

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

February 2017 Volume 3, Issue 2



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February Activities

This month's meeting has been moved to the 21st due to the conflict with Valentine's Day. February's Fly Tying at Bass Pro and Board Meeting will be on their regular days of the month.

Club membership renewals are due by the end of the month. Be sure and check out the new 3-yr memberships that are available starting this year. Also, we are trying to improve our communications with our membership so please fill out a new membership form and bring/send with your renewal. Don't forget to sign the release waiver located on the back of the membership form. Details can be found on www.northlaflyfishers.org.

At our February meeting Tom Bullock will be talking about George Daniel's book *Dynamic Nymphing*. As you probably know by now, George Daniel is our featured speaker at this year's Masters Series. This will be a perfect primer for the Masters Series. Tom has touched on this topic in the past and he has signifi-

cantly updated his nymphing program as his knowledge has grown.

On Feb 16th, Mike Hawkins will show us how to tie a "Deena" fly. This is the go to fly for the Lower Mountain Fork river. See "Fly of the Month" in this issue.

Jeff Guerin's "Little Mo' Fly Fishing Festival" is held Presidents Day weekend every year in Murfreesboro, AR. That falls on Feb 17th - 19th this year. See www.littlemissouriflyfishing.com/ff-festival.html for more information.

Rounding out the month will be Tom Bullock holding a special class on Saturday Feb 25th. He will be demonstrating how to tie Polish Woven Nymphs. This will be a beginner two-handed weaving program for skilled fly tiers. RSVP to Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854 as we will need to acquire the appropriate amount of materials. Please bring your vise, tools and nylon thread if you have any.

Have a great February!



"If I'm not going to catch anything, then I'd rather not catch anything on flies."

~ Bob Lawless



January Meeting Recap

The January meeting of the NLFF was filled with great food, fellowship and suspense. The chili cook-off was one of the most intense ever. Almost everyone in attendance brought a great homemade pot of chili except one. Don Lawler brought his straight out of a giant can. The canned chili made for great discussion and comparisons of the different styles of chili recipes. It was a valid entry because, technically, it didn't heat itself up!

However, after all was said and done, Tina Franklin was the winner of the \$25 Bass Pro gift card. Congratulations for having the best chili of the night!

Following the chili cook-off, Jamie Franklin, chairman of the fly tying committee, kicked off a mystery fly tying contest. Feathers were flying and thread was twirling as members put on their thinking caps and attempted to make a fly that would be tempting to the

most picky of fish. It was astonishing how well all of the flies looked. We have some really great tiers in our club and that made for a very strong competition. It was a close contest, but Scott Irwin won this year's Mystery Fly Tying contest. Scott's prize for best fly was a \$25 Bass Pro gift card.

Again, thanks to all the participants and attendees and congratulations to Tina Franklin and Scott Irwin!



2016 NLFF Executive Board

President	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Bullock	318-393-7729	twbullock@aol.com
Secretary	TBD		
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Conservation Director	Chris Pierce	318-469-0854	cpierce213@hotmail.com
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Member at Large	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
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Member at Large	Chris Pierce	318-347-0494	cpierce213@hotmail.com
Member at Large	Rex White	318-294-7027	rexflyfish@reagan.com

NLFF Sponsors



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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.

We request that you fill out a new membership form even if you are a long-standing member. We are updating our membership rolls to better communicate upcoming events and activities to you. A new membership form can be downloaded from our website at www.northlaflyfishers.org or obtained at any meeting. Thanks for your help and continued support of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers.



Fly of the Month - "Deena"

February's Fly of the Month is a "Deena" fly. Mike Hawkins from the East Texas Fly Fishers will show us how to tie this go to streamer pattern for the Lower Mountain Fork and Little Red rivers.

Recipe:

Hook: 3x streamer hook
Weight: 10 wraps of lead
Tail: Blood marabou
Flash: 2 strands Krystal flash
Body: Uni- Mohair
Hackle: Mallard Flank

The "Deena" was created by Bill Wilmert. The fly is named after his dog and was tied late one night when he ran out of hackle and couldn't tie any wooly buggers for

an early morning guide trip. The next day his client had a 100 trout day on the Little Red. Bill claims this pattern will out catch a wooly bugger and since I've used it and seen what it can do, I wouldn't disagree.

