



TVFF Club News

December 2020



2020 Year End Review



We all know that 2020 has been an unusual year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have had to make compromises for the health and wellbeing of our members, chief among which was to forgo all in person meetings.

We suspended our in person activities on March 14th making the 12 of March's fly tying our last for the year. In April we resumed meetings virtually via Zoom.

Since April, we have held our bimonthly fly tying sessions, monthly Club meetings, BOD meetings and our Annual Meeting virtually. Scott Campbell has the distinction of being our first program speaker for an online meeting. Our only in person meeting was outdoors at Jones Ponds that was well attended.

While Zoom provides a way to stay in touch and continue some activities, it can never fully replace face to face interactions. Regretfully, we had to cancel the Swap Meet, the Annual Banquet and Auction, and the Holiday Social. So it hasn't been perfect but, the club has continued to function.

News reports indicate a vaccine is imminent. So there is light at the end of the tunnel. Until then, be patient, stay safe and take advantage of the opportunity to interact with other TVFF members through Zoom.

Normal Club activities will resume as soon as public health officials say it is safe to meet as a group.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- Joe

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This Month's Activities

- Dec 10 Fly Tying– Virtual 7:00 PM
- Holiday Social – Cancelled
- Dec 24 Fly Tying – No session due to Holiday



BOD Minutes

BOD minutes are now available for review at the monthly meetings.

Members can read the minutes by simply asking the Club Secretary, David Hatfield.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted online via Zoom video conferencing software until further notice.



**New Madison Pick Up Location
Details below**

11 December 7PM via Zoom

Bead Head Scud- Featured Tyer, Fred Kaufmann

Scuds are frequently described as fresh water shrimp, but don't expect to find one in a shrimp cocktail, they range in size from 5-20 mm (about 3/16" to 3/4"). They are a common food for fish in lakes and streams.

We will be tying a bead head scud pattern.

Materials:

- Thread: 8/0 thread, white, black or any color
- Hook: #14 Scud hook (short curved hook)
- Back: Pearl scud back
- Head: Small bead
- Lead wire: To add weight to the fly
- Body: Dubbing (green, tan, brown)
- Ribbing: small diameter wire (silver, gold) Can substitute thread
- Tail: Feather



Kill the Corona Fly Tying Contest, Season 2

Kelly Galloup from the Slide Inn Fly Shop in Montana is hosting Season 2 of the "Kill the Corona" Fly Tying Contest. Last year's contest was extremely popular and well received. Season 2 features more categories and many more prizes. There are five categories with due dates spaced a month apart. The first category is Warm Water: Top Water flies. Submissions for Warm Water: Top Water flies must be received by Dec 15th. The next category is Saltwater: Baitfish, due by January 15th. Click the picture to link to the YouTube video for complete rules and the other categories. Prizes include rods, reels, vises, gift cards and more.



PICK UP LOCATIONS

Free tying kit available in Huntsville at the south door of Faith Presbyterian Church and in **Madison** at the Hwy 72 in Madison Super Walmart parking lot (behind Panda Express) from 6:30 to 7:30 PM the Wednesday prior to the tying session. (Mail \$2.00 donation to TVFF, P.O. Box 12841, Huntsville, AL 35815 if desired)

Health Notice: By picking up a kit, you accept any and all health risks that may be associated with use of these kits.

Catch of the Month

TVFF member Greg Bayuga landed this beautiful, 18-inch rainbow trout while on a guided drift trip down the Elk River in Tennessee recently that was guided by David Perry of Southeastern Fly. It was quickly released.

You can e-mail your picture to editor@tvff.club or [Steve Kerkhof](#). Please include the fisherman's name, body of water, approximate date and any other interesting details.

Sow Bug Roundup 2021

The Sow Bug is a big fly fishing show in Mountain Home, Arkansas that is sponsored by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers club. It has been an annual event in March for 22 years. The string was broken this year when the 2020 edition was cancelled due to the pandemic. They are making plans to host the 2021 show on May 13-15. The plans are subject to change. See the link for additional info:

<https://ozarkflyfisherjournal.wordpress.com/2020/09/17/sowbug-roundup-rescheduled-to-may/>

The club usually plans a trip to Arkansas for the Sow Bug Roundup (and maybe some fishing on the White River). Our Activities Director, [Larry Hice](#), would like to gauge the interest for a club organized trip. Contact Larry to express your interest or for additional information. If there is a larger group then we can rent a cabin and the cost per person is less than individual lodging.

