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Message From the President

Happy New Year! I don't know about you, but I am ready to turn the page on 2025. It has been a challenging year personally and professionally for me. The highlight has been serving this club as president over the past two years. I was lucky to have an amazing board of directors who were dedicated to making our club one of the BEST in the country!

As I look back over the past two years at the accomplishments and activities of our club:

- We've had amazing speakers from across the country including Blane Chocklett, internationally known guide, tyer and author.
- Awesome education opportunities, especially through the FFI Casting program where members can strengthen their casting abilities by pursuing the bronze, silver, or gold level.
- A successful new member immersion program, Fish Camp, to help foster mentorship and engagement in our club for our new members and those new to fly fishing.
- Conservation events and sponsorships that help keep the rivers and streams we love in good condition.
- Memorable outings, both locally and to other locations such as the Gulf Coast, Caddo Lake, and Colorado.
- Fly tying events like our first ever Iron Fly Contest which was an "Iron Chef" inspired friendly competition to tie flies with the materials one was given—then catch a fish on that fly.
- Community outreach and volunteerism at Trinity Fly Fest. Volunteers are the backbone of this event, and our club has provided the volunteers since the event's inception ten years ago. Through our Volunteer Incentive Program, we can reward our loyal volunteers for their work. We can't have a successful club without a successful volunteer program.
- Consistent communication through all our channels (newsletter, web site, emails, social media).
- Fiscal strength through our phenomenally successful auction that allows us to do many of the activities listed above; and fiscal responsibility, management oversight to make sure we're spending your funds the best way to serve our members, our club as a whole and our sport.

We're almost 300 members strong. And if you haven't renewed your dues for 2026, THE TIME IS NOW. Our goal is to receive most renewals by January 30. Please be advised that after a certain time (coming soon), we clean up our membership roll and delete those who haven't renewed. We don't like having to do it, but it's best for the efficient management of our club.

I want to thank everyone—board members, volunteers, active club participants – for your time and efforts. You made my club presidency – and life – better!

Tight lines, **Kay Jackson**, [President](#)



Norm Tremblay Award



Our club has a special award, *The Norm Tremblay Award*, that is named after Dr. Norm, “Doc” Tremblay. Doc was a “Mr. Volunteer/Do anything for the club” kind of guy, and he exhibited tremendous leadership for our club in its early formation years that laid the foundation for the great club we are today.

The board at that time created The Norm Tremblay Award to be given to a member who has shown extraordinary service to our club to make it a better organization, and extraordinary support of the fly-fishing sport in Texas and in some cases, beyond our state.

At our club’s Holiday party, the Board of Directors presented Russell Husted with this prestigious award for his support of our club and furthering the sport of fly fishing in Texas. Here are a few highlights of his service:

- He has served in many positions on the board including President, since he joined the club about 15 years ago.
- He created the club’s “Non-Outing” to Colorado many years ago, and it has become a consistent and popular trip with about 20-40 people attending each July in Southfork.
- His leadership in the Texas Council and FFI represent our club well.
- His overall support of fly fishing in the state of Texas – from education and conservation, he’s always been an advocate of our sport and of our club.
- His efforts in bringing the FFI Casting Program to our club and encouraging members to achieve their bronze, silver, and gold certifications.
- His most recent effort with the Arlington Activ Center in Arlington – teaching fly fishing.

It is an award that is not given freely or often. It has been presented five other times over the last 35-40 years:

- **Norm Tremblay** (deceased) – Founding member and continued leadership and guidance as our club was being formed, and his leadership is a model for our board and foundational success of our club.
- **Al Crise** (deceased) – For his unwavering support as a Master Certified Casting Instructor; educator and support of the Boy Scouts of America – He helped many, many scouts earn their fly-fishing badge.
- **Mike Emmerson** – For his work and dedication to Reel Recovery Texas, making our state’s program one of the largest for Reel Recovery.
- **Les Jackson** – For his work as President, and continued education of members and non-members in our sport. He created Fly Fish 101, a model we continue today which is core to our educational program, member engagement and attracting new members. And he was a regional ambassador for our sport and our club with FFI’s Southern Council.
- **Stephen Woodcock** – For being an outstanding ambassador for our club and our sport. He has and continues to spend countless hours helping expand people’s knowledge and skills in fly fishing. Countless members over the years came to know about FWFF and joined the club because of him.