I don't know of any step by step instruction or tying video. It's basically tied like a wooly bugger with the exception of the hackle. Use mallard flank and use it to make a collar. Don't palmer it the length of the body.



NLFF Special Event - February 25th

Polish Woven Nymph Flies

What: Weaving Polish nymph flies with Tom Bullock

When: February 25th, 2017 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Red River National Wildlife Refuge

150 Eagle Bend Point

Bossier City, LA

The NLFF's very own Tom Bullock will show us how to weave Polish Nymphs. This is the woven nymphs that Vladi Trzebunia used to win two consecutive world championships. This will be a beginner two-handed weaving program for skilled fly tiers. RSVP to Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854 as we will need to acquire the appropriate amount of materials. Please bring your vise, tools and nylon thread if you have any. Come spend an afternoon learning how to weave championship nymph flies.

Admission is FREE!

Up Around The Bend: Fly Fishing and Perspective

by Vern-o Burm

All of my fly fishing and tying recently came to a screeching halt.

I consider myself an avid fly fisherman and seemingly constant fly tier, and I've often said my time on the water is my church. However, a double meniscus and ACL tear and the surgery to repair it can slow down even the most enthusiastic angler.

For those who don't know, this entails arthroscopic surgery to the knee; in my case, the damaged ACL was replaced with a cadaver ligament. Thank you to the unselfish donor who in essence gave me the ability to navigate more freely on two legs again.

This bend in the stream of life has changed my perspective on many things I used to take for granted and the little changes that affect our day-to-day lives.

Like many of us, my tying materi-

als reside in my man-cave, AKA the basement. A full set of stairs was impossible for me to navigate. After surgery I recruited my kids to

visit and tie for hours on end! Or so I thought. In the beginning I could only tie for thirty minutes or so before the pain would win over.



take photos of my fly tying area with my smartphone. I would then send them back downstairs to bring up materials and tools from the photos that I would need to keep tying. This was pretty entertaining and my children now know material names and uses better than the average fly tier.

Problem solved, I'd be able to sit at the dining room table with my

I worked tirelessly for weeks to improve my own well-being at physical therapy. Daily exercises and stretches were my routine, then trying to tie faster and longer each day. I eventually gained enough strength to navigate the basement stairs. A milestone so it seemed, for something I took for granted prior to this debacle.

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Up Around The Bend: Fly Fishing and Perspective - Cont.

by Vern-o Burm

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As the weeks turned into a month, I began to dream more and more about time on the water. It was a certainty that wading was impossible due to weakness and the fact that putting on shoes was a challenge. Any slip or twist on uneven ground could potentially set me back even farther. I assure you I wasn't ready mentally or physically.

Once I was cleared to drive again, I found myself scoping out local waters, even if it was to look from a distance. Eventually I remembered a nearby stream that had a handicapped access. I remember telling myself that if someone was fishing there, I would just politely watch from a distance.

Amazingly, the spot was free. With trembling hands, I gingerly walked to the access spot, sat on

the bench, and rigged up my gear. It was surreal to think such a simple thing could bring such a mental level of accomplishment.

Slowly, I began fishing the pool. Eventually a passerby inquired about the fishing. "Slow," I replied. He watched and we were talking for a few minutes when my indicator stopped. I set the hook into a beefy Great Lake tributary run

through me. I can't even describe the feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment over a *lost* fish. I didn't fish much longer after that since I was happy with the small accomplishment.

It wasn't but a couple days later that I found myself at the same handicapped access. This time I was joined by an older gentleman angler. We exchanged casual con-



brown trout.

The fish came unhooked and I sat down as adrenaline coursed

through me. It wasn't long before he landed a small stocked brown

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Up Around The Bend: Fly Fishing and Perspective - Cont.

by Vern-o Burm

(Continued from page 7)

trout. I commented that it was better than a skunk.

Eventually my indicator dropped and I locked into a solid steelhead as the water surface thrashed. My fellow angler shared in my excite-

ment and watched the battle unfold. He asked if I had a net, to which I replied, "no". He went to his vehicle and reappeared with a net.



I was locked in an epic battle to keep the chrome steelhead contained in the pool. I knew full well that if this fish went lake-bound, I wouldn't be able to pursue beyond my limited confines. Everything fell into place and my new-found angling buddy scooped the five-pound steelhead into the net. We exchanged congratulations and thanks. He quickly took a picture for me and I returned the greatest fish in the world to the water.

