



Fort Worth Fly Fishers Newsletter

February 2026 Pg. 1

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**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**



Message From the President

Howdy Fort Worth Fly Fishers, this is George Prochaska, your new president. First it is a real opportunity to serve you all. I have been a member for a few years now and have really benefited from my membership in the club. What I was looking for was a group of folks interested in fishing, nature, and hopefully the chance to make some new friends. I became interested in the club by attending Fly Fest (which is coming up soon in March). I saw the club in action at this event. I walked by the booth the club hosted, picked up some information, and then attended some clinics. One was led by Russell Husted, a long-time member of the club. And he was talking about the joys of fly fishing the Trinity River on a weekend day. His vision sounded rather good to me. Plan a trip close by so you could be on the water fishing in less than an hour from your driveway. Paddling down a smooth and protected from the wind waterway, artfully tossing some flies into the grass banks and getting some eager black bass or sunfish to strike. Then swing by some hamburger joint on the way home and be back at home in time to have time to still hang out to get whatever needs to be done at home before dinner. It took me a couple of years after I first heard Russell speak to join. Once I did, I was on a learning path. I met new people, discovered a new way to fish and be outdoors, learned a lot of new fishing spots, and met some new pals. There were lots of trips that followed and soon



there were opportunities to volunteer and meet even more people. As they say, the rest was history. One of the coolest things I have been able to do is plan monthly programs, and in the process meet guides and fishing related people throughout the country.

The club has more than fulfilled my expectations, and I hope that it will do the same for you. What I have noticed is that the more you put in, the more you get out. And the opportunities abound for those that just want membership and hear some great speakers and be around like-minded people once a month, to aspects that you might never have dreamed of.

As we go into the year, expect to continue to hear great speakers, excellent outings will be planned, much instruction is available, there will be many chances to meet new people and fish new waters. There will be multiple chances to give back through volunteering with conservation, service on the board, fund raising through the annual auction, fly tying, superb casting instruction, and much more.

Fish Camp is there for both our newer and experienced members. Please consider taking advantage of this program. We match our club members up by geography and have team captains that will accelerate your connection with the club very quickly. There will even be a Christmas Party in December, you can bring your spouse or partner too. Just a ton of fun all the way around, for a small membership fee.

Finally, as you can probably tell the club is here to serve our members. In that way, we conducted a survey at the end of last year and will be doing a few tweaks to be sure we take advantage of the quality input.

All the best, g

GUEST SPEAKERS

February Speaker – Danny Scarborough

Danny Scarborough arborough is our February speaker who will talk about fishing techniques and flies for warm water species. He specializes in client trips targeting Bow Fin in the Conroe/Huntsville area and Alligator Gar in the lower Trinity River. One of the largest Alligator Gar he caught weighed 83 pounds!

He is an experienced fly fishing guide with 15 years of fly fishing under his belt offering guided fly fishing trips around Texas for largemouth, smallmouth, Guadalupe and spotted bass, sunfish, white bass, striped bass, crappie, carp, freshwater drum, bowfin, gar and even catfish in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth/Houston areas.



March Speaker – Doc Thompson, High Country Anglers, Taos, NM

Planning a trip to fish Northern New Mexico this year? If not, you will be hearing our March speaker. Doc Thompson started High Country Anglers in 1995 thinking he could make a living as a fly-fishing guide in New Mexico. Thirty years and 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 Northern 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. 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 presents seminars on fly fishing, fly selection and other fly-fishing educational programs to fly shops and fly-fishing clubs throughout the country. He volunteers throughout Northern New Mexico. He has served two consecutive terms as President of the local Enchanted Circle Trout Unlimited (ECTU) and is a current ECTU board member. He started and volunteers for ECTU's Trout Warriors program using fly fishing as a form of healing for US Military Disabled Veterans. When not in New Mexico he is exploring throughout South America and hosts saltwater trips to the Yucatan in the winter months.



OUTING RECAPS

January Outing Recap

By Daniel Tatum

We had a local outing to the city pond in Joshua on January 11th. It was a cold day, but a hearty few showed up. It was a couple days after stocking so there were lots of locals there. We had a fun time, caught a few trout, then headed to a local place for burgers and suds. It was a great local outing. Now we know about another local fishing hole. And special thanks to Roger Lee for hosting and setting up the event.



Brazos River Outing Recap — January 17, 2026

By Russell Husted

The first outing of 2026 is officially in the books! Our club headed to the Brazos River near the historic Possum Kingdom Stone Bridge for a Trout 101 event aimed at helping new members learn the basics of trout fishing. And that mission was absolutely accomplished.

More than 20 new and seasoned members braved a chilly morning that eventually warmed into a beautiful day on the river. Anglers weren't the only ones out enjoying the weather—fishing pressure was high early on, and many of the prime spots were occupied. With a little patience, though, the crowds thinned, and we were able to find pockets of productive trout-holding water.

