

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

I thoroughly enjoyed our 50th anniversary meeting and listening to **Dave Whitlock** teaching how to present nymphs in several different lifecycle stages. I tied my own versions in the hopes of fishing them on the DFF White River Outing. Due to a change in family plans, I had to cancel my participation on the White River. However, I was headed to Central Tennessee for a week, so I packed much of my fly gear including my Whitlock's Caddis Emerger. I visited Fly South in Nashville to book a trip and learn about local fishing. Fly South is a great fly shop with all things fly fishing, including staff who want folks to enjoy fishing. On the drive through Arkansas and Tennessee, I noticed that their Redbuds were beginning to bloom, and upon talking with the Fly South staff, when the Redbuds bloom in Central Tennessee, both the White

Bass and Smallmouths start running. Like us, they too are having a late start to their spring. Regrettably, I did not get to fish any in Tennessee, because there was rain every 24 hours and tailwaters, rivers, and creeks were all blown out, so Colorado will have to be my test waters for Dave's Emerger rigging.

Closer to home, a new fly shop has opened in Plano. **Cody** and I visited Dirty Water Fly Company and its owner, **Danny Soltau**. Danny is a knowledgeable fly fisher and creative fly tyer, and he has packed his shop with unique fly tying materials not commonly seen in other shops. Dirty Water Fly Co has fly rods, nets, offers trips, and Danny welcomes other tyers to join him in some fly tying.

Though a little late in blooming, the Bluebonnets were resplendent just in time for our annual outing at the Gannons on Sunset Ridge in Ellis County. It was good seeing so many folks catching Bluegill and Bass! I experienced a first while fishing the far pond. The female swan and her cygnet were paddling about the pond. The mother had swum to the end opposite from their nest box when the Cygnet called out. The mother reacted by flying back to her offspring. Seeing and hearing that swan fly was breathtaking—the flapping wingspan striking the water, the call, the speed, and

majesty of that flight—oh what an amazing first! It's always a great day at Sunset Ridge!

Earlier this spring, **Jack Gillis** submitted a survey to the membership, and the board is using those results to help direct us with our offerings and planning. I have loved all the fishing outings we've enjoyed in April. Not every month will be packed with this many outings, but we are arranging our outings and 3rd Tuesday fly tyings to target species, some of which require a little travel while others will be in our backyard; some of the events will be on the weekends and others on weekdays. We know not everyone can attend all of our events but check out our calendar and plan to attend the events which fit your schedule. Of particular note, make your reservations at Ute Bluff Lodge soon, if you're planning on attending our 2022 South Fork, Colorado joint-outing with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers. Lastly, I am very excited about May's entomology-on-the-water class and was pleasantly surprised at the membership's desired interest in such a class. **Robert's** enthusiasm and passion for bugs will make for a fun afternoon that will hopefully add to your fly fishing knowledge.

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

—Julia

President, Dallas Flyfishers

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DFF 2022 Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

Keep watch for the meetings that are **in-person** only (e.g., casting clinic in June).

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.

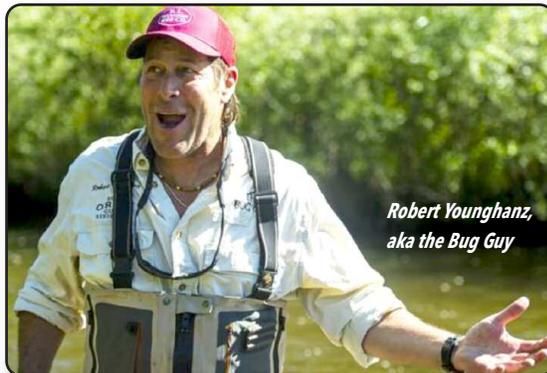
Previous Event:

April 4th with Dave Whitlock – Sorry if you missed Dave Whitlock! This was a high attendance event that we celebrated with cake and balloons while browsing Dave's famed art work. Thank you to Julia and Cody for bringing in the cake. What a way to celebrate the DFF 50th anniversary with the very first speaker at the newly formed Dallas Fly Fishers in 1972. Dave tied a set of three caddis emergers that was presented in the Trout Magazine and talked briefly about how to fish them. What an unusual way to fish. If you missed it, check your email for the recorded version. The story-telling and question and answer session was priceless. Folks took home some of his artwork to proudly display. Unfortunately, Dave's books did not make it to the meeting; however, if anyone wants to purchase one of Dave's books just email Emily and let her know you want to purchase a book and belong to the Dallas Fly Fishers she will have Dave personalize it for you and they will pay for shipping to send it to you (whitlock@davewhitlock.com). I for one had a great time!

