



TVFF Club News

December 2018



TVFF Christmas Social December 20th, 7 pm

The meeting in December will be replaced with the Club's Christmas Social. We will not have a speaker but will have lots of fish stories and refreshments.

This year there will be a [White Elephant Gift Exchange](#). Anyone interested in participating in the exchange should bring a wrapped gift (something related to fly fishing) worth up to \$20. Come join the fun.

The Club will provide drinks and members are encouraged to bring their favorite munchies to share. See you there!

Updated Fishing Reports

[Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) – Little River Outfitters (Daily)
[White and Norfolk Rivers](#) – Cotter Trout Lodge (Weekly)

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**It's official, TVFF is an
FFI Charter Club!**

**On Nov. 26, the FFI Board
of Directors voted to
include TVFF in their list of
Charter Clubs.**

This Month's Activities

- 6 Dec - Avalon Outdoor's presentation on Cuba's salt water fly fishing, 7pm room 201
- 13 Dec – Fly Tying, 7pm room 201
- 20 Dec – TVFF Christmas Social, 7pm room 201

Correction: David Mahlik was elected as Treasure in October, not J.J. Yount.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Christmas Tree Fly - Featured Tyer, David Mahlik

13 December: Keeping up with the spirit of the season, David will be tying a Christmas Tree fly. This fly can be tied either on a hook or on a hookless shank and hung on your very own Christmas tree.

David first tied this “fly” last year only to find that all his friends and family wanted one for their tree. Needless to say, David spent many hours tying Christmas trees making him the Alabama’s most accomplished Christmas tree fly tyer.



David's Christmas Tree farm

There will not be fly tying session on the 27nd due to the holiday. Fly Tying will resume on January 10th.

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 – Bill Pittenger

Final bass of the year. Bill had to travel a long way to catch this fish. One of several 4+lb bass caught while on a November trip to the Kissimmee Chain of lakes in Lake Wales Florida.

This was not the only species that found Bills flies irresistible. Bill also landed bream, a bowfin and a gar.



Great way to start your day

TVFF Secretary Needed

The Club is in need of a replacement for J.J. Yount who resigned his position as Club Secretary for personal reasons.

This is an opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for a 1 year term instead of the normal 2 by finishing JJ's term. You may find it a rewarding experience and decide to seek re-election. Think about the positive impact you could have on the club by being involved in the decision making process.

The Secretary's duties include; keeping the minutes of all BOD meetings and the Annual Membership Meeting, seeing that all notices are duly given, overseeing the annual inventory of organizations property and is the custodian of the corporate records.

Still worried? Don't be, the current BOD members stand ready to assist you.

Please give it serious consideration. The Club needs you. For more information or to offer your services as TVFF Club Secretary send email to Editor@tvff.club.

TVFF Annual Banquet

If you didn't make last month's banquet you missed a good one! We had a great crowd, good food and lots of laughter.

The buffet style holiday dinner of turkey, dressing and sides was prepared by Smokey's BBQ of Madison, AL and was a big hit just as in years past. Members supplied a wide variety of deserts to finish off a fine meal and to get everyone in the mood for the live auction.

Before the auction, Debbie Hill provided an update on the Club's progress in becoming an FFI Charter club, after which Joe Tremblay surprised Debbie by presenting her the 2018 Johnny Chamness Award. The Chamness award is presented to members, who, like Johnny, gave much of their time and energy to the betterment of the club. Debbie is a long-time club and Board of Directors member and her tireless efforts over the last 2 years was critical in achieving FFI Charter Club membership for TVFF and securing the Clubs 501c3 non-profit status.



The live auction was called by club member Victor Luna with assistance from his son, Elijah. The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree and the two provided lots of entertainment while helping the club raise \$2,525.00. Thanks Victor and Elijah.

Many thanks to the club members and organizations that donated items for the auction and to those that bid on them. Thanks also those who provided deserts and to the volunteers that donated their time to prepare for the banquet and helping with the cleanup.

TVFF takes part in Fallen Leaf Festival

TVFF joined Operation Green Team for what everyone hopes will be the first annual Fallen Leaf Festival.



Our table on the water

The event took place, on the Saturday following the TVFF Annual Auction and Banquet, at Hays Nature Preserve, in Owens Cross Roads. This event was similar to the Earth Day event that TVFF plays a big part in each spring. "Beautiful weather, amazing partners, and fall loving friends" is what the Operation Green Team said about this event, and we think they are right. It was a slow starting event due to the weather, but turned out to be a great day.

The early morning temps were cold, the air damp and foggy, but that did not stop our two volunteers from facing the morning. Donald Dehm and Larry Hice set up a couple of tables, put out some flies, and rigged up a couple of practice rods a little before 8:00 a.m.

