

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

# THE KINGFISHER

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## This issue:

Greetings

PAGE 1

Upcoming Events

PAGE 3

Sea Island Fly Fishers

PAGE 6

It's not the rod...

PAGE 7

Ask the "Expert":  
fly fishing humor

PAGE 9

A trip to Rosman, NC

PAGE 10

Southeastern Happenings  
and Board News

PAGE 12

# GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fly Anglers,

The cicada emergence is over, but Summer fishing is heating up. The temps are rising, so carry your stream thermometer if you go trout fishing. Stick to the morning and the high elevation streams and be responsible with the fish handling. Or...borrow my plan and go after little bass, big bass, and everything in between. Did you know Georgia alone has 10 different species of black bass. That's a lot of potential targets.

We would love to feature your news, photos, artwork, and/or original writing. Please email anything you would like to submit, or any ideas you have for content, to [communications@secffi.org](mailto:communications@secffi.org). Tag @secflyfishersinternational or use the hashtag #secffi on social media posts so we can share your news. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for the latest happenings around the southeast. Check out our website at [www.secffi.org](http://www.secffi.org) for info on all the clubs and resources available to FFi members.

Kind Regards,

Cathy Valancius

VP and Communications Director  
Southeastern Council of FFi



Our cover photo comes to us from Mickey Ford, NC resident and fly fishing enthusiast. Follow his adventures @warmwaterwader.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Angler:

The SEC is having an epic year. We have had casting clinics and the Rosman French Broad Clean-up and Fishing Event. We are looking forward to our upcoming events which can be found in this newsletter and on the website.

The Kingfisher Classic ([click for registration](#)) will be held on October 26, 2024. We have a number of new sponsors and events planned. We welcome back **Daichi Premium Fishing Hooks** and its parent company, **Ranger Outdoors** as sponsors of this event. We have a number of other sponsors lined up for 2024, so watch your emails for more info. Many tiers who participated last year will be back in 2024. Thanks for your support. Watch for a special email announcing all of our new offerings for the Kingfisher Classic. Visitors can enjoy the opportunities to learn more about fly tying and fly fishing. Our casting folks will be on hand as well, offering FFi Skills Awards testing.

I would like to thank Brian Deloach, Bobby Brewer and Tim Brandt for their work in producing the casting and fishing events we enjoyed this year..

FFI has introduced Fly Casting Skills Development Challenge. Recently, I participated in a week long Women Connect casting event where these skills were taught and the angler had the opportunity to challenge their skills. It is a great opportunity to benchmark your own progress in casting. I encourage you to look into these opportunities.

And don't forget to take a woman fishing during June for Women's Fishing Month.

Thanks for your support of FFI and the SEC.

**Debra Pauli**  
President, Southeastern Council  
[president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org)



**Debra hiking  
Machu Pichu -  
not a fishing trip,  
but we'll let that  
slide!**

# Upcoming Events

**FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SE COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024  
MOREHEAD CITY, NC  
NORTH CAROLINA'S CRYSTAL COAST**

We will be fishing for bluefish, false albacore, and speckled trout on the coast either guided or in the surf near Morehead City, NC.

There will be a virtual fly tying event beforehand to fill our boxes for the trip.

Click the sign-up button below for all the hotel details, meals, itinerary and guide suggestions. You can watch a presentation about the area on our [website event page](#).

**SIGN UP AND DETAILS**



# Upcoming Events

## CASTING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28

Atlanta Clinic - details TBA  
Host: GA Women Fly Fishing

OCTOBER 26

Demos and Skills Award Tests at the  
Kingfisher Classic  
Lee University in Cleveland, TN

NOV 17

Birmingham Clinic - details TBA

**Registration links at [secffi.org/events](https://secffi.org/events)**



## The Southeastern Council WY Trip August 25-31, 2024

We will be staying at Yellowstone Anglers' Basecamp on the North Fork Shoshone River. There are abundant opportunities to fish in the greater Yellowstone area for cutthroat and other trout. This is a popular trip for many clubs.

