

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

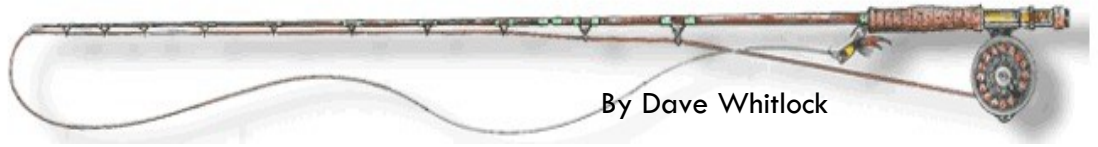
April 2026

First FFI Affiliated Club in Louisiana



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984



By Dave Whitlock

## High above the Little Mo!



# **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: Teresa White snaps photo as she flies to the Sowbug Festival in her plane from Shreveport to Mt. Home.**

Laid-back Monthly Event ( Tuesday April 7th ).....

# **Brews and Bugs**

1st Tuesday of the Month!

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 fantastic local brew (nonalcoholic beverages also available) in a classy atmosphere. Come out for this relaxing and enjoyable monthly break from the normal routine. Bring you 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. March April 7th 5-8 PM**

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

1st Tuesday of each month at 5 PM

# 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 three components:

- 1) **Technical** (6 to 7PM) This is a very 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., etc.. Anything to help you at the ground zero hands-on level of fly fishing.
- 2) **Club Business** (approximately 7PM to 7:15 PM)
- 3) **Inspirational** ( Starts at approximately 7:15 PM) 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.

All scheduled times are subject to shift a bit. Just come at 6 PM and enjoy the evening.



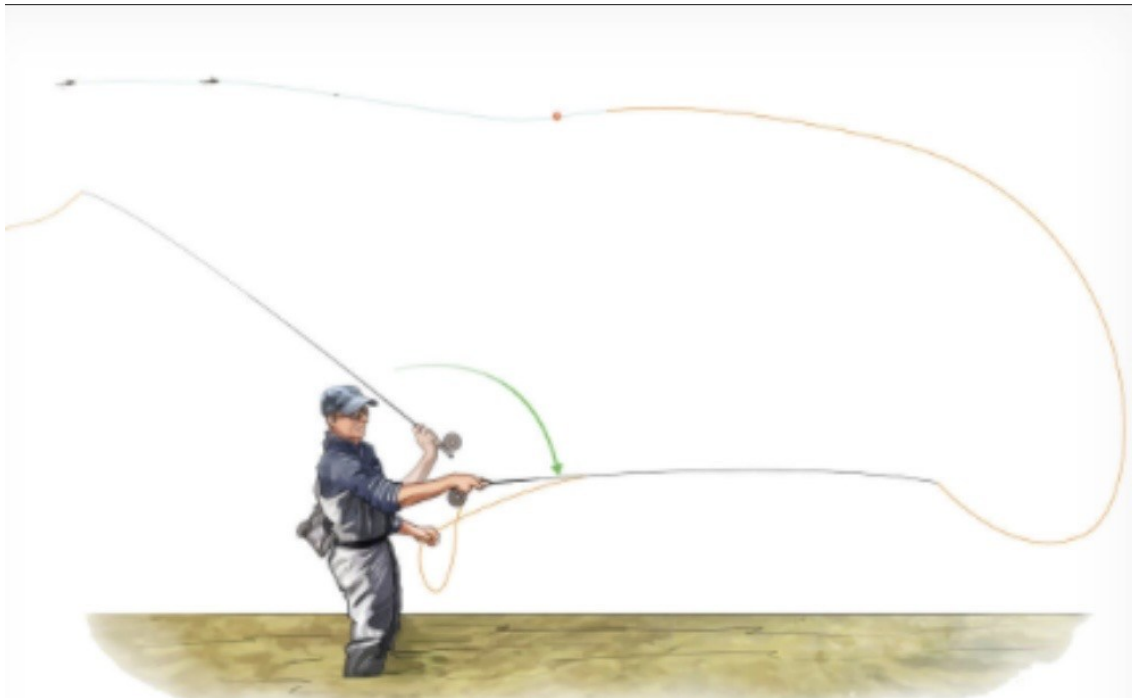
As I travel to other fly fishing clubs I have observed an interesting element of other fly club meetings: Fly Tying throughout the meeting. This brings a whole new element of depth to a fly fishing meeting. It may be a little quirky, it is interesting, it can be beautiful and can help others in their tying journey. The meeting room will be open early (at 5:30). Bring your vise and set up. Then tie the evening long!

