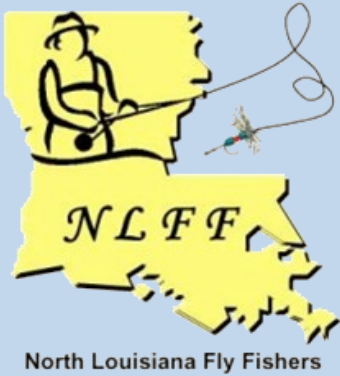


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

May 2017

Volume 3, Issue 5



May Meeting

Glen "Catch" Cormier is our featured speaker for May's meeting. He will give a presentation on fishing for crappie (white perch for you Northerners and Sac-a-lait by the Cajuns).

There is a knack to catching these fish. They are nicknamed "paper mouths" because their jaws will easily tear and you will not hookup. If that wasn't enough reason to target another species, crappie fishing with a fly rod presents its own unique challenges. "Catch" addresses these challenges one by one.

this presentation previously, Catch has added some new information to his talk.

If you haven't chased crappie before, you need to try it. In my opinion, and many others agree with me, crappie is one of the best species for the table. In fact, when Catch goes crappie fishing, he



practices catch and release - catch and release into the cooler!

I had an opportunity to hear Catch's presentation at this year's Little Mo' Fly Fishing Festival. Trust me - you do not want to miss this if you plan to fly fish for crappie. If you were lucky enough to see

You don't want to miss Catch's presentation. I, for one, am looking forward to it - again.



"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you... but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish."

~ Mark Twain



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April Meeting Recap

John Williams from Pack & Paddle in Lafayette, LA showed us some new fishing spots and some new kayak fishing gear.

John added to our list of places to kayak fish the saltwater marshes of southern Louisiana. He mapped out, via some Google Earth screen shots, several new places they have fished recently that holds the saltwater yak fisherman's coveted Red Drum, aka redfish. He showed put in points and areas to paddle to

and fish giving consideration to the wind direction. It was a very informative and valuable portion of his presentation.

The most intriguing thing John showed was a new way of holding your paddle out of the way while chasing those aforementioned redfish, on a belt around your waist! Invented by a friend of his, this is Cajun ingenuity at its best. It was surprising to see how well it held out of your way.

Jackson Kayaks has introduced a new platform made specifically for fly fishers. John brought one to show and I had an opportunity recently to check out one on a fishing trip to Arkansas. While not as wide or long as my Jackson Big Rig (but very close), it is still very stable to stand and sight fish for reds and paddles just a little faster. It also has a different keel design to allow it to draft a little shallower than the Big Rig. Best of all, a flat deck to not tangle your stripping line!



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Fly of the Month - "Slow Sinking Spider"

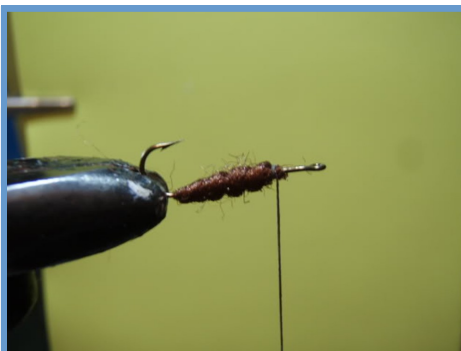
The fly tying session at Bass Pro this month (May 18th) will feature Jerald Lewis tying a slow sinking spider pattern. This is a great warmwater pattern for this time of year.

This pattern may be a little different than Jerald's version but it is the only one I could find (from someone named Pearow on The Bass Pond site).

Hook: Bend the hook only slightly, too much and it will spin on the retrieve.



Body: Chenille, Sparkle Yarn, etc.



Legs: I tie two legs in the middle on both sides, making it an 8-legged creature. I use one strand of a silicone skirt on each side, cut in half.



Wing (Optional): A wisp of squirrel tail tied just in front of the legs, with the ends extending over the hook point. I use Sally Hansen's Hard As Nails to hold the base of the squir-

rel fibers together, making them tie in easier.



I seal the head, after wrapping thread for a build up, with more Sally's.

This fly is deadly sinking slowly. Remember when you twitch the fly with floating line, the fly will rise, then slowly fall. Little bitty twitches drive them CRAZY!



