



TVFF Club News

February 2025



TVFF Club Meeting

Captain Harry Helms, Port St Joe Fishing Charter

Thursday, January 16th 7:00 PM

Imagine the sunrise is barely cresting over the pines with a light wind. Looking out over the water there are shrimp jumping and fish busting all in front of you. We sneakily try to get into casting range. You let your first cast go and you give your topwater its first twitch and boom a huge boil. You are hooked up, drag peeling, heart racing!

Captain Harrison Helms would like to invite you to one of Florida's most diverse coastlines. The Forgotten Coast has some of the clearest and cleanest water that Florida has to offer. With the coastlines being exception, the only thing that could make this better is the thousands of acres of swamps and marshes that lead down to the bays. The Apalachicola River runs from North Georgia down to Apalachicola, FL, and serves as one of the run offs from the Appalachian Mountains carrying nutrients all the way down. The North side of the Cape San

Blas Peninsula is known as St. Joe Bay. It has thousands of acres of pristine grass flats, potholes, and sandbars that serve as a filter to keep the water as clean as it can be. St. Joe Bay also has a 1.3 mile natural opening into the Gulf of Mexico causing the water to never becoming to stagnant. This ecosystem gives anglers some unbelievable opportunities and shots at tons of different species of fish.



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This Month

- February 6 – BOD Meeting, 7 PM
- February 13 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- February 20 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- February 27 – Fly Tying, 7 PM

Officers and Directors

President: Dave Bailey
 Vice President: Andy King
 Secretary: Rodney Durrett
 Treasurer: Aaron Serafinowicz
 Membership: Debbie Hill
 Activities: Larry Hice
 Education: Brian Moore
 Conservation: Bob Lowery
 Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is February 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. in Room 201 at the church. Members are welcome.

TVFF Fly Tying Group

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



February 13th, 7 PM

Dubbing Brush Class– Brian Moore

Cost: \$3

Dubbing brushes are a tool to make tying flies quicker and simpler. We will all make one or two EP Fiber brushes, depending on time. The wire and fibers are provided. For tools, please bring scissors and a dubbing spinner (if you have one). We will have one Oasis dubbing brush table and a few homemade options to use. Video can be seen [here](#).



Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Room 201, in-person

RB Special, Tyer - Steve Kerkhof

Cost: \$3

Desiree Beltre mentioned this fly when she spoke to us last September. It was created by Ray Schmidt as a smallmouth fly but it is also a great saltwater pattern. It is a minnow pattern tied Thunder Creek style. You can watch Ray tie it here [Episode 35 - Ray Schmidt's RB Special](#)



Materials:

Hook: Size 2 Kona or similar

White thread Size 6/0, 140 Denier; Red Crystal flash chenille

Belly: White Fishair, Back: Olive or White bucktail

Flashabou Lateral scale; Olive Krystal Flash

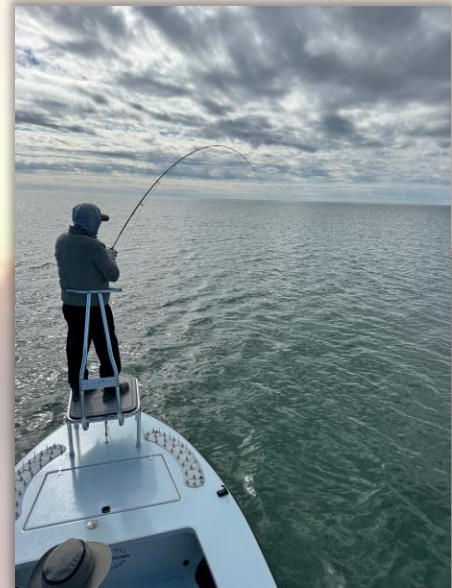
Eyes: Fish Skull Fire Living eyes 6mm, Cement: Epoxy, UV

Resin or Tearmender

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 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Redfish Trip

TVFF members, Greg Bayuga, Connor Baker, Steve Kerkhof and Andy King took a trip down to Louisiana to target Redfish in the Gulf. The group stayed three nights in Ocean Springs and fished two full days. Although the weather was cold and the trip to the good spots took some time, Redfish (and some Black Drum) were caught both days. However, the first day was much slower, and we blame that on a few of us ordering Blackened Redfish the day before! There is still some argument as to who caught the biggest fish of the trip, but everyone caught nice Bull Reds. These fish gave every our 10wt rods all they could handle. The guides for this trip were Ben Cummings out of Mobile and Richard Schmidt out of Ocean Springs, both were great.





