

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 3, Issue 3

September 27, 2024

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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Photo by Lisa Swenson

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fly Anglers,

I hope you made some great memories over the Summer. It continues to be a long hot season without much rain for many of us. If you find it a bit challenging to fish that low clear water, maybe take some time off and work on your casting. Every hour on the field will pay off in fewer frustrations on the water. You have my personal guarantee on that. Plus, you may perfect a fly-first presentation, essential to success under tough conditions. Be sure to check out the articles about the path to becoming a casting instructor and the Fly Casting Skills Challenge testing.

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 at www.secffi.org for info on all the clubs and resources available to FFi members.

Kind Regards,

Cathy Valancius

VP and Communications Director
Southeastern Council of FFi



Cathy and a local coosa redeye bass, a native black bass species.

Our cover photo comes to us from Lisa Swenson, NC resident, GA Women Fly Fishing member and intrepid fly fishing traveler. Follow her adventures [@travelinggapeach](https://www.instagram.com/travelinggapeach).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Angler:

It's been a long hot summer so I know we are all looking forward to cooler weather and some trout fishing. Personally, I'm looking forward to the fishing for False Albacore in Morehead City with our Chief Fishing Officer, Bobby Brewer and other SEC anglers for this year's false albacore. Last year it was epic. Hope to see you there.

Welcome to some of our new board members. Jeff Wilson from Ball Ground, Georgia has joined us as Secretary and has already proven his skills in handling new Board Members and planning for 2025. Terry Hackett, joined us a few months ago and has accepted the position of VP, Conservation from Kathleen Bergeron who is now on the FFI board handling Conservation. Tim Brandt, of the fishing committee, has moved onto the board and continues organizing great fishing events. Bill Jewett, President of Carolina Fly Fishing Club, is now our Fly Tying Coordinator. Bill has worked with the SEC for many years at the Fly Fishing Show and at the Kingfisher Classic. Look for big things from Bill.

As you will see in this newsletter, the upcoming Kingfisher Classic, will be our biggest event yet. Please come to Cleveland, Tennessee, near Chattanooga, for some tying with accomplished tiers and casting with Casting Instructors.

See you on the Water,

Debra Pauli

President, Southeastern Council

president@secffi.org



Debra at Bryce Canyon NP, part of a national parks grand tour. Something we should all do once.

Upcoming Events


FLY TYING FESTIVAL

SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL
OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2024

KINGFISHER CLASSIC


SAI 26 OCTOBER 9:30AM TO 4:30PM

LEE UNIVERSITY CLEVELAND, TN
SCIENCE AND MATH COMPLEX 1200 N. OCOEE ST., CLEVELAND, TN 37311



SEMINARS








- Arc Fly Rods**
Bamboo Fly Rod building
- Troy Basso**
Flies and Tactics for Targeting "Trash Fish"
- Fisheries Mgmt and Stream Restoration
- Producing Fly Tying Videos
- Growing Your Social Media Presence










TIERS DEMONSTRATING DIFFERENT STYLES OF FLIES.
AUCTIONS. LEARN-TO-TIE FLIES STATION. FLY CASTING
LESSONS & SKILLS TESTING. DOOR PRIZES. VENDORS

FREE ENTRY, SEE YOU THERE!

THANK YOU DONORS:





WWW.THEKINGFISHERCLASSIC.COM

FOR LODGING, SUNDAY FISHING, TIER BIOS AND MORE

Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 26

9:30-4:30PM

LEE UNIV.

MATH AND SCIENCE COMPLEX
1200 N. OCOEE ST. CLEVELAND, TN

EVENTS SCHEDULE

ALL DAY

Fly tying activities and featured tying demonstrations every hour on the big screen

9:30 AM -
11:30 AM

Open fly casting clinic with FFI-certified instructors

1 PM -
3 PM

Casting Demos and FFI Skills Awards testing available

ALL DAY

Seminars:

- Arc Fly Rods - Bamboo Fly Rod building
- Troy Basso - Flies and Tactics for Targeting "Trash Fish"
- Fisheries Mgmt and Stream Restoration
- Producing Fly Tying Videos
- Growing Your Social Media Presence

ALL DAY

Vise demos by Atlas Vise
Bamboo rods by ARC Rods
Poster exhibit by Lee University Biology Students

ALL DAY

Ranger Outdoors Group warehouse pop-up shop

Lodgings: Discounted room block available at La Quinta Inn Cleveland, TN
ref: SE Council Fly Fishers

Sunday optional guided float on the Hiwasee River with Southeastern Anglers
(ref: Southeastern Council)

Register as a fly tier

Volunteer at the Classic

Upcoming Events

FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024 MOREHEAD CITY, NC NORTH CAROLINA'S CRYSTAL COAST

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.

