

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ February 2021
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

In Memory of Al Hillman

by Dallas Fly Fishers Board

Dear Dallas Fly Fishers,

On Friday January 8, 2021, our club suffered a terrible loss. Our president, **Al Hillman**, passed away. At our Monday meeting, Jeff Ziehm let us know that Al was going into the hospital to try and determine the cause of a blockage in his stomach. We know few details as to what caused Al's passing.

Al was beginning his second year as club president, and while COVID-19 affected some of the goals Al desired for our club, he was delighted with the DFF's efforts during this pandemic. Al had a personal goal to visit with each of Texas' fly fishing club presidents with the desire to strengthen the Texas fly

fishing community through familiarity and cooperative activities.

Al often brought his daughter Taylor to our club meetings, where she would assist with the meeting raffles. Within the past year, Al combined his love of watching Taylor play club volleyball and fly fishing. As he took Taylor to her volleyball matches, Al took the time between matches to do reconnaissance for future club fly fishing outings.

The funeral will be Wednesday, January 27 at 11 AM at Golden Gate funeral home in Dallas. It will also be live streamed. The live streaming info will be provided closer to the funeral date.

Golden Gate Funeral Home
4155 S. R.L. Thornton Freeway
Dallas, TX 75224
214-941-7332



The viewing will be Tuesday, January 26 from 2 to 8 PM at the same location. There is a place for visitors to leave tributes for the family.

Al's graciousness, kindness, and leadership will be missed.

Respectfully,
The Dallas Fly Fishers Board



Letter from the Editor

by Jere Anderson

The Dallas Flyfishers would like to thank everyone who sent us messages of condolences for the loss of Al. It is a huge impact and leaves a big empty spot. While Julia Bell, our VP will be able to handle it with the cooperation of the Board and our members, it is still a void that will take some time to heal. Thank you all for the kind words. It is obvious that Al was having an impact beyond our club. Jere's thoughts on the loss of our hard-working Leader are elsewhere in this newsletter.

We DID get to teach again at DBU and it was a fun event. Then just as Jere is beginning to feel good about 2021, The Sow Bug Roundup does the right thing

and cancels. This is an all-time great event, beloved by a dozen or more DFF members. Dave and I have had people standing by our table asking for another of the flies they got from us the year before while we are not yet even set up. Most of our usual spring events are gone so watch the Calendar.

The few events that are still on the calendar are facing a CDC opinion that crowd events ought not to be tried before the end of April, and possible beyond. So hang on. There are a lot of Zoom Meetings that may be the bulk of what we are doing until summer.

Tight lines and BIG fish.

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Welcome President Julia Bell

The Board of the Dallas Flyfishers met January 17th and promoted **Julia Bell**, our Vice President, to fill the opening left by the tragic loss of President Alfred Hillman. She has accepted that promotion.

So, thank you, Madam President. Julia led a very active meeting as we discussed how to continue to energize the club with all the problems like the nasty virus that we cannot control. Among the issues were the concerns for having Julia have a backup and helper. Our very active Program Chairman and Fly

Tying Activist, Jack Gillis, volunteered to step up and fill the gap. The Board voted and he is now also our Vice President. He too is very active in the Texas Council and the Fort Worth Club.

The meeting was very productive, and Julia is obviously a capable leader, but I don't think anyone doubted that. The Board Welcomes our members that rose to the occasion, and in a time of need for the club, stepped forward and accepted the new responsibilities.

DFF Speaker Details

The Dallas Flyfishers regular meetings normally are on the first Monday of the month. For now, meetings in a room are blocked in Dallas, you may attend on ZOOM through your home computer. Watch your E-Mail for information.

February Meeting.

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing selective quality trout on the fly. Mayer enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge to fellow anglers and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares these tips and secrets in his books: **101 Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques** (new for 2015), **Colorado's Best Fly Fishing, Sight Fishing for Trout** (Second Edition), and **The Hunt for Giant Trout: 25 Top Locations in the US to Catch a Trophy**, in addition to a new instructional video **Mastering the Short Game** (www.mastertheshortgame.com).

Mayer is a contributing writer for **Fly Fisherman and High Country Angler** magazines. His contributions also have been featured in publications such as Fly Fusion and American Angler magazines.

Mayer has been guiding in Colorado full time on the South Platte River for the last 21 years, and one full season on the Nak Nek River in AK. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, Colorado.



March Meeting.

