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JANUARY 2024 www.tricountyflyfishers.com



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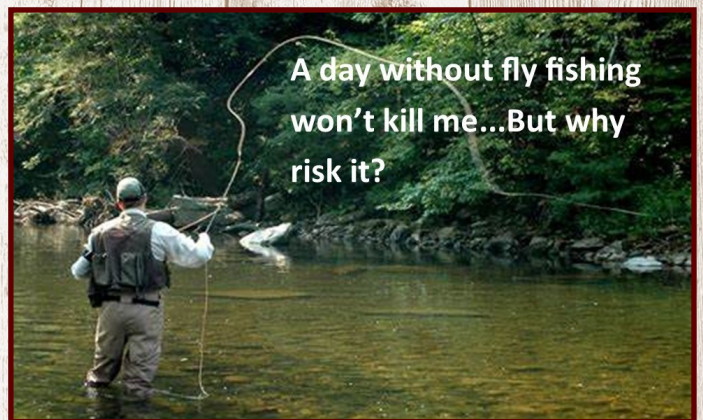
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JANUARY, 2024 NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS

Barry Palmeri- *President*,
rbarrypalmer@gmail.com
Dave Rambow- *Vice President*
Joe Manjione- *Secretary*
manjdist@gmail.com
Dan Dauchess- *Treasurer*
ddauchess@gmail.com
Lou Thomas- *Membership Chair*
lmt259@aol.com
Larry Nazzaro- *Fly Tying & Program
Coordinator*
lmnazzaro@comcast.net
Bob Heinbach- *Casting Coordinator*
raheinbach@gmail.com
Dave Rambow- *Casting Coordinator*
drflyfishdave@gmail.com

MEETINGS

TCFF Business/Breakfast Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM

TCFF Evening Presentations are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month Casting and Fly Tying at 3:00 PM TCFF meeting begins at 4:00 PM

All Meetings are suspended in June, July & August

Meetings are held in the Bridge or Oak Room
Grand Oaks Resort
3000 Marion County Rd
Weirsdale, FL 32195



Bistro Hours

Sunday Brunch: 9 AM to 3 PM.
Closed Monday and Tuesday
Wednesday through Saturday: 11 AM to 8 PM.

TCFF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

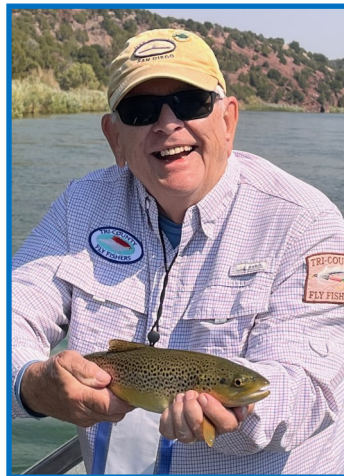


For TCFF custom embroidery contact:
Custom Apparel & Gifts
3451 Wedgewood Lane
The Villages, FL 32162
352-750-1600



TRI-COUNTY FLYFISHERS
OF LAKE, SUMTER & MARION COUNTIES

JANUARY, 2024 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Happy Holiday's! About ten years ago my wife suggested that I enroll in a fly tying class at The Villages Lifelong Learning Center. Little would I know the adventure and the path on which I was about to embark. First, I went to an Outdoor Expo in The Villages where I met Jack Neely, a man in his late 70's who had been tying flies since he was five years old. Once enrolled in Jack's fly tying class, I met Larry Nazzaro, who was President of our fly fishers Club - TCFF. Both burned with the passion of fly tying

... and I found a home.

My interests in the Club were similar to the many others who gathered at the Pembroke Grill monthly to break bread and swap fly fishing stories. I volunteered occasionally and found myself serving on the Nominating Committee for New Officers, cooking ribs for the Picnic, revising By-Laws, and judging equestrian events at Grand Oaks. More importantly I developed warm and lasting relationships with some people who shared a similar passion for fly fishing.

Please join us all as we kick off the New Year. Help us develop and review a program of activities for the first five months. The Board of Directors will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 in the Oak Room at Grand Oaks. The membership **breakfast** meeting will follow at 9:30 a.m. Cost of the **full** breakfast is now \$15.00. I look forward to serving you all.

Barry Palmer



TCCF Monthly Club Meetings

Board Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month @ 8:00am, Grand Oaks Bridge room. NO BOARD MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST

Breakfast Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month @ 9:30am, Grand Oaks Oak room. NO MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST...Breakfast is \$15.00.

Afternoon Presentations: 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 4:00pm, Grand Oaks Bridge room. NO PRESENTATIONS JUNE-AUGUST

Before the meeting: Fly tying demonstration, fly casting, and help table beginning @ 3:00 pm.

