

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

December 2015 Volume 1, Issue 11



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December Meeting Topic

Merry Christmas, everyone! I know you are busy this time of year and need a break. Take a moment to slow down and relax. What better way to do that than to share a couple of hours with some old friends and maybe make a new one.

That new friend is Capt. Steve Holmsted from Tom Bean, TX. Steve is a life long angler, and former high school chemistry and physics teacher. He has long enjoyed the pursuit of the angling experience and loves to share it with others. He began fishing Lake Texoma in the 1960's and Lake Ray Roberts immediately after its completion in 1987. He now guides fly anglers on these productive waters in search of inland stripers, smallies (smallmouth bass), and bucket-mouths (largemouth bass). Steve has also fly fished all over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, many

western states and British Columbia.

As a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor, Steve also assists clients in developing the fly casting skills and fly fishing knowledge needed to pursue all species of fish on the fly. He teaches at various clinics and schools across the state.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, Steve states, "Learning is one of life's great joys and learning to fly fish is indeed a treasure that can be enjoyed for a lifetime."

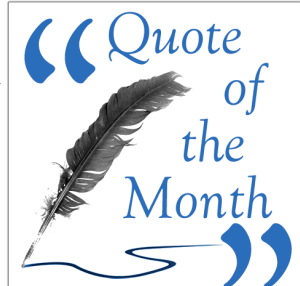
"Fly fishing is a grand and alluring sport. It provides a real connection to the natural landscape in a world that is dominated by technology, stress, and hustle and bustle. It is fun, but not technical, difficult, nor expensive."

"However, fly fishing is a skill based form of angling that requires getting

(Continued on page 4)

"If fishing is interfering with your business, give up your business."

~ Alfred W. Miller



November Meeting Recap

Thanks to all the members and their friends who turned out to the 2015 NLFF annual banquet. The fund raiser was a big success. Not only was money raised to help the club operate, those in attendance walked away with some incredible items.

The thing that makes the event so great is that so many members brought something to raffle off. There were over 40 bucket raffle draws! There were many, many items donated.— too many to give proper credit. THANK YOU ALL! I would like to give a mention to the businesses that helped sponsor our event:

Gray Wolf Fly Shop
Bass Pro Shops – Bossier City
Temple Fork Outfitters
Rio Fly Line
Caddo Candles

Please shop with these sponsors and/or buy their products. We would like to have their support in the future.

The setting for the banquet was delightful. Mandina's Grill had the perfect set up. The inside was cool and comfortable for dining. Missy kept the all-you-can-eat chicken and fish coming out hot from the kitchen. The bar was open with specials. The spacious screened porch housed all of the auction items and the fly tying contest en-

tries. It is as if the establishment was built just for this event.

The \$1500 that was raised will help the club pay it's IFFF dues and insurance, and help attract quality speakers. Again, thank all of you who donated something to help our fundraising. Even if it was just your time- or if you donated something along with your time— we would like to thank you also. While we thank everyone's participation in our club, there would be nothing to participate in if members did not give up some of their time to plan and coordinate all of our events.

In other club business, the membership ratified a major overhaul of our by-laws and elected our 2016 Executive Committee. Congratulations to:

Steve Oliver - President
Tom Bullock - Treasurer
Brett Rowell
Frank Harmon
Joe Dollarschell
Scott Irwin
Thomas "Bud" Bethea

Also, I would like to congratulate Jerald Lewis for winning three fly tying categories and becoming the NLFF's newest Master Tyer.

The goal of the NLFF is to provide outstanding monthly meetings. Meetings you don't want to miss.