Please join the Board of Directors to congratulate Russell. *Way to go Friend!*

Guest Speakers

January, Ryan Rogers



Join us for the January Club Meeting on January 6 at 7 PM, where Ryan Rogers from Texas Parks and Wildlife will share insights into the trout stocking process. It's a tough job, and we're grateful for the work they do to keep our waters thriving.

Ryan is a Texas native who has

spent most of his life living somewhere along the Brazos River. After graduating from Tarleton State University with a B.S. in Freshwater Ecology, he has spent the last 18 years working for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries helping make fishing better for all Texans. He's bringing that knowledge of fish, water, aquatic systems, and commercial scale animal production to help you find the right land, ranch, or recreational property. Whether your goal is cattle production, a trophy bass pond, or relaxing by a fire at night and enjoying the sound of Texas nature, he'll help you find your place.

Ryan is an active member of the American Fisheries Society and serves as a board member of the Brazos Cleanup Project, an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is to keep the Brazos River clean and beautiful for future generations. If he's not producing fish or hunting around Texas for beautiful ranches, you can probably find Ryan at a local livestock show with his wife, daughter and one of her show Brahms.



February, Kelly Gallup

From a young age, Kelly was drawn to the art of fly fishing, and his enthusiasm only deepened over the years. His journey in the world of fly fishing has been marked by a commitment to mastering the craft

and a dedication to sharing his expertise with fellow enthusiasts.

In 1988, Kelly Galloup took a significant step in his career by becoming the owner and proprietor of Galloup's Slide Inn, a renowned fly fishing lodge located in Montana. The Slide Inn has become a haven for fly fishing enthusiasts, attracting people from all over the world who seek not only the thrill of the catch but also the immersive experience of being surrounded by nature.

Apart from his entrepreneurial ventures, Kelly has left an indelible mark as an author. His books, filled with insights, tips, and anecdotes from his own experiences, have become invaluable resources for both novice and seasoned anglers. Kelly's ability to articulate the intricacies of fly fishing has earned him a reputation as a leading authority in the field.

March, Doc Thompson



Doc started High Country Anglers in 1995 thinking he could make a living as a fly fishing guide in New Mexico. Thousands of guide trips later he is still alive and guiding. Doc worked many summers at the Philmont Scout Ranch in the 1980s and early 1990s then

moved to New Mexico after graduating from the University of Missouri. He started HCA based on his passion for fly fishing, trout, and New Mexico; all with customer service.

Doc's patience, calm demeanor, fun nature and professionalism are reasons he has many returning customers to fly fish in New Mexico. He loves to boost the learning curve, share new tricks with "old dogs" and expand fly fishing horizons. It is often the experience and the journey of fishing that leads to the most memorable days. As Doc says, "All guides love to fish, but I also love to guide."

Doc is the longest operating Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide in New Mexico and is an Orvis Fly Tier-Designer. He has been honored as the Orvis Fly Fishing Guide of the Year and Orvis Fly Tier of the Year. He's been a finalist for the Orvis Fly Fishing Guide of the Year in 2012, 2014 and 2017. Doc

Guest Speakers cont.

presents seminars on fly fishing, fly selection and other programs to fly shops and fly fishing clubs throughout the country. Doc currently serves as President of the local Enchanted Circle Trout Unlimited and is Program Lead for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Taos, NM.

April, Aaron Gordon



Aaron and Rachel's love of fly fishing and the beauty of the outdoors was engrained in them as children. Aaron's outdoor adventures began in childhood and continued as he pursued guiding Colorado rivers at age eighteen. Rachel learned to tie flies on her father's lap before

kindergarten and started managing his fly-fishing business before she graduated college. Aaron and Rachel spent their honeymoon floating and fishing the Flaming Gorge of the Green River, then they settled into a mountaintop fire lookout cabin for their first "home." They made Sandpoint, Idaho, home twenty years ago

and have fallen in love with the mountains and rivers of this beautiful region. Aaron has extensive experience guiding on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Main Salmon, the Kootenai, the Clark Fork as well as the Lochsa and Coeur d'Alene Rivers. Much of his free time is spent floating and fishing rivers closer to home, such as the Clark Fork and the Kootenai.

