

# The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

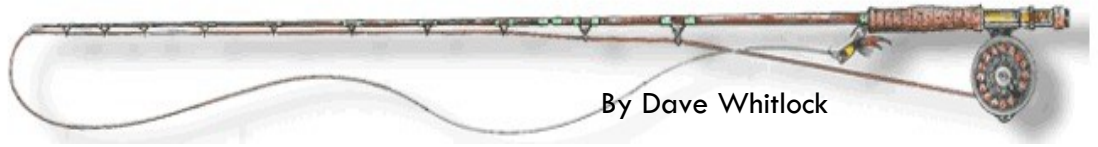
May 2026

First FFI Affiliated Club in Louisiana



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984



By Dave Whitlock

**In this Issue:** Newbie Cracks Lower Mountain Fork Code! Catches 50 trout on first trip to the river!



# **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: Steve Oliver fishing the crystal clear Illinois River.**

Laid-back Monthly Event ( Tuesday May 5th ).....

# **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. May 5 th 5-8 PM**

1st Tuesday of each month at 5 PM

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

# 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.

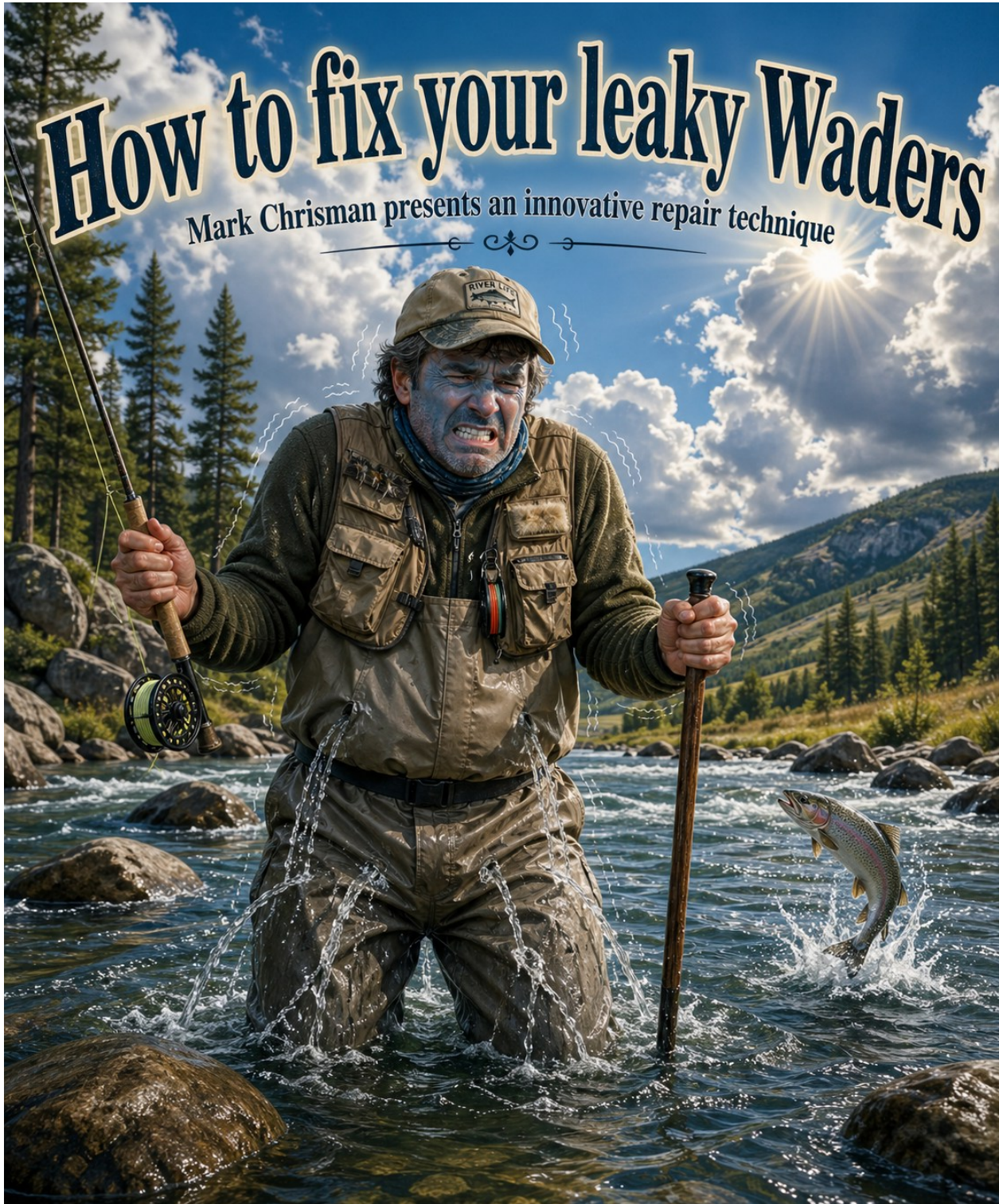
All scheduled times are subject to shift a bit. Just come at 6 PM and enjoy the evening.



