



TVFF Club News

May 2018



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This Month Program Mat Lewis

Matt is currently employed the Neurology Department at UAB, a former TVFF member and one of Alabama's foremost authorities on redeye bass.

Matt loves to fly fish small streams for native fish has led him to research one of Alabama's hidden treasures, the redeye bass.

His new book on Fly Fishing for Redeye Bass is intended to educate the public on these uniquely southern fish and to raise awareness for their conservation in the Southeast. Matt and lives in Birmingham, AL with his wife and daughter, Libby.



This Month's Activities

- 3 May - BOD Meeting, 7pm, room 201
- 10 May - Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201
- 14 May - TVFF Monthly Outing
- 17 May- Club Meeting, 7 pm, room 201
- 19 May- Little River Outing
- 24 May- Fly Tying, 7pm, room 201

Updated Fishing Reports

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



Participation Award
Must be active member to participate

Don't miss out!

Winning is easy! Simply pay your 2018 dues and attend any TVFF function.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Articulated Series – Featured Tyer, Donald Dehm

There has been a movement in the last few years toward articulated flies and for good reasons. Big aggressive fish eat big meals and articulated flies allows the tyer to make bigger/longer flies while incorporating movement making articulated flies hard to resist.

For the next 4 tying sessions Donald Dehm will be demonstrating a different articulated fly, the Woolly Bugger, a Dungeon variation, followed next month by an articulated Popper and finally a Much Muppet.

Each fly in the series is designed to introduce new materials and tying methods.

10 May - Woolly Bugger

24 May – Dungeon Variation

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

April is the month bass finally become active after a long winter nap.

Bill found this 6lb 10oz bucketmouth on one of the few calm days on Donovan Lake during the April Club Outing.

This bass should have weighed in around 8lbs but had just recently left the bed and needed to eat several more bluegills before reaching its post-spawn weight.

Congratulations Bill!



Woolly Bugger



Dungeon Variation

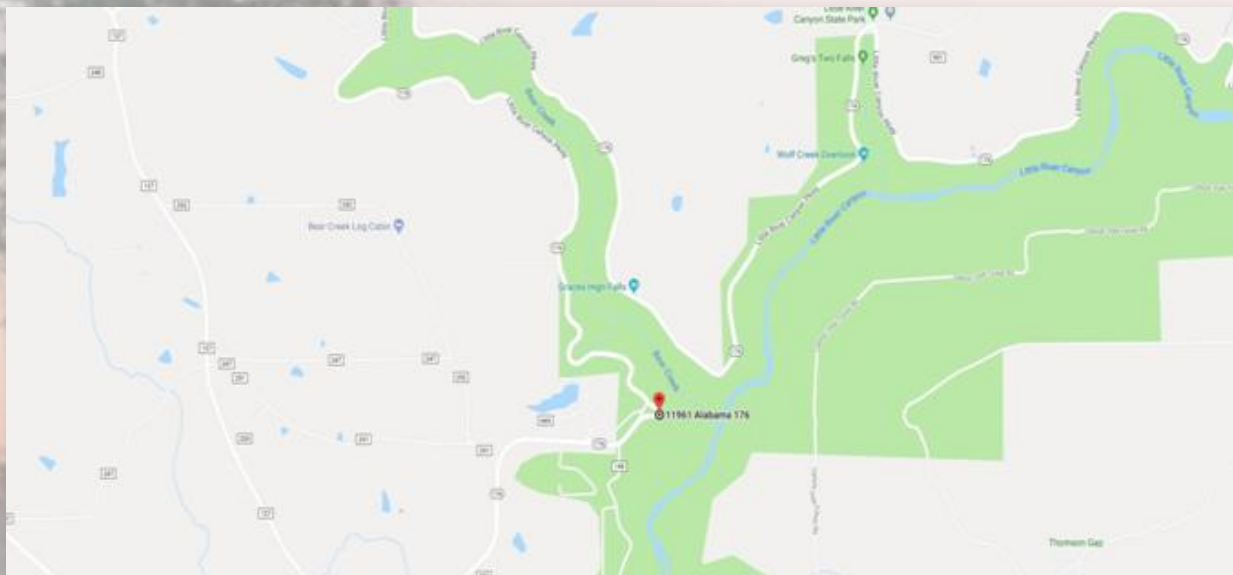




TVFF Monthly Outing - Little River Canyon, AL

When: Saturday, May 19th, 2018, meeting at 8:00 am and staying as long as you choose

