

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

February 2016 Volume 2, Issue 2



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## February Meeting Topic

Once again, it is time for one of our most popular meetings of the year - "Chili and Flies". When the weather turns cold, the trout fishing and the chili cooking start to heat up!

The NLFF chefs bring their best chili concoctions to be judged, but more importantly eaten, by their peers. The cook-off is open to any member that wishes to bring a crock pot of chili. Each member gets to vote on their favorite. \$25 will be awarded to the winner. Last year's winner was Jon Harmon. Bring your appetites and be ready to sample some fabulous recipes!

Next, the fly tying contest gets under way. Like the chili cook-off, this contest is open to any NLFF member. If you have tying equipment, please bring it. Equipment will be provided to those that don't.

In this contest, tyers can use their own

thread and beads but all other tying materials will be provided. No one will know the rules or materials to be provided until the beginning of the contest.

Last year, a variety of animal pelts were provided. You could use any of these but must use something from the coyote pelt that was



Steve's Winner

included. This kind of levels the playing field. If you can tie thread onto a hook, you can participate in this contest! It's a lot of fun to see what everyone can come up with only using the available materials. Last year, there was two categories. Jamie Franklin and Steve Oliver won in their respective categories. \$25 will also be awarded to each winner of this competition.

So come out for some good food and fun. I'm sure there will be some lies tales from the recently completed "Frozen Chosen".



Jamie's Winner



Also, membership dues are due! Remember, we accept cash, check and credit cards. Thank you!

Please make a note of our new address:

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

PO Box 29531

Shreveport, LA 71149

## January Meeting Recap

Jim Kelly, Secretary and Membership Chairman of the Lower Mountain Fork Foundation, was our featured speaker for January.

While many of you know that the Lower Mountain Fork river and Beavers Bend State Park in Broken Bow, OK was flooded for a second time in December

2015, the area was just beginning to recover from the May 2015 flood. The new lay of the landscape was being figured out. Guides were starting to get back into the groove. Individual fishermen had some idea of where to

find trout and how to fish for them in the new waters. Then, the unthinkable happened... another flood, much worse than the previous flood. At maximum flow during the May event, 22,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) was flowing through the riverbed, disrupting

the landscape without restraint. This time around, up to 32,000 cfs was released out of Broken Bow Lake. The release was necessitated by rains in the area and upriver that caused a release of three times that amount of flow on the Upper

Mountain Fork which brought the lake level to within three feet from the top of the dam! In fact, at one point the entire lake level rose 10 feet in about 24 hours!

To put that amount of



Jim Kelly of the Lower Mountain Fork Foundation



Clean-up at Evening Hole bridge

### 2016 NLFF Executive Board

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

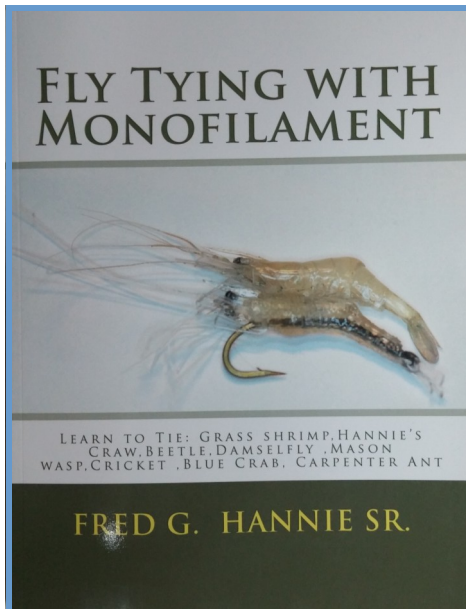
flow into perspective, picture a swimming pool the size of a football field and six feet deep. Now visualize that amount of water flowing down Spillway Creek every second! Click on the link below (or type into your browser) to see water flow at the Reregulation Dam on the Lower Mountain Fork at 13,000 cfs and keep in mind that the flow in the Dec 2015 flood was 2 1/2 times the flow that you will see in this video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCAjmA\\_xhB4&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCAjmA_xhB4&feature=player_embedded)



## Fred Hannie Workshop

Our Fred Hannie Workshop was a rousing success! On behalf of the NLFF family, I would like to thank Fred for taking his time to come present to our club. He is truly a credit to the fly fishing world.