A native of Colorado, **Pat Dorsey** has been guiding for nearly 30 years. Pat Dorsey spends well over two hundred days a year on the water, a combination of guiding customers, hosting destination travel-trips, and personal days on the water.

Pat Dorsey is the head guide and co-owner of the **Blue Quill Angler fly shop** in Evergreen, Colorado. He also maintains an online stream reports that monitors stream flows and conditions for the Blue, Colorado, South Platte (Cheesman, Deckers, Spinney Mountain Ranch, and Elevenmile Canyon), North Fork of the South Platte, and Williams Fork Rivers.

Pat authored the books, **A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River, Fly Fishing Tailwaters, Tying** and **Fishing Tailwater Flies**.

Pat Dorsey is an accomplished fly tier and has originated several very effective patterns such as the Mercury series, UV scud, Limeade, Cherry-Limeade, Paper Tiger, Top Secret Midge, Medallion Midge and the famed Black Beauty. Although Pat Dorsey no longer has the time to tie flies commercially, he once produced over 28,000 flies in a year. Dorsey is a fly designer for **Umpqua Feather Merchants**. His signature flies are available at the **Blue Quill Angler** and other specialty fly shop throughout the United States. Pat Dorsey is also a Pro Team Member for **Whiting Farms**. Many of his flies incorporate Whiting Farm products.

— Jack Gillis

Program Chairman, Dallas FlyFishers



5th Annual DFF Fly Fishing Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch

April 10, 2021 • 7:30 am to 1 pm

In rural Ellis County at the properties of
Jeff & Catherine Gannon & Family
1234 Sugar Ridge Rd • Ennis, TX 75119

Sign up with name and number of fisherpersons
via email to gannon.jeff@gmail.com
or text **214-608-7507**

Bring your own camping chair and beverages.
Bottled water will be available. Social distancing
will be observed by sitting apart with your chairs.
Wear a mask when appropriate.

Menu

Pastries in the morning • A box lunch at Noon
Bottled water available and BYOB if you wish

Fishing Info

- 3 Ponds totaling ~10-15 acres stocked with Bass (some 6# or more), Panfish (some > 1#), and Catfish of ? weight.
- Onsite transportation to/from ponds provided as needed.
- Personal fishing watercraft can be brought for use on the largest pond. (no access to ponds with your personal vehicle)

Contact Jeff for directions if needed.
Google Maps has proper location.

2021 CALENDAR:

February 1st - Our February speaker is **Landon Mayer**. His topic is Proven Trout Tips: Secrets, Tactics, and Techniques for Quality Trout.

February 19th-21st - GRTU Troutfest is canceled.

February 27th-28th - Fly Fishing and Brew dates, Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Dr. Mesquite, Texas 75149.

March 1st - Our March speaker is **Pat Dorsey**. His topic is Fishing Western Waters.

March 8th-10th - DBU Spring Fly Fishing Class.

April 5th - The April DFF Club Meeting.

April 10th, 5th - Annual DFF / Gannon Family Sugar Ridge Ranch outing. Details in this newsletter in the sign-up poster.

April 16th-18th - The Ennis Blue Bonnet Trails Festival.

April 17th - The Best of Texas Food and Wine Festival, Bankersmith, TX

April 30th-May 1st - Probable date for the Smallmouth Rendezvous, Tahlequah, OK

May 3rd - The May Club Meeting.

May 13th-15th - Sow Bug Roundup, Mountain Home AR has been canceled again, and will try again for March 2022. I am so broken hearted over this one. Dave and I love this event, and always have old friends and folks that like our flies around the table asking for samples...

June 7th - The June Club Meeting.

June 11th-12th - Planned dates for the 7th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival.

July 17th-24th - The joint DFF/FWFF Colorado Trout Outing to Southfork, CO

July - There will NOT be an FFI Expo in Montana this year either as of now. Plans for possible regional EXPO's are under study.

October 1st-3rd - Southern Conclave, Mountain Home, AR

October 15-17 - Oktoberfisch, at Edgewater Springs Resort and Event Center, Fredericksburg Texas.

November 5th-7th - Toledo Bend Rendezvous.