2015 NLFF Executive Board

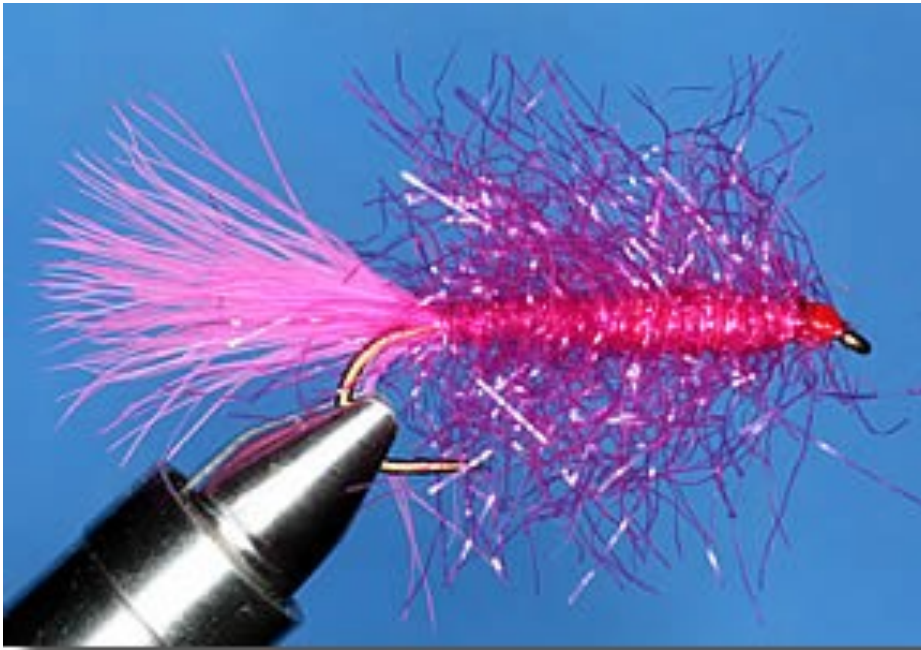
President	Thomas (Bud) Bethea
Treasurer	Tom Bullock
Secretary	Steve Oliver
A/V Specialist	Steve Oliver
Banquet Director	Judy Thomas
Conservation	Scott Irwin
Membership	Frank Harmon
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver
Social Media	Frank Harmon
Programs Director	Scott Irwin
Webmaster	Frank Harmon
Member at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

Meetings that motivate you to pull out your smart phone and program in the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm as a time to gather at the refuge to rub shoulders with nice people, pick up some hot fishing tips, learn something new, and stimulate new dreams of incredible fishing adventures you can have in your own back yard. Thank you for making the banquet a success. We look forward to seeing you at the monthly meetings where you will see this money put to work for you. Mark you smart phone calendars for the banquet next year. You won't want to miss it on November 8th 2016!



Fly of the Month - "Pink Dink"

The NLFF's "Frozen Chosen" outing just around the corner and the Pink Weenie is a very popular fly on the Little Missouri River. I found - 24 inch rainbows in the northwest. You might try tying this on a 10 or 12 for the smaller stockers in the Lil' Mo'.



the Pink Dink on the IFFF's website from December 2010. Might be a good time for a resurrection as it might also be a good fly for the Lil' Mo'.

Materials list:

Hook: Mustad 79580 size 6

Weight: Lead wire 0.035-inch diameter

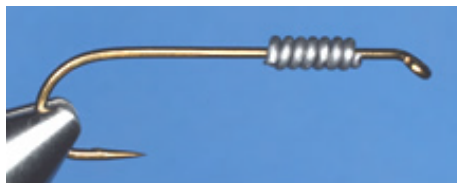
Tail: Marabou, Cerise

Body: Aura Trendsetter yarn, fluorescent cerise or extra hot pink color no. 3161 (Polar Chenille from Hairline looks similar.)

(These were tied for large wild 20

Tying Steps:

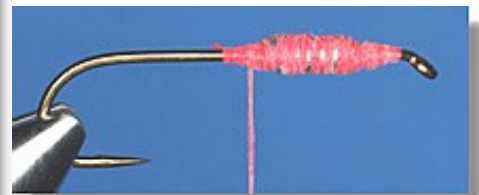
1. Smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers before you start tying. The pattern calls for seven turns of lead



wire. The way I put the wire on is to hold the end of the wire in the left hand and the spool in the right hand. Then put five wraps of wire around the shank. Hold the coil and spool tightly and break off the

wire. Wrap the wire tag around the shank. It is not as fast as doing seven wraps and cutting off the tag, but there are no little pieces of lead left on the table.

2. Position the lead coil about two eye widths behind the eye. Attach thread between coil and eye. Put a few thread winds in front of the coil and then move to back of the coil



and put a few a few thread winds there to keep it from moving rearward. Wind thread back and forth to secure coil. Build a thread ramp at both ends of the coil. Leave thread hanging at back of lead coil.

3. Take one marabou feather, measure a shank length tail and cut off excess at back of lead coil. Secure it on top of shank behind coil. While holding the feather a little on your side of shank wind thread



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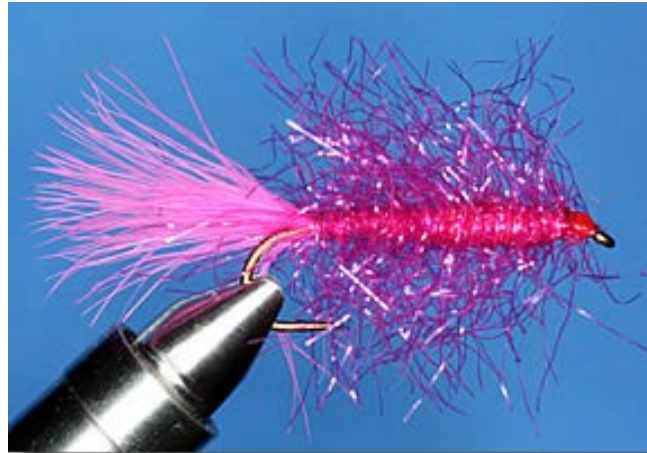
Fly of the Month - Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

to rear. You can wind the thread back and forth if it suits you, but leave it at the bend.

