

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

# THE KINGFISHER

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# GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fly Anglers,

Whether it is false albacore blitzing in the Atlantic, the start of Delayed Harvest, or chasing bass in the rivers and lakes, Fall is a terrific time to fish and just enjoy the beauty of the changing colors of the leaves. In this issue we profile Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers and feature some advice for your Fall saltwater trips. Catch up with what has been happening in the Southeastern Council and round out 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](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.

Kind Regards,

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



Our cover shot comes from Capt. Perry McDougald, guide on North Carolina's Crystal Coast. Check him out at [mcflyfishing.com](http://mcflyfishing.com) or on instagram [@mcflyfishing](https://www.instagram.com/mcflyfishing)



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SEC Angler,

With summer coming to a close, it is a good time to remember our summer catches. I had a fabulous time landing some new species in some new waters. My first bass was caught with our editor, Cathy Valancius. It is surprising I know, that this Southern Angler just recently caught a bass. New species are not always exotic. Fortunately, I also caught two other new species for me, dorado and rooster fish.

Fishing on the South Holston disclosed the problems with the water levels there. The SEC supported the Holston guiding community in efforts to keep the water flowing on this favorite southeastern waterway.

SEC had a busy summer with Brian Deloach organizing casting clinics and Bobby Brewer organizing fishing events. I'm pleased with the activities of the Council during this our second year of reaching out to our members.

Looking forward, I hope you have scheduled time for both our "Kingfisher Classic" and "Fishing the Waters of the SEC". If you can't tie in the Kingfisher Classic, then please come by to learn more from our exhibitors. You can find more information in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Georgia Women Fly Fishers ("GWFF") on being named recipient of the McKenzie Cup. The award recognizes consistent contributions over the years to foster the objectives of Fly Fishers International. Having been a member of GWFF for years, I can attest to the long term support this Club has provided to organizations and events around the southeast. GWFF provided me with my first fly fishing class. Congratulations to all of its members past and present.

See you at the Kingfisher Classic!

Debra Pauli

President, Southeastern Council

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

# *Southeastern Happenings...*

## **Congratulations to Georgia Women Fly Fishers!**

FFI has announced that Georgia Women Fly Fishers won the FFI McKenzie Cup for 2023. The McKenzie Cup is presented to an FFI Club making an outstanding contribution on behalf of FFI.

Chosen from over 200 clubs nationwide, GWFF is the leading female-focused fly fishing organization in the southeast. The club seeks to introduce and educate women in the sport in a supportive, non-competitive environment. Among its

diverse membership, GWFF focuses on building community, providing educational opportunities, promoting conservation, and connecting with the larger fly fishing community. The results of GWFF's commitment — in terms of increased membership, dedicated service to FFI, support of the fly fishing community in general — have been dramatic. At the end of 2017, the club consisted of 71 members; now, a little over five years later, its numbers have more than doubled, with 162 members.

The Southeastern Council of FFI is pleased to be a part of the GWFF community and wishes GWFF continued success.



The McKenzie Cup



# *Southeastern Happenings...*

## **Casting was HOT this August!**



Georgia Women Fly Fishers hosted the Southeastern Council's Atlanta Clinic in August. It was hot, both literally and figuratively! Rene Hesse brought the heat with obstacle challenges and he was joined by an excellent group of FFI casting instructors. We want to thank Rene, Greg Stuart, Bill Kessler, Steve Levetan, and John Mauldin for instructing and our Casting Director, Brian Deloach for organizing and instructing. These fun clinics are only possible because a lot of people generously donate their time and talent.

# Southeastern Happenings



## CAROLINA FLY FISHERS

The club hosted an SEC Casting clinic at their first Summer picnic since 2019, at Lake Norman. Despite 104 degree heat, it was a smashing success with almost 80 people (the most ever) for the festivities, classes, awards and tasty fare.



## TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

Members caught so many trophy smallmouth that they declared it the year of the smallie. We'll see what the albies have to say about that at our Morehead City, NC trip in November.



# Southeastern Happenings



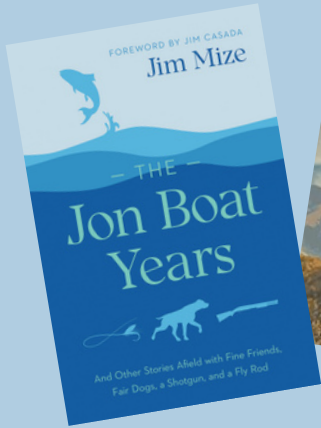
## YELLOWSTONE ANGLERS' BASECAMP

In early September, many members traveled out west to fish the rivers around Cody, WY, and Yellowstone. Thank you Yellowstone Anglers' Basecamp for hosting the SEC week. Above are Tom Jayroe (left) and Charlie Daniels (right) of Veterans Flyfishing in north Georgia, along with some truly majestic scenery.