Click the sign-up button below for all the hotel details, meals, itinerary and guide suggestions. You can watch a presentation about the area on our [website event page](#).

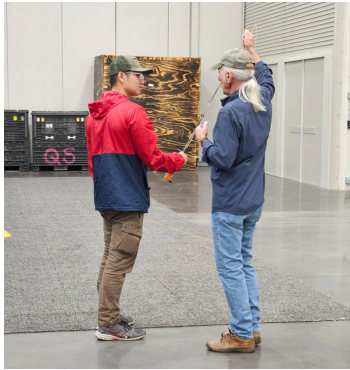
[SIGN UP AND DETAILS](#)



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2, 2025

**The SEC goes to the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show
come visit or volunteer in the booth and learning center.**



How to Become a Casting Instructor

by Brian Deloach, MCI, PhD, SEC Casting Director

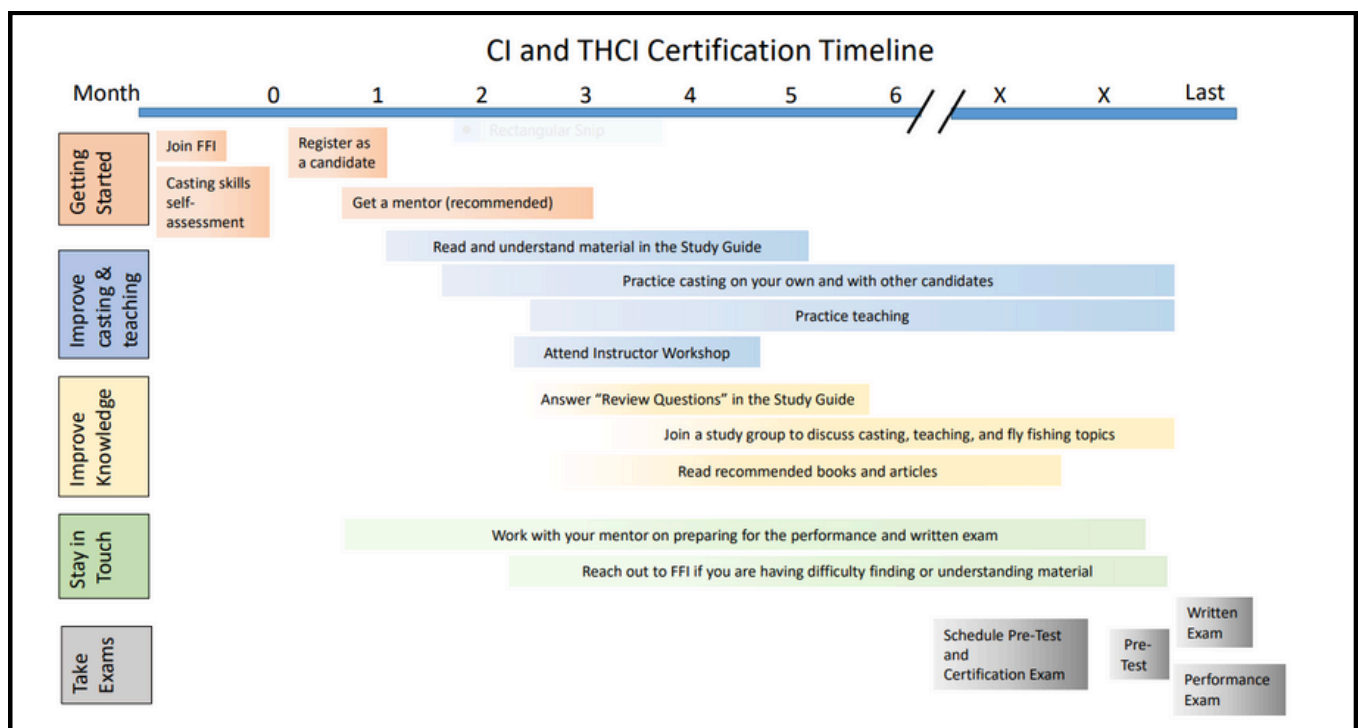
Want to Become an FFI-Certified Instructor? Here's How:

In the past two years, FFI has experienced an unprecedented demand for certified instructors. With growing attendance at trade shows, clinics, and other FFI-sponsored events, there are never enough instructors to go around, and the ones who wish to pursue the path to certification often feel lost and have no idea how to get started. We've felt this keenly in the Southeastern Council.

All that is about to change.