HELP TABLE at the Monthly afternoon meeting

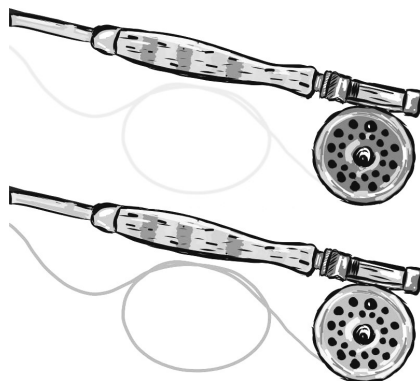
At each monthly meeting the Club will offer an experienced angler to help with your fly-fishing questions. For example: Where and when to fish? What weight rod might I use for bass? How do I tie that knot? How do I set up that leader? Etc.

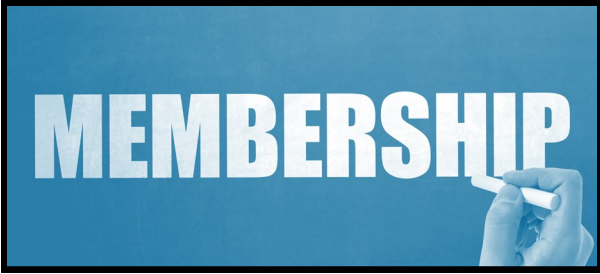
FLY SALES TABLE at the Monthly afternoon meeting

At each monthly meeting there will be a table for members to purchase saltwater or freshwater flies very inexpensively donated by Club members.

USED GEAR TABLE at the Monthly afternoon meeting

At each monthly meeting there will be a table for members to sell, swap, or offer free used fishing gear, books, materials, etc.

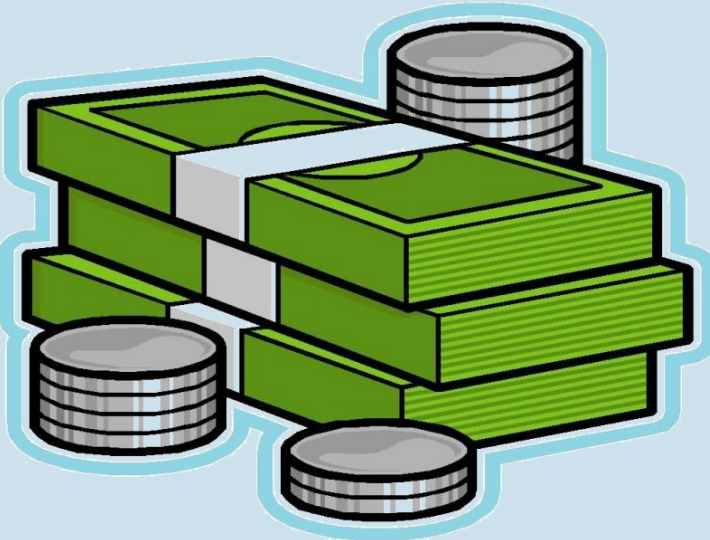




Lou Thomas
Membership Coordinator

Hello members!

**Now accepting dues for the 2024 season. Dues are only \$30 per year.
Cash or check made out to TCFF.**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



TCFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Business & Board Mtg	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Fishing Derby	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Winterfest	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Equestrian Event
28 Equestrian Event	29	30	31			

DETAIL:

January 3: Board Meeting, GOR Bridge Room, 8:00am

January 3: Business/Breakfast Meeting, GOR Oak Room, 9:30am-11:30am

January 10: Fishing Derby, GOR, 10am-12pm

January 17: WINTERFEST, Grand Oaks Museum Room, 4pm-7pm

January 27 & 28: Equestrian Event @ GOR





UPCOMING TCFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY, 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH, 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL, 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY, 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 3 & 4: Equestrian Event @ GOR
 February 7: Business & Board meeting
 February 16: Fishing Derby, GOR, 10am-12pm
 February 21: "Fly Fishing for Shad" with Chad Helenthal
 February 23 & 24: The Villages Outdoor Expo; Everglades Rec Center
 February 23 & 24: Alligator Alley Outing with MCF

March 6: Business & Board meeting
 March 13: Barry Palmer Bass Tournament, Grand Oaks
 March 20: "Freshwater Invertebrates" with Dr Charles Cichra, University of Florida
 March 20: Fly Swap & "Present & Defend"
 March 27: TCFF Picnic, Grand Oaks Cowboy Chapel 11am-2pm

April 3: Business & Board meeting
 April 10: Fishing Derby, Riverbend Rec Center, The Villages, 9am-11am
 April 17: Jon Cave Casting Refresher, Grand Oaks
 April 24: Ed Rapisardi Casting Tournament, GOR; 9am-11am

May 1: Business & Board meeting
 May 15: Open

Please Join us for our Premier

WinterFest

Grand Oaks Resort, Museum Room

January 17, 2024

Cash bar 4:00pm; Dinner @ 5:00pm

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AND GOING FAST!

