

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers



March 2015 Volume 1, Issue 2

## March Meeting Topic

The March 10th meeting is our annual "Chili and Flies" event. Come and judge and/or stand in judgment! Your fellow club members (which will also be your rivals) will be judging two contest at the meeting- chili cooking and fly tying.



For the chili cook-off, prepare your best pot of chili - with beans, without beans, chicken, Mexican, Cincinnati Style, or whatever. Judgment is based on taste alone. Just leave the "road kill" chili to Granny, please! (There is even a rumor circulating about an "Elk" chili.) After sampling all the recipes, each member in attendance will vote for their favorite. The winner will be awarded a \$25 Bass Pro Shops gift card.

*"Just leave the 'road kill' chili to Granny, please!"*

The winner of the fly tying contest will also win a \$25 gift card from Bass Pro Shops. Bring



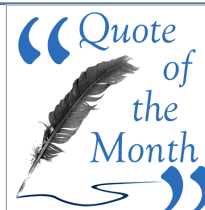
your vise and fly tying equipment. Frank Harmon will be supplying each tyer with a small (size 10 or 12) hook and a large (size 4 or 6) hook. Other than your own thread, beads and eyes you must use only the supplies provided by Frank and no one will know ahead of time what those supplies are. Knowing Frank, there will probably be some purple and gold material of some sort! Each participant will tie two flies and will be judged in two categories, trout/panfish and large species.

As always, this is a great event for the entire family. Come sample some fabulous chili recipes and see what kind of concoction the tyers can come up with! And without the Irwin clan to stuff the ballot box this year, the competition is wide open! Just kidding, Scott!

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*"The difference between fly fishers and worm dunkers is the quality of their excuses." - Anonymous*



## A Word from Our President

2015 is well under way with busy times ahead of us. The Frozen Chosen was a fun and successful outing. While I was unable to attend, I understand that the Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival was also an outstanding event. So was the 1st Annual Cenla Fly Fishing Festival. Our first ever Pot Luck Dinner and Movie Event will be completed by the time you read this

*"2015 is well under way..."*

at the March 9th meeting. Also, Fly Fish Texas in Athens, TX is March 14th. I will be there promoting the Caddo Conclave which will be April 11th. I understand that sev-

eral other club members are also planning to attend. If you like short day trips with a lot to offer, this is a worthwhile event with lots of tiers, demonstrations, kayaks, fishing, and the freshwater hatcheries museum offers a variety that is unusual for most of the events we attend. And rounding out March

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## February Meeting Recap

Phil Rispin, from the East Texas Fly Fishers, gave a wonderful presentation on fly fishing Canada at our February meeting. He talked about two upcoming fly fishing camping opportunities- Blue Bronna Fly Fishing Camp (7/31/15 - 8/3/15) and Frontier Lodge (7/23/15 - 7/26/15), both in Alberta, Canada.



Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp ([www.bluebronna.org/FlyFishingCamp](http://www.bluebronna.org/FlyFishingCamp)) is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a wilderness camping experience.



Frontier Lodge ([frontierlodge.ca/FlyFishingForAdults](http://frontierlodge.ca/FlyFishingForAdults)) is a Christian wilderness adventure camp situated on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies and it is a member of Christian Camping International (CCI) and an accredited member of the Alberta Camping Association (ACA).

These camps strive to use the beauty and ruggedness of the

mountains to see God at work in the world around us with a chance to slow down and sort out what is really important. Whether you are looking for an elusive Bull Trout or are happy catching cutthroat, these camps are located in some of the



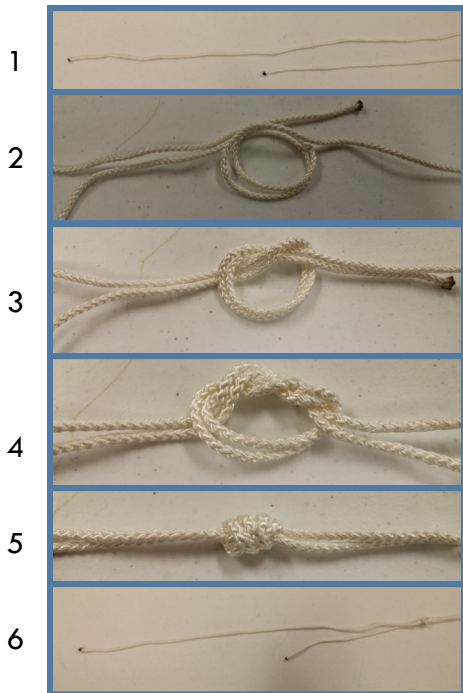
most pristine wilderness areas of North America and are prime spots to start your Canadian fishing adventure.

