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Message From the President

February is usually the time when we start looking for the change in wintry weather to take a turn for the better. That means it's time to think about the sand bass run. It can start as early as the end of February and it goes into March. According to the old timers, "when the redbuds start blooming, the sand bass start running."

For those of you who are new to fly fishing, sand bass (aka white bass) leave area lakes and run up the tributary rivers to spawn. For us, the best place is the Nolan River that runs out of Lake Whitney. The males start moving up the river first and wait for the females to come in to spawn. The dance is on!

A good sand bass run begins and depends on good rainfall over the winter. We're fortunate that has happened for this year's season. Plus, the lakes are full, which helps the fish move up. More spring rains will help it too. Fingers crossed; it should be a good season.

Greg Welander with Upstream on the Fly will be our February speaker on this topic. He'll share where to go, what flies to use and other tips. Don't miss learning how to prepare for this fun season in fly fishing. We're also planning an outing on March 23rd to the Nolan River, so stay tuned!

The club is also preparing for Trinity FlyFest, March 9. (<https://trinityflyfest.com/>) where we help supply most of the volunteers. By volunteering, you will earn hours for the club's Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) where you accumulate hours to be considered for prizes at the end of the year.

We need people to work our booth and sell kayak raffle tickets; be on the river for the trout fishing competition (recording the catches of the teams); and the casting games (measuring distance and accuracy). It's easy and fun!

Trinity FlyFest is a super event for Fort Worth. It's free to the public, and more than 1,500 people attend. PLEASE consider volunteering for this fun event. You can work a shift and then go enjoy a leisurely day. To volunteer, contact Brett Morehead, our volunteer coordinator, at brett.j.morehead@gmail.com.

For now, let's have a great finish to trout season before Spring arrives.

Tight lines,

Kay Jackson



Upcoming Speakers

February

Greg Welander returns as speaker of the month with a presentation on Texas' popular white bass run, which generally commences in early spring. Greg is a lifelong angler who started fishing at the early age of four. He first picked up a fly rod in 1998 while living in North Texas and hasn't looked back. In 2004, he took up the art of fly tying. Greg has been a fly tying instructor since 2010.



Greg Welander & Friend

In Texas, he has fly fished everything from stripers on the Red River below Lake Texoma to redbass of the Lower Laguna Madre. The Texas Hill Country streams and lakes are where he first started guiding clients back in 2012.

Greg was the fly fishing manager for seven of the nine years he worked at an Austin premier fly fishing/firearms specialty store. He currently is an Independent manufacturing sales rep for a variety of companies in fly fishing and outdoor activities.

Greg resides in North Texas. You will find him guiding fly fishers on North Texas waters, including the Brazos River and smaller tributaries such as the Paluxy River. He also offers trips on various area lakes north, west and south of Fort Worth.

You can follow Greg's fly fishing journey through @upstreamonthefly on Facebook, Instagram and his website: www.upstreamonthefly.com.

March

Nick Streit of Taos, N.M., is presenting a session titled "Where are the fish? Reading water, finding trout and strategies to catch them." Given the variety of waters in his native New Mexico, it should be just the topic for our club.

Nick was born into a fly-fishing dynasty. His father, Taylor, started guiding anglers in northern New Mexico in the late



Nick Streit & Friend

70s and has literally wrote the book on fly fishing New Mexico. His uncle, Jackson, likewise owns and operates The Mountain Angler in Breckenridge, Colo., and authored the book *Fly Fishing Colorado*.

Getting into the family business at an early age, Nick was guiding fisherman before he was old enough to drive them to the river, and by the age of 17 was a member of the U.S. fly fishing team that took second place in the World Championships in Wales. After college, Nick followed his father's footsteps to such fly fishing destinations as the Bahamas and Argentina. He also ventured out on his own for a brief stint guiding in Alaska.

But the call of his home waters could not be denied, and in 2004 Nick, along with his wife Chrissy, re-opened the Taos Fly Shop (in the same location his father had the store in the 80s). The shop has grown from its humble beginnings and is now northern New Mexico's premier fly shop. In 2012, Nick and longtime friend and fellow guide Ivan Valdez purchased The Reel Life, a fly shop and guide service in Santa Fe.

