

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ June 2026
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The month of June is here and I hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend with family and friends. The weather is warming as the summer season will soon be here. The rains have helped to keep local ponds and creeks fishing well. Many members have reported good action on local waters. Now is the time to head to your special place to fish before it's too hot.

Joel Willams has put together a number of outings on local waters; it was great to see everyone. Be sure to check The Leader for coming events and outings.

Need help with your casting come early to the monthly meeting at 6pm in the gym before our general meeting. New to fly tying or trying to improve your skills come to Cabela's in Allen the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Dan Montayne to add your name to the class list.

All the best as you head to the water to find your fish of a lifetime.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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DFF Program Schedule

DFF Board 2026

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

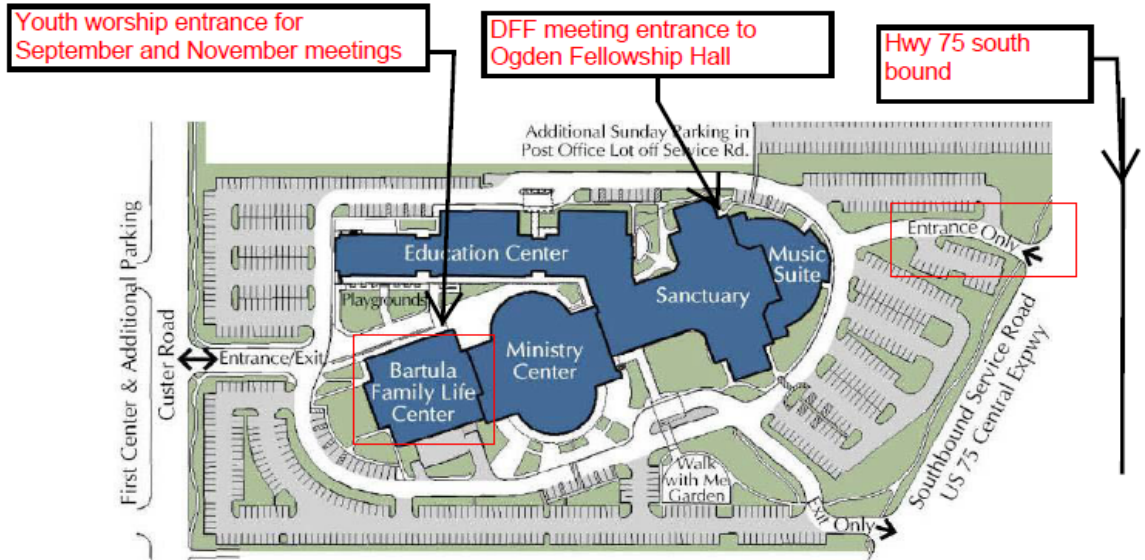
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Membership • Jonathon Ramirez
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Newsletter Editor • OPEN

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

This month's meeting will be **June 1st**, 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)

June 1st—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, **Josh Nugent**

July 6th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Ogden Room, **Kristian Cole** - Dallas Tyers Club, Fly Tying Meeting

August 3rd—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

September 14th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

October 5th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

November 2nd—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

December 6th—DFF Holiday Party

July Meeting Sign-Up

The July meeting is our in-person tying meeting. Bill Sargeant is going to be out-of-town, so we have Kristian Cole of the Dallas Tyers Club coming to present some exciting patterns. This meeting targets the Intermediate Level and above tyer, but anyone is welcome to attend, socialize, watch, ask questions. If you are planning to attend and tie, please email Julia Bell at flyfshrgl@gmail.com NO LATER THAN JUNE 4TH 2026.

Happy June Fly Anglers!

