

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *October 2025*
Volume XLVIII ♦ *Number 10* ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

It's official, the calendar has turned to Fall season of the year. I hope all of you enjoyed your summer months with family and friends along with some time on the water.

In the September Leader I outlined the 2026 Board vacancies. Vice President, Membership Chair, Casting Chair, Trustee 2028.

So far two members have indicated an interest to serve on the Board for 2026. One of the members has put their name up for Trustee. The Board is still missing some members to fill important positions.

In order to continue on the strong history of the Dallas Fly Fishers with events and great speakers each month we need members to help by getting involved.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST TO FILL A BOARD VACANCIE.

In this October copy of The Leader candiates are announced and

they are voted into office at the November General Meeting.

The 2026 Board will then be installed at the December Holiday Party which takes place December 7th at Besa's Restaurant.

Nominations to fill a Board position for 2026. - Trustee, Shawn Henderson.

Time is moving along and it will soon be November so please give consideration to helping and join the Board for 2026.

The Dallas Fly Fishers have over 53 years of strong membership and participation, let's keep it rolling.

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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DFF Board 2025

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Past President • Julia Bell
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Trustee 2027 • Jonathon Ramirez
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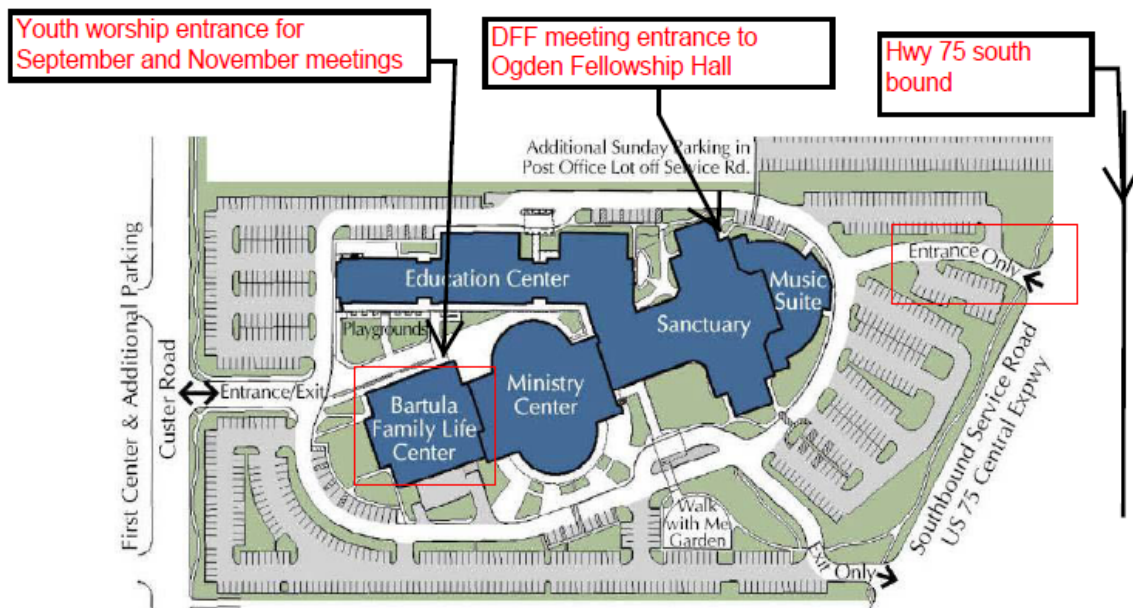
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DFF Program Schedule



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 **October 6th**, at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

The DFF has a new, active line-up prepared for the membership

5-5:45 PM - Happy Hour Hang Out + Snack Time @ Burger Island. Yum! (Less than 5 Minutes from First United Methodist on Arapaho) - 525 W Arapaho Rd #8, Richardson, TX 75080 Menu link: checkle.menu/burgerisland_richardson

6-6:45PM - FREE Casting Workshop in the Gymnasium adjacent to the Youth Worship

OR 6-6:45PM - Fly Tying Demo in the Church within the room for the month

7PM - Presentation

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.

