

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

The “Dog Days of Summer” seem to be somewhat different in Texas this year. I think this has been one of the more calm and cool summers we have enjoyed. This bit of good fortune has translated into more time on the water fishing in local creeks, ponds, and area lakes, providing some respite from the pandemic’s resurgence, second round of closures, event postponements, and more social distancing. Joining us in the fun of all things fly fishing are new members Alex Huffman, Christine Urgello, and Alma Cohen. Please help me in welcoming them to the DFF!

Maybe this unique summer has added to the continued influx of new, Texas residents, an increase some areas of our infrastructure are struggling to handle well and efficiently. While recognizing significant improvements need to be made, Minnesota-based Nelson

Energy’s 26 April 2021 proposal to build a hydroelectric project on the Llano River merits every angler’s attention and scrutiny. The Llano River flows about 105 miles through the Hill Country and Edwards Plateau before merging with the Colorado River at Lake Lyndon B. Johnson at Kingsland, and then continues downstream to the Gulf Coast. As Jere Anderson reported in The Leader’s July 2021 “Conservation Corner,” the FFI, Trout Unlimited, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and other Pacific Northwest conservation partners are working to eliminate four hydroelectric dams on the Snake River, so aquatic habitat and fish migrations, and thus their populations, can be restored to pre-hydroelectric project numbers.

The website “Texas Freshwater Fly Fishing” shared Nelson Energy’s proposal news with its readers and Facebook group members in April 2021. TFFF updated the article in mid-August sharing the actions the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) enacted, including filing an 18 June motion to Intervene and Protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The LCRA’s rezoning protest calls into question: the effects of senior water rights; water supply obligations; conflicts the project might create in regards to LCRA’s flood control duties; adverse effects to the aquatic health of the Llano River; and Nelson Energy’s failure to prove it possesses the capabilities to implement and operate the proposed closed loop project. LCRA’s objections are disturbingly similar to decades-long complaints made by entities in the Snake and Colombia River Systems. Trying to repair the damage vs. never creating the situation to cause damage is Texas’ current position, and in this situation, asking for forgiveness instead of

seeking permission first is unacceptable. Though the Hill Country Fly Fishers’ annual Oktoberfest event has moved from the South Llano River, this important watershed, making remarkable riparian habitat recovery from the 2011 drought, subsequent devastating fires, and the 2018 flood, deserves our interest. For more information, visit: [Nelson Energy and Texas Freshwater Fly Fishing](#).

As the fiscal end of the year approaches, please remember to purchase your 2021-22 fishing license, which can be acquired in person, on-line through TPWD’s website link [Fishing Licenses and Packages](#), and through the Outdoor Annual app, the official app of Texas hunting, fishing, and boating, available free on iOS and Android. Please remember, TPWD is no longer printing the Outdoor Annual regulations book. Those are now available via the app and online.



Lastly, Cody and I would like to thank the DFF community and Board. We appreciate the kindness, prayers, condolences, and support we received during Cody’s Mom’s illness, hospice care, passing, and memorial service. We never expected that when we left South Fork in July, that we would not be home until a month later. We have been touched by your many offers of support. Your kindness for Cody’s family means more to us than you can possibly understand. Thank you, dearly.

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

- Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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Your Fishing License has expired, be sure to renew!

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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.

September Meeting, Fly Tying Demonstration and Tie-Along, on September 13th.

This is a fly tying lesson provided by Dave Etgen and Barry Webster, both very experienced tiers and demonstrators. A total of three (3) flies will be demonstrated. **See article at the bottom of this page.**

October Meeting, Robert Younghanz, Entomology on the River.

Robert Younghanz, a.k.a The Bug Guy, is an internationally known Aquatic Entomologist, Fly Fishing Guide and Instructor. Robert has been involved in the Fly Fishing industry for over 25 years. He is an accomplished angler, professor, instructor as well as a guide for fresh, salt, tropical and warm water species. His passion and expertise in the field of Aquatic Entomology has enabled him to travel the world collecting Insects, as well as studying, researching, curating and teaching.

November Meeting Speaker 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 Tying Demonstration and Tie-Along, on September 13th

This is a fly tying lesson provided by Dave Etgen and Barry Webster, both very experienced tiers and demonstrators. A total of three (3) flies will be demonstrated.

BRING YOUR VICE AND TOOLS TO TIE-ALONG; ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.

For those tying at home, a list of materials needed are listed below:

Dave Etgen: "Generic Carp Fly" pattern

Materials:

Hook: 3-4x long curved, Orvis 8A03, Allen Flyfishing N201, Mustad C535
Eyes: medium bead chain
Weight: .020 Lead or equivalent
Body: natural dubbing
Thorax: natural dubbing
Legs: soft hen hackle
Shellback: peacock herl

Barry Webster: "Rusty Spinner" dry fly pattern

Materials:

Hook: size 18-10 dry fly hook (TMC 100, Firehole 419 or equivalent)

Thread: 12/0 to 16/0 Veevus black, or equivalent

Tail: micro-fibbets or similar synthetic tail material in white (or your choice of color)

Body: goose or turkey biots (brown for rusty spinner, but you can use your choice of colors)

Wing: Antron, poly yarn, tied here with Fly Tyers Dungeon P.I.P. in white or light brown

Abdomen: dry fly dubbing (superfine or equivalent) to match body color

Barry Webster: "Catskill style quill body" dry fly pattern

Materials:

Hook: dry fly hook 10-18, TMC 100, Firehole 419 or equivalent
Thread: 12/0 - 16/0 Veevus, Danville 6/0 flat wax, equivalent
Tail: classically barbs from a rooster cape feather, here, a bunch of Coc de Leon Rooster Cape barbs
Body: a long quill from a rooster cape, all barbs stripped from the quill
Wing: classically Lemon Wood Duck, here Mallard flank, died golden
Hackle: rooster cape or saddle (brown, grizzly or mixed)

Come tie with us!

2021 CALENDAR:

August 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.

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

September 17th-18th - Southern Conclave, Moved to 2022.

September 19th - Stream Team water monitoring.

September 21st - Fly Fishing Basics, at Cabela's, contact Dan Montayne.

September 25th - Teaching a Basic Fly Fishing Class at LLELA in the Pavilion.

October 4th - October DFF Meeting. Robert Younghanz, whose subject will be Entomology on the River

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.

October 19th - Warm Water Fly Fishing, Cabela's conference Room, reserve your space with Dan Montayne.

October 20th - Steven Ville High School. We usually meet at the TFFC. I have no confirmation of where this will be.

October 23th - Teaching a Basic Fly Fishing Class at LLELA in the Pavilion. Stay after and be certified an Angler Education Instructor.

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. This one is having problems with unvaccinated folks.

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

November 16th - Warm Water Fly Fishing, Cabela's conference Room, reserve your space with Dan Montayne.