If you or your club have some news you would like to share, please let us know. We would like to share your news and accomplishments.

Email us at [communications@secffi.org](mailto:communications@secffi.org)

# Southeastern Happenings



## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Congratulations to Jim Mize, of French Broad Fly Fishers, on the release of his new book, The Jon Boat Years. Also, congratulations to Dr. John Mauldin, of Veterans Fly Fishing, on winning a BRAG award for his book, The Orb.

## In Remembrance...



**William Iver (Bill) Thomsen III**  
January 30, 1950 - July 11, 2023

Atlanta Fly Fishing Club lost one of its long-time members and current officers. Bill Thomsen passed away on Tuesday, July 11th. He served as the Clinics and Education Officer, and previously, raffle officer. He was a dear friend and companion and will be missed greatly.

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



# SEC Club Spotlight:

## Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers

by Connor Baker, Communications Director, TVFF

Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers (TVFF) is a fly fishing organization established in 1985 and based in the northern Alabama city of Huntsville. TVFF is an affiliate of the Fly Fishers International. The goal of the club is to promote the sport of fly fishing and its objectives of conservation, education and community/local area outreach. Its members come together for the purpose of fly fishing, fellowship, information sharing, education and the preservation, conservation and wise use of our fishing waters and game fish.



TVFF has fly tying twice a month, the second and fourth Thursday. Additionally, they have a monthly meeting every third Thursday. Every year TVFF has club trips to Arkansas for the Sowbug Roundup and to Donovan Lakes to target bass. Their home waters are North Alabama and Middle Tennessee. However, TVFF members frequently fish all over the Southeast, including Arkansas, the Gulf Coast, and North Carolina. For more information visit <https://www.tennesseevalleyflyfishers.org/>.

TVFF members gather for the annual Aldridge Creek Cleanup.



# FALL SALTWATER FLY FISHING

## North Carolina's Crystal Coast

by Bobby Brewer, Chief Fishing Officer (CFO), [fishing@secffi.org](mailto:fishing@secffi.org)

Come join us for [Fishing the Waters of the SEC](#) in Morehead City, NC, November 9-11, and experience some great fishing.

Known as the graveyard of the Atlantic, the Crystal Coast of North Carolina offers an abundance of fly fishing opportunities in the fall. Fueled by the flushing of the bait from their inshore habitats, predator fish converge on the area for a buffet of meals. Menhaden, mullet, bay anchovies, silversides, croaker, and spots are on the menu. False albacore, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, redfish, speckled seatrout, and sharks patrol the waters searching for a hefty meal.

In a typical fall the action peaks in October. Spanish mackerel arrive in April and stay thru October. False albacores arrive in late September and stay into early December. Bluefish seem to always be around. Giant redfish, 40"-50", have finished their inshore spawn and stay nearshore October through December. Speckled seatrout congregate on the jetties and points. Sand, blacktips, and spinners sharks seem to always be lurking.

You don't need a boat to participate in the activities. Casting from shore into various jetties, inlets and channels provides a great opportunity. One thing you need to understand is the tide charts. The tide cycle is 6 hrs. The first hour provides increasing flows of water and the last hour is the opposite, decreasing flows. The fastest movement occurs in the middle four hours. Like a dam release



Bobby Brewer with a nice false albacore.



on a tailwater river, waters can rise and fall quickly. On a low tide, the water level is lower, and anglers can wade out closer to channels, sloughs and drops. A rising tide flushes bait from the inshore bays and sounds outward through the channels and bights to the waiting fish and can cause a feeding frenzy. Ask a local and they can tell you the best places to fish each tide. If you have access to a boat, you can move around and take advantage of various areas and fishing opportunities. You can even fish behind the shrimp trawlers.

The flies don't have to be complicated. Clousers on a #2 saltwater hook and medium sized dumbbell eyes work for about anything. If you have 3-4 color schemes, you'll be set. My recommendations are white with silver flash on the side (silversides), tan / brown (anchovies), pink / white, and pink / chartreuse (tutti frutti). Start with the flies about 3" long but have a pair of scissors in case you need to trim them shorter.

