

# The Leader



*Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers* ♦ **July 2025**  
*Volume XLVIII* ♦ **Number 7** ♦ [www.dallasflyfishers.org](http://www.dallasflyfishers.org)



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

## On The Water

*by Dave Smith*

I had the opportunity for a recent trip with Dan Montayne to the Durant, Oklahoma area to visit long time DFF member Jim Crump. Jim now lives in Oklahoma in a beautiful area with many ponds and lakes nearby. It was great to visit with Jim and talk about what we have been doing recently. The days started with a good meal then the topic changed to where we should fish that day. Ponds were close by that we could walk to and others were a short drive. The water was clear and warm water fish were caught each day--Bluegill and Crappie with the odd Bass. The water being very warm seemed to drive the Bass to deeper water. The days were hot, and the fishing times were mornings and evenings.

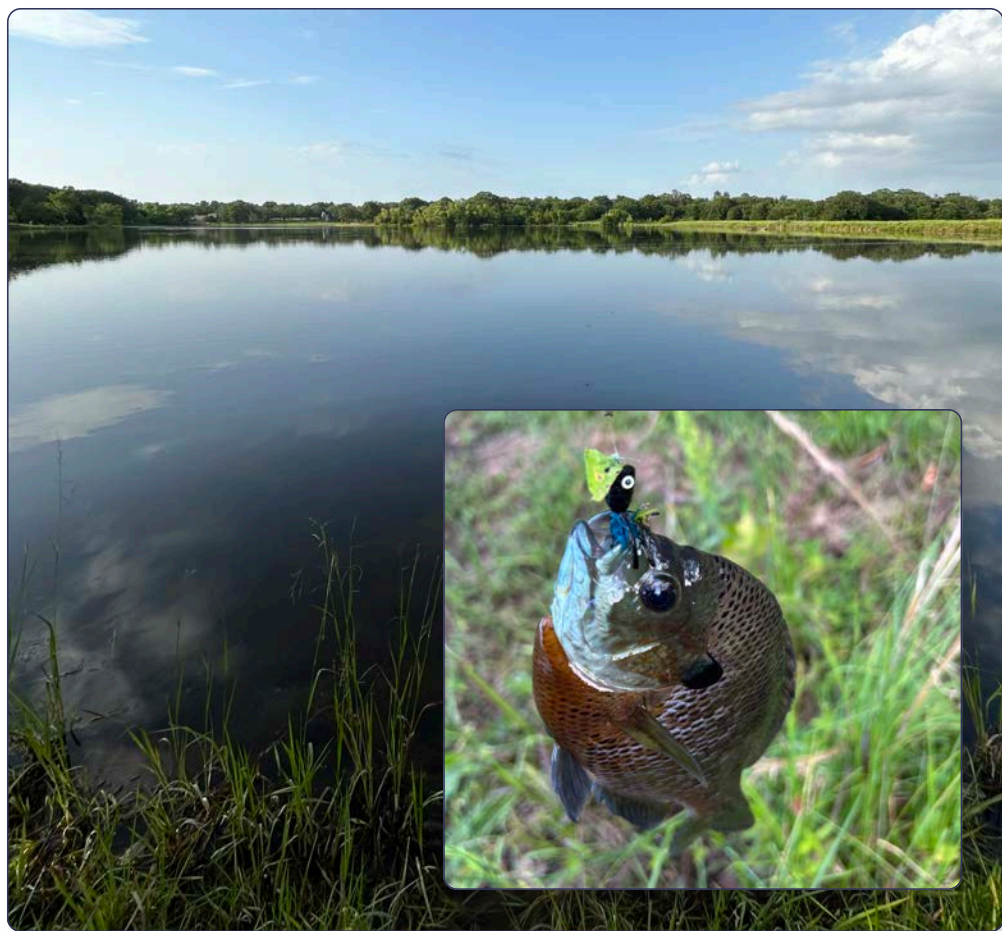
One day we tied flies in the afternoon with materials Dan had brought with him. The completed flies were used the next time out

and they caught fish. Returning home after our evening fishing, it was shower time then a good meal to top off the day. Dan cooked steaks he had brought one evening for a great meal. We relaxed and had a drink and talked about the day. Cleanup followed with everyone helping.

Fishing was the main event each day mornings or evening. When not on the water time was spent together talking about things past and present. A special thank you to Jim for having us and sharing some of his fishing spots. Be sure to check The Leader for information on events and outings on the calendar for the month.

Until next time hope to see you on the water or at the tying bench.

