

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *March 2026*
Volume XLIX ♦ *Number 3* ♦ *www.dallasflyfishers.org*



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

I hope everyone survived the February freeze. Heading toward spring weather, we can all look forward to more time on the water. If you are needing gear updates or adding to your fly fishing supplies, I have a deal for you.

The Club Auction takes place March 16th at the Plano Event Center. The auction is our chance to raise money to help run the club in the year ahead.

I had a chance to preview the auction items while helping to label everything. You will find items such

as flies, rods, reels, vests, sling packs, waders, boots, and much more. The Buy It Now table will be there with items you just have to have. The highlight of the evening will be the Live Auction for guided trips and more.

Plans are in place for a great evening for everyone who attends. Be sure to check the flyer in this newsletter for all the details. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



In The February Issue

Page:

- 1 On the Water
- 2 DFF Board 2025
- DFF Program Schedule
- 3 2026 Calendar
- Dallas Flyfishers Auction
- 5 Peacock Bass in Brazil
- 8 Upcoming DFF Outings
- 9 Membership Renewal Form

DDF Program Schedule

DDF Board 2026

President • Dave Smith
214-918-7171
dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com

Vice-President • Colby Burke
469-500-5973
colbymburke@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Trustee 2027 • Shawn Henderson
972-948-1736
shawn@beecivilbalm.com

Trustee 2028 • Al Palmer
207-522-6852
alpalmer451@gmail.com

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

Casting Chair • Bill Slaughter
972-342-9630
slaughter.bill@gmail.com

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

Director of Outreach
Paul Locklear
318-518-8945
sfclock@aol.com

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

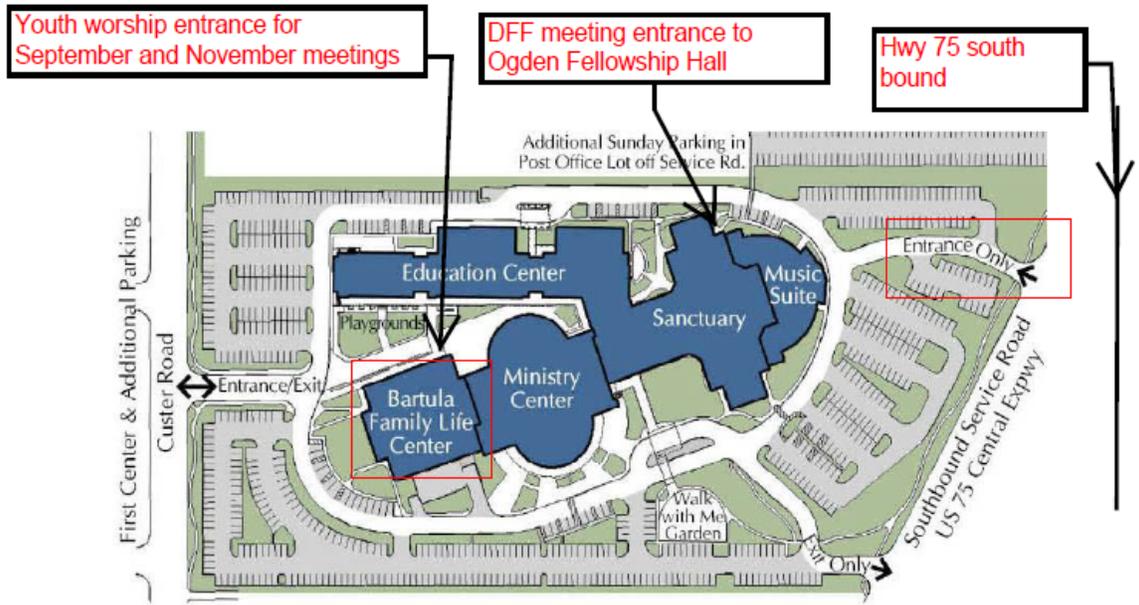
IT Specialist • Jeff Ziehm
214-202-2826
jziehm55@gmail.com

Membership • Jonathon Ramirez
860-501-4173
jonathonramirez97@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 Soltau
406-600-6732
dan@dirtywaterflyco.com



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

Next month's meeting will be **March 2nd**, at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

Location: Youth Room

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Casting Practice: Gym, 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM (unless noted)

- March 2
- April 13
- May 4
- June 1
- August 3
- September 14
- October 5
- November 2

Special Session:

- July 6 – Fly Tying in the Ogden Room (No casting session)

Happy March Fly Anglers!

If you have any content that you would like featured in the newsletter, please reach out to Colby Burke, colbymburke@gmail.com

Sincerely,
The Dallas Fly Fishers

Reach us:

<https://dot.cards/dallasflyfishers>

or use your mobile to scan the QR code here:



2026 Calendar

The 2026 Programs and events calendar. We are gearing up for another great year at the Dallas Flyfishers. **Danny Soltau** has been hard at work setting things up.

