

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly

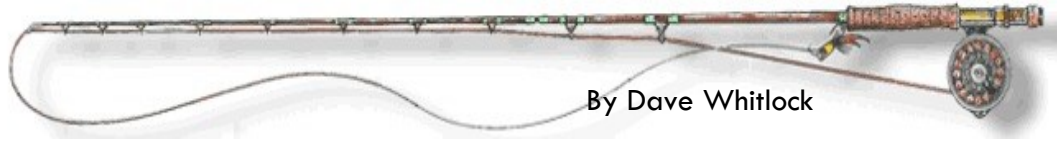
First FFI Affiliated Club in Louisiana

February 2024



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984



By Dave Whitlock



The North Louisiana Fly Fishers is a comprehensive flyfishing club:

Established in 1984, The NLFF is affiliated with Fly Fishers International and is composed of a core group of very experienced fly fishers. In addition to this group of experienced fly fishers is a large population of intermediate fishermen. Most importantly, the NLFF club has a healthy contingent of people just learning how to fly fish who are members of the club. No matter what your skill level, you are welcome to join. The goal is to help each other in the sport. The goal is also to enjoy the magnificent fly fishing journey. The sport can refresh the soul, mind and spirit. Come join us on the journey.

6 Main components of the NLFF:

- 1) **Education:** We teach all aspects of skills and techniques associated with fly fishing. Casting, rod assembly, knots, fly ID courses, line management, gear reviews, and safe wading are just a few of the topics addressed.
- 2) **Destination Programs:** We provide programs and lectures on ideal locations to fly fish. Secret locations, easy wading river bottoms, rivers, ponds, lakes and streams are all presented. Some close, some more distant. We also share current fishing reports.
- 3) **Fishing Trips:** We organize trips to rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. We fish cold water and warm. We even offer salt water trips.
- 4) **Fly Tying:** We offer complete fly tying instruction. We provide you all the tools you need to tie you own fly, plus a one on one instructor.
- 5) **Social Activity and Community involvement:** The NLFF has given back to the community with involvement in Veterans Projects, Reel Recovery, Refuge summer camps, and more.
- 6) **Travel:** We support, participate, and travel to regional fly fishing conventions, and gatherings.

Cover Photo: John Reisz lands a trout at Frozen Chosen event

Outing review...

Frozen Chosen 2024:

A beautiful trip...

This years NLFF annual winter outing to the Little Missouri was a true blessing. The weather was phenomenal for January, highs in the 50's and 60's. We had no rain during daylight hours. There was no generation, and the mystery "valve" was not open. The river was ideal for fishing. The attendance, food and fellowship made it a really good time. Perhaps best of all, the bite was on. All who attended caught fish. Catch rates varied from a few per hour to 20+ fish per hour. Truly steller fishing. Thanks to all who participated. **Mark your calendar for next years *Frozen Chosen, January 25th, 2025.*** (It is always the last weekend of the month of January).



Memories of the NLFF Frozen Chosen 2024....



Brett lands a fish.

Randy Rogers in background.



Part of the pre-Frozen Chosen Planning crew:

Mark, Rick, Randy, Steve and Virginia, Tona, Peggy, John



Everyone should practice fishing in close proximity with others at least once a year. This will help you improve your roll cast, overhead cast, and casting from the right and left. These skills prove beneficial when fishing heavy cover such as over hanging trees and bushes. (Hats that cover ears and eye protection suggested (especially if fishing next to Randy Rogers..... Just kidding...sorta :))



A community kayak gave folks a break from wade fishing. Also, kayaking offered a different type of fly fishing, Tenkara Fishing.

Fish catch rates were equally strong with both traditional and Tenkara fly fishing.

The NLFF May monthly meeting program will be on Tenkara fly fishing.

Left: Mark Chrisman tenkara fishes from kayak

More Frozen Chosen Photos...



A big thank you goes out to all who brought food and attended the NLFF cookout at the rivers edge.

This took place Saturday at noon in the pavilion at Riverside.

A special "Thank You" goes to Brett Rowell who cooked the burgers!





Sunday afternoon Jay and Kathy Sikes along with a few others fished the Albert Pike region of the Little Missouri



Mark, Russ, John, and Joe attend early Saturday morning river orientation. We toured the main fishing locations as well as lesser known fishing holes.

We also explored ideal Tenkara fishing stretches of the river.

***Frozen Chosen Saturday evening closeout meal
at Mexican restaurant in downtown Murfrees-
boro....***



We deconstructed the weekends fishing, discussing flies that worked and flies that did not work. We also discussed the best locations, fishing times, and had good fellowship along with delicious King Cake for desert!

A letter from Frank Harmon...a member of the NLFF. Frank re-located to South Louisiana recently:

Old Dog....New Trick

Or is good enough, good enough?

