

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

July 2016

Volume 2, Issue 7



## July Meeting Topic

Benjamin Woodard, a guide on southern Arkansas rivers and streams, will be our guest speak on July 12. Ben will discuss the best places to fish for Small-mouth bass. An expert on southern Arkansas waters, Ben will discuss the best places to fish on the Cossatot, Little Missouri, and Caddo Rivers. If time al-



lows, he will touch on some lakes also. Come at 6:00 pm to meet Ben and ob-

serve him tie some of his secret small-mouth flies. ~ Scott Irwin

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## \*\*\* Notice \*\*\*

NLFF club members please add the club email address to your address book. Otherwise, you might not receive some club emails. The address is:

[nlffclub@gmail.com](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com)

*"O, sir, doubt not that Angling is an art; is it not an art to deceive a trout with an artificial fly?"*

~Isaak Walton



## June Meeting Recap

An hour long trip to San Juan River- Wait... it was just a meeting! Wow, I feel like I have been to the San Juan river. June's NLFF meeting was one of those priceless meetings. It was one where our speaker, Jerry Driskill revealed all he knew about the San Juan in a calculated and precise manner. This is what the NLFF is all about, helping you have a successful fishing trip. And if you are just too busy to head off on a long journey, this little evening was a true escape from life's demands,



if only for a few hours. If you attended this meeting, you knew the best places to fish, where to stay,

the cost of hotels and fishing licenses, the flies to use, where to wade fish, where to put in for a float trip. You knew the size of rods and lines to use and the places where danger lurked. In today's high tech world, Jerry was able to show us Google maps of where to fish, down to rocks to hide behind and bends and curves in the river that provide fantastic trout habitat. I know one thing for sure, the San Juan is on my bucket list of places to visit.



~ Scott Irwin

### 2016 NLFF Executive Board

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Member at Large	Vacant		

## Teaching Fly Tying to Kids: Where to Begin?

By Captain Mark Dysinger

Many of us who tie flies and have children would love to see them take up the hobby. If you aren't a parent, maybe you have some young relatives or know some local youngsters who have shown an interest in fly tying. Time spent tying with kids can be fun, productive, and higher quality than most people think. Before you go down that road, here are a handful of things to keep in mind.

### **Keep it simple.**

We're not going to tie fully dressed salmon flies here. By keeping the patterns simple, children can stay focused longer and have a greater appreciation for the fly building craft. Kids don't learn math by starting with calculus, so reflect on that principle when starting to teach kids how to tie flies.

Many youngsters enjoy the process of learning tying techniques that can broadly apply to many patterns. Just wrapping thread on the hook can be a good time for little newbies at the vise. As for material and color selection, well, that can go on for some time and be quite amusing.

### **Start with large patterns.**

In the interest of being able to properly gauge what's actually being tied to the hook, I advise that children start by tying larger flies. This is for the benefit of both the teacher and the pupil. It's much

easier to view the progress of a fly under construction when all ingredients are readily seen during the process, as well as being seen after the fly is complete. More advanced notions such as color blending, proportion, sparseness, and others are also more obvious when tied large.

As an added feature, I often used brightly colored thread that need not match the pattern being tied so a youngster can see the path of construction. Who cares if the colors don't match? Your student won't, and neither will most fish.

### **Hands-on time matters.**

Everything is theory until put into practice. Fly tying is no different. Yes, showing technique is beneficial, but until the rubber hits the road and rookies start using the vise and tools themselves, they really won't grow. Only watching and not actively participating can be discouraging to students regardless of age.

Of special note when teaching fly tying to children are a few safety measures, particularly when dealing with scissors and hook points. Good tying scissors are razor sharp and their use with young ones should be supervised. Hook points are an always present hazard for any fly dresser, but children can be especially unaware. My solution is to stick a pencil

eraser onto the hook point and tell the student why it's there and what could happen if it wasn't. With some common sense, kids can have fun cranking out flies at the vise without too much risk.

### **Manage the expectations.**

Don't push too hard. Remember, kids who are learning to tie flies are *kids*. It doesn't matter whether or not the flies they tie would actually catch fish. Let them be creative with material selection and design. I've let my daughter use many fly tying materials for other arts and crafts projects because this lets her become more familiar with them and what they can do.

Fly tying is an activity that should be fun, not stressful with unreasonable goals. Every child is different, and because of that each will get something a little different from tying flies.

Above all, have fun!



About Captain Mark Dysinger:

Mark is the owner of Flyosophy Charters. He's located on the Connecticut coast and guides in the nearby waters of Long Island Sound, where he specializes in the Northeast slam of striped bass, bluefish, and false albacore. Mark is a recognized authority on fly fishing for northern pike. His works have appeared in numerous online and print publications, and he has contributed to a handful of books. Mark is a regular fixture at the Northeast fly fishing shows, where he readily shares fly tying tips and fishing strategies. His fishing activities can be followed on the Flyosophy Charters Facebook and Instagram.

