

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

THE KINGFISHER

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GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

Fall is starting to show up in the form of cool mornings and the first yellow leaves landing on the water. The kids have all gone back to school. Why not take this season and go back to school yourself?

No...I'm not talking about going back to college, but rather attending a class or workshop. One of our casting clinics would be a great start to your "continuing education." The state wildlife agencies also have a bevy of classes available, as do outfitters and local FFI clubs. And while channeling the back to school vibes, why not try to make a new friend? Attend our fall event, "Fishing the Waters of the Southeastern Council." You'll meet some people from other states and clubs while having fun doing what we all love - fly fishing!

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. 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](http://www.secffi.org) at www.secffi.org for info on all the clubs and resources available to FFi members.

May your net be full,

Cathy Valancius [@cathrynvalancius](https://www.instagram.com/cathrynvalancius)
SEC FFi Communications Director



Our beautiful cover shot is by
photographer Shawn Michaels.
Follow his creative journey at
[@shawnmichael.photography](https://www.instagram.com/shawnmichael.photography).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Angler,

Your Southeastern Council has completed its planning to build a cohesive fly-fishing community in the region. We will do this by engaging with Clubs to partner on new events and educational activities. By engaging our members across the region, we hope to build a culture of sharing among our members. We have developed a number of events scheduled over the next few months.

In this newsletter you will find information on all of these events. Four Casting clinics sponsored by the SEC Casting Advisory Board and hosted by local clubs are planned. Let **us know** if your Club would like to co-sponsor a casting clinic. Fly tyers, and those who enjoy seeing tyers at work, are invited to a Fly Tyers Rendezvous in Cullowhee, NC. Despite difficulty scheduling this event, we hope to see you in Cullowhee on October 22.

Thanks to French Broad Fly Fishers and Rivers Edge Outfitters co-sponsoring our first Fishing the Waters of the SEC. We are all looking forward to fall fishing and hope to see you in Cherokee on October 15.

Please welcome new Council member, Kathleen Bergeron. Kathleen is joining as our Conservation VP. Kathleen is retired and lives in Salisbury, North Carolina. The SEC is looking for additional broad members to support our expanding activities. Please **contact me** to learn more about this opportunity to work with other anglers.

Happy Fishing!

Debra Pauli

President, Southeastern Council

president@secffi.org



Fishing with Finatical
Flyfishing in Sun Valley, ID

Southeastern Happenings



MIDDLE TENNESSEE FLY FISHERS

SEC President, Debra Pauli, with new FFI Marketing Director, Blake Parsons (left), and MTFF President Richard Casalone, after speaking at their packed monthly meeting.



Yellowstone Anglers Basecamp at Camp Buffalo Bill
Tim Guilfoile (inset) of North Kentucky Fly Fishers ready for a summer of work, and the first week of campers



Southeastern Happenings

TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

Loads of people showing up to learn new skills at a fly fishing clinic on the Eno River.



CAROLINA FLY FISHERS

Members turned out in force at Jesse Brown's Outdoors to work on their casting skills.

Southeastern Happenings

GEORGIA WOMEN FLY FISHERS

Big member and family get-together to enjoy some time on the Sweetwater Brewery patio, soaking up the end of Summer.



In Remembrance

Jack "Peddler" Cummings

Founding member of Carolina Fly Fishers, friend and teacher to so many.
Please click to read his full [obituary here](#).



...we will see you around the riverbend

SEC Club Spotlight:

FRENCH BROAD FLY FISHERS

by Tony Brooks, President (frenchbroadflyfishers@gmail.com)

Our mission: The French Broad Fly Fishers is committed to building local community relationship's, advancing the sport through education and conserving the resource for future generations.

Back in early 2000, Bob "Corny" Cornelisen and Jack Frisch founded the 501(c) FFF charter club to demonstrate to the NC Wildlife Commission stewardship of the East Fork of the French Broad River in an effort to have its classification changed from a Hatchery Supported yearly catch and keep to a Delayed Harvest watershed. That change would provide a higher density of state supported stocked fish throughout the year and still meet the needs of the fishing community.

