

TVFF Club News

FFi

March 2022

March 17th Program (No Zoom)



Officer Luke Lemley, Alabama Department of Conservation

Senior Conservation Enforcement Officer Luke Lemley was hired by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in June of 2005. He transferred from his assigned area of Jackson County to Madison County in May of 2009 where he lives with his family. Sr. Officer Lemley holds a bachelor's degree in business and is a graduate of the Alabama State Police Academy. He is involved with Hunter Education, Archery in the schools, youth dove hunts, youth fishing events and the "Shop with a Cop" program at Christmas.

Accompanying Sr. Officer Lemley is Officer Josh Mann, newly assigned to Madison Co. Officer Mann was hired in Feb. 2021 and holds a Bachelors' Degree in Biology. Officer Mann is looking forward to wonderful career with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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- * The keyboard's HOME key returns you to this page

Welcome New Members: Brian Moore

This Month

Faith Presbyterian Church Rm 201

- ➤ Mar. 10 Fly Tying, 7 PM
- ➤ Mar. 17 Club Meeting, 7 PM
- ➤ Mar. 24 Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof Vice President: Dana Beyerle Secretary: Gary Jedlovec Treasurer: Dave Bailey Membership: Debbie Hill Activities: Larry Hice

Education: Fred Kaufmann Conservation: Bob Lowery Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting will be May 5, 2022, at 7 p.m. in Room 201.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m.

Mar. 10, 7 PM
Junk Flies! – Lead Tyer, Slade Lutz

Cost: \$2.00 in person

Junk flies are easy to tie, cheap to make, and quick to

produce. **Globug**

Hook: Umpqua U202 size 10

Material: Orange globug yarn, yellow micro globug

yarn

Thread: Orange or white, any size

Squirmy Worm

Hook: Umpqua U202 size 10 **Material**: Caster's Squirmito, bead **Thread**: Red or black, any size

Mop Fly

Hook: Umpqua U202 size 10

Material: Mop chenille, ice dub, bead

Thread: Whatever you have!

Mar. 24, 7 PM Pheasant Tail– Lead Tyer, Debbie Hill

Cost: \$2.00 in person

One of the oldest modern nymphs. A trout classic! We will be tying one with a bead head and one without.

Hook: Nymph hook

Material: Copper wire, pheasant tail, peacock herl, bead

(optional) **Thread**: Brown









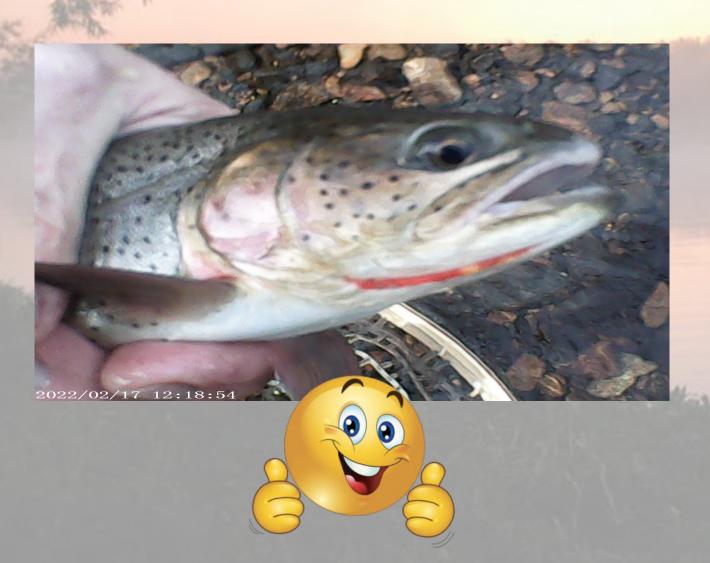
Health Notice: By attending the in-person session you accept responsibility for any and all associated health risks. Please bring a mask in case of masking rules change.

All are welcome! Fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or, better yet, one of your own design. The sessions are the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Thursdays at 7 p.m.



