

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

Happy New Year!

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing Christmas and New Year with your families and friends and found time to wet a line chasing some fish.

I enjoy the reflection and resolution this time of the year brings. TPWD sends one of my most enjoyable end-of-the-year letters, the **Angler Education Annual Report**. I enjoy this mail not only because the current **Texas Fish Art Winners Calendar** is included, but it lists those who volunteered during the year helping others enjoy fishing. Seeing at least 20 DFF members who volunteered their time during another formidable year brings me much joy and pride; Kudos! to those who generously gave of their time.

For the new year, I do think about resolutions and goals I'd like to accomplish, and yes, I do

set fly fishing resolutions. Over the years, I have broken a rod or two, and this used to be little inconvenience, as I frequently attended the Wednesday Rod Building night at **Norm Goheen's** and repaired my rods under his tutelage and camaraderie with other fly fishers. I have a rod where we were working with the epoxy (my least favorite part of the process!), and Norm tested out the tackiness. He left a slight fingerprint in the epoxy, and I love Norm's presence forever on my rod. When Norm passed away in November 2009, Cody and I acquired some of Norm's tools and purchased others to add to our inventory. However, rod building just wasn't the same, and I set the craft aside. I've decided 2022 is the year to revisit rod-building and take care of the broken rods in my arsenal, especially since I know Norm would not approve of my lack of rod building. Another standing resolution I have is to add to my species list. I thoroughly enjoy keeping a species list, as it reminds me of past adventures—trips, flies, rods, and the catch—some purposeful, some completely unintended. I only managed to add two new species to my list in 2021, so I fell short of my goal, but those two still put me closer to the species three digit mark. For 2022, three new species is my goal.

Sharing a love of fly fishing with others was one of the reasons **Jim Cory, Joe Meier, Frank Schneider, and Lionel Schultz** founded the **DFF 50 years ago**. Creating and planning the club in 1971, they held their first meeting at the Water Building on White Rock Lake in January 1972 with **Dave Whitlock** as the first speaker. Dave has spoken to the club several times since the inaugural meeting, and we are excited to be welcoming Dave and his wife Emily back to the DFF to kick-off our 50th anniversary celebrations!

When the founders and early members, **John Ashenbrenner, Norm Goheen, Richard Hanschen, Murray Hansen, Fred Hedges,**

Mayne Longnecker, and Billie Munn envisioned how the club would evolve, planning for a pandemic and its evolution was probably not on their list of topics to consider. At the Holiday Party, when I visited with **Carlos Randall**, the club's longest, active member, Carlos lamented how COVID had slowed his fly fishing activities. Here we are, however. I am proud of the DFF Board as they have navigated the difficult choices needed to keep the club relevant and solvent and its members sane. We are excited about our reasonable new meeting locale at **First United Methodist Church Richardson**. I'm looking forward to the return of our Auction Fundraiser in March at the Plano Event Center. **LaJan Barnes** is scheduling a great line-up of guest speakers. **Jim Woodman** has been scouting future Outing destinations. **Dan Montayne's** planning for our monthly Fly Tying Night is well underway. **Richard Johnson and Jere Anderson** are beginning to fill the calendar with many education events and opportunities to volunteer. To enjoy the club and our fly fishing opportunities, we have decided that we will react with the pandemic transformations and involvement. Thus, for the Monday 10 January 2022, meeting we are requiring in-person attendees to wear masks, even if they have had their vaccinations and booster. We will continue with our live Zoom broadcasts, as well, as we enjoy the Zoom platform's broader outreach. With this hybridization of conducting meetings, we look forward to seeing you in-person and on-line in 2022!

*Here's to a Healthy and
Happy New Year!*

—Julia

President, Dallas Flyfishers



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DFF 2022 Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

I am glad to say that the Dallas Fly Fishers regular meetings are back to in-person meetings as well as ZOOM (for the time being). We continue to meet the first Monday of the month for most months, holidays exceptions are January, July, and September when we will meet on the second Monday of those months. In addition, we hold our annual Christmas/holiday party on the first Sunday in December 2022. Thank you to **Jack Gillis** who lined up most of the speakers for 2022 before he left the program coordinator position. It made my task as new program coordinator less daunting. **Thank you Jack!**

We have a great line up of speakers this year, as usual, so I hope that you will all plan to attend in-person meetings when you can. We have a great new place that has a very good sound system, is easy on the budget, and enough room to spread out. Our first meeting in the new location was November 2021. Please join us January 10th at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) located along the access road between Arapaho and Beltline at 503 N US Central Expressway 1000 (Highway 75), Richardson, 75080, just north of Barlow's Tackle Shop. This location has ample parking and easy access to food between the tying session and the meeting on the east side of highway 75.

Here are our speakers for 2022. Please add these dates to your calendar and support our great club! Reminder: fly tying begins at 5 PM, dinner break 6-7 PM for those that would like to get a bite to eat, and speaker presentation at 7 PM.

