

THE KINGFISHER

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Greetings from the Editor

Dear readers,

Summer is here! The Cahaba lilies blooming on the Cahaba River marks the end of Spring and the beginning of great bass fishing for many fly anglers in Alabama. Our cover photo is a beautiful shot of lillies growing in the rocky shoals by angler Bryan Gill ([@bryandgill](#)).

We were pleased with the positive response to the first issue of the Kingfisher. In this issue, you will find articles about trying some salt water fishing on your beach vacation, how to stay safe from ticks, and environmental news in the region. The chair of the new Native Fish Coalition South Carolina has written a piece introducing their organization's conservation mission.

We would love to feature your 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. Tag [@secflyfishersinternational](#) or use the hashtag [#secffi](#) on social media posts so we can share your stories. Follow us on instagram and facebook for the latest happenings around the southeast. Check out our [website](#) at www.secffi.org for info on all the clubs and resources available to FFi members.



Make the most of Summer...it will be in the rear view mirror before you know it!

May your net be full,

Cathy Valancius ([@cathrynvalancius](#))
SEC FFi Communications Director



May creek bass
near my home in
Rome, GA

SOME STATS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow FFI Anglers,

The Southeastern Council recently hosted a zoom presentation to meet the lady anglers of the southeast. It was a great success and a lot of fun to engage with our membership. Lady anglers represent 18% of our membership.

Who are our fellow anglers in the Southeastern Council? As of March, we had more than 850 active members with about 64% of our members residing in the states of North Carolina and Georgia. As one might expect, we estimate 80% of our members are male with 2% registered as couples.

The Club with the largest number of FFI members is Carolina Fly Fishing Club, followed by Georgia Women Fly Fishers. This isn't a big surprise, since all members of those clubs are members of FFI. Charter Clubs ensure that all members are members of FFI. These two clubs represent 29% of our membership.

The biggest surprise is that 37% of our members do not indicate an association with a club within FFI. As a member of FFI, without a named Club affiliation, you may be keeping your Club from realizing benefits earned by Clubs based upon their FFI members. Please go to your profile on the FFI website and update your profile for Club affiliation. Doing this could yield big benefits to your club. Your profile also links your membership in other FFI groups such as Fly Tying and Women Connect. Be sure your profile is accurate.

Although the SEC has 25 FFI affiliated or charter Clubs within our region, our membership names 48 clubs in their membership profiles. Some of these Clubs are as far away as Michigan.

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Finally, our membership includes 120 anglers who are so dedicated that they joined for Life. More than 200 of our members are seniors but our future is bright because more than 300 have a standard membership. Another 100 members are Veterans. The final major category is casting instructors. Within the SEC we have 70 casting instructors.

I hope you enjoyed learning more about who we are. The SEC Board is presently meeting to construct a long-term schedule of activities to continue our redevelopment of our Council into an active organization supporting its mission to serve clubs and members. Please let us know what interests you by emailing me directly.