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!

# May 12th Monthly Meeting: Part 1

Double Feature!



**When: Tuesday May 12th at 6 PM**

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

# May 12th Monthly Meeting: Part 2

Double Feature!

## ***Newbie Cracks Lower Mountain Fork Code on 1st trip!***

*You can crack the code too....Lee will show you how...*



6 Weeks ago Lee Hartman did not own a fly rod.

He embarked on a do-it-yourself crash course on fly fishing.

He learned a lot. More than most folks learn in 3 Years.

3 weeks after acquiring his first fly rod, he caught over 50 fish on the Lower Mountain Fork. Lee, a humble man, has agreed to share the story of his highly accelerated learning curve at the May meeting.

Come and learn his amazing journey at this very unique presentation. It will be a one-of-a-kind evening.



**When: Tuesday May 12th 6 PM (presentation will follow Part 1 "Leaky Waders")**

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

## ***Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro***

Thursday, May 21st: Freelance tying at 5 PM.

Lesson starts at 6 PM

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

# ***The Amazing Wiggle Minnow***

By Steve Oliver



The Wiggle Minnow is incredibly effective in the spring and summer for bass. This fly is surprisingly easy to cast. It draws fish to your fly like shoppers to the rotisserie chicken counter at Sam's club.

The fly is easy to tie and fun to dress up. Come and learn some unique tricks. This fly costs over 6 dollars each if you can find them in a fly shop. You will leave with 2 free minnows if you attend this workshop, plus priceless wiggle minnow wisdom. Beginners, this fly is for you. Experienced: You will get a kick out of it. If you need equipment, the club will provide everything you need. Just pull up a chair and enjoy the evening.

**When: Thursday May 21st (Casual tying starts at 5 PM. Lesson starts at 6 PM)**

**Where: Bossier Bass Pro in the Fly Shop**

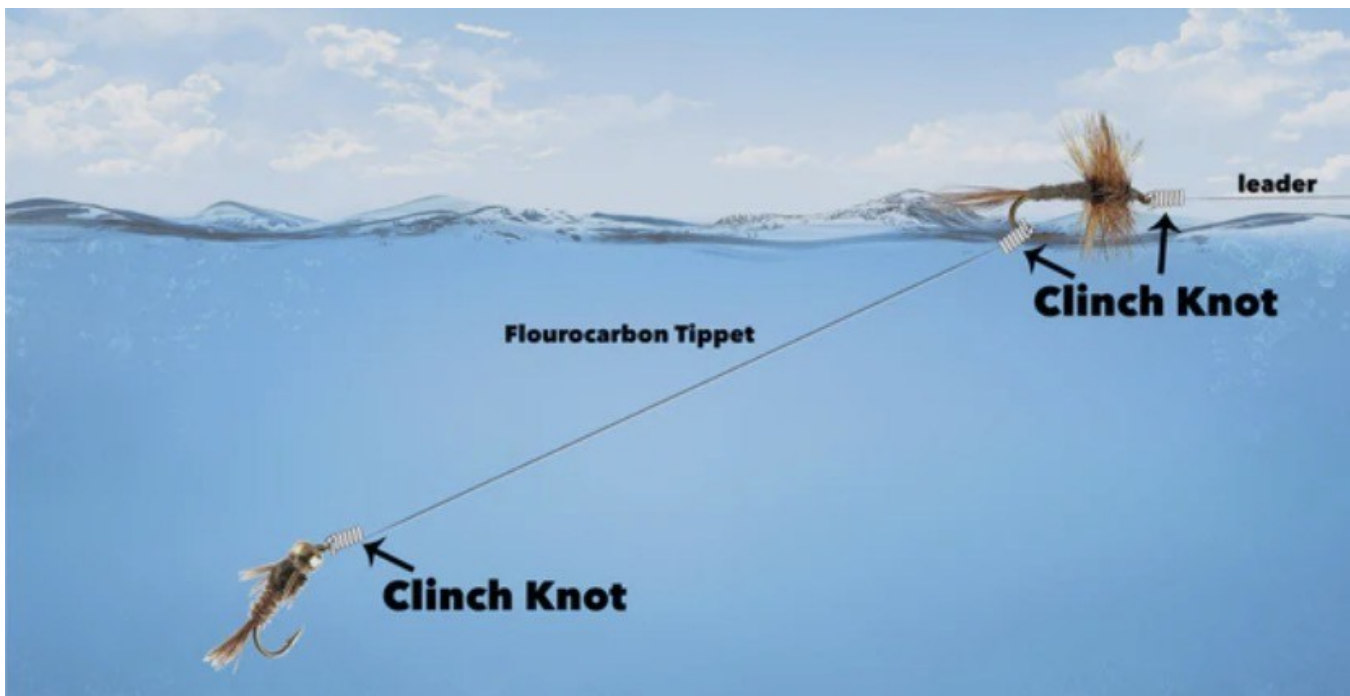
Preview of upcoming  
meeting topics...

