

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

January 2019 Volume 5, Issue 1



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January Thoughts

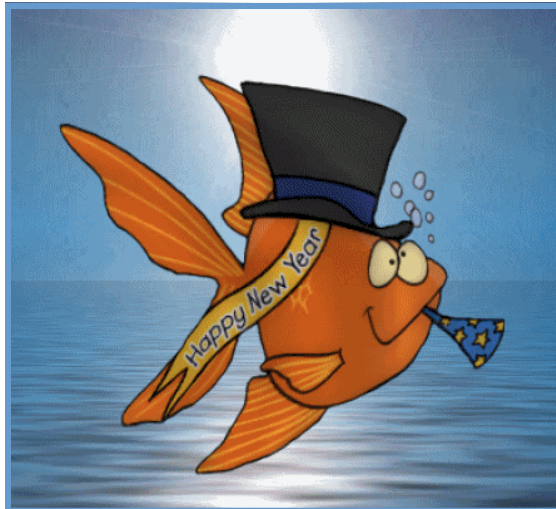
Happy New Year!

Of those three words, the first two are the most important to me. It seems the older I get the faster the years come and go so I don't focus on the word "year" to much. Don't get me wrong! I am thankful that I'm on God's green Earth to see another year come and go. But I don't want to focus on the year. I would much rather focus on the other two words - happy and new.

I'm happy with where I am in life. I've travelled all over the US and some foreign countries, even living in Spain for a short while. I've seen and done many things that most people will never get the chance to do. My best friend and number one person in my life is my wife, Virginia. I have a few close friends and many others. I have friends at work, motorcycling buddies, gaming friends and fishing friends. And I have two families. One by blood and the other by fly fishing. What more does one need to be happy? In the words of my former boss, God rest his soul, "Life is good!"

The second word, "new", is in the middle of that time honored phrase for a reason. Think about it. You could say

"New Happy Year" - I know it sounds funny to say it that way - and it would have a completely different connotation. The focus would be on "happy" and while that's a good thing, I believe the "new" is what makes life happy and worth living. I don't want to be stuck in the same ol' routine. Variety and newness is "where it's at".



I'm always looking for something new, to do something new, to go some place new. Traditions are fine. I thoroughly enjoy our clubs traditional outings such as the upcoming *Frozen Chosen*. Something new is always happening at these

events. Someone new shows up at these events. There is always a new story to tell.

So put something "new" in your life. go to a tying event even if you don't tie or a fishing outing if you don't fish. With the people that you would soon call friends after attending, I guarantee that you will have a great time.

It's kind of hard not to with some of these nuts I call friends and family!



NLFF 2019 Board of Directors

Join me in congratulating the NLFF 2019 Board of Directors. The slate of nominees put forward was overwhelmingly approved at our November club meeting.

Officers:

Brett Rowell President
Tom Bullock Treasurer

Members-at-Large:

Bud Bethea Scott Irwin
Steve Oliver Joe Linder
David Whatley Mark Trombetta

The 2019 Board is dedicated to continuing the programs that have made our club successful in the past and to working to bring new ideas to keep the club fresh, interesting, open and inviting to all.

Keep a close eye on the calendar in these pages as well as on our website for upcoming events and outings. The new year brings another slate of activities, some just around the corner.

Happy New Year!



2018 NLFF Executive Board

President	Chris Pierce	318-347-0494	cpierce213@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Bullock	318-393-7729	twbullock@aol.com
Secretary	TBD		
Conservation Director	Chris Pierce	318-469-0854	cpierce213@hotmail.com
Fly Tying Director			
Membership Director	Steve Oliver	318-470-2646	nlffclub@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.com
Programs Director	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Social Media Director	Frank Harmon	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Safety Director	Judy Thomas	318-560-4888	jw1216@bellsouth.net
Webmaster	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.com
Member at Large	Thomas (Bud) Bethea	318-464-5104	thomasbethea@hotmail.com
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Member at Large	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Member at Large	Joe Linder	318-245-9385	toothpick1936@gmail.com
Member at Large	David Gilbert	318-458-9450	hdgilbert850@gmail.com

5 Facts About Midges Every Fly Fisher Should Know

by Dave Goetz

Midges account for about half of a trout's diet. Plus, they are about the only hatching insect available to trout during the winter. So here are five facts about midges that you need to know if you are going to fish midge patterns effectively.

