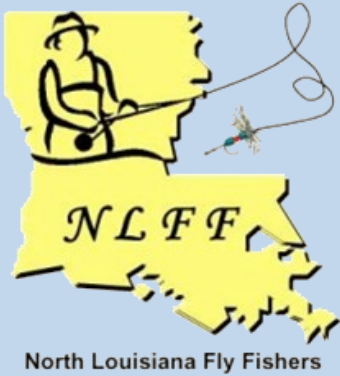


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

June 2017

Volume 3, Issue 6



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Notice - The Fly of the Month will return next month. Tools and Techniques are the focus of this month fly tying at Bass

June Meeting

Larry Offner owned the Green Trout Fly Shop in Denham Springs just outside Baton Rouge. He will be speaking about the goings on in the life of a fly shop owner. He calls his program "Musings of a Fly Shop Owner".

While Larry has been a little evasive about what his program is actually about, the name sounds very intriguing. I can envision humorous stories of clients and customers. Now imagine a fly shop next door to cupcake shop. A cupcake shop owned by, I believe, his daughter. And both shops share the same entrance door! Now that has the making of some funny moments! "What's better than drinking a cup of coffee, eating a cupcake and talking about fly fishing all day?" Offner says. "Not much." Personally, I liked the fine print



on his store hours sign - "Hours subject to change if the fish are biting!"

Whatever Larry talks about will no doubt be entertaining as he is a very good speaker. So don't miss this meeting on Tuesday, June 13th. Bring your spouse. This should be an hour of great fun for everyone!

The NLFF Masters Series featuring Team USA 2-time fly fishing champion George Daniel is only about six weeks away. If you haven't gotten tickets yet, please do so soon. We need to know the number of attendees for lunch. Also, seating is limited and we have sold out every year. Don't be on the outside looking in. Get your tickets at any NLFF function. We accept all major credit cards, checks and cash, of course. This month's meeting would be a great opportunity to pick up your tickets before they are all gone.



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

~ Mark Twain



April Meeting Recap

Glen “Catch” Cormier was our featured speaker for last month’s meeting. If you missed it, you missed so great information about when, where, and how to catch some crappie, or sac-a-lait as Catch calls them.

Information included the type of rod, line, and flies to use as well



as techniques and specific gear to use to find them. Folks, if you are not attending our meetings, you are missing out on one of the best reasons to be a member. The information that we strive to bring our membership is invaluable, well worth the club dues many times over.



2016 NLFF Executive Board

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NLFF Annual Fly Fishing Series - George Daniel

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers is pleased to host and organize the annual Fly Fishing Masters Series. In the past this event has had Bob Clouser, Davy Wotton and Dave Whitlock as featured speakers. This year we are bringing George Daniel to the Masters Series.

George Daniel began fly fishing



remains involved with the US Youth Fly Fishing Team, as well as writing and conducting fly-fishing clinics/presentations across the country.

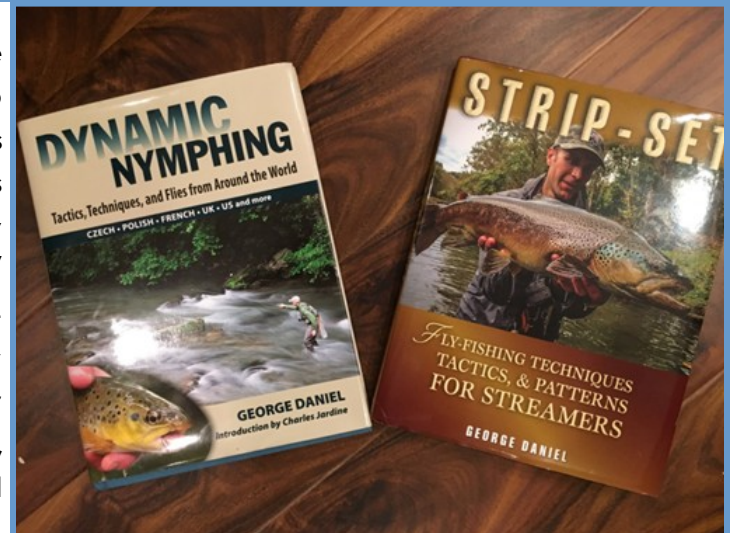
He has published two best selling books, *Strip-Set* and *Dynamic Nymphing* and is a contributing editor to *Fly Fisherman Magazine*. George lives along the banks



at the age of 6 in Potter County, PA, a remote region filled with wilderness and beautiful brook trout. George held a spot on Fly Fishing Team USA for 7 seasons, and in that brief period had success by winning back-to-back US National Championships and placed in the top 5 in the 2006 World Fly Fishing Championships.

George is a former manager of

the TCO State College Fly Shop and now owns and operates Livin On The Fly LLC., a guide/educational service company located near State College, PA. George still



NLFF Annual Fly Fishing Series - George Daniel

(Continued from
page 4)

of his favorite trout stream with his wife, Amidea and their two children.

