

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

May 2018

Volume 4, Issue 5



North Louisiana Fly Fishers
Established in 1984

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Flies & Fleas Outing

The first weekend in May (4-6), the North Louisiana Fly Fishers is holding its first outing at Purvis Creek State Park in Eustace, TX. This park is located 20 miles south of Canton, TX. This outing is to be modeled after the Frozen Chosen outing that we hold every year at the end of January - lots of fishing and a cookout with socializing.



However, we are adding a twist. Shopping! The first weekend of the month happens to coincide with the First Mon-

all, fishing for those that will, shopping for those so inclined and a dinner cookout of hotdogs and hamburgers, a la Frozen Chosen, on Saturday evening after a

day of shopping and/or fishing.



A nice mess of 8-10" bream caught on Purvis Creek Lake last year while scouting the campground for a club outing.

day Trade Days in Canton. How convenient. The idea is for a family outing with something for everyone. Relaxation for

My camper is packed. Hope to see you there!



6th Annual NLFF Masters Series

The 6th Annual Masters Series tickets officially go on sale May 1st at early bird pricing of \$35.00 per ticket until June 1st, after which they will be available at the regular price of \$40.00. Tickets to the June 28th event featuring Kelly Galloup are available by mail or in person at any NLFF function or meeting. This is sure to sell out quickly, so get your tickets early. A limited number of seats are available and due to sponsorship sales, about half of the seating is already reserved. Don't delay, lest ye forget! Get your tickets now.

**2018 NLFF Executive Board**

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Member at Large	David Gilbert	318-458-9450	hdgilbert850@gmail.com



**North Louisiana Fly Fishers
6th Annual Masters Series
Proudly Presents:**

Kelly Galloup

Kelly Galloup started his fly fishing career at the age of 13, tying flies for the local tackle shop and has over forty nationally recognized fly patterns. He started guiding at the age of 16 and is still guiding to this day some 30 years later. Kelly owned and operated the Troutsman fly shop in Northern Michigan from 1981 to 2002. In the spring of 2002 he sold the Troutsman and moved to Montana where he and his wife Penny bought the Slide Inn lodge on the Madison River.

Kelly has written two books *Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout* and *Cripples and Spinners*. Kelly has been published in nearly every major fly fishing periodical in the country and is now one of the Editors-at-Large for *Fly Fisherman* magazine. Kelly was also one of the hosts of *Fly Fish TV* on the *Outdoor Life Network*. In 2004 Kelly was nominated and received the Living Legend award by the Federation of Flyfishers, now Fly Fishers International.



Tickets: \$40 each

***Early Bird Special: \$35 each
(if purchased before June 1st)***

Where and When:

***Red River NWR
150 Eagle Bend Point
Bossier City, LA 71112***

***July 28, 2018
9:00am - 4:00pm***

For More Information:

**Contact Scott Irwin
318-469-0854**

Mountain View, Arkansas – The Name Says It All

By Vicki Thibodeaux

Looking for an Ozark Mountain adventure that's not too far away? Pack your bags, don't forget your fly rod, and take a trip to the beautiful town of Mountain View, AR (population about 3,000) and the surrounding area for exciting fishing, camping, eating, shopping, kayaking, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and so much more!

So where is Mountain View and how do you get there from Shreveport, LA? Mountain View is two hours north of Little Rock, AR, a relaxing and scenic five-hour drive from Shreveport. Interstate 49 from Shreveport to Texarkana, AR is quick and easy, where you'll take



Interstate 30 east in Texarkana and be in Little Rock before you know it. Next, head north to Conway, AR (taking the 430 loop to Interstate 40 is recommended) and

then take Highway 65 from Conway to Clinton, AR. In Clinton, take Highway 16 through Shirley, AR and on into Mountain View. Pull your seatbelt tight for the switchbacks and twisting, rollercoaster road ride near Shirley and don't look down from the shoulder, or where one should be! Note that many of Arkansas' counties are dry so pack alcoholic beverages if desired.

What's there to do and where do you go? I'll highlight some of my favorite activities but there's too many things to list in this article.

While in Mountain View, enjoy lunch on the patio at the Wing Shack which is next to Wal-Mart. About a block away, the Econo Lodge is a clean and reasonably priced motel if you need one. Stroll around the downtown square and visit the gift shops during the day and don't miss the fudge shop. Go back to the square in the evening, bring your lawn chair, and listen to some world class folk and bluegrass music provided free by top-notch local musicians. To fit in, you should wander around with an ice cream cone in your hand from the town square vendor.