By Frank W. Harmon

My first memory of fly fishing is 1957 when at age 8, I watched my father standing in the Saline River in southern Arkansas, casting a Sears & Roebuck bamboo rod with 2 poppers, catching 2 river bass at a time. Fast forward 4 years, a move to Monroe, Louisiana, and a house on Bayou de Siard, where I have been tasked to sit at the front of the 12 foot jon boat and paddle, while my dad fished from the back. I soon got my own Fenwick fiberglass fly rod. And together we fished for bream and the occasional bass until I finished college and moved away.

In all that time, I never held the fly line in my left hand except to bring a fish to the boat. We fished with 25 feet of line out of the rod, line pinned to the cork with our rod hand, and moved the boat to where we needed to reach whatever cover we hoped would have fish near by. Little did I know I was Tenkara fishing back then.

That was how I fly fished for 25 years, from 1961 to 1985. Jon boats, float tubes, pond banks, etc. proved to be a very satisfying and rewarding hobby. It was good enough. After dental school, surgery residency, and traveling the world in the Air Force, I returned to Louisiana in Shreveport. I read an article about salt water fly fishing and sounded like something I would enjoy doing. Since I was an accomplished fly fisherman (in my mind), I booked a guided trip on Lake Calcasieu for speckled trout and red fish. The guide handed me an 8 weight rod, with a heavy clouser fly, (I had only fished with bream poppers and wooly buggers) and asked to see me cast. I promptly hit myself in the head with the fly and managed to cast about 15 feet. The guide then showed me what I needed to do and cast a beautiful 70 foot cast with a perfect loop. The guide was patient, and taught me enough to catch some fish that day, but needless to say, I was embarrassed. However, that made me determined to learn how to really fly fish. I knew then that my idea of fly fishing was not good enough.

Continued on next page

Good enough? By Frank Harmon

Continued from previous page

I bought books. I bought VHS tapes. I bought an 8 wt rod. I booked more salt water guided trips. I got better. Then I joined North Louisiana fly fishers, the FFI chapter in Shreveport, and became a life member of the FFI (It was FFF then). My friend Tom Bullock talked me into going to Dallas for a 3 day casting course in 1995, where there were 12 students, and 15 instructors, all of them either Certified Casting Instructors or Master Casting Instructors. I enjoyed those 3 days as much or more than I did the guided fishing trips I had been on, and my casting improved dramatically. For the next 16 years I fished all of the waters around Shreveport, gave a presentation entitled "50 Places to Fly Fish within 50 miles of Shreveport", and remained active in the NIFF. It was good enough.

December, 2021 was my retirement date, and we moved to Slidell, Louisiana. Joining the New Orleans Fly Fishers, and meeting other likeminded individuals has been very enjoyable, but I knew I could learn a lot more. This led to the decision to pursue a Casting Instructor Certification from the FFI. Once again, I have realized that like my first salt water adventure, there is a plethora of knowledge that I do not possess and skills I do not have to achieve this goal. I have been fortunate to find a mentor in Master Casting Instructor Dino Frangos, who has graciously agreed to lead me through the learning phase to become a better fly fisherman, a better casting instructor, and to better enjoy the sport. If I complete this goal, will it be good enough? Probably not. There is always more to learn.

After 62 years of fly fishing, I hope my story will encourage fly fishers, regardless of age, experience, or skill, to always seek to enjoy the sport, but to also try to improve. By doing so, your fly fishing will be even more rewarding.

If this article has inspired you to continue your quest for fly fishing knowledge, the NLFF is here to help:

- 1) Attend monthly NLFF meetings. They are designed to have educational components, refreshing travel ideas with tips to get the most out of your outing, and hands on fishing.*
- 2) To up your game more, consider attending a regional fly fishing convention. The Sowbug Roundup offers casting lessons for all levels, fly tying workshops, and tips on how and where to fly fish more efficiently so your outing is fun. More info on Sowbug is in this newsletter.*

February 13th Club Meeting

Chili Cookoff

**Bring your
spouse or a
guest!**

Plus

Mystery Fly Tying Contest

Calling all chefs!

Get your recipe ready for the 2024 Chili Cookoff. Nothing tastes better than a hot bowl of chili on a cold winters day. Plan now to attend and/or participate.



When:

Feb 13th

6 PM

Where:

Red

River

Refuge

150 Eagle Bend
Point

Bossier City



Bring your tying gear

Try your best to create a fly from a bag of mystery materials. The timer will be ticking, the feathers will be flying. Mark your calendar now to attend this festive meeting as either a participant or judge.

Central Louisiana Fly Fishing Fair Review:

Cenla Fly Fishing Fair

Recap

The Cenla Fly Fishing Fair (Jan 20th 2024) is sponsored by the Kisatchie Fly Fishers (a FFI club in Alexandria). It takes place every even year the third weekend in January. This year the festival was a huge success. The parking lot was packed with cars and trucks. Inside rows and rows of tiers filled the event center. There were educational speakers to elevate your fly fishing skills. There were tables and tables of give-a-ways. Mark your calendar now for the next Cenla...January 17th 2026!