What Worked

The most effective setup of the day was a small tan fly, fished either in a jig style or traditional nymph pattern, suspended 1-2 feet under an indicator. Once members dialed in depth, the action followed.

Lunch & Community

As the day progressed, thoughts turned toward lunch, so the group gathered at a nearby campground overlooking Possum Kingdom Dam and the surrounding cliffs. A sandwich buffet—with all the fixings—gave everyone the chance to warm up, swap stories, and welcome our newest members. It was also great reconnecting with the diehards who made this annual outing such a dependable highlight.

A fantastic way to kick off the 2026 season, and we're already excited for the outings ahead. Stay tuned announcements for the rest of the year are coming soon!

Trout Season Is Just Getting Started

This won't be our last trip to the area—trout season on the Brazos continues for several more months. Thanks to sustained cold tailwater flows, trout can thrive here through May, though warming water and predation from resident bass will eventually take their toll.

With more stockings planned, this is a perfect time to head back and enjoy the remainder of your Texas trout season.

July 17 Full Texas Trout Stocking Schedule:
https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml



Events Calender and Club Activities

Date	Activity/Contact Information
Saturday, February 21	Casting Clinic
Saturday, February 21	Troutfest and Mend the River/New Braunfels
Saturday, February 28	Blue River/Brett Morehead/brett.j.morehead@gmail.com or 817-368-3808
Saturday, March 14	Trinity Fly Fest/ Brett Morehead/brett.j.morehead@gmail.com or 817-368-3808
Saturday, March 28	Nolan River Outing – details to come
Saturday, April 18	TRWD Trash Bash
April 24-26	Ward Ranch Outing, Mexia, TX – details to come
Tuesday, July 7	Member "Gear Garage Sale" in lieu of monthly meeting
July 11-18	"Non-Outing" to South Fork, CO
Saturday, September 19	Annual Fundraising Event & Auction

Nolan River Outing – March 28 – Mark Your Calendar for the Sand Bass Run

March is time for one of our favorite outings on the Nolan River near Blum. White bass will start running up into the creeks and rivers here in North Texas. The Nolan River runs from the Cleburne area into the Brazos River above Lake Whitney, and in the spring is actually one of the prettiest areas to fish. With the blue bonnets and redbud trees blooming, the river runs through limestone rocks and cliff formations, which really add to the white bass run experience. But the old saying, that if the red buds aren't blooming, then it's not time yet. We shall see.

Peak time is mid-March through early April, so March the 28th is right in that time zone. We will meet in Blum, a small town south of Cleburne, at the Conoco Station on highway 933. Plan to meet here at 6:30 am. They know we are coming and will have hot breakfast treats and coffee for us to enjoy. We will have a brief meeting to discuss the day and suit up before heading down to the access point. Parking here is a challenge, as we are parking on the sides of the road. Be extremely careful doing so, as traffic does not slow down much. Also suggest carpooling!! This will reduce down the number of vehicles parking here. When the word gets out that conditions are good, this will be an immensely popular place to go.

As far as gear goes, suggest the following:

- 3 to 5 weight rods. 7-to-9-foot rods work best
- Small minnow type flies. Closers, woolly buggers, etc. Bring variety in colors. Small Flies are best.
- Good footwear, with grip. It could be muddy around the river and on trails. NO felt!!!
- Walking staff very handy
- Protective eye and head gear

As the action slows down some, or hunger pains start to set in, there is relief in Cleburne! Lunch at the Burger Bar really hits the spot. They know we are coming too!! Plan is to start showing up at around 1pm. Highly suggest calling in your order as you head that way. This will speed up the process, and ensure there is little time waiting. 817-645-9021. Ask for the Russell special. LOL For directions to the Burger Bar, click here [Burger Bar in Cleburne](#). Going to have an exciting time!! Don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
 Russell 682-261-1702
 Daniel 682-201-6113

Casting Clinic, February 21st

By Russell Husted

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers will continue our increasingly popular casting clinics on February 21st starting at 10 am at High Oak Park. The club members who have been participating in the program have benefited from the expert assistance provided by many FFI Casting Instructors. Not only have they become better casters, but also better anglers, which is the basis of the program. The club will continue casting clinics in 2026. There is still time to join the fun and expand your casting journey!!! The club now has more casting instructors than ever before, with new plans to take your casting accomplishments to another level. No better way to start than to review the entire program when visiting the FFI's website. Learn about the program. See videos on ALL of the programs' casting techniques, and more!!

[Fly Fishers International Casting Education](#)

Russell Husted, Education Director

682-261-1702 | RussellHusted@sbcglobal.net



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 February 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-----<*(((><

Fly Fishing Events Around the State — February 21st

February 21 has two great events happening in the Hill Country. Troutfest 2026 is taking on a new format this year. Soon after the devastating Hill Country floods on July 4th, GRTU shifted its focus toward supporting recovery efforts for both the community and the river. Out of that commitment came a series of new events under the banner "Mend the River."

