



A Publication of the Gulf Coast Council of Fly Fishers International

The Gulf Streamer

Summer 2026

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A Note from the President

Greetings Members of the Gulf Coast Council of FFI,

As we are in the throes of the dog days of Summer 2026, I hope everyone is doing well and trying to stay cool. The summer fishing season has been in full swing with reports coming in from across the council of great catches. The jack crevalle and bull reds have been showing up along the coast and are willing to take a fly. Be sure to break out the big rods and reels (10 wt. and above) if you want to go chase these brutes. The tarpon have also been popping up as their annual migration takes place along the coastline.

The biggest obstacle this summer has been the wind, which can kick things up and stain the water and make getting out on the water tough. When the wind lays down you can get out and the fishing has been good. Reports from the marshes say redfish, drum and speckled trout catches have been good, but you should get out early to beat the heat.

I've had conversations with a lot of folks who say they don't have boats, so what are their choices to take advantage of the fishing opportunities around the council. Local parks that have ponds, bayous and lakes often hold many species of sunfish and bass that will readily take a fly. In my local waters in the New Orleans area there are those species as well as several others in the local drainage ditches and canals. Rio Grande cichlids, blue tilapia and carp are available in almost all these areas.

The New Orleans Fly Fishers, Red Stick Fly Fishers, Kisatchie Fly Fishers and Gulf Coast Fly Fishers have annual mixed-bag tournaments that they hold for their members throughout the year. These tournaments are great fun and will test your skills as a fly angler on your ability to catch as many different species as you can on fly fishing gear. If you aren't a member of one of the Gulf Coast Council's clubs, you should think about joining one. The educational opportunities, fellowship and fun can't be beat.

The dates have been set for the 2027 Gulf Coast Classic. The Classic will return for our fifth year to the Learning Campus of Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama on May 14th & 15th. Stay tuned for more news and updates.

Until next time, try to stay cool, wear your sunscreen and protective clothing in the sun, and stay hydrated. Fish where you live.

Tight Lines,

A. J. Rosenbohm

President, FFI Gulf Coast Council

Cover photo: While late summer action can be slow for most warm water species, fishing for tropical invasives such as Rio Grande cichlid and Tilapia are at their peak. This electric-blue Rio fell for a black and yellow Jitterbee. Check out the articles in this newsletter on Rios, flies they eat, and the upcoming Rio Grande Rumble.



Our 2026 Classic was the best yet! It returns to Gulf Shores next year on May 14-15, 2027.



Grande action awaits in the Big Easy

Me spending a day in New Orleans isn't what it used to be. Those days on Bourbon Street as a college student have been replaced by football games in the Superdome and fishing in the many canals and bayous across town.

While most flyrodders come to the Big Easy to fish the nearby marshes for reds and specks, I come to fish the urban waters for big carp, big bass, and those amazing Rio Grande cichlids.

Originally limited to their home waters in South Texas and Mexico, they began appearing in 1996 in canals in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, and even in Lake Pontchartrain.

It's believed that tropical fish were routinely dumped into these canals by pet-store owners. Some died off quickly, others later from the cold of winter. But many of the Rios, able to withstand water temperatures as low as 50 degrees, survived.

Rios can thrive in conditions that our native sunfishes find marginal at best. When Katrina flooded Orleans and Jefferson parishes, tons of fish were killed. But the Rios prospered, and took advantage of high water to expand their territory.

How prolific did they become? The annual New Orleans City Park Rodeo established a Rio Division, where teams of anglers compete for most fish brought in. At the 2008 event, all of the teams

registered in several hundred fish, with "Team Camo" taking first place with 961 Rios.

After results of that rodeo, I decided to conduct my own personal research, using my TFO Finesse 3-weight rod and a few jitterbees and cap spiders as technical equipment. I may have waited too long: reports were hitting the Louisiana Sportsman website about ice chests of chunky Rios being caught on a variety of lures and baits.

I worked the lagoons in City Park, as well as a couple sections of Bayou St. John. Maybe most of the big ones had been removed, since it was tough finding many fish over 6 inches. Still, there were lots of rios that size to make an impression on a 3-weight rod.

However, as the afternoon wore on, the action on larger fish picked up. I finally even nabbed a few big ones up to 11 inches, known among Rio enthusiasts as "Brainiacs" because of the large humps on their heads.

Since then, their numbers have declined precipitously. In fact, what used to be a sure thing to catch dozens of Rios has nowadays become somewhat of a struggle to catch even a few.

Most anglers believe that their numbers have been reduced due to the stocking of Florida largemouth bass. Bass absolutely love rios! If you hook a small Rio, don't be surprised if a bucketmouth comes along and swallows it whole. Some of the bass in City Park now border on double-digit sizes, so that 3-weight might be in jeopardy!

