19 is extremely contagious** and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

Fort Worth Fly Fishers, Inc. (“FWFFI”) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the Club **cannot guarantee** that you will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, **attending FWFFI outings could increase** your risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I agree to comply with preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. I further acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending a FWFFI outing and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at a FWFFI outing may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, FWFFI members, volunteers, agents, contractors, and outing participants.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with my attendance or participation in an FWFFI outing (“Claims”). On my behalf, and on behalf of anyone claiming by or through me, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless FWFFI, its members, agents, volunteers, contractors, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, demands, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to COVID-19. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of FWFFI, its members, agents, contractors, volunteers, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in a FWFFI outing.

Signature of Participant	Date
Print Name of Participant	

FlyFest 2021 is March 13!



In just a few short years the Tarrant Regional Water District's annual Flyfest has grown into an event attracting hundreds to the banks of the Trinity River in Fort Worth to enjoy and learn about fly fishing. The 2021 Flyfest promises to continue the success, with contests, speakers and demonstrations. Fort Worth Fly Fishers is one of the sponsors

and provides many of the volunteers that are so critical to making Flyfest the hit it has become.

NOTE: Due to the ongoing pandemic, prevailing public health rules will apply regarding the use of face masks and social distancing.

This year Texas Parks and Wildlife will stock 1,800 pounds of rainbow trout in the Trinity River at the Flyfest site near the Acme Brick headquarters complex, providing plenty of targets for the fishing competitions, including the Orvis Big Trout Contest.

We are now offering current, paid members, interested in volunteering at TRWD Flyfest 2021, **double** VIP volunteer credit hours for the FWFF VIP program. This is a great way to earn additional VIP points in a year that has had minimal volunteer opportunities. We have all types of positions available for this annual event. If you can give us all day or just a few hours, please contact Joy Summers at msummers123@aol.com. This is a great way to earn double VIP points while having a great time and meeting fellow anglers.

Additionally, TRWD Flyfest promises to appeal to the whole family with live music and a host of children's activities, including a mini stocked tank for fishing. There is a rock-climbing wall, face painting. Food, craft beer and shopping vendors will make it fun for everyone!

And check out the list of speakers and presenters:

9 - 9:50 a.m.	Chris Johnson	Fly Fishing the Republic of Texas
10 - 10:50 a.m.	Russell Husted and Steven Woodcock	Fly Fishing the Trinity
11 - 11:50 a.m.	Brett Delk	12 Places to Fish each Month
12 - 12:50 p.m.	Frank Smethurst	DIY Fly Fishing in Texas
1 - 1:50 p.m.	Johnny Walker	Catching Spawning Bass on Lake Fork
2 - 2:50 p.m.	Stacy Lynn	Fly Fishing the Texas Coast
Fly Tying		
9 - 9:50 a.m.	Dutch Baughman	The Chironomid
10 - 10:50 a.m.	Mike Morphew	Fly Patterns for Show Cases and English Patterns
11 - 11:50 a.m.	Chris Johnson	Hill Country Essentials
12 - 12:50 p.m.	Russell Husted	Tying Simple Patterns/Instructional
1 - 1:50 p.m.	Barry Webster	The Stimulator
2 - 2:50 p.m.	Kyle Hand	The Mickey Finn
Castings Classes		
10 - 10:30 a.m.	Stacy Lynn	Women's Casting
10 - 10:50 a.m.	CCI	Casting Faults and Fixes
11 - 11:50 a.m.	CCI	Casting Analysis
12 - 12:50 p.m.	Stacy Lynn	Women's Casting
1 - 1:50 p.m.	CCI	Casting Faults and Fixes
2 - 2:50 p.m.	CCI	Casting Analysis

For more information on TRWD Flyfest, visit www.trwdflyfest.com

Bill Ward Ranch Outing near Mexia is April 23-25



Spring is coming, and that means it's nearly time for our annual outing to Bill Ward's ranch and its wonderful quarry lakes and largemouth bass. As always, there is bank fishing, but a kayak really comes in handy. Also note that printed in the newsletter is a Covid liability waiver form. We need all participants to

Ward Ranch Outing- Contd.

sign one. We encourage mask use and social distancing when appropriate.