Woolly Buggers in Rivers

“The Woolly Bugger. No matter if you’re brand-new to fly fishing or have been fly fishing 5 decades, it’s in your pack. You can’t avoid them, they catch fish universally. Let’s take a look at how to fish woolly buggers using different tactics, techniques and where in a river to apply each.”



Fly Tying Stations

– *Ted Crona*

Since I have been hanging around the house for months and doing some woodworking to keep busy, I would like to offer for sale: 2 portable tying stations---one left and one right hand.

The right hand station is slightly smaller – nominal 12" X 16" with Cabelas vise.

The left hand station is nominal 13" X 17" with left hand Danvise.

Because of the differences in the vises, right hand is priced at \$90.00 (\$70 for station and \$20 for vise); the left is priced at \$130.00 – (\$70 for station and \$60 for vise)

Both are to be sold as is; to be picked up at 1272 Campground Circle, Scottsboro, AL.

HALF of price will be given back to TVFF as a donation. These are nice Christmas presents.

If you are interested call Ted Crona at 256-574-4345 or by email at tedcrona@yahoo.com



Right Handed Tyers



Left Handed Tyers



Fall and Winter Wade Fishing Small Creeks – Joe Tremblay

Wading clear streams and casting dry flies to eager fish is truly one of life’s greatest pleasures. Fortunately, living in North Alabama, I don’t have to travel to distant destinations to enjoy my favorite pastime.

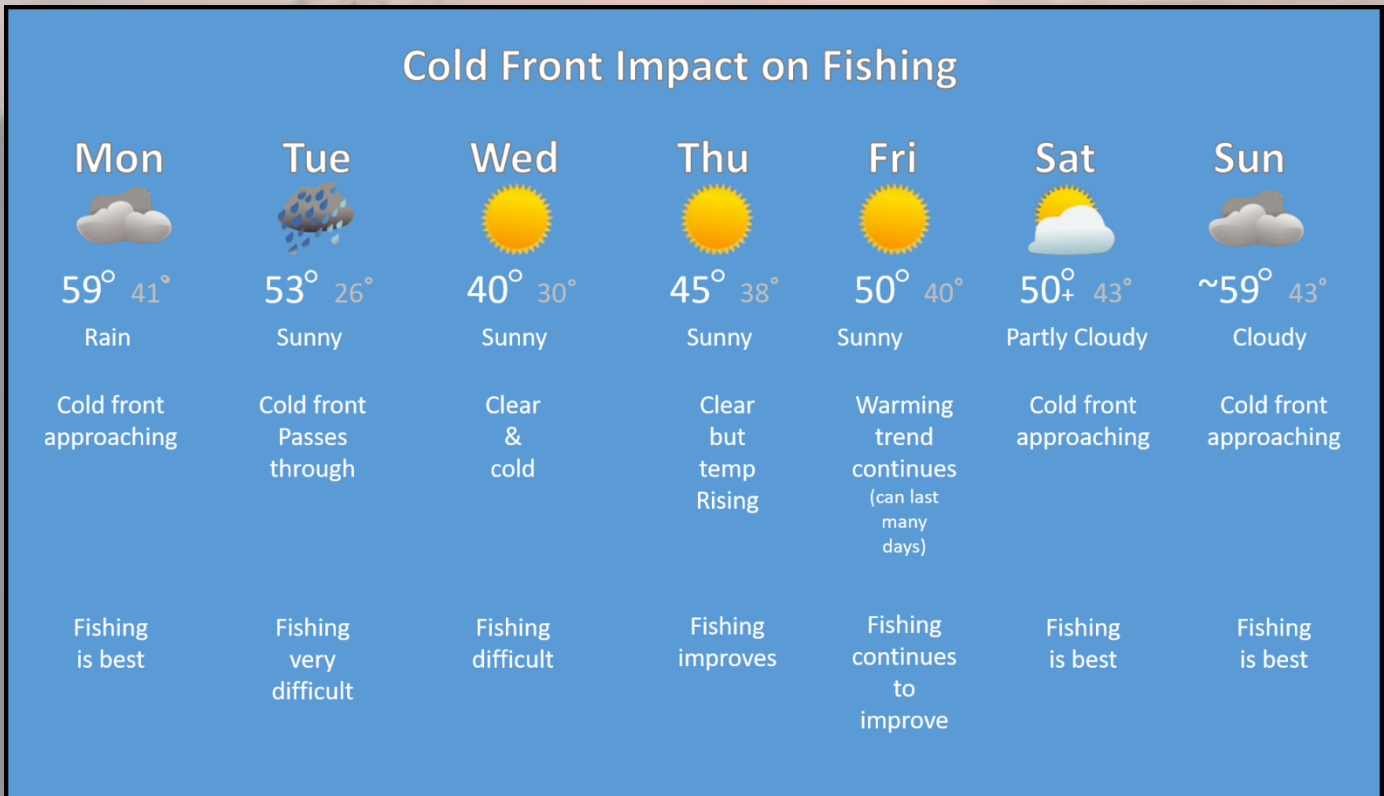
Years ago, I discovered that our local creeks were loaded with bream and bass that are addicted to gurglers and poppers, but were largely ignored by fisherman. Most preferred the lure of our regional lakes, renowned for their bass and bream populations.