Mend the River Evening Banquet

This special evening banquet will raise funds vital to the restoration of the river and the broader GRTU community. The event will feature guest speakers, live music, and both live and silent auctions — all dedicated to supporting flood recovery.

Rio Anglers Day Event

But that's not all happening on February 21st.

Rio Anglers will host a daytime, family-friendly event from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Rio Guadalupe Resort. This "Guides Day Off" festival will include:

- Tie-A-Thon
- Guadalupe Casting Cup
- Trout Derby
- BBQ and a Bier Garten

It's shaping up to be a fun, full day celebrating community, fly fishing, and the shared effort to heal the river after one of the most tragic events in our state's recent history.

If you're able, please make plans to attend and lend your support. Both events promise an exciting time and an even greater cause.

Hope to See You There

Bass Fishing in Winter

By Paul Lund

Fly fishing for bass in the winter on a river that feels secluded, remote, and isolated is a treat. Especially when that river is only 50 minutes from the major city of Austin, TX. On December 28th, Russell Husted and I got to experience such a treat. The river provided beauty, wildlife, fish, and fun. Marcus Rodriguez, our guide from Living Waters, proved to have multiple talents as demonstrated by his oarsmanship, chef, fishing, wildlife, and conservation mindfulness. He kept us fishing while we enjoyed many laughs and more along the way. The variation of shallow clear water, heavy vegetation, occasional rapids, and beauty was provided by the star San Marcos River. To have such a special place that is clean, scenic, and sustains wildlife demonstrates that something is going right. When patrons care for rivers that they use and practice “better than we found it” ideology we can have more of such places. Is there opportunity to do better? Yes – but this trip was a positive motivator to push that even more.



In Memory – Bill Stewart

Bill Stewart, a long-time member of our club, passed away on 11/20/025. Bill served the club in a variety of ways. He was on our board two separate times, once as conservation director and another as secretary. He always had a smile and would freely offer his knowledge of fly fishing or the best fly to use. Even when his health was declining, he'd attend meetings and events at every chance.

When he wasn't fly fishing, he loved working on his MG. When the weather was nice, he would drive it to the club meetings with the top down. It was a beautiful car (from the late 1950s) and quite a head turner. It was even featured on the cover of an MG collectors' magazine.

A retired engineer from Lockheed, Bill once built his own bamboo cane fly rod, but this one was a bit “different.” He went to a pond to cut the cane and then fashioned the guides using wire hose clamps. He caught fish with it! He demonstrated it at a club meeting. He thought it was hilarious how people spent large sums on fancy bamboo rods when all you needed was a piece of cane and some ingenuity.

Save the Date – TRWD Trash Bash April 18th / Club Event on Trinity River

Let's have a great turnout this year for our Trinity River Cleanup. More information will be provided as details are finalized by TRWD. We will share with each other by upcoming meetings, newsletter, and Facebook post. Get ready for a productive and fun time.



Gear Cleaning for Reel Recovery

Join us at the Orvis Fort Worth store for a Reel Cleaning event at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 8 on behalf of Reel Recovery. Each year, we help Reel Recovery get their reels cleaned and oiled and ready for the year's retreat season.

You'll be helping a great cause and earn volunteer hours at the same time. Reel Recovery provides fly fishing retreats for cancer survivors at no cost and cleaning the reel saves on wear and tear. This organization is funded by donations and the efforts of volunteers like you.

Just show up. All supplies will be ready for us. Orvis Fort Worth is located at 4601 West Fwy #310, Fort Worth, TX 76107 in the Chapel Hill shopping center off I-30.

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.

Fly Fishing Takes Off at ACTIV — A Growing Community and a Growing Club

By Russell Husted, Education Director

With great anticipation, Arlington welcomed its new state-of-the-art recreation center when it opened this past March. Since then, thousands of Arlington residents aged 50 and over have made ACTIV their new home for fitness, community, and connection. I've joined in with the excitement myself and have quickly come to enjoy everything the center offers.

As I explored ACTIV's wide range of programs, an idea came to mind: Why not introduce fly fishing as a unique new activity? After connecting with the right staff member and presenting the concept, the proposal was approved—much to my delight. Soon, dates were set and the Fly Fishing with Russell series was officially underway.

Initial Sessions

The first three classes were announced to ACTIV members and filled almost immediately:

- Introduction to Fly Fishing
- Fly Casting
- Fly Tying

Club member Jim Smith generously offered his support and assisted in all three December sessions. Attendance was strong, engagement was high, and the response from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Les Jackson and Jim Fuquay assisted in fly tying classes.