March 7, 2026 - Merit Badge University, Trevor Rees-Jones Scout Camp, 11217 FM 2970, Athens, TX 75751

March 14, 2026 - Trinity River Flyfest, Fort Worth, TX

March 26-28, 2026 - The Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home, AR

March 28, 2026 - Beginner Fly Fishing Class run by Paul Locklear, The Core, 234 Parkway Blvd, Coppell, TX, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

April 11, 2026 - Beginner Fly Fishing Class run by Paul Locklear, Rosemeade Recreation Center, 1330 E Rosemeade Pkwy, Carrollton, TX, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

April 25, 2026 - Beginner Fly Fishing Class run by Paul Locklear, LLELA (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area), 201 E Jones St, Lewisville, TX, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The 2026 DFF Fundraiser Auction is almost here. The Auction will be held Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Plano Event Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. Doors open at 5 PM.

The Auction has lots of rods, reels, fly boxes plus guide trips (to such places as Rio Chama, N Mx. and S. Platte River, Colorado), so no one should leave empty-handed. Besides hundreds of items in the Silent and Live Auctions, you can find other things that you need in the Raffle Baskets and Buy-It-Now booth. It is the largest social event of the year for Dallas Fly Fishers. The Auction is a great social evening and our main club fundraiser so everybody wins.

Since many DFF volunteers have almost got the 2026 Auction set, all we need now is Good Attendance. If you have not ever attended a DFF Auction in the past, it is special event that happens every two years. As the Auction Flyer says, think of someone outside the DFF club who you can bring to the Auction? You both get in Free. Better yet, think of two people to bring and all three of you get in Free. If you cannot bring another person, still plan to come. The entrance for singles is only \$15. We will have lots of great food and fly fishing bargains.

Let's make the 2026 Auction the biggest yet!

Dallas Fly Fishers



AUCTION

**Live Auction, Silent Auction
Buy It Now & Raffle**

Guided trips, rods, reels, flies, fly tying materials, and more.

Finger Foods will be served.

**Date: Monday, March 16, 2026
5:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Place: Plano Event Center
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy
Plano, Tx 75074**

**Admission: \$15
FREE for Both Attendees if you bring a non-DFF Member**

**Questions: Call Dave Shatzer 972-571-7622 or
Jeff Ziehm 214-202-2826**

Peacock Bass on the Rio Negro in Brazil with Steven Palmer and Nomadic Waters

A little over a year ago, I had never heard of Peacock Bass until a stream of customers came into the Orvis Plano store and started talking about their upcoming trips to Brazil to catch the gamefish. Not knowing about the species, I asked Steven Palmer about them. He showed me several photos of the enormous fish, which I thought were pretty cool. A few days later, Steven told me that Orvis Travel was arranging a Peacock Bass excursion on the Rio Negro in Brazil with Orvis Endorsed Guide Service Nomadic Waters (www.nomadicwaters.com) and asked if I would like to go. Steven would be the Orvis host, and there would be nine open slots for other anglers. After getting the “green light” from my wife, Lisa, the adventure began.

With over ten months before the trip began, the nine open slots filled up quickly. Both Steven and Michael Williams, owner of Nomadic Waters, immediately began preparing us for the trip with videos on what to expect, packing lists, itineraries, daily schedules, fly-fishing equipment options, and flight information to and from Manaus, Brazil. As the departure date approached, Steven offered multiple casting classes for those of us who weren't experienced with heavier weight rods / lines (9-12 wt.) and larger streamers which we would be using during the 9-night, 6-day fishing excursion.

Arriving in Manaus late in the evening, those of us who signed up for the optional Arapaima fishing excursion had a few hours of sleep in the hotel before breakfast and a comfortable bus ride to a family-owned property with many large ponds full of Arapaima. The family greeted us warmly and provided a hearty lunch before we began fishing. James Roberts (DFF member) and Steven both caught the very large fish. After the eventful afternoon, we headed back to the hotel to clean up, have dinner, then board the Nomadic Waters mother ship for the voyage from Manaus to Barcelos where we would begin our pursuit of the Peacock Bass.



James Roberts with his Arapaima

The day & night trip from Manaus to Barcelos was relaxing and informative as Michael introduced us to the Nomadic Waters team, provided us with casting tips, and information on Peacock Bass behavior. The guides took us out on the bass trackers for a brief fishing run where many of us were successful in catching our first variety of Peacocks. During the evenings, we got to know our new

