

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *May 2025*
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The months are rolling along, and all the signs of the Spring season surround us. The Bluebonnets are looking great as always, the trees are showing new foliage, and the flower beds showing new life. The signs of Spring tells us the fishing season is here. Area waters have improved with the recent rains. The time is here to head for your favorite pond or river. The fish are waiting.

Checking out your gear before you go is important, and

if you tie flies, be sure to have a few streamers in your box as they look and act like baitfish, and big Bass look for the big meal. A number of events are just around the corner, so be sure to check the calendar in The Leader and on the club web site for upcoming events.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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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.

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

May 16th-17th — **ArkLaTexOma's Bluegill Bash** on Lake O' the Pines, Island View RV Park, Friday 10 - 5; Saturday, 8 - 5, 903-767-7930

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

July 7th — **Bill Sargeant Tie Along 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 — **Katie Cowan & Dani Rose Tie Along, Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

September 8th — **Chase Smith of Fishchase Flies 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

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

2025 Newsletter Editor Needed

Due to health concerns, Marshall Baldwin has resigned his position as Newsletter Editor. We wish Marshall continued success in his health recovery. With Marshall's resignation, the DFF is in need of a Newsletter Editor. You will have help and be mentored for as long as you need to feel comfortable in the role. The Newsletter Editor is NOT responsible for designing and formatting the articles. We have a Graphics Designer that takes care of the look of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor position entails:

- Communicating with various members for their monthly contributions
- Monthly deadline is the 23rd; newsletter is typically e-mailed to the membership on the 1st
- Forwarding all monthly content to the Graphics Designer and communicating any needed edits
- Emailing the completed newsletter from the Graphics Designer to the membership
- Attending the monthly Board meetings via Zoom, almost always the first Sunday of the month

If you would be interested in helping the club fill this vital service to the fly fishing community, as our readership extends well beyond our club membership, we would love to have you on the Board as our Newsletter Editor. Please contact Dave Smith at dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com.

DFF April Outings Report

Pecan Ridge Outing

There's a certain poetry to a quiet pond at sunrise, the way it holds its secrets just beneath the surface. Thanks to Vaughn DuBose, the Dallas Fly Fishers had the good fortune to experience that firsthand at Pecan Ridge this April. Vaughn, always the magician with connections, opened the gates to this angler's paradise—a spread of three intimate ponds and one sprawling jewel of water.

Twelve of us gathered at Pecan Ridge on Saturday, April 12th, with rods in hand and optimism in the air. The ponds, glassy and obliging, welcomed us with calm winds and a perfect temperature—spring in Texas, behaving itself for once.



There's something meditative about fishing from a bank, though three of our number opted for boats, cutting languid paths across the water. The rest of us stayed shore-bound, finding space to stretch out and let the morning's rhythm dictate our pace. And the fish didn't disappoint—bluegills, crappie, and bass made their appearances like actors hitting their marks.

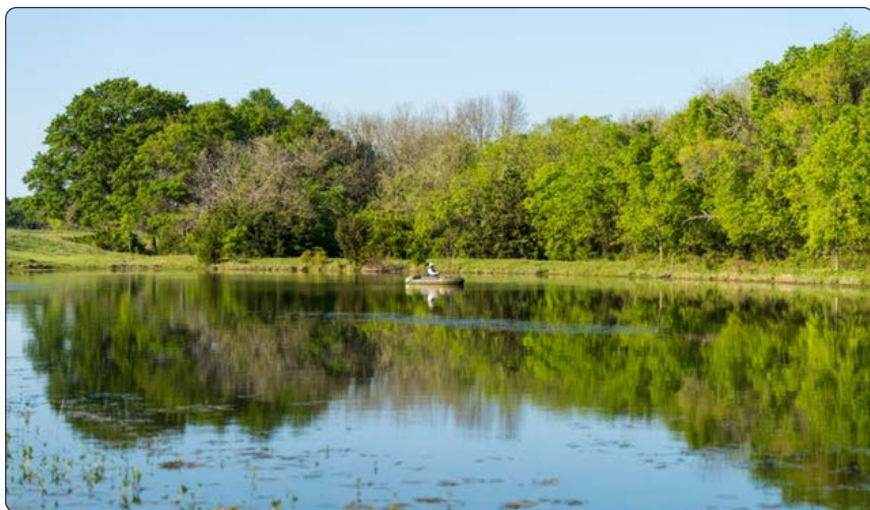
For a couple of us, it was a red-letter day—their first fish on the fly. Watching someone catch that inaugural fish is a rite of passage, a spark of pure joy that reminds the rest of us why we started. If you were there, you felt it too—a shared thrill rippling through the



group like a cast well-placed.

