

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

February 2026

First FFI Affiliated Club in Louisiana



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984

## Inside this Issue:

**SWAHA**

**Nightmare**

**In the January photo  
section of this  
newsletter.**



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 your 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: Lee Hartman ties his first fly....and a fine fly it was!**

*Laid-back Monthly Event ( Tuesday Feb 3rd ).....*

*1st Tuesday of the Month!*

# **Brews and Bugs**

A social time and fly tying practice time at Great Raft Brewery



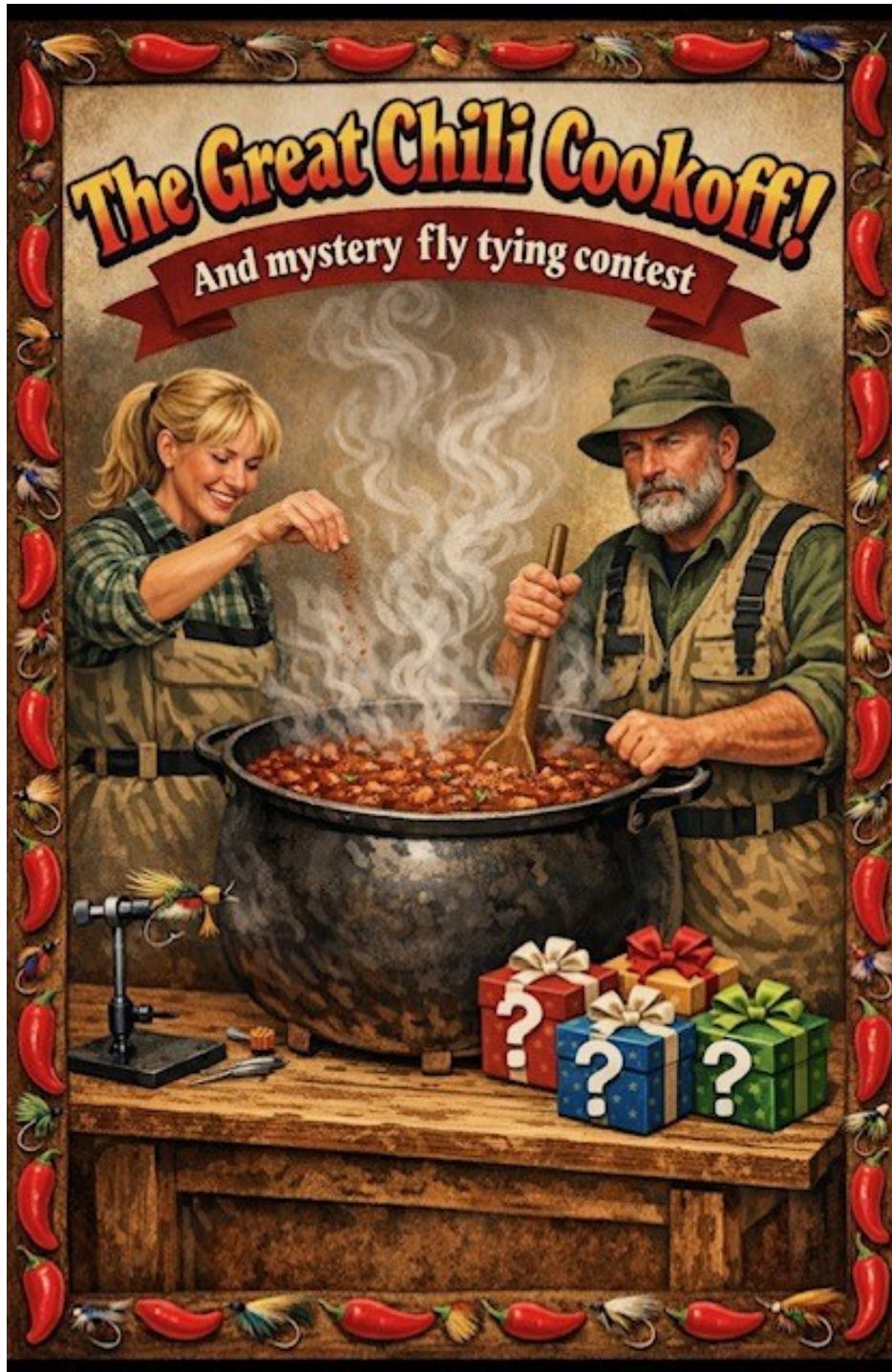
What could be better than tying a few flies, hearing a few nuggets of fishing wisdom, and sipping a local brew (nonalcoholic beverages also available) in a classy atmosphere. Come out for this relaxing and enjoyable monthly break from the normal routine. Bring your spouse or significant other. If they do not tie flies, they are welcome to take along any craft they enjoy. It could be sewing, crocheting, painting... Anything. The point is just to get together and enjoy each other's company. Discount beverages offered to all that tie flies. A food truck is on site with sandwiches and bbq dishes. Beat the traffic rush and arrive at 5 PM.

