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Message From the President

It's hard to believe May is here, and summer is just around the corner. Thank goodness for the rains we've had to fill up our rivers and lakes in advance of the hot weather that we know is coming. The only bad thing about the rain is that it cancelled the FFI Texas Council Fly Fishing Fair in Waco and the TRWD Trash Bash. But these will be rescheduled, so stay tuned!

It's also hard to believe I'm almost six months into my first term as club president. I've been happy to see the growth in our club, increased attendance at meetings and at outings. I want to thank my board members and other volunteers who work to bring fun and educational outings and other opportunities for you to expand your knowledge in our sport.

I'm happy to announce that for the first time in several years, we will have **new, BRANDED CLUB SWAG** to offer our members. At last month's meeting, those in attendance got to check out some options in caps and shirts (men and women's styles) and vote on what they would potentially purchase.

Be sure to attend in May, because we will have three styles of caps, embroidered with our FWFF logo to purchase **that night**, and see the sample shirts (also embroidered with the logo) that you can **pre-order for purchase**.

How it works: The club will only keep inventory of caps, but not of the apparel which is only available for pre-orders/purchase. All our new swag items will NOT be available to purchase online. They can ONLY be purchased at our monthly meetings. One day, which may change, but not at this time. You can pay by cash, check or credit card.

Also, don't miss our May speaker, **Dennis North**, who will share his knowledge of fishing in East Texas. There is a lot of great bass fishing not too far away from us.

See you soon!

Kay Jackson



Guest Speaker

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
Friday, May 3-5	South Llano River, questions reach out to Russell Husted via RussellHusted@sbcglobal.net
Friday, May 17-19	Fly Fishing Redfish Rodeo, questions reach out to Michael Quigley via txflyfishers@gmail.com
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 bcolhodges@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

Wheeler Branch Park, May 18

Saturday May 18th we will have a club outing at Wheeler Branch Park in Glenn Rose. It is a great lake for kayaking and there is plenty of space to bank fish. The water is very clear. The lake is stocked with walleye as well as the usual native species. The park opens at 7:00 am. Attendees will need to pay for their own \$10 entry. FWFF will provide lunch in the pavilion around noon.

[About the Park](#)

Fly Fishing 101, June 8

Saturday, June 8th will be a fly fishing 101 at Bailey Lake Park in Burleson. This is a great park with lots of space for bank fishing. No Kayaks or watercraft is allowed on the lake. The lake has bass, perch, crappie, catfish, and is stocked with trout in the winter. This is a great local outing for those who are new or interested in fly fishing. FWFF will provide lunch around noon.

[About the Park](#)

South Llano River, May 3-5

Attention club members! It's time for our highly anticipated May outing! Mark your calendars for May 3rd to May 5th as we embark on an exciting adventure to the majestic South Llano River.

Please RSVP to Russell Husted at 682-261-1702 or email russellhusted@sbcglobal.net if you plan on attending. This will help with planning and keeping track of everyone.

Our main catch will be the prized Guadalupe Bass, alongside other fascinating species. Last year's trip in June was scorching hot, so let's beat the heat by going earlier this time. Our cozy accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights will be at the renowned Americans Best Value Inn in Junction.

On Saturday night, we'll share a delightful group dinner at the Pizza Junction, the same place that added so much joy to our previous outing. Stay tuned for the exact time of the gathering. In preparation for the fly fishing expedition on the Llano, we have a special discussion planned for Friday night. We'll cover everything you

need to know about the river, fly fishing techniques, and most importantly, safety. Don't worry if you can't make it, as we'll also discuss these details during the next two club meetings. If you have any queries or require assistance, feel free to reach out to Russell at 682-261-1702 or email russellhusted@sbcglobal.net.

The South Llano River offers diverse fishing opportunities. Ideal for kayaking or canoeing, it also has spots suitable for floating watercraft or even wade fishing. For a hassle-free experience, we highly recommend the shuttle service provided by South Llano River Canoe's and Kayaks. Curtis and Rhonda, the owners, offer remarkable service, so be sure to check out their Facebook page or give them a call at (325) 446-2220.

If you prefer camping or bringing a trailer, South Llano State Park is the perfect choice. Nestled in the breathtaking hill country, this state park is renowned for its unparalleled beauty. However, make your reservations promptly, as the park tends to fill up fast. Get ready for an unforgettable fly fishing expedition at this extraordinary destination!

Suggest making your reservations now!! We might be lucky and still be able to see some wildflowers on the way down!! Shuttles will be arranged and Rhonda and Curtis from South Llano River Kayaks and Canoes will be available to assist with any needs we may have in regards to kayak rentals, or shuttles.

We will have a meeting Friday night at 7:30pm at the office area to discuss the float for the next day. See you there!

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

Been There, Done That - Bill Ward Outing

Over 50 folks showed up for this eclipse-watching extravaganza! And they were not disappointed. But fishing for bass on the quarries of Bill Ward and his best pal, Kent Yelverton, was the main draw. Fishing on this ranch west



of Mexia has always been a club outing to look forward to. As a bonus, the bluebonnets were in full bloom. Along the driveway down to the lake was an entire field of them.



