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Message From the President

Springtime is here, and one of the BEST times to fish in Texas. The temperatures are nice; there's an extra hour of daylight; and the bass are getting feisty! I hope you get out there to explore the waters around the North Texas and around where you live.

One of the most asked questions I get about fly fishing is “where do you fly fish in Texas?” I tell them “anywhere there is water.” People think fly fishing is only for trout in the mountains. Not true. I’ve found some great places locally, such as neighborhood ponds and local creeks where you can access in parks. Yes, that little creek near your house is loaded with fish. I encourage you to go explore!

Another thing I encourage you to do is join some of the members at the Flying Fish on Vickery to eat dinner before the monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity to meet other members and the speaker for that month. We meet at 5:30 pm.

Spring is a busy time of year for our club. **Our April speaker is Skip King**, who is the “king” of bamboo rods. He will talk about all things bamboo when it comes to fly fishing. He will talk about the advantages of bamboo rods, how to care for them and more importantly, how to fish with bamboo. **Our featured fly tyer is the infamous Jay “Fishy” Fullum**, an internationally known fly tyer and a member of our club. He and his wife, Carol, split their time living in Texas and upstate New York. For years, Fishy was a contributor to *Fly Tyer* magazine.

April also brings a total solar eclipse through our area. The club's outing this month is at the Ward Ranch in Mexia, April 6-8. We will stay over for the eclipse on Monday. The Ward Ranch is one of my favorite outings. He has old rock quarries that have filled up with water over the years and FULL of BIG BASS. Break out the kayaks and be sure come join us, or come for the day of the eclipse. We'll have special eclipse viewing sunglasses!

Tight lines,

Kay Jackson



Upcoming Speakers

April, Skip King

So why choose a bamboo rod to fish with? There are so many choices for the fly fishing angler, to choose from. But there is no other rod choice that has as much history and elegance than fishing with a bamboo rod. Bamboo rods were first crafted and used in the early 1800's in England, and were the rod of choice up till the 1950's, when manufacturers starting producing rods out of new materials. Which leads us to where we are today, with more choices, and technology than ever before. However, these times are changing, as many anglers are going back to using bamboo, for many reasons. The history, tradition, and simplicity are bringing anglers back. Yes, it's great to use fast action rods, slapping streamers to bring on vicious strikes! Who wouldn't like that? But there is



also a time and place to use a rod that is relaxing, light weight, with a slow action, that presents a tiny dry fly ever so softly on still water. Truly a beautiful way to fly fish.

Join us at the April meeting, and hear all about bamboo fly rods. The history. How and when to use a bamboo rod. And how to make a bamboo fly rod. [Skip King of King Fly Rods](#) will be presenting all about bamboo and you don't want to miss this!!

Skip will also be here in DFW for most of the spring, and has a booth at the [Scarborough Fair](#). Make time to go down to Waxahachie and check out all of his offerings.

May, Dennis North

Dennis resides in East Texas and has been fishing competitively since 1972 after moving here from the west coast in November 1970.



He has fished national, regional, and local tournaments circuits including B.A.S.S., FLW BFL, Fishers of Men, Bass Champs and Crappie USA.

Dennis has been fishing and guiding on Caddo and East Texas Lakes for more than 46 years. For the past 15 years he has been a Full time Fly Fishing guide on Caddo Lake and other East Texas Lakes for bass, bream, crappie and other species.

In 2019 and 2022 won the World Championship Bass on the Fly Fishing tournament on Lake Fork.

Dennis also has Fly fish for trout, has fish in AR, CO, MO, NM, OK, UT, WY, ID & OR.

Guest Speakers

Do you know someone who would make a great guest speaker for the club?

If so, contact our President@FortWorthFlyFishers.org.

FWFF CLUB ACTIVITIES

DATE	EVENT/DESTINATION/CONTACT
Saturday, April 6-8	Bill Ward Ranch - RSVP to Bill Hodges via email bcolhodes@aol.com
Saturday, April 20	Trash Bash, questions reach out to Alan Phillips via email duckbuster61@gmail.com
Friday, May 3-5	South Llano River, questions reach out to Russell Husted via russellhusted@sbcglobal.net
Saturday, May 18	Wheeler Branch, questions reach out to Dan Tatum via Outings@FortWorthFlyFishers.org
Saturday, June 8	Fly Fishing 101, questions reach out to Dan Tatum via Outings@FortWorthFlyFishers.org
Saturday, July 13	Colorado Trip, questions reach out to Russell Husted via russellhusted@sbcglobal.net
Saturday, July 27	Grasslands 101, questions reach out to Dan Tatum via Outings@FortWorthFlyFishers.org
Saturday, September 7	FWFF Auction, questions reach out to Bill Hodges via email bcolhodes@aol.com
Friday, October 18-20	Coast trip, questions reach out to Dan Tatum via Outings@FortWorthFlyFishers.org
Friday, December 6	Blue River, questions reach out to Dan Tatum via Outings@FortWorthFlyFishers.org

Bill Ward Ranch, April 6-8

The highlight of the trip will be a [TOTAL Eclipse](#) viewing, which will occur Monday afternoon, plan on having lunch - we are now serving burgers and hotdogs before the eclipse!

