

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

January 2017 Volume 3, Issue 1



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## Happy New Year!

Well, another year has been put in the back pocket. Seems like they seem to go by faster and faster with every new year. They tell me that that is a sign of getting old. Who are "they" anyhow? In my book, you're only as young as you are active. That is one of the reasons I love being a member of the NLFF. Helps keeps both my mind and my body active with all of our outings and the duties that come with being club president. Speaking of being club president, I am honored and humbled by the trust you have bestowed upon me to be president for another year!

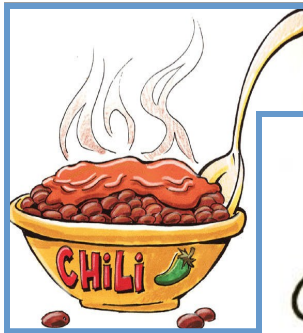
And speaking of being a club member, it is time for everyone to renew their club dues. There have been some changes to our membership prices. Good news! No price increase! However, we have taken away the \$5 discount for being an IFFF

member and replaced it with a way for every member to have a discount. See page 4 for more details.

As you know, our January meeting is one of our most popular and well attended meetings of the year. This is our "Chili and Flies" meeting. A chili cooking contest and an iron fly tying contest highlight the evening and we are tweaking the meeting format just a little going forward. While social hour still begins at 6:00pm, the actual meeting start times

are moving to 6:45pm. This will allow us 15 minutes to cover club business so that our scheduled speaker/program can start on time. The chili sampling will take place during the social hour and iron fly contest will start at 7:00pm.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year!



"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch."

~ Patrick F. McManus



## December Meeting Recap

Our speaker for December, Charlie King, had a family situation develop and was unable to make our meeting. We will try to get him rescheduled.

Adam Harbuck, with Harbuck Outdoor Sports, was kind enough to fill in as our guest speaker for December. He presented a list of places to kayak fish in our region, 15 in all. What I liked about this meeting was learning about these 15 places that are not just on a

map, but places that Adam has actually fished. The locations covered Caddo, Bossier, and Webster Parishes, as well as a launch at Toledo Bend, and a few locales in East Texas.

The after-presentation discussion was terrific. Some members offered up places around locally that Adam hadn't mentioned. Seems that the presenter as well as the attendees learned some new places to kayak fish. All in all, it

was a great presentation from Adam on such short notice.

While I was intrigued by several places that Adam mentioned, none more so than Lake Naconiche off US 59 between Garrison and Nacogdoches, TX. I have been wanting to try it for some time now. This lake was built for trophy bass from the ground up. Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. says that the next state record bass will probably come from Lake Naconiche.



### 2016 NLFF Executive Board

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## 2017 Membership Dues

NLFF membership dues for the new year have changed but the good news is that they do not include an increase!

Please note that the \$5 discount for being an IFFF member has been discontinued. It has been replaced with a discount for multi-year

signup. We now offer a 3 year rate for individual and family memberships.

Here are the new Membership Classes:

Family - \$35.00  
3 Year Family - \$90.00

Individual - \$30.00  
3 Year Individual - \$75.00  
Student\* - \$20.00  
Active Military\* - \$20.00

\* 3 year not available for these already discounted rates.



## Fly of the Month - "Pink Weenie"

Just in time for the Frozen Chosen! The Pink Weenie graces the "Fly of the Month" pages. This has long been Scott Irwin's (and others) go to fly for the Little Mo' river.

Here is an article from the *Little River Journal* by Lefty Kreh that I think you will enjoy:



My introduction to the Green Weenie was perhaps 20 years ago on the upper reaches of the Conewago trout stream at the private club grounds not far from Dillsburg, PA. It was late May and inch worms were dropping into the stream—and the big trout knew it and reacted. My old friend Mac Kantarian handed me a crude looking tiny balsa wood stick

mounted on a size 10 hook. It was painted a brilliant chartreuse. I sort of flinched and he said, "Just use it, you'll see."

He was right; the trout jumped on it. Over the next several years I tried it in the tumbling streams of the Great Smokies of NC, several rivers in New England, out West and even in New Zealand where I am sure there never was an inchworm. Since it was so successful, I forgot about it being an imitation of an inch worm hatching in May--and was catching trout from late

spring to early fall.