Once the sun came out and the fog burned off, the crowd began to grow and we eventually had some nice crowds around the tables. Some adults learned to cast, but mostly the day was spent passing along the love of this sport to the younger generations.

We were able to tell the kids and the parents about fly fishing, fly tying, and even conservation. During some of our busiest times, we had 10 or more people all crowded around the tables asking about the different flies and how they were used in fishing.



Donald and Larry braving the cold and damp morning



Some kids learning to enjoy this great sport



The kids and adults alike were all ears when it came to the flies

Estimated attendance was around 1500 – 2000 people and they had plenty of things to do with us and all the partners. There were things for all interests, from leaf presses, to composting tips, to hammocks for lounging around, and one our favorites was the entomology on display in the clubhouse. There were very large sized dragon fly nymphs, and other creatures pulled from the water's edge that you could examine under a microscope. There was great information about all the critters including our favorite nymphs and how their mouths were used as inspiration for the Alien in the Alien series of movies. We look forward to next years Fallen Leaf Festival and once again partnering with great organizations and friends.



Road Trip, Camp Mack, Lake Wales Florida 4-11 November 2018 by Joe Tremblay

Leaving the cold and rain behind, Everett Sharp, Dick Curtis, Bill Pittenger and I headed south to Florida's Camp Mack River Resort with boats in tow in search of fall bass. After a long 700 hundred mile trek we arrived in Camp Mack on the banks of the Kissimmee River with threatening evening rain.

We launched our boats before dawn Monday morning and raced off to our favorite spot. Well, at least Everett raced off in his new Hewes Redfisher, as for me I "eased" my way to my favorite spot in my River Hawk equipped with a 9.9hp outboard.

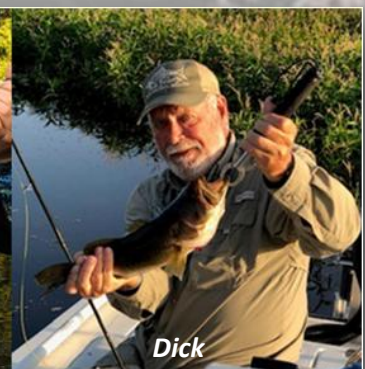
The weather was perfect and Bill landed a 4lb 7oz bass on his 3rd cast. Surely this was an indication of things to come. Wrong! We only landed 3 more fish Monday morning, and few more that afternoon. None of which came close to Bill first bass.

Fishing only got tougher. The next 2 days yielded few fish and a late Wednesday afternoon thunderstorm sent us racing back to the dock. And the rain came! It poured buckets for a solid hour. I had to turn the bilge pump on to keep my boat from sinking at the dock.

As it turned out, the rain cooled the water and apparently turned the bass on. The next day was my best day of the trip. I boated 9 bass and Bill caught yet another 4lb 7oz bass at the exact same spot where he caught his first fish 2 days earlier. I teased him saying he actually caught a 8lb 14oz fish, 4lb 7oz at a time.

I wish I could say that Everett and Dick faired better, but it was not to be.

Everett caught the biggest, Bill caught the most over 4 lbs, Dick the most fish and I enjoyed the warm sun interrupted by an occasional bass, pickerel, bowfin, gar and alligator. You would be astonished by how much fight a 2 foot alligator puts up. Thank God for LRD's!





Fly Tying 101

January and March 2019

TVFF Education Director, Donald Dehm, will be conducting Fly Tying 101 Courses in January and March of 2019. The courses will be a set of three classes, held on Saturdays for three consecutive dates. Classes will be held from 8 – 11 am each day at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Drive. Huntsville in Room 201. See the TVFF FaceBook page for a video of how to get to the meeting room. Handicapped access is available but please contact Donald Dehm by email at donalddehm@yahoo.com prior to the event date.

The classes in the course will include basic fly tying equipment identification, material identification, basic fly tying techniques, tying basic to intermediate flies (8 flies in total), and more. Each course will be limited to a total of 20 students either with their own equipment and/or with no equipment, which TVFF will provide at no cost.

Cost of the course will be \$25 per person, and we recommend that you attend all three classes. All materials are included, to include hooks, thread, feathers, fur, and more for each student in attendance. You must buy tickets in advance due to the limited number of seats. Tickets can be purchased on a secure ticket site, <https://tvff.ticketleap.com> The site accepts all major credit cards and you can either save your ticket as a QRC or you can print it after uploading a selfie to the site.

January Class Dates:

Jan – 12, 19, and 26 (8 – 11 am)

March Class Dates:

March – 9, 16, and 23 (8 – 11 am)

Coffee and assorted breakfast pastries will be provided and included in ticket price.