Nick now spends the majority of his time running his two businesses, guiding and leading classes. In the winter, he hosts group trips to Argentina, Cuba and beyond. Nick also enjoys photography and his work has been featured in publications such as *Southwest Fly Fishing* and *New Mexico Magazine*.

Nick is also a passionate conservationist, volunteering his efforts over the years to organizations like Trout Unlimited. He is also the director of Friends of the Rio Grande del Norte national monument, an organization focused on conservation and community outreach.

If not at work, Nick is usually camping, hunting or fishing in the woods somewhere with Chrissy and their two children, Taylor and Christian.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

DATE	EVENT/DESTINATION
Saturday, January 27	Trout 101 at HGWY 16 Bridge below Possum Kingdom Lake
Saturday, February 24	Trout at the Blue River in Oklahoma
Saturday, March 23	White Bass on the Nolan River
Saturday, April 6	Bill Ward Ranch and total solar eclipse; Saturday, Sunday and half-day Monday

Fort Worth Fly Fishers Outings and Events

Hello club members! 2024 is shaping up to be a good year!

The FWFF calendar of events is already filling up fast! Not only with club activities, but also including events across the state. So, let's start filling the dates in.

The club will start the year with a Trout 101 in January. Located at the Texas 16 bridge below Possum Kingdom Lake, this will be a fun filled day. There will be trout fishing, a hatchery tour, assistance for any level of fishing, and a picnic lunch to top off the day. We will meet up and discuss the day at 7:30 a.m., and go from there.

In February, if conditions are still good, we will head back up to the Blue River for one last attempt at some good trout fishing. Located near Tishimongo, Okla., the Blue River will have a lot of trout for us to go after, including some huge ones. While the location is in Oklahoma, a day trip is still in play. You can easily get there in two and a half hours or less, and make it back home for dinner.

March is time for my favorite outing on the Nolan River near Blum. White bass will start running up into the creeks and rivers here in North Texas. And with a wet forecast from now through spring, this could be one of the best white bass runs in years! Let's hope for that. The Nolan River runs from the Cleburne area into the Brazos River above Lake Whitney, and in the spring is actually one of the prettiest areas to fish. With the bluebonnets and redbud trees blooming, the river runs through limestone rocks and cliff formations, which really add to the white bass run experience.

The April outing is in the planning stages, and it looks like we will be returning to one of our favorite locations, Bill Ward's Ranch near Mexia. It's a great place for our annual spring outing to chase after black bass and panfish. Several lakes to fish from, great camping, and fellowship with other members are what to expect. This time we are arriving on Saturday, and will stay through Monday afternoon, with the highlight of the trip being the TOTAL Eclipse viewing, which will occur Monday

afternoon. Read about the eclipse and timing here.

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>



Russell Husted & Saly Thao

Texas Council Fly Fishers International

Other events happening in the state that you might want to add to your own calendar. A lot of us will be attending and volunteering at these events.

- Jan. 27 Ed Rizzolo tying event hosted by the Texas Fly Fishers, Houston
- Feb. 16-18 Troutfest 2024 on the Guadalupe River
- March 1-2 Red River Rendezvous at Eisenhower State Park, Denison
- March 9 FlyFest in Fort Worth

Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP)

Fort Worth Fly Fishers' Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is designed to encourage and reward volunteerism on behalf of the club and its activities.

The VIP program year runs for the calendar year. Only volunteer hours accrued during this timeframe are eligible. No hours can be carried over from the following program year(s).

Members earn volunteer hours at club-sponsored events such as working with a board members on any committees, volunteering at an event (club sponsored or a civic activity conducted on behalf of the club) or hosting or helping the host at outings.

Only activities that are sanctioned by the Board of Directors and that have a direct connection to FWFF programs can be considered for volunteer hours.

