

# The Fly Line

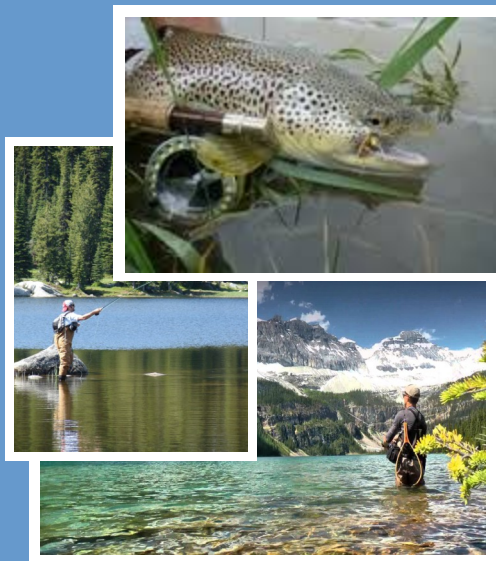
Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers



February 2015 Volume 1, Issue 1

## February Meeting Topic

Our speaker for February will be **Phil Rispin**, owner of Dutch Creek Fly Fishing, specializing in custom made fly rods, custom tied flies, and guided trips to the Oldman River Drainage in Alberta. Phil was born and raised in Alberta Canada and now resides in Longview, TX. He began fly fishing with his Dad around the age of 6 and is an active member of East Texas Fly Fishers. Phil teaches fly fishing educational programs in both the United States and Canada and will be sharing some of his vast knowledge about fishing Alberta. For destination fly fishing, you won't want to miss this.



Great Scenery from Alberta, Canada

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## Monthly Reminder - Membership Dues

If you have not already renewed your NLFF membership, dues are due! This year, we have made it easier than ever before to pay your membership. The club now accepts cash, check and major credit cards. Please get these paid so you can continue to enjoy all the benefits of club membership. You can print a membership form from our website at [www.northlaflyfishers.org](http://www.northlaflyfishers.org) or fill one out at our next meeting. Please submit completed form and payment to Tom Bullock.

*"Nothing grows faster than a fish  
from when it bites until it gets away."*

- Anonymous



## A Note from the Editor

With this issue, there is a new editor for our club newsletter- now called *The Fly Line*. I hope the changes are pleasing. My mission is to make the newsletter easy to navigate while providing you with a useful tool in keeping up to date on the comings and goings of our club.

I would like to thank Linda Bethea, my predecessor. When she took over as editor, the newsletter was 14-16 pages with lots of old information and blank space. Linda got rid of the old info, cleaned up the blanks and cut the number of pages in half! Without her efforts, I would not have been able to make all of these changes on my first issue as editor. Thanks, Linda!

While I am the new editor of *The Fly Line*, this is *YOUR* newsletter. So send your ideas, pictures, articles, information and comments to the NLFF club email at [nlffclub@gmail.com](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com). Together we will continue to make *The*

"...this is *YOUR* newsletter."

### 2015 NLFF Executive Board

President	Thomas (Bud) Bethea
Treasurer	Tom Bullock
Secretary	Steve Oliver
Audio/Video	Steve Oliver
Banquet	OPEN
Conservation	Scott Irwin
Membership	Frank Harmon
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver
Social Media	Frank Harmon
Speakers	Scott Irwin
Webmaster	Frank Harmon
Member at Large	Linda Bethea
Member at Large	Rush Clay
Member at Large	Joe Dollarschell
Member at Large	Judy Thomas

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

*Fly Line* a great tool for dispensing information to our members!

Steve Oliver

## January Meeting Recap

Jane and Tom Gallenbach of River Ridge Guide Service gave an excellent presentation on the White Bass Run. This East Texas phenomenon is just around the corner. During February and March the White (or Sand) Bass begin their run from the deep waters of Toledo Bend up the Sabine River to their spawning grounds.

One very interesting tidbit from their presentation was that most all of the White Bass in each school will be the same size as they stay together for life. So if

you are catching one-pounders, you better move on to the next school if you are looking for that record fish! Also, these bass grow quickly and will only live for about five years. Most of us practice catch and release, but this would



Jane Gallenbach's Nice Stringer of "Sandies"

be the perfect opportunity to put some fish in the freezer!

Erik Dilts showed us how to tie a clouser minnow - the preferred fly for the White Bass Run. These can be tied in a variety of colors. According to Jane, make sure to have plenty of red head and either white (best) or chartreuse body on hand. This is the killer combo!



White Bass on the Fly



Caught on the Secret Weapon!



