

*north
Louisiana
fly
fishers*



P. O. BOX 8542 SHREVEPORT, LA. 71108-8542

January 2015

PRESIDENT: Bud Bethea

TREASURER: Tom Bullock

BOARD MEMBERS:

Scott Irwin Frank Harmon

Linda Bethea Steve Oliver

Judy Thomas Rush Clay

Joe Dollarshell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

MEMBERSHIP: FRANK HARMON

WEBMASTER: FRANK HARMON

SPEAKER: SCOTT IRWIN

BANQUET: OPEN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA BETHEA

www.northlaflyfishers.org

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and its 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.

NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS founded in 1984

This Past Month

Well the holidays have come and gone and the new year is upon us. I haven't heard any fishing reports lately, and I haven't been fishing lately either. However we did have a few things happening in the club. Our new officers and board members have been installed and we are looking forward to this year with great hopes. We also got the kayak raffle underway. The kayak is here and will be on display at the meeting. Take a look at it and tell your friends and neighbors. They will want some tickets also, I'll bet. We are approaching our busy season with the Frozen Chosen, Caddo Conclave and the Master Series on the horizon. We need volunteers to help with events so don't be shy if you are willing to help. See you at the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Jan.13th, 2015 at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Meeting starts at 7PM. Come about 6 to visit and tie flies. Bring your vise. Guest speakers Jane and Tom Gallenbach.

What's Inside:

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This past month, our club, and the fly fishing community as a whole, lost a valued member, Barry Bauer. As evidenced at his memorial, Barry was a truly special and gifted individual, as well as a beloved family man and friend. Most reading this probably know that Barry was a craftsman and bamboo rod builder, which is quite unique in our area. But unique may be what Barry was more than anything. Barry was also a wealth of knowledge and quite the connoisseur (though he would probably shy away from that term) of all things angling, as was proudly on display if you ever had the opportunity to visit his tackle room...a wonderland of old rods, reels, lures, flies, art, and books.

On the topic of books, Barry also had a love for angling literature, which I was lucky enough to share with him. Some may not know, but there have probably been more books written about angling and fly fishing than all other sports combined. Why exactly that is I don't know, but certainly it has something to do with the art of the whole thing. Anyway, I share this now because Barry introduced me to what would become my favorite book, Harry Middleton's *The Earth is Enough*. When Barry first lent me his dog-eared copy of that book, he said, "It starts off kind of weird, but then...it's magic," and his face lit up with a smile and expression that many would probably recognize.

The Earth is Enough is a coming-of-age story that chronicles the experiences of a boy who is sent, at a tumultuous time in the world and his life, to live with his grandfather, great uncle, and the lunatic Elias Wonder on a poor farm in the hard-scrabble hills of Arkansas. On that farm, the boy learns many things from the old men, not the least of which is a passion for fly fishing and trout in the "cooling waters of Starlight Creek", which runs alongside the farm. The book is more than just a coming-of-age story though, and it's more than a fly fishing book for certain. I guess the best way to describe it is, as Barry said, magic. Somewhat coincidentally, but probably not, one of the central themes of the book is mortality. Barry's passing caused me to pick up the book again, and I would like to share a few brief passages that seem kind of fitting at this time. That one of those was actually a eulogy for a dog (Cody) is inconsequential, and would probably have given Barry himself a chuckle.

"He like his body, is becoming something else. Who knows what. That's the beauty of it all. Who knows what's next."

"Life's immortality is more important than our own...We'll be back, not as ourselves of course, but as life, the life we have led. We will rise like trout in a dark mountain stream, rise bravely to the surface."

"He was a good dog, as dogs go, and a fine angler, a true friend." A pause. "What's done is done, what's past is past, but that doesn't mean we won't miss him. We will."

We will miss Barry. I'm saddened by his loss, sorry that I didn't get to know him better, and regretful that we never made that last fishing trip we were trying to pull together. But I'm more brightened for having known Barry, and I'm truly thankful for the limited time that I did get to spend with him. I'm sure that I'll remember Barry at times when I read a particularly good passage that I think he may have liked, and I know that I'll think of him tomorrow when I'm on the water. There, there Barry. There, there.

Erik Dilts

NLFF's Tribute to Barry. Before his passing, Barry became a supporter of Reel Recovery, a non-profit organization that conducts free fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from all forms of cancer. Barry even donated one of his custom bamboo rods to be auctioned as a fund raiser for the organization. For those unfamiliar with the organization, Reel Recovery offers a unique experience for men coping with cancer, a time to share their stories; learn a new skill, form friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of their recovery. Reel Recovery retreats are conducted over a two-and-a-half day period at a fly-fishing facility/ lodge with onsite or nearby fishing access. All meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment are provided at no cost to the participants.

Speaking about Reel Recovery, Barry relayed to me that while he didn't personally need to sit around a campfire talking about his emotions, he saw real value in the healing properties of fly fishing and getting men on the water. As with all things, Barry seemed to face cancer with his own special grace and sense of humor. Fittingly, and in honor of Barry's memory, our club will be sponsoring a participant at an upcoming Reel Recovery retreat on the Lower Mountain Fork River in Oklahoma, a spot that Barry enjoyed fishing himself.

If you would like to be a participant in Reel Recovery, volunteer, or make a donation, then visit their website at www.reelrecovery.org.