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 22nd - Carrollton BFF Class.

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 11th-12th - Gulf Coast Sweetwater Classic.

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.

May 22nd - Carrollton Basic Fly Fishing Class.

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

September 29th-October 1st - Southern Conclave, Mountain Home, AR

Dallas Fly Fishing Income and Expense Statement

For the Twelve Months Ended 6/30/21

<u>Income</u>	
Membership income	\$ 6,444
Meeting room reimbursement	\$ 808
Athens Fly Fishing Festival income	\$ 4,174
Auction expense reimbursement	\$ 1,860
DFF shirt sales	\$ 130
Contributions income	\$ 243
Total income	\$ 13,659

<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter expense	\$ 1,872
Speaker expense	\$ 2,362
FFI Dues	\$ 466
Athens Fly Fishing Festival expense	\$ 5,691
Administrative expense	\$ 1,629
Outing expense	\$ 774
DFF shirt expense	\$ 120
Total Expense	\$ 12,914
Net Income	\$ 745
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 15,832

Fly Fishing Skills Classes Begin Sept. 16 via Zoom

by Dutch Baughman

The next Fly Fishing Skills classes begin on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Once again, we will conduct classes via Zoom. Here's the line-up.

- **Fly Fishing Skills I** -- begins at 5:30 p.m. and adjourns by 6:45
- **Fly Fishing Skills II** -- begins at 7:00 p.m. and adjourns around 8:30
- Both classes last 10 weeks, concluding on Nov. 18

Fly Fishing Skills classes are offered through the Fort Worth Fly Fishers education program and are available to paid members of Fort Worth Fly Fishers and Dallas Fly Fishers. If you attended the classes last semester, you are approved for attendance this semester. New members to either club are welcome, but please contact David Hooper at Fort Worth Fly Fishers or Jack Gillis at Dallas Fly Fishers.

Both classes have been enhanced since last semester. Students for each class will receive an updated version of the entire slide presentation prior to the first class. Slide decks now have a complete Table of Contents so you can find specific topics by using the

slide number as a reference. The entire curriculum from last semester has been critiqued and updated. We are also planning to have in-person casting sessions during the semester. If possible, we might also have in-person lab sessions for fly fishing knots.

The curriculum will include a complete array of the comprehensive topics presented last semester, but with some additional enhancements.

Fly Fishing Skills I:

- More fly fishing video
- Expanded sections on fly fishing history, fly fishing equipment, rigging, reading the water and water column, stream anatomy, entomology and fly fishing trips
- NEW topics on "Search Image" and feeding behavior
- Slide decks for Fly Fishing History, Reading Water and the Water Column, Fly Fishing History, Entomology, Fly Fishing Safety, and Fly Fishing Etiquette

Fly Fishing Skills II:

- More fly fishing video
- Identify This Fish
- Identify This Fly
- Identify This Knot

- Expanded sections on casting, fly fishing trips, fish species, knots, stream anatomy, safety and etiquette
- More emphasis on the catching (set the hook, play the fish, handle the fish, revive the fish, release the fish)
- Revised sections on fly selection, fish behavior and fish habitat
- NEW topic on "Search Image"
- Slide decks for Line Management, Reading Water and the Water Column, Fly Fishing History, Entomology, Fly Fishing Safety, and Fly Fishing Etiquette

If you attended the Fly Fishing Skills classes last semester and want to attend the classes again this semester, just send an email to dutch.baughman@gmail.com so he can build the class email list for the weekly Zoom access link. In your email to Dutch, be sure to indicate which class you want to attend. If you did not attend the classes last semester, please contact David Hooper if you are a member of the Fort Worth Fly Fishers or contact Jack Gillis if you are a member of the Dallas Fly Fishers. Please contact Dutch if you have any questions.

Dutch Baughman, FFFF & DFF
Memberdutch.baughman@gmail.com

Roadkill Roundtable Zoom Fly Tying Demonstrations

The Roadkill Roundtable will continue its fly tying demonstrations this Fall. The calls will be hosted by Jack Gillis, our programs chairman. The tying demonstrations will include several experience and well-known fly tyers, including Dutch Baughman, Fred

DuPre', Dave Boyer, Eric Austin, Al & Gretchen Beatty. If you are an experienced tyer, or just beginning your fly tying journey, you will not want to miss these excellent demonstrations. All calls will be held in ZOOM and will be at 7:00 PM Central Time

on the following Tuesdays': Sept. 14 & 28, Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 9 & 23, and Dec. 14.

To be included on the email invitations please email JackGillis@Outlook.com.

New Thread Wrappers Arrive

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tying Coordinator

Hello DFF,

New attendance numbers have surfaced from the 3rd Tuesday Cabela's tying event. The total number attending was 18. Yes, we are growing despite weather and traffic related issues. Additionally, we attracted six brand new tiers. These novices came to us from Cabela's sign-ups and the Bio-Diversity Center event, as well as a bring-a-buddy effort.

The patterns tied by all were a Clouser Variant, presented by Noah Garrett and warm

water streamer variants resembling that pattern style. The results from even the new tiers were astounding. All tiers left with numerous clousers for their GO TO selection. Additionally, Tips and Tricks for better tying were added to the evening's format.

Our featured tier for September is Peter Rae. Plan now to attend, and register early to ensure a seat for the upcoming event. Considering elbow room and COVID concerns, we have a capacity of 24 people for the conference area. Watch for details in the



3rd Tuesday flyer which will be in your email no later than September 6.

The Tiers' Corner

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tying Coordinator

FAQs: *What materials should be used for tails of a fly? How should tail length be judged?*



In my opinion, the first response starts with

four choices: pheasant tail, marabou, hair, and duck feather fibers. They are easy to acquire, have minimal cost, and are versatile for most pattern types. Of course, there are many other inclusions, but be flexible in your choice of materials. Consider your budget, too. Printed pattern suggestions are just that - suggestions.

The looming second question asked when tying a pattern is how long should the tail be? The answer lurks somewhere between the entomology genus of the pattern and its silhouette. If you research this question, authors are careful to skirt the issue. However, a safe answer for most tiers is the measurement of the straight area of the hook

shank from hook eye to the start of the bend. Judgement about longer or shorter lengths and amount of density are your choice.



The placement, on top of the shank, rests with a well wrapped thread base to secure the fibers. The thread base is the foundation of all successful tying platforms. But that's another topic!

Instinctive Fly Fishing School Taos, NM 4/30 - 5/2/2021

by Jack Gillis, Fly Tying Director

Many of DFF's guest speakers own fly shops and publish newsletters. I'm not sure whether I'm trying to catch sales or stories about secret fishing holes; but, I am a newsletter junkie. When I read that Nick Streit was conducting an instinctive fly fishing school in Taos, it sounded like a nice getaway. Several club members have told me that this is one of their favorite areas to fish. I've been to the San Juan several times; however, that is the extent of my New Mexico fishing experience.

