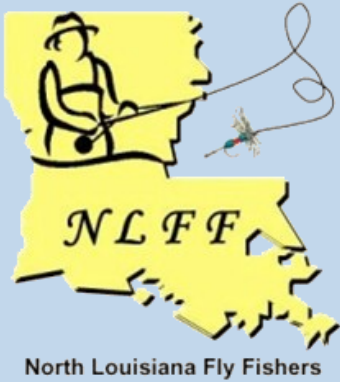


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

October 2016 Volume 2, Issue 10



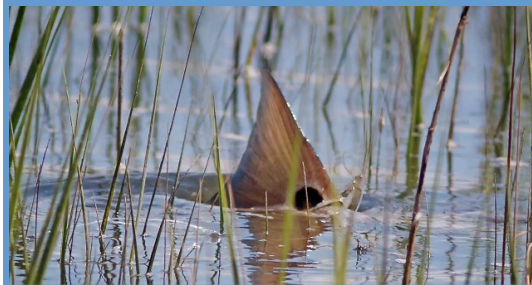
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October Meeting Topic

Now is the time for the Red Drum (Redfish) to really get running along the Louisiana coastal marshes. They are fattening up in preparation for their journey to deeper waters of the gulf where they spend their winter days before making the return run back during the spring.

John Williams from Pack and Paddle in Lafayette, La. will give a presentation on fishing the Louisiana marshes from a kayak. He will talk about tackle, tactics and techniques as well as what gear is needed to fish for redfish from a kayak.



A "Tailing" Redfish

John was asked once, "What is the best thing about where you live?" His answer is the only reason that I would need to come hear him talk. Here is his answer. "I've got a kayak fishing habit that borders on obsession. So to me, it's our proximity to some of the best kayak

fishing in the country. I tell people if you want to ski incredible powder snow, go to Colorado. If you want to catch Redfish out of a kayak, come to south Louisiana."

If you have fished the marsh flats before, this will be a great refresher course. If not, this is a must attend to prepare for such a trip.

*** Notice ***

Nominations for board members and officers are due at the October regular meeting with a club vote due at the November banquet. See page 3 for more details. Also, there is no Fly of the Month for October. We will be tying the articulated frog pattern from the August 2016 issue.

"Something to think about: If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly."

~John Gierach




September Meeting Recap

Tom Bullock gave an excellent primer for next year's Masters Series featuring George Daniel. If you were there, you probably left with anticipation of next year's Master Series presentation. If you

missed it, don't miss the real deal next July as this will probably be a once in a lifetime presentation by Mr. Daniel himself for our club.

Also last month, the changes to our club by-laws were overwhelm-

ingly approved. The changes had mostly to do with membership types and dues. For full details of all changes, see any board member or see our bylaws posted on the website. 

NLFF Board and Officers Election


Executive Committee nominations are due no later than the Oct. 11th regular meeting.

As of this writing, Steve Oliver is running unopposed for President as is Tom Bullock for Treasurer. Unless someone throws in their hat, these

two officers will have another term.

Currently, we have a full board of five members consisting of Scott Irwin, Brett Rowell, Bud Bethea, Chris Pierce and Rex White. All are running for another term. Also, Jamie Franklin wishes to be consid-

ered for the board.

So the Oct. meeting is crucial. It will be your last chance to seek out these candidates to ask them questions. The vote is at the November banquet and we must choose only 5 candidates out of these 6. 

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	nlffclub@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.com
Social Media	Frank Harmon	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Programs Director	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Webmaster	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.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
Member at Large	Rex White	318-294-7027	rexflyfish@reagan.com

NLFF at the GCC Fly Fishing Fair

The NLFF was well represented at the GCC Fly Fishing Fair last month. Having good attendance at various events makes for great relations with our fly fishing peers which can translate into great support for our events such as the Masters Series.

J a m i e Franklin was a featured tyer at a seminar for beginning fly tyers. Tom Bullock, Don Lawler and Bud Bethea also tied. Steve Oliver hosted a seminar on club

membership management using an Excel spreadsheet that he designed. Scott Irwin was also in attendance.

Two awards were also received by persons relating to the NLFF. Kyle Moppert, one of the founding members of the NLFF, received an award for "Federator of the Year" from the International Federation of Fly Fishers.

Steve Oliver, our current club



GCC "Man of the Year" Steve Oliver (left) and IFFF "Federator of the Year" Kyle Moppert (right)

President, received the Gulf Coast Council's "Man of the Year" award for his work on better managing club membership with the aforementioned program. This software was well received by other clubs and was made available to them free of charge.

The NLFF truly appreciates its "traveling members"- members that consistently travel to out of town events with other fly clubs. Other members attend events that are

closer to home, which we appreciate very much. These are the core of many of our own club outings.