Another factor in their decline are the severe cold snaps in recent years. The Winter Storm of January 2025 brought inches of snow to the city. Many thought the Rios had been wiped out, especially since none were caught during the NOCP Rodeo in March. Weeks later, they reappeared... fewer in number, but larger in size.

Most regional outdoor writers are puzzled as to why flyrodders are fascinated with Rios. The species isn't even allowed for state records. Catch a large gafftop catfish, which is a sucker for dead shrimp, and you're on the list. But land a beautiful electric-blue Rio Grande perch with a handmade fly, and you're out of luck.

Granted these are invasive species. But they've become established, and they provide one of the best fights of any gamefish. As one of my compadres says, "It's like hooking into a wet cat!"

In September 2009, the New Orleans Fly Fishers held their first-ever Rio Grande Fly Fishing Rodeo. Fly anglers from across the Gulf South flocked to pursue the biggest rio on fly. And to enjoy po-boys, beignets and other local treats.

One conclusion these anglers came to — Rios love weighted flies. Among their favorites are Cap Spiders, Prince Nymphs and Jitterbees. In recent years, Chris Johnson's Rio Bandito - a proven pattern for Texas cichlid - has been added to the list of favorites.

Another tip learned from the tournament: Keep a low profile. For whatever reason, most of the bigger fish like to come right up against a bank and feed. If you cast out far, you're likely to catch smaller rios or mostly bream. Limit your casts to within 15 feet.

Rios are not going to replace bass, crappie and bluegill as top warm water species. But they do offer a unique fishery that is giving urban flyrodders in the Big Easy a chance to grow their skills, while proudly claiming to have landed one of the most exotic sportfish in North America.



Bill Morrison with a Rio taken last August from New Orleans City Park Lake

Let's Get Ready to Rumble!



17th Annual Rio Grande Rumble Saturday, October 3, 2025

Start: 7:00am (first light for pre-registered)

End: 12:30pm (weigh-in)

Event site: Lafreniere Park, Metairie, LA

\$30 entry fee, includes lunch and refreshments

The 2026 edition of the Rio Grande Rumble has just been announced. Hosted by the New Orleans Fly Fishers Club, the Rumble is the longest running freshwater fly fishing tournament in the South. Target species is the Rio Grande cichlid. This species is native of south Texas but has become widespread in extreme southeast Louisiana. For fly anglers, it's an opportunity to put their skills up against a very wary species that when hooked, "fights like a wet cat".

All entry fish must be caught on flies and fly tackle. Categories are "Longest Rio" and "Most Rios Caught".

Registration fee is \$30. Proceeds go to Casting for Recovery. Lunch and drinks will be provided for registered participants.

The rodeo is open to all fly anglers. Registration deadline is 8:00am on October 3rd. Both onsite registration and weigh-in will be at Lafreniere Park in Metairie. There will also be a Zoom seminar on fishing for the Rio Grande Cichlid. Date and time of the online seminar will be announced shortly.

For complete details, including tournament rules, and to register online, go to the NOFFC website at www.neworleansflyfishers.com.



The Flies of George F. Grant

by David Buckner

By far, George F. Grant (1906-2008) is my all-time favorite fly tyer. Grant was a fly tyer, author, and conservationist from Butte, Montana. His home waters were the Big Hole River and he is renowned for his efforts to keep dams off of this freestone river. Grant's flies are some of the most unique trout flies ever tied.

Grant began tying flies in the early 1930's and demonstrated his skills for nearly 75 years. His technique was similar, but different, from that of Franz Pott, known for his Sandy Mite fly. Grant tied a wide variety of innovative fly patterns, but he was best known for his salmonfly and stonefly nymph patterns. Grant also authored two books (Master Fly Weaver and Montana Trout Flies), which document his many unique patterns.

During the middle of the last century, as nymph fishing was growing in popularity, a debate was taking place within the fly fishing community. Hard or soft nymph patterns? Polly Rosborough, known for his "fuzzy nymphs", like the Casual Dress, believed that nymph patterns should be soft and incorporate rabbit and other furs.

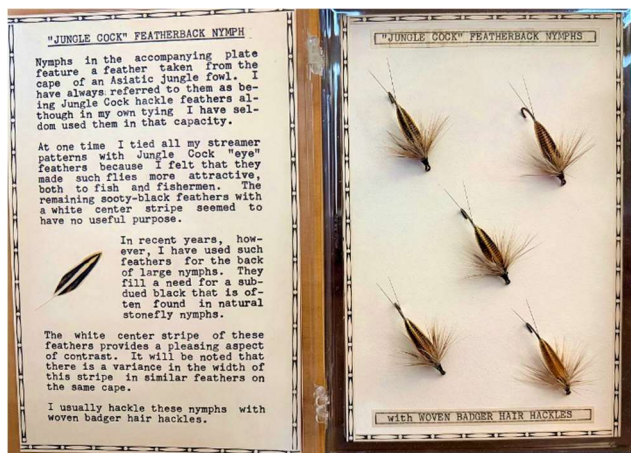


George Grant Exhibit in Butte, MT

On the other hand, Grant believed a hard body nymph with stiff hair hackle was more effective. In the end, both versions had their place and the debate led to innovations on both sides.