Ron Foreman from Lake Charles Contraband Fly Fishing Club

Cenla Recap continued....



Tina and Jamie Franklin From the NLFF



Just for laughs:

Q) What is the richest fish in the world

A) A goldfish

Which fisherman was it that said:

“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend.

Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read....”

Fly Tying at Bass Pro

February 24th at 10 am

(Every 4th Saturday of the month)



Join us for a enjoyable morning of fly tying at Bass Pro on Saturday February 24th at 10 AM.

Experienced Tyers will be on hand to demonstrate more advanced tying techniques.

Beginners: Beginners are welcome to attend. We will provide all the equipment needed to tie your first fly. We will even provide a one on one instructor.

Don't be shy, come and join us.

Questions: Call Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854

Recurring Events:

Monthly Meetings

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Red River Refuge in the Conservation Conference Center at 6 PM. Bring your fly tying equipment to meetings and come tie flies.

Red River Refuge

150 Eagle Bend Point

Bossier City LA 71112

Monthly Fly Tying

Come join us for a enjoyable morning of fly tying at Bass Pro in the White River Fly Shop. If you are new to fly tying this is a great place to start. We can provide you with a vise, tools and materials to tie your first few flies. We offer you one on one instruction. If you are an experienced fly tyer, come and demonstrate your skill. We always enjoy sharing new and different techniques and ways to tie new flies as well as proven fish catchers. If you are new and would like to tie, call Scott Irwin 318-469-0854.. We will make sure we bring the club vises and tools for you to use. Check the newsletter for the date of the tying event. Due to scheduling events at Bass Pro and holidays, the date may vary from month to month.

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 6 pm, tie flies and practice casting when the weather permits. See you there!

Club travel and fishing outings....

Elevate your fly fishing skills by attending the Sowbug, Roundup, the largest Fly Fishing Fair in America. Improve your casting, fly tying, and knowledge of fly fishing....

Sowbug Roundup 2024

Presented by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers

Attend a top tier fly tying show in a top fly fishing destination!

2 world class trout rivers, 2 warm water rivers, 2 lakes

March 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, 2024

9:00 AM—4:00 PM each day.

Baxter County Fair Grounds, Mountain Home, AR

Guest of Honor

Davy Wotton

Global Expert—Local Experience



PLUS—Special Guest:

Tim Flagler of

Tightline Video!



**Over 125 Fly Tiers, Dozens of Vendors &
Exhibitors, Seminars, Tying and Casting
Classes**

<http://www.northarkansasflyfishers.org>



For more information,
please visit our website!

Advertising provided by Mountain Home Advertising & Promotion Commission

Travel:

Sowbug Continued from previous page

Presented by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers

Seminars & Tying Classes



Thursday, March 21st:

10.30am - local guide John Berry will speak on fishing the local rivers.

1:00pm - local Spring river guide Mark Crawford will talk the about fishing the freestone Spring river.

2:00pm - Fly tying class by Tim Flagler (required registration will open on Jan. 15th on the website).

2:30pm - update from Arkansas Game & Fish on our local trout waters.

Friday, March, March 22nd:

9:30am - Professor Ed Heist will talk about the DNA study to answer the question—Are Missouri Blue Ribbon trout descendants of McCloud River rainbows?

11:00am - Wet fly expert Davy Wotton will discuss The Skills of Fishing Wet Flies for optimum success.

1:00pm - Tim Flagler will discuss What Trout Eat and the Flies that Imitate them, will include awesome underwater footage

2:30pm - Local guide Steve Dally will talk about the Mysteries of the 13-year cicadas.

Saturday, March 23rd:

9:00am - Fly tying class by Tim Flagler (required registration will open on Jan. 15th on the website).

9:30am—Local guide, Chad Johnson will discuss fishing for smallmouth bass in the area.

Travel:

Sowbug Continued:

NLFF members are making reservations now for the Sowbug Roundup. Join your friends for the event. Fish the White River and Norfolk River which are only a few miles away. It's hard to beat these hotel rates:

Sowbug Roundup Hotel Special Rates

Several area hotels have announced a special Sowbug Roundup nightly rates. YOU MUST CONTACT the hotels directly at the phone numbers below to get these rates:

Ramada Inn – [870-277-1790](tel:870-277-1790)

Single - \$55; Double - \$60

Quality Inn & Suites – [870-424-9000](tel:870-424-9000)

\$97.00 until 1/15/2024

Mountain Home Inn – [870-425-6001](tel:870-425-6001)

Single - \$55; Double - \$60

Super 8 – [870-451-8998](tel:870-451-8998)

Single - \$55; Double - \$60

This annual show in Mountain Home, AR is centered in one of the greatest fly-fishing areas of the world. The White and Norfolk Rivers provide a backdrop for anglers visiting the show.

