

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

February 2019 Volume 5, Issue 2



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984

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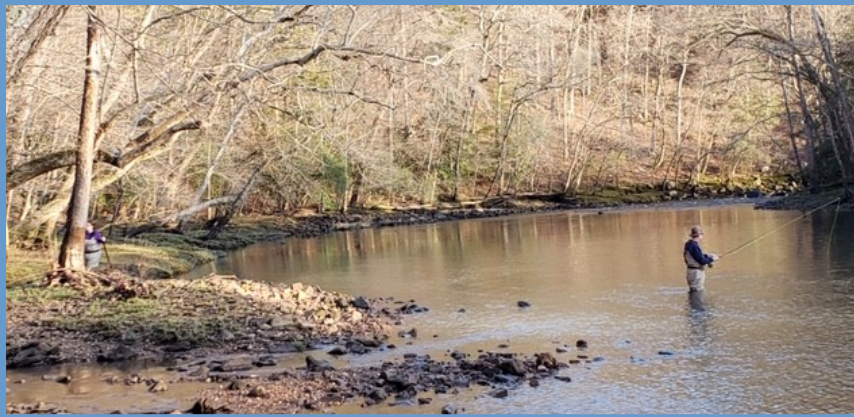
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February Thoughts

Winter is solidly under way around the Ark-La-Tex. Winter means that the fly fishing event season is here in full swing.

Trout-based events get underway as this is prime trout fishing season around here with a short drive to our home waters as well as stocked trout ponds. These trout won't survive the upcoming warmer temps; therefore, this is trout primetime!

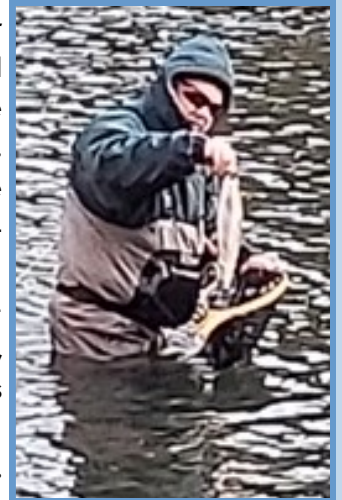
Also, don't forget about the White Bass. Water temps are beginning to reach the 50-55 degree range that triggers their trek upriver to spawn. High water from all of the rain will make chasing white bass as they begin their run difficult. Here's praying that this rain pattern ends very soon.



Speaking of events... The Lil' Mo Fly Fishing Festival and Fly Fish Texas have come and gone. But it's not too late to make plans to attend other area shows. There are a number of them in the upcoming months. (See Upcoming Events on page 9.)

Warmer weather will also bring more club outings. Even though the NLFF has already hosted the 2019 Frozen Chosen, many others are scheduled or in the works. *Bass on the Fly*

at Lake Fork Marina is right around the corner and while it is not a NLFF event, we hope to enter a team or two in the competition. The inaugural *Flies & Fleas* was a lot of fun for those who attended



last year. I hope to see a larger turnout this year. This outing has the potential to become a must attend event by our club members just as the *Frozen Chosen* has.

I know it has been cold and rainy. But don't let the weather keep you from fishing. Remember, cold weather is a prime trout weather and they are already wet. So get out and have some fun!

Go fish!!



2019 Red Stick Day Fly Fishing Festival

Saturday, March 2, 2019 8:30am-3:00pm Waddill Wildlife Refuge, 4142 N Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge
Free admission! Free refreshments! Every first Saturday in March, the Red Stick Fly Fishers host their annual "conclave" - a celebration of fly fishing. Whether beginner or expert, there's something for everyone!

Activities include:

- Programs - Fly Tying Demonstrations - Casting Demonstrations and lessons - Free refreshments - Fishing on premises

Some of the region's top fly tyers will be on hand. There are free refreshments during the day. Then, at 2:00pm, there's the big raffle for flies, tackle, equipment, and other items.

Schedule of Activities:

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Fly tying begins
9:00 am	Ian Huang – Picking the Right Fly Fishing Destination
10:00 am	Jay Clark - Casting instructions
11:00 pm	Vic Tedesco - Fishing for Specks along Highway 1.
12:00 noon	Jambalaya lunch for sale
1:00pm	Jim Davis - Fishing the Tailwaters of Northeast Tennessee
2:00pm	Raffle
3:00pm	Until Next Year!