Here are the details:

- **Host:** Bill Hodges, FWFF past-president
- **When:** Friday, April 23, through Sunday, April 25 (you can, of course, depart Saturday as well)
- **Where:** West of Mexia (muh-HAY-uh), The Bill Ward Ranch
- **How to get there:** (This location is not GPS-friendly, so pay attention!) From Fort Worth, take Interstate 35W south to Hillsboro, then Texas 171 east to Coolidge; go west from Coolidge on Texas 73 about a FM 2310, and turn left (south). Go about six miles to US 84, then left (east) on US 84 towards Mexia. Cross over Lake Mexia and continue about a mile to the intersection of County Road 2681 and 199/198. Turn left (north) on 199/198 and then left again in a block. Follow it around the curve and go less than a mile to the top of a hill. Look for the maroon gate on the right. It should be open Follow the road past Bill Ward's house and down to the lake on a grass road.
- **Accommodations:** This is tent camping primarily. There are electrical hook-ups for RVs, CPAPs and electric knives. Mexia is to the east on US 84, where there are nice motels available.
- **What to Bring:** Watercraft to get around on this quarry and other small lakes. If you don't have one, maybe borrow one that's not in use by an attendee. Bring 3- to 6-weight rods for bass and sunfish. Good flies are Woolly Buggers and other streamers, poppers, terrestrials, etc. FWFF member James Parker, who sadly passed away this year, was a champion bass fisherman. He favored conventional fishing gear here, so feel free to do the same. It will not bring insults from the rest of us. A memorial plaque for James will be posted at the quarry.
- **Food:** Plan on bringing your own food for Friday. We have done group dinners in the past, but this year will do what is appropriate given the pandemic. Stay tuned
- **Why attend:** The Ward Ranch outing is always one of the most popular for our club, going back about six years and often held twice a year. Bill and his friend, Kent Yelverton, offer their many lakes for our fishing pleasure. New members should come and enjoy the friendship of other members, learn from our mentors, sit around and lie about your catch, etc.

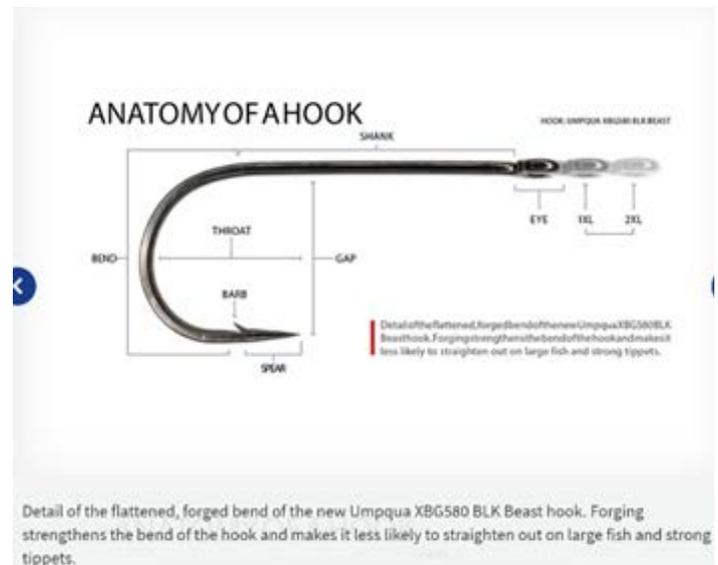
RSVP: Let us know if you plan to come for one, two, or all three days. Please **text me** at bcolhodes@aol.com. I will be happy to answer any questions and text you back. You will never regret coming to this fun outing.

Fly of the Month: Making Sense of Hooks *Understanding sizing, shapes, and proportions*

It's rare for me to spend a day teaching or working in the shop without some poor soul asking me to explain the merits of this hook or that hook, and the reasoning behind why I might choose one brand or model over another. There's good reason for this. Like tying thread (see my story "A Tangled Mess" in the Feb.-Mar. 2017 issue), hook sizing and nomenclature seem almost purposefully confusing, so let me give my best shot at clearing up some of that confusion.

To make sure I address all the right questions, as I write this article, I have ten different size 14 hooks sitting on my desk. No two are the same size, length, or shape, and gazing upon them does nothing to shine any light on why they are all so different, so let's start at the beginning and talk about how hook sizes work.

To understand how hook sizes and styles vary, it's important to define the parts that make up a hook.



The hook gap (sometimes called the hook gape) is the distance from the point to the shank. The shank is the (usually) straight portion of the hook between the eye and the bend. Some hooks, however, have curved or humped shanks that are not straight at all. Curved-shank hooks mimic the shapes of many insect larvae and pupae, as well as the body shapes of crustaceans. A curved shank can orient the rear of the fly under the surface in floating patterns like the [Quigley Cripple](#) or the [Klinkhamer Special](#).

