

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

August 2015 Volume 1, Issue 7



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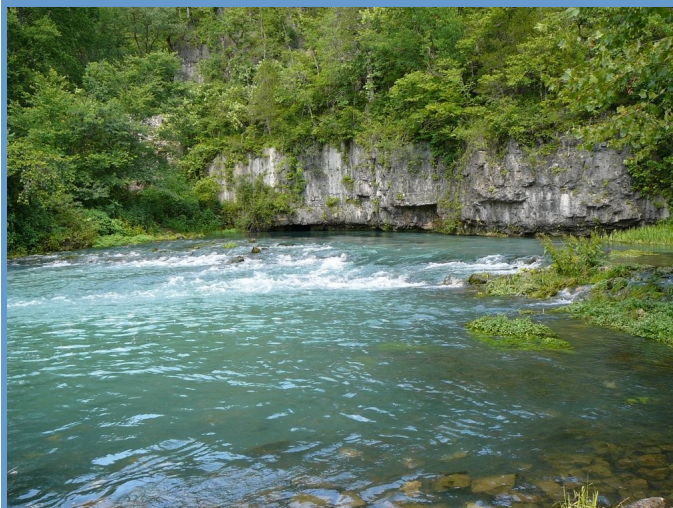
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August Meeting Topic

Come explore the crystal clear cool waters of the Current River with Jerry Driskill. Jerry grew up on the Current River. This amazing gift of nature located just north of the Arkansas state line in Southern Missouri is a treasure to fish and paddle. Jerry will discuss ideal float trips and detail how to catch the trout which are teaming in this pristine stream.

This river is a short drive from Shreveport/Bossier and is a gem of a body of water. Being the most spring-fed of all the Ozark rivers, the Current may be floated at almost any time of the year, particularly below Welch Spring.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways is the first national park area to protect a river system. The Current (the first ever protected waterway) and Jacks Fork Rivers are two of the finest floating rivers you'll find anywhere. Spring-fed, cold and clear they are a delight to



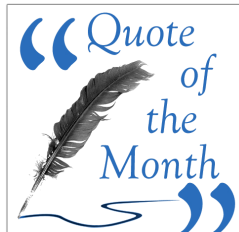
The Current River in Missouri

canoe, swim, boat or fish.

So if you are looking for a new destination close to home that you probably didn't know existed, the

Current River fills the bill. Come join us at our August 11th meeting for an evening of first-hand information on one of the most beautiful float rivers in the nation! 🐟

"There 's more B.S. in fly fishing than there is in a Kansas feedlot." ~ Lefty Kreh



July Meeting Recap

In the past, we have talked at length about trout fishing, explored bream and largemouth bass fishing, and even dabbled in some saltwater action. In July we had the opportunity to talk with Chris Sum-



Chris Summerville

merville of Ouachita Outfitters in Hot Springs, AR about his passion - smallmouth bass (or smallies) fishing on the Caddo River

To tell smallmouth and largemouth bass apart, look at the closed mouth. If it extends back beyond the back of the eye, the fish is a largemouth. If it goes only to the middle of the eye, it's a smallmouth.

Another prominent difference between the smallmouth and largemouth bass species involves striping. The edge of the largemouth bass physique displays a noticeable long black stripe that smallmouth bass fish simply do not have.

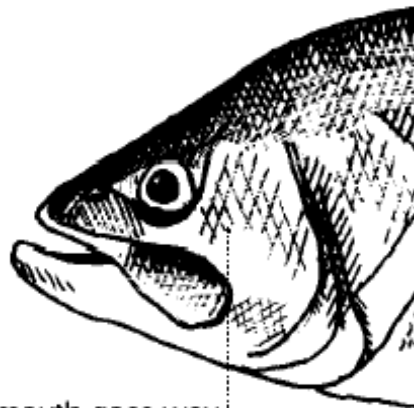
Also, smallmouth bass fish gravitate toward water with some movement - think rivers, creeks and streams that flow swiftly and have ample boulders and stones. Largemouth bass fish, on the other hand, usually are drawn to waters that are significantly calmer in nature -- think ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Largemouth bass also like their H2O a little warmer than smallies). They also appreciate places with lots of cover, such as vegetation and logs.

Chris talked about what smallies eat, the type of habitat they prefer, the type of equipment use to

2015 NLFF Executive Board

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Large-



Back of mouth goes way beyond back of eye

Small-



Back of mouth goes only to middle of eye

catch them, and most importantly, where to go to fish for them on the Caddo River to avoid the summer floaters and paddlers. Chris' presentation was very thorough and you can tell he is passionate about fishing the Caddo for smallies! He provided us with the knowledge needed to share in his passion. Road trip anyone? I'm game! 🐟

Everything You Need to Know About Hooks

Well, not really. That would take a book and years to write! In this article, we will learn about the different choices you have in the most common hooks. Now what type of hook is used for what type of application is for another article. Here we will be learning some basic hook information and tips for use.