**When: Tues. Feb 3rd 5-8 PM**

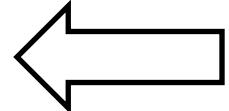
1st Tuesday of each month at 5 PM

**Where:** 1251 Dalzell St, Shreveport 71104

**February Monthly Meeting, Tuesday February 10th, 6 PM**



These are mystery materials for the tying contest. They will be revealed just before the contest begins.



Join your old friends and/or make a few new ones at one of the most fun meetings of the year. Bring a crockpot of chili or a dessert. If you tie, bring your vise. We will enjoy each others chili and then have a mystery fly tying contest. We will have prizes for the best two tied flies voted on by those in attendance.

# Helpful information on how we program our fly fishing meetings:

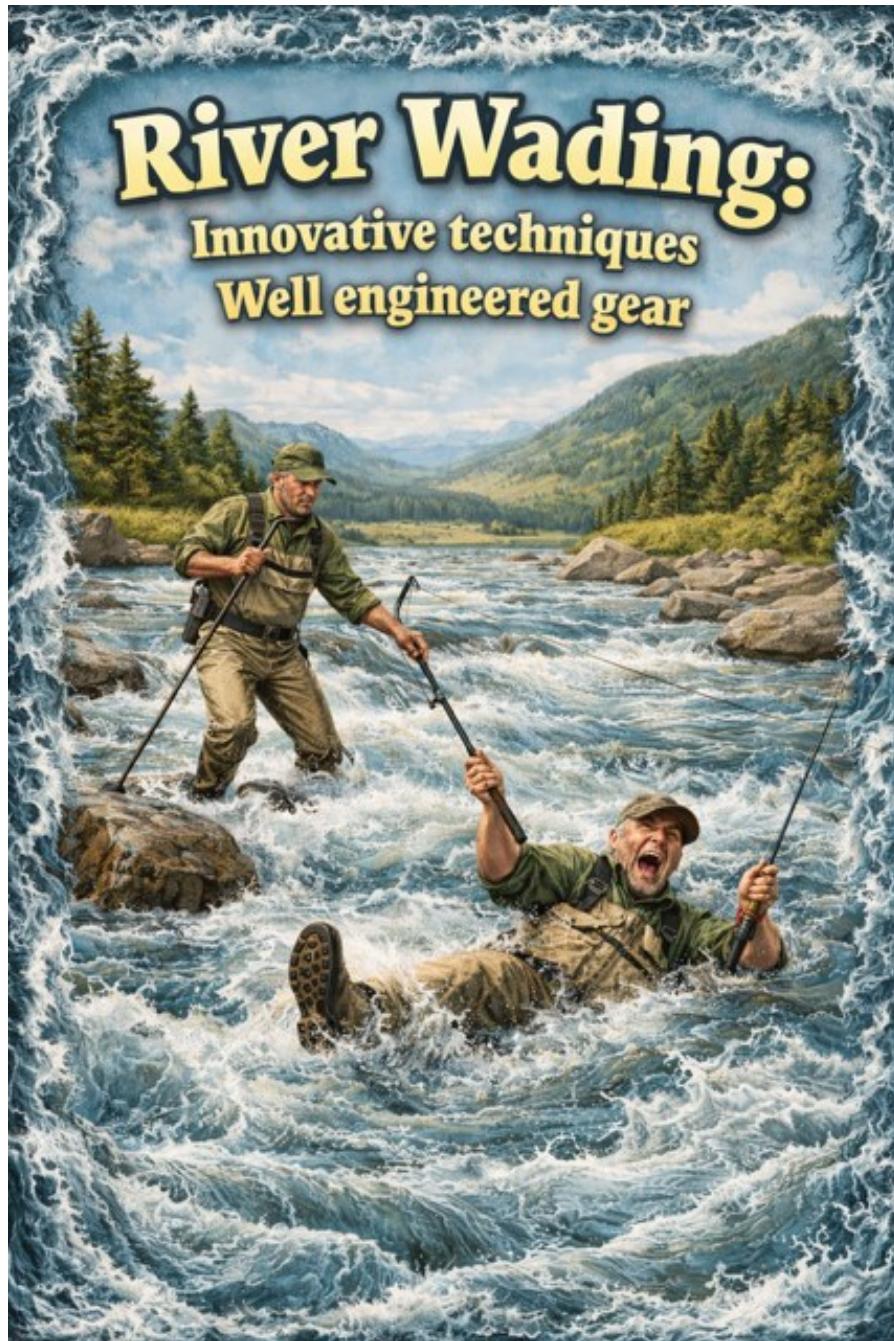
We Strive for each of our regular club meetings to have something for everyone. We do not want to waste your time. We need you at the meeting, and we want to make the monthly meeting worth your while to attend.

