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# Message From the President

I'm writing this column from Sunny Orlando. Les and I are here exhibiting at a trade show for an organization whose members are professionals who run and operate Campus Recreation Centers at universities and colleges. Think of directors of Fitness, Wellness, Aquatics, Intramurals, etc. We're here because we have several university clients.

Les has been attending this show for years. He met the founder of Pickleball at this Expo about 25 years ago. He was here as an exhibitor, trying to get these Campus Rec centers to offer pickleball! NOW look at how BIG that sport is now!

You might be wondering why I'm writing about this organization. One important aspect of this show is how the professionals support the students, who they realize are the future of their profession. There's a lot of job networking and mentoring that goes on here.

Last month, our speaker, Blane Chocklett, talked a lot about his mentors in tying and fly fishing and how they helped him in the fly-fishing industry. That's the point: mentorship. It's important that we remember that we are the ones who can help new members, friends, family, and the public fall in love with fly fishing. Even if you're new, your enthusiasm for the sport can help introduce another to at least try it.

Our Fish Camp program is designed to help our new members learn more about the sport and be paired with other members who can help them. However, new members need to be proactive and jump in!

Speaking of jumping in, we are always looking for volunteers, especially with our annual auction fundraising. We need people who like to solicit donations, organize the items, or work to set up that night. Let me know if you're interested!

Tight Lines,  
Kay Jackson





## GUEST SPEAKER

**May 6, Ron Ridgeway**



Join us for the May Meeting, with Ron Ridgeway presenting on [Fly Fishing for Redfish](#) in the Matagorda Bay area!!!

Experience the thrill of redfish fishing in the serene waters of the Matagorda Bays. Join us for an unforgettable adventure, whether you're a seasoned angler or trying your hand at fishing for the first time. With calm, clear waters and breathtaking surroundings, each moment will be one to remember.

Set out with us into the heart of Matagorda Bays, where pristine waters and rich ecosystems provide the perfect backdrop for a redfish experience like no other. Our expert guides are here to make your day exceptional, ensuring you leave with cherished memories and, of course, a great catch. Come for the adventure, and stay for memories that last a lifetime!

Fort Worth Fly Fishers meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at UNT Health Science Center in Room RES114 (Beyer Hall) in the Education & Research building, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth.

# FWFF CLUB ACTIVITIES

DATE	EVENT / DESTINATION / CONTACT
Saturday, May 3	Cravens Park Pond Conservation Initiative / Paul Lund / <a href="mailto:lupol63@yahoo.com">lupol63@yahoo.com</a> / 770-294-1940
Friday, May 16-17	Blue Gill Bash / Dan Tatum / <a href="mailto:tatum.daniel@yahoo.com">tatum.daniel@yahoo.com</a> or 682-201-6113
Saturday, May 24	Iron Fly / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702
Saturday, June 7	Brazos River / Dan Tatum / <a href="mailto:tatum.daniel@yahoo.com">tatum.daniel@yahoo.com</a> or 682-201-6113
Saturday, July 12-19	Colorado Trip / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702
Saturday, September 20	FWFF Annual Auction / Bill Hodges / <a href="mailto:bcolhodges@aol.com">bcolhodges@aol.com</a> or 817-528-1157
Saturday, June 14	High Oak Park, Arlington @ 10 am / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702
Tuesday, July 15	High Oak Park, Arlington @ 5:30 pm / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702
Tuesday, August 5	TBD / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702
Tuesday, September 16	High Oak Park, Arlington @ 5:30 pm / Russell Husted / <a href="mailto:russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net">russellhusted@sbcgloabl.net</a> or 682-261-1702

## Cravens Park Pond, May 3

We have the opportunity to restore this beautiful pond by removing visible trash. We need volunteers and 3-4 Kayaks to make a positive impact. Thank you in advance for your participation. Contact Paul Lund, 770-294-1940, [lupol63@yahoo.com](mailto:lupol63@yahoo.com)

Cravens Park Pond Conservation Initiative, May 3rd  
400 Cravens Park Dr. Arlington, TX 8:00 – 11:00 am

## Blue Gill Bash, May 16-17

[Blue Gill Bash](#), formerly referred to as Breamfest, is a fly fishing-related event we have been invited to by Dennis North on the Lake 'O the Pines. Events include a casting contest, casting lessons, a game similar to cornhole called Fishin' Hole, and a fishing tournament called Mystery Fly Tournament. It will be held on the lake near Jefferson, Texas.

