

## Debra Pauli



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Debra is the current president of the Southeastern Council. Previously, she was treasurer of the Council. Debra may have grown up in the Big Easy, but it wasn't until a fly fishing class with the Georgia Women Fly Fishers (GWFF) that she tried fly fishing. Debra is a dedicated member and the outgoing treasurer of GWFF. She is also a past membership chair for the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club (AFFC). But don't let all those titles fool you, Debra considers herself the "luckiest bad fly fisher-person on the planet." And her luck has certainly taken her on some amazing fishing adventures. Debra believes in the power of regional organizations like the Southeastern Council. Her hope is to help develop diverse opportunities for anglers in both big cities and small towns across the Southeast, ensuring that everyone gets a chance to experience the joy and beauty of fly fishing.

## Gene Barrington



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Gene is the current treasurer of the Southeastern Council. Gene started fly fishing at age 12 and began tying by repairing flies and popping bugs at age 14. He is a member of the FFI Fly Tying Group (FTG) and on the Board of Governors for the FTG. Gene is a past president of the

Atlanta Fly Fishing Club and past president of the Southeastern Council Federation of Fly Fishers. He is a past Vice Chair of the Board of Governors for the FFI FTG, and on the Board of Directors for Project Healing Waters – Atlanta. He recently retired as the project lead for Fly Tying to our wounded vets and has worked on improving, modifying and adding tools to the Evergreen Hand for use by combat wounded vets. Gene is currently Georgia representative on the Board of Directors for the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians in Bryson City, North Carolina.

### **Cathryn Valancius**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Cathy is currently the Secretary and Communications Director for the Southeastern Council. Cathy found herself with a fly rod and a whole lot of time during the pandemic. What started as a lockdown hobby quickly blossomed into a full-blown passion for fly fishing, tying, and keeping our streams healthy. A true "All Fish, All Waters" devotee, you'll often find Cathy tricking native bass, sunfish, and brookies with dry flies on even the tiniest trickles of water. She is a member of Georgia Women Fly Fishers, for whom she served as ghillie. Cathy's dedication extends beyond catching fish. She serves as treasurer for both the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited and the Coosa Valley Chapter of TU, and she's also a citizen scientist with Science on the Fly.

### **Linda Vance**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI board.

Linda is currently the VP of Education for the Southeastern Council, as well as the FFI Women Connect liaison. She discovered fly fishing while doing fish physiology coursework for her Ph.D in Conservation Biology at UC Davis. She is still not quite sure that her colleagues were really "sampling fish populations and health" with fly rods, as they claimed, but she decided not to challenge them, and has kept a fly rod handy ever since. Prior to her retirement in 2022, she led a comprehensive assessment and monitoring group at the University of Montana, evaluating the aquatic integrity of federally-managed streams, rivers, wetlands and uplands across the Western U.S. If you mention an obscure trout stream in a forsaken corner of northern Nevada or southern Wyoming, she has probably "sampled" it. Since moving to North Carolina in 2020, she has been leaving her water quality meters, iPad and tape measures at home, exploring the waters of the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee with great enthusiasm but less scientific rigor. Being the SEC's Women Connect Liaison allows her to extend her commitment to gender inclusiveness in aquatic science and resource protection by getting women involved with water and fishing.

## **Kathleen Bergeron**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Kathleen is currently the VP of Conservation for the Southeastern Council. She is also the Chair of Conservation for FFI and serves on the FFI Board of Directors and several committees. It was an

issue of Fly Fisherman magazine, back in 1978 that first got Kathleen interested in our noble endeavor. The gorgeous cover shot of an angler standing hip-deep in a stream among colorful autumn leaves pulled her into the publication to find out more. After a few casting and fly tying lessons, she was soon following in the footsteps of that angler, as well as the writers in that issue – Art Flick, Ernie Schwiebert, and John Merwin, among others – pursuing the elusive trout. After a career at the Federal Highway Administration, Kathleen moved to North Carolina to work on a writing project. There, Kathleen's love of fly fishing has come back to life and she has found an unanticipated benefit of the move: the Old North State's many hidden mountain streams and rivers...and the fish that live there. She is also a member of the Carolina Fly Fishing Club and their conservation chair.