Growing Demand

The enthusiasm for fly fishing quickly spread throughout the ACTIV community. The center soon requested additional sessions in January—and again in February. More and more members have become interested in the sport, and many have already attended our club meetings and even participated in this month's outing. We expect even more to join us for February's events.

A Big Opportunity for the Club

With ACTIV's membership now surpassing 10,000 members, and about 50 new members joining every day, our fly-fishing programs are reaching an incredibly large and growing audience. This visibility is helping introduce many new people to our club, our outings, and the sport we love.

It's an exciting time—not only for ACTIV, but for our fly-fishing community. Many of us began this journey later in life, and to see so many new anglers starting their own "over-50 adventure" is truly inspiring.



Members Russell Husted, Les Jackson, and Jim Fuquay demonstrate and teach participants to tie their own flies at Arlington's ACTIV Center.

Larry Swinea attended the classes, joined our club, and caught trout at the January outing. Way to go, Larry!



Fly of the Month



Flys for the Blue River

Ethan Lovelace, biologist at the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area would report on January 20: Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 40°F and clear. Rainbow trout good on caddis flies, midges, nymphs, around brush structure, channels, creek channels, river channel, river mouth, and rocks.

Please note that the area we fish is open to fly fishing and bait casting so you will see a whole array of fishing gear. However, I would add to Ethan's suggestions by telling you to go small and go deep. Every once in a while a brief hatch will happen when a small caddis or adams will bring trout up. However the surest bet is to use small 18 to 24 midges and nymphs. Some of my personal favorites are the Eggstacy Egg, Mercury Zebra Midge, and RS2 set up on a euro nymphing rig or running deep under an indicator. Or if you prefer you can pull a streamer like the old work horse Wooly Bugger or float the popular Blue River Mop Fly. My personal favorites, the ones I never leave home without and that have been most productive for me on the Blue, are simple to tie and effective: Eggstacy Egg, Mercury Zebra Midge, and RS2.



Eggstacy Egg

Originator: Tim Cammisa
 Tier: Brett Morehead
 Hook: Hanak H450BL, #12
 Bead: 3.0mm slot tungsten silver
 Thread: Uni 8/0 pink
 Body: Eggstasy, salmon pink

RS2

Originator: Rim Chung
 Tier: Brett Morehead
 Hook: # 18 to 22 Tiemco 101
 Thread: Gray 8/0 Uni-Thread
 Tail: Dun Bett's Tailing Fibers
 Abdomen: Natural beaver fur (I use muskrat)
 Wing: Gray saddle hackle
 Thorax: Natural beaver fur (I use muskrat)

Let's take a look at how to tie my version of the **Mercury Zebra Midge**

Originator: Pat Dorsey
 Tier: Brett Morehead
 Hook: # 18 to 22 Tiemco 2487
 Bead: Clear silver-lined glass (Hobby Lobby)
 Thread: Black 6/0
 Rib: Silver Ultra Wire (extra fine)
 Abdomen: Black 6/0
 Collar: Black Superfine

Fly of the Month: Mercury Zebra Midge



Start by placing your hobby lobby glass bead on a #20 nymph hook and secure in vise.



Use 6/0 black thread. Tie in a jam knot behind the bead. Then tie in the silver wire and run thread bead back to the bend.



Next run the thread back up to the bead and then wrap the silver wire up to the bead, creating segments.



Apply dubbing to thread, my preference is natural muskrat, get a couple wraps and then whip finish. Brush out to get that buggy look and your done.

Now Let's Go Fish!!!

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.

Introducing Our New Board of Directors

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers voted on the new slate of officers and board of directors at the January 6 meeting. Special thanks to our Nominating Committee of Brett Morehead, Cynthia Cassados and Russell Husted.

President	George Prochaska	georgeprochaska@gmail.com	2026-27
Vice President	Kay Jackson	kayjacks@sbcglobal.net	2026-27
Secretary	Jerri Meaux	jerri_meaux@att.net	2025-26
Treasurer	Alvin Meaux	alvin_meaux@att.net	2026-27
Education	Russell Husted	russellhusted@sbcglobal.net	2025-26
Membership	Barry Clark	bcdryfly@gmail.com	2025-26
Auction	Zane Moore	zuner_2000@yahoo.com	2026-27
Communications	Kay Jackson	kayjacks@sbcglobal.net	2026-27
Social Media	Matthew Lambert	mel@mlml2.net	2026-27
Legal	Mike Nelson	fnelson@bbar.com	2025-26
Speakers	David Schwartz	columbo987@yahoo.com	2026-27
Fly Tying	Les Jackson	keebranch@yahoo.com	2026-27
Outings	Daniel Tatum	tatum.daniel@yahoo.com	2025-26
At - Large	Don Irwin	donirwin@mac.com	2025-26

Welcome our newest members!



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*