Example of these but not limited to are

- conservation projects
- cause groups that the club supports
- TRWD Fly Fest
- outings
- FF 101
- casting clinics etc.

Work is defined as: helps coordinate, leads coordination, host, cooks, helps with casting, manning a table at community event etc.

Just attending an event will not earn check off or punch

Volunteer cards are distributed at FWFF meetings and events. As cards are completed, a member can turn them in or hold them until the end of the year when the cards are put in for a drawing. Members are responsible for keeping up with their VIP cards and presenting them to the board member for sign off.

During the first meeting of the following year, members with the most volunteer hours in the year may be eligible for first, second and third place.

Each VIP buck has a retail value of \$1. If a person won 500 VIP Bucks, he/she can select an item from the provided prize lists with a retail value of \$500 (or less) or select two or more items totaling no more than \$500 retail.

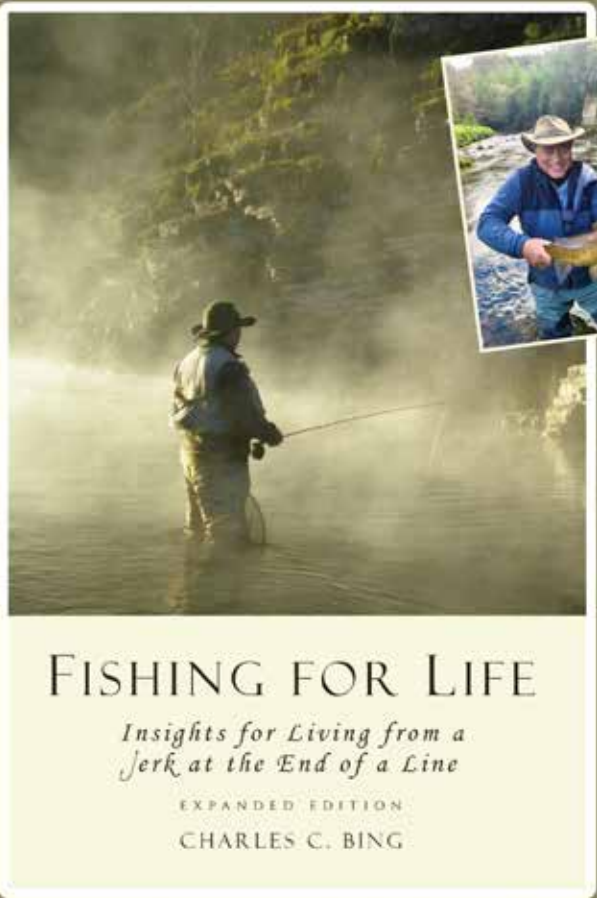
For more detailed information, contact the VIP coordinator, Bryce Bezent (rbbezant@gmail.com).



Our Reel Recovery "Clean Up Your Reel" event was a huge success. A group of 20 volunteers came out to clean reels, line, oil and grease, put on new leaders and line when needed, inspect for damaged reels, and separated/tagged reels for left-handed casters.

These 90 reels are now ready for the Reel Recovery's 2024 retreat season nationwide. A HUGE thanks to all the volunteers that devoted their time and effort, Orvis Fort Worth for the facility use, and Reel Recovery for all the good you do.





FISHING STORIES TO ENJOY AND ENRICH YOUR LIFE

BY A TEXAN WHO LOVES TO FISH--ESPECIALLY FLY FISH--
FROM THE POTOMAC RIVER TO ALASKA TO THE BAHAMAS,
AND OF COURSE, MANY TEXAS WATERS

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON IN
PAPERBACK OR KINDLE OR
FROM GRACELIFE.ORG

Membership Renewals: Pay Dues to FWFF Rather Than FFI

Each year the Board faces the dilemma of club members receiving a reminder from FFI to pay their dues directly to FFI.

**>> THIS DOES NOT GIVE YOU MEMBERSHIP
IN FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS. <<**

FWFF collects your membership dues for FWFF and then, as a Charter FFI Club, pays your membership dues to FFI, thus giving you membership in both organizations. Unfortunately, this is not a two-way street: If you pay membership dues directly to FFI there is no reciprocity giving you membership in FWFF.