June 9th Monthly Meeting: Part 1

Double  
Feature!

# *How to rig, assemble and fish a Dry/Dropper Rig*

By Steve Oliver



More and more folks are fishing this unique 2 fly rig. Come and learn simple ways to assemble the rig. Learn how to cast it without getting tangled. Learn importing fishing techniques.

**When: June 9th at 6 PM**

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

# June 9th Monthly Meeting: Part 2

Double  
Feature!

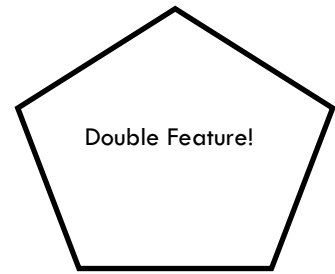


By Rush Clay

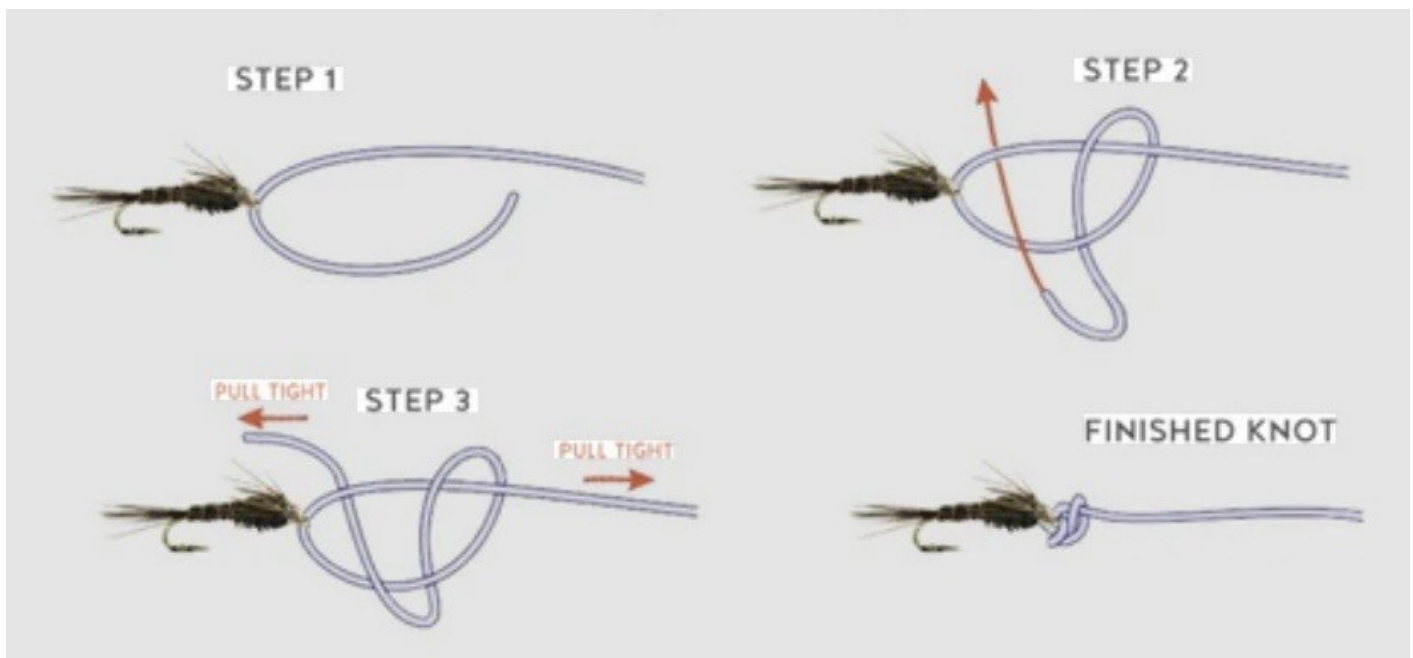
God created Southwest Arkansas with beautiful mountains, valleys and streams. The State of Arkansas has turned the whole region into a playground for fly fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts.