Future Meetings and Presentations:

SOLD OUT! May 1st - (Sunday) Streamside Entomology Class by Robert Younghanz, an entomologist, aka, The Bug Guy! We do have a waiting list in case of cancellations.

May 2nd – Our May speaker will be **Robert Younghanz**, The Bug Guy. Robert's presentation begins at 7 PM. Our very own **Barry Webster** will be demonstrating how to tie two nymphs at the 5-6 o'clock hour: the **Polly Rosborough's** Casual Dress and the **Burrowing Mayfly Nymph**. This will be an in-person and Zoom event.



*Robert Younghanz,
aka the Bug Guy*

Robert is an internationally known Aquatic Entomologist, Fly Fishing Guide and Instructor. Robert has been involved in the Fly Fishing industry for close to 20 years. Having traveled to over 60 countries, he is an accomplished angler, teacher, and 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 at Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, Pikes Peak Community College, and the Florissant Fossil Beds Seminar Series through Adams State University. Robert has been a guest lecturer across the Western United States on the topic of Aquatic Entomology and is a Master Fly Fishing Instructor. As a contributing writer to Field and Stream's "Fly Talk" with "The Bug Guy" Robert offers helpful advice on entomology and fly selection to fly fishers all over the globe. Also look for Robert's regular article: Hatch Happening: With The Bug Guy featured in Trout Magazine in every issue. Robert is a Simms Ambassador and Orvis Endorsed Guide and has conducted entomology classes for both Simms and Orvis guides at their national gatherings, as well as for Trout Unlimited and other local organizations across the country. Look for Robert on World Fishing Network, The Fishful Thinker, on Altitude Sports, on ESPN Radio and in Rick Takahashi's, Modern Terrestrials. Be sure and check out Robert's nationally bestselling 2 set DVD: The Bug Guy: Entomology For The Fly Fisher. Additionally, Robert is the owner and lead instructor of the Colorado Fly Fishing Guide Academy, www.cffga.com. Check out Robert's website: www.the-bug-guy.com.

June 6th - CASTING CLINIC BY REX WALKER AND OTHERS. This will be an in-person **ONLY** casting clinic from 6 PM - 8 PM. All skill levels are welcomed. There will be **NO** fly tying session at the 5 PM hour since this will be an outdoor event only. Location: Huffines Park, 300 N Plano Rd, Richardson, TX 75081.

July 11th - Bill Sargeant offers a fly tie-along evening. This will be an in-person and Zoom meeting at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC). In addition, since this is a fly tying event, **we will start the tie-along at 6 PM, no 5 PM tying will be done.** All tying materials will be provided for the surprise flies. Just bring your vise and tools. We need to know how many will attend in person since the materials will be provided. Watch for an email in June to register so the fly material kit for you will be available. Experienced tiers will enjoy tying these advanced patterns. If you are a beginner feel free to tie along or just watch and learn, or sit next to an experienced tyer for help.

August 1st - Dutch Baughman will tie two of his favorite flies during the 5 to 6 PM hour. Then at 7 PM Dutch will talk about how and where to fish these two flies, which will include the fly rod wt, the line type, the leader, etc. You don't want to miss this gem! This will be an in-person and Zoom meeting at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC).

September 12th - Capt. Stacy Lynn will be making a presentation on fly fishing in a saltwater environment. This will be an in-person and Zoom meeting starting at 7 PM. In addition, instead of a fly tying demonstration during the 5-6 PM hour, Stacy will demonstrate saltwater casting in the gymnasium at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), no Zoom for the casting demonstration. Stay tuned for additional details on Stacy's new topic.

October 3rd - Charlie Craven confirmed. Charlie is the owner and operator of Charlie's Fly Box in Arvada, Colorado, USA (www.charliesflyboxinc.com). This will be a fly tying demonstration and storytelling session.

(Continued on page 3)

DFF 2022 Program Schedule

(Continued from page 2)

November 7th - TPWD Night at the Dallas Fly Fishers. Our very own **Keira Quam**, TPWD's Aquatic Education Training Specialist, will be our fly tying guest for the 5-6 PM. **John Botros**, TPWD River Access Coordinator, will kick off our TPWD presenters at 7 PM with highlights of the River Access Program. The River Access and Conservation Areas Program (RACA) lease private streamside properties for public river access for fishing and paddling opportunities. Although currently there are no RACA sites established in the DFW area, there are sites on the Brazos and in East Texas. TPWD hopes by providing

this talk to the DFF that it may lead to opportunities to develop new or improved river access sites in the DFW area. **Tim Birdsong** will wrap up the evening and be talking about targeting different species in Texas and will spotlight high quality river fisheries for a variety of species throughout the state (including Rainbow Trout, White Bass, Guadalupe Bass, Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, and Alligator Gar).