The Ward Ranch west of Mexia and east of Waco is exactly in the path of totality. On April 8, we lucky few that are camping at this fishing oasis will see the totality for over 3 minutes. Special glasses will be provided. People are flying in from all over the world to see this phenomenon and the lodging all around is booked solid.

If you decide to venture to our favorite club outing on Saturday, April 6, to Monday the 8th, let host Bill Hodges know via email at bcolhodes@aol.com, or text at 817-528-1157 - no phone calls, please.

We need an accurate count for our fish fry dinner on Sunday night. Please RSVP for this event sooner than later. If there are any questions, contact your host for this outing, Bill Hodges, bcolhodes@aol.com, or at the March meeting, or [download details](#).

Trash Bash, April 20

Registration is now open for Trash Bash at the Trinity River Saturday, April 20, from 8AM to 10AM

Volunteer and earn VIP hours, enjoy a free lunch and get in some fishing afterward. Or finish at 10:00 and head to Waco for the FFI Texas Council event.

The Trash Bash features an “after-party,” sponsored by TRWD, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Coyote Drive-In, 223 NE Fourth St. in Fort Worth. You can join other club members who plan to patrol a section of the Trinity from a staging area at the Trinity Trails White Settlement Trailhead. That's at 4570 White Settlement Road, which is between University Drive and Westworth Boulevard.

“For the past 30 years, TRWD has committed to engaging with the communities that surround its waterways to promote community organized cleanups. Over the years, thousands of community members have removed over 500 tons of garbage with one mission in mind, protecting the natural resources that surround them,” TRWD says on its website.

More information is available on Facebook at TRWD Trash Bash. To volunteer, visit www.trwd.com/trashbash.

South Llano River, May 3-5

Club, it is time for our next May outing. Dates will be May the 3rd through the 5th. Our destination will be the South Llano River, to go after Guadalupe Bass, and other species. We did this trip in June last year, and it was extremely HOT, so let's change it up and go earlier this time!

We will stay at the [Americans Best Value Inn](#) in Junction Friday and Saturday nights.

Saturday night we will have a group dinner at the Pizza Junction, at a time to be determined. We really had a good time there last year, and they were great accommodating us.

Friday night we will have an outing specific discussion about all you will need to know, in regards to fly fishing the Llano, and safety as well. We will also discuss this at the next two club meetings, and I will be available to connect with you then, or can be reached at 682-261-1702.

There are several ways to fish the South Llano River. The best way is to run the river in a kayak, or canoe. There are locations that could be fished with a floating watercraft, or to wade fish.

A shuttle service will be provided by [South Llano River Canoe's and Kayaks](#). Curtis and Rhonda offer a great service, you can visit their facebook page or call at (325) 446-2220.

If you prefer to camp, or bring a trailer down, [South Llano State Park](#) is the place to stay. Nestled into a beautiful hill country setting, this state park is one of the best in the state. Reservations to stay here should be done as soon as possible, as the park stays full most of the time.

If you have any questions or need help in any way, please contact Russell at 682-261-1702 or email russellhusted@sbcglobal.net

Looking forward to another great trip to a very special fly fishing destination!!

Colorado Trip, July 13-20

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado this July. Dates for 2024 are July 13-20.

It is the responsibility of the attendees to make their own travel and hotel plans, and bring their own gear. There is fishing available that will satisfy most anglers; small creeks, large rivers, float trips, and high mountain lakes. Our home base will be the [Ute Bluff Lodge](#). If they are full, there are many other lodging options in South Fork.

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day, and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal "where did you go today and how did you do?" gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most of us will leave driving on Saturday mid-morning stopping somewhere between Amarillo, TX and Walsenburg, CO. to spend the night before heading onto South Fork Sunday morning. Fish Sunday afternoon, and next 5 days, and return home the following weekend. You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque, and rent a car.

