



Fort Worth

Fly Fishers

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**Fort Worth Fly Fishers Newsletter**

**April 2026 Pg. 1**

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*Editor's Message:*

*I apologize to all the club members for the lateness of this newsletter. Our goal is to send the newsletter at least a week before the club meeting. Unfortunately, I had a death in our family, and I am the executor of the estate. As articles were coming into me, I was knee-deep in planning two services in two cities and then cleaning out my loved one's home against a deadline.*

*I'm not writing this to find sympathy. We're all volunteers for this wonderful club, but it's no excuse. Sometimes my optimism escapes me, and in the case of the newsletter, I kept thinking that I can get it done without help. Another valuable lesson I learned in fly fishing.*

*Kay Jackson, Vice President*

## Message From the President

April is here, the rivers and creeks are up, the dogwoods and redbuds have bloomed, there are still some blue bonnets, and may grasses are growing. The fishing was pretty good. Nolan River event, well attended. We want to thank Steven Woodcock, Matt, and Maureen Lambert for putting us in the mood with our 3rd club podcast on white bass fishing. It was super informative. Special thanks go to Russell Husted for making the event happen, and making it a tradition. No one knows the white bass and the Nolan River like Russell. Thanks to all who made the trek and enjoyed the camaraderie with one another.



I remember my first outing there to the Nolan River. Russell was of course in the lead; he had promoted it well. At that time, I had no fishing buddies in the club and made the trip solo. My gps gave out with no signal and boy did I get lost. I visited graveyards, trailer parks and other less than savory locations. Eventually found the place and found one of my first club fishing buddies, Jim Smith. It was something like a movie set, with smoke rising off the river and fly lines (except for mine), making graceful



## Message From the President - Contd.

arcs. I saw my new fishing buddy catch his first white bass early in the morning before many others had caught anything. I remember hearing the name Chris Padeneaut say he caught a sandy on a fly he tied. It was quite a day, including an hour and a half wait for a burger. Good day, to tell me outings in this club need to be a priority.

We had a great Fly Fest, our lead was former president Brett Morehead, who has made leading Fly Fest vols a regular show.

The club is rocking on all cylinders, thanks for your enthusiasm and participation in the many club outings. Special thanks to all the many club members who step up and out of their comfort zones to serve on the board, lead outings, man the booth, run the auction program, do the podcasts, collect and keep up with the money and the reports, prepare the newsletter, post to FB, Instagram on behalf of the club, and more...Tip of the cap to you all!

One last note...I heard a wise member say your fishing career and success is up to you! The club is a resource, and if you want

to get better, make friends, enjoy adventures, and contribute, it is all up to you. This is an invite to do just that. Maybe just say hi to one person, invite one person, go on one outing, etc.... just do something little to promote your experience in the sport and in life.

We believe in you, g

## Catch the Club Podcast

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers podcast program is going strong. Two podcasts have already dropped and can be accessed from a link on the FFFF website and major podcast sites (e.g., Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Podcasts, YouTube, etc.). Right now, more podcasts are in the pipeline and will focus on fly fishing physical fitness needs, fishing opportunities, and locations in DFW and North Texas, catching world records on a fly, and fly fishing on a budget. Stay tuned for these podcasts and be sure to subscribe so you don't miss any episodes.

# GUEST SPEAKERS

## April Speaker - Aaron Gordon

Aaron Gordon with Long Drift Outfitters spoke to the club about the fishing opportunities on the Kootenai River in northern Idaho.

The Kootenai is a tailwater which creates a rich food source for rainbow trout, bull trout (it's legal in Idaho to fish for them) and other species. Below is a link to his live presentation at the club.

<https://longdriftoutfitters.com/about/>  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/1j9d4xQpqVneZit-yqggTDaNBv50H9KShi72pjbECEGa9otrGk3GDL\\_dTVT8n0nM.QHc8bsf3wQ5xjDh?](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/1j9d4xQpqVneZit-yqggTDaNBv50H9KShi72pjbECEGa9otrGk3GDL_dTVT8n0nM.QHc8bsf3wQ5xjDh?startTime=1775607251000)  
 startime=1775607251000  
 Passcode: TD9fD9=r

Aaron started Long Drift Outfitters in 2019 with his wife Rachel and their two beautiful daughters, Addy and Emi. Aaron started his guiding career in Colorado in 2000. Aaron moved to Idaho in 2006, and spent 13 summers guiding full-time on the Selway, Lochsa, Coeur d'Alene, and the Main and Middle Fork of the Salmon River. He now spends most of his summer days guiding on the Kootenai River in Idaho, with an occasional guest-appearance on one of the aforementioned rivers. Aaron loves sharing his passion for the outdoors with his guests. In the off-season Aaron is the band director at Sandpoint High School.