\$20pp; \$35 non-member

Dinner Menu

Chicken Parmesan over Spaghetti

Stuffed Shells

Garden Salad & Rolls

Dessert Cookies & Brownies

Beverages to include Ice Tea, Coffee, and Water

Chinese Auction

Great raffle Items including but not limited to:

4 hr. Private Fly-Casting Lesson w/Jon Cave

Ritz-Carlton/Orlando Fly Fishing Excursion

Orlando Outfitters Gift Cards

Sportsman's Warehouse Gift card

Collector Fly Boxes

Fly Rods

Books

Framed Shadow Box

Art Prints

and more...

50/50 Raffle

The Villages®

OUTDOOR

EXPO



February 23 & 24, 2024

Everglades Recreation Center

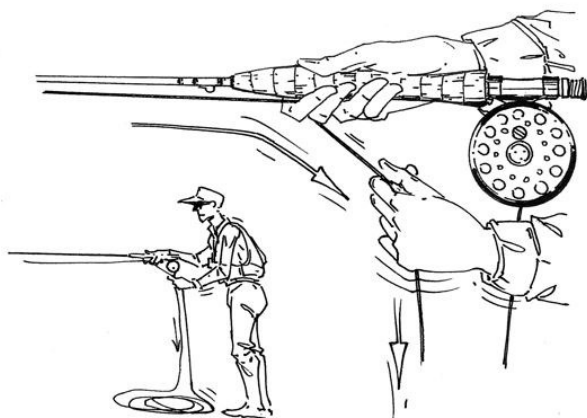
5497 Marsh Bend Trail

Wildwood, FL 34785

TCFF has participated in the Outdoor Expo for 20+ years. We need casting and fly-tying volunteers for demos both days.

To volunteer for casting (5-6 members per day), contact Bob Heinbach or Dave Rambow
drflyfishdave@gmail.com
raheinbach@gmail.com

To volunteer for fly tying (4 members per day), contact Larry Nazzaro
Lmnazzaro@comcast.net



2024 Davey Ferris Commemorative Fly Swap

Davey Ferris

Fly Swap and “Defend Your Fly!”

Hey Fly Tiers, welcome to the 21st annual TCFE fly swap. Registration is underway. For those of you that are new to the Club, There are two “categories” you can choose to enter if you are so inclined. You can choose to participate in one or both categories.



1. Fly Swap

We will have the traditional fly swap. Each participant will tie one fly of his own choice for every other participant in the swap. It would be nice if you include tying instructions, but it is not a requirement. The appropriate number of flies are to be packaged in a zip Lock bag with the tyers name included. The flies will be repackaged with a fly from each tyer and your bag will be returned to you with one of each fly that was tied. An extra fly will go to the Club and raffled off. Your flies will be due at the first February meeting and I will distribute your new flies to you at the first Meeting in March. I am hoping for 10 tiers to sign up.

2. "Present and Defend"

This is a new twist suggested by the late Mike Carragher. We will limit the contestants to 5. These tyers are to tie a “**historically accurate**” fly. The fly will be a copy of a proven fly originally tied by a “world famous” fly tyer. (For example, someone like Bob Clouser, Lefty Kreh or Larry Nazzaro) The flies will be presented to the three judges. These flies will be judged on style and accuracy to the original. You will be given up to 5 points by the judges. High total score wins.

Each participant will then be tasked with defending your fly against all the other entrants to the panel of judges who will select the winner. Basically, you’ll be doing a 5-minute maximum sales pitch on why your fly should be the winner. Each tyer will be given **five minutes** to present to the Club the following:

- ◆ History of the Fly
- ◆ Known Effectiveness of the Fly
- ◆ Target Species of Fish
- ◆ Personal Reflections

The winner will then be photographed, and his/her name and fly will be added to the plaque on display at Grand Oaks for history.

Flies and names of the entrants should be submitted to Davey Ferris by **February 21, 2024**. The winner will be announced at the **March 20 meeting**. The number of flies to tie and the dates will be finalized when we have determined the number of participants.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Davey @ daveyfe@yahoo.com (404/825-9633)



Fly of the Month

By Larry Nazzaro, Fly Tying Coordinator

THE COCKAROO

A GREAT "OLD SCHOOL" PANFISH FLY

<http://www.warmwaterflytyer.com/patterns4.asp?page=3>

The Cockaroo wet fly, so named because it's tail and wing come from a rooster Ringneck Pheasant, is a favorite panfish fly. Bluegills, especially, love to eat this chubby little critter. Use a strip-pause retrieve and hang on.