Happy Fishing!
Debra Pauli
President, Southeastern Council
president@secffi.org



June on the South Holston

Southeastern Happenings



TRIANGLE FLYFISHERS

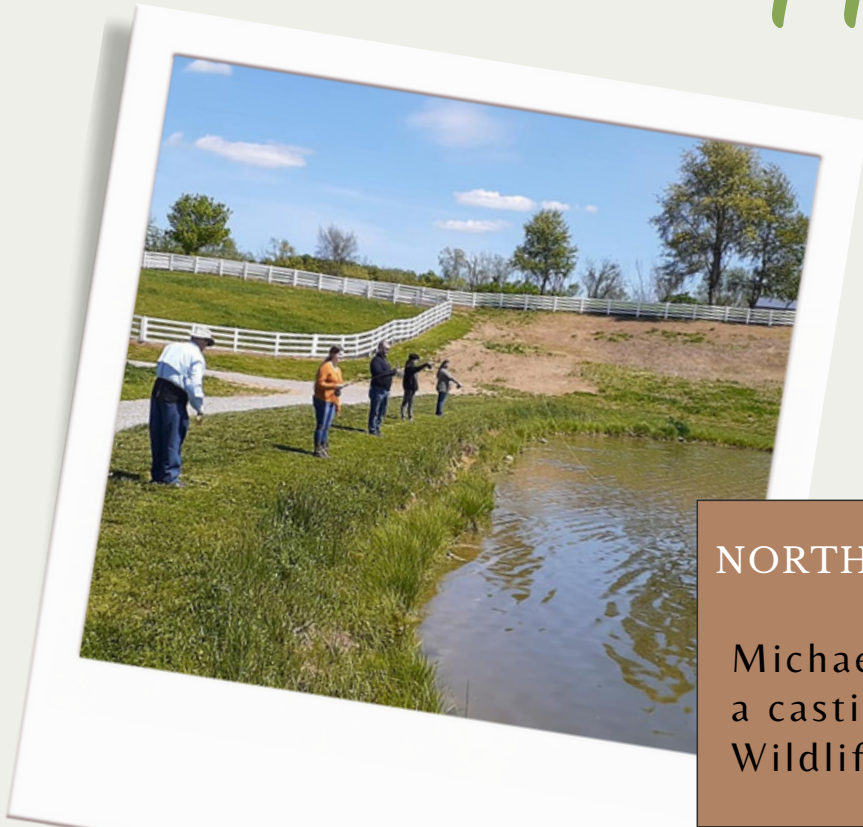
The Conservation Committee doing an awesome job cleaning up Crabtree Creek. Over 10 bags of trash and 18 tires removed.

FLY FISHING GUIDE SCHOOL

Mac Brown teaching another bunch of students the ins and outs of rowing, casting, and catching lots of fish.



Southeastern Happenings



NORTH KENTUCKY FLY FISHING

Michael Arnold teaching a casting class for Wildlife Women.



TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

Connor Sherrill leading a 4 day fly fishing camp for veterans, hosted by Back Country Hunters and Anglers, targeting small mouth on the French Broad River.

Southeastern Happenings

Blue Ridge Trout Festival

Throngs of visitors enjoyed the beautiful weather and fun activities at the return of the Blue Ridge TU's annual fundraiser. We had many new and familiar friends drop by the booth to say "Hi!" Many thanks to those who lent their time and talent to the SEC booth!



HEADING TO THE BEACH THIS SUMMER...

WHY NOT BRING YOUR FLY ROD?

The ocean can be intimidating. You may envision a trip to some exotic tropical locale to fish with a guide for permit and tarpon. However, saltwater has its "trip to the neighborhood pond" equivalent. Take a look at this article from sandbarflies.com blog, June 22, 2015. Check them out on instagram [@SANDBAR_FLIES](https://www.instagram.com/SANDBAR_FLIES)

Tips for fly fishing on your beach vacation in the dog days of summer

About to head to your favorite beach for a summer vacation? Well here a few tips to help you land some fish in the heat and among the tourists. Find a secluded stretch of beach for your best chance at sight fishing.

Wake up early

Don't plan on sleeping in on your vacation if you want to fish the prime time of the day. Get out there as early as you can to avoid the crowds and families playing in the water scaring away all the fish. Of course, you will still have to deal with the beach walkers/runners in the morning, but at least they won't be in the water. Even then, try and find a stretch of beach that doesn't have many high rises or better yet, none at all, to distance yourself from the walkers. The further away you get from people, the better your chances are of finding fish. You'd be surprised at how close fish will swim to the shore and how many fish you will see when no one is around.

Walk the shoreline

As you walk the beach and distance yourself from the crowds, be sure to keep your eyes on the water. Both redfish and pompano will likely be hugging the bottom. In my opinion redfish are much easier to find. They will be a silver color with a light blue tail cruising the shoreline. A pompano is much more difficult to sight fish because of its slender shape. The black color on the tip of its tail and dorsal fin can be a give away if you are able to spot one. Both redfish and pompano could be single or with a small school. I've had best results casting at schools. The solo fish are very difficult to fool. Once you have spotted some fish, be sure you give the fly enough time to sink before stripping. Once you believe the fish is within sight of the fly, strip.

Sandbars

If you are able to spot fish further out, or just need to wade out deeper in order to keep from having to stop casting so the beach walkers can walk by without fear of snagging them, you will likely be able to wade out to a sandbar. Don't be afraid to cast back to shore even though you are out on a sandbar. The disadvantage of wading on a sandbar is not having the height to spot fish that you have from the shoreline.