The two and a half day class is based on Taylor Streit's Instinctive Fly Fishing with two guided days on the water; and, focuses primarily on reading water and situational casting. It ran from Friday afternoon until Sunday evening.

We used the first afternoon to discuss equipment and casting. We then spread out in a park with instructors to practice casting and individual ability assessments. For some odd reason the stars were properly aligned and my stroke was in pretty good shape. This gave me an opportunity for some individual attention with Nick to work on my casting nemesis - the double haul. Class ended and it was off for some New Mexican fare.

Saturday morning began in one of the Rio Grande access areas. We spent some time talking about the various riffle areas of the river, where we would begin to prospect for fish and how to efficiently cast to those spots. We then

broke up into groups of three with an instructor/guide and headed to different parts of the river. New Mexico has done a fine job of creating recreational access to the Rio Grande in the Taos area for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. My group was guided by Emily Roley. Both Emily and her husband guide for Taos Fly Shop; and, Emily also coordinates the programs provided by the shop. We started in Raceway access (I think that's what it was called) area and began to work our way upstream; the kayaks and canoes were launching downstream. The water temperature was still about 50 degrees and trout were still in their winter holes. A double caddis nymph rig managed to produce a couple of small rainbows and browns. We then relocated to the Pillar access; and were pretty much alone in the spot with the exception of occasional passing kayakers. There were several nice riffles that produced some small browns. Toward the end of the afternoon, there were some rises in the foam; and we made a rod switch to a dry fly rig. Unfortunately, the trout seemed to be gulping foam; and, we called it a day.

The next morning, we met at Rio Costilla which is about an hour's drive north of Taos. For those who have fished Treasure Creek in the South Fork area, Rio Costilla is very similar. It is a narrow, winding mountain creek that sits at about 8500- 9000 feet and produces cutthroat trout. We spent a little time talking about

prospecting around the bends in the creek and how to stealthily cast to specific spots. Although much of the fishing on Rio Costilla is done from the bank, you do need to cross the creek periodically. The surrounding peaks were still fairly snow capped; and, the water (which had been snow the day before) was a balmy 40 degrees. My instructor/guide was Evan Claassen. Evan is an avid Euro nymph. My companions for the day (who were local and familiar with the area) brought Euro nymph rigs. Although the fish were holding tight and deep, we had pretty good success with the cutthroats in some of the deeper holes in the creek. Unfortunately, I had to cut the afternoon short because of equipment failure. I was having footing problems and found that only about 20% of my right sole was still attached to my boot.

I would have liked to also try the Conejos; but, time and conditions did not allow. This was an informative school and enjoyable trip. Due to our bizarre winter, the water was a little colder than normal for that time of year. Consequently, the fish were slow to come out of hibernation and be more cooperative. The Taos area provides easy access to the fishery; and, whether you hire a guide or DIY, it is a great destination. In addition to the guide services, a stop at Taos Fly Shop will provide beneficial intelligence about the various fisheries in the area and local knowledge about what flies are working in which rivers.

Teaching Fishing, Both Fly and Basic

by Bill Slaughter and Paul Locklear

Have you had a chance to meet these guys? Bill Slaughter and Paul Locklear have always had a passion for fishing and all the things that go with it. Both men work hard and appreciate the down time when it comes around. They each understand the training that goes into being good at a skill, trade, and hobby and both men know being a good fisherman is not just about dropping a hook in the water. Despite the COVID delays in 2020, they continued to concentrate their focus on fly fishing and have been tying flies as time permits. By being involved with Dallas Fly Fishers and the Texas Parks Wildlife over the last few years, Bill has served as Area Chief for 3 years and has been an Angler Educator over 6 years. Paul began his journey as an Angler Instructor in January 2019. They both love to participate in as many fishing events as they can squeeze out of the various seasons. Volunteering and teaching seem to come easy for both guys. Watching others learn a new hobby and skill is very satisfying for both. Paul especially loves working with the kids and providing them with certificates when they make a great catch.



Teach a man to fish and you will feed him for life. It makes his heart full watching young families building memories and traditions with fishing. While volunteering, Bill and Paul were approached by many people about hosting a basic fishing class. So, they put their heads together about teaching Basic Angler Courses. Further discussions with Keira Quam, Aquatic Education Training Specialist for North Texas with Texas Parks and Wildlife and they were on their way. She was able to provide them with the basic guides they needed to follow, and they decided to make Interactive Stations to use in teaching this basic course. Once the basic information was sketched out, it was determined how many stations there

would be. Paul enlisted his wife to help layout the signs for each station. A little magic and a Cricut machine later, the signs are bright, colorful, and very inviting to participate in each Interactive Station. These guys put their all into everything they do and cannot wait to share the Basic Angler Course with everyone.

Editor's Note:

I spoke to both these great guys at the last Fly Fishing Certificate Class, and they are really serious and focused. If you have a need to have a Basic Fishing Class for any group, contact them. Their posters to identify each teaching station are great, and a lot of us will get to help them. I agree totally that this is what we are all about in Angler Education, and I have taught Church Summer Campouts and other such opportunities. It can be great and with two guys leading that are so focused and dedicated, it WILL be great.

Rex's Ramblings

by Rex Walker, FFI CI

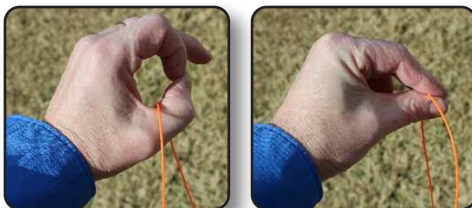
Don't let go!

Shooting line is a skill that all fly fishers need to know. It is an easy way to add more distance to any cast. For most of us, it is one of the earliest casting skills that we learn. I'll also add that there is a sense of pure joy when you get it right and the fly line shoots through the rod's guides. 😊

The key to shooting line is to let the line shoot AFTER the Stop. Remember that we must stop the rod on the forward cast and on the back cast. Those stops allow the loop to form. The shoot must happen after the loop has formed, but don't wait too long or the line will not shoot. Release the line too early and it just ends up in a pile. Learning the timing of when to release the line after the stop is the biggest challenge of learning to shoot line during a fly cast.

I often use the phrase "Stop then Drop" when teaching how to shoot line. But, you don't actually want to completely "drop" the line when shooting. If you completely release the line then you have given away all control of the line.

A more versatile technique when shooting line is to keep it in your hand during the shoot. Personally, I will hold the line between my thumb and finger tips. When release the line to shoot, I'll open my fingers into something that resembles an "OK" sign and I'll keep my thumb and finger wrapped around the line.



Keeping control of the line when shooting provides several benefits. One is that it allows you to determine how much line you want to shoot. You can stop the line from shooting by just closing your fingers together. The ability to add a little bit of line while casting is useful. It allows you to shoot some line and then make another false cast when making a longer distance cast. Multiple false casts of increasing length are often easier to control than one extremely long shoot at the end of a casting sequence.