## Each meeting will have two components:

- 1) **Technical** This is very often a practical topic to help you have a more enjoyable day on the water. For example, it might focus on handy knots to tie, more efficient ways to cast, The best leader and tippet designs. Anything to help you at the ground zero level of fly fishing.
- 2) **Inspirational** This portion of the meeting is often on fly fishing destinations. They may be local, regional, or more distant. But we try to make it a practical trip for you to embark upon. It could also be about the Red River Refuge or other topics such as conservation. This portion of the meeting is like a little vacation in the middle of the week for your mind. Hopefully it excites you to get out there and cast a line in the beautiful water that surrounds Northwest Louisiana.

# March 10th Meeting Double Header!

## Part 1: Technical Fly Fishing techniques:

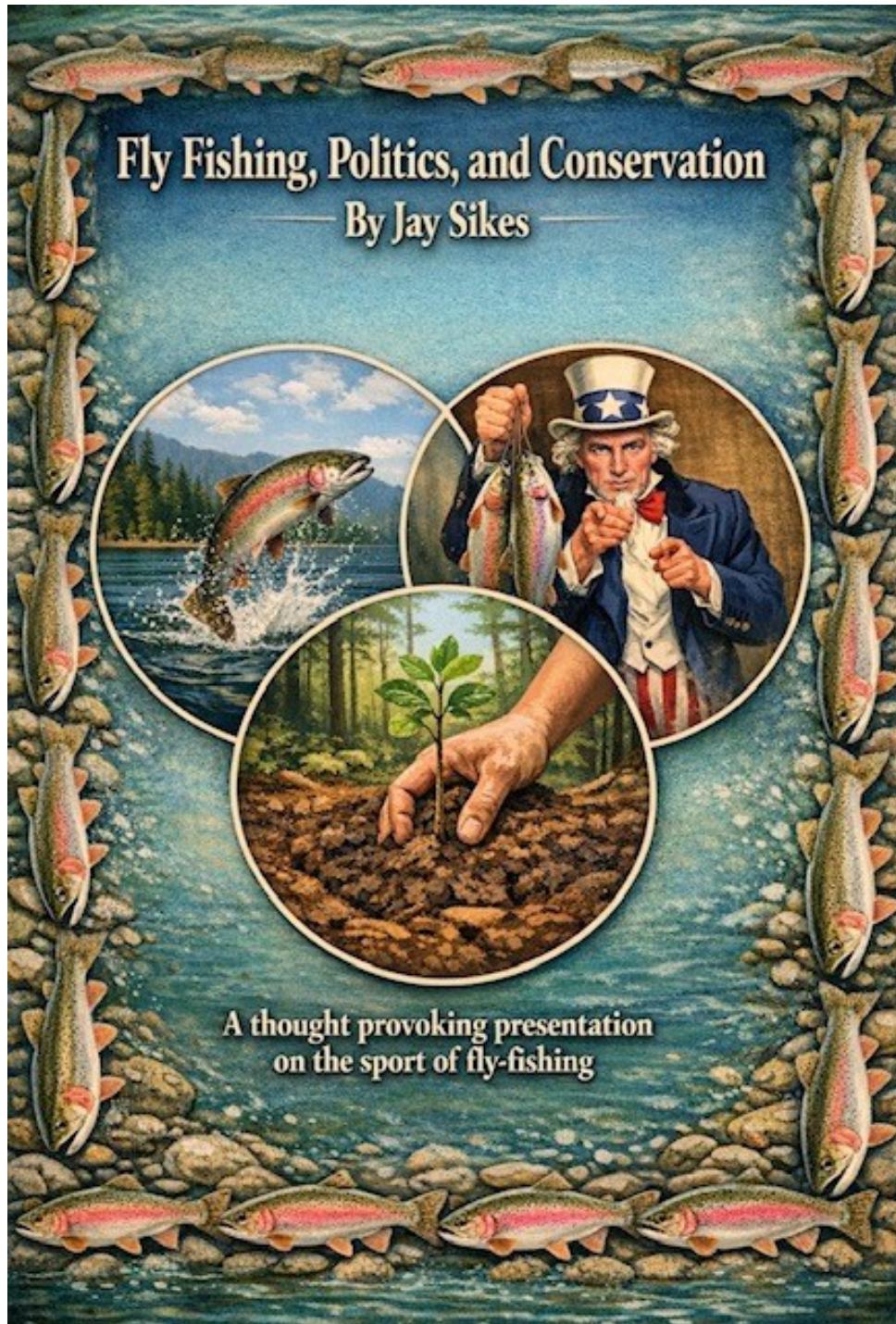


Keith Burton leads us on a two part discussion on an important topic: **Wading**

How much attention should you focus on this aspect of fly fishing?

What gear makes it more efficient? March 10th at 6 Pm at the Refuge!

## Part 2 of March 10th Meeting:



You do not want to miss this helpful and information packed meeting. Gear will be demonstrated. Links will be shared. Your mind will go wild with interesting and beneficial thoughts.

**When: 6 PM March 10th**

**Where: Refuge 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier**

Thursday, February 19th at 6 PM

# Fly Tying Lesson At Bass Pro

Always the next to last Thursday of the month

## The Gray Ghost By Ed Cates

GRAY GHOST  
'HI-VIS'



W/FLASH  
TAIL



I became a believer in this fly on a fishing trip with Ed. I was fishing the Little Whitey, Ed was fishing the Gray Ghost. He out-fished me 10 to 1. I put on the Gray Ghost and Shazam, I started catching fish. You need this fly in your fly Box. **Beginners:** Don't be shy, you can do this. **Advanced:** Learn some different variations of this great fly. Remember, if you need equipment, we can provide it. Just show up.

Cost: There is no cost to you

When: Thursday Feb 19th at 6 PM

Where: Bass Pro in the fly shop

## **Recurring Events:**

**Monthly Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the Month at Refuge. (Except Oct.. That is our annual banquet and is at Shanes on Mansfield Rd)**

**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**

**Officers:** Steve Oliver: President 318-349-6411 Mark Chrisman: Treasurer 318-797-8790

**Board:** John Reisz 318-560-5831, Ed Cates 318-560-8675, Brett Rowell 318-207-6097  
Scott Irwin 318-469-0854

