

# The Leader



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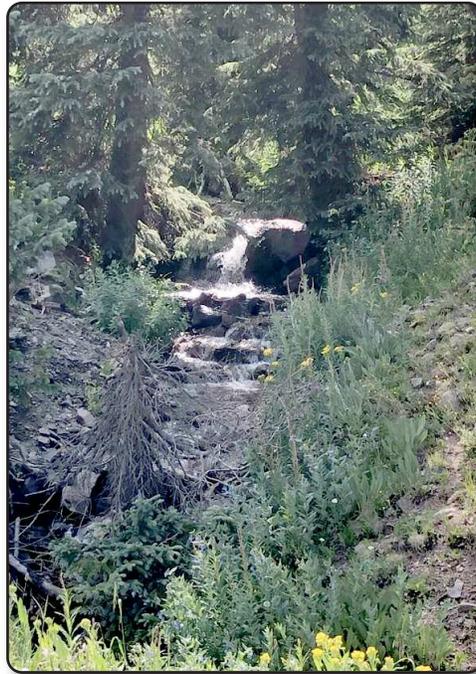
FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

## Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

Ahh, the insouciance of vacation! After all the packing, planning, preparing, making reservations, and saving money, the time to enjoy the fun arrived. We enjoyed a wonderful week in South Fork, Colorado with many Texas-area clubs' members, friends, and some who became friends. Participating clubs for 2021 were DFF, Fort Worth FF, Lubbock FF, Pineywoods FF, and Texas Women Fly Fishers. What made the week so enjoyable was kindness. Sharing information amongst one another as to where to fish, flies to fish, sharing meals and the days' adventures, receiving much needed vehicle help from total strangers, and a Visitor's Center that actually welcomes visitors, made the annual South Fork outing enjoyable and special for the largest group we've had attend thus far!

Regrettably, publications misunderstand the word kindness. Seeking to make money from publishing their product while simultaneously not considering the consequences of what the publicized article will cause, they have thrown a monkey wrench into the enjoyment of pristine areas. In what was one of Southwest Fly Fishing's last publications before merging, a detailed article about Treasure Creek appeared resplendent with photos, a detailed map, and a lack of thought as to what this article would do. When anglers don't have to invest the energy, time, and effort in finding a beautiful place to fish, but can instead read someone else's research and just show up to fish, the environment changes, and not for the better, in most cases. When we fished Treasure Creek last year and this year, for the first time, there were crowds, and those crowds brought and left: plastic bags; plastic bottles; cigarette butts; used fishing line/leader/tippet; noise; and worst of all, fish, when caught, spitting up fluorescent orange, neon green, and



garish red power bait balls. What they did take were too many fish, including those within the slot, because it's a remote area and regulating it is not an easy task for game wardens, so the risk of getting caught not following the regulations is minimal. The only thing I thankfully did not see were cairns (the rock stacks hikers use to mark a correct trail, which have become recently popular in creeks, streams, and rivers; while "cute," they are environmentally unfriendly, too). Telling everything Southwest Fly Fishing knew about the area has not done a kindness for it. "Leave no trace" or "Leave the area better than you found it" have lost their meanings, especially as more people seek to get away from the pandemic lockdown. Sometimes, as **Edward Abbey** demonstrated, kindness comes from not sharing en masse everything one knows with everyone; sometimes, it's worth keeping details amongst like-minded

individuals who share a healthy respect for special places; and sometimes, social media's "Undisclosed Location" is the kindness the wilderness needs to stay wild and healthy.

Joining the DFF this summer are new members **Roger Freidline, Nelson Spencer, Evan Hawley, Phil Lezar, Karla Grimwood, John Hamilton** and **Todd Viegut**. Please help me in welcoming these anglers to our club. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next, in-person meeting hearing **Dutch Baughman** talk about how to best fish different areas of the water column.

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

- Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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## DFE Speaker Details

The Dallas Flyfishers regular meetings are on the first Monday of the month. We have moved to a new location. The DFE meetings will be held at the "Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Park Central", 13131 North Central Expressway, Dallas, Texas 75243. This hotel is located across Hwy 75 from Texas Instruments near the NW corner of 75 and 635. This hotel is located within spitting distance of our prior meeting location.

### 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.



### September Meeting, Fly Tying Demonstration and Tie-Along.

The September fly tying meeting event will be taught by Barry Webster and Dave Etgen, both very talented fly tiers. The flies have not been selected as yet but each tyer will demonstrate how to tie at least 2 flies each.

### November Meeting is Chris Johnson.

Chris is the owner and founder of Living Waters Fly Fishing, a fly shop and guide service based out of Round Rock, Texas. He has guided the Texas Hill Country for over a decade and has fly fished the heart of the state for 20 years. Chris has been a licensed guide in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Alaska. Chris is an FFI Certified Casting Instructor, Umpqua Signature Fly Designer, Tenkara USA Guide, and TPWD Angler Educator. He is also a pro team member for Whiting Farms, Scott Fly Rods, and Scientific Anglers.

In addition, to fly fishing, Chris is passionate about film and photography. He co-produced the short film "Unspoken," to raise awareness for Rio Grande Cutthroat trout conservation. As a result, Living Waters is working with Trout Unlimited as a Gold Level endorsed TU Business to restore Rio Grande Cutthroat throughout their native range.