Dallas Fly Fishers 2020 Financial Statement

Here is the Consolidated Financial Statement for the year 2020.
These financial documents are published in January and July and cover the previous 12 months.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Full Year
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 22,069.91	\$ 21,748.29	\$ 19,503.25	\$ 18,225.34	\$ 17,754.06	\$ 16,257.15	\$ 15,086.36	\$ 14,539.95	\$ 14,004.62	\$ 17,259.12	\$ 16,729.12	\$ 17,172.21	\$ 22,069.91
Income													
Membership income	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,152.00	\$ 936.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 36.00		\$ 180.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 90.00		\$ 450.00	\$ 2,016.00	\$ 6,408.00
Auction income													-
Raffle income	121.00	108.00	62.00										291.00
Athens FFF income		800.00						3,374.08					4,174.08
Contributions income											142.86	100.00	242.86
Miscellaneous income		12.30											12.30
DFF shirt sales		560.00	1,120.00	65.00				65.00			65.00		1,875.00
Holiday party income													-
Holiday party auction income	42.00												42.00
Total income	\$ 1,423.00	\$ 2,632.30	\$ 2,118.00	\$ 317.00	\$ 36.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ 3,475.08	\$ 90.00	\$ -	\$ 657.86	\$ 2,116.00	\$ 13,045.24
Expenses													
Newsletter expense	\$ 180.00	\$ 324.00		\$ 126.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00			\$ 1,638.00
Speaker expense	723.16	766.00	1,024.00			250.00				350.00			3,113.16
Auction expense		1,860.00							(1,860.00)				-
FFI Dues	500.00												500.00
Liability insurance						450.00							450.00
Meeting room rental		1,860.00							(1,488.00)				372.00
Athens FFF expense				657.41	667.60	250.00	499.78	3,374.08					5,448.87
DFF shirt expense			1,725.69					58.74				\$ 60.99	1,845.42
Name badge expense	14.36	18.34	26.14				38.51			\$ 46.46			143.81
Printing expense			490.00			58.79							548.79
Outing expense										\$ 156.74			156.74
Other expense													-
Bank fees	27.10	49.00	103.02	4.87	1.34		8.12	4.87	3.50		11.57	73.70	287.09
Student fly rods			27.06										27.06
Holiday party expense													-
Donations (1)	300.00												300.00
Fly tying supplies													-
Audio visual equipment					737.97								737.97
Internet expense (Zoom)								111.86					111.86
Website								280.86					280.86
Total Expense	\$ 1,744.62	\$ 4,877.34	\$ 3,395.91	\$ 788.28	\$ 1,532.91	\$ 1,170.79	\$ 726.41	\$ 4,010.41	\$ (3,164.50)	\$ 530.00	\$ 214.77	\$ 134.69	\$ 15,961.63
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (321.62)	\$ (2,245.04)	\$ (1,277.91)	\$ (471.28)	\$ (1,496.91)	\$ (1,170.79)	\$ (546.41)	\$ (535.33)	\$ 3,254.50	\$ (530.00)	\$ 443.09	\$ 1,981.31	\$ (2,916.39)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 21,748.29	\$ 19,503.25	\$ 18,225.34	\$ 17,754.06	\$ 16,257.15	\$ 15,086.36	\$ 14,539.95	\$ 14,004.62	\$ 17,259.12	\$ 16,729.12	\$ 17,172.21	\$ 19,153.52	\$ 19,153.52

(1) Friends of LLELA \$300

Fly of the Month

by Jack Gillis

The fly of the month is called the "Shakey Bealy." The fly is named after a Yellowstone park ranger named Frank Beals. Beals was enamored with chasing wild trout and he took time off from a San Diego furniture store that he operated to be a seasonal park ranger in Yellowstone. Frank Bealy did not actually create the fly, but he was known to fish the fly avidly and it bears his namesake. Apparently, he received this honor because of his habit of getting up early and shaking with enthusiasm in anticipation of fishing the fly. I believe the fly was originally tied by Nick Nicklas of Blue Ribbon Flies. It is a wet fly, which is a variant of an October Caddis, originally designed to be swung with a weighted leader or dead drifted. It was used primarily as a fall pattern on western rivers, but over time the fly spread and was used on eastern streams as well. It is a pretty darn good bluegill fly as well.



