

# The Leader



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FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

## Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

What a busy month April turned out to be! Much planning occurred in preparation for upcoming events, and this makes my heart very happy, because our website calendar is more than a bunch of blank squares! Yes, activities for fly fishing, fly tying, and education to occupy some of our days—Hallelujah! To further advance our activities of fun, Jim Woodman and Dan Montayne volunteered to fill our two board vacancies. Jim is the Outings Coordinator and shared some novel approaches for Outing planning, and Dan is the Tying Coordinator who has some new activities coming our way later in May. Joining in the fun this month are April's newest DFF members; please help me welcome: Charles Daniel; Jeff Jacobie; Jim

Latshaw; David Smith; Craig Thompson; Jonathan Fisher; and Noah Garrett. Gentlemen, we are very glad to have you as members and look forward to fishing and tying with you. Welcome!

One activity the Board accomplished this month was selecting a tree and a location to honor the memory of our 2020 club president, Al Hillman. We wanted a location that would reflect an area that Al would appreciate, is easily accessible for Taylor, Al's daughter, and meaningful to club members. With the help of Dr. Ray Galloway, the Board chose the Dallas Baptist University campus, where the club has been helping with the Outdoor Education class for the past 13 years, an activity in which Al truly enjoyed participating. The Al Hillman Bald Cypress is located in a glade near a pond close to the classroom where we teach the Outdoor Education class. We have tentative plans for a dedication ceremony in mid-May, but the date is dependent upon when the plaque will be ready. We will keep members apprised through e-mail and social media.

Fishing at Catherine and Jeff Gannon's gorgeous property for our April outing offered me a perspective I do not often have the opportunity to experience. The water was gin clear, and I could name the species as they swam by me, so I decided I wanted to observe how the fish reacted to my flies. I selected a pattern, fished it 10 casts, and watched how the species reacted to that fly. While a

Flymen Fly Tester demonstrates how a fly's material, tying, and profile look as they are moving through the water, having the opportunity to observe fish reacting to flies is a completely different aspect of fly fishing, not to mention a genuine treat. What surprised me most was how the Redear Sunfish completely ignored every chartreuse pattern I threw, but the moment I used an amber-colored pattern, they were the first species to follow my fly, even into shallow water. It was an overcast day, so it was the perfect opportunity to experiment, and if a time presents itself, I highly recommend this little venture.

Even though the 2021 White Bass Run is ending, the spring fishing still has many species to offer, and our May outing to Latham Springs Encampment will provide us an opportunity for a multi-species day on several different water bodies. We do need some help, though. The campus is spread out, so we are looking to borrow a golf cart to transport those who would welcome a lift. If you can help, please contact one of the board members.

I'm looking forward to learning about Jen Ripple's Mighty White River, tying flies, and fishing with you!

**Here's to bent tips and happy days,**

*- Julia*

*President, Dallas FlyFishers*

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## DFF Speaker Details

The Dallas Flyfishers regular meetings normally are on the first Monday of the month. Watch your E-Mail for information on meeting site. The April Speaker wants to meet in the Hotel at 5 and tie flies. Then at 7 will be the meeting. It can also be experienced as a Zoom Meeting.

### 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.



### June Meeting Speaker, Chris Taylor.

Chris Taylor is the founder of Fisheads and has been fly fishing since he was a young pup. He has fished all over the world, and guided throughout the West, from Alaska to Colorado. A better teacher of fly fishing you will not find. People who fish with Chris are always amazed at his abundance of energy. His excitement about your fishing trip is contagious and his ability to put you into fish is awe-inspiring. Fisheads has been recognized with an Orvis Guide Service of the Year Award as a premiere full service lodge and outfitter on the San Juan River.



### July Meeting Speaker, Rex Walker.



For 15 years Dallas-based casting instructor, fly fisher, and fly tyer Rex Walker has been helping people improve their fly casting skills. He has worked with many of the region's fly fishing clubs, at fly fishing events across Texas, and with both Reel Recovery and Project Healing Waters.

Walker is a Fly Fishers International-certified casting instructor and the fly casting coordinator for the Dallas Fly Fishers. When not helping other fly fishers, Walker can often be found on Lake Texoma chasing black bass and striped bass on the fly.

### August Meeting Speaker, Dutch Baughman.

To most of us, Dutch Baughman requires no introduction. An avid and experienced fly fisherman, Steelheader and fly tier for over 60 years, a sport he truly loves. Dutch is heavily involved with Fly Fishers International. He is a Vice President, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Chairs the Education Committee and the Fly Fishing Skills, Learning Center. He was the 2019 Fly Fisher of the Year, awarded the 2019 President's Medal, and the 2020 Darwin Atkins Fly Tying Award. Dutch is also on the Board of Directors of the Texas Council FFI, a Member of both the Dallas and Ft. Worth Fly Fishers clubs, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Certified Angler Education Instructor and Area Chief, as well as an instructor for fly fishing, 2-hand casting and fly tying. Dutch is a demonstration fly tyer for the FFI National Expo, Roadkill Roundtable, Northwest Fly Tyers Expo, Sow Bug Rendezvous, Fly Fest, Texas Fly Fishing and Brew Fest, and too many others to list. Dutch teaches two courses through Tarrant County Community College for Fly Fishing Skills I & II. A more talented instructor and fly tyer does not exist.