Aaron and Rachel have more recently focused on leading their own daughters, Addy and Emi, to love the outdoors as well. They take joy in skiing, hiking, fishing, and biking as a family. In 2017 Aaron and Rachel stumbled upon a McKenzie River wooden drift boat in need of major repair. They knew it would be the perfect boat to get their young family fishing together on the river. After restoring this boat and experiencing its beautiful craftsmanship and smoothness on the water, they dreamed of sharing the adventure beyond their family, and that dream blossomed into Long Drift Outfitters. The beauty and elegance of a classic wooden drift boat is the perfect match for fly fishing on the Kootenai River.

The Kootenai River is our main river that we enjoy fly fishing on in the northern Panhandle of Idaho. The Kootenai is often described as a hidden gem, which means you won't be crowded by other anglers while fishing the river. The Kootenai holds Redband Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Bull Trout. The river also holds Kokanee, Burbot and Sturgeon. The river is a classic dry-fly fishery that is best fished from a drift boat due to its size.



Fish Camp

Fish Camp is progressing into its 2nd year. we have nearly 100 new members since we launched the concept. Year one was a great success. The idea is that it is not the easiest thing in the world to find your place in a large new fly-fishing club. After all a lot of the members have been in the club for years and have friendships, and honestly sometimes it is tough to assimilate. Not to worry. The Fish Camp helps bring you into the club and makes you feel welcome. It will also help you make the most of your membership, if you are new to fly fishing it will help up your game much faster than trying to do it on your own. If you have fly fished most of your life and joined the club, the program will help connect with a fishing buddy or two. There will be many opportunities to become a better angler through this program, including local outings and casting clinics. Don't miss the January meeting, we will kick things off for the new year with Fish Camp.

George Prochaska, VP Programs

682-230-7818 | georgeprochaska@gmail.com

FWFF CLUB ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY / CONTACT INFORMATION
Sunday, January 11	Local Trout Outing in Joshua / Roger Lee / rogerwlee@yahoo.com or 817-266-5551
Saturday, January 17	Trout 101 Outing / Russell Husted / RussellHusted@sbcglobal.net or 682-261-1702
Saturday, February 21	Troutfest in New Braunfels
Saturday, February 28	Blue River / Brett Morehead / brett.j.morehead@gmail.com or 817-368-3808
Saturday, March 14	Trinity Fly Fest

Local Trout Outing in Joshua, January 11



On Sunday, January 11, we will meet at [Joshua City Park and Splashpad](#), where trout will be stocked that day. The pond is small but offers plenty of bank fishing all the way around. It's also very close to the parking lot, so no hiking is required.

Since the trout will be stocked that day, they may or may not be actively feeding. We do not know what time the stocking will take place. Please also be mindful when casting, as there will likely be many local anglers.

Our event host is Roger Lee, who will arrive around 11:00 a.m. You can reach him at 817-266-5551.

This is a come-and-go event, so feel free to start fishing as soon as you arrive and stay as long as you'd like.

Trout Time in Texas!, January 17

Winter is here, and that means one thing for fly fishing enthusiasts—it's Trout Time! The Texas Parks and Wildlife trout stocking schedule has been released, and we couldn't be more excited to hit the water.

Stocking Details:

The Possum Kingdom tailrace area near the Highway 16 Bridge offers one of the most natural trout fishing experiences in Texas. This spot has been a favorite for the Fort Worth Fly Fishers for years, and we'll be back again this season.

First Stocking: December 4

Frequency: Every two weeks (mostly Thursdays)

Total Trout: Approximately 9,000 will be stocked this season!

Mark your calendars for these NO CHORES DAYS and get ready for some incredible fishing.

Kickoff Event:

Join us for the January Club Meeting on January 6 at 7 PM, where Ryan Rogers from Texas Parks and Wildlife will share insights into the trout stocking process. It's a tough job, and we're grateful for the work they do to keep our waters thriving.

Trout 101 Outing:

On January 17, meet us at the Highway 16 Bridge for Trout 101—a hands-on session to help you start your trout fishing journey.

Time: Lunch begins at 12 PM

What to Bring: Your rod and reel (or we'll help you out!)

Enjoy a quick bite, mingle with fellow anglers, and spend the day fishing. Stay tuned for more activities that may be added!

Trout Outing on the Blue River near Tishomingo, OK Saturday, February 28, 2024

Located near Tishomingo, OK, inside the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area you will find the Blue River. The Blue River is spring fed starting in Connersville and flows southeast to the Red River. Located 2.5 hours from downtown Fort Worth; the Blue River holds smallmouth bass, crappie, and catfish, plus it is stocked bi-weekly during the winter (November 1 to March 31) with Missouri raised rainbow and golden trout.