Scott Irwin said, "Amazing flies!" That about sums up what twenty Ark-La-Tex fly tyers experienced at the Fred Hannie Monofilament Fly Tying workshop hosted by the NLFF.

Fred uses all sizes of monofilament to tie ultra-realistic flies. If you are interested in continuing to learn more, you can purchase an

autographed copy of his book "Fly Tying with Monofilament" at Gray Wolf Fly Shop.

Thanks to Scott for the following excerpt:

"Fred Hannie, a world renown artist in the universe of monofilament fly tying, conducted a kick-in-the-pants day of tying like we have never tied before. While the techniques seemed a bit daunting at first, Fred was an excellent teacher. In no time he had the participants wielding tiny 4 mm mono thread into a crawfish and an ant."

I agree with Scott that Fred is an excellent

teacher. I was pretty proud of the "fleeing crawfish" (see photos) that I tied by following his detailed instructions. While it is far from perfect - I had trouble with the claws



one example of the benefit of having and supporting an active fly fishing club. We all learned something new, many people made new friends, and we expanded our fly fishing knowledge. Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket to the "vise" drawing. We raised



as did most - I believe it would catch fish.

This workshop is just

enough funds to cover most of the cost of this event. If you have not participated in bonus fly fishing events, keep your eyes on the newsletter and pay attention at the monthly meetings. When you hear of a extra event, mark your calendar and attend. It is loads of fun and you just may walk away a little smarter. 🐟





**Special Event - April 8th - 9th**

# **Caddo Conclave 2016**

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

**April 8 & 9**

**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 provided by North Louisiana Fly  
Fishers at 8:00 a.m.**

**Speakers throughout the day  
Bring your fly tying equipment!  
Lunch provided by East Texas Fly Fishers**

**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 ETFF Mike Hawkins 903-736-1887  
Or NLFF Scott Irwin 318-742-2190**

## Fly of the Month - "The Venerable Wooly Bugger"

Ah yes, the venerable wooly bugger! Although any fly fisher worth their salt will have many on these in their box, this pattern doesn't get much attention these days. One must go all the way back to October of 1998 to find it as "Fly of the Month" on the IFFF's website. Even way back then, the article was entitled "The Lowly Wooly Bugger" as it has been around since the '70s. I feel it is a must have in everyone's arsenal of flies - in

many different colors and styles.

Why do I call it the "Venerable Wooly Bugger"? By definition, something that is venerable commands respect because of great age or impressive dignity and is worthy of reverence. That describes the wooly bugger perfectly!

### Simplicity:

Let's face it. For most tyers, the wooly bugger was the first fly that they learned to tie. Why? Because it is so easy to tie and a pattern that is extremely versatile in ap-

pearance and use. The wooly bugger can be tied in an almost endless combination of colors and it has been known to catch fish in warm-, cold-, and saltwater includ-



ing trout, salmon, walleye, bass, pike, steelhead, bluegill and even carp. Personally, I don't believe there is a fish that swims that can't be caught on a wooly bugger!

### Versatility:

The reason for such success is that the wooly bugger pattern, with new materials such as Krystal Flash and Chenille, can be refreshed and altered slightly to imitate baitfish, lizards, crustaceans, salamanders, leeches, wasps, nymphs and on and on by slight variations in the pat-

tern, size, materials, and colors. It can be fished just below the surface or deeper in the water column with the addition of lead wire wraps or bead-heads. Due to the

materials used, the wooly bugger has a graceful movement in the water and therefore doesn't require much input from the angler. Its own movement will make it look very much alive. Fish it very slow in a stream and use just a little more action in a lake, but not too much.

### Materials:

#### Hook:

**Thread:** UTC Ultra Thread 140

Denier- Your color choice.