Materials:

Hook	Daiichi 1550, Mustad 3906, any standard wet fly hook	Size 8, 10, 12
Thread	Uni-Thread - 6/0	Dark Brown
Tail	Ringneck Pheasant	Rump Feather Fibers
Underbody	Uni-Yarn or dubbing	Dark Brown
Body	Peacock Herl	2 Herl's
Wing	Ringneck Pheasant	Select Rump Feather
Collar	Hen Neck Feather	Furnace or similar



Fly Tying Tips & Tricks

By Larry Nazzaro

Deciphering Thread Size?

Do the thread sizes listed in pattern recipes confuse you? Selecting the proper thread is far easier than you think.



With all the tying threads available and the differences and labeling, it's no wonder there's confusion. There are basically two different numbering systems used for describing thread. For simplicity sake, let's pretend they're both talking about diameter. In the system, the larger the number, the thinner the diameter. So 8/0 is thinner than 6/0, which in turn is thinner than 3/0. This system is rather arbitrary and differs between manufacturers. The other system of measurement refers to a thread denier, which is the mass and grams of 9,000 m of thread, so 70 denier is lighter than 140 which is lighter than 210 and 280. In the most general of terms, it's a good idea to use lighter or thinner diameter threads like 8/0 or 70 denier for small flies and heavier threads like 3/0 or 210 for larger flies.

For decades, the diameter of fly tying thread was listed in "aught" sizes: 8/0, 6/0, and 3/0. Size A was also once a common fly tying thread; it was very thick, suitable for making very large streamers and saltwater patterns. Generally speaking, there is nothing inherently wrong with this system. Size 8/0 is usually the thinnest thread available; we select this thread for tying midges, dry flies, and small nymphs. Tiers specializing in making full-dress Atlantic salmon flies are fanatics about making tiny heads on their flies, and they usually complete their beautiful patterns using size 8/0. Today, many fly shops also carry size 14/0, which is almost gossamer; use it for making midges and dainty floating flies. Size 6/0 is always the workhorse thread; we use it for making most of the patterns in our fly boxes: nymphs, freshwater streamers, beefier dry flies, and smaller saltwater patterns. This thread is stronger than size 8/0 so you can apply more tension when lashing materials to hooks.

Experienced tiers also use size 6/0 for doing thread-straining work such as spinning deer hair heads on Muddler Minnows; most recipes call for size 3/0 for spinning deer hair. Did you know that you can increase the breaking strength of tying thread? Spinning your bobbin clockwise twists the thread much like string, rope, or cable. Tightening the strands increases the tensile breaking strength of thread so you can apply more tension to spin deer hair or tightly lash thick hair wings to hooks.

Tie saltwater, pike, muskie, and other big flies using size 3/0 thread. These threads have ample strength to secure large amounts of materials to hooks. Also, the larger hooks used to make these big flies afford enough room to accommodate these thicker threads.

Those are just general rules of thumb about selecting thread. There's no mystery once you understand the nomenclature of thread sizes. But then along came a guy who threw a wrench into our fly tying works and said we should adopt a new, more exact sizing standard.

“Aught” Or Not?

Check out various pattern recipes. You’ll notice that the thread recommendations include the aught size and something called denier. Denier is a unit of weight used in the textile industry to measure the linear mass density of fibers. Originally, denier was based on a natural reference: a single strand of silk. To be more specific, a 9,000-meter-long strand of silk weighs about one gram. (I’ll let you figure out how many miles of silk that is!) We can apply this concept to almost any type of textile, including fly tying thread.

Let’s say we wish to tie small dry flies, and we have two 200-yard spools of nylon thread in front of us. One spool of thread is marked 72 denier and the other is 140 denier. Nine thousand meters of size 72 denier thread weighs 72 grams, and the same length of 140 denier thread weighs 140 grams. The spool of 72 denier thread weighs about one-half as much as the 140 denier thread, so we can reason that it must be about half as thick and it is a better choice for making our dainty floating patterns.

In fly fishing, there are few industrywide standards for comparing the size and weight of tackle and fly tying materials. For example, the thickness of one company’s size 8/0 thread might differ from that of another supplier. Denier gives us an exact method for comparing the thicknesses of different threads.

Use the accompanying chart to help determine what thread to use to tie different styles of flies. This chart is not comprehensive, but it is a good start for deciphering thread size.

Which Thread to Use?