— Jack Gillis

Program Chairman, Dallas FlyFishers

## The 2021 Dallas Fly Fishers Board



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Vice-president &  
Programs Chair



Jack Janco,  
Past President



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Treasurer



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2021 Trustee



Dave Shatzer,  
2022 Trustee



Lajan Barnes,  
2023 Trustee



Dan Montayne,  
Fly Tying Coordinator



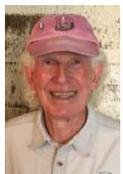
Finny Khan,  
Auction Chairman



Rex Walker,  
Casting Instruct



Jere Anderson,  
Conservation &  
Newsletter Editor



Richard Johnson,  
Education Coordinator



Jeff Ziehm,  
IT Specialist



Mike Becker,  
Membership

DFF Board Members 2021 — <https://www.dallasflyfishers.org/board.html>

Here is our complete board.

If you would like to help, contact a board member.

## 2021 CALENDAR:

**May 1st** - World Championship Bass on a Fly Event, Lake Fork, located at the Lake Fork Marina. This event is explained at [www.bassonthefly.org](http://www.bassonthefly.org) and is a very important fund raiser and fly fishing event.

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

**May 5th** - Ladies Night at Tailwaters for fly tying, 6:30 to 8:30.

**May 8th** - DFF Members Only Outing to Latham Springs.

**May 17th-18th** - The summer session with DBU teaching the Outdoor Class in Fly Fishing.

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

**June 11th-12th** - 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

**August 2nd** - DFF Meeting features Dutch Baughman. His topic is Reading and Understanding the Water Column.

**September 13th** - September DFF Meeting.

**September 11th-18th** - Third Annual White River Trip.

**September 18th** - Teaching a Basic Fly Fishing Class at LLELA.

**September 17th-18th** - Southern Conclave, Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, AR.

**October 4th** - October DFF Meeting.



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

**November 1st** - November DFF Meeting.

**November 5th-7th** - Toledo Bend Rendezvous.

## May Outing

by Julia Bell

The DFF May Outing will be to Latham Springs Encampment in Aquilla, Texas.

Members need to bring a sack lunch, non-alcoholic beverages, and a lawn chair to help maintain social distancing while relaxing with lunch.

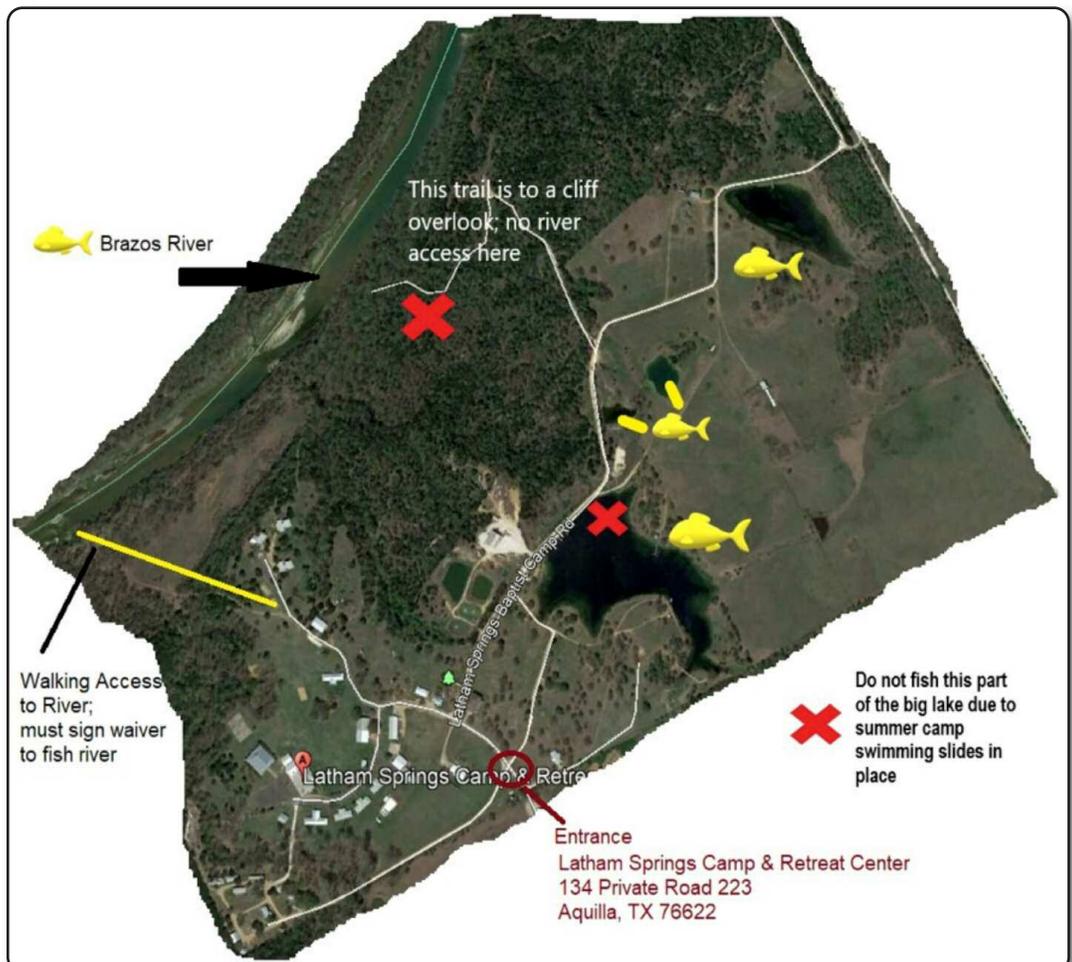
We will fish on Thursday 6 May from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., leaving the grounds no later than 3:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$8.00/person (more information about paying will become available).

Multiple water bodies to fish—a lake which can accommodate non-motorized vessels, three ponds, and the Brazos River (you must sign a waiver if you want to fish the river).

**Target species:** Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Catfish, Crappie, and Sunfish.

Please RSVP to a board member; further details will be e-mailed to all current members.



