

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

# THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 2, Issue 4

January 5, 2024

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**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

Photo by Bayle Wood



# GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fly Anglers,

I hope you are all having a wonderful holiday season. Fall was a riot of activity here at the Southeastern Council. We had casting clinics, the Kingfisher Classic fly-tying event and fishing on the coast. Now we are planning the excitement of next year and taking a bit of a holiday breather. Catch up with what has been happening in the Southeastern Council and mark your calendar for the new 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

SEC FFi Secretary and Communications Director



Our cover shot from Bayle Wood evokes the quiet beauty of a winter mountain stream. Bayle is from the NC mountains and enjoys fly fishing for wild trout. Follow her adventures @baylew7.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Angler:

We just finished the second year of the SEC restart. This is a great time to look back and celebrate our successes while also looking forward to next year. We thank all of our members and sponsors who made our events successful in 2023. Thanks also to our Board members who have devoted their time and energy to create these great events. This newsletter recognizes our sponsors who supported us. Please support them in 2024. I want to recognize Ranger Outdoors, LLC, for their help with the Kingfisher Classic and Headwaters Outfitters for hosting “Fishing the Waters of the SEC.”

Your Council is busy putting into place the activities for 2024. We have highlighted, in this issue, the events now scheduled. Please save the dates. We expect the 2024 Kingfisher Classic to grow with a variety of activities added to the show planned for Fall 2024.

The growth of our activities requires more hands-on help. We are expanding our planning circle by instituting committees to spread the workload and to involve more of our members. If you want to be involved with the SEC, please reach out to me at [president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org). We can discuss how we can best integrate your interests with the needs of the Council.

All the best to you and your family in the New Year.

Debra Pauli  
President, Southeastern Council  
[president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org)



# Upcoming Events

See us at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show Feb 2-4.  
We are having a meetup for dinner at  
Marlowe's Tavern on Saturday at 5:45PM



**VOLUNTEER AT  
THE FFI BOOTH**

**RSVP FOR DINNER**

## FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SE COUNCIL

MAY 16-19, 2024

ROSMAN, NC

Davidson River and N. Fork French Broad

Itinerary:

Thursday arrival night 5PM educational presentation by Headwaters Outfitters.

Food truck and taproom dinner get-together and hang.



Friday fishing. Guides are available or DIY. Dinner plan TBA (maybe a cookout).

Saturday 7am-1pm River Cleanup with Headwaters and other business sponsors. Breakfast, lunch and transportation to cleanup site provided. Live entertainment in the afternoon.

Sunday fishing or departure.

Registration and details coming via email soon.

# Upcoming Events

## FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 7-11, 2024 CRYSTAL COAST OF NC

We will be fishing for bluefish, false albacore, and speckled trout on the coast either guided or in the surf near Morehead City, NC.

There will be a virtual fly tying event beforehand to fill our boxes for the trip.

Registration with hotel details and guide suggestions to come.



# Upcoming Events

## The Southeastern Council WY Trip August 25-31, 2024

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. This is a popular trip for many clubs.

Location: Cody Wyoming

Dates: August 25-31, 2024

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

Accommodations: Camp Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp cabins

Cost: Approximately \$985 for the week for accommodations, food, shuttles (does not include travel to the camp or guides)

Registration: Available directly through [www.anglersbasecamp.org](http://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.



Southeastern Council





# Congratulations Mac Brown!

In October, FFI announced that Master Casting Instructor **Mac Brown**, of North Carolina, has won a 2023 FFI Lifetime Achievement in Fly Casting Instruction Award. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant, long-term contributions to fly casting instruction. Contributions can include teaching, innovation in fly casting techniques, writing,



motivation and sharing their knowledge of teaching to advance the goals of the Casting Instructor Certification Program. The Southeastern Council is incredibly honored to have Mac Brown in our council region. He continues to be a great teacher, mentor and leader in the field of fly casting. Just a few of Mac Brown's accomplishments include being past recipient of the FFI Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor Award, a member of the Southern Appalachian Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, author of the fly-casting book "Casting Angles," and having served on the FFI Board of Governors. We offer our most heartfelt congratulations!



# Why You Need a Swivel on...Everything

by Brian Deloach, Ph.D.  
Casting Director,

Except for very tiny dry flies, any modern leader system needs to incorporate a swivel. In 2009, my club started hopper-fishing earnestly on the White River. We noticed that the big, leggy, wind-resistant foam bugs would spin through the air, twisting the leader and fly line a dozen or more times with each false cast before landing in a pile of twisted tippet on the water. Every four or five presentation casts, we'd be running the line through our hands and watching the bug spin, but even after this repeated process, the line would be crimped, abraded, and weakened from our constant handling and untangling. By incorporating a micro-swivel three feet back from the terminal knot, the line twist problem completely vanished with no significant addition of drag or compromise to the cast. Three weeks later, we started adding swivels to everything. Though initially worried about smooth energy transfer in the cast, we found that we were casting even better than before because our leaders had no kinks or twists.