About 10 years ago I was introduced to the original Green Weenie, which was really a sunken version of Mac's inchworm. It was simply some chartreuse Ultra-Chenille wound on a size 12 hook. Because the floating vari-

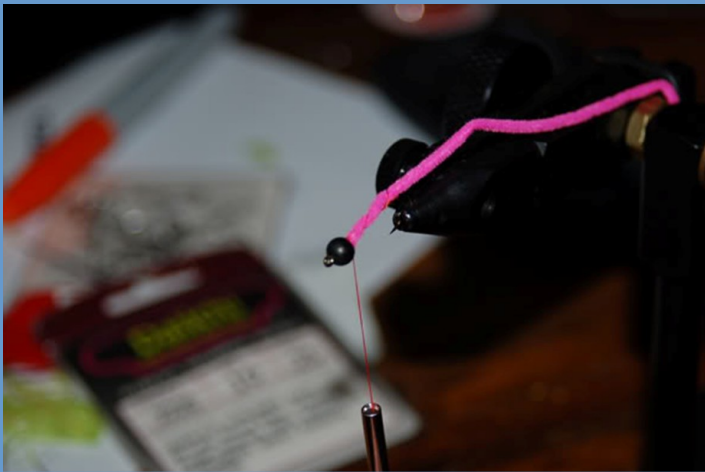
ety was so deadly I was sure that it would also work and it did. A little later, someone installed a loop of the Ultra-Chenille at the rear, claiming it added extra action to the fly—and most of us agree.

I had promised not to write or tell anyone about it, but gradually I began to see others using it and after two fly shops began selling it

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## Fly of the Month - "Pink Weenie" - Cont.

(Continued from page 4)



**Wrap the shank of the hook until you reach the barb and lay the chenille on the shank pointing towards the eye and begin to wrap.**

I figured the secret was out. It ranks right up there with the egg, the sucker spawn and the San Juan Worm as being a catcher of trout when they seem to refuse most offerings.

A year ago, I was at Little River Outfitters, Townsend, TN when a trout fly fishermen, who I knew was really good, told me I should try a fluorescent pink Green Weenie. "There are lots of times when they won't hit the old Green Weenie, but will attack the pink one—give it a try," he suggested. I did and he was right.

Then John Zajano, a Pennsylvania angler who is one of the most ac-

complished all-around fly fishermen I know, told me he was having great success with a red Green Weenie. John is one of the most modest humans I know but he told me this tale just to illustrate his point. "I was fishing immediately below a dam on a hard fished trout stream and across from me were several other fly fishermen. It had been

suggested to me that I try a red Green Weenie, so I tied one on. In the next hour I connected on several nice trout while the guys across from me did very poorly. It is just another example of changing color of the fly to get the fish to bite."

John handed me a few to try. He had three variations to the original

pattern. He added a small gold bead to the front, changed the color and added soft flexible legs similar to those on the Madame X pattern.

Since then I tested his flies plus a purple color on the Gunpowder, a stream in northern Maryland where the larger trout have become "fly inspectors." I think they can identify a pattern and sometimes know who tied it. The colors I have had the best success with are deep red and purple, but fluorescent pink and dark tan also worked well.

I am totally convinced that you should tie the pattern with no weight (as in the original) but also



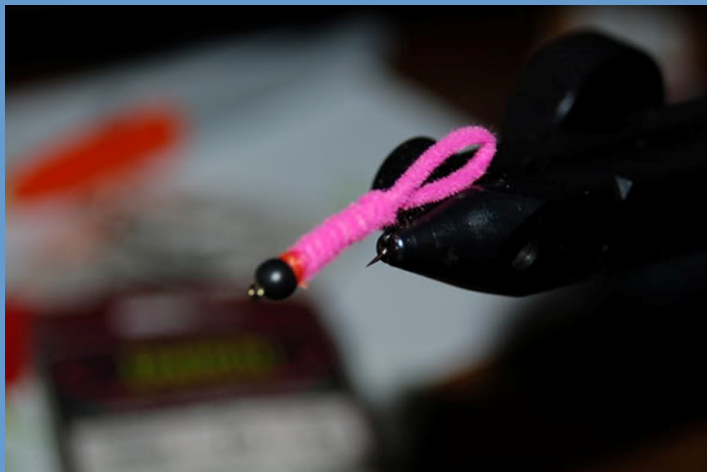
**Once to the eye of the hook wrap back down and make a loop with the chenille and tie it down.**

with small tungsten beads and large gold beads. I suspect that a

(Continued on page 6)