Fish Stories – TVFF President David Bailey

Below is a note from our new president, David Bailey:

For those of you who were in attendance at the January 16th meeting you know that I announced that the portion of the meeting where the president would usually ask the folks in attendance “has anybody been fishing” I have renamed Fish Stories.

My vision for the Fish Stories segment of the meeting is that a member or members will talk about a fishing experience, a new fly fishing / fly tying video, new book or other related fly fishing activity.

If the discussion involves actual fishing experience areas covered could be the following:

- *Where fished/When?*
- *Fish caught (size, species; etc.)*
- *Rod, leader, tippet size utilized*
- *Fly Type*
- *Tackle set up*
- *Weather/time of year*
- *Pictures if possible*
- *Guide experience if utilized*
- *Any other specifics*

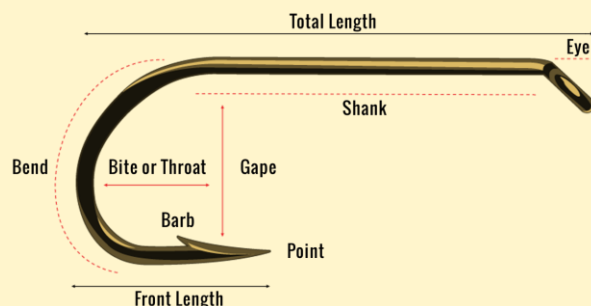
The goal of Fish Stories is to inform, share ideas, entertain, have fun and create awareness of opportunities and methods for TVFF members.

At the January meeting new TVFF member Allan Douglas talked about his recent experiences at Tim’s Ford. Allan said that cold weather was a factor as was the location fished. Allan also described the tackle used and how the recent Tims Ford trip was different than his experience at the same location in December. Allan’s review generated some discussion and questions from several TVFF members. TVFF has many members who have fished all over North and South America. I am sure there are lots of good stores and experiences that can be shared with TVFF members.



Anatomy of a Hook

Below is a good labeled illustration of a hook. For those of you that go to fly tying, these words are used left and right. Here is your cheat sheet, brought to you by [J. Stockard](#).



A Primer on Hook Anatomy

Total Length: Overall length of hook from tip of eye to bend.

Shank: Part of the hook from behind the eye to the beginning of the bend, typically directly above the space between the point and the barb. Standard shank length is defined as the distance of twice the gape plus the width of the eye. An 'X' system is used to denote

longer or shorter than standard lengths. Each 'X' represents one hook size, so a size 6, 2x long (2XL) has a shank length of a standard size 4 hook. A size 6, 2x short (2XS) would have a shank length of a standard size 8 hook. Shanks can be straight or curved.

Bend: Curved portion of the hook ending just before the point. Bends can be round, limerick, sproat, or reversed offset.

Bite or Throat: Distance from the top of the bend to its intersection with the gape.

Gape (or Gap): Distance between the hook shank and the point. A standard gape is slightly less than half the standard hook shank length. Hook sizes are based upon gape.

Barb: Sharp projection near the end of a hook that is angled away from the main point to make extraction difficult. Some hooks have mini-barb and some are barbless to facilitate 'catch & release'.

Point: Sharpened end of the hook that penetrates the fish's mouth.

Eye: Ring, hole or loop at the end of the shank to which the fly line (tippet section) is attached. Eyes can be angled straight, up, or down from the shank.

Front Length: Distance from top of bend to end of the point.