THREAD SIZE

FLY TYING APPLICATION

14/0 or 32 Denier

Tiny midges, emergers, and dry flies

8/0 or 70 Denier

Small nymphs and dry flies

6/0 or 140 Denier

Nymphs, larger dry flies, streamers, and smaller saltwater flies

3/0 or 210 and 280 Denier

Saltwater, bass, and pike flies



BREAKING NEWS

Governor DeSantis Proposes \$745M in Everglades Funding for Year 2024-2025 State Budget

Everglades Restoration and Water Quality

Florida's natural resources are directly tied to the economic resilience of the state and provide important defenses against natural disasters such as hurricanes. Florida has made record investments in protecting our natural resources and conserving the Florida way of life and Governor DeSantis continues this commitment in the Focus on Florida's Future Budget.

During Governor DeSantis' first term as Governor, he signed record investments to protect Florida's Everglades and support water quality, investing a record \$3.3 billion. At the start of his second term, he called for a historic \$3.5 billion investment over the next four years. The Governor's Budget recommends \$1.1 billion for Everglades restoration and water quality, bringing the total investment during the Governor's second term to \$2.8 billion. This investment includes \$745 million for Everglades restoration projects:

- \$550 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).
- \$64 million for the EAA Reservoir to continue the momentum of this critical project to reduce harmful discharges and help send more clean water south of the Everglades.
- \$50 million is included for specific project components designed to achieve the greatest reductions in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.
- \$81.5 million is included for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.
- \$3 million for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to remove pythons from the Everglades.

To continue protecting Florida's water quality and supply, the Governor is recommending \$330 million for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful and measurable nutrient reductions in key waterbodies. This includes:

- \$135 million for the expanded Water Quality Improvement Grant Program for projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities, including septic to sewer conversions, stormwater management projects and agricultural nutrient reduction projects.
- \$100 million for the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Protection Program for priority projects to improve water quality in the IRL, as called for in Executive Order 23-06.
- \$50 million to accelerate projects to meet scientific nutrient reduction goals, called Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- \$20 million for critical infrastructure including wastewater and stormwater projects that address water quality impairments and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.
- \$25 million for water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee River watershed.

Additional water quality investments include \$50 million to restore Florida's world-renowned springs and for land acquisition to protect springsheds as well as more than \$55 million to improve water quality and combat the impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes \$80 million for the Alternative Water Supply Grant Program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects.



To support conservation lands and to protect the great outdoors for generations of Floridians to enjoy, the Governor's Budget invests \$50 million in Florida's State Parks for infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining Florida's world class parks which have won the National Gold Medal a record four times. The Governor's Budget also includes more than \$125 million to protect Florida's conservation lands and waterways to ensure Florida's prized properties are accessible for future generations of Florida families. This funding includes \$100 million for the Florida Forever Program, the state's blueprint for conserving Florida's natural and recreation lands, including those located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Florida is home to 1,300 miles of coastline which plays an important role in Florida's economy and quality of life, attracting visitors from across the world and providing an invaluable defense against hurricanes. The Governor's Budget includes \$50 million in beach nourishment funding to bolster our shorelines. Additionally, the Governor is recommending \$22.8 million for coral reef protection and restoration, including \$11.3 million to continue Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative established in Executive Order 23-06, to restore 25 percent of Florida's Coral Reef by 2050.

The Governor's Budget also prioritizes the protection of Florida's working agricultural lands and family farms, providing an annual appropriation of \$100 million to the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program to enter into perpetual conservation easements. In order to preserve Florida's iconic citrus industry, the budget invests more than \$20 million for citrus research and the Citrus Health Response Program. This includes \$5 million for research and additional advertising by the Department of Citrus.

To further protect Florida's rural areas and communities surrounded by Florida's beautiful forests, the Governor's Budget provides \$4 million to support the replanting of trees and timber impacted by hurricanes and natural disasters, in addition to investing over \$30 million in Florida's efforts to effectively combat wildfires including equipment, road and bridge maintenance and Wildfire Protection and State Forest operations.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget also includes \$211 million for the cleanup of contaminated sites with a focus on promoting redevelopment of these areas once cleanup has been completed.



Winter Bass Fishing - The Hard, Cold Facts

Winter is the time to fly fish for big largemouth bass. I will break down some winter bass fly fishing tips.

Early Winter – This winter the cold has started early. In this colder weather, bass change their patterns early. Bass usually really start moving into winter patterns in January. But I think this year, they are moving to their winter spots in December. Here are four simple rules for fly fishing for winter bass:

1. If the water is clear, find the deepest structure or cover you can find and then work up in the water column from there.
2. If the water is dirty, fish shallower. Dirty water will keep baitfish close to shore. So, start fishing shallower and work deeper until you find fish.
3. Fish slow; I say again, Fish Slow, and if that doesn't work, then fish even slower. Finally, if that doesn't work, fish erratically.
4. Start with big flies, then downsize.