## Pot Luck Dinner and a Movie Night

Our first ever Potluck Dinner and a Movie Night was well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy a night of, as Scott Irwin put it, "...knowledge, food, and entertainment."

### The Knowledge:

The evening started with Tom Bullock conducting a seminar on how to rig a fly rod with 3 flies. This was well attended. We even had two new folks wander in and join the club; Mike Duggan and John Axford. Tom did an excellent job explaining how to tie the proper knot (double surgeon) to construct a simple leader in a matter of minutes. With two pieces of line (1), start by creating a loop (2), then come through the loop twice (3 and 4). Snug it down (5) and you now have two ends to tie on flies (6). Repeat with another piece of line



and you now have three ends. He topped that by taking all those in attendance out to cast the rig. The casting is tricky, but once you know the trick, it is not that difficult at all. It's just knowledge. And Tom Bullock gave us that knowledge.....thanks, Tom!

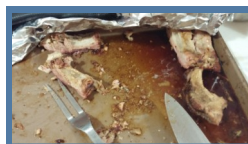
### The Food:

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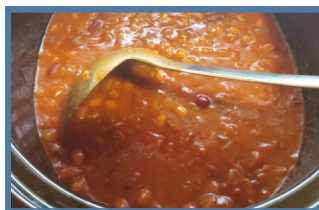


chicken, homemade dumplings, an credible pot pie in - much, much more. a n d The pot luck dinner offered something for everyone.

Tom Bullock's ribs went fast, Scott's taco salad was excellent, and Joe Dollarschell got



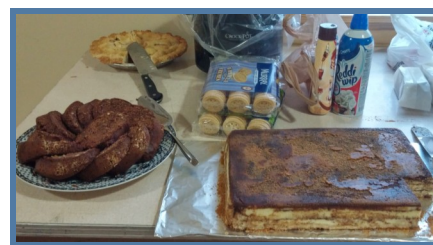
some practice in on his chili recipe for our "Chili and Flies" meeting. The competition will be stiff again this year! I overheard someone say that Linda Bethea's chicken pot pie had the perfect filling to crust ratio. Judy Thomas' chicken spaghetti



### 2015 NLFF Executive Board

President	Thomas (Bud) Bethea
Treasurer	Tom Bullock
Secretary	Steve Oliver
A/V Specialist	Steve Oliver
Banquet Director	Linda Bethea
Conservation	Scott Irwin
Membership	Frank Harmon
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver
Social Media	Frank Harmon
Programs Director	Scott Irwin
Webmaster	Frank Harmon
Member at Large	Judy Thomas
Member at Large	Rush Clay
Member at Large	Joe Dollarschell

was absolutely delicious and Virginia Oliver's chicken and dumplings were definitely home made. There was ample food for eve-



ryone. It was hard to leave room for dessert of which there was plenty. I was just hoping that the movie for the evening would be entertaining enough to keep all the full bellies awake!

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## Pot Luck Dinner and a Movie Night

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### The Entertainment:

Only the River Knows was le film de la soirée (film of the evening). The following is Scott Irwin's take on it. "I give this movie two thumbs up. 5 stars! This movie was made by real fly fishermen on a \$10,000



budget. I must admit, my expectations were low. But by golly, the acting was adequate, the scenery was breathtaking, and there was a story



line that strung the movie together that would entertain both the fisherman and non-fisherman. Thanks to Steve Oliver for reviewing many movie trailers and recommending this film".

The concept of an activity, dinner and a movie was an experiment for our club. The goal was not just an evening of entertainment, but a chance for members to connect. I know of two members that forged a plan to go fishing on Cross Lake for crappie with a fly rod. They have never fished together before. That my friends, is what it is all about. The Executive Board would like to know if you have any thoughts on Movie night. Did you

enjoy it? Would you like to do it again? What could we do to make it better? If you couldn't be there, are you interested in coming if we do it again? Just let a board member know. - Thanks to Scott Irwin for his contributions to this article over and beyond his movie review.

f your wife says something about your fly rods,



## A Word From Our President

(Continued from page 2)

and April is the Sowbug Festival in Mountain Home, AR. and our own Spring Thaw outing, respectively.