1. Midges in rivers and streams are tiny.

According to fly fishing author Dave Hughes, the average size for midges in moving water is around size 20.

A size 16 is a big one, and some midges get as small as 24 or 26. This is why I typically stick with midge patterns in the size 18-20 range for nymphs and in the size 20 range for dry flies.

2. Midges have up to five generations per year.

This means you can fish midge patterns all year.

Fly fishing expert Jim Schollmeyer claims that trout often feed selectively on midge larvae in heavily fished streams even when other insects are hatching. However, trout feed most heavily on midges from late fall to early spring when there are few other insect hatches. This explains why

you must fish midges if you're on the western rivers in February.

3. Trout eat midge larvae constantly.



Trout are more selective when feeding on midges in their pupae and adult stages. Yet they constantly feed on midge larvae in moving water. That's why I always have a handful of beadhead Brossie or Zebra midge patterns (both nymphs) in my fly box.

4. Midges cluster on the surface.

Mating midges will form clusters on the surface of the water as groups of males gather around single females. In my experience on Montana rivers, this happens especially during late winter and early spring.

What dry fly patterns work best? A Griffiths Gnat is a great pattern to imitate clusters of midges, although I've used a Parachute Adams with success on Montana's Lower Madison during the winter.

5. Spent midges end up in slow water.

Have you ever noticed trout sipping on tiny black dead bugs in a pool or eddy (slower water behind an obstruction) at the river's edge? These trout are feeding on spent females that have laid their eggs and have been swept downstream.

Some anglers like a CDC Biot Midge, although a Renegade or Parachute Adams usually works for me.

It seems like Mayflies and Caddis flies get all the press. But don't head for the river without some tiny midge patterns — especially if you fly fish during the winter.



5 “More” Fly Fishing Myths

by Steve Mathewson

There’s a four-letter word fly fishers should avoid. No, it’s not what you yell when you snag your fly on the bottom for the umpteenth time or when your back cast lands in a pine branch. Rather, it’s a word that can mislead you and set you up for disappointment. The four-letter word is “more.”

Here are five “more” fly fishing myths that you will do well not to believe. Each myth has the ring of truth. But at the end of the day, each one will mislead you or leave you dissatisfied.

1. The more I fly fish, the better I will become.

The problem is that practice does not make perfect. Practice makes permanent. It reinforces. If you’re intentionally working to improve, then you’ll improve. Otherwise, your bad habits will become more ingrained.

This is the reason why I watch casting videos, read helpful articles, and fish at least once a season with a guide. These habits help me unlearn some bad habits—like being lazy about keeping my fly line through my finger of my right hand at all times during my retrieve. When I fail to do this, I end up setting the hook on a strike with my left hand. That is much slower.

The truth is, the more you work at the craft of fly fishing, the better you will become. The fly fishing myth that more time on the water will lead to better skills is just that – a myth.

2. The more flies I have in my fly box, the better my odds at catching more fish.

There is some truth to this, but...

If you’re fishing when Pale Morning Duns (PMDs) start coming off the water, and all you have are darker flies like a Parachute Adams, then you won’t have success.

However, some of the most skilled fly fishers I know say that using fewer patterns has helped them catch more fish. If you have a few dry fly patterns (Parachute Adams, Pale Morning Dun, Elk Hair Caddis), a few nymphs (Beadhead Prince, Copper John, Zebra Midge), and a couple streamers (perhaps a black Woolley Bugger



and an olive one), you’ll be fine. This assumes that you have them in a few different sizes.

Of course, I have a lot more patterns than this in my fly box. I like trying new patterns. Yet I find myself returning to the same basic patterns over and over again. The reason is that they work.

The truth is, the more you can simplify your fly selection, the better your chances at catching fish.

(Continued on page 5)

5 “More” Fly Fishing Myths - Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

3. I will fly fish more if I move to a prime fly-fishing area.

I could write a book on this one. I lived in Montana for two decades and loved it.

When I lived near Bozeman for fourteen years (and my parents lived on the Yellowstone River in Paradise Valley for several of those years), I was able to get away for a couple of hours here and a couple of hours there. Occasionally, I could slip away during

there.

If you get a chance to move to Montana or Maine or Oregon, do it. But don't forget that.