The bend is where the shank starts to curve, as well as that entire radius encompassing the curvature down to the point. On

Fly of the Month: Making Sense of Hooks - *Contd.*

curved-shank hooks, the shank and bend are often continuous with no clear line of distinction between where the shank stops and the bend begins.

The spear of the hook is the length of the tapered point to the barb or, in the absence of a barb, where it would be. The throat is the distance/depth from the point of the hook to the inside of the bend.

The hook eye is the loop at the front of the hook through which you tie your tippet. The eye can be turned up, turned down, or straight (ring eye). Turned-down eyes are the most common, though straight-eye hooks have gained significant popularity in recent years. Straight-eye hooks swim better and more in line with the tippet in the case of streamers, and in very small hook sizes, they obstruct the hook gap to a lesser degree. Up-eye hooks are common in heavier steelhead and salmon patterns and traditional trout fly patterns.

The barb is the small sticker angled away from the point, intended to make hook removal difficult. Even if you pinch the barb down (as I recommend) the remaining bump still helps anchor the point in a fish. It also helps retain a dropper tied to the hook bend.

The point obviously is the sharp part, but it goes without saying that some hooks are sharper than others. Almost all hooks today are chemically sharpened, which means after the mechanical sharpening, the manufacturer uses an acid bath to dissolve the hook point, making it sharper.

With these terms defined and understood, let's look at how they relate to one another, most specifically, the relationship between the hook gap and the shank.

Hook sizes historically are based on the gap of the hook. The size of the hook has nothing to do with the shank length, only the gap. So, all size 18 hooks ought to have the same size gap, right? Well, in a perfect world they would, but in this day of unbridled design and outright lies, this "standard" is very loosely employed. To truly understand hook sizing, we've got to start off with an imaginary "standard" hook and extrapolate from there.

A standard hook is supposed to have a hook shank equal to twice the width of the hook gap. It is with this "standard" hook in mind that we can begin to understand the variations in gap and length and how they relate to one another.

As I mentioned earlier, this "standard hook" is really a fantasy, and in all my years of tying I have yet to come across this perfect example but using it as a baseline is a good way to understand hook sizing. Once the baseline is established, hooks vary far and wide with extra-long (XL) or extra-short (XS) shanks, wide-gap (WG), extra-heavy (XH) or extra-fine (XF) wire sizing and offset points, among other variations.



Articulated patterns such as Charlie Craven's new streamer the Swim Coach use two hooks—the Swim Coach has a size 4 hook in the rear, and a size 2 in the front. Photo courtesy of Umpqua Feather Merchants / Jake Burlison.

Extra-long hooks have a shank length longer than two hook gap widths. These are often denoted as 1XL or 2XL, all the way up to 9XL in the case of some streamer-style hooks. The additional increments in shank length are based off the diameter of the hook eye in these cases, so a 2XL hook has a shank length of two hook gaps plus two eye lengths. Conversely, extra-short hooks are reduced by that same hook eye length increment, so a 3XS hook has a shank length of two hook gaps minus three eye lengths. These variations allow for flies of various lengths and shapes, and accommodate the addition of beads and coneheads without increasing or decreasing the hook gap disproportionately.

Lengthening and shortening shank lengths seems to make reasonable sense and is easy to follow once you have an idea of where things start, but when you start adding in gap width variations, everything goes to hell. Many hooks these days have a nonstandard wide gap, that is, a gap wider than the standard half a shank length (which could also be correctly construed as a shorter shank, just to confuse things further). Wide-gap hooks allow more room for thicker-bodied flies, and they increase the chances of the hook finding a home in a fish's mouth. The increments in which a hook gap is increased are by hook sizes. For instance, a 1X wide-gap size 14 hook should have a gap equal to that normally found on a size 12 standard hook. A 2X wide-gap size 14 should sport the gap normally found on a size 10 standard hook, and so forth. For the record, I have never encountered any hooks labeled with a narrower-than-standard gap, though some of the wide variety of available hook bend shapes certainly contribute to narrowing the hook gap.

To add complexity, also consider the variations in wire sizing. Some hooks are made of wire heavier (X-heavy) or lighter (X-fine) than what would be considered standard, so a size 14 1X-heavy hook is made from wire normally used on a standard size 12 hook, and a 2X-heavy size 14 would be made of wire

Fly of the Month: Making Sense of Hooks - *Contd.*

typically used in a standard size 10 hook. That same size 14 in 1X-fine would be made from wire normally used in a standard size 16. Obviously, heavy wire hooks are stronger and physically heavier for bigger fish, or for sinking flies quickly. Lighter wire can be advantageous in keeping small, delicate dry flies floating. The trade-offs are that the wire size can get too big to provide good penetration on a hook-set, or in some cases the wire could be too light to stand up to larger fish and strong tippets.

