



A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 2, Issue 2

June 22, 2023

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Photo by Brandon Bailes

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fly Anglers,

It is summertime and the fishin' is easy! Sunfish love that warm water. Give our southeastern trout a break and go catch some slabs. Our Conservation VP went on a club trip and shares her experience. Shoal bass guide Kent Edmonds provides advice from his archive to tackle the low, clear water of Summer - universal tips, as useful for bass as they are for trout in the mountains. Catch up with what has been happening in the Southeastern Council and fill up your calendar for the year.

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.

Kind Regards,

Cathy Valancius [@cathrynvalancius](https://www.instagram.com/cathrynvalancius)

SEC FFi Secretary and Communications Director



Our cover shot comes from Brandon Bailes, pro-tyer from Alabama. Field and Stream Magazine is featuring an article about him titled "The Michelangelo of Deer-Hair Flies." Follow his fly tying [@panther_branch_bugs](https://www.instagram.com/panther_branch_bugs)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SEC Angler,

I am thrilled to report that our board is better than ever. Our new CFO/Chief Fishing Officer, Bobby Brewer, arranged the weekend in Rosman, North Carolina. Headwater Outfitters were wonderful hosts and we thank them for their hospitality. Their guides are fantastic. Reach out to them when you are in the area. If you missed Rosman, do not worry, we already have it on the schedule for next May. Bobby has other events on the calendar and they are outlined in this newsletter. Hope to see you on the water.

Our calendar is filling up fast. Our Casting Director, Brian DeLoach, has events scheduled throughout the southeast. Again, see the schedule in our newsletter and watch for announcements from our communications committee. New events are always being added.

We have the "Kingfisher Classic" scheduled for October in Cleveland, TN. Last year, this event was named the Fly Tyers Rendezvous. It is group meeting of fly tyers from all over the country and open to the public. We hope to see you there. Again, look for the announcements and save the date.

Last month, the Presidents of most of our Clubs met with your Council to discuss common approaches to managing and communicating with membership and how the SEC can better serve our members. The discussion was robust and informative and the Presidents decided to meet monthly for now.

I am off to a lot of fishing holes over the next few months and I hope you are too.

Happy Fishing!

Debra Pauli

President, Southeastern Council

president@secffi.org

Southeastern Happenings...

Fishing the Waters of the Southeastern Council

Rosman, NC Trip on June 9-11



A group of anglers met up at Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman, NC for a fun weekend of fishing. Bobby Brewer (Chief Fishing Officer, bottom right) organized a very informative lecture by a Headwaters' guide and turned us loose on the Davidson and North Fork of the French Broad River. We had some new and some seasoned members of FFi. It is no secret that the fishing in the area is terrific, but the real secret to a great weekend is great people!

Southeastern Happenings



TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

The club sponsored a showing of IF4 - The International Fly Fishing Film Festival. They inducted Dan Estrem into their "Hall of Fame" for long-time service to the club.



A very cool Fly Fishers International popper made by Paul Terry in Alabama. That is a really neat trick!

Southeastern Happenings



NORTHERN KENTUCKY FLY FISHERS
A group of ladies from the club enjoyed
a fun day of pond bassin'.



SOUTHERN FLY FISHING HALL OF FAME
Wanda Taylor had the honor of
presenting the first salt-water inductee
into the Southern Fly Fishing Hall of
Fame, Jake Jordan. Captain Jordan is a
legendary guide in NC and the Florida
Keys, among other places.
Congratulations!

SEC Club Spotlight: Carolina Fly Fishing Club

www.carolinaflyfishingclub.org, [facebook](#)

by Bill Jewett, President of Carolina Fly Fishing Club

The Carolina Fly Fishing Club (CFFC) is a charter club of Fly Fishers International and was established on August 1, 2006. CFFC is a gathering place for local cold water, warm water, and saltwater fly fishermen, women, and children of all skill levels. This club offers quality monthly meetings with informative educational programs for the continued development of fly fishing, fly-tying knowledge, and casting skills. CFFC also coordinates fly fishing trips and activities for the enjoyment of all members and for the opportunity of developing camaraderie between fellow fly anglers.

CFFC endeavors to improve fly fishing by promoting “Catch and Release”, working to preserve and restore fisheries, fishery habitats, and the natural biodiversity that supports fisheries. This club also promotes, through education and practice, ethical behavior toward fellow anglers and the use of all aquatic resources.

CFFC also has a Helping Hands Program that provides help to several worthy organizations such as Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, Rivercourse Camp, and Scout Groups. Volunteering our time to assist, teach or raise funds for the different projects.



Some of the varied activities of CFFC. Clockwise from left: Helping the Boy Scouts get their fly fishing merit badges, Fly tying with PHWFF Charlotte, and club tying night at the Bass Pro Shops.

