

# The Leader



*Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers* ♦ **January 2025**  
*Volume XLVIII* ♦ **Number 1** ♦ [www.dallasflyfishers.org](http://www.dallasflyfishers.org)



**FLY FISHERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

## On The Water

*by Dave Smith*

Another year is almost in the rear view mirror, and we look forward to what the New Year will bring. As we close out 2024, I would like to thank the Board Members who will finish their term for all their work on behalf of the members.

The Holiday Party at Besa's Italian Restaurant was enjoyed by those who took part. A special thank you to our members who helped in the planning.

Heading into 2025 there will be a number

of things to turn your focus to. The trout stockings are underway in area ponds. The 3rd Tuesday tying class will be back in full swing, and for members looking for help to improve your casting help is available.

Our monthly meeting with guest speakers is something to look forward to so be sure to check the calendar in The Leader for up to date information.

In The Leader will be the list of DFF Board for 2025 showing position and contact information.

If you like fly tying a couple of events early in the year will take place:

Red River Rendezvous March 14 & 15 and Sow Bug March 27-29.

Although the weather in the early months of the year may not be great, some days it's always good to throw a line and be out in nature.

**ALL THE BEST FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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

*Dave Smith*  
*President, Dallas FlyFishers*



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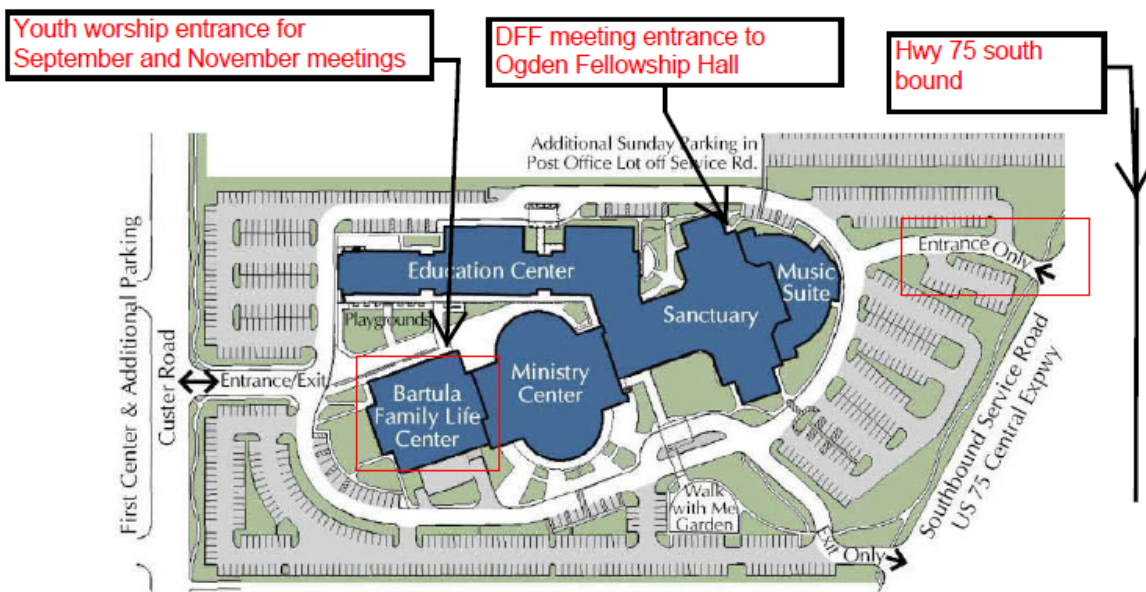
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## DFF Program Schedule



located between Arapaho (to the north) and Beltline (to the south) Rds  
address: 503 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080

This month's meeting will be January 6 at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

We appreciate everyone's flexibility over the past few months as we tried to find alternative locations due to conflicts with the church's schedule.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN, fly tying will start at 6:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00 PM.

## 2025 Program Schedule of the Speakers

**January 6th:** Rick & Dori Matney of Alaska Chromechasers and Rick Matney Outdoors out of Bozeman. Rick and Dori will be showcasing their guiding and outfitting operations in southeast Alaska for steelhead/gathering along with their operation in southwest Montana. They will be hosting cooking classes at the shop as well. They run an excellent operation and are

two of the finest folks in the industry.