Using swivels has been a standard practice for centuries with conventional tackle, and we are just now catching on in the fly-fishing world with SA and a few other manufacturers releasing swivels suitable enough for our leader systems. Their application is not limited to big hoppers or bass bugs, but any leader set-up for streamers, nymphs, and even tight-line methods. For example, for a sinking-tip line

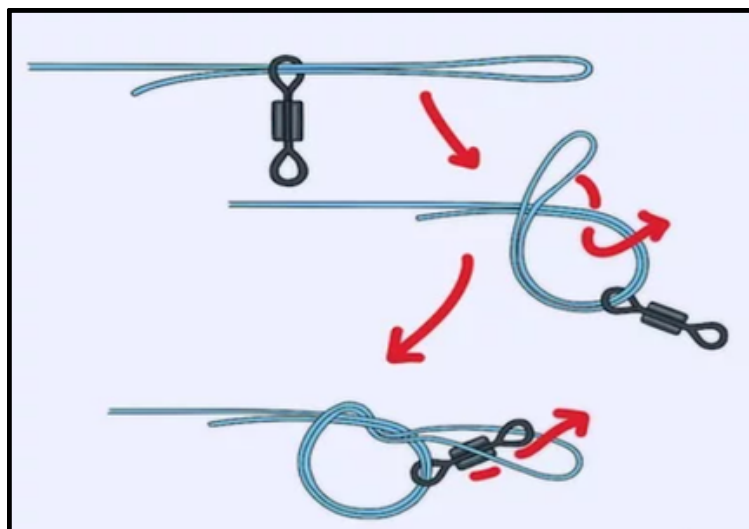


**Micro-swivels.**



for streamers, cut the pre-welded loop off the end (you ought to be doing this anyway), nail-knot a six-inch, 15-20lb. section of fluorocarbon. Then, Uni-knot (“Duncan Loop” to the old timers) a 30-50lb. test swivel for a permanent fix for casting streamers with no line twist. All my sinking tip lines now end in swivels. Make sure your line diameter roughly corresponds to the gauge of the rings on the swivel just as we do with our hooks and tippet matching. This system is superior to using a modular snap-swivel at the terminal knot because, especially with articulated streamers, the snap swivel is too heavy and bulky for smaller streamers, the hitch points and moving parts close to the fly present more potential for tangles, and have you tried prying your streamer on and off those little prongs in February? Tie a loop knot and please Lefty’s ghost!

For a standard indicator or a tight-line nymphing rig, insert the swivel where you would a tippet ring. The advantage here is not only more freedom in natural motion for the fly and less line twist but also that you can oversize the swivel so that it double functions as a split shot, thereby aiding your fly to sink better without introducing another hitch point on an already heavily articulated leader system. I’ll sometimes throw a 50lb. test swivel on a 4x-5x nymph rig with a Palomar or loop-to-loop connection to really sink a bug fast.



**Tying on a swivel with a Palomar knot.**

For tiny dries and wets, I haven’t found a real need for a swivel, as line twist doesn’t seem to be a problem. However, if a swivel is desired, it is important to remember that the smaller the dry fly, the closer to the butt section the swivel needs to be to prevent excessive drag. Now, every single one of my leader systems (except for small dries) incorporates a swivel, and I highly recommend that you do the same. It has reduced the amount of time spent leader-straightening, greatly reduces tangles, adds weight and freedom of movement without split shot, and still manages to keep the integrity of the cast. ❄️

# TIPS FOR WINTER TROUT FISHING

by Linda Vance, Ph.D.

VP Education and Women Connect Liaison, [education@secffi.org](mailto:education@secffi.org)

The weather outside may be frightful, but avid trout hunters know that winter heralds some of the best, most uncrowded fishing of the year. Thinking of giving winter fishing a try? Here are some pointers to guide you:

1. Sleep in. Trout are less active in cold weather, so the best fishing is often found between 10 or 11 and mid-afternoon when the day has warmed a bit. Generally, activity will pick up once the air temperature is above 40F.

2. Fish will tend to congregate in the warmest, least turbulent water. Look for them in the bottom of deep pools, eddies behind logjams, and inside bends. Tailwaters will typically hold fish close to the tailrace, where the emptying reservoir water will be warmest.

3. Fish low, slow and small, and cover every inch of the pool if you can't see the fish directly. In cold water, trout aren't inclined to move very far vertically or horizontally. You want to put your fly right in front of their noses. This means small, slim profile flies (think midge patterns) with tungsten beadheads, and a 6x or 7x fluorocarbon leader and tippet. Using two or three flies tied in



Snow day. Photo by Haylee Greene.



tandem will give you good vertical distribution, and barbless hooks will mean fewer hangups. If you see fish and your midge isn't getting any response, try a small black stonefly nymph, or add an attractor above your point fly: a flashy egg, a squirmy, or a red San Juan worm.

4. Be stealthy. The downside of fishing low and slow when the water is clear is that the fish will spook easily. Euro nymphers will have an advantage, because they won't have a fly line or an indicator floating on the water surface. If you don't Euro nymph, use a long leader and a small indicator, roll cast at a 45 degree angle upstream, and high-stick your rod to keep the line off the water if you can. Either way, set on everything. Winter takes will be subtle.