Introducing Fly Fishers International (formerly International Federation of Fly Fishers)

A Letter from the President of Fly Fishers International

For most of us, fly fishing is more than just a sport. It's been central to our lives in many ways, providing a much-needed break from the daily grind, and giving us time on the water we'll never forget, as well as friendships that will last a lifetime. That's why I'm especially excited to announce that our organization is undergoing a significant evolution that I believe will better reflect the importance fly fishing plays in all our lives. The new name of our organization is Fly Fishers International (FFI), and with it comes a re-invigorated approach to our programs, mission, and purpose.

As president of FFI (formerly known as the International Federation of Fly Fishers, or IFFF), I wanted to give you a little background into this change, which is a tremendously exciting new chapter in our group's storied history, and for the future of the sport.

Our core values remain unchanged - to continue to serve as a strong advocate for fly fishing in all waters for all fish, to preserve and promote the arts of fly casting and fly tying, and to help ensure that future generations can enjoy these same one-of-a-kind experiences.

So why the change?

Change can be difficult, and we want you all to know that the process leading up to this evolution involved hundreds if not thousands of hours of in-depth discussions and thoughtful debate among board members and dedicated volunteers.

Rebranding and a potential name change was originally identified for consideration by the Stra-



tegic Planning Committee when it first met in May of 2015. Why was it being discussed? Certainly, one key issue revolved around the name: based on research, fly anglers do not find the name "International Federation of Fly Fishers" appealing, nor did it sound like a modern organization. Looking at the average age of IFFF membership, organizational goals for growth, and a perceived lack of relevance among some fly fishing groups, we knew it was time to ask some hard questions.

The process of exploring potential rebranding began with the hiring of a marketing and branding agency, which was tasked with evaluating current recognition of the organization within the fly fishing community, and to document and analyze the thoughts and opinions of our members regarding our current brand presence.

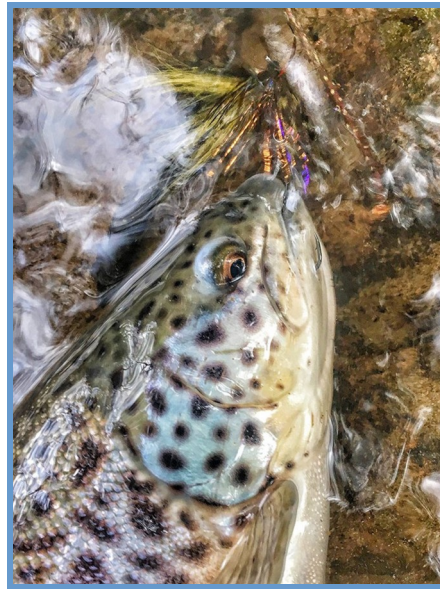
Early on, questionnaires were sent to three sample populations: the general fly fishing community, current IFFF members, and members who had allowed their IFFF membership to lapse. Although the three sample populations were diverse in terms of their demographics and relationship to the Federation (members versus non-members), their comments were consistent. One of the most jarring results was that up to 88% of non-member fly anglers had never even heard of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (and we've been around since 1964). Another result made it clear that, while our core mission was still very relevant, there was a disconnect between what we do in the context of our mission, and what people think we do.

Overall, the survey results were quite clear: our organization needs to do a much better job of inform-

(Continued on page 6)

This Will Change the Way You Fly Fish Pressured Waters By Stephen Nymick

Fly fishing today has anglers targeting an array of species in pretty much every fishable location on the planet. Generally speaking, due to the rise of social media and the seemingly insatiable need to snap that “epic fish pic,” there are not too many streams or locations that are secret fishing spots anymore. There are probably many anglers who have stepped foot in the same run you fish regularly. If you are fortunate enough to fish a



river system that doesn't have much pressure, well, congratulations and please take me there.

The local waters where I live in Pennsylvania can be inundated with anglers just about every other day. In cases like that, as an angler you have three choices you can make:

- Put your walking shoes on, find open water, and fish anyway.

(Continued on page 7)

Introducing Fly Fishers International - Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

ing both members and the general public of what we do, and why that mission is critical to ensuring our opportunity to fly fish doesn't vanish. From protecting public access to passing on the art of fly tying, or teaching two-handed casting to addressing overcrowding and habitat degradation, there is a clear need for the voice of the fly fisher to be heard.

Therefore, leadership agreed a name change was central to this rebranding—and to signal, in no uncertain terms, a fundamental evolution was underway. Through further research and discussion, Fly Fishers International was recom-

mended as the strongest name choice. The name incorporates elements of our current name, but is reconceived in a simple, straightforward way that emphasizes our primary market target—people who fly fish—while embracing the international presence that we continue to nurture and expand.