# 2021 Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival

by Johnny



## 7th Annual LAFF 2021

June 11th and 12th

at Lake Athens Marina/RV center

Join us for the 7th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival - benefitting Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery. Learn more and Get Registered at [Johnnyonthefly.com](http://Johnnyonthefly.com)

Two Fly Fishing Challenges \* casting contest \* casting instructions \* fly tying demos \* fly fishing instructions \* food \* fun \* and friends.

### Event Schedule:

#### Friday June 11th

- 3pm: Check in opens for Sunfish Challenge
- 5-7pm: Sunfish Challenge
- 7:15pm: Food, drinks, and entertainment

#### Saturday June 12th

- 5:30am: Check in opens for Big Bass Challenge
- 7am-1pm: Big Bass Challenge (Benefiting Project Healing Waters)
- \*Casting and fly tying available throughout the day\*
- 2pm: Lunch
- 3pm: Casting Contest
- 4pm: Awards Presentation

Thank you to all of Sponsors for helping make this year's event possible!



For more information contact: Johnny Martinez (972) 697 - 7096

Registration is now open for the 7th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival at Lake Athens Marina and RV Center on June 11th and 12th. Go to [Johnnyonthefly.com](http://Johnnyonthefly.com) - find the registration page - click the link and follow the form. Contact me with questions.

**Johnny**                      [Johnnyonthefly.com](http://Johnnyonthefly.com) • [Johnny2448@gmail.com](mailto:Johnny2448@gmail.com) • **972-697-7096**

## DFF Outings

by Jim Woodman, Chair

I agreed to serve as the chair of the DFF Outings Committee with the understanding that every DFF member easily can contribute to a DFF fly fishing trip by merely suggesting a lake, pond or stream in or within 1 hour of the Dallas metro area. Send your suggestions to me at lakebud002@gmail.com. I ask that

you recommend a date and time that you are willing to fish at your spot so that we can schedule a DFF outing there. As an example, I have three ponds within walking distance of my home that are easy to fish from shore. I invite members to join me on the morning of Monday, May 17 from 8am – 1 pm at 4201

Eider Dr, McKinney 75072. RSVP to my email address. Upcoming events will be listed in Calendar.

*Editor's Note: This date is during the time we will be teaching at DBU, so it may change.*

## In Memorial

*Those members, new and long-time, to whom we had to say our goodbyes, let us remember them fondly.*



*Will Calloway (r) with Bill Hutensky  
April 2021*



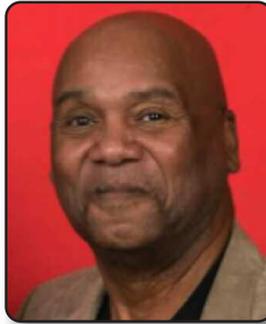
*Dr. Jason Moshier (r) with Norm Goheen  
April 2021*



*Bill McAlpine, Trustee At-Large  
February 2021*



*Richard Blair (r) with wife Diane  
March 2021*



*Al Hillman, 2020 President  
January 2021*



*Clem Fullerton (r) with wife Barb  
31 December 2020*

*Let faith run its course, everything will work out, everything passes.  
Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. — Gandhi*

## Thread Sizing, Construction and Materials

*by Jack Gillis*

After conducting the recent Survey, I realized our fly tying members are wanting more technical aspects of tying. As a result, I started, with the April newsletter, a series of articles on the following topics: Understanding Thread Sizing, Construction & Materials; Making Sense of Hooks; Spinning vs Dubbing Loop; Thread Control; and how to tie the five flies for FFI's Bronze Skills Award. Have fun tying.

**Jack Gillis**  
Fly Tying Director  
(214) 718-4910

### Understanding Thread Sizing, Construction, and Materials

By Charlie Craven



*[This story originally appeared with the title "A Tangled Mess" in the Feb.-Mar. 2017 issue of Fly Fisherman.]*

There is a lot of good information about fly tying out there. Between books, magazines, and the Internet, there is no shortage of adequate instruction and advice on almost all aspects of fly tying. Except for the apparent stepchild of fly tying: thread. Much of what's been written about this important tool is false or misleading.

Note that I used the word "tool" rather than material. In my mind, thread is a tool chosen

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## Thread Sizing, Construction and Materials

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to perform a specific task. I own no less than 1,000 spools of thread in a huge range of sizes, colors, and configurations, and while every one of them is good for something, none are good for everything. A large selection lets me choose the right tool for the job in every instance. You don't need 1,000 spools of thread, but hopefully I can help clear up the details of why threads are different, and what those differences mean to you.

### Keeping it Together

Before I get started on thread differences, let's talk wax. Almost all tying thread comes from the factory waxed, and if you want unwaxed thread you'll have to use silk, GSP, Kevlar, or a specialty thread like unwaxed 3/0 Danville's Monocord. Waxed thread is not a substitute for dubbing wax and is applied to the thread in the manufacturing process merely to keep the thread from fraying and unwinding wildly when it breaks.

Size is another major source of confusion for many consumers. Historically, fly-tying thread was sized using the archaic aught system that came originally from sizing silk surgical sutures and is still used today for that purpose. Using a zero as a baseline and additional zeros to denote smaller sizes, the aught number described relative size based on a range of diameters and worked nicely in an age of organic materials where exactness was not always possible. Many tying threads are still measured this way today, as an example, 000000 or 6/0 (six aught) being smaller than 000 or 3/0 (three aught) thread.