4. Cut off a piece of Aura yarn or Polar Chenille. If there is any apparent direction to the fibers have them pointing rearward when securing yarn on the hook with the long part to the rear. Wind thread forward to about one eye width behind the eye. Wrap yarn forward stroking

fibers rearward on each turn. Secure yarn behind eye and trim excess. Form a head, whip finish and



put on a coat of head cement.

This is a wet fly so use a full sinking line to get the fly down where the fish are. Let the line and fly sink, and then use slow to fast retrieves until fish start hitting. It should not take too long. Another way to fish it, especially on big waters, is to mooch it. You can wind drift, kick with fins or row. Most fly anglers avoid (the word) trolling.



December Meeting - Cont.

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past that little bit of discipline inherent to the sport. Once acquired, that little bit of discipline will open up an exciting, new world of angling opportunities to you."

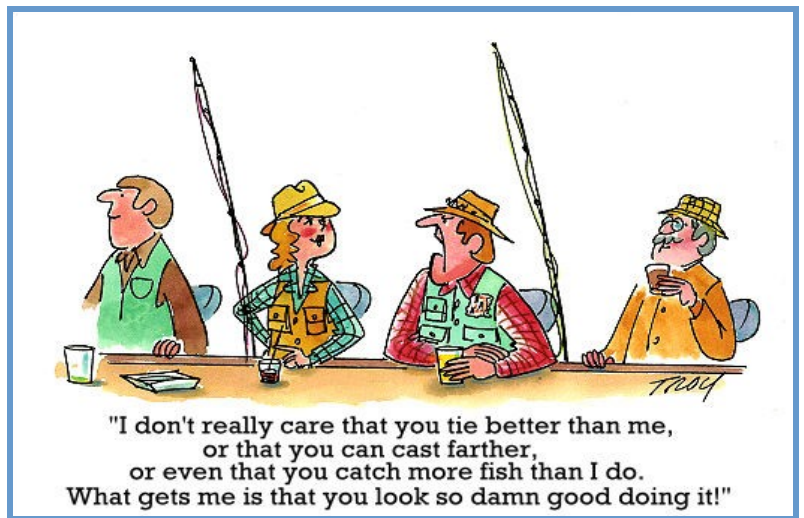
"My goal, as an instructor, is to help you acquire the skills and substance needed to fly fish in a style that suits you best. Whether you are making your first cast or learning an advanced technique, I will always teach in a positive, enthusiastic manner - never harsh, impatient, or unprofessional."

Take a look at some of Steve's credentials:

- Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide

- Federation of Fly Fishers
Master Certified Casting Instructor
- Past President of the Red River Fly Fishers

- United States Coast Guard Captains License
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fishing Guide License
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Fishing Guide License
- Fully insured



- First Aid & CPR, American Heart Association

No one can ever have too many friends. So join your old friends and take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas and enjoy and evening with a new friend!



Choosing the Right Thread

Thread is a confusing topic to some. No doubt because of all the really good choices we as fly tyers have. Thread itself isn't very confusing. We are lucky that there is simply a lot of really good product out there on the market now. A fair number of these threads are a lot alike and it is for that reason that some people get confused.

The two most common ways to evaluate thread are the "aught" system and the denier (pronounced DEN YEER) system. In the aught system as the number increases the size falls. For example 8/0 is smaller than 6/0. In the Denier system, as the number raises, the size increases. A 70 denier thread is smaller than a 210 denier thread. The big trouble is trying to compare say a 70 denier with a 6/0. How do you compare? Sometimes you can't until you pull some of the thread off and spool it up. You will see and feel the difference (or you should be able to). More or less 210 denier is about 3/0 sized. Thankfully, most all manufacturers are

starting to use denier as it is the textile industry standard. Wapsi was one of the first to adopt this rating method.

Nylon and polyester threads are more practical than silk, Kevlar and Gel Spun Polyester (GSP). Silk is weaker and Kevlar, while very strong, can score tools. GSP is Kevlar spun with polyester that is easier to work with and still strong but is very expensive - around \$4.50

for a 50-yard spool.

