

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

The President's Letter

by Julia Bell

When Al Hillman became the DFF's President, he planned many ideas for the club, and while COVID-19 affected their implementation, it certainly did not deter Al and his ideas; genuinely, it made him more resolute to see the club continue to improve and excel. In the first meeting we had as the new 2020 DFF Board, Al challenged each of us to think of actions, plans, and approaches we, as individuals, could bring to the board to make the DFF an even more effective club. What a great and thought-provoking challenge!

Al possessed a servant's heart and attitude and wanted service to the club to be reflected in board decisions and club activities. Al aspired to personally meet each of Texas' fly-fishing club presidents. He wanted to learn what made each club special to their community, who each club considered "their community," and he wanted to foster the love of fly fishing throughout Texas with the help of many clubs working together jointly through outings, conservation, and education. It was always fun to talk with Al just to learn who he

had met since our last conversation, and I think he was well on his way to achieving his goal.

Another set of conversations that I particularly enjoyed were the "Recon" ones. Al's daughter Taylor, who attended many DFF meetings when she was a young girl, plays volleyball. Al loved watching Taylor play and enjoyed taking her to the many places where her club volleyball team played. One of the many calls I would receive from Al after letting me know about Taylor and her team, would be...

Hello, Julia. I'm watching Taylor play club ball at [wherever they were in the Metroplex] and in between her matches, I found a place I think we could host an urban outing. I fished for a bit, and I caught several species. Parking seems adequate, access is relatively easy, so if you get a chance, look up this place.

The enthusiasm Al had for both Taylor and fly fishing always came through the phone, and I really enjoyed those calls.

In a 2001 interview, Julia Child told Mike Sager, "The measure of achievement is not winning awards. It's doing something that you appreciate, something you believe is worthwhile." Al's enthusiasm for fly fishing reflected Julia's sentiments exactly. Al was an excellent ambassador for the sport and mentor to many fly fishers of all skill levels and ages, as attested to by the many expressions of condolence the Hillman family and the DFF have received. I particularly appreciated receiving a kind e-mail from one of our young members about the effect Al's mentorship had on him. Al's family donated most of his fly-fishing equipment to the club for our 2022 auction. The Board is working on creating a memorial fundraiser and organizing a memorial tree planting and will share the details with our membership.

While it will not be easy to follow Al as club president, I am looking forward to the challenge, working with an outstanding board, and appreciate the honor to serve the Dallas Fly Fishers.

Here's to bent tips and happy days,

- Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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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. His loss is a huge impact and leaves a big empty spot. I knew of his large family, and his annual vacation to be with his son Shane Hillman, who has a business in Minot, ND. He wrote to me that the family was so grateful for our group and the support we gave Al. I got a note thanking us and asking me to pass on to the club his appreciation for all the support and involvement Al had felt from us. It read in part; "Thank you Jere! I'm pleased to read all the nice things everyone has written about Al. He will be missed by many. Please let everyone know we really appreciate all that this group has meant to him. Thank you".

Life is slower than usual this spring, but two kinds of opportunities are available. There are several public events to go to and support like

the Fly Fishing and Brew Festival in Mesquite, and Flyfest in Ft. Worth. There are also family events like the Gannon Ranch Picnic, the joint outing to Colorado with the FWFF, and some family fly fish gatherings near Mountain Home. We even have another event teaching the TPWD Angler Education Class to Dallas Baptist University. While some of these may not make it due to crowd event rules, we will try for it.

How are the Zoom meetings working for you??? We had 55 signed on in the February meeting. That is almost as good as a regular meeting. Pay your dues and keep your calendar page of the newsletter taped to the Fridge Door. We are still here and we are doing everything we can to stay active.

Tight lines and BIG fish.

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DFE 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.

March Meeting, Pat Dorsey.

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.

April Meeting, Kevin Hutchison.



