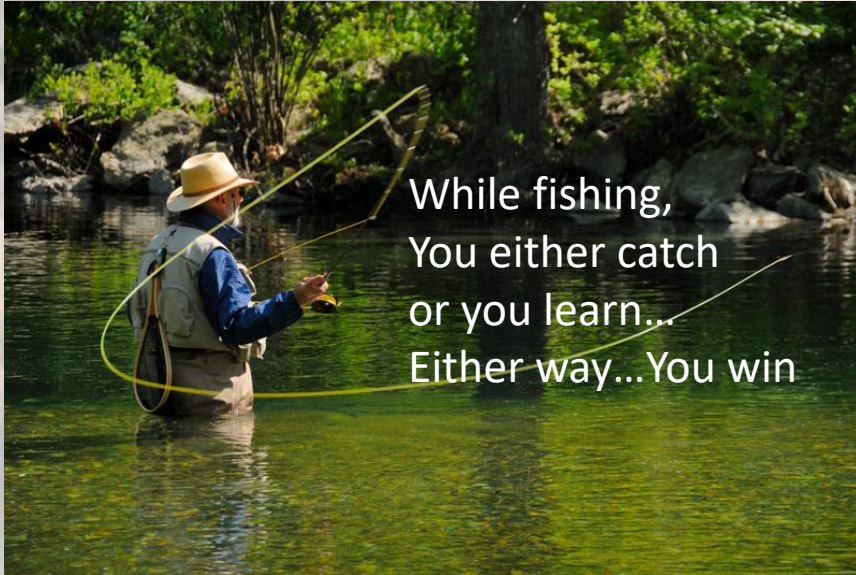




# TVFF Club News

February 2017



While fishing,  
You either catch  
or you learn...  
Either way...You win

## This Month Program

### Justin Spaulding – TWRA Stream Biologist

A streams biologist working with warm and coldwater fisheries across 29 counties in middle Tennessee, Justin currently serves as Chair-Elect on the Trout Committee of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

Prior to TWRA, Justin worked in northeastern Kentucky as an assistant district fisheries biologist responsible for several trout, bass, and Muskellunge fisheries.



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## This Month's Activities

- 9 Feb – Fly Tying, 7pm room 201
- 16 Feb – TVFF Club Meeting, 7pm room 201
- 23 Feb - Fly Tying, 7pm room 201

## TVFF Fly of the Month

The Trout Series continues on February 9<sup>th</sup> with Joe Tremblay tying a fish catching Strymph and Larry Hice demonstrating a Pygmy Sculpin and concludes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with Bill Pittenger tying a Woolly Bugger followed by Joe tying a Elk Hair Caddis.

All easy to tie killer flies that need to be in every fly box whether you fish the Arkansas's White River or Tennessee's Elk River.



Strymph



Pygmy Sculpin



Woolly Bugger



Elk Hair Caddis

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM.**

## TVFF Mourns the Loss of Founding Member Bernie Parr - Aug. 28, 1946 – Jan. 26, 2017

Bernie passed away Thursday 26 January, at the age of 70 after 16 years of defying the prognosis for his end stage heart disease and emphysema.

Bernie was a charter member of the Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers who turned his love of fishing into his own business, The Fisherman's Choice, later changing the name to North Alabama Outdoors.

Bernie shared his love of the outdoors with everyone he could, sponsoring events for the National Wild Turkey Foundation and getting heavily involved in Scouting. He introduced many to canoeing, fishing, archery, black powder, and a healthy respect for cast iron cooking and a morning cup of fresh brewed coffee.



Bernie was diagnosed with emphysema in 2006, and later with congestive heart failure in 2009. This did not stop him. In complete defiance of every diagnosis, Bernie continued to push through life with dedication, tenacity, and passion until reaching a goal he was determined to make.

On December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Bernie and Clair celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One month later, to the day, Bernie decided it was time to go Home. He enjoyed one final bowl of his favorite ice cream and then passed peacefully in the loving arms of his family.

Visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Huntsville Al. The funeral Mass with military honors will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 2 with additional visitation preceding. ([www.laughlinservice.com](http://www.laughlinservice.com))

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bernie's honor to North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association or Still Serving Veterans.





## TVFF Auction – 16 March

Last year we lost Mr. Johnny Chamness, a founding member and organizer of the TVFF, auctioneer extraordinaire for years with TVFF and IFFF and namesake of TVFF’s annual participation award, the Johnny Chamness plaque. His wife, Linda, contacted TVFF and asked for our assistance in the disposition of the fly fishing gear, tying materials, fly plates, etc. that Johnny accumulated over his years in fly fishing.

In lieu of our normal meeting agenda during March, the club will hold a silent auction to sell these items. The items available include both fly fishing items as well as other fishing and hunting gear. There are fly rods/reels, spinning & bait casting rods/reels, rod blanks, fly plates and plaques, a pontoon boat, flies, lures and jigs, a wide assortment of fly tying materials, books and clothing items. Items have been organized into meaningful groupings and a listing of these can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#) or under the “Club News” tab on the TVFF website.



The silent auction will be held at our normal Thursday club meeting in March. Members will be allowed to review the gear/material beginning at 6:30pm and enter their bids. Each item/grouping will have an auction sheet associated with it containing a item #, a reserve value for the item (i.e. minimum value for which the item will be sold) and spaces where you may enter your name and your bid value for the item. The auction will conclude at 8:15 pm, winners will be announced and payments accepted.

This event presents a wonderful opportunity to the membership to obtain some desirable items for a fraction of the normal cost. Stock up on some fly tying materials or fly boxes full of flies, get some great deals on spinning & bait casting rods/reels and associated gear, maybe a pontoon boat, some waders or a vest. This vast collection also includes rod building items like rod blanks, thread, finishing materials and a rod building motorized jig.



Want some decorative items .... we have those also with numerous fly plates, shadow boxes, glass dome presentations and prints. Numerous books are also available though they mainly address areas of interest to our fly tyers. There should be something for everyone. Come and enjoy !!

## Henry Mahler wins guide trip with Tony Cox

Henry was the first winner of a guide trip for two from a featured speaker. Bob won by simply attending the January meeting where Tony Cox of Florence, AL discussed the ins and outs of fishing for smallmouth on Wilson lake and its feeder creeks.

Congratulations Henry on being the first winner of TVFF Featured Guide Program.

Want to fish for Wilson’s legendary smallmouths? Give Tony a call.

Guided Trips • Casting Instruction • Custom Flies

Tony Cox  
(256)762-9429

*Fly Fishing*

tox26@msn.com  
www.coxflyfishing.com







The Fly Tying Group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM in room 201. Tyers of all skill levels are welcome.

The Trout Series concludes this month as members prepare to travel to Arkansas for the annual spring trip and Sow Bug Roundup.

January's sessions were the best attended sessions in memory. It was gratifying to welcome many new tyers. Thanks to last year's addition of the wide screen TV and digital camera, it's now possible to share our passion with larger groups.

If you found January's flies challenging, don't despair. The fly selection was a bit difficult for new tyers but it will become easier with each session. Soon you'll be demonstrating your favorite flies to the group.

Don't miss this month's sessions as we continue to tie some must have flies trout flies.

Fly tying is fun, not all that difficult and a sure way to have just the fly you need when you need it. Join our ever growing Fly Tying Group and learn how to tie your own flies or expand your fly tying skills.

There is a nominal fee (usually \$2) to cover the cost of materials and all are welcome.



## TVFF Spring Trip to Arkansas's White River

The Spring trip to Arkansas for a week of fabulous fishing is planned for **Saturday, March 18th through the following Sunday, March 26th.**

This trip coincides with the annual Sowbug Roundup, which is a conclave sponsored by the local fly fishing club, North Arkansas Fly Fishers in Mountain Home, AR. Check out the event web site for details and photos at [www.sowbugroundup.org](http://www.sowbugroundup.org). It's a great event and an opportunity to restock on fly fishing gear & fly tying supplies!!