Our kayak raffle is getting close, only a month or so is left. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, better hurry. Time is running out. Only \$25 for a chance on a kayak that retails for about \$1300.

Also, we need to be making plans for the Bass on the Fly tournament at Lake Fork in Texas. I believe it is the first Saturday in May this year. We need to field as many teams as we can. The prizes are worthwhile and this is an outstanding event to promote and bring attention to our club.

One last thing. It is time to start promoting our Master Series Clinic

for this year. We will have Davy Wotton back again with an outstanding program. Invite your friends and neighbors, and help get the word out. The date is July 26th, and if anyone needs more information, contact any of the board members or send an email to [NLFFclub@gmail.com](mailto:NLFFclub@gmail.com).

*Bud Bethea*

## March Fly of the Month Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops®

Last month the fly we featured in our Bass Pro Shops workshop was the sowbug. This month (March) being the time when the North Arkansas Fly Fishers hosts their annual Sowbug Roundup, we thought a short article about sowbugs would be appropriate.

First of all, the sowbug is not an insect. It is a crustacean, closely related to scuds and crayfish. Class Crustacea, order Isopoda. It is one of the handful of isopods that have a few members that can live on land. There are both sowbugs and pillbugs (commonly called roly pollys) found in any moist environment, under logs, rocks, leaf litter etc., and it's easy to tell the difference. Just poke them with your finger. If it rolls up in a tight ball it's a pillbug. However, we are more in-



terested in the aquatic forms. Most trout streams have an abundance of them. Just roll over a rock and in all likelihood you will find several

under that one rock.

Sowbugs undergo incomplete metamorphosis as they grow. That is the immature forms look just like the adults, only smaller. The shed their exoskeletons and grow new ones as they increase in size. Most adults are about 1/2 inch in length,



but sometimes they will be a little larger. In most streams they are an important food item that trout will take advantage. No fisherman should be caught without a few sowbugs in his fly book.

Here is a couple of facts you might not know. Some of the ocean varieties get large enough to eat, but I'm not sure that I would. They are related to lobster. Also in some parts of the world, pillbugs are eaten to relieve upset stomachs. While this has not been proven to be true, it might be because their shells are high in calcium carbonate.

If you want to tie a sowbug and don't have a recipe, here's one that



will work. Just follow the recipe in order for the tying sequence.

Hook: 10-16 curved nymph

Thread: 6/0 color to match dubbing

Tail: pair of goose biots

Rib: fine silver wire

Back: scud back

Dubbing: choice of tan, brown, gray, etc.

After tying, comb some of the dubbing fibers down for legs.

April Fly of the Month: The Tussock Bug

Thanks to Bud Bethea for this contribution to "The Fly Line". Send your



# Sowbug Roundup 2015



**March 26th, 27th & 28th**

Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR

Hours—9 to 4 pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday



**\$5.00**  
**Entrance Fee**  
**Good for all three days**

**A Celebration of Fly Tying**  
**A Party / Live Music / Live Auction**  
**Friday Evening / Ask about details!!**

**A Celebration of Fly Fishing!**

Sponsored by North Arkansas Fly Fishers

<http://www.northarkansasflyfisher.org> ~~~ [sowbug@northarkansasflyfisher.org](mailto:sowbug@northarkansasflyfisher.org)



## Native Watercraft Slayer 14.5 Kayak Raffle (Update)

Our kayak raffle is under way and tickets are selling well. Tickets are \$25.00 each and will be limited to 200 sold although current



Native Watercraft Slayer 14.5 in "Lizard Lick" Green

estimates put sales at around the 100 mark. **For those that have purchased tickets, your odds of winning just about doubled!** The drawing

(\$1280 value) will be held during our April meeting and you need not be present to win. 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.

## Glues and Solvents Used in Fly Tying and Fishing

(Here is an article from Craig Smothers written in the IFFF's Fly Tying Group's newsletter. Reprinted with permission.)



Craig Smothers

I got a phone call from a fellow fly tier the other day. He had added a solvent to his fly tying glues and it had curdled. I had told him to use one solvent, he used what he had.