I soon discovered that on some days the fishing was phenomenal while other days not so much. So, I did some research to try figure out why. I searched the internet, watched videos, read books, and compiled a log. Over time, I lost confidence in the Sun Lunar Table’s impact on fishing, and began to notice in my log, the impact cold fronts had on my catch rate. I became convinced that the single greatest impact on warm water fish was the effect of weather on water temperature.

Water Temperature: The changes in the water temperature impacts the feeding habits of warm water fish more so than any other factor. Streams and creeks react quickly to changes in temperature, because moving water warms and cools faster than still water. So much so that a cold front can quickly cool a stream shutting down the bite in a matter of hours.

It takes several days for fish to adjust to the cooler water, but even then their metabolism slows and reduces their need to feed. On the other hand, it takes days of warmer temperatures, especially nighttime temperatures, to get things back to normal.

Calendar vs Weather: If you want to improve your catch, don’t fish by the calendar, but rather be aware of the weather cycle. You’ll notice that a cold front can cause the temperature to drop up to 20+ degrees in a matter of hours. This is always followed by a warming trend that can last for some time, until the next cold front moves through. You’ll also notice an increasing cloud cover a few day before, followed by rain the day of the cold front’s arrival. These are the best time to fish, just before the cold front.





Fall and Winter Wade Fishing Small Creeks (cont)

I recently had the opportunity to fish Aldridge Creek. Sometimes, the calendar dictates when you can go regardless of the weather. On that day, Debbie and I caught a few bream and no bass, but on the day I fished by the weather, Dana and I caught a dozen or more bass and numerous bream.

I should also mention that small bass and bream are great fun on a 3 or 4 weight rod. Give it a try, go to a nearby creek, fish before and after the cold front and see if you don't agree.



Trout Fishing at Madison County Public Fishing Lake Begins Nov. 27

Trout season at Madison County Public Fishing Lake will open Friday, November 27, 2020. During the season, the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) will stock more than 3,000 pounds of rainbow trout ranging in size from 1 to 2 pounds. The daily creel limit is four trout per angler. A \$5 Daily Trout Permit is required in addition to a valid freshwater fishing license in order to fish for trout. Trout anglers may also fish for bass, bluegill, catfish and crappie. Anglers can purchase their freshwater fishing licenses at various license vendors throughout the state or online at www.outdooralabama.com. For more information about Madison County Public Fishing Lake, call lake managers Chris or Cole Coultas at (256) 776-4905; the WFF Fisheries Section at (334) 242-3471; or www.outdooralabama.com/alabama-public-fishing-lakes-pfls/madison-county-pfl.

Zoom Meeting Instructions

You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation in the TVFF reminder email that is sent on Sunday evening before a scheduled fly tying night or club meeting. There are 3 ways to join the meeting. You can copy/paste the link in the invitation into your browser OR go to <https://zoom.us> and click "Join A Meeting" in the upper right of the screen OR if you have installed the Zoom app then you can open the app and enter the meeting number and password from the invitation. If prompted you should click yes to allow Zoom to use the camera and microphone on your computer, then we can see you and hear you in the meeting. You may be placed in a Zoom "waiting room" when you first join. Be patient and you will be admitted to the meeting by a host or cohost. This is another layer of security for our online meetings.