## UPDATE – Colorado Trip

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

**COLORADO is getting LOADS of snow!! Finally!! Snowfall amounts have been very light, except for the last few weeks!!**

Club, it is **NOT TOO** early to start making your plans for the annual summer Colorado trip, July 11-18 in South Fork, Colo. After unfavorable lodging circumstances we have had the last few years, **WE ARE NOW STAYING AT A NEW LOCATION!!!** A LINK was sent out to the club members to use for reserving your own lodging.

**HOWEVER, the Loge is now FULL.** But there are many, many other places to stay in Southfork. Still plan on attending, as we only use the rooms when we are not outside together or fly fishing. Best Western is a nice hotel right across the street, and within steps of Rachel's!! I can assist with your travel needs. Check out this site, which will help with any of your planning needs.

<https://southforkchamber.com/>

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 with lodging, needs for the trip, and information about locations for fishing that will be best 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 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.

This year, there was a below average amount of snowfall and river flows were low, and 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 with 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.

<https://www.logecamps.com/property/wolfcreek>

Please RSVP to me at russellhusted@sbcglobal.net, if you haven't already and are making plans to do so.

## Netrekk Partnership Announcement

As we discussed in recent club meetings, we have officially entered into an agreement with Jerry Hicks of Netrekk.

Jerry has developed a top-tier net and staff system—well-designed, durable, and perfectly suited for fly anglers.

Through this partnership, our club now receives an exclusive 10% discount on any Netrekk net, and an additional 10% of each purchase is donated back to the club.

Netrekk is an FFI Industry Partner and a leader in promoting safe catch-and-release best practices. FFI reached out to Paul Lund and me to test the Netrekk system and provide feedback for the community. We were each given a net, and we immediately put it through a true Texas test.

After two trips chasing White Bass, I can confidently say the Netrekk performed exceptionally well. Whether wading, climbing out of the riverbed, or landing fish, the net handled everything with ease. I pushed it hard, and it delivered outstanding results. The rubber netting attached to the staff makes catch-and-release simple, smooth, and safe for the fish.

Netrekk is also a great conservation story. Constructed from recycled aircraft aluminum, the gear reflects a genuine commitment to sustainability and the future of Texas fly fishing.





# NETrek<sup>®</sup>

**For the wild waters that test you.**

**For the fish that trust you.**

**Discover gear built for safe, sustainable adventures.**

NETrek was created for anglers who move through rugged water, handle fish with care, and rely on gear that **supports safe handling for soft release.**

Every component is purpose built for stability, versatility, and durability across the diverse waters Texas anglers call home.



- **Soft release** ready with fish first **rubber nets**
- **Secure** stability for fast, uneven, or technical water
- **Versatile** utility for **wading support**, landing, and **safe handling**
- **Durable** construction for rugged trails and wild waters
- **Adaptable** performance across species, styles, and environments

NETrek exists for anglers who explore farther and put the fish first.

***Designed to Adapt. Built to Endure.***

## Events Calender and Club Activities

Date	Activity/Contact Information
April 24-26	Ward Ranch Outing, Mexia, TX (see article)
Saturday, May 9	Brazos River – Brazos Outdoor Center (see article)
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

### Ward Ranch April 24-26 Hosted by Dan Tatum and Bill Hodges

The Bill Ward ranch near Mexia is one of the club’s favorites. The fishing is always outstanding. There are several lakes on Bill’s property as well as Kent’s place across the street. You can fish from the bank but it’s difficult. Kayaks or small boats are the best to use. The bass are mostly 1 to 2 pounds, but they do reach up to 8 – 10 pounds. Recommended rods are 5 weight or 6 weights. Bass may be hitting topwater which is amazing when they explode from the surface. They are usually hitting in the water column and a variety of flies such as wooly buggers and crawfish patterns. But this is a great place to try out what you’ve got.

There is space for RV’s but no hookups. You can also camp on the property if you’d like. The city of Mexia is about 5 miles away where there are hotels.

On Friday evening a group usually goes to eat in town. On Saturday we will be fishing and then we will have a fish fried at Bill Ward’s place Saturday evening. You will be treated to freshly caught fish fried to perfection and world-famous Dr. Pepper onion rings. Bring a chair. BYOB and plan to hang out for good food and good conversation.

