

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers



May 2015

Volume 1, Issue 4

May Meeting Topic

Don Kirk has been a full time writer/ editor for parts of five decades. He has written several books, been the start up editor on dozens of magazines, hosted television and radio shows, been a consultant and published over 10,000 articles on fishing and hunting. A native of east Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains, Don is the best known fly fishing expert in the country on southern waters, especially the trout streams of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. His fishing guide books to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have sold over 100,000 copies.

Also an accomplished hunter, Don has hunted around the world for everything from polar bear and geese, to lions and whitetail deer. He also is regarded as one of the country's leading experts in antique fishing tackle. Don currently resides in Montevallo, Alabama with this wife Leah and two of his five children, Adam and Loryn.

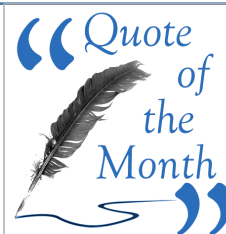
This should be loads of fun because Don admits to being an old fun loving child of the 1960s and says that he wants to be a fireman when he grows up!



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"If fishing is like religion, then fly-fishing is high church." ~ Tom Brokaw



April Meeting Recap

If you weren't at last month's meeting, you missed out on one of the best trip presentations that we have had in quite a while and the much anticipated raffle drawing for the kayak!

In October 2014, Frank and Jon Harmon, Rex White, and Erik Diltz took a once in a lifetime trip to Belize to try and score the fabled Grand Slam of fly fishing- catching a bonefish, a permit and a tarpon of the fly in the same day. While

pictures.

Erik told the story of their exploits with the weather, their flight and their ordeal in getting to the El

Pescador Lodge. If you were absent from the meeting, you missed a very informative as well as entertaining (and probable his last, at least for a while) presentation. Erik's visual slide show accompanying his tale was top-notch.

If you haven't heard, Erik's job is taking him and his family to Oklahoma. He has been a valued member of the NLFF over the years and will be sorely missed but not forgotten. I, for one, hope that we can find ways to keep in touch. Can anyone say road trip! After he gets the fishing figured out in his new surroundings of course!

In other business, the kayak was raffled off during the meeting and while the raffle was also available to non-members, Rex White, a long-standing club member, was the lucky winner! The Board of Director's would like to thank every-

one that participated in this raffle. While it was a new and unsure venture for our club, with your support, it proved to be a tre-

mendous success! Fund raising events like this will allow our club to grow stronger and provide the means for us to expand the programs that we can offer to our members. Stay tuned!



Erik with a Nice Bonefish



they didn't score the trifecta, they did score a fabulous few days of fly fishing as can be seen by the



Frank Shows Off a Good Permit



Native Watercraft Slayer 14.5

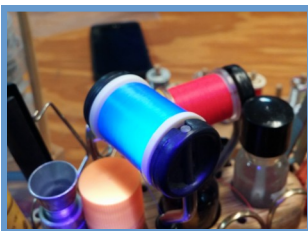
6th Annual Caddo Conclave

The 6th Annual Caddo Conclave, a joint venture between the East Texas Fly Fishers and the North Louisiana Fly Fishers, has come and gone and I cannot wait for next year's event. Being a member of both clubs, I get to spend time with friends from both clubs at the same

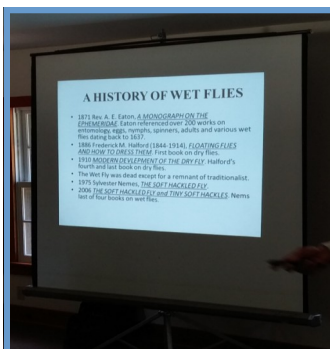


time discussing all things related (and some not!) to fly fishing.

This year's event was well attended as usual. Many a fine tier was showing (and showing off) their craft. "UV" seemed to be a



topic of particular interest. Tom Bullock gave a presentation on the history of wet flies and "Catch" Cormier told us his dozen best fishing spots in central



Louisiana which ended up being a baker's dozen. He had several attendees ready to go the next day. Sounds like we need to plan a club outing or a least a little get together to try out some of Catch's spots. Jackson Kayak had some models from their line-up ready for everyone to ogle over and even try them out on the lake. The food was excellent as always with the NLFF providing breakfast and the ETFF serving lunch. Our own Linda Bethea even showed off some fancy dutch-oven cooking!

There were several people that showed up just to see what it was all about. Some were from too far away to join a club but expressed interest in receiving our newsletter



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

because of the information in it they found valuable. Others were looking for a local club to possibly join. And that, my friends, is what these conclaves are all about! If you couldn't attend this year, the dates for the 7th Annual Caddo Conclave are just about nailed down. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. You won't be disappointed!

