

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

May 2016

Volume 2, Issue 5



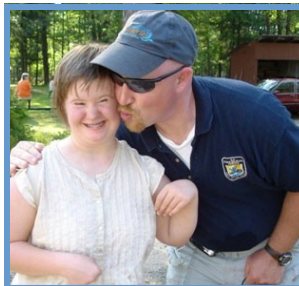
North Louisiana Fly Fishers

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May Meeting Topic

Right now, as you read this article, a little shell rests on the bottom of a lake. There is suddenly a shudder and a shake... now there are two little critters resting on the bottom of the lake... then four, eight, now sixteen. The little critters are a special kind of Mussel that invaded our tea stained Louisiana waters about 20 years ago.



The reproductive habits of this crusty critter went largely unnoticed. That was until Tony Brady arrived on the scene. Tony is one of the worlds most renowned Mussel Propagation Biologist in the nation. Once thought of as simply a nuisance, Tony began to understand that these little creatures are much more complex. True, they have some bad characteristics, but they also serve a useful purpose. One amazing fact of this little blip of life is that trout love to

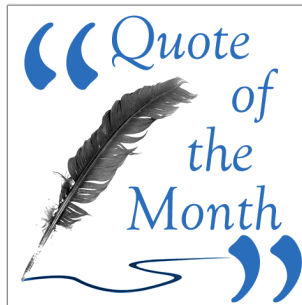
munch down on them. Tony, an avid fly fisherman, even developed his own Mussel fly, and will tie one at our meeting. Come to the Tuesday May 10th meeting at 6:00 p.m. to discover the mystery of the amazing Mussel. You will witness a rare and seldom viewed video of actual Mussel propagation taking place.

Tony Brady is traveling from Natchitoches to share the story of the Louisiana Mussel with us. Meanwhile that little creature continues to rest on the bottom of the lake and the propagation never ends... now there are 16 mus-sels... wait, 32... 64... 128... 

~ Scott Irwin

Editor's Note: If the photo piques your interest, google Tony Brady Biologist and read about this amazing person.

"Some go to church and think about fishing, others go fishing and think about God."
~Tony Blake



April Meeting Recap

Dirk Burton's presentation on the Atchafalaya Basin was fantastic! I can't wait to plan a kayak fishing trip to this area.

The Atchafalaya Basin is the largest wetland and swamp in the United States. Located in south central Louisiana, it is a combination of wetlands and river delta area where the Atchafalaya River and the Gulf of Mexico meet.

The basin is close enough




to Shreveport for a long day trip but is more suited for an overnight stay. Heck, take a camper and make a weekend out of it.

Bass, bream, crappie, and several other species are ready to be caught on the fly from a kayak. Dirk showed us several places that are not accessible by a power boat but are perfectly accessible by a kayak or similar craft.

If you don't fish, a paddle trip would be a wonderful alternative to fishing as the scenery is gorgeous. Wild birds and four-legged animals are abundant making a



camera a great alternative to a fly rod.

So get with a buddy (don't go alone and take a GPS) and plan a trip to the Atchafalaya Basin to see what Louisiana has to offer in the wild. After all, this is the heart of the Sportsman's Paradise. 

2016 NLFF Executive Board

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Member at Large	Vacant		

Largest Freshwater Fish on a Fly Rod?

Mike Sadar may have landed the largest freshwater fish ever caught on a fly rod. The guide estimated this arapaima to be around 300 pounds! It was caught in the Amazon on a Wright & McGill 12Wt fly rod and Wright & McGill Sabalos Reel.



7th Annual Caddo Conclave

Submitted by Tom Bullock

The 2016 Caddo Conclave was held at the Texas Caddo Lake State Park April 8-9. The activities started Friday night with unloading material needed for the event, set-up then the normal pot luck dinner.

The dinner was followed by several fly tiers demonstrating their latest creations. The highlight of the evening was a demonstration by Dan Orr.

Dan started his fly fishing and tying in Florida with salt water fishing and flies, then moved north to fish the cold waters for trout. He presently guides at the Broken

Bow Fly Shop on the Lower Mountain Fork River. Dan demonstrated his unique methods of tying large streamers to be used for large trout and several warm- and salt-water species.

Saturday morning started with

the North Louisiana Fly Fisher's breakfast burritos which were introduced by Frank Harmon. Frank was out of town, but furnished his equipment and instructions which worked great. The programs started about 10:00 AM and continued throughout the day. The programs included:

- How To Build a Furled Leader : by Mike Hawkins with a full demonstration and instructions.

