

A publication of the Southeastern Council of Fly Fishers International

THE KINGFISHER

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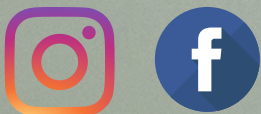
Dear Fly Anglers,

Spring is officially here (even though it was 33 degrees this morning). Get out there and get after those shad and bass runs! Remember the FFi credo - "All Fish, All Waters." Read about the Basscatch Award for catching some different varieties of black bass in their native waters. Stay informed about an important conservation action. Learn how brookies that we love in the Southeast are troublemakers out West. Catch up with what has been happening in the Southeastern Council and plan 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 David Horky, Certified Casting Instructor and guide in Alabama. Follow his guiding and teaching adventures [@davidmatthewflyfishing](https://www.instagram.com/davidmatthewflyfishing)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Angler,

Thanks for attending the recent Annual Meeting of our Council. If you missed the meeting, I reviewed our past activities, and the board filled in what's ahead for this year. You will learn a lot about our plans for 2023 in this newsletter. We are proud of the direction of the SEC. The last year was busy and 2023 will be even busier. We thank everyone for their support last year and look forward to continuing to grow our angling community. So as we look forward, let's review how we got here. It was quite a journey.

In January 2022, similar to aquatic insects, the world was starting to emerge from the depths of social distancing. During that time, we learned to use some tools, such as zoom, that have enabled remotely located fly fishers to join together to share our knowledge and enjoyment of fly fishing. Of course, some things never change so no one shared their secret fishing hole over zoom.

The SEC was emerging from a long period of inactivity, even prior to Covid, in an environment where everyone was still unsure of how to proceed. Clubs were just starting to meet in person.

Your Council had to determine how to support our members while also developing the processes we would follow to complete our mission. We made that transition successfully and the SEC has transitioned from an unknown Council to one with a recognized presence in the Southeast.

We accomplished this through our participation in the Atlanta Fly Fishing Shows, the Blue Ridge Trout Festival and sponsoring casting events with our Clubs as hosts. We also established "Fishing the Waters" of the Southeastern Council with French Broad River Fly Fishers and Rivers Edge Outfitters as our hosts in Cherokee.

We managed our first Fly Tying Rendezvous at Western Carolina University with a group dinner and fishing the following day.

During all of this we learned many things to help us improve our events going forward. These lessons have now become pillars on which we will continue to build the Southeastern Council. One of our biggest challenges is locating venues to use for our events. If you know of a venue, whether big or small, please let me know.

We are most proud of our outreach to Clubs and members. Nothing happens until it is communicated and our communications have been exceptional due to the efforts of our Secretary and Communications Director, Cathy Valancius. “The Kingfisher” is a fabulous magazine published quarterly. We would like for you to share your photos and event notifications with us for your event to be recognized in all of our social media.

Nothing beats in person communications and I was honored to speak at a number of Clubs both in person and via zoom. I’d like to speak to all of our clubs so that members can learn about the SEC and Fly Fishers International and why it is important for each angler. Just drop me a line and I will try to be at your meeting in person. Next Tuesday, I will be speaking to a new fly fishing Club located in Sugar Hill, Georgia.

Our progress can be measured in many ways but one tangible way is in the growth of our membership. We started 2022 with 840 members and ended the year with 941 which is the highest growth rate of any council in the US. Just last month, we added 59 new anglers to our roster. Please remember that one third of our members are not associated with a Club. We want to reach every member of the Southeastern Council and see them at our events.

Happy Fishing!