January 10th - This is our **50th anniversary**. The very first speaker at the newly formed Dallas Fly Fishers in 1972 will be our featured speaker - Dave Whitlock accompanied by his wife Emily. Dave will tie a set of caddis emergers that he just wrote an article about in Trout Magazine during the 5 o'clock hour. He will talk briefly about those flies and how to fish them and then have a story-telling, question and answer session during the meeting starting at 7 PM. Dave will bring some of his books, etc. to sell, and will sign them during the 6 to 7 PM break. Come and enjoy this auspicious occasion! Here is their website: <https://davewhitlock.com>.

Sunday **February 6th** - **Landon Mayer** is offering a special fly tying workshop Sunday with a start time of 6 PM at Backwoods located at 441 Carroll St, Fort Worth, TX 76107. The cost will be \$60/per person, with a limit of 12 individuals. The DFF and the FWFF each have 6 spots available on a first come first serve basis. Registration and payment required before attendance. You may register with **LaJan Barnes** at the January meeting or email (nlbarnes@aol.com) to confirm your spot (check or cash is acceptable). Once confirmed you will be responsible for payment or finding someone to take your place if something prevents your attendance. Backwoods website: <https://backwoods.com>

February 7th - Once again we host **Landon Mayer**, trout fishing guide, fly tyer, and author of several trout fishing books and DVDS. Landon has a new presentation for us: **Guide Flies: How to Fish Simple Patterns for Tough Trout**. When you spend as much time on the water as guide Landon Mayer, you need simple, easy-to-tie patterns that get the job done, day in and day out. In this program, Mayer shares 6 of his top patterns for trophy trout that have been proven on rivers and still waters in the Rockies and across the globe.

These flies include Mayer's designs and some of his favorite flies by other accomplished tiers that haven't been covered in books before. Instructions for each fly are covered in step-by-step photos, rigging illustrations, videos of techniques, and much more. Don't miss this event that keeps you connected to the water.



Landon Mayer's big rainbow.

March 7th - This is our biggest fundraising event of the year. The funds that we raise at this auction are paramount to the *many charitable organizations, educational opportunities, scientific efforts, and opportunities associated with the sport of fly fishing*. Without the generous support and donations of time and materials, and this auction, we as a club would be limited in our efforts. **Come support the club with your generous bidding at the Auction!** We will have live auctions, silent auctions, and bucket raffles. We will have light fair and adult beverages beginning at 5:30 PM and ending at 9 PM. Our auction this year will be held at the Plano Event Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano 75074. I look forward to outbidding a few of you 😊.

Details of these speaker's topics will follow in our next newsletter:

April 4th - **Pat Vanek** will be our guest speaker in hopes that we can catch the white bass run in April!

May 2nd - **Robert Younghanz**, an entomologist, will provide us with the basics of why we use the flies we do at the end of our lines. A weekend (April 30-May 1) entomology class (for a fee) on the Brazos River will be offered. Stay tuned for details.

June 6th - **Rex Walker** will provide an outdoor casting clinic. Location TBD.

July 11th - **Bill Sargeant** offers a fly tie-along evening.

August 1st - **Dutch Baughman** will provide his educational series.

September 12th - **Capt. Stacy Lynn** is will be presenting fly fishing in a saltwater environment. We hope to be able to offer (for a fee) a saltwater workshop the weekend before. Stay tuned for details.

October 3rd - **Charlie Craven**, tentative.

November 7th - Speaker TBD.

December 4th - **Christmas/holiday party**. Location TBD.

2022 CALENDAR:

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

January 10th - The meeting to celebrate our 50th year as a Fly Fishing Club. This Historical Meeting will feature **Dave Whitlock**, our speaker at the first meeting.

January 18th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

January 22nd - Carrollton BFF Class.

January 25th & 26th - Our famous teaching experience at Plano Senior High School teaching fly casting and basic fly tying to however many of up to 150 youth want to take them. Lots of help needed mostly in the morning. You must Register with the School Office and get a pass to be on the campus.

February 7th - February DFF Meeting. Our speaker will be **Landon Mayer**.

February 4th-5th - Red River Fly Fishers host the Red River Rendezvous, Eisenhower State Park.

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

February 15th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

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

February 23rd - Teaching Stephenville High School Students at the TFFC. A lot of fun.

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

March 7th - DFF Fund raiser Auction. At the Plano Center in Plano, a great location.

March 7th-8th - DBU Outdoor Experiences class, we teach the basic Fly Fishing Certificate and then take them fishing.

March 12th - TRWD Flyfest on the Trinity River in Fort Worth. This one is always a great time with lots to do.

March 15th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

March 24th-26th - Sow Bug Roundup, Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home AR.

March 26th - Instructing the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge at the TFFC. Lots of help needed.