— Jack Gillis  
Program Chairman, Dallas FlyFishers

## Fly Patterns for Warm Water Success

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tying Coordinator



A review of the first three fly tying events has shown great promise. Our panel of presenters has introduced patterns with names like The Black Boudreaux, Dave Whitlock's Damsel Fly Larva, Stealth Bomber Variant, Dan's Sedge Wet Fly, and the Foam Bream Bug. The instructional format is also new for us, offering a printed handout with numbered, color, photographic assembly steps. This format allows each student to practice the pattern at home. Additionally, private residential follow-up sessions are offered between monthly events to repeat, polish, and

practice targeted patterns. This teaching format would not be successful without the generosity of our helpers and instructors, past and future. Thank you Jere A., Dave S., Jim W., and Doris M.

Also, a four-color signup handout is now available in the fly shop area of Cabela's. Customers interested in tying and casting instruction will be referred to a DFE member who will contact the customer and schedule training events.

Our goal for the Allen Cabela's events is to explain and instruct fly tying techniques that produce warm water patterns that really work for our area. Lead tiers share their favorite Go To Patterns that have potential to deliver success. This gathering is anxious to share their tying secrets, recipes, and techniques for fishing these patterns.

As a reminder, Cabela's events are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tying begins precisely at

(Continued on page 3)

## 2021 CALENDAR:

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

**August 14th** - TPWD basic FF Class at the Biodiversity Center in Coppell. The class runs from 9 to 2 pm. Qualified individuals can train an additional hour to become a certified TPWD instructor. Contact Richard Johnson if you are interested in becoming certified.

**August 15th** - Stream Team water monitoring.

**August 17th** - Warm Water Fly Fishing, Cabela's conference Room, reserve your space with Dan Montayne.

**August 21st, 28th** - Teaching fly tying to the Diva's with Kimberly.

**September 13th** - September DFF Meeting. The September fly tying meeting event will be taught by Barry Webster and Dave Etgen, both very talented fly tiers. The flies have not been selected as yet but each tier will demonstrate how to tie at least 2 flies each.

**September 11th-18th** - Third Annual White River Trip. Contact Mike Becker for Details.

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

**September 19th** - Stream Team water monitoring.

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

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

**October 4th-5th** - Outdoor Recreation at DBU, two days of fly fishing and Outdoor Activity.

**October 13th** - Teaching a Basic Fly Fishing Class at LLELA.

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

**November 1st** - November DFF Meeting is Chris Jonson whose subject will be fishing for Rio Grande Cichlids..

**November 5th-7th** - Traditional date for the Toledo Bend Rendezvous. The location is the North Toledo Bend State Park near Zwolle, LA.

**November 5th-7th** - The FFI Virtual Expo. Details in July. This is a new event, and hopefully will be too good to miss.

**December 5th** - Planning date for our Holiday Party. This is back on and I am glad.

## 2022

**January 4th-5th** - DBU Outdoor Experiences Class.

**January 10th** - The meeting to celebrate our 50th year as a Fly Fishing Club.

**January 29th** - Red River Fly Fishers host the Red River Rendezvous, Eisenhower State Park.

**February 12th** - Dr. Ed Rizzolo Annual Fly Tying Festival, Houston.

**February 18th-20th** - TU Troutfest, Lazy L&L Campground.

**February 26th-27th** - 5th Annual Fly Fishing and Brew Festival, Mesquite TX

**March 7th** - DFF Fund raiser Auction.

**March 24th** - Sow Bug Roundup, Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home AR.

**April 9th** - Gannon Ranch spring wildflowers and fishing.

**May 7th** - Bud Priddy any Fly Event, led by Alamo Fly Fishers.

**July 16th-23rd** - Joint DFF / FWFF Colorado Outing probable date.

## Fly Patterns for Warm Water Success

*(Continued from page 2)*



6:30 PM and ends at 8:30 PM. All tying levels are welcome. Per current feedback, all participants greatly benefit from these events. If you are delayed in traffic, please attend anyway. We will take special action to bring you up to speed and get you involved in the tying process.

**Last note:** So far the tying events have been well received. Attendance levels are increasing each month. We experienced three new tiers in July, with a total of 16 tiers. When asked, "Is the format working?" an astounding round of applause occurred. When does that happen? Thanks for your support!

Watch your inbox for our August event. Please join us.

*- Dan*

# South Fork, Colorado Outing – July 17-24, 2021

by Jeff Ziehm

The South Fork, Colorado outing took place the week of July 17. We had 29 people in attendance. DFF attendees included: Cody & Julia Bell, Keira Quam, Alex Huffman, Diane Blair, Kaye Jackson, Bill Morris, Blane Rush, Margaret Christian, Doug and John Selzer, Dave Shatzer and friend George, Vaughn & Janet DuBose, Jim Latshaw, Mike Henricks, Jeff Gannon and friend Ben Jones, and myself. My apologies if I omitted anyone else.

Jack & Mary K Janco and family went up a few weeks early and provided excellent scouting information. Russell Husted led the FWWF's contingent.

This year Bill Morris and I tried something new. We flew all the way to Alamosa, Colorado, only a 30 minute drive from the Conejos where we were going to start our trip. It was an inexpensive and short flight from Denver, and Alamosa has a Hertz car rental location. Or so we thought.