## NLFF's 20th Annual "Frozen Chosen"

*"Fishing,  
food, and  
fellowship..."*

Well, another "frozen Chosen" has come and gone. It's hard to believe this event has been going on for 20 years now! But Scott Irwin summed up why this event has been so successful for our club, "Fishing , food, and fellowship... that about wraps up the 2015 'Frozen Chosen'." I couldn't agree more!

There were some browns caught amongst the many rainbows. They were hitting olive-colored wooly buggers quite regularly. I ran out of wooly buggers on the river. I gave one away, got one hung up and what I assumed was a big brown

wanted my third one more than I



Nick Meshell's First Fish on the Fly

did! I got a strike and the first strip felt like a little rainbow. Then when I pulled my second strip, my rod doubled over and "snap!", there went my last wooly bugger. All was not lost

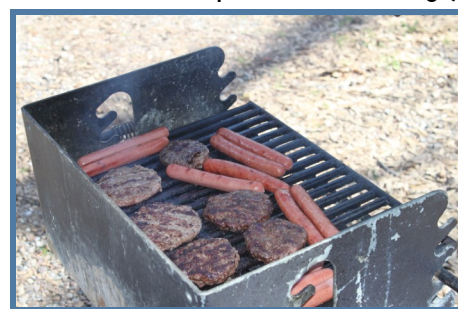
though, I tied on what I call a "wooly weenie" in olive and continued to catch fish! What is a "wooly weenie"?, you ask. A wooly weenie



The fishing was good. "The weather was a bit strange", Scott continued. "At times it was downright balmy. At other times it felt like a chill was racing through your bones. But that is typical of the event. I went a few days early and the fishing was outstanding. Saturday, the fishing was a bit spotty at times, but the bite was

is Scott Irwin's infamous pink weenie tied with the olive-colored thicker chenille used on the wooly bugger body! As a matter of fact, Nick Meshell caught his first fish on the fly using a wooly weenie!

The food was plentiful. Hot dogs,



hamburgers, sausage and chili was just the ticket to silence the hunger pangs after a long morning of fishing. No one went away hungry. There was more than enough good filling nourishment that prepared us



Wooly Weenie

(Continued on page 4)



## “Frozen Chozen”

(Continued from page 3)

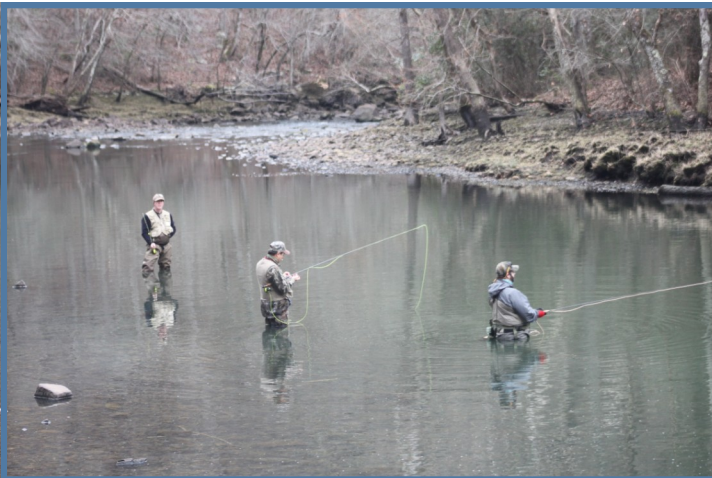
for an afternoon of fishing.

The fellowship was excellent. We had some new and old club members and guests in attendance. It



Rex White

was great seeing Rex White again! He made it in from the Tennessee-Kentucky area where he has been working. Jeff Guerin took some time away from planning his upcoming “Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival” (see article on page 8) to



join us. We even had a few people that just stumbled into the festivities and were warmly welcomed. George Tullis and Stuart Ayers from Texarkana were quite surprised to find a large group of fly fishers on the Little Missouri River.

One told the other that they would be virtually alone on the river. But they were greeted with more “fellowship” than they anticipated. George and Stuart seemed to have a good time eating and telling tales! Here’s hoping they’ll make the drive down I-49 for some of our club functions.

Scott Irwin summed up what our outings and events are all about. “It’s the people that make this event so much fun. I recently read

a study of what makes people happy. It was not material things - fancy fly rods and gadgets - but experiences and social interaction. I can confirm the findings of that



*Fishing, Food, Fellowship...*

*...and a Warm Fire!*

study. The Frozen Chozen, while a fantastic fishing event, is enhanced by the people that attend. As I



*Little’ Mo Guide Jeff Guerin*

pulled out of the Swaha Lodge camping area on the final day, I sure was happy”. And then probably a little sad that it had come to an end. Until the next “Frozen Chozen”...