Grant's style flies are unique in a number of ways. First, he placed brass straight pins on each side of the hook shank to create a wide and flat body. Second, he wound oval monofilament around the body, creating a durable and segmented body. And lastly, he added a woven hackle collar to create legs and add bugginess.

Grant's woven hackle technique was patented in 1939. It was similar to Franz Pott's technique, but employed a two thread loom instead of a three thread loom. Grant used Tynex fibers or ox ear hair for the hackle. To weave the hackle, Grant wound a small batch of hairs between the looped threads in a manner similar to a half hitch. After several batches were woven, he would make a collar behind the hook eye to create the hair hackle.



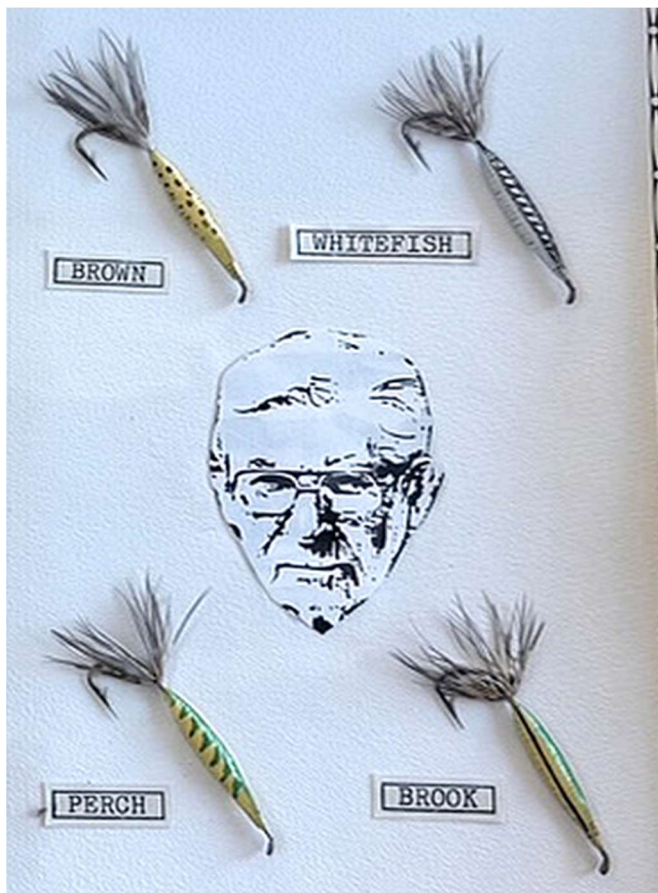
Grant's flies are not "guide flies". They normally take 15 minutes or more to tie. But they are uniquely beautiful and very effective.

During a recent fishing trip to Butte, MT to fish the Big Hole River, I had the opportunity to visit the George F. Grant Exhibit at the local chamber of commerce office. Attached are some pictures from the exhibit and a Grant Jungle Cock Featherback fly recipe that I created. I also own an extensive Grant fly collection. If you're interested in learning more about his flies and how to tie them, feel free to contact me at flyhawk13@outlook.com.

David Buckner

Go to this link to download David's copy of Grant Jungle Cock Featherback fly recipe:

https://www.ffigcc.org/GCCfiles/Grant_FB_Fly.pdf



Grant's Underbody Woven Minnow

Casting for Recovery Southeast Regional Events

November 6-8, 2026

Type: Any Stage / Any Age

Apply by: August 27, 2026

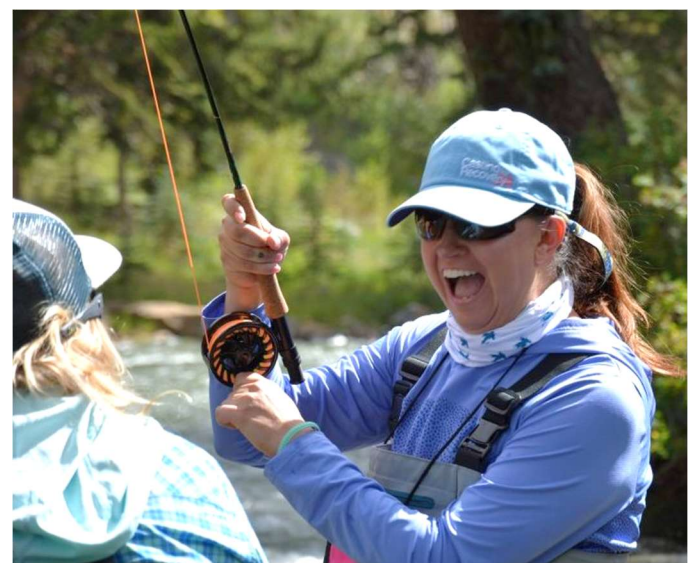
Location: The Hill at St. Francisville

CfR retreats are open to women with breast cancer of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery. They offer a powerful, nature-based alternative to traditional support—oncology-informed retreats held on the water, not in a waiting room. Through fly fishing, shared experience, and nature, these events deliver healing that medicine alone can't offer.

Women need more than treatment—they need connection, community, and the chance to feel whole again. If you know a woman who has breast cancer, or is in recovery or has recovered, please share this with them.

Applications are open until August 27 for eligible women to attend the Southeast Regional Program of Casting for Recovery retreat being held in November at The Hill in St. Francisville. Additionally, for anglers wishing to volunteer to serve as a fishing guide or helper, please complete a volunteer application. For details or to register, go to:

<https://castingforrecovery.org/program/southeast-regional/>





GCC announces 2026 accolades

Since 2007, the Gulf Coast Council has annually recognized individuals and clubs for their efforts to promote and advance fly fishing, fly tying, conservation and community within the GCC.

Each award recipient will receive a personalized mug with their name and award. The mug features an abstract of a redfish tail. It makes for a great ornament on bookshelves or coffee tables, or for use in enjoying hot beverages.

Fly Fisher of the Year – Susan Brooks



Awarded to an individual whose dedication to the sport has been exemplary, and whose contributions have benefitted one or more aspects of the fly fishing community.

Susan lives in Starkville, MS, and is Regional Program Manager for Casting for Recovery (CfR). Susan discovered CfR after her breast cancer diagnosis in 2018 while searching online for a support group. Attending the CfR retreat later that year changed her perspective, and not just about surgery, treatment, and recovery from breast cancer. The retreat gave her a new peer group and a new feeling of accomplishment and joy. Fly tying, casting, standing in the water and catching fish impacted her life.

She began tying flies and became a top-notch tier at that. She sells her creations at the vise under the name of FishWithDamselFlies. She has demonstration tied - while also being an exhibitor - at every one of the GCC events since 2019, including the Sweetwater Classics and Gulf Coast Classics. At the 2023 Gulf Coast Classic, Susan won the One Feather Challenge and in 2025, she placed in the GCC Classic Blind Fly Tyer Challenge.

Susan is a member of Trout Unlimited and Fly Fishers International, FFI Women Connect, and FFI Fly Tying Group. She received her Casting Instruction Certification through Texas Parks and Recreation and is currently working on the FFI Fly Tying Skills Award Program.

Susan’s dedication to our sport has been exemplary, and her contributions have benefitted several aspects of fly fishing and the fly fishing community – the very qualifications for Fly Fisher of the Year.

Excellence in Education – Richard Montgomery



Honor bestowed upon an individual that has excelled in teaching one or more elements of our sport to others (e.g., fly casting, fly tying, rod building, fly fishing techniques).

Richard grew up fishing the northwest Florida Gulf waters. Over many years, his several moves across the US gave him a well-rounded knowledge of fly fishing and an eagerness to share our sport with others. While managing a fly shop in San Francisco he was exposed to some of the greats of our sport and was able to hone his casting and teaching skills. He later became a licensed charter captain and guide in the Pensacola area. And in 2020 became an FFI Certified Casting Instructor.

Richard is current president of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida and Casting Director for the club. He loves to teach casting skills, whether he is guiding or supporting club and council programs. He regularly teaches youth classes to pass along skills to the next generation. He also facilitates the club's annual fly fishing 101 casting program. Richard leads the Gulf Coast Council's education focus and regularly teaches fly casting skills at the Gulf Coast Classic.

Richard is always available for private instruction and hopes to start a local fly fishing school. He is a valuable asset to the Council and his contributions to fly casting instruction have been vital to our success.

Club Fellowship Award – Gulf Coast Fly Fishers



In recognition of a club that has shown outstanding commitment to its members and also to promoting fly fishing in the area.

The Gulf Coast Fly Fishers were merged from the Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers and the Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly clubs. And with the reorganization, brought new energy and a number of new people to the sport.

Since its reformation last year, the club has conducted several special events and clinics in addition to monthly meetings and fly tying sessions. In January, they initiated a monthly club fishing outing and a tying clinic at the Biloxi VA Center. In February, they participated in the Biloxi Boat Show. In March, they initiated a members-only "All Fish, All Waters" species-oriented fishing contest. In April, they participated in "Celebrate the Coast" festival. And in June, they held a special "Double Saltwater Clinic" as well as a casting clinic at Mississippi State's Marine Ecology Lab. Their contagious energy has made GCFF one of the more dynamic clubs in our council.