Our flight got in on time at 10:09pm. We were surprised to see the Hertz location closed, even though I had called them a week earlier, and they assured me they would be open. As the 20 or so people on our flight left the small airport, the last person to leave asked us if we needed a ride to a local hotel. She also

mentioned Little Stinkies shuttle service might be able to take us to Antonito, Colorado, our destination for the first two nights of the trip. Little Stinkies closed at 8:30pm, but we lucked out. One of their drivers was on their way home from another run and agreed to come rescue us. Little Stinkies took us to Antonito that evening, and then back to Alamosa the next morning to pick up our rental car. Oh well!

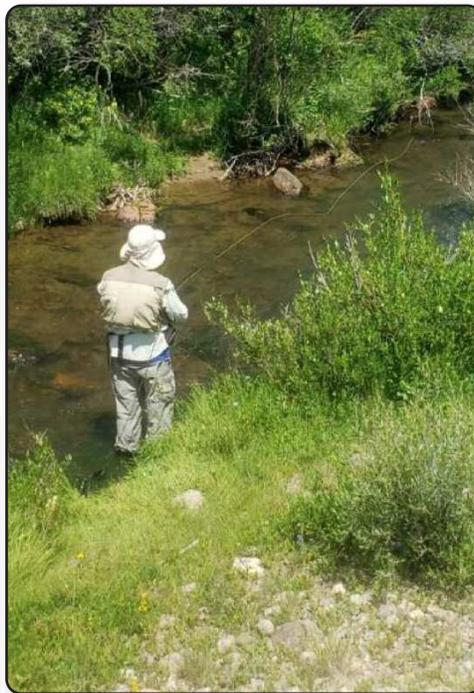
The Rio Grande watershed had a lower than average snowpack this winter. The Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap was running around 330cfs while we were there. About the



Supply Base.



Evening entertainment.



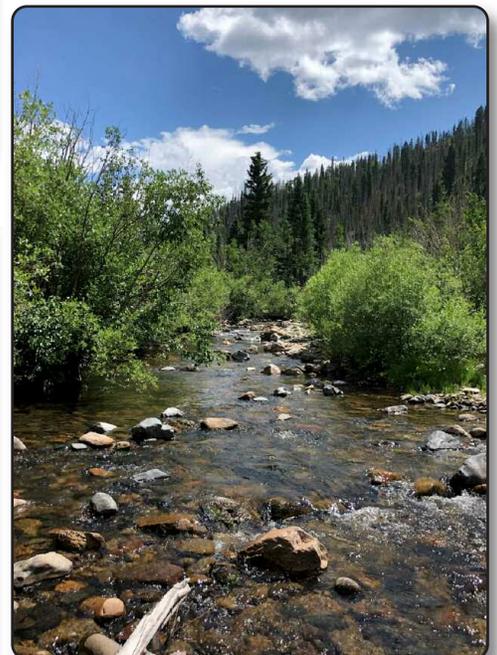
Lots of small technical fishing on Ivy Creek.



Biggest Float Tube Ever.



Julia on Poage Lake.



Pass Creek.

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## South Fork, Colorado Outing – July 17-24, 2021

(Continued from page 4)

same as last year, but significantly below the 2200cfs of 2019. Because of the low water levels, the local streams were heating up in the afternoon. We had to stop fishing around lunchtime on these as to not harm the fish.

A big difference from last year was Covid was not the focus. But one of our main eateries, the Firehouse was closed, so the couple other restaurants in town often had 60 to 90 minute waits. This motivated us to try a couple new excellent restaurants in Del Norte, 16 minutes to the east.

### Our fishing agenda for the week.

**Friday, July 16.** We fished the Conejos River with a guide from the Conejos River Anglers. CRA donates to our auction, so please support them when you are in the area. We fished about 30 minutes upstream of CRA. Fishing was slow, probably because of the warm water. A San Juan worm turned out to be the most successful fly of the day.

**Saturday, July 17.** Got skunked on both La Jara Creek and La Jara reservoir. We really needed a high clearance vehicle (or an ATV) to

get to where we wanted to fish. Where we were, the water was too warm. Water temp started at 60 and was 65 an hour later.

**Sunday, July 18.** Fished the Rio Grande above the Rio Grande reservoir, two hour drive from South Fork. The river here was beautiful, but had lots of gradient. It was flying. Unfortunately, after the long drive, we were not the first flyfisherman to this spot. And it was a small spot. Only about ¼ miles of fishable water. Caught a couple browns and a couple rainbows on Olive BHWB, Parachute Adams, Pink JHPTs. Again, it would have been helpful to have a 4wd high clearance vehicle.

**Monday, July 19.** Fished the South Fork and caught lots of fish; 80% browns, 20% rainbows, 1 brookie. EHC and small stimulator was best. Adams and H&L also caught fish.

**Tuesday, July 20.** We drove an hour to River Hill campground, and then hiked 30 minutes downstream. We caught a few immediately, but then the water level started dropping. The Rio Grande is a tailwater fishery, and for some reason they decided to

lower the output. Went from 150cfs to 50cfs while we were there. I am blaming my slow day on that, plus the fact I was not holding my tongue right.

**Wednesday, July 21.** Fished Treasure Creek. Fish rising all morning, but I could not match the hatch. A large group of spin fisherman arrived as we were leaving. I think an article about Treasure Creek in Southwest Flyfishing last year has hurt this fishery.

