

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

# THE KINGFISHER

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# SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Winter is definitely here in the southeast. I hope the holidays find you healthy and getting out to fish - or tie flies, if that is more your Winter speed. Whatever you choose to do this Winter, do it with joy! Read our article about fly tying organization to keep your space in top shape for spinning up fish-catching creations. We also present a fascinating look into climate change attitudes among hunters and anglers by our VP of Conservation, Kathleen Bergeron.

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](http://www.secffi.org) at [www.secffi.org](http://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 Secretary and Communications Director



Our beautiful cover photo is  
by Italian CCI Matteo Bessi.

Find him on Instagram  
[@matteoonlyflyfishing](https://www.instagram.com/matteoonlyflyfishing) and  
YouTube  
[@MatteoOnlyFlyFishing](https://www.youtube.com/MatteoOnlyFlyFishing)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Angler,

What a fantastic year it has been! We successfully relaunched the Southeastern Council (“SEC”) after a long period of inactivity. Initially, the Board focused on addressing some infrastructure issues within the organization. After completing those tasks, the Board decided to focus on our members to build a cohesive fly-fishing community in the southeast. We are on the road to achieving our goal.

We reached out to you, our fellow anglers, to engage with you by speaking to six Clubs during the year; conducting four casting clinics in three states; holding a fly tying rendezvous; holding the first “Fishing the Waters of the SEC” event in Cherokee; holding Women Connect programs and publishing this newsletter along with frequent fishing tips. These activities are just the beginning. In January, your board will meet to discuss our plans for the new year.

We look forward to seeing you at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show on February 3, 4 and 5. Please come by the booth and say hello. We will also need some help with the booth and guiding future fly tiers. Sign up [here](#) if you can help. Save the evening of Saturday February 4 immediately after the show for a meet-up with the anglers of the Southeastern Council. We are looking for a venue where we can share beverages, food and fishing tales.

Also, please reach out to us and let us how you can participate in our goal of building a cohesive fly-fishing community in the Southeast.

Happy Holidays from the Board of the Southeastern Council. We look forward to fishing with you in the next year.

Happy Fishing!

Debra Pauli

President, Southeastern Council

[president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org)



The President of the SEC definitely not fishing this holiday season.



# *Southeastern Happenings... a busy Fall*

CASTING CLINICS IN AL, GA, TN AND SC WERE A HUGE HIT!

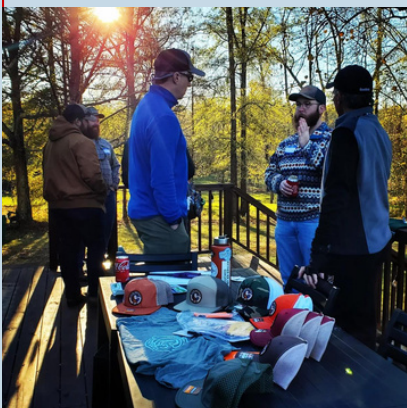
So many members of the fly fishing community came out to hone their skills and learn some new ones at our Southeastern Council Casting Clinics. These were made possible through the generosity of our host organizations GA Women Fly Fishers, Native Fish Coalition AL and Project Healing Waters Knoxville. We would like to thank to our Casting Instructors Rene Hesse, Capt. David Edens, Brian Deloach, Rick Shelton and David Horky for teaching and organizing of these events.



Rene Hesse about to unload the faux boulders.



People came from neighboring states to meet our casting instructors and join in the fun!





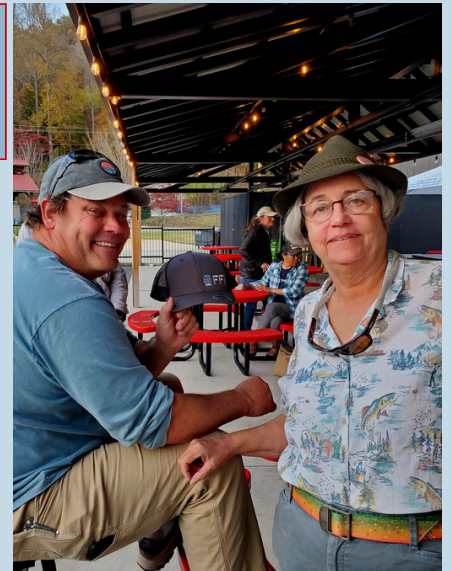
# *Southeastern Happenings*

## FIRST "FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL"

Members from all over the Council came together in Cherokee, NC, to fish and have fun with some new (and old) friends. Joey Walraven at [Rivers Edge Outfitters](#) in Cherokee, NC, conducted a nymphing class with some great tips and gave out some awesome swag to our visiting group. The French Broad Fly Fishers hosted the day. We caught and released a whole lot of big (and small) fish. Then we had a nice dinner outing to get to know one another.