We have members, probably not fully understanding this, who attend FWFF meetings and activities believing they are a member in good-standing with FWFF. This is not the case. In order to minimize the liability of FWFF, the Board was required to implement a new policy.

A Membership Desk will be at the front entrance to our meetings, and we ask that you stop by and sign in. There will be a list at the Membership Desk for your ease and convenience of signing in. This will take place at FWFF activities and events as well. In

addition, those with unpaid dues on March 31 of each year will be removed from our membership list.

The Board regrets the need to make this new policy, but in fairness to those that pay their FWFF membership dues it is the correct thing to do. See next page for instructions to renew.

In Memory

Normand Francis Tremblay

Your presence is missed, your memory treasured

David and Suzanne Hooper

Membership Renewals

Our Fort Worth Fly Fishing memberships run for a calendar year. November marks the beginning of our renewal season. 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.

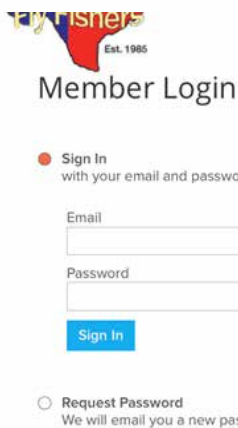
The easiest way to sign up or renew membership is online . A step-by-step guide to using our website is below. A printable form is also in this newsletter.

How to renew online:

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



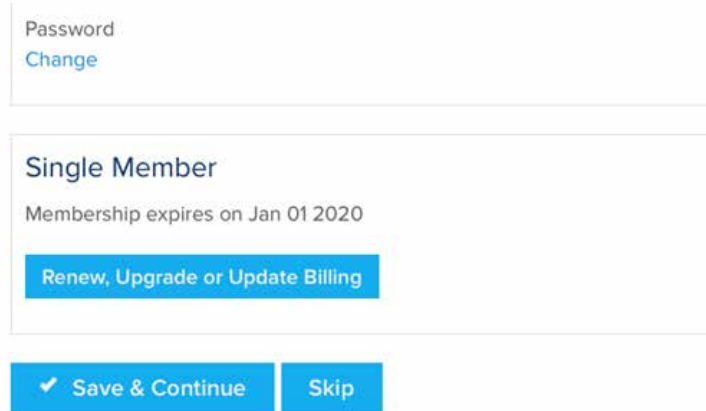
2. Log in with the email address you used when you last renewed. If you haven't logged in to the new website, click "Request Password." Your email address will receive a randomly generated password, which you can later change.



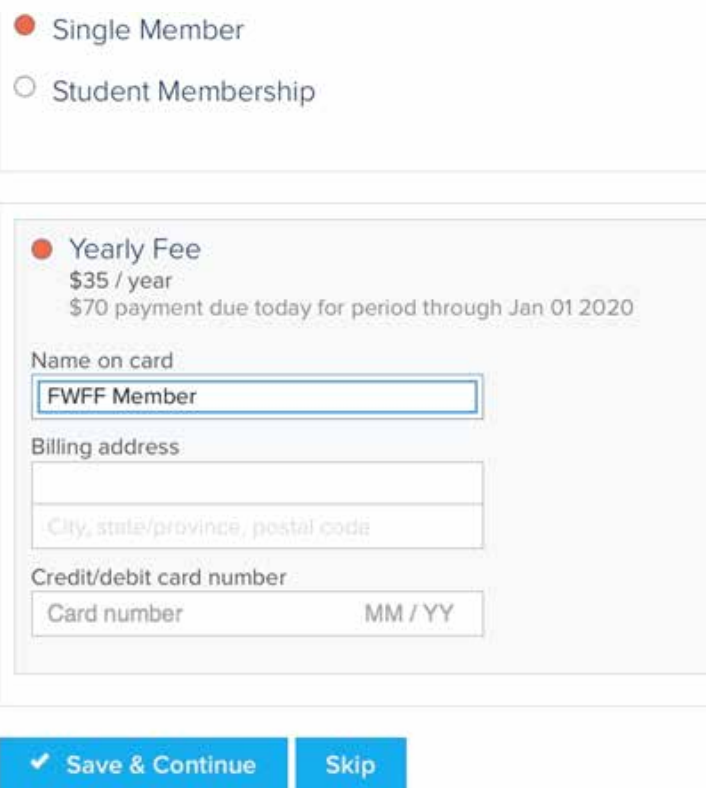
3. Click on "My Account" button on the Membership Welcome! page.



