

# THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 1, Issue 1

April 19, 2022

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Board

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## Greetings from the Editor

Dear readers,

We are pleased to share with you the first issue of the Kingfisher. We would love to feature your photos, artwork, and 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 stories. 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.

Happy fishing,

Cathy Valancius

SEC FFi Communications Director



## "The Kingfisher"

Besides being stunningly beautiful, kingfishers are among the best fishers in the avian world. If only we were half as efficient at our craft as these regal birds. They mainly eat small fish and aquatic creatures from the waterways where they nest in stream banks.

The belted kingfisher (our cover model) is the most common species of kingfisher in the US. This one is a female. Unlike most birds, female kingfishers are the more brightly colored sex. Click the [video](#) below for amazing footage of kingfishers hunting.



# A Message from the President

Welcome to the inaugural edition of “The Kingfisher”. Congratulations to our Editor Cathy Valancius, who just recently joined our Board. I also want to recognize Tim Guilfoile who laid the ground work for this publication.

The Southeastern Council (SEC) (<https://secffi.org/board-members>) has completed a very successful first quarter to bring the SEC into the position to reach out to our members. Please visit our recently completed website at (<https://secffi.org/>) to learn more about the Council and looking forward we want this website to be your go to resource for everything fly fishing in the southeastern region. Let us know the pages you follow in your area for inclusion on our “Fishing Resources” page.

The upcoming Blue Ridge Trout Festival (<https://blueridgetroutfest.com/>) on April 30 in Blue Ridge, Georgia will be an opportunity to meet with our members and potential members. The SEC is an event sponsor and will have a booth at the festival. Please come by and say hello. If you can help us with the booth, please email me at [president@secffi.org](mailto:president@secffi.org).

June is Women’s Fly Fishing Month, sponsored by FFi Women Connect (<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/FFI-Women-Connect>). Read more about the SEC’s plans for a virtual event for the southeastern region in this issue.

The SEC looks forward to participating with your organization. We have speakers who can address your organization either virtually or in person. Our Education Vice President, James Wallner will present to the Cape Fear Flyfishers (<https://capefearff.com/>) on April 20. Enjoy this edition of “The Kingfisher”. Please email Cathy at [communications@secffi.org](mailto:communications@secffi.org) with ideas for future issues. We want to include what you are doing and what is important to you in future newsletters.

Debra Pauli  
President



# Southeastern Happenings



## VETERAN'S FLY FISHING BIG CANOE, GA

A great time with their veterans. There were several beginners and first timers. Overall everyone had a great time. Weather was perfect and the fish were happy.

## GEORGIA WOMEN'S FLYFISHERS

The first annual crawfish boil was great fun and enjoyed by all who attended, many of whom had never eaten crawfish.





## NORTH KENTUCKY FLY FISHING

Donald Lambert and Ron Kornrumpf having fun out working the high Spring waters.



## TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

Jeff Mahagan and Terry Hackett gettin' after the shad run with William Paul (not pictured)





# ATLANTA FLY FISHING SHOW

It was back this year, bringing out well-known tyers, casting demonstrations, and speakers. It was great to see everyone in person, after a long break!



Rob Smith showing his cover shot.



FFI Booth



Your newsletter editor hamming it up with John and Katie Demuth



FFi fly tying education table



Jimmy Jacobs and Polly Dean of "On the Fly South"



Fly tyers Tim Flagler, Son Tao and Eric Clymore




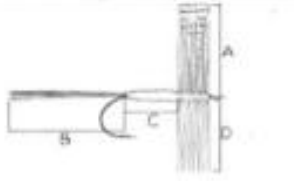
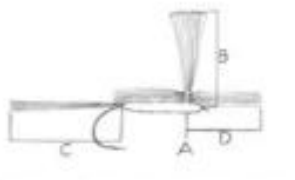
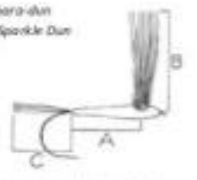
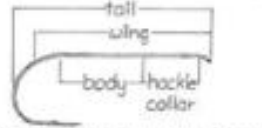
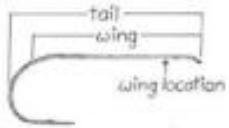
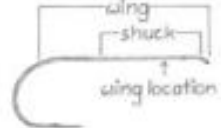


# Tips on Fly Proportions from fly tyer and author Skip Morris

Flies with good proportions—wings and tails of proper length, hackle fibers neither overlong nor stubby, a body of suitable length to balance the look of the fly, and much more—not only look handsome, they convince trout, hook them solidly, and, best of all, bring them to net. A fly with bad proportions? A fly like that won't look like the bug it's supposed to suggest and therefore won't fool trout, it won't sit on the water in the right posture (which also won't fool trout), won't hook trout solidly, and consequently too many of the trout it does hook never see the net. Click to see his full 3-page [chart](#) which you can print for free.