Kevin Hutchison is the owner of Hill Country Flyfishers, an Austin-area based guiding and instructional company. He is the author of many articles on fly fishing in the Texas Hill Country, including the book Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country, Fourth Edition, and frequently speaks on the

subject to fly fishing groups across the state and country. He has introduced hundreds to the joys of fly fishing using the innovative casting instructional techniques he has developed. Kevin is a FFI certified casting instructor and former "Teacher of The Year" for the Southern Council of the FFI. He spent 4 years with the National 4-H Sportfish training staff and served as lead instructor in the Texas Parks and Wildlife "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" program for 11 years. He also served on the International Education Advisory board for the Cortland Company. Kevin is also a master fly-tyer and has developed flies specifically targeted to fishing the Texas hill country waters. He was formerly with AK Best Fly Tying Pro Staff. Kevin is regularly invited to demonstrate his innovative patterns to fly tying groups. Kevin is passionate about every aspect of flyfishing and dedicated to spreading awareness of what a wonderful resource we have in the rivers of the Texas hill country. He is the founder and former president of the Central Texas Flyfishers in San Marcos, Texas. He is also the former president of the Austin Flyfishers in Austin, Texas. Kevin lives outside Bastrop, Texas, and never misses the opportunity to fish a Texas hill country stream.

May Meeting, Jen Ripple.



Jen Ripple grew up on a small private lake in Wisconsin. Spending all of her formative years diving the waters of the Midwest, it is no wonder it's in her blood. Currently, she is the Principal of Fly Squared Media, a company that publishes a number of magazines in the outdoor industry with an emphasis on the fly fishing lifestyle. She is most known as the Owner and Editor-in-Chief of DUN Magazine, the international women's fly fishing magazine. In addition to these positions, she is a member of the Board of Directors for Fly Fishers International. When not on the water, she spends her time empowering women in fly fishing through speaking engagements nationwide and teaching fly casting and fly tying clinics. She is an avid conservationist, who devotes her free time to conservation efforts through nonprofits. A sounding-board for women in our sport, Jen has created a home base for women worldwide to connect and engage in the art of fly fishing.

— Jack Gillis
Program Chairman, Dallas Flyfishers

The 2021 Dallas Fly Fishers Board



Julia Bell,
President



Jack Gillis,
Vice-president &
Programs Chair



Steve Jackson,
Treasurer



Jim Woodman,
Secretary

Not pictured:

Jack Janco,
Past President
Steven Pirtle,
2021 Trustee
Finny Khan,
Auction Chair



Dave Shatzer,
2022 Trustee



Lajan Barnes,
2023 Trustee



William McAlpine,
At-large Trustee



Rex Walker,
Casting Instructor



Jere Anderson,
Conservation &
Newsletter Editor



Richard Johnson,
Education Coordinator



Jeff Ziehm,
IT Specialist



Mike Becker,
Membership

Currently, we have two positions open, the Outings Coordinator and the Fly-tying Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer in either of these positions, please contact a board member. We would love to have you!

2021 CALENDAR:

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 6th - A White Bass fishing trip. Julia is coordinating this and you have seen several posts in your E-Mail Basket. A flyer is in this Newsletter.

March 8th-9th - DBU Spring Fly Fishing Class.

March 13th - TRWD FlyFest. River Park Trail Head, Bryant Road, Fort Worth.

April 5th - The April DFF Club Meeting. The speaker is **Kevin Hutcheson** whose Topic will be Fly Fishing for Bass in Texas

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

May 1st - World Championship Bass on a Fly Event, Lake Fork, located at the Lake Fork Marina. This event was postponed in 2020, but we have high hopes of getting it in this year.

May 3rd - The May Club Meeting. Our speaker will be **Jen Ripple** whose Topic will be Fishing the Mighty White.

June 7th - The June Club Meeting. Our speaker will be **Chris Taylor** sharing The Secrets of Fishing the San Juan River.

June 11th-12th - Planned dates for the 7th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival. This is a big event that combines fly fishing with raising money for some very deserving veterans groups.

July 5th - Our speaker will be none other than **Rex Walker**, who will share with us the secrets of Casting Accuracy.