May Fly of the Month Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops®

Last Month, Joe Dollarschell showed us how to tie an Elk Hair Caddis. In case you missed it, here is some information on the caddis fly and the recipe for tying it.

Nothing excites or disappoints a dry fly fisherman more than a caddis hatch. This is especially true if the fisherman is using an Elk Hair Caddis and the hatch isn't in the right stage for that fly. However, if



the hatch is in the right stage, the Elk Hair Caddis is the most productive caddis imitation around.

So, what's the right stage of the hatch? Not the emergence for sure. During emergence, the fish are concentrating on the thousands of pupa that are making their way to the surface. The only top-water patterns that are great at this time are emerging patterns. But those are for another Fly of the Month article.

After the caddis pupa reaches

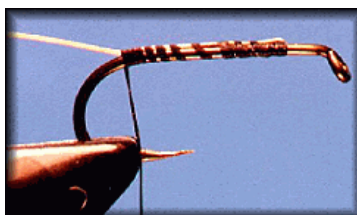
the water's surface, it quickly transforms into adulthood and flies away. It isn't like the mayfly which takes a long time to dry its wings. The caddis emerges quickly and flies off to spend the rest of the day or several days hanging around streamside brush, grass or willows. This is the best time to get a good look at an adult caddis.

List of Materials:

- Hook: Standard dry fly; Mustad 94840, Tiemco 100. Size 10-20 For a longer fly, try a hook that's one length longer than the standard.
- Thread: 6/0 Gudebrod or equivalent, black or colored to match the body
- Body: Any dubbing that is designed for dry flies. Color to match the body of the natural (usually brown, tan, olive or black).
- Wing: Elk hair, tied to flare slightly.
- Hackle: Brown, tan or cream saddle or neck hackle, wrapped "palmer style" over the body and ribbed down with fine gold wire.
- Rib: Fine gold wire.

Tying steps:

1. Start t h e



thread and tie in a ribbing wire to the hook bend.

2. Tie in your dubbing and wrap forward. Leave a little room before the hook eye.



3. Tie in a prepared hackle at the front of the body, curvature facing up and forward.



4. Wrap the hackle back to the hook bend keeping the curvature of the hackle facing forward.



5. Rib the

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May Fly of the Month

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hackle down to the hook with the ribbing wire.



6. Tie the wire off and trim the hackle and wire close to the



body of the fly.

7. Select a clump of elk hair, remove the short hairs and fuzz,

even the tips of the hair in a hair stacker and measure for length.



8. Hold the hair firmly in place and secure with a few loose wraps of thread behind the hook eye. Add a couple of



tighter wraps of thread while holding the hair in place to cause the hair to flare a little.

9. Note the length of the wing and how it has flared out over the body.



10. Trim short the hair that extends over the hook eye.



11. Whip finish and thoroughly cement the head and hair where it is tied down.



12. Sit back and admire your masterpiece! Now tie a few in other sizes and colors so

you'll be ready.

Palmering the hackle in the manner shown will result in a hackle that skitters easily over the water's surface without driving the fly under the water. Some tyers wrap the hackle from the back to the front of the body. This doesn't allow the fly to skitter properly and often drives the fly below the water's surface.

A native Montana tyer named Al Troth designed the Elk Hair Caddis. He tied the hackle and ribbed it down in the manner shown. He fished it by skittering it across the surface of the water in riffles leading into and out of pools. I think he had the right idea. So do a lot of fish!



NLFF's Annual "Spring Thaw" Outing

Every year come April, the weather has usually moved toward the warmer part of the thermometer in preparation for summer's return. That means it is time for the NLFF's Spring Thaw. With the cold temps of the Frozen Chosen a distant memory, it was time to move to some warm water action.

This year's outing took place at Ivan Lake in north Bossier Parish.



Ivan Lake was impounded in 1954 and is a hidden gem (reasons to come) as there are several other lakes nearby that are more publicly utilized because of Ivan Lake's relatively small (520 acres). Ivan Lake gives an opportunity to all anglers

alike. Shoreline anglers as well as boaters can enjoy similar experiences on Ivan Lake due to available shore-



line access. Many don't know this but the lake was completely renovated after an accidental near complete dewatering in 2004!

The lake was undergoing a drawdown to combat a hydrilla outbreak when it was almost completely drained. Ivan Lake, once known for its excellent bluegill and bass fisheries, has declined in productivity over the years. The excellent fishing of past decades deteriorated due to an unbalanced fish population with undesirable species, habitat degradation and excessive aquatic vegetation. Ivan Lake had been in

need of renovation for several years. This unfortunate circumstance yielded an opportunity to implement such a plan.