There are a huge number of different glues available on the mar-

ket for fly fisherman today. Some will be gone tomorrow. I have a core group of these which I personally use and recommend. Each of these has a different base solvent. I will be covering all of the different types of glues I use, for what purpose, and what they can be thinned with.

### Fly Tying Cements:

First of all "tying cement" and "head cement" are not the same animal. Being a saltwater tier, I used different glues to "tie" and "finish" my flies. This is where all tiers have preferences. I have mine and will defend them. Dave's Flexament is great "tying" cement. If this stuff is kept water-thin and used throughout the tying process, you almost don't need to whip finish. Flexament is simply Household



Goop (in the toothpaste tube) thinned with either Toluene or Xylene (Xylene is less toxic). If you



have used Softex, it's just a thick version of Flexament and uses the same solvent.

Put a big toothbrush's worth of Goop in a glue jar, add enough solvent to cover it plus a bit, and let it sit

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## Glues and Solvents

(Continued from page 7)

overnight. Thin the glue until it just holds onto the bodkin. A tube of Goop and a can of solvent and you're set for a lifetime.

### Head Cement:

This class of cements, both solvent and water based, which includes everything put on top of the thread to finish the fly. One of the standards here is Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails (thins with Acetone). Loon Hard Head water based polyester fly finish is another friendlier product. That one thins best with Denatured Alcohol or Vodka as odd as it sounds.



Epoxy's are also included in "head" cements. I use a great deal of Flex Coat Rod Wrap

Epoxy. This takes two hours to set and requires the use of a fly turner (modified BBQ rotisserie) to get a smooth professional finish. If that's too thin (feather collared on Tarpon flies) use Flex Coat Rod Building Epoxy. That sets in 20 minutes

and has a thicker body. Five-Minute Epoxy has a place on every fly tiers bench. I don't like it much as it yellows quickly. The longer the epoxy set time, the less yellowing over time. To thin Epoxy, use a drop or two of either acetone or alcohol.



The new kid on the block is the UV Light Cure Epoxies. They come in thick, thin, and flexible (like silicone). Brush them on, hit them with a UV flashlight of the correct spectrum for 30 seconds and its set for good. It doesn't yellow. There is a residue from the curing process which can be wiped off with a soft cloth and alcohol. Nail Salons have been using (clear and colored) UV nail gels as long as fly tiers. Same stuff. Dentists have been using a similar material for decades (not clear and a different UV frequency). I've made M.O.E.'s bonefish flies out of that.



### Other Glues:

The most important glue I haven't covered is Cyanoacrylate (Crazy or Super) glue. There are many

different manufacturers of this, both thin and "fill in the gaps". Zap-A-Gap Thick comes to mind. The newer glues with the brush tops should be on everyone's bench. This dries a bit slower and doesn't crystallize in the tubes like many in the past. If you use mono tying thread, absolutely use this in lieu of Flexament.



3D eyes won't stick on their own. Fletch-Tite glue (for fletching arrows) is just right. It has a long nozzle to work it down into the materials, thick syrupy consistency, and dries in 20 minutes- fish it in an hour.



Ever heard of someone losing all the guides on their rod when a Tarpon or Tuna takes off? The transition between the fly line and the backing is the cause. To smooth the transition over the knots, try using Pliobond. Pliobond is similar to the rubber cement you had as a kid. Building layers of



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## Glues and Solvents

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this glue in the shape of an elongated football over your knots will save your guides from extraction. It remains flexible and crack free.

### Bench Solvents:

Find a local Compounding Pharmacy and purchase several drop-

per bottles (plastic works but glass is better). Get a bottle for each solvent and label them. I keep one of each: Xylene or Toluene, Denatured Alcohol or Vodka, Acetone, and Lacquer Thinner (I still paint my lead eyes with Wapsi Lacquer paint). Using a dropper in any case is a smart way to control the amount of solvent you add to your

glue/paint. These solvents are dangerous, flammable, and can be toxic. Use some common sense.

Please note that I am not saying I don't like any manufacturers' product. There are an abundance of products I have not used. I am speaking only to the ones I do use.