Club Community Award – Panhandle Fly Fishers



In recognition of a club that has been very active outside its own membership, contributing to the community, or benefitting charitable organizations.

The Panhandle Fly Fishers club in Destin, FL is a very active and engaged club, and the Elgin AFB sponsor for Project Healing Waters. This program involves military veterans and active duty volunteers and promotes fly fishing to build community and foster fellowship.

Communications and activities among members are keys to their success. They use the Signal app to facilitate daily club chats. Members also fish together regularly. They tie flies monthly and periodically build fly fishing rods. The camaraderie among members is outstanding.

Outside of club meetings, PFF facilitates monthly fly tying programs at the Intrepid Spirit Center at Elgin AFB for veterans suffering from TBI and PTSD. The club also supports the local Boy Scouts Jamboree to promote fly fishing.

This club is one of the most active clubs within the Gulf Coast Council and we appreciate their commitment to fly fishing and to their community.

Presidents Award – David Rogers



Selected by the President, recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the organization.

David and his wife Leisha reside in Prairieville, LA, and are very active in the fly fishing community. David is Fly Tying Chair for the Red Stick Fly Fishers, and is widely recognized for innovative patterns. In addition to his deep involvement in fly tying, a USCG captain and began offering guided fly fishing trips in 2025. He also began giving presentations on fly fishing for coastal species.

David, a Classic Sponsor at the 2026 Classic, was also one of the most dedicated volunteers at the event. A strong conservationist, he actively supported the new regulations aimed at restoring redfish in Louisiana and the fight to set regulations for the commercial menhaden harvest.

His unwavering commitment to our sport and his outgoing and friendly personality have made him a beloved figure in the Gulf Coast fly fishing community.

Friend of the Council – Jeff Preddy



In recognition of individual(s) or group, outside of the GCC, whose actions and involvement has contributed to the success of the Council.

Jeffrey Preddy from Balch Springs, TX, is owner of The Fly Hair Company. His products are considered by many of the top tiers in the country to be the best on the market.

Jeff grew up in an outdoors family, and working in his dad's taxidermy shop, saw hair of all types. He used this experience to formulate ideas for different flies and designs, and how to dye different hairs and furs to get the exact colors to stimulate fish.

This past year, Jeff was not only the Title (Tarpon) Sponsor for the Gulf Coast Classic, but made trips to the Council to promote fly tying using natural materials. In January, he gave a clinic at No Wake

Outfitters in Metairie, LA, and in April, was guest instructor for the Red Stick Fly Fishers monthly fly tying session.

Jeff was also very active on social media in the promotion of our Gulf Coast Classic, as well as the Gulf Coast Council's conservation actions on redfish, menhaden and tarpon in Louisiana and the preservation of Mobile Bay from spill dredging.

Fly Tying Achievement Award – Chris Williams



Recognizes longtime contributions to the art of fly tying, through any combination of accomplishment, innovation, teaching, publication, involvement, or promotion of the art. Our fly tying hall of fame.

Chris Williams is a degreed marine biologist who enjoys traveling for fishing or participating in fly fishing events. A lifelong and highly accomplished fly tyer, he chronicles his adventures and vast tying expertise on his blog, “The Fat Fingered Fly Tyer”. Chris conducts tying clinics and workshops and initiated a monthly casual tying event called “Flies and Flights” at a local brewery which became a blueprint for other regional casual tying events.

Chris is a member of both the Red Stick Fly Fishers and the Kisatchie Fly Fishers, and serves on the KFF Fly Tying Committee. He’s also been an active promoter of the Mayfly Project, a national non-profit

which uses fly fishing to mentor and support children in foster care.

In 2023, Chris was recognized by Fly Fishers International with the prestigious “Fly Fishing Skills Education” Award. As a member of the GCC Classic Steering Committee, Chris has traveled to some of the major fly fishing events where he has networked with many of the nation's top fly tiers and secured their interest in being part of our Classic event.

This award requires at least four of six qualifying standards, and Chris is one of the very few tiers in our council who qualifies on all six! Please join us in welcoming Chris to this distinguished list.

Fly Tying Achievement Award – David Rogers



For the past four years David has served as Fly Tying Chair for Red Stick Fly Fishers, organizing the club’s monthly fly tying sessions. In addition, he has selected patterns with thoughtful consideration to the interest of members and development of skills for both beginners and advanced tiers.