**Thursday, July 22.** Fished North Clear Creek and Spring Creek. The North Clear Creek Falls is beautiful, and worth a stop if you are in the area. Got skunked on North Clear Creek. Spring Creek had brookies, but you had to work for them. Tight conditions. Lots of overhanging willows. Elk Hair Caddis was most successful.

Overall, a spectacular week of Rocky Mountain trout fishing. I hope you can join us next year. We will probably go the week of July 16-23, 2021.

– Jeff

## 2021 August Fly Tying Column

by Jack Gillis, Fly Tying Director

### Spinning vs. Dubbing Loop

If you find some of the dubbing loop techniques we reviewed in the last chapter a little daunting then possibly the items in the next few paragraphs may offer an easier if not different approach. The following sentence is a little “tease” on what we’ll cover next, “You don’t have to anchor fur in a dubbing loop to accomplish a similar result.” How so? Read on!

We should probably call this the “fur collar chapter” because we are going to show several different ways to apply fur to a Muddler Nymph similar to the one reviewed in the last chapter. We’ll start with the same body for all of our illustrations then share with you three different ways to apply the fur collar. We’ll finish this chapter by communicating a couple of ideas on adding more motion-in-the-

water to this type of fly. Even though they don’t involve dubbing you may find the options valuable additions to your fly-tying bag of tricks.

### Free Spinning a Fur Collar

Yup! You read the title right. We are going to “spin” fur around the hook shank similar to the way many of you spin deer, elk, antelope or caribou body hair. It really is easy to do as long as you use looser thread wraps over a bare part of the hook shank. In the illustration, Al has mounted a hook in the vise then tied a tail and body on the back two-thirds of the shank. Notice (this is **important!**) he left the bobbin

hanging two thread turns forward from the body on the BARE part of the hook shank.

Next he has pulled about three inches of thread out of the bobbin so he has enough length make a loose loop around a clump of fur. Now Al clips a clump of fur from a Hare’s Ear mask; holds it on top and around the hook shank; and uses that three-inch section of thread to take a loose loop around the fur bundle. He makes certain to end up holding the bobbin above the hook shank as illustrated.

Now things get a bit tricky. LET GO of the bundle of fur and at the SAME



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TIME pull UP gently on the thread to keep the bundle from falling off the hook. Gently snug up the thread loop as illustrated.



Before applying any tight wraps, check all sides of the hook to be sure the fur was evenly distributed around the shank. You can twist

the “applied bundle” like Al is doing in the photograph below to “squiggle” the fibers in place on all sides of the hook.

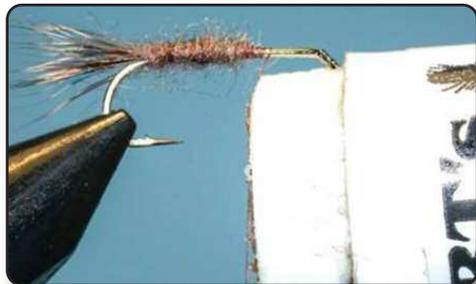
Now add two or three very tight thread wraps then use a hair packer (or thumb-nail) to push the fur collar back tight against the dubbed body.



For now let’s whip-finish and trim the thread then set this partly completed fly aside.

**Dubbing Wax Collar**

If you found the previous technique a bit of a problem then this suggestion may prove easier. Let’s start by putting another hook and body combination in the vise. Be sure to leave the thread hanging on the bare part of the hook like we suggested in the previous demonstration. Apply dubbing wax to the strand as close to the shank as possible without “gumming” up the hook with the sticky stuff.



In this illustration Al has clipped a clump of Hare’s Ear mask fur and used the dubbing wax to “hold” the bundle



in place. Notice he has spread the clump out a small amount so the wax can get a better grasp on the loose fibers.



Now he wraps the fur bundle around the hook making sure each fur-covered turn of thread is slightly forward of the previous turn Palmer style.

Last Al is using a hair packer (or thumbnail) to push the wrapped fibers back against the dubbed body.



If for some reason you don’t get an even distribution of fur around the hook you can easily add small clumps wherever you might need them like Al is doing in the illustration here.



When you are finished adding fur (only if needed) apply a whip-finish and set this partly completed fly aside for future reference.

**Split Thread Collar**

We’ll bet by now you are getting the idea and already have figured out how to use a split-thread dubbing loop to apply this fur collar. In



the illustration below, Al has slipped a clump of Hare’s Ear mask fur into an un-waxed split-thread loop.

After spreading the clump out he wrapped the fur and thread combination around the hook Palmer style (no illustration); used a hair packer or thumbnail to push the fur back against the body; and applied a whip-finish. Set the partly completed fly aside for now.

**Collapsing Collar**

One of the problems with a fur collar as compared to a spun-hair collar is a tendency to collapse during the pull part of a retrieve OR when it is under pressure from flowing water. The following two pictures are just a couple of ideas we’d like to share with you that have worked for us in helping control the tendency of the softer fur collar to collapse.

Here we have added a bead between the body and the collar. The bead adds support to the collar to keep it from totally collapsing. If you use a brass or tungsten bead, then you are also adding weight to help sink the fly.



In the illustration we’ve added undersized dry-fly hackle wraps between the body and the fur collar to provide support without adding any additional weight. The illustration below shows how well the dry-fly hackle supports the fur collar.