Good big flies are the [Deep Half & Half & Half](#), and [large Bucktail Clousers](#) (pictured below):

	
<p>Deep Half & Half & Half Fly</p>	<p>Large Bucktail Clouser Fly</p>

Mid-Winter: As we move into February and March, these months provide the best chance to catch a truly big bass. During these months, the water begins to warm slightly, and the bass are preparing to spawn; they are more likely to be active and eating. The larger female bass will be the first to start spawning. These bass will spawn in deeper water. So, around mid-February, water temps begin to swing back up, change from Mid-Winter flies to a Clouser fly.

Fly Fishing Tips and Tricks

continued

Also, as the water warms, crawfish begin to emerge from their winter hideouts; crawfish are a bass's favorite food source. Additionally, as bass start to spawn, sunfish will start trying to pick a few eggs off basses' nests. So, with these two things in mind, use bulkier flies like a Crawfish Bites Fly, a Marabou Clouser Fly, and an Improved SMP (Sunfish) Fly.

		
Crawfish Bites Fly	Marabou Clouser Fly	Improved SMP (Sunfish) Fly

Final Notes on Winter Bass Fly Fishing:

Winter is often the only time of year to flyfish with a sinking line or sink-tip fly line. The sinking line or a sink-tip attached to a floating line allows the fly to go deep. Also, if you want to do something different, "jig" your fly. Cast it out as far as you can, strip some more line off as it sinks to the bottom, then gently bounce your fly along the bottom as you slowly strip your fly back. Don't be afraid to let it sit on the bottom for a while. It is winter in central Florida, so let's go fishing for big bass!

Tight Lines,

Dave

drflyfishdave@gmail.com



Species Spotlight:

Redear Sunfish



From coast to coast, anglers encounter a multitude of sunfish. Bluegills are perhaps the best known, but there are plenty of others, including the brilliantly colored pumpkinseed, the diminutive green sunfish, and the feisty red-eyed rock bass. Surprising to some, both largemouth and smallmouth bass fall into the sunfish category, as do warmouth, redbreasts, and longears. And then there's the redear sunfish, ordinarily small but capable of growing in excess of 2 pounds. Known for being particularly tasty on the table, redears can prove a challenge, so it helps for folks to equip themselves with the best information possible before hitting the water.

Redear Sunfish Identification and Distribution

Body-wise, redears—commonly called shellcrackers, Georgia bream, or cherry gill—look round and flat, much like bluegills. They're a pretty little fish, with a greenish-blue back giving way to a yellow belly, a small mouth, and finger-poking dorsal spines. The key identifier is the distinctive black ear flap, known scientifically as the opercle, edged in bright red or reddish-orange.

Redears are generally small sunfish, weighing a half pound or less, and measuring 6-10 inches. However, larger specimens aren't all that rare, especially in southern waters that provide year-round feeding and growth opportunities for game fish. Thomas Farchione caught the world-record redear in 2021 on Lake Havasu in Arizona, tipping the scales at an eye-popping 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

Home for redears was originally the southeastern United States, spanning from Texas north to Illinois and then east to the Atlantic Coast. However, the species has been widely introduced throughout the eastern U.S., and has established good populations west to New Mexico and north into Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Oregon's Willamette Valley harbors a handful of "redear ponds," while Arizona's aforementioned Lake Havasu cranks out good catches of redears year-round.

Habitat and Behavior After spawning, redears will move away from the shallows and back into their deeper water haunts, favoring depths from 10-25 feet.

Although occasionally found in streams and rivers, redears are predominantly a fish of clear, still waters with abundant

Species Spotlight:

continued

rooted vegetation such as milfoil or coontail. Post-spawn fish will often be found oriented with mid-depth structure like sunken cypress trees.

Unlike bluegills that actively feed mid-depth and on the surface, redears prefer to grub around on the bottom, searching for worms, aquatic insects, crayfish, snails, and tiny fingernail clams. In fact, they get their nickname, "shellcracker," from the way they crush fingernail clam shells with a set of "teeth" located in their throat and expel them before eating the morsel.

Anglers can catch redears in southern lakes at any time of the year, but it's widely known among sunfish aficionados that nothing on the calendar beats catching a limit in the spring when redears are spawning. As with bluegills, redears are communal nesters, with anglers often finding multiple beds covering bottom structure like pea gravel, sand, or silt. Such group nests will typically be located in shallow water, and in association with some type of cover such as timber, stumps, or lily pads.

After spawning, redears will move away from the shallows and back into their deeper water haunts, favoring depths from 10-25 feet. These post-spawn redears can prove a challenge to find, but however, quality electronics can help pinpoint areas of potential, namely old creeks and channels, or better yet, stump fields adjacent to deeper-water weed lines.