If you have any content that you would like featured in the newsletter, please reach out to Julia Bell, flyfshrgl@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

June 1st — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, Josh Nugent, Out Fly Fishing

June 4th — Sign-up Deadline for July Fly Tying Meeting, dallasflyfishers@gmail.com

June 13th — Clug Outing to PSA Murphy, 330 N. Murphy RD, Murphy, TX 75094; RSVP to Joel Williams, joel.williams53@gmail.com 972-880-1788

June 16th — DFF 3rd Tuesday Fly Tying Night at Cabela's, 1 Cabela DR, Allen, TX 75002; RSVP to Dan Montayne, montayne@verizon.net 214-693-4643

July 6th — DFF Monthly Meeting, Ogden Room, Kristian Cole, Dallas Tyers Club, Fly Tying Meeting

August 3rd — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

September 12th, 9am – 2pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, LLELA 201 East Jones ST, Lewisville, TX 75019; bring water and lunch or snack

September 14th — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

September 24th – 26th — FFI Fly Fest, Redding Civic Auditorium, 700 Auditorium DR, Redding, CA 96001

October 3rd, 9:30am – 1:30pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, Rosemeade Recreation Center, 1330 East Rosemeade PKWY, Carrollton, TX 75007; bring water and lunch or snack

October 5th — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

November 2nd — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

November 6th – 8th — Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA 71486

November 7th, 9am – 2pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, The Core, 267 Parkway BLVD, Coppell, TX 75019; bring water and lunch or snack

December 6th — DFF Holiday Party, Locale TBD

June's Speaker is Josh Nugent

Josh learned to fly fish at the age of six. By the time he was in junior high, he was giving casting lessons to other kids from his school. After completing a coaching diploma and playing basketball for Red Deer College, Josh moved to Calgary. Once again, he was back on the Bow River. His passion and love of fly fishing are second to none. In 2003, at the urging of others in the industry, Josh started Out Fly Fishing Outfitters Ltd. Guiding put Josh through the rest of his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Calgary. Josh did an eye tracking study for his Master's Thesis, which was on the visual characteristics of expert fly casters. He has now had the privilege of fishing in 17 different countries and well over a hundred different species on the fly.

Josh has been fortunate enough to be featured in many fly fishing publications, both as a writer and photographer, as well as in The Canadian Fly Fishers, Top Guide Spotlight. He has also worked with several fly fishing shows such as two episodes with friend, and host of LL Bean's Guide to the Outdoors, Tim Rajeff, and guiding Hunter Hoffer on In The Loop: Modern Tactics on Fly Fishing. Josh has also served as one of the Co-Hosts for Fly Nation (Seasons 1 and 2) and the Spain Series. Josh also serves as a Pro Staff member for Clackacraft and spent 5 years as the Canadian Echo Rod rep. When Josh started the guide company at the age of 21 it was a risk, knowing he wouldn't be afforded the mistakes competitors twice his age would.

On a river as world renowned as the Bow River there is going to be competition in the industry. Competition is a great thing, because competition forces outfitters and guides to work harder and strive to provide the best service possible for their clients, and now he continues to do the same thing with the fly shop and its customers. Josh wants Out Fly Fishing Outfitters to be a shop that every man, woman, or child of any age or experience can come into and feel like they belong there, from families to fanatics and everyone in between.

Stoney Hollow Outing Recap

A group of 16 anglers met at Stoney Hollow Park on Saturday morning for a fun outing on the water. Fishing conditions proved to be challenging, as the pond had recently experienced an algae bloom that turned the normally clear water very cloudy.

Despite the tough conditions, everyone stayed persistent and

continued experimenting with different flies and presentations throughout the morning. With a little patience and some adjustments, the group was able to catch a few bass and bluegill.

Even though the fishing was slow, it was still a great morning spent outdoors, enjoying good company, sharing ideas, and spending time on the water together.



Upcoming DFF Outings

Murphy Central Park Pond Outing

Join us for the DFF April Outing on the morning of June 13th! We'll be fishing a pond at Murphy Central Park, located at: **33.020989, -96.608026**

This is a City of Murphy public park. We'll meet in the parking lot of the PSA Murphy located at 330 N Murphy Rd, Murphy, TX 75094. (See Map Below). We can meet at the red X in the northeast corner of the parking lot

Fishing Details

Target species include:

- Panfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Carp

We recommend bringing a 4- to 6-weight rod.

