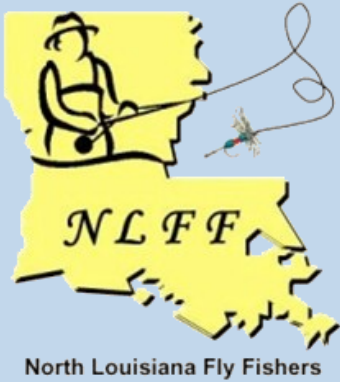


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

September 2016 Volume 2, Issue 9



September Meeting Topic


Probably the hottest written material in the fly fishing community today is George Daniel's latest book *Strip-Set*, followed closely by his first book, *Dynamic Nymphing* and his many magazine articles. This month's meeting will be a presentation by Tom Bullock on the book *Strip-Set*.

The primary teaching of this book is that small to medium fish, the normal fish we catch, eat bugs and readily take our smaller flies. However, big fish also eat other fish and small mammals like mice, and will readily take our larger streamers and small mammal imitations. George also discusses in great detail the habits of these large

fish and where to fish for them in both their resting and feeding areas.

These large fish often hold and rest in deep holes, undercuts, pocket water, under logs, etc. during the day and can be successfully fished using standard Euro-Nymphing methods. He teaches that these large fish start to feed aggressively in the late evening, at night and around day-break. George shows how to use fluorescent leaders and glow in the dark fly lines to fish at night and low light conditions.



Come out and get a preview of what we can expect from George Daniel at next year's Masters Series. Tom will tie both Euro Nymphs and large streamers during the 6:00 PM social hour. 

*** Notice ***

This month, we are accepting nominations for club officers and board members. All nominations are due by the October regular meeting with a club vote due at the November banquet. Also, see page 3 for proposed Bylaw changes that will be voted on at this month's meeting.

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"To go fishing is a pleasure, and to catch fish is a bonus."

~Harry Elliot "Hek" Klein



August Meeting Recap

Last month, we had the pleasure of having Richard Ramsey talk to our club about trout fishing on the White and Norfolk rivers in Northern Arkansas where he guides, lectures and teaches. He was informative, entertaining and, at times, comical!

Being 84 years old, imagine the knowledge of fly fishing those two rivers for almost 3/4 of a century that he has accumulated. He still ties his own flies for the White and Norfolk rivers in various sizes all the way down to size 26! In fact, part his income is from selling his flies. The cost of his flies- \$1.00 each. I picked up quite a few in preparation for a trip to the Norfolk at the end of October. Having someone else tie those small flies for me was a godsend and a bargain to boot at only \$1 each!

If you attended the August meeting, you saw what a regional gem of a fly fisher-



Left: One of Richard Ramsey's size 16 "Christmas Tree" flies next to a grain of rice. Above: Some of his "larger flies".

man that is Richard. If you didn't, maybe you will be lucky enough to run into him

sometime in the future on the White or Norfolk river.



2016 NLFF Executive Board

President	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Bullock	318-393-7729	twbullock@aol.com
Secretary	TBD		
A/V & Technical	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Conservation	Chris Pierce	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Membership	Steve Oliver	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Social Media	Steve Oliver	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Programs Director	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Webmaster	Steve Oliver	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Member at Large	Thomas (Bud) Bethea	318-464-5104	thomasbethea@hotmail.com
Member at Large	Brett Rowell	318-207-6097	brett@brownbuilders.com
Member at Large	Chris Pierce	318-347-0494	cpierce@hotmail.com

Updating Our Bylaws

In keeping with the NLFF's Bylaws, Article 11 states that the current Bylaws are to be reviewed and updated on an annual or as needed basis. The NLFF Executive Committee has performed this review and recommends the following changes:

- Throughout the Bylaws, change committee chair to committee director to conform all committee leaders to the same title.
- The Treasurer will only keep expenditure receipts until the next successful bank reconciliation.
- Absentee ballots are not to be used for any event that is to be judged.
- Drop two classes of memberships- Associate and Corporate/Sponsor.
- Dues for new members joining after July 1 will no longer be prorated. Instead, any new member joining on or after September 1 will have their membership valid until the end of the following year. Example, a new member joins on October 6, 2016 their membership will expire on December 31, 2017.
- Drop the \$5.00 membership discount for being an IFFF member.
- Add 3 year option for Individual membership class at \$75- a savings of \$15 off the standard 1 year Individual membership.
- Add 3 year option for Family membership class at \$90- a savings of \$15 off the standard 1 year Family membership.