**Special Event - July 23, 2016**



**The North Louisiana Fly Fishers  
4<sup>th</sup> 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!

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



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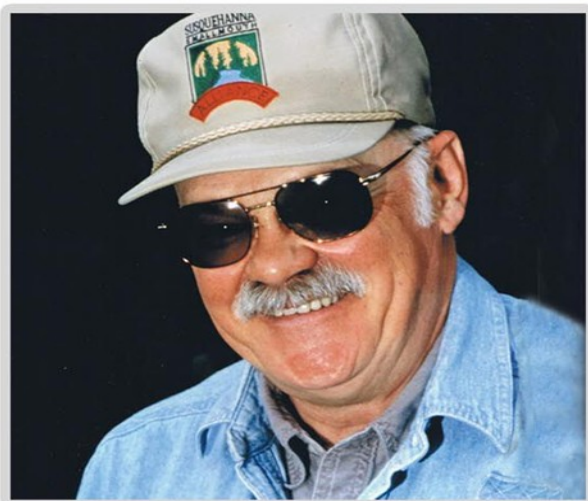
Special Event - July 23, 2016

# 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.

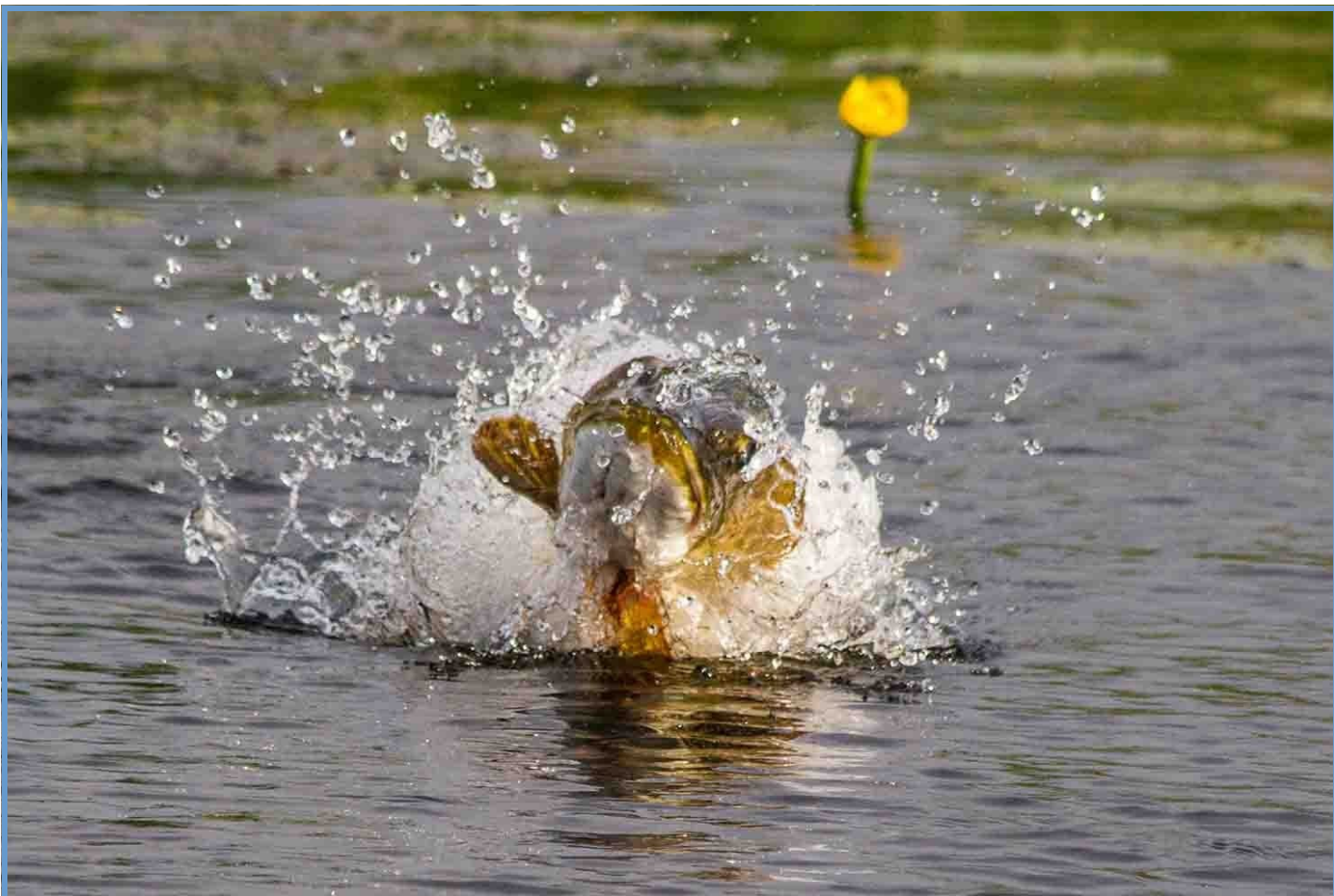
## Fly of the Month - Poppers

When the weather turns hot during the summer months, it can be unbearable to some to get out to fish. Early mornings and late evenings seem to be the best time for us to get out to the water. The fish

days of summer.