# April 14th **Monthly Meeting: Part 1**

Technical portion of meeting.

## **Casting**

## **Lessons**



Everyone can use a little tune up on their cast. This segment of the meeting is good for all fly fishers: Beginners to experienced.

All are welcome

When: Tuesday April 14th at 6 PM

Where: Red River Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City 71112)

# April 14th **Monthly Meeting: Part 2**

Inspirational portion of meeting:



Chris Horsley embarked on a trip of a lifetime to the great Northwest. Come and hear about his adventures and perhaps plan your own gold star adventure

**When: April 14th Meeting starts at 6 PM**

**Where: Red River Refuge (150 Eagle bend point Bossier City LA 71112)**

All are welcome. If you have not been to a meeting, come check us out.

Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00 PM

Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro

Bonus: Come at 5 PM for an hour of casual fly tying. Lesson starts at 6 PM

# ***Beautiful Wings....*** By Jay Sikes



Don't miss this rare and striking lesson in creating masterpiece wings for your favorite fly. Jay Sikes will lead us through this lesson that will take your breath away. All are invited. If you need tying equipment, the club will provide you everything you need.

**When: April 23rd (casual tying from 5 to 6 PM. Lesson starts at 6 PM sharp) Where: Bass Pro**

Preview of upcoming  
meeting topics...

# May 12th Monthly Meeting



God created Southwest Arkansas with beautiful mountains, valleys and streams. The State of Arkansas has turned the whole region into a playground for fly fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts.

Come and hear Rush Clay speak on this geologic gem located right in our backyard. There is a lot more to it than a few access points on the Little Missouri for trout fishing.

## 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:*

***April***

***NLFF***

***Events...***

- **Tuesday April 7th: Brews and Bugs at Great Raft**
- **Tuesday April 14th: Monthly meeting: Casting Lesson and presentation on Alaska by Chris Horsley**
- **Thursday April 23: Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro: Beautiful Wings....by Jay Sikes**
- **April 17, 18, & 19th: First ever club outing to the Illinois River (call Scott Irwin if you plan on attending 318-469-0854).**

**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 over-night. 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!

## 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 Purtils 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: Purtils Creek State Park  
(about 15 miles south of Canton. )**

June NLFF Outing

No special equipment needed. Just a swimsuit, and water shoes. Bring a light-weight fly rod if you have one.

*The Clear Water and White Sand*  
*Of*

# Kisatchie Bayou



This is a really fun trip to a unique slice of Louisiana. You will feel like you are in a tropical paradise. Bring the kids, they will love swimming in the cool clear flowing water. If you would like to embark on this trip contact Keith Burton at [keithsburton@att.net](mailto:keithsburton@att.net). You can also sign up for this trip at a NLFF meeting.

**When:** June 20th. **Where:** Meet in parking lot of Home Depot at 7 AM on June 20th. It takes about 2 hours to arrive at bayou. Pack a lunch. We will fish until noon, have a picnic lunch and head back after lunch.

{Note: Keith will make the call on this trip. If the water is high the trip will be postponed}

# NLFF Roster:

(Note, this roster is as of January of 2026. It should be updated next month)