## Fly of the Month - "Pink Weenie" - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)



**Wrap the chenille up the hook to the eye, wrap more than once if you want a thicker body.**

bit of lead wire under wrapped on the hook might be just as deadly as a bead. The important thing is the weight gets the fly down better in deeper pools and faster water.

If you are interested in tying and trying some variation of the green Weenie—here are some suggestions. What is great about it is that if you can tie most any fly you can tie this one—it ranks with the Woolly Bugger as an easy one. Most fly fishermen prefer a size 12 wet fly hook in a 2X or 3X long. My personal choice is the Mustad Model 9671—but any manufacturer's hook that is similar will do.

The body material goes by several names, the most common are Ultra-Chenille, Ultra-Chenille Micro

or Vernille. This is a tiny, tightly woven, hard finish, string-like material unlike the fuzzy ordinary chenille. It is available in many fly shops and is often used to tie San Juan worms.

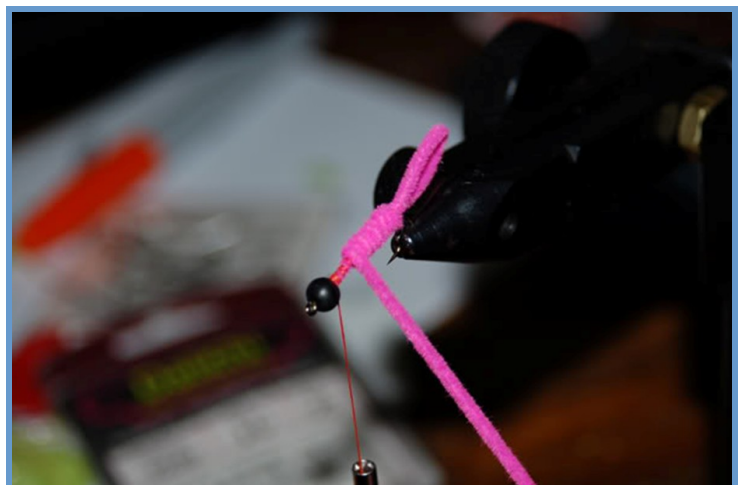
Beads are a personal choice determined by how fast you want the pattern to sink. If you are fishing slower water or shallow riffles gold beads are usually chosen. But when you want to get down deep or in faster deeper riffles the tungsten beads do a better job.

John Zajano thinks the color of flexible legs should match the color of the body of the fly. Excellent legs are those from a large-mouth bass spinner bait skirt. These are available in an array of colors from Bass Pro,

Cabelas and almost any shop selling largemouth lures.

The fly is easy to tie. If beads are used slip one on the hook and secure it with thread just behind the hook eye. Attach the Ultra-Chenille or Vernille immediately behind the hook and wrap it back the straight part of the shank. Just before the bend make a loop (I form the loop by encircling a nail after securing the chenille I withdraw the nail) then wrap the material half way toward the hook eye. Attach the rubber legs then wrap to the bead and tie off. That's it!

If you have had success with the Green Weenie—give these variations a try—you will be pleasantly surprised.



**Tie it off and lay some head cement. You can also cut the loop to make a single strand tail, both patterns have worked.**

## Where the heck is my bobbin?

- by Lee Blanton

The messy fly tier's guide to organizing fly tying materials.



Jared Koenigsfeld of *Driftless On The Fly's* tying desk.

We've all experienced the frustration of not being able to find a material you need while fly tying. I'm probably one of the least organized people on the planet, but recently my custom fly tying business was getting busier and busier and tying was taking me longer than it should've due to my losing materials in what I used to call my "organized chaos." We all know what that means.