Stand on the edge of deep cuts

If you are having trouble finding fish from shore and decide to wade, your best bet on finding fish are where deep cuts meet shallow water. The deep cuts will most likely have bait funneling in and out which in turn will attract larger fish.

Suns out buns out

Once the sun rises, the redfish are the first to leave the beach and head for deeper water. Pompano will still be nearby, just be sure to keep distance from the crowds that will now be huge. In come the lady fish, jacks, hardtails, bluefish and spanish mackerel. I've caught all the above in the afternoon, all day long, in crowded beaches.

Kayak / paddle board

If you are able to get out on a kayak or paddle board, the morning is again your best time to get out because once the wave runners and parasailing boats come out, good luck. The stand up factor from a paddle board is a great asset for spotting fish. If you are interested, tarpon frequent the panhandle and alabama gulf coast during these summer months but are extremely difficult to jump due to constant boating pressure. If you do plan on fly fishing for them, bring at least a 10wt, a 12wt is ideal. For flies, bring a plethora. Just because a certain fly works in the Florida Keys doesn't mean that fly will work somewhere else.

Flies

For redfish and pompano throw heavy flies and hop them along the bottom. I prefer a sand flea or marbled sand flea. If they aren't hitting that then I prefer to cast heavy clousers in chartreuse/white or all white with some flash. The heavy weight will get the flies passed the ladyfish and other toothy fish and into the strike zone of the desired species. For lady fish, hard tails, blue fish, jacks and spanish mackerel, lightly weighted clousers stripped fast will likely get the attention of one of these fish. A little orange will help attract spanish macs and bluefish.



Redfish caught in July from the shoreline in Destin, Fl on a sand flea fly.

Leaders

The crystal clear water of the emerald coast has humbled me many times and if you want to catch fish you have to play by their rules. For redfish and pompano in the early morning I prefer to scale down to 10-12 lb tippet. Be prepared to lose a bunch of flies if the ladyfish or bluefish are out that early though. If you are targeting ladyfish, blues, hardtails and jacks, you can get away with 20 lb tippet but wire is better.

Rod and reel

An 8 wt rod and reel is the ideal setup for surf fishing. I prefer a reel with a sealed drag to keep out saltwater and sand. A weight forward floating line will work just fine, but I prefer an intermediate clear tip fly line to get the fly down and keep the waves from picking up the motion of the fly.

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE FISH COALITION

By Will Mundhenke, Chair of SC Native Fish Coalition and
SCDNR Aquatic Education

Why native fish? The question is a valid one as anglers pursue many popular nonnatives that originate elsewhere, such as the German Brown Trout or Spotted Bass. Invasive species often outcompete native species for resources and can threaten their existence through hybridization. Native Fish Coalition's mission is to "protect, preserve, and restore native fish populations through stewardship of the fish and their habitats." Many native fish serve as a keystone species in their respective waters. They represent the overall health of a waterway and are cornerstones to their ecological makeup. Wild native fish exist without the artificial efforts of humans. They have intrinsic value and are worthy of conservation. With that said, Native Fish Coalition is more *for* native fish than *against* nonnative fish.



A big, healthy
Bartram's Bass
caught in the
Savannah River
drainage.

(continued)



A stunning native Southern Appalachian Brook trout within the Chattooga drainage.

South Carolina Native Fish Coalition launched in March of 2022. Our goal is to protect South Carolina's native fish through education, outreach, and stewardship. The native Redeye Bass – locally known as the Bartram's Bass – is a species of concern. Native to the Savannah River drainage, they are threatened by the illegal introduction of Spotted Bass and habitat loss. South Carolina is also home to one of the southernmost strains of native Brook Trout and we hope to assist SCDNR in restoration of their native range. These are just two examples of a plethora of native fish that need *all* our help in ensuring their futures.

In terms of angling value, native fish belong in their native habitats. The pleasure of catching a fish that has adapted and survived for thousands of years to a particular place is priceless. Redeye Bass, Brook Trout, and Atlantic Striped Bass, among others, represent pinnacles of the fishing experience. Each native fish is simply too important to lose!