Where: We'll be meeting at the head of the Eberhard Trail, whose approximate street address is 11961 AL-196, Fort Payne, AL 35967 (34°21'8.81"N 85°40'36.44"W) (see map for details)



Gear: 3-5wt rods, floating lines, and warm water flies (poppers and subsurface brim bugs). Wet wading is recommended, as waders are too bulky and hot to either pack or wear on the requisite hike. Either bring a change of footwear (one pair to hike, one to wade), or bring something you're comfortable both hiking and wading in.



Warning: This outing will be more physically strenuous than anything else the TVFF has done in recent years. The trail is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the parking area to the water, and drops roughly 400 feet in elevation over that distance. After the hike down and several hours of fishing (which will entail lots of rock-hopping and hiking up and down the river channel), the participants will have to hike back to their vehicles, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile out, with an elevation gain of (you guessed it) 400 feet. For your safety and the safety of everyone involved, please consider this very carefully before choosing to participate in this outing.

Questions: Contact Brian Bouma at (256) 468-8218 or boumab@gmail.com to RSVP for this outing, and with any questions.



Earth Day Celebration – April 21st

TVFF's annual participation in Earth Day requires work and dedication and this year was no exception. It all starts with coordinating with Huntsville's Green Team, going by the TVFF storage locker, loading your car to the gills with canopy, table, chairs, signs, t-post, etc and driving out to Hayes preserve to set up the display the evening prior to Earth Day.

Arriving the next day at 8:30 to finish setting up and get ready to meet the predicted 12,000 visitors who will begin arriving at 10. We are truly fortunate to have members like Larry Hice, Donald Dehm, Tom Wallace, Reid Benton, and Ted Crona who cheerfully volunteer every year. Their efforts at Earth Day and other outreach events breathe new life to the club.

Ted and grandson Joe, Tom, Reid tied safety pin flies for the younger visitors while, Larry, Donald and I answered questions from curious guests and took turn to helping kids and adults improve their casting skills with the club's practice rods.

Many expressed an interest in the club, fly tying, fly fishing and signed up to receive the club's newsletter. I would not be surprised to see a few at our next meeting.

Earth Day continued unabated till 2:00 pm with no break for lunch, we managed to keep our energy level high by munching on free popcorn, cotton candy and hot dogs!

As the last of the visitors departed, we packed and loaded up before heading off to Big Cove BBQ for some much deserved rest and a late lunch provided by the club.

Earth Day is by far the best opportunity for the club to promote fly fishing. With the thousand people attending, it can be difficult to keep up so your help is always needed and appreciated.

Thanks to this year's volunteers for supporting the 2018 Earth Day Celebration.



Donald citing the joys of kayak fishing



Young visitors picking out a safety in fly



Ted's Grandson Joe demonstrating fly tying & Tom helping a young visitor tie his first fly.



Communications Director

For the last 3 years I have had the pleasure of managing the TVFF website and editing the Club News. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding endeavor but now it's time for me to step aside and devote more time to chasing that 10 lb bass.

Since I will not be seeking re-election in November, the Club is in need of a Communications Director.

You **do not** have to be a programmer. Anyone with moderate computer skills should have no problems.

The website is hosted on Wix and **does not** require any programming skills whatsoever. I currently use PowerPoint to create the Club News and save it as a PDF file. I will provide written directions, Club News template and past working files to get you started.

I will also be available to assist you until you make the website and Club News your own.

Please give this opportunity to serve the Club serious consideration.

Contact editor@tvff.club for more information on how you can make a difference.

Joe Tremblay

DALLY'S HOW TO: HOPPER TIME

SUMMER'S come calling and it's terrestrial time, truly one of our favorite times of the year.

The days are long, you can wear flip flops and shorts and the fish can be big. Really big.