Shakey Bealy Recipe:

- **Hook:** 2x long Nymph hook like a Lightning Strike NH7, TMC 2312, Daiichi 280, in sizes 10-16
- **Thread:** Rusty Brown, 8/0 or 70-denier
- **Tails/collar:** Amber or orange Krystal Flash
- **Trailing shuck:** Mallard flank feather, dyed wood duck
- **Rib:** Rusty Brown tying thread, 3/0 or 210-denier
- **Abdomen:** Amber or Brown Australian Possum
- **Thorax:** Orange ostrich herl or orange wool
- **Hackle:** Natural Hungarian partridge
- **Head:** Tying thread

Instructions:

- 1) Start the thread behind the hook eye and take a few wraps rearward to secure the thread and the cut off the tag.
 - 2) Snip three or four strands of orange crystal flash loose from the bundle. Double them over and snip the loop to give you 6-8 strands. Tie them in on the top of the hook where your thread
- stopped with about an inch and one half of flash facing forward in front of the hook eye. Take thread wraps along the hook to secure the crystal flash to the hook all the way back to the bend. Clip the flash off to yield a short tail.
- 3) Select 10-12 mallard flank barbs, pull them out perpendicular to the shaft (rachis) and snip them free while keeping the ends of the barbs aligned. Place the mallard flank barbs on top of the hook to form a trailing husk, about twice as long as the crystal flash tail. Secure the barbs to the hook shank with several tight, touching wraps and snip the forward-facing ends with your scissors.
 - 4) Secure a piece of rusty brown 210 denier thread to the hook for the rib with the long piece facing backwards. Snip the front tag off.
 - 5) Dub the body of the fly with brown or amber Australian Possum (like Wapsi Awesome Possum) Start the dubbing at the tail tie in point and extended up the body about two thirds of the hook shank length.
 - 6) Counter-wrap the 210 denier Rusty Brown thread over the dubbing to create segments and tie off at the end of the dubbing and snip off the excess.
 - 7) Pull the front facing crystal flash backward over the fly and snip it off halfway between the ends of the crystal flash tail and the back end of the abdomen.
 - 8) For the thorax, select an orange ostrich herl or orange wool dubbing and wrap to create a tight thorax, ending one hook eye diameter behind the hook eye.
 - 9) Sweep the Crystal Flash back from the head trying to create a collar all around the head and secure with thread wraps.
 - 10) Choose a Hungarian Partridge hackle feather and strip the bottom fuzzy barbs. Grab the hackle by the tip and stroke the barbs backwards to allow you to snip off the tip, leaving a triangular section for tying into the hook. Attach the hackle by this triangular section with the curved section of the barbs in toward the hook and tied in front of the crystal flash collar. Palmer the hackle around the hook while sweeping and folding the fiber toward the rear to give you an evenly spaced, sparse hackle. Snip the excess stem off close to the hook.
 - 11) Create a small thread head and whip finish, using a small dab of head cement.

— Jack Gillis
Fly Tying Director

The July Colorado Outing is On Again

by Jeff Ziehm

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado in 2021. Dates for 2021 are July 17-24.

It is the responsibility of the members 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 Ute Bluff Lodge. Ute Bluff has cabins, lodge rooms, and RV sites available. We have reserved a block of rooms with two queen beds in each room. These rooms will be held until February 28, 2021, so reserve your room before then to guarantee getting a room. Just mention Dallas Fly Fishers when you call to make your reservation. Ute Bluff Lodge phone number is 719-873-5595. If you are interested in a cabin or another room

configuration, just mention that when you call. Only the two queen rooms are being held. <https://www.utablufflodge.com>

We meet 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 Ute Bluff 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 the 17th 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. Fishing in the afternoon, and next 5 days, returning home on the 24th or 25th.

If you have any questions, contact Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.

Jere's Memories of Al Hillman

by Jere Anderson

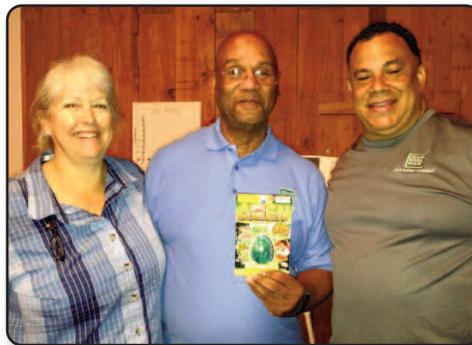
Some people you meet just seem to be destined to be important in your life. You don't always know why but they just become important and more so as time passes. To me, Al Hillman was one such shining light. He pitched in everywhere and did a good job of whatever he took on. He was fun and inspirational to work with, and we just seemed to accomplish so much when we did.