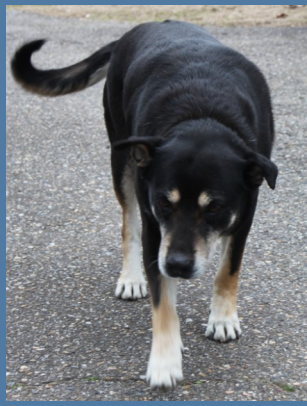
## "Frozen Chosen" Pictures





## Unofficial “Frozen Chozen” Mascot

This is at least our friend Amigo’s fourth attendance at our Annual Frozen Chozen. He shows up to greet the cooks as soon as the grill is lit and hangs around as long as the handouts last, no matter how foul the weather or how deep



Amigo

the lies pile up. Someone get his address so we can send him a notice for his dues.

Linda Bethea

Linda, is his name really amigo or is he just our “friend”? Four years of dues! Tom, are you getting this down...

*Fly-fisherman's wife:*

*"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend."*

## 1st Annual “Cenla Fly Fishing Festival”

January 24th saw the first-ever “Cenla Fly Fishing Festival” in Pineville, LA come to fruition. Bud Bethea, Scott Irwin and Steve Oliver

new members, and raised more than enough money for their conservation and educational wish-list. Most important - everyone had a great time! The event made the local television news and Sunday's newspaper. Even the mayor of Pineville, Clarence Fields - who admits to being an obsessed fisherman - made a showing and was quite impressed.



Scott Irwin Making the Rounds at Cenla FFF

attended from the Shreveport area. They had a fantastic time and even sold a few of our club's kayak raffle tickets! The conclave proved to be a great success for the Kisatchie Fly Fishers.

Attendance was around the 120 mark, the KFF picked up a bunch of

Of course much of the credit goes to the fly tiers, speakers, and exhibitors in attendance, as well as members of the KFF "Conclave Team". The club also had special thanks to Jeff Robinson, an IFFF Casting Certified Instructor from Lake Charles who spent the entire day out on the park knoll, first with a basics

of fly fishing seminar and then following with casting coaching the rest of the day.

Editor's Note: While this was not named “1st annual”, I added the 1st annual to the title of this article because after the success of this year's event, according to Catch Cormier, there will be a 2nd Annual “Cenla Fly Fest” in 2016. The NLFF would like to congratulate the Kisatchie Fly Fishers for putting together a very successful event.



Now That's a Fly Tying Setup!

## Native Watercraft Slayer 14.5 Kayak Raffle

Our kayak raffle is under way and tickets are selling well. Tickets are \$25.00 each and will be limited to 200 sold. The drawing (\$1280 value) will be held during our April meeting and you need not be present to win. The NLFF board would like to thank Pack and Paddle in Lafayette for providing the kayak at cost to our club. The Slayer makes a great fly fishing platform as there is very little in front of the seat to catch your stripping



Native Watercraft Slayer 14.5 in "Lizard Lick" Green

line and its stability should allow most people to

stand and cast. See the actual 'yak' at our monthly meetings. It is a beauty! This raffle supports our club activities so get your tickets soon. See Steve Oliver at any club meeting or function to purchase tickets via cash, check or credit card or for more information about the kayak.



## NLFF Potluck Dinner and Movie Night

On the heels of the Frozen Chosen, February's Club Event will be in the warm indoors! Join us for a potluck dinner followed by a movie. Dinner will be at 5pm with the movie to start at 6pm. Tom Bullock will show us how to setup a multi-fly rig from 4-5pm. Come early and bring a vise.

For dinner, bring a dish or two and maybe a dessert. Don't forget drinks! The club will provide plates, plastic ware and cups. Please bring the necessary serving utensils for your dish(es).

The movie will be "Only the River Knows". This movie will appeal to fly-fishers and non-fly-fishers alike, making it a great movie to view together. The movie delves into the minds of two fly fishermen in an authentic, funny (even hilarious at times) film shot mostly on the fabled Lethe River on New Zealand's South Island. The two fly anglers lose their way and stumble across the long-lost journal of an iconic fly fisherman. As the main character



becomes obsessed with the journal, his partner chronicles their attempt to catch the river's abnormally large trout.

Sounds like the makings of a fantastic evening. Please join us for Potluck Dinner and a Movie! Just one more thing I want to know...

...Who's bringing the popcorn?!



## 13th Annual "Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival"

Jeff Guerin will be hosting his 13th Annual "Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival" at the Municipal Building one block east of the Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro, AR on February 13-15th. Registration is still just \$5 per person or \$10 for a family!