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

October 10th-12th: Oktoberfest 2025, Morgan Shady Resort, Junction, Texas

October 21st: Third Tuesday Fly Tying, 6:30 at Bass Pro Shops (formerly Cabela's), 1 Cabela Dr., Allen, TX 75002

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

November 3rd: Monthly Meeting, TBD

November 18th: Third Tuesday Fly Tying, 6:30 at Bass Pro Shops (formerly Cabela's), 1 Cabela Dr., Allen, TX 75002

December 7th: Annual Holiday Party, TBD

2026 Board Election Nominees

These members have been nominated to 2026 Ballot for the following positions upon which the membership must vote. Nominations are still open and will remain open through 31 October 2025. The ballot will be finalized on 1 November 2025. During the Business portion, we will vote for the 2026 DFF Board at the 3 November 2025 meeting. A term runs one calendar year with the exception of: President and Vice-President which runs two years and Trustee which runs three years.

President: Dave Smith, returning for a third year, due to the out-of-state relocation of Art San Roman, the 2024-25 Vice-President

Vice-President: OPEN

Treasurer: Steve Jackson

Trustee 2027 – Shawn Henderson, replacing Jonathan Ramirez

Trustee 2028 – Al Palmer

We have fulfilled one non-elected position, Membership with Jonathan Ramirez; two non-elected board positions are open Casting Chair and Co-Conservation Chair. To create a broad and diverse board, we are wanting to limit an individual's service to one position, so we are in need of volunteers. A board position does not have to be filled by a member of long-standing. The Dallas Fly Fishers graciously welcomes any individual with a willingness to serve. The board meetings are held via Zoom the Sunday evening before the Monday monthly meeting. The club cannot succeed without its members and their willingness to volunteer. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know who would enjoy helping the club, please email the nomination to dallasflyfishers@gmail.com or Dave Smith at dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com.

Beginner Fly fishing Classes Hosted by the Dallas Fly Fishers

October 18, 2025 • Rosemeade Recreation Center • 1330 E. Rosemeade Pkwy, Carrollton, TX

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM • What to Bring: Water, and a snack or lunch

November 8, 2025 • The CORE • 234 Parkway Blvd, Coppell, TX

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM • What to Bring: Water, and a snack or lunch

Contact: Paul Locklear • Education Director, Dallas Fly Fishers • 318-518-8945

September Outing Report

Latham Springs Outing

Our Latham Springs outing had the largest attendance of any recent outing. 28 members registered, 27 members showed up. Fantastic turnout. Another unique aspect of this outing was the attendance of six husband-and-wife teams, adding a unique and joyful dynamic to the day.

We were blessed with beautiful weather, and everyone caught fish. As is often the case with Texas summer fishing, the best fishing was early. Lots of sunfish and a fair number of bass.

The back pond was mostly overgrown, but that really concentrated the fish. I hooked two good bass in the river, but the Brazos was slower than normal. I am blaming that on the streamflow. They haven't released with the Lake Whitney dam in quite a while, so the water oxygen might be a bit low.

After fishing everyone enjoyed lunch under the shade of their large live oak trees.

We will have our next Latham Spring outing in the spring. I hope to see you there.



OKTOBERFISCH 2025

DATES October 10-12

Registration begins Sept 10

***Be sure to read the Oktoberfisch Newsletters
for up-to-the-date details.***

***(if you received this to your email - you are already on our
mailing list 👍👍).***



See *Oktoberfisch 2025 Event Registration Page*

Dear Fishing Friends,

We are excited to announce **Oktoberfisch 2025**, hosted by the Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers. This year, we're bringing the event back to its roots—more river, more fellowship, and a laid-back weekend of fly fishing in the Hill Country.