We hope what we offer here gives you some ideas. Expand on them and share them with us via our website. We are always pleased to learn new techniques we in turn can share with our readers AND we’ll give you full credit for your suggestions.

Reprinted from **A Dozen Dubbing Techniques: How to Tie!!** with permission of the authors.

For more information and further techniques, I recommend purchasing a copy of Gretchen & Al’s book.

*- Jack Gillis*

## Taylor's College Fund

by Richard Johnson



With the passing of Al Hillman in January his daughter, Taylor, who is about to start College this fall is in need of some financial support. Several club members chose to set up a Fidelity 529 College Savings Plan Account so you could contribute if you wished. This is an IRS Tax Sheltered Investment Plan, managed by Fidelity.

To donate, you can sign on at <https://go.fidelity.com/t3v5f> and it will have all the details. Donations may be by direct bank deposit to this account or by check. Taylor's mother is very appreciative of our support.

## We Are All Beginners

by Dan Montayne

To open this fly tying chapter, I'd like to present a quote from Theodore Gordon, who is often called the father of the American school of dry fly fishing. He said, "The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning; no matter how long we've been at it, we are constantly making fresh discoveries, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the fish will take us down a peg."

To embark on this "great charm of fly fishing," requires certain dexterities, so it's a good idea to start fly tying **properly** at the very beginning. Many newcomers try something far too complex and become quickly disillusioned. To avoid pitfalls, begin with the basics; become familiar with the simpler methods and then explore new boundaries. Difficult patterns and challenges will come soon enough.

As with any craft, the right tools make a difference. Purchase indispensable tools of top quality that deliver precise results and last for years of service. Below are the basic but necessary tools you should purchase.

**Choose a Stable Vice, The Tying Platform:** There are many excellent vices available for purchase without spending great dollar amounts. Choose what works for you after exploring and asking fellow tiers what works for them.

**Magnification:** Image enhancement allows you to see all size patterns MUCH BETTER, so use magnification every time you tie. I recommend reading glasses that



are 3.50 and above, not to exceed 5.0. Practice tying with magnification and see the difference. See enhanced results in placing thread and detecting materials that are protruding but aren't visible to the naked eye. Magnification of material application points, thread size, and a proportioned finished product are additional benefits.

**Portable Lighting:** There are numerous clip-on, inexpensive, book reading lights that work very well. Quality fly tying is dependent on seeing the pattern, the materials, and their application points. Consult your tying companions and associates on what they use to light their patterns during the tying process.

**Scissors:** There is no substitute for a great cutting platform. Fly tying requires 2 or 3 different scissors for cutting specific materials. That being said, let's explore the most important. Please acquire a set of razor scissors. You will use these specifically for trimming natural materials at specific points inside and around the fly itself. The second pair of scissors is for hair. Hair scissors have serrated edges that hold hair fibers in place as you cut them. Otherwise, hair will slip up and down the cutting edge. Last but not least, choose a pair of scissors that will cut wire, lead, fly

leaders and fiber threads. Use these for the difficult things you apply to the fly pattern that will dull all of your expensive scissors. Choosing the correct pair of scissors for the specific cutting job will produce years of service from these critical instruments.

### **Whip Finish and Half Hitch Tools:**

Though I did at one time use whip finishing and half hitch tools, I have now resorted to using my fingers. A little instruction and practice will quickly make your fingers the perfect substitute for these tools. As far as a half hitch is concerned, I simply don't use it to finish the head of any fly, because I feel there is no substitute for the whip finish. Half hitches are useful for securing a stopping point in the fly pattern sequence. The down-fall of this knot is that it adds bulk and bump spots that may not be needed. Additionally, half hitches used for heads need head cement.

**A Bodkin:** Choose a micro-pointed tool such as a needle with a handle to apply all of your head cements and holding liquids. Precise placement and limited amount applications are necessary for better tying. Many liquid adhesives come with built in brushes that should be avoided at all cost. The brush technique results in liquids of large proportions and coating of materials that should not have cement applied.

Hopefully, by entering the art form of fly tying, you have begun a lifetime of functional learning. Save your first flies for comparison some twenty years or more in the future. You'll be surprised!

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# The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

Last Month's Fishin' Tales by Julia Bell was a great introduction of an ongoing process that the DFF has worked with for the entire 30 years that I have been your Conservation Officer. Julia's wisdom is apparent in this excerpt from her article.

“Regrettably, hindering our pursuit of fishing happiness is procuring access to fishing spots, not always an easy task, especially if local knowledge is incomplete. TPWD announced recently that it would be adopting a similar program, the Habitat and Angler Program, to improve and support inland fishing access for anglers. TPWD's new program allows for groups interested in fishing and conservation to participate in developing these access projects. TPWD's HAAP press release can be found here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20210617a>. I am excited to see the new projects that develop from this initiative.”

In that article from TPWD, this little gem of wisdom appears; “The Habitat and Angler Access Program is an exciting opportunity for us to collaborate and support partners interested in expanding fishing opportunities and bettering the quality of fisheries for Texans,” said Michael Homer Jr., fisheries biologist for the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division. “The program is intended to identify and implement projects with the highest potential to enhance freshwater fisheries resources and improve bank and shoreline access in public waters.”