And there is nothing like watching that brown trout nose appear from nowhere to envelope your fly. No matter whether you are wading or floating, fishing the White River system or the Rockies, getting some hopper time every year is a whole lot of fun.

Check out Ben Levin and Steve getting some hopper time a [few years back](#).

THE BUGS

Summer is bug time, leave your porch light on some time and check the spider webs in the morning. All sorts of stuff will turn up.

But what is important to the fly fisher is the bugs that live in the trees and grasses along the river banks, ants, grasshoppers, beetles, cicadas, and katydids. Basically anything that can fly, fall or get blown onto the river's surface.

Tall banks, tall grass or overhanging trees on the upwind side are a great place to start looking. Just don't expect to see regularly rising fish on a terrestrial hatch, most of the time. Sporadic subtle rises are more of a giveaway to the random nature of terrestrial falls. That being said if you hit a fly ant fall, just right, or the hopper congregations we saw in '08 you won't lack for consistent risers.

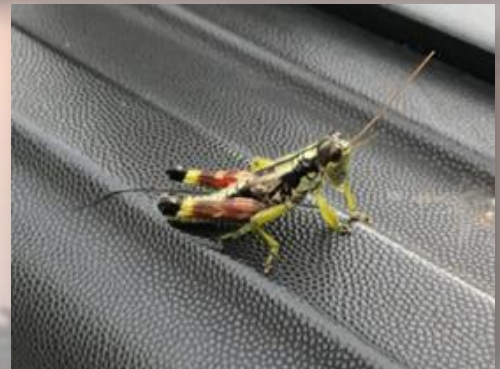
But this is the nature of terrestrials, exactly what is on the water and when in any summer can be a mystery of nature. But you won't know if you don't go looking.

Conventional wisdom is that the bugs become more active during the heat of the day and afternoons bring more wind putting more bugs on the water. But lowlight periods, morning and evening produce good fish every year, peaceful without the extra boat traffic bigger fish seem more willing to rise.

Look for the current lines which collect food, changes in depth, ledges and flooded grass.

THE GEAR

Your everyday 5wt will suffice for a lot of outings but there are better tools to deal with bigger flies and afternoon breezes.





When to take your kids fly fishing

July 25, 2016 by Rod Smith

Reprint from *The Flymen Fishing Co. blog*. For this and other great articles go to <https://flymenfishingcompany.com/blogs/blog>



Photo by Geoff Stevens of [Teton Fishing Co.](#)

For the passionate fly angler, teaching your children all about the pastime will seem like a natural progression.

Fly fishing is a great way to get outdoors, learn new skills and wind down away from the bustle of everyday life – something your kids might thank you for later on.

But knowing when to put the fly rod into a child's hand is a completely different matter.

Introduce the sport too seriously, too young and you risk losing their interest altogether. Take the kids on a trip during the dead of winter and they may never want to join you in your pursuit for trout again!

To ensure you introduce fly fishing in an approach that is positive, fun and at the right time for your family, here are a few points you might like to consider.

1. Age

Children under the age of eight are unlikely to listen with undivided attention as you demonstrate, for the fifth time, how to correctly cast a fly line.



They're even more unlikely to show genuine enthusiasm at the prospect of spending an entire day out on the water, waiting for the fish to bite!

If you have a younger family, it can still be a great experience to bring them along. They'll enjoy the adventure of a new activity, the outdoors and spending quality time with you. Just don't expect to get too much of your own fishing done on the day as well.

On the other hand, young teens are at an ideal age to join you on your fly fishing trip and learn the right technique and process behind making the best catch.

They're old enough to understand the fundamentals of the sport, can take your interest seriously, and will often respond keenly to direction in order to succeed.



Jess Westbrook and his wife Laura founded [The Mayfly Project](#), a non-profit organization that mentors foster children through fly fishing. Photo by [Krystina Bullard](#).

2. Ability

Taking your kids on the road with you for fly fishing is an excellent opportunity to develop lifelong skills and an interest in the outdoors. The fresh air will do them a world of good, away from those distracting electronic devices that seem to never leave their hands.

While you can take your family fly fishing at almost any age, their ability will affect the nature of your trip.