December 4th - Christmas/holiday party. Location TBD

2022 CALENDAR:

April 28th - Fifth April outing is 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, but his on the water weekend entomology class is full.

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 21st - Carrollton Basic Fly Fishing Class.

May 23rd-24th - Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Experiences Class.

June 4th - Carrollton Kid Fish Day. Lots of fun but lots of volunteers needed.

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

June 10th-11th 9th - Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing. One of the great events in the DFF Year.

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

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

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

August 1st - **Dutch Baughman**, the chairman of the FFI Learning Center and a great teacher of fishing skills will tie a few flies and then teach us how to use them to the best advantage.

September 12th - **Captain Stacy Lynn** will teach a bit about Salt Water Fly Fishing to our group of fresh water fly rod users.

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

October 3rd - **Charlie Craven**, owner of Charlies Fly Box in Colorado. We will tie a fw flies and then have a group discussion.

October 3rd-7th - DBU Fall Outdoor Experience on two of these days.

November 7th - TPWD Night at the Dallas Flyfishers.

December 4th - The Holiday Party, location TBD.

8th Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival
June 10th and 11th at Lake Athens Marina and RV Center

Featuring:

- Two Fly Fishing Challenges
- Casting Instruction
- Fly tying demos and instruction
- Casting contest
- Lots of prizes, food, fun and fellowship

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Johnny -- (972)-697-7096 - johnny2448@gmail.com - johnnyonthefly.com

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The 2022 DFF Fund Raiser Auction

by *Dave Shatzer*

The 2022 DFF Fundraiser Auction was held Monday, March 7, 2022, and it was, indeed, a success for your club. Our new auction site, the Plano Event Center, turned out to be an improved venue to host this vital event. We had tons of gear and trips which drew the most spirited bidding that we have seen. The DFF is proud of all of you that donated items, donated hundreds of hours to help set it up, and most of all who loudly and proudly bid for their favorite items.

Now for the bottom line. The 2022 Auction was the most successful in our history. There were 89 registered bidders which is an excellent number to drive the Auction's success. We had 41 Live Auction items and 212 Silent Auction items. We made \$13,764 Net Income/Profit which was an 17% increase over the highest previous total. Our Gross Revenue at the 2018 Auction was the highest ever, and this year, we increased it 11% to \$17,844. One area where this increase can be attributed, is in the Live Auction where Percent of Retail was 63%. For example, if a Guide Trip was retail of \$450, then we averaged 63% or \$283.50. Frankly, a lot of trips went for near Retail and that's pure profit to DFF. Boyd Earl, our new Auctioneer, was really good and this was a factor in the success.

Many thanks to all the Donors who so graciously gave us the volume of bid items. Now a word to our members, "Support the Guide Shops and Guides" that gave trips. Say you are planning a trip to Branson, Missouri and you want to do a day on the Taneycomo, book one of that area's, Donor Guides, River Run Outfitters, Anglers Outfitters, Lilleys Landing. Here is the complete Guide List:

Anglers Outfitters - **Chuck Gries**
Beavers Bend Fly Fishing Guide Service - **Chris Schatte**
Beavers Bend Fly Shop - **Peter Breeden**
Bosque Valley Fly Fishing - **Pat Vanek**
Bucking Rainbow Outfitters - **Tyler Boe Bennett**
Carp with **Matt Lough**
Chartered Waters Trout Shop - **Brett Rader**

Conejos River Anglers - **Pat Blankenship**
Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher - **Steve Dally**
Donavan Clary Fly Fishing - **Donavan Clary**
Fishy Fullum Fly Fish Fork - **Alex Guthrie**
Fly Fish Rockport - **Captain Jeff**
High Country Fishing Charters - **Scott Taylor**
Hill Country Fly Fishing - **Kevin Hutchison**
Johnny on the Fly - **Johnny Martinez**
Kirkland's Guide Service - **Kirk Kirkland**
Lakewood Window Cleaning - **Blane Rush**
Lilleys Landing - **Phil Lilley**
Living Waters Fly Fishing - **Chris Johnson**
Orvis Dallas
The Peak Fly Shop - **Brad Tomlison**
Purple Fish Adventures - **Mike Kizer**
REI Dallas
River Run Outfitters - **Carolyn Parker**
Straight Outta Cotter- **John Holsten**
The San Juan Angler - **Jacob Rash**
Twin Cities Fly fishing - **Eric Schlobohm**
Upstream on the Fly - **Greg Welander**
Urban Fly Fishing DFW - **Greg DeMar**

If you are planning a flyfishing trip this year and don't know if there is an Auction Donor Guide nearby, call us, **Dave Shatzer** 972-571-7622 or **Jeff Ziehm** 214-202=2826. You can also always access our Guide List on our website, <https://dallasflyfishers.org/friends>.