The truth is, you will have opportunities and obstacles to fish the great trout waters whether you live



But I noticed how life got in the way of my fly fishing. They were high school sporting events to attend, evening board meetings, long hours at work, and all kinds of family responsibilities. I do not begrudge any of these. My point is simply that moving to a prime-fly fishing area sounds romantic. But life will crowd your calendar.

the Mother's Day Caddis hatch or when the Blue-Winged Olives (BWOs) were coming off of the East Gallatin less than a mile from my house.

Now, I spend about a week a year fly fishing in Montana. I probably spend as many hours on the water, though, as when I lived

twenty miles from them or a thousand miles away. Living near a blue ribbon trout river is a terrific blessing. But it's not necessarily bliss.

4. I will fly fish more at the next stage of my life.

(Continued on page 6)

5 “More” Fly Fishing Myths - Cont.

Good luck with that!

I thought it would be easier when my kids were out of diapers and in school. But football, volleyball, soccer, concert choir, band, church youth group, and an endless string of activities took a lot of time. Then,

retirement body will not handle quite as much hiking and wading as I do now.

The truth is, you have to be relentless to carve out time at any stage of life to fly fish. Don't wait for life to slow down. Get out there

when I catch one after another. I find myself almost getting greedy. I hurry to get one trout off the line to hook another one.

Then, I find at the end of the day that I rarely remember one or two specific fish I caught.



Besides, my desire to catch more fish doesn't diminish at some magic number. I quit at 30 or 40 (if I'm fortunate to have such a great day) because I'm too tired or it's too late—not because I'm so satisfied that I can stop. Catching trout number 30 makes me want to catch trout number 31 which makes me want to catch trout number 32.

when they moved away from home, I thought I'd have even more time. But now that “extra time” is spent visiting with them.

Of course, I love visiting them! I'm not complaining. I'm just saying that the next stage of life will probably not give you as much time as you want.

I'm not at retirement age, or close to it. But I suspect that my re-

now because tomorrow will have scheduling issues of its own.

5. The more fish I catch, the more satisfied I will be.

Believe me, I love catching a lot of fish. I'll take a forty-fish day over a ten-fish day any day! I've had a few of these the last two years. But when I do, I find that I have trouble slowing down the moment and savoring the experience

The truth is, I need to savor each fish I catch and to remember that one more fish will not necessarily make the day better. It's hard to say that, but it's true. More satisfaction is just another fly fishing myth.

So don't buy into the fly fishing myths of “more.” Thinking realistically will help you get more enjoyment out of your time on the river.



2019 NLFF Master Series**North Louisiana Fly Fishers
7th Annual Masters Series****Proudly Presents:*****Dave Hughes***

Dave Hughes is author of more than 20 books about fly fishing for trout. They include *Wet Flies*, *Handbook of Hatches*, *Reading Trout Water*, *Essential Trout Flies*, the classic *Western Hatches* (with Rick Hafele), *American Fly Tying Manual*, *Nymphs for Streams and Stillwaters*, *Trout From Small Streams*, *Pocketguide to Western Hatches* and the massive reference *Trout Flies*.

Dave's articles on fly fishing have appeared in *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, and *Fly Tyer* magazines. Dave served as editor of *Flyfishing & Tying Journal* for eight years, and is currently a columnist for *American Angler*, and *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*.

Dave was founding president of Oregon Trout in 1983, and was awarded life membership in the Federation of Flyfishers in 1985. He was awarded the Pete Hidy honorary life membership in the Flyfishers Club of Oregon in 1992 for his literary accomplishments. Dave received the prestigious Letcher Lambuth Angler Craftsman Award in 2008 from the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He is a life member of his home club, the Rainland Flycasters in Astoria, Oregon.

Now living in Portland, Oregon, Dave is an accomplished amateur aquatic entomologist. His hobbies include collecting, identifying, and photographing the aquatic insects that are fed upon by trout, as well as tying and fishing the flies that match those insects and fool those trout.

**Tickets: \$40 each**

***Your Organization can Become
A Sponsor by Purchasing
10 Tickets for Only \$350***

Where and When:

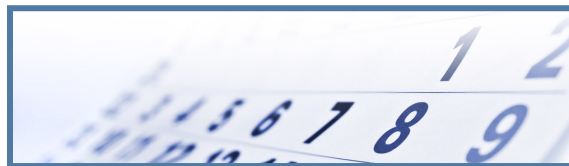
***Red River NWR
150 Eagle Bend Point
Bossier City, LA 71112***

***July 27, 2019
9:00am - 4:00pm***

For More Information:

**Contact Scott Irwin
318-469-0854**

NLFF Calendar



Jan 1st: Happy New Year!