Sunday is spent packing out and heading back. You may hang around and fish Sunday before you go home. Be sure to pick up your area so you leave Bill’s place better than you found it. We want to show appreciation to Bill Ward, our host, at all times.

### Brazos River – Brazos Outdoor Center – May 9th Hosted by Dan Tatum

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. We will casually float downstream and fish along the way. You can bring your own 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. We can hang out and swim in the river. We can go to town for lunch and return. They are really cool about us being there.

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.

Recommended Flies.

Topwater poppers, topwater frogs or mouse patterns, Ghost minnows, Clouser Minnows, Hopper Droppers, and the classic wooly buggers.

## Fly of the Month

Liz Davis was the featured fly tyer in April. She demonstrated and taught techniques for the Woven Polish Nymph which uses a weaving technique different sizes of chenille.

### Woven Polish Nymph

(Credits/Source: Fly and Photos by Loren Williams/ Loren Williams Fly Tying Tutorials)

#### MATERIALS

Hook: Partridge GRS12ST Emerger

Bead: Copper Tungsten

Weight: Lead Wire

Underbody: Size "A" Nylon

Thread: Green Olive

Dorsal Weave: Green Olive Uni Yarn

Ventral Weave: Pale Yellow Uni Yarn

Rib: Monofilament Thread

Legs: Black Hackle Fibers

Collar: Black Rabbit with Fox Squirrel Guard Hairs



Slip an appropriately sized bead onto the barbless hook and place the hook in your vise.



Wrap a base of lead wire on 2/3 of the hook shank, shifted slightly to the rear as shown. This will be the base of the final "form."



Coat the lead wire with cement or super glue to secure it to the hook and (more importantly) to fill in the gaps.



Build the form using size "A" flat thread. It is important to use FLAT thread or floss as opposed to heavy round thread like UNI or Gudebrod rod winding thread in order to make a smooth body. Be sure to taper off the ends of the lead wraps. Also, be sure NOT to close in the gap between the bead and the lead if it will be used later.



Whip finish the heavy thread, clip it, and attach the tying thread.



Select the weave material such as Uni-Yarn in green olive and pale yellow. You may choose any color you desire, just be sure the tying thread matches **them**.



Attach the clear mono rib to the top of the hook and secure it to the rear.



Secure the dark (dorsal) color to the nearside of the hook shank, from front to back. Secure it well down the bend.



Be sure all three materials are secured to exactly the same location. Then whip-finish and clip the thread.



Repeat on the far side with the light (ventral) color, securing it, too, well past the bend.



Click [this link](#) to be taken to my tutorial on the shuttle weave where you will proceed with the actual weave.



The yarn has been woven and knotted just behind the bead.



Trim close to the hook.



Attach the tying thread just behind the knot with as few wraps as possible.



Secure it all with several tight thread wraps.



Untie the knot.



Turn the fly back over.



Counter rib (wrap in the opposite direction as you would wrap the tying thread) with the mono thread. The ribbing should go between each weave intersection.



Grasp the tip of the feather with your bobbin hand and snap it quickly TOWARD your chest. This will leave you with an aligned bundle of hackle barbs. If you try to pull the tip to the side, you will likely misalign the tips.



Select a large webby black hackle and stroke-out a bunch of fibers to be perpendicular to the stem.



Invert the hook again and measure the legs to reach from the bead to the hook point.



Grasp the very tips of the barbs with your fingers from top and bottom, NOT back to front.



Secure the legs to the bottom of the hook just behind the bead. Use as few wraps as possible (2 to 3 is ideal).



Legs secured.



Select a healthy pinch of black, scruffy dubbing and touch it to the waxed portion of your thread. This is known as “touch dubbing.”



Adjust for length if needed, then clip the excess very close.



This is what you'll be left with.



Turn the hook back to its normal position and wax a short (2” to 3”) section of your thread.



Aggressively spin your bobbin clockwise to lock and distribute the dubbing fibers along the thread forming a sort of mini-chenille.



Wrap the dubbing to cover the thread wraps, forming a fuzzy, yet small, collar.



Side view.



Without taking any more thread wraps, form a whip-finish and clip the thread.



Bottom view.



Some of the colors I use.

## 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.

## 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	zaner_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
Conservation Director	Paul Lund	lupol63@yahoo.com	2026-27
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](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*