**February 3rd:** Capt. William Townsend will be coming up from Corpus Christi to talk about his guiding operation for redfish and speckled trout in the Rockport/Corpus area. A couple of our members have fished with William and he is one of the preferred guides on the Texas coast.

**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.

**January 6th — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**January 21st — Third Tuesday Fly Tying**, Allen Cabela's 6:30 pm

**January 25th — Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival** 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Terrace United Methodist Church 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055

**January 26th — Stream Life** at Furneaux Creek, 10:00 am

**February 3rd — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**March 3rd — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Room 203

**March 14th & 15th — Red River Rendezvous**, Eisenhower State Park, Denison, TX

**March 20th — DFF White Bass Outing**, Nolan River, meeting at Rock Creek Bridge, 7:00 am

**March 27th - 29th — Sowbug Roundup**, Mountain Home, AR

**April 7th — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**May 5th — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**June 2nd — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**July 7th — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 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 — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

**September 8th — Monthly Meeting**, TBD

**September 26th & 27th — FFI Fly Fest**, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**October 6th — Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

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

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

## 2024 DFF Holiday Party at Besa's Italian Restaurant

We celebrated our Holiday Party at Besa's Italian Restaurant where we enjoyed great friendship, wonderful food, celebrations of honored guests— Jim Crump, Dr. Ray Galloway, Sharon and Harold Hosack, and Polly and Peter Rea, fly fishing accomplishments of friends, winning raffle items, and

welcoming new Board members. We left richer for having learned about our fellow members. Julia Bell will be sending links for you to download your holiday portraits.





Jim Crump & Dave Smith



Sharon & Harold Hosack



Paul Locklear & Terri White



Peter & Polly Rea

As we said “Thank You” to Richard Johnson, Jim Latshaw, and Jim Woodman for their time and dedication to the Dallas Fly Fishers and their passion for fly fishing, we inducted the following members to the 2025 Board: Terri White, Secretary; Paul Locklear, Education Chair; 2027 Trustee, Jonathon Ramirez; Outings Chair, Joel Williams.

If you could not attend, mark your calendars for 2025 to add this event of fun and camaraderie to your Holiday schedule.

## Meet Your New Board Members

### Terri White



Hello, my name is Terri White. It is a privilege to serve as the new DFF secretary. I am originally from the Dallas area, a graduate of Lewisville High School, and Texas Woman's University's College of Nursing. My love of fishing was passed to me from my grandfather. My earliest memories of “Papa” are when he began teaching me how to fish at White Rock Lake. My first gear was a cane pole, bobber, and worms. Papa was so kind and gentle, teaching me how to put worms on hooks, and how to take the sunfish off the hook without hurting my hand. We would take the whole mess of fish home, and my grandmother would clean them and fry them in cornmeal (back when you could actually eat fish out of White Rock Lake)! I am sure my grandparents had to have a “second” dinner after I went to bed. But, it sure did seem to me like a bunch of fish at the time. I remember eating the crunchy tails...yum! Then,

when I was older, Papa bought me my first Zebco casting rod with a rubber plug, so we could practice casting. He was also a fly fisherman. Unfortunately, Papa passed before he could teach me anything about fly fishing. I know he would be proud of all the things you guys have taught me. I did, though, inherit Papa's fly rod. I hope to someday use that rod and catch fish in his memory! Thank you guys for welcoming me into your group!

### Paul Locklear



My name is Paul Locklear. My wife and I currently reside in Flower Mound, TX, but I am originally from Baltimore, Maryland. I grew up fishing the Chesapeake Bay on my dad's boat. We caught all kinds of fish including White Perch, Small and Large Mouth Bass, Chain Pickerel and Striper, and of course lots of tall tales.

In 2013, I retired from the US Army with 33 years of service. While in the Army, I fished every military base where I was stationed and the surrounding towns. Always looking for the best spot to drop a line.

Since 2011, I have owned a one-man show small landscaping business. I service the local areas of Flower Mound with both residential and small commercial properties. I love the outdoors, and this cures the need to be outside when I can't fish.

I was literally hooked after I attended a beginner fly fishers' class in Dallas and learned how to cast and tie a Wooly Boogier fly. We also learned safety and regulations as well as entomology. My first catch on a fly was a catfish at the Texas freshwater fisheries in Athens, Texas during a Dallas Fly Fisher outing. I have been hooked ever since.