**Follow Will Mundhenke and SC Native Fish Coalition on instagram:
[@rangerwillgarrett](#) and [@nativefishcoalitionsc](#)**

HUGE FINE FOR DEVASTATION OF RAMEY CREEK

In April, the state of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued one of the largest **civil penalties** it has ever imposed. They fined Bottomley companies over \$268,000 for **egregious water quality violations**. The Bottomley companies had purchased the land and proceeded to clear-cut along some three miles of tributaries to Ramey Creek and other streams. They claimed their operation was agricultural, and were grazing a small number of cattle. Agricultural business in NC is exempt from



A stream bed covered in sediment on the Bottomley properties. Photo: NC DEQ

Sedimentation Pollution Control Act, which requires silt fencing during earth disruption, and erosion controls such as a 25ft. riparian zone along a stream. Heavy rains washed sediment down the barren hillsides, filling in streambeds 3 feet deep in places. The downstream effect on Ramey Creek was rapid decline in the native brook trout population. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission had to shock and collect the remaining brookies and transfer them to a healthy nearby stream.

The company failed to repair the damage, as ordered by previously by DEQ, necessitating further fines. The NC sedimentation law clearly needs to be changed to prevent Bottomley and others from such irresponsible practices.

Catching Fish With a Fly Rod Takes Skill

FFI LEARNING CENTER AIMS TO HELP ANGLERS AT ALL LEVELS

by James Wallner, SEC FFi VP of Education

There are many reasons why Henry David Thoreau was the quintessential fly fisher. Thoreau loved the natural world and tried to protect it from people who failed to appreciate its beauty and took its bounty for granted. He was a proto-environmentalist, a romantic, and had a literary bent. Thoreau also understood that fishing was about a lot more than catching fish, once noting that “many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

Yet, Thoreau wasn't a fly fisherman. And he didn't appreciate the sport's foundational skills. For example, Thoreau noted approvingly on an 1839 float trip that an angler he drifted past was “not confounded by many knowledges, and has not sought out many inventions.” The angler was concerned only with “how to take many fish before the sun sets, with his slender birchen pole and flaxen line.”

But it takes more than a “slender birchen pole and flaxen line” to catch a fish with a fly rod. Fly fishers must have a basic understanding of tackle, knots, and flies. They need to know how to read water. And they must be able to make a half-decent cast. Without these skills, fly fishers won't catch many fish.

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Fortunately, FFI's redesigned [Learning Center](#) helps anglers of all skill levels become better fly fishers. The Learning Center is the best repository of high-quality fly fishing educational materials available online today. It includes a video library, a collection of how-to manuals and articles, and workshops – all curated and presented by leading experts in the sport.

The Learning Center is organized into four areas: fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, and conservation. FFI has two casting programs- the long-running Casting Instructure Certification Program, and the Fly Casting Skills Development Program, which allows anglers to improve their casting at their own pace in an informal setting. The materials associated with both programs – available on the FFI website - can help all anglers become better casters. And better casters catch more fish.

FFI also provides anglers well-stocked databases of information on fly fishing skills and fly tying through its Learning Center. These collections give anglers an overview of the sport's essential knots and flies and demonstrate how to tie them in professional-quality videos and graphics. The Learning Center provides species-specific information on rigs, safety and etiquette, and conservation best practices. And it offers a saltwater flies manual and a crash course on fly fishing in the Florida backcountry.

Anglers in the southeast should take advantage of FFI's emphasis on fly fishing education by checking its Learning Center regularly for new content and important announcements. Thoreau may have been right that there is a lot more to fly fishing for many of us than catching fish. But catching fish is also a lot of fun.

PROTECTING HOME

by Daisy Luther, member of Georgia Women Fly Fishers

Clear Creek (in Gilmer County, GA) is a significant part of my childhood on our family farm. I caught and released some of my very first Rainbow Trout from its waters, and have enjoyed its beauty for my entire life. It's the heart beat of our family farm, and in many ways, it's presence is a part of my sense of home.

As the area around us grows and becomes more developed, the proper conservation and care of Clear Creek and it's watershed has become a primary



concern for my brother and I. Like many other small towns in Southern Appalachia, our community is growing like wildfire and simply does not have all of the infrastructure in place yet to match the growth we're experiencing. That's why when we heard about a development set to break ground upstream from the Clear Creek headwaters, we knew that

we needed to jump into action to make sure proper structures, like detention ponds, were being put in place to help maintain a viable flow rate and temperature for the trout and insect species downstream that call it home.