Recommended flies:

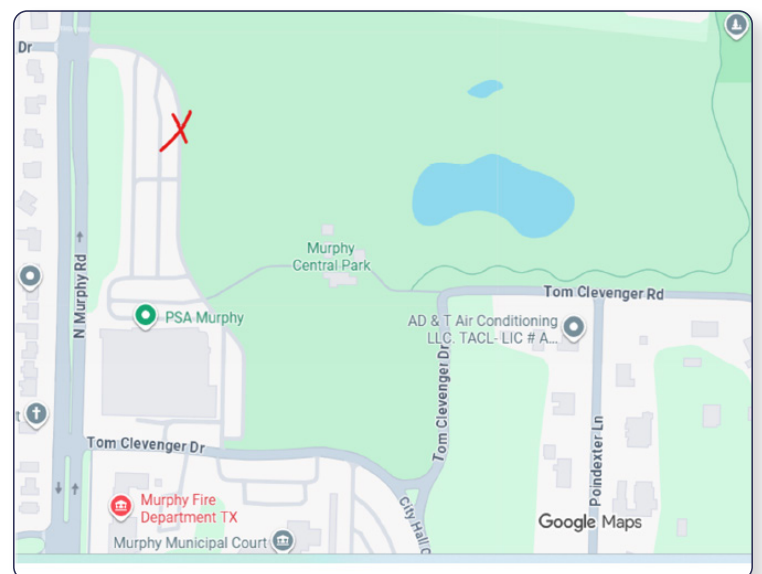
- Poppers
- Small to mid-sized streamers

RSVP

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!



Upcoming DFF Outings

South Fork, Colorado Outing

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 2026 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 Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and



Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fish Sunday afternoon, and next 5 days, and return home the following weekend.

You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, 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.



Early Spring Beginner Fly Fishing Classes

by Jeff Ziehm

The Dallas Fly Fishers' Instructors Team hosted early spring fly fishing classes in Lewisville, Carrollton, and Coppell. The classes saw a great turnout of students attending our classes. In the Beginner Fly Fishing Class, students learn the fundamentals of fly fishing, are taught the Pickup and Lay Down casting technique, the Roll Cast, and stripping the fly in the water. These techniques are simple but are mastered with consistent practice. The Education Team also added fly fishing gear selection and purchase to the curriculum. Please be sure to check the Calendar for three Autumn class dates.



Go Fish!



Chris Atkins' 2-for-1 catch while topwater fishing one evening.



Go Fish!

Our members are taking the card game to a whole new level. Their literal interpretation serves as an inspiration to us all, and what an active bunch we have who love to cast a fly and Go Fish! This new column lets us share in everyone's fishing passion and adventures each month. Feel free to post your photos, story, blurb on our Facebook page or email Julia Bell, interim newsletter editor, flyfshrgirl@gmail.com. Short or long, we want your adventures!



Mariya & Al Palmer catching Channel Catfish on the fly at Lake Ray Roberts State Park



Julia & Cody Bell fished Purtils Creek State Park catching Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, and Sunfish

From the River Bank to the App Store: One Angler's Unexpected Journey

by John Botros

When I retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department last August after nearly three decades as an aquatic biologist, I did exactly what any sensible fly fisher would do. I went to the river. Every day, for about six months.

"The honeymoon phase of retirement is real; I fished as much as I possibly could."

Eventually, though, the honeymoon settled into routine. I launched River Sense Solutions LLC, my consulting practice helping clients navigate river access planning and watershed management decisions, a niche space, built on the expertise of a long career, but not one that fills every hour. I needed another outlet.

That's when I built an app.

Not because I knew how, but because I was tired of scrolling through my phone's photos trying to find my fish.

"I just wanted somewhere dedicated for my fish photos to live. Somewhere I could go back and look at a catch, remember the day, the water, the fly without digging through thousands of pictures on my camera roll."

It's a problem every angler knows. A great fish gets caught,

a photo gets taken, and then it disappears into the endless scroll of a phone gallery, sandwiched between grocery lists and kid activities. I figured there had to be a better solution. When I couldn't find one built specifically for Texas fly fishers, I decided to make one myself.

There was just one small obstacle. I had never written a single line of code in my life.

Twenty-Eight Years on Texas Rivers

To understand why I built what I built, it helps to understand where I spent my career.