As I read this I was amused to hear it sound so familiar. I had been involved in many flavors of joint participation with TPWD over the years, so I was motivated to seek who, and when, was the beginning of our sport fishing focus. Since I don't remember a time when we DIDN'T have such a motivation, some research was needed. And since I go back 30 years of TPWD cooperation in conservation, somewhere about then must have been the beginning.

A long time cooperation with Inland Fisheries brought me to look there. The name of Mr. Philip Durocher popped up. Mr. Durocher went to work at TPWD as a research specialist in 1974 and served as chief of research and management from 1984 until he became Inland Fisheries division director in 1991. BINGO. That was about the time I got in this game. He was easy to work with and appreciated our support.

To quote his retirement news in 2009, “Durocher's most visible contribution was shifting the philosophy of fisheries management from one of maximum sustained yield to one of optimum sustained yield, especially regarding largemouth bass. Maximum sustained yield emphasized harvest, and largemouth bass were viewed primarily as a food fish. Durocher recognized that adopting a system of selective harvest that allowed bigger fish to live and reproduce would enhance the bass fishery and make largemouth bass a sport fish, increasing the economic value of the fishery.

Under his leadership Texas adopted a statewide 14-inch minimum size limit and five-fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass in 1985. From that point management practices were refined and tailored to fit specific reservoirs. The result was a largemouth bass fishery that is generally acknowledged to be the best in the nation and a vital part of the Texas economy, generating some \$2 billion in economic impact each year.”

How many of you long time Texans remember a great outdoor event on grounds of the Schoolhouse Road TPWD Headquarters? The fly tiers had a canopy

with a table for each of about 8 clubs that would take part. One year Charlie DuCote and I had the DFF table and it was right across the street from the tent with the kid fish events. They had a big tank of catfish and some closed face Spinning Rods and packaged bait. They also had a tank of hatchery Trout. While the TPWD Folks Catfish concession seemed to be working, their trout concession was a failure. Mr. Durocher came over and asked us to help them figure out what was wrong. That was the easy part. They had Crappie Jigs on the flyrods. So Charlie and I gave them a couple of dozen Redass Flies, and they re-rigged and began to catch fish. We could hear the cheering over in our building. The TPWD guys were grinning too, and waving. In fact we had to give them another couple of dozen flies the next day, since the Inland Fisheries guys had swiped our flies from the day before for their own fly fishing gear. This started a great relationship with Inland Fisheries. Philip Durocher and the Executive Director, Mr. Andrew Sansom sat and talked with us for a couple of hours each of the years that this event lasted. I was even called for advice on setting up the Texas Fly Fishing records.

Jere became even more associated with Inland Fisheries when we formed the Texas Council of the FFI. I was one of the early Conservation Chairmen and went back to the FFI National Conclave for my first time. The FFI Conservation Committee was led by Dr. Glenn Erikson at the time. I asked him what he needed me to do for the newly formed Texas Council. He suggested that I contact the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnerships (SARP) and see if they wanted a representative of the FFI on their group. They did and they mentioned that I should work with their Project Leader, a Mr. Tim Birdsong. I already knew Tim as the Inland Fisheries Chief of Habitat Conservation of TPWD. WOW. The world really is circular and sooner or later you get back to where you started. He did indeed want to talk to me so we set up a meeting. His issue was exactly the subject that Julia started with, access to public waters. Once again a circle goes unbroken.

It seems that they had been trying to set up some access deals with the more cooperative Land Owners, but so far only had three sites. We offered to visit the owners and see what their feeling were about the fledgling access program. We reported back that at least one of the land owners was very open to continuing, and was even happier to find that we were a Kayak mounted group of Fly Fishers. It seems that he was positive that we were much less likely to make a mess of his land. So the Texas Council went searching for more good sites, and Mr. Birdsong would handle the legal stuff that went with it. Then the FFI clubs would help with site clean-up and monitoring.

This grew to the point that a new Texas river float access and designated camp sites on the Devils River State Natural Area became reality. The River emptied into the Rio Grande and by the time the plan came together, it was complete with a land owners group and regular clean-up float trips. This is the kind of success that takes a lot more people than just active, conservation minded fly fishers and Inland Fisheries.

Mr. Birdsong arrived just in time to take a major role in the rescue of our State Fish, the Guadalupe Bass. This has been written up in my column many times. In the progress reports on the Guadalupe Bass Recovery Project, the Size of this project is mind boggling. The 25 years, from 1991 to 2016, the first phase of the project has some individual parts that are hard to fathom. The restoration of just one part of just one of the rivers took \$271.4 million dollars

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# The Conservation Corner

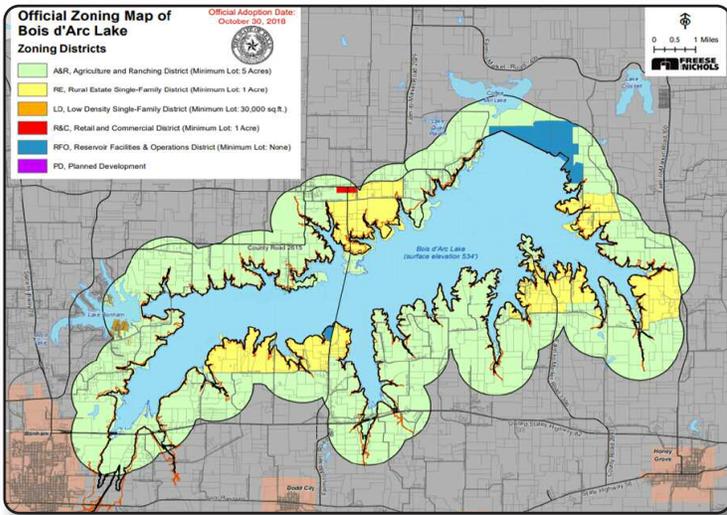
(Continued from page 8)

to repair a rainstorm damaged section of the river and get it ready to plant the fish. The rebuilding of the riparian habitat so the stream banks would be more likely to survive a big weather event took the planting of 20,000 native trees. Then the river was ready for their part of the 2.36 million genetically pure Guadalupe Bass that were planted in this phase. We are about half the way through the next ten year plan, and to nobody's surprise, this still takes mind boggling amounts of money and tons of volunteers.