**Skip Morris's TROUT-FLY PROPORTION CHART**

www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com

Traditional Dry Fly	Parachute Dry Fly	Compara-dun/Sparkle Dun
		
<p><b>A.</b> Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend  <b>B.</b> Tail: full hook length  <b>C.</b> Body: up slightly past mid-shank  <b>D.</b> Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times gape</p>  <p><b>NOTE:</b> Rough-water and hair-wing flies may have wider hackle-collars and shorter bodies than this.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Wing location: just past 3/4 up shank  <b>B.</b> Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend  <b>C.</b> Tail: full hook length  <b>D.</b> Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times gape</p>  <p><b>NOTE:</b> Wings on parachute flies are sometimes shorter than this.</p>	<p>Photo: Compara-dun          Illustration: Sparkle Dun</p>  <p><b>A.</b> Wing location: 3/4 up shank  <b>B.</b> Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend  <b>C.</b> Shuck: 1/2 to 3/4 shank (Sparkle Dun) or tail: full hook length (Compara-dun)</p>
		
<p>©All flies tied and illustrations drawn by Skip Morris</p>	<p>☛Photographs and layout by Carol Ann Morris☚</p>	<p>© Skip Morris</p>

Skip's Ultra-t body, 500 Trout Stream (in American school) and 365 Fly-tying Tip for Trout, Bass, and Fatfish (Sparkle Dun)

# Monitoring Streams with Science on the Fly



The Southeastern Council of FFI has the opportunity to partner with Science on the Fly to identify additional waters for sampling that would fill important data gaps. There are rivers & streams within our region that would benefit from additional water sampling data so that strategies could be developed to improve water quality. Our efforts have gotten the Tuckaseegee added to the streams monitored by **SOTF**, but we are in need of samplers for the Tuck.

Please provide information for up to 3 rivers or streams within your state that you believe would benefit from water quality sampling or additional sampling.

Please include:

Your name and club affiliation (if any)

Name of the river/stream

Sampling location (either description or coordinates)

Reason for recommending the sampling site (E.g., water is an important local, regional and/or international destination for fly fishing, is essential habitat for a fish species of special recreational value and/or biological concern)

Please send all information and recommendations to Jacob Knight at [conservation@secffi.org](mailto:conservation@secffi.org).



# Atlantic Striped Bass FFI Public Comment

by **Jacob Knight** VP, Conservation for the Southeastern Council FFi

Atlantic Striped Bass are a favorite species of many fly anglers, especially those up and down the East coast. Part of the FFi mission is to fight for the conservation of all fish in all waters, so to do that FFi has submitted some great **comments** on the Interagency Fisheries Management Plan for the Atlantic Striped Bass.

For some time now the Striped Bass have been threatened by poor conservation practices through recreational anglers and commercial fishing operations. FFi's comments address some key issues like those in respect to spawning grounds, sound recreational catch and release practices, plus the overfishing of menhaden which is a major contributor to striped bass forage. The remaining comments attempt to drive home the point that this is an urgent matter and not one that should be observed before action is taken, we are at the point of action NOW.

Atlantic Striped Bass are a treasure and one that we should protect through the measures in the **letter's comments**, but menhaden should not be overlooked in this since they play an enormous role in feeding so many of the coastal fish that we all love to chase with a fly.

# Early Spring Fishing – Locating Feeding Trout

BY ROB FIGHTMASTER

Owner of [Fightmaster Fly Fishing](#), NC

In early spring, you're often fishing right on the edge of good water temperatures. Throughout the day, you may encounter totally different feeding behaviors – from hour to hour and from pool to pool.

Though it's not quite this exact, 50-degrees is kind of the magic number we're looking for. When we see water temperatures at or above 50-degrees for the better part of the day, we typically start to see actively feeding fish. This is due to not only the change in metabolism, but also the increase in bug activity. It can be deceiving, though, when we start to have these warmer days but the overnight temperatures are still getting pretty cold. It may be late morning or early afternoon before the water has had time to warm to a "stimulating" temperature.