As a direct result of our advocacy, the county is set to pass an ordinance requiring all major developments in the area to make use of retention and detention ponds. We hope that our work here will spur on the conservation and care of other watersheds and primary trout streams in the area. They're more than just creeks and streams, they're home.

Tick-Borne Illness in the Southeast

Summer is here, and along with it come the ticks. Practice good habits when out fishing to minimize your chances of getting sick. Pennsylvania has issued advisories to completely avoid some streams because the high presence of deer tick virus (which can be lethal). So, while the ticks and illnesses below are endemic to the Southeast, take this advice on your Summer travels, too!

Prevention

- Using repellent that contains at least 20% DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 on exposed skin
- Treat clothes with 0.5% permethrin
- Find and remove ticks from your body and clothing within 2 hours of coming indoors

To safely remove a tick attached to your skin:

- Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward on the tick with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water, alcohol, or an iodine scrub.

Treatment

- If you have symptoms like headache, fatigue, fever, or rash go to your doctor. Most diseases can be treated easily with antibiotics.
- Don't wait! Diseases carried by ticks can cause chronic problems and have to be caught early to be treated.

Lone Star Tick



Blacklegged or "Deer" Tick



American Dog Tick



Gulf Coast Tick



Brown Dog Tick



Tularemia
Heartland Virus
Bourbon Virus
STARI
Ehrlichiosis

Lyme Disease
Anaplasmosis
Babesiosis
Ehrlichiosis
Powassan Disease

Tularemia
Rocky Mountain-
Spotted Fever

Rickettsiosis

Rocky Mountain-
Spotted Fever

Upcoming Events

ON THE HORIZON FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL

This Fall the SEC, along with a local club and outfitter, will present a program with experts in the Cherokee, NC area to explain all the secrets of fishing in that area. The program will be via zoom with opportunities to ask questions of the experts. Soon after the zoom program, we will also have a fishing meetup in the area. The details are still being finalized. We will let you know as soon as the program is organized. We are targeting October for the meet up with all FFI members welcome to attend. Hopefully this will be the first of a series of events highlighting local waters within our region.

Event Update



We have made the difficult decision to officially cancel Fly Tyers Weekend in Townsend, Tennessee for November 5th-6th, 2022. A lot of effort and energy was expended by several good people to try to save the date and the event. We had several discussions and weighed various options, including having FTW in Bryson City or Cherokee. The consensus is that Fly Tyers Weekend would not be nearly as well attended or supported in other locations.

We also discussed having it in a big tent like when FTW first started. We decided that is not a “best option” for November in Townsend. In 2016 we soaked and froze everybody at the last FTW we had in a tent, not to mention it was also very wet and muddy inside and outside the tent. It was a physically uncomfortable situation for our tiers and our guests. Several of our tiers told me they would not attend another outdoor tent event in the future. So that option was quickly put to rest.

In a last gasp effort to save FTW 2022, our FFI-SEC President, Debra Pauli, personally made a road trip from her home in Atlanta to Townsend to try and negotiate a workable solution with the new lodge owners/management. What we learned is that the lodge has undergone a lot of transition and they simply do not have the experience, nor the hospitality or support staff for a large event like FTW. They are still trying to get fully staffed and operational again as a hotel.

Please don't judge the lodge harshly. Staffing shortages are understandable as this has been a post-COVID challenge for a lot of businesses, especially in the hospitality arena. All of the staffing, preparation, set up, maintenance, take-down and cleaning of the event center would have to be contracted out at significant extra expense to FFI-SEC. As a totally non-profit organization event, we cannot absorb that expense.

I want to thank all of you for your past support and participation in FTW. You are truly an amazing and gifted group of people who I am honored and blessed to be associated with. So it does break my heart to cancel the event.

May God Bless each of you with good health, well tied flies, fish stretched leaders, wonderful friends to share the experience with, and incredible joy as you share your fly fishing and tying gift with others.

In Much Love, Respect, Appreciation and Admiration
Anthony Hipps



**THE SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL WOULD LIKE
EACH CLUB TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO BE**

CLUB LIASON

- 1. LET US KNOW ABOUT ALL THE
COOL THINGS YOUR CLUB DOES**

- 2. HELP FOSTER COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN YOUR CLUB AND THE
COUNCIL**

Email president@secffi.org if you would like to rep for your club or if you have someone who wants to volunteer!