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.

July 14th Monthly Meeting: Part 1



# Incredibly Important Knots



By Lee Hartman

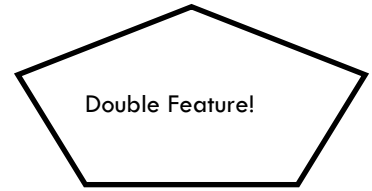
People are always coming up with innovative methods to tie traditional knots. New knots are being developed. Come and hear innovative ways to tie knots that will simplify your fly fishing experience.

Lee Hartman has studied these knots. There are only a few you need to master. This is the time to do it.

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

**Where:** Red River Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point)

July 14th Monthly Meeting: Part 2



# PLAN B



By Mark Chrisman

We have all been there: You pack up the truck, head up to the Little Missouri River. You arrive and find the water is gushing through the dam. You mumble these terrible words to yourself "They are generating!" and you curse the sky.

But your trip is not ruined. There are plenty of alternative locations to fish within 40 miles of the Narrows Dam. Mark Chrisman points you to some secret Plan B locations to fish. This is VERY valuable information.

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

**Where:** Red River Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point)

## 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:*

# ***May***

# ***NLFF***

# ***Events...***

- **Tuesday May 5th: Brews and Bugs at Great Raft**
- **Tuesday May 12th: Monthly meeting: Fixing leaky waders plus Newbie cracks code of LMF.**
- **Thursday May 21st: Fly Tying Lesson at Bass Pro: Wiggle Minnow. Incredible casting Bass fly**
- **May 26, 27, and 28th: Flies and Fleas: Warm Water fly fishing outing to Purtil Creek State Park near Canton Texas. This is a mid-week trip. Thursday the Trade Days open if you care to partake of the festivities.**

**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!

## 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}

July 25th

# Jefferson

# Texas

Throw your kayak in the truck and head to Jefferson Texas. This is a trip that recharges the spirit and soul.

You will catch bass, cat-fish, crappie, and endless bream.

Gather at the boat ramp in Jefferson at 7 AM

If you come late, just launch and meet folks under the railroad bridge. Pack a lunch.

Chris Horsley (903-930-4973) is the point person for this trip. Contact him to make sure the trip is a "GO!". High water can postpone it.

## Equipment Needed:

Kayak

Contact Chris Horsley with questions: 903-930-4973



Big Cypress Bayou

**When: July 25th 7 AM until you leave**

**Where: Jefferson Texas at the boat launch**

October 23,24,25th

**Equipment needed:**

Waders, felt boots, staff

World class trip to the

# Little Red

Contact Scott Irwin with Questions: 318-469-0854



We are so lucky to live withing a half day drive of a trout fishery that has held the world record for a brown trout. It's a beautiful place made for trout fishermen. Make reservations at JFK campground for Friday, Sat and Sun. Oct 26, 27, and 28. Very nice hotels are close in addition to riverside cabins.