Come out to the meeting and vote on these proposed changes to our Bylaws. Also, we will be voting on a resolution to allow Rex White to be nominated to fill a vacancy in the board as Frank Harmon has stepped down effective immediately.

Your vote determines the future direction of YOUR club so come voice you support or concerns about these changes.



Fly of the Month

Due to the calendar conflict with the Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair, we will not have a fly tying class at Bass Pro this month. Instead, here is a list of past Fly of the Months published in *The Fly Line*.

- Sowbug, March 2015
- Tusselbug, April 2015
- Elk Hair Caddis, May 2015
- Zebra Midge, June 2015
- Palmering Technique, July 2015
- Tokyo Spider, August 2015
- Bionic Worm, September 2015
- Todd's Wiggle Minnow, November 2015
- Pink Dink, December 2015
- Pheasant Tail Nymph, January 2016
- Wooly Bugger, February 2016
- Bean's Crappie Jig, March 2016
- Cajun Tickler, April 2016
- Yellow-Bellied Frog, August 2016



"If people enjoy buffets, then maybe the fish will too."

A Matter of Choice

By Matt Eastham - Originally Published by the Wild Trout Trust

Trout anglers, I have noticed, have a tendency to fall into certain camps depending upon their age, background, values and so on. At one end of the scale we might have the traditionalist; a fisher of cane and silk perhaps, very much tuned in to the hatch calendar of the Ephemeroptera (Mayflies) and preferring to cast the dry fly if at all possible. The polar opposite could be the modern day competition angler, utilizing every available development in the sport to gain a cutting edge whilst competing on hard-fished waters against similarly determined oppo-



sition. For such a sportsman, little in fly fishing can be deemed out of bounds, so long as it conforms to the rules of competition.

What is acceptable?

As esoteric as our pursuit of trout is, most of us fall somewhere in the middle and I confess to finding the

whole matter of what makes an individual tick - what they value and hold dear, and where they choose to draw the line of acceptability in their fishing - almost as fascinating as the sport itself. It's a question I have asked of myself more and more in recent years and as my own acceptance of more varied and innovative methods and flies has increased, so too has my

understanding that not everyone gains pleasure from the same things - that so long as we operate within the rules and spirit of the sport and most importantly, with respect and care for our fish and the environment, then nothing can be gained by pontificating about what does and doesn't constitute

true fly fishing. Certainly, there have never been greater technical developments in the catching of trout than those of the last decade or so.

The dark art of sunk flies

I resisted some of the most recent ones for so long, part from ignorance and part fear of the unknown. Despite hailing from the north of England - a region traditionally more accepting of the darker arts of the sunk and weighted fly - I reached a point a few seasons ago where I felt that the techniques we

had at our disposal were probably sufficient and unlikely to be improved upon significantly. As well as the traditional dry and wet fly and 'classic' upstream nymphing, the writings of contemporary competition scene exponents such as Oliver Edwards and Stuart Crofts

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A Matter of Choice - Cont.

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had introduced to us such variations as Czech and Polish nymphing, duo, trio, and even river streamer fishing. An angler capable of deploying this full range of techniques when appropriate, would be an angler who could catch trout from any river in the country in nearly any prevailing conditions. I didn't feel that we needed any more - how could that arsenal be improved upon?

Modern fly fishing - What is it?

Well fast forward a few years and further advances have been made - the choice we now have is incredible. Add to the above list the 'leader only' French and Spanish methods, developments in super long and light rod building to suit the former, the increasing popularity of Japanese Tenkara, even boundary-pushing fly line technology, and I can see how the world of river trout fly fishing must seem baffling to a newcomer to the sport. About four years ago it had started to look baffling to me too and I resolved to do something about it. I shelved the 9' #5 rod which for so long had been accepted as a river standard, bought a 10' #3, built some stupidly long leaders and made a start teaching

myself 'fly line-less' fishing....and a while later, after admittedly being skeptical, bordering on dismissive, I tried Tenkara for the first time.

I can honestly say that I have never enjoyed my trout fishing as much as I do now. In the early days of my angling apprenticeship I approached a day on the river by using the method I wanted to fish - the one I felt most comfortable with - regardless of whether or not that was the correct choice to bring success. As I gained experience I began to realize that if consistent catches were the target, then I would need to become proficient in several different techniques and learn to employ them at the right time; I worked hard at that and gradually developed into a steady but unspectacular angler who could have a stab at most disciplines and catch a few fish.

