



TVFF Club News

March 2017



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ARRIVES MARCH 12**

This Month Program Johnny Chamness Auction

The March program will consist of a silent auction to assist Linda Chamness dispose of some of the vast assortment of fishing art, fishing equipment, fly tying & rod building gear acquired by her late husband over a lifetime of fishing.

Johnny was a TVFF founding member, served as auctioneer at our annual Holiday Banquet and Auction until recently when deteriorating health intervened.

All proceeds goes to the family.

Come, with 200+/- items, to choose from, there's something for everyone. Even an inflatable pontoon boat!



For a list of items [CLICKING HERE](#) or look under the "Club News" tab on the TVFF website.

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This Month's Activities

- 9 Feb – Fly Tying, 7pm room 201
- 16 Feb – TVFF Club Meeting, 7pm room 201
- 23 Feb - Fly Tying, 7pm room 201



TVFF Fly of the Month – Lunker Bass Series

Donald Dehm kicks off the Lunker Bass Series on the 9th with a Clouser Minnow followed by Larry Hice tying a Bass Grugler that is sure to catch a whopper.

Then on the 23rd Joe Tremblay will be tying a Stealth Bomber, one of the most productive topwater bass flies to come out in recent years. If this isn't enough to entice you, Jack Barber will close the month with another great fly, the Bass Worm.



All are welcomed, fly tying equipment is available for new tyers . Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or even designed.

Join us for 2 hour sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

Catch of the Month

Once again Joe proves that you don't have to go far or wait for nice weather to beat the winter doldrums.

All you need is a friend or two, a warming trend and a few hours on Aldridge Creek.

This bass was the best of 5 caught along with a shell cracker and 30+ sunfish landed in a less than 3 hours.

Send your fishy photos to TVFF.website@Gmail.com



Spring on Arkansas's White River

Keeping with a long tradition, TVFF members will again travel to Mountain Home Arkansas for the Sowbug Roundup and a week of fishing on two of the south's best trout rivers.

This year's warmer temperatures hold the promise of legendary Caddis hatches and brings to mind my first such experience. Being new to the fly fishing, Larry Hice and Roger Bower took it upon themselves to Educate me in the fine art of fishing a caddis hatch.

Equipped with half a dozen elk hair caddis each, we headed to Rim Shoals for the late afternoon hatch. Arriving in time to secure a spot on the river and tie on a caddis fly before nature triggered one of the most amazing spectacle I've ever witnessed.

Caddis suddenly covered the water with 18" +/- trout eagerly devouring caddis. Trout were rising at my all around me, even at my feet, taking advantage of the tasty bugs. There were so many fish I don't see how it was possible to take a step without stepping on one. This may have been my first dry fly experience, but it was certainly not my last.

Thanks Larry, thanks Roger for a memory I often describe as biblical.



TVFF Holds Silent Auction – Open to All

A silent auction will be held in lieu of normal Thursday club meeting .

Auction Items can be viewed and bids accepted beginning at 6:30pm. Each item will have an auction sheet associated with it containing a item #, a reserve value for the item (i.e. minimum value for which the item will be sold) and spaces where you may enter your name and your bid value for the item.

The auction will conclude at 8:15 pm, winners will be announced and payments accepted. All proceeds will go to the family.

This event presents a wonderful opportunity to obtain some desirable items for a fraction for the cost. Stock up on fly tying materials or fly boxes full of flies, get some great deals on spinning & bait casting rods/reels and associated gear, a pontoon boat, waders or a fishing vest.

This vast collection also includes rod building items like rod blanks, thread, finishing materials and a rod building motorized jig and numerous books.

Want some decorative items we have those also with numerous fly plates, shadow boxes, glass dome presentations and prints. There's something for everyone.

Come and enjoy!! A list of items can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#) or under the "Club News" tab on the TVFF website.



Earth Day Celebration – April 22nd

Earth Day Celebration is annual event sponsored by the city of Huntsville and held at Hays Nature Preserve located on Hwy 431 just south of Hampton Cove. The event draws several thousand visitors and is an excellent outreach opportunity for the club. The festival is open to the public from 10 AM till 2 PM.