The East Fork access runs entirely through privately owned property. Culturally it took some convincing for area residents and anglers that the changes would be better. A large portion of property is owned by the Bud Whitmire family. He was instrumental in swaying other property owners to agree. His college-age grandson at the time and community organizer, Nathan Whitmire, led an effort with Riverlink to remove over 2 tons of trash and debris from the river. This led founding member and sadly missed, Luck Shepherd (2022) to the creation of a quarterly roadside cleanup with the DOT Adopt-a-Highway program to demonstrate a commitment to local property owners.



French Broad Fly Fishers members assembled for a service project. Happy to put in a day's work.

The French Broad Fly Fishers is a small club with a newsletter (frenchbroadflyfishers@gmail.com) that reaches out to just over 200 subscribers. Typically meetings and events are a bit intimate with about a dozen or so in attendance.

We are a fishing club. Typically we will fish after stocking and roadside cleanup events. The third Tuesday of the month from March to October is our regular meeting dates. We buddy up and fish the afternoon/evening until dark then convene for dinner where lying and exaggerating are forbidden, in most instances. Those outings start with a short clinic with an emphasis on a particular on-the-water application of tactic. Our summer meetings take us to Straus Lake, conveniently located in Brevard, NC to conduct free of charge developmental casting clinics. We conduct a variety of fly fishing workshops or invite various guest speakers during the end of summer/early fall meetings at the equally convenient meeting room at United Community Bank near Straus Lake, at 7pm.

Our club attends area fly fishing shows and the Upper French Broad Riverfest in June to create awareness about our club as well as provide fly tying and casting demonstrations and instruction. The club also provides volunteer support to Casting Carolinas, a local NC/SC nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive support for women surviving and thriving at any stage of cancer recovery.




Bruce Siulinski, stocking captain. FBFF members assist the State Hatchery personnel with the trout stockings in the spring and fall.

Brevard, NC is centrally located to over 4000 fishable miles within a 1-1.5 hours drive that includes the Great Smoky Mountains, Nantahala, Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests. The Davidson river, a top 100 US stream cuts through the heart of Pisgah N.F. just ten minutes from downtown Brevard, home of the white squirrel. Western NC has native southern Appalachian Brook trout, wild and stocked Rainbow, Brown and Northern Brook trout. Other area species includes musky, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, black crappie, walleye, bluegill, yellow perch and the traditional Cherokee food source sicklefin redhorse . Kokanee salmon and striped bass are also found at Nantahala Lake.

Local watersheds run on both sides of the Eastern Continental Divide. The French Broad, third oldest river in the world, originates within our Transylvania (Land of the Waterfalls) county lines. The sovereign home of the Cherokee Nation lies within the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, NC. Ravens Branch and Soco rivers feed into the Oconaluftee river. It flows into the dam controlled Tuckaseegee R. then into the Little Tennessee R. and Fontana Lake. Year-round trout are found in arguably the best fishery in the US continental Southeast, the Nantahala river tailwater that also flows into the Little Tennessee.

Our biggest conservation challenge is *Finding the Balance* between all that want to enjoy the resource and protecting the health of our wilderness and wildlife. Public access to Recreation and Tourism in its many forms, from sight seeing, swimming, tubers, whitewater rafters, canoeing, kayaking, hikers, trail running, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, traditional catch and keep fishing as well as fly fishing creates a *Loving to Death* situation. Public access to those special places continues to shrink as demand for them continues to grow. Sedimentation from development and overuse makes its way into our watersheds choking out aquatic habitat, depleting oxygen and raising water temperature.

Improving casting skills is foundational to catching fish on the fly. The club is committed to that goal. We are in the initial steps to organize and conduct a club FFi Fly Casting Skills Development event tentatively scheduled early Fall 2023. To paraphrase Mac Brown (MCI & Casting BoG) and Dr. Gary Borger - Advanced casting is about advanced control. Advanced control is about advanced understanding based on well-established science-driven fundamental skills that examines every aspect of casting coupled with intentional practice. 