History

The fish hook or similar device has been made by man for many thousands of years. Some of the earliest recorded fish hooks are from Palestine about 7000 BC. In 2011, archaeologists in the Jeri-



Stone Age Bone Hook

malai cave in East Timor discovered the world's oldest fish hook, a shell hook between 16,000 and 23,000 years old. An early written reference to a fish hook is found with reference to the Leviathan in the Book of Job 41:1; "Canst thou draw out leviathan with a hook?"

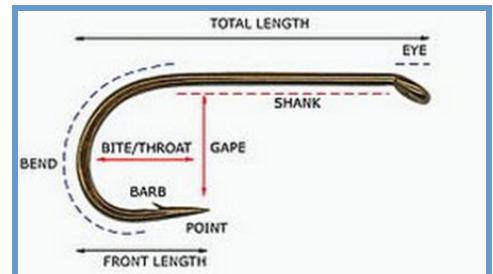
Fish hooks have been crafted from all sorts of materials including wood, bone, horn, shells, stone,

bronze, iron up to present day materials. In many cases, hooks were created from multiple materials to leverage the strength and positive characteristics of each material. Norwegians as late as the 1950s still used juniper wood to craft Burbot hooks. Quality steel hooks began to make their appearance in Europe in the 17th century and hook making became a task for specialists.

Today, there is an enormous variety of fish hooks. Sizes, designs, shapes, and materials are all variable depending on the intended purpose of the fish hook. Hooks are manufactured for a range of purposes from general fishing to extremely limited and specialized applications.

Fish hooks are designed to hold various types of artificial, processed, dead or live baits (bait fishing); to act as the foundation for artificial representations of fish prey (fly fishing); or to be attached

to or integrated into other devices that represent fish prey (lure fishing).



Anatomy of a Fish Hook

In 2005, the fish hook was chosen by Forbes as one of the top twenty tools in the history of man.



Hook Sizes

The numbers that define hook sizes can be confusing, but the system is really very simple. Hook sizes are based on a nominal hook size of zero. Hook sizes with a number followed

by a zero increase in size as the number goes up.

For instance, a 4/0, ("four bar oh" or "four oh"), hook is one size up from a 3/0, which is one size up

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Everything You Need to Know About Hooks - Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

from a 2/0, etc. Hook sizes not followed by a zero, **decrease** in size as the number increases. For example, a size 3 hook is smaller than a

purposes of this article, all hook-size recommendations are based on the Mustad hook sizes. As an aside, most writers in books and magazines appear to assume the Mustad standard hook sizes when

alluding to or recommending hook sizes.

Treble and double hooks also follow this sizing convention, that is, a treble or double hook is described by

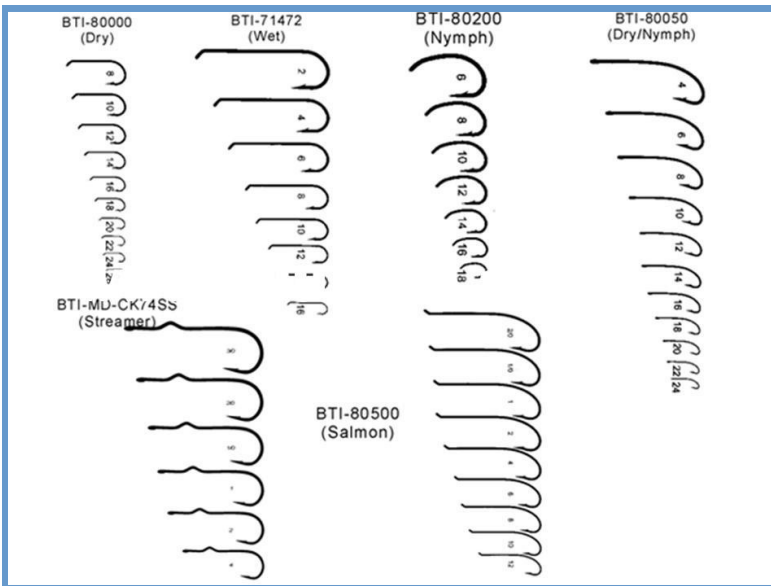
downloads/sizing_chart.pdf . It is in pdf format so give it a minute to download and display.

Copy the link and paste it in your browser. The chart covers more than just hooks. It is actually a very handy reference. Print out page 6 if you are only interested in the hooks sizes.