I was first involved with Al in about 2012 when he became an Angler Education Instructor. I remember the times like when Richard Johnson had us teaching at LLELA. Al and I would team up and teach some of the harder stuff like "What Fish Eat" in a little circle of benches off to the side of the open area. He and I got so polished at this subject that each of us could take over for the other one and not have a gap in the flow of information. It was like two old friends who know each other's thoughts so well that you can finish each other's sentences. It was really fun to teach with a partner that you are so dialed in to the subject with.

As time went by, and Al had the tough job of Membership Committee, with all the boxes of stuff, I got to sit with him at the sign-up table, and help. We had plenty to talk about, and I was impressed with how dedicated he was,

and how willing to take on almost anything he was. At that time he had a night job or at least shift work, so doing a big job for the club by day meant he did back to back night shifts with very little sleep. But that did not hamper his dedication to our Club.

In about 2016 he moved up a notch in Angler Education and became an Area Chief. This allowed him to not only teach the classes, but also to infect others with his energy and enthusiasm for teaching the classes. He assisted in the training of 95 new instructors. These are the lucky ones who got not only Al's knowledge but also his attitude.



He had by then advanced in our list of instructors to the point that he was one of my preferred volunteers for teaching, a group I called "The A Team" of instructors. While I do not recall seeing him fly tying, when we

taught fly tying he made a great "rover" moving around between instructors and helping students that seemed to be in more trouble than most. These kinds of helpers are vital. Yet even if it meant a challenge to him getting a sleep cycle, he would volunteer.



Al and I had lots of these chances to get some real skills going in the students, and he was good at it. He really understood the importance of thread control and could help the students with these issues.

He also taught basic casting both to our Angler Ed Students and at some big public events.

When he was deciding if he should to move up to elected office in the DFF, he cornered me so we could have a private conversation, and asked if I thought he could run for VP. I said

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Jere's Memories of Al Hillman

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yes, of course, and though I do not think you need one, I will be a highly visible supporter if you wish. He did not need one of course.

During his term as VP, Dutch Baughman taught a Leadership Seminar at the International meeting of the FFI. Al wanted to go, so we carpoled and took his car and headed to Montana. At the seminar, he made friends readily, and soon had a rather good circle of conversation buddies. His outgoing nature and enthusiasm were recognized by everyone. It was inspiring to see how fast he was becoming known and respected. Several of the Council Officers from far away councils talked to me about how they liked Al. That was a good introduction of Al at the International Level, and I was glad we had made the trip.

The high point of the trip was the awards banquet. I had nominated the DFF for the Prestigious McKenzie Cup, which is FFI Club of the year. Since I did the nomination of all your hard work, they had me scheduled to accept the award for the Club. I felt that since Al was the highest-ranking officer of the DFF in attendance that he would be a better

choice. So when the awards started I told Al that this is for you, when they announce the award head for the stage.



When Al left the stage, award in hand, dozens of the attendees jumped up and wanted to see the award and to congratulate him. I felt incredibly good about that and was glad he had been there to be introduced doing such a prestigious thing.

Al had to go on from there to spend some time with his son in the Dakota's, so I got a plane ride home. It was a great conference, and let a lot of people get to know who we are.. Even more important was the motivation it gave Al to see how the DFF could fit into the bigger picture.

In 2020 Al became our President just in time for the wheels to come off the wagon of what we usually do for a summer. The Covid Virus shutdowns by various Government officials, really threw our program a bad curve ball. Al's leadership, his hard work negotiating room contract changes, and all the rest were very important. We need great leaders in times of deep troubles at all levels and Al did it for us in a big way.

His brainstorming about how to keep the club together, when our calendar was getting empty through NO fault of any of us, was true to the code of great crisis managers. I will never doubt or forget his endless energy and creative ability while trying to keep our plate with something on it during the Virus Crisis.

To have lost such a caring and hard working friend is a great loss indeed. May you rest in peace, and we who knew you and admired you for doing so much and caring so much will not soon forget you and all the things we admired about your presence in our lives.

Go be with God.



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

In addition to all that went on in 2020 with the Nasty Virus and all, Climate decided to show us its dark side. Several world records were broken, among them a record for Hurricanes that easily topped 2005's numbers.

You all know what this is?? It is Mother Nature having a temper tantrum. About a class F4 temper tantrum. These satellite pictures would be beautiful if you did not know what was happening under them.



2020 was destined to exceed most of the hurricane records set in 2005, the most recent holder of most named storms. The 30th named storm of this season, Iota, formed Nov. 13, which is six weeks or so ahead of the last (28th) named storm of 2005 (Dec. 30). Twenty-seven of this year's named storms were the earliest in the season ever.