On February 28th, Fort Worth Fly Fishers will meet for a head count and instructions at 8 a.m. at the Barrels Parking Lot Coordinates: 34.331987, -96.595708, located in the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area. We will head for the river at 8:15am. This event will be hosted by Brett Morehead if you are interested in attending this outing, please contact **Brett Morehead** at brett.j.morehead@gmail.com or (817) 368-3808. I plan to stay in the Blue River primitive camping area on Friday night, if anyone else plans to do the same please let me know. Additionally, any FWFF member who has not previously signed a club waiver will be asked to complete the new FFI waiver before participating in this club events.

Here is some handy information for this outing:

Addresses:

- Scotty's Blue River One Stop 4501 S. Bullard Chapel Road Tishomingo, OK 73460 (580) 371-9288
- Entrance road to the Blue River Public area is heading North from the four corners on S. Hutchins Ln.
- Scotty's serves breakfast, lunch and has an assortment of recommended guide flies on hand for sale, many that are tied by our good friend of FWFF, Donovan Clary.
- River Public Fishing and Hunting Area 3400 S. Hutchins Lane Tishomingo, OK 73460 Coordinates: 34.31017, -96.61877

Gear:

- Chest waders and wading stick, polarized sunglasses 3-weight to 5-weight rod with floating line 9-foot leader in 4x to 6x; 4x to 6x tippet, strike indicator, split shot Assortment of trout flies – zebra midge, caddis imitations, San Juan worm, bead head nymphs, wooly bugger. Or try your hand at tight line euro nymphing with rs2, perdigon, mercury midge, mop fly, weighted egg patterns.

Oklahoma Fishing License:

- license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com Nonresident license: 1 day, \$15; 6-day, \$35; calendar year, \$55; Texas residents age 65 and older are exempt from having a license (valid Texas ID required)

Trinity Flyfest 2026, Saturday, March 14



This is the 11th Year! Trinity Flyfest 2026 is on Saturday, March 14th 2026. It is a celebration of urban fishing in and along the Clear Fork of the Trinity River in Fort Worth. For 11 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 and Fly Casting fields are for many the highlight of the event. Volunteers are needed from FWFF and FFI for this year's FlyFest to donate their time and energy to help make this event run well. And remember for FWFF you earn VIP points! Together we donated 106 hours in 2025 to running the Big Trout contest, the Casting Contest, and staffing the FWFF and FFI booths – Thank You!

We will have a sign-up list at the January Meeting and/or you can call Brett Morehead at (817) 368-3808 to discuss volunteer opportunities and times.

Wishing Y'all a Tight Lines New Year-----<*((((((><



2026 Annual Fly Fishing Tournament

The BRFC is an annual event held the first Saturday of March each year at the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area. The purpose of the Blue River Fly Classic is two-fold. First, the mission of this event is creating a day of greater fellowship among the fly-fishing community on Blue River. Secondly, this event is designed as a fund-raising event with the totality of monies raised by entries fees going directly to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife in support of the Catch and Release section at Blue River. Funds will be monitored by and through the Blue River Association.

The Blue River Fly Classic returns on Saturday, March 7, 2026, and we're excited to welcome anglers back for another outstanding year on one of Oklahoma's premier fisheries.

This season, the Blue River Fly Fishers are placing a renewed emphasis on stewardship—honoring and protecting the Blue River, the true jewel of southeastern Oklahoma and a treasured resource within the Chickasaw Nation. Our commitment is to elevate awareness, conservation, and respect for this remarkable watershed.

The Blue River, spanning 3,367 acres, is renowned for its exceptional fishing opportunities. Anglers can explore waters abundant with rainbow trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass, spotted bass, crappie, and channel catfish. From November through mid-March, the river is designated as a trout area, with rainbow trout stocked weekly to enhance the winter angling experience.

Registration opens January 1, 2026.

Participants who register by February 13, 2026, will receive a special-edition event T-shirt as part of their entry.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Blue River Fly Classic—where community, conservation, and great fishing come together on one unforgettable river.

What's New this Year?

The Blue River Fly Fishers are placing a renewed emphasis on protecting the Blue River, the true jewel of southeastern Oklahoma and a treasured resource within the Chickasaw Nation. Our commitment is to elevate awareness, conservation, and respect for this remarkable watershed.