With the basic nomenclature and sizing understood, let's move on to the difference between good hooks and bad hooks. In nearly every case, it boils down to the tempering and forging process used to strengthen the wire.

Tempering is a complicated heat-treating process that renders the steel wire used to make hooks both stronger and more elastic. A batch of hooks with a bad temper can be brittle and break easily, or they can be soft and bend out of shape on the fish of your dreams.

I won't pretend to know the ins and outs of the entire tempering process, as I am just a guy who has wrapped a few miles of thread around hooks and thrown them at an awful lot of fish. I can say that I have yet to find an inexpensive hook that is worth tying a fly on. Quality hooks don't straighten, bend, or break as easily as cheaper hooks. To put it in perspective, expensive hooks are still the cheapest pieces of tackle you own, and also the most important. I can't think of anything worse than tying a bunch of great flies on garbage hooks.

Modern Hooks

The influence of competitive fly fishers in recent years has made competition-style hooks extremely popular. According to the rules of FIPS/Mouche, the official governing body for international fly-fishing competitions, the hooks in these contests must be completely barbless. While the competition hooks that have evolved from these events come in all shapes and sizes, they often feature a very wide gap, and a long point and spear to better

hold the fish in the absence of a barb. For some reason, many of them tend to be black, a feature that adds a degree of stealth and dare I say panache if not for any more practical advantage.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the growing popularity of jig-style hooks—also adopted from the competitive fly-fishing scene. Flies tied on jig hooks with heavy tungsten beadheads are filling fly boxes across the country. Jig hooks for fly fishing are typically barbless and are available with the hook eye set at 60 degrees or 90 degrees in relation to the hook shank. The 60-degree versions have a more exposed hook gap but require a slightly heavier bead to keep them riding with the hook point up. Regular 90-degree jig hooks ride hook point up more consistently but are more prone to break at the bend due to the aggressive reshaping of the hook.

Jigs are very effective at hooking fish in the top of the snout, a perfect place to find good purchase and steer the fish during the fighting and landing process. That's one reason competitive fly fishers use them. The biggest advantage, however, is that they are less prone to snagging the bottom.

I hope that the preceding has helped provide a general understanding of how hook proportions and shapes affect fly design and your own tying. The hook is the foundation of what you build, so it's important to choose the right hook for the job. As with thread, there is no real base industry standard, so styles and baselines range widely among manufacturers.

These rules of thumb tend to apply broadly to all hooks, but are more accurate when taken into consideration among hooks of the same brand, and even then there are always a few outliers. This broadly sweeping guideline is just that and should be used as such. Good luck!

Click here for Charlie's Video: [Making Sense of Hooks.](#)

Reprinted with permission. Charlie Craven co-owns Charlie's Fly Box, recently moved to 7279 W. 52nd Ave. in Arvada, Colorado. He is the author of four books, most recently *Tying Streamers: Essential Flies and Techniques for the Top Patterns* (Stackpole Books, April 2020).

Charlie Craven



CLUB ACTIVITIES

2021 OUTINGS CALENDAR			
DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES	HOST
March 20,2021	Nolan River near Blum, Texas	White bass	Russell Husted
April 23-25,2021	Bill Ward Ranch near Mexia, Texas	Bass and panfish	Bill Hodges
TBD - May	San Marcos River with Greg Welander	Bass	
June 18-20,2021	Texas Coast on the Fly	Speckled trout, redfish, black drum	Bryce Bezant and Brett Morehead
July	South Fork, Colorado	Trout	Russell Husted
August			
Sept. 18,2021	Spivey Crossing near Aquilla	bass, striper, drum, carp	
Oct. 15-17,2021	Oktoberfisch - Edgewater Resort Complex on the Pedernales River	Bass	Fredericksburg Fly Fishers
Nov. 19-21,2021	Lower Illinois River near Gore, Oklahoma	Trout,bass,catfish,drum	

Volunteer Incentive Program Deadline Extended to June 31, 2021

The Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is now in its third year of recognizing and rewarding members who give time and experience to help others enjoy our great sport. Unfortunately, there have not been a lot of opportunities to jump in and help in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That being the case, we are extending the 2020 program to June 30, 2021. A new VIP session starts July 1, 2021, and will run through 2022.

