

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ February 2022
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

The DFF's 50th Anniversary year has begun quite well! To kick off the festivities, at our January meeting, **Calinda and Paul Locklear** graciously gifted the club a handsome wooden plaque they crafted commemorating our 50th year as a club; we debuted the commemorative club hat and pin; **Pat Vanek** shared his most successful, go-to White Bass fly patterns; and Pat taught us how to effectively target both White Bass and Stripers in preparation for the White Bass Run.

I love Texas' winter fly fishing season. Our cold-water species finally get their chance at some attention. There's much talking and buzz about fishing for trout on the Guadalupe; East Texas' Chain Pickerel are active and eating, especially those TPWD stocked trout, and our fly boxes get restocked with two, annual fly tying events, the Red River Rendezvous hosted by the Red River Fly Fishers at Eisenhower State Park, and the **Dr. Ed Rizzolo** Annual Fly Tying Festival hosted by the Texas Flyfishers of Houston. When the pandemic hit Texas in March of 2020, the two fly tying festivals had already occurred; however, 2021 saw both events cancelled. Fortunately, both events have returned to our calendars and this year, I plan on tying flies for White Bass, Carp, and Walleye (yes, Texas has Walleye!).

Cody and I have two favorite water bodies to fish in Texas, one is Lake Amistad NRA and the other is the Nueces River. While we might not make it to Amistad this year, one of the ideas we had about fly fishing in 2022 was to fish all over the state chasing species in their prime fishing stages—

Walleye at Lake Meredith NRA, Chain Pickerel in East Texas, which we did on the DFF January outing, White Bass in February in the Hill Country, Paddlefish on Caddo (but on the Louisiana side, as it is illegal to catch Paddlefish in Texas waters), Redfish and Tarpon on the coast, and fun day trips in between. Mother Nature may slow our pursuits, though. The La Niña effect (colder sea-surface water temperatures in the Pacific near the equator, which alters tropical rainfall and heat, which impacts the northern hemisphere's Pacific Jetstream) already has 96% of Texas in various degrees of drought that we haven't seen since 2013 and 2011. When drought conditions on this scale occur, fishing trips take some detailed planning.

Two websites that help me understand what is happening on a water body I don't personally see on a daily or weekly basis are the National Integrated Drought Information System, NIDIS, <https://www.drought.gov/states/texas>, and the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/rt>. The NIDIS supplies weekly drought conditions and allows site visitors to select specific counties to research. After seeing what conditions are in the area I'm wanting to fish, I visit the USGS website and search for the nearest gauging stations, both upstream and downstream of my targeted area. To get the best data, I check the box "All 3 Available Parameters [precipitation, discharge, and gage height] for this site," and I add the gage site numbers for both the upstream and downstream gages, so I can determine not only water flow, cfs, but the

height or gage of the water body. Most often, people look only at the cfs, but that doesn't translate to how high/low the water is, so water flow and water height data create a better understanding. Checking the precipitation feature lets me know if I can expect clear or muddy conditions. Having monitored both counties' drought conditions and several gauging stations, I fear our 2022 Texas fly fishing season is going to be shorter, hotter, and limited due to not wanting to add further stress on already harrowed fish, and that better fishing opportunities lie out-of-state.

Here's to bent tips and happy days and RAIN—lots of RAIN,

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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DDF 2022 Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

Due to possible travel restrictions for **Landon Mayer** our February 7th meeting will be ZOOM only. We continue to meet the first Monday of the month for most months, holidays exceptions are July (11th) and September (12th) when we will meet on the second Monday for those months. In addition, we will hold our annual **Christmas/holiday party** on the first Sunday in December 4, 2022.

We continue to 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 and when they are possible. We will resume our in-person meetings April 4th. Please join us 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 on the east side of highway 75. This location has ample parking and easy access to food between the tying session and the meeting.

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 starts at 7 PM.

January 10th - Thank you to **Pat Vanek** for being flexible to be our first guest speaker to kick off our 50th Anniversary. **Dave Whitlock** could not attend due to the increase in the virus outbreaks. But Dave will be our speaker in April. Pat gave an excellent presentation of fly tying, and where and when to catch the white bass run, which starts in March and sometimes goes through April.