Due to the worldwide obsession to see the total eclipse, all hotel rooms along the path of totality were full. Bill Ward's ranch was the perfect place for tents or campers, and the view down the hill to the water was amazing. This outing was scheduled from Saturday to Monday when the totality was at 1:42 pm. Fear of projected cloud cover was unnecessary when the sun kept peaking through. We handed out eclipse glasses so all could see. As said, there was no disappointment. For three minutes, during total darkness, you could see the stars. Never to be seen here for another few centuries. How the fish reacted was known only to the fish. We hauled our kayaks to Kent's place and his bass-filled, beautiful lake. Top water flies seemed to work well, while the Wacky Worm on a spinning rod worked its magic. We caught over 150 bass and placed them on stringers for cleaning at the campsite.

The highlight of the Ward outing has always been the fish fry. Dan Tatum, with help from Liz Davis, prepared a fantastic meal. Phillip Bressinck brought salad, and Ruth Taylor cooked up some hush puppies on the spot. Before and after dinner, we sat around the firepit exchanging lies and jokes. Just before the eclipse on Monday, we served up burgers and hot dogs.

Many members of Audrey Tindell's family came for the campout. Her 10-year-old son, Clyde, was so excited when he caught a big bass, one of the largest of the trip. For



those who came this Spring, you will have many happy memories to enjoy again in October when our next Ward outing is happening. You will not want to miss out on the fun.



Texas Council Activities

2024 FLY FISHING REDFISH RODEO

Rockport, Texas

May 17, 18, and 19, 2024

Contest Begins at 6:00am thru 3:00pm, Saturday, May 18th

Dinner & Awards Begin at 6:00pm, Saturday, May 18th

Contest Events and Info.:

- *Largest Single Redfish based on Length - 1st & 2nd Place Awarded
- *Total length of all Redfish caught – 1st & 2nd Place Awarded
- *Most Spots on One Redfish
- *Gift Certificates & Artwork by Larry Haines
- *Entry Fee is \$40.00 per person
- *Custom Thomas & Thomas 7# rod raffle \$20

Equipment to bring for event:

- Boat or Kayak
- Fly Fishing Equipment
- Catch & Release Only
- Camera and Measuring Device



Presented by:

Laguna Madre Fly Fishing, Mark Machado
lmffaflyclub@gmail.com, phone: 956-266-5866

Texas FlyFishers, Houston, Michael Quigley
txflyfishers@gmail.com, 713-213-8150

For More Details and Questions, contact Mark or Michael

Sign Up at texasflyfishers.org

Important:

Photos of Redfish and measuring device must be sent to Michael's cell phone by 4:00pm to participate in award decisions at 713-213-8150.



Fly of the Month: Creek Grub

Written, photographed, and created by: Michael Rios



A bite-sized Grub, damselfly, or even a craw imitation that is carp, bass, panfish catching machine! Quick to tie, has a lot of movement!

- Hook: Heavy curved Scud hook (Orvis 62KC, MFC 7045) Size 8
- Large beadchain eyes, Black
- UV galaxy mop chenille, Black
- Silicone Legs, Black
- 1" Tarantula Brush, Black
- Ice Dubbing, Black Peacock
- 6/0 Thread, Black
- lighter

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 in the vise right behind the eye.



4. Cut a piece of mop chenille between 1" - 1.5" long, I find carp like it shorter, bass and panfish like a longer tail. Tie it in where the thread lines up with the barb and tie it back until you are dead set in the middle of the hook bend. This makes your tail stand up in the water.



2. Tie in your beadchain eyes by making 12 wraps one direction, 12 wraps the opposite direction and then 12 wraps underneath the eyes.



5. Using a lighter, you must CAREFULLY singe the tail to melt the fibers together so that the chenille doesn't unravel while fishing



3. Bring your thread rearwards until it lines up with the hook barb.



6. By doing so, you create a tapered tail.

Fly of the Month: Creek Grub - continued



7. Cut a single sili leg in half, each half will be folded in half once more and then tied in on either side of the hook shank



11.) Cut it off right behind the eyes, and carefully tie down the brush wire as too much pressure will cut your thread.



8. Cut a longer piece of chenille, approximately 5" long and tie it in where you tied in your legs. You will make touching wraps over the legs, up the shank, stopping one hook-eye length behind the eyes.



12.) Make a really thin dubbing noodle with the Ice Dub. You will wrap over the threads you just tied off the brush once, you will go over the threads on the beadchain eyes, twice in both directions.



9. Tie it off and cut off the excess chenille.



13.) Once you do so, remove any excess dubbing from your thread and bring your thread just behind the hook eye.



10. From here, you will tie in your EP Tarantula brush, and palmer towards the eyes. You will probably only get 2-3 wraps here.



14.) Whip finish your fly and use whatever head cement or uv resin you have.

Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP)

Don't forget that members can 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. For more details, download the [VIP rules](#).

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, Grapvine, 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 Members

Position	Name	Term
President	Kay Jackson	2024-25
VP Programs	Open	
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	2024-25



FWFF
 P.O. Box 1133
 Fort 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