April 4th - The April DFF Meeting.

April 9th - Gannon Ranch spring wildflowers and fishing. If Spring occurs on schedule, this is the greatest outdoor event of the year. Sign-ups required.

April 11th-16th - A spring repeat of the fall Trout Trip. White River, Chapter 4, Return to the Caddis Hatch. We have just completed another great trip to the White River in Cotter, Arkansas. Huge fish count with several large rainbows and browns. We have decided to feed our trout addiction during the caddis hatch in early spring. Home base for the RV crowd will be Denton Ferry RV Park - dentonferryrv.com. Home base for guides is Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher - theoarkflyfisher.com. Book early. For more information contact **Mike Becker**, 214-288-3885, kuduguy@verizon.net.

April 18th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

April 28th - Third outing to the Latham Springs Encampment in Aquilla, Texas. The outing costs will be \$8.00 per person, since we are renting this facility for the day. The two previous trips fished well.

May 2nd - The May Meeting of the DFF. **Robert Younghanz** is our speaker, and a possible on the water weekend entomology class may get planned.

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

May 17th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

May 22nd - Carrollton Basic Fly Fishing Class.

June 6th - June Meeting featuring our **Rex Walker** on the subject of a Fly Casting Clinic.

June 10th-11th - For the Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival.

June 21st - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fishing and fly tying seminar.

July 11th - The July Meeting featuring **Bill Sargent** and a Fly-Tying tie-along.

July 16th-23rd - Joint DFF / FWFF Colorado Outing. The DFF part is coordinated by **Jeff Ziehm**.

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

2022 DFF Auction

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2022 DFF Fundraiser Auction, which will be held **Monday, March 7, 2022, 5:30-9:00 PM**. Our new auction site is the Plano Event Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, where the Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival used to be held. Silent auction starts at 5:30 and Live auction starts at 7:00 PM. Entrance fee is \$10, free if you bring a friend. Finger foods will be served along with a cash bar.

This year's auction is filled with lots of fly rods, reels, flies, fly tying material, books, and accessories. If you want a guided trip, this is a must-attend event, as we have trips in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas Gulf and White River, to name a few.

The Auction is very important to your club and never more so than this, upcoming Event. The Auction along with Membership Dues are the two sources of DFF funds. We have not had an Auction since August 13, 2018. Therefore, for over three years, DFF has Not received this large source of revenue. We would love to have as many DFF members as possible, attend. Even more importantly, we encourage DFF members to bring outside folks, a friend, neighbor, someone who is thinking about fly fishing. We really have accumulated a large amount of great fly fishing stuff. Let's get lots of bidding - your club, the Dallas Fly Fishers will benefit.

Save the Date!



Live Auction, Buy It Now, Silent Auction, Raffle

Finger foods, Cash bar



Dallas Fly Fishers Fundraiser Auction
Monday, March 7, 2022, 5:30–8:30 pm
Plano Event Center
2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074
\$10 Admission (Free, if you a bring a friend)

Orvis 5 wt. H3 Rod

Fishing Kayak

Full-day Guided Trips to: Arkansas, Colorado,
New Mexico, Texas Gulf Coast

Lifetime DFF
Membership

REAL PEOPLE. LIVE INSTRUCTION.

REX WALKER

GREG WELANDER

DANA WILLIAMS

PAT DORSEY

JERRY HAMOND

GARY DUBIEL

CHRIS JOHNSON

CYBIL JONES

KIRK DEETER

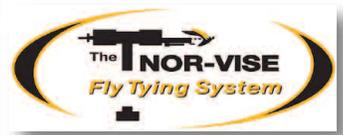
KARLIE ROLAND



txflyfishingfestival.com



2022
SPONSORS



2021 Holiday Party

DFFers celebrated the holiday season in style at our annual Holiday Party. We enjoyed the company of friends, playing the Johnson's Christmas Carol Dingbats which caused **Tom Klaasen** to educate me about the *Beach Boys*' "Run, Run Rudolph" carol, seeing fishing successes displayed in the slideshow, dining on delicious food at a new-to-us venue, the *Vila Brazil Steakhouse* in Richardson, partaking in the raffle giddiness, and introducing the 2022 DFF Board. **Georgann**

and **Richard Johnson** joined us in spirit by sending their annual, delicious nutcakes and their lovely DFF engraved mugs honoring the year's volunteers. I am glad to say both **Georgann** and **Richard** have recovered from that nasty cold virus! Thank you to our raffle donors **Beau Beasley, Cody Bell, the DFF, Mark Eskew, Georgann and Richard Johnson, the Dr. Jason Moshier Estate, Kimberly Penick, Arthur San Roman, and Jim Woodman**, as guests had many, fun

raffle decisions to make. Seeing everyone looking so dapper and meeting the better halves who so graciously tolerate our fly fishing fanaticism cheered my heart. If you could not attend, we missed the pleasure of your company and hope to see you in 2022. The DFF Holiday Party is always the first Sunday in December, so mark your 2022 calendars for Sunday 4 December, where we will again celebrate the holidays AND **Jere Anderson's 84th birthday!**