**Wire:** I am using .020 lead wire

(Continued on page 6)



## Fly of the Month - "The Venerable Wooly Bugger" - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

for weight in this version.

Beads can also be used.

They are available in many colors for even more pattern variations. 4mm bead size.

**Tail:** Marabou, your color choice.  
Krystal Flash can also be tied into the tail.

**Body:** Chenille, your color choice.  
Saddle hackle for wrap.

I use chenille for ease of tying the body but you can use dubbing materials as well with or without saddle hackle. This just shows how versatile of a pattern the wooly bugger is. Also, don't use a down-turned eye hook (as I did in these pictures); it makes it difficult to form a head.

### Recipe:

Begin by wrapping wire around the hook shank.



Next, tie on your thread and cover the wire to lock it down.



Now tie in your marabou...



... and secure it down to the hook shank with your thread.



Tie in the tip of your saddle hackle just in front the tail. Make sure the tip is facing toward the hook eye.



Move the hackle out of the way and tie on a piece of chenille on top of where you tied in the hackle. Make sure the short end is facing the hook eye.



Wrap the chenille towards the hook eye with very close together wraps. Don't tighten down the wraps as you will compress the chenille loss some body to the fly.



Palmer the hackle to the hook eye. In other words, wrap the

(Continued on page 7)

## Fly of the Month - "The Venerable Woolly Bugger" - Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

hackle tightly but spaced so that the spine of the feather sets in between the chenille wraps.



If you didn't use a bead head, wrap the thread to form a head just behind the eye, whip finish, and apply a drop of cement on the head if you wish. You're done!