I sat down, sunglasses hiding my tears of accomplishment. I commented to my fellow angler how incredible that fish was to me. He inquired as to why and I explained my recovery from surgery. He smiled knowingly and lifted his pant leg to show an

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Up Around The Bend: Fly Fishing and Perspective - Cont.

by Vern-o Burm

(Continued from page 8)

elaborate ankle stabilizer. He had been struggling for close to two years to try and get mobile.

From there we shared stories and laughs. I encouraged him to fish the entire pool as I was completely overwhelmed with such a tremendous feeling of joy. I soon departed knowing that no other fish would surpass what I had just ex-

perienced and shared. I've returned a couple of times since then and have even encountered my fellow angler who assisted in netting my fish again.

No other fish have come to hand for me, but I replay that day over and over. It was more than a fish. It was a shared experience and a sign that healing comes in many forms. I am truly grateful for the park that installed the access and

the people who share it.

As for my recovery, it will take several months before I'm able to safely wade the rivers I desire. With that said, I'm content fishing the edges. No matter what lays around the next bend in the river, take every day that comes as a new adventure and never give up on those things you hold sacred.

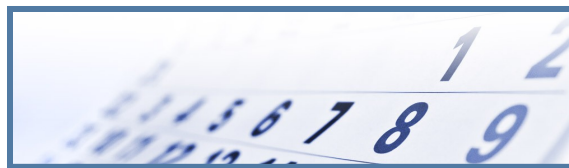


About VERN-O Burm:

LeVern "VERN-O" Burm has been fly fishing for 15+ years, and fly tying for nearly as long. He's lived in the Upstate New York area his entire life and fishes the Finger Lakes, Great Lakes, Catskills, Adirondacks, and all the waterways in between. Fly tying soon developed from a hobby to a passion, and eventually into a side business, Custom Flies By VERN-O. He's been tying commercially for 5+ years. His love of tying comes from a background in science and art. He puts his heart and creativity into his fly tying, and what he produces at the vise is an extension of what drives him from inside. VERN-O enjoys tying soft hackle flies and fishable spey flies, but also dabbles outside these realms as well. He has a fondness for chasing steelhead and any fish that swims. Follow him on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



NLFF Calendar



Feb 16th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Mike Hawkins of the East Texas Fly Fishers 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 21st: 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 25th: "Polish Woven Nymph Flies". Our own Tom Bullock has become regionally known for bringing European-style nymph fishing to the area. Join Tom at the Red River NWR from 1 pm to 4 pm as he shows how to tie nymph flies using the two-handed polish weave method. This is the woven nymphs that Vladi Trzebunia used to win two consecutive world championships. This will be a beginner two-handed weaving program for skilled fly tiers. RSVP to Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854 as we will need to acquire the appropriate amount of materials. Please bring your vise, tools and nylon thread if you have any. Free Admission.

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.

Mar 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.

Mar 16th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Mar 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

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

Mar 4th: "Red Stick Day". Sponsored by the Red Stick Fly Fishers. BREC Perkins Park Community Center, 7122 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge, LA. 8:30am - 3:30pm. Free admission and refreshments. A celebration of fly fishing featuring programs, fly tying demos, casting instruction, exhibits, kayak demos, fishing, and raffles. Lunch provided at a nominal cost. For more info, go to www.rsff.org

Mar 11th: "Fly Fish Texas". Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, TX. Admission is \$10. The annual Fly Fish Texas event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is designed to teach everything from tying a fly to catching a fish in one day. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center. For a seminar and activities schedule, video and speaker biographies, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc and click on the "Fly Fish Texas" link.

Mar 17th - 19th: "KFF March Brown". Kisatchie Fly Fishers' March Brown trip to the Little Missouri River in Arkansas. For more info, go to www.kisatchiefly.org

Mar 23rd - 25th: "Sowbug Roundup". Sponsored by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers. Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, Arkansas. 9am - 4pm each day. Admission is \$5 for all three days. The foremost gathering of fly tyers from the USA and Europe. There is also seminars, casting instruction, vendors, drawings and auctions. The first \$3000 of revenue is used to fund the NAFF Scholarships.

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!