The Danville Chenille Company used this system for tying thread for 50 years with no issues, but in the 1990s, UNI Products entered the tying market. While UNI also used the aught system to distinguish its larger and smaller threads, the company used a different baseline diameter, and that's where everything went to hell. Using the aught

system, tiers assumed that the new 8/0 UNI-Thread was smaller than 6/0 Danville's. And 6/0 UNI-Thread seemed much stronger than 6/0 Danville's. Despite the numbers on the spool, those comparisons weren't fair because the two threads aren't the same size at all.

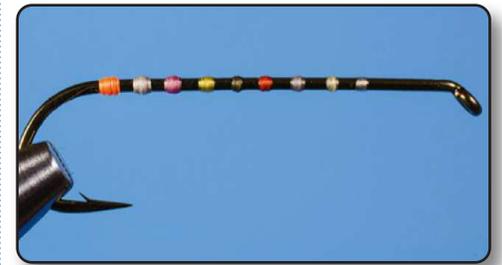
Wapsi Fly Company moved away from the confusing and archaic aught system when it introduced UTC Ultra Thread and used the thread industry denier standard of measurement. Denier is the weight, in grams, of 9,000 meters of thread. It's a physical actual weight for a length of thread. It says nothing of the thread configuration, material, or strength. UTC Ultra Thread comes in 70, 140, 210, and 280 deniers, and simplified thread sizing to a significant degree. It's pretty simple math to figure out that 140-denier thread is twice as heavy as 70-denier thread, 210 is three times as heavy, and so on. Using the denier system retroactively tells us that 8/0 UNI-Thread is 72 denier, 6/0 Danville's Flymaster is exactly 70 denier and surprisingly, 6/0 UNI-Thread is 135 denier—no wonder it seemed so much stronger; it's almost twice as heavy!

There is no constant baseline used by all manufacturers to clearly and accurately label their threads. As tiers, we should all know that 70-denier UTC Ultra Thread, 6/0 Danville's Flymaster, and 8/0 UNI-Thread are all about the same weight, but we should also know that these three threads are still very different because of both the materials used to make them, and the configuration (round or flat when viewed in cross section).

Most fly-tying threads are made of nylon or polyester. Polyester is slightly heavier than nylon and has a higher denier for a length of the same diameter. Polyester is also a bit stronger. There are also threads made of other materials like gel-spun polyethylene (GSP), Kevlar, silk, and monofilament, but those are for very specific uses—most general-purpose threads are nylon or polyester.

Danville's and UTC Ultra Thread are both made of nylon. Nylon has a fair amount of stretch, (25 to 30 percent), naturally lies flat, and has a silky smooth finish and a glossy sheen. Nylon threads allow dubbing to slide more than polyester threads and while still perfectly usable for dubbing, you should expect poorer adhesion to a slicker thread.

Both of these threads are flat and wrap on the hook like a ribbon. They are configured with multiple strands held together with a binder strand twisted around the center strands to hold the thread together. UTC Ultra Thread lies flatter on the hook because it is held together with a binder strand that twists around the main core at a rate of only one revolution per inch. This open twist allows the thread to spread out and lie flat on the hook shank. Danville's has a binder strand with more revolutions than UTC Ultra Thread, so it doesn't lie quite as flat.



These flat threads are particularly useful for thread-body flies or flies requiring a smooth underbody, as they create silky, seamless tapers and bases. I like both of these threads for Black Beauties, Copper Johns, and Humpys. In the case of the Black Beauty and Copper John, this is because the smooth texture and low bulk allow me to build smooth bodies and underbodies without ridges. Conversely, my friend Jay Zimmerman prefers 8/0 UNI-Thread for the Black Beauty, as he believes the ridged thread body holds the wire rib in place more securely.

In the case of the Humpy, I find these threads to be perfect for building both the upright divided wings with flattened thread to keep them from flaring, and then building the thread hump to create a vibrantly colored, smooth underbody. I twist both of these threads into a cord (by spinning the bobbin) when I first attach the hair to a hook, as I find round thread grabs, cinches, and compresses hard hair better than flat thread.

I like larger thread — 140-denier UTC Ultra Thread, 6/0 UNI-Thread, and good old 3/0 Danville's Monocord (rated at 140, 135, and 116 denier, respectively)—for streamers and saltwater flies. I find the slightly narrower nature of 3/0 Danville's to be particularly useful for streamers like the Baby Gongga and Dirty Hippy, but again, the colors here are somewhat limited and muddy.

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## Thread Sizing, Construction and Materials

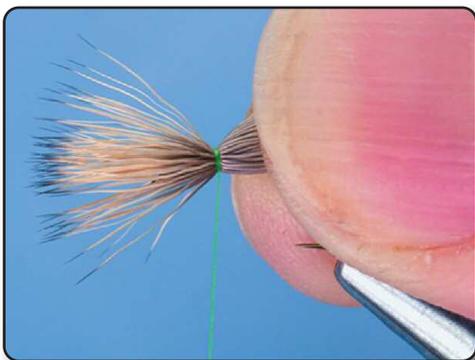
(Continued from page 6)

UNI-Thread 6/0 is similar to Danville's 3/0 and I use it in many of the same instances. It is one of my favorite threads for flies like Crazy Charlies, as the round shape bites into the D-Rib overbody as well as the hard calftail wing for a more secure tie-down. Medium saltwater flies like my Ragin' Craven and Flip Flop use 140-denier UTC Ultra Thread as there is space for extra bulk on larger patterns, and this flatter thread creates a smooth, clean profile around the weighted eyes.

I only use the largest sized UTC threads, 210 and 280 denier, on flies that require quick and heavy thread coverage like the Pigsticker, or for the hot head on Cliff Watts's Kilowatt. In these cases, thread that builds and covers quickly and smoothly is paramount, but otherwise these threads are, quite frankly, overkill.