This is sure to be a fantastically educational event as evident by this testimonial:

George is a patient teacher, deep thinker and lover of systematic approaches to the complex multi-variate problems of angling. Few people in any discipline can make both theory and technique so accessible in such an entertaining and intuitive way while being able to answer any question so thoughtfully and thoroughly. Quite simply, I learned more from two days with George than my previous years of books, videos and on-stream lessons combined. I'll go back at every opportunity I have.

-Michael Lloyd, New York

The really amazing thing about



the above review is that we booked that master of theory and technique for our show! This event is one not to miss.

The 2017 NLFF Fly Fishing Masters Series will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door if any seats remain. (We have completely sold out every year so get your advance tickets today. See June Meeting story on page 1.)

Schedule of events includes:

- 1) On the water casting clinic with George Daniel
- 2) Presentation by George Daniel. Topics will include various way to improve your fishing.
- 3) Fly tying demonstration by George Daniel

Optional: Dinner with George Daniel at Ralph and Kacoo's Saturday July 22, 5:30 p.m. (dutch treat). If you wish to dine with George Daniel, we must make reservations. Call Scott Irwin: 318-469-0854.



3 Reasons You're Not Catching Bass

by Dave Parsons

It's no secret fly fishing started as a trout fishing sport. Over the decades it's spread into several other arenas of fishing: saltwater, warm-water, carp... just about anything that swims.

But suffice it to say, even here in the Southwestern United States where the only cold running water within a 3-hour drive comes from a faucet, the trout is still the king of the fly rod world.

However, cold-water trips are far and few between unless you happen to be gifted with unlimited vacation time and free gas. So, being blessed with fishable year-round weather, it is inevitable that even the most die-hard trout purist will eventually try their skills at fly fishing for bass.

Most cold-water veterans go into it with the attitude that this much less sophisticated fish requires much

less effort to trick than their cold water cousins, and most are quite surprised when they get stumped time and again by these neanderthals of the fly fishing world.

I'm not here to convince you bass are smarter or harder to catch than trout – they're not. But if you want to show up at the bass lake and be able to leave with your dignity intact, you need to change up your game.

Here are 3 of the most common reasons you might not be catching as many bass as you could be.

1. Your flies are too small.

The first dead giveaway when a newbie comes into the bass world from the trout sector is their flybox. If you brought your trout box onto the bass boat, your flies are too small.

Those cone head number 4 woolly buggers may seem to be big on whatever stream you just came from, but if you're going to dedicate serious effort to chasing a truly huge largemouth, you need to scale it up. They're called largemouth for a reason and even an average sized bass can gulp down the biggest articulated trout streamer you have without even

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Mike Smith of New River Fly Fishing caught this smallmouth bass on a Jackknife streamer. These fish are aggressive.

3 Reasons You're Not Catching Bass - Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

the bite is on and this accounts for

If you need to expand your mind



Blane Chocklett with a fatty caught on a Surface Seducer Double Barrel popper.

about fly size, go take a look at some of the giant swim baits and the size of the bass they pull in. Some of these behemoth baits are a full 14" long. That will help adjust your thinking a little when you think that 5" streamer is too big.

2. You're still thinking like a trout.

I've seen some truly ex-

batting a fin.

It's difficult to have over-sized flies with such an aggressive predator. Tournament bass guys catch 10" bass on a 8" baits all the time.

I routinely fish patterns in the 4-6" range as my general all-purpose size and this is where I think the strike to cast ratio is the best. I will fish shad and bluegill patterns in the 2-4" range when

a lot of action, but I never fish anything smaller.

When you get into the 8" size range and above, this is the trophy range. This size is generally for that ten-pounder you know is hanging out under that secret ledge somewhere and you need to smoke him out. Although the strike ratio goes way down, the fish you do catch are usually Instagram worthy.

pert still-water trout guys get completely baffled during an all out feed frenzy simply because they're not fishing the water correctly.

Bass are a completely different species than the trout we've all studied so religiously and to put it simply, they act almost nothing like trout.

Think structure.

(Continued on page 8)

3 Reasons You're Not Catching Bass - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

Bass are ambush predators and if your fly isn't near something big enough to hide behind, its going to be a long day.

Bass hold near structure almost all the time. They are rarely caught in open water unless its the dead of winter when they follow the shad schools out into the main lake areas. But the rest of the year, they cling to structure, any structure: weeds, trees, sunken UFOs, anything they can find to stage up on, under, or behind. If there isn't any structure available, they hug the bottom.

So to put it simply, you need to be getting your fly in and around obstacles or near the bottom. Get your flies into the areas where the fish are holding and keep them there.

These same rules apply for surface action. Top-water usually means keeping tight to the shore and weed lines most of the time but fishing over shallow rocky points and rock piles will be worth the time. Again, the structure is the key.

Casting accuracy becomes critical here to stay out of the weeds and trees and fly robbing brush. You might be an expert tossing small dries to a tight lie on a stream with your super exquisite 4-wt, but slamming down a soggy wet mouse pattern within an inch of a brush pile with an extra fast 7-wt and a nice mini-hurricane-like breeze in



your face all day is more of an art than you would think.