To further your adventure, head six miles north of Mountain View on Highway 5 to Allison, AR which is not really a town but a crossroad. It's a must to eat at Anglers, a great restaurant that overlooks the White River. I recommend everything on the menu! Wade fishing for trout here is not accessible due to the deep waters of the river in this area but there are several fishing outfitters, lodges, and rental shops available. This is the point where the Sylamore Creek flows into the White River. There's a nice RV park and the creek has beautiful shallow, calm and clear waters for swimming, floating and fishing.

From Allison, there are two easy routes that can take you to other nearby sites and activities. So take a drive, enjoy the majestic mountain scenery, put that window down and breathe in that fresh mountain air! For the first route, you can turn onto Highway 14 and head to the Blanchard Springs Caverns. You'll

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Mountain View, Arkansas – The Name Says It All, Cont.

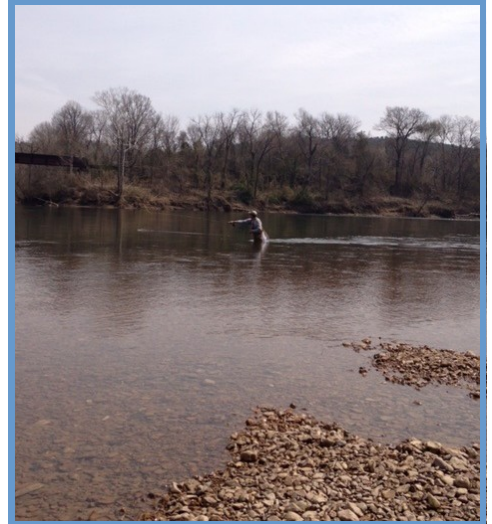
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wind through the Ozark National Forest and the Sylamore Wildlife Management Area for eight miles to get there and pass a nice horse-back riding stable as well as hiking and biking trails. Be sure to take a guided tour of the caverns and cast a line at Mirror Lake which is a small, trout-stocked mountain lake in a postcard setting. Stop by the visitor's center where the employees are extremely knowledgeable about the area. You'll find an adjoining campground with breathtaking views of cliffs, waterfalls, swimming creeks, and hiking trails. But if you want to get away from the crowd, continue on Highway 14 a few more miles to Gunner Pool. Turn right on the well maintained graveled Gunner Pool Road and drive three miles to a developed but more isolated and primitive campground – the scenery is worth

it. Note that you can camp, hunt and fish anywhere, anytime in the forest; you are not confined to a campground.

The second route from Allison will keep you on Highway 5 headed north through Optimus, AR which is ten miles away and not really a town but a hidden place to hunt and fish. At Optimus, turn right onto the Optimus River Road and drive four miles to the stunning White River in the Ozark National Forest. The road is well kept and leads to an off-the-beaten path shoal that stretches for a very long ways in both directions. There's a primitive sandy launch for smaller boats and a wooded walking trail above the river. My husband and I have fished here when there was no generation on the river and also with some generation and were still able to wade. Can you hear the water flowing over the rocks? Feel

the cold rippling water pressure on your waders? See the eagle soaring above you over the mountains? When the water is low, I enjoy walking for long distances down the sandy river bank to collecting rocks, shells, and driftwood and see how many animal tracks I can identify; I'm still look-



ing for bear tracks. Calico Rock, AR, which is eight miles from Optimus, still on Highway 5, is a charming small town with tourist shops and fishing guides. Be sure to have an appetite for a big, old-fashioned juicy burger and fries at Between the Buns restaurant.

Keep in mind that all of the activities I've told you about are in or within 30 minutes of Mountain View. I hope you choose to explore this area and fall in love with it like I did. What are you waiting for? Pick a date, pack your bags, enjoy your trip and don't forget to stop by Heber Springs, AR and fish the Little Red River on the way home – but that's another story!



(Editor's Note: The fall colors are awesome in the part of Arkansas!)



Tips From a Fly Fishing Guide

by Ben Rogers

Five Simple Things You're Probably Overlooking

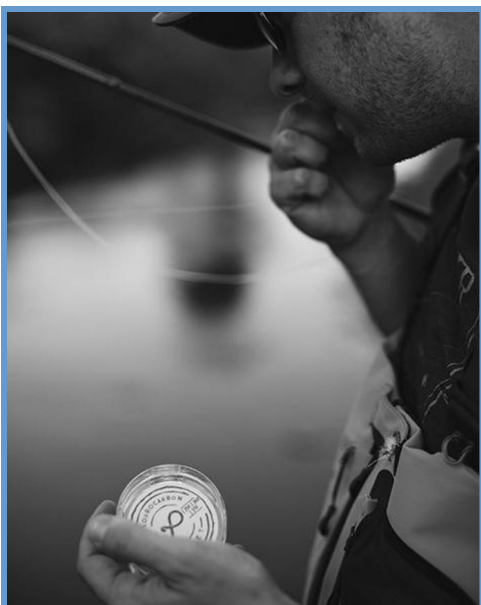
"Oh, why didn't I think about that?" I've heard it more times than I can count.