Sunday **February 6th Tying Workshop - THIS WILL BE ZOOM ONLY.** **Landon Mayer** is offering a special fly tying workshop Sunday 6 - 8 PM CST. Due to possible travel restrictions for Landon, he will host this workshop via zoom. The cost is \$60/per person, with no limitation of participants. Registration and payment required before attendance. Go to the DFF website to register: <https://www.dallasflyfishers.org/landon-mayer-workshop.html>. Deadline to register is January 30th. If you have any questions email **LaJan Barnes (nlbarnes@aol.com)**. All those who register will be sent a list of fly tying materials needed and the zoom link prior to the workshop.

February 7th - THIS WILL BE A ZOOM ONLY MEETING. 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 from his book: 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 - In-person Auction! 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. 😊

April 4th - We continue to celebrate the DFF 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>.

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** will be making a presentation on fly fishing in a saltwater environment. We hope to be able to offer a fee-based saltwater fly fishing workshop the weekend before. Stay tuned for details.

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

November 7th - TPWD River Access Program, Speaker TBD.

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

2022 CALENDAR:

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

February 6th - **Landon Mayer** will have a Zoom fly tying class. Find the notices in your Club E-mails and on page 2.

February 7th - February DFF Meeting. Our speaker will be **Landon Mayer**. This class will be all zoom, please see the meeting notice.

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. **The Whitlock's** have agreed to give their Trout Fly Program, and have a question and answer session. What a great opportunity to interact with the great **Dave Whitlock**.

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 / FFFF Colorado Outing. The DFF part is coordinated by **Jeff Ziehm**.

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

Dallas Fly Fishers

Income & Expense Statement

For the Twelve Months Ended 12/31/21

<u>Income</u>	
Membership income	\$ 6,950
Raffle income	520
Athens Fly Fishing Festival income	4,200
DFF shirt sales	65
Christmas party income	2,700
Contributions income	1,480
Total income	\$ 15,915

<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter expense	\$ 2,412
Speaker expense	3,439
Meeting room rental	1,778
FFI Dues	466
Athens Fly Fishing Festival expense	5,217
Administrative expenses	1,603
Auction expense	350
Liability insurance expense	450
Christmas party expense	2,354
Outing expense	490
Al Hillman memorial	615
Donations	50
DFF shirt expense	61
Total Expense	\$ 19,285
Net (Loss)	\$ (3,370)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 15,784

2022 DFF Auction

It's only six weeks away! Of course, I am talking 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, unless you bring a friend. If you bring a friend, its FREE for both of you! 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 committee will be making available complete listings of both the Silent Auction and Live Auction items. In a week or two, we will send out an email when these Auction item lists are available on the DFF website, <https://www.dallasflyfishers.org/auction>. These listings will be helpful in recruiting others to attend our Auction. There are donated Guide trips available to almost every fly fishing desire. So be on the lookout for the Auction email.



Dallas Fly Fishers

Fundraiser AUCTION

PLANO EVENT CENTER
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. • Plano, TX 75074

Monday
MARCH 7TH
5:30PM until 8:30PM

ADMISSION \$10 DFF member
FREE for both Attendees if you bring a Non-DFF Flyer/Guest.

FINGER FOOD & CASH BAR AVAILABLE

AUCTION FEATURES:
Orvis 5 wt. H3 | Fishing Kayak
Lifetime Dallas Fly Fishers Membership
Full Day Guided Trips to:
Arkansas • Colorado
New Mexico • Texas Gulf Coast

Live Auction • Buy-It-Now • Silent Auction • Raffle

For More Information - Visit www.dallasflyfishers.org/auction.html or Call 214-202-2826



RED RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Eisenhower State Park

February 4, 2022
Setup
2:00pm to 7:00pm

Dinner provided bring your own drinks

February 5, 2022
7:00am to 4:00pm
Breakfast and lunch provided
bring your own drinks

The Red River Fly Fishers will be hosting their annual fly-tying extravaganza.