Friday afternoon and evening will be mostly a social gathering with food and fly tying. Food will be provided but bring your fly tying equipment and materials. What could be better than tying flies, visiting with old friends and making some new ones?

Saturday morning, Jeff will do a Critter Study where he goes out with at least one hearty soul to collect aquatic insects from the river

Tom Bullock will be conducting a presentation on UV light and Christy Graham of the AGFC will give her annual State of the Little Mo' address. Of course there will also be the regular compliment of 'The Usual Suspects' tying both Friday evening and all day Saturday.

Saturday evening around 7:00pm brings the Little Mo' Flies Fantasy Draft.

This was quite the hit last year and surely will be again this year. Anyone wishing to participate needs to bring **two each** (because you never want one of anything...) of your



Two of the "Usual Suspects" Trying to Uncover Jeff's Secret "Little Mo' Woolly Blend" Using Some Hi-Tech Devices!



Christy Graham's "State of the Little Missouri River"

and bring them back to the hall for identification and study. This activity remains popular year after year. Also on Saturday, our own

**three favorite Little Mo' flies**, whether you tie them yourself or acquire them from elsewhere, it does not matter. Just bring two each of your three "go to"

patterns for the Little Missouri River. Each participants name will be put into a hat and whoever gets drawn first (it's a fly lottery) gets to

pick out three flies from the collection, and your name goes in a new hat for the "second round". After all the names are drawn for the

first round you get another chance for three more, until all the flies are gone!

Jeff will be continuing the tradition of the "Can You Take It" Casting Clinic on Sunday morning, 10:00am at Riverside (\$5 per person). Many folks have taken advantage of some quick, basic or advanced casting information over the years.

For more information on the "Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival", direct your browser to [www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com](http://www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com). Sounds like a weekend of fun and fellowship! Bring the family, tie some flies, and shoot the breeze!



## “Fly Fish Texas”

Anglers from novice to expert will gather at TFFC to celebrate the sport of fly-fishing. Attend seminars and demonstrations led by fly-fishing professionals of which one will be our own Tom Bullock, conducting a presentation on wet flies.

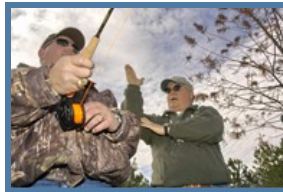
**TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE**

Throughout the day, experienced fly-tiers will be demonstrating and teaching

fly-tying in the Anglers Pavilion on a one-on-one basis. In addition, group instruction in beginning fly-tying will be offered in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center classroom beginning at noon. Both are offered on a walk-up basis. Ven-



dors of fly-fishing services and equipment will also be available. Fly-fishing clubs from across Texas will be on hand to help anyone who wants to learn or improve existing skills. Equipment will be provided for casting classes, but participants are welcome to bring their own gear. Fly-fishing kayak style will also be presented on the shore of the casting pond. Do-it-yourself fly-fishing for rainbow trout, sunfish and catfish will be available all day in TFFC's ponds and streams. Seminars will brief visitors on where and how to



fly-fish in fresh and salt waters for a variety of species. There will be a presentations on fly-fishing the Brazos River and the history of rainbow trout in North America.

Other activities include learning about fish



and their habitats, touring both inside and outside hatcheries and sampling Dutch oven cooking. It's all included with your regular admission price of \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors 65 and older, and \$3.50 for children ages 4-12. Food service will be available on-site, or attendees may bring a picnic. Bring the family!

## From Our Members:

### Why the Cenla Fly Fishing Festival is so Special

Location, location, location....that is what they say is so important when sponsoring an event. Catch Cormier and the fly club in Alexandria hosted a spectacular day long fly fishing fair in Alexandria. The event was top notch...lots of expert tyers, seminars on a variety of topics, lots of items in the raffle, and engaging conversation. But perhaps what made it special was

that the event was in Alexandria, the center of the state. It was the most well rounded attended event I have ever been privileged to attend. There were a nice sampling of folks from every corner of the state... from the Florida Parishes, Cajun Country, North Louisiana, and all parts in between (and even some from out of state). From a personal standpoint I benefited greatly: I was given a personal fly tying lesson on a technique I was having trouble with, I planned a

fishing trip with friends I seldom see, and I laughed at a lot of old but good jokes. Thanks Kisatchie Fly Fishers, for a outstanding weekend!

Scott Irwin

*Have something you would like to submit? Maybe a short summary of an event that you attended or just have something on your mind. Send your submissions to: [nlffclub@gmail.com](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com)*

## NLFF Calendar



**Feb 10th:** **NLFF Monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Guest speaker: Phil Rispin on fly fishing in Alberta, Canada.