Wyoming Cutt-Slam - *David L. Darnell*

The Cutt-Slam is to catch and document the four species of cutthroat native to Wyoming in their native range. Historically the state was home to six subspecies of cutthroat trout. Today five remain including the Bonneville (Bear River), Colorado River, Snake River, Yellowstone, and Westslope Cutthroat (only found in extreme northwest Wyoming in Yellowstone National Park and not part of the Cutt-Slam).



I had wanted to attempt the Wyoming Cutthroat Slam ever since I had read about it a few years ago, but no one that went west with me wanted to put the time in for two of the species that could be small. This year I retired in May and instead of flying out for my usual vacation slot, I decided on an open-ended road trip. I was going total solo until a couple friends heard I was going west and asked to join me on parts of my journey; both are stand up guys, so they were in. I left August 17th at 6am and drove to Grand Teton National Park arriving at 10:30am on the 19th and set up camp at Gros Ventre, pronounced Grow Vaunt, named by French fur trappers.

Wyoming Cutt-Slam (continued)

My plan was to use Tetons as my base. I started out on the Snake River above the Oxbow area, drove down the dirt road to Cattleman's Bridge area, and had a great morning with an awesome Pale Morning Dun hatch (almost too many flies on water). When I finished fishing and drove back to Hwy 191, orange cones were blocking the road. Luckily, I had enough room to squeeze through, only to find out Grizzly #399 and her twin two-year-old cubs were on top of me. She was there the rest of my time in Tetons; she has caused roadblocks for years.

Kevin Dakin flew out on Saturday 22nd. We got started on the slam first thing Sunday morning, drove to Alpine WY, purchased last minute supplies, and got unexpected info from a local who entrusted us with intel. First stop was Salt Creek, a small green meadow stream in a sea of high Wyoming desert. We both scored on Bonneville Cutthroats; after a couple hours we decided to head off for the Colorado subspecies. Our journey took us over 54 miles of dirt forest service road, starting with #10072 to #10138 down La Barge Creek. One of the things about this journey is the wilderness most won't see. We were above 8000', and it was high grassland for a few miles when we topped out at the junction on top of the Wyoming Range. This is Oregon Trail country; there are wagon ruts still to this day in places and graves of the migrants.



Wyoming Cutt-Slam (continued)

The Colorado variety where we were fishing was the most jumping/flipping trout I have ever had attached to my tippet. I could not keep one on. Kevin scored 3 fish, photos to prove it. It was a 3.5-hour drive to camp so we decided to get a room in Pinedale; we were beat after a full day of too much fun. We would go back and try for mine the next day. We visited the local fly shop first thing Monday morning; (Larry Hice has a cap to prove it) they suggested Big Cottonwood Creek as it was native Colorado water and closer than La Barge. I scored early after arriving. Beautiful waters those mountains hold, I plan to return.

Next up was Kevin's Snake River variety. I suggested the Gros Ventre River. We drove about as far as you want to go in a 4x4, turned around, and returned to an area we both liked. It was a good hike over and down to the stream; even with late fall flows, it was still a nice sized stream. The Gros Ventre flows out the Gros Ventre Wilderness. We both were into fish on hoppers. As I was upstream from Kevin, I noticed a nice sized black bear walk out onto the gravel bar below him; it made for a great picture (previous page).



Dan Knott drove out in his RV; he was making camp in Dubois WY. We drove over and all three had a great day on Horse Creek, northeast of town. Beautiful country- hard to concentrate on the fishing if you looked up at the beauty of this area.



We bid Dan farewell, then Kevin and I headed off to Yellowstone for our Yellowstone subspecies. Second meadow of Slough Creek was the target (Joe Tremblay says I'm a glutton for punishment). We hit the trail after first light. This was my 6th trip to the second meadow. It is pristine Griz country, but I have never seen one (Joe, Mark, and I walked by a sow and cubs in 2019, according to a cowboy on horseback). We fished hard. The water was low and full of moss. We had to work for 10" fish. This is big fish water; could see a few but only had one monster eat, and I set to 0 quickly. I didn't turn in my fish from Slough. You don't hike 12 miles round trip for small fish; I'm used to 18" fish and above. That's the reason I hike back there: the slow-moving water, giant meadow located in the Absaroka Mountain Range. This was my 15th trip to Yellowstone: 13 fishing, 2 with my dad on motorcycle trips. I've been blessed to fish great waters with good friends.