David’s fly tying outreach extends beyond the Red Stick club. He’s been a demonstration tier at several events, a guest tier for regional clubs, and involved with the selection of featured tier / pattern for the local “Flies and Flights” independent tying nights at a local brewery. He has been recognized by professional tiers from across the U.S. for his tying expertise and innovative patterns.

David has taken an approach of adopting western fly tying patterns and making them relevant to inshore flats and coastal fly fishing along the northern Gulf.

Two of his patterns that fit this strategy are the “Propaganda Saltwater Fly” and the “Balanced Dirty Deed Shrimp”. To this end he has worked closely with Snake River Fly in Idaho to take their craft materials and blends and develop flies that work here in the Gulf South. The owner of SRF praisingly mentions how they have watched David use their materials and patterns in innovative ways. To that end, he has become somewhat of an ambassador for their products.

Perhaps the present pinnacle of David’s fly tying achievements is that for the past two years David has won the signature *Iron Fly* contest at the annual FFI Gulf Coast Classic, besting many of the professional tyers invited to the annual event! Please join us in welcoming David to this distinguished list.

Love tying flies? Join FTG

The Fly Fishers International (FFI) Fly Tying Group is dedicated to sharing and teaching the art of tying, to all skill levels. We share info through our newsletter, tying demonstrations, a comprehensive video library, and teaching about the art of fly tying on FFI Online.

To learn more, go to www.flyfishersinternational.org

Join the Fly Tying Group Be Part of Preserving the Art

1-Year Membership - \$20

Lifetime Membership - \$285



This handcrafted net could be yours by achieving Master level in the Gulf Coast Council's Suncatch Challenge. For details, go to www.ffigcc.org and click on "Suncatch".

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president@ffigcc.org

Glen ‘Catch’ Cormier

Vice-President

Conservation Director

conservation@ffigcc.org

Wayne Schnell

Treasurer

treasurer@ffigcc.org

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secretary@ffigcc.org

Jeff Ferguson

Casting Director

casting@ffigcc.org

David Buckner

Fly Tying Director

tying@ffigcc.org

Chris Williams

Fishing Director

fishing@ffigcc.org

Sam Sumlin

Marketing Director

samsumlin@ffigcc.org

Ben Roussel

Suncatch Director

suncatch@ffigcc.org

Lisa Lowman

Women Connect

wconnect@ffigcc.org

Richard

Montgomery

Education Director

[montyhs23](mailto:montyhs23@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:montyhs23@gmail.com)



Stephen Robert's Slow Sinking Spider

Go arachno for late summer action

Listen in on a group of a fanatical fly fishermen enjoying their favorite adult beverages, and pretty soon the fish get bigger and stories get weird.

Several of us had gathered after a day on the water and were recalling our most unusual catches on the fly: a frog on a frog popper, a seagull on a Clouser Minnow, a bass in the surf, and a girl in a bikini. None of that seems too strange, though that last one might've been intentional.

But soon the talk went off the deep end, such as tales of encounters with UFOs. Like I often say: Drink those adult beverages in moderation.

Just then, one of our crew said, "You know — I once caught a redfish on a cap spider."

About everyone stared back in disbelief. This from a group that just moments before were regaling their experiences with alien spacecraft.

Catching redfish on spider flies? It made perfect sense to me. In fact, later that evening I tied up a saltwater version of the fly to prove it was possible.

Early the next morning, I was paddling my kayak along a tidal bank when I sighted a Spottail Elvis cruising the shoreline. I picked up the rod with the Saltwater Cap Spider and laid the fly out a couple of feet ahead of the fish. On the first strip, the redfish rushed in and ate!

In hindsight, what did that red think my fly was? A small shrimp? A tiny crab? Perhaps a sea slater? Whatever: I'm glad it considered it breakfast.

In the world of fly-fishing, there are four realms we define: coldwater, warmwater, saltwater inshore and offshore. Flies that have caught fish in all four are considered "omni patterns." Such include poppers, Clouser Minnows, EP Shrimp and Woolybuggers, to name a few.

Omni patterns are the answer to the frequent question, "If you could only fish one fly for all fish, what would it be?"

Spider flies come very close to being omni patterns. And that makes sense, since arachnids are one of the largest and most diverse insects in the world — and first cousins to the subphylum Crustacea that includes shrimp and crabs.



Terry Wilson's Bully Bluegill Spider

Arachnid patterns have caught just about everything in fresh water. In fact, I once held two world records for freshwater drum (aka goo) on fly rod, and both came on the Cap Spider.

One of the very first flies I fished with was an Accardo Ligon, a.k.a., Brim Killer. I would visit Mr. Tony Accardo at his home in Baton Rouge, and he would give me several different colors to test out. Soon I was tying this pattern myself. Countless bream were caught on these.

Many years later, my friend Stephen Robert unveiled his "Slow Sinking Spider", a definite improvement to the Ligon, and it has since become my go-to pattern for bedding bluegill.