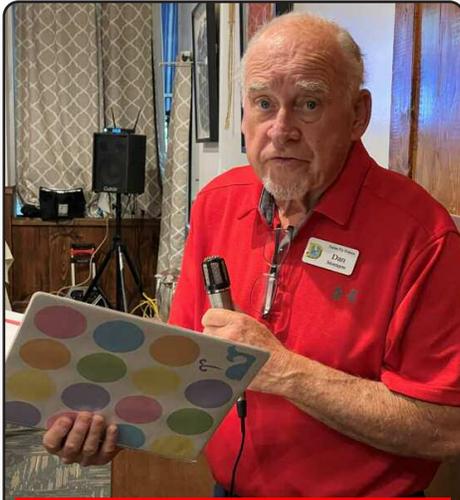
2022 DFF Board: Jere Anderson, Jim Woodman, Jack Janco, Steve Jackson, Mike Becker, LaJan Barnes, Dan Montayne, Julia Bell, Jack Gillis, Jim Latshaw, Dave Shatzer, and Jeff Ziehm



The Raffle Items for the Party



Monthly tying night Instructors



Dan Montayne, Emcee



Monthly fly tying night instructors, Jim Crump and Noah Garrett



Guests



A sample of the DFF Volunteers for 2021

SAVE THE DATE • MARCH 12, 2022



TRWD Flyfest on the Trinity River in Fort Worth.

Online Fly-tying Classes for FFI Program Start in January

Jack Gillis, holder of the FFI Gold Level Fly Tying Award, is offering an online class teaching how to tie the flies needed to achieve the FFI Bronze Level Fly Tying Award, starting in January 2022.

Online classes will occur every two weeks. The first week is guided tying of a Bronze Level Fly. Each participant will tie the fly along with the instructor, then practice two weeks until the next class.

During the second class, participants will tie the same fly to assess their improvement, ask questions and address challenges with the whole class. Classes continue until all flies in the Bronze Level are tied.

If you're interested in this free online class, please email JackGillis@outlook.com as soon as possible to enroll and join the email list.

Outings

by *Jim Woodman*

January is the best month to fish for chain pickerel in eastern Texas lakes. Please join me on Friday, January 21st at Daingerfield State Park. The Park is about 2 hours east of Dallas. There is a small entrance fee (\$4),

ample parking and facilities. I scouted the lake last month - several fishing options from shore fishing to boating options. Park opens at 8am and closes at 5pm. More information can be found at www.texasstateparks.org.

Please let me know if you plan on attending by email at lakebud002@gmail.com.

—*Jim Woodman*
Outings Coordinator

White River Return

by *Mike Becker*

DDF will be returning to the White River on April 11 - 16- 2022 for the fourth consecutive year. Our last two trips were in September and the fishing was great. We are going back to April to take advantage of the abundant spring caddis hatch and hungrier than normal brown trout. We are booking guides through Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher www.theozarkflyfisher.com (a generous donor to our auction). The of us who are RV group is staying at Denton Ferry RV www.dentonrv.com which will be DFF central for this trip. Pat and I have booked a room at His Place Resort www.hisplaceresort.net which

is next door to Denton Ferry RV and an easy walk between the properties.

Fair warning, guides, rooms and RV spaces tend to book quickly. If you are thinking about going, don't wait to make reservations. For further information, contact **Mike Becker** 214-288-3885 or kuduguy@verizon.net.

—*Mike Becker*

Fly Fishing Skills I & II Classes

by *Dutch Baughman*

Dallas Fly Fishers is pleased to announce that Fort Worth Fly Fishers has partnered with club member **Dutch Baughman** to offer an exclusive Fly Fishing Skills I & II education series to its membership. This course is also available to paid members of Dallas Fly Fishers.

For several years, Dutch has provided this course through the Tarrant County College Senior Education Program where it has consistently been one of most sought after course offerings within their senior

education program. We have several program “graduates” within our membership who can testify to the benefits of the course to both new and inexperienced anglers. This year, Dutch will be offering the in-person classes at Tarrant County College and online through Zoom.

This 10-week course focuses on a wide range of topics, including how to select gear, fly tying basics, rigging, knots, reading water, introductory entomology, safety, fly selection, etiquette and, most

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Fly Fishing Skills I & II Classes

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importantly, how to catch more fish. This is really a “soup-to-nuts” program where participants can expect to acquire the skills necessary to move forward on their fly fishing journey. Participants will not only understand the “what” of fly angling but also acquire a comprehensive understanding of the “whys.” Dutch’s relaxed education style, combined with his extensive knowledge, makes this class both fun and informative.