Lawler. Lessons on finding inexpensive materials to tie quality flies.

Intermingled with the programs was a day of fly tying. Scott Irwin provided a neat water tank that showed how flies moved through the water. Outside there were demonstrations by various vendors. Jackson Kayak brought several new fishing kayaks and TFO had their usual collection of their latest

fly fishing rods for demonstration and casting instruction.

Lunch was furnished by the East Texas Fly Fishers and Linda Bethea of NLFF. Linda did her Dutch oven cooking. Bud spent the afternoon recovering from back injuries



- Where to Fish the Lower Mt. Fork River by Eddie Brister.
- Choosing the Right Thread by Steve Oliver. A lesson on various threads for various applications.
- Dollar Store Fly Tying By Don

caused by unloading the several hundred pounds of cast iron cookware Linda used for her cooking. The day ended with the sharing of many prizes, raffles of more prizes, quality fly tying equipment and a donated TFO rod.





Dan Orr Tying Large Articulated Streamers



One of Dan Orr's Articulated Streamers



Above 3 Pictures: Mike Hawkins Demonstrating His
Homemade Furled Leader Machine

2016 "Spring Thaw"

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers will be holding our "Spring Thaw" on June 11th. This annual event features good times, good fishing, and good food. This year it will be held at Judy and Johnny Thomas's property in Plain Dealing north of Bossier City. Gathering will start at around 10:00 am with the fishers arriving around daybreak.

On the agenda this year is a BBQ picnic. This is a very similar

format to the "Frozen Chosen". The club will provide the main course and drinks. We ask each attendee to bring a side dish. Lunch will be served around 1:00 pm.

For those that wish to fish, there is a 3-acre pond on site that has bream, bass, crappie, and catfish. So bring your gear and fish before lunch, eat and then BS with everyone!

The location is 28 miles north of I-

220 and Benton Rd.

From the intersection of I-220 and LA-3/Benton Rd, head North for 16.5 miles.

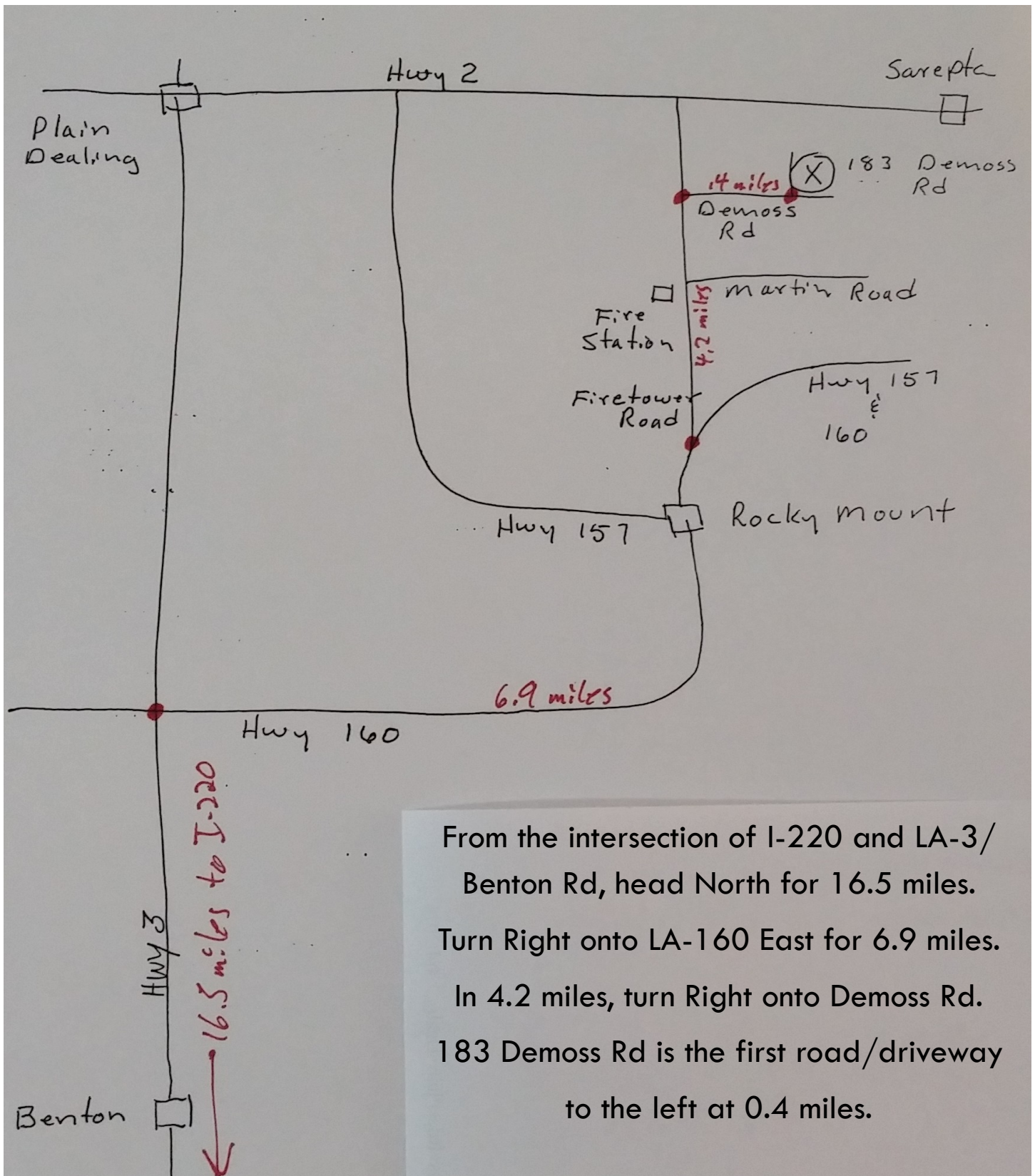
Turn Right onto LA-160 East for 6.9 miles.

