

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

June 2018

Volume 4, Issue 6



North Louisiana Fly Fishers  
Established in 1984

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## Flies and Fleas, Fellowship and Fun – Texas Style!

Submitted by Vicki Thibodeaux

(Editor's Note - *Flies and Fleas* was our club outing last month. We fished flies and shopped flea markets and even told a few tall tales at dinner Saturday night.)

We strapped on our spurs, I mean put on our shopping shoes, and saddled our horses, I mean loaded our kayaks, and rounded up Canton and Purvis Creek State Park like rodeo stars!

The Flies and Fleas outing was a great success. The park was clean and comfortable with a shady campground surrounding an ideal lake for kayaking and fishing. Several in our group caught bass and bream and probably a little sunburn too. The weather couldn't have been better during the weekend. We had cool nights and warm days which started with a foggy haze on the water at sunrise for early risers to admire. I didn't catch any fish although they seemed to be jumping all around me. I guess I was busy watching the abundance of turtles and buzzards, ha ha!

Canton Trade Days was impressive as always with bargains and treasures coming home with some of our savvy shop-

pers. The highlight of the trip for me was the cookout that we all really enjoyed Saturday night with fellowship and fish stories shared and stretched. If you didn't get to attend, know that you were missed and missed a good time. We discussed planning additional trips more frequently so please be sure to share your thoughts and ideas with our leaders. Until next time . . .

Happy trails to you!



**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 the 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**

President	Chris Pierce	318-347-0494	cpierce213@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Bullock	318-393-7729	twbullock@aol.com
Secretary	TBD		
A/V & Technical	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Conservation Director	Chris Pierce	318-469-0854	cpierce213@hotmail.com
Fly Tying Director	Jamie Franklin	318-707-5959	tjfranklin301@yahoo.com
Membership Director	Steve Oliver	318-470-2646	nlffclub@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.com
Programs Director	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Social Media Director	Frank Harmon	318-470-2646	qualey99@mac.com
Safety Director	Judy Thomas	318-560-4888	jwt1216@bellsouth.net
Webmaster	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	nlffclub@gmail.com
Member at Large	Thomas (Bud) Bethea	318-464-5104	thomasbethea@hotmail.com
Member at Large	Scott Irwin	318-469-0854	scottpeggy2004@gmail.com
Member at Large	Brett Rowell	318-207-6097	brett@brownbuilders.com
Member at Large	Steve Oliver	318-349-6411	sdoliver012@gmail.com
Member at Large	Joe Linder	318-245-9385	toothpick1936@gmail.com
Member at Large	David Gilbert	318-458-9450	hdgilbert850@gmail.com

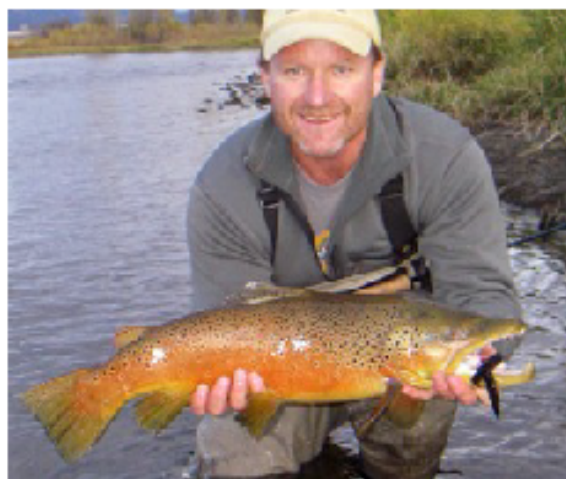


**North Louisiana Fly Fishers  
6th Annual Masters Series  
Proudly Presents:**

***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 Troutsmen fly shop in Northern Michigan from 1981 to 2002. In the spring of 2002 he sold the Troutsmen 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**



## The Little Red River – Cast, Paddle, and Hang On!

By Vicki Thibodeaux

We loaded kayaks, grabbed fly rods and headed out for an adventure! Driving through Shirley, Arkansas, four hours and forty-five minutes from Shreveport, we spot-

tember. Note that this section of the river runs above Greers Ferry Lake, is not affected by generation, and is not cold enough for trout but has plenty of other fish.

The Ozark National Forest surrounds the river with breathtaking views of cliffs and mountains.

We met with the outfitter owner, Jason Hayes, who is also the nearby Clinton, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Director. He is very

Jason provided a wealth of fishing and paddling information during the drive. The dirt road we took runs along the river and starts over the historic Shirley train bridge that has been renovated for one-lane car travel so it's one-way in and one-way out to the drop-off point.