TVFF membership is not required to attend these courses, so please feel free to sign up and spread the word. These courses are aimed at those that have no experience, novice tiers who want to brush up on the basics, and for those who have experience but want to refresh their tying skills during the cold winter months.

You may want to ask Santa for a fly tying vise and a set of tools for Christmas, as these courses will likely sell out quickly and we may not have enough equipment for all 20 students.

Please contact Donald Dehm by email, donalddehm@yahoo.com with any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help.



Fly Fishing Clubs and Cuba Special Presentation 7:00PM Thursday 6 Dec



You are invited to attend Avalon Outdoor’s presentation on Cuba’s salt water fly fishing. Mr. Scott Osborne, Avalon U.S. representative, will discuss the Cayo Cruz fishery, an enormous system of flats, lagoons and pristine estuaries . This massive area is under full marine park protection, features extremely limited pressure, and is fished exclusively by Avalon guests. Mr. Osborne be happy to answer all questions.

The following is a from Avalon’s email to TVFF.

Avalon Outdoor is excited about the opportunity to partner with fly fishing clubs across the United States in an effort to offer exclusive pricing and deals for club members seeking to travel and fly fish in Cuba. We have a very successful record of hosting groups from clubs, fly shops, guides and agencies throughout the world for more than 26 years in Cuba. With this extensive level of experience, we prefer working directly with small groups and clubs with a high level of customer service in order to make the process of booking, planning and traveling extremely smooth, simple, and legal. Once in Cuba, our teams make every effort to offer an unparalleled level of service in fishing and experiencing the majestic natural assets of Cuba’s marine parks and feisty saltwater fish.

We are offering clubs and club members extremely exclusive pricing and high demand dates that will be found nowhere else. This is in an effort to reward the camaraderie and grassroots nature of fly fishing clubs as being an incubator for current and future generations of our sport. Not only do we offer hardcore fly fishermen a place to test their skills but we also offer scuba diving and eco-adventures for people and families of all ages and interests. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to travel together and enjoy luxurious amenities at 5 star resorts and pristine nature preserves. Everyone deserves an opportunity to enjoy Cuba.

Avalon believes that once a group has experienced the uniqueness of Cuba, the warmth of the Cuban people and the unparalleled fishing quality, they will continually return. Many return because they just love to fish, others come back because they recognize that they are part of not only one of the most innovative conservation models in the world, but also the pinnacle of saltwater fly fishing and luxury in the Caribbean.

Special Group Offerings

- For small groups we will offer 5 paying rods plus 1 free (5+1) host spot which can be shared by the group. So a group of 6 people will pay the same the total of a group of 5!
- For larger groups we will offer 12 paying rods plus 4 free (12+4) host spots which can be shared by the group. So a group of 16 people will pay the same total as a group of 12! (Example Below)
- For other group sizes we will always offer a combination of some paying and some free to split among the group.

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\$ 3,412 per person a \$1,138 Savings!

* For groups of up to 16 starting at \$1,999*



Whooping Cranes Return to the Tennessee River Valley

Lexi Eiler – International Crane Foundation

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is well known for the migratory waterfowl it hosts during the winter months. However, few are familiar with its largest and rarest avian resident. Standing five feet tall with brilliant white feathers and a red patch of bare skin on their heads, the Whooping Cranes are visible among the thousands of other wetland birds that spend their winter at Wheeler NWR. Whooping Cranes can often be seen feeding and dancing in the fields behind the Visitors Center from late November to late January. Unfortunately, this was not always the case.

Whooping Cranes are one of the most endangered species of birds in North America and the rarest species of crane worldwide. In the 1940's and 50's, the species dwindled down to about 20 individuals. Eventually, only one wild population remained in North America's Central Flyway.



Photo courtesy of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Through decades of collaboration and hard work, a dedicated team of conservation organizations including the International Crane Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has brought the species back from the brink of extinction to 850 individuals. In addition to the Central Flyway population, two more populations of wild Whooping Cranes have been reintroduced from individuals raised in captivity at organizations like the International Crane Foundation. Alabama provides essential wintering habitat for a third of the Whooping Cranes comprising the Eastern Migratory Population (EMP), a reintroduced population numbering about 100 birds. Seven Whooping Cranes from the EMP have already arrived at Wheeler NWR this year.

The story of the Whooping Crane is one of the most inspiring and celebrated conservation stories in North.