Since 1997 first at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and then at TPWD, I worked as an aquatic biologist evaluating ecological impacts on Texas rivers, streams, and wetlands. I reviewed hydropower projects, represented TPWD in the Senate Bill 3 Environmental Flows process, and eventually led the River Access and Conservation Areas program, serving as the department's subject-matter expert on riverine ecology and angler access across the state.

In other words, I spent nearly thirty years thinking about Texas water from a scientific and conservation standpoint - how it moves, what lives in it, and how people interact with it.

I also spent those years as an angler. I came to fly fishing about a decade ago and found, as so many do, that it quietly took over.

"There's something about fly fishing specifically that makes you want to understand the fish, the water, the whole system. It fits naturally with the way I think from my career."

What I noticed, both personally and professionally, was that Texas fly fishers didn't have a tool built for them. Generic fishing apps exist in abundance, but they're





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designed around bass tournaments, offshore species, and national fish registries. The nuances of Texas water bodies, Texas regulations, and the specific species that show up on a Texas fly rod? Those were afterthoughts, if they were present at all.

Retirement, and a New Kind of Learning Curve

I retired on August 29, 2025. By March of 2026, I had started building the app. By May, Texas Fly Fishing Journal was live on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Three months from idea to launch with no prior coding experience.

I credit the modern development tools available to everyday builders that simply didn't exist a few years ago.

“The technology has gotten to a point where someone who understands the problem deeply can build the solution, even if they're learning the technical side as they go. I knew exactly what a Texas fly fisher needed. I just had to figure out how to build it.”

The learning curve was steep and sometimes humbling. There were rejected App Store submissions, technical setbacks, long nights troubleshooting things he'd never heard of before. But the conservation biologist in him approached it the way he'd approached everything at TPWD: methodically, patiently, and with a clear understanding of what success looked like.