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

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

September 11th-18th - Third Annual White River Trip. Details are in this newsletter.



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

November 5th-7th - Toledo Bend Rendezvous.

WHITE BASS RUN OUTING

Nolan River, Blum, Texas

When: March 6, 2021

Time: 7:30-2:00

Gear: 5-7# rod, floating line, 7-9 ft. leader, subsurface/weighted flies, waders, wading staff, hat, buff

Other: Water, Sack lunch, Lawn chair

Contact: Julia Bell

Directions:

- Northwest Hill County
- 2 miles south of Blum, TX on FM 933
- GPS Coordinates:
N 32° 06.977 W 97° 23.934
- Park north of bridge on west side of road.
Look for DFF banner
- ¼ mile walk to the river over modest terrain

Adair Spring Park no longer exists, so there are no facilities available.

Access to the Nolan is by walking, and there are many opportunities to move upstream and downstream along the east bank. Float tubes are an option, as the river does get deeper both up and downstream.

Cleats are recommended with wading shoes due to limestone.

[SMP White Bass Flies](#) recipe

[TPWD White Bass Fly Fishing Online Class Wed. Feb. 17, 2021](#) free registration

White River Three Peat

by Mike Becker

September 11 - 18, 2021

I seem to recall one of our guest speakers asking “Would you like to catch a fish like this?” The pictures indicate that we did. But, even better yet, we want to do it again and so can you.

DFF will be returning to the White River this fall in pursuit of large browns and rainbows. Last year, five DFF members made the trip. At last count all plan to return to this amazing fishery; and, we would certainly like to see that number increase in 2021.

Attendees are responsible for their own arrangements. We generally get together in the evening hours to exchange fish stories,

maybe fish some more, and enjoy some socially responsible community. Last year, we had a group dinner at Gaston’s one evening, and a Dutch oven cobbler prepared by Jeff E on another evening.

Pat and I have reserved an RV site for the week at the Denton Ferry RV park in Cotter and booked 3 guided days with Dally’s Ozark Fly Fisher (www.theozarkflyfisher.com). We will probably wade fish, rent a boat or generally goof off on the other days. Denton Ferry RV Park has wade access to the river (if the water level cooperates); and, the Wildcat Shoals access is a short drive down the road.. There are also smallmouth opportunities on Crooked Creek.

Dally’s is a regular contributor to DFF’s auction and has a roster of experienced guides. I have a helpful North Fork and White River fishing map that identifies wade access areas on the rivers, depending on the water level. Boats are available to rent at Bull Shoals park and several other facilities. There are several campgrounds, cabins and lodges along the river. Hotels are available in Mountain Home.

Please plan to come for all or part of the week.

If you have an interest in going, please contact Mike Becker at 214-288-3885 or kuduguy@verizon.net.



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.

TRWD Flyfest Returns to the Trinity River in Fort Worth on March 13

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) trout stocking season culminates with TRWD Flyfest, a celebration of urban fishing in and along the Clear Fork of the Trinity River in Southwest Fort Worth. The family-friendly festival will be held on **March 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** To create an optimal angling experience, TRWD will release 1,800 lbs. of rainbow trout in addition to the nearly 3,000 Texas native fish stocked annually. Whether you are an experienced angler or have never touched a fly rod, this fun day will have something to hook everyone in the whole family.



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

Spring Casting Hints

by Rex Walker

Relax!

I have worked with over a thousand fly casting students and “Relax!” is by far the most common casting tip I give out. So, what the heck am I talking about by telling people to relax while casting a fly rod???

When learning to cast a fly rod it is easy to get frustrated and some people will react by tensing up. I have seen this happen both during casting classes and on the water fishing. Unfortunately, the more you tense up the more difficult it becomes to cast and the frustration level just continues to increase. It can be a vicious circle.