Cutthroat on the Elk River

TVFF member **Dana Beyerle** caught all four trout species on the Elk River including two newly stocked cutthroat trout, like the one pictured, during a recent outing. He caught the cutthroat, a brook, brown, and numerous rainbows, on an 8 1/2 foot, 4 weight Orvis Clearwater Mid Flex and Orvis CFO II Disc Reel. In all he landed about 10 trout using a 1/64 ounce gold jig head and live worms. The cutthroat measured about 13 inches based on the length distance between the tips of his thumb and little finger, which is exactly 9 inches. It just so happens that a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency crew was conducting a fish survey where he was fishing. He told the boat crew of the trout and the TWRA guy said it probably would be a state record. The state record cutthroat is 0 lbs, 6 oz. from the Obey River. Based on a trout length-weight chart, this trout was close to 1 pound. The TWRA recently started stocking cutthroat in select locations after decades of not stocking.



Other Outings in the Month of February

TVFF member **Connor Baker** and his father went fishing one weekend on the Sipsey Fork. Each caught their fair share of trout. Earlier in the day, the fish were eating small nymphs. After having a trout strike their indicator, they switched to dries and caught a few more! Turns out a caddis hatch was happening! The heron to the right was their fishing partner for the day. He was hoping to get a free fish, but wasn't so lucky this time!





Another weekend, TVFF member **Connor Baker** went fishing in Kentucky, near the
Cumberland River. He lost a big fish on a log,
but was able to catch this Brown Trout and
several other similar sized Rainbow Trout.
Weather was very cold and all fish were
caught on small midges.

Send your pictures to editor@tvff.club along with a brief description of where you were and what you caught. Even if you do not catch a fish, feel free to share any neat photos of you out and about fishing!



February TVFF Recap

February 17 - Club Meeting

Rhonda Page, friend of the club and owner of local fly shop, Tim's Flies and Lies, met us on Zoom and gave us some good intel on how to fish the Elk and Duck Rivers in Middle Tennessee. The Elk River, being a popular fishing spot for TVFF, Rhonda provided us with some good fly recommendations:

- Pink or red egg patterns (e.g. Y2K)
- Woolly Buggers olive and black most of the year, white in winter (sizes 10 or 12)
- Parachute Adams Tie one on when fish are eating at the surface
- Pine Squirrel Cheater (aka Slump Buster) Small streamer
- Pat's Rubber Legs Good in summer
- Flies for Euro Nymphing on jig hooks Perdigon, Blow Torch
- Foam Hoppers Best used in July or August (sizes 8 or 10). Try a Hopper Dropper
- Other standard trout flies that work Hare's Ear, Copper John, Pheasant Tail, Zebra Midge, Blue Wing Olive, Elk Hair Caddis, et al.

Although less often fished by club members, the Duck River is another good option for Smallmouth Bass and trout (in winter months). Rhonda provided us with some good access points. One of the easiest is right below Normandy Dam, another is across the street at the State Hatchery.

Make sure before fishing either of these places, that you check dam schedules on the TVA Website, <u>Lake Levels</u>. An app for mobile phones can also be downloaded on the Android or iPhone app stores.



Go pay Rhonda a visit! All of her fly shop information is on the card above. If visiting, make sure to call ahead. Also, visit her on <u>Facebook</u>.

February Fly Tying

For the month of January, we tied two classic trout patterns, Parachute Adams and Prince Nymph. The Parachute Adams was an easier version of the classic fly, but still nearly identical in appearance. The Prince Nymph was a good introduction to those interested in using biots! Both were a lot of fun and both will fish well at any trout stream.

New Treasurer for TVFF

At the February Board of Directors meeting the Board voted to confirm the appointment of Dave Bailey as Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of David Mahlik who resigned due to other obligations. The next time you see David Mahlik please be sure to thank him for his 5 years of service to the club. Please welcome Dave Bailey as our new Treasurer. The Board voted to confirm Connor Baker as Communications Director to fill the vacancy created when Dana Beyerle began his term as Vice President in January 2022.

Beginner Fly Tying, March 26

TVFF will teach a beginner fly tying class at the <u>Mark Russell Recreation Center</u>, 429 Taylor Road, Huntsville, AL. on Saturday, March 26th. There will be one session at 10 AM and a second session at 11:15 AM. Use the link to call the Rec Center to sign up. Contact <u>Steve Kerkhof</u> to volunteer to assist in the class.



Leaky Waders?

About a month ago, I realized my waders had a leak (or leaks) in them. At first the leak was small and manageable. I hardly noticed it, I could ignore the minuscule amount of water seeping in and comfortably fish. The next two times I went fishing, the amount of water entering my waders was significantly more.