Activities:

- Learn to tie flies
- Learn from and visit with some of North Texas most accomplished tiers
- Learn fly casting
- Improve your casting

Cost: State Park Entrance Fee
For more information:
www.rfff.org



25th Annual International Sowbug Roundup

March 24, 25 & 26, 2022
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Mountain Home, AR
Baxter County Fairgrounds

Admission \$10.00 for all three days
Adults with kids 12 and under admitted free

Guests of Honor
Dave & Emily Whitlock

More than 150 Fly Tyers
Vast Variety of Vendors
Great Auctions and Raffles
Free Fly Fishing Seminars
Free Fly Tying Classes
Free Prizes for Kids

www.sowbugroundup.org
Sowbugroundup@sowbugroundup.org

Many of the Dallas Flyfishers go to this one. **Dave Smith** and I get there early and set up at the table across from the Whitlock Booth. Dave has won a prize in the fly tying contest and we all win stuff in the endless bucket raffles. Don't miss this one. Lots of reasonably prices Hotels in town, and some pretty good food.

-Jere

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GREG WELANDER

DANA WILLIAMS

PAT DORSEY

JERRY HAMOND

GARY DUBIEL

CHRIS JOHNSON

CYBIL JONES

KIRK DEETER

KARLIE ROLAND



txflyfishingfestival.com



2022
SPONSORS



6th Annual DFF Fly Fishing Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch

April 9, 2022

7:30 am to 1 pm

In rural Ellis County at the properties of
Jeff & Catherine Gannon & Family
1234 Sugar Ridge Rd
Ennis, TX 75119

Sign up with name and number of fisherpersons
via email to gannon.jeff@gmail.com or text 214-608-7507 or DFF
FB page

Bring your own camping chair and beverages. Bottled water will
be available. Social distancing will be observed by sitting apart
with your chairs. Wear a mask when appropriate.

Menu

Pastries and Coffee in the morning

A Chick-fil-A box lunch at noon will be provided.
Bottled water available or BYOB if you wish

Fishing Info

Easy fishing for beginners and as fish are close to shore so casting
expertise is not required.

3 Ponds totaling ~10-15 acres stocked with Bass (some 6# or more),
Panfish (some > 1#), and Catfish of ? weight.

Onsite transportation to/from ponds provided as needed.

Contact Jeff for directions if needed. Google Maps has proper location

Trout Stockings

by *Jim Woodman*

Texas Parks and Wildlife stocks trout throughout North Texas in February. From mid Nov. to mid Feb. TPWD posts planting locations and planting dates on its website, please see https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml.

Some recommendations: The day of the stocking draws large crowds so its best to visit the site 2-3 days after the stocking. A good technique is a weighted nymph with some flash, sizes 14 - 18. I recommend an indicator (float) 18 inches above the fly. No more than a 4wt rod and 5X tippet. License required and limit of 5 per day. February stockings scheduled for ponds in Garland, Prosper, Rockwall, Dallas, Lewisville, Mesquite, Arlington, Denton, McKinney, Frisco and Dennison.

Joint South Fork Outing, DFF and FFFF

by *Jeff Ziehm*

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FFFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado this July. Dates for 2022 are July 16-23.

It is the responsibility of the attendees to make their own travel and hotel plans and bring their own gear. There is fishing available that will satisfy most anglers, small creeks, large rivers, and high mountain lakes.

Our home base will be the Ute Bluff Lodge.

<https://www.utablufflodge.com>

If they are full, there are many other lodging options in South Fork.

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal "where did you go today and how did you do?" gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday the 16th mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fishing in the afternoon, and next 5 days, returning home on the 23th or 24th.

You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque, and rent a car.

If you have any questions, contact **Jeff Ziehm**, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.



The Perfect Opportunity

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tyng Coordinator

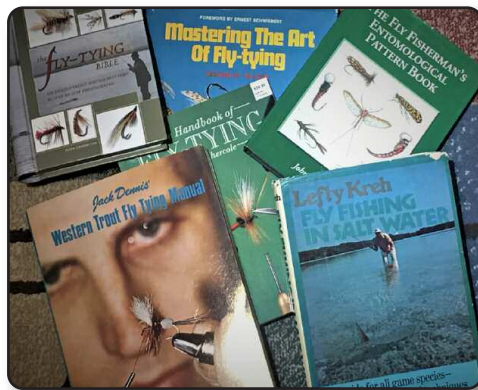
Question: Aside from your phone or tablet, what is a highly portable form of information that can be accessed when, where, and at any time you wish?