America. You can celebrate the cranes at Wheeler NWR's annual Festival of the Cranes from Jan. 10 to Jan. 13, 2019. The Festival offers fantastic crane viewing opportunities, children's activities, live raptor shows, and exciting performances including a Whooping Crane documentary screening, a live concert from John Paul White, and an amazing puppetry performance from IBEX Puppetry. Visit the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association's website for more information (www.wheelerefugeassociation.com). You can also help protect Alabama's Whooping Cranes by giving them their space, at least 200 yards, in the wild, supporting organizations like the Wheeler Refuge Association and the International Crane Foundation, and telling your family, friends, and neighbors about the special opportunity we have to share a home with this iconic bird.



Photo courtesy of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

To learn more about Whooping Cranes and the other 14 crane species supported through the work of the International Crane Foundation, go to www.savingcranes.org



Saving cranes and the places where cranes dance!



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STREAMER FLIES AND THE SUBTLETIES OF MEAT WITH MIKE SCHMIDT

Streamer flies have a tendency to get lost in a vast sea of bunny and deer hair. The common term for these flies is “meat”—“we threw meat today”. While this term makes a lot of sense, the differences in streamer patterns also often end up being lost when you throw... [Read More](#)



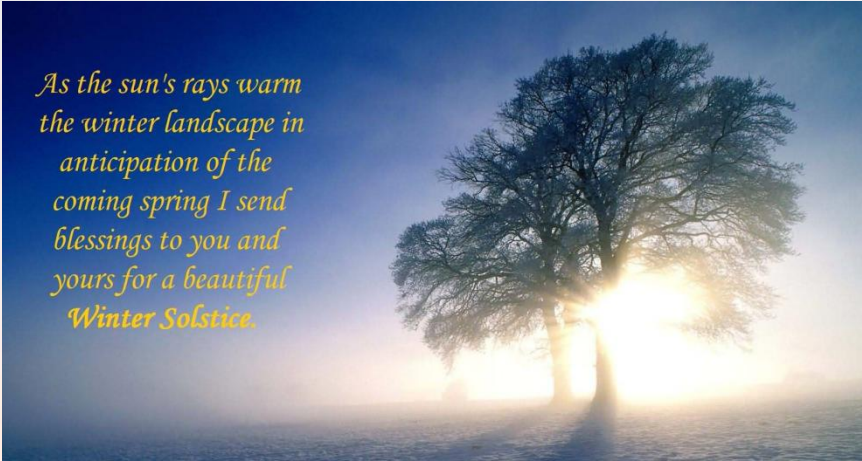
December Holidays

Winter Solstice

Date When Celebrated : December 22, 2019

Winter Solstice marks the beginning of winter and is the shortest day of the year.

On this day, it seems as if the nighttime darkness lasts all day and all night. At the North Pole, the sun never rises on this day. It is not the coldest days of winter, as the northern hemisphere continues to lose more heat than it gains. This will continue until late in winter, as the longer daylight hours at that point begin to have a net warming affect. But for now, heat up a cup of hot chocolate and put another log on the fire! Winter will be here for a while.



*As the sun's rays warm
the winter landscape in
anticipation of the
coming spring I send
blessings to you and
yours for a beautiful
Winter Solstice.*

By the way, while the northern hemisphere is experiencing it's shortest day, the southern hemisphere is basking in sunshine and enjoying the first day of summer.

For thousands of years, Winter Solstice has celebrated the new solar year. It celebrates the return of the sun, as every day now will see more sun. The sun is at it's southernmost point, and now begins it's long, six month journey north. Winter Solstice is also been known as Christmas, Yule, and Saturnalia.

Festivus - It's for the Rest of Us!

Date When Celebrated : December 22

Are you feeling a little left out!? You don't celebrate Christmas or Chanukah. Kwanzaa just isn't your thing. and, you don't even know what Ramadan is. Then, come and experience the joy and the Miracle of Festivus. One might say that the Festivus holiday is a miracle in itself.

Still not sure if Festivus is for you? It's non-denominational. So, everyone can partake. The Festivus slogan is "A Festivus for the rest of us!".

The Origin of Festivus Holiday: Festivus came into being as the direct result of a Jerry Seinfeld television show episode. It first aired on December 18, 1997. The holiday was promoted by Kramer (who else!?)

The Festivus holiday was created by Seinfeld show scriptwriter Daniel O'Keefe. His dad, also named Daniel, had found reference to an obscure holiday called Festivus, which was first celebrated in 1966.

Festivus Traditions: No, there isn't a Festivus Tree. Rather, an unadorned aluminum pole is the symbol of Festivus. The Festivus holiday is celebrated with a dinner. Meatloaf is the suggested main course (I betcha can't wait for a slice of that!).

Dinner is followed by a "Feats of Strength". Another popular Festivus tradition, is an "Airing of Grievances". This is where you can tell someone how disappointed you are over what they did or didn't do during the past year.

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



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