Here's a quick reminder of how the program works:

- Encourages and rewards volunteerism on behalf of the club and its programs
- Recognizes volunteers who work at club-sponsored events, help on an outing or host an outing
- Tracks volunteer hours by an initialed square on a VIP card
- Awards a minimum of 12 hours for hosting an outing

Here are the 2020 prizes:

- First Place: 600 VIP Bucks for most volunteer hours
- Second Place: 500 VIP Bucks for second-most volunteer hours
- Third Place: 300 VIP Bucks for third-most volunteer hours

- Three prizes of 150 VIP Bucks to qualifying members whose names are drawn at random
- Only one prize per participant. Only the winners can redeem their VIP Bucks for prizes

There are several things that members participating in VIP need to do:

- Turn in cards as you earn hours or once a card is full (12 hours). Give cards to Bryce Bezant or place them in the VIP bucket at meetings. Photos or scans of cards can also be emailed to rbbezant@outlook.com or texted to 817-360-6672.
- All VIP cards MUST have the member's name on the card to get credit.
- Members are responsible for their own cards and getting hours signed off.
- The club is not responsible for lost or stolen VIP cards
- Lost cards cannot be "re-created."

To keep up with the club's volunteer opportunities and events, please visit the website at fortworthflyfishers.org. It is a great program. Please participate!

2021 Membership Renewals Start Nov. 1

Our Fort Worth Fly Fishing memberships run for a calendar year. November marks the beginning of our renewal season. This year our goal is to have all members renewed by Jan. 1, 2021. This will assure members continue, without delay, to receive all the benefits of our local club plus the many educational benefits we earn from being a charter club to Fly Fishers International.

Remember! When you join FWFF the automatically receive membership in FFI. If you go through FFI, you do NOT get a new membership in FWFF. So always go through FWFF for your annual membership renewal.

The easiest way to sign up or renew membership is online . A step-by-step guide to using our website is on Page 7 of this newsletter. A printable form is also in this newsletter.

How to renew online:

1. Go to the website at www.fortworthflyfishers.org, and click on Member Login.



2. Log in with the email address you used when you last renewed. If you haven't logged in to the new website, click "Request Password." Your email address will receive a randomly generated password, which you can later change.



Sign In
with your email and password.

Email

Password

Sign In

Request Password
We will email you a new password so you can access your account.

3. Click on "My Account" button on the Membership Welcome! page.

Newsletter Archives

Fly of the Month Archives

Casting Archi



Club Business



My Account

4. First, this is a good time to update your personal information, such as address and contact number listed under the "About" tab. You can also add as much or as little as you wish under the "Profile" tab. Now click on the "Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing" button.

Password
[Change](#)

Single Member

Membership expires on Jan 01 2020

[Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing](#)

Save & Continue

[Skip](#)

5. Click on the type of membership you want: Family, Single or Student. The Yearly Fee will be automatically displayed to match your selection. Then fill in your name, home address and credit card data. Click the "Save & Continue" button.

Single Member

Student Membership

Yearly Fee

\$35 / year

\$70 payment due today for period through Jan 01 2020

Name on card

Billing address

City, state/province, postal code

Credit/debit card number

Card number MM / YY

Save & Continue

[Skip](#)

That's it! You're good for another year of membership in Fort Worth Fly Fishers.

Printable membership form



FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS
Membership Form

Name:

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ (Alternate): _____

Email Address: _____

Membership type (circle one): Current member New member

DUES: Individual \$35; Family \$40; Student \$25

Total Paid: _____ Received By: _____ Date: _____

ALL MEMBERS NEW AND OLD!

Please fill out this form and mail or bring it to the next membership meeting. Be sure to fill it in completely

In order to be enrolled for membership. Please provide all information to allow us to keep our records up to date.

Questions? Email us at president@fortworthflyfishers.org

Mail address: Fort Worth Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 1133, Fort Worth, TX 76101

Visit our website for more info: www.fortworthflyfishers.org

FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS Board of Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	David Hooper	2020-21
Vice President	Bryce Bezant	2020-21
Treasurer	Liz Davis	2020-21
Secretary	Joy Summers	2020-21
Membership	Brett Morehead	2021-22
Speaker Director	Reid Winger	2021-22
Outings Director	Chris Patnode	2021-22
Tying Director	Jack Gillis	2021-22
Communications	Jim Fuquay	2020-21
Conservation	Emily Craig	2020-21
Social Relations	Vacant	2021-22
Education	Brad Dodson	2021-22
Legal	Mike Nelson	2020-21
Auction/Raffles	Vacant	2021-22
Director at Large	Jim Bass	2020-21



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*