As a fly fishing guide, you become proficient in many aspects. The daily checklists that plague your morning routine become second nature. However, to some fly anglers that are fishing only a few times a month, these seemingly simple to-dos can slip the mind.

Here are five of the best ways to make your day more productive, all of which I've noticed many anglers overlook.

1. Change your leader frequently.

I get it, you only fished a few days with it. Nevertheless, I make it



a priority to change my leaders every time I go out. This should seem like a no-brainer, but it's overlooked more often than not. You should be changing your leader or tippet after every snag or if you remove split shot.

Some anglers go the inexpensive route with their leaders. This basically means you have nylon. Nylon degrades rather quickly and is not abrasion-resistant. I've learned this the hard way.

Fluorocarbon leaders are worth the few extra bucks. They're much stronger and less visible to the fish, which also helps you get away with heavier leader and tippet sizes.

2. Learn your knots.

Early in my career as a guide, one of my first clients was given the nickname Mr. Clinch by the shop



Flymen guide Ben Rogers of Chasing Tails Fly Fishing.

owner. No lie, from leader to hook eye, all he used were clinch knots.

Now, I know the clinch knot is time-tested, easy to tie, and generally strong. However, learning your fundamental knots is important in becoming a self-sufficient fly an-



gler. Your leader setup will be stronger and perform better when the proper knots are utilized.

Besides the clinch knot, the most important knots all anglers should know are the improved surgeon's

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Tips From a Fly Fishing Guide - Cont.

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knot, blood knot, nail knot, and a non-slip loop knot. By learning these knots and how they can benefit your rig, you enhance your angling confidence, as well as the ability to know what knot to use to render certain results.

For example, a non-slip loop knot used for nymphs gives a little more freedom of motion. Whether you are tight line, euro, or suspension nymphing, it has shown to help with more technical drifts.

3. Sharpen your hooks!

I cannot stress this enough. Keep your hooks sharp! You can have on a strong, new leader and do



one hell of a hook-set, but it's all for nothing if your hook point is dull. Most fish have tough mouths, and they only get tougher the older and bigger they get. It's a



habit every angler should have. Whether you buy flies already tied or tie your own, give them a good sharpening before you put them in your fly boxes.

The foam in your box or your fly patch will ultimately dull the hook point. If your fly has been in the water, it's dulling, plain and simple. Buy a portable sharpener, keep your hooks sharp, and make your hook-sets count.

4. Stop and observe.

When you get to a stretch of water, it takes discipline to delay casting. It doesn't matter if you're fishing streamers or not – stop and observe for at least ten minutes. Once you settle down, it's amazing what you'll see.

Make a strategy of how you'll fish the water you've approached.

Take a bio assessment, check for insect activity. Try to spot fish in the water and observe their behavior. Are they actively feeding? Where in the water column are they suspended? Time their feeding pattern. This will make your casts more efficient.

You'll also learn more about that particular habitat as well. You can later make notes of any insect or fish activity you witnessed. This will help you gather an understanding of that area, giving you a greater advantage your future trips.

5. Fish before you step.

We've all heard the saying, "the grass is always greener on the other side". When it comes to fly fishing, the opposite side of the river always seems to have a bet-

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Tips From a Fly Fishing Guide - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)



ter appeal to most. Fight the temptation!

When you get to a section of water, assume that there are fish right at your feet by the bank. Methodically cast and fish your way to the middle of the drink. If you immediately walk into the middle of the stream or river,

you are creating vibrations by displacing water and substrate. This alerts fish to a potential threat, spooking fish that other wise could have been caught. This might also inadvertently put the other fish down that are nearby. My rule of thumb is cast before you step. I'd rather catch a fish than spook one.



About Ben Rogers:

Ben Rogers is the owner and head guide at Chasing Tails Fly Fishing. He's an ambassador for Soul River – an urban-focused fly fishing company dedicated to conservation of wild steelhead fisheries –, a signature fly tier for Holly Flies, and a contributing editor for various fly fishing publications. After serving in the military, Ben put his specialized skills learned in the Army to good use by working in fly shops and guiding other anglers in the great outdoors and has now been been fly fishing for over two decades. Ben has also volunteered as a guide for Project Healing Waters, working with fellow wounded veterans using fly fishing as a therapeutic tool for recovery, and is a Trout Unlimited member.