The How and Why of the Strip-Strike

By David Edens, FFI Certified Casting Instructor

"Captain Dave" operates **Flycast Charters** in St. Simons Island, GA. He is also hosting an SEC casting clinic this fall!



Early in January, I had a client get two vicious strikes, have the fish on a short while, and then the line went limp. He raised the rod tip to set the hook on both occasions. In February, I had the same thing happen. I immediately noticed the client had not set the hook. He had the fish on a few seconds, Then the line went limp. On the second take, he was fishing the fly correctly and did a great strip strike. He was rewarded with an over

slot red fish. Later in February, I had another client miss a few strikes by raising the rod tip. On one strike, by reflex, he raised the rod tip, then remembered to strip strike while his rod tip was raised. When that fish came boat side, I got the big red on a boga grip. When I lifted the fish out of the water, the hook fell out of the fish's mouth. He had not strip struck correctly and, as a result, failed to sink the barb into the fish's jaw. One of the most useful tips and techniques I can offer is how and why to strip strike.

After casting to a fish or to a bank, you have to keep the tip low and your rod pointed DIRECTLY AT THE FLY LINE. Do not have any angle between your fly line and your rod. You should have the line and rod form a straight line pointed directly at the fly. Fish the fly in with your line hand, from behind the finger that is controlling your line on your rod hand. Try to make the fly look alive. Feed it to the fish. I do two short strips followed by a longer strip. I also vary the tempo of the retrieve, and I always have my rod pointed directly at my line.

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I had a guide in Northern California once tell me, “A nymph fisherman is a nervous fisherman.” What does that mean? It means, if you think you have a bite, STRIKE. Salt water fly fishermen should also be nervous fishermen. If you feel a bump or resistance, STRIKE; it doesn’t cost any extra. The worst you will do is get hung up on oysters, and the best you can do is catch a fish!!! If you don’t strike, you won’t catch a fish.

So, you are stripping/fishing the fly back in. You feel a bump, you see a tail tip out of the water near your fly, or you feel pressure on the line. What do you do? You keep your rod pointed directly at the line and fish, grasp the line with your line hand at the reel, and pull as hard and as fast as you can with your line hand as far back as you can. I like to see a client’s hand end up literally behind their derriere (that is fancy for butt) after a strip strike.

Why keep the rod and line in a straight line? If you strip strike with the rod at an angle to the line/fish, the tip of the rod absorbs the pressure of the strip strike. The fly line and leader stretch enough, you don’t want to have anything else absorbing the power of your strike. When you strike, keep the rod pointed directly at the line. If you don’t, the rod will absorb the strike, and you won’t sink the hook/barb into the jaw of the fish. Don’t worry about breaking the line. You are not using 6X tippet.

Why do you raise the rod tip while trout fishing? Because it is easy to sink a size 14 hook into a fish’s jaw and you don’t want to break the fine tippet you are using. You want the rod tip to absorb the shock. That is exactly opposite of what you want in Salt Water.