The X-Factors: Strength, Length and Gape

Hooks marked '2x strong' or '2x' are made from wire as thick as the next size up. A 3x hook is as thick as a hook two sizes up. These hooks are designed to provide as much strength as a hook one or two sizes up, but where a smaller hook is required.

As an example a 2x 4/0 hook has a wire thickness and strength of



size 2 hook, which is smaller than a size 1 hook.

While nearly all hook manufacturers follow this basic numbering system to indicate the increase or decrease in size of each hook within an individual pattern, there is unfortunately little standardization in overall sizes. For instance what may be a size 4/0 in a Mustad hook may not necessarily be the same as a 4/0 in a Gamakatsu hook.

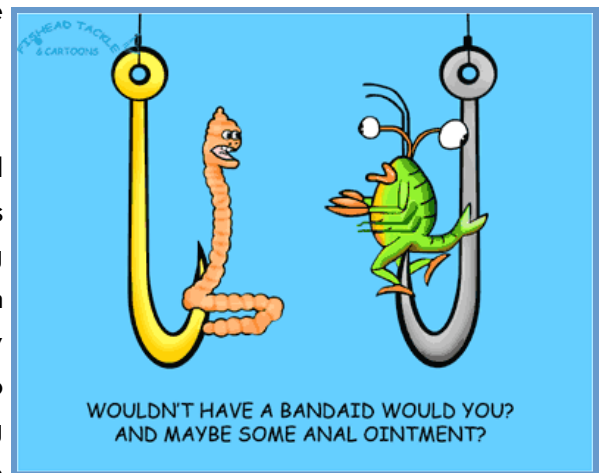
However hooks for fly tying are much more standardized than salt-water hooks for instance. For the

the size of any one of the hooks. For example a size 4/0 treble hook is made up of three 4/0 hooks.

Hook Size Chart

Attached to the email where you received this newsletter, there is a sizing chart. Your computer screen will not render it correctly so you must print it out to get an accurate sizing chart. If you no longer have that email, the chart can be printed from here:

www.jannsnecraft.com/Content/



a 5/0 hook, and a 3x 4/0 hook has a wire thickness and strength of

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Everything You Need to Know About Hooks - Cont.

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a 6/0 hook.

Extra strength hooks are often used when live-baiting, to avoid having too much hook visible to the fish. They are also useful on lures, where using a bigger hook would kill the action of the lure and make it less attractive to fish. In both these scenarios the extra strength of the smaller hook, equates to a larger size hook.

A '2x long' hook has a shank twice as long as the standard hook of the same size. A 3x long hook has a shank 3 times as long as the standard sized hook. 'X' long are hooks mostly found in fly-tying hooks. Unfortunately this standard is anything but.

However most hook manufacturers do use the 'standard', but some the one size up convention. That is a 2x long hook has a shaft the same length as the next size up hook. For example a size 10 2x long hook will have a shaft length

of a size 8 hook. (Remember sizes without the /0 increase in size as the number decreases).

The only way to overcome this confusion to check the manufacturers sizing charts.

A less common, but important variant are 'wide gape' hooks. A wide gape hook is one where the gape, (the gap between the hook point and hook shaft) is wider than the standard hook. Sometimes the



Top to Bottom: Up-Turned Eye, Down-Turned Eye, Straight Eye

wide gape hook is described as '2x wide', and the hook should have a gape twice as wide as the standard hook, or in some cases the same size gape as the next hook size up - but there is little standardization in this

area, even amongst hooks from the same manufacturer. Again reference to a size chart is the only way to be sure of what you are buying.

Hook Point Variants

Hooks come in around nine point variants and all are designed to achieve different objectives.

A knife edge point is designed to cut into flesh and bone, and is useful for most 'hard' mouthed fish. But they do have the disadvantage of cutting in and out.

A needle point hook is pretty much what it looks like, a needle. Needle points have good penetration, but not as good

as knife edge hooks. However, needle points do not cut once in the fishes mouth and are less likely to cut their way out.

Barbless hooks are just that, and can be in any point variant.

'Micro' barbs are very small barbs that are mainly seen on small hooks for trout and coarse fishing.

A 'short' barb hook is a barb nearer the hook point than on a standard hook.

A 'beak' hook is where the point of the hook curves up towards the shank, in front of the barb.



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July "Tying Technique Workshop" Sponsored by Bass Pro


Jamie Franklin created quite a stir in Bass Pro at this month's fly tying workshop. With the table situated right in front of the main aquarium, the 11 attendees of the workshop hunched over his tying fingers as he crafted the perfect legs on a black spider. Jamie then repeated the process a few times to make sure everyone understood the simple steps to make perfect legs on a fly.