A visit from the local elk herd.  
The fall foliage was on  
spectacular display.





# *Southeastern Happenings*

## THE FLY TYERS RENDEZVOUS 2022

Fly tyers of the region came together for a day of camaraderie and fly tying fun at Western Carolina University, in Cullowhee, NC





# *Southeastern Happenings*



NORTHERN KENTUCKY FLY FISHERS  
Trail building conservation project at  
Gunpowder Creek funded by NKFF



CAROLINA FLY FISHERS  
CFFC Sponsored a fun weekend of  
fishing and fellowship for Project  
Healing Waters - Charlotte and  
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# *Southeastern Happenings*



## GEORGIA WOMEN FLY FISHERS

Christmas party at The Fishhawk store in Atlanta. Fun times, good food, and a fishy gift exchange.



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Alisa Davis - Women Connect Liason for the Southeastern Council Board, doing terrific work for the state of NC at one of their super fly tying workshops. North Carolina Wildlife is a powerhouse of fly fishing education.



# *In Remembrance*



## DAVID DEMETRIO DIAZ

May 23, 1941 – October 15, 2022

The Southeastern Council mourns the passing of David Diaz, a leader in the fly fishing community and loved by so many. David passed after a long struggle to recover from a stroke. At the time of his stroke, he was Master Casting Instructor at Deep South Outfitters in

Birmingham, where he was known as Dr. D, Mo D, Triple D and Three D. He loved teaching others fly casting. He taught over 5,000 people to fly fish and fly cast. As a member of the Fly Fishers International, he was the first elected president of the Casting Board of Governors. He received many awards, but he enjoyed meeting and teaching people from all over the world to love fly fishing. A complete obituary is on [Dignity Memorial](#).



## DAVE WHITLOCK

November 11, 1934 - November 24, 2022

Fly fishing great Dave Whitlock passed away after suffering a stroke on Thanksgiving. Aside from being a prolific author of fly fishing books and articles, artist of the natural world and passionate conservationist, he is

remembered for his tremendous generosity of spirit. There is a complete biography in Fly Fisherman Magazine.

# *...we will see you around the riverbend*



# SEC Club Spotlight:

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE FLY FISHERS

by Houston Pewett, [www.MTFF.org](http://www.MTFF.org), [www.facebook.com/mtff.org](http://www.facebook.com/mtff.org)

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers (MTFF) began with informal meetings of people interested in fly fishing. The club currently has 100 yearly members and 22 Lifetime members.

Monthly meetings programs are directed to fly fishing and/or fly tying techniques; members relating recent trips or fishing experiences; or guest speakers sharing their expertise to make us all better fly fishers. Each program promises to be fun and educational. Prior to each meeting fly casting clinics and fly tying sessions are held so new members may receive valuable assistance and helpful hints from experienced members. MTFF has monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month (except December) at Ellington Agricultural Center Region II Building located in Nashville, TN.

The club has monthly outings. Most outings are for three (3) days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but some people choose to go a few days early or stay a

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers helping out with Project Healing Waters retreats.





few days later on the outings that are farther away. Most outings are in Middle and East Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri. However the club will usually have a “Western” outing to Montana or Wyoming once a year.

MTFF has been a major supporter of Project Healing Waters since 2009. Each year members of MTFF participate in a weekend of camping, cooking and fishing on the Caney Fork river. In years past this has drawn between 75 and 100 veterans. However in 2020 the event was cancelled because of COVID. The participation has been reduced in 2021 and 2022 because of numerous factors and we hope to build it back this year.



Fly fishing instructional program with PHWFF.

Several of the club members are also involved with Casting for Recovery, a program for women in treatment and recovery from breast cancer. Members participate as river guides at the yearly weekend outing which is coordinated by Music City Fly Girls.

The Harpeth River Conservancy is also an organization that MTFF supports because the Harpeth River is a local warm water fishing location. ❄️



# SURVEY SAYS...

by Kathleen Bergeron ([conservation@secffi.org](mailto:conservation@secffi.org)),  
VP of Conservation - Southeastern Council

A recent study revealed that 72% of those surveyed said "yes" to the question, "Do you think climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, is happening?" That is almost three fourths of the entire group questioned. Also, 74% of those surveyed said that human activity is impacting climate change.