In 2019, I became a volunteer with TPWD and quickly moved to becoming a Volunteer Angler Instructor. I helped teach conventional and fly fishing and was able to assist the Dallas Fly Fishers in teaching fly fishing classes. I was able to pick up more skills from other members of the club and after two years I became a TPWD Area Chief. I help train the training Instructors for conventional and fly fishing and have averaged over 300 volunteer hours a year for the last 3 years.

I am also a BSA Certified Angler Instructor. I teach the Merit Badge for fishing and fly fishing to the Boy Scouts. I have also been involved in the Merit Badge instruction with the Dallas Fly Fishers since 2020. I'm also a fly tyer and belong to FFi fly tying group. I am looking forward to a productive year in 2025 and am excited to be the Director of Education for the Dallas Fly Fishers.





## Jonathon Ramirez

Hello all, I am Jonathon Ramirez, and I first want to say a huge thank you for allowing me to serve y'all from the DFF Board. I am by no means a stranger if you frequent the Dirty Water Fly Co. shop in downtown Plano. I am usually in shop most Sundays swappin' stories with Danny and friends and scheming/dreaming where the next trip will take us. I am an avid warmwater fly guy with a special love for saltwater. Flicking flies to a tailing red or being able to present to a sheephead is a feeling that is hard to obtain any other way. Thank y'all for allowing me to get involved with DFF and please do not hesitate to share some stories with me or ask questions!

## Joel Williams

As the Event Coordinator for Dallas Fly Fishers, I bring a passion for organizing engaging and meaningful experiences that bring our community together.

My fishing and outdoors journey began at a very early age in Wisconsin with my dad and uncles. We spent nearly every weekend hunting and fishing throughout the state. My fly-fishing journey started as a Christmas gift in 2022, when I received a fly-fishing lesson with Danny Soltau.

That first lesson sparked a passion that quickly grew into a lifestyle. I began tying flies at the shop and exploring the small rivers and creeks around the area. Shortly after, I purchased a kayak, which created even more opportunities to fish. I also began taking my fly-fishing and tying equipment with me on work trips, turning every destination into a new adventure.

Over the past year, I've fished the Texas and Florida coasts, explored waters throughout central Texas, ventured north to the Rocky Mountains, and cast lines across Wisconsin. Drawing on my many years as a DIY hunter, I've developed a self-reliant style of fishing, always seeking out new waters and targeting dilident species. Fly fishing has become more than a hobby—it's a way for me to connect with nature, explore the unknown, and challenge myself in new and exciting ways.

One of my favorite aspects of the Dallas Fly Fishers club is the camaraderie it fosters.

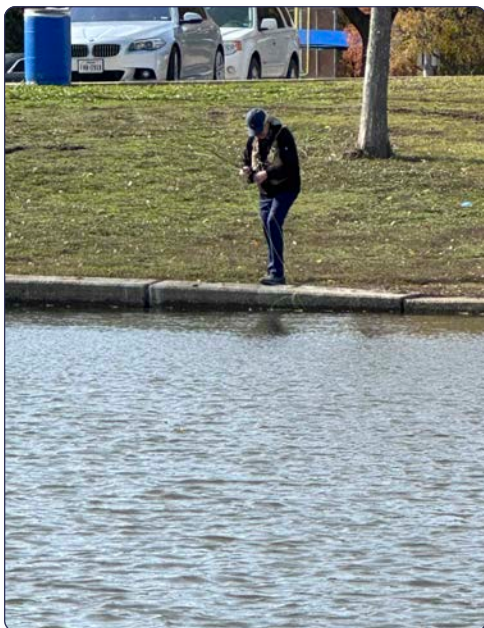
Whether it's on the water, at club events, or during workshops, I look forward to creating opportunities for our members to connect and grow their skills. With a commitment to enriching the club's activities, I look forward to making each event a celebration of Dallas Fly Fishers' vibrant community and our shared passion for fly fishing.