The workshops have shifted their focus a bit. Instead of focusing on a certain fly, the workshops will now focus on specific techniques. This

has the potential to be much more helpful to students of fly tying. After this past lesson, you can now attach legs on any fly with greater ease and accuracy.

An added bonus is that everyone did walk away with 2 or 3 bream catching spider flies. These flies are simply awesome during the hot summer months. A special added aspect of the workshop is that you rub shoulders with some fine fishermen that are friendly, fun, and enjoyable to be around. This evening is worth attending



from simply a social aspect. Be sure to join us for the August "Tying Techniques" workshop. If you have a vise and tools bring them. If not, the club will provide you with everything you need. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. at Bass Pro. 

August "Fly of the Month"

(Reprinted with permission)

The traditional foam spider has always been a killer bream (sunfish) fly. In its traditional form, it is tied on #10-#12 hooks with a small bit of foam and floats low in



the surface film.

That spider is terrific for average size bream - but I wanted something for giant bream, something I could see from a distance, and something big enough to entice not only the bream, but bass too. A Japanese sci-fi-movie spider, if you will, like "The Spider That Ate Tokyo"!

Cast it as close to the bank or wood as possible, and let it sit a



long time. How long? To quote Dave Whitlock, "Don't let the hook rust." Twitch it once and let it sit again.

Because the foam is not tied down at the hook bend but kind of sticks up in the air, the fly still rides low in the water and can be worked with the little rippling twitches that bream (and bass) find so irresistible. But with the large mass of foam it can

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August "Fly of the Month" - (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

also create quite a disturbance on the surface with a hard strip - just the ticket if you're bream fishing slow and easy down the bank and suddenly see a big bass blow up.

"Tokyo Spider"

Materials:

- Hook - #6 Gamakatsu SC15 or std. #8 dry fly hook
- Thread - 6/0, to match or contrast body
- Body - 2mm craft foam, long strips 3/8" wide
- Legs - medium rubber legs, color of choice

The Gamakatsu hook is a saltwater hook, but very light and small for a #6 - I like it, but a standard dry fly hook will work fine. The legs are just round rubber.

Instructions:

The illustrations are in weird colors just to make the drawings clearer. Pick the colors you like, solid or contrasting.

1. Cut foam in long strips with a ruler and razor knife. Lay down a good, tight thread base on the hook from eye to just above

the hook point. These wraps should be very tight and even to prevent the fly from rotating



on the hook shank as you tie or when fishing. You might add a drop of super glue to the wraps. Attach two foam strips just in front of the hook point, one pointing back and one forward. In the drawing, the colors contrast but could be the same - your choice. The fly in the photo above uses black in the



2. Cut a short piece of the foam strip and round the corners with scissors. Attach it to the top of

the rear-facing foam with a drop of super glue, leaving just a bit of space between its front and the thread wraps. The photo of the fly on the opposite page shows a spider with 2 short pieces stacked, the second being slightly smaller than the first. This give a little extra buoyancy and is good if you plan on using a weighted dropper. Or, the filler foam can be omitted if you want a lower-floating fly. Again the color is



your choice, match or contrast.

3. Fold the rear-facing foam forward and tie down on top of the previous wraps. The rear body should extend just beyond the rear of the hook and not crush the short foam filler. You may want to add drop of Super Glue.
4. Advance the thread under the fly foam to the hook eye.

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Everything You Need to Know About Hooks - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

Kirbed or Reversed hook points are points that curve away at an angle to the shank. They are said to provide a better hook-up rate as the point does not get deflected by the shank. Most people call all hooks like this 'kirbed' hooks, but strictly speaking a kirbed hook point bends out to the right looking straight-on to the shaft, and the reversed hook point bends out to the left.

Forged Hooks

Standard hooks are made from wire that is bent into shape, then the point sharpened and barb added. The wire retains its round shape throughout the hook.

Forged hooks, once the shape has been made, have the sides of the shank and bend flattened which makes them much stronger than standard hooks - but a good deal more expensive.

They are commonly used in big game fishing where hook strength is vital, but many trophy hunters and competition fishers use them in salt- and freshwater fishing.

What Size to Use

Dyed in the wool saltwater fishermen are often amazed at the

large size of trout that can be caught on seemingly tiny hooks. Trout of 4 - 6lb and over are routinely caught on barely-visible size 18 hooks and smaller.

As a general rule, the hook size needed should be sized for the bait you are using, not the size of the fish you are targeting.