2022 May Outings

by *Jim Woodman, Outings Coordinator*

DFF members have been busy fishing throughout April with numerous DFF events, including Nolan River, Gannon's Ranch, White River, McKinney Ponds and Latham Springs Resort. Besides the DFF sponsored outings, several of the auctioned fishing trips

were completed by members. For the month of May I urge members to try their luck on the ponds throughout the Dallas - Ft. Worth region. Most of these waters have not seen a fly fisherman recently. Try a bead-head or cone-head wooly bugger (Size 8) and use 3x

tippet. Keep moving to cover as much shoreline as possible. Early mornings and late evenings are best. Good luck.

—Jim Woodman
Outings Coordinator

6th Annual Sunset Ridge Ranch Outing

by Jeff Gannon

The annual outing at Sunset and Sugar Ridge Ranches was held on April 9, 2022. The weather cooperated, for a change, with mild spring temperatures and soft breezes compared to a few days before and after. There were 38 of 50 members and guests who signed up in attendance for the biggest turn out ever for this event! Largemouth bass were on spawning beds and I think the panfish may have been out in deeper water waiting for their turn to do the same in shallow water. Quite a few nice bass were caught in the Sunset Ridge Ranch pond and the large pond on Sugar Ridge Ranch. The panfish were a bit more spotty except for **Tom**



Klassen who wore them out on the lower pond I was told. To my knowledge everyone caught fish which is great. At late morning a box lunch was served and enjoyed by all. The Bluebonnets were blooming. Some attendees just walked the property or sat and enjoyed the views. As the hosts and owners of the Sunset Ridge Ranch, Catherine and I enjoyed sharing all of the special natural gifts we are blessed with here and look forward to next year! Quite a few pictures have been posted on the DFF FaceBook page for your viewing pleasure. Be safe my friends and enjoy our sport!

April 6 Nolan River Outing

by Dave Shatzer

We had our annual White Bass outing to the Nolan River on Wednesday, April 6. There were nine people, not too bad for a weekday. Fishing results were mixed this year with Greg DeMars catching the most and Dave Shatzer catching the least. The white bass could be excused if they were a little mixed up this year. The Brazos drainage is part of the terrible

Texas drought area that is causing very low water conditions. Also temperatures have been a lower than usual. The white bass had difficulty getting their usual distance upstream and were trying to spawn on the gravel bar at the mouth of Rock Creek dumping into the Nolan River. **Jeff Ziehm** and I may try once more to see if there is a later run this year.



Successful? You Decide

by Dan Montayne

If we look back eleven months ago to the first 3rd Tuesday Cabela's tying event, the ambitions of the original planning committee were simple yet robust. Our first consideration was to educate participants in warm water patterns that were being successfully fished by others. We emphasized that most of the successful patterns presented were within the range of beginning fly tiers. That being said, we wanted to explain how to utilize the characteristics and methods of presentation for each "Go To" fly.

Fast forward to April, 2022. The number of monthly participants steadily increased from fewer than ten to a full room capacity of 25, not including instructors. For the first time since June, 2021, the April event had a waiting list of seventeen people. Throughout the year, participants consistently exemplified the desire to become better tiers and more consistent fish

catchers. They were interested in tying reliable, fish-catching patterns to use each and every time they approached the water. Patrons gained a new appreciation for flies containing many, if not all of, the strike inducers that fish can't pass up. Finally, inspired questions resounded from the floor, requesting additional information on application, material substitutions, retrieval speed, and feather shaping and preparation. This exchange has increased in intensity each month.

We, as Dallas Fly Fishers, have a calling to share our ideas, patterns, secrets and



successful fish encounters with all interested fishers. Our sessions attempt to meet all of these criteria. Each participant is accepted as an artisan, regardless of experience, and everyone is a friendship in the making. Our instructors have been met with applause, cheers, and hardy handshakes. **Successful? You decide.**

Joint South Fork Outing, DFF and FWFF

by Jeff Ziehm

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) 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.uteblufflodge.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.