Since 2014, the Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers have displayed various items from fly rods to boats, tied flies, provided casting instructions and demonstrated fly fishing in Bar Lake for the thousands of visitors. Attendance has increased over the years with over 3000 visitors expected.

Members are needed to demonstrate fly tying, give casting instruction and field questions about fly fishing in general.

New to fly fishing? Not a problem we need members with varied experience to assist.

Contact: Larry Hice at lhice@plasticfusion.com or call 256-508-2344





The Fly Tying Group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM in room 201. Tyers of all skill levels are welcome.

Lunker Bass Series

With the arrival of springs and warmer water temperatures, bass become active and hit the shallows looking to satisfy a seemingly endless appetite.

The upcoming 17-21 April trip to Donovan Lakes in search of lunker bass makes this the perfect time to Start the Lunker Bass Series. Few experiences that can equal a big bass on the business end if a fly line.

The series will include proven minnow patterns, poppers and of course the Stealth Bomber, the fly responsible for more Donovan lunkers than any other fly.

Bigger flies are not difficult to tie, on the contrary I find them a lot more forgiving than their smaller cousins. We'll be tying minnow patterns, poppers even a leach pattern that is sure to catch a lunker.

Fly tying is fun, not all that difficult and a sure way to have just the fly you need when you need it. Join our ever growing Fly Tying Group and learn how to tie your own flies or expand your fly tying skills.

There is a nominal fee (usually \$2) to cover the cost of materials and all are welcome.



Whitesburg Baptist Outdoor Expo - Friday, March 17, 2017

Adults – \$12 each or \$15 Day of Event

Children 10 and under – \$6 each or \$8 Day of Event

[Purchase tickets here](#) or at the Whitesburg Baptist Recreation Center at 7300 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802 during the week.

Featured Speaker Hank Parker

Hank Parker is one of the most accomplished bass fisherman in the history of the sport. Hank is the TV host of Hank Parker’s Outdoor Magazine and co-host of Hank Parker’s Flesh & Blood.

He began his professional fishing career in 1976 and is a two-time winner of the Bassmaster Classic. Hank’s passion for the outdoors is not limited to fishing, he has been an avid hunter his whole life with a love for bow hunting.

Over the years as an outdoorsman, Hank has been honored by being inducted in the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame and the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame.





How To Fly Fish For Smallmouth Bass In Winter

Written by *Ben Rogers*

Reprint from Flymen Blog. A click on Flyman logo will take you to their website.

During these frigid winter months I often find Myself thinking about something dear to me – smallmouth fishing.

If you're like me, you miss the warm sun on your Back and the bend of a 8wt rod with a bronzeback on the other end.

It doesn't have to be over for us. There is still bass fishing around.

Granted, the cold and brutal conditions of winter do not make it easy to put in the time it takes to locate and fish for these guys. I have found myself questioning my own sanity many times over. It's a part of being a die-hard fly angler.

With that being said, here are some tactics that I have found helpful for cold-weather smallmouth fishing.

Smaller flies are usually better.

The cold winter temperatures slow a smallmouth's Metabolism and leave it lethargic.

Because they don't need to consume as much as they do in warmer temperatures, they will not spare the energy on a Strike unless they know it's a for-sure deal.

This means that smallies will target relatively smaller prey that require less energy to capture, in contrast to their aggressive strikes more common in warmer months.

Small baitfish and crustacean patterns are a great way to Entice lazy smallmouth bass.

While large streamers aren't usually the best option, they can be effective when fished at the correct depth and speed.



Fish-Skull Sculpin Helmets drop your fly into the feeding zone fast.



Can't find what you need?
Golden Rule Fly Shop has it
<http://www.goldenruleflyshop.com/>

Low and slow is the way to go.

If you want to bring them up, you've got to go where they are.

Most fish sit deep to maintain a quality temperature. There, suspended off ledges and walls, these fish will be most likely stacked up. Knowing this, we have to maintain a specific depth. Intermediate to full-sink in some cases are my most go-to types of streamer line in general. Now is the time to add heavily weighted flies.