In 4.2 miles, turn Right onto Demoss Rd.

183 Demoss Rd is the first driveway to the left at 0.4 miles.



2016 Spring Thaw Directions



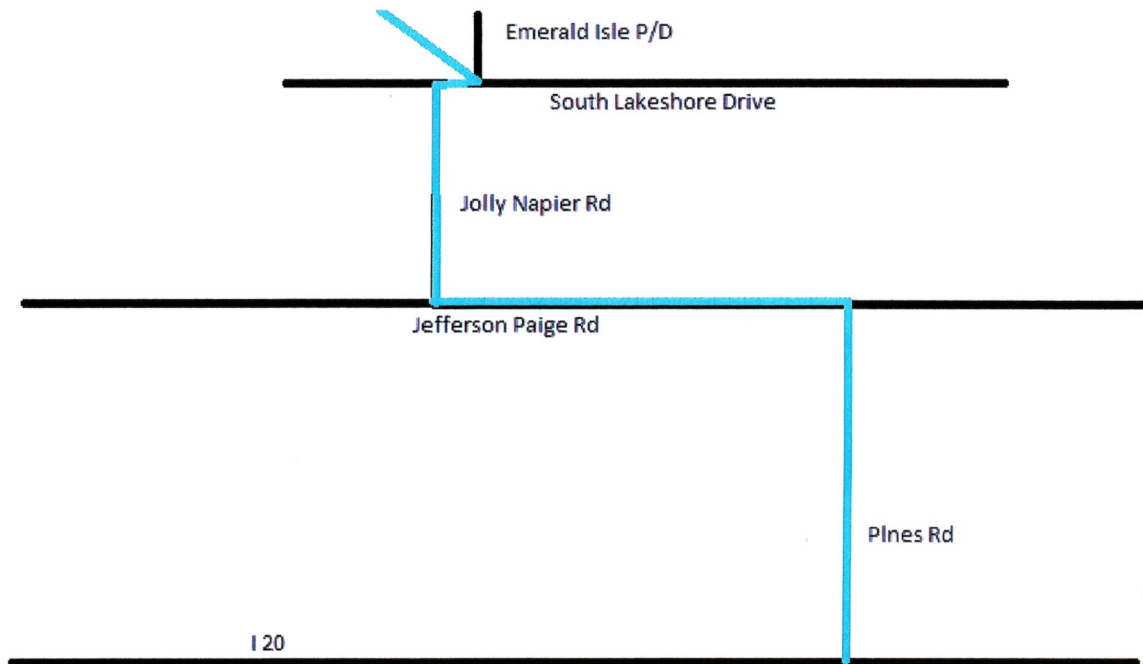
Kayaks on the Cross

On May 21st, kayakers from the NLFF and Bayou Pirates will get together for a day of fishing the upper end of Cross Lake in Shreveport. Any and all other kayakers are welcome to join us.