By lunchtime, the wind had begun to stir, as if signaling the curtain call. But we'd already had our fill of stories, laughter, and a sense of camaraderie you don't find scrolling through your phone. It was, in every way that mattered, a morning well spent.

Our deepest thanks to Vaughn for making it all possible. Until the next outing—tight lines and fair winds.



Upcoming DFF Outings

San Marcos River Outing

Join us for the DFF May Outing from **May 1st to May 4th!** We'll be camping and fishing Thursday through Sunday—feel free to come and go as your schedule allows. Our basecamp will be at **Shady Grove Campsites**: 9515 FM 1979, Martindale, TX 78655

This location is a perfect starting point for exploring some of Central Texas' most scenic creeks and rivers. Situated right on the San Marcos River, it's an ideal spot for fishing, paddling, and enjoying the outdoors.

Fishing Details

Target species include:

- Panfish

- Largemouth Bass
- Guadalupe Bass
- Cichlids
- Carp

We recommend bringing a **4- to 6-weight rod** for this trip. If you have a **kayak or canoe**, bring it along—there are numerous access points for paddling. If wading is more your style, many nearby creeks and rivers offer great wading opportunities.

There's no reason not to join us for this exciting weekend!

Please RSVP with **Joel Williams** so we can plan appropriately for camping arrangements:

(972) 880-1788

joel.williams53@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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

ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers

Second Annual



*Bluegill Bash on
Lake O' the Pines*

Friday May 16th, 10 – 5 Saturday May 17th, 8 - 5

Island View RV Park - 1099 Lindsey Rd.

Jefferson, Texas 75657 903.767.7930

(30 minutes from Jefferson, Texas)

Friday – Fly Tying and Fellowship

Saturday – Fly Tying and Fishing

There will also be...

- Casting Contest
- Free Casting Lessons by Certified Casting Instructors
- Mystery Fly Fishing Bream Tournament
- ...and more!

Visit our webpage for more information:

Arklatexomaflytyers.com

Questions feel free to call Mike Hawkins 903.353.3357

An Average Angler's Blue Ribbon Tour

Adventure Log: Part 3

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

Craig, MT: July 2-7

The coming days were to be spent in Rocky Mountain National Park. I came to my senses and decided to cancel and head straight for Montana, to avoid the Independence Day crowds.

Once I got to Montana I was awestruck by the natural beauty. The mountain ranges were relatively small, but gorgeous nonetheless, complemented perfectly by the vast meadows and never-ending rivers. Rivers that I could not wait to fish.

I started my day on the Missouri River late, at about noon. The fish were rising everywhere, snacking on the hatching Pale Morning Dun, Trico, and Caddis floating on the surface. Like the Gunnison Gorge, the river was at a slight boil, yet I still managed to not get a bite for five hours. After switching flies seemingly every five minutes, I exhausted my resources and was forced to keep trying the same bugs. I finally got an eat on a size 16 rusty spinner, a PMD adjacent imitation. The fish gently and carefully ate the fly, but as I set the hook chaos erupted. The rainbow trout darted downstream and leapt from the river, revealing its impressive size. It must have been over 20". In the mayhem, my 5x tippet broke and I lost the fish. But with my newfound knowledge of a PMD bite, I carried on with my chin up.

Amidst air thick with an evening Caddis hatch, I flung my lame imitation among the rising trout. I landed the first willing fish after a seven-minute, heart pounding fight: A 19" rainbow trout at sunset, 9:15 pm. They grow them strong in the Missouri. I find it difficult to express just how strong these fish are, but it is like fighting a missile with a fly rod. 18- and 19-inch fish can reveal your backing on their initial run.