If you have not attending a fly fishing fair for another club, we very much encourage you to do so. Some events are very structured and others are not. But either way, we seem to always have a good time wherever we go.

Come join the fun!



Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



Fin-Addict Flyfishers
<http://finaddictflyfishers.blogspot.com>

Stephen M. Robert
Houma, LA

Fin-Addict Flies
<http://finaddictflies.blogspot.com>

Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



Ed Lash
State of Iowa



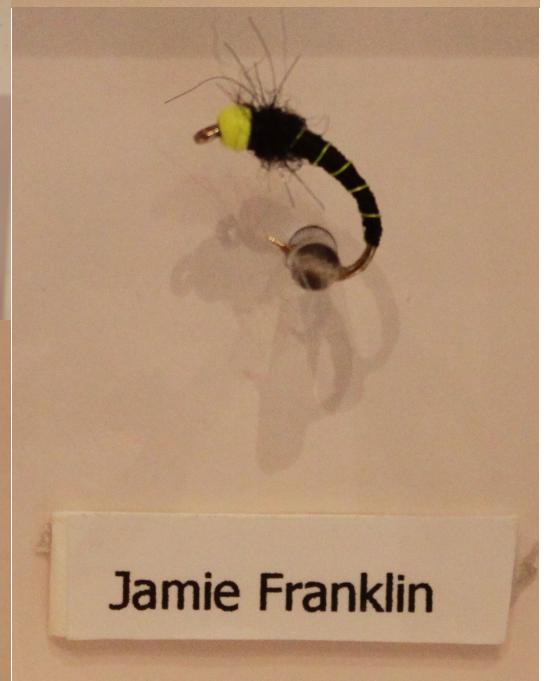
Don Lawler



Dirk Burton



Fred G. Hannie, Sr

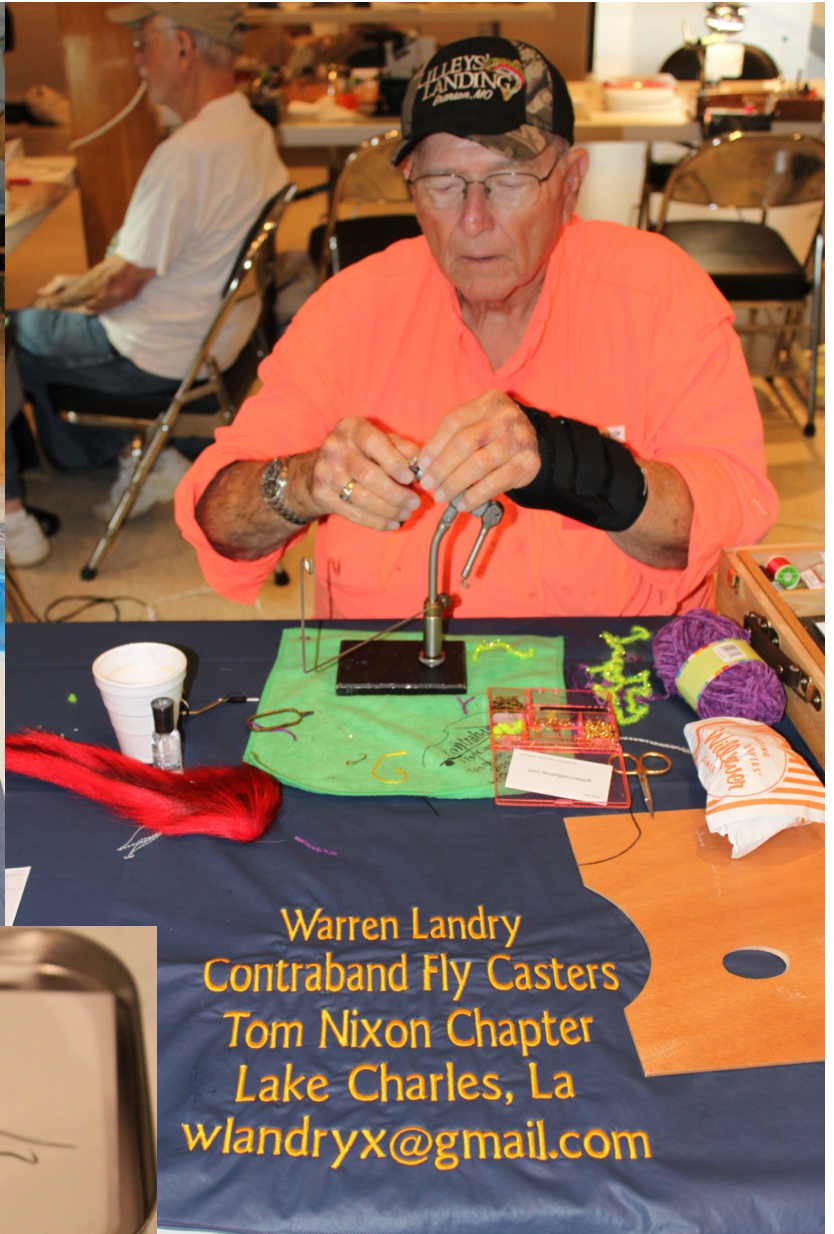


Jamie Franklin

Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



Pictures from the GCC Fly Fishing Fair



They're at Your Feet, Dude! 6 Reasons to Make Shorter Casts...