The ability to limit how much line you shoot is critical to making accurate casts at varying distances. You can determine where you want to fly to land by adjusting how much line you have in the air. So, when a fish surfaces closer than expected you don't have to shoot all of the line that is off the reel. Instead, you can stop the shoot and make a shorter cast.

The biggest benefit may be that that you never lose control of the line. If a fish hits the fly as soon as it hits the water, then you are already holding the line and can immediately set the hook. It is frustrating to miss a strike because you were not ready to set the hook.

Learning to shoot line without completely dropping the line will help you to be a more versatile fly caster and fly fisher. Learning to control the line without letting go will also make learning the Double Haul easier since you'll have developed more line control skills when casting.

Give it a try and have fun!

Thanks, **Rex Walker**

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.

Feather Anatomy for Fly Tiers

by Wayne Luallen

The birth of a fly begins with a feather.



Whiting Farms Cree Rooster

Understanding the anatomy of feathers improves the fly tier's ability to make proper selection of feathers and feather parts ultimately leading to superior flies. Through this understanding the tier will know how to take advantage of the nature of the feather rather than trying to force it to do something that is unnatural to it, which invariably leads to an inferior fly, in appearance and often function. Additionally, there is a widespread misuse of terms which frequently leads to misunderstanding of what is intended to be communicated.

The parts of a typical feather are simple to learn, and once understood help us to better appreciate why feathers do what they do in different applications. For example, a dry fly hackle when wound on an uneven surface (twisted thread, bulky surface, etc.) will skew barbs in various directions whereas the same feather mounted on an even surface will produce a fly with barbs at a distinct 90° angle from the surface it is mounted on. (For a graphic demonstration please refer to the video at

<https://globalflyfisher.com/video/dry-fly-hackle-foundation>). Understanding the shape of the rachis and the location of the barbs on the rachis will help it all make sense.

Through understanding of feather anatomy, the fly tier is the one in control.

Feathers are as unique as the birds that wear them. The following discussion is general in its scope while being specific enough to cover most feather types that the fly tier will encounter. Great effort has been taken to accurately describe feathers and feather components. Perhaps just as important has been a desire to whet the appetite of the fly tier to better understand not only physical construction, types and purposes of feathers, but also to become more curious about the nature of other materials, feathers and otherwise. Observation leads to understanding. Understanding leads to better results. It is better to investigate on your own than take for granted what has been said in the past.

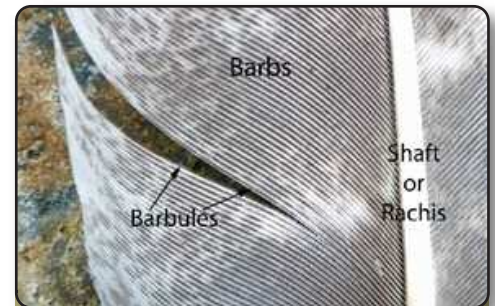
While reading this article it may prove beneficial to have a selection of feathers on hand, such as an eyed peacock upper tail covert, a turkey tail feather, a turkey marabou semi-plume, a ring-necked pheasant contour feather and a rooster neck hackle.

Feather anatomy

The **quill** or *calamus* is often mistakenly described as being anything from the feather shaft to the barbs themselves. The fact is that the quill is simply that portion of the feather that is inserted in the skin follicle; nothing more. It is cylindrical, transparent, and hollow. There are no barbs attached to the quill.

The **shaft** or *rachis* is that portion of the feather that the barbs are attached to. It is flattened on the sides that support the barbs and differs from the quill by being roughly rectangular in cross section. Internally it is not

hollow, but rather is filled with a pithy material that contains air cells.



View from the ventral (lower) side of a turkey secondary flight feather

The **barbs** or *rami* (singular: *ramus*) come off the flattened sides of the shaft more toward the anterior (face) surface of the feather and in parallel rows, generally opposing one another. They point outward and toward the tip of the feather. They are somewhat ovoid in cross-section (thinner side to side, wider front to back,) broader near their attachment to the rachis, flattening and narrowing as they approach the tip. Barbs, like the shaft, are filled with a pithy material containing air cells. A feather may have only a couple of dozen barbs or several hundred.



Barbules or *radia* (singular: *radius*) extend out from either side of the barbs. From the base to about halfway to their tip, they are ribbon-like (the basal lamella). The distal half is more whip-like (the *pennum*).

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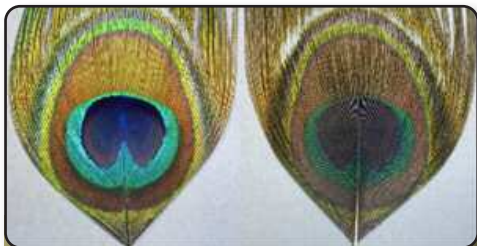
Feather Anatomy for Fly Tiers

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Upper edge of a lower barb on a goose secondary flight feather has barbules extending out nearly 90° while the lower edge barbules on the barb above are more in line with the barb (Photo: Verne Lehmborg)

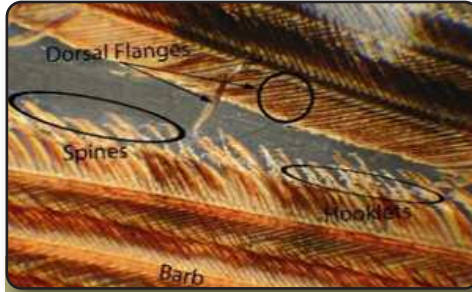
The barbules on the distal (upper) edge of a barb extend outward almost perpendicular to the barb. The barbules on the proximal (lower) edge of a barb lay more parallel with the barb.



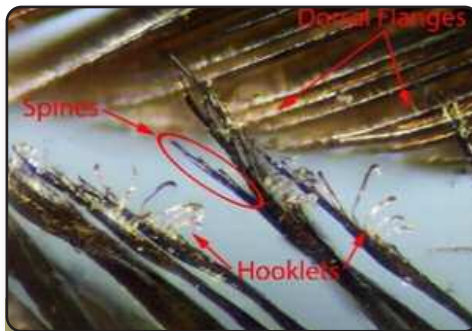
The "Eye" from a Peacock upper tail covert feather – anterior side (left) – posterior side (right)

This is readily visible with a peacock upper tail covert feather's barbs, commonly referred to as herl. (Herl according to dictionary definition is a barb or barbs of a feather, originating from the Middle English harle or herle which referred to fiber, hair of flax, or hemp). Barbules extend out from a barb more proximal to the anterior (face) surface like barbs on a shaft. Again, note the appearance of the peacock upper tail covert feather. When viewed from the anterior surface of the feather, the brightly colored eye is more dominant because the barbules (which often provide most of a feather's color) are attached closer to the anterior edge of the barb. When viewed from the posterior surface, the flat, rather dull color is due to the dominance of the color of the edges of the barbs as well as the location and physical shape, and in turn, light reflectance of the barbules.