We have been graciously al-

lowed the use of a private boat dock and pier. This is an excellent place to launch with access to some very fishable water. For those club members who don't kayak, there will be plenty of room to fish from the pier and/or bank. This is a very

impromptu event. Arrive anytime around daybreak and leave when you are ready. The NLFF will provide drinks and Linda Bethea will be providing the food. See Cross Lake Reel Recovery Benefit below.



Directions: From I-20, go North on Pines Road (exit 8) for 2 miles, turn left on Jefferson Paige Rd, go about 2.6 miles, turn right on Jolly Napier Rd, go about 1.5 miles, turn right on South Lakeshore Dr and go about 500 feet, turn left on Emerald Isle P/D (private drive) and immediately turn left across the grass.



Cross Lake Reel Recovery Benefit

On May 21st, along with the Kayaks on the Cross, NLFF club member Linda Bethea will be demonstrating Dutch oven cooking and raising money for an extremely good cause - Reel Recovery. This

demonstration will be held at the event location above. See map and *Kayaks on the Cross*, above.

Linda will demonstrate the art of Dutch oven cooking and then we will get to enjoy the rewards of her

efforts. While there is no charge for this, Linda will be accepting donations of which 100% of the proceeds will go to Reel Recovery.

(Continued on page 9)

Cross Lake Reel Recovery Benefit - Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

Linda has quite a collection of Dutch oven pots and is looking forward to the Cross Lake Reel Recovery Benefit on May 21st. "I love Dutch oven cooking", says Linda. "I will be there bright and early to cook and demonstrate Dutch oven cookery. I assure you, no one will leave hungry or with questions about Dutch oven cooking. The event is free, but you will have the opportunity to contribute to Reel Recovery, should you choose. Contributions are strictly voluntary. Please come and enjoy!"

I couldn't have said it any better myself.



Special Event - July 23, 2016



**The North Louisiana Fly Fishers
4th Annual Masters Series
presents:**

A Day with Bob Clouser



Only A Few Seats Left!

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

Tickets are \$40.00 each
Early Bird Special - \$35.00 if purchased before June 1st
Seating is limited so get your tickets now!

**The North Louisiana Fly Fishers would like to thank these supporters
for sponsoring the NLFF's 4th Annual Masters Series.**



**CONTRABAND
FLY CASTERS**



GRAY WOLF FLY SHOP

Kisatchie Fly Fishers



www.EastTexasFlyFishers.org

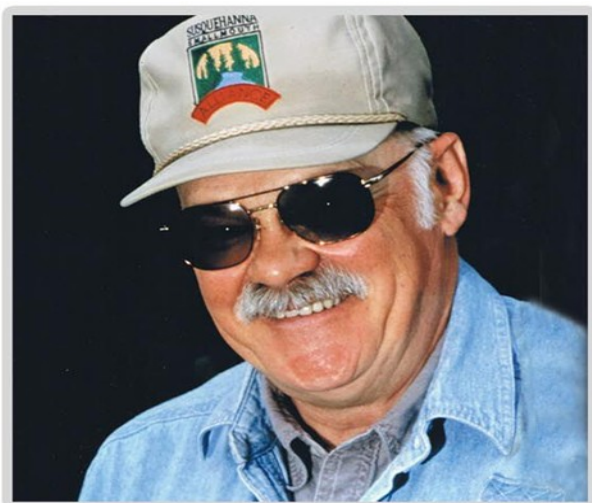
Special Event - July 23, 2016

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.

Fly of the Month - Streamers

Streamer flies, a must for every fly box. There are hundreds - maybe even thousands of different variations of the streamer fly. From the first fly most of use learned to tie, a wooly bugger or Clouser minnow, to the more exotic looking one's that are suitable for framing, streamers have been a deadly weapon in every fly fishers arsenal.

nal.

While this month's fly of the month at Bass Pro in Bossier City will be a streamer, which particular variety that Tom Bullock will tie is up to him. Next month, Bud Bethea will build upon what we learn and tie an articulated streamer.

While some streamers like the

wooly bugger are designed to mimic a wide range of things a fishes diet, others are designed to mimic very specific ones. Enjoy these pictures of various streamers and we'll see you for Fly Tying at Bass Pro on May 19th. This will be the perfect opportunity to tie a fly that you can use at the Kayaks on the Cross event on May 21st!