Finally, Fly Fishers International is also already echoed in the name of our organization's long-time publication, *Flyfisher Magazine*, offering another level of recognition among our current members, corporate partners, and the fly fishing community as a whole.

As many of you have rightly pointed out, organizational change

will not simply occur with the change of our name. A great deal of hard work lies ahead. We recognize the need to do a much better job of increasing public awareness for the great work our organization continues to accomplish, and for taking better advantage of the partnerships, potential projects, and other opportunities that could benefit from FFI's help in making positive impacts.

But these efforts won't be nearly as effective without your help. Please join Fly Fishers International as we work together to cultivate conservation, education, and community within the sport of fly fishing.



This Will Change the Way You Fly Fish Pressured Waters - Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

- Go home and tie more flies waiting for a day where you have the stream to yourself (you'll be waiting for a while).
- Alter your fishing approach, think outside of the box, and fish your fly with confidence behind people who just fished a run.

In my personal experience, finding open water and fishing usually works and is good for a fish here and there. To maximize your success, try altering your fishing tactics with an unconventional approach that most anglers wouldn't use.

Believe it or not, this is actually extremely easy to do because most guys are using a Woolly Bugger/standard streamer, or tandem nymph rig. Fly fishing is entirely centralized on observation. Reading water, insect

identification, flow rates/visibility, the list is endless. Take a minute, observe other anglers, and BE DIFFERENT.

I recently had a day off from taking clients out and I decided to fish a stream that is pressured beyond belief. The fish in this stream are cultured to mop flies, worms, and nymphs/midges.

Jerry French's Dirty Hoh concept. I decided to use a light sink tip (T-8) on my switch rod and I headed to my favorite run on the stream.

As I approached I noticed two anglers fishing on the opposing bank right in the heart of the run. I collected myself, and sat on a log watching them as they pick a few average fish out right where I



As I pulled into the lot, I could hear other anglers talking about all the midges coming off and how great the fishing will be. Needless to say, my midge pattern for the day was a 4-inch sculpin using

planned on swinging my sculpin. As they worked their way to the tail out, I began stripping line out and making casts.

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This Will Change the Way You Fly Fish Pressured Waters - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

The anglers gave me a look as if I had no business being there due to the unfamiliar Skagit casting followed by a large fly bombing through the air. About the third

midges were coming off, or watching the guys' faces in utter disbelief as the water exploded by his feet as my fly was in mid swing.

The entire day I continued to use this unconventional approach of

ence with you is because we anglers can tend to be stagnant in our approaches and fish the same techniques over and over again. Fishing the same standard flies educate and culture fish in pressured streams.



Steelhead fishing in the Great Lakes region is a prime example. These fish see thousands of egg flies, stoneflies, and buggers in the first couple weeks as they begin their fall run. Don't get me wrong, these flies are extremely successful, but there are times when the fish become quite selective.

swing through the run, the ever so soothing sound of my click-and-pawl reel began to shine. The water exploded with several acrobatic gestures from one of the largest rainbows I've caught this year.

I'm not sure what was better, the unconventional approach of swinging a trout on a large sculpin while

letting anglers pound runs with indicator rigs, then slip in behind swinging a fly that presented a larger and more aggressive meal. This technique turned out to be one of the best days of swinging a fly for trout that I had ever experienced.

The reason I share this experi-

You have to think, what separates you from the other anglers on the stream that day? There's only X amount of ways you can tie a zebra midge or an egg fly. If there are 10 guys on a stream and you're all throwing zebra midges, eggs, or stoneflies, etc., how different can your fly

(Continued on page 9)

This Will Change the Way You Fly Fish Pressured Waters - Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

possibly be from the other anglers? Granted, if there is an infamous Green Drake hatch or Salmonfly hatch occurring, the trout are looking up in the water column so throwing a streamer may not be your best choice.

It's our human nature to stay content with our approach, which makes trying new tactics even more

difficult. We all have daily routines that we're all afraid to stray from. Sometimes leaving the comfort zone can be difficult at times, but afterwards, we generally realize how beneficial it was in some way.

There are no set tips that I can list out for you in ways to be "different." Each river system has a time and a place for everything. The best tip I can give is to tie some larger flies like articu-

lated streamers, or even articulated stoneflies to have in your box as a back up. These back-up flies are now my go-to flies for fishing pressured streams.

Question your fly selection next time you're fishing a pressured system and fish with the utmost confidence no matter what facial expressions you get from other anglers.