Location: Cody Wyoming

Dates: August 25-31, 2024

Host: Yellowstone Anglers' Base Camp, 307-200-8991

Accommodations: Camp Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp cabins

Cost: Approximately \$985 for the week for accommodations, food, shuttles (does not include travel to the camp or guides)

Registration: Available directly through [www.anglersbasecamp.org](https://www.anglersbasecamp.org)



**Yellowstone trip has a few spots still open, call Angler's Base Camp ASAP to book!**

**Have fun if you are going - we want to see your pictures for the Fall issue!**

# Upcoming Events



## THE KINGFISHER CLASSIC

**EXPERIENCE THE ART OF FLY TYING**

Skilled fly tiers and designers will be demonstrating their artistry with hooks, tubes, feathers, hair, fur and synthetics, tying all types of flies.

- Tying Demos
- Classes
- Casting Demos
- Learn-to-tie-flies station
- Giveaways and auctions
- Family friendly

**October 26, 2024**  
**9-4:30 PM**

Lee University  
School of Science  
Cleveland, TN



**A FREE EVENT!**

PRESENTED BY  FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southeastern Council

**Click to register as a fly tier.**

**Discounted room block available at La Quinta Inn Cleveland, TN ref: SE Council Fly Fishers**

**Sunday optional guided float on the Hiwasee River with Southeastern Anglers (ref: Southeastern Council)**

**FFI Casting Skills awards testing available**

Tennessee based Ranger Outdoors is a major supporter of The Kingfisher Classic.



# Club Profile: Sea Island Fly Fishers

by Tom Onisko, Secretary, Sea Island Fly Fishers

Sea Island Fly Fishers, a federally recognized 501(c) (7) non-profit, was founded in 1996 with the purpose of promoting fly fishing, improving water quality, safeguarding the environment, and participating in fishery management programs. The club is composed of about one hundred and twenty men, women, and young adults who participate in monthly meetings (except summer), casting clinics, fly tying instruction, and social activities. SIFF is interested in member participation and conducts fly only tournaments, club trips, and encourages members to help with projects like water monitoring, trash cleanups, osprey survey, oyster reef restoration, and the "Release over 20" initiative, which encourages anglers to voluntarily release seatrout and flounder over 20".



**Redfish flats fishing shots from Sea Island Fly Fishers Bruce Patten (top) and Margie Kaat (bottom). The SIFF trash cleanup crew after a good pickup day.**

# It's Not the Rod—It's You...or Maybe Your Fly Line.

by Brian Deloach, MCI, PhD, SEC Casting Director

A guide out on the White River once told me that, when purchasing equipment for trout or bass, just about any old reel will do, get a decent rod, but, when it comes to fly lines, spare no expense! I thought it was just your usual trout guide eccentricity; after all this sport makes us all a little weird in different ways, but after several years of fishing and teaching, one thing that I have noticed and irks me to no end is clients showing up with the latest and greatest rods from Sage, Orvis, and G. Loomis, the shiniest and gaudiest reels from Abel, Nautilus, or Hatch, and a fly line so cheap and filthy that slipping or shooting feels (and sounds) like casting rusty wire. Usually I must tell clients, in a gentle way of course, that it's not their gear preventing them from success—it's their technique, but lately, I've been seeing filthy, gritty, and sometimes even sticky fly line contribute to a client's casting faults, and on a few occasions, the fly line was the actual cause of their casting faults. For example, one day a client was wanting to master the double haul, and his technique seemed okay, but he was getting no tension on the back cast because his grimy fly line was holding on to every snake-guide on the ferrule and screeching at the tip.

Almost every manufacturer makes a solid rod these days; even the kits at Walmart now have a solid modulus both as they relate to casting and “not breaking.” And even some of the plastic reels have shockingly smooth drag systems compared to the reels ten years ago. Fly fishing is no longer the elitist sport now that there is a setup available for every price point, but one thing we need to keep our noses in the air about—one thing that could still use a little snobbery is our taste in fly lines. I have found that a quality fly line is one of those rare things where you 100% get what you pay for, and not only will a quality fly line shoot better, float higher, allow for more loop control, and make all sorts of compound casts easier due to their complicated taper designs depending on the application, a good fly line, if treated right will last you for years!