Tying thread is sold in different configurations. Most tying thread has a floss-like construction of multiple parallel fibers, creating a flat thread that can come with varying amounts of twist. Thread that can be flattened (untwisted before you wrap) makes it easier to produce a smooth head on the fly. Flat thread also tends to lie flatter on the hook and cause less bulk on the shank.

Brand	Material	Denier*	Breaking Strength
Danville Spiderweb	Monofilament	30	4 oz.
Danville Flymaster 6/0	Nylon	70	1 lb.
Danville Monocord 3/0	Nylon	116	1 lb. 10 oz
Danville 140	Nylon	140	2 lbs. 2 oz.
Danville Flymaster Plus	Nylon	210	4 lbs. 3oz.
Gudebrod 8/0	Polyester	67	15 oz.
Gudebrod 6/0	Polyester	143	1lb. 15 oz.
Gudebrod 3/0	Polyester	176	2 lbs. 6 oz.
Wapsi Ultra Thread 70	Nylon	70	13 oz.
Wapsi Ultra Thread 140	Nylon	140	2 lbs. 2 oz.
Wapsi Ultra Thread 210	Nylon	210	3 lbs.
Uni 8/0	Polyester	72	15 oz.
Uni 6/0	Polyester	135	1 lb. 13 oz.
Uni 3/0	Polyester	180	2 lbs. 8 oz.

*Denier equals the weight in grams of 9,000 meters of thread.

Choosing the Right Thread - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

Flat thread is also less prone to cut materials such as foam.

Round thread is built like rope, with a number of threads (or plies) twisted together. Heavy twisted-ply thread holds materials by biting into it and is a good choice if you need to spin deer hair, or build up a mass with your thread, as in some saltwater flies.

Bonded thread is made semi-round by bonding parallel filaments together. It comes off the spool round but if you slide it through your fingers, it will break down, allowing it to lie flat on the hook. Bonded and twisted ply threads

are more abrasion resistant than flat threads. This can be a benefit, especially when tying bead head flies since the beads can have rough edges. Also, the round threads can be used to rib the bod-

ies of flies as they make nice segmented bodies.

Removing or adding twist, by spinning the bobbin, to any thread can change the structure of the thread. When twisted, the thread

Tying thread comes waxed or unwaxed. Waxed thread gives a better hold on the material, makes it easier to dub, lubricates the thread, and helps prevent fraying. The wax also bonds to itself, which keeps thread layers from slipping.

The disadvantages of waxed thread are that the wax can clog bobbins and add bulk to the thread. (Note: Some water-based cements will not penetrate wax thread properly.)

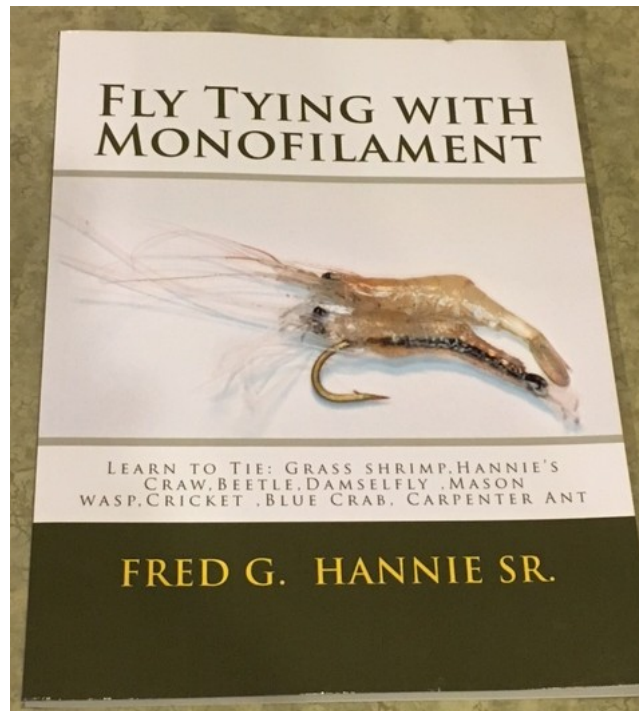
I hope this information helps you make the right choice of thread for your next fly because after the hook, the thread is the most important item in your fly tying arsenal. Choosing the right type of thread will help you manipulate your materials bet-



ter so you can consistently produce more durable and attractive flies. Without the right thread, even your best efforts can be counterproductive. Good tying!