Many fly fishers don't fish with poppers because of their size they can be difficult to cast. And the technique for fishing them is a little different also. But the reward of a

First, the cast. Poppers are actually a dry fly and one of the hardest to cast because they are usually heavy and bulky and have more wind resistance. Longer rods are especially suited for poppers.



A Pike explodes through the surface to grab a popper.

move to the top of the water column to feed when the sun is not bearing down on the surface (or us for that matter). And with the right technique, you can have a great day of fishing during the long hot

fish exploding on your popper as opposed to just sucking down a dry fly from the surface really gets the heart pumping! To effectively fish a popper, just remember to "sit and twitch". I will explain what I mean by this in a moment.

Keeping the rod pointed at your fly and use the surface tension to load the rod when you quickly snap the rod up and back to your stop position - this movement being the

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Fly of the Month - Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

engine of the cast. Then steadily and smoothly come forward, directing the fly to your desired location (the steering wheel).

Now, back to the “sit and twitch”. This could easily be referred to as “twitch and sit” but “sit” is first in the phrase because it is the most important. After the popper lands at your desired location, let it sit. How long?

That can vary but it should be allowed to sit for much longer than you think. A well-known fly fisherman and avid bass angler, Dave Whitlock says, “Just don’t let your hook rust”. Seriously though, let it sit for 25-30 seconds. There is no hard and fast rule, but believe me it should be longer than you are typically willing to let it.

For the “twitch”, that long fly rod comes in handy again. Just give the rod tip a quick twitch upward, not enough to lift the fly out of the water. This will give the popper the perfect action and just the right amount of it. Remember to strip in the slack line created during this



“twitch”. You may be thinking, “can’t I just strip the line to give action to the popper and keep my slack to a minimum at the same time?” While this will work, it makes

the popper p l o w deeper in the surface and doesn’t give it quite the same type of action.

After each twitch, let the popper sit. Most popper strikes will come

while the popper is still. Think of fishing with a plastic worm or other jerk bait. You jerk it and then let it sink. Most strikes come during this pause. Too many repetitive movements will actually turn the fish off. With bass in particular, you want your popper to look as vulnerable as possible. That means fewer movements.

This month at Bass Pro in Bossier City, Steve Oliver will be tying a popper pattern. Come join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, July 21st. This is sure to be a great pattern for the hot days of summer. 





## NLFF Calendar



**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, a new 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 program's conclusion. Come visit with a fly fishing legend!

**Jul 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.

**Aug 9th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm.

**Aug 18th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Fly and tyer to be determined.

**Aug 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.

**Sept 13th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm.

**Sep 23rd: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Fly and tyer to be determined.

**Sep 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.

**Oct 11th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm.

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



## Upcoming Events

**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 20th: "12th Contraband Fly Fishing Expo"**. Moss Bluff United Methodist Church. 8:30am - 4:00pm. FREE Admission. Fly Tying, Casting Demos, Lure Exhibits, Auctions / Raffles, Food and Refreshments, Equipment Displays and more! Public invited. For more details, go to [www.contrabandflycasters.net](http://www.contrabandflycasters.net) or contact Warren Landry (337) 853-7755.

**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](http://www.calmwatercharter.net/ridethebull/index.html).

**Sep 8th - 10th: "2016 Destination Texas Fly Fishing Expo"**. Hosted by the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) Texas Council. Friday-Sunday, September 8-10, 2016, Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX. More details forthcoming. Go to [www.txflyfishexpo.com](http://www.txflyfishexpo.com) or [www.texascounciliff.org](http://www.texascounciliff.org)

**Sep 16th - 18th: "IFFF Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair"**. Hosted by the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) Gulf Coast Council. Friday-Sunday, September 16-18, 2016, Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair September 16-17, 2016, Civic Center, Ocean Springs, MS. In addition to programs, fly tying demonstrations, casting classes and workshops, there's also a Friday evening casual dinner at the beach with awards, drinks, food, and an auction. On Saturday morning, there's a breakfast at the Gulf Coast Research Lab. Here's the best part - admission is FREE and most of the activities are FREE. Folks can register online for some of the workshops, For more info, go to [www.gulfcoastfff.org](http://www.gulfcoastfff.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](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!