Barbules may or may not have attached to them structures collectively referred to as **barbicels**. Barbicels allow adjacent barbules to interlock or marry. They differ on the barbule in shape and function by location. Distal barbules (those extending off the barb toward the feather tip) with barbicels have projecting structures at the base of the whip-like

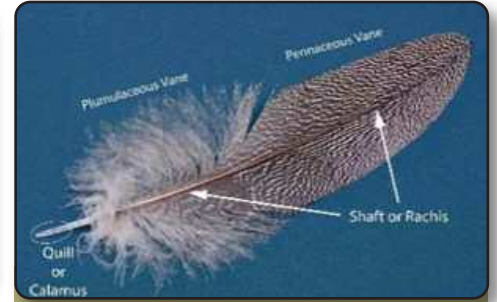


Argus pheasant secondary flight feather showing the three structures collectively referred to as **barbicels** (Photo: Verne Lehmborg)



The same Argus pheasant secondary flight feather as above, but with greater magnification showing the location and appearance of spines and hooklets on the ventral barbs, and flanges on the dorsal barbs (Photo: Verne Lehmborg)

pennulum (distal half of the barbule) on the ventral (under) surface that are long and hooked, **hooklets** (*hamuli*) with the remainder of the pennulum having shorter **spines** (ventral processes). Proximal barbules (those extending off the barb toward the feather's quill) tend to be more twisted than the distal barbules and have a trough-shaped **dorsal flange** (*groove*) on the anterior (front) edge. As the hooklets of a distal barbule overlap the adjacent proximal barbule, the hooklets attach to the grooved edge while the spines stop the hooklets from sliding too far. The diagonal cross-over of barbules creates a visible herringbone pattern. Both distal and proximal barbules have other lesser processes on the underside of the ribbon-like *lamella* referred to as ventral teeth and on the upper side of the whip-like pennulum referred to as *dorsal cilium* or spines. The hooklets and spines create the marriage of the adjacent barbs while the dorsal processes and ventral teeth catch the barbs and barbules of overlaying feathers to help maintain a solid, air-tight surface in flight. In turn the feather vein is maintained as not only airtight, but with some birds, a watertight structure. Barbicels refers to all the processes that interlock to create the vein.



The anatomy of a typical flight feather, in this example a Kori Bustard tertiary flight feather (Photo: Verne Lehmborg)

The shaft gives support while the **vein** (*vexillum*) or the web of a feather (which includes all the flat, expanded barbs, as well as any attached barbules, and barbicels) provides the surface for an airfoil in flight feathers and for covering and insulation in contour feathers. At the typical feather's base, the vein is downy and provides some insulation. This part of the vein is referred to as the **plumulaceous vein**. The remaining portion of the vein is firmer and compactly arranged and is referred to as the **pennaceous vein**. Feather types are often defined by the proportion of plumulaceous and pennaceous material present. Some feathers are strictly plumulaceous, others are strictly pennaceous, and others are both plumulaceous and pennaceous.

Some common misnomers

Birds have a tremendous variety of combinations of feather components. For instance, the Crowned Crane crest feathers are each made up of a short quill, a twisted rachis, and few barbs. What fly tiers consider the useable portion of a typical cock hackle for a dry fly has few or no barbules on the barbs with the barbs with barbules being stripped off prior to application. Fly tiers somewhat incorrectly refer to this part of the feather as being the web or webby portion of the feather, while web is a term synonymous with the whole vein.

Some feathers have barbules without barbicels. Examples would include peacock upper tail covert feather barbs below the eye as well as down feathers from any bird.

When considering peacock herl, the barbs are often mistakenly referred to as quills and the barbules on the barb are confusingly referred to as herl. For example, the Quill Gordon fly

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Feather Anatomy for Fly Tiers

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pattern calls for a body made from a “quill” that before wrapping onto the hook, requires removal of the “herl”.

This “quill” called for is actually a barb and the “herl” referred to are barbules on the herl or barb. Barbicels are found on flight feathers (turkey tail feathers, peacock secondary wing feathers, etc.) except for flightless birds (emu, ostrich, kiwi, etc.) Just as a barb does not necessarily have barbules, barbules do not necessarily have barbicels. Turkey marabou (semi-plume) is an example of a feather with barbules, but no barbicels. Body (contour) feathers of most pheasants are examples of feathers having barbules without barbicels (plumulaceous vein) on some barbs and barbules with barbicels (pennaceous vein) on others.

Why this is important to fly tying

The arrangement of barbs, barbules, and barbicels is important to understand when marrying feather strips for a wing on a wet fly or Atlantic Salmon fly. The marriage of a strip of upper barbs to a correctly matching strip of lower barbs is quite easy if the face side of the upper strip is placed slightly behind the face side of the lower strip. This allows the hooklets on the barbules of the top barb of the lower strip to have opportunity to grasp the grooved edge (dorsal flange) of the barbules on the upper strip's bottom barb. If the strips are overlapped immediately above and below one another, or perhaps the upper strip is in front of the lower strip, due to their arrangement on the barbules, a complete interlocking of hooklets to flanges will not occur. If a strip is overlaid with another strip, but the matching strip is upside down, this arrangement of barbicels will not allow the strips to marry. If a right strip is overlaid with a left strip, even though the proximal to distal arrangement of the barbules is correct, no reliable marriage will occur because the hooklets and flanges do not align.

Many feathers develop fault bars across the vein. As feathers grow, a disruption in cell development may occur leaving distinct lines across the vein generally perpendicular to the shaft. These are due to stress, other abnormal conditions, or may be present under normal



Married barbs of turkey tail feathers viewed from the anterior surface or “face side” with lower barb's barbules overlapping the upper (Microphoto: Verne Lehmborg)

conditions. A fault bar's appearance is due to underdevelopment of barbules or total lack of barbules in the disruption.



Dyed white turkey tail feathers showing fault bars

Feather types

Each feather grows out of the dermal tissue from a follicle in similar fashion to hair in mammals. Some feathers can be moved by muscles attached to the follicles. For example, tail and wing feathers can be adjusted to aid in flight. Body feathers can be erected independently or in groups for the purpose of body temperature adjustment as well as for display. Most feather follicles are well supplied with nerves, so it appears that feathers may serve as organs of touch. During development, the feather is a living structure well supplied with blood, but once matured the feather itself is a dead structure. After a period of use it is shed or molted, and then replaced by a new feather from the same follicle.