Event Details:

- **When:** October 10–12, 2025
(*Main Event: Saturday, October 11*)
- **Where:** Morgan Shady Resort, Junction, TX

What to Expect:

- Saturday will serve as the main event, but plan to come for the full weekend
- Laid-back riverside camping and casting opportunities
- Local guides and seasoned anglers sharing tips and stories
- Plenty of room to explore, fish, and relax along the Llano River
- A special mini-event: *Panfish Bingo* — grab a bingo card, fish your way through the squares, and earn bragging rights (plus a few prizes)

Lodging:

- RV and tent camping are available at Morgan Shady Resort
- Local hotels are also available, \$5 day pass for Morgan Shady if staying off-site
- Please note: **you will need to make your own lodging reservations**

We look forward to seeing you this fall for another memorable Oktoberfisch weekend.

Tight lines,

Forrest West, Vice-President Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers
Forrestwest@thcff.org 830-997-8040

Hard-won Knowledge

by Julia Bell

What to do with hard-won knowledge—keep silent, share with a few, blog about it, officially publish it, or social media blast it? For fishers, both fly and conventional, this is not an easy decision. Cartoonist Roy Delgado illustrated the dilemma with his *The Fishing Spot* cartoon, where fishers arrived to fish a “secret spot” and were greeted with a take-a-number dispenser so fishers could have their turn at fishing the hole. Humorous to the non-fisher, but Delgado’s truthfulness of his tongue-in-cheek satire never rang more true than when Southwest Fly Fishing published their infamous article about the Rio Grande National Forest’s Treasure Creek. Prior to the article’s publishing, not many people put the effort into going to Treasure Creek, much less even knew of its existence, but since the article appeared, especially since it printed immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, people began flocking to it, and the area showed signs—a parking lot of vehicles, trash strewn about, many trails from the road to the creek, dead fish from poorly hooked/released fish, a lack of fish from an once-abundant fishery, and other signs from overcrowding.

Where-do-I-go-to-fish books and magazines are quite popular since people find research abominable, don’t want to join a club because of its “expensive” annual fee, or have zero desire to undertake field research. Even more than buying a publication, they ask for the secret fishing holes of others. So, what does one do when approached? For me, if it’s a club outing, I’ll willingly share information. If it’s an adventure Cody and I enjoyed, I’ll blog about it, but I don’t give away where I fished—maybe a general area, but that’s it. If it’s a TPWD site or one of their public stockings, I’ll share that information; otherwise, no, I am not telling you where I fished, because I know the truth of Delgado’s cartoon. What I will do, though, is take someone fishing and show the beauty of where I fished in the hopes that a physical presence and the effort of being there makes it worth the self-discipline of protecting a place from the mass hordes.

Cody and I dubbed our group of nieces and nephews the Fab 5 and are numbered in such from oldest to youngest. They are ours, regardless of whose side of the family they originated; they are ours. So, when Fab #5 approached us in 2024 about wanting to learn to fly fish, we decided to show him. We took him to the Hill Country, outfitted him with gear we no longer used, and exposed him to

all aspects fly fishing. Fab #5 then had a summer internship in Charleston, so we came out, booked saltwater trips, and visited fly shops. His parents live in Tennessee, so we would advise on phone calls and videos how to fish and where and shops to visit when he was at his parents’ home. He graduated from college in May ‘25 (we built a 5# T&T rod for his gift) and had a gap month between graduation and starting his job, so he came back to Texas, and we taught him to kayak fish, introduced him to fishy friends, fished East Texas, the Hill Country because a Rio Grande Cichlid was on his bucket list, the ranch, and while we were on this wonderful journey, his sister, Fab #4, sent an amazing text saying that she wanted to learn to fly fish, as this is something that they could share. Of course, we said “YES!!” and quickly made arrangements for her to fly to the San Luis Valley, reserved a place to stay while we were in South Fork for the club’s annual July outing, and we booked a guide, took her lake fishing from a raft, creek fishing, and float tube fishing. We taught knots, gave her gear we didn’t use, gifted Christmas-in-July when she lost her sole when fly fishing, because my older boots fell apart.