I caught two fish that day on three opportunities, efficient for the average angler. After a long day of fishing, I retired to my truck bed camper that was beginning to feel like home.

Come morning, I stubbornly tried to get the fish to eat what they were yesterday, to no avail. New day, new forage I suppose. After four hours of switching between dry flies, I finally decided to try some nymphing. The action was immediate. On my first cast I hooked up on what I can only assume was a giant. The fish ate one of my two wet flies, within 15 feet of where I was wet wading, and took off like a rocket. I was into my backing within 10 seconds. I tried desperately to slow it down by running after it while reeling in line. My efforts proved futile when the behemoth broke my line as if it was a single strand of spider silk. Of the many fish I have lost, this one felt like the one that got away.



That bite set the tone for the rest of the day, catching browns and rainbows while nymphing. I caught 5 quality trout, ranging from 16-20.5 inches.

Towards the end of the fishing day, I started talking with a man named Mark who insisted I call him Montana Mark. Montana Mark was throwing night crawlers on a spinning rod. He caught his share, keeping a couple to feed his grandkids. As I prepared to trek the two miles from Bull Pasture back to camp, Mark offered to drive me. I was incredibly grateful.

I headed to bed early that night, after a meager sandwich for dinner. The rest would be necessary, for in the morning I was to begin a long journey to America's foremost National Park.

Craig, MT: Fishing: 9/10

Camaraderie: 5/10



Yellowstone National Park, WY: July 7-12

I pulled into Yellowstone National Park and began the most scenic drive I have ever experienced. The two-lane road took me through mountains, across pastures, and over rivers. I saw bison, elk, and a cow moose without ever stopping. Every other tourist saw them too and many were compelled to stop in the middle of the road to document the wildlife, regardless of how many cars had to wait behind them.

Once I finally got to my campsite, I made dinner, taking proper bear precautions, and opened Stephen King's "the outsider" to find that it was just blank pages. It was the only book I brought. I went to bed early, ignorant to how important a good night's sleep would be.

I started my day on the trail. A 16 mile out and back trek along the famed Yellowstone River. Believing I would discover some cutthroat within the first two miles, I donned my waders and boots by the truck in the chilly 30-degree morning.

A mile into the trail, I took to the river. Before I knew it, I had traveled four miles along the bank and not seen a fish. These were tough miles, bushwhacking through tall grass and downed trees before heading back to the trail.

Once I arrived back at the trail, I sat to take a rest. While resting, I was approached by only the second person I had seen all day. We exchanged pleasantries and he headed on his way while I continued to recover. After some time had passed, I reluctantly continued down the trail. Telling myself I would give it another mile before accepting defeat.

When I returned to the riverbank a mile later, I spotted a swarm of Caddis, with massive cutthroat feeding on them. I opted for a double dry fly setup and was hooked up on a trophy cutthroat on my third cast. I battled the beast for 20 minutes before it broke my 5X tippet. This fish was easily over 20 inches. I was gutted, but I knew what they were eating, which is half the battle. By the time I retied and moved back towards the spot where I hooked the monster, the man who passed me on the trail had taken my spot. I asked him if he saw me hook into a fish right there and he said he hadn't, so I did not make a big deal out of it.

Sitting on the bank taking a water break, I noticed a large bug had landed on my waders. It was a Salmon Fly! I retied with a Caddis to a Salmon Fly trailer, using 4x tippet and leader this time. I got hit on the Salmon Fly as I was letting out line to make a proper cast. Missed the strike, but I knew something was about to happen.

I kept fishing and hooked up on another giant, on the big bug again. I chased the fish downstream until I again saw the guy who passed me on the trail. I shouted, "I will give you \$20 for a net job". Not the best phrasing, but he rushed over to assist in landing my best cutthroat, a 20" fish.

When we got to talking, I learned he was a good man from Ohio named Toby. He refused my \$20 and shared pictures of fish he had caught from that very spot the past couple of days. The biggest was 24". He explained that these are lake fish that swam into the river to spawn and gorge themselves on Salmon Flies before heading back into the lake. There's a small window every year to catch fish of this caliber, especially on Salmon Flies. How lucky am I!? I came here without any idea about the hatch or the spawn, despite talking to two different fly shops.