Hint: It is a medium for recording information in the form of writing or images. It is typically composed of many pages made of papyrus, parchment, vellum, or paper which are bound together and protected by a cover.

You got it....a book, especially a self-help book or article. This form of learning introduces us to basic and advanced skills that inform and challenge our minds. Sometimes we even use this handy resource as a way of knowing just how much we don't know.

Now, focus on fly tying at your present level and think about why it is important to revisit or start your own reference library. Over the years of my fly tying tenure, I have found certain reference materials which I return to annually, sometimes monthly, and occasionally weekly. These gems hold importance for a number of reasons. Some references offer patterns, recipes, and

techniques that I revisit frequently while a few hold priceless notes and memories of bygone experiments and hideous creations.



Fly tying books also become a constant source for learning from present and past mentors. Sadly, we can't learn directly from historic, fly tying masters; however, we can benefit indirectly from them through the books they wrote to help people like us. So....books supply a highly reliable, renewable, and sustainable source of wisdom. These gems on a shelf give flight to wings and our imaginations. A tier who can envision ideas will definitely have the power to create them.

This brings us to the perfect opportunity to profit, intellectually and historically, from these time challenged masterpieces. The Dallas Fly Fishers auction is fast approaching on March 7, 2022 at the Plano Event Center. This annual event will present dozens of titles focused on fly fishing and fly tying. The good news is that these literary gems can be yours for tremendous savings on the dollar. Take advantage of this opportunity to refresh or establish your library of books and magazines aimed at placing valuable information at your fingertips. Come to the auction and return home with one or more of these historic resources. Remember, anytime you wish to share these masterpieces with new comers and members, most will welcome them with gracious arms.

Thanks in advance for your purchase of these time-stamped treasures.

The comments and thoughts above are a collection expressed by many who love the art of fly fishing as do I. The assembly and presentation are mine.

Always Something to Learn

by Rex Walker

I usually write about fly casting, but let's spend some time talking about actually fishing.

I met up with **Kit Brown** on the last day of the year to fish the Lower Mountain Fork River in Oklahoma. I was hoping to learn a few spots that don't involve fishing elbow to elbow with everyone else. I ended up learning way more than that.



We spent the day in what used to be called Zone 2, which is an area I have never fished before. Zone 2 has very different water conditions than I am used to in Spillway creek. In Spillway, the main current is easy to identify and you basically fish from one pocket to another. In Zone 2, the river is wider and flows slower which makes the pockets and even the current more challenging to identify.

I learned a lot that day and here are a just a few highlights. There are no secrets here, but they helped me to put some puzzle pieces together.

- **“Foam is home”** – Drifting your flies through the foam line works in Spillway creek and pretty much everywhere else. But what do you do when the surface of the river appears smooth, and the bubbles are scattered across the surface without an obvious foam line? We fished a spot that was covered in what appeared to be random bubbles. But, if you stopped and watched, those “random” bubbles were actually moving in five distinct lines that aligned with the rock ledges under the surface. Once I realized how to read the bubbles in slower moving water, I had multiple fishing lanes available to explore. Spending time observing the river is good, but sometimes it helps to know what to look for.

(Continued on page 8)

- **Casting long leaders** – We fished with a 12-foot leader at times. I don't know if 12 ft leaders are needed on the LMF, but I do know that I had never attempted to cast a leader that long and it was a humbling experience. If you ever plan to fish a place that requires a long leader, spend some time practicing your casting with long leaders before the trip. That practice will make your time on the water much more enjoyable.
- **Mending in slower water** – I learned a method of mending line that is way too easy. The key is to let the rod do the work. Don't try to use a wrist flip in slower water, that technique doesn't move enough line. Instead, raise your arm from the shoulder and use the rod to lift more of the line from the water and then place it down river. It's a nice simple move that worked extremely well.
- **Sink rate** – My usual way to adjust the depth of flies in a drift is to add or remove split shot. Another way to adjust the depth the flies is extremely obvious, but I had never used it. Want the flies to sink deeper? Just aim your cast further upstream which allows more

time for the flies to sink before reaching the targeted strike zone. Getting hung up on the bottom? Aim your cast more downstream to give the flies less time to sink before reaching the strike zone. Using your cast to adjust the depth of the flies is quicker than adding or removing split shot. Also, once you've finished fishing a section, take two steps downstream and repeat. You'll be fishing a different section of that run with such a simple change.