**When: October 23rd, 24th and 25th**

**Where: Little Red at Heber Springs AR**

# NLFF Roster

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Membership Expiration</b>		
Bell, Julia	12/31/2026	Mosery, Jeanine	12/31/2026
Burton, Keith	12/31/2027	North, Dennis	12/31/2026
Carter, Alan	12/31/2026	O'bryant, Phil	12/31/2026
Cates, Ed	12/31/2027	Oliver, Steve	12/31/2026
Chrisman, Mark	12/31/2027	Peace, Ardis	12/31/2027
Fontenot, Colin	12/31/2026	Poirier, Jeremy	12/31/2026
Fontenot, Rick	12/31/2028	Randle, Steve	12/31/2028
Frey, David	12/31/2026	Reisz, John	12/31/2027
Garland, Chad	12/31/2027	Roat, James	12/31/2026
Hartman, Lee	12/31/2026	Roat, Jim	12/31/2026
Higgins, Archie	12/31/2026	Rogers, Randy	12/31/2026
Hopkins, Tom	12/31/2029	Rogers, Russ	12/31/2027
Horsley, Chris	12/31/2028	Rowell, Brett	12/31/2026
Irwin, Scott	12/31/2027	Schroder, Mark	12/31/2026
Kelly, Wendy	12/31/2026	Seale, Arthur	12/31/2026
Kendall, Matt	12/31/2026	Seale, Dick	12/31/2026
Kennedy, Richard	12/31/2027	Shepellman, Antionette	12/31/2027
King, Scott	12/31/2027	Siedlecki, Walter	12/31/2028
Konnovitch, Mike	12/31/2026	Sikes, Jay	12/31/2028
Landry, Brian	12/31/2026	Thomas, Layne	12/31/2026
Lanzillotti, David	12/31/2028	Tiller, Chuck	12/31/2026
Lawler, Don	12/31/2026	Turner, Dickie	12/31/2026
Linder, Joe	12/31/2026	Turner, Thomas	12/31/2026
Mcbride, Jr., John	12/31/2026	White, Rex	12/31/2026
Mccarver, Larry	12/31/2027	White, Teresa	12/31/2026
		Wiener Iii, Jacques	12/31/2026
Briam Homza	12/31/26		
David Davis	12/31/26		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

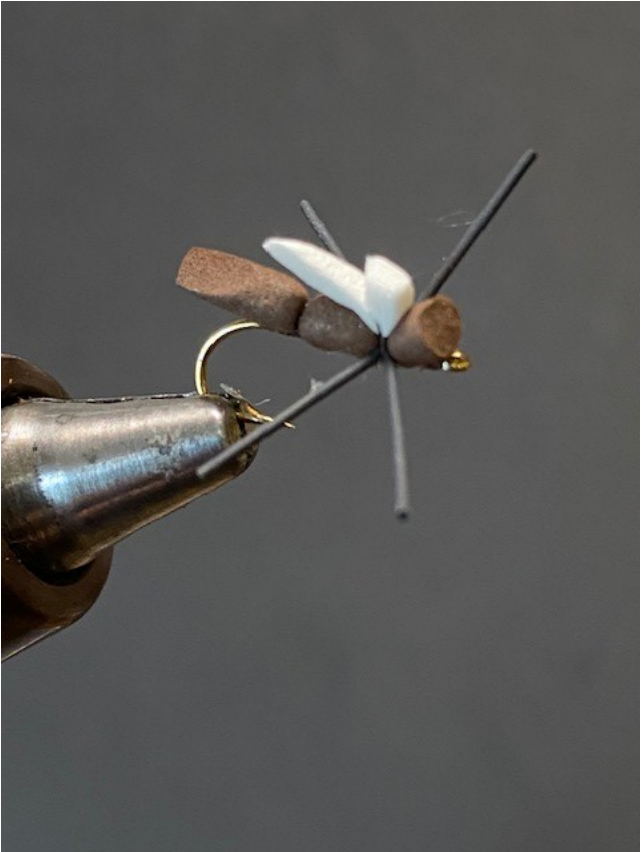
*(This form to be kept on file for as long as the above signee(s) is a/are member(s) of the NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS and then for a minimum of five years thereafter.)*

# NLFF April Photos



Becky Hudnall ties a fly at Brews and Bugs. She is stationed in Hawaii but was visiting Barksdale