**Feb 19th:** **Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA. 6:00-7:30pm. Tom Bullock is tying Woolly Buggers for larger species.

**Feb 24th:** **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator. Any club member is welcome to attend.

**Feb 28th:** **Potluck and a Movie.** 5:00pm at the Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Movie starts at 6:00pm. Tom Bullock will show how to rig a multi-fly setup from 4:00-5:00pm.

**Mar 10th:** **NLFF Monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Program: "Chili & Flies". Chili cooking and fly tying contest. Great fun!

**Mar 19th:** **Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Bud Bethea is tying a Tussle Bug.

**Mar 24th:** **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator. Any club member is welcome to attend.

**Apr 10-11th:** **Caddo Conclave.** Caddo State Park, Karnack, TX. Joint conclave with the East Texas Fly Fishers. NLFF provides breakfast and ETFF provides lunch. More details to come.

**Apr 14th:** **NLFF Monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Eric Dilts will conduct a presentation on his Belize trip. Don't miss this!

**Apr 16th:** **Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Joe Dollarschell is tying an Elk Hair Caddis.

**Apr 25th:** **NLFF's Annual "Spring Thaw".** More details to come.

**Apr 28th:** **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator. Any club member is welcome to attend.

**May 12th:** **NLFF Monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Don Kirk from "Southern Trout" will be speaking about where to fish in the Great Smokey Mountains.

**May 21st:** **Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

**May 26th:** **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator. Any club member is welcome to attend.

**July 25th:** **NLFF's 3rd Annual Master's Clinic.** Program: Davy Wotton will present "Mastering the Nymph". 9:00am-5:00pm. Admission Fee - \$35.00 limited to 75 pre-registered attendees.

### Color Coding Key

<b>Red:</b>	<b>Monthly Event/Outing</b>
<b>Blue:</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Green:</b>	<b>Fly Tying Workshop</b>
<b>Fuchsia:</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>



Artwork by Dave Whitlock



## Upcoming Events

**Feb 13th-15th:** The 13th annual "Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival". Municipal Building, Murfreesboro, AR. See [www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff.festival.html](http://www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff.festival.html) for details.

**Feb 28th:** **Feb 28th:** Potluck and a Movie. 5:00pm at the Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Movie starts at 6:00pm. Tom Bullock will show how to rig a multi-fly setup from 4:00-5:00pm.

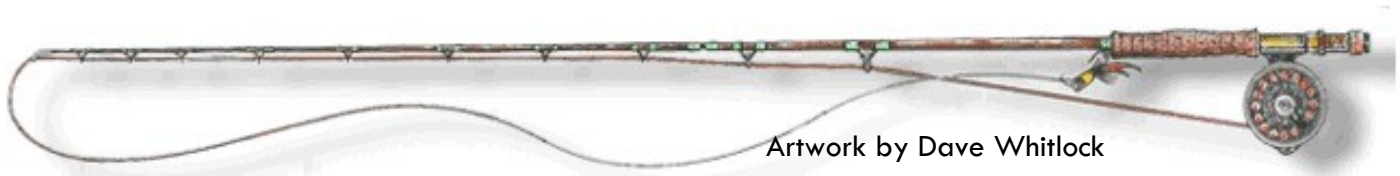
**Mar 14th:** "Fly Fish Texas". Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens TX. 9:00am-4:00pm. Our Member, Tom Bullock, is presenting a program on wet flies. Last year, there were over 1000 attendees at this event. Admission- \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors 65 and older, and \$3.50 for children ages 4-12.

**Mar 26-28th:** 18th annual "Sow Bug Roundup, A Celebration of Fly Fishing". Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR. 9:00am-5:00pm each day. Admission Fee- \$5.00 for all three days, kids under 12 admitted free with an adult. See [www.northarkansasflyfisher.org](http://www.northarkansasflyfisher.org) for more information.

**Apr 10-11th:** "Caddo Conclave". Caddo State Park, Karnack, TX. Joint conclave with the East Texas Fly Fishers. NLFF provides breakfast and ETFF provides lunch. More details to come.

**May 2nd:** "Bass on the Fly". More details to come.

**Jun 26-28th:** "Grand Isle Fly Fishing Weekend". Grand Isle, LA. A great tradition since 1990... the Red Stick Fly Fishers joined by members of other clubs in Louisiana and Mississippi. Weekend surf, marsh, and inshore fishing the Cajun Bahamas for a wide variety of species. Check [www.rsff.org](http://www.rsff.org) for details.



### North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

P.O. Box 8542

Shreveport, LA 71108-8542

email: [nlffclub@gmail.com](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

[www.northlaflyfishers.org](http://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!