I'm sure that some of you are reading this and thinking that this guy is an idiot because everything listed is so obvious. Well, I've never claimed to be the smartest guy on the water and nothing listed is new or revolutionary, but this stuff was new to me. That is something that I love about fly fishing, there is ALWAYS something new to learn and new places to fish. Never be afraid to ask questions and learn something new.

Have fun!

—Rex Walker

FFI CI
TFO Rods



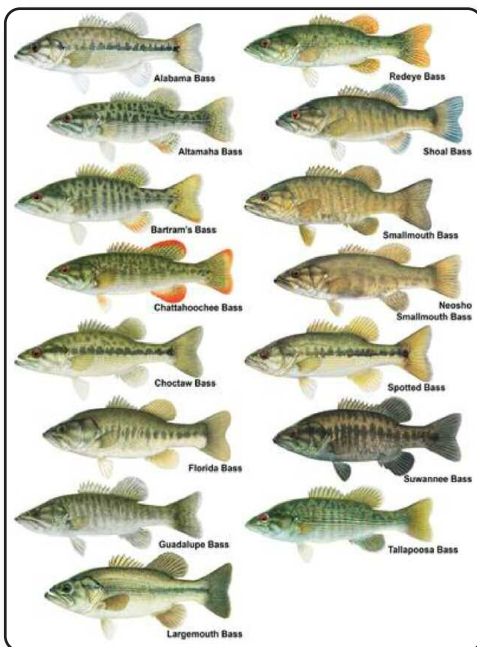
The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

My hot button for 2022 is going to be the ecology of the fish and the state of their environment, especially water for our favorite fishes. I mainly fish the Spiny Ray Family of fish. The Sunfishes, Crappie, and the Black Bass Family. These favorite fish will be most of my focus.

Tom Logan, FFI Conservation Officer has been concerned about Black Bass and has hosted a great presentation a couple of years back. I borrow this with permission from his posting on the FFI Web Site. There is even more in the winter Newsletter of the FFI.

The black bass are a group of freshwater fish native to eastern North America that are extremely popular with anglers. They can be caught in waterbodies that range from small streams to mainstem rivers and from small ponds to large reservoirs. Historically, a few widely distributed bass species have received nearly all the attention. However, the discovery of numerous species over the last two decades has led to a growing interest in the diversity that exists within the group.



Unique species can be captured in many southeastern US drainages, with different species often inhabiting separate habitats within a single river system. Think about that for a moment. If just one widespread pollution event took place in one of these homes to multiple unique species of Black Bass, one or more entire species could be wiped out. What a huge risk.

We Texas Bass Men know this better than most. We are 30 years into the preservation and restoration of our State Fish, the Guadalupe Bass. We owe a huge debt to our Inland Fisheries Division of TPWD. Here is a brief note from Tim Birdsong, Chief of Habitat / Conservation, Inland Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Tim writes.

“To catch a Guadalupe Bass, the official state fish of Texas, from one of the clear, spring-fed rivers of the Texas Hill Country should be on the bucket list of every Texan. Guadalupe Bass are native to central Texas where populations are threatened with local harm from habitat degradation, flow alteration, and hybridization with non-native Smallmouth Bass. These threats are enormously challenging to address, but since concerted efforts to conserve the species were launched in 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and partners have restored or conserved Guadalupe Bass populations in 14 creeks and rivers. This was supported through a litany of conservation actions including conservation stocking of over 2.4 million genetically pure Guadalupe Bass, implementation of nearly 50 habitat restoration

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The Conservation Corner

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Figure 1 - Guadalupe Bass caught on the Llano River upstream of Kingsland (photo credit: **Tim Birdsong**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

or preservation projects, and watershed-scale management of riparian invasive plants in eight watersheds. Restoration of Guadalupe Bass populations is underway in another six rivers, while status assessments are planned for another eight rivers. Although outcomes achieved for Guadalupe Bass represent an incredible conservation success story, continued actions are needed to ensure that current and future generations of Texas anglers can experience this storied fish. To learn more about efforts to conserve Guadalupe Bass, check out TPWD's annual report for the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_rp_t3200_2079_20.pdf.”