Program Details:

Beginning Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Time: Skills I: 5:30 PM-6:50 PM; **Skills II:** 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Location: In-Person at Tarrant County College NE Campus, 828 W. Harwood Rd., Hurst; Online via Zoom

Registration deadline: January 15, 2022, or until classes fill

Cost: \$20 In-Person & No Charge Online**

** This offer is limited to current paid members of Fort Worth Fly Fishers or Dallas Fly Fishers. **Registrants MUST be a current paid member to register for the Zoom sessions.** Non-member or expired members desiring to participate must acquire current membership status in either club prior to submitting the attached registration form.

If you have not already completed membership requirements for your 2022 membership, please visit your designated club at fortworthflyfishers.org or dallasflyfishers.org.

About Dutch:

Steelheader

Fly Fishers International:

Vice President

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chair, Education Committee

Chair, Fly Fishing Skills, Learning Center

FFI Awards:

2019 Fly Fisher of the Year

2019 Presidents Medal

2020 Darwin Atkins Fly Tying Award

Texas Council FFI, Board of Directors

Member: Fort Worth Fly Fishers; Dallas Fly Fishers

Fly Fishing Instruction, 2-hand casting, Fly Tying Instruction

Texas Parks and Wildlife, Certified Angler Education Instructor

Texas Parks and Wildlife, Area Chief

Demonstration Fly Tyer:

FFI National Expo, many years

Roadkill Roundtable, many years

Northwest Fly Tyers Expo, many years

Sow Bug Rendezvous, many years

Hooking Yourself in the Foot

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tyng Coordinator

Fly fishermen want to think they can entice a fish to bite or feed every time they venture to the water. Not so. Many fly fishers hook themselves in the foot (as the saying kind of goes), because they apply the same old tactics time after time, tactics that have repeatedly failed to present favorable harvests. They fall into the rut of asking themselves, “What size should I use? Where do I throw? How does the pattern fish? What color should it be?” However, these same enthusiasts should be asking, “What pattern do I know Truly Works?”

Allow me to shed a little light on what you should consider asking. Try this the next time you venture out to duel the angry bass and timid bluegill.

Ask yourself: What is my Go-To search pattern? Don’t have one? Why not? A search pattern is simply that. It is the primary tool in finding the probable location of holding or

cruising fish. How do I use a search pattern to cover the most water where fish feed? Once I find them, what should I do next?

The best response for addressing these questions is as follows. Choose, create, or enlarge a favorite pattern to attract the attention of all fish in your warm water environment. A simple example pattern, as most fly fishers know, is the Woolly Bugger (Streamer). Select a medium size 10, 2x or 3x long, wide gap hook. Now apply wrapped lead, a bead or cone head, or eyes that will sink to the mid-water column. Next, estimate the water depth of the area you are working. Observation: Most times we tend to fish in ponds and waters that are less than 8 feet deep. With that being said, consider presenting your search pattern at 4 feet or at half the total depth. This search depth is usually ideal, because the bottom fish can see it above them. The suspended fish will see it head on, and the top water fish frequently dive to

mid-column to escape the predator birds. Therefore, you are in the best ZONE for locating fish.

Now let’s say that your pattern and strategy are working. You’re delivering your fly to a fishy looking zone, and you get a bump. Somehow, you miss it. Once this happens, pause and focus on the circumstances that just occurred. Make a mental list: the distance from shore the strike occurred, the depth, the speed of the retrieve, and notice if the fish hit the fly on the fall or at a pause. That reviewed, try a recast slightly left or right of the last target. Why? That fish has already moved. Its senses have heightened, and it’s hunting for what just zipped past its nose. It is not sitting there waiting to be fed. Repeat the cast and repeat again! Visualize a circle, about 3 feet in diameter, around the last cast area. Most fish, when spooked or surprised, move a few feet to safe cover. Try thinking like the fish!

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Hooking Yourself in the Foot

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New fly fishers, try this. Limit the number of casts toward a given target to two (2). Whipping the water above a probable fish usually results in a duck and cover response. Many new casters land short of target and keep hitting the same spot, over and over again. This does nothing but decrease your chances of finding the mother lode of catchable fish. Discipline yourself to retrieve from the point of water where the fly landed. The chances of fish under or near that point (three feet circle) are better than you might think. Fish the pattern toward you from where it landed. Load, cast, and retrieve again.

Another downfall of many anglers is staying in the same spot too long. Are you searching for fish with no results? MOVE! Ten to fifteen feet can change the entire picture. Make three or four casts, and move until you find them. It has been said that most waters have a small percentage of fish holding areas. They are not everywhere you're throwing. Wisely cover the water and shore line that offer the depth, shade, and safety for fish. Many times fishy looking spots are just that. Move on and keep presenting your pattern.