Polyester UNI-Thread has less stretch (15 percent), is more roughly textured, and sits more rounded or corded on the hook. The rougher texture holds dubbing particularly well. Colors are typically a bit more muted and subtle in polyester than they are in nylon, with more of a matte and less shiny finish.

UNI-Thread can be flattened slightly by diligently unwinding it or wrapping the thread left-handed. Yes, you read that right. Most threads are twisted such that as a right-hand tier wraps them around the hook, they contribute to the factory twist in the thread. Left-hand tiers enjoy an unintended advantage in that as we wrap these threads, we unwind them . . . causing them to lie much flatter than when wound by our right-handed friends.



UNI-Thread is a bonded thread that is reinforced with multiple binder strands that twist around the core strands at a much higher rate to produce the rounded shape. Because of

that shape, UNI-Thread tends to build bulk vertically on the hook shank rather than horizontally as nylon threads do. The round cross section coupled with less stretch and a more textured surface—of this polyester thread allows for a bit more “bite” and “grab” to the thread in tying applications. Round thread bites into and flares hard hairs like deer, elk, and moose better than flattened thread does.

The rougher texture of polyester threads also holds dubbing better than the slicker nylon. Because of this and my inherent left-handedness, I like 8/0 UNI-Thread and use it on many of my trout patterns. Its ability to be flattened or twisted into a cord and the harder nature of polyester versus nylon make it a great choice for smaller flared hairwing flies like a Compara-dun or X-Caddis or anything made predominantly out of dubbing. My biggest gripe with UNI-Thread is the colors are not as vibrant as the nylon threads, but that's simply a matter of my preferences . . . the fish don't seem to care. I should mention here that 14/0 Gordon Griffith's Sheer (72 denier) thread is made of polyester as well, but is constructed more like 6/0 Danville's, striking a nice compromise between a hard, round polyester thread and a flatter nylon.

Veevus is a new brand that has recently come on the scene and become quite popular. It is the only modern era thread that is unwaxed. All of the Veevus middle-sized threads (8/0, 10 /0, 12/0 and 14/0) are built in a conventional fashion with a bit of twist but with the ability to be flattened beautifully by unwinding, while both their largest and smallest sizes (6/0 and 16/0) are built of just two intertwined strands in a counterclockwise twist. These threads also flatten or cord up nicely and in the case of the 16/0, create negligible bulk when tying. Both of these two sizes lend themselves wonderfully to split-thread dubbing, in case you're into that sort of thing. Oddly, a little bit of online research shows that Veevus 6/0, 8/0 and 10 /0 threads are all rated at 110 denier, and the 12/0 and 14/0 are rated at 70 denier with the 16/0 rated at a fine 50 denier. I cannot for the life of me figure out how they have managed to make distinctly different sized threads out of a material of the same denier, but they have. The 12/0 and 14/0 threads are clearly different sizes. They lie flat or cord up at the tier's whim, they have surprisingly good

strength, and the colors are more than adequate for all the tying I do.



I just wish I could give you a straight answer as to how they make the stuff but, after an extensively long e-mail string with the head of the company, they either don't know, or don't want us to know! Their advice was not to concentrate so much on the technical aspects of the thread but to instead buy a few different sizes and see what works best for your own tying. This isn't bad advice, although I must say it wasn't very helpful in writing an article about these technical differences.

### Specialty Threads

GSP (gel-spun polyethylene) threads are super slick, strong for their size, have very little stretch (3 percent), and lie flat on the hook. They are typically used for spinning deer hair or for synthetic materials that call for an abnormally strong yet small-diameter thread. GSP thread holds up well to toothy fish and creates durable flies. The slickness can be a liability in other applications however, particularly dubbing retention, and the dye used to color them is not as stable on GSP thread as it is on other materials, so I only use white.

Kevlar was sort of a precursor to GSP. It lies quite flat, is incredibly strong, and comes in just one size (200 denier). It is most often used in larger spun deer-hair patterns like bass bugs. Dye is not stable in this material either and can run when you apply head cement, so I only use this thread in its natural color of pale yellow. There's nothing worse than tying a perfect white bass bug and watching the thread leach dye into it when you add a final drop of head cement.

These two specialty threads are basically interchangeable. GSP thread is much slicker, and both can be hard to cut with your tying scissors. I've heard horror stories about the abrasiveness of both these threads eating

(Continued on page 8)

## Thread Sizing, Construction and Materials

(Continued from page 7)

bobbin tubes, but after almost 40 years of tying I've never seen it. GSP thread does come in a wider range of sizes, from 30 denier up to 200.



Monofilament threads are just what they sound like: fine, round, single-strand nylon monofilament—just like tippet material. Use mono threads when you want the thread to disappear under a coat of epoxy or head cement when you are tying Surf Candies or EP Minnows. The single-strand construction leads to excessive twisting in the tying

process and they must be managed to control and unwind this twist while you use them. Mono threads are not particularly strong either.

Silk was the first thread used to tie flies and is still wonderful stuff. Two twisted strands are used to create this thread and silk can easily be untwisted to flatten or twisted as you see fit. It has fallen by the wayside for many reasons, mostly because it's not very strong and doesn't hold its true color when wet. It's still useful in historic applications and I use it for soft-hackled patterns as well as ribbing in some cases, but as a general tying thread it has been surpassed.

After all this guidance, it's still useful to buy several different kinds of threads and sizes and see what suits you and your tying best. While a more consistent and understandable

and consistent sizing system would be a lovely advancement, it's not likely to happen.