If you are interested in joining the trip to Arkansas a non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required and notification of your intentions to join should be made as soon as possible so the club can finalize lodging arrangements. Contact Larry Hice @ 256-508-2344 or email @ [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com).

**Time is running out to sign-up for this trip with "last call" being at the February club meeting.**

**A Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Show**  
*Hatched in the South*  
 Internationally Known  
**20th Anniversary 2017**  
**Sowbug Roundup**  
**March 23rd, 24th & 25th**  
 Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR  
 Hours — 9 am to 4 pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
**A Celebration of Fly Fishing!**

**Sowbug Shindig**  
 Food, Live Music, Live Auction  
 Friday Evening — Limited Seating — Ask for details!

\$5.00 Entrance Fee  
 Good for all three days!

Children under age of 12  
 admitted free with adult!  
 Activities for them on Saturday!

Sponsored by North Arkansas Fly Fishers  
<http://www.sowbugroundup.org> — [sowbugroundup@gmail.com](mailto:sowbugroundup@gmail.com)



## Fly fishing: Smallmouth spawning psychology.

Written by *Galen Kipar*

Reprint from Flymen Blog. A click on Flyman logo will take you to their website.

Water temperature will tell you a great deal about where smallmouth bass are and what they're up to.

The first thing to do when you get on water you haven't fished all winter, or even in the last week, is finding the right water to fish.

As conditions underwater change, fish swim to find a comfy spot that suits their needs.

Learning to read water and pay attention to the finer details will enable you to identify holding spots quickly and increase your chances of being in the right place at the right time.

A quick breakdown looks like this:

### **Pre-spawn.**

**Water temperature: 45-50°F (7-10°C).**

**Fishing technique: Low 'n' slow.**

Break out your toboggan and gloves.

On those early spring days before the Bradford pear trees bloom in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the smallmouth bass can be found at the bottom of the deepest depressions of a river. During this period, fish are recovering from cabin fever and looking for a sweetheart.

At the end of warmer days, fish will often move to shallow rocks that have been heating up in the sun all day to increase their body temperature. [Chocklett's Game Changer](#) is a great fly to use during this time. When fishing shallow water in this situation, I like tying the Game Changer with extra weight and using a floating line rather than fishing an unweighted Game Changer with a sinking line.

This method gets better up-and-down motion and can dead-drift deep holes with the floating line acting as an anchor point. Whatever you do, don't forget to add a stinger hook...

### **Spawn.**

**Water temperature: 50-60°F (10-16°C).**

**Fishing technique: Stay home.**

One day without stinger hooks went like this:

We were throwing Game Changers tied in various colors on one of our favorite stretches of bronzeback water while doing some routine scouting to see where the fish were in their spawning phase.

We found fish in a section of river that had rock ledges running perpendicular to the current spanning the width of the river. The pockets of water between the ledges were 5'+ deep with sandy bottoms and water dropping over each ledge providing high oxygen levels. The ledges were close together and offered protection to spawning beds during high water periods.







We positioned the boat in a way that would allow us to fish the length of the shelf without spooking the fish. The fish started swirling at the fly, making quick and aggressive strikes. Several fish were missed as a result of short strikes.

As an experiment, we stopped setting the hook altogether to see what the fish would do. The rest of the day we witnessed many large fish take the fly, carry it a short distance, and spit it out.

This experience confirmed a couple things:

1. We shall never throw another Game Changer without a stinger hook again (it's been a lifechanger)!
2. These were clearly not fish looking to feed, but fish guarding their beds.

Therein lies a decision you will face...

If you catch a fish as a result of the fish guarding its bed, you may injure, misplace, or kill the fish, thereby leaving the bed unprotected from predators. Spawning success varies from year to year for many reasons. For example, high water and flooding at the wrong time can blow out spawning grounds and decrease spawning numbers.