But two other panfish species present a challenge. Redears here in the Piney Hills reservoirs bed deep, usually 4-8 feet. In the Fall, they return to the shorelines, but often deeper, at 6-10 feet.

Likewise, Rio Grande cichlids in extreme southeast Louisiana like to hold to the bottom, even if they aren't nearly as deep as redears.

You need a fly that gets down quickly yet has some action. Queue back the Cap Spider.



The Cap Spider was created by the late Mike Verduin, a nationally recognized fly tier who hailed from Lewisville, Texas. The name of Mike's fly came from an encounter in a crappie tournament, where he saw several spider-like jigs on the cap of another angler; he was so impressed with the lure that he modified it to make it "fly friendly."

Mike fished across several states. Most of his fishing partners — including myself — witnessed how deadly his fly was on bedding bream, especially chinquapin (redears).

It's currently my go-to fly for redears. I also used an olive Cap Spider to win and place in consecutive years in the New Orleans Fly Fishers annual Rio Grande Rodeo, now known as the Rio Grande Rumble.

It's an easy tie, and one that every panfish aficionado should have in their box.

Materials:

- Hook: 1/100 or 1/124 ounce jig hook. A few come painted black, otherwise use black nail polish.
- Legs: Barred Sillilegs or rubber legs
- Body: Vernille or ultra chenille in chartreuse, black, olive, or your favorite color
- Thread: using a flat waxed thread will lock the legs better than 6/0 thread

Instructions:

1. Wrap the hook shank with thread and wrap the vernille around the hook shank. Tie the vernille off at the head.
2. Attach four or six short sections of silli or rubber legs behind the head. Use a figure 8 wraps between the legs to spread them out.
3. Whip finish and cement.

In recent years, I've sourced my jigheads from www.illbejigged.com. Joel is great to work with and delivers on time. I order the "Round head, no collar, regular black hook, unpainted" in size 10 for bugs, and size 8 for jigs.

Connect With Us

Website:

www.ffigcc.org

Facebook Page:

"Fly Fishers International Gulf Coast Council"

Facebook Group:

Join "FFI Gulf Coast Classic Group Share"

Instagram:

Follow "ffigulfoast" and
"the_gulf_coast_classic"



Coming Attractions

Sept. 24- 26 – FFI FlyFest 2026. Redding, CA. Presented by Fly Fishers International and The Fly Shop, FlyFest 2026 brings the fly fishing community together for learning and connection. Event features seminars, fly tying and casting demos, workshops, exhibitors, fundraising dinner, and much more. Headliner will be George Daniel, champion competitive angler, author, and expert on modern nymphing techniques. Registration is now open. Site: www.flyfishersinternational.org.

Sept. 26 - National Hunting and Fishing Day. Activities in several states. In Louisiana, festivities held at Baton Rouge, Woodworth, Minden and Bodcau. Activities include fishing, fly casting, fly tying, shooting, canoeing, archery, exhibits on wildlife, bird watching, turkey hunting, game tagging, much more. Site: www.nhfd.org.

Oct. 3 - 17th annual Rio Grande Rumble. Hosted by New Orleans Fly Fishers. Open to the public. A fly-fishing only tournament for the Rio Grande cichlid. Categories: longest fish and most fish. Advance and on-site registration. See article in this issue for details or visit: www.neworleansflyfishers.com.

Nov. 6-7 - North Toledo Bend Rendezvous. North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA. Friday - Sunday. Rendezvous is an annual gathering of members of fly fishing clubs from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and beyond. No planned activities but plenty of fly tying, food, fly casting, fishing. Fee includes lodging and meals. Check out the Rendezvous webpage for more details: <https://rendezvousannually.blogspot.com/>

Clubs of the Gulf Coast Council



Kisatchie Fly Fishers



Jan. 9-10, 2027 - Georgia Fly Fishing Show. The Classic Center, Athens, GA. The southernmost venue for TFFS has moved from Atlanta to Athens. The Fly Fishing Show is the largest commercial event celebrating our sport with dozens of national and regional experts, recognized fly tiers, seminars, workshops, vendors, and more. Fly Fishers International (FFI) offers free fly casting and fly tying instruction each day. Site: www.flyfishingshow.com.

Jan. 23, 2027 – New Orleans Fly Fishing Expo. St. Christopher School Gymnasium, 3900 Derbigny St, Metairie, LA, free admission. Hosted by the New Orleans Fly Fishers Club, this biennial event (odd years only) features seminars, fly tying, fly casting clinics, and more. Lunch and refreshments available. Site: www.neworleansflyfishers.com

May 14-15, 2027 – 5th annual FFI GULF COAST CLASSIC. Gulf State Park - Learning Campus. Gulf Shores, AL. Friday-Saturday. Activities planned: seminars, fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction, fly tying instruction, exhibitors and vendors, Film Festival, Fishing Contest, raffles, auction, and more. Hosted by the FFI Gulf Coast Council. For details, go to www.ffigulfcoastclassic.com .