If you're now a true "thread nerd" and want an even deeper understanding of thread sizing, materials, and breaking strength, check out Martin Joergensen's fantastic thread table on the Global Flyfisher website ([globalflyfisher.com/tie-better/fly-tying-thread-table](http://globalflyfisher.com/tie-better/fly-tying-thread-table)). I use this chart for a reference to the denier sizes and diameters of all thread brands and find it invaluable.

Reprinted with permission. Charlie Craven co-owns Charlie's Fly Box in Arvada, Colorado, and is the featured tier in two Fly Fisherman DVDs: Warmwater Fly Tying and Saltwater Fly Tying. His latest book is Tying Nymphs: Essential Flies and Techniques for the Top Patterns, available from Stackpole Books/Headwater Books (2016).

## DFE Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch

by Jeff Gannon

On Saturday, April 10th the 5th annual outing was held at the Sunset Ridge and Sugar Ridge Ranches owned by the Gannon and Anderson families in Ellis County. The day was sunny but a bit cool and breezy in the lower 60's. The outing was attended by 33 1/2 DFE members and family. The 1/2 was the young son of the Nick Moore family who enjoyed romping in the fields and eating an apple. Most fished while others enjoyed the views, birds, bluebonnets, and other flora and fauna. Fishing was good in the three smaller ponds with bass and bluegills biting well. The large tank was not producing at all which was likely due to colder water temperature in that very deep pond.

Kolaches and coffee were available for brunch and a delicious grilled chicken box lunch from Chick-Fil-A was enjoyed by all at noon. We all social distanced in our lawn chairs when not fishing or exploring.

Your hosts, Catherine and Jeff Gannon, would like to say that we really enjoy sharing our family's ranches with the fine people of DFE. Our families may own them now but we are really the custodians and conservators of the land for future generations.

An album on the club Facebook page is available for viewing. Please add your pictures to this album if you have not already sent them to Jeff.

April 9, 2022 has been set for the 6th Annual Outing so mark your calendars!

### Editor's Note, by Jere Anderson

*This is my favorite event and outing. This year the bluebonnets were a bit behind schedule, perhaps due to the very hard freeze in February. But they were still beautiful, just a bit less dense than I remember them.*

*Jim Crump, as always was the fish catching champion. He caught this one.*



*It is hard to say what I like best. The ponds, the fun fishing or the great wildflowers.*



*They have stocked some Swans. I have not seen unfenced white swans since I was in Europe. They are so graceful and beautiful. They can be feisty, but the ones on the Gannon Ranch are calm and just a*

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## DFE Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch

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bit "Keep to themselves", so no attitude issues cropped up that I knew of.



This is what I love the best. A Jillion acres of unspoiled wildflowers.



Judy and I both had fishing gear, but it was so great to sit there in the spring sunshine and absorb the beauty of it all.

This last photo is my fly tying buddy, whom I had not seen much of since last March when the new nasty bug shut down everything we loved to do.



So if you have not been going to this outing, the next one is April 9th, 2022. Don't miss it. It is a signup outing, and so if you signup and cannot go PLEASE do NOT forget to cancel your commitment.

Best wishes and Thanks to the Gannon Family for a great day in the Outdoors.



## The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

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. The wonderful renewal

of nature in the spring time is about even with the active Fish that are getting ready to spawn. Both invite you be out there in the middle of it all.

The DFF is going crazy with great fishing events and great Fly Fishing stories. March 26th had a fly fishing trip by Rex, that was for our casting group and the Red River Fly Fishers. It was to one of the smaller lakes along the strip of Texas between Highway 84 and the Oklahoma Border. When I was President in the late 1990's, I wanted to have the club fish these many small lakes. Our reason was the fun of it, and the other reason was that most of these did not have any TPWD Fly Fishing Records, so any fish you properly documented was probably a Lake Record.

Then a group of DFF folks took Jim Woodman, the new Outings Coordinator, up on an offer to fish his private water. I sure missed that one. There is an article by Jim in this newsletter. It sounds like they did good. Good varieties and good sized fish.

It is so great that we have a family in the Club that are dedicated to maintaining and improving a huge expanse Texas Native Spring Flowers. Such a gift of these wonderful little beauties. The Event was the 5th Annual Gannon Family Ranch Wildflowers and Fishing event at their ranch on April 10th. This place is so beautiful it is too good to miss.



In a place so great with a group this great, how could you miss? The lakes were in good shape and the fishing was challenging, but some good ones were landed. The Gannon Family has started a web page on FB and on the DFF Web Page. There is more in an article in this newsletter.

Better yet were Bluebonnet Festivals all over the place for the next two or three weeks after the Gannon Ranch Event. So even if you did not get to this great one, you can still take the family for a drive through the wildflowers. Big public events in Ennis and in Fredericksburg are in the Calendar. One called The Best of Texas food and Wine Festival is also in the Calendar.

On April 17th, Dan Montayne, Jim Woodman and Jere Anderson taught fly tying to the DIVA Outdoor Women's group at Kimberly's home. They are a fun group and very good students. I would love to go fly fishing with them. Here are some pictures.

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## The Activity Report

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Jim Woodman teaching in Kimberly's library.



Dan Montayne teaching in the Kitchen nook. The food was great too.



Jere teaching in the Dining Room.

So after all that what could we possibly do for an encore? Hang on, the ride is just beginning.

May 1st, is the World Championship Bass On A Fly Event. It is at Lake Fork, and if you haven't signed up to fish it, I think you are too late. But go and enjoy all the fun stuff going on around the Fishing. This event is explained at [www.bassonthefly.org](http://www.bassonthefly.org) and is a very important fund raiser and fly fishing event.