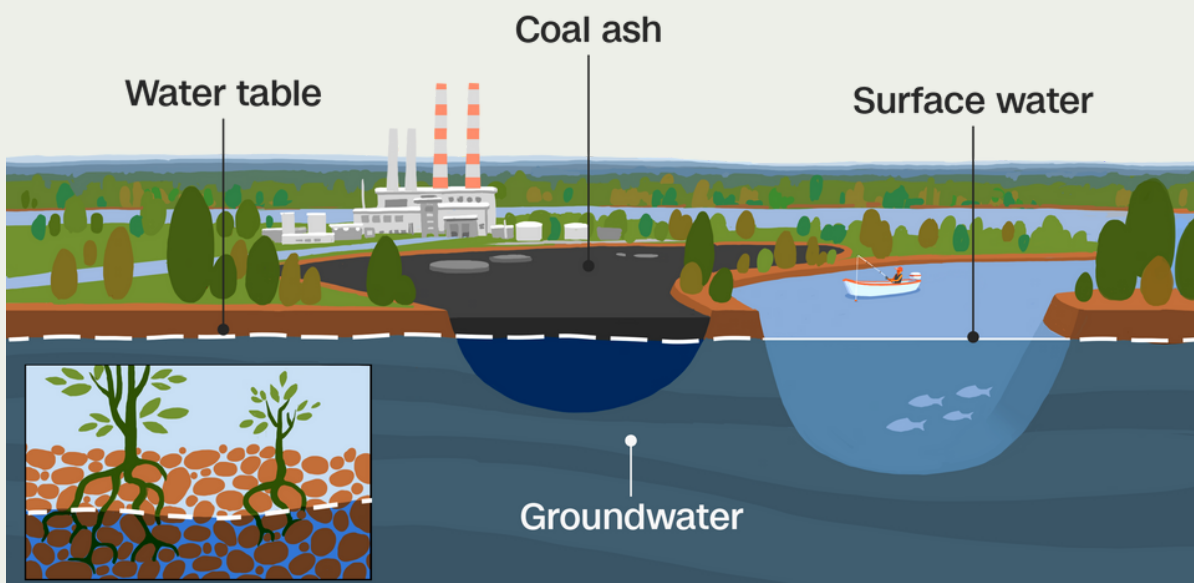


COAL ASH - IT'S THE PITS

Coal ash, the solid waste product of coal powered energy generation, is a major threat to residents of our region. Ash contains a host of heavy metals, like lead, mercury, cobalt, selenium, cadmium and arsenic, which never biodegrade. Before the Clean Air Act of 1970, ash was released into the atmosphere. Instead of doing that, now power companies dump it into large open pits in the ground.

The EPA has recently required that these pits, if unlined and found to be contaminating groundwater, be closed or remediated. Unlined pits are actively contaminating groundwater because they are beneath the water table. Unfortunately, they are often near major waterways, like the Mobile and Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, with just an earthen berm separating pit from river. There are over 60 power plants with unlined ash ponds sitting beside rivers in the Southeastern Council region, which includes AL, GA, TN, KY, NC and SC.

The EPA recommends removing ash stored below groundwater and moving it to higher elevation lined, sealed, pits. Power companies prefer capping the unlined pit. It is cheaper and easier in the short term. This, however, leaves the problem of groundwater contamination to continue.



Ian Berry/CNN

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It also makes it possible for future catastrophic release of the ash into the waterway in the event of a severe flood or other natural disaster. This occurred in Kingston, Tennessee, in 2008, when the earthen walls of a pit collapsed and spilled 5 million cubic yards of ash into the surrounding waterways.

If a collapse occurred in a place like the Mobile River Delta, it would be an unprecedented environmental disaster, more damaging than many large oil spills. Less visible, however, is the insidious slow release of heavy metals into our waterways. Heavy metals leach into the local water table from which wells draw water, and bio-accumulate in fish, making it unsafe to eat a catch. Many rivers have fish consumption advisories.



Photo from **Mobile Baykeeper** showing some of the fish consumption advisory signs around the Mobile watershed of Alabama.

Now is the time to act on this issue. The states have control of how the pits are closed. Decisions about pit closures are being made right now. Join and follow your local river keepers on social media for information on what energy companies are planning for your local power plants. Write in during the public comment periods. Lastly, contact your state representatives and tell them you care about the long-term health of our your watershed.

A FLY FOR FALL

The October caddis (Dicosmoecus gilvipes), also known as the Giant Orange sedge or Autumn caddis, is a large and tasty fish meal when it appears in the fall. Try fishing a pupa or emerger pattern like John Anderson's Bird of Prey Caddis at top right ([video](#) by Tightline Productions) tied with an orange or yellow body. If there are many adults on the water, a dry like the one pictured at right (Barry Ord Clarke has a [video](#) for this) can be great or an orange stimulator. Why not double down with a dry-dropper? Wing and body colors vary dramatically, so try to match the colors of your local hatch.