Fish have a hard enough time surviving and reproducing, but fisheries everywhere are feeling the heat of the additional pressure from the ever-growing numbers of anglers. This is perhaps the best reason to not beat up your favorite water during the smallmouth spawn.

#### **Post-spawn.**

**Water temperature: 60-70°F (16-21°C).**

**Fishing technique: Topwater poppers and Game Changers.**

Let the games begin!

Break out your best subsurface or topwater enticer and let the fish fly from the water. This is one of the best times of the year to catch 3 lb. and bigger smallmouth while floating down a river in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

When the fish come off the beds, they go straight to the buffet line. While you're out there serving it up for the fish, don't forget (for the sake of keeping a healthy fishery) to go easy on them – they're vulnerable and probably a little tired.

#### **Topwater.**

**Water temperature: 70°F+ (21°C+).**

**Fishing technique: Get 'er done.**

The right time for me personally is when the fish come to the surface to feed, which is now if you live near Asheville, North Carolina.

The first time it happened for me, I hit a 3 hour window where almost every cast resulted in an opportunity. Whether they flashed, missed, or smashed the fly, I remember that session as one of those glorious moments in life, much like the bishop in the movie *Caddyshack* having the golf round of his life in a thunderstorm.



Photo courtesy of [Asheville Fly Fishing Company](#).



Photo courtesy of [Asheville Fly Fishing Company](#).



## Choosing Hair with Kelly Galloup

Reprinted with permission from Galloup's Slide Inn



[Watch YouTube Video](#)

### Spinning Hair



### [Premo Deer Hair](#)

Premo Deer Hair comes in 2.5" x 12" strips and offers the best value for the fly tyer. As Kelly mentioned in the video, it is difficult to find strips with great hair all the way through, but you can generally count on 75% of usable material. We do our best to hand select these to meet your needs, and a good premo strip will last a year or two for the average fly tyer.





### [Nature's Spirit Spinning Deer Hair](#)

These 3" x 4" patches are the cream of the crop, and the best and most consistent spinning hair we've found on the market thus far. Nature's Spirit Spinning Deer Hair is perfect for tying larger articulated patterns and bass bugs, and comes in a wide array of fishy colors.



### [Deer Belly Hair](#)

Deer Belly is not always the best quality hair, but one advantage it offers is the selection of bright colors it is available in. Because it's dyed over the natural white color of the belly, we are able to get vibrant red, pink, and chartreuse colors that are perfect for bass bugs, divers, and pike or musky flies. Deer Belly is also the only spinning hair that you can get in fluorescent white, which is what we use for the heads on white Sex Dungeons, Heifer Groomers, and Zoo Cougars.





### [Nature's Spirit Spinning Cow Elk](#)

Cow Elk is a great choice for larger flies where hair length is critical. These 3" x 4" patches contain some of the best spinning elk hair we have found, and the hair is generally a half to three quarters of an inch longer than the spinning deer hair mentioned above.

## **Deer and Elk Hair for Dry Flies and Nymphs**



### [Nature's Spirit Stimulator Deer Hair](#)

Stimulator Hair is from the backstrip of mid to late season Whitetail, and has just the right stiffness and compression for wings on large dry flies. This is also a great choice for heads and collars on small to medium sized streamers, and the barring is really noticeable when you pull it out of the stacker.



### Nature's Spirit X-Caddis Deer Hair

X-Caddis Hair is perfect for tying all your caddis patterns, but also works great for small mayflies and stoneflies as well.



### Nature's Spirit Comparadun Deer Hair

Only a select percentage of deer hair meets the standards for tying comparaduns and small hair-wing dry flies. The tips have to be short and the hair has to be fine, but not so fine that it won't compress and flare. This comparadun hair is a favorite of ours for tying anything from tilt wings to sparkle duns, and meets the high standards that Nature's Spirit is known for.