By John Zimmerman

My favorite river in the whole world is the South Holston near Bluff City, Tennessee. The sulphur hatches in the late spring, summer, and early fall are so dependable that on high water, I can often set my watch for 2:30 by the first bug I see escaping the water's surface. The popping of big fish heads commences soon after—as does the hero casting!

Recently, a younger fishing buddy of mine named Cam and I had dragged my Hyde drift boat down to a favored wading spot on the SoHo on the low water while we waited on the afternoon generation release to take a long and productive float. Predictably, there was a slew of other anglers hero

casting across the river, attempting to score a few more fish before the water hit.

Fish were rising up and down the river, munching on yellow bugs as far as I could see in every direction. And fish were rising within ten feet of every single angler I saw, but instead of smart, productive fishing, I saw one 60- to 80-foot cast after another.

As I usually do, I saw only a few fish hooked that weren't attached to the end of my or Cam's leaders. The frustrated looks of those around us that begged "what are you doing differently" became palpable—and once audible.

The difference in our productivity

was that we didn't feel the need to show off our casting abilities (and I can cast and Cam can cast better than I can!). We instead picked fish off close to us and then moved closer to the fish further away, picking them off one by one.

There are times when we do need to reach out to a fly line's distance to hit fish (i.e., when there's a brute fish feeding consistently 90 feet away but there's no way to move the boat to get to him without losing too much ground). But wade fishing rarely presents those needs.

Here are six cumulative reasons to stop casting so dang far!

1. "They're at your feet, dude."

I think we often make fly fishing a whole lot harder than we need to. Maybe it's good for our egos to pick off a fish eating at 70 feet away from us, but I prefer to catch fish than cast. And fish are often right at our feet.

If you can wade quietly, there's usually no need to cast across the river to catch fish. I usually tell first-time clients on the way to the river that they "need to forget everything they've ever seen or heard about fly fishing. We're not going to try to emulate Brad Pitt in A

(Continued on page 11)



Squeak Smith demonstrating quiet wading and short casting.

They're at Your Feet, Dude! 6 Reasons to Make Shorter Casts... Cont.

(Continued from page 10)

River Runs Through It. We don't catch fish casting... We catch fish

creates a fishing space in which you're not spoiling the fishing between you and the fish that are 60 to 80 feet away.

just put those guys down for good.

3. Better presentations.

Targeting feeding fish closer to you allows you to make much more precise casts and nail the targeted fish more quickly.

We don't want to give the fish we're targeting too many opportunities to check out our flies before we put them in the right place to initiate an eat. Too many "close but not close enough" casts to that fish and he's going to clue in and say, "mmm...not today. Should've made a better first cast if you wanted to fool me."



John Zimmerman with a big brown caught within rod tip length.

fishing."

Fishing close in and working your way out, often by physically moving your locations, increases productivity substantially and the next points demonstrate why you need to catch the fish at your feet first!

2. You won't spoil the rest of the fishing.

Targeting feeding fish closer in

Errant deliveries, splashing line down, otherwise misdirected casts and dragging line over the fish between you and fish you've targeted 60-80 feet away only serves to put the fish right in front of you down.

Be patient. Catch those fish close first. The fish you saw 60 feet away aren't going anywhere. But if you keep casting over and over the fish right in front of you, you might

I can't describe the number of times I've had to say to a client, "Well, if you'd made that cast the first time, he'd have eaten." Getting the right cast closer in is much easier than long distance presentations.

4. Improved mending.

Catching those fish 60-80 feet away depends more on the mend

They're at Your Feet, Dude! 6 Reasons to Make Shorter Casts... Cont.

(Continued from page 11)

than the cast! Even if you can cast 60-80 feet in your front yard, that doesn't mean you can catch fish 60-80 feet away from you in the river.

The farther your target is away from you on real water...the more demanding and tougher the mending process is going to be. Mending well close to you is so much more easily accomplished than mending well far away.

Even if you can make the 60- to 80-foot casts with accuracy, if you can't get a good enough mend on that cast, you're not going to drag line over all of the fish between you and him and risk putting all of those fish down.