I learned not to jump to conclusions about peoples' intentions today and it paid off. I said goodbye to Toby, dreading the long trek back.

The hike back turned out to be brutal. When I finally glimpsed the welcome sight of my truck, I had hiked 11 miles through sun-beaten meadows and never-ending hills, in temperatures up to the mid-80s. In waders. I was beyond exhausted. After devouring a gas station sandwich, I went to sleep under the still setting sun.

The next four days were full of incredible fish eating my various, massive Salmon Fly imitations. I straightened several hooks and caught countless fish, ranging from 17 to 24 inches in length. They were healthy fish, who fought intelligently, at least for cutthroat. I hiked 45 miles over four days with tape-covered ankles and blisters on my toes. I would have hiked 100 miles in as many days to earn a chance at these fish. Yellowstone proved not only to be the pinnacle of my trip thus far, but the best fly fishing I had ever seen.

As I approached the truck on my last day in the park, I noticed a massive male bison grazing on grass about 100 yards from

where I parked. I tried to sneak around the bison, not coming within 40 yards of him. He saw me and started walking towards me as I was unloading my gear. He got within 25 yards before I decided that was close enough. I left the rest of the gear on the ground and leapt into the safety of the truck. He lazily walked right by my truck, within 30 feet of me while I sat safely inside. Once he passed, I got out and packed the rest of my gear.

What a special place, and an incredible fishery. I would advise anybody considering visiting Yellowstone to try and catch the Salmon Fly hatch, avoid the bison, and be a considerate visitor in this incredible place.

Yellowstone National Park, WY: Fishing: 10/10

Traffic: 2/10

Camaraderie: Nonexistent



May Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Spring time in Texas.....in my opinion a great time to be alive. The summer fishing season is off and running. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)'s Inland Fisheries Division stocked nearly 27 million fish comprising 17 different species, subspecies or hybrids in Texas public freshwaters during 2024. "The Texas state fish hatchery system has a long and storied history," said Tim Birdsong, Director of the Inland Fisheries Division at TPWD. "Our state fish hatcheries continue to be absolutely vital to sustaining the worldclass sportfishing opportunities available to Texans and our visitors, as well as the related economic benefits afforded to local communities surrounding our public waters." When Tim came on board, I took him to the FFI Annual Meeting to explain

our stream access program and our Share-A-Lunker program. These are two outstanding offering here in Texas That are not quite matched anywhere that I know. In the Conservation Meeting there, we talked about our issues with the purity of our State Fish genetics.

Efforts to sustain Texas sport fisheries can be traced back over 150 years to passage of the state's first fishing regulations in 1874 and establishment of the Texas Office of the Fish Commissioner in 1879. Texas' first state fish hatchery was constructed in Dallas in 1913 adjacent to the state fairgrounds. Texas' oldest state fish hatchery currently in operation, Heart of the Hills in Mountain Home, was constructed in 1925 and celebrates its centennial this year. Heart of the Hills continues to raise Guadalupe bass, the official state fish, for stocking in its native creeks and rivers.

The Inland Fisheries Division stocks fish to create new

angling opportunities, reestablish fisheries impacted by natural or manmade catastrophic events, supplement fisheries with limited natural reproduction and recruitment, provide catchable-size fish at high-use urban fisheries, enhance the genetic makeup and growth potential of a fish population, or take advantage of improved habitat conditions.

Sportfishing provides a statewide economic impact of \$14 billion in Texas annually. Meanwhile, the local economic value of Texas' top largemouth bass fisheries, such as Lake Fork, Sam Rayburn, Toledo Bend and O.H. Ivie, ranges from \$10-\$37 million annually. The striped bass fishery at Lake Texoma is valued at \$47 million annually, while river fishing in the Hill Country (Central Texas) for species such as Guadalupe bass, white bass, rainbow trout, and Rio Grande cichlid was recently estimated at \$74 million over a 16-month period.

On our Y2Y Project, I'm always inspired by wildlife crossings that have transformed our relationship with nature.