My Experience at a CFFC Fishing Retreat

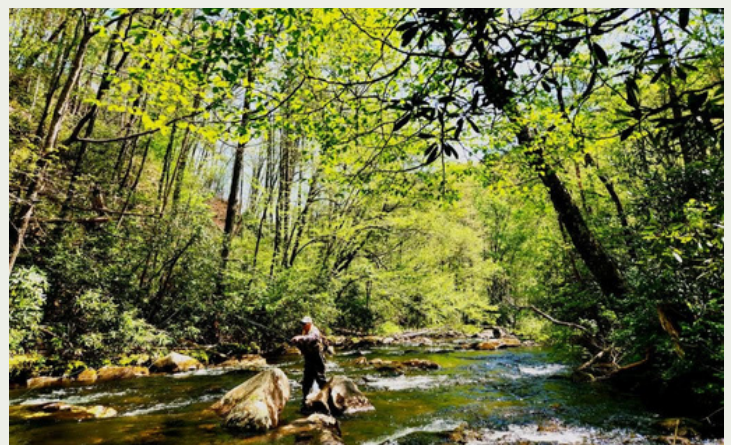
by **Kathleen Bergeron**, VP Conservation

Fly fishing is pretty much a solitary activity. There's a certain peaceful, calming quality of standing alone, at or in a mountain stream, contemplating the reasoning abilities of the resident trout. And yet...

And yet, given a chance to gather with other fly fishers in a lodge for a long weekend of fishing by day and endless conversations in the evening, folks leap at the opportunity. And such was the case in April.

The announcement was sent out in late January, when winter was still in full force: the North Carolina Fly Fishing Club would be holding its annual spring trip to the Whistle Stop Lodge in the Nantahala National Forest, just outside Bryson City, from April 20th through the 23rd. For many, it would be the first opportunity of the new year to go after rainbows and browns.

The Nantahala is the largest of the four National Forests in the state, and it lies just about as far west as you can go while staying inside the North Carolina border. With an elevation that ranges from a high of 5,800 feet to a low of about 1,200 feet, the Nantahala is filled with fast rushing, cold water hatchery-supported and wild trout streams.



Photos taken by participants on the trip at the Whistlestop Lodge, the Nantahala River, and Big Snowbird Creek.

About a dozen members of the Club had signed up for the retreat, and they began arriving at the lodge late Thursday afternoon, eager to explore the many fishing opportunities around them.



Breakfasts and dinners were prepared by different volunteers in the group, and those gatherings around the dining table were always opportunities to share thoughts on which fly pattern worked best the day before, or which spot had the largest browns in its pool.

Perhaps the best thing to come from the gathering was the camaraderie that evolved over the three days. It's one thing to see and greet someone at a monthly meeting lasting an hour or so. It's quite another to share meals, streams, and philosophies in the midst of a natural paradise. It's the latter that can generate lasting friendships.



I'm not lying...

by Kent Edmonds, from his blog on flyfishga.com

Kent is a guide on the Flint River in Georgia. Follow his adventures [@kent.flyfishga](https://twitter.com/kent.flyfishga)

A lot of folks know I fish the river a lot and they regularly ask for reports. Lately, some are telling me that they "fished it last week and it was tough." When I give a good report, it's not unusual to see raised eyebrows and questionable expressions. Nobody's actually accused me of lying yet but if you're into reading eyes, a few of them have come close to asking the question. I am telling the truth. But I know why they're wondering - when the Flint gets low and clear, the fishing gets tough. Well, not tough as much as different...the tactics are different, and the fish are a little different too. The techniques that were spanking 'em in April don't work so well now. The deep holes are slow and almost stagnant, and shallow fish are spooking 100' away.

The good news is that the fish are still catchable - neither hot weather nor warm water shut down the shoal bass. Years ago I had an old-timer on the Flint tell me, "Son, that's a bass under every rock in that river - all ya gotta do is get your bait down to him." While that may be a slight exaggeration, the part about being under the rock is dead on. The fish may come up to a top-water real early in the day, but after the sun gets up the fly is definitely going have to be right in front of him, down under that rock.

The long, "water-covering" casts are usually a waste of time. What's needed now are the "pocket-picking" casts and presentations. The fly that is dropped down into that crevice, or swims slowly deep down through that slot is the one that's going to get bit. Seldom can that cast be made from 25' away; often, I'm getting within a rod length or two of the pocket I'm trying to fish. Many of the casts look much more like the casts on a tiny mountain trout stream, and the drift is a "high-stick" that leads the fly the chute.

The photo below is a spot we fished Tuesday, then yesterday I slipped off and fished it again by myself. From the bottom of the photo to the top of the little grass island is about 20' long and 6-10' wide. The dark spots are moss-covered rocks whose tops are

(continued on Page - 10)



2"-10" under the surface; the water is about 2' deep (at the most). On Tuesday, two 25' casts that hung up and created quite a commotion had blown the section.