As for strategies to take to protect our natural environment, 86% felt that one focus area should be in restoring wetlands and coastal areas, which help store carbon while also acting as natural defenses to absorb rain during storms, provide wildlife habitat, and help filter pollutants from rivers and streams. Another strategy, that of restoring forests, prairies and grasslands, which help store carbon while also providing wildlife habitat and helping filter pollutants from rivers and streams, received 84% support.

Are those results surprising? Possibly not, given the large amount of attention given to the environment and conservation in recent years. What may be surprising is the type of people polled in that survey. No, these were not average Americans. These were sportsmen and sportswomen.

The survey was conducted on behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a collection of over sixty diverse partner groups that frequently use their collective voice to speak out in favor or in opposition to potential governmental legislation or other action. Undertaken by New Bridge Strategy, the survey involved talking with 603 individuals throughout the country via telephone and online from March 29 to April 5, 2022. The interviews were distributed



proportionately by state, and quotas were set up for key demographic subgroups, such as gender and age, that reflect the hunting and fishing population. The margin of error is +4.0% for the overall sample. Prior to undertaking the survey itself, an online focus group was undertaken among 30 sportsmen and sportswomen who are registered to vote in key states around the country.

Interestingly enough, the figures quoted above on acceptance of potential strategies were even higher among people who describe themselves primarily as fishers than those who describe themselves as primarily hunters. For example, the strategy for restoring wetlands and coastal areas received support from 77% of hunters, but 89% from fishers. Likewise, the strategy of restoring forests, prairies and grasslands received support from 74% of hunters, but 88% of fishers.

Also of interest are the demographics of those interviewed. They reflect the demographics of the overall group from which those surveyed was taken (Figure 1).

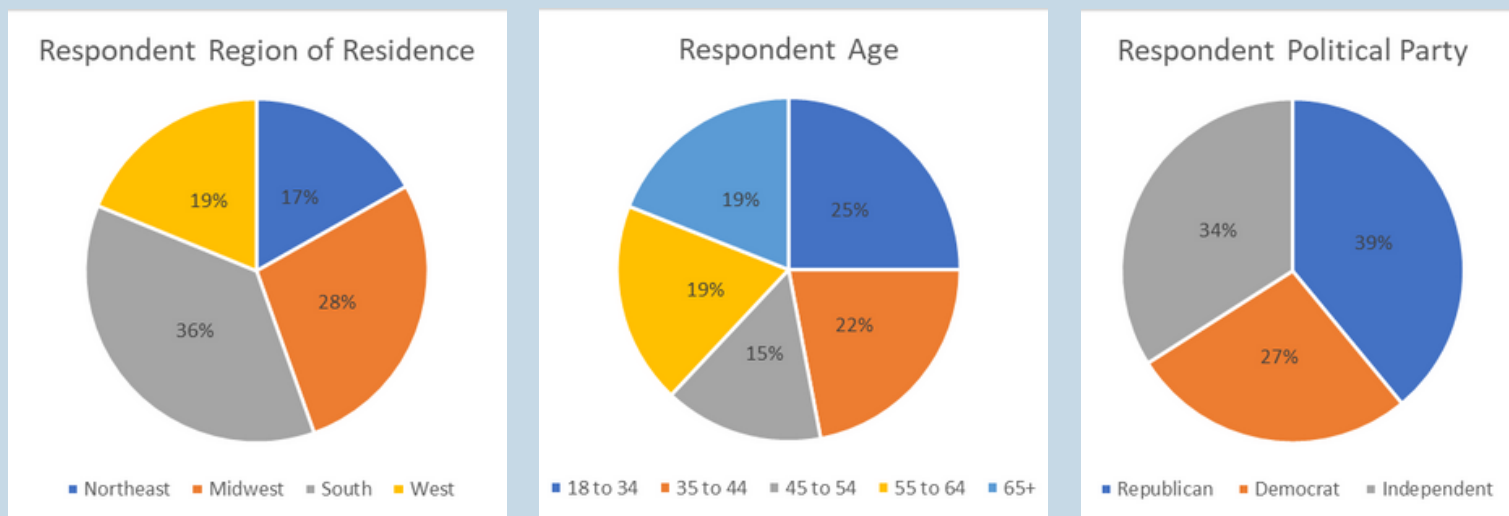


Fig. 1. Survey demographics.