5. Physics are on your side for the hook set.

Hook setting at 80 feet—that's tough boys and girls. Even if you're

a good enough caster and mender to get a fish to eat your flies at 60-80 feet away, hooking that fish is a totally different story.

Just think about the physics be-

fish that far away to drive a hook point in before he's had a chance to spit the bug... that's tough! It's tougher than casting 60-80 feet—and it's tougher than mending 60-80 feet of line.



Taylor Sharp of Upper Creek Angler and Casting For Hope demonstrating quick hookups with short casts.

As you can see, this is a cumulative process. Each step in hooking up with a fish that far away from you is harder than the step before.

6. Landing the fish.

But let's say that you can make the long-distance cast, get the mend necessary to get an eat, and even consistently get a hook set from that far away... Now what?

To land that fish, you're going to have to recover all of that line before he ties you around a sunken log, lodges himself under a rock, saws you off on a series of ledges or just

hind this problem. Before you can hook a fish, you've got to tighten every inch of fly line and leader between you and the fish. Getting tight enough between you and a

spits—all of which has happened to me and others I know too many times to count.

(Continued on page 13)

They're at Your Feet, Dude! 6 Reasons to Make Shorter Casts... Cont.

(Continued from page 12)

And if you do manage to land him, you're going to have to bring him to you thrashing about, attempting to run up and down the river in every direction except a straight line toward you. If my

friend had a hook in his face and was being dragged 80 feet from his home right in front of mine, I'd probably stop eating for a while! And I've watched it happen over and over and over. Those fish between an angler and his long-distance target shut down for at

least a while after the angler drags a hooked fish through their feeding lanes (remember point 2 - you don't want to spoil the rest of the fishing).

Quick review...

It just makes sense to fish to the fish closest to you and move out to the fish farther away. Do this and your productivity in every direction will go up!

You'll get more eats; you'll get more hook ups; you'll land more fish; and after you've landed a fish, you'll still have fish right in front of you ready to catch!



About John Zimmerman:



With Taylor Sharp (pictured left), John Zimmerman (right) is co-owner of Upper Creek Angler and co-founder and Chairman of the Board

of directors of Casting for Hope. Upper Creek Angler is a guide and custom-built fly-rod service based in Morganton, NC. Casting for Hope is a regional nonprofit that serves women and families in Western North Carolina following a diagnosis of ovarian or other gynecological cancer through financial assistance and retreat programs. Casting for Hope's flagship fundraiser is the only official Trout Legend Gold-Level fly-fishing competition on the east coast and one of just three in the United States.



Taylor finishing up his demonstration with a quick landing.

NLFF Calendar



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 15th: "Kayaking the Caddo". This outing for club members only costs \$20.00. Deadline to sign up and pay for your spot is the October 11th NLFF club meeting. More details at that meeting.

Oct 20th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Steve Oliver will be tying an articulated frog pattern.

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. Chris Pierce will be tying a clouser.

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. Charlie King has been featured on *Bayou Outdoor 365* with

Dec 15th: 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".

Dec 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.

Jan 1st: Happy New Year!

Jan 7th: "Spoon Flies". Our own Don Lawler has become regionally known for his spoon flies. Join Don at the Red River NWR from 1pm to 4 pm as he show how to make a spoon fly from beginning to fishable. Free Admission.

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

Upcoming Events

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.

Oct 7th - 10th: "Kayak Boondoggle X". Friday-Monday, Fountainebleu State Park, Mandeville, LA. The kayak version of fly fishing's "conclave". It's the largest non-tournament kayak fishing event of the year. It's held on a weekend (2-days activities / 4-days for camping) at different locations in the country. Activities include seminars, kayak rigging workshops, kayak demos, kayak races, fly casting demos, fly tying demos, youth activities, photo clinics, gear swaps, and Friday night meet-and-greet, and Saturday night dinner. Free admission to event. Go to the KFB portal at Yakangler.com (do **-not-** call the state park) for reservations if camping. Camping fees at typically \$70 to \$80 for the three nights.

Nov 4th - 6th: "Toledo Bend Rendezvous 2016". Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2016, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA. No reservations necessary. An annual gathering of members of fly fishing clubs from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and beyond. No planned activities but plenty of fly tying, food, fly casting, fishing. Go to <http://suddenlink.net/w/Rendez/indexR.html> for all the details.

Nov 11th - 13th: "RSFF Fall Catch-n-Eat". Red Stick Fly Fishers annual fall marsh fishing trip Friday-Saturday, November 11-13, 2016. Friday evening gathering at local restaurant (optional). Saturday evening gathering and fish/shrimp/veggie fry at Golden Meadow. Must be member of RSFF or other fly fishing club to participate. For details, go to www.rsff.org



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!