The angler wasn't really concentrating on the area very hard anyhow, but rather heading for that shade just upstream. He should have, however - yesterday

I took 3 shoal bass from this run, one of them was pretty nice. That's not to say what a good fisherman I am, but rather what a difference in approach can make. Very slowly and very quietly I had gotten in close - my first cast was just leader. It hit a 6" slot, dropped 8" and was promptly slammed by a bass that came from nowhere - I saw him eat. The second fish came on my 10th or 12th cast after I had moved up to cast from around the spot that fish #1 had come from. I had fished it almost all the way back to me, and the fly was out of sight, drifting into a horizontal ledge. I began to pick up slowly, wiggling and jiggling the rod tip in the process. The shoalie, about 2 1/2 lbs, interrupted my jiggle.

At first glance, this spot might seem an unlikely spot to hold fish. But closer examination shows a pretty good current flow (fed by the cooler, shady run upstream), plus a food-rich environment (rocks, moss, & current), and shady spots for the fish to lay up and to stay hidden from predators. The key to catching these fish was to get the fly right down in front of them. Not much way to make that happen in a spot like this one without getting almost on top of `em. The other key of course - getting on top of `em without spooking `em in the process.

We've all heard it a 1000 times - presentation makes the difference. That's certainly the case at many places on the Flint right now. And over here, getting into position is a major part of the presentation. So don't give up on the Flint (and don't think I'm telling tales) - just fish some different spots from different spots, and fish `em a little differently.

Ongoing ENTER by JUNE 30!!!



Take a Woman Flyfishing Challenge

Great Prizes!



CLUB PRIZE

Club with the most entries wins an Orvis Encounter 5wt Rod Combo.



INDIVIDUAL PRIZE

Orvis mini sling pack in your choice of Fishe pattern or sand.



*Submit your entries by June 30 to
womenconnect@secffi.org*

Upcoming Events

A Few Spots Still Available!!!!

The Southeastern Council WY Trip SEPTEMBER 3-9, 2023

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. Several FFi clubs took trips there last Summer and had a fantastic time.

Location: Cody Wyoming

Dates: September 3-9

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

Accommodations: Camp Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp cabins

Cost: Approximately \$900 for the week for accommodations, food, shuttles (does not include travel to the camp or guides)

Registration: Available directly through www.anglersbasecamp.org

This week-long trip utilizes the facilities of the Boy Scout camp. 3 meals/day, cabins, shuttles to the river(s) are provided. If an angler wishes to utilize a guide, they should make those reservations independently with area Cody fly shops.



Upcoming Events

Southeastern Council Casting Clinics

Refreshments and social time usually follow the instruction, details to follow with the individual event sign-ups. Clinics are pretty popular, so sign up when the registration hits your inbox!

August 12, 2023

9AM-1P (EST)

Hosted by Georgia
Women Fly Fishers

Location TBD Atlanta, GA

Aug. 26, 2023

9AM-1P (EST)

Hosted by Carolina Fly
Fishing Club at Lake

Norman State Park, NC

Sept. 28, 2023

9AM-1P (EST)

Hosted club TBD at
Lee University,
Cleveland, TN

Nov. 17, 2023

1-4P (Central Time)

Host club TBD, at the
Shelton Farm in
Sterret, AL

Upcoming Events

FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SEC FISHING EVENT CALENDAR

INFO ON THE NOVEMBER TRIP COMING VERY SOON!

SEPT 3-9, 2023

Cody, WY

Yellowstone Anglers'

Basecamp

Trout trip

NOV 10-12. 2023

Morehead City, NC

Surf or boat salt trip

Bobby Brewer, CFO

(Chief Fishing Officer) will
host and talk on the area

MAY 17-19, 2024

Brevard, NC

Davidson River area

Trout trip

Details to come.

Upcoming Events

OUR ANNUAL FLY TYING EVENT GETS A NEW NAME AND LOCATION FOR 2023!



Tie one on at the **Kingfisher Classic**

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 demonstrate how to tie every genre of flies. Learn from the masters and tie some flies of your own. Bring your friends and family!



28 OCTOBER 2023

Sat. 9am - 4:30pm

Lee University
Cleveland, TN

PRESENTED BY:



Southeastern Council



Southeastern Council Board News

SEEKING A SOUTHEASTERN FFI MEMBER
TO SERVE AS:
VICE PRESIDENT- MEMBERSHIP

Will be responsible for the development of FFI membership, individuals and clubs, within the Council; coordinate requests for assistance in the formation of new clubs within the Council.

This position requires someone who is skilled at writing, developing email communications and effective at managing an excel membership database.

Please email president@secffi.org, if you are interested.