The river is a total adventure, a classic pool-and-drop river with



ted the Little Red River Outfitters and pulled in on a whim. We had no reservation but decided to see if we could catch a ride upriver to kayak and fish for the day. It was May 27, with a forecast of 89 degrees. The middle fork of the Little Red was running at six feet, four inches, ideal conditions and this was typically the last floatable weekend until the rains returned in Sep-

knowledgeable about the river and the area in general. Four of us paid \$10 each to have our kayaks unloaded from our truck and onto a trailer, and we were driven in a van five miles up the river to a very remote drop-off point with no parking available. There's also the option of Jason riding with you and he will drive your vehicle back to the landing destination for \$25.



willow strainers, sharp bends, and Class I and II white water rapids but has slower moving water after each series of rapids, which I estimated to be about 25 during the five mile stretch, and this is where

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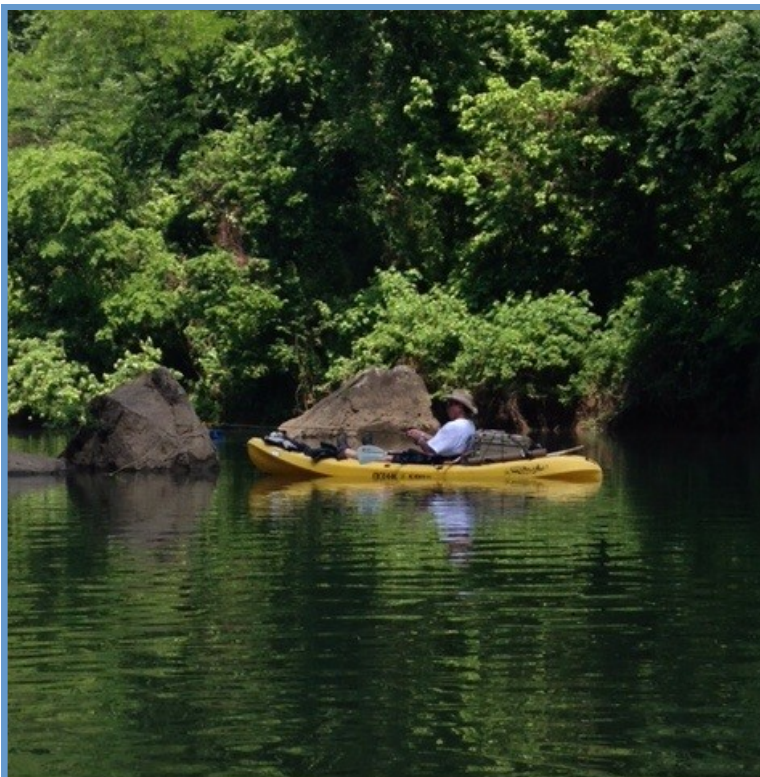


## The Little Red River – Cast, Paddle, and Hang On! - Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

the fish are! The trip took us about four and a half hours but we took our time, stopping to fish, eat lunch, and swim along the way. The water was cool and refreshing. It started very clear but became rather cloudy near the end due to rains earlier in the week. We dodged boulders and willows in the fast moving sections. Sometimes we turned over, knocked into trees, skipped over or got stuck on top of boulders, but for the most part the water was less than waist-deep. The fishing was decent but would have been a whole lot better and

we probably could have caught 50 if the water would have been clearer according to Jason. However, several smallmouths responded well to Gene's black woolly bugger and we caught sun perch too. Wade fish-



ing is definitely an option if the kayak seat gets old but river shoes are a must. The area is very remote with a few houses along the river, which we were told are off-the-grid. We did see a few locals taking a dip in the water and also saw plenty of water snakes, but they avoided us and seemed to enjoy the river too.

There's a nice small primitive campground on the river in Shirley that's free and can accommodate RV's but

has no hookups. The contact for Jason Hayes with the Little Red River Outfitters, is 501-250-5560 and is located at 552 Highway 9 East, Shirley, Arkansas. Water levels can be obtained online but need to be at least six feet four inches in order to float the entire trip; else be prepared to get out of your kayak and drag it over boulders about 30 percent of the time but that may be beneficial as the fish get trapped in the pools.

I have a few bumps, bruises, and scrapes from the trip . . . but hey they're proud bragging rights of an accomplishment and a reminder of one of the most memorable trips I've ever had!