Fishing groups like the FFI have developed programs that recognize anglers that catch multiple bass species. It is hoped that this type of engagement will foster a greater appreciation for the lesser-known black bass species and recognition of conservation threats that they face. Our program in the FFI is called “Bass Catch”, and it is very easy to take part in. **Fly Fishers International > Conservation > Projects & Programs > Basscatch** is the full picture from the FFI site. TPWD also has a recognition program of all Texas Species. Look into these programs. It would be great to have a few Bass Catch Awards in our group. Or just hit the water this spring and catch those aggressive spawners of all the species we are so fortunate to have in our local waters.

While it is important to take care of our fish, they and we higher level critters need water. So what is the state of the Texas water? The EPA conducts standard aquatic surveys by site and

state periodically and reports findings to Congress under provisions of the Clean Water Act. The 2017 National Water Quality Inventory reports that 46% of river and stream miles are in poor biological condition, 21% of lakes are hypereutrophic and water quality of 32% of the Nation's wetlands is degraded. Contributing factors include nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer runoff; salinity; acidification; riparian disturbance; excess levels of streambed sediments; and effluents containing enterococci (bacteria). In Texas we also have lots of times where the Winter/spring storms cause huge amounts of erosion damage. While it is unlikely that it can be prevented, it is important to alert TPWD Inland Fisheries to investigate the locations of the more extreme damage. With our part of Texas having one of the highest growth rates in the USA and a drought going on, the two new lakes are arriving just in time.

Warmwater habitats are also experiencing adverse changes caused by invasion of non-native species. Eurasian watermilfoil and elodea are unsuitable as shelter, food or habitat for native fish and aquatic insects and form dense vegetative mats that outcompete native plants. One you all remember is the invasion of Giant Salvinia, the fast growing mats on Caddo Lake in particular. Physical harvesting the plants could not keep up, and barriers did not fence it in very well.



Biocontrol using Salvinia weevils (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*) may also be effective although these weevils are not currently available to the public because production is limited and permits cannot be issued for possession and transport of the giant salvinia containing the weevils. Jere was very concerned about the logic of controlling an invasive plant by bringing in an invasive

insect. It had the potential to be an additional risk. So far it seems to work but the citizens near Caddo Lake who began to reproduce these bugs were brave, to say the least.

Several species of invasive carp reduce vegetation abundance and diversity, stir up sediment, compete with native fish and invertebrates for food sources and increase phosphorus levels in water. Invasive, non-native fishes compete directly with native fish for food and consume their young. A major one of these invasive foreign fish is pictured below.



Silver carp grow to approximately 3 feet in length and can weigh up to nearly 60 pounds. Silver carp are also known and recognizable for their ability to jump several feet out of the water when disturbed by noise from boats, sometimes jumping into boats and injuring boaters. On Facebook and other places videos of people dodging these monsters as they cruise through a section of a river where they are may seem funny, but they are very dangerous. A leaping fish of this size if you hit it can do damage.

In Texas so far they are limited to larger rivers. Silver carp were recently reported from Texas tributaries of the Red River in 2021 but were already known to be present in the waters of the Red River which borders Texas and Oklahoma, where they have been reported as far upstream as the area just below Lake Texoma in 2019.

If you catch one of these invaders fishing below the Lake Texoma Dam, kill it. You may never again see Jere state that some species needs to be arbitrarily killed. But I certainly do not want us to be preserving these invaders.

So fish your casting arm off this spring when it arrives, and write us a short note for the Newsletter. We love fish stories, and the bigger and truer the better. Best wishes for many fishes.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

After our three day winter passed, we have moved ahead with our busy schedule.

The first event of 2022 was the beloved DBU Outdoor Experiences Class. It only took four to teach on Monday. One student was exceptional and learning fast, but as usual they were all active and interested. This year the Tuesday Fishing Outing was hoping to be in the TFFC but unfortunately, the TFFC is on their winter schedule, so they are closed on Tuesdays. So it was back to the Campus Lakes in weather that was sub-freezing for days in a row. To say the frigid fish were not enthusiastic was a huge understatement. And teaching fly casting in 20 MPH wind or better is not our first choice either.