Erik Dilts



Artwork by Dave Whitlock



The most phenomenon fishing event in the Ark-La-Tex is about to happen!

The White Bass Run, is right around the corner. This staggering fishing phenomenon, when millions of our finny friends leave the deep protected waters of Toledo Bend and squirm their way up the Sabine river to spawn, is something you really should experience. The only guide on the Sabine River, River Ridge owned by Jane and Tom Gallenbach, will be our January speaker. They will discuss the environmental conditions that cause this amazing fish journey. They will share with you the best times to fish, good fishing locations, and Erik Dilts will discuss the type of fly fishing equipment needed to wrestle with these massive fighting fish on

Come to the January 13th meeting early early. From 6 to 7 p.m. Erik Dilts will demonstrate how to tie the ideal fly for a trip to the Sabine for White Bass. Jane and Tom will then give a presentation on the white bass run.

SABINE RIVER is the upper part of Toledo Bend Reservoir in East Texas. It is located 12 miles south of Carthage, Texas on Hwy 699 which is about 40 miles south of Longview, Texas and 60 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana. Several species of bass, crappie, channel, blue and flathead catfish are all in abundance. Sabine River is ideal for year-round fishing. River Ridge has been featured on "The Texas Angler" outdoor show for 3 years. The 6 lb. line class world record white bass was caught by Keith Warren ("The Texas Angler") here in 1996. Also Ed Snyder, Editor of the Lakecaster Magazine, caught the 2 lb. line class world record white bass here. It is common to catch white bass that weigh over 3 lbs. Some weigh 4 lbs and better. The Sabine River State Record white crappie was caught here February 26, 2000.

To contact info for Jane at River Ridge:

Jane Gallenbach - Guide

River Ridge Guide Service
529 PR 831
Tenaha, TX 75974

903 693-4441
903 407-0130

www.riverridgetx@aol.com



Frozen Chosen

Get out your jacket, gloves, and boots! Prepare yourself for the Annual Frozen Chosen in Murfreesboro, Arkansas the weekend of Saturday, January 31. Don't miss the opportunity to shiver along with the best of them. NLFF will furnish the hamburgers, hotdogs, and fixings, but remember to put in your best cold weather side dish. You'll need to bring your own soft drinks. We will keep the coffee pot on for you. Put your gear in! Who knows? Mother Nature might decide to get tricky and give us a beautiful day for fishing! It's not too late to lock down a reservation for a camping site or a cabin! It might not be a bad idea to throw in some firewood. See you there!



Five Years with NLFF

Bud and I have enjoyed five years with NLFF. I originally joined primarily to keep him company, but immediately found that I enjoy the club all on my own, even though I am not even a passable fly-fisher person not fly-tier. The outings and camaraderie with club members has been such a pleasure. We have made numerous trips, every one memorable, to mountain streams, the Gulf, and local waters. The company is wonderful. I have yet to attend a meeting, outing, or social gathering where the company is not excellent or where all comers are not welcome. The associations with other clubs hold the same appeal. People greet you as though they know and appreciate your friendship, even at the first introduction. Over the next year, one of my goals is to learn to cast, and gain enough expertise so that I can at least concoct a believable story about the "one that got away."

Linda Bethea

Kayak Raffle

As those of you who were at the last meeting know, we have started our raffle for a new 14.5 foot Native Slayer kayak. It will continue until April. The drawing will be at meeting April 14th. Tickets are \$25.00 each and the last time I checked, the winning ticket has not been sold yet. However I plan on buying it soon. We need help with ticket sales so see Steve Oliver and he will issue you however many tickets you want to sell. We have set the cut-off for ticket sales at 200 tickets so let's go ahead and get them sold. The more of us working on this project the better it will be. Everybody needs a new kayak so don't neglect to buy a few for yourself.



Master Clinic Series

Our 3rd Annual Master Series Clinic is coming up in July. We will be sponsoring a day featuring Davy Wotton. We have had him here before at the 1st clinic so we know the quality of the programs he presents. A flyer is under development and we will be circulating them soon. It's not too soon to start telling your friends and neighbors about the event. Seating will be limited to about 75 so make your plans to attend. We will be discussing this at the meeting on the 13th. so be sure to be there.



Time To Renew Memberships

Well it's the first of the year again and time to renew our memberships. You can get the renewal forms from our website at www.northlaflyfishers. There will also be some available at the meeting. We will have them on the table at the front for you to pick up. We need to get them all in as soon as possible, the cut-off date is the March meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 23rd-25th: Red River Rendezvous—A Fly Tying Extravaganza. Beavers Bend State Park, Group Camp #2, Broken Bow OK. \$10.00/person. For more information, www.rrff.org.

Jan. 31st: Our annual Frozen Chosen outing at Riverside pavilion on the Little Missouri River, Murfreesboro, AR. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring your favorite side dishes and drinks.

Feb. 13th-15th: 13th Ever Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival. Community Center, Murfreesboro, AR. See www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff.festival.html for details.

Feb 28th: Pot luck and movie night at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. More details at the next meeting.

March 26th-28th: 18th annual Sow Bug Roundup. Held at the Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home Arkansas. Admission \$5.00. www.northarkansasflyfisher.org for more details.



NLFF

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