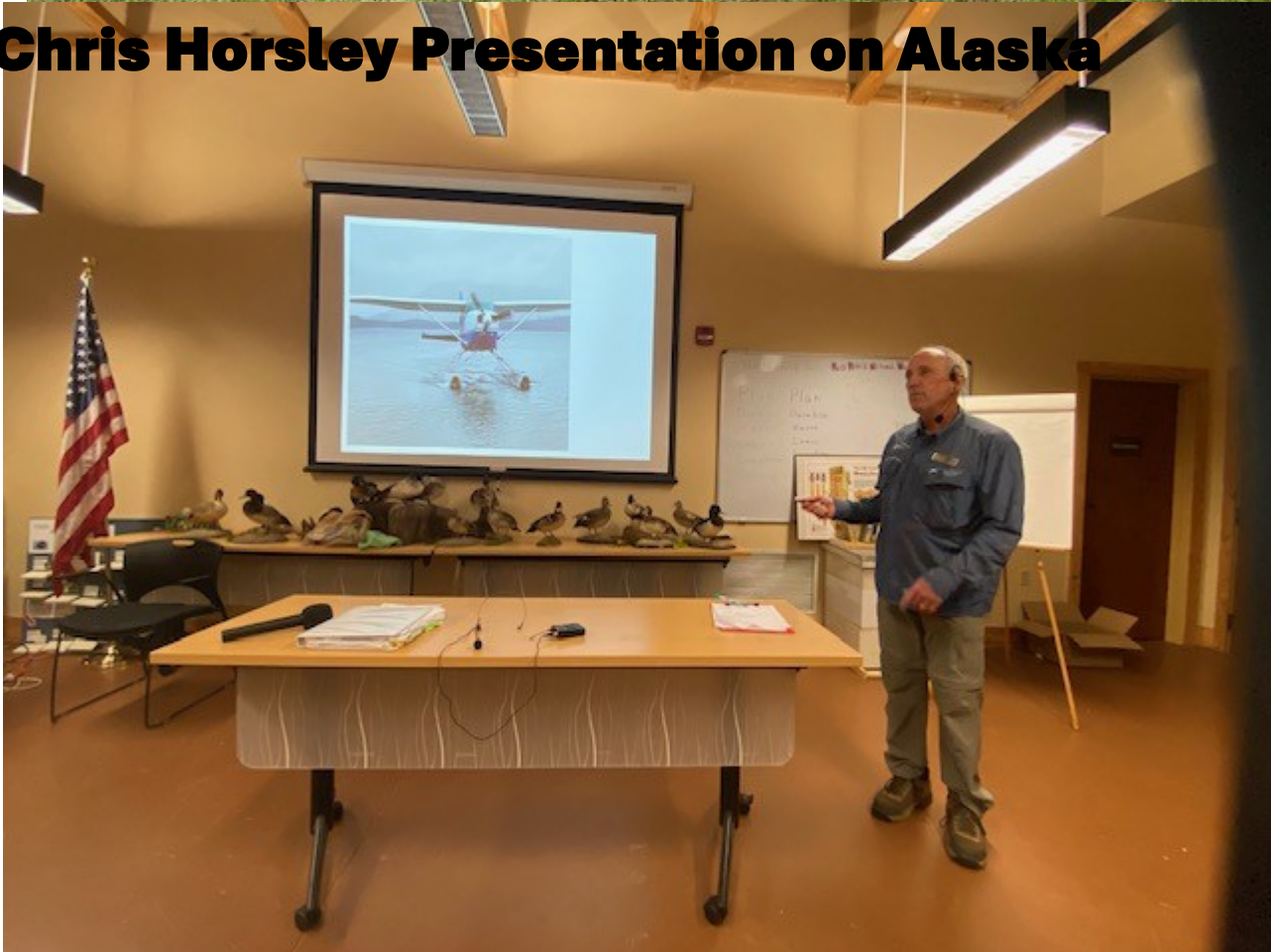
**Busy Month tying new fly patterns...**