When: Mar 07, 2026, 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST

Where: Blue River Public Fishing & Hunting Area,
D1854 Rd, Tishomingo, OK 73460, USA

Fly Fishing Over 50

2025 has been a very exciting time for seniors, with the opening of the recent ACTIV Recreation Center in Arlington. This facility in the Southwest area of Arlington, has rapidly grown with thousands of new members. The center offers a large amount of activities for their members, and is constantly offering new activities for the members to enjoy.

Noticing an opportunity to offer new activities to the staff at the ACTIV, fly fishing was presented to the staff as a possible activity for members to participate in. With great excitement, they agreed fly fishing could be added to the calendar, and indeed it was. A series of sessions was set up, to cover the basics of fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying. Each of these sessions were opened for fifteen members to sign up for. Quickly, these sessions filled up, and a waiting list also was started. This was super exciting to hear, that fly fishing was being offered, and the interest was at a high level.

The first session focused on a presentation on "Why Fly Fishing", and on how to get started. The session continued with an hour of introductory fly casting. This session was very well received, and built up some even more anticipation for the second session, of which was a full two hours of fly casting. It was good to see the group begin to understand the basics of fly casting, and the forming of some occasional tight loops!! The last session was all about fly tying, and the group found that very interesting and fun as well.

Overall, the initial fly fishing activities were a success, and there are already sessions planned for January, and on into February. Also being discussed is a local road trip, to a neighborhood pond, to see if the group can use what they learned, and land some fish. Stay tuned for that. If you have not been by the ACTIV center in Arlington, you should stop by and see what an awesome facility the seniors in Arlington will be enjoying for years to come. Might even consider joining, and seeing what all of the buzz is about.

Russell Husted, Education Director

682-261-1702 | RussellHusted@sbcglobal.net

Colorado Trip, July 11-18, 2026 NEW LOCATION!!!!

Club, it is NOT TOO early to start making your plans for the annual summer Colorado trip, July 11-18 in South Fork, Colorado. After unfavorable lodging circumstances we have had the last few years, WE ARE NOW STAYING AT A NEW LOCATION!!! Rooms have been reserved for us, so we kindly request that you start booking for next year. If we DO NOT fill up the allotment of rooms, a charge will be made for the rooms that were not reserved, and we DO NOT want that. Trust me on this. We have been going to South Fork and lodging there for quite a few years now. This is not a club-sponsored event, but we always have a wonderful time. As your host, I will provide assistance with lodging, address your trip needs, and offer information on the best fishing locations for you and your group. We will be staying at the [LOGE](#), which is located just across from our favorite place, Rachel's Food Truck. The place to be in South Fork. LOL. There, you can reserve a lodge room 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 sharing 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. This year, there was a below-average amount of snowfall, and river flows were low; temperatures did exceed a trout-friendly range. Hoping for much better conditions, and an end to the drought in 2026!!

South Fork is not the only area we fish. Creede, to the north, and Pagosa Springs to the southwest 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 several professional guides serving the area. Let me know if you'd like to attend. Please RSVP to me if you haven't already and are making plans to do so.

Russell Husted, Education Director

682-261-1702 | RussellHusted@sbcglobal.net

Fort Worth Fly Fishers Volunteers Needed

Fly Fishers could use your help in keeping our great club going strong. Volunteering is an enriching experience, especially when you do it while enjoying something you really like. If you are passionate about our club and have a special talent that could benefit us, please let us know. We are currently working to fill key positions vital to our success.

There are several key board positions that the club could benefit from. If you have experience in the following areas, please ask us how you can get involved.

Treasurer. Handle the club's finances, provide a budget for the club, and present reports to the board and membership.

Communication and Site Administrator. Send communications out to the membership, oversee the club's website, and assist in the club's newsletter.

Social Media Specialist. Oversee and add material to the club's social media platform. Create social media events for members and followers to see.

Speakers. Locate speakers for our club's meetings, arrange their presentations, and introduce them to the club at general meetings.

There are other ways to volunteer with our great club. The VIP Program is a great way to get involved. Volunteer at club events, and keep track of your hours. Those hours could add up to you winning some great prizes!! Reach out to a board member to learn how to get involved.

Russell Husted | russellhusted@sbcglobal.net | (682) 261-1702

Brett Morehead | brett.j.morehead@gmail.com | (817) 368-3808

Cynthia Casados | ckcasados@yahoo.com | (302) 690-1129

We would really appreciate your service and time. Thanks, Fort Worth Fly Fishers

Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP)

To all my volunteers out there, we love you, and couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

Having said that, it's that time of year again, and I need for you to send me your hours for 2025.