Monday night there will be a BBQ at Wolf Creek Anglers, and an informational session about fishing the area. Many of us used Wolf Creek Anglers for guide trips, with great success. We should see similar favorable conditions again this year, with the recent late snows, that blanketed Southern Colorado.

Please let me know if you are planning on attending. If you have any questions, contact Russell Husted at 682-261-1702 or russellhusted@sbcglobal.net.

For up-to-date information on these events, follow the Texas Council on Facebook and Instagram, or visit <https://tcffi.org/>

Club Annual Auction, September 7

Our auction this year will again be at the Fort Worth Elks Club. While it is nearly six months away, we always begin early to gather items and contact guides for trips. To make the auction successful our members can support this primary club moneymaker several ways.

You might volunteer to help at the event with setting up and taking down the tables, help serve the food, place items on the designated tables or prepare packets. More importantly, you can help us contact donors for the auction to obtain equipment, guided trips, lodging, etc. Or help us at our Arlington storage locker a few weeks before the September 7 auction. There we will sort the accumulated items into price categories and label them.

More immediately, bring anything you can donate to our April 2 monthly meeting. You know darn well there are things you don't use that can bring in money. Perhaps a rod or reel, clothing for the river, a framed picture, etc. Anything you donate will help out.

Again we are offering four chances to win at our Special Raffle. This year first prize is a Jackson Bite kayak with paddles and a PFD. Others are a 6 wt. Winston fly rod with a Mirage reel, a \$300 Orvis gift card and a \$200 gift card to Bonnell's Steak House in Fort Worth. Please plan on buying a raffle ticket at the April 2 meeting or any other time. Again they are 1 for \$20, 3 for \$50 or 6 for \$100. The drawing will be at the auction.

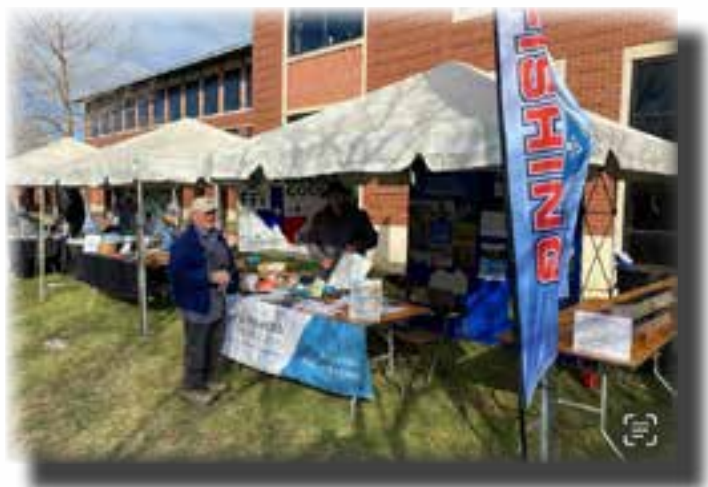
If you can help, please contact me at the meeting, or email me at bcolhodes@aol.com or text me at 817-528-1157. No phone calls, please. Thanks for your support.

Bill Hodges, Auction Chairman & Fundraising Director

FlyFest 2024

Trinity Flyfest on Saturday, March 9th 2024 was a celebration of urban fishing in and along the Clear Fork of the Trinity River in Fort Worth. For 9 years this has been a free community festival event that provides a family-friendly day of fishing, expert presentations, contests, casting classes, cooking demonstrations, food trucks, live music, and kid's activities. Whether or not you are an experienced angler, Flyfest has something to hook everyone in the family. The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) trout stocking season culminates with Flyfest and the release of an additional 1,800 pounds of Rainbow Trout.

The Trout Derby for many is the highlight, and while the fishing was slower this year, due to the water conditions, that did not deter some great catches seen by the contestants. The presenters this year were well attended. Cari Ray, our Keynote Speaker, was very inspiring. She encouraged flyfishers to get more enjoyment out of the sport by getting into the zone. Donovan Clary, Chris Johnson, Julie Mattson, Nick Streit, and Stephen Woodcock provided compelling and insightful presentations for the event goers. In the fly tying tent, hourly tying sessions were led by Chris Johnson, Sean Polk, Michael Rios, Lindy Reese, and Dani Rose treated viewers to expert tips and techniques for tying better flies.



Thanks go out to Streams and Valleys, TRWD, Fort Worth Fly Fishers, FFI Texas Council, the sponsors, the vendors, the volunteers, and to all who help put this amazing event together. Volunteers recruited from FWFF and FFI for this year's FlyFest donated their time and energy to help make this event run so well. Together we donated 162 hours to running the Big Trout contest, the Casting Contest, and staffing the FWFF and FFI booths – Thank You!