The reservoir was experiencing symptoms associated with the eutrophication process. Bottom sedi-

ments were comprised largely of fine silts, sands, and organic material from aquatic plants and leaf litter which was not good for bed-

ding fish. The lake was maintained in various stages of drawdown until the necessary repairs were made to the dam and outflow conduit. This extended drawdown allowed for excellent drying conditions. The prolonged desiccation helped reduce aquatic vegetation and improved the lake substrate. Organic



material experienced aerobic decomposition and inorganic sediments were compacted. Meanwhile, additional improvements were made to improve fisheries habitat and angler access.

On October 12, 2010 an application of 5% liquid rotenone was made to the remaining pockets of water found within the lake bed. The application was made by LDWF personnel. This fish eradication effort was conducted to remove all fish prior to future restocking efforts. Dead fish observed fol-

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NLFF's Annual "Spring Thaw" Outing - Continued

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lowing the treatment included spotted gar, bigmouth buffalo, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and gizzard shad. A follow up application of rotenone was conducted during the fall of 2011. Fishes removed during this effort included young of the year crappie, fliers, largemouth bass and bullheads. Small crappies were the predominant species with several hundred being eliminated during this effort.

On February 14, 2012, the gate was closed, and the lake returned to normal pool by the end of March 2012. Restocking began two weeks after gate closure and con-

tinued throughout 2012 & 2013 to insure that rough fish from the vegetation coverage in 2013, 600



feeder creeks did not get established. In early 2012, 186,357 bluegills and 84,192 redear sunfish were stocked during February and March. These sunfish measured 3" – 4" total length and were almost one year old at the time of stocking.



Since that time, an additional 500,000 bluegill, 107,000 redear, 4,142 crappie, and 10,026 channel catfish fingerlings have been stocked. Ivan Lake received 42,003 Florida Largemouth Bass (FLMB) fingerlings in April 2012 and 300 adult FLMB brood in Feb-

triploid grass carp measuring 11-13" were also stocked. These carp reduced the aquatic vegetation

coverage from 120 acres to 80. Lastly, 12,000 adult threadfin shad were stocked in an effort to increase the forage base.

The substrate of Ivan Lake is composed of sandy loam. Organic accretion from years of overabun-

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NLFF's Annual "Spring Thaw" Outing - Continued

(Continued from page 7)

dant vegetation was greatly reduced during the lake renovation water fluctuations. The entire lakebed is firm and is considered to be suitable spawning habitat for nesting sport fish species. Gravel beds will be spread in strategic locations to improve spawning substrate.

Other improvements consist of

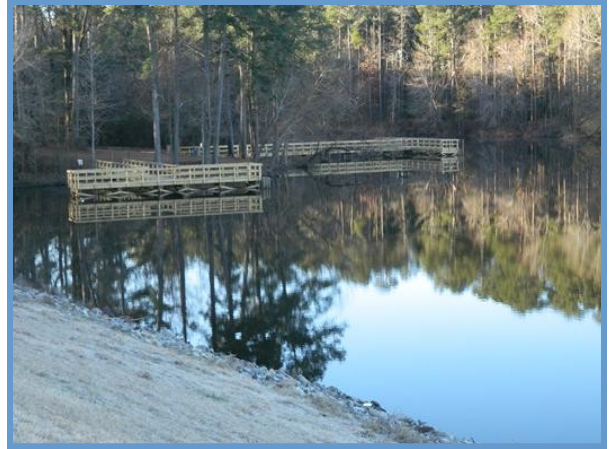
creating and marking a clear boat lane in each of the two arms of the lake extending westward. The removed stumps will be pushed to the side and heaped into piles for fish attraction. Several handicap accessible piers have been constructed. The piers will be placed near

borrow ditches for winter fishing opportunities and near creek bed channels/improved banks for spring & summer fishing. Bank improvements have been made to several areas of Ivan Lake for improved bank fishing access. The forested area south of the levee was improved for parking, picnicking, and bank access. This area is adjacent to one of the newly constructed piers. New restroom facilities were also constructed.

With all the improvements, Ivan Lake is now a fantastic place to spend the day fishing and picnicking. The fish stocking was com-

pleted 3 years ago and the fishing has returned to its previous levels

for crappie and bream. The bass, while not yet back to the lake's glory days, is rebounding nicely. So plan to grab a rod and pack a lunch and make a trip to Ivan Lake soon!



NLFF, GCC, TC, IFFF - What Does It All Mean?

With our membership in the North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF) increasing, many of our new members may be unaware of the affiliations and connections that our local club



has with the Gulf Coast Council (GCC) region or the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF).

The IFFF is an organization made up of regional councils throughout the United States and the world.

This is the largest organization devoted solely to the promotion of the sport of



fly fishing through education and conservation. Within the United States, there are 16 regional councils, each of which is made up of individual clubs.