**1st Tuesday of the month at 5 PM: Brews and Bugs at Great Raft Brewery**

1251 Dalzell St, Shreveport LA 71104

Come out for a relaxing start to the month tying flies with your friends in a classy environment. This is the perfect time to practice tying what is taught at the next-to-last-Thursday Formal Fly Tying Lesson (held at Bass Pro). But you can tie whatever you like. This is also a good time to ask for help with any techniques you wish to master. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks are available . A food truck is on site with tasty sandwiches and chicken

## **Next to last Thursday: Monthly Formal Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro:**

Come join us for a enjoyable evening of fly tying at Bass Pro on the next to last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. . If you are new to fly tying this is a great place to start. We provide you with a vise, tools and materials to tie your first few flies. If you are an experienced fly tyer, come and demonstrate your skill. We always enjoy sharing new and different techniques.

The fly tying session is organized in a lesson format. An instructor chooses a fly that is a guaranteed fish catcher in the Ark-La-Tex. The lesson follows the process of constructing the fly step by step. An experienced floater tyer is available for those that desire a little extra assistance.

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!

*Summary of:*

# **February**

## **NLFF**

### **Events...**

- Tuesday Feb 3rd: Brews and Bugs at Great Raft**
- Tuesday Feb 10th: Monthly meeting: ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF**
- Thursday Feb 19th: Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro: The Gray Ghost by Ed Cates**
- Saturday Feb 28th: NLFF Fishing outing at Beavers Bend on the Lower Mountain Fork River**

**NLFF**

**Outings.....**

# A little bit about NLFF fishing outings...

## Variety:

At the NLFF we strive to have outings perfect for everyone, no matter what their skill level. Some trips are more challenging than others. Some require no special equipment, just a swim suit and tennis shoes. Some require waders and wading equipment, some are best enjoyed in a kayak. Some offer pier fishing and no special equipment at all is required.

## Length of time:

Many of our club outings are day trips. Some are overnight trips during the weekend. Some are 2 or 3 night trips. From time to time we schedule trips mid-week if required due to conflicting events. Often mid-week trips avoid weekend crowds.

## Distance:

Some trips are local, some are a easy drive appropriate for a day trip such as Jefferson TX or Kisatchie Bayou. Some trips are over night. Most trout trips are overnight. Some trips are 2 and 3 nights at more distant locations such as the Little Red at Heber Springs.

There is a trip for everyone. Some go to them all. Join the adventure!

February

Equipment: Waders are  
needed for most fishing  
locations. Kayak optional

# WINTER BEAVERS BEND



# EXPEDITION

**FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 1, 2026**

Make reservations now for a cool weather NLFF trip to the Lower Mountain Fork River located inside Beavers Bend State Park (580-494-6300) in Oklahoma. The park has camping, cabins and a lodge 5 star B & B's are close by. This is a beautiful trip with fantastic trout fishing. Contact Scott Irwin with questions: 318-469-0854

# March

**Equipment:** No equipment needed unless you plan to fish. To fish you need wading gear and/or a kayak. You could utilize a guide service.



This is one of the largest fly fishing festivals in the nation. It is located in Mountain Home AR. ***It is the largest*** festival from a fly tying standpoint. The festival consists of constant seminars, workshops, lessons, and demonstrations. Many stay at Super 8 motel. Motel Rates are about \$60. Entry to festival is \$10.

April NLFF Outing:

**Equipment Needed:**

Waders are necessary. It is possible to kayak portions of the river.

# ILLINOIS RIVER JOURNEY



**APRIL 17TH-20TH, 2026**

This outing is a first for the NLFF. The Illinois River is considered the home waters of Dave Whitlock. This fantastic trout river is not that far of a drive, closer than Mountain Home and/or the Little Red at Heber Springs. Make reservations now if you need a campsite or cabin. Both are available at Tenkiller State Park. The phone number is 918-776-8180 or look them up on the web. The place fills up fast. Most will stay Friday and Saturday nights, April 17-18. Some will stay Sunday night also, the 19th also.

## May NIFF Outing

Equipment: Piers are available but a kayak is very helpful.



This is a unique event. It combines fishing in a 5 star warm water lake with attending the largest flea market in the world, Canton Trade Days. Bring your spouse. Campsites available at Purtis Creek Campground. Hotels are nearby. Some fish all three days, some mix it up with the market and fishing. (Note: This is a midweek {Tues to Fri} event. It was the only time the campground was available)

**When: May 26th, 29th and 31**

**Where: Purtis Creek State Park  
(about 15 miles south of Canton. )**

# NLFF Roster:

Member Name	Membership Expiration	Membership Status	Member Name	Membership Expiration	Membership Status
Irwin, Scott	12/31/2027	Active	Meaney, Bill	12/31/2025	Due
Linder, Joe	12/31/2026	Active	O'bryant, Phil	12/31/2025	Due
Oliver, Steve	12/31/2026	Active	Kelly, Wendy	12/31/2026	Active
Rowell, Brett	12/31/2026	Active	Wiener iii, Jacques	12/31/2026	Active
White, Rex	12/31/2026	Active	King, Scott	12/31/2027	Active
Clay, Rush	12/31/2025	Due	Degravelle, Grant	12/31/2025	Due
Higgins, Archie	12/31/2026	Active	Perez, Rhonda	12/31/2025	Due
Lamb, Jack	12/31/2025	Due	Behrend, Michelle	12/31/2025	Due
Peace, Ardis	12/31/2027	Active	White, Teresa	12/31/2026	Active
Roat, James	12/31/2026	Active	Landry, Brian	12/31/2025	Due
Rogers, Randy	12/31/2025	Due	Mcbride, Jr., John	12/31/2026	Active
Seale, Dick	12/31/2026	Active	Konnovitch, Mike	12/31/2026	Active
Seale, Arthur	12/31/2026	Active	Mosery, Jeanine	12/31/2026	Active
Tiller, Chuck	12/31/2025	Due	Randle, Steve	12/31/2028	Active
Horsley, Chris	12/31/2025	Due	Bell, Julia	12/31/2026	Active
Rowe, Allen	12/31/2025	Due	Siedlecki, Walter	12/31/2028	Active
Turner, Thomas	12/31/2026	Active			
Chrisman, Mark	12/31/2027	Active			
Kennedy, Richard	12/31/2027	Active			
Carter, Alan	12/31/2026	Active			
Schroder, Mark	12/31/2026	Active			
heppelman, Antionette	12/31/2027	Active			
Turner, Dickie	12/31/2026	Active			
Kendall, Matt	12/31/2025	Due			
Cates, Ed	12/31/2027	Active			
Hopkins, Tom	12/31/2029	Active			
Fontenot, Colin	12/31/2026	Active			
Leahy, Patrick	12/31/2025	Due			
Roat, Jim	12/31/2026	Active			
Rogers, Russ	12/31/2027	Active			
Reisz, John	12/31/2027	Active			
Fontenot, Rick	12/31/2028	Active			
Mee, Tom	12/31/2025	Due			
Sikes, Jay	12/31/2025	Due			
Scarborough, John	12/31/2025	Due			
Powell, Tim	12/31/2025	Due			
North, Dennis	12/31/2025	Due			
Mccarver, Larry	12/31/2027	Active			
Frey, David	12/31/2026	Active			
Williams, Terry	12/31/2025	Due			
Garland, Chad	12/31/2027	Active			
Burton, Keith	12/31/2027	Active			

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](http://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) A parent or parents along with their children under 18 years of age. Limited to a two vote maximum.  
 3-Yr Family (\$90)

Individual (\$30) All individual members are allowed one vote.  
 3-Yr Individual (\$75)

Student (\$20) 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.

Active Military (\$20) 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 Multi-Year, Military and Student Plans). For example, if you joined on Sept. 10, 2024, your membership would be valid through the end of 2025.

## WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

### TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY EVERY PARTICIPANT

In consideration of my participation in activities arranged for me by NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS, I hereby release and covenant not to sue NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS, its owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and lessees from any and all present and future claims resulting from ordinary negligence and inherent risk of my participation in any activities or arrangements and use of the facilities and equipment of NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS including but not limited to any loss, injury, damage, or liability sustained by me while on or about the premises of the club.

I am fully aware and understand that NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS does not have on or about the premises, or employ or contract with any medical services, provisions for ordinary or emergency medical services including but not limited to emergency cardiovascular assistance.

I agree that immediately prior to participation in any activity arranged for me by NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS, I will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used and if any defect(s) is/are apparent, I will not use the facility or equipment and I will notify the management of NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS of the defect(s).

I further agree that if I am not knowledgeable in the proper use of any of NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS facilities or equipment, I will obtain proper instruction for the correct use of such facility or equipment from a qualified individual before I will use the facility or equipment.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS, its owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and lessees from any and all claims arising from my involvement in or receiving instruction for activities incidental thereto wherever, whenever and however the claims may arise including but not limited to travel to and from the activity site and participation at remote sites.

I assume all the foregoing risks and accept personal responsibility for any damages and loss following any loss of property, injury, permanent disability or death resulting there from, for as long as I hold a valid membership in the NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

**Any person under the age of 18 years must have a parent or guardian co-sign this form.**

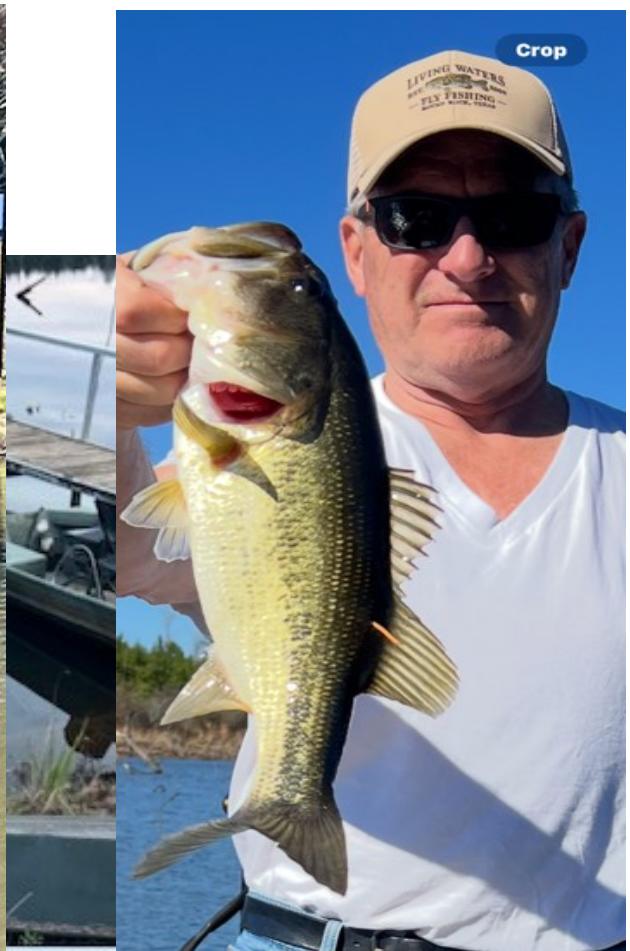
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(This form to be kept on file for as long as the above signee(s) is a/are member(s) of the NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS and then for a minimum of five years thereafter.)*

# NLFF January Photos:

Top Left: Jack Wiener; Right: Scott King



# Interesting catch....



## Iphone caught in river!



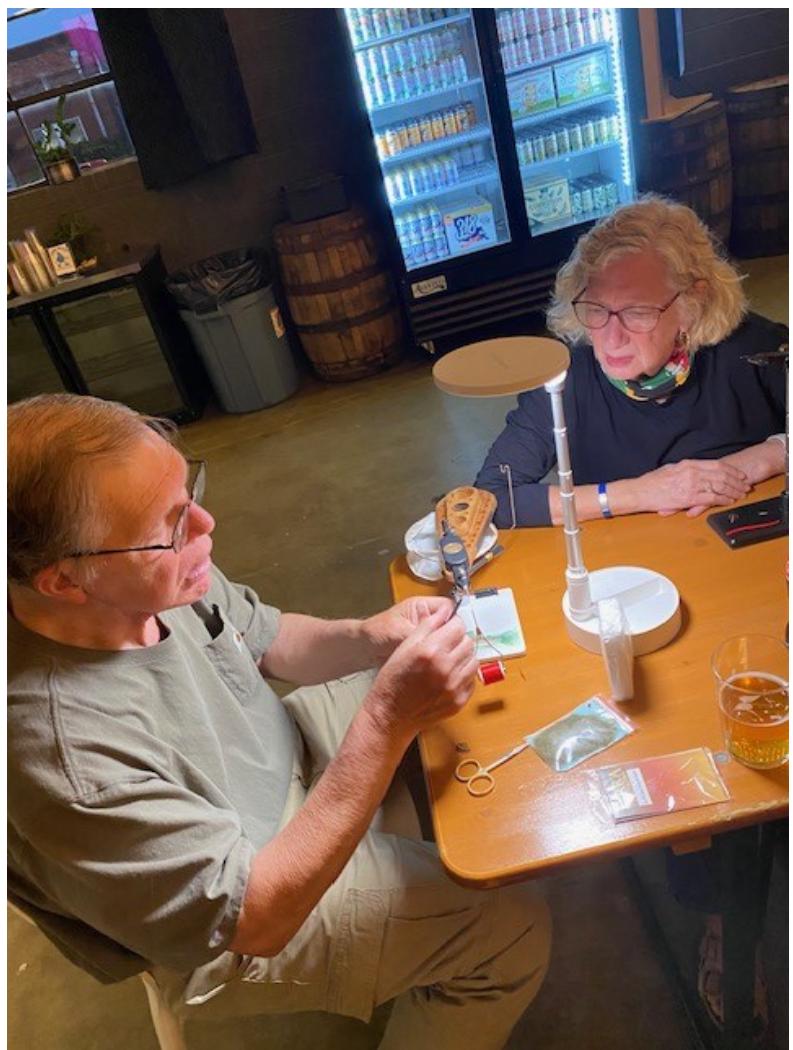
Angry Lower Mountain Fork Trout caught by  
Brian Landry:



# TYING AT GREAT RAFT...

## GREAT FUN....

### COME JOIN US!





# Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro elevates your tying game....



More Bass Pro photos...come join us!