White River Spring Outing

by Mike Becker

Jeff Eggleston, Dave Shatzer and Jeff Gannon joined Pat and me in Cotter, Arkansas for DFF's 4th annual outing to the White and Norfolk Rivers during the week of April 10. Our groups were there at various parts of the week but still managed to get together on Tuesday night for a nice dinner at Gastons.

The plan was to hunt for large hungry browns coming off their winter beds during the early stages of the caddis hatch. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas. Arkansas is also experiencing inconsistent spring weather. We had some 30 degree mornings followed by afternoon 70's and no shortage of wind, rain, thunder, lightning and hail. I would take an empty dry bag to the boat in the morning and not have enough room to stuff all of the layers in the bag in the afternoon.

Jeff E. arrived before the rest of the group and successfully fished the Norfolk and White with a guide and solo waded the Norfolk. He

told his guide that he wanted to look for large fish and was not disappointed. He landed several 20+” browns and rainbows.

Dave and Jeff G. fished the Norfolk on Tuesday with Chad Johnson and landed some nice browns. They planned to fish Cripple Creek for smallmouth on Wednesday but decided napping and reading was a better alternative based on weather conditions. On Thursday they headed to Bull Shoals with guide Michael Saladin. The water was very high with 7 generators running. They were fishing very deep, 14’ of leader and tippet fishing a shad fly dropped by a red ruby midge. At one point I had 5.5’ of tippet between my mop and midge. The water went down over the morning. Just before lunch Dave caught a personal best 24” brown. He floated close to a mile, including four jumps, before boating him. In addition to good numbers and double browns, Jeff also scored a personal best 22” brown.

Pat and I launched early on a rainy Wednesday morning with guide Michael Sexton and stayed fairly close to the Wildcat boat ramp. We were having a good day number wise including several rainbows and browns mostly in the 18 - 19” range. Weather conditions kept the camera under cover. After about three hours, lightning started to move in and we decided safety outweighed fishing and headed to the ramp. The weather stayed bad for the rest of the day and we were unable to re-launch.

Thursday morning, we met guide **Steve Dally** and launched from Cranor's. It was cold. We were having a decent day number wise; but, Murphy was definitely with us. I think we set personal bests for missed hook sets and spit hooks. Who teaches them to go under the boat? When the weather warmed up in the afternoon, we started to see some caddis on the water. Fortunately, the activity and our luck started to improve.

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White River Spring Outing

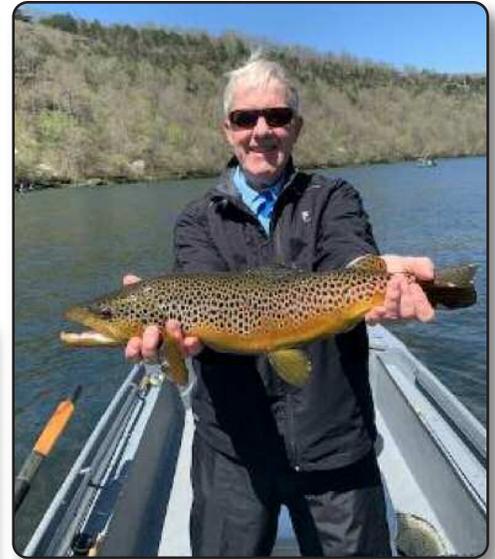
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Although it was not as cold when we met Steve on Friday morning, it was rainy. We put in at Cotter dock to avoid the high water around the dam. We had a couple of good hours before the storm hit hard. Fortunately, it was a small fast moving cell. Steve told us to get dry and meet at Cranor's when the rain stopped. We were back on the water before noon and had a good day in terms of numbers and size. At one point we had Steve working overtime because we were doubling, including several 20" browns and rainbows.

Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher in always a generous donor to our auction does an outstanding job of providing guides.

Hopefully, I will outthink Mother Nature in 2023 and have booked my guide for April 19 - 21. If you are interested in fishing for large, hard fighting trout, this is the place to go. Watch the newsletter for announcements.

Despite the weather, we had another great trip. The numbers may not have been as substantial as in prior years but much of that was weather related. Most of the fish caught were brought in on mop heads, beaded nymphs with green and red tail water jigs.



Sow Bug Returns

by Jere Anderson

Sow Bug, one of the top fly tying events in America, survived numerous setbacks during the isolation time. The prior one, **Dave Smith** of the DFF was entered in the fly tying contest. In spite of the event being canceled, they went ahead with the tying awards. Dave won Tenkara Fly.