A cheap fly line, even if treated right, will crack, fray, and sink even if you treat it right. A quality fly line will give you years of service. So how do we care for that special fly line?

First, ignore all the specialty line cleaners out there and other products guaranteeing longer shoots or higher floating; the high-quality fly lines have those agents baked into the coating and beneath the surface so even with normal wear, the line will stay slick, but only if it is kept clean!

There is no better cleaning solution for fly lines than a standard dish soap (not hand soap, for Lefty's sake! Do not use scented hand soaps! Lavender Spring and Baha Coconut will put the fish down!) All you need is a sink or bucket with warm soapy water, a sponge, and some paper towels. Be sure to rinse the line thoroughly after you run it through the sponge a couple of times. Make sure it is dry before reeling it back up to prevent mold and rot in your Dacron backing. If you grease the end of your fly line like I do almost every trip, you've got to scrub that stuff off, because it acts as a natural adhesive for all sorts of nastiness. If the line is especially soiled, leave it in the warm soapy water to soak for 15 minutes or so. I clean my fly line every two trips out.

This may seem excessive, but I have some lines I've used for four years, and they're still slick as glass. If you will invest in a high-quality fly line and maybe get a less expensive rod or reel, you'll see the difference; so long as you keep it clean, you'll cast tighter, shoot further, mend better, and float higher. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote that "cleanliness is next to godliness." Remember his words when it comes to caring for your equipment.



Brian Deloach conducting an FFi casting award exam at a council clinic.

# Ask the Fly Fishing “Expert?”

by Terry Hackett,  
SEC VP of Conservation



In the last Kingfisher issue, we ran our very first installment of *Ask the Fly Fishing “Expert?”* and my inbox was overwhelmed (mostly with self improvement ads and offers to learn how to fly fish). Regardless, I am back this month to help you with all that confusing fly fishing jargon. After all, I am the most interesting fly fishing “expert” in my world. For this issue we have two related questions and answers:

**Q:** I’m having trouble loading my fly rod, what do you suggest?

**A:** I find if you break down your rod and stow it in its case, it will load (and unload) much easier. 😊

**Q:** What is a double haul?

**A:** That’s when you have a lot of fly fishing gear to load and need to make two trips! 🤪

# Fishing the Waters of the SEC- Rosman, NC, Trip

by Capt. Bobby Brewer, SEC Chief Fishing Officer

The weather forecast was ominous, with rain and thunderstorms anticipated. We discussed rescheduling the weekend for fear of a wash out., but made the decision to go for it. Nineteen anglers arrived in Rosman NC representing five of the six states in our region. We had anglers from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

On Thursday evening our members visited the on-premises Taproom to prepare for class. Patrick and Jessica, from Headwaters Outfitters, provided us with a great educational session on the hatches occurring, water levels and flows in the various streams, and different fishing methods to consider. Many of these learnings were applied over the next days.

Friday was a fishing day, as anglers visited the many streams in the area. A brief light rain visited us mid-afternoon, but didn't prevent the anglers from catching an assortment of brown, rainbow, and brook trout. In the afternoon, North Carolina Wildlife provided a tour of the Bobby Setzer Fish Hatchery and reviewed the many updates that will be occurring over the next couple of years. When completed, capacity will be increased, ambient air and water temperatures of the fish runs will be better controlled, and better monitoring and controls will be in place. The day ended with everyone enjoying great comradery, a beverage and dinner at the Ecusta Brewing Company.



Matthew Bernet was rewarded for a decent hike with this brown beauty.



Getting ready to load the busses to go pick up trash, plus Cathy Valancius caught trash pickin'.

Saturday morning was our conservation day. Our group joined others and made up a legion of 60 people ready to clean the streams, highways and put-in locations in the area. Breakfast was provided by a local restaurant to provide us nourishment for our task. In total, over 3,000 pounds of trash was collected. When we returned to Headwater Outfitters, lunch was provided with a band playing from 2p-4p. Many of our anglers didn't stick around for the music but decided to go fishing again. The day ended with everyone enjoying another evening of comradery, a beverage and dinner at Oskar Blues Brewery Taproom.