Purtis Creek

A warm water fishing trip sponsored by the
North Louisiana Fly Fishers April 28-May1



Purtis Creek State Park is located just south of Canton Texas. This is a extremely well managed lake. Club members have caught some of their largest bream ever on this body of water. Almost every trip a fish is so large it snaps a fisherman's rod.

You do not need a Texas fishing license to fish Purtis Creek,. Your admission to the park is your fishing license. Most people will arrive on Sunday April 28th and depart Wednesday May 1.

You can make camping reservations through the Texas State Parks website. Other accommodations can be found in the City of Canton and Gun Barrel TX.

New Outing.....

Beavers Bend State Park

A cold water trip sponsored by the North Louisiana Fly Fishers May 31st to June 2nd



Attention!

**Please make reservations now.
This park has a tendency to fill
up.**

Join your fellow club members on a delightful cold water stream at Beaver Bend State park. At just over 2 hours from Shreveport, this is a beautiful and convenient fishing outing. The park offers cabins, lodge rooms, and camp spots. Make reservations through the Oklahoma State Park system, or call them at 580-494-6300

Together.....

We fish.....




Club members getting together to fish is a fun aspect of the NLFF

NLFF Roster

Name	Membership expiration	Phone
Jamie Franklin	12/31/2023	318-707-5959
Scott Irwin	12/31/2024	318-469-0854
Don Lawler	12/31/2023	318-510-2261
Joe Linder	12/31/2023	318-245-9385
Steve Oliver	12/31/2023	318-349-6411
Brett Rowell	12/31/2023	318-207-6097
Rex White	12/31/2026	318-294-7027
Rush Clay	12/31/2025	318-294-9272
Al Higgins	12/31/2023	318-507-8233
Jack Lamb	12/31/2025	
Ken Maher	12/31/2023	318-426-3750
Ardis Peace	12/31/2023	
Jim Roat	12/31/2023	318-344-2178
Randy Rogers	12/31/2023	318-422-5549
Dick Seal	12/31/2023	318-393-9893
Chuck Tiller	12/31/2023	318-465-1227
Chris Horsley	12/31/2023	
Dickie Turner	12/31/2023	318-469-9600
Lisa Doyle	12/31/2023	
Mark Chrisman	12/31/2024	318-393-4702
CL Bourn	12/31/2023	318-840-5064
Russ Rogers	12/31/2027	318-426-0834
Tom Hopkins	12/31/2023	318-347-6120
John Reisz	12/31/2024	318-560-5831
Alan Carter	12/31/2023	318-347-6076
Rick Fotenot	12/31/2025	318-455-9893
Tom Mee	12/31/2025	318-230-8697
Georgia Stephens	12/31/2023	318-401-0012
John Scarborough	12/31/2025	318-464-8569
Matt Kendall	12/31/2023	318-603-2300
Bill Meaney	12/31/2023	318-426-7667
Tad Britt	12/31/2023	318-521-5641

Don't see your name on our membership roster? Join today. We would love you as a member of the NLFF. The club is diverse. It revolves around fly fishing but also includes travel, regional fly fishing conventions, interaction with other fly fishing clubs, and plenty of "eating meetings" You can find a membership form on our website "Northlaflyfishers.org" or use the form below.



North Louisiana Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 29531 · Shreveport, LA 71149
www.northlaflyfishers.org

Club Membership Form

Member Information*

Primary Member's Name: _____

DOB: _____

Other Active Member or Spouse: _____

DOB: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

FFI Member?: Yes or No (Circle One) Home Phone: _____

Fly Tyer? Yes or No (Circle One) Cell Phone: _____

Kayaker? Yes or No (Circle One) Other Cell Phone: _____

Primary Email: _____

Wireless Carrier (Need to send texts): _____

*NOTE: All information is confidential and for the private use of the NLFF.

Membership Type (Check One)

☐ Family (\$35)
☐ 3-Yr Family (\$90)
☐ Individual (\$30)
☐ 3-Yr Individual (\$75)
☐ Student (\$20)
☐ Active Military (\$20)

A parent or parents along with their children under 18 years of age. Limited to a two vote maximum.

All individual members are allowed one vote.

Any student under the age of 18, but not included in a Family Membership. Student members are considered to be full members and have one vote.

Any active member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Active military members are considered to be full members and have one vote.

Payment Method: ☐ Cash
☐ Credit Card ☐ Check

NOTE: Dues are payable by the end of January of each calendar year. Make checks payable to North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF). Dues for **new** members joining on or after September 1st shall be valid through the end of the following year (excludes Military and Student). For example, if you join on Sept. 1 2016, your membership would be valid through the end of 2017.