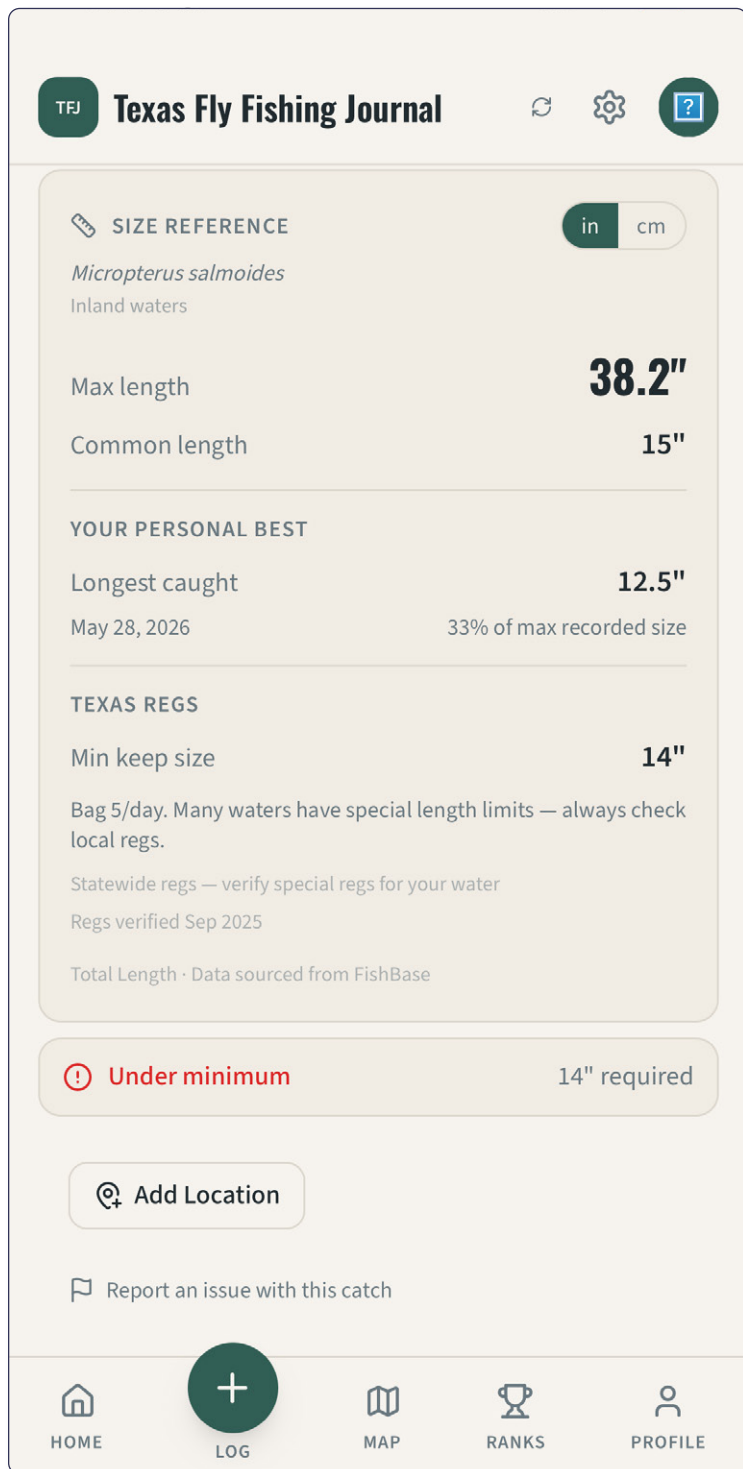
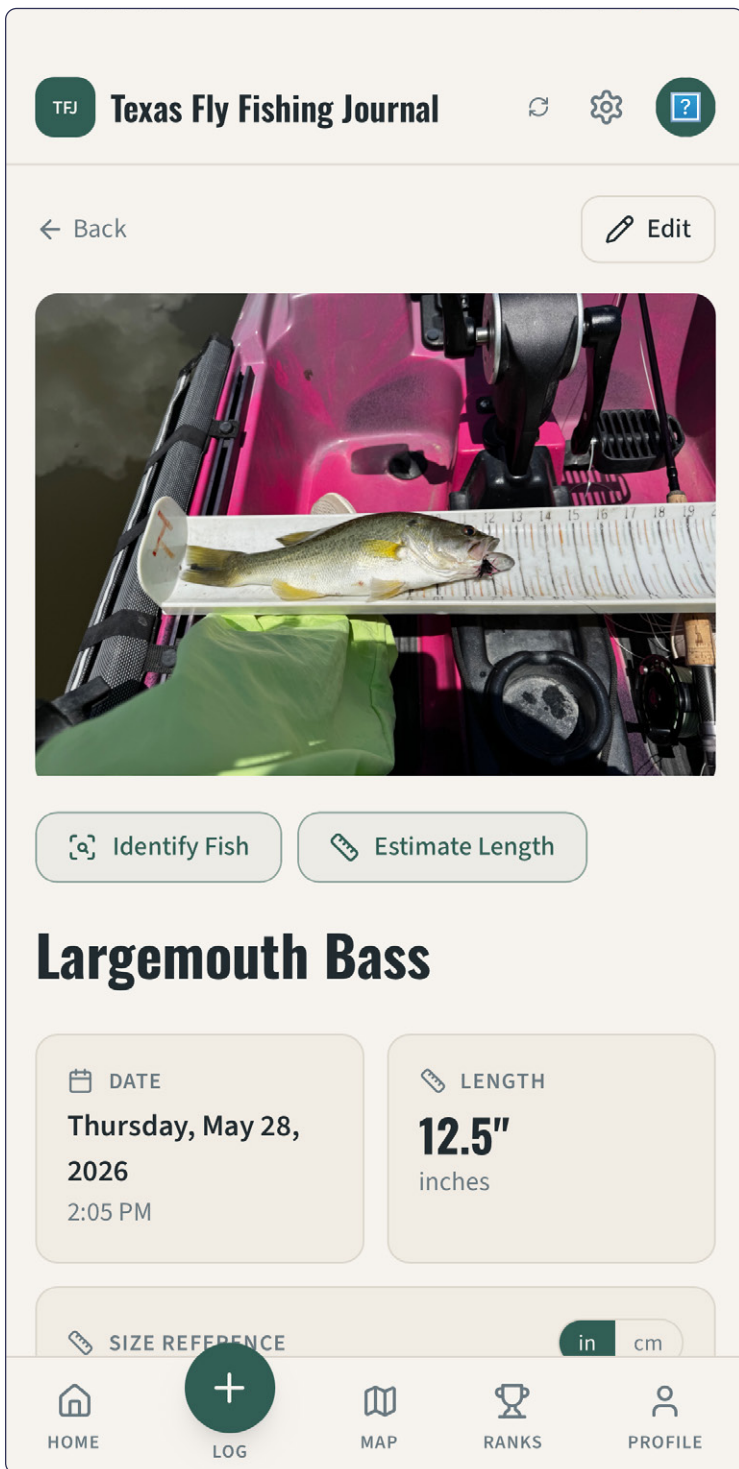
What the App Actually Does