*Dave Smith*  
*President, Dallas FlyFishers*



## In The July Issue

Page:

- |    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | On the Water                   |
| 2  | DFF Board 2025                 |
|    | DFF Program Schedule           |
| 3  | 2025 Calendar                  |
|    | June Outings Report            |
| 4  | Upcoming DFF Outings           |
| 5  | Caddo Fly Fishing Expo         |
| 6  | Fly Tying Corner               |
| 7  | Average Angler's Adventure Log |
| 9  | Conservation Corner            |
| 11 | Membership Renewal Form        |

## DFF Board 2025

**President** • Dave Smith  
214-918-7171  
dave\_maxsmith@yahoo.com

**Vice-President** • Art San Roman  
214-873-9123  
arthursanroman@msn.com

**Past President** • Julia Bell  
214-980-9978  
flyshrgrl@gmail.com

**Treasurer** • Steve Jackson  
214-356-2184  
steve@vantexholding.com

**Secretary** • Terri White  
254-337-1676  
terriwhitefp@yahoo.com

**Trustee 2025** • Dani Rose  
281-460-0645  
dani@thedanirose.com

**Trustee 2026** • Vaughn DuBose  
972-953-5456  
vaughndubose@gmail.com

**Trustee 2027** • Jonathon Ramirez  
860-501-4173  
jonathonramirez97@gmail.com

**Auction Chair** • Dave Shatzer  
972-571-7622  
dshatz86@gmail.com

**Casting Chair** • Ed Bowen  
214-477-1423  
ed.26936@gmail.com

**Conservation** • Jere Anderson  
972-618-6714  
jaand75023@cs.com

**Education Chair** • Paul Locklear  
318-518-8945  
sfclock@aol.com

**Fly Tying Chair** • Dan Montayne  
214-693-4643  
montayne@verizon.net

**IT Specialist** • Jeff Ziehm  
214-202-2826  
jziehm55@gmail.com

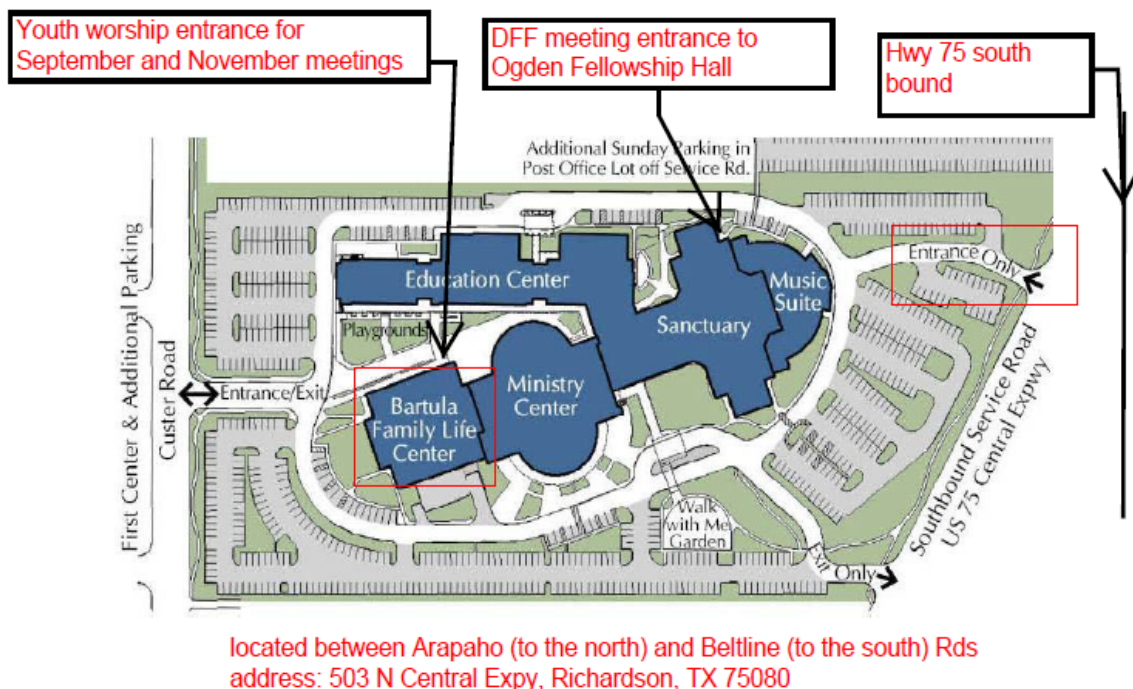
**Membership** • Mike Becker  
214-288-3885  
mabeckerlaw@gmail.com  
Dave Shatzer  
972-571-7622  
dshatz86@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor** • Colby Burke  
469-500-5973  
colbymburke@gmail.com

**Outings Chair**  
Joel Williams  
972-880-1788  
joel.williams53@gmail.com

**Programs**  
Danny Soltan  
406-600-6732  
dan@dirtywaterflyco.com

## DFF Program Schedule



Summer is here and we are set to have our first “Tie-A-Long” of the summer!

JULY 7TH - FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RICHARDSON, OGDEN ROOM.