There are two basic types of feathers from which others are derived: down feathers and vanned feathers. **Down feathers** are essentially random fluff having no barbicels on the barbules to interlock their barbs. In nestling birds down feathers consist of a tuft of barbs without a rachis. Juvenile and adult birds have down feathers that include a rachis. **Vanned feathers** include all feathers with a flat expanse of barbs extending parallel out from the shaft. Contour and flight feathers are pennaceous vanned feathers and are accepted as vanned feathers, where that plumulaceous feathers generally are not. Technically

speaking, as discussed under Feather anatomy above, a marabou feather, though strictly a plumulaceous feather, is also a vanned feather. Down feathers, though plumulaceous, have a random arrangement of barbs, and thus would not be considered vein.

Other feather types, similar in some respects to down and vein feathers while unique in others, include filoplumes, bristles, and semiplumes. A **filoplume** (thread feather) is a hair-like feather with barbs at the end of the shaft. They are distributed to all feather types, are always intimate to other feathers (from one to twelve adjacent on a feather,) but grow out of their own follicles. Their purpose seems to have to do with subtle detection of movement of the adjacent feather such that they may, for example, aid in adjustment of feathers when in flight. (Filoplumes are sometimes incorrectly referred to as pinfeathers. A **pinfeather** is any feather that is immature). Virtually all **bristles** are found on bird's heads. They are stiff with a tapered shaft having barbs only on the proximal portion of the shaft (i.e., crown crane crest feathers). Often, they are mistaken for filoplumes which differ by having barbs at the distal end of the shaft. A **semiplume** is a down-like (plumulaceous) feather having a rachis, barbs, and barbules, but no barbicels (e.g., marabou). Of these only the latter is of common use in fly tying.

Feather names

Numerous specialized names are applied to feathers appropriate to their location on the bird, from the face to the toes, but there are just a few basic types that would likely concern most fly tying needs.

Contour feathers cover the bird's body. They are close fitting yet separated from the skin to help isolate the body from outside humidity and temperature. With the assistance of follicle muscles, the contour feathers can be erected, then lowered to adjust the depth of the protective layer. Contour feathers are typically broad, thin, curving inward toward the skin, directed toward the tail in overlapping rows, and have a combined pennaceous/plumulaceous vein. They help to smooth and streamline the body for flight. In some species they may be greatly modified for purposes of display or some other ornamental purpose. Many contour feathers have **afterfeathers** (or **aftershfts**) attached at the base. These are

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small plumulaceous feathers which may or may not have a shaft (*hyporachis*). Usually, a contour feather's afterfeather is no more than half the length of the attached contour feather, yet exceptions always seem to occur in nature. Two birds, the Emu and the Cassowary, have afterfeathers as long as their contour feathers, while some birds such as the pigeon and ostrich have no afterfeathers.



Flight feathers include the tail feathers (*rectrices*) and wing feathers (*remiges*) as well as supplemental feathers that cover the adjacent upper and under surfaces.

The **tail feathers** (*rectrices*) act as a stabilizer tilting the front of the body up and down, as well as an air brake when the bird lands, but they are not used for steering except in steep turns. Tail feathers are generally large, stiff in texture, asymmetric, have veins that are almost entirely pennaceous, and lack afterfeathers. In most cases tail assemblies are made up of 10-12 feathers (with some pheasants having up to 24) arranged in a single horizontal row. They each overlap their lateral (outside) edge over the medial (inside) edge of the adjacent feather. The outermost feather's lateral vein is narrow, stiff, and convex compared to the softer, longer, concave barbs of the inner vein. This effect is digressive as the feathers work toward the center pair, such that the center pair's vein is symmetric right to left. The turkey tail assembly when fanned clearly demonstrates this. At the bases of the tail feathers are **upper tail** and **under tail covert feathers** that smooth and streamline the tail of the bird. Exceptions do occur such as with the peacock upper tail coverts, which lack streamlining but are useful for display.

The **wing feathers** (*remiges*) are used for steering. Like tail feathers, they are generally large, stiff in texture, asymmetric, have veins that are almost entirely pennaceous, and lack afterfeathers. Wing feathers include primary,

secondary, and tertiary feathers. The primary wing feathers (typically 10-11 in number) attach to the middle digit and the hand. They are asymmetrical in vein structure with their leading and trailing margins notched. This sudden narrowing produces a series of slotted spaces between the primaries which in flight reduces air turbulence over the wing tips. Where turbulence is most extreme, the leading-edge barbs are broadened and stiffened. These barbs are referred to in fly tying parlance as biots. The **secondary wing feathers** (anywhere from 9 to 40 in number and up to six inches wide by six feet in length) attach to the ulna of the forearm. The **tertiary wing feathers** attach to the humerus. There may also be a group of 3 or 4 feathers attached to the bones of the thumb forming a **bastard wing** (*alula*). These feathers lie flat during normal flight but extend out when flying slowly to prevent stalling.

Wing feathers may be uniquely developed for specific purposes. For example, waterfowl wing feathers are designed to be water repellent. This is accomplished by modifications in the structure and position of the barbules such that a surface through which water cannot enter is created. They are so unique that a specific name is applied to this type of barbule/barbicel structure; flexules. The owl differs dramatically in having soft overlays of barbules on the surface of the feathers that allow this bird to be silent in flight.

The bases of the wing feathers as well as the upper and lower surface of the remainder of the wing are covered by several rows of small, flattened **wing coverts** (*tectrices*). The largest wing coverts are adjacent the wing feathers and digress in size toward the wings leading edge. The vein is principally pennaceous and designed to supply an air-tight surface to the wing. The upper wing coverts, like contour feathers, are convex. Underwing coverts are concave, which fits them up into the underside curve of the wing. (This is an important consideration for the fly tier. For example, in Frederic Tolfrey's *Jones's Guide to Norway*, a component of the wing on "The Major" salmon fly dressing calls for an overlay of two snipe feathers. These are underwing coverts on the snipe, and thus are concave. Their natural concavity forces the fly tier to carefully select a pair that will produce little or no outward curve when placed over the wing.) The

underwing coverts on the leading edge of the wing initially extend vertically and then bend backward over the wing at an acute right angle creating a camber or upward curve.

Plumage development stages

A bird passes through various distinct stages of plumage. The plumage of the nestling stage is mostly down and contour feathers which plays a role primarily of warmth and concealment. There may also be an intermediate nestling stage with yet a different plumage. The adult may have different stages of plumage such as immature, full adult, prenuptial, and courtship. Male to female can be quite different, especially in the adult. Some immature birds take on the appearance of a mature female (i.e., some cockatoos and parrots). For the fly tier this can be of importance since some feathers in a fly may be obtained only from an adult male, an adult female, an immature male and/or female, either the adult female or an immature bird, or perhaps any of these. For example, in *The Salmon Fly*, George Kelson's dressings for *The Silver Spectre* and *Prince's Mixture* call for the use of Black Cockatoo's tail. Experience teaches that the feather of choice is only found on female or immature male Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo mottled orange, black and yellow center tails. A mature male has completely different black-red-black center tails. Then in Francis Francis' *A Book on Angling*, another dressing may simply read Black Cockatoo or any other black feather. Here the feather becomes more obvious and might be either a strip from the black portion of an adult male Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo's tail, or better yet the all black tail of an adult male Palm Cockatoo.