Wire Gauge: In addition to the parts of the hook's anatomy, hooks are also made from various standardized wire gauges or thicknesses. Gauges run from very thin wire to thicker gauge wire, ofte referred to as fine wire, heavy wire, extra heavy, 2X heavy, 3X heavy, etc.

Arctic Grayling are Back in Michigan

This article was borrowed from Flylords Magazine. Authored by Dan Zazworsky. The entire excerpt can be found [here](#).

For the first time in over 90 years, Arctic grayling are swimming in Michigan waters again! Thanks to a collaborative effort by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and other conservation partners, this historic species is making a comeback in the Manistee River.

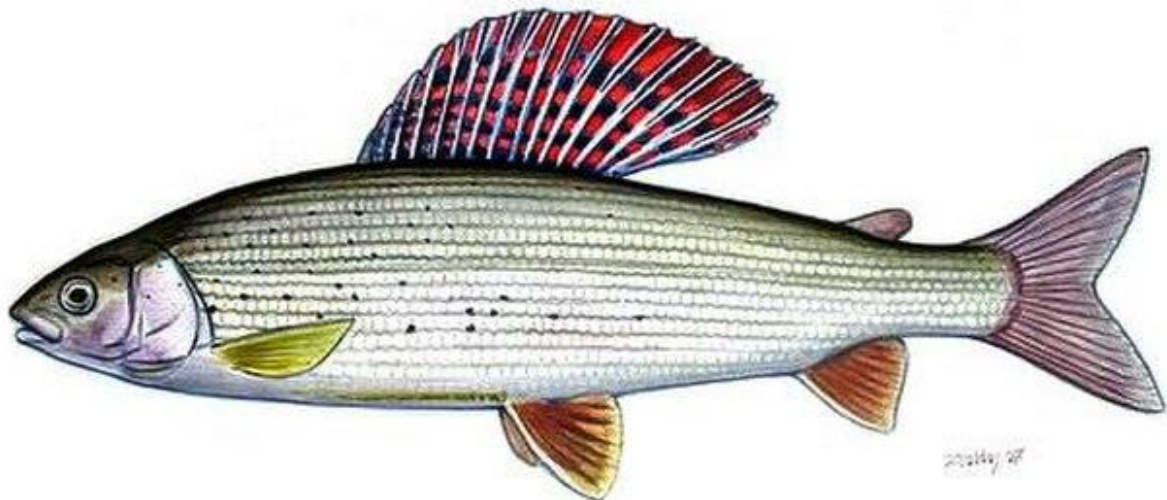
The grayling's reintroduction hit a major milestone in the Fall of 2023 when more than 4,000 juvenile fish raised at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery were released into a controlled stream in the Manistee River watershed. Earlier this month, an additional 4,000 grayling were stocked, with more releases planned for 2025.

These fish aren't just beautiful—they're important. To the Odawa, Ottawa, and Chippewa peoples, Arctic grayling are a sacred part of their heritage, symbolizing the balance and abundance of Michigan's natural world. Their involvement has been key, offering traditional knowledge to help ensure the project's success.

Bringing grayling back is also great news for Michigan's rivers. Their return signals healthier waters and restored habitats, which benefit all the wildlife in these ecosystems. The project aims to establish a thriving grayling population by improving cold-water habitats and educating the public about protecting these environments for the future.

Of course, challenges remain. Ensuring the grayling's survival and adapting the ecosystem to support them will take time. However, this project demonstrates the power of collaboration. Conservation groups, tribal communities, and state agencies have joined forces to bring Arctic grayling back—a major win for Michigan's rivers and for anyone who loves the outdoors.

Want to learn more about Michigan's Arctic grayling comeback? Check out the full story on [Lansing State Journal](#).



6 Tips for Catching Peacock Bass in Miami

Peacock Bass are not native to Florida, but they have become fun fish to target on a fly rod. In the lower 48, they are only found in South Florida. The record in Florida is just under 10 pounds, but they get much bigger in the Amazon drainage system. They aren't particularly hard to catch, but are known for their tough fight. Below are the top 6 tips for catching Peacock Bass! If anyone from TVFF catches any Peacock Bass, be sure to let us know! The below was borrowed from Flylords Magazine. Authored by Max Inchausti. The entire article can be found [here](#).