**Recommended flies:** small poppers, hoppers with droppers, small bugs, small woolly buggers. Basically they like anything small and moving in the water. Bring different size and colors if you can.

## Iron Fly, May 24

Calling all fly tiers of all skills, beginners to advanced, join us for Iron Fly! This event will have tiers battle it out in a timed "mystery basket" tying session where tiers have to race against the clock and the mystery basket to produce a fish-catching fly using all of the mystery materials in their box. The challenge doesn't stop here, after the tying time is up, challengers will have to put their creation to the test in a timed fishing session. Awards will be going out for best fly, biggest fish caught, and

most fish caught."

Be ready on the morning of May 24th. Still finalizing the location, and that could be announced soon at the next club meeting, or in additional communications. Will be a super fun, local outing, with a competitive twist to it. Stay tuned.

## Brazos River, June 7

We are going to the Brazos River for a half-day float trip. We'll meet at Brazos Outdoor Center at 7:00 am. They will take us and our kayaks 5 miles upriver and drop us off for \$25.00. If you don't have a kayak, you can rent one for \$50.00 which includes the shuttle fee. We will casually float downstream and fish along the way. You can bring your kayak or rent one from Brazos Outdoor Center. Once we get back to Brazos Outdoor Center we can use their property all day. They have day-use areas as well as RV and camping spots. If you want to cook out, you'll need to bring your grill. We can hang out and swim in the river. We can go to town for lunch and return. They are cool about us being there.

**Recommended flies:** topwater poppers, topwater frogs or mouse patterns, ghost minnows, clouser minnows, hopper droppers, and the classic woolly buggers. Also, they have recently opened a [small fly shop](#) with a variety of flies, rods, reels, and cases. So, plan to check that out while you're there.

## Colorado Trip, July 12-19

Folks, it is time again to start making your plans for the annual summer Colorado trip, July 12-19 in South Fork, Colo. We have been going to South Fork and lodging there for quite a few years now.



This is not a club-sponsored event, but a wonderful time is always had by all. What you will get from me, as your host, is assistance on lodging, needs for the trip, and information about locations of fishing that will be best for you and your group. We will be staying at [Ute Bluff Lodge](#) which is located just to the east of “downtown” South Fork. There you can reserve a lodge room, get a cabin, or bring your RV.

It's best to travel and lodge as a group. It's not a bad idea to start arranging your travel now by arranging to share a ride. It's a long day if you choose to drive it in one go, or you can split it up with stops in Amarillo, Dumas, or Raton, N.M. This is a come-and-go trip. You can pretty much make your schedule.

Conditions in the area are looking especially good for July. There have been some great snowfalls and river flows should be good and temperatures in a trout-friendly range. South Fork is not the only area we fish. Creede, to the north, and Pagosa Springs to the west across the scenic Wolf Creek Pass are great options as well. Within reach are the San Juan and Arkansas rivers, which are great destinations as well. The Rio Grande is one of the favorite spots, but there are so many small creeks around, with small trout waiting for your tiny dry flies!

There are many other things to do besides fishing if you wish. I suggest checking the Chamber of Commerce for any questions you may have. There are also a number of professional guides serving the area.

Let me know if you'd like to attend. Please RSVP to me at [russellhusted@sbcglobal.net](mailto:russellhusted@sbcglobal.net), if you haven't already and are making plans to do so.

## Casting Clinics to Resume

After a winter off from the Casting Skills Development Program, we are set to resume these very well-done clinics, starting on May 17th. Yes, there is an outing scheduled for that day in East Texas; however, with so much going on in May, and a limited number that plan to go on the outing, the 17th. We will start at 10 am at [High Oak Park in Arlington](#).

Bring your rod and reel, that you are comfortable using. Doing so will help improve your casting skills as you work through the different levels. We plan to have plenty of helpers at these clinics to assist you with an advanced level of instruction. We ask that you review the FFI's website, and dig into the Skills Development Program, and take time to review the video library of the specific casts on the level that you will be moving through.

[FFI Learning Center](#)

A tentative schedule has been put together that will run us through September. These are subject to change, as most of these

dates will probably see rain!!!! During the summer, we will have weeknight clinics to avoid the heat of the day. The August 15th date will be the yearly Casting Clinic, instead of the normal club meeting. A location will be determined on a later date. Stay tuned for those details. Hope to see you at the clinics!