### Nature's Spirit Comparadun Cow Elk Hair

Comparadun Cow Elk Hair is super tough and is a great choice for tying wings and parachutes on larger dries like drakes and hexes.

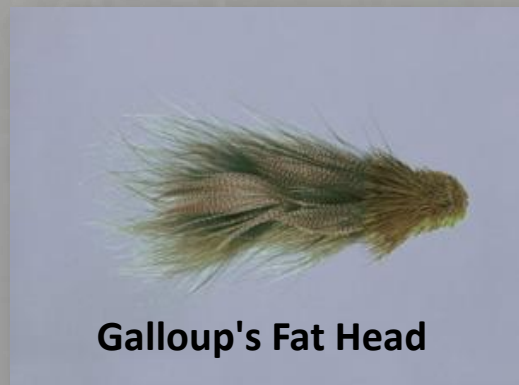


### Nature's Spirit Early Season Elk Hair

This early season cow elk is some of the shortest you will find, and a must for those tyers who prefer elk hair for tying medium to large sized dries. It's very fine in diameter and averages around 3/4"-1" in length with short, dark tips.



**Galloup's Swimmin' Jimmy**



**Galloup's Fat Head**

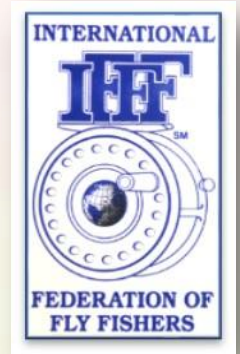


## 2017 Donovan Lakes Club Trip

The Club trip to Donovan lakes scheduled for April 2017 is full. Wanted to go? Don't despair, April is a long ways off and lots of water will flow under the bridge between now and then. Contact Larry Hice and get your name on the stand-by list. Replacements will be called in the order they signed up. [lhice@plasticfusion.com](mailto:lhice@plasticfusion.com)

## Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics

- Fly anglers understand and obey laws and regulations associated with the fishery.
- Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers conserve fisheries by limiting their catch.
- Fly anglers do not judge fellow anglers and treat them as they would expect to be treated.
- Fly anglers respect the waters occupied by other anglers so that fish are not disturbed.
- When fishing from a watercraft, fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft or unnecessarily disturb the water.
- Fly anglers respect other angling methods and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to all anglers.



## February Holidays

### Ground Hog Day, 2 February

Groundhog Day is celebrated in the U.S. each year on February 2. On this day in mid-winter, the groundhog awakens from a long winter's nap, and goes outside of his den to see if he sees his shadow. This tradition is big, on an otherwise cold and dreary mid-winter's day.



The Groundhog's Day tradition travelled long ways. It comes from German roots. In the early 1800's, German immigrants to America, brought the tradition of predicting winter weather on February 2. In their native Germany, they used Hedgehogs to predict weather. As they settled in the hills of Pennsylvania, they began the tradition, using the Groundhog to predict the the arrival of Spring. The tradition is based upon Candlemas, the day that is the midpoint between Winter and Spring.

### Valentines Day, 14 February

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and lovers. The roots of Valentine's Day goes back to ancient times, when people paid honor to the Roman God of Fertility. This was known as the Feast of Lupercalia, and was celebrated even then on February 14th.

The traditions of Valentine's Day are broad and many. It is a time to exchange cards or small gifts. Chocolates, flowers, jewelry, and romantic dinners are the big hits of this holiday.

It is a romantic event for lovers, and a fun event for kids and family. Many a couple become engaged or wed on this day. For others it is a day to fall in love.



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





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- Mike Proctor-Bjorgo Tennessee Trout & Muskie Guide (931) 273 2577
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- Riverside Fly Shop: <http://www.riversideflyshop.com/>
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- Tim's Flies & Lies: (931) 759-5058
- Wapsi Fly, Inc: <http://www.wapsify.net/>
- Wishes and Fishes: <http://www.theflyfishing-store.com/>