Using a “death grip” on the rod handle is one reaction. I have seen knuckles turn white because someone was gripping their rod handle so tight. Always remember that fly casting is NOT a power sport. We pay a lot of money to buy rods that are so light that they measured in fractions of ounces. A super tight grip is not required to cast a fly rod and a relaxed grip will cast better and will be less fatiguing to use on an all full day fishing trip. If you find yourself tensing up there is a simple trick to help your hand relax, simply stick out your picky finger. It is extremely difficult to have death grip on a rod handle with your pinky finger sticking out. Yes, I’m talking doing the same action that the Three Stooges used to do when holding a teacup. Sticking out both your pinky and ring fingers will be more comfortable for some of you and you can actually cast very well with just your index finger and thumb on the rod’s handle. Play

around with how many fingers you have on the rod handle and you’ll find that a nice relaxed grip works better when fly casting than a very tight grip.

Couple of quick notes on using this technique. I suggest sticking out your pinky and making just a few casts when you find yourself tensing up. The goal is to remind your body to relax and not to spend the whole day fishing with your fingers sticking out. I have found that my accuracy suffers without all my fingers on the handle. So, I use this technique for a few casts to relax my hand and arm and then I’ll lower my fingers back to the handle for more rod control. Also, this is not my idea, I watched Lefty Kreh use this technique with a student. I shamelessly stole it because this simple action works very well.

Another common reaction is for a caster’s rod arm to slowly get higher and higher until it is almost straight up in the air. Holding your arm this way limits your casting stroke length which can cause all kinds of problems with a fly cast. But to me, the biggest problem with holding your arm up in the air is that it is very tiring. Anyone remember holding your hand up in the air in school and waiting for the teacher? It doesn’t take very long to get tired of trying hold your hand in the air. The same thing will happen while casting, the higher you hold your rod up in the air the quicker you will get fatigued. Using a casting style that allows your elbow to be held lower than your shoulder is a much less tiring casting style to fish all today. This is true whether you use an elbow forward or elbow to



the side casting style. We can discuss casting styles another time, but the keys to picking a casting style to use are to ensure that it doesn’t make your body hurt and it can put the fly where you need it to land.

So, what do you do if you find yourself tensing up and your elbow starts to rise higher and higher? The first step is to take a break. OK, I know, this sounds silly, but letting go of the rod and taking a short break really does work. Put your rod in your other hand and let your casting arm relax, wiggling your fingers helps. A 30 second break without holding your rod can make a big difference. The “stick your pinky out” technique mentioned earlier will also help to force your arm to relax.

The key point of this ramble is to be aware of your body while out fishing or practicing your casting. If you find your hand or arm starting to tense up, take a break and RELAX! Using a relaxed grip and casting style produces better results and is more enjoyable to use all day on the water.

Have fun!

—Rex Walker
FFI Casting Instructor

March Fly of the Month

by Jack Gillis

Tomsu’s Supreme Hopper



It looks like summer is finally headed our way, and with the warmer weather comes the opportunity to

try fly fishing with terrestrial insect patterns. Whether you’re fishing for trout in some vacation spot or just looking for bass and bluegills in our local ponds, terrestrial patterns like the grasshopper pattern shown here are just the ticket. This can be fished standalone (it floats like a cork) or fished tandem in a classic hopper/dropper configuration. With warmer weather usually comes a bumper crop of grasshoppers that seem to always have unfortunate specimens that get blown into the water, ripe for a protein packed meal for some hungry waiting fish. A hopper pattern in those conditions might just surprise a gorgeous fish.

- **Hook** - standard dry fly hook like the TMC 100 - size 4 - 12
- **Thread** - 6-0 flat waxed Danville, color to match the pattern
- **Front Legs** - rubber legs, color to complement the pattern.