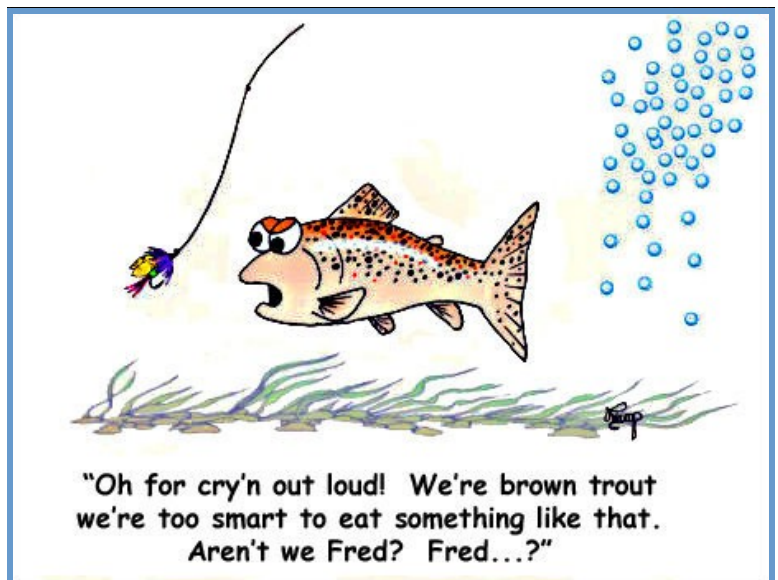
It is an enlightening demonstration to tie some line to a hook, place the hook point in a piece of wood, and haul on the line. The amount of force required to bend the hook out is usually much more than you would normally pull through a rod with a correct drag setting. If a hook straightens during a fight it is not usually a function of the hook size, but a function of the quality of the hook.

Stainless or Not?

The prime reason that seems to govern the purchase of stainless hooks is storage. Stainless hooks will not rust as fast as non-stainless

hooks in the tackle box. But stainless hooks have some disadvantages:

- They are often softer than non-stainless hooks, and do tend to bend out more easily or more often.



- Because they are softer, stainless hooks do not stay as sharp, but they can be easier to sharpen.
- They do not degrade as fast underwater, and in fish. An important conservation factor.
- They are more expensive.

Never store used hooks with unused hooks (especially salt water hooks or flies). Try to keep new, unused hooks in their packets and

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Everything You Need to Know About Hooks - Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

only take out what you think you need for the trip. Even fumbling about in a packet of hooks with wet hands, especially seawater, can set off rust and corrosion.

(Quick hook storage tip: Save those little packets of desiccant drying powder that come with pills and many electrical products. They are great to put in hook containers, tackle and lure boxes.)

Sharpening Hooks

Books and articles still being written contain encouragement to sharpen hooks before fishing with them. 'No hook is sharp enough to fish straight out of the packet' was and still is the advice. If you use 'laser' or 'chemically' sharpened hooks, this advice is bad. In most cases trying to sharpen chemically or laser sharpened hooks out of the packet will actually blunt them.

Chemically sharpened and laser sharpened hooks are made in much the same way. Once the hook is formed, the points are treated with a chemical and then introduced to a laser beam, or other control source, which wears away the

metal leaving a very sharp point.

However, hooks may need sharpening after use. Fly fishermen especially should regularly check their flies - hooks bouncing onto stones and rocks can get blunt, and may need sharpening.

If you do sharpen hooks there



are a number of factors to bear in mind. All sharpening produces heat. Too much heat will reduce the temper of the hook that can soften the point. This can lead to points bending over, or breaking off. It is important when sharpening hooks to use a slow stroke with the file or stone.

Be careful not to remove too much metal from the point. There is a fine line between a sharp point and a weak point.

Barbed or Barbless

Here is a little piece of surprise from the history books. It seems that barbs were initially introduced, not to hold the fish on once hooked, but to stop the bait coming off.

The single most important factor in not losing a fish off the hook is to set the hook well and deeply. Barbless hooks are easier to set. Especially in the hard mouth plate of a largemouth bass or bonefish.

Just as barbless hooks are easier to set, they are easier to remove. If you regularly catch and release fish, you should use barbless hooks.

You can make hooks barbless by filing off the barb, but I have found that sometimes the heat generated by filing does reduce the hook's temper and weakens the hook. I prefer to use a pair of hemostats to crush down the barb. This does the job without damaging the hook.

And the first time you sink a barbed hook into a part of your body, and have to go through the drama of having it removed, you will become a barbless devotee.

Now that you have read this entire article about hooks, everything is as clear as mud, right? Of course! But at least now you have a handy reference when you need it.



From Our Members

Fly Rod? We Don't Need No Stinking Fly Rod! - by Scott Irwin

The heat is on. By 10:00 a.m., if I am on the water, a little voice inside me says seek shelter from the sun. Temps can be in the 90s with higher heat indexes.