- Craig Smothers

## From Our Members:

### Trout Waters 30min Closer to Shreveport/Bossier!?

It's almost like the hand of God has physically picked up and moved trout waters closer to Shreveport/Bossier. No, the miles are still there, but they are driven much, much faster. The greatest accomplishment I am thankful for in 2014 is the completion of most of I-49 north from Hwy 1 in North Shreveport. It is now possible to go from doorstep to trout stream in under 2 hours and 15 minutes to the Little Missouri and 2 hours and 33 minutes to the Lower Mountain Fork. I'm not advocating speeding, but I have heard of eager fishermen making the drive in under 2 hours. This is amazing! What



was once an almost mandatory overnight trip is now an easy day trip. With speed limits of 75 much of the way, the straight shot to trout streams can now be made by simply setting the cruise control, popping an audiobook cd in the player and effortlessly arriving at your destination refreshed and relaxed. No more 35 mph slow downs, no more speed traps, no more traffic lights in the middle of nowhere. The drive is a dream. My problem is, I like the journey almost as much as arriving at my destination. Going to the Little Mo, I plan my trip around stopping at Williams Tavern (hours 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday), a 200 year old café at Washington State Park just



Williams Tavern Restaurant at Historic Washington State Park

north of Hope. There, Dusty and Joyce serve up masterpieces of frontier food often for less than a five dollar bill. But even with this mandatory stop transporting

me back to a slower time in history, I can still make the trip in under 3 hours. Sometimes it is good to sit back and count your blessings. This super highway to the trout is a true blessing to us all! -Scott Irwin (Edited for space)

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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)

# Caddo Conclave 2015

***Located on beautiful Caddo Lake near  
Karnack Texas at Caddo Lake State Park***

April 10 & 11

Registration \$10 per person, maximum \$20 per family

Friday: Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper!  
Bring enough for you and one other family.

Saturday: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.  
Provided by North Louisiana Fly Fishers  
Lunch provided by East Texas Fly Fishers

**Speakers throughout the day  
Bring your fly tying equipment!**

Plenty of fishing available on bayou at Caddo Lake State Park.  
Feel free to camp, rent a cabin, or commute to the event.

Caddo Lake State Park 903-679-3351  
For more info contact Mike Hawkins 903-736-1887  
or Scott Irwin 318-742-2190

## NLFF Calendar



**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".** At Ivan Lake. 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>Orange:</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>

## NLFF Weekly Fly Tying Gathering

### "Tying Flies and Telling Lies"

Join us every Thursday for fly tying at the Bass Pro Shops Bossier City location. We have our usual Bass Pro Shops sponsored fly tying every 3rd Thursday of the month that is geared toward tying introductory flies and attracting curious onlookers to come to one of our

meetings. Materials are provided by Bass Pro Shops which is greatly appreciated. On all other Thursdays we just meet up to practice tying and tell some ties tales. Bring your own equipment and materials. This is great to get some help from a fellow tyer with the more sophisticated flies or with a technique

that you want to practice. Remember, practice makes perfect. So join us every Thursday at Bass Pro Shops for our weekly Fly Tying Gathering. Call Jim Gamble (318-455-0137) at Bass Pro Shops to give him a heads up that you will be there so he can get the right number of tables set up.



## Upcoming Events

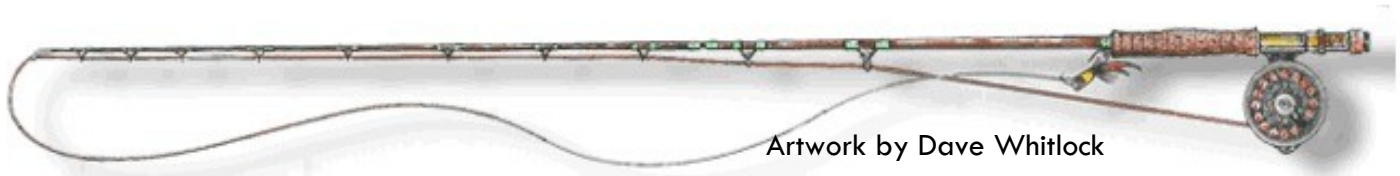
**Mar 14th:** "Fly Fish Texas". Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens TX. 9:00am-4:00pm. Our Member, Tom Bullock, is presenting a program on wet flies. Last year, there were over 1000 attendees at this event. Admission- \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors 65 and older, and \$3.50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