This year the great event was held and none less than **Fred DuPre**, past president of the DFF, won three categories. His streamer fly, smallmouth fly and his warm water fly all were winners.

Grant Adkins of the DFF also won a few.



I am very impressed by this young man who has the talent to be one of the great ones some day.

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Sow Bug Returns

(Continued from page 7)

Here is the beautiful mounted collection of all the winners.



So we were there in spirit and through our representatives in any case. Sow bug also chose this time to honor the great family of artists and authors, **Dave and Emily Whitlock**. They went from here to our club meeting, with a short break to catch their breath.



The Spangler Family took the fly tier pictures for this article. The biggest collection of great and aspiring to be great fly tiers to gather in the middle of the USA is Sow Bug. It is to the great creativity and just plain hard work by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers club of the Southern Council that this event keeps happening. Just look at the huge crowd in the background of these shots... WOW.



This may be the highest ranking table in terms of Fly Tying honors. **Fred DuPre** is a Busik Award Winner, and Gold Award fly tier and a judge of gold awards. He is also a long time officer of the FFI Fly Tying Group. Tying beside him are two of the best from Austin Area, Gold Award holder and Iron Fly Winner **Mike Morphew** and his tying buddy **Jeff Hoelter**.



This is **Jack Gillis**, DFF VP and the Education Chairman for the Texas Council.



Jim Kelly, who tied a ton of great Trout Flies for our Auction.



Dutch Baughman, the creator of the FFI Learning Center, and a huge presence in

Angler Education. Winner of the new Fly Fisher of the Year Award from the FFI. Texas Council member of the FFI Board of Directors.



Barry Webster, a great tier of almost anything. Also part of our Texas Council presence on the FFI Board.



Grant Adkins, a long time member of the DFF.



Sue Spangler, a great fly tier at large who is seldom missing at any fly tying event within a

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Sow Bug Returns

(Continued from page 8)

days run from Dallas. **Her Husband Bob**, is also a fun fly tier. You might find them anywhere the feathers and vises come out.



Even if you do not really tie a lot of flies, at Sow Bug the raffles are great. **Jere** always gets at least \$20 worth of tickets and usually gets two or three winners. There is a major social event for those who are going to tie before the opening day, and again the last weekend night is a hoot natty called the Sowbug Shindig. The food is great and a very good auction takes place too.

All in all, an event to remember. Lots of great ones to meet and talk to. Lots of knowledge available. **Dave Smith** and **Jere** go and tie together most of the time. Here is a picture from an earlier Sow Bug at the banquet.

Of course you all remember **Fishy Fullum** and his wife. So my point is that there is just too much to miss at this event. The entire Texas Council owes a vote of thanks to the North Arkansas Fly Fishers for planning and holding this great event. Jere did not get to this in 2022, but it is number one on his priorities for 2023.

Where else can you talk and tie with several hundred of the best in fly tying and mingle with about a thousand paid spectators. **What a huge success.**

—Jere



The Activity Report

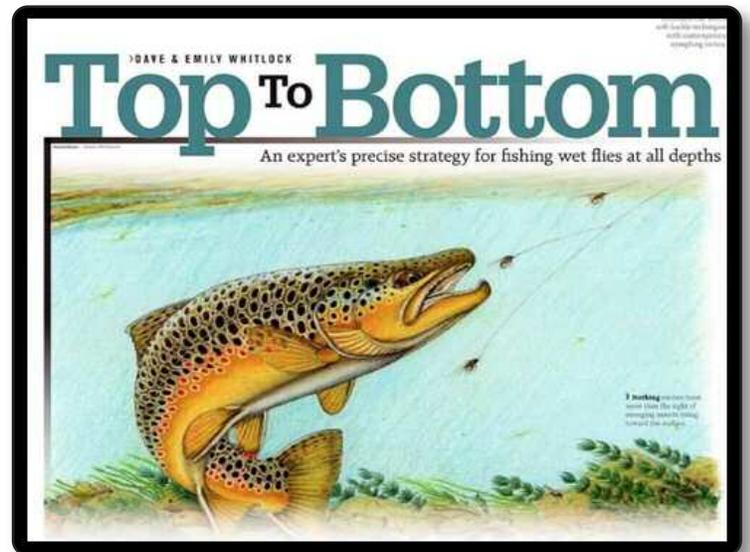
by Jere Anderson

One unfortunate shortcoming of writing about all the really fun and important activity in North Texas is that it takes no prisoners. You barely get one edition done, and more new activities come up. I am just getting out again after surgery and yet I still miss things like this year's Sow Bug Roundup. What ties this to the DFF in my mind is that they honored **Dave and Emily Whitlock** at Sow Bug, and then we were able to get this famous Duo to speak at our Club Meeting the very next weekend.