Texas Fly Fishing Journal is a catch-logging and trip-tracking app built specifically for fly fishers on Texas waters.

At its core, it lets anglers log individual catches, species, length, gear, location, photo, and build a personal fishing journal over time. Catches are organized by trip, mapped to Texas water bodies, and stored in a searchable log that doesn't require an internet connection to use. You can log on the water and upload when you get home.

The app includes a species identification feature: take a photo of your catch and the app attempts to identify the species automatically. It also includes a fish length estimator - photograph your fish on a measuring board and the app estimates the length from the image. In





field testing at Purtil Creek State Park, it matched a Largemouth Bass measurement exactly and came within three-quarters of an inch on two sunfish species. For a fly fisher who releases fish quickly, that kind of hands-free logging matters.

A built-in species browser covers more than 100 species found in Texas waters, organized to reflect what fly anglers actually encounter. Texas water bodies are pre-

loaded in the location database, and users can add new ones if their local spot isn't listed yet, a feature one early tester used to add Purtil Creek SP during her very first session.

The app is free to download including access to the Leaderboard, Trophy Wall, and bulk photo import. A one-time Pro upgrade at \$4.99 unlocks the full AI fish identification and length estimation features, the complete

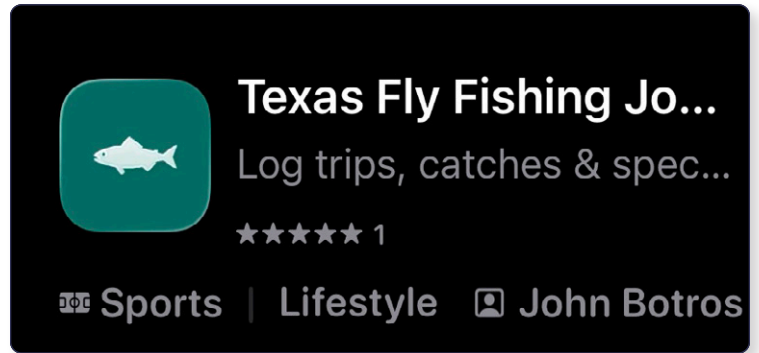
Trips logging experience, and enhanced leaderboard filtering.

Built by a Fly Fisher, for Texas Fly Fishers

The Texas Fly Fishing Journal is my own independent creation. It was not developed by or in partnership with TPWD, and it hasn't been officially vetted or endorsed by the agency. It simply reflects what I learned over a career spent on Texas rivers and a decade of fly fishing them.

"I built the app I wished existed when I started fly fishing. Somewhere to keep my fishing memories organized. Somewhere that actually knows what a Guadalupe Bass is, what Texas regs look like, which water bodies matter to a Texas angler."

I'm already incorporating feedback from early users including fixes rolled out this week based on a full day of field testing at Purtil Creek. I also have a roadmap of features planned for coming updates.



For a retired aquatic biologist who had never built an app before, the last three months have been a second education. But standing knee-deep in a Texas river watching a Guadalupe Bass smack a Llanolope fly — that part, I already knew how to do.

Texas Fly Fishing Journal is available free on the Apple App Store and Google Play. Search "Texas Fly Fishing Journal" or visit www.texasflyfishingjournal.com. The Pro upgrade is \$4.99 one-time.

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to: Dallas Fly Fishers 8349 Club Meadows Dr. Dallas, Tx 75243	M E M B E R S H I P / R E N E W A L	
	New Member <input type="checkbox"/> or Renewing My Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (Check one)	Date _____
You can also join or renew online at http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html	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