Keeping a steady retrieve in a depth column can be the most crucial element of winter bass fishing.

Keep the fly down low for as long as you can. Remember, they will take longer to strike in colder temperatures. The more fish that see your fly, the better.

Scout for depth.

Depth finders are awesome. If you have one, great! For most of us, we will have to rely on data from other resources, such as websites showing information about gauges and maps showing in-depth detail about your particular water.

This will not substitute for boots on the ground. Scout out your water and use the tactics that you know are best applied to that specific scenario.

The Dark, The Drab, And The Natural.

Attractor patterns are common in many angler's fly boxes. Though these hold purpose, in these situations I have experienced much more luck with fly patterns that specifically imitate natural prey found in deeper water, more often than not with olive, brown, black, purple, and/or red infused in their color schemes.

With that being said, don't throw out your pearly white flies. sometimes a bright fly can entice a strike.

About Ben Rogers:



Ben Rogers is the owner and head guide at [Chasing Tails Fly Fishing](#). He's an ambassador for [Soul River](#) – an urban-focused fly fishing company dedicated to conservation of wild steelhead fisheries –, a signature fly tier for [Holly Flies](#), and a contributing editor for various fly fishing publications. After serving in the military, Ben put his specialized skills learned in the Army to good use by working in fly shops and guiding other anglers in the great

outdoors and has now been been fly fishing for over two decades. Ben has also volunteered as a guide for [Project Healing Waters](#), working with fellow wounded veterans using fly fishing as a therapeutic tool for recovery, and is a [Trout Unlimited](#) member.



A [Fish-Skull Fish-Mask](#) and [Living Eyes](#) top off this [articulated](#) pattern.



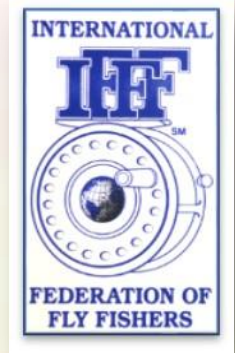
2017 Donovan Lakes Club Trip

The Club trip to Donovan lakes scheduled for 17-21 April 2017 is full. Wanted to go? Don't despair, April is a long ways off and lots of water will flow under the bridge between now and then. Contact Larry Hice and get your name on the stand-by list.

Replacements will be called in the order they signed up. lhice@plasticfusion.com

Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics

- Fly anglers understand and obey laws and regulations associated with the fishery.
- Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers conserve fisheries by limiting their catch.
- Fly anglers do not judge fellow anglers and treat them as they would expect to be treated.
- Fly anglers respect the waters occupied by other anglers so that fish are not disturbed.
- When fishing from a watercraft, fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft or unnecessarily disturb the water.
- Fly anglers respect other angling methods and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to all anglers.



March Holidays

Erin Go Braugh - Saint Patrick's Day

When: March 17th.

Saint Patrick's day is in honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, who Brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles, as Ireland is known. It is truly a day of celebrating Irish history, ancestry, traditions and customs.

Saint Patrick's Day has many symbols and traditions, from shamrocks and leprechauns, to green beer and Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Saint Patrick's Day parades are popular in many cities around the U.S. Interestingly, the first St. Patrick's Day parade did not take place in Ireland. It took place in New York City, in 1762.

Are you Irish, me lads and me lassies?! Well, the saying goes everyone is a little Irish on Saint Patricks's Day.

Roots of Tradition: Saint Patrick's day is held in honor of Saint Patrick, the missionary who brought Christianity to the Irish people in the 400's AD.

Erin Go Braugh is perhaps the most common Irish term you will hear. It means "Ireland Forever"

Did You Know? Over 34 million Americans are of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland!



For more on Holiday Insights- tradition, fun, facts visit <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>



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- International Federation of Fly Fishers: <http://fedflyfishers.org/>
- Mike Proctor-Bjorgo Tennessee Trout & Muskie Guide (931) 273 2577
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