Tips for Catching Redear Sunfish

Serious redear anglers will be the first to say that these feisty little sunfish are at best fickle when it comes to catching them. Even panfish favorites like Beetle Spins, Freaky Frank's plastics, small flashy marabou jigs, No. 0 Mepps Aglia spinners, and 1/32- or 1/64-ounce leadheads with tiny twistertail grubs can struggle connecting.

Ultimately, however, redears are suckers for live bait, with small worms being some of the best baits. Tiny pieces of nightcrawler have proved effective, but it never hurts to experiment with any number of natural baits, including mealworms, waxworms, crickets, or even snippets of fingernail or horse clams (if allowed by law).

For spawning redears, an inch-long redworm on a No. 8 long-shanked, Aberdeen-style hook is often the ticket to success. The best approach is to sight-fish this presentation right in front of the bed with no weight and no float. You can do this with an old fly rod or a long, limber crappie rod with light 2- to 4-pound-test fluorocarbon line, each of which will offer accuracy from a distance without much disruption. Over deeper water, you can use the same baits rigged with a super-sensitive quill float and present them on or just barely above the bottom.



“My Two Cents”

By Bob Heinbach

Pine Scented Trees Hanging from Your Rear View Mirror

I wrote this back in 2018 and thought it was appropriate five years later.

Wendy says my car stinks and doesn't want to go in it. I still have the same car and it is now 5 years older. When I come home from fishing she says “you smell like the pond. Go take a shower!” (that has not changed).

What is a fellow to do?

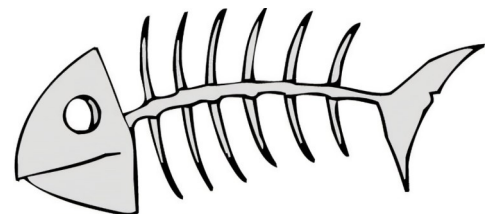
I try to bleach my stripping guards but sometimes I forget. I finally tossed out my wading shoes (not enough bleach in Walmart to get rid of the smell).

No, I have not looked for dead fish in my car. I am a catch and release guy. Unless someone placed one in there?

I told Wendy she is lucky I don't use a float tube like Fred Horn did and trudge where he used to fish!

I guess I need 3 or 4 pine scented trees to hang from the rear view mirror like Walter Matthau in *Grumpy Old Men*.

Happy Holidays to all,
Bob Heinbach



Kayak Korner

7 Tips For Anglers Who Think They Know It All

It's Never Too Late to Expand Your Horizons

No matter how much you think you know, there is always more you can learn. Whether it's picking up a new paddle stroke, trying a new technique or going after a whole new species, there's always room to improve your skills and become a better angler. We reached out to seven kayak fishing pros to find out what most "know-it-all" anglers can still stand to learn.

Become A Mentor

Nothing left to learn? That's not possible, there's always something to learn. If you really feel that way, try taking out someone new to the sport. Be the teacher or mentor that you had when you were starting off. Watching a new angler succeed and feeling their excitement will remind you that it's not always about the big fish, trophies, and tournament wins. Remember why you even started in the first place.

Learn From Your Skunk Days

My grandfather used to tell me, "Nobody knows it all and only a fool pretends to." There is an ever-increasing tendency to expect instant results every time we go out fishing. Fishing is not like that. Sometimes we get red letter days, sometimes we get skunked. That is the nature of the game; we think we have it figured out and then we go and get skunked. Don't be ashamed of the days you don't catch; these are the days that you can learn the most from. To me a good day fishing is a day where I learn something new, another piece of the puzzle that constantly changes.

Try Something New

You can always branch out and go after a new species you know nothing about. That's what I love the most: going to a new body of water and targeting a species that's completely foreign to me. It's always challenging, but that results in a much more rewarding catch when you finally put the pieces together and find success.

Throw a dart at a map and go try to catch something new. You might even surprise yourself and find a new favorite species to chase. Hook a bass guy up with a redfish and it just might change his life.

Talk To People

Instead of being an elitist and ignoring the guy sitting on the bank bait fishing, anglers could learn a lot from talking to them for just a few minutes. While we're out there for sport the bait fishermen are out there for a meal, so they're not messing around. They know what the fish eat, where the fish are and how to catch them. Just a few minutes of talking with them can give you the insight you need to hook up.

Always Have A Plan B

Even top kayak anglers should have a Plan B when their A Game is not on. Searching for cutthroat trout while trolling in a local lake can be a daunting task in the summer months. The water is warm, and the fish can go deep or just disappear. I used to cut my days short on the water if the fishing was crappy. Now, I always bring a couple spinning rods rigged for bass fishing. It's easy to change gear if the trout fishing is slow. It's also a great opportunity to let my client rest their legs from long pedaling trolls. And targeting a different species of fish is always fun.