Debra Pauli

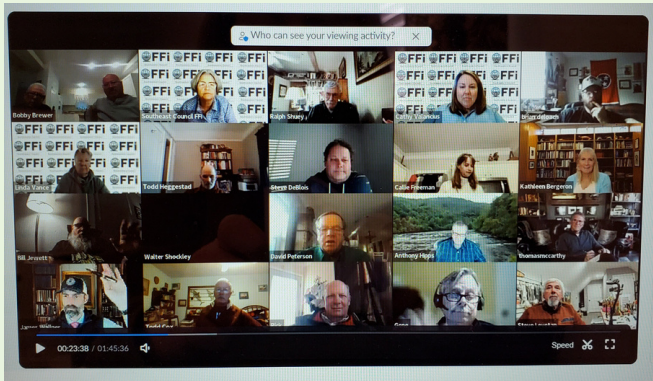
President, Southeastern Council

president@secffi.org

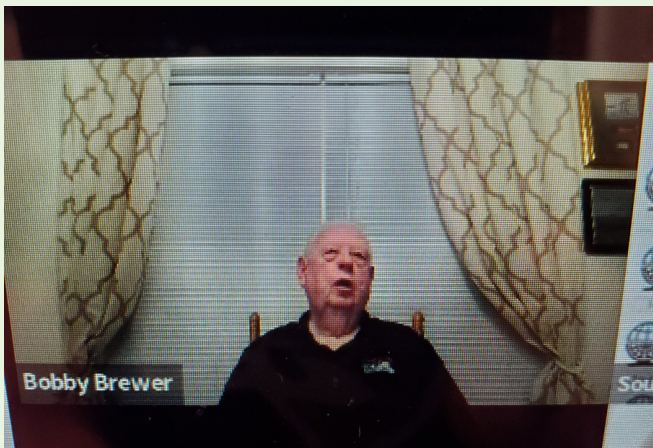
Southeastern Happenings...

2023 Southeastern Council Annual Meeting

We had a great meeting outlining the agenda of the Council for the next year. Our speaker was Captain Jacob "Jake" Jordan. He spoke about building his famous saltwater fishing schools and his globe trotting career in fly fishing. You can listen to the recording of the meeting through the [link on our website](#).



Good turnout for our annual member meeting. Each board member spoke about their projects.



Captain Jake Jordan (left) interviewed by Bobby Brewer, our new Chief Fishing Officer (CFO) - here is a little teaser from an amazing interview: "We started the first catch and release tarpon tournament..."
...at the time, they just hung tarpon up on hooks for people driving by to see, that was the advertising.

Southeastern Happenings...

2023 ATLANTA FLY FISHING SHOW

There were 3 days of FUN this year, bringing out well-known fly tyers, casting demonstrations, and speakers. It was great to see familiar faces from SEC events, as well as meeting new friends and signing up a record number of new FFi members!



The SEC Board would like to thank The Fish Hawk for their generous use of fly tying vises and materials at the show.



Southeastern Happenings



Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers

Getting in the spirit of the FFi Basscatch Program, the TVFF is having a series of fishing days themed around catching bass for the award. They had their first one in February and caught a few bass along with the usual panfish. There are going to be some awards in their club, for sure!



TENNESSEE VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Used fly lines that TVFF collected and recycled in 2019 with Flyvines, a Montana company that “upcycles” used fly line into lanyards, dog collars, and other useful items . They are collecting coiled up used line to send again this year - way to go!

Southeastern Happenings



CAROLINA FLY FISHERS

The club sponsored a "Wine Women and Waders" evening event at Carolina Mountain Sports in Statesville, NC that was a great success.



TRIANGLE FLY FISHERS

Tyler Tschopp catching some shad early this Spring. Piedmont and coastal anglers hit up the shad runs for some springtime fun on the fly.

SEC Club Spotlight: Georgia Women Fly Fishers

www.georgiawomenflyfishing.com, @gawomenflyfishing
by Megan Nellan

The mission of Georgia Women Fly Fishers is that we seek to introduce and educate women in the sport of fly fishing in a supportive, non-competitive environment. Our members-only Facebook page makes it evident that our mission is alive and well -- there are celebratory posts with #keepemwet fish pictures from freshwater and saltwater, posts with specific questions and plenty of helpful advice, invitations to upcoming events such as GWFF fly tying nights at The Fish Hawk or our annual crawfish boil, and informative posts about new resources to support members in their angling experience both on and off the water!



Volunteering for the Becca Sue Klein "All Girls Fish."



GWFF Annual Crawfish Boil

GWFF is the leading female-only fly fishing organization in the southeast; among our 150 members (and growing!), we build community, provide educational opportunities, promote conservation, and connect with the larger



Fishing outing.



Fly tying night at the Fishhawk in Atlanta.

fly fishing community. Our members serve in various leadership roles for fly fishing organizations, events, and causes which include Casting for Recovery-Georgia, Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish, Trout Unlimited, GA TU Trout Camp, Reelin' in Recovery, and Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW).

GWFF meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month, and scheduled fishing days and weekend retreats throughout the year build community and provide support to GWFF members. Each month, our ghillie plans an AMF (After Meeting Fish) which is open to all members no matter the skill level. In November, GWFF hosted a weekend trip to the North Carolina mountains, and in April GWFF is hosting a week-long trip to Ambergris Caye, Belize. With a new strategic plan completed this past fall, which identified five strategic priorities for the future, there's no better time to be a member of Georgia Women Fly Fishers.



Okefenokee Action

Kathleen Bergeron, the Conservation Vice President of the SEC was informed of an application to mine for titanium dioxide next to Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. She reached out to FFI (at the national level) seeking support to oppose the Twin Pines Minerals application to Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a Mining Land Use Permit to authorize an 8,000-acre mining operation that will involve surface mining sand to a depth of 50 feet below surface just east of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area.