# DFF December Outings Report

The DFF chased some of TPWD's trout stockings on two different outings. Though the weather was a little windy, we enjoyed chasing the stockers. We fished Josey Ranch in Carrollton and at the Kelberg-Rylie Recreation Center in Dallas. It took a little effort, but we were able to find the fish. 135

grain sink lines or floating lines with a beadhead bugger in green, brown, or black seemed to be just what the trout wanted. Even if the DFF doesn't have a formal outing, we encourage members to get together with friends and fish the state. Follow the Trout Stocking schedule at [this website:](#)



Dave Shatzer



Jim Webb





*Julia Bell & Rusty Ketz*



*Julia Bell*



*Rusty Ketz*



*Kleberg-Rylie Pond*

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## Upcoming DFF Outings

The DFF will be taking a saltwater fishing trip to the Texas Coast. Joel Williams will be leading us to the Rockport and Port Aransas area taking advantage of MLK Day for an extended weekend.

- We'll base the trip out of Goose Island State Park.
- Head to Rockport on 1/16/24 and return on 1/20/24.
- This trip offers a variety of options for wade or kayak fishing, as well as access to many local guides in the area.
- Make your own reservations at Goose Island State Park via this link: <https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/goose-island-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=TX&parkId=1200036>
- RSVP to Joel Williams at 972-880-1788 or [joel.williams53@gmail.com](mailto:joel.williams53@gmail.com)



# Caddo Flyfishing Expo

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

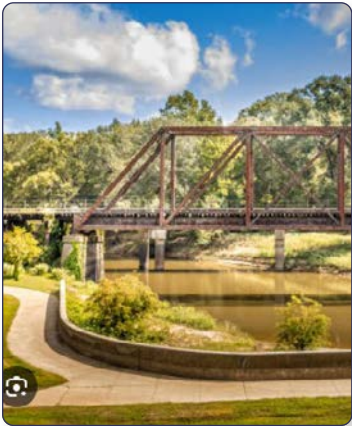
**Details:**

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 please contact Steve Oliver at: 318-349-6411 or Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854

## Color Matters

### DFF Fly Tying Corner

*by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator*

Stop guessing. Choose wisely when it comes to picking your best fly for stocked trout. But...how and why you make a selection might need some touchup before COLD WATER FISHING THIS SEASON.

You may have noticed that conventional fishermen tend to fish with artificial SOFT BAITS or pliable power bait to entice local trout. These methods work and do entice fish to eat or strike. Thinking along those lines, we notice some commonality between fly fishermen and conventional fishermen. We actually have borrowed ideas and lure colors to enhance streamers and provide hot spots. To take this one step further, as fly fishermen we understand that fly size, color, and presentation play key roles in catching fish anywhere.

Consider common soft baits and power baits that come in a multitude of colors and variations. Trout versions offer mixed colors like chartreuse, yellow, and bright pink and red. Soft baits offer the same colors but also include a natural tan, brown, and/or red to mimic squirmy, living baits. Most of these colors and combinations have been around for a long time and work well. Evidence of their use is sprinkled all around the ponds and waterways we visit and fly fish.

Sometimes the fly fishing purist sees some sense in borrowing an idea or two. So let's try incorporating power bait coloring in our flies. High

visibility, strike indicator yarns and synthetics are perfect for this job. Not only are these colors working for trout, but other species are joining the eating frenzy when hot spots are introduced to any fly patterns. Consider natural nymphs fished at mid-column or near bottom areas. These are great candidates for bright collars and bright underwings. The pheasant tail nymph in a size 12 or even 14 is a good pattern to vary. The next choice, maybe your first, is a bead head variant with the colors of power bait incorporated into the body and wing. Finally, you might try squirmy wormy type soft baits. These are a soft version of the San Juan worm. Both versions are deadly when tied on jig heads and behind bright bead heads. Midges in bright red and silver traditionally work as well. Finally, the use of rubber legs enhances movement and is offered in hundreds of sizes and color combinations. So, join the color revolution and see what we fly fishers may have in common with the conventional fishing folks.

One comment on presentation: your success can be enhanced by adding a dropper to the bend of your first fly. Two flies, most times, are better than one, but remember to keep the dropper length to 12 inches or close. This way you diminish tangles and keep the single fly feel during casting.

Try these ideas for your next all species fly. If they improve your catch count, thank a conventional fisherman. Remember, color matters.