There are two types of clubs within IFFF, charter clubs and affiliated clubs. A "charter" club is an IFFF club that requires every member to also be a member of the IFFF. At this time, all new clubs that are formed are required to be charter clubs. An "affiliated" club is a club where all of the officers are required to be IFFF members, but each individual member is not required to belong

to the IFFF. This is the category in which the NLFF falls.

The difference in the two categories of clubs is primarily financial. An affiliated club pays the IFFF \$3.00 per year for every non-IFFF member within their club. The affiliated club is also responsible for purchasing their own liability insurance. Charter clubs pay no other dues to the IFFF, since each member has already paid for the IFFF membership. Charter clubs also fall under the IFFF umbrella for liability insurance.

Prior to 2013, the NLFF was a member of the Southern Council, which included the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, half of Illinois and the northern half of Texas.

With the formation of the new Texas Council (TC) in 2013, which included all of the clubs in Texas from both the Southern Council and the old Gulf Coast Council, the NLFF elected to move

our association to the new Gulf Coast Council, which included all of the clubs in Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Mobile area of Alabama. This has made our club much stronger with inter-club activities within the GCC and the Texas Council. At this time, many of our members belong to several different clubs in both the GCC and TC.

I would encourage our members to consider becoming a member of the IFFF if you are not already a member. It saves our club money and supports an organization that has nurturing our sport as its sole purpose. The IFFF oversees the Certified Casting Instructor program, and is developing an awards program for fly tying

for those who want to improve their tying skills. By getting all of our members to join the IFFF, we would save on li-

ability insurance and have the added prestige of our club being a charter club. If you have any questions about the IFFF or the GCC, do not hesitate to contact our membership chairman, Frank Harmon, at qualey99@mac.com.



NLFF Calendar



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 how to fish 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.

June 9th: NLFF monthly meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Eddie & Roberta Brister, owner's of Beavers Bend Fly Shop, will share some of their 'honey' holes on the Lower Mountain Fork River and gives us a 'State of the River'. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from someone who makes a living on the Lower Mountain Fork River.

June 18th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

June 30th: 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 14th: NLFF monthly meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Program to be announced.

July 16th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

July 28rd: 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 - Means, Methods and Techniques". 9:00am-5:00pm. Admission Fee - \$35.00 limited to 75 pre-registered attendees. Lunch will be provided.

Aug 11th: NLFF monthly meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Program to be announced.

Aug 20th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Aug 25th: 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.

Color Coding Key

Red:	Monthly Event/Outing
Blue:	Monthly Meeting
Green:	Fly Tying Workshop
Orange:	Board Meeting

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 event 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 lies tales. Bring your own equipment and materials. This is great to get some help from a fellow tier with the

more sophisticated flies or with a technique that you want to practice. 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

May 15-17th: "Red Stick Fly Fishers Spring Catch-n-Eat". Hwy 1 Corridor/Golden Meadow, LA. Friday evening gathering at local restaurant (optional). Saturday evening gathering and fish/shrimp/veggie fry at Golden Meadow. Must be member of RSFF or other fly fishing club to participate. For details, go to www.rsff.org

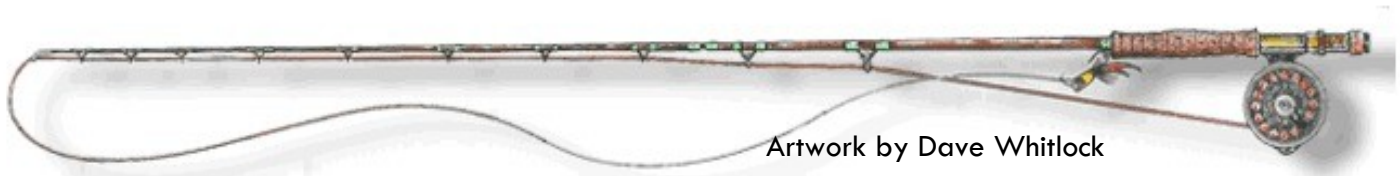
May 16th: "Lafayette Kayak Club Speck-n-Redfish Cup". Heaviest stringer of 2 slot Redfish and 2 Speckled Trout (12" min). Join up with fellow anglers at the weigh-in and post-tourney gathering at Pack and Paddle. Free beer and food at the weigh-in. For more info, or to register, go to www.lafayettekayakfishing.com

May 18th: "East Texas Fly Fishers Meeting". Jalapeno Tree Mexican Restaurant, 508 N. Eastman Rd, Longview Texas. Meeting starts at 6:30pm but arrive early to visit and enjoy some great Mexican food.

May 19th: "Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society Meeting".

May 29-31st: "2015 Texas Fly Fishing Expo". New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels, TX. Host by the IFFF Texas Council. For more details, go to www.txflyfishexpo.com.

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 for details.



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

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Shreveport, LA 71108-8542

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!