## **Brian Deloach**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Brian currently serves as Casting Director for the Southeastern Council, organizing casting education in our region. Brian's love of fishing began at 15, learning the ropes from his father. Together, they formed the Lee University Anglers program and got their CI certifications. Brian received his MCI certification and was associate editor of the FFI's Loop Journal, eventually serving as editor-in-chief. He has been published in American Angler and The Drake Magazine. He was previously on the council's casting advisory board.

## **Bobby Brewer**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Bobby is currently the Chief Fishing Officer (CFO) for the Southeastern Council, planning fishing events and speaking at clubs. Bobby began fishing in his youth, in eastern Tennessee at his grandmother's farm pond with his dad. He grew up wading creeks, streams, and rivers for whatever was available. Initially he wasn't interested in fly fishing. Later, he began to appreciate the grace and beauty of the cast and the serene settings of the fishing locations. Today he is a fishing guide that fishes locally in the salt waters around Oriental North Carolina and travels to various locations, both freshwater and salt, wherever his fly rod takes him.

### **Charlie Daniels**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Charlie is the Membership Director for the Southeastern Council. Charlie grew up chasing smallmouth bass with his father and grandfather near Antietam on the Potomac River. A friend introduced him to fly fishing when in his 20's and even after he accidentally caught his first trout on his back cast, he was a skeptic about this whole fly fishing thing. Then after experiencing a truly profound light cahill hatch one drizzly afternoon on a North Central PA limestone stream he became a convert, not to mention very late for dinner. He is a US Navy veteran and graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, and in addition to his position on the SECFFI board, Charlie is a fishing guide and board member for Veterans Flyfishing, and a volunteer guide for PHWFF.

## James Cass



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

James is currently the Director of Technology for the Southeastern Council. He has a background in IT and a history of giving his time to non-profit groups. James spent his childhood casting lines in Florida waters, battling bass, perch, and panfish in inland lakes and chasing sea trout, redfish, and mangrove snapper in Tampa Bay. Spinning and baitcasting were his weapons of choice, until a fateful summer day in 2022 changed everything. A fly fishing trip with a friend introduced him to the world of graceful casts and delicate presentations, and even though he didn't land a single fish that day, he was hooked. Now, with two young boys by his side, James is all about exploring new waters, mastering new techniques, and tying flies (sometimes with more laughter than success).

## Terry Hackett



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Terry currently serves as a director at large of the Southeastern Council, contributing to the Conservation Committee. A 3rd generation angler, Terry has spent over 40 years casting a line, catching an incredible 64 different species on the fly - truly an "all water, all fish" kind of guy. A dedicated member of the fly fishing community, Terry has served in various roles for Triangle Fly Fishers, including president. He even earned a spot in their Hall of Fame! Now in Leland, NC, he's joined forces with the Cape Fear Fly Fishers. With a background in environmental science

and over 30 years in the industry, Terry has cleverly combined his passion for clean water and conservation with his love for fly fishing.

## **Ralph Shuey**



Currently serves on the SECFFI Board and is nominated for SECFFI Board.

Ralph Shuey is a 30+ year member of Fly Fishers International and has been active in both the Southeastern and the Southern Councils and chapters (TVFF & NAFF), Administrator for the Classic Fly Rod Forum, founder of the Bamboo Bash (20+ years), active supporter of Casting for Recovery and Veterans activities. Ralph has fifty plus years of international fishing experience in both salt and freshwater fisheries and is a frequent supporter of fly tying events. Ralph has fished all over the world including the US, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He is a retired Rocket Scientist with experience in multi-million dollar programs, conference organization, international program cooperation, and domestic inter-personal as well as international skills. Ralph has enthusiasm for involving the young in this potentially life-long endeavor.

## **Jeff Wilson**



Nominated for SECFFI Board.

Jeff's first Fly Fishing trip took place when his father-in-law took him to western Montana for a fly fishing only trip. He's never looked back. While Jeff continues those trips out west, 15 and counting, he spends most of his time fishing the waters of the SEC, whether it's for Trout in mountains or Redfish in the Marshes of Glynn. Jeff is also heavily involved in Trout Unlimited where he has served as President of his local chapter as well as Conservation Chair for the Georgia TU State Council. He is currently 2nd Vice Chair on the Georgia TU State Council. His interest in joining the Board is to take his passion for promoting fly fishing and conservation beyond just trout and to help others experience the wonderful world of fly fishing.