You can send me the card, a copy of the card, a note from the event host, a note from your mother, or smoke signal, although I'm not sure I could read that.

If last year is any indication, the process is onerous, and time consuming. My goal is to have the winners announced at the January meeting, and have the prizes handed out by March. But goals are like fishing...no guarantees.

Last year was a good year, we handed out nearly \$2500 worth of gear to the winners. Be One.

Don Irwin, VIP Coordinator

817-680-6421 | donirwin@mac.com



Bill Ward Outing Follow Up

Our club routinely travels to a place in heaven to fish. Bill Ward and his friend Kent Yelverton just happen to own many quarries filled with crystal clear water containing heaps of bass and bluegills. Bill has invited the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and their family and friends to enjoy these properties since around 2010. He even allows us to go individually during the year, assuming he is contacted first.

We usually go in April and November. This autumn trip had to be postponed due to big area storms, but this time we were blessed with beautiful weather while we camped at his ranch and fished all those quarries in our kayaks. A few highlights:

The Saturday night fish fry was perfect, thanks to Dan Tatum and his assistant, Liz Davis. Many members brought in plenty of bass on their stringers and even cleaned them prior to frying. Stephen Pio dissected his pineapple into bite sized desserts....always a command performance.

Fred Collins lost his rod to the bottom of the lake. He explained that the gigantic bass he had on literally ripped it from his hands in a startling splash, leaving him wet and really pissed.

Bill Hodges decided to opt for his new float tube in lieu of his kayak on this trip. This lead to disaster. While backing into the mud with fins on his boots, he decided the mud was too soggy to launch. Instead, the end of Bill's dock looked more appealing. Facing the water and seated in the tube he tried to push the whole contraption off and did a face plant upside down, completely immersed below the tube. After that near drowning he fished anyway, soaking wet.

The campfire after dinner on Saturday night was a roaring success, as we all sat around telling lies. Liz Davis was the assigned official appointed to add more wood. Happily, the smoke rose vertically thanks to a calm wind and her helping hand. To the west was a perfect fingernail moon setting into the trees.

Most of us traveled six miles into Mexia for our Friday night dinner at Falcons Restaurant. There were only about 15 folks who came to the outing this time, most all either in their campers or staying in Mexia. Bill Hodges was the lone person to set up a tent.

There were many memories and war stories that set into our imaginations for safe keeping. We look forward to the Spring outing next April. As always, we thank Bill Ward and Kent for the generous use of their ranch and Bill's usual humorous stories during the weekend.



CONSERVATION UPDATES

River Access Clean Up – Horseshoe on the Colorado RACA site

Russell Husted, Paul Lund, and several other volunteers spent a Saturday helping Texas Parks and Wildlife clean up the Colorado River Lease Access property near Bastrop, TX. It was a great day giving back and helping care for the land that local property owners so generously allow us to use for access to the river.

Here are a few highlights from Saturday, December 6th:

- Leaving at 3:00 a.m. to make it there by 8
- A well-organized event with everything ready (Thank you Madison Darwish)
- Working alongside conservation-minded folks with property owners
- Filling a roll-off dumpster completely
- Filling a large trailer to the top with debris
- A stop at Living Waters Fly Shop
- Amazing local fish tacos
- Round Rock Donuts (just a few.....)
- Finding a new spot to fish and kayak

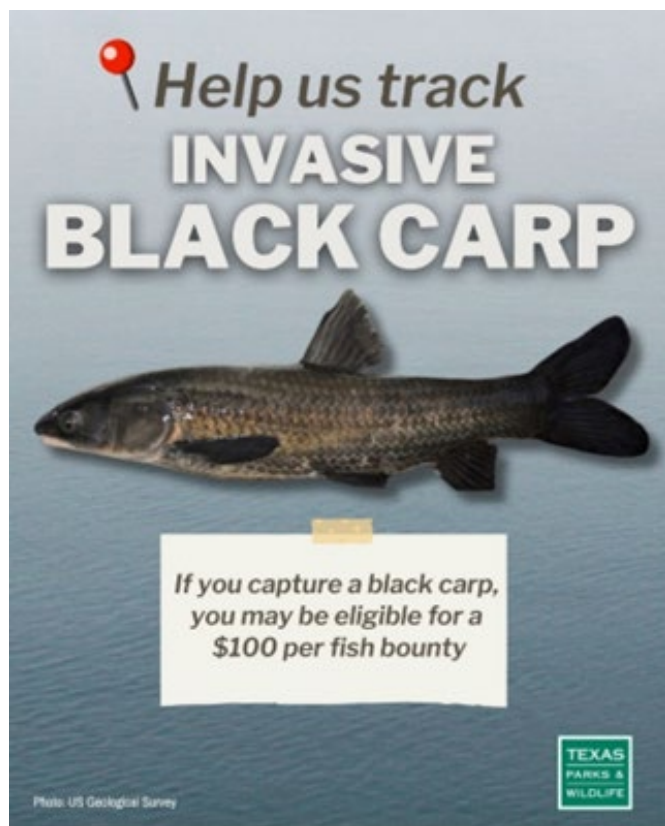
Great day, great people, and great stewardship of a beautiful resource.