June 14th, July 15th, August 5th Casting Clinic / Location TBD, and September 16th

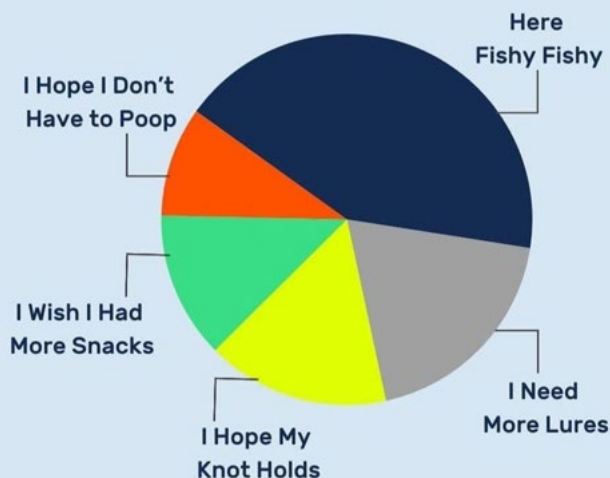
## July Club Meeting, July 1

Did you know that our great club has been in existence for 40 years? Yes, it is time to celebrate our 40th birthday, so we decided to have a little party!! Join us for a special evening. In addition to the celebration, we will be having a HUGE Fly Tying Sale!! One of our long-time friends, and an early member of the club's beginning, Kyle Hand, recently passed away. Kyle was an amazing tier and would attend many of the BIG events all over the South. His family has donated a substantial amount of fly-tying materials to the club, and we will be selling these materials during the July meeting. If you are a fly tier, you will not want to miss this sale!!!

We will also be opening up the meeting for our members to sell goods or services. Want to sell your own tied flies? Sell off some of your rods, reels, and gear? Offer up your services to the club members? Then bring your goods and services to the meeting to sell. We ask that a 10% donation of dollars sold be made to the club during this special sale.

This will be a lot of fun, and you might leave with a big smile, some great tying materials, and who knows what else. Hope to see you then.

## THINGS WE THINK WHILE FISHING



## TRASH BASH

The TRWD Trash Bash at Panther Island Pavilion on April 26th was a big success. Many people participated and made a difference in our local community. The four FWFF group participants were Jim Smith, Austin Smith, Byron Jones, and Paul Lund. Great job guys!



## FORT WORTH FLY FISHERS ANNUAL AUCTION

We will always be in need of donated items for our September 20, 2025 auction/fund raiser. Please go through your stuff and bring what you can to the March 4 club meeting, and each meeting thereafter before the auction. Again, we always look for volunteers to call prospective donors, so please let us hear from you.

### Annual Auction benefitting

## Fort Worth Fly Fishers

Saturday, September 20, 6 PM - 9:30 PM

Fort Worth Elks Club | 3233 White Settlement Rd | Fort Worth, Texas

You can purchase raffle tickets now:

- at any club meeting before the date
  - from any Board Member
  - at the event

## 4 chances 2 win!!

Bill Hodges, Auction Chairman | (817) 528-1157 (text only) | [bcolhodes@aol.com](mailto:bcolhodes@aol.com)



## 4 Chances 2 Win!

1/\$20, 3/\$50, 6/\$100  
Drawing Saturday, September 20, 2025

**1st PRIZE - \$1800 MSRP NuCanoe F10 Kayak w/360 Fusion Seat + Paddle**

### Standard Features



### Ratings



### Specs

Length:	10'
Width:	39"
Height:	12-17"
Draft:	3-5"
Hull Weight:	62 lbs
Primary Seating:	1-2 Persons
Max Weight:	500 lbs
Self-Bailing Cap:	350 lbs
Max Power:	2.5HP

The F10 is a compact fishing kayak that is perfect for rivers and small lakes and ponds. It combines great stability and super maneuverability, and pairs perfectly with the PIVOT Drive or a motor.

**2nd PRIZE - \$500 Echo Rod & Reel with a Guided Fly Fishing Trip**

9' 5 weight with line and leaders and a full-day guided trip for two on the Brazos River with lunch.  
Both donated by Russell Husted.