The Agency invited Public Comments regarding the application during a 60 day comment period. Kathleen collaborated with others at FFI in preparation of a letter to GA DNR providing comments regarding our concerns and opposition to permit authorization for the proposed activity. You can see the [letter on the FFi website](#). If you have comments or concerns about environmental issues in the Southeastern Council area, please reach out to by Kathleen Bergeron, VP of Conservation (conservation@secffi.org).



Okefenokee Swamp, on the border between GA and FL, is a National Natural Landmark.

THE FFI BASSCATCH PROGRAM

The Basscatch Project is part of an effort by FFI to express the value of species diversity in fisheries and the importance of conserving their individual habitats. The project is designed to help fly fishers appreciate native species diversity and conservation in general and, in this particular case, value the many species of black bass and to understand the sometimes unique differences in their habitat preferences. Presently, 12 species of the genus *Micropterus* exist in some portion of their historic native range. Learning to value these bass in their native range helps ensure a healthy and lasting fishery.

The Basscatch Project is intended to aid in the conservation of black bass by encouraging fly fishers to collect memories of the different black bass they catch and release. Those FFI members who successfully catch four species of bass will receive an FFI hat and certificate in recognition of their accomplishment.



The eligible Basscatch species are:

- Micropterus cahabae (Cahaba bass)
- Micropterus cataractae (Shoal and Altamaha bass)
- Micropterus chattahoochae (Chattahoochee bass)
- Micropterus coosae (Redeye bass)
- Micropterus dolomieu (Smallmouth bass)
- Micropterus salmoides (Largemouth bass)
- Micropterus henshalli (Alabama bass)
- Micropterus notius (Suwannee bass)
- Micropterus punctulatus (Spotted bass)
- Micropterus tallapoosae (Tallapoosa bass)
- Micropterus treculii (Guadalupe bass)
- Micropterus warriorensis (Warrior bass)

Requirements

1. Qualifying black bass must be caught legally and in accordance with all state, local and other applicable laws.
2. All specimens must be caught and released in their native ranges
3. All fish must be caught using barbless (or crimped barb), single-hook flies and fly fishing tackle.
4. PROPER HANDLING OF FISH IS A MUST.
5. Catch must be properly documented according to FFi rules



If you would like to enter the Basscatch program for a cool certificate of recognition and a hat, go to the [BASSCATCH PROGRAM PAGE](#) on the FFi website for full rules regarding entry and native ranges of species. If you catch another 4 different species you can receive another award. If you catch them all, you must really love bass on the fly, and will get a special "All Basscatch Award."

THE TROJAN FISH

by Linda Vance (womenconnect@secffi.org),
Women Connect Liaison - Southeastern Council

For many Eastern anglers, the prospect of catching a feisty wild brookie can motivate us to our own feats of athleticism, pursuing them in the high elevation streams where they are making a last stand against habitat loss, climate change, and non-native species. Anglers who lament the decline of the Eastern brookie may therefore be surprised to learn that in the Western US, the tables are completely turned: researchers, fisheries managers and stream activists are actively looking for ways to eradicate brook trout. Introduced throughout the West in the late 1800s and early 1900s, brook trout have been remarkably successful, too often displacing native fish through direct competition, hybridization, and predation. But elimination is no small feat: poisons like rotenone are indiscriminate, killing native and invasive species alike, while less-lethal approaches like electrofishing are just too time-intensive.

Enter the “Trojan Fish.” In the past 15 years, some Western hatcheries have been creating male fish with two Y chromosomes (MY_Y). When these fish, in turn, breed with naturally occurring females (FX_X), all the resulting offspring are male.