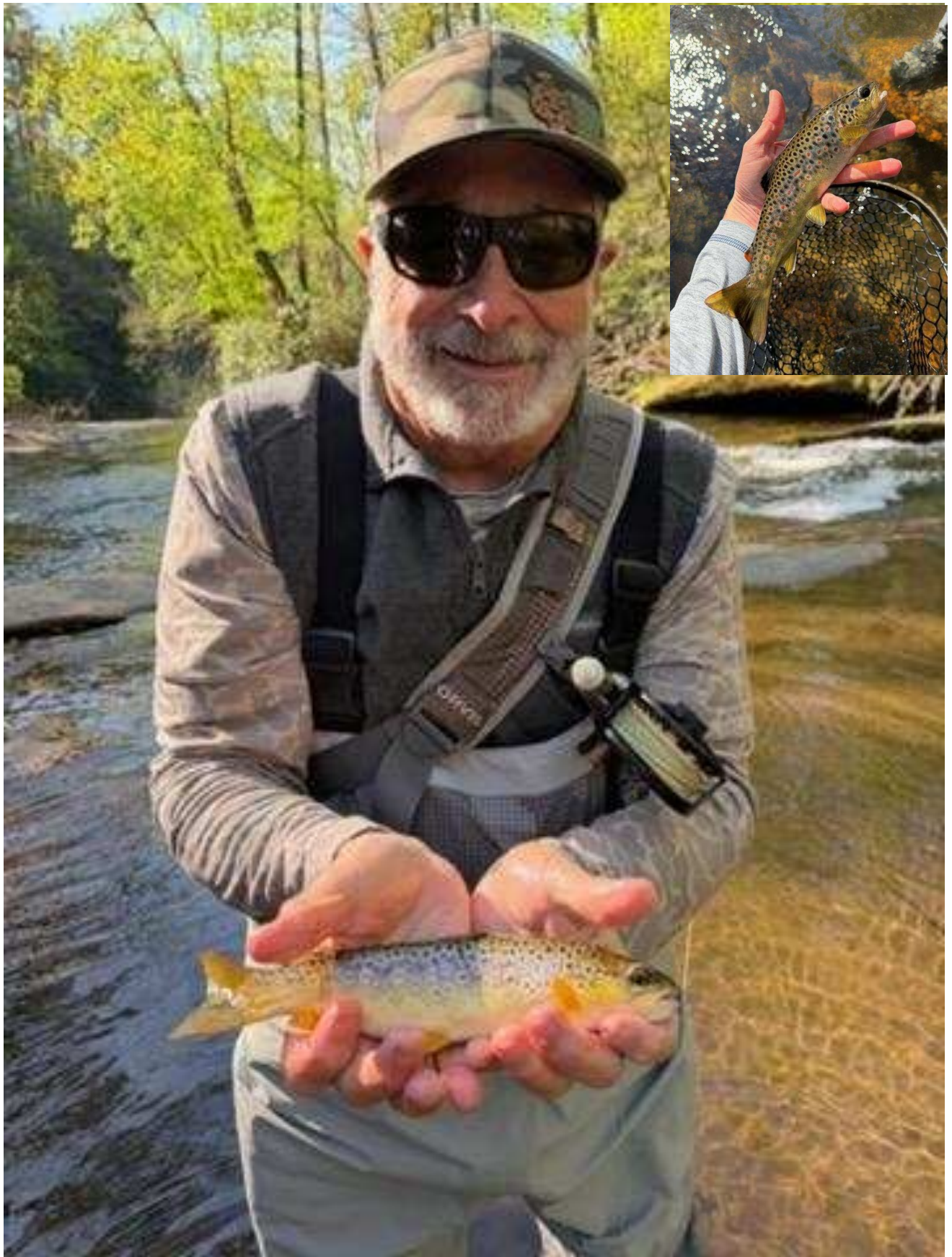


**Jeremy Poirier teaches double haul lessons..**



**Chris Horsley Presentation on Alaska**





Jack Wiener catches wild trout in North Carolina

# Illinois River Trout...





Fishing Lake Tenkiller when not at the river...



Steve and Virginia with Peggy Irwin at campground near Illinois River

# Rick Fontenot prepares to fish Cross Lake



35 pounds of the best catfish on the planet in 2 hours...



The North Louisiana Fly Fisher is a very active club:

Fly Fishing

Food

Fellowship

Travel

Education (If you want to learn we will teach you)

We fish local rivers, lakes, ponds, and bayous and cold water trout streams

Fishing with minimal gear

Fishing with Waderes

Fishing with Kayaks

Wet wade fishing.

We do it all.....

Come and join the adventure!