Fellow DFFer, Bill Sargeant is hosting and will be teaching one of his specialties. Bill is a remarkable fly tyer who can usually be found going after bass on one of his favorite topwater flies. Fly Tying Materials are included for everyone in the class, but we ask that you **bring your vise and tools along with a spool of thread** such as 140 denier or GSP, any color. Something in the heavy, streamer category. While you need not be an expert, this class is for folks with basic fly tying skills. Power will be available on each table for fly tying lights. Non fly-tyers are welcome to come down and watch!

**PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPOT AND KIT BY EMAILING BILL AT**  
[tyflyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tyflyer@sbcglobal.net)

Please wear your name tag, if you have one!

5:00 PM Hang Out and Burgers @ Burger Island - [Click for Directions](#)

5:45 PM Setup Begins @ Church - [Click For Directions](#)

6:00 PM Fly Tying Begins!

**Dear Members,** If you have been around someone who is ill, and exposure is 10 days or less from a DFF event, we are asking that you please enjoy the event via Zoom from home. We are trying to limit exposures to others, whether it is COVID-19, the Flu, the common cold, or any other communicable disease. We appreciate your help in working together to keep everyone healthy.



## 2025 Calendar

The 2025 Programs and major events calendar. We are having another great year at the Dallas Flyfishers. **Danny Soltau** has been hard at work setting things up.

**July 7th: Bill Sargeant Tie Along Monthly Meeting**, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**July 12th – 19th: South Fork, CO Outing**, lodging at Ute Bluff Lodge, Cabins, & RV Park

**July 18th – 19th: Caddo Flyfishing EXPO**, Jefferson, TX

**August 4th: Katie Cowan & Dani Rose Tie Along Monthly Meeting**, 7:00 FUMC Richardson

**September 8th: Chase Smith of Fishchase Flies Monthly Meeting**, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

**September 26th – 27th: FFI Fly Fest**, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**October 6th: Monthly Meeting**, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

**October 31st – November 2nd: Toledo Bend Rendezvous**, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA

**November 3rd: Monthly Meeting**, TBD

**December 7th: Annual Holiday Party**, TBD

## DFF June Outings Report

### Bonham State Park Outing

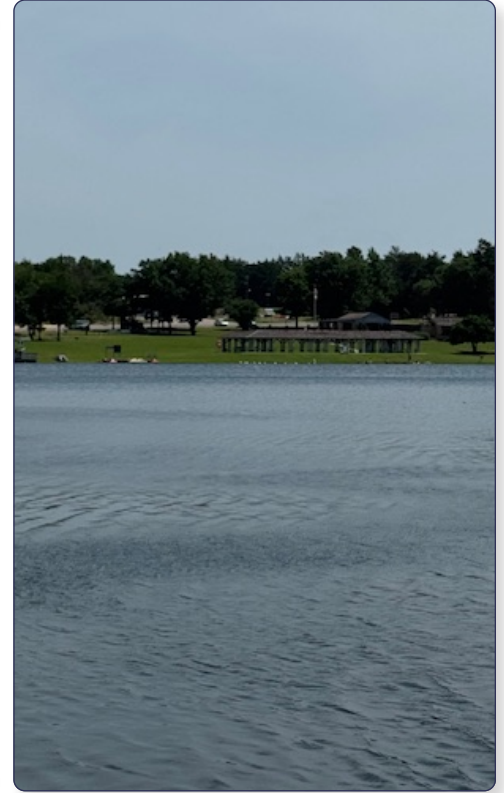
Saturday, June 14th: Six of us gathered at Bonham State Park with rods in hand and optimism in our hearts. The sun climbed into the sky, casting a golden glow that promised a fine day ahead. The fish, however, had other plans. They were coy, elusive, and decidedly uninterested in our offerings.

By the time we called it, we'd tallied a dozen modest bass and a smattering of panfish—not bad, but not exactly brag-worthy. A couple of carp made a theatrical appearance, their golden backs cutting through the water like taunts. We tried our best to lure them in, dangling what we thought were irresistible treats, but they turned their noses up with a disdain only carp can muster. Site casting carp, we learned, is a game of patience—and perhaps a bit of sorcery.

As noon rolled around, the wind joined the party. Gusts swept across the water, playing havoc with our boats and turning once-promising fishing spots into hard-to-hold battlegrounds. Still, there's something to be said for the camaraderie, the quiet persistence, and the occasional burst of laughter when a line snagged or a fish darted away.

It wasn't a day for the record books, but it was the kind of day that lingers in your mind—a tapestry of sunlit ripples, fleeting shadows, and the simple joy of being out there, fishing for more than just fish.





---

## Upcoming DFF Outings

### South Fork, Colorado

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado this July. Dates for 2025 are July 12-19.

It is the responsibility of the attendees to make their own travel and hotel plans, and bring their own gear. There is fishing available that will satisfy most anglers; small creeks, large rivers, and high mountain lakes.