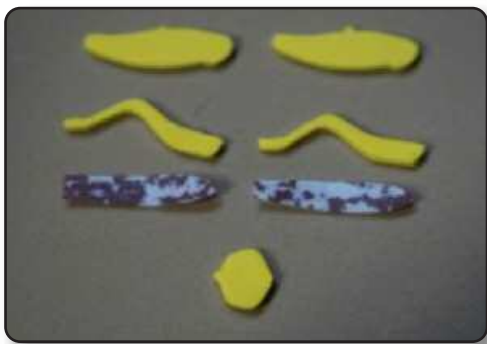
Body, Back Legs, Pronotum - 2mm foam, cut with the River Road cutter sets (the sets are available in sizes 4 - 12, the example is tied in size 8. Pick a foam color to closely match the grasshopper you see where you intend to fish. You’ll need two body halves, two back legs and one pronotum (note the

(Continued on page 7)

March Fly of the Month

(Continued from page 6)

cutter cuts one half the pattern so you need to either fold the foam or make two cuts.



Wings - Any thin wing material, like Montana Fly Company MFC Etha-Wing or River Road River Foam, cut with the Tomsu Wing Cutter.

Underwing (optional) - Elk hair of deer hair, color to complement the hopper

1.) Create a thread base that goes from just behind the eye to the start of the bend of the hook.



2.) Add a bead of super glue to both sides of the thread base and press one of the body halves onto the hook. Note the orientation between the hook and the body.



3.) Smear superglue on the inside of the second body half and carefully put the two halves together, matching up the edges and burying the hook body. Press together the two halves until the glue sets. Usually takes just seconds.



4.) Turn the hook to a vertical position in the vise and add body segments by starting and stopping the thread (i.e., start a new body segment with a new set of thread wraps, cut the tag end, wrap 5-6 turns and then whip finish and cut the thread - repeat in new locations). You can choose how many segments you want by varying the spacing.



5.) Reorient the hook back to the horizontal position and continue to add additional body segments as described above. When you have the number of body segments desired, add a pair of the foam back legs (one on each side) by wrapping the thread around the last segment while holding the legs in the desired orientation. You can flare the legs up so the body lands on the water or add them in a more down position so the legs and the body both hit the water.



6.) Add a last segment to mark the sections between the hopper head and the thorax. Use the same method to create the segment with thread.



7.) An option on the wing is to just use the Wing Material, or, I like to add an underwing of elk hair (or deer hair). Stack the tips to make them even and attach using thread wraps to the segment between the head and thorax. Clip the ends of the hair close to the hopper body. A drop of head cement on the hair and thread wraps wouldn't be a bad idea at this point, just for insurance.



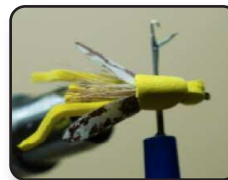
8.) Add the wing material wings on top of the hair under wings, splaying the two wings at a pleasing angle and attach using thread wraps. Note the picture is taken with the vise rotated to show you the wing splay.



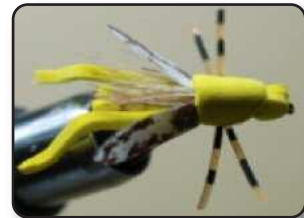
9.) Attach the pronotum to the top of the hopper, over the wing and under wing by adding superglue to the body and placing the pronotum on the top of the hopper and gently bending the pronotum around to the sides. Hold in place while the glue sets up. I use a set of self closing tweezers to help with this and keep my fingers out of the glue.



10.) Stick a bodkin thru the thorax (under the hook) to create a hole for the front legs. I then use a leg puller tool to insert thru the hole and pull a doubled over rubber leg thru the hole. Don't pull the legs quite halfway yet.



11.) Place a small amount of superglue on the longer side of the rubber legs and then pull them thru to the halfway point so the superglue is dragged down into the foam and it locks the legs in place. Remove the leg puller and clip the loop in the rubber legs to create two four legs (two on each side).



12.) Add permanent colored markings to the hopper to give it variegation and make it more hopper like (there's probably a better artistic explanation, but I think you get my meanings. Look for pictures of actual hoppers on the web and try to draw similar markings onto the pattern.



You can insert the rubber legs without using a leg puller but I find it to be the easiest way. You can buy commercial leg puller tools from various fly tying supply shops, but I found one at a local hobby shop (JoAnn's or Michaels) that cost only a couple of bucks and was the perfect size. It wasn't designed to be a leg puller, as a matter of fact it was called a knit picker (for repairing loose threads in a sweater or other woven fabric).



