

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *February 2026*
Volume XLIX ♦ *Number 2* ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

The 2026 DFF Fundraiser Auction is little over two months away. 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.

Dallas Fly Fishers has over 220 members and a successful Auction depends on great attendance. Please put March 16 on your calendars and do not come alone? 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. For those newer DFF members, the DFF Auction is held every two years and a great way to pick additional gear and raise funds for the club. Auction success depends on DFF member support. Let's make the 2026 Auction the biggest yet?

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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

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The month of February is here and that means we are just over a month from the Club Auction.

The auction will be held at The Plano Event Center, March 16th - be sure to mark this event on your

calendar. The auction is our chance to raise money to help run the club in the year ahead.

You can help by checking if you have gear, tying supplies, and flies to donate for the auction.

Plans are underway for a fun evening for everyone. Be sure to be there for this great event.

The weather has made for good days on the water and fish being caught. The days that the weather is a problem will give you a chance to check your gear and tie flies for our spring fishing season that's just around the corner.

Be sure to check the calendar in The Leader for monthly meeting information, events, and outings.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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**

Gift of the Guadalupe

This year for my birthday my amazing wife Mariya took me to the Guadalupe river for 3 days of fishing. It was our first time on the tailrace and I had a lot to learn. Fortunately all of the trips with the club over the last year prepared me a lot. The fly tying events helped me build the skills to tie most of the flies I needed. We stopped by the local shop ReelFly and they were fantastic. They looked over my fly box complimenting my research and recommending some flies to fill the gaps. They even tipped us off that the water in front of our hotel, the Horseshoe Riverside Lodge, had a fantastic run right out its back door.

The first night there was magical. Up to my waist in the cool waters I watched tricos dancing across its surface under a canopy of Sycamore trees while the sun slowly set on my hopes of catching something. Talking to the owner while walking up the back to our room happy, but discouraged he pointed out the favored holes.

Undeterred the next morning I was on the water at first light. Excited to take advantage of the new intel and fighting the urge to fall back on comfort flies that produce on different waters I instead switched up my flies to an olive pats rubber legs and rainbow warrior. I wasn't practicing my mend very long before landing my first trout. After getting on the scoreboard my confidence was boosted.

As I continued to work my way up and down the run, I discovered another way of reading the river, by watching other anglers. Wading fishermen and guides steadily fished the same section of river I was in throughout the day 1-3 at a time meaning the water that I was having limited success received a lot of fishing pressure. There was a hole though that I noticed guides on their boats stopping at from time to time that I could reach wading that no one else seemed to pay attention to. The water was deep and did not look special at all. This is where my flies really started producing and hooked up on the largest trout of my life (so far). My heart raced faster than my reel every time it ran knowing it could spit out the tiny barbless nymph at any point.

A beautiful moment for me when it was finally landed that I could share with my supportive wife who made it all happen. It made me grateful to the club that helped provide me with experience from the trips and family that gifts us the freedom or joins us in our passion of fly fishing.



Upcoming DFF Outings

Bonham State Park

Join us for the DFF February Outing on the afternoon of February 7th! We'll be fishing at Bonham State Park, located at 1363 State Park 24, Bonham, TX 75418-9285. There is a \$4.00 day-use fee. Entrance is free if you have a Texas State Parks Pass. We'll meet in the parking lot just east of the boat ramp.

Schedule & Location

- Meet around noon for lunch
- After lunch, we'll fish from the bank or from the water using small boats

Fishing Details

Target species include:

- Panfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Carp

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

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!



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