2019 NLFF Executive Board

President	Brett Rowell	318-207-6097	brett@brownbuilders.com
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Member at Large	Joe Linder	318-245-9385	toothpick1936@gmail.com
Member at Large	David Gilbert	318-458-9450	hdgilbert850@gmail.com



The New Orleans Fly Fishers Club

Invites You to Join Us at

The New Orleans Fly Fishing Expo

Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 8am-4pm

Featuring Special Guests:



Jon Cave

Proprietor of Jon Cave's Complete Fly-Fishing School
(www.jonbcaveflyfishing.com)/Fly Casting
Instructor/Author of Performance Fly Casting and
numerous Magazine articles/Fly Tier and inventor of
Cave's Wobbler and the Rattlin' Minnow/Professional
Photographer/Retired Fly Fishing
Guide/Lecturer/Ambassador for Sage and RIO/Legacy
Tier for Renzetti Vise



Tom Logan

Chairman of the Board of Directors
for Fly Fishers International (FFI)

Fly Casting Seminars/Demonstrations/Instruction

Fly Fishing and Destination Seminars

Fly Tying Instruction/Demonstrations

Iron Fly Tyer Competition

Auctions/Raffles of top end Fly Rods, Reels, Flies from Top Tiers

Outdoor Writer's Round Table

Outdoor Equipment Displays

Artists and Vendors with products for sale

**The New Orleans Fly Fishers Club Supports Casting for Recovery
& will make a donation to them with proceeds from the Expo**



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club**

**Location: The Deutsches Haus - 1700 Moss St. - New Orleans, Louisiana
On Beautiful Bayou St. John across from New Orleans City Park**

**FREE ADMISSION AND FUN FOR EVERYONE
A caterer will be selling food and a Cash Bar will be open**

The Ten Commandments of Wading

by Steve Mathewson

Commandments of wading are many, and for good reason. A couple years ago, I decided to cross a side channel in the Yellowstone River to an island which would give me access to a superb run. Dave, my podcast partner, and I were fly fishing in Yellowstone National Park. The side channel was only about 25 yards wide. But the current turned out to be stronger than I anticipated. The side channel was deeper than it looked.

I made it halfway across before I decided to turn around. Even then, I wasn't sure if I would make it back safe and dry. But I did, thanks to obeying a handful of the "10 commandments of wading" which I was tempted to break that day.

The law-giver who delivered these to me was not Moses, but Duane Dunham – a veteran fly fisher and friend who used to teach fly fishing at a community college in Oregon. Dave and I have obeyed (most of) these commands over the years because we have no interest in drowning or taking a bath on a 40-degree day in March.

Or, if that unwelcome bath happens (it hasn't yet), we want to survive it.

1. The faster the river is flowing,



the lower the depth level you can wade.

This means wading only mid-thigh in swift water. I'll go deeper than that in some slower stretches of the Lower Madison or the Wyoming Bighorn. But I stick to shallow

stretches when I'm on a stretch of raging river.

2. Keep your strides short.

Panic leads to larger strides which can result in getting "stuck" in

(Continued on page 5)

The Ten Commandments of Wading - Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

the current with your feet about a yard apart. This makes balance difficult. Besides, when you try to take a step, the current assaults the one leg on which you are standing and raises the odds that you will end up making a splash.

3. Make sure you have the right soles.

Felt soles, though controversial, are still the best, especially in fast-moving rivers with smooth-rock bot-

toms, like the Yellowstone River. They are controversial because for years, it was thought that fly fishers who didn't fully dry out their soles and then fished in a different stream contributed to the spread of invasive species.

If you take the time to wash your felt soles and to let them dry before going to another river, you eliminate almost any chance of spreading an invasive species. Metal studs work well too – either as an alternative to or (better) in addition to your felt soles.



4. Use a wading staff.

For years, I've simply used whatever stout branches I could find along the river's edge. Finally, last fall, I purchased an Orvis wading staff. Simms make a good wading staff, too. But you can assemble the Orvis in much less time.