*-Jack Gillis
Fly Tying Director*

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 the most and the earliest Hurricanes in a single season. Well, as Lauren Bacall said in Key Largo, “Hang onto your hats, this is going to be a bumpy ride.”

One of my favorite events in weather forecasting is Groundhog Day. This event, on February 2nd is a salute to science. Most of us just get a laugh out of it, but to take the word of an overweight rodent and deny true science is a bad joke, but funny. I tend to see this whole thing as somewhat of a bad joke. This graphic covers the bases fairly well.



In the last week of January, a single storm dropped 113 inches of snow in the mountains of middle California. To put that number in perspective, the Dallas ABC News Weather guy pointed out that we have not had that much snow in Texas even if you add up all the days in all the years for the last 55 years. And they are on the warm coast, and about the same latitude. So the Hurricane record that is thought to be related to a warm spot in the mid-Atlantic Ocean and a single storm snow event thought to be an arctic (read that cold) event almost back to back. It is enough to rattle the cages of the Climate Changers.

Then, the third week in February, we have had the most hours below freezing since the record setting winter of 1983. Over 114 hours, in a land where your summer color plants have to dug up in the spring, since most of them have survived the very mild winters.

Are we going hotter or colder, and where? I think it challenges the folks that believe Climate is driving the weather to think kindlier of those of us that know that Climate Data is a statistical value. Since it consists of the numerically smoothed weather data, it seems to me that it is more correct to say weather is the basis of climate.

Feel free to go with either viewpoint, I do not argue either side. I mainly have a problem with claiming that in spite of the much more wild swings of climate that have occurred on Third Rock in its multi-billion-year history, the claims that the last 40 years of climate statistics prove that my life is in danger. I will not argue that one either.

What is most important is to catch the runoff from our erratic weather. Towards that end we are about to close the gates and start to fill Lake Bois d'Arc. Here is some information out of the January Status letter.

January 2021
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Bois d'Arc Lake is located northeast of Bonham in Fannin County. Project construction began on the 16,641-acre reservoir in May 2018. The lake and other projects will be able to initially treat and deliver up to 70 million gallons of water daily starting in 2022. This report provides a monthly recap of construction progress and accomplishments.

Project Overview

Dam and Reservoir

Construction includes the preparation and building of a two-mile long dam embankment, service spillway and raw water intake.

- Crews are placing the last 170,000 cubic yards of soil on the dam before water is impounded, or captured (an additional 300,000 will be placed to finish the dam after this occurs).
- Crews are wrapping up the last of their work on the spillway and continuing to build the electrical and storage building on top and access bridge for the intake structure.

FM 897 and County Roads

Around 11 miles of county and state roads and bridges in Fannin County were improved or constructed.

- FM 897 and all county roads are now open to traffic.

Mitigation

Improvements are being made to more than 17,000 acres to mitigate for loss of habitat and impacts to local streams from construction of the lake.

- Improvements to the Willow Branch Creek are finished.
- Workers are preparing the upper Bois d'Arc Creek mitigation area for tree plantings this winter, with plantings scheduled to begin this month.

Leonard Water Treatment Plant

Construction includes a storage reservoir and five-step water treatment plant.

- Crews are installing mechanical equipment, process piping and tanks in facilities across the site.
- In the next two weeks, installation will begin on the power poles from the substation to the plant site.

Raw Water Pump Station and Pipeline

These will pump water out of the reservoir and carry it 3.5 miles to the new treatment plant.

- Over 96% of the pipeline is now installed.
- Most of the pipe is laid. Workers will begin testing the pipe and restoring vegetation in the next month or two.
- Topsoil placement and property surface restoration on the Right-of-Way (ROW) are still in progress.
- Crews continue to build and place pipes and electrical at the pump station.

Treated Water Pump Station and Pipeline

A pump station and 2.5 miles of new pipe will transport the treated water to the existing NTMWD regional water system.