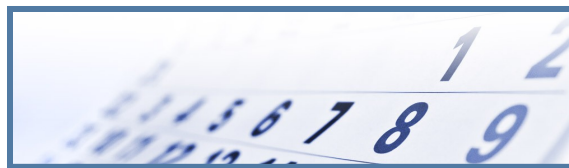


About Stephen Nymick:

Stephen Nymick is owner of Stephen Nymick Fly Fishing LLC and a Signature Fly Designer for CATCH Fly Fishing. He began fly fishing at just 7 years old on his local streams in Western Pennsylvania. The day his father took him out to get his first fly rod, he also came home with his first fly tying kit. For the early part of his fly fishing career, he went back and forth between stripping woolly buggers and dead drifting minnows on his fly rod for trout... yes, minnows. Stephen started his own business selling his patterns commercially while in college. His college years took him near Erie, PA where he fished tributaries of the Great Lakes frequently and dialed in his patterns for steelhead. He even did his senior thesis on steelhead, which enabled him to fish several days a week for class. Within a short time, Stephen's passion for swinging flies on a spey rod for steelhead really became an obsession and addiction. To him there is nothing more exhilarating than catching giant anadromous fish on large articulated streamers. Now, Stephen's passion is evolving around teaching new anglers about swinging flies on Skagit line for trout back on his local waters in Western PA. What really drives his passion for tying is hearing success stories and memories made from his clients using his patterns. You can follow Stephen on Instagram [@stephennymick](https://www.instagram.com/stephennymick).



NLFF Calendar



May 9th: 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. "Catch" Cormier will be speaking on crappie fishing with a fly rod.

May 18th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Jerald Lewis will be tying a slow sinking spider.

May 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.

Jun 13th: 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.

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

Jun 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.

Jul 11th: 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.

Jul 20th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Jul 22nd: NLFF's 5th Annual Masters Series. "A Day with George Daniel". 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Cost is \$40 and includes lunch, coffee, and drinks. Seating is limited to 75 so buy your tickets early to meet this legend in the sport of fly fishing.

Jul 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.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

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

Upcoming Events

May 5th - 6th: "Bass on the Fly Tournament". Lake Fork Marina, Lake Fork, Texas. Friday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Optional Big Sunfish Tournament. Cost is \$10. Saturday 6:00 am to 2:00 pm. Main Event. Cost is \$60 per person, includes \$5 to big bass pot. Optional \$5 entry in big sunfish contest. This is a fly fishing only catch/photo/release (CPR) tournament. Proceeds support Reel Recovery and the FFF-Texas Council. Categories: Club, Boat, Non-Boat (kayak, canoe, bank, float tube, etc), Registration is by mail or onsite Friday 12 noon - 9:00 pm, or Saturday 5:00 am - 6:00 am. Online registration available. For more info, go to <http://www.bassonthefly.org>

May 19th - 21st: "Red Stick Fly Fishers - Spring Catch & Eat". Annual marsh fishing trip. Friday-Saturday. Highway 1 Corridor - Galliano to Grand Isle. Friday evening gathering at local restaurant (optional). Saturday evening gathering and fish/shrimp/veggie fry - Golden Meadow. Must be member of RSFF or other fly fishing club to participate. For details, go to www.rsff.org

Jul 22nd: NLFF's 5th Annual Masters Series. "A Day with George Daniel". 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Cost is \$40 and includes lunch, coffee, and drinks. Seating is limited to 75 so buy your tickets early to meet this legend in the sport of fly fishing.

Jul 22nd: LKFC Hwy 1 Slamboree. Hosted by the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club. Admission fee to this kayak fishing tournament is \$35. Launch points are anywhere from Golden Meadow to Elmers, Fourchon and Grand Isle along Hwy 1. Weigh-in at Leeville public boat launch at 3pm. For more info, or to register, go to www.lafayettekayakfishing.com

Aug 25th - 26th: Ride the Bull 8. Bridgeside Marina, Grand Isle, LA. Friday - Captain's Dinner and Calmwater Film Festival at 7pm. Saturday - Tournament and awards. The format is simple - land a Bull Red from your Kayak or other authorized paddle craft in Caminada Pass. Awards will be given for largest Bull Red landed and weighed (and released). Net proceeds from the tournament used for fishing and kayak access on Grand Isle. For rules and info, go to www.calmwatercharters.net/ridethebull/index.html

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First FFI (formerly 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!