An 8 wt. rod with floating or intermediate sinking line will work well for the Spanish, blues, and trout. A 9 wt. – 10 wt. rod is recommended for the false albacore and large redfish. If targeting sharks, use an 11 wt. If you want to bring only 1 rod, bring a 9 wt. with 2 spools. One spool would have a floating or intermediate line. The other spool would have a 350-400 grain sinking line to go deeper for the big redfish and false albacore when needed while boat fishing or to hit the deep channels of the inlet from the bank. Be ready. When you see bait busting on the surface, sometimes you don't know what's underneath it. If you are fortunate and it's a false albacore, it can rip 100 yards of line and backing off your reel in a matter of seconds. Keep your hand clear of the twirling reel handle or you will be donating some DNA. These waters and fish offer something for all anglers, newbie saltwater anglers to seasoned veterans.



Silversides are a common forage fish to imitate.

# FFI AWARDS GRANT FOR UWHARRIE RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

Last year, Salisbury-based Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) approached the Southeastern Council about applying for an FFI grant of \$3,000 to assist in the creation of a new kayak and canoe launch on the Uwharrie River, on Highway 49 in Randolph County, NC. Conservation VP, Kathleen Bergeron formed a committee to review it and brought it to the attention of nearby clubs, which expressed interest in being involved long-term in the project. The Council then recommended the grant to FFI. Over the Summer, FFI approved the \$3000 award for TRLT.

This undeveloped access on Highway 49 will be upstream of three existing accesses. When developed, this access will be for launching canoes and kayaks and it is an approximately 4-mile float downstream to Waynick Meadow Road with roadside access to take out.

“We are so thankful to Fly Fishers International for their support of this important river access we are working to develop on Highway 49,” states Associate Director Crystal Cockman. “As such a busy road with steep banks down to the river there is not currently anyway to physically access the river here.”



One of three downstream boat access points developed previously by Three Rivers Land Trust on the Uwharrie River.

Patrick Berry, President and CEO of FFI, said, “Three Rivers Land Trust is helping support FFI’s mission to provide fly fishing opportunities for all fish in all waters.”

TRLT is still in the fundraising phase of this project and you can visit their [website](#) to check on the status of this access. We will also report on progress. If you know of an organization that would like to apply for a grant, please [contact us](#).



# Upcoming Events

## Southeastern Council Casting Clinics

**Southeastern  
Council of FFi  
Free Casting  
Clinic**

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023  
9:45AM - 1PM  
Lee University  
Cleveland, TN

**4 SPOTS  
REMAINING!**

**CLICK TO  
REGISTER**

HOSTED BY:

**FFi**  
Southeastern Council

**Lee U Angling**

**CAN'T MAKE IT TO CLEVELAND?  
DON'T PANIC, ATTEND OUR  
NOVEMBER CLINIC IN ALABAMA!**

**November 17, 2023  
1-4P (Central Time)**

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

# Upcoming Events

## FISHING EVENT CALENDAR

**FFi**  
Southeastern Council

**Fishing the Waters of the  
Southeastern Council**

**November 10-12, 2023**

**The Crystal Coast -  
Morehead City,  
North Carolina**

hosted by:



[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

**MAY 17-19, 2024**

**Rosman, NC**

**Davidson River and North Fork French Broad area**

**Registration details to come.**



# Upcoming Events

## **SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL FLY TYING EVENT!**

**THE KINGFISHER CLASSIC.**

EXPERIENCE THE ART OF FLY TYING

**October 28, 2023**  
**9-4:30 PM**

At Lee University School of Business  
1120 N Ocoee Street Cleveland, TN

PRESENTED BY:

**FFi**  
Southeastern Council

**A FREE EVENT!**

- 30+ Tiers
- Tying Demos
- Casting Demos
- Learn-to-tie-flies station
- Prizes
- Silent auctions of trips, gear and accessories
- Family friendly
- FREE

[www.thekingfisherclassic.com](http://www.thekingfisherclassic.com)

Please join skilled fly tiers and designers like Jeff Rowley, Son Tao, Steve Hudson, Joe Jackson, Peggy Brenner and many more to be a demonstration tier. Click [HERE](#) for the free tier registration.

Thank you to these fine businesses who have generously donated prizes and auction items for the Kingfisher Classic, we appreciate you! Contact us if you, too, would like to donate.







Southeastern Council

## Southeastern Council Board News

We have three excellent new additions to the  
Board of Directors:

Charlie Daniels as Membership Director - Charlie is a very active member of Veterans Flyfishing in north Georgia. His passion for data-driven practices will be a great asset.

James Cass as Member-at-large - James is a member of Carolina Fly Fishing Club in North Carolina who brings a background in information technology. He will be assisting with IT and Communications.

Terry Hackett as Member-at-large - Terry is a former president of Triangle Fly Fishers in North Carolina. He has a background in environmental sciences and will assist Conservation.

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