So forget what your granddad told you about getting to the water at dawn. That's great advice during the heat of Summer. In early Spring, it will usually only give you a lot of casting practice. There are always variables based mostly on weather. But your best fishing this time of year will probably be between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sleep in, eat a late breakfast, get to the water around 10. You'll have time to gear up, and enjoy your afternoon.

This is also not the best time of year for making that 7-mile hike to a high elevation brook trout stream. With very rare exceptions, your water temperatures are going to be considerably cooler at high elevations. This is the time to focus on lower and mid elevation streams.

Now that you're at the right place at the right time, there are other things you want to look for. While slower pools often fish poorly later in the year, they can be great places to fish in early spring, mostly because of the abundance of food. The best hatches, at least in the Smokies, occur in the spring and you can target a lot of feeding fish in these pools. Dry fly fishing can be at its best on early spring afternoons and it's a great opportunity to find a larger brown trout feeding on the surface. Even if there is not an active hatch, there are plenty of bugs preparing to hatch. Drifting nymphs along the bottom, particularly near the heads of these pools can be very productive.

The other advantage to larger pools this time of year is they typically have less tree canopy. The water gets more direct sunlight. Seeking direct sunlight is counterintuitive to many fishermen. But in the early season, it often means warmer water. And even if the sunlight isn't significantly warming the water, it is likely stimulating more bug activity. This will in turn, stimulate fish. Still, bright sunlight can have a negative impact on fish and their willingness to feed. I try to seek out and pay particular attention to the "sweet spots." Sweet spots are good holding water that has a nice mix of sun and shadows.

Finally, when choosing days to fish this time of year, really try to pay attention to the overnight lows more than the daytime highs. Warmer overnights will better maintain those water temperatures we're looking for. And don't be afraid to get wet. A warm rain can raise water temperatures and turn fish on quicker than anything this time of year!



The heads of large pools can be great locations for feeding trout



# 'BOOK REVIEW EXCERPT FROM "FLY FISHING KENTUCKY' A DETAILED, USEFUL GUIDE"

BY GARY GARTH, LCJ

In their new self-published book "Fly Fishing Kentucky," authors J. Thomas Schrodt and Valerie L. Askren give fishermen news they can use. Very specific news. For example, fly anglers destined for the East Fork of Indian Creek can turn to Page 165 and learn that the stream is located within Daniel Boone National Forest near the Red River Gorge Geological Area and is easily accessible off Forest Service Road 9B. It receives four rainbow trout stockings annually along with one stocking of browns.

This is standard fishing book fare. But once on the section of the creek that parallels FSR 9B, Schrodt and Askren advise anglers which fly to tie on and how to fish it: "Drifting a #14 Prince Nymph or a Bead-Head Hare's Ear will get you a hookup. If possible use a high stick presentation and a small indicator."

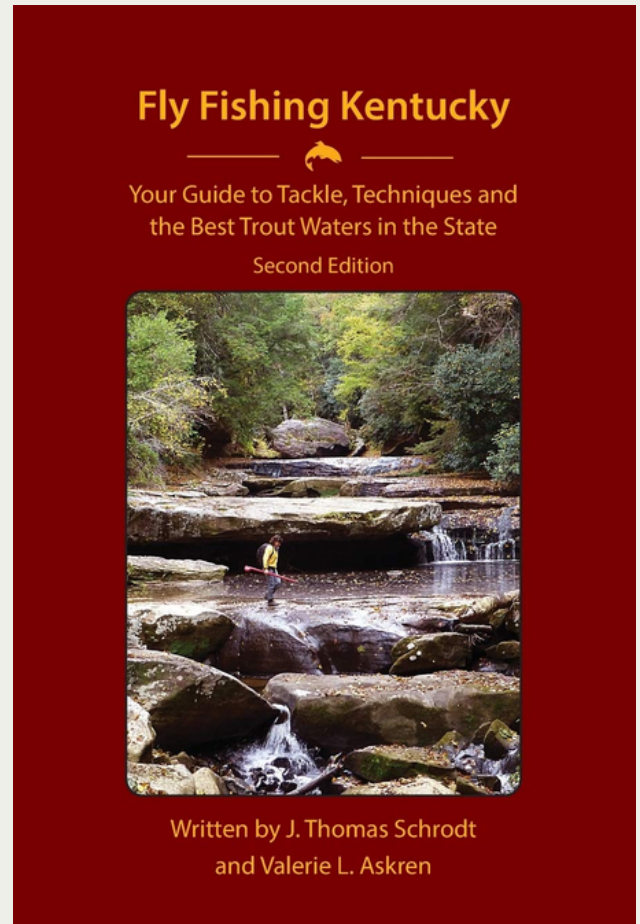
Does this buddy-on-the-stream sort of advice guarantee a catch? No. Is it refreshingly optimistic? Yes.