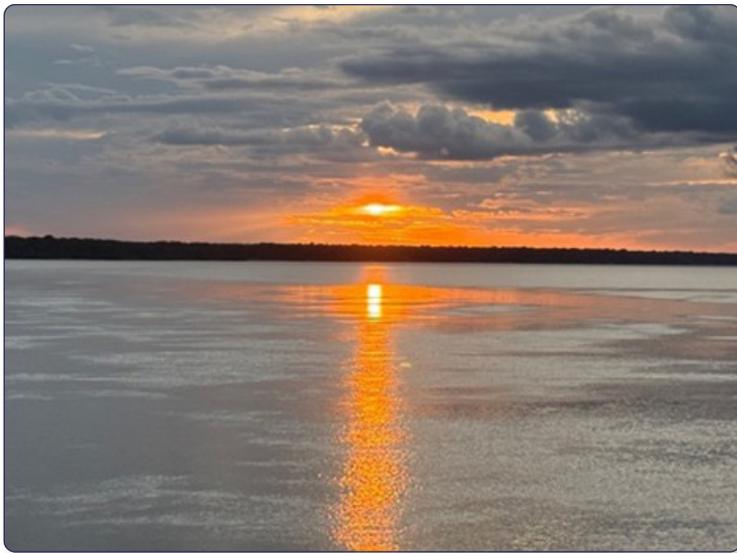


Nomadic Waters mother ship with bass trackers in tow.

fishing buddies and enjoyed cocktails at the well-stocked bar.

Fishing days started early with great Brazilian coffee at 5:30, a hearty breakfast of eggs, fresh fruit, bacon, sausage, and pastries at 6:00. Steven assigned us to different fishing partners and guides each day with the goal of departing the mother ship around 6:30. The guides were all very skilled at fly fishing, knowledgeable of the river's many inlets / lakes and where to find the fish. Casts were in the 30-50 ft. range using primarily streamers. Poppers were pretty successful when it was raining. The key to a successful strike and set was to get the fly right on the very edge of the structure (river bank, tree stump, etc.) where the fish were hanging out early in the morning and quickly strip the fly by the fish.

After a morning of fishing, the guides would take us back to the mother ship or to a beach area for lunch. Like all meals, this was impressive with grilled fish, sandwiches, salads, fruit, and pastries. After lunch aboard the ship, we would return to our rooms for a welcomed siesta. If we were on the beach, the guides would string up hammocks for us to relax in. After the siesta, it was back to afternoon fishing where the Peacock Bass would roam a bit from their protective structures.



Sunset in the Amazon

Fishing would end between 5:30 and 6:00. We would clean up and head upstairs to the bar area for cocktails,

where we would talk about our memorable catches of the day or those pesky dolphins that would hang around the area waiting to snatch the catch before it could be netted. During a typical day, we would average about ten catches per angler, or about 80-90 total. In addition to Peacock Bass there were other species caught: Arawana, Wolf Fish, Piranha, Dogfish, and Jacunda to name a few. In addition to the varieties of fish, we also saw caymen, monkeys, macaws, toucans, and many green parrots.

Dinner, prepared by Chef Augusto, was always spectacular. Osso buco, braised ribs, lasagna, and fresh grilled fish, to name just a few of the main courses. Salads, fresh vegetables, and homemade desserts were always on the menu.



Chris Todd with a Butterfly Peacock Bass



Steven's monster Acu Peacock Bass (~14 lbs.) Notice the tail has been partially bitten off by piranha.



James Roberts with an Acu Peacock Bass



Chris Wegmann with a Paca Peacock Bass



Steven's Arawana



LB Vestal with a Butterfly Peacock Bass

The entire Nomadic Waters team was amazing; guides, cooking / bar staff, maid service (which included daily laundry service, so you don't have to pack much clothing) were all very friendly and helpful. The overall experience exceeded my expectations, and I am hopeful that I'll be able to do another adventure with Nomadic Waters in the near future.

Special Note: Steven Palmer was / is a great host. His fly fishing skills and knowledge are among the very best of anyone that I know. Whether it is equipment, flies, species, or desired fishing location, domestically or internationally, Steven is always willing to help and share his knowledge. His great sense of humor, combined with his sincere desire to make everyone's trip successful, provides a backdrop for a memorable experience.

Upcoming DFF Outings

Nolan River White Bass Outing

by *Dave Shatzer*

Spring is the best time to be fly fishing in North Texas. Our DFF March outing will be focused on the white bass run at the Nolan River on Wednesday, March 25, meeting there at 2:30 PM. Program your navigation app to Blum, Texas, just south of Cleburne. The meeting spot is the bridge over Rock Creek, 1.7 miles of Blum on FM 933. We park on either side of the highway just to the north of the bridge. The trail to the Nolan River is on the west side of the highway.

For those interested, we will meet for lunch at the Break Room Brewing Co., just south of Cleburne on Route 174, at 1 PM and then head to the Nolan for the “afternoon bite.” So, mark your calendars and break out your white/silver clousers and white woolly buggers and come join us? Even when the fishing action is slow, the walk along the river makes it a great trip, seeing the spring flowers. Our outing date should be prime time for the white bass run out Lake Whitney. For those that have not experienced the white bass run, it can be some of the best fly fishing ever. Come join us.



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 11-18. 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 The LOGE - Wolfcreek.

<https://logecamps.com/property/wolfcreek>

You can make your reservations using the link below. This link provides a 12% discount over the standard internet rate.

LOGE Reservations

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 LOGE 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, Albuquerque or Durango and rent a car. Please let me know if you are thinking of attending. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.



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