The NAFF who organize and sponsor this great event selected to have the **Whitlock's** be the honored guests. They are always there, and **Dave Smith** and I try to get our tying table where we tie flies at Sow Bug to be in front of their booth. They are a super couple and Dave goes back to our beginning of the DFF. He was our first meeting speaker, and was a Fly Fishing Guide from Oklahoma then.

We have been honored to have such a great artist, fly designer, author and dispenser of wisdom as the speaker at our April Meeting. Dave came and tied a three level Caddis Fly family of bugs designed to be used as a tandem fly rig with each of the flies seeking its own depth and giving fish



at all depths a very attractive food option. The graphic shows the idea. Have a heavy, medium, and almost floater version of a food fly, in this case a Caddis Emerger. Rig them as a triple spread so no matter what depth the fish are cruising seeking food, they will find your presentation. I believe that we have the video of Dave tying these three flies.

So with a real powerhouse of a program, we added the fun stuff and made a party in their honor. There were something over 21 DFF Members at the fly tying demonstration, but the numbers grew for the main program that explained how to present and fish this triple tandem fly rig. What a program.

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The Activity Report

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Julia built up a table of our 50 Year Souvenir Coffee Mugs, the hats and DFF pins, a really artistic plaque and lots more. Did I mention the cake? What an elegant first family of Fly Fishing..



If you do not have your 50th anniversary mementos, they will be available. Do NOT miss out.



The Wednesday after the club meeting was a Nolan River White Bass fishing expedition. It was just one of five outings this month. What a way to get springtime going. There is an article about the Nolan River Fishing for White Bass in this Newsletter.

The next weekend after that was the Sugar Ridge Ranch Outing, always one of the best. With so many pictures in

our Facebook Pages, I will just include the crowd picture and a couple of good Bass about this great chance to see Texas Springtime at it best, which is also in this Newsletter.

A group led by the **Beckers** to camp out and fish the White River near Mountain Home AR is usually a fall outing. However this year an urge to



see how it would fish in the Spring Caddis Hatch became a new Spring Outing. Most of the participants posted on our FB pages that they got the biggest Brown Trout of their lives. I suspect that the spring version of this trip may become an annual thing. In any case there is a story about this in this Newsletter.



We are near to the full year of **Dan Montayne's** Fishing Wisdom sessions. I have enjoyed them from the first, but this last one was a record setter. We filled all 29 chairs with fly tiers, and had to turn away all most half that number due to lack of space. I was joking a few months back about having to show up early and knock out a wall to get enough room. This brainchild of Dan's has really gotten some support, and I am glad. I taught it once as have many other of the more experienced fly fishers. Good enthusiasm from a good crowd. Dan has an article in this Newsletter and would like to let you know that some planning is going on.

All that is left of the April Events is the fun fishing at the Lathram Springs Outing. It is really a Church Camp, but they do take care of the water on the place. So we will talk about this one next Newsletter. I hope you went, and we can keep getting in there.

May is shaping up to be a bit more relaxed. So call a buddy and get out there. We will be teaching twice towards the end of the month, so we can talk about those events at the next meeting.

Happy Days on the water and wishing you the best of fishes and lots of them.

-Jere

The Conservation Corner

by *Jere Anderson*



The Fly Fishing Season has turned on, and in a really big way. From the DFF's Viewpoint, we opened with a very good presentation by the Great Dave Whitlock. It is documented elsewhere in this Newsletter. He had a triple fly rig designed as a search tool, so no matter where in the vertical water column the fish were cruising and feeding, your fly would be presented to them.

Then the Nolan River search for Sandies, and the great trip to the Sunset Ridge Ranch Outing filled in the week. That is almost enough fun fishing for an entire month, and we were just off to a good start. And the next

week was an entire week of chasing the Brown Trout feeding on the spring Caddis Hatch in the White River System. All of these outings reported in as having significant success. Winter took a long time to die off and let Spring happen, but when it did the world woke up with a bang.

The bass we seek that had been waiting for the Masks Off order were



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The Conservation Corner

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able to feed again. Our Dallas Flyfishers Facebook page is full of great pictures of our members with lots of fish, and many of bragging size. Most of these were fishing trips that the member took him or herself on, but we also had 5 very good official DFF Outings.