THE GREAT PATTERNS

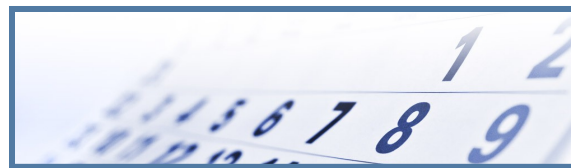
STREAMERS

PATIERNS	MATCHES	WHERE TO FISH	SPECIES
Deceivers	baitfish	saltwater	saltwater fish
Clouser Minnow	baitfish	rivers, lakes, saltwater	trout, bass, panfish, saltwater fish
Muddler Minnow	sculpin	rivers, lakes	trout, bass, panfish
Zonker	baitfish		
Bucktails	baitfish		
Marabou Leech	leeches		
Woolly Bugger	baitfish , leeches		
Girdlebug	baitfish		

The best way to fish a streamer is to make it imitate a wounded or struggling minnow or baitfish. You want to make the fly swim and twitch as if it is having trouble controlling its movements. Often adding a split-shot an inch or two above the fly can improve the action of the fly and help get it down near the bottom where the large fish expect to see injured baitfish.

Fly of the Month - Streamers - Cont.



NLFF Calendar

May 10th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Biologist Tony Brady will discuss the good, the bad and the doing the ugly with mussels. They are not as all bad as you think!

May 19th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Streamers Part 1. Tom Bullock will be tying a streamer and discussing George Daniels new book, *Strip Set*.

May 21st: Kayaks on the Cross. Fishing Cross Lake by kayak. Launch and fish the upper end of Cross Lake. Linda Bethea will be Dutch oven cooking and accepting donations for Heroes on the Water. Join us for Kayaking, fishing and sampling. Come help her raise money for a worthy cause.

May 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.

Jun 14th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. John Williams from Pack & Paddle will present fishing the Louisiana marsh for Speckled Trout and Redfish.

Jun 16th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Streamers Part 2. Building on last month's streamer fly, Bud Bethea will be tying an articulated streamer.

Jun 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.

Jul 12th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Ben Woodard, anew fly fishing guide in south Arkansas will speak on Smallmouth Bass fishing in a variety of south Arkansas waters.

Jul 21st: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Steve Oliver is tying a foam popper. This is a great summertime pattern in the early mornings and late evening.

Jul 23rd: NLFF Masters Series - A Day with Bob Clouser. Bob will be presenting "Bass Fishing, Top to Bottom". As well as his program, there will be a casting and tying demonstration by Bob. Although not included in the program, there will be an optional dinner with Bob at Ralph & Kacoo's Cajun Restaurant after the programs conclusion. Come visit with a fly fishing legend!

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

Upcoming Events

May 7th: "7th Annual Bass on the Fly Tournament" A catch/photo/release (CPR) tournament exclusively for fly fishing. Proceeds support Reel Recovery and the Texas Council of the IFFF. Categories: Club, Boat, and Non-Boat (Kayak, Canoe, Bank, Float Tube, etc.). Lake Fork Marina, Lake Fork, Texas. 6am to 2pm. For more info, go to www.bassonthefly.org.

May 13th - 14th: "15th Annual Smallmouth Rendezvous & Fly Tying Extravaganza" hosted by the North-eastern Oklahoma Fly Fishing Club and Native Women Fly Fishers. First Baptist Church, 201 Commercial Rd, Tahlequah, OK. 9am - 4pm daily. Free admission. For more info, go to www.neokflyfishers.org or call Walter Davis 918-360-2085 or Larry Stinnett 918-931-0940.

Jun 10th - 12th: "Southern Sportsmans Festival and Expo" features seminars, kayak demos, exhibits, indoor archery and more! Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd, Westwego, LA. 2-8pm Fri, 10-8pm Sat, 10-6pm Sun. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 under 16, under 7 is free, 3-day pass is \$15.

Jun 24th - 26th: "Grand Isle Weekend" hosted by the Red Stick Fly Fishers. Blue Dolphin Inn, Grand Isle, LA. A weekend of surf, marsh, and inshore fishing the 'Cajun Bahamas' with fly fishers from all over Louisiana and Mississippi. For more info, go to www.rsff.org.

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

Aug 26th - 27th: "Ride the Bull 7" World's Largest Kayak Fishing Tournament. Hosted by Calmwater Charters and CCA. Bridgeside Marina, Grand Isle, LA. Friday - Captain's Dinner and Calmwater Film Festival starts at 7pm. Saturday - Tournament and Awards Ceremony. For more information and complete rules see www.calmwatercharter.net/ridethebull/index.html.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

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Shreveport, LA 71149

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!