Wildlife underpasses in the region are helping bears and other animals safely navigate human infrastructure. These wildlife crossings aren't just government projects. They represent years of community advocacy, with community members speaking up for safer passages for wildlife. Wildlife crossings on Montana's Highway 93 are yet another success story. These wildlife crossing structures, thanks to the leadership of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes alongside partners, now help elk herds and other animals' access vital habitats that highways once divided. Research shows these crossings and associated fencing can reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by over 80 percent in most locations.

The Yellowstone to Yukon vision — of a connected 2,100-mile corridor where wildlife and humans thrive together — only works when communities collaborate. When people join forces across borders, mountains, and different viewpoints.

Right now, we're working with three areas facing similar challenges:

- I-90 highway in Montana, where elk migrations are threatened by development
- The Bow Valley in Alberta, where increased bear conflicts need community solutions
- The Elk Valley in B.C., where wildlife needs more safe passages between protected areas

On the down side, do you remember my article about a year ago that documented Grizzly 399, who was believed to be the older Mother Grizzly still adding to the Grand Teton/ Yellowstone Park population? Well, I am sad to report that she was killed in a night-time auto accident. The police report implied that the driver swerved to miss her cub, but did not see the big bear in the dark. While sad, this is not unusual. The big bears move 10 miles or so in a night according to the Rangers, and as such the locals encounter them by surprise in this area. The best news is that her cubs, now mature breeding Bears, are still in the game. The grazing animals with their new families also need to move to summer range. In the American West, these moves cross sparsely traveled areas, and they often move at night. If you go to one of our great National Parks, remember this. Move carefully and protect the wildlife you came to admire.





Bug Picking.

One of our best Conservation projects is an event held every month on the last Sunday. It is called Bug Picking, but more accurately it is an inventory of the insects and other little critters that make up the lower edge of the food chain in a beautiful urban restoration project. Our part is but a fraction of the work that monthly goes into this marvelous urban nature study, but it's very relevant to we who fish with baits that match the current bug hatches. It also gives us a good view of how the urban outdoors is doing from a point of view that recognizes the effects of weather, temperature and seasons. While this is but a small part of the big picture, it is important.

We can survive without Jere and Richard, both of whom are pushing it a bit to do this project. Ed Bowen and Paul Locklear have us going along, but some DFF stalwarts to lead and help as needed would be great. In any case, here are a few of the sample

wildlife from the last effort. How this works is that we get a bucket or two of bottom silt and dump it thinly in white examination trays. Then we hunt for specimens suitable for the project.

In the plate are some typical specimens for the day. Then Roger Rohbeck who is our professional Entomologist, takes the sample bugs and make a determination of its species.

This is an example of this process. It is fun and often





fascinating. If you are a typical fly tier, you like to see the bugs that you are duplicating and then see how well they work with the local fish. This is a learning process, and it is fun. Come join us. We do this on the last weekend of the month.

Please consider joining this group as a regular activity, or on call if needed. We frequently need drop-in help and it is a fun activity for your science age school kids as well.

And at Home on The Fly Fishing Front Lines...

Jere loves all the teaching and presentations we get to do for the public. I love to have a tying station and tie for the public at Sow Bug, the Red River Rendezvous and the like. For many of my 30+ years with the DFF, Dave Smith, Fred DuPre, the Bell Family and many others would look for where the DFF Table was so we could all be together. In my opinion it was a backbone activity of the Club.

Our many teaching activities at Recreation Centers, often with a kid fishing event attached, were as important to me

as my Church Youth Fishing opportunities. We have a huge number of Arewa Chiefs of Angler Education and Boy Scout CAI certified members that are scattered to the four winds for much of the Spring. The spring Trash-Off activity help to preserve our environment. All of these taken together are a monument to our Club and the dedication of our members.

So while we are a fishing Club, we are a public-spirited group that takes our opportunity to enlighten the public seriously. A booth on Earth Day is a thing we did to make our little corner of the planet a better place.

You get the picture. We have much to be proud of and should stand proud in the light of our group's considerable work. I wish you all a long and Happy involvement in the Conservation Activities. Our work is fun and important.



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	<h2>MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL</h2>	
	New Member <input type="checkbox"/> or Renewing My Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (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