## Redfish on the Fly with no Visibility: 3 Fundamentals

by Capt. Gary Dubiel

Sight fishing for redfish on the fly is a huge thrill! But what about those days when the water is stained, the clouds are out, the wind is up, or the fish are in deeper water? You've been planning this trip for months; there's no way you're packing it in and going home because the conditions didn't happen to align perfectly with your plans.

Since 1999, it's been my job to help anglers catch giant redfish in low visibility conditions. The waters I guide in on the Neuse River and the Pamlico Sound in North Carolina are tannic and the bottom dark, so sight-casting for redfish is difficult here.



The same principles I've developed over the years here are applicable to similar situations anywhere. Here's how to catch redfish on those days with less than ideal visibility.

### 1. Narrow your search

Narrow the search for giant redfish by looking for signs; big schools of nervous bait, slicks, fish busting, fishing structure, and birds.

#### Bait:

Look for bait. Lots of bait means lots of fish. Menhaden and mullet are always good choices. Yes, crabs and shrimp are redfish favorites, but baitfish have more protein and provide more calories

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## Redfish on the Fly with no Visibility: 3 Fundamentals - Cont.



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for less work. Remember, the more nervous the bait the better!

### Slicks:

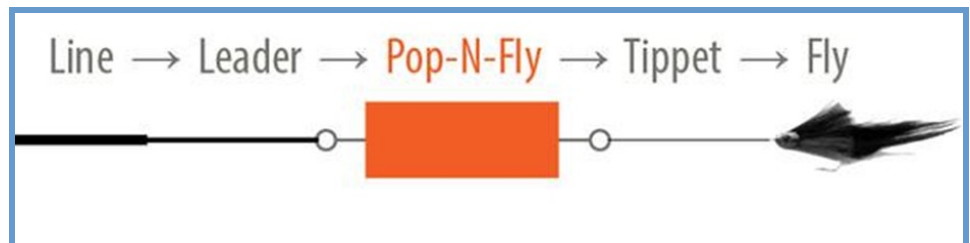
When redfish eat, they crush their food, and crushed baitfish means slicks – shiny patches on the surface with a fishy, sweet smell. The rounder the slick the fresher it is, and the bigger the slick the more fish there are. Remember to concentrate your efforts uptide or upwind of a slick.

### Fishing structure:

Look for edges, breaks, points, sloughs and bars. Redfish like to move along a change near the bottom that moves into deep water. An area like a slough, which is narrow

and has two edges in close proximity, can condense the fish and increase your chance of intersecting them.

Redfish have a unique feeding sound. When they hear other redfish feeding, they come to investigate and join in the meal. An interesting thing about adult red drum is they'll be drawn in by the sound of a popper, but they generally won't take it off the surface. It took me some time to work out a way around this, but after some experimentation I developed the Pop-N-Fly, a foam cylinder with an embedded Articulated Shank attached between the leader and tippet with a lightweight streamer attached to the tippet about 24 inches off the cylinder.



## 2. Slow it down

You've narrowed your search and are now in an area with signs of redfish. Sure, if you started blind-casting you'd have a better chance of catching one than if you hadn't bothered to get yourself to a place where redfish are present, but it's still inefficient and usually won't be successful. The key is to take advantage of their aggressive, competitive nature.

When stripped, it makes noise like a redfish feeding; hard pops and bangs on the surface. Strip once or twice, then pause to allow the fly to drop the full length of the tippet, looking like a wounded baitfish. All your bites will occur on that pause. In colder temps, increase your pause time. Even though you don't see the fish or have an idea how far away one might be, this allows you to call the

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## Redfish on the Fly with no Visibility: 3 Fundamentals - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

fish from any depth and from a distance away from the fly.

Imagine it as 3-D fishing. You're fishing in 8 feet of water. The fish is 6 feet down and 25 feet to the right of your fly, but it comes to the noise, sees your fly, and sucks it in! You'll never get that kind of coverage blind-casting a fly. Remember, there's no rush to fishing the Pop-N-Fly. Keep in mind you're not fishing a popper. Don't fish the rig

too fast, and be patient; you're fishing for the fish of a lifetime.



This technique works for a wide variety of freshwater and saltwater species. Photo by Mike Schultz of Schultz Outfitters.

### 3. Hook the fish properly

strip strike; just strip!

Don't lift the rod, and don't

Raising the rod tip while setting the hook will only put slack in your line. You need to pull a resistant foam cylinder through the water and straighten the leader from the cylinder to the fly before the hook is set.