Our home base will be the Ute Bluff Lodge.

<https://www.uteblufflodge.com>

If they are full, there are many other lodging options in South Fork.

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day, and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal “where did you go today and how did you do?” gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fish Sunday





afternoon, and next 5 days, and return home the following weekend.

You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque, and rent a car.

Please let me know if you are planning on attending. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, [jziehm55@gmail.com](mailto:jziehm55@gmail.com).



## Caddo Flyfishing Expo

**When: July 18th & 19th, 2025 • Where: Historic Downtown Jefferson Texas (44 miles from Shreveport, LA)**



### Details:

You are an accomplished fly tyer. The North Louisiana Fly Fishers would like to invite you to be one a select group of fly tyers to participate in the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets. The general store is a destination of it's own.

### The event will offer:

- Incredible fishing on Big Cypress Bayou just steps from the front door of the convention center.
- Reserved tying spot for Friday afternoon and all day Saturday
- Dinner for invited tyers Friday night (plus complementary food Saturday)
- Seminars , bucket draws, and raffles all day Saturday

### This will be the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

If successful, we plan to offer the expo every odd numbered years. The success of this event depends on quality fly tyers like yourself. We would love for you to be a part of this successful event. Spots are limited. If you can participate please let us know. Email the club at: [nlffclub@gmail.com](mailto:nlffclub@gmail.com)

Please put "Caddo flyfishing expo" in the subject line of email. This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets. The general store is a destination of it's own.

If you have questions feel free to contact Steve Oliver at: 318-349-6411 or Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854



# Hooked on Fly Tying

## DFF Fly Tying Corner

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

**Why Is Fly Tying Important?** One of the primary reasons fly tying matters to fly fishing enthusiasts is the ability to create custom flies. By tying your own, you have full control over the design, size, and color. This lets you match your flies to the insects or baitfish that local fish feed on, dramatically increasing your chances of success.

Another big advantage is cost. Buying flies at retail prices can be expensive, especially if you need a wide variety of patterns and sizes. Once you invest in the basic tools and materials, tying your own flies becomes a practical and economical solution. Plus, you will be able to produce countless variations and unlock the full potential of “Fly Tying 101.”

**Your First Purchase: The Vise** - A fly-tying vise is essential. It securely holds the hook while you work. Most vises feature rotating jaws that allow you to work comfortably from different angles. Others, with simple lever-operated jaws and C-clamp attachments, offer straightforward, effective functionality.

Choosing a vise can feel overwhelming. A good rule of thumb: **Keep your first vise simple to operate and easy to transport.** Regardless of style, be sure it comes with a solid base, typically made of heavy metal and around 4½ by 5 inches in size. These bases provide excellent stability and are often more convenient than basic clamp styles.

**Focused Lighting & Magnification** - Good visibility is essential for tying flies. To see clearly, especially with fine thread and materials, use a high-intensity, clip-on reading light. It can be easily directed at the hook without getting in the way while you tie.

Pair that with 3.5x to 5x magnification glasses. Proper magnification lets you place thread wraps and materials precisely. This is not guesswork. Clarity makes all the difference.

**Essential Fly-Tying Tools** - As a beginner, you only need a handful of tools to get started:

- **Bobbins** - This device holds a spool of thread and helps maintain proper tension while wrapping.
- **Scissors** - Fine-tipped, sharp scissors are essential. Invest in a good pair. They are worth every penny.

- **Hackle Pliers** - These provide a steady grip on delicate feathers and materials, giving you more control.

**Optional But Helpful Tools** - Bodkins, whip finishers, brushes, and half-hitch tools are not required, but they do make tying easier and cleaner.

**Materials** - You'll need various components. These depend on the fly pattern and the insects or baitfish you're replicating:

- **Hooks** - These are the foundation of every fly. They come in many sizes and styles. Choose your hook based on the target species and fly pattern.

- **Threads** - Thread forms the fly's base and secures materials. Start with sizes 6/0 and 8/0 in black, white, or tan.

- **Feathers** - Use these for tails, wings, and other features. Consider dry fly hackle, soft hackle, wing feathers, and marabou.

- **Synthetics** - Flash, tinsel, and synthetic fibers add shine, durability, and visibility. Choose versatile colors and types that you can use in multiple patterns.

**The Fun Begins: Your First Fly** - Every fly has a basic structure: tail, body, thorax (legs/wings), and head. Start by clamping a hook in your vise. Follow the instructions to make sure

it's secure.

Then apply a thread base to the hook. This thread becomes the foundation for every other material. Learning thread control, including tension and placement, and how to tie knots, are the heart of fly tying. Don't worry if your first few attempts aren't perfect. **Practice is everything.**

**Tying on Smaller Hooks** - Use a large, bare hook to rehearse techniques, especially thread control, knots, and materials placement. Do this before attempting smaller fly patterns. Start with size 4, 6, 8, or 10 (2X). Also practice how to restart after the inevitable thread break.