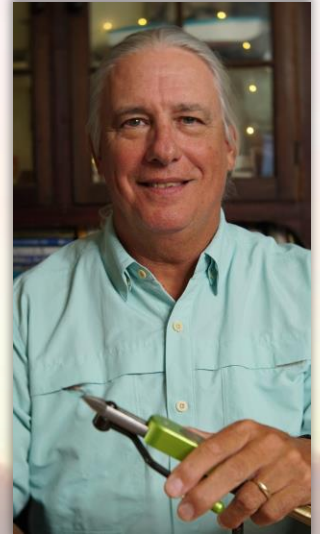
Flylords Magazine

1. **Don't be afraid to throw meat** – There are some larger fish out there, throw big flies and be rewarded with big fish.
2. **Strip fast and throw tiny flies** – Peacock Bass are predators, they will chase your fly when you strip it! Get something that can sink and is shiny. These canals in South Florida tend to be deep and you need something that can get down and they can see.
3. **Target structure in canals** – Like all other fish, Peacock Bass look for structure to hide behind. Look for any pipes, logs, bridges, et al.
4. **Use satellite maps** – The canals in South Florida are oftentimes in private owned areas. Use Google Maps or other mapping apps to find good canal access points near malls or shopping centers.
5. **Shorten your fly** – Peacock Bass tend to have short quick strikes. Making the tail end side of your fly shorter will help ensure they don't bite the tail, but eat the entire fly.
6. **Watch water temperature** – The warmer the water, the better the fishing is for Peacock Bass. They are native to the Amazon, a very hot region. Cold days will be slow, and hot days will be successful.

Guest Speaker Tim Flagler

Coming March! Next month our guest speaker (via Zoom) will be Tim Flagler. He will be talking to us about trout and what they eat. Be sure to mark your calendar March 20th.

BIO: Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 120,000 subscribers and 39 million views. Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or “how to” video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis News fly fishing blog as well. They’re also featured on Trout Unlimited’s national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column “Beginner’s Masterclass with Tim Flagler” in Fly Tye magazine, which selected Tim as their “Fly Tye of the Year” in their Winter 2022 issue. Many of Tim’s tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.



Trout Stocked at Madison County Public Fishing Lake

Trout fishing season at Madison County Public Fishing Lake (PFL) began **Friday, November 29, 2024**. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries plans to stock over 3,000 pounds of rainbow trout in Madison County PFL during the trout season with trout ranging in size from one to two pounds. A \$5.00 Daily Trout Permit in addition to a valid freshwater fishing license is required to fish for trout. Trout anglers may also fish for bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie. The daily creel limit is 4 trout per angler. Check their [website](#) for directions and hours of operation, which are limited, so check before you go.

2025 Sowbug Roundup – March 27th – 29th

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Sowbug Roundup, March 27th – 29th. This is the premier fly tying event in the Southeast, so put it on your calendar. There will be over 150 expert fly tyers, over 20 vendors and raffles every day. If you are even remotely interested in fly tying, then this is the place to be. Tickets are \$10 for all three days, and children get in free. For more information, visit the North Arkansas Fly Fishers website [here](#).



February Holidays

Carrot Cake Day

February 3rd

The earliest known carrot cake recipe dates back to early 19th century France. Carrot cake then became popular in early 20th century England. During WWI, sugar became scarce and carrots became a popular sugar substitute.

Today, carrot cake is still a popular dessert. Personally, I have it every year for my birthday. I can't get enough of it. On this day, I suggest you find a way to enjoy a slice of carrot cake. Whether you bake your own or go down to the local bakery, get a slice of this special cake and make sure it has the cream cheese frosting.



Be Humble Day

February 22nd

Us fishermen have trouble being humble. We tend to brag about our fish, and sometimes stretch the truth. On Be Humble Day, try to practice some humility. Take a one day break from bragging about your large Tarpon you caught last summer or the massive Steelhead you caught over winter break. Save that for all other days of the year!



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