The main sources of my problem were not putting materials and tools away when I was finished with them, shoving them in random drawers, or simply never putting them away when I brought them home. Although I barely own any storage items specifically designed for fly fishing or tying, there are a few I've used to help my problem and recommend to everyone to make your fly tying more fun and less frustrating.

### Hook and bead boxes

Almost every fly is built off of a combination of a hook and a head, so keeping these base materials well organized provides major time savings. I prefer the Meiho brand of hook and bead boxes. These solidly built boxes have tight-locking lids and dividers that prevent even the smallest hooks from crossing over to the other slots and allow them to travel extremely well.

All my nymph hooks are stored

together in one box, dry fly hooks are in one box, and bass and salt-water hooks are combined in one box.



Meiho Hook and Bead Boxes

I also have boxes for lead eyes, Fish-Skull Baitfish Heads, bead chain eyes, and a separate box for

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bead heads and cone heads.

Labeling each box and individual compartments within them helps with quickly finding the materials you need.



**Oasis Thread Rack**

### Thread rack

This is one of the few times I actually use that is an organizational item meant for fly tying – the Oasis thread rack. This rack keeps all my thread visible and easy to get to when

needed and has the added benefit of being able to store anything else that is spooled as well.

### Tubes with removable ends

Dan Bailey's Tyer Tubes are handy for storing Krystal flash and Flashabou. These are available from

Dan Bailey's Fly Shop or from Kelly Galloup's Slide Inn.

Dan Bailey offers these in sizes for flash, thread, ostrich, and peacock, as well as pheasant tails. I prefer to just use the flash

### Ziploc Bags

I store all like materials together



in Ziploc bags, in their original packaging. This allows me to grab one bag of Marabou (for example) and know that all my colors are there and they are being controlled and confined to the bag. This also considerably compresses storage.

### Rubbermaid totes / Drawers

Rubbermaid totes are a good option for storing deer hair and hackle. I keep my materials in the original bags and then place them in something a little bigger, such as totes or drawers. I built wooden drawers for this purpose; however, the fairly cheap plastic sets work just as well.

My drawers include:

1. Zonkers and small strips/patches of fur.

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**Dan Bailey's Tyer Tubes**

size; I have other options for thread and feathers.

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**My Dubbing Drawer**

2. Small feather packs (marabou, strung hackle, peacock herl, CDC).
3. Large pelts (squirrel, hare's mask, buck tails).
4. Synthetic body material (craft fur, Body Tubing, chenille).
5. Foam, rubber legs, flash, and eyes (foam and accents).
6. Dubbing.
7. Popper bodies.
8. Extra deer hair.

All of these items are bagged individually, then stored in larger

bags with variations of the same type of material (marabou in a marabou bag, etc.).

### **Get started!**

Now, I know you're thinking, "Man, that's going to take a while." Yes, it will take a little while to start, but once you tackle it and stay on top of it, your tying will improve, be more enjoyable, and you'll turn out flies faster.

Happy tying!



### **About Lee Blanton:**

Lee grew up in North Alabama fishing the not-so-famed Wills Creek, as well as the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. He first grabbed a fly rod at the ripe old age of 11 and soon began tying flies for any innocent sunfish or bass that would fall for the trick. This continued on through high school where he began performing aquatic entomology assessments on local streams which further drummed up his knowledge on aquatic insects, and how to imitate them with flies.

He currently resides in Weatherford, TX, just outside of Fort Worth, where he teaches high school and has his own custom fly tying business, Wills Creek Fly Fishing, specializing in warm-water flies. Lee has designed a fly that has set three Texas fly rod records for Green Sunfish, one which measured a massive 13.25 inches in length. You can contact Lee via his website [www.willscreekflyfishing.com](http://www.willscreekflyfishing.com) or email at [lee@willscreekflyfishing.com](mailto:lee@willscreekflyfishing.com).