Smaller hooks bring extra challenges such as less space and more delicate and compressed materials. Magnification and good lighting are a must at this point.

**Join the DFF Tying Group** - If this article has sparked your interest, reach out to any DFF fly tyer for guidance. We host beginner and advanced tying events every month - **free of charge** - with access to tools and materials. Join us at Cabela's in Allen, TX, on the third Tuesday of each month (excluding August, November, and December).

Text me when you're ready to dive in. We'd love to help you start your tying journey, and hopefully, get you hooked on fly tying.



# An Average Angler's Blue Ribbon Tour

## Adventure Log: Part 5, Finale

by Colby Burke

### The itinerary:

Dallas, TX

Navajo Dam, NM

Gunnison Gorge, CO

Salida, CO

Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Craig, MT

Yellowstone National Park, WY

Cascade, MT

### Flaming Gorge, UT

Dallas, TX

### Flaming Gorge, UT: July 20-24

I left Cascade for Utah at around 9:30 the next morning. I had a long day of driving ahead, but I was excited. I had kept in contact with the San Antonio police captain, Justin, I'd met at the beginning of my trip. He was going to meet me at a public campground and had been fishing the Green River the past couple days with little success. It's reportedly a tough river, with lots of pressure and gin clear water.

When I got to Utah, it was 9:45 pm. Justin and I talked fishing, life, and jiu jitsu before heading to bed at about 11:00. We had a long day of fishing ahead of us. Our plan was to focus on the dry fly bite. Throwing PMD, Caddis, and Yellow Sallies.

Flaming Gorge is beautiful. It is a high desert environment with a crystal-clear oasis running steadily through it, full of brown trout. Justin and I decided to focus on the A section, which boasts an estimated population of over 10,000 trout per mile. With the Yellow Sally, Caddis, and Pale Morning Dun hatch going strong we started the day on the river at about 8:00. I saw fish feeding but I could not see what they were eating, so I tied on a double dry rig featuring a Yellow Sally to a PMD. It was a couple of hours before I got my first strike, but I was able to land it without much of a fight. An 18-inch brown trout. My first buck with the signature hook jaw. After that, the fishing slowed down. I caught two fish on about 10 takes, while Justin was less fortunate. Despite my best efforts to assist, the tight casting windows, strong winds and missed strikes prevented Justin from netting a trout. We were planning to come back eager after a night's rest to fish hard.

I woke up in a full panic, an hour after we agreed to be up. Justin was waiting for me patiently in his camp chair. After

profusely apologizing, we hit the water.

We went straight back to the A section, and I gave Justin his choice of fishing spot. The fish were feeding in a near frenzy on the emerging PMD and Yellow Sally. I fished the same double dry rig I had ended the day with. We could not buy a bite. The fish were rising all around, but not to our flies. After a frustrating four hours, Justin took a break for lunch. In the 45 minutes he was gone I managed to land two fish on PMD eats, six and twelve inches.

After he got back, I gave him the spot and began looking for more rising trout. I found two larger trout working steadily in the slow-moving current of the Green River. As I was watching them rise and feed, I began talking with a father-son duo from California who were making their way down the trail, looking defeated. They both struck out yesterday, so I told the son that he should cast to the two fish I had spotted. He did so beautifully. This teenage kid was shooting out 40 feet of line with extraordinarily little effort, while dodging the bushes in his back cast. After watching him fish for a while, I went looking





for fish of my own. I did not find any significant fish on the A, so we decided to head for the B section.

The B section of Utah's Green River is rumored to hold fewer, but more substantial fish. On our way we began conversing with a man named Mark. Mark is a fishing guide with 20 years of experience under his wading belt. We talked for a while and exchanged information before he gave me a size 18 PMD spinner, slightly smaller than the 16 I had been fishing.

We walked into the B section, where I found a pod of large rising brown trout. I went downstream of them to try the easy drift. They were not interested. I tried changing to the fly Mark gave me, still nothing. I headed back into the bushes making my way upstream to give these intelligent fish a downstream presentation. I finally got an eat after working these fish for half an hour. A stunning, healthy 19-inch B section brown trout. It was the last fish I would catch that day, and certainly the most exceptional. I put Justin in that same run after I had landed the fish, but the downstream presentation, and lack of a back cast proved too much. He was able to land one small trout all day. We planned to attack the B section the next day with new flies (size 18 PMDs) and a sense of urgency as both of our six-week fishing trips were ending.

Today was not about my fishing trip, it was about Justin's. Per the plan, we headed straight for the B section early in the morning. Upon discovering a pod of nice rising fish, I put Justin on them. He got many strikes and was able to land two of them.