Now the goal posts seem to have moved! An example: where once it was a matter of selecting to fish nymphs straight (off the line), or suspended (beneath a dry fly); today the choices are far more complex - OK so I can fish a pair of nymphs straight... but do I fish them 'classic' style, off a French Leader, using the Tenkara rod, or via one of the modern ultra thin lines? Sure enough, there is often

some variable which puts one of the foregoing into pole position, but equally there are times when any of the above could be used equally effectively; and that is something I like very much. It has enhanced my angling enjoyment greatly, encouraging me to place less emphasis on the business of catching trout, and more on the execution of technique and those 'laugh out loud' moments a friend refers to when something which feels a bit crazy delivers an experience you know you will not forget in a long time. For me it's not so much about 'How many trout will I catch?' anymore, but 'What will be the most fun way to catch a trout today?'

Why not have a try at one of the following tactics? Each has put a huge smile on my face over recent seasons and not just because they are so effective, but because they have given my own angling a serious injection of the fun factor. There are many more variations to explore, but I can promise some interesting moments to anyone willing to give them a whirl.

The 'glow in the dark' dry fly

Have you ever left the river in summer twilight with a heavy heart as all around, trout are on the feed

A Matter of Choice - Cont.

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and it has become too dark to effectively fish for them with the dry fly? Every season this happens to me on a handful of occasions as a late spinner fall or emergence of caddis sparks off a feeding frenzy all too late in the day and although reverting to a swung wet fly or skated dry might offer a few exciting and tactile moments in the gloaming, there is always this sense of an opportunity missed as I trudge back to the car. I couldn't see my dry fly once the light went altogether and that was effectively game over.

If this sounds familiar then try this: mix a dusting of fluorescent powder in with a light-weight flexible varnish and apply a drop to the upper surface of a suitably buoyant dry fly. Large footprint, low-riding patterns work best as they avoid being unbalanced by the relatively heavy varnish. Foam is an excellent base upon which to work and as such I find Roman Moser's balloon caddis ideal for the application - a small dab on the polycelcon thorax cover works a treat. Leave to dry and then pop in the box to do its duty after the bats have come out. All

you need now is one of those cheap UV laser pens (readily available online), and a quick blast from the torch will have the 'hotspot' glowing like a tiny beacon for a minute or two!

The first time I tried this (it's not my idea, a chap called Glen Poin-ton sowed the seed), I couldn't be-

laughing to myself! Since then I've used the method on a few late nights and reveled in the added dimension my summer fishing has gained. I've learned a lot more about the degree to which insects hatch and trout go on feeding after dark; once you get used to the eerie atmosphere much loved by sea



lieve what I was seeing; or rather not seeing. One minute there was a green dot dancing downstream towards the sound of a slurping trout... then it just disappeared. An almost disbelieving lift was met with the resistance of an angry and very surprised fish. I just stood there in the middle of the river

trout anglers, the whole experience is magical and I recommend it without hesitation. Plus, how cool is it to say you've caught fish on the dry fly in total darkness!

Try an ultra thin nymph line

A few leading manufacturers

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A Matter of Choice - Cont.

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have started pushing the boundaries of what is possible with plastic coated fly lines. You might have seen the various 'competition nymph' tapers and reduced diameter lines on the market recently and maybe you dismissed them as a gimmick designed to part curious

fisher folk from their cash. There might be a grain of truth in that too: our sport is so fundamentally simple that it sometimes feels as if we reinvent the wheel just for the sake of it. However I have of late become fascinated by developments in the field of ultra thin fly lines and how far the 'fine and light' concept can be pushed before being defeated by basic physics. A line has to have sufficient mass to load a rod and therefore be cast right? Well yes, but with design of long and ultra light fly

rods coming on apace, it feels like we are rapidly heading towards a place where our traditional western approach begins to bridge the gap to Tenkara and other long reach reel-less disciplines. I recently



fished with a prototype Sunray ten foot #2 rod which was so light and delicate that it cast a thin level taper nymph line as if it were a normal fly line, in much the same way as a Tenkara rod casts a section of level fluorocarbon.