Even though I have been looking for an excuse to get some new waders, recent expenses (getting married, purchasing a new house, etc.) caused me to look for an alternative solution. A quick search on Amazon lead me to the repair kit on the right.

GEAR AID's Wader and Boot Repair Kit comes with a small tube of Aquaseal, two tape patches, and an application brush. For my situation, I had two leaks. One was very small and the other was along the seam. I only needed the Aquaseal. For larger holes, tape might be necessary.

To find leaks, I turned my waders inside out and dabbed alcohol on them. All leaks showed up as dark spots. I marked those spots with a marker and let them dry. After that, I put a small amount of Aquaseal on the leaks, and used the application brush to spread it evenly over the area. On the seam that was leaking, I spread Aquaseal about a centimeter past where the leak ended (shown below). I left my waders flat and let the Aquaseal cure for about 10 hours.

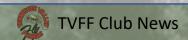




The weekend after using this kit, I took my waders with me fishing, not sure whether this remedy worked or not. When it came time to wade, I was pleasantly surprised that it worked great! I now no longer have any leaks. They are practically as good as new, saving me hundreds of dollars. What's more is that I have plenty Aquaseal left in my freezer, ready to use another day. Whether I need to repair GORE-TEX or neoprene, I am ready.

- Connor Baker, Communications Director

This repair kit can be found on Amazon for \$8.95: GEAR AIR Wader Repair.



Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Approved

The following article was borrowed from Outdoor Alabama. It is an important article regarding conservation of Alabama's fisheries. Please read so we can be aware of invasive species. The article can be found on the web here.

By DAVID RAINER

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Recent approval of the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan opens avenues of federal funding for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division and Marine Resources Division to deal with aquatic invasive species in Alabama's abundant waterways.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey submitted the aquatic invasive species plan to the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force, an entity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the recent approval means Alabama will be eligible for up to \$100,000 annually to combat aquatic invasive species.

In the approval letter, the ANS Task Force applauded Alabama's efforts of Steve Rider, WFF's River and Stream Fisheries Program Supervisor, and the rest of the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in developing the plan.

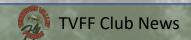
"This is quite an extensive plan that covers quite a few taxa and species that are found or may be found in the freshwaters of Alabama," Rider said. "The impetus to get the plan completed and approved was the presence of invasive carp in the Tennessee River. It was a long process, but with the help of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the folks in the (WFF) Fisheries Section, we got it done. Now we have access to more money."

"That will go a long way to deal with the invasive carp or anything else that comes up that is a priority to try to eradicate, monitor or manage any of the aquatic invasive species. Our concern is that these aquatic invasive species will outcompete our native aquatic species."

Rider said the prime example of the impact of an aquatic invasive species is the silver carp that have been found in the Tennessee River chain of lakes in Alabama, particularly Pickwick in west Alabama.

"We have great bass fisheries up there, and we are concerned these silver carp may impact our bass population," he said. "This additional money will help us combat any impact to those fisheries."

Dave Armstrong, WFF's Supervisor of Aquatic Nuisance Species, has been coordinating the collection and monitoring of silver carp in the Tennessee River and said the majority of silver carp are coming from the Tennessee River downstream of Pickwick Dam.



Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Approved (cont.)

"Most of the carp we collect in our samples are closer to the Pickwick dam, but we have picked up some all the way up the lake to around Seven-Mile Island at Florence," Armstrong said. "Outside of Pickwick, we had two reputable sightings last year in Wilson, one by a TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) representative at Shoal Creek and one by an angler at McKernan Creek."

Armstrong said a silver carp was taken by a bow fisherman in the Raccoon Creek area of Lake Guntersville last year, the first hard evidence the carp species had made it to the renowned bass fishery.

"We've had some people say they've seen them in Guntersville, but they haven't been confirmed," he said. "We have been to Guntersville several times to try to collect samples, and all we're getting are common carp and suckers.

"The commercial fishermen are not seeing them. We've asked them to let us know if they catch any."

Downstream from Pickwick, Kentucky and Barkley lakes in Kentucky have significant populations of silver carp. Armstrong said commercial fishermen in the Kentucky lakes harvested more than 7.6 million pounds of carp in 2020, and the final number for 2021 is likely to be higher.