Shortly after, Justin and I decided to walk downstream, deeper into the B section. We stumbled upon an island. I climbed a rock and saw some massive trout in the smaller of the two runs. The biggest I saw looked like it was 25+ inches. I thought it might have been a carp until Justin pointed out the hook jaw and signature brown trout spots. They were not actively feeding, but we had found a target for the following day.

Justin ended up catching six decent fish, and I have never seen a man so happy. I set a goal to get him on a big Utah brown trout. 18+ inches is what we are searching for.

It was the last day of my trip, and I had one goal in mind. Get both of us on a true giant. We were really searching for one special bite each. We searched all morning, casting occasionally with no luck until it was time lunch.

After lunch I headed out to the island while Justin went to the fly shop. I climbed that same rock and saw a large brown trout rising next to the bank. It was not the giant from yesterday, but it was about 18-20 inches. I flung my terrestrial double dry fly rig past it and watched him gently take my chubby chernobyl as it passed over him. I was on. After about a 10-minute battle the fish shook the hook out of his mouth. I was upset until I looked back to where I got the strike and saw a significantly larger fish rising in the same spot. This fish was clearly over 20 inches.

I executed the same backhanded cast, and it ate the hopper on the first drift. The take was gentle and calculated. This intelligent

gargantuan inspected the fly before slowly rising to it, opening its mouth only enough to consume it. About three or four minutes into the battle Justin walked up. I told him I needed him to stay calm because I was trying to stay calm myself. I handed him the net as we prepared for the battle ahead. This fish knew what it was doing. It conserved energy until it saw a window. The fish dashed downstream, turned around and swam a couple of feet towards me head shaking violently. I stripped in the slack and kept the tension, but my efforts proved futile. The barbless hopper fired back at us. I fell to my knees in the water. The fish



that would have defined the last leg of the trip was gone. Justin was a good friend in the moment, but I was bitter. We fished the rest of the day catching nice fish, but nothing compared to the monster I lost. I did have one more shot at a quality fish, not a true giant, but a nice one. Justin climbed a rock to scout for me and spotted him 50 feet away from me but insisted I could not cast that far. I took it as a challenge. I casted about seven feet upstream of the fish, shooting as much line as I could. It obliterated my hopper. I set the hook, and it ran right at me. I backed up as I stripped line, but the tension just was not enough. It came off. What a way to end the trip.

During the trek back to the parking lot, I began reminiscing on



the entirety of my adventure and in the moment, I experienced serene bliss.

Flaming Gorge, UT: Fishing: 8.5/10

Camaraderie: 9/10

I had lost 20 pounds, travelled 5,000 miles, and made countless new friends; a couple of whom even helped edit this story. I caught my personal best trout multiple times, netting ten 20+ inch fish. A feat I had never accomplished, even once, before. I had some close calls with wildlife and spent much more money than I had predicted. I was dreading the long drive ahead of me but felt calm and content knowing I had done it. The trip of a lifetime. A trip so life-changing that it resulted in a career change. I will be applying to fly shops, as opposed to investment firms, pursuing a passion over a paycheck.

Tom from Great Falls said it best, “Life is about tempting fate. You just gotta do the damn thing.”

I did the damn thing.



## June Conservation Corner

by Julia Bell

### Improved River Systems through Dam Removal and Dam Management Benefits

Dam construction in America is older than the country itself. Built for its multi purposes—harnessing power to operate mills and generate hydroelectricity, navigation, water supply, flood control, irrigation, recreation, mine tailing, and potentially to recharge underground water bodies, the country has the second most number of dams globally with 91,804, of which 7,352 dams are located in Texas; China has the most number of dams. Commissioned by the Town of Conway in 1763, America's oldest dam is on the Saco River watershed in the towns of Conway and Eaton in Carroll County, New Hampshire. No longer serving for milling purposes, the Lake Conway Dam supports recreational activities today covering a little over 1,300 acres and is still owned by the Town of Conway.

In the 1972 National Dam Inspection Act, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to inventory America's dams, including those in Guam and Puerto Rico. The Corps of Engineers' first National Inventory of Dams report occurred in 1975 and has received reauthorization throughout the late 20th and early 21st centuries with the latest reauthorization occurring in the Water Resources Development Act of 2018.

Prior to America's entry into WWII, the Bureau of Reclamation dammed US rivers for the purpose of harnessing their power and to create water reservoirs for communities. Today, the average age of America's dams is 60 years. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is using the age and soundness of dams as reported in the NIDs to justify removing dams. The USFWS wants to remove the dams that do not have specific purposes, operational forethought and planning, and continued maintenance because

dams alter the flow, chemistry, silt load and temperature of water....  
Dams, whether old or new, impact the entire ecological system. When

a river is dammed, so are the nutrients and animals inside of it. This interrupts the life cycles of numerous aquatic species and subsequently disrupts the food web. Dams slow the natural flow of water and warm it, promoting the spread of deadly algae and parasites. Effects like these have already caused extinction for many species of mussels, fish and even a dolphin. Dams have been harming salmon and sturgeon since their installation, and people are frustrated to see these culturally and economically important species hurt when it is within our ability to protect them.<sup>1</sup>