5. If the afternoon warms up, be prepared. Especially on sunny days, look for fish to start moving to gravel flats and mid-stream bars. As soon as you see this, switch to emergers like an RS2 or BWO. If you see bugs on the surface, and fish rising to them, try a Griffith's Gnat or a generic gnat cluster.

Stay warm and safe!



# *Southeastern Happenings...*

## **Fall was full of casting events!**



We had two casting clinics in the Fall. In late September, the Lee University Angling Club hosted us (above photos). We want to thank our Casting Director, Brian Deloach for organizing and leading at Lee University. Thank you to Lee Angling for gifting an Orvis Rod combo to a young clinic attendee. We wrapped up with a fun game of fly-in-the-cup.

Alabama Women on the Fly hosted the Southeastern Council's Alabama Clinic in November (photos at right). Thank you ladies for being great hostesses and to CI Rick Shelton for organizing and leading the Alabama clinic and donating his facilities.



Winner of the distance challenge was Sean Hunter. Rob Rogers from Deep South Outfitters awarded him a pack and a donation in his name to the Southeastern Council. Thanks Rob and congratulations Sean!



Many thanks to all the casting instructors who volunteered their time to teach at these events. We could not do all this without you



# Southeastern Happenings



November also saw our first Casting Challenge Games. Casting Instructor Rene Hesse came up with this fun team competition event. Thank you Rene for organizing and running this. Teams of 3 had fun competing for prizes. There were teams from outfitters, clubs, and TU chapters.

1st place: 'The Unknowns'

Jake Darling

Joseph Clark

Thomas McCarthy

2nd: 'The White Gloved

Howdies'

Jim Harvey

James Serra

Sean Hunter

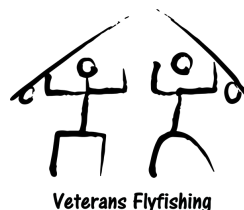
3rd: 'The Tiki Trio'

Steve Bryant

Kelly Bryant

Greg Stewart

**Thank you Casting Challenge donors:**



# Southeastern Happenings

FFi Southeastern Council  
**THE KINGFISHER  
CLASSIC 2023**



Our first Kingfisher Classic tying festival was a big hit. Lee University played host to over 30 tiers who came to share their skills, meet up with friends and make new ones. Thank you to all who participated and visited the show.

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)

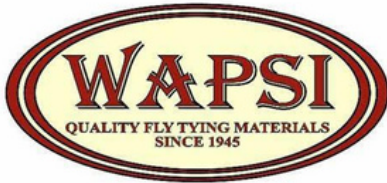


# THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to these fine businesses and folks who generously donated prizes and auction items for the Kingfisher Classic.

We appreciate your generosity!

Contact us if you would like to donate something for the 2024 event.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FLY DONORS

**Richard Trimble**  
**Grant Adkins**

**Gary Carlson**  
**All the KC 2023 Fly Tiers**

# *Southeastern Happenings*

## **Fishing the Waters of the SEC - Crystal Coast of NC**

**Trip Report by Bobby Brewer, Chief Fishing Officer (CFO)**

Sixteen anglers, representing 5 clubs and some non-club affiliated members, joined together in Morehead City North Carolina in November. Some anglers fished from the beach. Some anglers brought their own boats. Some anglers hired guides. This was an example of “you should have been here yesterday” and “you should have stayed an extra day”.

The weather gods were determined to test our skills and sea legs. We were met with 20 knot winds and agitated waters. Even in these challenging conditions, the anglers endured, and false albacore and blue fish were seen. Unfortunately, the always seemed to present themselves upwind, challenging the best of casters. It would have been great if more fish had been caught, but there is more to these events than just fishing. New waters were fished, education was presented, meals were shared, and the comradery of our membership escalated.



**Ken Louko, of Atlanta Fly Fishing Club,  
with a bluefish.**



Members from all over the Southeast came to fish the salt (left). President Pauli with a false albacore on a blustery day.

At our dinner on Saturday night, all the anglers voiced that they wanted to return and do it again. The people have spoken so mark your calendars for November 7-10, 2024. In the words of General MacArthur, “We shall return!”.

Our 2024 goals for Fishing the Water of the SEC have expanded. In 2023 we scheduled 3 events: Rosman, NC, Yellowstone Anglers Base Camp in Wyoming, and the Crystal Coast of NC. For 2024 we will again have 3 like events where all members are invited. In addition, we’ll be facilitating clubs hosting other clubs to fish their local waters. Also, we’ll develop an event where all members are involved, and you can fish your local waters to participate. More information will be coming on our 2024 initiatives.





Southeastern Council

## Southeastern Council Board News

Seeking board members for the following:

### Secretary

We need someone who is committed to attending each meeting and keeping the minutes; comfortable working with online files in google drive; and understands the business issues associated with being Secretary of a corporation. We have a registered agent to help with this.

### Treasurer

Seeking someone with some accounting or bookkeeping experience; comfortable working with Quicken or willing to learn; comfortable with online transactions and platforms like Paypal and Venmo.

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