Help Wanted

I am in my fourth year of publishing *The Fly Line*. Wait! Keep reading. I'm not looking for a replacement editor. (Not yet anyhow!) Over those three plus years, I have received only a handful of submissions from club members. It takes a lot of work to contact authors of interesting article that I find to get permission to re-publish them. Much of my work can be cut down by submissions from club members. I know that ya'll have interesting stories to tell. Heck, I hear them all the time. Send me your thoughts on paper and I will do the hard work. I will add pictures if necessary, edit for space requirements, spelling, punctuation, grammar and anything else. No shame here! Just send me your tales. I know the most interesting stories for our members come from our area and our members. Send submissions to nlffclub@gmail.com or hand them to me at any club function.

**Submissions
Wanted!**

Steve Oliver, Editor

Angler Catches Two Prehistoric Fish Species on the Same Day

With his father's help, Zaniel Cole, 8, has done the unthinkable in Oklahoma. Not only did Zaniel snag a 100-pound paddlefish, but he also managed to snag a rare shovelnose sturgeon the very same day! Paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon are distant cousins in the order Acipenseriformes and date to the time of the dinosaurs, which is why they are referred to as "prehistoric fishes."

Although they are the most abundant sturgeon in North America, shovelnose sturgeon numbers have declined over the past century and they are rare in Oklahoma. So, catching a shovelnose sturgeon the same day as a 100-pound paddlefish is a notable thrill.

Shovelnose sturgeon are not federally protected in Oklahoma, but they are listed as a Species of Special Concern in Category II. This means there is insufficient information to adequately evaluate the population

trend in Oklahoma. Harvest of shovelnose sturgeon is legal with a limit of one per day. However, any shovelnose sturgeon caught in the state is required to be reported to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.



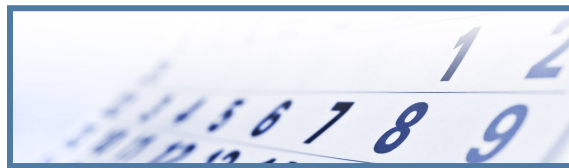
his father, Adam, released the shovelnose sturgeon and reported their catch to the Wildlife Department. Their story was shared on the Wildlife Department's Facebook page and has quickly become very popular.

Learn more about the shovelnose sturgeon in the upcoming May/June issue of Outdoor Oklahoma, the official Wildlife Department magazine.



Zaniel and

NLFF Calendar



May 5th: "Flies and Fleas". This is a new outing for our club.

Hopefully it will turn into an annual event like the "Frozen Chosen". Details in April's newsletter and at the April meeting.

May 8th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Casting lessons during our social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm. Art Seale will give a presentation on fishing the Red River.

May 17th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Steve Oliver will be tying Todd's Wiggle Minnow but this time with a new twist.

May 22th: 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 12th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Casting lessons during our social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm. Andy and Randy will give presentation on the Mayfly Project.

Jun 2st: 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 Wooly Bugger.

Jun 26th: 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 10th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Casting lessons during our social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm. Kris Nault from Arkansas Wildlife and Fisheries will talk about the Little Missouri River.

Jul 19th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Jun 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.



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

Upcoming Events

May 4th - 6th: NLFF "Flies & Fleas" Weekend. Purvis Creek State Park near Canton, TX. Great kayak fishing lake. Camp at the park or stay at the hotels around the area. A weekend of fishing (flies) at the state park and shopping at Canton's First Monday Trade Days (fleas) on your own schedule. The NLFF is hosting a hamburger and hotdog cookout at the park pavilion, Saturday the 5th at 7pm. Drinks provided. Bring a side dish and/or dessert and tales of your fishing or shopping conquests. Details on page 4 of this issue.

May 3rd - 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. 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). For more info, go to <http://www.bassonthefly.org>

May 18th - 19th: "Red Stick Fly Fishers - Spring Catch & Eat". Annual marsh fishing trip Friday-Saturday, May 18-19, 2018 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

Jun 22nd - 24th: "Summer Fly Fishing Weekend". Formerly known as Grand Isle Weekend. Annual marsh fishing trip Friday-Sunday, June 22-24, 2018 A great tradition since 1990. Members of fly fishing clubs in Louisiana and Mississippi gather for a weekend of marsh and inshore fishing. Hosted by the Red Stick Fly Fishers club. Saturday evening fish and shrimp fry at Boudreaux's Waterfront Motel in Leesville, featuring fresh-caught fish contributed by attendees. For details, go to www.rsff.org



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

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!