FFI has produced a resource called the CCI Roadmap. It is an eight-page document containing everything a prospective CCI candidate needs to know with embedded hyperlinks to resources, timelines, and the people you need to contact to assist you in the process.

The same committee that produced this powerful resource is currently working on a similar roadmap for MCI candidates. Look for this resource to be finalized in the coming months.



This timeline is one of the useful pieces of information in the Roadmap document. There are also a frequently asked questions section and a cost estimate.

A Weed Whacker and Other Necessary Items

by Brian Deloach, MCI, PhD, SEC Casting Director

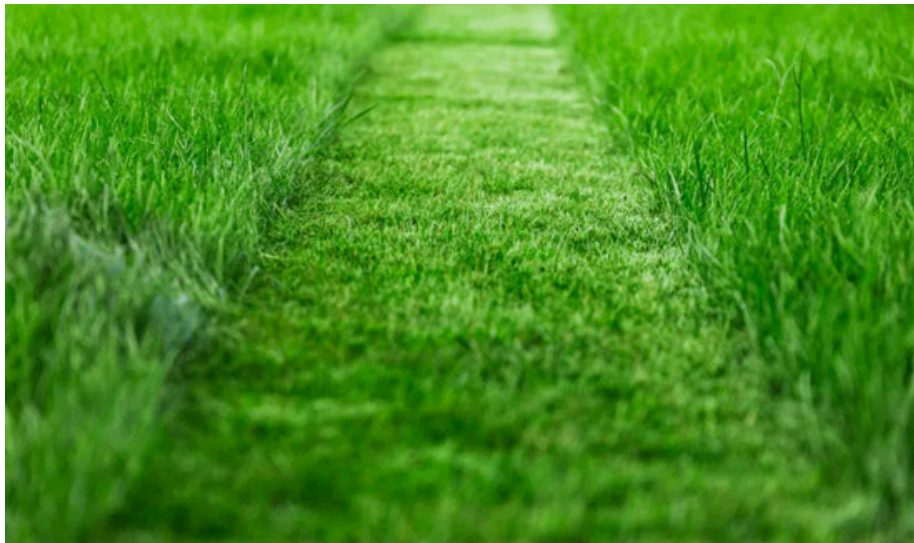
For those of us who are always training, we've probably settled on the kit needed to practice on grass: some plastic cones and/or Hula hoops for targets, extra tippet material, and egg yarn when we snap off the practice fly from a poorly timed cast. After a grueling, three-hour session with a CCI candidate, I have committed to expand my kit because I was woefully unprepared. It is always my goal to get the best performance possible out of a potential CCI candidate, and I've realized that after nearly ten years of instruction, my kit was sorely lacking for that purpose.

We arrived at the location to find that the grass was like a Grateful Dead fan after the third day of the music festival: too wet, too high, and way too gnarly. Every other task of the mock-test, the candidate was reaching around his ankles to pull at dandelions and other obstructions catching his shooting line like hitch points on a bass boat. The grass was so snaggy that some of his slower casts would catch and send the forward loop out in a series of hideous shock-waves, through no fault of his own. Further, we had a river nearby to conduct the roll-casting portion of the exam, and I realized I had no floatant in my kit! After casting for two hours on the aforementioned Grateful Dead grass, his leader was a mess, and his fly line was filthy. A water-logged bit of yarn sinks the moment you set your D-loop, and a dirty line follows it down to the depths, leading a novice caster to overpower an otherwise easy roll cast because they're trying to turn over a deeply sunken rig. I ran to my truck and realized I had some ChapStick hiding in the console. We rubbed the fly, leader, and the first couple feet of the fly line with the cherry-flavored mess, and BOOM he was suddenly roll-casting like a pro!

On to the grass issue. I have a battery-powered weed whacker, and, as Lefty is my witness, I'll never again go to an unfamiliar venue to teach without packing in that weed whacker just in case! Public park? Check with a ranger - I'm



sure they'll be fine with it. Private property? Check with the owner - it's usually the person you're training! Clearing a 70 x 2ft. strip will take all of five minutes, and you or the person you're training will not have to worry about snags. If the grass is really REALLY high, you'll need to bring a rake, too, to clear the lane. As an added bonus, constantly trying to place the presentation cast within this narrow lane will lead to better tracking in the cast and greater accuracy overall. In fact, I recommend mowing a casting lane if possible for your own practice venue; you'll see your tracking issues start to vanish! There's something about knowing you've got to lay the cast down dead center to avoid a tangle that really smooths out the loop. So, consider adding ChapStick and a weed whacker to your practice kit, and always be prepared for the high, wet, and gnarly.