- Pipe continues to be laid. As the Raw Water Pipeline is completed, construction crews will transition to increase the speed of this pipeline's installation.
- Additional walls and the central pipes of the pump station are being installed. Crews are also waterproofing the building.

Boat Ramp Areas and Lake Operations Center

NTMWD is building three public boat ramps, a dam maintenance building and a Lake Operations Center for administrative operations and recreational and educational activities.

- Crews are currently waterproofing the windows of the Operations Center and installing sheetrock and electrical inside. Half of the center's parking lot is now finished.
- Construction continues on the warehouse and other NTMWD facilities and recreation projects near the lake.

For more information, visit www.BoisdArcLake.org

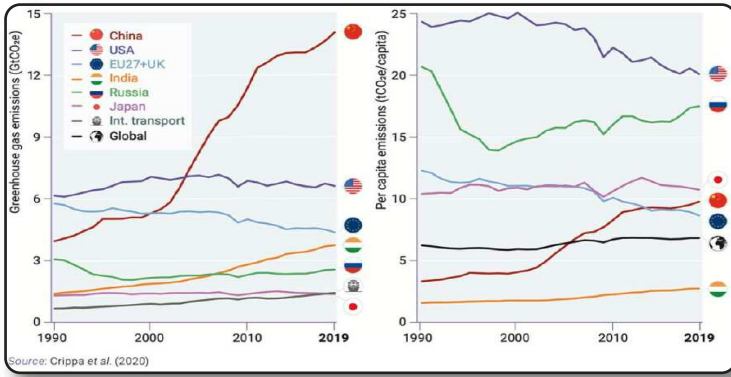
This important conservation project is about to be useful to us in fishing. If it closes the gates in March as scheduled, and we get a wet spring again, we might have enough water in this new lake to reach the ends of the boat ramps by summer.

On the climate front, the UN Climate People have gone on record as saying that the United States, is exceeding the expectations of the UN Climate Monitors. December 9th, The United Nations released its Emissions Gap Report 2020, an annual assessment of contributions to greenhouse gas and carbon emissions. The report has some notable information amid an array of complicated projections that may or may not come true.

The real surprise in this report is a U.N. advisory that the U.S. need not join the Paris Climate Accord. This report suggests it has evidence that, instead, the U.S. should just keep doing what it is doing to cut its own emissions. The U.S. is the most successful major country at mitigating its own pollution, and the U.N. Report shows this.

According to the report, “the United States of America emits 13 per cent of global GHG emissions.” Comparatively, “China emits more than 25 per cent of global GHG emissions.” The U.S. still contributes the most greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the world, but, over the last decade, the country’s GHG emissions have been in decline (0.4 per cent per year). “Greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the U.S. are dropping precipitously while those of China, India and Russia continue to rise. With the world’s most successful economy (over \$21 trillion in 2019), it is not a surprise that the U.S. pollutes more per person, but the U.S. is making great strides in changing this.”

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The graphics are the numbers for the top 6 GHG emitters. The left graph is for each entire country, and the right graph is that data presented on a per person basis. The red line is China (the red flag) and they are hands down the worst in the world both as a nation and per person in terms of Greenhouse Gases. Number two on the walk of infamously is Russia (the red, blue and white flag) shown as the green line. The total emissions are low, but on a per person level they

are going up fast. Third is the yellow line, India. They are the second fastest growing in terms of total emissions but are way behind many others on a per person scale.

The award for most improved goes to the USA, the purple line. Our total emissions are declining as a total, but on the right-hand scale, we are the big winners in emission reductions per person.

The U.S. is making these improvements even without joining the Paris Climate Accord. The current plan is working to cut emissions, so don't mess with it. The UN agrees. We are a leader in fixing stuff, and it shows. So rather than send a lot of money to a political organization over which we have no control, perhaps we should just continue to do what we know works to accomplish the objective. A novel approach if there ever was one.