Member Name	Membership Type	Membership Expiration	Membership Status	Member Name	Membership Type	Membership Expiration	Membership Status
Irwin, Scott	3 Yr Family	12/31/2027	Active	Garland, Chad	3 Yr Family	12/31/2027	Active
Lawler, Don	Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Burton, Keith	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active
Linder, Joe	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Meaney, Bill	Individual	12/31/2025	Due
Oliver, Steve	3 Yr Family	12/31/2026	Active	O'bryant, Phil	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Rowell, Brett	Family	12/31/2026	Active	Kelly, Wendy	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
White, Rex	3 Yr Family	12/31/2026	Active	Wiener Iii, Jacques	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Clay, Rush	3 Yr Family	12/31/2025	Due	King, Scott	3 Yr Family	12/31/2027	Active
Higgins, Archie	Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Degravelle, Grant	Individual	12/31/2025	Due
Peace, Ardis	3 Yr Family	12/31/2027	Active	Perez, Rhonda	Individual	12/31/2025	Due
Roat, James	3 Yr Family	12/31/2026	Active	Behrend, Michelle	Individual	12/31/2025	Due
Rogers, Randy	Individual	12/31/2026	Active	White, Teresa	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Seale, Dick	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Landry, Brian	Family	12/31/2026	Active
Seale, Arthur	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Mcbride, Jr., John	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Tiller, Chuck	Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Konnovitch, Mike	Family	12/31/2026	Active
Horsley, Chris	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2028	Active	Mosery, Jeanine	Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Rowe, Allen	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2025	Due	Randle, Steve	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2028	Active
Turner, Thomas	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Bell, Julia	Family	12/31/2026	Active
Chrisman, Mark	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active	Siedlecki, Walter	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2028	Active
Kennedy, Richard	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active	Thomas, Layne	New Individual	12/31/2026	Active
Carter, Alan	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active	Hartman, Lee	New Family	12/31/2026	Active
Lanzillotti, David	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2028	Active				
Schroder, Mark	3 Yr Family	12/31/2026	Active				
Sheppellman, Antionette	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active				
Turner, Dickie	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active				
Kendall, Matt	Family	12/31/2026	Active				
Cates, Ed	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active				
Hopkins, Tom	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2029	Active				
Fontenot, Colin	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active				
Leahy, Patrick	Family	12/31/2025	Due				
Roat, Jim	3 Yr Family	12/31/2026	Active				
Rogers, Russ	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active				
Reisz, John	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active				
Fontenot, Rick	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2028	Active				
Mee, Tom	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2025	Due				
Sikes, Jay	3 Yr Family	12/31/2028	Active				
Scarborough, John	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2025	Due				
Powell, Tim	Individual	12/31/2025	Due				
North, Dennis	Family	12/31/2026	Active				
Mccarver, Larry	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2027	Active				
Frey, David	3 Yr Individual	12/31/2026	Active				
Williams, Terry	Individual	12/31/2025	Due				

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) 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 of 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 Fine Art Gallery:



L-R Don, Debbie, Larry, Steve, and Scott eating dinner at steakhouse in Mountain Home while attending Sowbug Festival.

Fine Art Continued:



Kieth Burton fighting fish on Sowbug Weekend



Scott Irwin hooks fish Sowbug Weekend...

Sowbug 26 Photos...

## Astonishing Crowd at Sowbug Fly Fishing Festival...



Future of Sowbug looks bright....



# Unveiling of Dave Whitlock Mural at Wishes and Fishes Fly Shop...



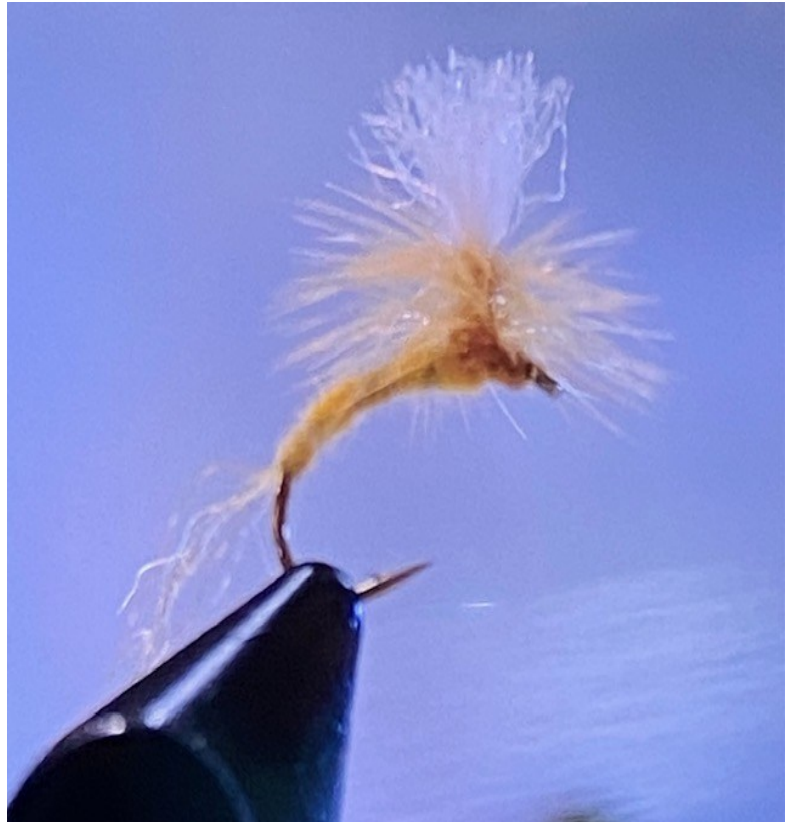
# NLFF Private Fly Tying Lesson with legendary fly tyer, Al Ritt...