Texas Rivers and Streams – Texas Parks & Wildlife

Visit [River Access and Conservation Areas \(RACA\) Leased Public Access](#) to learn more






From Texas Parks & Wildlife Facebook Page

Angler Alert Be on the lookout for Black Carp!

Invasive Black Carp have not yet been documented in Texas, but a new report shows they are now close by in the Red River. If you capture a black carp, you may be eligible for a \$100 per fish bounty.

The Black Carp Citizen Science bounty reward program includes the Red River in Texas to help alert us if these fish invade our waters.

If you catch a Black Carp:

-  KEEP it - Snap a pics and note location
-  COOL it on ice or freeze it
-  CALL us so we can track it

Get [details](#) on how to ID Black Carp and report it!

[See](#) where Black Carp have been found.

Don't forget your Conservation based New Years resolution for 2026!

Conservation is at the heart of everything we value as anglers and outdoor stewards, and FWFF is proud to support efforts that protect and preserve the waters and habitats we all enjoy.

We invite you to participate in FWFF's conservation initiatives—whether through hands-on projects, education, advocacy, or support of local and regional conservation partners. Your involvement, at any level, helps ensure healthy fisheries and access to quality outdoor experiences for future generations.

Opportunities to participate may include volunteer workdays, conservation-focused events, educational programs, and fundraising efforts that directly support conservation projects. No matter your experience level or availability, there is a meaningful way to get involved.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about upcoming conservation opportunities, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for supporting FWFF's commitment to conservation. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Paul Lund, Conservation Director

770-294-1940 | lupol63@yahoo.com

Fly of the Month: Midges

Written and photographed by: Russell Husted



What Are Midges?

Definition & Taxonomy

Midges are small flies in the order Diptera, including non-biting midges (family Chironomidae) and biting midges (family Ceratopogonidae) alongside others like Simuliidae (black flies). [scienceinsights.org], [peskylittl...itters.com]

Size & Appearance

Typically 1–10 mm long with slender bodies and long legs. Chironomids lack wing scales and biting mouthparts, unlike mosquitoes. [scienceinsights.org], [britannica.com]

Lifecycle Stages

Midges undergo complete metamorphosis: egg → larva → pupa → adult.

1. **Egg:** Laid near or on water; hatching takes days to weeks depending on conditions.

2. **Larva:**

- Aquatic, worm-like, 2–10 mm long.
- Detritivorous or filter feeders; some (bloodworms) have red hemoglobin to survive low-oxygen environments.
- Lasts weeks to months (even up to 9 months).

3. **Pupa:**

- Non-feeding, transitions to adult.
- Rises to the surface, often with buoyancy bubbles.

4. **Adult:**

- Short-lived (1–2 days to a couple weeks).
- Focus on reproduction; male antennae are feathery, forming swarms.
- Some adults feed on nectar, biting midges feed on blood.

Habitat & Distribution

- **Global Reach:** Found worldwide—freshwater for non-biting, and a wide range for biting midges.
- **Larval Habitats:** In sediment of lakes, streams, marshes, salt marshes, tree holes, compost—any moist, organic-rich substrate.
- **Adult Activity:** Swarms near lights, water edges, dawn/dusk filtering; biting species disperse several kilometers searching for hosts.

Ecological Role

- **Food Web:** Key prey for fish (esp. trout), birds, bats, amphibians, and invertebrates.
- **Nutrient Cycling:** Larvae break down and recycle organic material in aquatic ecosystems. Bioindicators: Abundance of certain species signals water quality; presence in polluted water with low oxygen.
- **Pollination:** Some species pollinate plants, such as cocoa trees.