5. Angle downstream when crossing a river.

This enables you to work with the current, not against it. The current will actually push you along. Remember command #2 and take short strides.

6. Don't try to turn around in fast current!

This is where a lot of anglers get into trouble. Either use a sidestep. Or back up carefully. Remember to take short strides and to angle downstream as you back up towards the bank.

7. Wear a wading belt with your chest waders.

Seatbelts save lives (like the time I rolled my truck and landed upside down in a small creek). So do wading belts. They keep your chest waders from filling up with water if you slip and take an unexpected bath.

(Continued on page 6)

The Ten Commandments of Wading - Cont.

by Steve Mathewson



lose your fly rod than your life. You might even recover your fly rod downstream. If not, you now have an excuse to buy the latest and best fly rod you've been drooling over in your local fly shop.

10. Don't wade fish alone!

It's not worth the risk. At least avoid certain rivers or stretches or runs.

If you've rolled your eyes at any of the ten commandments of wading, let me I remind you how shocked your body will be by the cold temperatures of the big freestone rivers in the West.

Let me remind you, too,

that one slip can lead to a broken arm or (worse) a head injury that can limit or incapacitate you. So when you break these commandments, you put yourself at risk. Keeping them will protect your life.

Wade safely, my friend. Wade safely

Steve Mathewson and Dave Goetz post regularly on their blog site and interview various people related to the fly fishing world for their podcasts. If you enjoyed this article, check out their blog site at: 2guysandariver.com



If you forget your wading belt, forget about wading for the day. I'm serious!

8. If you fall in, don't try to stand up too quickly.

And keep your feet down river. Stay in a sitting position and wait until you reach knee deep water before you try to stand up.

9. Let your fly rod go.

If you need to use your hands to stroke to shore, give it up. Better to



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:

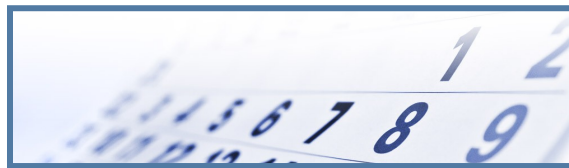
***Red River NWR
150 Eagle Bend Point
Bossier City, LA 71112***

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

For More Information:

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

NLFF Calendar



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.

Mar 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.

Apr 9th: 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.

Apr 18th: NLFF Monthly Fly Tying Session. Bass Pro Shops, 100 Bass Pro Dr., Bossier City, LA at 6:00 - 7:00pm. Fly to be announced.

Apr 23rd: 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.

May 3rd: Bass on the Fly annual competition. Lake Fork Marina, Alba, TX. Details to come. Think about entering. We would like to field a couple of teams from the NLFF.

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.



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

Upcoming Events

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

Mar 28th - 30th: "22nd Annual Sowbug Roundup". Thursday-Saturday, March 28-30, 2019 Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, Arkansas. Hours 9am to 4pm: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday. Admission: \$5.00 covers all 3 days; under 12 free with parent. The Sowbug Roundup is sponsored by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers club and has long been the foremost gathering of fly tyers in the USA. Every year more than 100 fly tyers from all over North America and Europe meet and tie at Sowbug. There's also seminars, casting instruction, vendors, drawings and auctions. Note: The first \$3000 of revenue from the Sowbug Roundup is used to fund the NAFF Scholarships. For more info, go to www.northarkansasflyfisher.org

Apr 6th: "New Orleans Fly Fishing Expo". The inaugural New Orleans Fly Fishing Expo will take place on the historic banks of Bayou St. John in the newly completed Deutsches Haus venue. The Expo will feature fly fishing and casting seminars, fly tying demonstrations, exhibits, Iron Fly competition, auctions, raffles, and equipment displays. Jon Cave will be the special guest for the Expo. Jon is a renown fly fishing angler, guide, fly tyer, casting instructor and author from south Florida. His fly fishing school is one of the oldest in the South. Jon is also a highly recognized voice for conservation and environmental issues, having a M.S. degree in Natural Resources with concentration in Fisheries. He is a member of the Team Sage Advisory Staff, Rio Advisory Staff, Team Tibor, and Umpqua's Contract Tyer Program.



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!