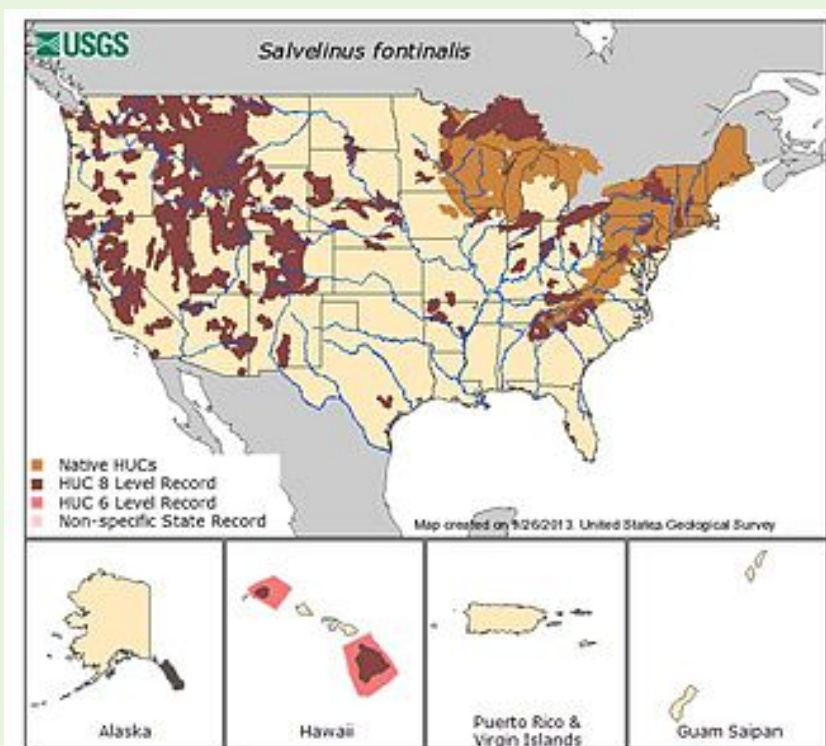


Brook trout (*salvelinus fontinalis*). Source: Jay Fleming (US Nat'l Park Svc) - <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/eastern-brook-trout.htm>

Over time - at least in theory - all brook trout within a drainage will be male, and thus die out naturally. Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), one of the leaders in this effort, reports that in at least one stream where the MYY fish was stocked, the population of males increased from 28% in 2016 to 77% in 2021, indicating that the MYY fish were indeed able to survive and to reproduce successfully. In their report on their findings, the IDFG noted that the highest degree of success occurred when the MYY fish were introduced as fingerlings rather than catchable-size fish, and when the introduction was paired with annual suppression of native brook trout males through electrofishing. Nonetheless, these are encouraging results, and are likely to spur more research into this approach.

For more details on this project, you can read the report in the Proceedings of the XIII Wild Trout Symposium held in late 2022: Jennifer L. Vincent, Kevin A. Meyer, Curtis J. Roth, James S. Unsworth, Patrick A. Kennedy, Daniel J. Schill, Bart L. Gamett, and Matthew R. Campbell. 2022. The use of MYY fish to eradicate non-native Brook Trout populations in Idaho.

https://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/Proceedings_13.pdf



Native and introduced ranges of brook trout. "NAS - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species *Salvelinus fontinalis*". U.S. Geological Survey. Retrieved 2014-01-06.

Upcoming Events

April 29, 2023 in Blue Ridge, GA

Visit or volunteer at our booth at the festival!



**THE 2023 BLUE RIDGE TROUT
& OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FESTIVAL ... SEE YOU THEN!!
CAST-PADDLE-HIKE-CLIMB-RIDE-OUTDOORS ART**

LIVE MUSIC-CRAFT BEER-FOOD

APRIL 29, 2023 in BLUE RIDGE, GA

Upcoming Events

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. **ZOOM meeting to discuss this trip on March 29 at 7PM ([click for link](#)).**



Upcoming Events

FISHING THE WATERS OF THE SEC CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR SAVE-THE-DATE

JUNE 9-11, 2023

Brevard, NC

Davidson River area

Bass or trout trip

details soon on email

SEPT 3-9, 2023

Cody, WY

Yellowstone

Trout trip

Info mtg on ZOOM

Mar 29, 7pm EST

OCT 27-29. 2023

Morehead City, NC

Surf or boat salt trip

Bobby Brewer, CFO will

host and talk on the area

Details soon on email

MAY 17-19. 2024

Brevard, NC

Davidson River area

Trout trip

Details soon on email

Upcoming Events

SEC Women Connect is having a contest for Women's Fly Fishing Month

More info will follow in email soon!



April 15 to June 30, 2023

Take a woman fly fishing challenge

Want to motivate women to love fly fishing as much as you do? Want a chance to win great prizes? Then grab your gear, round up a newbie or novice fly fisher, and take her fishing for "all fish, all waters" between April 15 and June 30.

Any FFI member, or member of an FFI affiliate club, is eligible to enter.

Individual prizes will be awarded to the entrant who documents the most on-the-water days with a new angler (only one new angler per entry, though!)

The club prize will go to the FFI club with the most members participating in the contest

Details coming soon.



Southeastern Council Board News

Brian Deloach joins the board as Director of Casting

Brian is a Master Certified Casting Instructor in Cleveland, TN. He has been editor of "In the Loop" - FFI's casting magazine. He has a Ph.D. in Education and looks forward to expanding casting offerings around the Southeastern Council

Linda Vance joins the board as Women Connect Liaison

Linda brings a wealth of scientific experience in fisheries and conservation. She will focus on expanding programs to introduce more women to fly fishing and to educate and engage those already in the sport.

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.