Armstrong said the silver carp collected in Alabama during 2020-2021 averaged between 16 and 17 pounds per fish. He said five fish collected recently in Pickwick's Panther Creek weighed from 19 to 23 pounds.

"The idea is to keep most of them below Wilson," Armstrong said. "If they don't spawn, hopefully we can eliminate them over time."

TVA is slated to install Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) systems on several Tennessee River lakes with Wilson Dam to get the first installation in Alabama. The BAFF is a system of fish deterrent technologies that act as a barrier to invasive carp. This system consists of customized sound signals, directional strobe lighting, and a bubble curtain to produce an underwater linear deterrent to fish movement through the lock.

Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship has been instrumental in working with Senator Richard Shelby and his staff to provide funding for the BAFF Systems and other invasive carp mitigation and protection efforts.

Armstrong said other carp species – bighead, white amur (grass carp) and black carp – are also on the aquatic invasive species list, but silver carp is the main concern.

Rider said another concern is the invasive plant species that are found in Alabama.

"We've seen some new stuff come along, like Cuban bulrush on the Tombigbee River, a plant that takes over and clogs up the waterway. It's like a mat across the entire waterway. At one time, one of our biologists told us he had seen deer walking on top of the bulrush. It was so thick that you couldn't get into the backwaters because of the aquatic invasive plants."



Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Approved (cont.)

Rider said the plan helps ADCNR deal with other aquatic invasive species like non-native crayfish, blueback herring, apple snails and many other invasive species that are aquatic related.

"It deals with anything that could impact sport fisheries or could impact waterway navigation," Rider said. "We also want to educate people on how these aquatic invasive species impact our aquatic resources. We want to have a place where people can go to see what species could have a potential negative impact. If they are non-native species, you don't know when you introduce them if they will be detrimental to the native ecosystem."

Now that the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan is in place, Rider said requests will be made for the 2022 funding cycle, and it could lead to other appropriations.

"If more money becomes available, like in Kentucky and Tennessee, Congress appropriated millions of dollars to fight invasive carp in those states, but they had to have an approved plan," Rider said. "Now that we have an approved plan in place, we may have access to more funds. It puts us in a better position for federal funding to help combat silver carp."

Visit <u>www.outdooralabama.com/research/aquatic-nuisance-species-management-plan</u> for more information on the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

Nathan Aycock, WFF Fisheries Biologist, holds a silver carp taken from Pickwick Lake.





ADCNR Photo



Organizing Your Gear

These winter months, right before Spring, is the perfect time to get your gear organized. In Alabama, the first half of March is likely the last of consistently cold weather. Afterall, Spring officially starts March 20th. We have more or less 20 days to really get things ready. Provided below are a few links to help inspire organization:

Orvis (The New Fly Fisher)

All Water Expeditions

Flymen Fishing Co.

Fly Lords Magazine

The common theme from these articles is proper storage and labeling. Fly fishing is a gadget-oriented sport. Most of us have many flies, rods, reels, clothing, et al. All of this gear is needed for different weather conditions, fishing situations, or when targeting different species. Not having this gear properly labeled can be frustrating when trying to pack the day before a big trip! In order to make sure you do not forget something, make sure to properly organize! You'll have peace of mind and have more fun if you know you have everything! Don't forget your favorite pair of nippers or your lucky fishing hat!



https://www.instructables.com/Fly-Rod-and-Reel-Storage-Shelf/



Upcoming Deadlines

TVFF Renewal

TVFF will begin collecting annual membership dues for the coming year of TVFF/FFI. These membership dues are for your renewal through May 1, 2023. One of the reasons for this early reminder is so FFI will not need to generate paper and email notices to you and cause confusion to TVFF members. Remember, dues must be paid through TVFF to be considered a TVFF member and then automatically an FFI member.

In the coming weeks please check your inbox for an email from Debbie Hill, TVFF Membership Director, showing the amount of your dues based on your specific membership type. If information is lost or not fully understood, do not hesitate to contact her at: debhill522@gmail.com

You may pay at any upcoming meeting or put a check in the mail. If you mail a check please include a note with any new contact information you may have...email, home address and phone numbers. Let's keep your details up to date so that you may receive the latest TVFF and FFI information.