Summation

The more the fly tier knows about the materials he has access to, the better his ability to select and apply the proper material to achieve the desired result. Do not always accept what is read or told without a bit of personal investigation. Take time to look at materials. Feel them. Observe them under magnification. If possible, gain access to a good hand lens of at least 15x, or better yet a dissecting microscope. Close observation of the structure of the materials we tie with can prove amazingly enlightening. Do some homework in books such as Darrel Martin's *Fly Tying*

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Feather Anatomy for Fly Tiers

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Methods, which includes excellent microphotographs of all manner of tying materials. Thorough knowledge of materials, dexterity, and experience are always found in abundance with the best fly tiers.

For a visual demonstration of some of the structures previously described, refer to the following two videos:

<https://globalflyfisher.com/video/feather-anatomy-part-1> and

<https://globalflyfisher.com/video/feather-anatomy-part-2>

Definitions

Afterfeather/aftershaft – attached at the base of contour feathers; small plumulaceous feathers which may or may not have a shaft.

Barbicel – a collective term referring to all the processes found on the barbule that interlock to create the vein.

Barbs – *sing. ramus*, *pl. rami*; fibers that extend off the flattened sides of the shaft in parallel rows generally opposing one another; somewhat ovoid in cross-section; filled with a pithy material containing air cells.

Barbules – *sing. radius*, *pl. radii*; extend out from either side of the barbs; each is ribbon-like from the base to about halfway to the tip and whip-like over the distal half.

Basal Lamella – ribbon-like base of the barbule; ventral teeth are attached to the under surface.

Bastard Wing – *sing. alula*; feathers that lie flat during normal flight but extend out when flying slowly to prevent stalling.

Bristles – generally found on bird's heads; stiff with a tapered shaft having barbs only on the proximal portion of the shaft.

Contour Feathers – cover the bird's body; typically broad, thin, curving inward toward the skin, and directed toward the tail in overlapping rows; help to smooth and streamline the body for flight.

Dorsal Flanges – trough-shaped proximal barbules that are more twisted than the distal barbules; hooklets overlap and attach to the flanges.

Flight Feathers – include the tail feathers and wing feathers as well as supplemental feathers that cover the adjacent upper and under surfaces.

Filoplume – synonymous with thread feather; hair-like feather with barbs at the end of the shaft, always intimate to other feathers (from one to twelve adjacent a feather,) but grow out of their own follicles.

Hooklets – *pl. hamuli*; hooked barbicel structures on the distal barbules that overlap and attach to opposing dorsal flanges.

Pennaceous – referring to barbs having barbules with barbicels that interlock adjacent barbs.

Pennulum – whip-like tip of the barbule; hooklets are attached to the proximal, ventral portion with the dorsal spines and dorsal cilium attached to the remainder of the pennulum.

Pinfeather – any feather that is immature.

Plumulaceous – referring to downy like barbs having barbules without barbicels.

Primary Wing Feathers – typically 10-11 in number; attach to the middle digit and the hand; asymmetrical in vein structure with their leading and trailing margins notched.

Quill – *sing. calamus*; that portion of the feather that is inserted in the skin follicle. It is cylindrical, transparent, and hollow having no barbs attached.

Secondary Wing Feathers – from 9 to 40 in number; attach to the ulna of the forearm.

Semiplume – a plumulaceous vein feather (i.e., marabou).

Shaft – *sing. rachis*; that portion of the feather that the barbs are attached to; flattened on the sides that support the barbs; roughly rectangular in cross section; filled with a pithy material that contains air cells.

Spines – ventral processes on the distal barbules that stop the hooklets from sliding too far and collapsing the vein.

Tail Feathers – *pl. rectrices*; large, stiff in texture, asymmetric, have veins that are almost

entirely pennaceous, and lack afterfeathers; act as a stabilizer tilting the front of the body up and down, as well as an air brake.

Tertiary Wing Feathers – attach to the humerus.

Upper and Under Tail Covert Feathers – smooth and streamline the tail of the bird.

Vein – *sing. vexillum*; the web of a feather which includes all the flat, expanded barbs, as well as any attached barbules, and barbicels which provide the surface for an airfoil in flight feathers and for covering and insulation in contour feathers.

Vaned Feathers – a collective term generally referring to a feather that has at least some interlocked barbs as seen in contour, wing, and tail feathers on birds that can fly.

Web – synonymous with vein.

Wing Coverts – *pl. tectrices*; cover the upper and lower wing surfaces and the bases of the wing feathers.

Wing Feathers – *pl. remiges*; generally large, stiff in texture, asymmetric, have veins that are almost entirely pennaceous, and lack afterfeathers; used for steering.

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With thanks to my friends Marvin Nolte (U.S.A.), Thomas Whiting, Ph.D. (U.S.A.), Martin Jørgensen (Denmark), and Garth Coghill (New Zealand) for their advice and comments.

The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

Our calendar is getting filled with good things. One big problem is that with so many items gone we have our outdoor life coming back in clusters. As an example, Saturday July 17th through Tuesday the 20th, had 5 of the best things going on in July. Many of the rest of the weekends were empty. August was similar. What is happening?

My guess is that when these items happened year after year, and most groups were aware of possible conflicts, that we talked to each other. This way the groups planning a big event better understood each other, and the conflicts were avoided by cooperative scheduling. This may be a self-curing issue as more groups become aware of the filling calendar. Look at the calendar for 2022 in this newsletter. Lots of possible events, but better spaced and fewer conflicts. Not all of these events are firmly scheduled, in many cases they are best guess dates. But we do so much in the Texas Council that if we only got our major dates to not conflict, we would have done a great job.

Some time in 2019, I wrote a Conservation Article about some ancient Dams that seemed to be failing in Central Texas. Along the Guadalupe Valley in the stretch from New Braunfels to Gonzales were six marginal Hydro Power Dams that were built long ago. They were quite a bit behind in maintenance. The whole story is available at [**Home - Guadalupe Valley Lakes \(gvlakes.com\)**](http://Home - Guadalupe Valley Lakes (gvlakes.com)) and is a good site of bookmark.

Some concern had been shown, but the actual funding and support for this as an ongoing responsibility seemed to be lacking. And it was not helped by proposals to just remove the dams. Hundreds of millions of dollars in vacation Real Estate had been built that depended on these artificial Lakes. The matter could no longer be ignored with the failure of three dams that formed The Guadalupe Valley Lakes.