So Julia, yes I too think this big buck program can do a lot. From the funding we need when stormy weather washes out the riparian habitat, to site improvements where a friendly landowner is willing to partner with us all, most of these types of projects need funding.

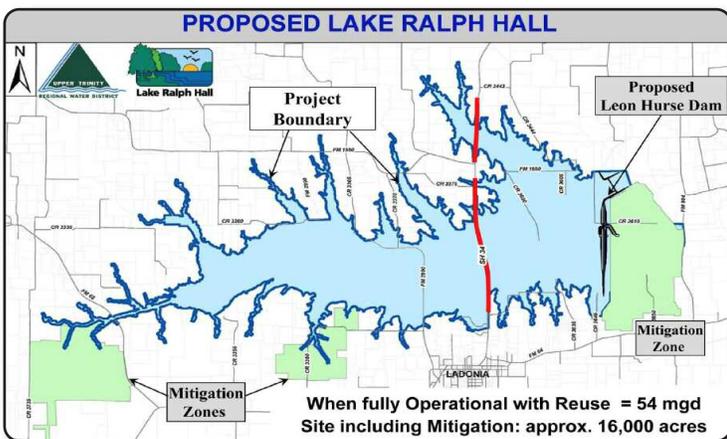
## Texas is getting the first new Lake in nearly 30 years.

The new Bois d'Arc Lake in Fannin County is filling. With a new Lake coming online, a lot of inquiries are hitting our FB pages about Real Estate and



building vacation homes. Here is the current map of the expected zoning. But since the lake is not yet up to its "normal" water line, it is hard to visualize where the best sites are by driving around the new lake.

This huge project is progressing well and the construction seems to be on schedule better than I expected. I am an engineer by training but have little construction experience. However, I do have a lot of big project experience, and this seems to be coming along smoothly, relatively speaking.

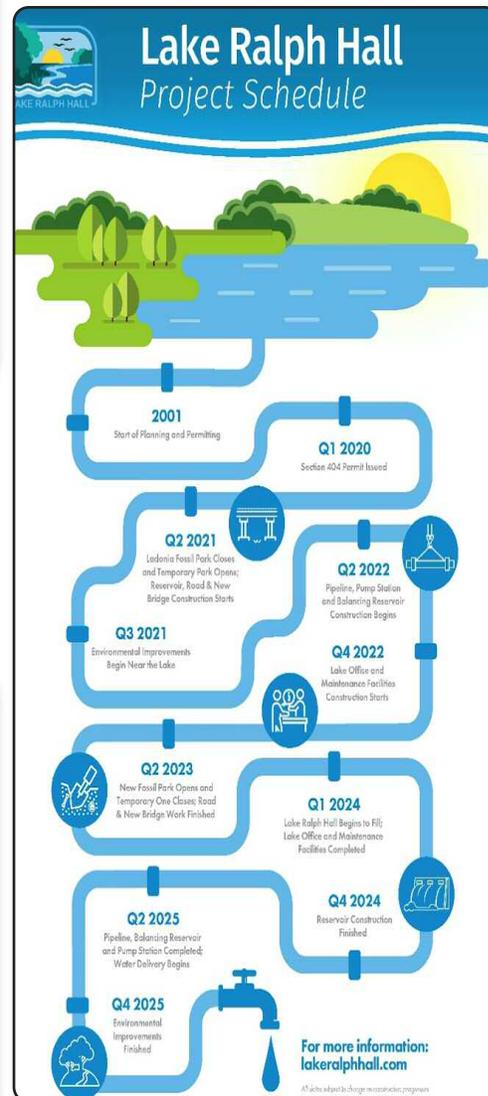


The plan was for three lakes, with two needed soon. On June 17th, they dug the symbolic shovel of dirt to announce the beginning of Lake number 2, Lake Ralph Hall. Located on the North Sulphur River, this lake will drown a branch of a river that is often just a meandering erosion project.

However, a group is already hunting for fossils and artifacts which will be lost if they are not recovered now and housed in a planned new exhibit in the Perot Museum in Dallas.

Were any of you aware of the Ladonia Fossil Park on Highway 34? Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) has opened a temporary park on FM 2990 to allow fossil enthusiast to continue hunting fossils during construction of the new reservoir. UTRWD is also coordinating with the City of Ladonia and others in selecting a new, permanent site downstream of the reservoir. By offering access to different locations on the river, the park relocations will provide opportunities for additional and untapped fossil discoveries.

UTRWD will be working with paleontologists from the Perot Museum to preserve significant fossils should any be found during reservoir construction. Preserved fossils could end up being displayed at the Lake Ralph Hall Administration Facility and/or at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.