"Fly Fishing Kentucky" isn't just advice on where to go and what to do when you get there. The first 86 pages (Part I) are dedicated to tackle, knots, casting tips and techniques, the state's trout species, entomology, matching the hatch, reading the water, license requirements, creel limits and more.

Part II is titled "The Best Trout Waters in Kentucky." Schrodt and Askren profile 36 waters, including five lakes (Laurel River, Wood Creek, Mill Creek, Greenbo and Paintsville), six tailwaters (Nolin River, Herrington Lake, Taylorsville Lake, Cumberland River, Cave Run Lake and Paintsville Lake) and 27 rivers and streams.

Schrodt and Askren will get you to the waters they describe. Catching fish is up to you. "Fly Fishing Kentucky" is well-researched, well-written and nicely illustrated with a hefty dose of nuts-and-bolts information. It's hardly the last word on fly-fishing in Kentucky, but it's definitely one that fishermen could keep handy.

For more information contact Schrodt and Askren at [FlyFishingKY@gmail.com](mailto:FlyFishingKY@gmail.com)



# Bass on the Fly

It is April, which means the weather is getting warm and bass are getting hungry! The following article is from [Fly Lords Magazine](#). These five tips are a great review or a good starting point for a great season of bass fishing. The online article can be found here: [Five Tips for Successful Bass Fishing](#). Article was written by [Meat Market Flies](#) in August of 2018.

## 1. Fish the Fly

This is probably one of the most important elements to having more success bass fishing, it's also the number one thing I see most people do incorrectly. I know it's easy to get into the "strip...strip...strip" rhythm, but as a fisheries biologist who spends an unreal amount of time looking at baitfish, I can tell you for certain that animals rarely ever move like this. I'll change up my retrieve constantly bass fishing. I'll add long pauses, short fast strips, long slow strips all in the same retrieve. Baitfish and other prey animals tend to do a lot of darting and your retrieve should reflect this.

## 2. Choose the Correct Gear

This is one of the most overlooked elements in bass fishing. You need to be fishing the right rod for the right situations. We use anywhere from a 6-8 weight rods depending on the size of bug we are throwing, and how much vegetation is in the body of water we are fishing. The amount of vegetation is key because bass love to peel into reeds, grasses, algae or any other vegetation around them when hooked and you'll want a rod with a stronger backbone to steer them out of this. In addition to choosing the correct rod, the line you choose with your set up is crucial, I personally believe that the line is the most important and most underrated part of your fishing set up. You need to have more than just your "all-rounder" trout line when bass fishing. You'll be throwing bigger bugs that require a line with an aggressive front taper and large head to turn over the flies.



Photo courtesy of Fly Lords Magazine



### 3. Offer a Substantial Meal

This is a very important element to bass fishing. I usually never fish flies under 3 inches when bass fishing and usually I'm closer to 6 inches with my bass flies. This is for a couple reasons. Bass absolutely inhale food, and they will inhale your fly. I've seen dozens of pictures of guys with small poppers or streamers lodged in the gills or deep in the gut of bass, and while these are extremely hardy fish they still deserve to be treated with respect and hooking a fish in the gills will most likely result in mortality. The other main reason I fish big flies for bass is that they are major predators! They spend the majority of their year eating baitfish well over 2 inches. I'm fortunate enough to have a bass pond out my window and this year I witnessed one of the larger bass in the pond take a gosling. These fish are opportunistic and will gladly take a shot at what appears to be a high-calorie offering.



Photo courtesy of Fly Lords Magazine

### 4. Read Your Surroundings

Just like on your favorite trout stream you need to be able to read the water, even on a lake or pond. Fish around structures, sunken logs, rocks, and even pieces of trash like tires or abandoned shopping carts can work. You also should pay attention to vegetation. Not all grasses hold fish. If you watch the bait chucking bass fisherman on TV they understand this perfectly. You won't see them fishing those uniformly growing grass beds that look like a manicured lawn. They do fish around the grass beds that look like they had a bad hair day, and the transition zones leading up to the grass line. If you really want to get nerdy about it, different species of grasses respire (take up oxygen) at different rates than other species. Knowing your aquatic vegetation will help you understand what grasses hold fish and what grasses don't.