→  
Al assists  
Keith with a  
fly tying  
technique



# A few flies tied at Sowbug Al Ritt Workshop...



## More Sowbug Photos...



Brett and Keith with Brian Flechsig of Mad River Outfitters

More Sowbug...



Sowbug is an amazing fly fishing festival.

Make plans to attend next year:

**March 25-27 2027**

Steve and Teresa  
with Cecil Woodman



## NLFF Lower Mountain Fork Trip....



Jeff Irwin fights beautiful trout at Day Use area....

Broken Bow Trip Photos continued....



Mark Chrisman fishes in early morning mist....



Matt Kendall Fishing

## Broken Bow Photos Continued...



This is part of the group that attended Broken Bow Outing

L-R Layne, Scott, Jay, Cathy, Matt, Tona, Mark, Larry, Lee, Steve, Virginia

More Broken Bow photos...



Lots of fellowship....



More Broken Bow Photos.

Dinosaurs and Art.....



Surprisingly fascinating visit to the Museum of the Red River.

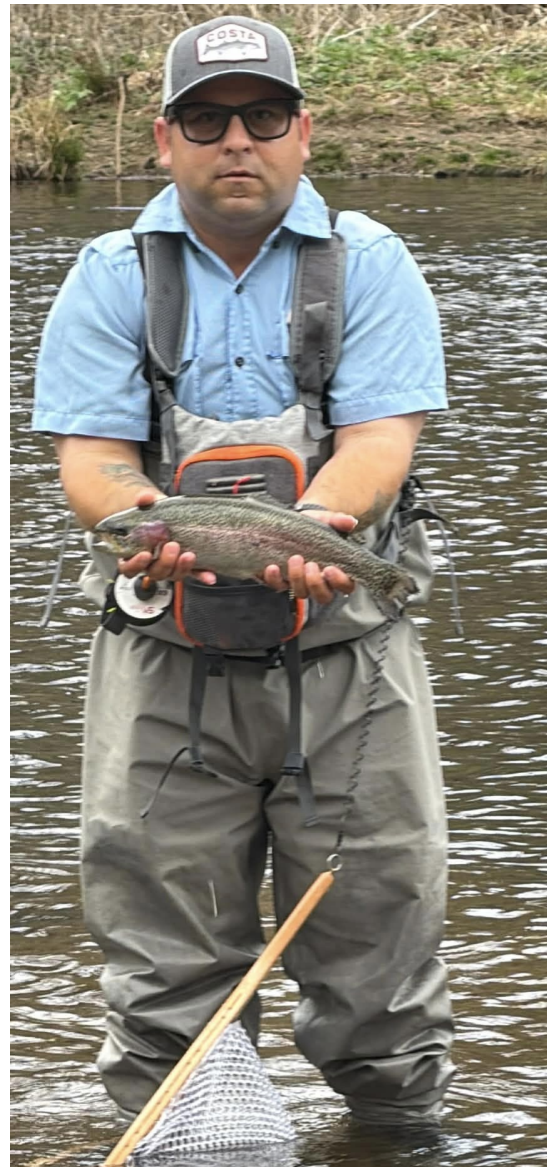
This venue will take your breath away with never seen before artifacts, art, and much much more...



More Broken Bow



Entomology...



Lee Hartman



Jeff



Emily, Eleanor, Jeff, and Peggy Irwin



Church on Sunday...

March was an amazing month of the BIG FISH!....



Denese Landry has great day on the water!

More fishing photos...



Elk enters water while Jack is fishing...



Teresa, Craig, and  
his wife fish the  
White River.



# Brews and Bugs...

Where creativity flows ..... (and that's not all that flows)



Come join us the first Tuesday of the month at Great Raft Brewery

# Bass Pro

## Advanced Fly Tying Lesson....



Lee Hartman Teaches Fly Tying Lesson

{Note: Most lessons at Bass Pro are suitable for beginning fly tyers as well as experienced fly tyers, This was a special lesson for more experienced tyers,. Beginners, we hope you join us next month.

The previous photos are from the month  
on March.

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers is a  
very active fly fishing club.

Come and join us.

All are welcome.

Scott Irwin

Program Director/Newsletter Publisher

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

318-469-0854