It is during these scorching summer months that I find fly fishing the hardest. One fly that seems to be a heat-buster is a simple plastic worm. A long time favorite of bait casters, the rubber worm is some-



what frowned upon in some fly fishing circles. I just can't seem to get many bites with poppers, buggers, clousers, San Juan worms, or any of my other "go to flies" this time of year.

On a recent fishing outing with

John Axford to a North Louisiana farm pond, I tied on my trusty worm. I was not totally prepared to fish this little fellow. I didn't have proper split shot or sinking line. Still, if I cast the worm out into the chocolate colored water, let it sink for what seems like an eternity the worm would finally hit bottom.

"Hey Irwin, you don't need a \$10 Louisiana fishing license, all you need is a \$3 cane pole license to fish that thing" John said jokingly.

Then all would be quiet. You could hear the early morning breeze rustling through cattails along the shoreline. I would just let it sit there, twitching it every 40 seconds or so. Sooner or later the line would start moving across the water and a fish was on. But more often than not, I would lose the fish. I have not perfected this fishing technique with a fly rod. I had too much slack in my line.

I tried the same worm on a later fishing trip with Steve Oliver on Martin Creek Lake in East Texas.

This time I was equipped with sinking line and I tied some weight onto my worm hook. As I slowly stripped my line in, I could now feel it when a bass slowly engulfed my worm. A small tug on the line and the fight

was on... at least for a few moments! The fish threw my hook, but I did get an eyeball on the finny fellow.

These plastic worms are sometimes hard to come by. They are called "Trout Worms" and



John Axford with a Nice Bream

are made by Power Bait. Bass Pro carried them last year, but not this year. Academy sometimes has them but not always. I will contact Howard at Gray Wolf and ask him to special order some. I have also fished these worms on the Caddo River and had many a bite. The worms are a bit on the soft side and have a tendency to get chewed up by fish. In my book, that is a good problem to have! 🐟

(Contributed by Scott Irwin)

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From Our Members - Cont.

(Continued from page 10)

Fly Fishing Cane Pole Style - by Steve Oliver

In July, Virginia and I went camping for a week at Martin Creek Lake State Park near Tatum, TX. Being near to home, we could spend more time relaxing instead of making a long trip somewhere.

The weather cooperated as much as it could being the middle of summer. Our camping spot was well shaded and in the mornings until around 11:00am and late evenings were the perfect times to just relax and enjoy the view of the lake and the breeze coming directly across it. However, the wind kept me out of my kayak.

We had some family bring their

campers for a few days but didn't stay the entire week as we did. Nick Meshell, my nephew and also a member of the NLFF, talked his parents into letting him stay with us for the rest of the week. He was ready to do some fishing!

Due to the wind we decided to try night fishing at the pier when it wasn't blowing so much. We weren't using fly gear since the pier was so far up from the surface of the water. We were not having much luck. Don't get me wrong. The fish were there. We could see them

feeding under the lights. Fish would come up to our lures, study or fol-



low them for a few seconds, and then turn their noses up at it.

They were feeding on large minnows that were attracted to the lights. We mimicked these the best we could with the lures we had, but the fish were not to be fooled. I decided to try a fly I had that looks almost exactly like what the fish were feeding on. I tied one on, and used the length of the fly rod to drag it around the dock like I was using a cane pole.

Then all of a sudden, WHAM!, a tremendous disturbance on the surface where my fly was last seen. My rod doubled over, the fish went under



Nick Meshell with his First Bass on th Fly - a 14 incher!

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Word Search

Official Texas

Since the NLFF has a few members and visitors from Texas, we decided to recreate the “Official Louisiana” word search puzzle (June 2015 issue) for the State of Texas. Here’s your chance to have some fun and see how much you really know about “official Texas”. How many of the state icons did you know? The words, along with descriptions of how they are “official” are listed below. However, the words in **bold** are what you are looking for in the puzzle on the next page. Words can be formed up, down, and diagonal as well as forwards and backwards. If you are very computer savvy, you can complete this on screen. But to make it easier, I would suggest printing pages 10 & 11. Good luck!

State Gemstone - Texas Blue **Topaz**

State Reptile - Texas **Horned Lizard**

State Tree - **Pecan**, which is also the State Nut and State Pie

State Capitol - **Austin**

State Mammal - Mexican **Free-Tailed Bat** (Flying), **Longhorn** (Large), **Armadillo** (Small) - Texas has three categories of State Mammal as listed, although the Mexican Free-Tailed Bat was named first by the Texas Senate in 1995. The Texas House didn’t want two other Texas icons to be left out so they came up with the divided categories.