To prove their point, early studies of the newly restored, free-flowing Klamath River are proving to be quite positive. The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement which involved multiple regulatory agencies, California, Oregon, non-profits, farmers, American Indian groups, and the dams' owner, PacifiCorp authorized the Klamath dam removal project. Beginning in 2010 and finishing in September 2024, four large-scale, hydro-electric dams, the earthfill dam Iron Gate, the concrete diversion dam Copco No. 2, the concrete gravity arch dam Copco No. 1, and the combination earthfill and concrete spillway J.C. Boyle, built from 1918 – 1962, were removed to reunite the upper and lower basins and return the Klamath to its natural, free-flowing state. “Within 10 days of completing the final in-water work at Iron Gate Dam...6,000 Chinook salmon were observed migrating upstream into newly accessible habitat over a two-week period....The fact that volitional fish passage was restored so quickly really speaks to the success of the project thus far.”<sup>2</sup> Tributary and land restoration is currently underway as well.

1. Midwest Region Office of Communications, “Why are Dams getting Removed and How will this Change our Rivers?”, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 20 Feb 2024, <https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-02/why-are-we-removing-dams> (accessed 19 June 2025).



*Klamath River Dam Removal, photo copyright International Rivers*

The Klamath dam removal project incurred heavy expenses, \$450 million, which is not as costly as it would have been to repair the four dams and was largely funded by PacifiCorp. The project also demonstrated that removing a significant number of dams is not financially feasible. Additionally, for those well-maintained dams that provide much-needed services such as water provisions for drinking and irrigation, how can dammed rivers and streams thrive? Collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and the USACE are also yielding successes. Scientific study and understanding of a river system's pulses and flows are allowing the USACE to adjust dam operations to achieve what naturally occurs in a river system and restore lifecycles and ecosystems to pre-dam flows. Arizona's Bill Williams River, Oregon's Willamette River, Texas' Caddo Lake are three rivers benefitting from this conservation collaboration. If these water operations are sustainable, more USACE-controlled dams could restore flows to over 50,000 miles of US rivers.

### One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Social media can work for good. The ban on the Pebble Mine project was an example of uniting many like-minded conservationists across the country to save and protect a critical habitat. Social media can also foster the spread of mis-information. I was once a news junkie. Cody worked for television news and print media. However, today, I find the Fourth Estate is very untrustworthy, due to an obvious bias a network or print media presents unabashedly. As a result, I find myself watching C-SPAN, [live.house.gov](https://www.house.gov), and [fednet.net](https://www.fednet.net) when I want to know what the elected officials are actually doing without having to wade through the Fourth Estate's bias.

2. Jeff Gunderson, "Benefits Flow Quickly as Historic Dam Removal Restores Klamath River," American Society of Civil Engineers, 13 February 2025, <https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/article/2025/02/13/benefits-flow-as-historic-dam-removal-restores-klamath-river> (accessed 18 June 2025).

Concerned with the item regarding the sale of public lands in the One Big Beautiful Bill, I watched the debates and House Representatives' votes on the bill. On 18 May, by a 17-16 vote, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform advanced the OBBB Bill out of committee to the full House. On 21 May, significant negotiations and debates occurred, one of those dealt with eliminating from the OBBB the sale of public lands in Nevada and Utah. On 22 May 2025, in a 215-214-1 vote, the House passed the OBB Act, and though the House Republicans, through procedural rule for the 119th Congress, amended the Act on 10 June, they did not restore the sale of public lands. They disallowed mining around the Boundary Waters wilderness in the Superior National Forest. So, even though many fly fishing groups are making social media statements regarding how reprehensible the OBBB Act is because it is allowing for the sale of public lands, I encourage you to research statements. As of today, the OBBB Act does not contain any allowances for the sale of any public lands. I encourage you to go to

primary sources. I encourage you to watch live productions of Congress. I encourage you to contact and monitor your Congressional members' websites. I encourage you to write to your Federal, state, and local legislative representatives, and I encourage you to question those who spread false information. I am not advocating for or against the OBBB Act, but I am advocating that people know what it contains and does not contain, and from a conservation standpoint, it contains two big wins. What the Senate version of this Act will be is being debated currently. Senate Majority Leader John Thune set the goal for the Senate to pass its version of the Bill by the 4th of July. We shall see.

**UPDATE:** On 28 June 2025, Utah Senator Mike Lee, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair, withdrew his proposal to sell public lands for development in the Senate version of the OBBB Act. Initially, Lee changed his original proposal of selling .5% - .75% of US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in 11 Western states to .25% - .5% of Bureau of Land Management lands within five miles of the border of a population center. Strong intraparty opposition, with five House Republicans stating they would vote against the bill if public land sales remained in the Senate version of the OBBB, and outdoor conservation groups such as the Boone and Crockett Club, Ducks Unlimited, Fly Fishers International, and Trout Unlimited, also vehemently and publicly opposed the public land sale.