**NLFF Special Event - January 7th**

# **Spoon Flies** **by Don Lawler**

**What: Learn how to tie spoon flies with Don Lawler**

**When: January 7th, 2017 1:00pm - 4:00pm**

**Where: Red River National Wildlife Refuge**

**150 Eagle Bend Point**

**Bossier City, LA**

**The NLFF's very own Don Lawler has been perfecting his technique for making spoon flies. You have seen some of his work at our banquets and at various fly festivals. Come spend an afternoon learning how to make your very own spoon flies. Admission is FREE!**

## NLFF Annual "Frozen Chosen"

The NLFF's annual "Frozen Chosen" outing is just around the corner. Always the last weekend in January, this year's event will be held Jan. 27th - 29th on the Little

weekend long, the usual hamburger and hot dog cookout will be on Saturday at the Riverside Pavilion near the base of Narrows Dam. We plan to eat somewhere be-

Crater of Diamonds State Park. For lodging closer to the river, cabins are available at Swaha Lodge (reservations required) and camping (no reservations, first-come, first

# FROZEN CHOZEN

Missouri river north of Murfreesboro, AR in the Narrows Dam tailwaters.

tween noon and 1pm. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert.

-served) is available at the campground atop Dynamite Hill.

Lodging is available in Murfreesboro at local motel/hotels and

Fly fishing, food, family, friends and a whole lot of fun!



## BENNY and BOONE.com



## NLFF Calendar



**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 shows how to make a spoon fly from beginning to fishable. Free Admission.

**Jan 10th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** This is our "Chili and Flies" meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social hour starts at 6:00pm. Chili judging starts at 6:30pm and Iron Fly contest starts at 7:00pm.

**Jan 19th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Scott Irwin will be tying the "Pink Weenie" just in time for the "Frozen Chozen" outing.

**Jan 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.

**Jan 28th: "Frozen Chozen".** NLFF's annual outing to the Little Missouri River. Some stay for the weekend, some come just for a day of fishing. Hamburger and hot dog cookout 12:00 noon at Riverside Park just below the dam north of Murfreesboro, AR. Cost of admission is a side dish and/or dessert.

**Feb 14th: NLFF Monthly Meeting.** Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm. Tom Bullock will be conducting a presentation on Euro-Nymphing.

**Feb 17th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Mike Hawkins is tying a Deena fly. It is very similar to a wooly bugger and seems to be the go to fly on the Lower Mountain Fork river in OK.

**Feb 28th: NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.



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

## Upcoming Events

**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 shows how to make a spoon fly from beginning to fishable. Free Admission.

**Jan 21st: "Cenla Fishing Expo".** Sponsored by the Kisatchie Fly Fishers, the Cenla Fishing Expo is a light tackle and fly fishing show to be held 8:30am - 4:00pm on Saturday, January 21st at the Baymont - Alexandria Convention Center in Alexandria, LA. Seminars, exhibitors, vendors, fly tying demonstrations, casting demos, raffles, and more. Special rates for guests and vendors at the Baymont Inn next door. For more info, go to [www.kisatchiefly.org](http://www.kisatchiefly.org).

**Jan 27th-29th: "Frozen Chozen".** Fly fishing the Little Missouri river at Narrows Dam near Murfreesboro, AR. Hamburger and hot dog cookout on Saturday around noon at the Riverside Pavilion just below the dam. Lodging is available in Murfreesboro or camp near the river up on Dynamite Hill. Cabins are also available at Swaha Lodge on Dynamite Hill. Contact Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854 for more details.

**Feb 18th - 19th: "15th Ever Little Mo' Fly Fishing Festival".** Fly tying with some great friends and if the weather is right, some fishing! State of the River report from AFGC biologist Christy Graham. River entomology analysis with show sponsor Jeff Guerin.

**Feb 25th: "Mystery Fly Tournament".** Sponsored by the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation. \$50 entry fee and must be a member of the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation. Entry fee includes Saturday evening dinner and meeting at 5:00pm at the Beavers Bend State Park Nature Center. Speakers from various agencies will talk about state of the stream and trout fishery. All proceeds benefit improvements on the Lower Mt. Fork River. For rules and more info, go to [www.lmfrfoundation.org](http://www.lmfrfoundation.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!