Sunday morning found some of our anglers back on the water before their drive home. A special thanks to Tim Brandt and Jessica Whitmire for their help organizing this event and to all the anglers who weren't afraid of a rainy forecast. We hope you can join us on our next outing in Morehead City NC November 8-10. Come join us and bring a friend!

# *Southeastern Happenings*



## **Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers**

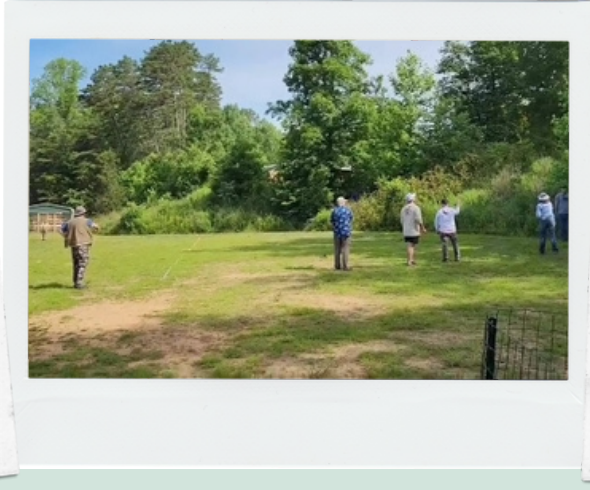
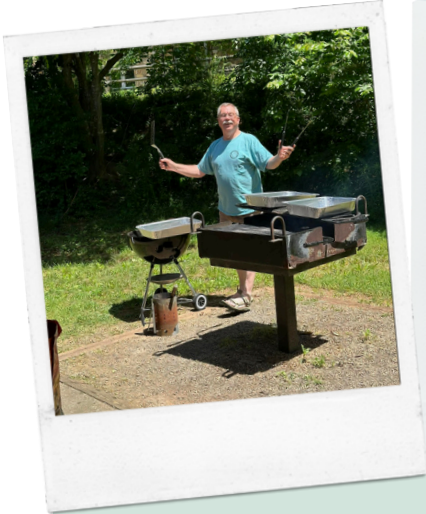
Spring brought the first Fly Fishing 101 class the club has held. They did a great job, despite the 15-25mph winds!



## **Georgia Women Fly Fishers**

The ladies showed up in force to volunteer for the Becca Klein All Kids Fish event in Helen, GA in May. It poured down rain, but the kids toughed it out.

# *Southeastern Happenings*



## **Carolina Fly Fishing Club**

The June annual picnic was a big success. Folks enjoyed the fine weather. There was a casting clinic and some excellent food. Congratulations to all who earned a Casting Skills Award, especially Mike Helms for earning the first Gold this year!

## **Atlanta Fly Fishing Club**

Members had fun teaching a fly fishing class at Camp Sunshine, an organization that provides recreation opportunities for children with cancer.





Southeastern Council

# Southeastern Council Board News

## **We seek board members for the following:**

### **Communications Director**

We need someone who is comfortable using/learning to use mailchimp to send ordinary announcements and routine communications to the membership. This includes working with online files/images in google drive and Canva. Oversee social media content, create some facebook event listings and event registrations.

### **Newletter Editor**

We are looking for a person to produce our quarterly newsletter, "The Kingfisher." If you have produced a club newsletter, this will be up your alley.

### **FFI Women Connect Liaison**

Seeking someone to act as our liaison to the national Women Connect group and coordinate women-focused activities.

### **Committee members**

If you would like to help us with fishing events, fly-tying, casting, or some area which you invent, please feel free to contact us. No contribution is too small and we can find something to suit your skillset.

Please email [president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org), if you are interested in volunteering for the Southeastern Council.

# imagine

YOUR AD HERE

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**SOUTHEAST, USA**

**RGFF.COM**  
**123-456-7890**

# email us

**WE WILL MAKE THAT HAPPEN!**

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