State Bird - **Mockingbird**

State Dog - **Blue Lacy**

State Crustacean - Texas Gulf **Shrimp**

State Game - Not poker, surprise! “42” - a **domino** game

State Amphibian - Texas **Horned Toad**

State Dish - **Chili** (true official chili type is hotly debated)

State Insect - **Monarch** Butterfly

State Fruit - Texas Red **Grapefruit**

State Flower - **Bluebonnet**

State Snack - **Tortilla** Chips and Salsa

State Nickname - The **Lone Star** State

State Sport - **Rodeo**, of course, but many act as if it should be football!

State Freshwater Fish - **Guadalupe** Bass

State Saltwater Fish - **Red Drum**

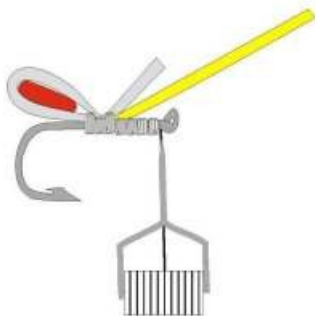
State Vegetable - **Sweet Onion**

Word Search - (Cont.)

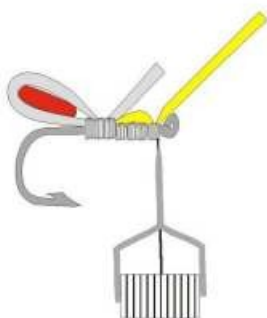
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Y A R R C I O U O D U A R E S U S N U K
B O A A H E Y N A D R Y I D X K D S C T
F A N R Z R A O A M E F B D L M T J Y J
R Z T I G I T B A R E O G R D I Q S N F
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W F G Z R I Q L Y P C Z P H P N U X N S

August "Fly of the Month" - (Cont.)

(Continued from page 7)



5. Pull the original forward-facing foam down and tie down short of the hook eye. Half-hitch the thread or add a drop of super



glue.

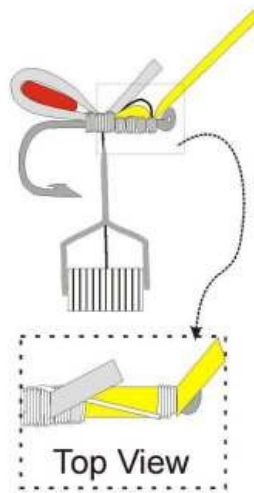
6. With a soft wrap, move the thread back to the mid-hook point. Make one wrap without much pressure here, and then tighten down on the next. The thread crossing the bottom layer of foam will not be visible from underneath and will be protected from above momentarily. Trim the upper layer of foam (originally the rear-

facing) even with the hook eye, slightly rounding the front corners.

7. Fold the top-layer of foam back, trapping the mid-layer, and tie it down at the midpoint. Trim to desired length and add a dot of paint for an indicator, if you like (see photo

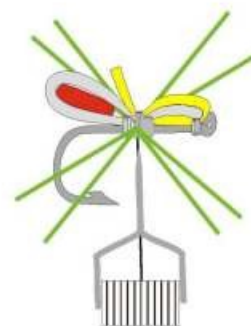


on page 5). If you have used contrasting colors, the mid-layer will give the general appearance of an eye. The mid-layer



does not need to be tied down in front as it is captured by the top layer of foam.

8. Tie in the rubber legs. I like to fold the legs over the thread, wrap twice then pull the legs into position. I want 4 legs to the side, so I use 4 strips of rub-



ber (which become 8 legs).

I use rubber legs pieces that are about 3 1/4" long. This results in legs that are over 1 1/2" long. They do occasionally foul on the hook, but I think the extra action they give is worth the trouble.

On behalf of the NLFF, I would like to thank Kent Edmonds at www.flyfishga.com for permission to reprint this article. 🐟

(This is a great fly for the dog days of summer and the perfect opportunity to put what you learned about tying legs onto flies in July's workshop to good use! - Editor.)

From Our Members - Cont.

(Continued from page 11)

the pier and SNAP! Lost it! This happened so fast- less than a second- that Nick and I decided to pack it up for the night to ponder what happened and how to change the outcome.

The next night, we set out to rectify the situation from the night before. We tied a length of 25lb monofilament onto our line and tied our minnow mimickers onto that. We recreated what happened the night before, but I'm proud to say with a different result.

With the same speed and ferocity as the night before, a fish slammed into Nick's fly and dove to the protection of the pier! But this time, with the added strength of line, he was able to keep it out from under the pier. Even though we knew what could happen, Nick got so excited that he forgot how to lock the line down with his index finger and pull in with the other hand! With some assistance, he finally got the fish to the surface and I lifted it onto the pier. Since it was dark, we put it on ice to get a picture the next day.