Pupa, photo from [Yakima River Angler](#)



Adult, photo from [Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC](#)

Upcoming Events

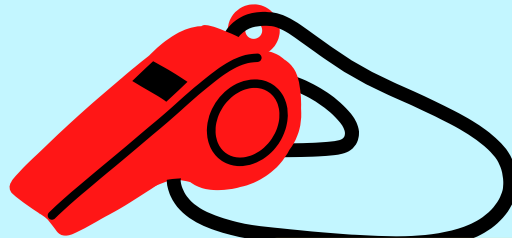
SEPTEMBER

Safety on the Water

**Join lady anglers for a
live virtual panel discussion**

7PM Tuesday September 27, 2022

hosted by:



ZOOM LINK HERE

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

FREE CASTING CLINIC
Saturday, October 8, 2022
9:45AM - Noon
Garrard Landing Park
Alpharetta, GA



INSTRUCTION FROM
RENE HESSE, FFI CERTIFIED
CASTING INSTRUCTOR

[Register HERE](#)

**Save the date for the following additional
SEC-sponsored casting clinics by our region's
amazing Certified Casting Instructors**

David Edens

October 22

2-4pm

**Ball fields on Mallery St.,
near the pier village
St. Simons Island, GA**

Brian Deloach

November 12

**Lee University
Cleveland, TN**

David Horky

November 20

Birmingham, AL

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

**FISHING THE WATERS
OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL**



October 15, 2022 • Cherokee, NC

Hosted by



Details and
RSVP HERE

The Southeastern Council of FFi, French Broad Fly Fishers and Rivers Edge Outfitters are hosting a fun Fall fishing get-together on the waters around Cherokee and the Great Smokies, in NC. First thing in the morning (time TBD), we will gather at the Great Smokies Inn. Rivers Edge Outfitters will be holding a short classroom lesson on euro-nymphing for anyone interested. Then we will head out for a day of fishing. At the end of the day we will meet up at a local brew-pub for some food, brews, and perhaps a few prizes! This event is free for all members of FFi, but dinner food and drinks, and any guide services, are up to the individual.

On Tuesday October 11 at 7pm we will have a virtual panel discussion of the watersheds and fly choices in the area. There will be guides and anglers from the Cherokee area to walk us through the many streams and rivers available for fishing. A Zoom link is on the event [RSVP page](#). You do not have to attend the fishing day to attend the zoom and learn about the area.

We have a block of hotel rooms reserved at the Great Smokies Inn (828) 497-2020, under the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers. There are also many great lodging options from cabins to camping in the Cherokee area.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

A FREE EVENT!

Fly Tyers Rendezvous

Come join us for a celebration of the art of fly tying!

Some of the world's most gifted fly tyers and designers will be demonstrating their artistry with hooks, tubes, feathers, hair, fur and synthetics. Tyers will be demonstrating how to tie every genre of flies. Learn from the masters and tie some flies of your own. Bring your friends and family! If you are staying for the weekend, come fish with us on Sunday.



22 OCTOBER 2022

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Southeastern Council

Sat. 9am - 4:30pm

Western Carolina University
A.K. Hinds University Center
245 Memorial Dr.
Cullowhee, NC 28723

For more information, visit:

www.secffi.org/events

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

At 6:30pm on Friday November 4 the Southeastern Council will host a panel introduction to the fisheries in our council region, featuring several notable guides and anglers, so save the date!



**EXPO
REGISTRATION**



Southeastern Council Board News

Jacob Knight resigns as SEC VP Conservation

We thank Jacob for helping to direct our FFi Conservation actions and keep us abreast of conservation hotspots in the southeastern region. We wish him success in his future fly fishing endeavors.

Robert Uselton resigns as SEC Secretary

Robert joined the SEC Council in January and was voted in as the Secretary. He has served FFi since he joined in Oct. 2007 in many capacities. His lifetime commitments and support will continue to be focused on a variety of other projects within the FFi organization. We wish him success as he pursues his passion for fly fishing all fish in all waters.

Kathleen Bergeron will be the new SEC VP Conservation

Kathleen Bergeron

WE SEEK SOUTHEASTERN FFI MEMBERS WILLING TO SERVE AS:

SECRETARY

CLUB LIAISON

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

EVENT COORDINATOR