Learn How to Paddle—For Real

Where's the paddling in kayak fishing? With kayak anglers looking to be the best, there sure isn't much emphasis on paddling efficiency. Forward and backward strokes get the job done but try adding a sculling draw to your arsenal to maneuver your casting position in tight spaces. There are so many different paddle strokes that you could learn, which means you'll never stop learning, which is what it's all about.

Don't Forget Where You Started

Remember that you started somewhere and should be willing to help those who are starting out. There is no greater feeling than helping someone develop a skill or knowledge and see them start to "get it."

I spent a long while at a ramp last week with a gentleman and his son and their new boat. They were as lost as a duck in a desert with that thing and couldn't even get it to the water. I helped them back it down and crank it up afterwards, all while going over safety features like kill switches, bilge pumps and PFDs. It cost me some time from my trip, but they were safer and smarter when they left, and I made new friends in the process.

Video of the Month

NEW FEATURE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Since we received so many positive comments on the last movie we showed, “Connect”, I thought I would include a new feature page to our newsletter. I’m calling it “Video of the Month”. These will be short fly fishing videos you can view at your leisure on your home PC or phone. I hope you like it!

“Streamers for Giant Brown Trout”

Producer: [Hardman Fishing Adventures](#)

Video from Midcurrent

Copy and paste to your browser the YouTube link below to watch this short video. Enjoy!

["Streamers for Giant Brown Trout" | MidCurrent](#)



Fishy Fotos

Photos submitted by members or photos of interest. Please send us your pictures to be published in our Club newsletter with name and location to Larry Nazzaro at Lmnazzaro@comcast.net

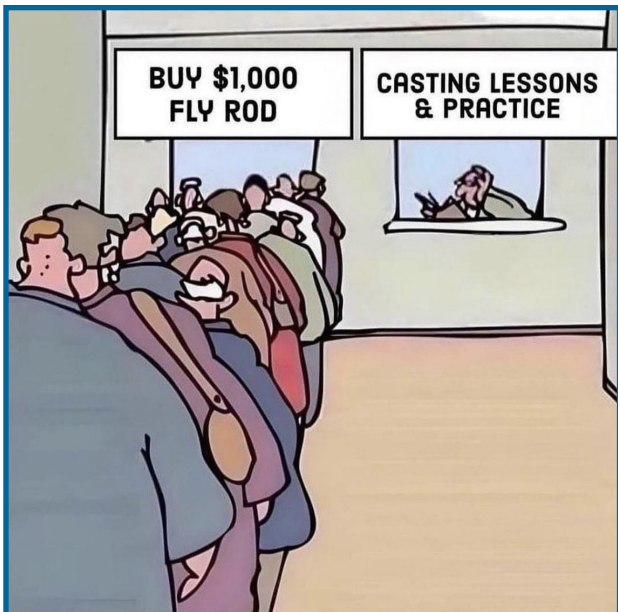


**Peter Schaper
Riverbend**

Fly fishing for rainbow trout on Dry Creek in southern Missouri on December 5th. The water was warmer than the air temperature.



**Dave Moreland
Missouri**



**Larry Nazzaro
Lake Taupo
New Zealand**

Club Classified

Classified ads submitted by Club members. To have your ad listed in the newsletter free of charge, submit your pertinent information and photos with name & contact information Larry Nazzaro at Lmnazzaro@comcast.net Please get it to Larry by the 20th of each month. Thank you!



LARRY NAZZARO
Freshwater & Saltwater Fly's
Fly Tying Instruction

3248 Haislip Court
The Villages, FL 33163
352-552-7968
lmnazzaro@comcast.net

f i ebay

FRESHWATER & SALTWATER FLY'S
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SINCE 2011

Custom tied fresh water and saltwater flies. Email or call for pricing or to place an order.

Larry Nazzaro
352.552.7968
Lmnazzaro@comcast.net



Club Classified

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Hobie Pro Angler 14 and trailer

All in excellent condition and used about 10 times – must sell due to medical issue

- 2021 Hobie Pro Angler 14 loaded with accessories
- 2021 Continental aluminum trailer with folding tongue for compact storage
- 2021 Minn Kota Riptide (salt water safe) trolling motor with remote steering and quick release mount for front mounting
- Hobie cradles on trailer for safe kayak storage
- Lowrance fish finder / gps including battery
- Boondocs transport wheel system
- 4 Scotty rod holders, 2 fly rod holders, 2 spinning rod holders
- Ram phone holder
- Paddle
- Push / stake out pole
- Anchor
- Anchor trolley
- Crate for rear with rod holders
- Safety flag
- H bar for stand up use
- Cobra marine handheld radio

Original cost new for package was over \$11,000. Asking \$7500

Contact: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