Hint: Want to double your chances of catching even more fish? Use a Short Dropper fly trailing

your search pattern. This is so effective that I rarely fish a single fly rig any more. When attached properly, this combination seldom tangles, and it throws as well as a single fly. Thus, you've doubled your chances of finding fish and possibly catching varied species on each cast.

One further finding, over the last six months our featured tiers have presented go-to patterns tied with bead chain eyes. This attribute instantly represents a regular food source. Is it a coincidence that these style patterns catch a lot of fish?

Let's explore this for a moment. Look for any pattern that imitates the dragonfly nymph or damselfly nymph. Defining features include big eyes, wide thorax, tapered ribbed abdomen, and tail. They live on the bottom of most warm and cold water habitats, snuggled under dead leaves and debris, and offer a year round food source for feeding fish. So when this food source darts through the water column, the sign goes up FREE FOOD! For the tiers out there, try tying patterns that mimic this food source. Four step-by-step pattern instructions are available through the 3Rd Tuesday Cabela's tying group. NOTE: In January, 2022, we are presenting two such patterns at our Cabela's

Third Tuesday event. Please join in. Reserve your seat now. Remember, all of these events are free.

Please remember that the observations and suggestions are my own and result from over 60 years of fly fishing.

Search Patterns



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

The world of Diplomats from 190 nations that gathered in Scotland for Climate Conference 26 have returned home. After chastising us all for not trying hard enough to cut carbon emissions, they got back in their 400 CO2 emitting private jets and departed. As I suggested in the November Conservation Corner, much would be said, but it would be hard to find much that was done. This was best expressed (IMO) by the Swedish Teenager Greta Thunberg, who when asked what was going on in there by the Media types said, "Blah, blah, blah." I probably could not have expressed it better.

How did all this get started? Was it ever a true science thing? It is dominated by politics and the nations scrambling to divide up the money now. The USA held Earth Day on Arbor Day of 1970. It fired up a lot of enthusiasm for looking at our planet and trying to evaluate what needed to be done. It had three goals; cleaner water, less

atmospheric pollution, and to prepare for the coming ice age. Two out of three ain't bad.



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That momentum led to the First Earth Summit in Stockholm Sweden in 1972. That was also the year that the famed British Scientist, Professor Hubert Lamb who was an English climatologist, founded the Climatic Research Unit in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia. Yet Professor Lamb knew that today's temperatures were a long way from the highest they ever were. There is fossil evidence of dense jungle vegetation and an animal that resembles the modern Alligator north of the Arctic Circle in Canada.

While Prince Charles, who will be Charles III when he becomes king was blowing in the wind inside the conference, we are reminded that England has been working of climate change for over 360 years. Lamb had said he believed that between the 10th and the 13th centuries that the North Atlantic regions were the warmest in post glacial times. In fact, he believed that this Medieval Warm Period was a lot warmer than we are today. With temperatures of between .7 degrees and 1.4 degrees warmer than today, it enabled the Norse people to migrate to and settle Iceland and the coast of Greenland. His views were featured in the first report (AR1) in 1990.

Historically, on January 11, 1662, the English Parliament passed a resolution that His Majesty King Charles II wanted everyone to fast and pray for winter to come. It was January in Merry Olde England and still summer like. The roses had not even shed their leaves like they do in winter. Due to no cold at all, the English Rivers that usually freeze solid were still acting like May or June. Fasting and prayer may be more effective than much of what came out of COP 26. In any case, King Charles II who loved the winter carnivals on the frozen Thames River got the weather to return to "normal" the next year. It cost a lot less than all the 100 billion pledges from Glasgow, too.

During his later years, Lamb was skeptical of certain claims regarding the dangers posed by global warming. An empiricist at heart, and aware of the complexities of the climate system, he felt that climate models were limited in their ability to provide accurate forecasts. As he observed in 1994, "there has been too much theory and not enough fact in predicting the future". He had found a new orthodoxy to challenge.

Yet Lamb, as much as any scientist, prepared the ground for the research on anthropogenic climate change, and the public and political acceptance of the threat that would result in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — the international community's initial response to this environmental problem.

The next AR2 document that came out in about 5 more years was led by Michael Mann who had taken over the Climate Research Department formed by Lamb. This is the guy what had some statistical magic that drew the famed Hockey Stick graph. This exaggeration of what the temperature was going to do was long ago found to be false. This was the beginning of the end of real science and the transition to total political posturing in the Climate Change World.

This year's COP 26 accomplished little, and in fact they backtracked and failed to pass resolutions to evolve and define most of what came out of the 2015 Climate Conference, the so-called Paris Accords. The participants are going to try again next year in Egypt at COP 27. I was amazed to have them fess up to the fact that the famous 1.5 degrees that is purported to be the end of our civilization is from the base of 1850, or the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. They came out clearly that they are worried about getting to 1.5 degrees from that early level, which has already risen 1.1 degrees. Not many of us were aware that they think an additional .4 degrees will be too much for our planet.