Built in the 1930's, the spillgates on the dams that form the Guadalupe Valley Lakes have surpassed their useful life, as evidenced by spillgate failures at Lake Wood in 2016 and Lake Dunlap in 2019. With the hydroelectric dams having operated at an unsustainable deficit for more than a decade, GBRA cannot support the necessary replacement of the spillgates in the absence of state and federal funding assistance and stakeholder partnerships. The hydroelectric dam at Lake Gonzales in Gonzales County experienced an additional spillgate failure during

normal operation on August 3, 2021.

During and after rainfall events, spillgates on the dams are lowered to accommodate the passage of flood waters downstream. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority continues to encounter unreliable operation of the more than 90-year old spillgates along the Guadalupe Valley Lakes, due to the age of the infrastructure. The failed spillgate at Lake Gonzales was non-responsive to operational efforts and was unable to be brought back to its normal height of 12-feet after passing water flows downstream, despite the best efforts to restore operation by the GBRA hydroelectric operations and engineering teams.

So what seems to be the problem? A lot of structures are over 90 years old, why are these failing? While I am not involved with the engineering analysis, I am an engineer, and have some opinions.

The Dams are largely wood with the gates being operated using hinges and actuators of cast iron. Both of these materials are subject to weathering. So it is reasonable to believe that they need a lot more maintenance than they are getting. Here are some pictures of the iron parts.

This box is where the spill gate is attached. The gates, rather than going up and down on tracks swing open more like a door. This appears to be the hinge point.



The hinge pin is this well worn piece of iron.



The gate appears to have been attached to this link that hinges on that pin.



The assembled mechanism is this structure. Warped and worn, the safety of the dam and its spillway depends on this ancient piece of mechanical engineering.



So what is the plan? Here is the big picture from a web site gvlakes.com. This is on the web and is public.

“Put into service between 1928 and 1932, the fifteen spillgates across the six hydroelectric dams that form the Guadalupe Valley Lakes have surpassed their useful life at more than 90 years old. The advanced age of the spillgates increases maintenance costs, causes unreliable operation, and has led to two unrepairable failures, including one at Lake Dunlap in May 2019.

With the hydroelectric operation that previously sustained the dams having operated at an annual deficit for more than a decade, GBRA has and continues to support the efforts of lake associations, residents and property owners to form taxing districts to fund the necessary replacement and continued maintenance and operational cost of the dams. In addition to Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney and Lake Placid have also formed WCIDs to fund the necessary replacement of the spillgates on their respective dams, with those projects expected to begin in 2022.”

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So that seems to be a good as it is going to get. The risk to property values seems to be winning, and so a commitment to doing long range and on-going funding to reduce the risk of these ancient edifices seems to be possible.

River management is a challenging business. In back to back Conservation Columns, I have found an issue that demands the removal of 4 low head dams on the Snake River System, and demands much more construction and repair work on 6 dams on the GVLakes system. It is clear that

each situation needs careful evaluation and a chance to have the effected citizens vote on the preferred solution.

Water is a critical commodity and it needs thoughtful management. In Texas we have water laws going back to the original Spanish Land Grants from before we were a Country and then a State. Then thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of pages of laws and rulings have muddied the water, in a manner of speaking. It is an old joke, but true, that a bright young lawyer

that specializes in Texas Water Law has a promising career managing expensive litigation in his future.

Things are looking good for we fly fishers. And with the growth of the population in the area North of Dallas, our new 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

August was as bad as July, and that was good. It was a unique Month for the DFF.

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. Dan's idea is working so well, we almost over-flowed the Conference Room. Here is the group picture.



The next meeting of the Fly Fishing Seminar for the members was in August, on the third Tuesday, August 17th. The Warm Water Fly Fishing Group met again with our speaker concentrating on variations in the very popular and effective Clouser Minnow.

The month started with Dutch Baughman, a real hero of the FFI and the Learning Center, came to share his wisdom with us. His August Meeting, both the fly tying and the in depth study of the anatomy of a stream and where will the fish be was super. His approach of studying the stream and then forming a casting plan was a new approach for me. In case you are one of the less than a dozen fly

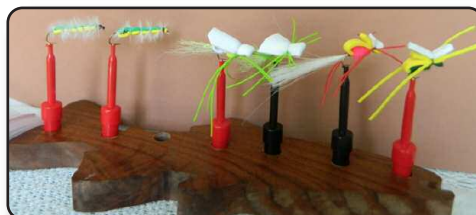
tyers in the universe that don't know Dutch on sight, here he is at work.



Here is his fly.



Then on August 7th, the home tying session of Dan Montayne's Warm Water Fly Fishing met and exchanged wisdom. These sessions alternate with the third Tuesday session at Cabela's. This is a great group and here are the flies that Jere brought to tie.



This is the group..



The next day, Sunday, August 8th was a solemn day. We dedicated the tree on the DBU Campus in honor of Al Hillman. This was a great honor, and was delayed by the spring rains that made it difficult to place the plaque.



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I was honored to assist in this, and to salute the passing of such a friend.



Here is the entire group that attended the dedication.



It was an honor, and this memorial will outlive me, for sure. I personally want to thank everyone who had a part in the planning and execution of this memorial.

On Saturday, August 14th, we once again taught the Fly Fishing Certificate Program of the TPWD Angler Education group. The Coppell Biodiversity Education Center is a major educational site for budding Conservationists. I love to teach there, and our Education Chairman, Richard Johnson gets us in there once or twice a year. The weather caused about half the signed up students to no-show, but a great group of instructors still had over 20 to teach. We also certified new instructors for those who wished to do so. A huge rain shower about noon causes us to have a break, but we still got the

casting practice in. I taught fly tying, and my students were eager, enthusiastic and fun. Here are some pictures.



The next day, Sunday August 15th, was to have been our Stream Team analysis of the water quality and the health of the Macro Invertebrates that we help with. It was a rainout so another day was selected.

Dan's Warm Water Fly Fishing Seminar for August on the 17th, was an exercise in tying several variations of the Clouser Minnow. Seven of the participants used our equipment, indicating to me that we had some students early in their fly tying career. We had some very good mentors with Dave Smith having the beginners.



Then Jim Woodman and Jere had a table each of folks with basic knowledge or our art.



After that, Dr. Lou was teaching fly fishing skills on his development's ponds. However I did not get any pictures from anyone. Also a fly tying with the DIVA's and the fly tying follow-up meeting at Dan's also did not get in in time. Those will be in the next Leader.

Wow, that was a busy month. The fall calendar is fairly active, but a lot of events are canceling due to the new outbreaks of the bad guy virus. However some things look to be surviving.

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.

The Southern Council had planning to hold the Southern Conclave in Mountain Home, AR on September 17th-18th. But it canceled.

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.

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Last, but never least, is the Historic Toledo Bend Rendezvous at The North Toledo Bend State Park, near Zwolle, LA, is usually on for November 5th to 7th is leaning toward a cancel.

So from the looks of our calendar, we still have a few 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....

 - Jere



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