Send your check made out to TVFF to: Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers P.O. Box 12841 Huntsville, AL 35815

Tennessee Fishing License Reminder

For those of you that regularly fish up in Tennessee. Friendly reminder, licenses expired February 28th. Don't be caught by the warden with an expired license! Licenses can be renewed @ Go Outdoors Tennessee



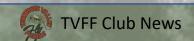
Embroidery Roundup

Have shirts, jackets etc. that need the club logo?

Bring to any of the March meetings or get them to Debbie Hill or Connor Baker by Saturday April 2nd. Be sure to tag each item with your name and the logo of your choice, either Classic or Alternate. Logos will be embodied above the right pocket unless otherwise noted on tag.

Cost per shirt should be \$6 +/-. Exact cost per shirt varies depending on the number of shirts.





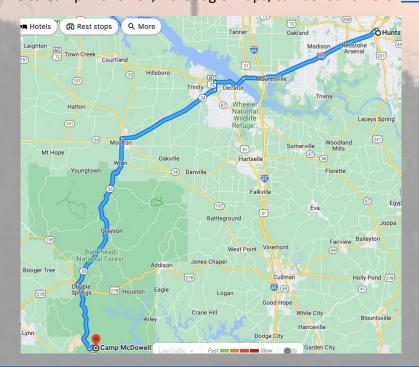
Casting for Recovery 2022 Alabama Retreat





After a two year hiatus, Casting for Recovery will once again be hosting an Alabama Retreat. This year's Retreat will be held at Camp McDowell near Bankhead National Forest in Winston County, Alabama. The program is open to any woman who has received a breast cancer diagnosis and is at any stage of treatment or recovery. Participants are selected by a lottery drawing each year. The date of the 2022 Alabama Retreat is May 13-15 and applications are being accepted through March 4th. For more information about this program or to apply as a participant visit: Casting for Recovery

Directions from Huntsville to Camp McDowell, via Google Maps, can be found here: Directions





Casting for Recovery 2022 Alabama Retreat (cont.)

Helper Volunteers Needed

As part of TVFF's support for the Casting for Recovery Program the 2022 Alabama Retreat needs volunteers. CfR needs River Helpers to assist these ladies. A River Helper's job is to assist a woman who is a breast cancer survivor with her 1/2 day of fly fishing at Camp McDowell on Sunday, May 15, 2022. This will be a morning of fishing followed by a luncheon and departure by 2pm. All of our TVFF fly fishers are qualified for this volunteer opportunity. The job of River Helper might mean you will provide and/or tie on flies, provide casting encouragement or help plus hopefully assist with the catch and release of fish. For a more detailed description of River Helper duties paste this link into your browser: River Helper Description



For the 2022 retreat season, CfR will require all participants and retreat volunteers, including River Helpers, to be fully vaccinated with the primary series of Covid-19 vaccines (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or a single dose of J&J) and to submit proof of their Covid-19 vaccination at least two weeks prior to the start of the retreat. Covid-19 booster shots are strongly recommended for those who are eligible to receive them. This allows us to provide the safest experience possible for all who attend. Volunteers will be notified of any changes in safety protocols (face coverings, Covid-19 testing, etc.) prior to the retreat. CfR will continue to update its safety procedures in accordance with the most current CDC information relative to vaccines, transmission, and testing. Thank you for your understanding.

Use the following link to complete your Volunteer Application and submit it!

Volunteer Application

If you have been a volunteer in the past and completed an application then you are all set, with one exception...if either your phone number or email address has changed, you will need to complete another volunteer application. All River Helper Volunteers please provide Debbie Hill with your email address and desire to participate at the 2022 Alabama Retreat so that you can be contacted by CfR regarding submission of your Covid vaccine status.

Fill the 14 Fly Boxes

The good news is that Casting for Recovery will be having an Alabama Retreat in 2022. Since the 2020 and 2021 seasons were cancelled TVFF had to put our donation of fly boxes on hold. This has resulted in a wonderful accumulation of flies for the 2022 season. TVFF has set aside Saturday, April 9th at 9am for completing this project. Please come to TVFF's normal meeting room on this date and time for a cup of coffee, a donut and some fun filling the 14 fly boxes.

Additional News

Fly Tyer's Weekend

Fly Tyers Weekend (FTW) is returning in 2022, Saturday-Sunday, November 5th – 6th, at Tremont Lodge & Resort in Townsend, Tennessee. Many expert tyers will be demonstrating their skills. It is a good chance for novice and expert tyers alike to learn new fly tying skills and techniques.