If you know of a club event within our council, or an event involving FFI in a neighboring council, please email details to catch@laflyfish.com

Featured Flies of our 2026 Tying HOF Inductees



Chris Williams Bendback Shrimp



Chris Williams - Crappie Day Saver



David Rogers - Saltwater Propaganda Fly



David Rogers - Root Beer Chevette



David Rogers - Balanced Dirty Deed Shrimp

FFI Women Connect Update

by Lisa Lowman, GCC Women Connect

Our council's first women's fly tying night at No Wake Outfitters in March was a big success. Thank you to the shop for supplying materials and Susan Brooks for being our guest tier! Our next fly tying night will be scheduled for September, date to be determined.

Women Connects 4th Annual fly fishing photo contest is currently running through August 30th. Eligible photos taken by you or of you from September 1, 2025 to August 30, 2026. Flyer included with all submission guidelines.

FFI WC Driftless Rendezvous – Iowa 2026: October 12 – October 18. Join the FFI Upper Midwest Council & FFI Women Connect this fall for our 5th Annual Women's Driftless Rendezvous! This event will be held in the heart of the Iowa Driftless. This area is known for its expansive trout habitat and beautiful, deeply carved river valleys with pristine spring creeks. This is an event hosted by women, for women! Registration includes food & lodging; all other travel/transportation, licensing, and guide trips are at your own expense.

From our neighboring Florida council, the Suncoast Fly Fishers will be having their **3rd annual Ladies Fly Fishing** tournament in St. Petersburg, FL on 12 September.

We are getting close to the fall redfish season, now is the time to get casting practice in. Reach out to me and I can help with casting instruction or pair you with an FFI instructor.

The goal of FFI Women Connect is to build a community of women fly fishers where we make learning fun, while creating an environment that fosters safety and inspiration.



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS
3rd Annual
Ladies Fly Fishing
TOURNAMENT

Tournament Waters Extend
From Crystal River to Sarasota

September 12, 2026

Awards Dinner & Raffle to Follow
Tiki Docks Skyway Bar & Grill
St. Petersburg, Florida
Live Music • Food • Drinks

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
SAVE WITH EARLY BIRD PRICING!
Register by June 1st & Save!

Don't miss our featured panel discussion
with guest speakers Bob Branham
and Stacey Flores, where they'll dive
into their experiences and stories from
fishing together as father and daughter.

727-710-3207
WWW.SUNCOASTFLYFISHERS.COM

The poster features a woman in a green shirt and cap casting a fly fishing line against a sunset background. A fishing rod is on the left, and a QR code is on the right. A circular logo at the bottom left reads 'LADY FLY TOURNAMENT' and 'SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS'.

If there is a class or event you would like to see us host, please reach out to me directly .

The latest FFI Women Connect newsletter can be read here:

https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/FFIWomenConnect/Newsletters/FFIWC_Newsletter_The_Connection_Summer_2026.pdf



FFi Women Connect's **4th annual Women's Fly Fishing Photo Contest** opens for submissions on June 1, 2026 in celebration of **FFIWC Women's Fly Fishing Month** in June.

FFIWC 2026

4th Annual Women's Fly Fishing Photo Contest

Sponsored by Miss Mayfly Wading and Fishing Apparel



Deadline:

Submissions are accepted from **June 1 – August 30, 2026 11:59 PM**

Photos taken by or of you between Sept 1, 2025 – August 30, 2026 are eligible! (in other words any photos taken after the close of last years contest!)

Choose a category (or 3 or 10) for your photo(s)

1. Photo of a woman with a fish she has caught, or close up of fish (Keep 'em wet)
2. Photo of a woman angler in a beautiful setting
3. Buddy/Group photos of 2 or more women fly fishing or a Fly Fishing teaching moment

Prizes!

Everyone Wins! Professional Fly Fishing Photographer Brian O'Keefe will provide a *Free Zoom Photography Seminar* for all Contest Entrants in October 2026

Contest Winners: The winner in each category will win:

- Best photo female angler with a fish – \$175 Gift Cert.
- Best Buddy or group shot – \$175 Gift Cert.
- Best scenic shot with a female angler– \$150 Gift Cert
- FFIWC Buff for each winner



Watch for updates:

- In our private facebook group: **Fly Fishers International – Women Connect**
- Or view details in the Women Connect Pages of the FFI Website:

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Women-Connect/FFIWC-Photo-Contest>

Please support our 2026 Classic Sponsors!

*Their generosity made our Classic possible, while also supporting our
Education, Conservation and Community initiatives*