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.



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.



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

Fly of the Month: Golden Ticket



Written by: Micahel Rios Photographed By: Michael Rios
Creator: Michael Rios

The Golden Ticket is a White Bass fly. This fly was created by myself. I was inspired by a lucky crappie jig that I had growing up that caught me my first limits of sandbass and crappie in the trinity River systems (lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain lake, Lake Worth, Lake Weatherford, and Benbrook Lake.) The waters are stained so gold is king compared to silver or pearl. I took that color palette and build of that jig and turned it into the best producing white bass pattern I've used. In 2022, and 2023 it has outfished the clouser 10 to 1 consistency on each outing and has caught some personal best white bass. For any questions reach out to me on Instagram @Panther_City_Flies

MATERIALS:

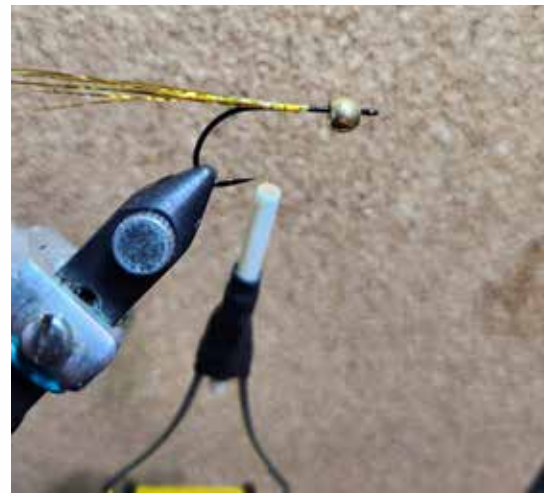
THREAD: 6/0 yellow uni-thread
HOOK: Gamakatsu B10s size 6
WEIGHT: 3/16" Brass bead
FLASH: Gold Tinsel Flash
TAIL: Yellow Marabou Feather
BODY: Ice Dub, Golden Brown
COLLAR: Grizzly Rooster cape



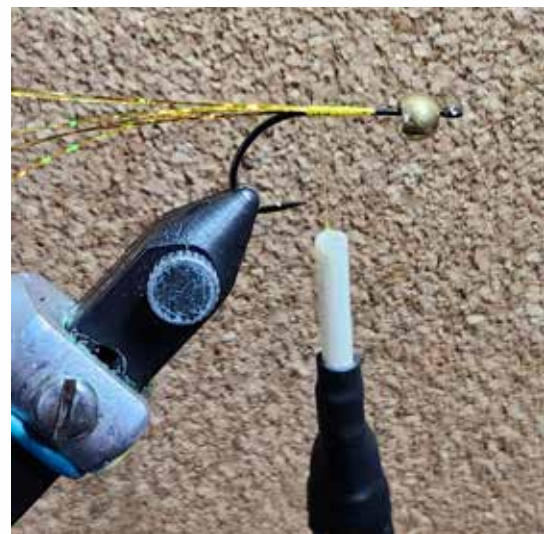
1. Secure hook in the vise with a 3/16" bead.



2. Attach your thread to the hook midway up the shank.



3. Cut off 6-8 strands of the flash about 2 hookshank lengths long and secure to the hook where you tied the thread in.



4. Secure the tinsel with thread wraps going rearward, stopping when the bend starts.

Fly of the Month: Golden Ticket - continued



5. Grab a sparse, thin clump of yellow marabou, two hookshank lengths long, and Secure that on top of the tinsel in a similar way. Now bring your thread to the back of the hook shank before the bend.