September was the busiest month on record with 10 named storms. Three tropical storms (Wilfred, Alpha, Beta) formed on the same day, Sept. 18. That hasn't happened since Aug. 15, 1893. In summary, we've had a large number of named storms – about one per week – and had them early. However this long list of storms contains many that never made it to Hurricane strength.

Modern weather watchers have tools that we did not have in the first century of extreme weather monitoring. The records which cover

the time back to 1851, were for most of the first 100 years the reports of ships and coastal communities. Now with satellites that sit parked over the Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean, we see these storms when they are not much more energetic than a Texas Thunderstorm. Now we have tools that can track motion and estimate the energy build-up. With the help of Coast Guard Hurricane Hunters who drop instrument packages through the storm, it allows us to see the bigger ones building and prepare.

There is every reason to believe the future will bring more highly destructive weather in the North Atlantic basin. A lot of things can be done to prevent the resulting damage, if the right choices are made. Choices like where and how to build. For the less robust buildings it's time to move or take precautions, before the next season starts. With the right decisions and commitment, it is possible to make the

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The Conservation Corner

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costs in dollars and human suffering be better controlled for the future. One estimate I have seen was that the 2020 storm season cost roughly \$40 Billion. That is small compared to just one of the 2005 season storms, Hurricane Katrina.

In some places like on Long Island, NY, and that flooded housing development in New Jersey from some number of years ago, the solution was to leave the ground bare and do not rebuild. On the West Coast, a lot of nice vacation villas have been built where they wipe out every three years or so. FEMA Flood Insurance finally got a little bit smart and after they had rebuilt you twice in the same spot, you no longer qualified for flood insurance. That seems reasonable to me. So, encouraging people to not rebuild where they get wiped out regularly besides looking like good sense taking over, is economically smart as well. Better building codes like all the houses on the Texas Coast up on stilts so the storm surge can pass under the house with relatively less damage seems like a winner. Better building codes and roads that survive the storm floods so emergency vehicles can get in and save lives are easy options to find. In business planning we called these the low hanging fruit, symbolic of tree fruits that grow low enough to not need long ladders. Most of this is simple logic, and a bit of Engineering. But these

ideas don't seem to be getting into the mainstream very well and we still are very much dependent on good fortune.

We had another key event in the weather world. This January 2021, we had Dallas snow. It didn't amount to much for us from the big winter states, but it was the first snow that built up 3 inches or more since March of 2015. Here is Jere's front yard.



Texas weather is a bad joke much of the time, but our rainfall is a problem. Last year, almost a full year of rain fell in the first half of a year. Then we have been short of average since then. Right now we are in two weeks of rain forecasts, which is more in line with the Texas Winter Weather.

Fortunately, our new dams and lakes are coming along well, and may even get fishable this next fall. With the huge number of businesses fighting to buy a place at the table in Texas, we cannot afford not to catch more of the rainfall. Our beautiful wildflower displays in the spring need some more water to get going.

The Spring topwater season is almost as exciting as the springtime itself. Talk to our guides that post on our FB pages, and our better traveled fly fishers. If we get a mild winter like the last few, the spawn will be almost here. One year in the 1990's we had such an early spring that over half of the year's fish big enough for Share-A-Lunker consideration were already caught by the middle of February. No way of knowing if that is going to be matched this year, but after our once in a lifetime record of tropical storms in 2020, nothing will surprise me very much. We have a lot of fish that need to be caught. They must be getting lonely without our many highly skilled fly flingers out there annoying them.

**Live with nature,
love the wild
and take care of it.....**

— Jere



Education And Outreach Report

by Jere Anderson

With 2020 behind us and fading fast in the rear view mirror, we got 2021 off the ground with a bang. The last regular event in 2020 before the first quarantine screwed up all the other events was the March Outdoor Experiences Class at Dallas Baptist University. So it is only fitting in a Karma sort of way to have the first week of 2021 beginning with our opportunity to teach at DBU. Some slight mods. We were to keep the teaching team size down, and wear masks all around, both inside and outside. Not too much to ask, and the A-Team Instructors had a few of us brave enough to chance it. I understand that the school is trying to get back as much as is prudent to how the

place felt BCV (before corona virus) and they did the heavy work. The classroom had good separation between student stations, and enough room for the instructors to have separation with the students. With Jim Woodman, Peter Rea and Jere willing to teach under these conditions there did not seem to be any big obstacles.