Wyoming Cutt-Slam (continued)

After dropping Kevin off at Bozeman airport, I teamed back up with Dan. He had never fished Yellowstone Park; we fixed that. I love the Lamar River, located in a wide valley between towering mountain ranges. Wildlife abounds; we had over a hundred buffalo sharing the river with us. We had a day dreams are made of: large fish rising all around us eating hoppers. When they would quit eating, cut off, tie on different hopper, ant, or beetle, and go back to catching fish. I turned one of these fish in for my slam.

I was gone a total of 26 days. Weather cut my trip short. I fished lots of other waters after the Cutt-Slam, finishing up on Silver Creek Idaho... bring your A-game for that stream. If I'm healthy in 2021, I play on leaving earlier in the year and trying for the Utah Cutt-Slam. It looks to be even harder due to the Yellowstone subspecies being in very restrictive headwaters; hiking down to fish is involved according to what little research I've done. Can see doing the Wyoming slam again.

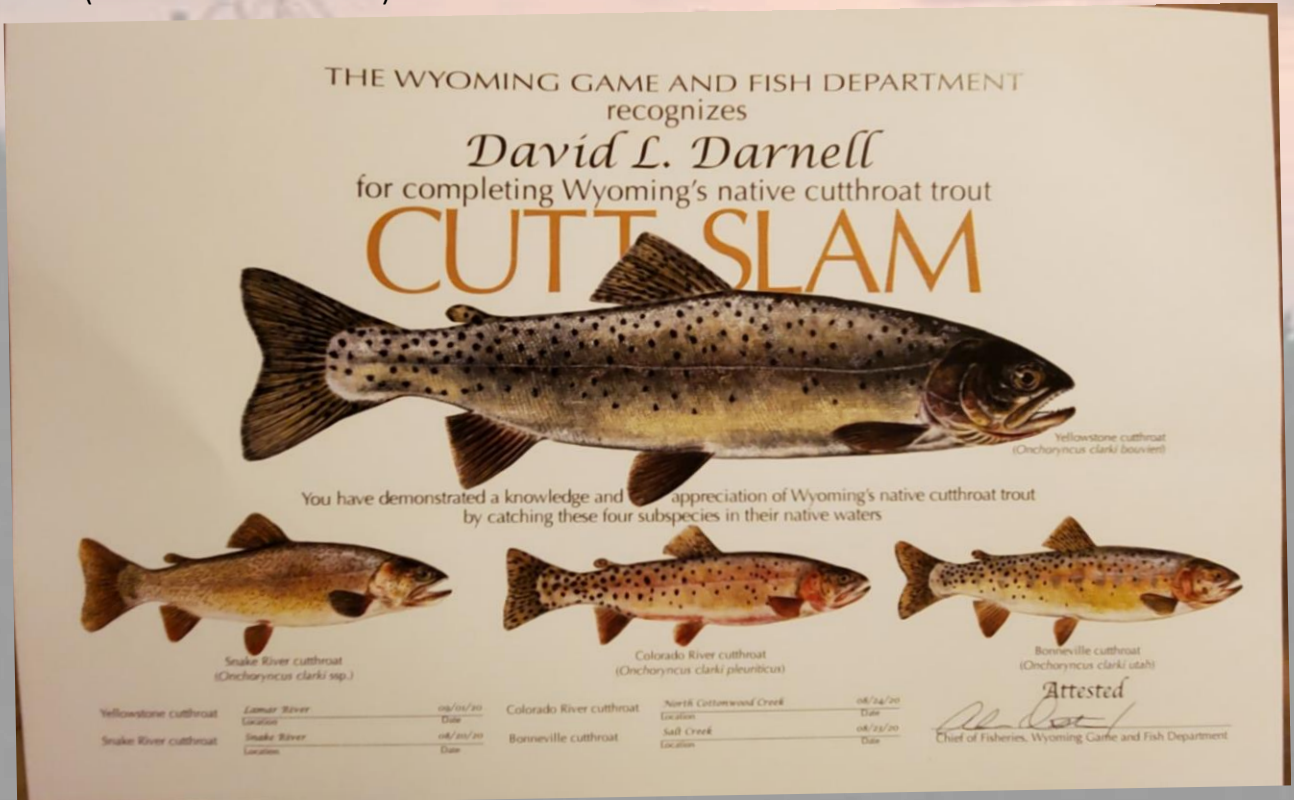
I'm no expert, but Kevin and I can help you out with intel if this is something you would like to do.