Special Event - January 16th



You are invited to a very special event:

A Day with Fred Hannie

Fred Hannie, of Lake Charles La, is one of the State's premier fly tyers. Fred has been featured in numerous national fly tying publications and recently published his own book, "Fly Tying with Monofilament". Fred's flies are ultra realistic. Some of his flies are works of art. Others are fish catching magnets. The NLFF is proud to host a fly tying workshop with Fred Hannie. Come and learn to tie from one of the best. Fred will first teach us by tying a crawfish pattern fly. He will then lead us in a classroom group session for each person to tie their own fishable crawfish fly. If time allows he will present an additional monofilament fly for us to tie.

Cost: Free

When: Saturday, January 16th, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Red River National Wildlife Refuge

What to Bring: Your own vise, tools and thread. Also, bring a lunch.

Water, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

More Info: Contact Scott Irwin 469-0854

NLFF Calendar

Dec 8th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Steve Hollensed

Dec 17th: Tying Techniques Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Buddy Bethea will be tying a sow bug.

Dec 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. Installing new Executive Committee.

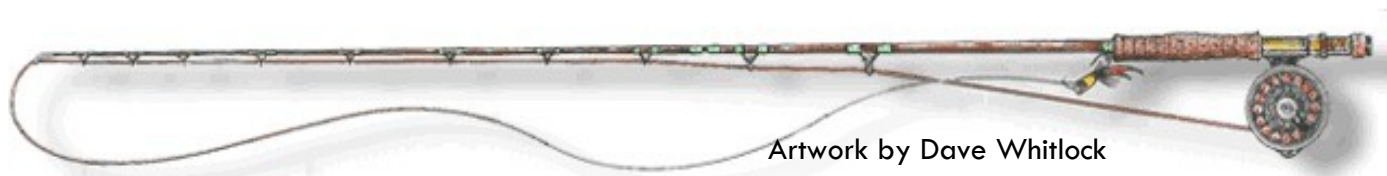
Jan 12th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm.

Jan 16th: . NLFF Special Event. "Fly Tying with Fred Hannie". Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. 9am to 3pm. Cost: Free. Open to the public.

Jan 21st: Tying Techniques Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Tom Bullock will be tying a pheasant tail nymph.

Jan 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.

Jan 29th - Jan31st: NLFF's Annual "Frozen Chozen". Riverside Pavilion on the Little Missouri River Tailwaters at Narrows Dam north of Murfreesboro, AR. This is a weekend of trout fishing and story-telling with friends. Camping is available on Dynamite Hill and lunch on Saturday will be served at the pavilion. Bring a side dish and drinks.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

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

Upcoming Events

Dec 4th - 5th: "Renzetti Fly Fishing Fair and Rod Building". 8800 Grissom Pkwy, Titusville, FL. Friday: 12:00pm to 4:00pm, \$10 admission. Friday evening: "An Evening With The Legends" reception benefitting Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters. Saturday: 9:00am to 3:30pm, \$15 admission. The Fair is to promote the art of fly fishing and rod building, and to raise awareness and funds for Florida programs of Casting For Recovery and Project Healing Waters. There's something for every level of the sport. Attendees will also learn about new products, new techniques and fishing destinations. You are invited to join other fly fishing enthusiasts as they welcome Lefty Kreh, Jon Cave, Bob Popovics, Bob Clouser, Flip Pallot, Nick Curcione, Pat Ehler, Jay Murakoshi, John Stumpe, Oscar Feliu and Curt Baker to another great event. For more info, contact Lily Renzetti at 321-267-7705 or by email at mail@renzetti.com.

Dec 12th: "7th Annual Turkey Trout Tournament". Cypremont Point State Park. 6:00am shotgun start and weigh-in at 2:00pm. Entry fee - \$25.00, \$5.00 largest trout pool. See Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club website for payout information and other details.

Jan 29th - Jan31st: NLFF's Annual "Frozen Chozen". Riverside Pavilion on the Little Missouri River Tailwaters at Narrows Dam north of Murfreesboro, AR. This is a weekend of trout fishing and story-telling with friends. Camping is available on Dynamite Hill and lunch on Saturday will be served at the pavilion. Bring a side dish and drinks.

Jan 29th - Jan31st: "Red River Rendezvous - A Fly Tying Extravaganza". Beavers Bend State Park, Broken Bow, OK. 12 noon on Friday until 12 noon on Sunday. Admission - \$10.00. See www.rrff.org for more details.

Feb 27th: "Acadiana Fly Rodders Annual Conclave". Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA. 8:30am - 3:00pm. Free admission.

Mar 5th: "2016 Red River Fishing Expo" hosted by Cane Country Fly Casters. Natchitoches Expo Center., Natchitoches, LA. 8:30am - 5:00pm. All about fly and light tackle fishing with over 40 vendors. See www.redriverfishingexpo.com for more information.

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

P.O. Box 8542

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!