The classroom and our 13 students looked like this.

Even the outdoor day had masks and good separation. Here is fearless Dan and Doris Montayne leading the casting on Fishing Day.



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And then we fished. Jim Woodman coached the students to the best Bass of the day.



Not a record holding fish, but a nice catch for a first-time fly fisher. The two girls seem happy about it. So life is returning to North Texas.

Our Education Commitment is pretty thin, but I am glad about that. Jere's blood pressure tanked this summer, and he has had a few exciting moments since then. My tribal Medicine Man is still adjusting things, and we are close, but I did have a near miss on an emergency teaching at DBU.

If all goes well for DBU, they will teach the Outdoor Experiences Class again in Spring Break.

The Event I am so very glad to see return is the Gannon Family Ranch wildflowers and Fishing event at their ranch on April 10th. This is a sign-up event and the poster is in this Newsletter. This place is so beautiful it is too good to miss. When it is in bloom, it looks like this.



This last year we did not get this event in until fall, but the fish were still great. The lakes were in good shape and the fishing was particularly good, according to the posts on Facebook.



I have not seen swans that were free range since Europe. They are beautiful.



So where do we go from here? Well, from the looks of our calendar, we have about one event a month coming up. So while the club can continue to help with the list of on-going projects, there is a distinct shortage of outdoor events even being thought about, much less scheduled.

For the general good of all, Dutch has offered to give his Fly Fishing Class to any Dues-paid member of the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and the Dallas Flyfishers. This may be too late to attend since the registration may be full, but if you can get in, it is surely to be great. Dutch may be the

busiest man in fly fishing, and certainly a greatly acclaimed Leader and Trainer.

For several years, Dutch has provided this course through the Tarrant County College Senior Education Program where it has consistently been one of most sought-after course offerings within their senior education program. We have several program "graduates" within our membership who can testify to the benefits of the course to both new and inexperienced anglers.

This 10-week course focuses on a wide range of topics, including how to select gear, fly tying basics, rigging, knots, reading water, introductory entomology, safety, fly selection, etiquette and, most importantly, how to catch more fish. This is really a "soup-to-nuts" program where participants can expect to acquire the skills necessary to move forward on their fly fishing journey. Participants will not only understand the "what" of fly angling but also acquire a comprehensive understanding of the "whys." Dutch's relaxed education style, combined with his extensive knowledge, makes this class both fun and informative.

Program Details:

Beginning Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Registration deadline: January 26, 2021

Cost: No Charge**

** This offer is limited to current paid members of Fort Worth Fly Fishers or Dallas Fly Fishers. **Registrants MUST be a current paid member to register.** Non-member or expired members desiring to participate must acquire current membership status in either club prior to submitting the registration form in the memo about this class you received from Mike Becker January 13th.

The FFI Zoom sessions, ranging from monthly status and future events information from the Board, to weekly fly tying lessons put on by Fred DuPre and featuring some of the FFI's very best are worth it. Go to www.flyfishersinternational.org and click on FFI Online. This will be a very up to date schedule of Zoom presentations. As many as 4

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a week, with a weekly news one. The Monday one is the news, and the Wednesday one is fly tying. Dutch has had a great Leadership Development Workshop much like the one in Montana in 2019 that President Al and I attended.

Jere is signed up for a Silver Award Fly Tying Class presented by Jerry Coviello. It will cover how to tie and how to judge the new Silver Award flies, among other Details of the Fly Tying Award Program. Jerry is the head of the Fly Tying Group at the FFI, and has covered the Facebook Pages with his great fly tying work. The fly tying group's Facebook and FFI Online pages are worth the effort to go through them. If you are an award quality tier or just want to be a better tier, they are for you. Jere may even get

smart enough to coach budding Silver Award tiers.

With the warm weather only about a month away, the Crappie spawners in the weed pads, and the Bass on nests are due almost any day now. Unless we get a real burst of winter from the North, this stands to be one of our mildest winters in more than a decade. So be ready to hit the water certainly by the middle of February. Do be careful in this spring weather. While we are out there loving our wildflowers and the great fishing some very dubious charters are also out there.

So look before you step, and please look very hard before you sit the toddler down in the Bluebonnets for that picture of a lifetime.



It is a tough life, but someone gets to live it. It might as well be us. Life is returning to the land of Oz.

**Best wishes for big fish
and lots of them....**

— Jere

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