This is one of the best things I love about fishing - seeing a young person enjoying the sport as much as I do. The bass (Nick's second

ever and first on the fly) was 14 inches long, but I think the smile on his face was wider than that! π

(Contributed by Steve Oliver)

There are acres of fish hitting the surface! - by Scott Irwin

I am having a tough time this summer. Recently my a/c broke, the washing machine broke, my camper broke, a water line broke under my house, and the list goes on.


Recently I was conversing with my wood floor repairman (that's another story), and he mentioned to me how the white bass were biting on Lake Bistineau. "I caught 70 fish in an hour", the sweaty repairman exclaimed. "There were acres of fish breaking on the surface of the water". The first words out of my mouth were "where did you launch from?". I had to pry this out of him over the next few days, but eventually he let the secret out - Camp Joy.

I immediately called Rush Clay, a board member of the NLFF. Rush has a nice bass boat that can cover lots of water in a short period of time. We arranged a fishing trip within a few days. We launched the boat at sunrise at Camp Joy, motored to the area described as

"acres of fish hbreaking on the surface" and saw nothing. Heck, we didn't even see another fisherman.

We then spotted a rooster tail sprouting up on the far side of the lake. "It's a boat!", Rush's son Dominic exclaimed. Rush put the peddle to the metal and soon we were chasing after the other fishermen on the lake. We soon became discouraged as we found they were as baffled as were at to where the elusive fish were hiding.

We then just decided to more or less convert this fishing outing to a scouting trip. Neither of us knew much about Lake Bistineau. Let me tell you, the lake is in beautiful condition. The Giant Salvinia was not largely noticeable, the water was clear, and there was plenty of water in the lake.

We motored all the way to the State Park from Camp Joy. This must have been 4 or 5 miles. It was a fantastic exploratory mission. Rush caught the only fish. My rubber worm attracted a few bites, but no fish in the boat. Still, it was a great time. Good company and a fast boat make for a nice morning on the water, even if you don't catch many fish. 

(Have a fishing outing or something else of interest? Send your submission to nlffclub@gmail.com . - Ed.)

NLFF Calendar



Aug 11th: **NLFF monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Jerry Driskill speaks on fishing the Current River in Missouri.

Aug 20th: **Tying Techniques 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.

Sept 8th: **NLFF monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Rex Walker will speak on the science and construction of fly lines. Sure to be informative and will help you choose the proper line for the proper situations/conditions.

Sept 17th: **Tying Techniques Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Sept 22nd: **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Oct 13th: **NLFF monthly meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Details to come.

Oct 15th: **Tying Techniques Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Oct 27th: **NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Nov 10th: **NLFF's 2015 Banquet.** Details to come, but mark your calendar today!

Nov 19th: **Tying Techniques Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Nov 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.

Color Coding Key

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

Right: Great turnout to listen to Chris Summerville talk about catching smallmouth bass on the Caddo River in Arkansas.



Upcoming Events

Aug 6th: "Casual Fly Tying". 6pm-8pm. Gray Wolf Fly Shop, 5825 Southern Ave, Shreveport, LA. Join Jamie Franklin and Howard Malpass for an evening of fly tying and telling lies. This is the perfect opportunity to learn a new technique or perfect one that you are working on or just to get some flies tied that you've been meaning to do. Everyone from fly tiers to onlookers is welcome.

Aug 11-15th: "50th Annual IFFF National Fly Fishing Fair". 9am-5pm daily. Bend, OR. Free Entry on Saturday! Join us for: - fly fishing, tying, casting workshops - fly tying demos, casting demos, programs - exhibitors and vendors, book authors - special activities for youth and women - awards banquet, barbecue, and other social events.

Aug 22nd: "11th Annual Contraband Fly Fishing Expo". 8:30am-4:00pm. PPG - Porter Hall, 2250 Prater Road, Westlake, LA. Fly Tying, Casting Demos, Lure Exhibits, Auctions/Raffles, Food and Refreshments, Equipment Displays and more! Free admission open to the public! For details, go to www.contrabandflycasters.net or contact Warren Landry (337) 853-7755.

Sept 18-19th: "Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair". Ocean Springs, MS. Lots of vendors, exhibitors, casters and tiers from all over the region and beyond.

Oct 2-3rd: "Southern Fly Fishing Fair". Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR. The Mid-South's premiere fly fishing and fly tying show. Features programs, workshops, fly tying demos and instruction, casting instruction and games, vendor exhibits, youth activities, raffles and auctions, much more. Fundraiser aids conservation, education, and philanthropic causes. Registration available online or by mail. For details, go to www.southerncouncilfff.org.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

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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!