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## Redfish on the Fly with no Visibility: 3 Fundamentals - Cont.



When the fish feels pressure it'll go and go fast! Pull tightly as the fish surges away to bury the hook.

Remember, a tight line works much better than a raised rod ever does.

### Quick review

Narrow down your search by looking for the telltale signs, fish the rig patiently with pauses, and be sure to simply strip in order to hook the fish properly!

(Continued from page 8)

To do this, get the line tight with your rod tip to the water. Instead of doing a short strip strike, strip the fly line until the fly comes tight in the fish's mouth.



## Redfish on the Fly with no Visibility: 3 Fundamentals - Cont.

(Continued from page 9)

### About Captain Gary Dubiel:

Gary has been guiding for over 15 years. He owns and operates Spec Fever Guide Service on the coast of North Carolina, has written and lectured on both fly fishing and light tackle, and he has appeared on a number of angling shows on ESPN 2, WFN, UNC-TV, NBC Sports, the Sportsman Channel and Discovery Channel (Europe). He's a frequent speaker at local and national fishing shows including the Saltwater Sportsman's National Seminar Series, the Fly Fishing Show, and the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival.



## 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 articles 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](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com) or hand them to me at any club function.

**Submissions  
Wanted!**

*Steve Oliver*, Editor



## 2018 Banquet Announcement

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NLFF ANNUAL BANQUET**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**

**SHANE'S SEAFOOD & BARBECUE**  
**9176 MANSFIELD ROAD**  
**SHREVEPORT, LA**

**INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING!**

**ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL!**



**GET LUCKY WITH RAFFLE PRIZES!**

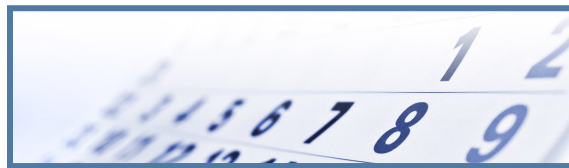


**AND TAKE HOME SOME REALLY COOL STUFF!**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE, CONTACT**  
**GENE THIBODEAUX, BANQUET CHAIR**  
**337-254-8195**

## NLFF Calendar



**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 Tackett and Randy Haimen will give a presentation on the Mayfly Project.

**Jun 21st: 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. David Whatley will be tying a streamer pattern.

**Jul 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.

**Aug 14th: 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. Vicki and Gene Thibodeaux will give a presentation on their visit to Mountain View, AR including fly fishing and other things to do when in the area.

**Aug 16th: Fly Tying Workshop.** White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. David Whatley will be tying a streamer pattern.

**Aug 21st: NLFF Executive Board meeting.** 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

**Sep 11th: NLFF 2018 Banquet.** Shane's Seafood and BBQ on Mansfield Rd in Shreveport. Dinner at 6:00pm, fundraising raffles to start at 6:45pm.



Artwork by Dave Whitlock

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



## Upcoming Events

**Jun 22nd - 24th:** "Leeville 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 Leeville, featuring fresh-caught fish contributed by attendees. For details, go to [www.rsff.org](http://www.rsff.org)

**Jul 13th - 14th:** "14th Contraband Fly Fishing Expo". Friday-Saturday, July 13-14, 2018 Friday: 12 noon to 4:00pm Saturday: 8:30am to 4:00pm Isle of Capri Casino Hotel, Lake Charles, LA FREE ADMISSION. Sponsored by the Contraband Fly Casters / Tom Nixon Chapter. Fly Tying, Casting Demos, Lure Exhibits, Auctions / Raffles, Food and Refreshments, Equipment Displays and more! Public invited. For more details, go to [www.contrabandflycasters.net](http://www.contrabandflycasters.net).

**Jul 28th:** North Louisiana Fly Fishers 6th annual "Masters Series" Headliner this year is Kelly Galloup, July 28, 2018 9:00am to 4:00pm Cost: \$35 Cost includes admission, lunch, coffee, drinks Capacity limited to 75, pre-registration required. Advise buying tickets early! The Masters Series is an annual program in which the NLFF brings the very best fly fishermen in the world to the region. This years event will consist of an intense day of learning from a legend in the sport of fly fishermen, Kelly Galloup. This is a full day of learning. Segments will include power point presentation, outdoor casting clinic, and fly tying. For more info, contact Tom Bullock 318-393-7729 or Scott Irwin 318-469-0854, or check the NLFF Facebook page or website at [www.northlaFlyfishers.org](http://www.northlaFlyfishers.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](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com)

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!