Cody and I had a blast, and I think the Fabs had fun, but for Cody and me, sheer happiness to share everything we knew about fly fishing.

The funny thing to Cody and me is this was not their first time fly fishing. Though college and careers took them out-of-state,



they grew up in The Woodlands, which is covered in small ponds and a recreational water way. When they were young, single digit aged, they each had their own fly rods; Sage had two rods for kids that came in a bubble gum pink color and cotton candy blue color. We had bought one for each of them from Stacy Lynn when she managed Bee Cave's Sportsman's Finest. They did fish with the rods and caught fish, but their parents didn't fish, and we didn't see them but once-a-month or every other month, so the learning curve was great, and fly fishing went by the wayside, though they reveled in our adventures. They even tied a fly—Fab #4 tied a size 4 red and white Clouser, which I fished it in the Seychelles, but lost it while chasing a Bluefin Trevally record. Fab #5 tied a size



4 tan and white Clouser, which I fished on Texoma catching a Blue Catfish, my only one to-date. I saved it and re-gifted it to him on our Charleston outing. Though Cody and I remember them fishing and tying; they do not, and so they say their first catches are '24 and '25, because according to them, if you don't remember it, it doesn't count. Thank the Lord, I take lots of photos!

Both the Fabs are hooked; we receive phone calls and texts of their excursions; we have made 2026 vacation plans, and Cody and I discussed how good it feels knowing that we get to give our gear to people we love who will enjoy fly fishing as much as we have.



October Conservation Corner

by Julia Bell

A science battle looms large in Alaskan courtrooms.

The players?

The Alaska Board of Game, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Mulchatna caribou herd vs. Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Alaskan citizens, and bears.

The issue?

Restoring the Mulchatna caribou herd from its abysmal 13,000 head count to its 1997 most prolific size of 200,000 head count.

The resolution?

ADFG--Intense management of bears and wolves in western Alaska using the 2022 Predator Control Program, or as the AWA says, the state's right to continuing to kill bears and wolves.

The problem?

In 2022, the Alaska Board of Game created the seven-year long, predator-control program behind closed doors, based upon unproved science, and circumvented normal public processes before its enactment.

The results to-date?

186 brown bears, five black bears, and 20 wolves have been killed by the Alaska DFG, a March 2025 Alaska Superior Court ruling of multiple violations of the Alaska's state constitution on multiple grounds, a May 2025 Alaska Superior Court ruling denying an emergency reinstatement of the program due to persistent violations, a 10 May 2025 illegal, emergency

reenactment of the program by the ABoG and ADFG, and a 25 July Superior Court contempt of court hearing for the ABoG and ADFG.