>> Brett Morehead

FWFFers Nolan River Outing

Spring really showed up BIG Time for our Nolan River Outing! With a pleasant start, and unusually calm winds, over 40 fly fishers embarked along the banks of one of the prettiest stretches of water in Texas. With limestone bluffs topped with



cedar trees, and an occasional red bud tree blooming, the river flows through here on towards Lake Whitney. On the banks, wildflowers were beginning to show their colors as well. But the main attraction for the day was white bass. The annual spring run of white bass has been underway, and because of this, anglers of all kinds find themselves here chasing the white bass in many ways. Our chase was with fly rods, and flies that match the small minnows that live in the river.

We were greeted with high pressure, a full moon, and post cold front conditions, which are not favorable conditions to deal with. We soon found out that it indeed slowed down the success of previous trips, but that did not deter us from trying our best shot at it. Success was had, and it ended up being a grand day. Pockets of bass were found here and there, and for the anglers that really went on an adventure, they found even more success. The river also has populations of gar, carp, crappie, and panfish. Rumor has it a few gar were on the end of some lines as well.

As the morning turned into day, lunch became the next part of the journey. On the way out, the club did their part, by picking up trash and debris, to leave the special place better than it was when we arrived. Appreciate that we make conservation a focus of what we do. Then it was off to the Burger Bar in Cleburne. A local, favorite eating establishment, known to many of us fly anglers as well. While we waited for our fresh, grilled burgers with all of the fixins, including grilled jalapenos, now you're hungry, conversation was had about the day, and trips past. It was a great way to end the day, and will be forever remembered.

>> Russell Husted

Texas Council Activities

Guadalupe Bass Zoom, March 27

Join us as the Texas Council will have our next seasonal zoom presentation on March the 27th, and it will be all about Guadalupe Bass. Speakers and topics will be:

- History and Restoration of Guadalupe Bass presented by Timothy Birdsong from TPWD
- Kayak Lease Access Program presented by John Botros from TPWD
- The Flies and Where by Jim Gray
- The Casts and Techniques by Cari Ray

You won't want to miss this as this will help you learn more about catching Guadalupe BASS ahead of our trip to the South Llano in May.

PRESENTATION LOGIN INFO:

Topic: "Guadalupe Bass"

Time: Mar 27, 2024 07:00 PM CDT

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86973991412...>

Meeting ID: 869 7399 1412

Passcode: 054833

Casting Matter, April 10

Need to learn more about improving your fly casting techniques? Join the "Casting Matters" Series of presentations hosted by the Texas Council. The next session will be on April the 10th. If you missed the first two sessions, they are worth reviewing, and can be as they were recorded.

There are few things that intimidate, and potentially frustrate, a fly angler faster than a windy day. But when it comes to fishing the salt, Texas Hill Country, the mountains of Patagonia, the Western US, and many other famously fishy destinations, breezy conditions are the norm rather than the exception. FFI CI Austin Orr will talk about a few simple changes you can make to increase casting efficiency in the wind and to help keep your presentations on target.

Presenter: Austin Orr, FFI Certified Casting Instructor

Austin Orr's incredible passion for fly fishing and teaching

led him to become an FFI Certified Casting Instructor back in 2011. To help educate and bring others into the sport, Austin started his business Elevate Fly Casting in 2019, teaching fly casting and helping people get the most out of their fishing trips both nearby and abroad. Find him online at his website elevateflycasting.com or on Instagram at [@elevateflycasting](https://www.instagram.com/elevateflycasting).

PRESENTATION LOGIN INFO:

Topic: CASTING MATTERS: Fighting the Wind

Time: Apr 10, 2024 07:00 PM CDT

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82201191448...>

Meeting ID: 822 0119 1448

Passcode: 112484

Fly Fishing Fair, April 20

FFI Texas Council is hosting a fly fishing fair on April 20th from 9am-4pm at the Brazos Park East in Waco, Texas. We'll have FREE classes and presentations on topics like casting, rigging, gear, tactics, and fly tying for beginners and advanced anglers alike. There will also be food trucks, beverages, vendors, and activities for the kiddos.

Be sure to register for the Bass-on-the-Fly Kayak Tournament. The tournament is hosted by [Fish Donkey](https://www.fishdonkey.com). Download their app and search for "Waco Bass". Cost is \$40. Prizes for top finishers. The most bass wins (no measurements or weight needed)!

1st Place wins a TFO LK Legacy 4 weight 9 foot rod combined with a NTX 4/6 Reel. First 25 anglers to [register now](#) and attend, will receive a gift of bass flies, so register soon!!!