**3rd PRIZE - \$300 Orvis Gift Card**



**4th PRIZE - \$200 Del Frisco Steak House Gift Card**



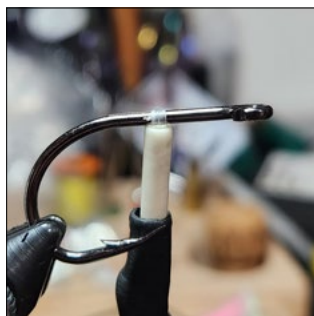
# Fly of the Month: Rattle Shad

Written and photographed by: Michael Rios



## Materials:

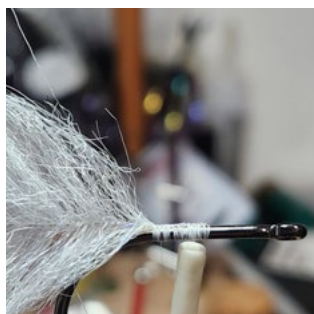
- Daichii 3111 size 2
- Fly rattle, Mini
- 6/0 white thread
- EP 3" craft fur brush, white
- Pearl palmer chenille, Medium
- 8mm eye
- Superglue



1. Secure the hook in the vise and attach your thread.



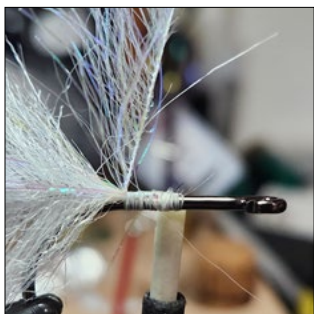
4. Tie in the glass bead on top of the hook shank, leave half a hook eyes length between the rattle and the hook eye.



2. Make wraps rearward until the hook bend and attach the brush by the wire core.



5. You will hold the palmer chenille and brush and palmer it up the hook shank, over the rattle. You should get 5-6 wraps in.

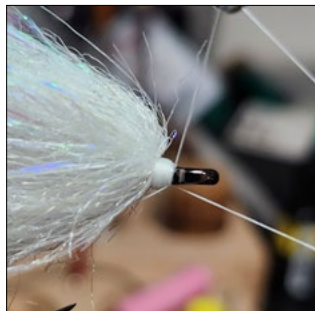


3. Tie in the palmer chenille right on top of the brush, making sure the fibers stay oriented rearward.



6. Once you're past the rattle, make 2 wraps right behind the hook eye. Tie down the brush and chenille and cut off any excess.

## Fly of the Month: Rattle Shad - continued



7. Wrap down the wire and build a thread head right behind the eye.



8. Glue in the 8mm eyes. Once dried, your fly is finished.



### Fishpond's Stormshadow Chest Pack Takes Top Honors at the 2025 Fly Fishing Show

Fishpond's new Stormshadow Chest Pack was a runaway winner for the Consumers Choice Best in Show Award at the 2025 Fly Fishing Show, announced President and CEO Ben Furimsky.

The winning Fishpond product was entered in the highly competitive Chest Pack/Vest category and won that along with the coveted Best in Show prize. Fishpond also won in 11 other categories, including Accessories Under \$50, Fly Box Storage System, and Most Innovative.

The [Fly Fishing Show](#) national competition featured 38 categories with 150 products. "This was the largest year in terms of participation, both in the number of products entered as well as the number of votes received — double over 2024," said Furimsky.

Scientific Angler dominated the Leader/Tippet category with their Absolute Supreme Trout Tippet, while Grundens took home awards in both General Apparel and Outerwear men's clothing competitions. Other tight races with winners claiming a victory within a small margin of votes were Men's - Waders, Boat/Personal Watercraft, and Books & Maps, Entertainment/Education.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Grapevine

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

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

### Arlington

*Arlington Vise Squad, Mixed Up Burgers*  
510 East Avenue K, Grand Prairie  
972-606-6700

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.

## Fort Worth Fly Fishers Board Members

Position	Name	Term
President	Kay Jackson	2024-25
VP Programs	George Prochaska	2025-26
Vice President	Brett Morehead	2024-25
Auctions/Raffles	Bill Hodges	2024-25
At-Large	Don Irwin	2024-25
Communications	Laura Durden	2024-25
Conservation	Paul Lund	2025-26
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	Jerri Meaux	2025-26
Social media	Cody Weaver	2024-25
Treasurer	Liz Davis	2024-25

### Welcome our newest members!

Richard Bayne, Jedd Callen, Michael Mooney,  
Denise Moore, Sara Moore, and Jack Unzicker.



**Have you caught the BIG one?**

**Would you like to share with the club?**

**Send your picture**

**along with your name and details to**

**[communications@fortworthflyfishers.org](mailto:communications@fortworthflyfishers.org)**

**Then watch for you and your 'friend'  
to appear in the newsletter.**



FWFF  
P.O. Box 1133  
Forth Worth, TX 76101  
[www.fortworthflyfishers.org](http://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