We are still a little way from such tools becoming mainstream though, but in the meantime any reasonably long and light river rod will handle one of the new generation nymph lines. It's great fun to fish our nymphs at a slightly greater range than modern Euro-

pean short style dictates - a return to the more traditional upstream nymphing of old where the floating line is laid on the surface and the tip watched for indications of a take.....except such is the lightness and sensitivity of these lines that trout interest registers as a most decisive jab forward, even to the point where the take is occasionally felt under

the rod hand at the same time as the visual indication. It's great fun, particularly when fishing pocket water for actively feeding summer trout.

French leader in summer pool heads

Amongst the younger generation of fly fishers, the French leader in its various guises and tapers is almost ubiquitous nowadays, and it's not surprising given how effective a method it is for tackling sub surface feeding fish. However like many

A Matter of Choice

By Matt Eastham - Originally Published by the Wild Trout Trust

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who fell in love with its charms, I ended up overusing it for a while and tended to fish little else when

the fairly large spate rivers I fish, that usually means the brisk skinny water at the very heads of the pools and I had a few real eye openers last summer when using this



method to connect with surprisingly large trout which were occupying water barely deep enough to cover their backs. I wasn't surprised that they were there - such water offers reasonable

nymphs were called for, even for the 'right under the rod tip' business of short lining in heavy water. You see that quite a lot now - anglers fishing at very short range with a French Leader and although it is undoubtedly effective in that role, you could argue that the real benefit is lost and reverting to a straightforward level leader would achieve much the same.

The last two dry summers have lent themselves to fishing the French leader in a way more akin to its original intention, that is to present small nymphs at range, to nervous fish lying in very shallow water. On

oxygenation in times of drought, and is the environment from which so many of the Baetis olive (blue-winged olive Mayfly) species emerge right through the season - but I was still surprised to catch them so regularly. The reason of course, was very likely the greater range and stealth afforded by the French leader and I kicked myself for not having played to its strengths earlier. To cast a tiny weighted nymph into inches of fast water and suddenly find yourself attached to a couple of pounds of angry wild trout is surely one of the most exciting experiences river fish-

ing in this country has to offer.

Downstream dry fly on the Tenkara rod

Tenkara is slowly but surely winning over more and more anglers - still a divisive method (usually denigrated by folk who have yet to try it), but having been at least partially converted myself, I defy anyone to have a go and not admit Tenkara is at the very least an absolute hoot! Aside from using it as a medium to deliver conventional UK tactics (and not yet having delved into the more true to origin style of fishing wet Kebari flies), the most illuminating experience I have had so far with Tenkara rod in hand is that of drifting dry flies downstream to visibly feeding fish.

For anyone who hasn't tried this, I urge you to have a go as it is a real experience: the reach and delicacy of the set-up means that with care a rising trout can be approached from upstream and the fly more or less plonked on its nose. In fact the fly can be dropped exactly in the right place, without any worry about intervening drag. If a greater lead is required, stopping the rod high on the delivery introduces enough slack to allow it a few feet of downstream drift as

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the rod tip is lowered.

Most importantly, because very little line is in contact with the surface (we are almost dapping really), the fly can be lifted off and re-cast a number of times without the fish showing the slightest concern. I recently tried this with a new rod of fifteen feet in length. Coupled with the same length leader and about 5 feet of tippet the reach was absolutely phenomenal and I was able to repeatedly cover fish way off downstream, sometimes rising and missing them before hooking up a few casts later. As a means to fool trout occupying tricky lies on the very tails of pools, I cannot think of better.

Evolution or Witchcraft?