3. Your gear is all wrong.

If you're a full-time trout guy who's just starting to get into the bass game, I hate to break it to you, but you need new gear. I know we're all just waiting for an excuse to go shopping for new equipment, and this is it.

When you show up at the dock with your 6-wt "streamer" rod all

set up with a floating line thinking your going to do some damage, you're going to have a bit of a surprise.

You'll find that a 5-6 wt rod will have hard time accurately placing even a modest-sized bass bug. If you want to do it right, a 7 or even 8-wt is almost mandatory, along with a solid reel to go along with it. As a general rule I fish 7-wts almost exclusively. Fast or medium action, whichever you prefer, just make sure rods are strong enough to stop a small beast.

Reels should have solid drags. Think saltwater. They don't need to be sealed for saltwater use, but need to be plenty strong. Bass don't make long runs like saltwater fish, but they are tough to move away from obstructions and will hang you up quick if you don't move them fast. Add ten pounds of weed bed salad to your line and you can see what you're up against. I like reels with a large arbor that take up line fast and that are tough enough to take some abuse of being tossed around the boat.

(Continued on page 9)

3 Reasons You're Not Catching Bass - Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

If you fish from a bass boat, room is not an issue. I have rigs for every different set up I plan to use and can fish from top to bottom without changing spools or setups, which means have anywhere from three to seven fully rigged rods lying on the deck. When I float tube it, I use two rods minimum. One rigged for a floating line and one with a mid depth sink tip. If there's no top water action I switch the floating line out and choose and intermediate sink tip and a mid or deep sinking rig. This can cover the majority of situations you encounter in a day.

A word about lines.

Lines are probably the most important part of the setup.

There are line tapers for every type of fishing nowadays. I take full advantage of the spectrum and have lines that are intermediate sink tips from 1-2 ips, all the way to full sinking Deep 6 lines.

Neutral buoyancy on your flies are usually the goal and this means the line has the job of getting the fly to the right depth and keeping it suspended there. This means you need to match your line to the fly and style of retrieve. It may sound complicated and technical but its just a matter of experimentation. An intermediate sink tip and a medium sink rate lines will cover most of your needs. Add a fast sinking

full sink line for direct bottom bouncing and you're all set. You only need one floating line with a heavy weight forward or "bass" taper to do all your topwater fishing.

Now get out there!

Fly rodding for bass, like all fly fishing, can be as complicated or as simple as you wish. Just a few adjustments to your approach, gear and especially mindset can make all the difference in the world.

Fly rod bassing is a great game to play, but be careful, once you get it figured out, what was once an "alternate species" might become your main passion.



About Dave Parsons:



Dave grew up in the desert southwest and started tying flies at the age of 9. He owned his first fly rod at age 11. By the time he was out of high school he had abandoned all conventional fishing gear and hasn't looked back. Almost entirely self taught, he began designing and developing his own fly patterns almost from the start. Using materials gathered from various farm animals and household pets, most of his designs were concentrated on the warm-water species of bass and bluegills with an occasional trip to the back country for trout and smallmouth.

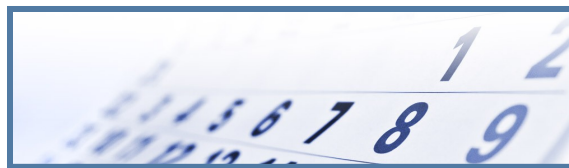
As it happens so many times, a hobby turns in to a passion, and that passion accidentally becomes a business. Dave has been selling custom flies as a small private business for almost 20 years. He started out selling his own designs on the side but is now a

signature tier for Spirit Rivers, Inc. Most of his pattern development nowadays is concentrated towards warm water patterns but also ties trout patterns of all varieties. You can find his website and unique patterns at www.theeyeofthefly.com.

Dave now spends most of his time on his home waters near Phoenix but also travels every year through the Rocky Mountain states of Idaho, Utah, Montana and Colorado.



NLFF Calendar



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. Larry Offner will entertain us with "Musing of a Fly Shop Owner".

Jun 15th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Jamie Franklin will demonstrate different fly tying tools and techniques to use them efficiently.

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.

Aug 8th: 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.

Aug 17th: 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.

Aug 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.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

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

Upcoming Events

Jun 29th: RRNWR Summer Camp Fly Tying, Bud Bethea will be leading fly tying classes for kids at the RRNWR 2017 Summer Camp. Volunteers to help the kids are welcomed and appreciated.

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 Leesville public boat launch at 3pm. For more info, or to register, go to www.lafayettekayakfishing.com

Aug 1st - 5th: FFI National Fly Fishing Fair. Park High School, Livingston, Montana. A week full of activities and new for this year is Fish Fest. See <http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/FlyFishingFair/tabid/298/Default.aspx> for complete information.

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

Sep 2nd: FFI LKFC Speck-n-Redfish Cup. Hosted by the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club. Admission fee to this kayak fishing tournament is \$25. Launch points are anywhere along the LA gulf coast. Weigh-in at Pack and Paddle in Lafayette by 5pm. For more info, or to register, go to www.lafayettekayakfishing.com



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First FFI (formerly 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!