Here is our group picture.



The first of the trout outings, an annual DFF mission, should be underway as you read this.. Here is the first trout stocking at LLELA.



The January Meeting was a celebration of the club's 50th Birthday. **The Whitlock's** were to be our guests and speaker. They have been with us for the whole distance. But they were not able to feel safe with all the new bugs and strange infections. They will be rescheduled later. Our magic program chairperson moved another speaker up. The turnout was good both in person and on zoom.



We have a 50th anniversary hat and pin for sale. Get one at the February meeting if you didn't get one in January.



Pat Vanek was our guest tyer and speaker. Pat was tying flies for the spring's White Bass Run at 5:00 p.m., and the 7:00 p.m. General Meeting program was fly fishing tactics for successfully targeting White Bass. He brought some sample flies from various tiers.



His fly tying demonstrations were fun and looked easy. Here are the flies he tied. They are a unique group of patterns. I need to think about that.

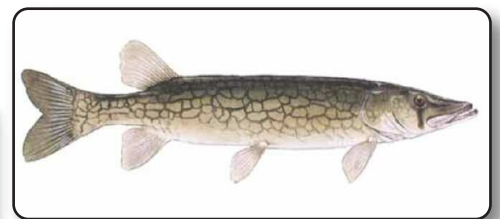


His flies are a lot sparser than most of what I have used, so I learned a lot too.

Pat's favorite way to target White Bass is in crystal clear, skinny, flowing water. Most times in this scenario, you can see the fish take the fly! Pat really enjoys sharing his knowledge of fly fishing for white bass with others both on the water and off. Pat's at home near Crawford with his wife and 15 year old triplets. He currently owns and operates his guide service, Bosque Valley Fly Fishing, guiding fly fishers on the rivers of central Texas and tying custom fly orders.

Then the third Tuesday was to be the resumption of the **Dan Montayne** Warm Water Fishing Seminars. These are planned for every month on the third Tuesday in the Cabela's Conference Room. The room almost totally sells out. However the January session is canceled at the request of Cabela's due to the nasty bugs.

A very interesting outing was on the schedule for January. When **Charlie DuCote** and I were fishing together so many times, we had gone to Lake Daingerfield and its state park. It is one of the few locations with a stable reproducing population of Chain Pickerel. This fish is one of the Pike/Musky family of fishes and I was really excited about fishing them when I was in Minnesota. However, the day bloomed bright and really cold. I am down and up with another (my third) bout with the many Covid Family of bad bugs. So hitting the water on a 21 degree morning just did not resonate with me. However, the world traveling **Bell Family** were there, and when **Julia** responded, they had seen many fish, gotten many follows, but so far no hookups except for **Cody's** big catfish. For your Info, this is what a Chain Pickerel looks like.



I have landed Walleye and Northern Pike. on bait in my past, but this one and on a fly has so far eluded me.

January had a big crowd event. The Carrollton Basic Fly Fishing Certificate was a good one. The weather decided to be a bit less cold, and a huge number of our best volunteers were available to teach. Here is a Class Picture.

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Activity Report

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Lots of good stuff to learn, and lots of smiles.



The casting practice was fun as usual.



Jim Crump tied knots with the group.



Peter Rae tied flies.

If you want to find out how good it feels to educate a few more of the public into the basics of our sport, contact Richard Johnson to be a part of our Education Program.

While we were at it, we certified a new Angler Education Instructor. Congratulations, and you join a great group of dedicated Fly Fishing Wizards.



A new Angler Ed Certificate.

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. The pandemic canceled our last scheduled

Auction, March, 2020, so that means our club has not had the vital Auction revenues for over three and a half years since the last Auction, August, 2018.

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. And the Plano Center is easy to find.

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.



To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to:
 Dallas Fly Fishers
 8349 Club Meadows Dr.
 Dallas, Tx 75243

You can also join or renew online at
<http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html>

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

New Member or Renewing My Membership (Check one) Date _____
 Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Are you a current member of the Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes No (check one)

New Members:
 Annual membership dues: \$36 per year
 After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year
 After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year

Renewing Members:
 Annual membership dues: \$36 per year