So, is there anything in this meeting to take away? I personally am concerned about the Deforestation issue. Preservation of the trees is important from several perspectives. There is more than just one problem here. In the USA the Earth Day committees pledged to plant 7.4 billion trees before Earth Day 50. That is one tree for every man, woman, and child on the planet. This project is probably going to be very close to a success. The folks doing this are just thinking about carbon sequestering.

So why is managing deforestation important? What is it really, and how will it affect the Climate? The basic issue to me is that we have been over-harvesting our forests, and not seeming to care. When the early settlers moved off the Atlantic Coastal Strip in the 1700's and looked inland, they saw endless forests. They saw unlimited lumber for homes and barns, and land to clear for crops and cattle. Nobody seemed to worry about running out of trees. As long as we could just move further west as the trees got thinner, there was no need to worry. It is only quite recently that humans as a group seem to have noticed that our endless pillaging from nature is upsetting the balance of the cosmic wonder that is our planet. So it is important to realize that there are several different flavors of deforestation, and each has a place and needs a solution that fits in with its niche in the balance of nature on our entire planet.

First The people with survival level lifestyles need fuel for heat and to cook. If we are not going to make coal available to them, they must cut wood from nature. I will leave this one alone except to say that the survival level villages in Central Africa need fuel. Before you say stop cutting trees, I think they need an answer to that question. What carbon-based fuel will we give them?

Second it is imperative that the clear cutting of jungle in the nations near the Equator must be better controlled. In these tropical jungles the soil organisms that do composting are so active that the jungle soil is not very fertile. So, to take off the trees and plant crops is usually not very productive. We are losing valuable unique plant life and getting poor farmland. Worse than that IMO is the loss of Jungle Plants and Animals. Most of our medicine has a background of natural organic compound. If we clear-cut that jungle, how many cures for dread conditions are we possibly losing without getting to study them in the Universities? And we fly tiers have a rich heritage of classic

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The Conservation Corner

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flies from the British Empire that depend on feathers from some truly beautiful life forms that are now extinct due to over harvesting and habitat destruction. We of all people should understand the great loss due to tropical jungle destruction and what a rich mixture of unique birdlife is now extinct. This must stop.

Third, our forests in the USA are having catastrophic consequences from fires. These are being blamed on warmer weather, but as a young person growing up in the well forested land of the Pacific Northwest, I can offer some insight on this one. Basically, I see this as a failure to properly manage our forests. Several years ago, the Forest Service and the Forest Industries got together. They debated if it was their failure to properly manage the forests or if it was Climate Change. The question is really were they failing to administrate and manage the forest or was it a powerful and mysterious evil called Climate Change. Do you need to ask what their conclusion was??

So how are we mis-managing the forests? Think back on the middle of the last century. The forest service was building access roads into the forest and patrolling for dead wood due to disease and insect infestations, and clusters of mature trees that were too dense to be healthy, they would mark the trees that needed to be thinned out. Then the logging industry would build logging roads to a point near the marked trees and log off the trees the forest service wanted out. Many rural young people got good summer jobs working these projects. We also got clearings that gave the deer meadows to graze in and places for the Does to have their Fawns and raise healthy young animals. We outdoor lovers got ready access to millions of acres in the Pacific Northwest, and the Forest Service could get to fires while they were small.



This process gave good access to the forest and less undergrowth, so fires did not get so hot and so impossible to extinguish while they were just a few acres after a lightning storm. The result was a much healthier forest and far fewer acres consumed by wildfire after our summer electric storms. In addition, the access along all these smaller roads was good for hunters, fishermen and family campers to get back in the far reaches of the forests.

The Native Americans for millennia before the Europeans migrated here were doing a good job of managing the forests. They would burn

undergrowth out so when a fire came it would stay on the ground and not become a Crown Fire. How this worked is that most fires started on the ground. But if the ground fire gets hot enough it goes up and runs through the treetops. If you do not let the fuel build up on the forest floor, it is less likely to do that. It will just burn on the ground until the summer rains put the fire out. So, the controlled burns of our native tribes were a powerful tool against monster roaring fires. We also use the logging roads to get into the hot spots and put them out. Either way the million-acre monsters that destroy so much property in CA these last few years would be much less likely to get out of control and turn into the roaring monster fires.

In my High School years, the Forest Service had Lookout Towers on strategic high points. After a major electric storm, the young people manning these isolated locations would look for smoke. If they saw any, they would phone in the compass direction from their tower of the smoke source. Another tower would find it too, and the cross location of the two line of sight reports would pinpoint the fire while it was still not much bigger than a small brush fire. A pickup truck load of trained fire guys would be dispatched, and thanks to all the one lane roads, they could usually get very close to the fire. A short hike and a day or two of digging out the hotspots and the forest was saved major destruction. Of course, it took a brave young man to be trapped in the top of a steel tower on a high ridge in a really big electric storm.