Our May Outing will be on Thursday 6 May 2021 at Latham Springs Encampment in Aquilla, TX. There is an article and a map of the

facility in this newsletter. We have access to three ponds, a lake, and the Brazos River. Most prevalent species are: Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Crappie, Catfish, and Sunfish. Canoes, float tubes, kayaks, and non-motorized vessels can be used on the lake; the smaller ponds can accommodate a float tube, if desired. There is shore fishing available on all water bodies and wading on the Brazos.

May 17th and 18th is our last teaching opportunity with Dallas Baptist University for this school year. It should be warm, and the ponds on campus active. With any luck, Jere will be back teaching by then.

The next event is the Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival on June 11th-12th.. 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. There is an article about this one in this newsletter. 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 are down to these.

Then comes the summer joint trip to Colorado with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers. As usual it 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 September 17th-18th. 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 is a cluster of opportunities in October to do some family outings to the Cotter AR area. A sign-up option with Mike Becker, the trip planner, is available. Read the three-peat article.

Last, but never least, is the Historic Toledo Bend Rendezvous at The North Toledo Bend State Park, near Zwolle, LA, planned on November 5th-7th.

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.

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



# The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

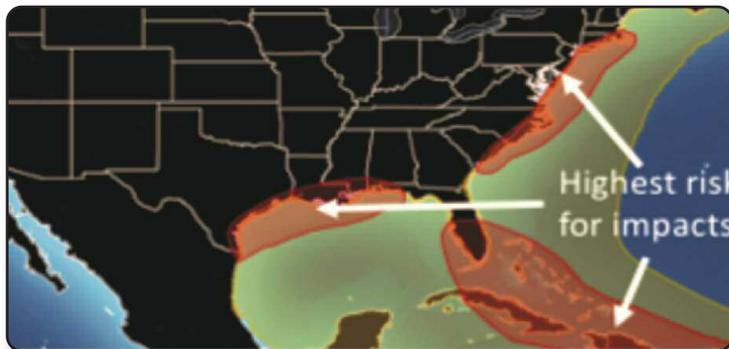


The first Earth Day was on Arbor Day, April 22, in 1970. Its goal was to get all of us doing environmental tasks and projects to unite, and thus become a large enough force that we would be hard to ignore. It was patterned after Woodstock, the year earlier music festival. It was a huge success, and led to some great legislation. My National Geographic has a lot about the Clean Air Act and its genesis due to Earth Day and its impact as indicated by some before and after pictures of the Los Angeles Smog Problem. It completely ignores the Clean Water Act and the birth of the Environmental Protection Agency. Earth Day was a total flop last year, its 50th Anniversary. We had a ton of great festivals and gathering planned in 2020, all of which went up in smoke with the isolation edicts of mid-March, 5 weeks before the important anniversary date.

This year it seems to have been limited to some smaller resource cleanup projects. Plano had its Trash-Off, a big public event that usually brings in tons of trash and involves a lot of citizens. These things are important more for getting the masses involved in taking care of our outdoors than they are as impact in the bigger picture. But every little bit counts. Never give up.

Spring is here, and the pollen is in the air. Our on again – off again Climate Change is undecided again. Last year at this month we had about half our annual rainfall in one of the wettest Aprils in recent weather history. Since April is usually one of our wettest months, that was a lot. And then it kicked off a huge Hurricane Season.

This year we are at the end of our traditional wettest month and in a drought. One of the best of the long-range Hurricane Forecasters is expecting another major Hurricane season.



These are all warmer weather type of events, but in between we had our February, which was only the second or so February in weather history with all 254 counties in Texas having more than 24 hours below freezing on the same day(s). So, since Climate is the average of the weather, and we have two years of wild swings in weather, what is it, warming or cooling?

We can very effectively gauge the impact on Texas Nature since we travel, fish, and camp all over in whatever is happening. We can gauge the state of our outdoors in many ways. What is probably a good plan is to fish a lot of places and make note of the conditions. If either the water, or the fish populations themselves, indicate a problem you can report it. We already are active monitors of creeks and ponds along the Blue Line bike and jogging path in Carrollton. The sunfish there have a variety of flies from Mayflies and Damsel Flies through aquatic worms that are the inspiration behind the San Juan Worm fly. We have also found scuds, midges and a ton of freshwater snails. To illustrate my point, here are some of our favorites from the March Bug Collection.



The Mayfly and the Damselfly are perfectly good reasons to have a few Hare's Ear and/or Peasant Tail Nymphs in your fly box, size 12 to 16.

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## The Conservation Corner

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They work well either weighted or just as droppers and be sure to give the fly enough time to sink down until the tippet comes tight.

My Caddis Adult favorite is an Elk Hair Caddis as big as an 8 or as small as a 12. The Yellowstone Guides all love this one too and have huge Caddis Hatches on the three rivers that come together where the West Portal Highway meets the Geyser Basin Highway.

Here where we live scuds and other flies of similar configuration take a ton of Arkansas Trout and our warm water sunfish family. The aquatic worm is the pattern for the San Juan Worm fly. This shows that our Urban Water is prime habitat for our favorite families of food for our fly rod fishes.

So keep on going out there and catch those fish. I am seeing quite a bit of enthusiasm for more small group fishing outings. I have been to a couple already this year, and it is great.