For more information, please contact Anthony Hipps, Fly Tyer's Weekend Coordinator.

Office Phone: (336) 632-7518 Home Phone: (336) 249-0338

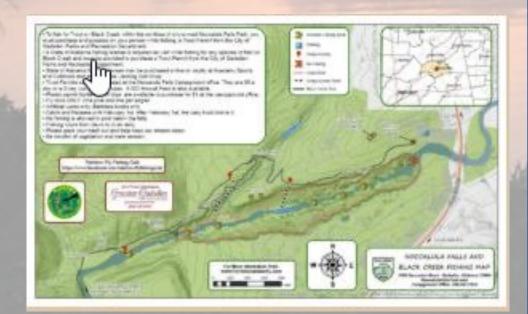


Trout in Gadsden

<u>Flyfishgadsdenal.com</u> or click the map.

Trout season began October 15th on Black Creek, Noccalula Falls near Gadsden, AL. Check the link for more details.

A separate permit is required for \$10 per day or \$35 for the season. It is a delayed harvest stream, catch and release from October 15th – April 30th, and a five fish limit from May 1st – June 30th. Fly rods only, barbless hooks, artificial lures only.





TVFF Job Jar YOU CAN HELP!

Click on a Job listed below and send an email to volunteer or to obtain additional information.

This is your opportunity to support TVFF without signing up for a long term commitment.

Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

Manage the TVFF Job Jar - Update this page monthly and coordinate requests.

<u>Provide flies for the TVFF Casting for Recovery (CfR) Fly Box</u> – Tie or purchase 14 flies of the same pattern for the TVFF CfR Fly Box. Contact the <u>TVFF program manager</u> prior to selecting the pattern to avoid duplicates. Fly boxes will be donated annually.

CfR provides free healing retreats for women breast cancer survivors in various stages of treatment and recovery. CfR's retreats offer women opportunities to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

<u>Club News Contributor</u> - Provide the Communication Director content of interest geared toward our members such as activities, articles, trip reports, etc.

Official TVFF Photographer(s) - Photograph TVFF events and email photos to the Communication Director.

<u>Safety Pin Flies</u> - Tie some safety pin flies to be given to visitors at TVFF outreach activities. This simple to tie pattern is very popular with younger visitors. Demand is always great and outstrips our supply; we never have enough.

Manage TVFF Calendar - Update TVFF Google Calendar with events provided by BOD.

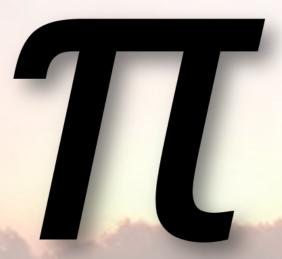
March Weird Holidays

Pi Day March 14th

You might have learned that π = 22/7 or 3.14 or 3.14159. It turns out that 355/113 is another very good approximation for pi. There are urban legends of various state legislatures passing laws to set pi = 3. I have heard Indiana and Alabama both mentioned in those stories.

You might have been told that pir squared is the area of a circle but even little Johnny knows that pies are round.

What better day to celebrate the irrational number pie than on 3.14? The engineers I know think it is a great idea and should be celebrated with a slice of pi(e).



Tater Day March 31st

Thanks to Wikipedia for the following:

Tater Day is a large festival in Benton, Kentucky.

It was started in 1843 as a celebration of spring, and a time when all of the townsfolk would get together and trade in sweet potato slips, used to grow the plants. It is also the oldest continuous trade day in the United States, in which goods such as guns, 'coon hounds, tobacco or livestock are swapped or sold.



Tater Day brings to town carnival rides, games, a market, a potato eating contest, mule pulls, and a "biggest potato" contest, which attracts large potatoes from across the county. The biggest part of the festival is the parade, which completes one circuit around the town. It includes political floats, Marshall County High School marching band, horses and buggies, clowns, vintage cars, horses, Miss Tater Day, and other things for which Marshall County is known. There is also Junior Miss Tater Day for little girls ages 5 to 12, and Little Mister, Tiny Miss, and Baby Miss Tater day pageants and floats for the younger kids. There is also an annual Tater day derby that is hosted at the dirt track at the Benton City Park.



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