So between the practice of getting a crew on the little fires and logging off the trees that were ready to be harvested, the forest was more open, and sunlight got into the woods which made the trees grow faster and stronger. All in all, my point is that active management of the forests resulted in better, bigger and more open forests, just like active management of orchards makes better yields of crops.

However, the misguided policies of the second half of the last century decided to protect the forest and not allow logging. The fact that logging in the manner of selective removal of trees that needed to come out clearly was a tool for improving our forests and was not destroying them. The Clear-Cutting of millions of acres needed to stop, but well managed logging does not just cut them all and leave a mess. Billions of board feet of good lumber has been left in the forest after a fire, or a diseased forest has a big die-off. This does not help the forest. Even standing timber after a fire can be harvested and the forest allowed to rebuild itself.

So, what is Jere saying here? I am saying that to stop the giant forest fires that kill people and destroy billions of dollars' worth of personal property, we should go back to the selective logging forest management of the 1950'. It will improve our forests and make them more healthy and even better able to soak up the greenhouse gasses and turn them into a beautiful forest again. A health forest can make wood fiber out of rain and CO2 and some minerals. We need to make the forest thrive, and so I suggest that good management is a large part of the solution.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

WOW! What a year. After the activity level came back a little this last fall, we had a nice quiet December except for our Holiday Party. Julia has the pictures from the party. We are also settled in a new venue for meetings and are back in the Plano Center for the March Fund Raiser Auction. I am ready to hope that we are getting the outdoor world going again. Won't that be great? More fishing outings seem to be in our future and the annual trout stocking season too.. We have a great group of Officers, Committee Chairmen and Members in this very active club that volunteer abundantly. So we are ready, willing and able to get rolling again.

We have reached the end of our year. I will miss the many canceled items on our 2021 menu of outdoor events, some of which we had been doing for a decade. However small group fishing outings and the teaching events are looking good for 2022. The new Club Calendar in the January 2022 Leader has a ton of fun stuff to do in it. As Lauren Bacall's line from Key Largo went; "Hang on to your hats, this is going to be a bumpy ride."

About the time you get this, our first event, the beloved DBU Outdoor Experiences Class will be upon us. It only takes three or four to teach on Monday, and this year the Tuesday Fishing Outing was hoping to be in the TFFC. Unfortunately, the TFFC is on their winter schedule, so they are closed on Tuesdays. The first of the trout outings will have to be a DFF mission.

The January Meeting is a celebration of the club's 50th Birthday. The Whitlock's are our guests and speaker. They have been with us for the whole distance. I am sure this will be a meeting to remember.

Then the third Tuesday is the resumption of the Dan Montayne Warm Water Fishing Seminars. These will be every month on the third Tuesday in the Cabela's Conference Room. The first one will feature two of the best and a lot of fun. Reservation can be had from Dan, and it is very important to get one, and to be there. If you can't at the last minute, be sure to cancel. The room almost totally sells out and so it is important to not have someone miss the fun because of a reservation that does a no-show.

January will also see two of our biggest crowd events. The Carrollton Basic Fly Fishing Certificate and the Plano Senior High School Events are both able to need a dozen volunteers. So here is your chance. If you want to find out how good it feels to educate a few more of the public into the basics of our sport, these are both good ones. Contact Richard Johnson to be a part of this.

All in all just look at the Calendar on page 3. A major surge like we have not had since early 2020 is our schedule. The most important one is the Fund Raising Auction that is in place of our March Meeting. It will be at the Plano Center, and everyone is invited. Never miss one of these. Too much good stuff is available. Our

club has been careful with funds, but we have missed this event which is our usual major source of the funds to run the club with for a few years now. Help us get back in the groove again.

Looking forward, some very good opportunities for some great public events are coming in February and March. Starting in February with the Red River Rendezvous led by the Red River Fly Fishers is a good time with fly tyers and casters.

The TU Troutfest at the Lazy L&L Campground near New Braunfels is the big event led by a very large Trout Unlimited Group. Find the details on Facebook.

Then the Fly Fishing and Brew Festival deserves our support, and it is in Mesquite. A full page ad is in this newsletter.

And then comes our Auction. Be sure to get to this one, and it is easy to remember, since it is on the date of our regular March Meeting.

You get the idea. In addition, opportunities abound to get involved in Angler Education. That is a big mission of the DFF and FFI. Spread the word, teach the skills, and create more active fly fishers.

**Let's try to get 2022
off to a good start.**



-Jere

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along

with your check to:

Dallas Fly Fishers
8349 Club Meadows Dr.
Dallas, Tx 75243

You can also join or renew online at

<http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html>

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

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Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

E-mail address: _____

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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