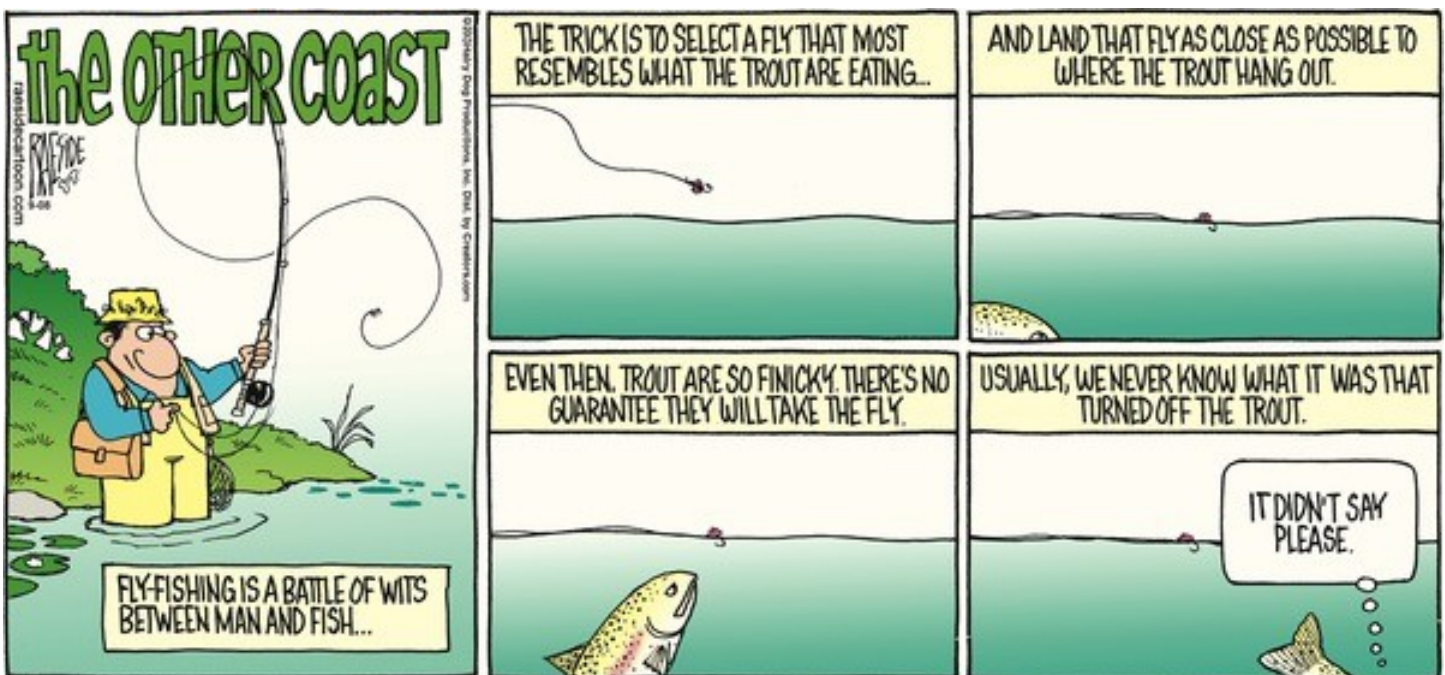
Try various color combinations of

hackle, marabou and chenille. Add in some flash of various colors and use different colors of tungsten beads for even more variations. Bright colors (pink, orange, etc.) in muddy waters and in the winter. Natural colors (olive-tan, grizzly-brown, etc.) in clear and/or calm waters.

Experiment with various combinations to find what works for you. I personally like a natural-colored fly with a or-

ange or yellow tungsten bead for most conditions. They can be tied in any size depending on what species you are trying to catch.

With a little practice, one could tie a dozen of these in an hour or less. So fill up your fly box with various combinations and go fishing! 🐟



**Special Event - July 23, 2016**

**The North Louisiana Fly Fishers  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Masters Series  
presents:**

**A Day with  
Bob Clouser  
“Bass Fishing, Top to Bottom”**

Saturday  
July 23,  
2016



Doors Open  
at 8:30am

Program  
9:00am -  
4:00pm

**Red River National Wildlife Refuge  
150 Eagle Bend Point  
Bossier City, LA 71112**

Breakfast and lunch is included in the ticket price of \$40.00

Early Bird Special: Purchase ticket before June 1st for only \$35.00



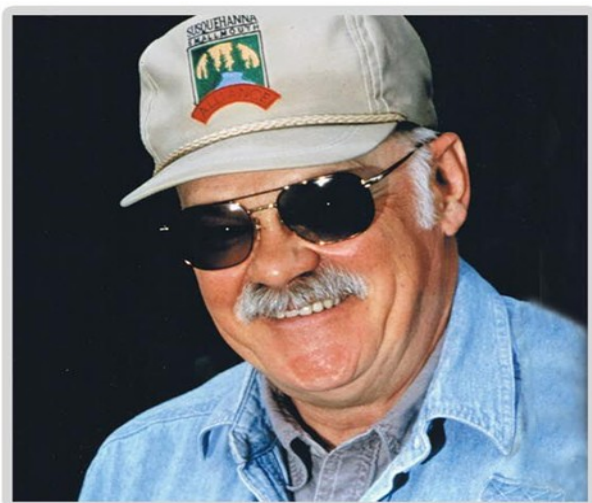
Special Event - July 23, 2016

# Bob Clouser presents

## “Bass Fishing, Top to Bottom”

- Casting with Bob at the boat dock on Lake Catherine by the Refuge
- Bass fishing presentation at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge
- Fly tying demonstration with Bob

Optional: At the conclusion of the presentation, those that are interested can meet at Ralph & Kacoo's Cajun Restaurant for dinner with Bob Clouser. (Dinner is not part of the event and is not included in the ticket price.)



### **INDUCTED LEGENDARY ANGLER**

**BOB CLOUSER**

2000 - Pennsylvania

Bob specializes in fly fishing for smallmouth bass on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. Bob's guests are urged to conserve the species by practicing "catch and release." This policy has earned him many conservation awards from fishing organizations such as, Trout Unlimited, the Susquehanna Smallmouth Alliance and the Dr. James Henshall Award from the Federation of Fly Fishers.

## NLFF's "Frozen Chosen 2016"

The 2016 version of the NLFF's Frozen Chosen was fantastic! Those that made it to the event (about 20 people including a few visitors) will surely be envied by those that couldn't make it.