I caught my fish on:

- Snake River (Fine Spotted Snake River Cutthroat)
- Salt Creek (Bonneville Cutthroat)
- North Cottonwood Creek (Colorado Cutthroat)
- Lamar River (Yellowstone Cutthroat)

Kevin caught his fish on:

- Salt Creek (Bonneville Cutthroat)
- La Barge Creek (Colorado Cutthroat)
- Gros Ventre (Fine Spotted Snake River Cutthroat)
- Slough Creek (Yellowstone Cutthroat)



Wyoming Cutt-Slam (continued)

These are the flies I caught my Cutthroat on



Clockwise from top: Purple Amy's Ant, Black Parachute Foam Ant, Black Rubber Leg Beetle, Green Belly Plain Beetle

I received a certificate, a medallion, and window sticker in the mail a few weeks after submitting my application online.

Here is the link to Wyoming Fish & Game: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Cutt-Slam>

- David Darnell

Bluewater Creek Scouting Report – Dana Beyerle

Dana Beyerle went on a scouting trip to Bluewater Creek in early November. Here is his report:

Stopped at two sites on Bluewater Creek today in Lauderdale County. Zero fish. Beautiful stream... wade-able... clean.... but IMHO water is too shallow where I was with no deep pools to support fish. Stopped at the creek at Lauderdale County 33. Access was down a slight incline. Waded 200 yards downstream fishing various runs with various wet flies... stripping upstream. Other site was at Lauderdale County 71. There's roadside parking and a path to the water on the south side of Lauderdale County 71. Talked to the landowner and he said it's okay to use the path. Same thing... downstream and up. If this was a trout stream up north somewhere where water is cold, the creek would be covered in fish. There's a little waterfall that goes into two small channels but no fish hiding in them. Compare this with Cypress Creek or even the Flint River, both of which have relatively deep water where fish can hide. These two sites were non-productive at least for me.

The creek at Lauderdale County 33 is close to U.S. 72. Go west past Elgin. For some reason Lauderdale 33 didn't have a sign (and I must have missed it on my Garmin) but the turn is at the Elkins Funeral Home on U.S. 72. Bluewater Creek is a mile or two north. There's roadside parking. You might want to try it and have better luck than I did. I won't be going back. There's one more place on Shoal Creek at the Lauderdale County 8 bridge, which I'm going to try with the local guide, Tony Cox, and learn some pointers.

I had bought a pair of oversize wading boots because my other ones were too small with stocking feet waders. I used them once and they were great. Put them on today and they were real tight and pinched my toes. I thought maybe they had shrunk. When I got in the water they "loosened" up and fit comfortably. When I pulled my boots off my stocking feet were covered with wet paper. I had left the paper boot stuffing in the toes when I last put them in the box. To all you young guys this email is going to... it only gets worse! Sheesh.

**GRANDPA WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE
GREAT CORONAVIRUS PANIC OF 2020?**



**WELL SON, I HAD A VERY DANGEROUS JOB. I WAS
A TAILGUNNER ON A CHARMIN DELIVERY TRUCK**

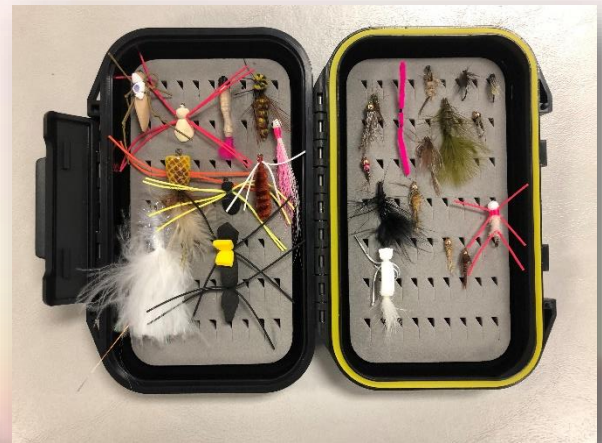
Courtesy Warren A. Rempfer's post.

Has your email address changed?

If you get a new email address or want your TVFF email to go to a different address then send an email to editor@tvff.club and we will make the change for you. If you stop receiving your TVFF emails then check your Spam folder or Junk folder first, then send an email to editor@tvff.club and we'll help.

Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

The picture shows one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to Casting for Recovery last year. We would like to do it again. If you are interested then just tie 14 copies of any fly that you'd like to tie. Bring your flies to any club activity and we will get them to Debbie Hill, our Membership Director and a Casting for Recovery volunteer. TVFF will provide the boxes if you provide the flies. **Debbie is accepting cash donations to purchase fly boxes for 2020.** You can find out more about Casting for Recovery here <https://castingforrecovery.org/>. There will be further details about when the flies are needed in a future newsletter.



Fill-A-Box (When we meet at church)

Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors this program to assist seniors in our community that are identified as food insecure. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list below to the next meeting.

- 1 box of low-sugar, high fiber CEREAL
- 1-2 boxes of instant OATMEAL
- 1-2 boxes of BREAKFAST BARS
- 4-5 cans of TUNA, HAM, CHICKEN
- 6-8 cans of low-sugar FRUIT
- 6-8 cans of SOUP
- 6-8 cans of low-salt VEGTABLES
- 3-5 boxes of LOW-PREP MEALS (Hamburger Helper, Mac n Cheese)
- 2-3 bottles/jars of Condiments (mayo, ketchup, oil, etc.)
- 1 jar of PEANUT BUTTER
- 1-2 packs of SNACKS/DESSERT



Fill-A-Box





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.

[Provide flies for the TVFF Casting for Recovery \(CfR\) Fly Box](#) – Tie or purchase 14 flies of the same pattern for the TVFF CfR Fly Box. Contact the [TVFF program manager](#) 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.

[Club News Contributor](#) - 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.

[Safety Pin Flies](#) - 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.

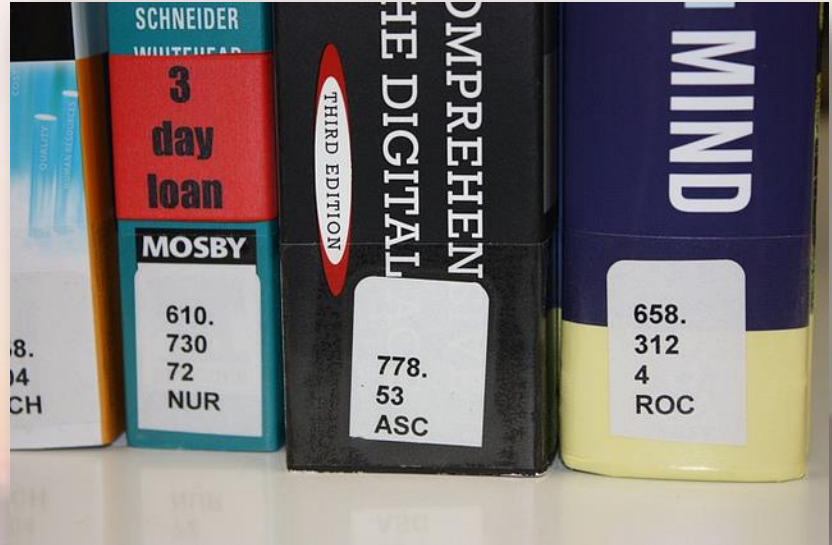
December Holidays

Dewey Decimal System Day December 10

The day is celebrated on the birthday of Melville Dewey, inventor of the library classification system for books of all types. It is certainly more popular with librarians than any other group.

The system uses 10 classes with 10 divisions per class and 10 sections per class. Fly Fishing is in the 700's, part of Arts and Recreation.

Leave a legacy. Develop a similar classification for fly tyers, maybe with the 000 classification for tools and materials, 100's for midges, 200's for nymphs, 300's for streamers, ..., 900's for top water. Then go ahead and label your fly boxes in an organized way.



National Re-Gifting Day

December 24th

If ever there was a year you could be forgiven for re-gifting, this has to be it. If you are not big on online shopping and cyber Monday or don't want to be out in crowds at retail stores but still need a gift for your next door neighbor or brother-in-law then this could be the solution. Just take the gift you received last year that you didn't know what you would do with when you received it and pay it forward. Bonus points if you can successfully give it back to the one who gave it you originally without them recognizing it. Extra bonus points if you receive a gift that you previously re-gifted (and can remember). I was a member of a church group that would do a gift exchange. The booby prize was called the fur-lined pot. It really was a small enamel pot that someone had lined with red artificial fur. It was totally tacky and useless, which was part of the charm, plus if you "won" it you already knew what you would be taking to the gift exchange next year.



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