Day of tournament registration and rules meeting at 6am, meet at the [Brazos Park East at the North Ramp / Confluence of the Bosque and Brazos Rivers](#). Grab a friend or the whole family and make plans to join us for a fun day along the Brazos River in downtown Waco, TX!

Volunteers will be rewarded with VIP points!

Fly of the Month: Panther City Popper

Written, photographed, and created by: Michael Rios

Materials:

- Size 1-2/0 Aberdeen Hook
- 1/2" foam cylinder, round popper head, or medium size Double Barrel Popper
- 6/0 thread, Chartreuse
- Chartreuse rabbit zonker strip cut hook shank length
- 15mm Estaz Chenille, Chartreuse
- 6mm eye of your choice

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 questions contact Michael at coolimanjaro217@gmail.com.



1. Secure your hook into the vise and start your thread in line with the hook point.



2. Where you started your thread, tie in your rabbit zonker strip with the fur side facing up. Tie rearward until your thread is lined up with the barb of the hook.



3. Tie in your Estaz Chenille directly on top of where you ended the rabbit.



4. Use your foam head to measure your hook shank to determine where your end point will be. Wrap your thread up until where it meets the foam.



5. Palmer up the chenille in touching wraps, forward, until you reach where you left the thread wraps. Tie off the Chenille here and snip the tag end off.



6. Now you need to cover any bare hook shank with thread wraps, and be sure to leave a couple of thread dams in the middle and near the hook eye. This gives the glue something to cling and adhere to, making your fly more durable.

Fly of the Month: Panther City Popper - continued



7. Use your bodkin and carefully poke a hole through your popper head. This hole should be offset from the center of the face.



9. Orient the foam by twisting it around the shank. You want majority of the foam ON-TOP of the hook shank. More popping surface on top of the hook shank ensures it sits right in the water, and gives you better action in the water.



8. Add a few drops of superglue to your thread wraps. I like Loctite Ultra Gel because it dries fast, isn't runny, and is water proof. Add your popper to your hook using the hole you made with the bodkin.



10. Using super glue, add a small drop on the popper, in-line, but right behind the hook eye. Use a 6mm eye and gently press in place. Repeat with the other side, make sure they line up, and you're done.

Welcome to our newest members to the club!

Welcome to Fort Worth Fly Fishers! We hope you share an enthusiasm for fly fishing, fishable waters and the outdoors.

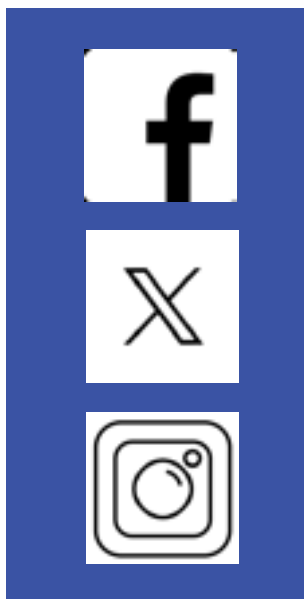
Please welcome our newest members:

James Armstrong, Lesa Blakey & Bill Huber, Crow Border, Donald Canard, Dan Carrell, Nathan Castania, Nicholas Castania, Cole Clark, Doug Clark, Kevin Felts, Mark Ford, Carmen Francis & Family, Charles Gordon, Steven Hardman, Glenn Hardy, John Householder, David Hunter, Tom Jones, Byron Jones, Vanessa Kimball, Michael Kurmes, Damian Lewis, Paul Lund, Mario Monsivais, Jr., Darren Rape, Bill Shaw, Jason Stephens, Dwayne Thompson, Michael Thompson, Aubree Tindell & Family, Anne Tindell, and Greg Welander.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep up-to-date on all our activities.

As a member of Fort Worth Fly Fishers you are part of Fly Fishers International and have access to exclusive features and content.

- The New Learning Center
- The Flyfisher magazine
- The Tying Times newsletter and Fly of the Month
- The Loop - The Journal of Fly Casting Professionals
- The Fly Tying Video Library (over 300 videos)!
- Exclusive Discounts on Hotels, Car Rentals and Insurance
- Searchable Casting, Fly Tying Guide and Club Directories
- Fun Fly Tying and Casting Challenges
- Discounted entry into FFI events
- FFI Decals and Patch



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 5:30 p.m. and tying at 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.

Online

The Roadkill Roundtable via Zoom
Free ZOOM demonstrations are hosted by experienced and well-known fly tyers. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Contact Jack at jackgillis@outlook.com to register without cost.



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