Identification Tips

By Life Stage:

- *Larvae:* slender, segmented worm-like bodies; bloodworms appear red from hemoglobin.
- *Pupa:* more compact, often with visible wing buds, rise to the surface gently.
- *Adults:* no wing scales, long front legs, males with plumose antennae, weak fliers, form swarms.

Family Differences:

- *Chironomidae (non-biting):* slender bodies, long legs, feathery male antennae.
- *Ceratopogonidae (biting):* smaller (~1–3 mm), stout mouthparts, often patterned wings. Simuliidae (black flies): hump-backed, stout, day biters near fast-flowing water.

Emergence & Seasonal Patterns

- *Timing:* Emergence peaks in spring through summer, often April–August; continues until frost. Multiple generations possible during warm months. Crepuscular swarming at dawn/dusk; low wind and high humidity enhance flights.
- *Regionally Influenced:* Photoperiod, rainfall, temperature, and habitat types influence life cycle timing.

Importance in Fly Fishing

Trout Food Source: Midges form a cornerstone of trout diets year-round, especially in winter and during low insect activity.

Fishing Techniques:

- *Larva/Nymph:* Subsurface patterns like Zebra Midge imitate bottom-dwelling larvae; fish deep/unweighted rigs.
- *Pupa/Emerger:* Imitations like RS2 or CDC emerger drift near surface; mimic rising pupae.
- *Adult/Dry:* Griffith's Gnat or Matt's Midge float on the surface, imitating adults and mating swarms.

Recommended Patterns:

- *Nymphs/Larvae:* Zebra Midge, Brassie, French Chironomid. Emergers: CDC Transitional Midge, RS2, Root Beer Midge.
- *Dry/Adults:* Griffith's Gnat, Klinkhammer Midge, Matt's Midge.

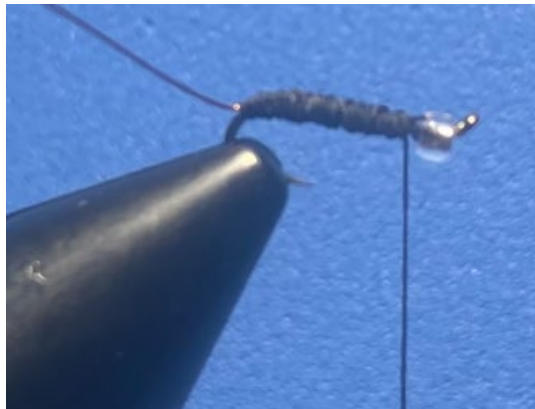
Rigging Tips: Use light wire hooks, small sizes (#16–#28), fine tippet (6X–7X), and delicate drifts.

Final Insights

Midges are tiny but incredibly influential creatures. Their lifecycle, swarming behavior, and ubiquity in aquatic systems make them ecologically pivotal and angler-essential. Understanding and matching their stages can significantly improve trout fishing success.

Tie Some Up and GO Fish Them!!

Midges are extremely easy to tie. Do not fear the small size of hook needed to do so. Suggest using the proper eyewear, or magnification so the tying process can be seen more efficiently. Midges can be a variety of colors, but the body styles remain basically the same. Colors of thread for tying Midges can be black, red, brown, olive, or a combination of any of these suggested colors.



Step One

Insert a size 18-24 Hook into the vice. Slide a bead of choice onto the hook. The bead could be a weighted bead, or a light glass bead. Attach thread to the hook. Cover the majority of the hook with the thread, creating a small tapered body.



Step Two

Prepare a 3 inch trip of very light wire. Copper is the most common color, but could be a variety of other colors. Attach the wire at the back end of the hook bend. Wrap the wire around the hook, with separated, evenly gaps. Tie off the wire with the thread, leaving a small gap near the hook eye.



Step Three

Tie in the CDC Puff in the small gap below the bead. Then whip finish the fly below the bead.

Now that the Midges have been tied, get out there and FISH them!!

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.



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, Grapvine, 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	2024-25
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!

David Drez & Jerid Nichols



New here? Stay connected! We're always excited to have our members—especially new ones—join our events and outings.

Here's what to keep in mind: safety is our top priority, and everyone plays a part in it.

As the event or outing gets closer, watch your email for last-minute updates (and don't forget to check your spam folder just in case). Follow us on social media for news and reminders, and be sure to know who the host is and how to reach them.



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