Make sure that your child is able to handle the physical aspect of fishing as well as the mental concentration that it takes to effectively cast a line. Managing the equipment and technique required will be a challenge for many youngsters, given it will be an unfamiliar skill. It's best for parents to practice patience and, as a figure of knowledge, guide them step by step to learn.

Beyond grasping the basics as a fly fishing beginner, it's also important that children are safe and under constant supervision. Capsizing, injury and fast-moving rapids are unfortunate realities of the sport. Ensuring that everyone in your family is a competent swimmer and, of course, kitted out with an appropriate [life jacket](#), will make sure that you arrive home all smiles.



Photo by [New River Fly Fishing](#).

3. Weather

You've decided on the type of trip you'd like to take, know your kids are at the right age and ability to enjoy a day of fly fishing fun. But when is the best time for you to take them?

The seasons have a large impact on fishing expeditions. Different times of year will yield different fish and conditions.

In the winter, a calm body of water could turn into a treacherous swirl faster than you can yell "trout!" The cold could also mar an otherwise fantastic trip – it's no secret that most kids will fail to see the fun in standing against a chilly wind.

The best time of year to go fishing is in the summer – particularly as older children will have school holidays and plenty of time to join you!

Take your family at the beginning of the sunny season or as its winding down to make sure you miss the masses and enjoy the peace and quiet of a warm afternoon out on the water.

4. Extra Tips

Choose the [best boating accessories](#) to suit your day trip. Without the right tools, even an experienced fisherman would struggle to meet with success!

Invest in the right safety equipment, appropriate for the size and age of your kids. Personal flotation devices are a simple addition that can potentially save a child's life.



Photo by [Ben Eastman](#). His daughter Aunaleigh is now a master at whip finishing.

Invite your kids to bring their friends along. This can make it a fun, sociable activity they'll be talking about in class for weeks! [Teaching fly tying to kids: Where to begin?](#)

Mix up your days. Fly fishing is an exciting sport, but kids need variety to keep their attention. Incorporate some exploring, a picnic or visit a nearby playground before heading back out.

Finally, if you decide you want the day to be focused on your own fishing, then it's best to leave your children at home this time and treat yourself.



About the author: Rod Smith

As the former President of the Boating Industry Association, Rod's passion for boating and fishing is utilised in his current role as Managing Director of [CH Smith Marine](#). Offering his masterful expertise, Rod ensures that customers leave with a love for the sea that parallels his own.

TVFF Monthly Outing

Saturday, 14 May, 2018, at Jones Farm Park on 4 Mile Post Road in Jones Valley, west of Carl T. Jones Dr./Bailey Cove Rd.

Please contact TVFF's Director of Activities, Larry Hice (cell: [256-508-2344](tel:256-508-2344), lhice@plasticfusion.com), with any questions or for help with directions to the outing location.

Come join the TVFF at the next monthly outing, and remind yourself of what can be so great about this club and the sport we all love!

Tight lines,
The TVFF Board of Directors



Jones Farm Park

May Holidays

Star Wars Day

When celebrated: Always on May 4th

It's all because of a play on words! Star Wars Day is May the Fourth, because of a famous quote from the hugely popular science fiction series blockbuster is "May the Force (Fourth) be with you"

While we are so glad that this day exists, its creation was a fluke. In 2005, a German News TV channel N24 interview erroneously translated this famous Star Wars quote. In German, "May the force be with you", was incorrectly interpreted as "We are with you on May 4th".

We do believe, that if this error had not occurred, someone, somewhere would have created this day.

There are some references to this as "National" Star Wars Day. We found no record of a presidential or congressional proclamation.



Armed Forces Day

When celebrated: Third Saturday in May

This is simply a day to salute sharply all of the men and women in all branches of military, who protect you and our country.

They can be called upon at a moment's notice to perform a risky and perilous mission for Freedom and country.

They train diligently both physically and mentally, so they will be prepared to prevail in any mission they face.

Just how did it all begin?

Well, each branch of the military had their own day of celebration. But, on August 31, 1949 then Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day.

President Harry Truman also announced the holiday in a presidential proclamation on February 20, 1950. All branches of the military were asked to celebrate on this day and they complied on the first Armed Forces Day which was held the following year on May 20, 1950.

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



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