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
INTERNATIONAL  
**SOWBUG**  
**ROUNDUP**

Presented by North Arkansas Fly Fishers

**MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**Welcome to a Top 10  
Fly-Fishing Destination.**



**Pat Dorsey**

Master Fly-Fishing Guide



**Tim Flagler**

Fly Tying Instructor

*Join us as we  
**Celebrate Euro  
Nymphing** on  
the Norfolk  
& White Rivers  
with vendors,  
seminars, food,  
& special guests!*



**Baxter County  
Fair Grounds**

Mountain Home, AR

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

for adults accompanying  
children 12 and under

**9am - 4pm**





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# New Year's Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

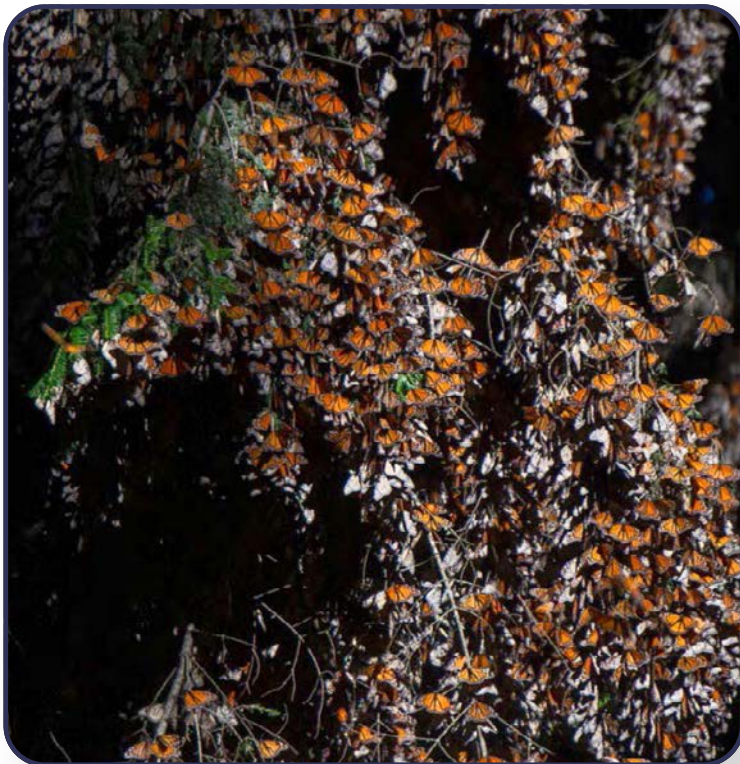


I hope you are having a very Happy New Year. My family had a totally over the top year in 2024 and hope to get 2025 to return to some semblance of normal. Good luck on that one, for sure.

One of the most interesting animal happenings in my view, is the annual migration of the beautiful Monarch Butterflies. While I am well familiar with the migrations of the waterfowl from the Canadian nesting sites to our coastal area as winter approaches and then the return in the spring to nest and produce another generation of their species, the idea that an insect population could do a similar thing is fascinating.

Migration depends on the availability of Milkweed, the Butterflies dominate food source. Both the trip to the south to escape the winter freezes and the return to the north to pollinate the flowers, fruits and vegetables depend on the availability of ready blooming flowers with a nectar reserve.

In spite of the complexity of their migration, both when and which route is safe, the insects move millions of individuals every year. Monarch butterflies are seen in the Mexican forests in February 2022. Tens of thousands of monarchs can cluster on a single tree.



US officials have recently announced a decision to extend federal protections to the species, which is endangered by changing weather patterns, loss of habitat, and exposure to insecticides.

The iconic monarch butterfly is cherished across North America, captivating children and adults throughout its fascinating lifecycle. Despite its fragility, it is remarkably resilient, like many things in nature when we just give them a chance. Providing monarchs with enough milkweed and nectar plants, even in small areas, can help put them on the road to recovery. The monarchs are not currently protected but would be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Nearly 4,400 acres of critical habitat is being proposed at sites in coastal California.

Here in East Texas we are at a corner where the Monarch's from several southern states make the turn and head south into Mexico. Our stake in this is to make sure that abundant acres of milkweed and large areas free of mass insecticide applications are available.

## There is a new Government Agency, with the acronym of DOGE.

"DOGE," or the "Department of Government Efficiency," is a key initiative aimed at reforming our government. This is way overdue, but whenever it was tried before, the status quo easily triumphed. Team DOGE must quickly obtain an expert knowledge of the rules that constrain and enable how government functions. More importantly, team DOGE must resolve not to throw up their hands in frustration, no matter what the obstacle. Many environmental organizations have long expertise and a deep bench on issues of climate, energy, the environment and individual freedom. The opportunities in these essential areas are ripe.