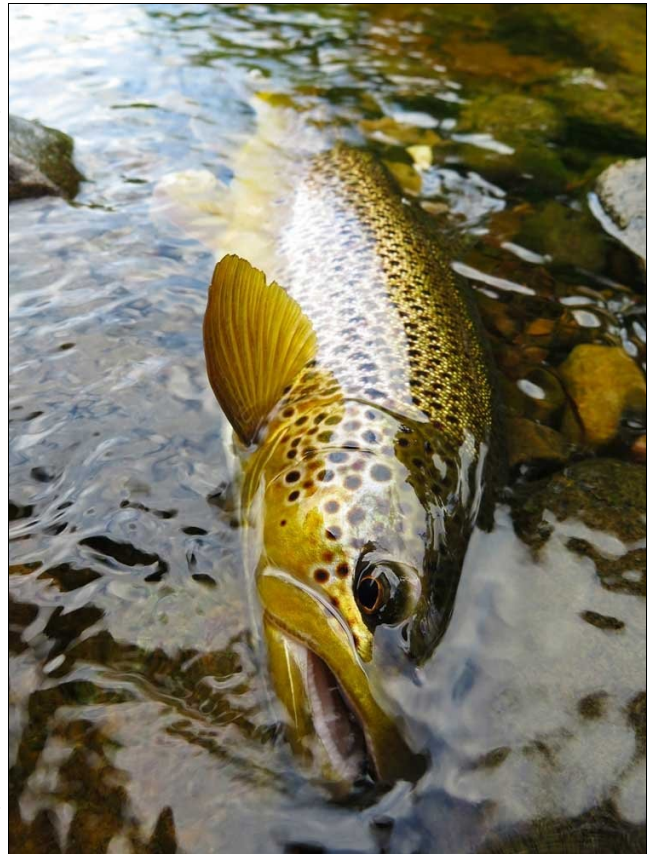
So there you have but a handful of the wealth of options now available to the open-minded river angler; but by way of conclusion, it might be worth sounding a note of caution. We could enter into a debate over the boundaries of fly fishing here. The traditionalist will not likely be particularly interested in the subject of this essay and may even question the ethics of some of these super effective means of fooling trout. I can relate to this viewpoint and plenty times I have

mused over how much more efficient we anglers would need to become before we could catch any fish in residence and all the mystery of our rivers were lost. Well that might be a bit far-fetched, but I do believe that whilst our ever expanding range of techniques might facilitate better catches and therefore greater enjoyment we do need to be mindful that there also exists the potential to pressure our precious stocks of native wild brown trout to a greater degree than ever before.

A wise old friend of mine has made this point on more than one occasion when I have suggested that the number of trout and grayling we catch on our local rivers indicates that stocks remain in good health. "Ah but modern anglers are so much more proficient at catching than we were when restricted by primitive tackle and methods", is Terry's response. Food for thought

there for certain, and I do believe that as ever, we have a duty to exercise the greatest respect for our quarry... the emphasis required to educate anglers in catch

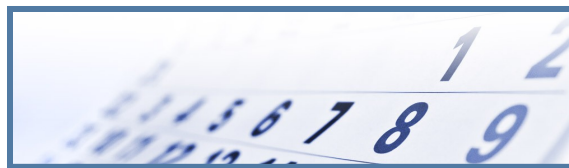
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lease best practice has arguably never been greater. But when all's said and done, so long as we continue to care for our trout and aquatic environment, and fish responsibly within the rules imposed upon us, then I honestly believe that there has never been a better time to enjoy fly fishing. The fun factor is definitely there if you are prepared to embrace the change!



NLFF Calendar



Sept 13th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm. Tom Bullock will be reviewing George Daniel's book "Strip Set". This will be a preview of our next year's Masters Series with George Daniel.

Sept 15th: Fly Tying Workshop. We will not have fly tying this month due to the scheduling conflicts with other events.

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. John Williams from Pack and Paddle will discuss fly fishing for reds.

Oct 15: "Kayaking the Caddo". This outing for club members only costs \$20.00. Deadline to sign up and pay for your spot is the September 13th NLFF club meeting. More details to come.

Oct 20th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Chris Pierce will be tying a clouser.

Oct 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.

Nov 8th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. This is our Annual Banquet meeting. This year, our banquet will be held at Jan's River Restaurant in Greenwood, LA. More details to come.

Nov 17th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Brett Rowell will be tying a "Golf Tee Popper".

Nov 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.

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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 or www.texasCouncilifff.org for more details.

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.

Sep 24th: "Cajun Castaway Kayak Fishing Tournament". Hosted by the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club. Open to the public, artificial lures only, \$25 entry fee. Go to www.lafayettekayakfishing.com for details.

Oct 1st: "8th Annual Rio Grande Rodeo". Hosted by the New Orleans Fly Fishers. New Orleans City Park, 7:30a - 12noon. For more info call or email AJ Rosenbohm at 504-952-1340 or nolaflyguy@att.net.

Oct 7th - 8th: "IFFF Southern Fly Fishing Fair". Hosted by the Southern Council of the IFFF. Vada Sheid Convention Center, Arkansas State University campus, Mountain Home, AR. See www.iffsoc.org for more details.

Nov 4th - 6th: "Toledo Bend Rendezvous 2016". Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2016, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA. No reservations necessary. Go to <http://suddenlink.net/w/Rendez/indexR.html> for all the details.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

P.O. Box 29531

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!