Gender: 62% Male, 38% Female


Political Party: 39% Republican, 34% Independent, 27% Democrat

Region: 17% Northeast, 28% Midwest, 37% South, 19% West (the "South" group includes all the states within the Southeast Council, as well as Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi)

Age: 25% 18 to 34, 22% 35-44, 15% 45-54, 19% 55-64, 19% 65+

Incidentally, the Fly Fishers International Policy Statement on Climate Change states that, “...there is now clear consensus within the scientific community that climate change is real, change is occurring at rates that exceed those of history, and human-caused carbon emissions into the atmosphere are contributing to this accelerated rate of global climate change. Climate change has always been a part of the evolution of our natural world, but natural rates of change occurred in magnitudes of geologic time. It is now recognized conclusively that the earth’s climate is warming at rates that can be measured from one decade to another. It is further understood that this warming is being accelerated by human activities; particularly significant increases in carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases.” (See [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org) under “Organizational Policies,” then go to “Committee Policies,” and then, under “Conservation,” see “Conservation Policy and Plan, March 23, 2015.”)

The surveyors also tested several messages among those hunters and fishers interviewed, and among the ones they agreed on most was this: “We need to take action to protect future generations’ quality of life and ensure that our children can enjoy outdoor traditions like hunting and fishing the same as we do.”

This survey reveals that hunters and anglers agree that strong conservation action is important to the future enjoyment of our wildlife resources. We encourage our fly fishing community to become informed and support local programs and public policies that address climate change. To that end, FFI is working diligently in four key areas – conservation of habitats, action and advocacy, education, and grantmaking. Your continued support allows us to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. 



# Tips for Fly Tying Organization

The Winter months are a great time to enjoy tying up some flies to fill your box for the coming Spring. However, fly tying supplies have a tendency to get out of control, what with all the little bags and boxes and irregularly shaped items. Use these tips to organize for the new year and make your time spent tying more efficient.

# 1

## A DESK

Have a designated space for tying, even if it is only a very small desk or mobile desk. Cleaning and putting everything away and then getting it all back out again takes up a lot of time you could be tying. Consider custom outfitting the drawers for frequently used items.

# 2

## A TOOL HOLDER

Tools are expensive. Make your scissors, bobbins, etc. last longer and perform better by storing them in a tool holder. Wood, foam, or metal. They hold tools securely to prevent damage and have them handy.

# 3

## A SPOOL RACK

Keep all your spooled materials on a rack so they are easy to find.



# 4

## A MAGNET PAD AND TRASH BIN

Get a magnetic pad to go under your vise so you don't drop hooks and beads on the floor. Have a rubbish bin next to your tying area, and also a bin beneath your vise to catch trimmings.

Clean up when you are done for the day - a resolution for the new year!

# Upcoming Events

**February 3, 4 and 5th**

**Visit the FFi booth at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.**



**Meet up with us Sat. night, right after closing, for dinner and drinks. Location TBD. Look for an email announcement soon!**



**We need volunteers to man the booth and help teach basic casting and fly tying. Free admission if you work a shift!**

**CLICK FOR  
DETAILS OR TO  
SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER**



# Upcoming Events

**April 29, 2023 in Blue Ridge, GA**

**Visit or volunteer at our booth at the festival!**



**THE 2023 BLUE RIDGE TROUT  
& OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FESTIVAL ... SEE YOU THEN!!  
CAST-PADDLE-HIKE-CLIMB-RIDE-OUTDOORS ART**

**LIVE MUSIC-CRAFT BEER-FOOD**

**APRIL 29, 2023 in BLUE RIDGE, GA**



# Southeastern Council Board News

## **Bobby Brewer joins the Council Board as Member at Large**

Bobby Brewer is a fishing guide in Oriental, NC. He is actively involved in conservation of salt-water species and plans many trips for fishing clubs in the region.

## **Circe Tsui is appointed Director of Social Media**

Circe Tsui is the program coordinator of the Georgia Women Fly Fishers and is an educator for United Women On the Fly. She lives in Tucker, GA.

## **Cathryn Valancius will serve as Secretary for the Board**

Cathryn Valancius, of Rome, GA, is the Ghillie for GA Women Fly Fishers and has been serving as Communications Director on the SEC Board. She lives in Rome, GA.

**WE SEEK SOUTHEASTERN FFI MEMBERS WILLING TO SERVE AS:**

**CLUB LIAISON  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR  
EVENT COORDINATORS**