### ♣2U Litter Campaign

Many know the phrase "Don't Mess with Texas," but many do not know that this was TxDOT's slogan for their new anti-litter campaign that began in 1985. Seizing upon the popularity and litter reduction success, the Nueces River Authority began the ♣2U anti-litter campaign on waterways in 2004. Its signature is the yellow mesh bag with the ♣2U slogan emblazoned across the bag which are designed to hold 1/3 yard of litter. Our club has many of these bags and will gladly give you one for you to use on your next fishing excursion, so that when you see a plastic bottle, a Styrofoam cup,





line suspended in a nearby tree, you can pick it up and put in the bag and continue your fishing knowing you're helping your local environment. The bags can be reused many times before they too need to be discarded. I stuffed mine on a recent fly fishing excursion and threw it and the bag away, as it was getting a little worse for wear, when I came off the water. It's a simple way to contribute to conserving our local waterways, and the DFF is glad to participate in this campaign.



### Improved River Systems through Dam Removal and Dam Management Benefits

"8 Purposes of Dam: Irrigation, Navigation, Water Supply, Flood Control." Dream Civil, 11 July 2022, <https://dreamcivil.com/purposes-of-dam/> (accessed 17 June 2025).

"20 Oldest Dams in the USA (2025): Conway Lake Dam." Dams of the World, 3 February 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/dams/index.htm> (accessed 25 June 2025).

Bloom, Adam. "5 Conservation Projects Focused on Long-Term Success: Getting Dams to go with the Flow—For Nature." The Nature Conservancy, 15 February 2022, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/conservation-projects-long-term-success/> (accessed 18 June 2025).

"Conway Lake Dam, New Hampshire, USA." Dams of the World, 3 February 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/dams/index.htm> (accessed 25 June 2025).

"Dams: Structures that Shape the Rivers." National Park Service, 5 February 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/dams/index.htm> (accessed 18 June 2025).

Gunderson, Jeff. "Benefits Flow Quickly as Historic Dam Removal Restores Klamath River." American Society of Civil Engineers, 13 February 2025, <https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/article/2025/02/13/benefits-flow-as-historic-dam-removal-restores-klamath-river> (accessed 18 June 2025).

"How Many Dams are there in the USA?" StudyCountry.com, <https://www.studycountry.com/wiki/how-many-dams-are-there-in-the-usa> (accessed 25 June 2025).

Midwest Region Office of Communications. "Why are Dams getting Removed and How will this Change our Rivers?" U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 20 February 2024, <https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-02/why-are-we-removing-dams> (accessed 19 June 2025).

"National Inventory of Dams." FEMA: National Dam Safety Program, 9 May 2025, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/dam-safety/national-inventory-dams> (accessed 18 June 2025).

"Remove 30,000 Harmful Dams." American Rivers, [https://www.americanrivers.org/remove-30000-dams/?\\_gl=1\\*18shywc\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MjQ4NjA5MjIwLjE3NTA5OTYyNDI](https://www.americanrivers.org/remove-30000-dams/?_gl=1*18shywc*_gcl_au*MjQ4NjA5MjIwLjE3NTA5OTYyNDI) (accessed 19 June 2025).

Spitzer, Anna. "Accelerating Dam Removal in the United States: US Environmental Policy." Duke, Nicholas School of the Environment, 29 April 2025, <https://blogs.nicholas.duke.edu/env212/accelerating-dam-removal-in-the-united-states/> (accessed 17 June 2025).

### One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Forbes Breaking News. "FULL DEBATE: Republicans and Democrats Do Final Battle Over 'Big Beautiful Bill' on House Floor." YouTube, 22 May 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO0MmGy8aAg> (accessed 22 May 2025).

### ♠ 2U Litter Campaign

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. "CBBEP Receives EPA Grant for Up2U Litter Prevention Campaign." Living on the Edge, May 2020, <https://www.cbbep.org/manager/wp-content/uploads/CBBEP-Awarded-422000-for-Litter-Prevention-Campaign-1.pdf> (accessed 20 June 2025).

"Don't Mess with Texas Origin Story." Texas Department of Transportation, <https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/about-us/> (accessed 20 June 2025).

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to:

Dallas Fly Fishers  
8349 Club Meadows Dr.  
Dallas, Tx 75243

You can also join or renew online at

<http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html>

## MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

New Member ☐ or Renewing My Membership ☐ (Check one) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of the Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes ☐ No ☐ (check one)

### New Members:

Annual membership dues: \$36 per year  
After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year  
After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year

### Renewing Members:

Annual membership dues: \$36 per year