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

— Jere



Education and Outreach Report

by Jere Anderson

We are off to another slow year. Our normal mid-February to late May is full on most weekends and quite a few weekdays filled with fun and adventures. A lot of you loyal DFF Members work long and hard to fill the need for support of all our activities. But not since mid-March of 2020 when something hit the fan things changed and we have been pretty well out of luck since then.

I am sad to report that with a few fun exceptions, it is looking like 2021 will be a quiet year as far out as July. We do have some exciting and fun family events that were great before, coming up for a repeat performance so all is not lost.

As you read this, the Fly Fishing and Brew Festival which moved from the Plano Center to the Mesquite Conference Center is happening now, if I get the Newsletter out as planned. This is a big commercial show and about a dozen of the great's and near great's of the DFF will be there.

There is a White Bass event on March 6th. Back in the 1990's the spring spawner migration of these midget Stripers was the cause of camping trips all over the Brazos. A notice is in this Newsletter.

Then if all goes well, the Spring Break Class at Dallas Baptist University will be on, and we will once again get to fish in all the campus water. They have several lakes that really look good, and often fish well too. Be sure to tell Richard or Jere if you can help. We are going to limit the number of worker bees for health reasons on classroom day, but the fishing day can have more help. Masks REQUIRED, and several other rules will be vigorously enforced.

The week after that is the Trinity River Water District Outdoor Event, known as FLYFEST. Lots to do. There is a poster in this Newsletter. Lots of fish will be planted, and lots of activity led by the FFI Texas Council, FWFF and DFF. Food and family fun in the spring weather, and lots of fun things to do. If the wildly changing Texas Springtime can just give us a break, this is too good to miss.

The next thing will be in April, but it is worth the wait. One of the truly wonderful events in Nature is the Texas Springtime. Warm weather, beautiful wildflowers, spawning fish, the list is huge. I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, with the Lupines and Trilliums blooming in the mountain meadows in springtime. Well, I must admit, the hillsides full of our Texas Wildflowers beats it. I am in a rapture of love for the outdoors in this time period. It is so great that we have a family in the Club that are dedicated

to maintaining and improving a huge expanse of these wonderful little beauties.

The Event is the 5th Annual 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.



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Education and Outreach Report

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The lakes are in good shape and the fishing should be good. Better yet there are Bluebonnet Festivals all over the place for the next two or three weeks after the Gannon Ranch Event. So even if you cannot get to the great one, you can still take the family for a drive through the wildflowers. A big public event in Ennis and one in Fredericksburg are in the Calendar. One called The Best of Texas food and Wine Festival is also in the Calendar, and it is a ticket event.

The next event is June 12th for the Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival. This is just about the most important event that the DFF leads. It is a charity fund raiser, a fishing contest, a picnic and a whole lot else. Johnny Martinez puts a lot of time and effort into this one. It is an outdoor event, so it is easy to keep separated from each other. Do not miss this one.

And as Porky Pig would say; "That's all Folks". The spring series of events, often dozens in number, these are all there are.

Then the summer joint trip to Colorado with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers is being coordinated from the DFF side by Jeff Ziehm. Julia may

never be able to forget this one. So glad you seem to be healing, Madame President.

The Southern Council may be able to hold the Southern Conclave in Mountain Home, AR on October 1st – 3rd. This one was hosted for three years in the late 1990's by the FWFF and the DFF before we split the Texas Council off from the Southern Council.

October 15th – 17th, the Oktoberfische Event at the Edgewater Springs Resort and Event Center, in Fredericksburg is way too good to miss. Consider going up early and fishing some Guadalupe Bass.

There are a cluster of opportunities in October to do some family outings to the Cotter AR area. A sign-up option with the trip planner is available in this newsletter as well.

Last, but never least, is the Historic Toledo Bend Rendezvous at The North Toledo Bend State Park, near Zwolle, LA is planned.

So from the looks of our calendar, we have about one event a month or less coming up. The club can continue to help with the list of on-going

projects. I will miss our distinct menu of outdoor events being thought about and scheduled.

Jere is attending a Silver Award Fly Tying Class presented by Jerry Coviello. It covers 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.

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....**



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