The weather couldn't have been

cook the burgers and dogs. No need to huddle around a pit fire to keep warm. Stories of Friday evening's and Saturday morning's fishing were abundant. There is even a rumor that I, your club president and newsletter editor, went for a dip Friday evening.

hysterical laughter.

Here's what happened. I was moving back into the water at River Ridge after adding a nice rainbow to my creel, when I stumbled onto a loose boulder. Now when I hit a rock, I generally move that foot to



more perfect if God had put the order in himself! Mild days (around 70 degrees) made for great fishing and cool evenings (48 to 50 degrees) made the campfire extremely enjoyable. The S'mores and campfire tales were terrific!

At the Riverside Pavilion on Saturday, the only fire going was to

Well, I'm here to say that the rumor is true! If we still gave out the award for "Best in the Water", according to my nephew, Nick, I was a lock. He called it motorboatin'. He said it looked like I was plowing through the water like a motorboat! I will give Nick credit though - he made sure I was ok and up out of the water before he broke out into

the side before stepping down. As normal, when I hit the rock, I moved my foot to the side and wouldn't you know it - I hit another rock! Immediately, my foot went down even to where it was before but momentum had already carried my body past my feet. The motor-

*(Continued on page 11)*



## NLFF's "Frozen Chosen 2016" - Cont.

(Continued from page 10)

boatin' was on! I plowed forward for what seemed like four or five steps trying to get my feet under me. Then, suddenly, it dawned on me that I was heading for deep water! I decided to cut my losses and just rolled onto my left side into the water. Nick was in quick pursuit but I was able to get my feet under me and stand up. I here "are you ok" followed by the hysterical laughter!

Fortunately, I didn't get my head wet and got up quick. That, along with the waist belt on my waders being tight, prevented me from getting soak through and through. I was damp but no squishing was going on. It was a very warm Friday evening and the fish were really biting so I undauntedly returned to fishing. Only when the sun started going down and there was just enough of a breeze for evaporative cooling to set in did I start

getting chilly and that was the end of that fishing day!

The fishing was outstanding for the weekend. Everyone caught lots of fish, especially the ones that

us for a long time. I moved as close as I could to snap the picture before he flew. Let me tell you, when he took flight by swooping down towards the river with full out-



came early. The fishing tapered off towards Sunday but started off fabulous on Friday after the high water from generation subsided.

The resident eagle pair was seen cruising the skies over the river by many during the weekend. Apparently the fishing was good for them too! I don't think I have ever seen as much of them as I did during this trip. Nick and I even caught this one no doubt comparing his fishing technique to ours. He sat and watch

stretched wings before rising skyward was one of the most impressive things I have ever seen!

To those that joined us at this year's Frozen Chosen, thanks for coming! Everyone had a wonderful time. Good fishing, good food, good people and beautiful scenery makes for an annual event worthy of attendance. For those that couldn't make it, make plans now to join us next year on the last weekend of January. 🐟



## Kisatchie Bayou - A Secret North Louisiana Treasure

By Frank Harmon

The Kisatchie National Forest is comprised of 5 districts encompassing more than 640,000 acres. The Kisatchie district, just southwest of Natchitoches, LA., has flowing through it a pristine stream, known as Kisatchie Bayou. This stream flows over bedrock, much like the streams to our north which are located in the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains of Arkansas.

My introduction to this stream was during my search on the internet for places to fly fish in Louisiana. After reading about this unique Louisiana waterway, I inquired about access to the area with the Kisatchie Ranger District at 229 Dogwood Park Rd, Provencal, LA 71468. 318-472-3590. Within a week, they sent maps, access points, rules and regulations, and camping and cabin information. Armed with this, I was off to explore. This was in the spring of 2010.