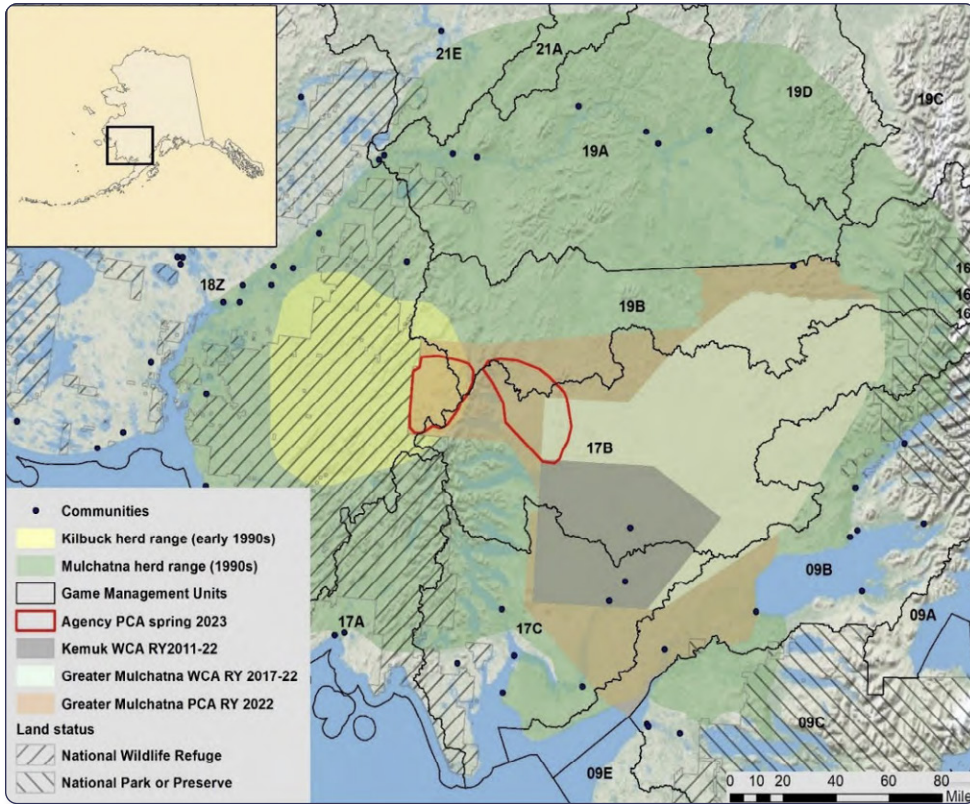
In 1997, in the Wood-Tikchik basin in Western Alaska, the Mulchatna caribou herd peaked at 200,000 head; today, the herd is at 15,000, which is up from its lowest recorded count of 13,000.¹ The Alaska Board of Game states that they received compelling evidence over a two-day meeting that bears were the main factor for the herd's decline. Thus, the department's argument that since the implementation of the predator control program in 2023, the Mulchatna herd population has risen by 2,000 head.² The information is being supplied by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the same agency responsible for carrying out the predator killings. However, proponents and opponents do not agree with the ADFG's science.

There is recognition that predator-culling does have a limited effect on increasing the Mulchatna herd size as there has been an

1. Yereth Rosen, "Alaska Officials Seek Emergency Rule to Continue Bear-killing Program, Despite Court Ruling," Alaska Public Media, last modified 24 March 2025, <https://alaskapublic.org/news/politics/2025-03-24/alaska-officials-seek-emergency-rule-to-continue-bear-killing-program-despite-court-ruling>.

2. Yereth Rosen, "Alaska Board of Game Approves Revived Bear-culling program in Caribou Grounds," Alaska Beacon, last modified 15 July 2025, <https://alaskabeacon.com/2025/07/15/alaska-board-of-game-approves-revived-bear-culling-program-in-caribou-grounds/>.





increase in calves, but more significant factors are being directly attributed to their decline. The alterations in the herd's tundra habitat shows significant changes. Woody trees and bushes now not only grow but are reproducing, thus minimizing the lichen that are the Mulchatna's main food staple. Additionally, with the habitat change, moose are now present in the Mulchatna's feeding range, as well. "In the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, specifically, the moose population has increased a whopping 400-fold since the early 1990s, from just a handful a few decades ago to about 2,000 animals now."³ With a recent decline in their primary food staple, there is evidence that malnutrition and disease, specifically brucellosis, are affecting the Mulchatna herd. ADoG disagrees. Birth rates, especially in younger females, suggest relatively good nutrition. Studies show about 25% of monitored 2-year-olds and about 85% of 3-year-olds gave birth successfully. In herds where brucellosis has been present for a long time, disease outbreaks are typically periodic. Otherwise, the disease is present in the herd at low levels."⁴ However, "in 2020, a group of State biologists were tasked with studying the vanishing herd. They found that the main reasons for the decline were disease and a lack of food. Brucellosis, a relative of mad cow disease, has decimated the herd, causing lameness, infertility, and lower birth rates. Over a third of the caribou tested at the time were infected."⁵