Photo courtesy of Fly Lords Magazine

### 5. Time of Day is Crucial

This one is pretty simple, just like in trout fishing, bass fishing can be hot or cold and the time of day can determine this. In the dog days of summer you'll want to be on the water either early morning or late evening (personally I prefer late evenings), and during the colder months, the exact opposite tends to be true.



Photo courtesy of Fly Lords Magazine

# FREE FISHING DAYS IN THE SOUTHEAST

Alabama - Second Saturday in June. June 11, 2022

Arkansas - Second full weekend in June. June 10-12, 2022

Florida -

First Saturday April 2nd and Sunday in April 3rd, 2022 (freshwater)

Saturday June 11th and Sunday June 12th (freshwater)

Saturday June 4th and Sunday June 5th (saltwater)

First Saturday in September (saltwater) September 3rd

Saturday following Thanksgiving (saltwater)

Georgia - June 4, June 11, September 24, 2022

Kentucky - June 4-5, 2022

Louisiana - Second Saturday and Sunday in June. June 11-12, 2022

Mississippi - June 4-5, 2022. July 4 Independence Day

Missouri - Second Saturday and Sunday in June. June 11-12, 2022

North Carolina - July 4 Independence Day

South Carolina - Memorial Day June 30, 2022

Independence Day, July 4, 2022

Tennessee - Second Saturday in June. June 11, 2022

Virginia - June 3-5, 2022



# Mosquitos Are Attracted to Certain Colors

Mosquitoes are primarily attracted to the carbon dioxide we exhale. But, new research shows, there's a second-level attractor that might be what prompts the mosquito to bite you: specific colors.

Scientists at the University of Washington collected a bunch of female mosquitos (males don't bite) and put them in a container. When they pumped in a little carbon dioxide, the mosquitos got out tiny bibs and knives and forks and looked around for food.

Scientists then put little dots of color in with the mosquitos to see how they reacted. If the dot was blue, green, purple, or white, colors that have short wavelengths, the mosquitos ignored them. But colors with longer wavelengths, red, black, orange, for example, were like ringing a dinner bell. In case you're wondering, human skin, regardless of individual pigmentation, is firmly in the red, orange, longer wavelength spectrum.

So, when you head out on your next fishing trip, make sure you're wearing your favorite blue, green, purple, or white long sleeve shirt. Still might pack that Deet, Off, Thermacell, Picaridin, Permethrin, etc.  
For more info. check out [this article](#).



# Upcoming Events

APRIL 30, 2022



PLEASE JOIN US IN DOWNTOWN BLUE RIDGE, GA  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH  
10 AM TO 6 PM

THERE WILL BE FLY-FISHING PROGRAMS, MUSIC, A BEER  
GARDEN, FOOD, OUTFITTERS AND MORE!

FOR INFORMATION GO TO THE WEBSITE CLICK [HERE](#)



# Upcoming Events

## NOVEMBER 5-6

Over 40 demonstration fly tyers from all over the Southeast and parts beyond will gather for the much celebrated “Fly Tyer’s Weekend” to put on a fly tying show at Tremont Lodge and Resort in the beautiful western Smoky Mountain hamlet of Townsend, Tennessee. Fly Fishers International - Southeastern Council and Tremont Lodge and Resort are event sponsors.



The beautiful Tremont Lodge and Resort

# Upcoming Events

June 6

## TALK FISHING WITH THE WOMEN OF THE SEC

Celebrate the 2nd Annual Women's Fly Fishing Month with Fly Fishers International - Women Connect and the Southeastern Council for the month of June! Recognize and celebrate the amazing women fly anglers in your club and join the Southeastern Council in a virtual round-table discussion about women in fly fishing on June 6th at 7PM.

Have a fly angler that would be a great addition to the round-table discussion? Let us know! We also want your ideas for topics! Send your ideas and contacts to Alisa Davis, your Southeastern Council Women Connect Liaison, at [womenconnect@secffi.org](mailto:womenconnect@secffi.org).

If you want to learn more about FFI Women Connect, sign up to be added to the e-mail list, by emailing [womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org).