Headed down La Hwy 117, one need only to take a left-hand turn



onto one of several parish roads to enter the Kisatchie National Forest. I immediately encountered a flock of 20 wild turkeys in the middle of the road, and once they meandered across, I continued on to what I had deemed a good start-

ing point for an exploratory fishing expedition. Armed with a 2 wt, 7 1'2 ft rod, I made my way down to the waters edge, and saw first hand that Louisiana really did have

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## Kisatchie Bayou - Cont.


(Continued from page 12)

crystal clear water that flowed and gurgled over gravel bars, small falls, and deep pools.

The warm weather allowed for wet wading, and the fishing was excellent, with small bass, bream, sunfish, and creek chubs all taken. I've been back numerous times since, and each trip presents a new adventure. Cell phone reception is almost non-existent in this area,



which means no one bothers you while fishing. Summer time can get a little crowded near the camp grounds, but looking at the maps, and being willing to take a little hike will assure you of a totally isolated day of fishing, where you will not see another human being.

Contact the ranger station, get your maps, and plan an  adventure.



## NLFF Calendar



**Feb 9th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. This is our annual “Chili and Flies” meeting. Don’t miss out!

**Feb 12th - 14th: “14th Ever Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival”.** This event, hosted by Jeff Guerin, is a celebration of our “home waters” - the Little Missouri River. See entry on next page under Upcoming Events for more details.

**Feb 18th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Steve Oliver will be tying “Todd’s Wiggle Minnow”.

**Feb 23rd: NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

**Mar 8th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Don Lawler will present “Dollar Store Fly Tying - Materials of Opportunity”. This should be a ‘must see’.

**Mar 17th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Scott Irwin will be tying a woven fly called the “Cajun Tickler”.

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

**Apr 8th - 9th: “7th Annual Caddo Conclave”.** Hosted by the East Texas Fly Fishers and the North Louisiana Fly Fishers. Caddo Lake State Park, Karnack, TX. Friday potluck dinner 5:00pm. Saturday breakfast 8:00am. Speakers throughout the day. See advertisement on page 4 of this issue.

**Apr 30th: “Spring Thaw 2016”.** Date has been set. More details to come in the next issue of *The Fly Line*.



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



## Upcoming Events

**Feb 12th - 14th: "14th Ever Little Missouri Fly Fishing Festival"**. A celebration of trout fishing on the Little Missouri River. Community Center, Murfreesboro, AR. Friday evening: gumbo and tying. Saturday: Programs, fly tying, exhibits, vendors, casting, "State of the River" program and more. Cost: \$5.00 per person. For more info, see [www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff-festival.html](http://www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff-festival.html) or contact Jeff Guerin at 870-210-3681.

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

**Mar 5th: "2016 Natchitoches 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](http://www.redriverfishingexpo.com) for more information.

**Mar 12th: "Fly Fish Texas"** hosted by Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Athens, TX. The annual Fly Fish Texas event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is designed to teach everything from tying a fly to catching a fish in one day. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center. For a seminar and activities schedule, video and speaker biographies, visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc) and click on the "Fly Fish Texas" link. Admission: \$10.00 adults

**Mar 12th: "25th Annual Red Stick Day"** hosted by Red Stick Fly Fishers. A celebration of fly fishing, featuring various programs, exhibits, and demos. LDWF Waddill Outdoors Center, 4141 n. Flannery Rd. Baton Rouge, LA. 8:30am - 3:30pm. Free admission and refreshments with a nominal cost for lunch.

**Apr 8th - 9th: "7th Annual Caddo Conclave"**. Hosted by the East Texas Fly Fishers and the North Louisiana Fly Fishers. Caddo Lake State Park, Karnack, TX. Friday potluck dinner 5:00pm. Saturday breakfast 8:00am. Speakers throughout the day. See advertisement on page 4 of this issue.

**Apr 30th: "Spring Thaw 2016"**. Date has been set. More details to come in the next issue of *The Fly Line*.

**Jul 23rd: "NLFF Masters Series Presents A Day with Bob Clouser"**. Come spend a day with the legendary fly tier. See advertisement on pages 8 and 9 of this issue.

### North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

P.O. Box 29531

Shreveport, LA 71149

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!