One of the really anticipated spring events is the spawn of the White Bass, AKA Sandies, an event that is very dependent on the river conditions. It only peaks for a couple of weeks, so if you don't hear about it in time, or miss being in the right place at the right time, you miss most of it. In the 1990's it was a major event for the club. The Brazos from Possum Kingdom to Lake Granbury were the FWFF's secret spots, and DFF likes the streams coming out of Lake Ray Hubbard like Rowlett Creek. Here is a sample.



Some stripers get in with the White Bass as well.



We usually go to the Nolan River where it comes out of Lake Whitney. I am led to believe that a lot of fish were hooked.

As summer progresses, the Striper family will be found schooling and trapping a ball of bait fish just under the surface. These are a lot of fun, and they will usually be sorted by size. The larger Stripers will be under the smaller fish, so cast your Clouser into the edge of the feeding frenzy and let it sink. Count it down and when you get hit so hard it almost yanks the rod out of your hands, set the hook.

Next on the hit parade are the spawning of our beloved Spiney Ray fishes, Black Bass, Crappie and the many Sunfishes. With Winter arguing with itself about letting us have a Springtime, we did what to Jere is our greatest Outing, the Sunset Ridge Ranch Outing. On the outside chance you have been living in a gravel cave north of Katmandu, Nepal, and have never been there do not fail again to sign up and be there. Jeff and his family take very good care of a huge expanse of Texas Native Wildflowers, and in so doing have about half a dozen lakes with good fish. Jeff prefished for us. We all fished. Lots of great Bass, and sunfish by the ton.



Jere has written about how a bumper crop of Sharelunkers have been registered this year. Our members have been catching Black Bass and Sunfish everywhere. I really love the quality of the Urban Fishery. Our beloved Parks and Wildlife Department of Inland Fishery are doing a great job. Nearly every puddle much bigger than a back yard have yielded good fish. Read our page on Facebook. Search for other pages that are likely to be relevant, like Panfish on a Fly, Bass on a Fly and one called Panfish and Bass on the Fly. They are full of pictures, people tying their favorite fly and the fish they are catching.

My wife and I were active fishers of Lake Lavon for Crappie when we first arrived back in Texas. You can wade fish the upper reaches where the spawners should be by now, or fish the tree lines of submerged trees left over from the time when the lake was made about 10 feet deeper. Those trees are full of minnows, so the minnow hungry Crappie are there also.



Jeff Ziehm is a really successful fly flinger, but seems to get his picture on our pages with the smallest Sunfish. The real point is that he is having fun and success. That is what we want. Urban water like Rowlett Creek, Johnson Creek, Fossil Creek, all have pictures in our FB pages. Fish are everywhere, you are likely to be pleasantly surprised at the quality and quantity.

Jere is a native of the Western States, and so has fished a lot for real Trout, Salmon and Steelhead. I am a good deal less impressed by Texas Trout, but I do admit that there are some real trout in a river coming out of Canyon Dam. There are also a lot of good trout water along the White River system in Arkansas. After all the warm water fishing, a group left of go hit the Trout in the White River in AR. This trip had been done annually as a fall trip for some time and the Rainbows are great. However, many of our speakers talked of the huge Caddis Hatch and the spawning Brown Trout in the Spring. So a trip happened and it is documented in this Newsletter.

I have fished these waters with **Fred DuPre**, and they fish very well. This time as a Spring Trip, the reports from the participants were that they got some of their biggest Brown Trout ever. So this summer trip to Colorado hosted by the DFF and the FWFF is a great chance to get a rod

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The Conservation Corner

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bent by a big Trout. Just the scenery is enough to make this trip worth your time. There is an article about the CO trip in this newsletter.

As a Fly Fishing activist, I am even more concerned about having water for our fish and other recreational purposes. We in the DFF and the Texas Council are a small part of the monitoring and hence input to the management issues in our part of Texas. I am very pleased to be part of this effort and want our FFI Conservation Group to be active everywhere that we find a need not being met. Whether it is pollution damaged water, or not enough of it in dry years, we need to be alert to the needs, and if they are not being met, to get more active as an alarm bell for our cause.

Be a part of these efforts. We monitor a small urban waterway and help more than many groups. But don't let your guard down. Our fishery that is enhanced by the dedication of the Inland Fisheries Division is in great shape compared to where it was when I returned to Texas in '92. This week is Earth Day and it is a great event on behalf of better Water everywhere. Our FFI motto, "**All Fish, All Waters**" is a good one.



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