My suggestions center on the "climate crisis" and the destructive policies it has justified.

\* First and foremost, withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris climate straitjacket. Its terms require that the USA and other industrialized nations switch from fossil fuels to "clean renewable" energy.



It would make rich nations pay developing countries over \$300 billion a year for climate damage “compensation” and renewable energy financing. But China, India and other developing countries need not cut emissions and will continue using coal, oil and natural gas in ever-increasing quantities.

\* Eliminate the institutionalized junk science claims that fossil fuel use has caused a climate crisis for people and planet. Fossil fuels provide 80% of America’s energy; raw materials for thousands of petrochemical products; and the foundation of our economy, health and welfare. Their emissions certainly contribute to the 0.04% CO2 in Earth’s atmosphere, but this substance enables and spurs plant growth, thereby feeding the animal kingdom and making nearly all life possible.

There is much more to be done. But this is a solid beginning for reducing or eliminating excessive and harmful pseudo-science, grants, policies, practices and regulations – and restoring government of, by and for the People.

## **The Highly Successful programs to protect the wildlife in our Western Mountains had a great year.**

Many of you are aware that Jere belongs to a conservation group called the Yellowstone to Yukon, also known as Y2Y. It is a series of Projects designed to protect the last remaining major mountain environment in North America. Due to the complexity of the environment, there are many groups in the project. My favorite part is trying to compensate for the stress caused the wildlife that have to move frequently due to the stress of seasons, and also due to manmade pressures.

Projects like the structures to give wildlife safe passage through built-up areas such as the bridges over major highways. The mountains are roughly on a north to south orientation, while most of the people movements are from east to west. This causes some very difficulty encounters with night traveling human traffic encountering

herds of animals that move mostly in the morning and evening. In many areas structures such as you see here are built, with fences to encourage the animals to move along the road to a safe crossing structure. When I first saw one of these, I doubted that it would work, but the evidence is strong that not only do the animals learn to use these overpasses, but that the structures can be shelters in extreme weather events.

Imagine a Rocky Mountain landscape where wildlife can safely roam across miles of untouched habitats. In some stretches of the Yukon — the northern anchor of the Yellowstone to Yukon region — this is the reality. But as we move south, through British Columbia and Alberta, and into Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the vast stretches of wilderness become more and more fragmented, cut up by industrial development, towns, cities, and one of the biggest threats of all: roadways.

Highways and roads are massive barriers that prevent wildlife from safely accessing the food, mates, and habitat they need for survival. Wildlife like grizzly bears, elk, and wolves may need to cross dangerous highways that cut through their natural habitat. Tragically, these situations can end in accidents, causing injury or death for wildlife and motorists.



A recent poll showed that 70 percent of Montanans have



hit big game while driving! In places like Banff National Park that enjoy a system of crossings, animal-vehicle collisions have dropped by 90 percent, keeping wildlife and people safer. Imagine all the lives and hardship that could be saved if we had more crossings.

The good news is there is a strong commitment among our partners to invest time, energy and money into these massive infrastructure projects right now. Y2Y plays a critical role in providing the science and advocacy to get the projects done.

## Have a Great 2025

We have filled the openings on the DFF Board for 2025. Jere is the longest serving board members with 32 years of service in many capacities. I hope that our great club inspires others to be part of the movers and the shakers that make things happen. There is certainly no shortage of talent in our group. Feel free to ask any of the board members on the left margin of page 2 in the Newsletter and ask about serving. We are a fun group and would welcome you.

In the meantime, we still teach fly tying roughly three times a month, usually on Tuesdays. Come and learn or come and teach. Watch the FB page for Outings and for Guide that are

available for hire. These are some very interesting fly flingers, and can teach you a lot. Most of them guide year-round, so talk to them about what you want.

Our Club is a teaching club and will have opportunities to teach Boy Scouts and university students and lead them on fishing lessons. My favorite is teaching the DBU folks four times a year. The big learning events in Carrollton for the public, both the classroom and the youth fishing, are great opportunities for our very knowledgeable members to share our knowledge and our love of the Outdoors.

You get the idea. If you are not involved in our many activities, you will miss a great opportunity.

In the meantime, have a very Happy New Year and best wishes for many bent rods and hard to land fishes.

***Get involved. Our Outdoors needs all your help.***



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