Jan 8th: NLFF Monthly Club Meeting. Cancelled due to the closure of the Red River NWR because of the government shutdown.

Jan 17th: NLFF Monthly Fly Tying Session. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Tom Bullock will be tying the venerable Wooly Bugger in preparation for our Frozen Chosen outing.

Jan 22nd: NLFF Monthly Board of Directors Meeting. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Held in the meeting room on the second floor by the elevator.

Jan 26th - 27th: NLFF Frozen Chosen. Little Missouri River, AR. Fishing all weekend and a hamburger and hot-dog cookout provided by the NLFF on Saturday. Bring a side and/or dessert. Plan to eat around 12:30pm. Camping and lodging near the dam or in Murfreesboro, AR are available.

Feb 12th: NLFF Monthly Club Meeting. Red River National Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. This is our annual Chili & Flies cook-off and fly tying contest meeting. Starts at 6:00pm, eat at 6:30pm, with contest starting at 7:00pm. Winners announced at 7:45pm.

Feb 21st: NLFF Monthly Fly Tying Session. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Bud Bethea will be tying a Muddler Minnow.

Feb 26th: NLFF Monthly Board of Directors Meeting. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Held in the meeting room on the second floor by the elevator.

Mar 12th: NLFF Monthly Club Meeting. Red River National Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Club business from 6:45 - 7:00pm. Presentation starts promptly at 7:00pm. Social hour starts at 6:00pm and involves fly tying and/or casting depending on weather. Ricky Yeldell will be talking on fishing Toledo Bend Reservoir.

Mar 21st: NLFF Monthly Fly Tying Session. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Fly to be announced.



NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!
SEND ITEMS TO EDITOR:
STORIES, PHOTOS, ITEMS OF
INTEREST ARE ALL
WELCOME!

Upcoming Events

Jan 26th - 27th: "NLFF Frozen Chosen". Little Missouri River, AR. Fishing all weekend and a hamburger and hotdog cookout provided by the NLFF on Saturday. Bring a side and/or dessert. Plan to eat around 12:30pm. Camping and lodging near the dam or in Murfreesboro, AR are available.

Feb 15th - 17th: "Little Mo' Fly Fishing Festival". A celebration of trout and fly fishing on the Little Missouri River February 15-17, 2019 Community Center, Murfreesboro, AR. Friday evening gumbo and tying. Saturday: Programs, fly tying, exhibitors, retailers, casting, biologists "State of the River" program, and more. Sunday: on the river casting program. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For details, check www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff-festival.html

Feb 16th: "Fly Fish Texas". Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, TX, Saturday, 9:00am -4:00pm. Anglers from novice to expert will gather at the TFFC to celebrate the sport of fly-fishing. Learn the basics of fly-tying and casting, then fish for rainbow trout in our on-site ponds and streams. Attend seminars and demonstrations led by fly-fishing professionals. Visit with vendors of fly-fishing services and equipment. For more information, see <https://tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/visit/specialevents/flyfishtx/>

Mar 2nd: "27th Annual Red Stick Day". Waddill Outdoor Education Center, 4142 Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge, LA. 8:30am - 3:30pm. FREE admission. Sponsored by Red Stick Fly Fishers. A celebration of fly fishing; featuring programs, fly tying demos, casting instruction, manufacturer exhibits, kayak demos, fishing, raffles. Free admission and refreshments. Lunch provided at a nominal cost. For more info, go to www.rsff.org



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First FFI (formerly IFFF) Affiliated Club in Louisiana

P.O. Box 29531

Shreveport, LA 71149

email: nlffclub@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

www.northlaflyfishers.org

Founded in 1984

Serving the Ark-La-Tex for over 30 years

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and our members in particular, a better understanding of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, and Rod Building. We wish to perpetuate the sport as a most pleasurable and exciting fishing method and provide education, instruction and the opportunities for relaxation to the membership.

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF) Club serves the Ark-La-Tex area surrounding Shreveport. As the closest cold water fishery, we consider the Little Missouri (Little' Mo) River near Murfreesboro, AR our home waters. We also fish the local rivers and lakes. We even have a growing group of kayak fishermen that, as well as the local rivers and lakes, will fish the gulf coast marshes for some saltwater action!

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Red River Wildlife Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA). Meeting starts at 7pm but come about 6pm to visit, tie flies and practice casting when the weather permits. See you there!