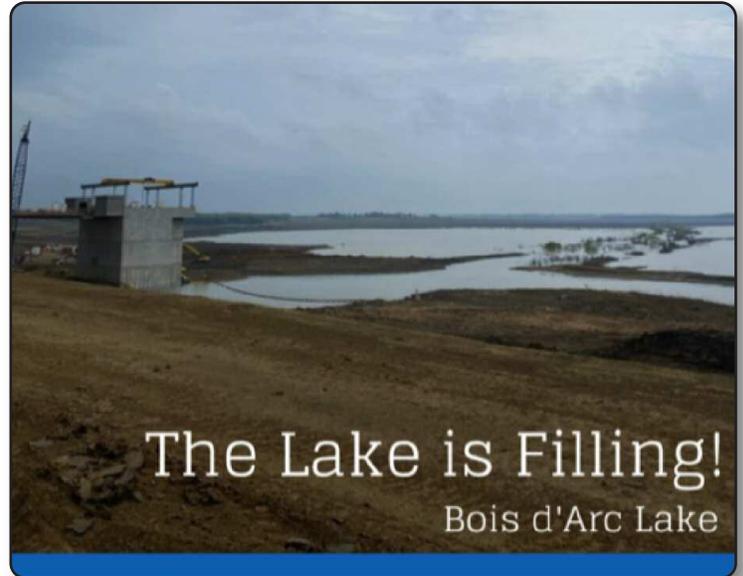
As we are getting out more and the insanity level seems to be moderating, something to keep us active and interested like Urban Fishing Mini-Outings could be fun. Talk to your favorite fishing buddies. Another thing I would like to try to fix is that few of the TPWD recognized Lakes and Streams have species records for fly rods compared to the number of bait fishing records. Where the Fly Fishing record book is blank it is easy. Just catch one of any of the missing species and document it. Think about it. This could be fun, and the Texas Records take a heck of a lot less work than the IGFA Records that the Bell Family has.

Dan Montayne and I talked about this when we fished some new water (new to me, not really new) in Carrollton. Back in the time of when Carlie DuCote and I was President and VP, Dan had organized a log of fishing experiences. Here is how it worked.

- 1) When you fished some water, you got a blank form that let you explain what the fishery was like, what kinds of fish, and evaluate the experience.
- 2) Then that page went in a Master Ring Binder. If a duplicate entry existed, you could just add to the page. If it was truly new you would alert the club that some new pages were in the experiences book.
- 3) The goal was to have a place for members to go and get some idea of what fish and on which flies that the fish responded, helps you decide what kind of presentation will work for you. For example, we were fishing some shallow ponds, full of Sun Fish and medium size Large Mouth Bass. Nymphs presented slow and deep was the ticket to get strikes.

Any interest in this?

While we are on the subject of new fishing spots, the new lake in Fannin County is filling. The dam is closed, and if we DO finally get our spring rains, it will get a lot bigger.



Here is a ground level shot from the Dam. It is little more than a puddle but give it a good wet season.



Here is an aerial looking towards the Dam. TPWD just put 300 more Largemouth from the Share-a-Lunker breeding into the lake. They were two years old, and hence old enough to breed this year. Things are looking good for we fly fishers. And with the growth of the population in the area North of Dallas, this water will be arriving just in time.

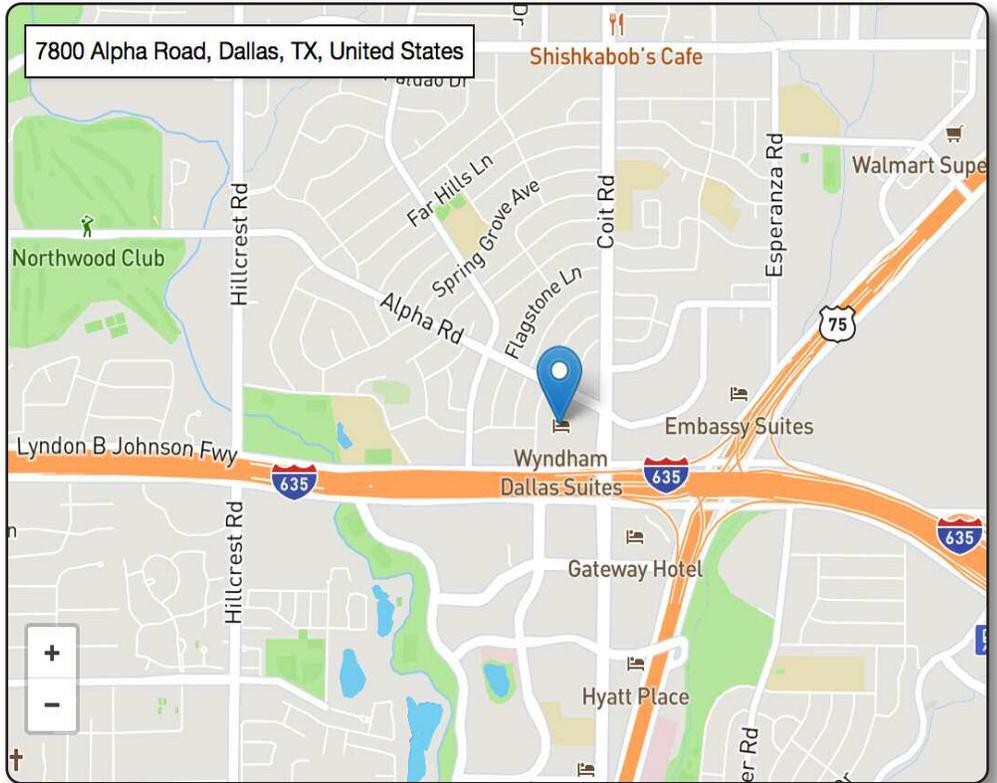
We north Texas Fly Flingers need to be ready to exercise these fish hopefully by next fall. Tight lines and great fishing to you all.

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

— Jere

# Monthly General Meetings

We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Sonesta Suites Dallas Park Central Hotel (new name for Wyndham Dallas Suites - Park Central), 7800 Alpha Rd., Dallas, Texas 75240, at 7p.m. where we host some of fly-fishing's best guest speakers. *Visitors are always welcome!*



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