The Mulchatna caribou herd is a traditional food staple for rural communities. Since their rapid decline, the ABoG put a moratorium on caribou hunting permits that has been in effect for three years. "The department's goal is to have the [Mulchatna]

herd grow to between 30,000 and 80,000 animals, enough to allow hunting to resume. The public requested ABoG and the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) to rebuild the herd...including the Alaska Federation of Natives, Orutsamiut Native Council, Nushagak River communities, the Nushagak Advisory Committee, and the Bristol Bay Resource Advisory Council."⁶

The problem with the intensive management is that other public groups exist who are diametrically opposed to the bear and wolf killings, and they resorted to the Alaska Superior Courts for help. "Superior Court Judge Andrew Guidi, in his March 14 [2025] ruling, found that the Board of Game's action in 2022 that authorized the predator control program violated constitutional standards for public notice and public comment."⁷ Though the ADoG enacted emergency actions to reauthorize the program to protect the gains the Mulchatna herd had made, in May, "Superior Court Judge Christina

Rankin followed up in May with a ruling pronounced the bear-killing program to be still void for this year,...because the department and board had failed to fix the problems that Guidi identified in his earlier ruling."⁸ Regardless of these rulings, the ADFG resumed the aerial bear killings on 10 May, which covers a 40,000 square mile area, no limits to calving season or calving grounds, but ceased the program when Rankin issued a restraining order.

The program coverage area borders Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, is 30 miles west of Katmai National Park, and about 50 miles from the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge of which the later two are significant state tourism sites, including Brook Falls, due to their world-class bear-viewing destinations. As of this publication, the 25 July contempt of

3. Yereth Rosen, "Moose Population Boom, Linked to Climate Change, Inspires some Hunting Changes," Alaska Beacon, last modified 6 June 2022, <https://alaskabeacon.com/2022/06/06/moose-population-boom-linked-to-climate-change-inspires-some-hunting-changes/>.

4. "Mulchatna Caribou Intensive Management Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)," Alaska Board of Game, last modified December 2023, https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/research/programs/intensivemanagement/pdfs/mulchatna_faq.pdf.

5. "The Mulchatna Predator Control Program," Alaska Wildlife Alliance, accessed 27 July 2025, <https://www.akwildlife.org/mulchatna-predator-control>.

6. Ibid.

7. Rosen, Alaska Public Media.

8. Rosen, Alaska Beacon.



court hearing results were not published, so what is to become of the intensive management program is not yet known. Time for research from viable sources seems to be what is needed for

all—people, the predators, and the prey. As Galileo said, “In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.”

Alaska Board of Game. “Mulchatna Caribou Intensive Management Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).” Last modified December 2023. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/research/programs/intensivemanagement/pdfs/mulchatna_faq.pdf.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance. “The Mulchatna Predator Control Program.” Accessed 27 July 2025. <https://www.akwildlife.org/mulchatna-predator-control>.

Rosen, Yereth. “Alaska Board of Game Approves Revived Bear-culling program in Caribou Grounds,” Alaska Beacon. Last modified 15 July 2025. <https://alaskabeacon.com/2025/07/15/alaska-board-of-game-approves-revived-bear-culling-program-in-caribou-grounds/>.

_____. “Alaska Officials Seek Emergency Rule to Continue Bear-killing Program, Despite Court Ruling.” Alaska Public Media. Last modified 24 March 2025. <https://alaskapublic.org/news/politics/2025-03-24/alaska-officials-seek-emergency-rule-to-continue-bear-killing-program-despite-court-ruling>.

_____. “Moose Population Boom, Linked to Climate Change, Inspires some Hunting Changes.” Alaska Beacon. Last modified 6 June 2022. <https://alaskabeacon.com/2022/06/06/moose-population-boom-linked-to-climate-change-inspires-some-hunting-changes/>.

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