A very focused Phil O'bryant



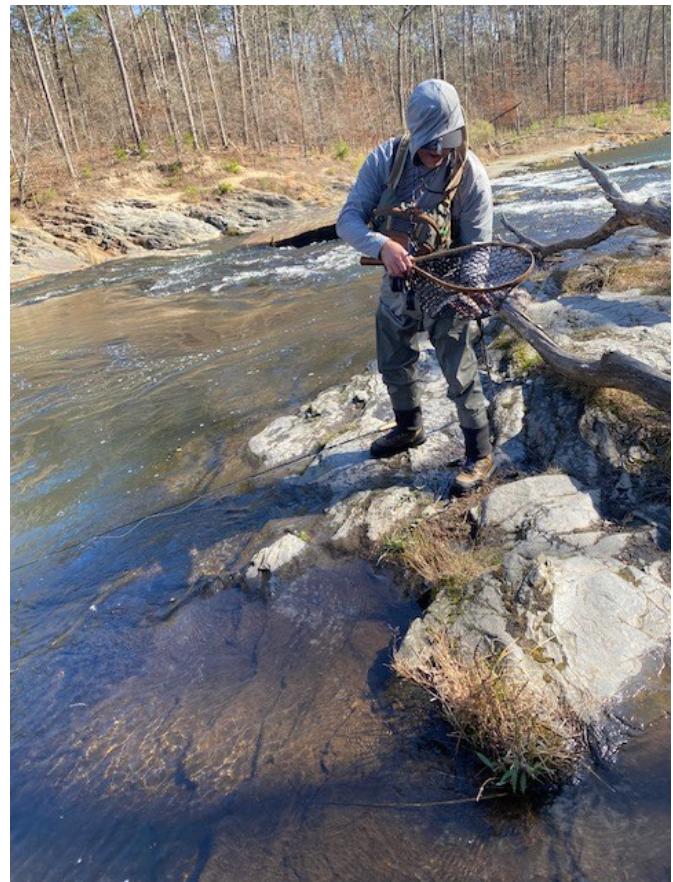
Tim Powell  
leads the Janu-  
ary lesson...



Brett Rowell does a great job on this fly



Keith Burton has a good day on Lower Mountain Fork river at  
Beavers Bend



# ICE COLLAPSES SWAHA MARINA ROOF



Disaster has struck at our beloved home away from home...SWAHA. Pray the owners can recover.

I was recently challenged by my 3 person Christian men's group to write my own Psalm. "How do I do that?" I asked myself. I then had a tough day on the water and these words came to me:

### **Psalm of a Fisherman**      By Scott Irwin

O Lord, my heart is in anguish.

My soul is troubled.

I travel far distances for angling success, yet return home defeated.

My eyes look to the heavens and I pray for favor, yet I have none.

I cry out "Lord, deliver these aquatic creatures to me" but you do not hear me.

They dart to the left of my fly, and to the right. But bite they do not.

They mock my every way. They leap over my strike indicator, they cast indignant glances at my submerged rig.

O, what a wretched fisherman am I!

Why cannot I catch what I want to catch, but do catch what I do not? A rotting leaf or aquatic grass are common trophies, but no fish do I land.

O what a tangled line I cast!

Shrub branches reach out to me and cause me grief, entangling my tippet.

Continued on next page....

Trees, which have no legs, run to my folly. In their branches lay my fly.

A successful cast, a natural drift, a twitch of my strike indicator, and the setting of a hook is all I yearn for. Yet it does not happen.

Why O Lord, can I not catch a fish?

Are my motives impure? Does a plank lay in my eye, which I cannot see? I have questions but no answers.

Torment is added to my spirit: A boy to my left who has not obtained manhood, withdraws your finny creations from the crystal clear waters with ease.

Adults with less experience than I do the same on my right.

Why O Lord, is my hook barren?

Why O Lord is my line slack?

Though I walk through the river in the shadow of bluffs, I fear no fishless day, for you are with me. The rod & staff I received for Christmas comforts me.

Yet, try as I may, my line remains limp.

I scratch and claw myself over jagged rocks to find that place of refuge for those willing slivery underwater flashes of light that will bite, but I find none.

Continued....

O Lord, why have you cast this spell on me? Why Lord, is their favor on those around me?

I cry out for an answer, but I hear none.

But Lord, I know that all you do is for my good.

I patiently wait on you, Lord, for that nibble on my line.

But even if a fish does not bite, I will have faith in you. One day, you will deliver the creatures of the deep into my hands.

And when you do, Lord, I will handle them with care, respect, and justice. Only barbless hooks will grace their lips. A net with the constitution of a pillow will they lay. After a brief acquaintance, they will be let free. They will be delivered from my grasp yet have made my heart sing.

But until that day, Lord, I will raise my eyes to the nature of that you have created.

I will marvel at the birds circling high above the trees. I will embrace the cool breeze that graces my cheek. Lord, I will bask in the gentle warmth of the sun, which you created. I will sit down on rocks which somehow embrace me in a warm hug when I pause to rest my weary bones.

Lord, you are good. I will count the blessings that you rain upon me until that which I desperately yearn for is cast upon my angling adventures.

Continued.....

I trust in you Lord to one day draw my line taunt, , put a bend in my rod, and allow me to heave into my net, a specimen from the deep of unequal qualities.

For God, your ways are always for my good, and I will trust in them for ever and ever....

Amen