This new lake will not be ready until the middle of the 2025, but it will certainly help the crisis we have with hundreds of thousands of new citizens moving into North Texas. And, of course, it does not hurt our chances to have another quality Bass Lake for fly rod fishing. Here is the project plan from [Lake Ralph Hall](#) on the web.

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.

**Tight lines and great fishing to you all.**

- Jere



# The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

July was a unique Month for the DFF. Things got bunched up, and about half of us were doing something big the weekend of 17th July, and on into the 20th. Dan Montayne's Warm Water Fly Fishing Seminars just keep getting better. After the first one at the Cabela's Conference Center in Allen, I was very enthused. It looks like a winning idea.

This is a seminar to expand your knowledge on Warm Water Fly Fishing. Some of our more expert fly fishers will cover a few flies each time. The information about what does it represent, how to tie it in various variations, how to rig the rod and how to fish it in various water and various seasons will make this a great place for our members to expand their knowledge and to learn to tie some of the more productive flies for our water.

The first meeting of the group on June 15th had 14 attendees and was fun. Dave Smith, my tying buddy, taught us a fly called the Black Boudreaux. It is a dry fly tied on a scud hook. Jim Woodman taught us to tie Dave Whitlock's Damsel Fly Larva. It is an easy tie and looks good to me.

July 10th, that first group in Dan's Fly Tying Seminar who tied on June 15th, met at Dan's house and tied and talked for three hours, almost. It was a great idea and helps us not only build a better group of fly tiers, but also to learn a few new patterns.



While our nation's Birthday, the Fourth of July, was good with better fireworks than we had been able to do for a couple of years, it did delay the Club Meeting. When we did get our Meeting going on July 12th, it was in a

new venue. I can't tell how many just did the video meeting to avoid finding the new meeting location, but both were successful. Rex did a lot to be ready for us. To everyone that made it in person, Thanks. To the rest on Zoom, keep up the good work.



This is half the room. Rex talked about tying flies using spinners for more fish attraction power. The complete video of his fly tying is available at <https://youtu.be/iV3kZoUDz1g>.



Rex is a lot of fun to watch and learn from. As one of the long time casting instructors in North Texas, we are thankful for his hard work.

Then came the Blitz, the Weekend of July 17th. On Saturday Richard Johnson had us teaching the TPWD Basic Fly Fishing Certificate. If you wished, you could have stayed another hour and become a certified Angler Education Trainer.



That same weekend day, we planned to teach fly tying to the DIVA-WOW group. Since many of the women had participated in several of our earlier classes, Dan Montayne, Dave Smith, and Jere decided to teach more

difficult flies. Unfortunately, the class had to be postponed.

July 18th was the July Water Watch and Bug Picking Day. The bugs were slow, and we are becoming aware that after a lot of rain, the bugs move to better shelter. We already have the dates for August and September in the Calendar, so come along. It is fun and educational.

That same weekend, about 2 dozen North Texas Fly Fishers left for the Colorado Group Therapy and Fly Fishing Week. This is a big event and has become a welcome tradition. Jeff Ziehm said that the DFF signups were as much as twice the usual number of our folks. His usual fact filled article is in this Newsletter. Thankfully all seem to have gotten back home safely.

Then on July 20th, the second Warm Water Fly Fishing Seminar was held in the Allen, TX, Cabela's Conference Room. Jere tied two foam flies and Dan tied a fly he and I have fished before. This idea of the Montaynes is working so well, we almost over-flowed the Conference Room. Here is the group picture.



There were five new guys, tying using our gear. They all did good, and this Father/Son team seemed to be having a great experience. This is really what we are all about. Getting more Outdoor People together and teaching them the arts and sciences of fly fishing.



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## The Activity Report

(Continued from page 10)

WOW, what a list, and fun to boot. So after all that what could we possibly do for an encore? Hang on, the ride is just beginning.

The next meeting of the Fly Fishing Seminar for the members will be in August, on the third Tuesday, August 17th. Don't miss this one, if you have not been attending. Bring your tying gear, and we will have some tying gear for those without it. In July, five probably new tiers used our equipment. The details are in another article in this Newsletter.

We are planning to teach two more Saturdays in August of fly tying to Kimberly and the Diva's. I personally love to teach this group. Kimberly is our contact, but we already have enough tiers. The dates are in the calendar, and Jere is coordinating tiers.

There is an opportunity September 11th to 18th to do some family outings to the Cotter AR area. To sign-up, contact Mike Becker,

the trip planner. This trip has a trip report each year for our Newsletter, and great pictures. This is the week before the Southern Conclave, so stay and enjoy the show.

The Southern Council is planning to hold the Southern Conclave in Mountain Home, AR on September 17th-18th. It will be back in the Baxter County Fairgrounds. 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. Over a dozen DFF Members go to this one and Sowbug to tie for the crowd.

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.

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

November 5th to 7th. The location for this is a magnificent group camp, and hopefully the fall colors will be brilliant and beautiful.

So from the looks of our calendar, we have more events coming up. The club can continue to help with the list of these on-going projects. I will miss the many canceled items on our menu of outdoor events, some of which we had been doing for a decade. However small group fishing outings are still going on.

It is a tough life, but someone gets to live it. It might as well be us. Life is gradually 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