6. With touching wraps, wrap the dubbing noodle towards the bead to create a tapered body, stopping maybe one millimeter behind the bead. If you need more dubbing, make a smaller noodle and wrap back over your previous wraps if you need to fill up some gaps in the body.



7. Select an appropriately sized hackle feather from your rooster cape, this might come from the middle of your cape, the hackle should barely extend past the hook point. Snip appropriately the bottom 1/4 of the feather as the quill is too stiff. The feather should be flexible and pliable, if you notice the quill, crease up, it's too stiff and you'll need to snip just a tiny bit off. Now strip a millimeter or two of fibers from the bottom part of the feather for this will be your tie in section. Slide that bottom end of the stripped section of the feather underneath the bead and secure with about 4 tight wraps.



8. To make the collar, Grab the tip of the feather with some hackle pliers and wrap three times in touching wraps. Stroke the fibers rearward and be careful not to trap any fibers. Secure with 2 tight wraps on either side of the feather and snip off excess.



9. Whip finish your fly, and you are finished. You don't need any head cement as the threads are hiding underneath the bead, but feel free to use whatever resin, cement, or glue you like.

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them.

For details contact Michael Rios, coolimanjaro217@gmail.com.

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

Orvis Fort Worth, 4601 West Freeway #310; 682-703-7675

Open fly tying at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Bring your own vise and materials. Also, in June only, Fly Fishing 101, Saturdays 9 -11 a.m. Must register online. Free.

Grapevine

Hop & Stink Brewery, 906 Jean Street, Grapevine, TX 76051

The second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Michael Tulowitski leads a flytying class for all levels. All materials will be supplied.

Arlington

Arlington Vise Squad, El Fenix Mexican Restaurant, 4608 S. Cooper St. Arlington; 817-557-4309

Thursday nights, with dinner and drinks starting at about 5:30 p.m. and tying about 6:30 p.m. This event is usually led by a rotating cast of FWFF members who provide materials, but participants should bring their own vise and tools. It meets in a semi-private room, pictured above.

Online

The Roadkill Roundtable via Zoom

Free ZOOM demonstrations are hosted by Jack Gillis, FWFF president, and include experienced and well-known fly tyers, including Dutch Baughman, Fred DuPre', Dave Boyer, Eric Austin, Al and Gretchen Beatty. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Contact Jack at jackgillis@outlook.com to register without cost.

Fort Worth Fly Fishers - Board of Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	Kay Jackson	2024-25
Vice President	Brett Morehead	2024-25
Auctions/Raffles	Bill Hodges	2024-25
At-Large	Don Irwin	2024-25
Communications	Laura Durden	2024-25
Conservation	Alan Phillips	2024-25
Education	Russell Husted	2024-25
Fly Tying	Michael Rios	2024-25
Legal	Mike Nelson	2023-24
Membership	Barry Clark	2023-24
Outings	Daniel Tatum	2024-25
Secretary	George Prochaska	2023-24
Social Media	Cody Weaver	2024-25
Treasurer	Liz Davis	2023-24

FWFF Advertising

Fort Worth Fly Fishers is now accepting advertising in its monthly newsletter! Each edition contains the latest information on speakers, group outings and events.

Please note that we do not accept political, religious or endorsement ads, and all ads must meet club content standards. For information regarding submission of ads, please contact Laura Durden, Communication Director, Fort Worth Fly Fishers at LJDurden@swbell.net. Prices start as low as \$25 for an eighth-page, and discounts are offered for running in three consecutive issues.

Eighth-page

4.25" X 2.75" | \$25 / publication | \$60 / 3 consecutive publications

Quarter-page

4.25" X 5.5" | \$50 / publication | \$120 / 3 consecutive publications

Half-page

8.5" X 5.5" | \$100 / publication | \$240 / 3 consecutive publications

Full Page

8.5" X 11" | \$200 / publication | \$480/ 3 consecutive publications



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