THE FLY CASTING SKILLS CHALLENGE PROGRAM

You may have noticed that many of our casting clinics now include FFI Fly Casting Skills Challenge testing and wondered what that is. Here is the program summary from FFI. Complete details can be found on the [FFI website](#) (you have to log in).

The Fly Casting Skills Challenge Program is designed for the experienced beginner caster, as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun, voluntary way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion at one's own pace. It allows participants to measure progress with an option of receiving documentation and recognition for doing so. Each casting challenge at the Bronze, Silver, and Gold game levels is directly applicable to increasingly difficult fishing scenarios and includes these general areas:

- Pick-up and Lay-down cast
- False casting
- Roll casting
- Reach mends, slack line, and curve casts
- Accuracy, from Dominant and Non-Dominant sides
- Distance and shooting line
- Hauling
- Casting while seated or kneeling
- Presenting the backcast

SKILLS CHALLENGE DOCUMENTATION AND RECOGNITION

Successful completion for all three skill levels requires verification by an evaluator. The Bronze level challenge requires that the evaluator must be an observer (such as a Club member), a Silver or Gold level award recipient, or a CICP Certified Instructor. Silver and Gold level challenges require an evaluator who is a Gold level award recipient or a CICP Certified Instructor. To receive recognition at any level, the participant, who has successfully qualified, completes the form located at the bottom of the score sheet. Score sheets also require a signature from the evaluator. Participants need to be FFI members in order to apply for recognition. A fee must accompany the form in order to receive the recognition package. The recognition package includes: a recognition of completion award document and a pin corresponding to the level in which the participant as qualified.



The Gold Challenge pin and certificate awarded to Michael Helms, of Carolina Fly Fishing Club, our first gold recipient.

Ask the Fly Fishing “Expert?”

by Terry Hackett,
SEC VP of Conservation



You asked and we listened, but despite that, the most interesting fly fishing “expert” in my world is back to help you with all that confusing fly fishing jargon. Cooler temps and college football mean one thing here in the southeast...time to chase some fish at the coast! All you gotta do is look for the birds, right?. Oh, and here are some other related questions and answers:

Q: What does foul hook mean?

A: It’s when you hook a “bird” while fly fishing for bait-busting fish.

It also comes with a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. 🤪

Q: What is a “stripping” basket used for?

A: A laundry hamper.

Q: Can you explain a strip set?

A: Sure, that’s two matching slivers. 🎣

Southeastern Happenings

THE GREAT WESTERN MIGRATION



Each Summer, Southeasterners migrate west to fish the rivers around Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. Thank you Yellowstone Anglers' Basecamp for hosting the FFI groups. Above are Spenser Miller (left) of Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, Yolanda Santiago White with ladies from Ga Women Fly Fishers (middle) and Jackie Vaughn of GWFF (right) with a tiger. Below, Nanette Holland O'Hara of GWFF enjoying some dry fly fishing.



Southeastern Happenings

Congratulations to our FFI Award Winners!



SEC President, Debra Pauli, was awarded the 2024 FFI Council Leadership Award. This award is presented to a Fly Fishers International Council President who has demonstrated unusual devotion to FFI and whose outstanding contributions have benefited FFI.



Captain Bobby Brewer was awarded the 2024 Southeastern Council Award of Excellence by Debra Pauli, President of the Southeastern Council. This award is presented to those individuals in each Fly Fishers International Council who have made outstanding contributions to FFI at the local or regional level.

Bobby joined the SEC in 2023 and became Chief Fishing Officer. We are fortunate to have Bobby on the Board, because he clearly brings both his business acumen and his guiding skills to the job. Bobby took on the CFO position without any direction other than to determine what needs to be done and let us support your work. He has created a standard practice for event planning that will continue long into the future.

Southeastern Happenings

In Remembrance...



David Olson

The Southeastern Council mourns the passing of David Olson, President of the Florida Council. David spent his final moments doing what he loved most, fly fishing for Tarpon in the surf. He is remembered as a lover of fly fishing, a great teacher, mentor, and friend.

...we will see you around the riverbend.

If you or your club have 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



Southeastern Council Board News

Please welcome our new board members:

Bill Jewett (of NC) as Fly Tying Coordinator

Tim Brandt (of SC) as next years' Chief Fishing Officer

We are in need of team players to keep the Southeastern Council momentum going.

We seek board members for the following:

Communications Director

Treasurer

Membership

Newletter Editor

Education

FFI Women Connect Liaison

Please email president@secffi.org, if you are interested in volunteering for the Southeastern Council.

imagine
YOUR AD HERE



email us
WE CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN!

communications@secffi.org

Thank you all for supporting the Southeastern Council!

Major supporter:

