

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

From Dallas' 1841 founding by John Neely Bryan to today, the Trinity River remains prominent to the Metroplex. Dallas' first courthouses held prime views overlooking the river as the Trinity originally flowed where Stemmons Freeway is located today with its first ferry and then its first toll bridge located where Commerce Street splits from Main and Elm in Dealey Plaza. The Trinity River is the longest US-only watershed covering 710 miles. Its headwaters begins just south of the Red River and empties in to the Gulf of Mexico at Trinity Bay.

Mostly hidden by flood plain berms along the north/south corridor, east-west and DART traffic sees glimpses of the Trinity as they crossover the river throughout the city. In an effort to change misconceptions and demonstrate what a jewel the Trinity is to Dallasites and the greater Metroplex, the Trinity Coalition, a nonprofit group, resolved in 2015 to make the Metroplex Trinity River corridor into a nationally-recognized conservation and recreation trail. In October 2020, when we were beginning to go stir crazy and news of an upcoming COVID vaccine dominated the headlines, the National Park Service bestowed its 33rd national recreation trail status to the Trinity River Paddling Trail. Unable to celebrate the



success of national status in 2020, the ribbon cutting ceremony honoring the Dallas section was held Saturday 25 June 2022 at the Trammell Crow Park Launch. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend, but I made a point to go paddling and fishing later in the week, launching at the Trammell Crow Park Launch.

This was a solo trip for me as Cody had previous plans. I drifted down to the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, where I enjoyed my lunch, paddled 200 yards upstream of the launch point and fished my way back down to the takeout. The downriver flows were nice but required a little effort to get back upstream. I fished a 150 grain sinking line and a floating line with a 9 foot leader and 1 foot tippet. I brought no fish to the boat but enjoyed seven hooksets on Gar. I saw some fishers catch a Channel Catfish underneath the Sylvan Street Bridge. I hooked Gar porpoising in the middle of the river, hanging near feeder creek confluences, and my favorite was a tailing gar. While anchored beneath the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge enjoying lunch, I kept noticing a Spotted Gar tailing by a partially submerged log. I used my sinking line rigged with a white and tan fly tied on a jig hook. The Gar put up a nice fight thrashing its head above water, but seeing as the fish knows this stretch, it dove for a fully submerged log. At least I kept my fly after retrieving it from the log.

Fishing the Trinity is a blindcasting trip, as the riverbed is muddy. Flowing along portions of the Trinity Skyline Trail, I was amazed at how the lower altitude of being on the water blocked or

muted most of the city sounds. In addition to fishing, it was a birder's paradise—Cardinals, Cliff Swallows, Crows, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Great-tailed Grackles, Finches, House Sparrows, Kildeer, Little Blue Herons, and Red-winged Blackbirds. If I hadn't seen the signature buildings of Dallas' skyline, I could have easily forgotten that I was near and in downtown.

The TRNWT covers 130 miles over three counties with 21 launch sites along the Clear Fork, Elm Fork, West Fork, and main tributary. Currently, the Dallas terminus ends at the Joppa Preserve at Loop 12 just east of I-45. The Trinity Coalition plans to add two more launch sites in southern Dallas County at Beltline Road and Malloy Bridge Road both just east of I-45. From a personal perspective, I found the Trammell Crow Launch site a little disappointing as it was very difficult to navigate, because the end of the paved ramp has separated from the main ramp and now forms a small weir blocking launching while simultaneously forcing paddlers to deal with a significant amount of mud accumulating between the ramp and its separated section. Launching and landing solo took considerable effort and time especially since I was sinking in mud up to my knees. It is obvious that other ramps were originally built underneath the Sylvan Street Bridge but are no longer accessible or viable, so some maintenance work is needed at the Trammell Crow Park launch. I will revisit the trail utilizing different launch points and would love to canoe from Panther Island to Joppa Preserve, but that would be a no-fishing trip. The Trinity Coalition's website is well designed and maintained and delineates the 21 launch sites with pertinent information and links to water flows and gauge heights at or near each launch site.

**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 and some meetings that may not be available by zoom (e.g., **JULY** fly tying and the 5 PM saltwater casting demo in September).

Previous Events: The June casting clinic was a huge success and well attended by members! We were honored by many leading instructors which included: Bob Garber-MCI, Cls Jim Bass, Rick Brown, Eric Jackson, Ted Warren, and our very own Rex Walker. Kevin Grogan, Kim Penick, and Keira Quam also assisted the casters. We are pleased with the many instructors and encouraged that the members took advantage of this great opportunity. Hopefully, we can make this an annual event!

Future Meetings and Presentations: Please add these dates to your calendar and support our great club! Please read the details for each meeting because not all of them have the regular start time and/or location.

July 11th Advanced Fly Tying lead by Bill Sargeant - This meeting will begin at 6 PM NOT 5 PM, and IN-PERSON ONLY - NO ZOOM AVAILABLE.

EVENT: July 11th Dallas Fly Fisher's Monthly Meeting - WHERE: First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080.

START TIME: 6 PM. We will have our regular business meeting following the tying session. **Note:** since this is a tying event, there will be NO tying at 5 PM.

REGISTRATION and RSVP REQUIRED: Please RSVP to Bill Sargeant at tyflyer@sbcglobal.net.

Please don't forget to register by July 5 to make sure there are enough materials and tables set up. We will have two tyers at each table. Non-tyers can sit with advanced tyers to watch.

WHAT TO BRING: Vise, tools, and thread (70 denier black thread). Tying materials provided by Bill. We may not have enough power sources for lights, so if you have to have one, then it will need to be battery operated. The room is short on outlets.



PROGRAM: Advanced fly tyers tie along

Bill will demonstrate how to tie two advanced surprise flies. We won't know which ones until the event. Experienced tyers will enjoy tying these advanced patterns. If you are a beginner feel free to just watch and learn.

Please feel free to come to the meeting even if you are not going to tie along. **Please RSVP to Bill Sargeant at tyflyer@sbcglobal.net.**

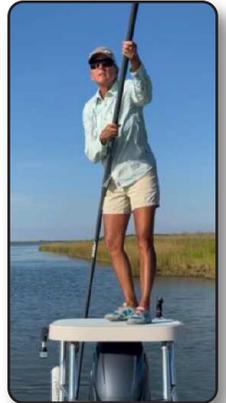
August 1st - Dutch Baughman will tie two of his favorite flies during the 5 to 6 PM hour. Then at 7 PM Dutch will talk about how and where to fish these two flies, which will include the fly rod wt, the line type, the leader, etc. You don't want to miss this gem! This will be an in-person



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). There will be NO Zoom for the casting demonstration at 5 PM. Capt Stacy Lynn is owner of @wowflyfishing and store manager of a new fly fishing shop - Galveston Fishing Company. Stacy has 20+ years as a professional fly fishing coach, is a Fly Fishers Intl. Certified Instructor and a graduate of Joan Wulff's Fly Fishing Instructor's School. She is also a USCG Captain and a TPWD Licensed Saltwater Fly Fishing Guide in the Rockport/Corpus Christi area.



Stacy's new topic: **7 Skills of Highly Successful Saltwater Fly Fishers!**

Written by Capt. Stacy: *This information is compiled from observations I am making from my perspective on the poling platform as I went from guiding and fishing with anglers of varying skill levels - and started making comparisons. As a novice, you often don't know what you don't know - until you encounter someone that knows what you don't know: the "Huh, I never thought of that" moment. In my musings from the platform I started trying to figure out how I can give insight to a novice on what an expert does when they're fishing. So, I started with a list of skills and behaviors. And as I pondered it with clients, one of them suggested to base it on Stephen R. Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*®. It is a collection of observations that I feel I am uniquely qualified to compile and share. I'm pulling back the curtain on what expert anglers do. Please use this information to expand your thinking and drive your skills development. I will be presenting these points in a combination of "order of importance" and order that they happen in the fishing process.*

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.

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

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DFFF 2022 Program Schedule

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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 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

2023 Speaker Line Up to Date

Our 2023 lineup of speakers is starting to take shape. Here is a list of those confirmed to date.

January 9: Danny Soltau, Owner of Dirty Water Fly Shop, Plano. Topic: Streamer patterns that are designed to be anatomical in silhouette yet easy to cast all the while acting like the prey species during its presentation to the target species.

February 6: TBD

March 6: Good Fly - **Stephen Weaver** and **Alan King** - Topic: tips on how to practice casting on your own.

April 3: TBD

May 1: TBD

June 5 - TBD - I would like to see us hold another casting clinic on this date

July 10: TBD

August 7: TBD

September 11: TBD

October 2: Donovan Clary, Topic: Fishing the Illinois River

November 6: Greg DeMars, DFW local waters fishing. Greg hopes to have his book published in time for his presentation late in 2023.

December 3 - Holiday/Christmas Party

I am so impressed by the talent that we have available to us at the DFF that I am sure there are those with skills that I don't know about. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to contact me if you would be willing to fill in one of our open dates and especially the summer dates next year to demonstrate your skills to the club. Do you have a set of skills that you think the entire club could benefit? Summer dates available in 2023: June 5, July 10, and August 7. Send your skill and/or idea to nlbarnes@aol.com.

2022 CALENDAR:



July 9th - International Exhibition to include fly fishing skills at DBU.

July 11th - The July Meeting featuring **Bill Sargeant** and a Fly-Tying tie-along. This is planned for the Church, from 6 to 8. Reservations needed, call Bill Sargeant.

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

July 19th - **Dan Montayne's** Warm Water Fly Fishing workshop.

July 24th - The next Stream Team Bug Picking day for Friends of Furneaux Creek Nature Trail.

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 20th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fly fishing workshops.

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.

October 18th - **Dan Montayne's** warm water fly fishing workshops.

October 21st-23rd - OKTOBERFISCH 2022

October 28th-30th - Our beloved Toledo Bend Rendezvous is back on. Watch for more posting about this.

November 4th-6th - The FFI Virtual Expo Weekend. **Do NOT miss this one.**

November 7th - TPWD Night at the Dallas Flyfishers.

November 15th - **Dan Montayne's** fly fishing workshops.

December 4th - The Holiday Party, location TBD.



June 26th Stream Water Monitoring

by Jere, Richard, and Roger

On a great Sunday Morning in June, the Dallas Flyfishers joined the Master Naturalists in doing the Water Watch Monitoring on a great little project. The Project is available to read about in Facebook at their FB pages named <https://www.facebook.com/Furneauxcreeknaturetrail/>.

The day started relatively cool for a Texas Summer Day. We have been assisting in this for well over a year now. The physical environment is in good condition. While the flow is low due to no rain for 22 days the water is clear and the sky slightly Cloudy.

The bugs were available, but Jere is a bit surprised at the lack of full grown nymphs. The preliminary evaluation is that we found Damsel

Fly, Mayfly, scud and True Fly nymphs. We also found aquatic worms, crickets, tadpoles and fresh water clams.

On the water science side, our Master Naturalist partners measured good dissolved O2, Normal PH, and good visibility in the water which is to say very little cloudiness. The health of this Urban Water is of prime importance if we wish to protect the water base for the animal kingdom. These are the bottom of the food web, and if they don't survive our Urban Fisheries are in big trouble.

Richard invites all the DFF to investigate the good family outdoor activity going on in this restored nature preserve. Before a lot of very good, concerned folks took it upon themselves to

restore the natural beauty and complexity of this great family resource, it was just a wild area on the Blue Line Bicycle Trail. Now it is a great family resource and nature education area that deserves your attention. Three Cheers for the Master Naturalists that have done so much and are still full of big plans for more.



What The Yellowstone Floods Have Damaged

by Jere Anderson

It is summer in the Mountain Trout Country, and many of our members are gone by the time you see this, with many more to go later. The rivers flowing in either direction from the high ridge that is Montana, Wyoming and Colorado are some of the worlds best fly rod trout family streams. The Fly Fishers International Headquarters in Livingston MT is right on the Yellowstone River. I have fished up and down that River during our Conferences. I wade where possible and occasionally hire a guide. Fred DuPre and I got a guide, and I caught some very good fish, at least by my standards since I am not a hot shot Trout Man.

In addition to these times, the wife and I, with or without the kids, never miss a chance to hang out in Yellowstone National Park. We almost always get to drive slowly with a huge Bison just a foot or two to one side of us until we get to his turnoff. I love that. My family has been fishing, hiking, and driving through Yellowstone since I was about 10 years old. Nearly every trip has had a memorable adventure in it. Every trip is thrilling because there is always the unexpected.

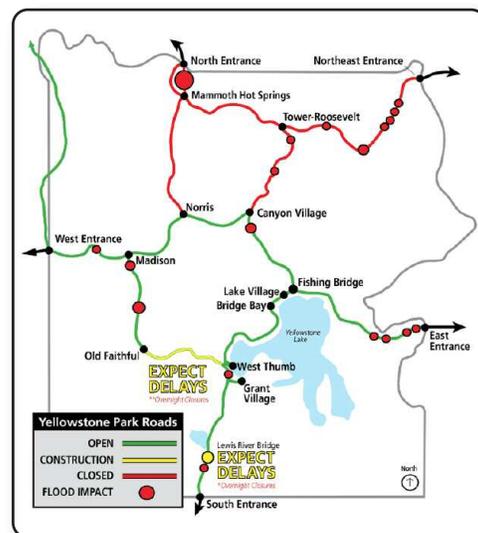
Yellowstone is a natural wonder, carved out by eons of fire, water, snow, ice, and earthquakes. Today, most of the wildlife seems to be centered in the Lamar Valley.

The huge herds of Bison and Elk that previously roamed the pastures near the geyser basin have thinned out quite a bit compared to 10 years ago.

Yellowstone visitors skip between steaming-hot openings in the rocky hillsides but this summer is suddenly a lot different. The devastating floods coursing through Yellowstone are yet another reminder that this park is not Disneyland or Las Vegas. Yellowstone is in a perpetual state of change, as it will be after these floods. There will be new streams and newly carved landscapes. There will be loss and, more important, renewal.

Yellowstone is more than a natural wonder. It is also a thriving commercial attraction, which has been effectively shut down by these floods. Within the park, the financial loss still is being calculated, but it is sure to be enormous. These destructive waters have arrived at the beginning of the peak tourist season. Motels, restaurants, souvenir shops, and other services all came to a halt as local rivers started to run amok in early June. Gardiner, Montana, near the north entrance, is highly popular and its economy is fully dependent on the park. It is a neat little town, and Judy and I stayed there the last time we went to Yellowstone. Solitary Elk and

sometimes a few Bison wander the streets. With the North Entrance closed and not likely to open this year, all the commercial businesses in the Yellowstone Hot Springs Area are done for the year, unless something changes. The park is already just trying to be ready for the Winter Season, since this summer will be so reduced in Tourists that it will not be a commercial success. Here is a map of what is open and what is not.



Just about any web page can be searched for pictures and the rapidly changing story of how the restorations are coming along. However it does not look like one of my favorite places on

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What the Yellowstone Floods Have Damaged

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this planet will be in good enough shape to visit for this season. But please do your research and make your own decision.

The road north out of the park from Gardiner to Miner to Livingston is largely wiped out. I panicked and phoned the FFI Headquarters when I saw the field behind the High School was inundated. However, the town's Main Street is up the hill from there, and our building is undamaged as well as anyone

knew the day I called. I was mostly worried about the little second floor visitor center with priceless artifacts of our organization dating back to our founding in 1964.

If you have reservations with someone or lodging around Wyoming and/or middle Montana, call ahead. Even if they were high and dry, too many roads are out, and a lot of great fishing water may take some time to recover.

Now, as lovers of Yellowstone like myself look at this destruction, it's important to all remember one thing: America's greatest park may be wounded, but it will survive. This experience should remind us of something that Yellowstone has always reminded us: that for all of America's man-made alterations, nature still rules.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Small Steps to Big Leaps in 3rd Tuesday Fly Tying at Cabela's

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

Dallas Fly Fishers, for fifty years, have lead countless outreach opportunities for learning fly fishing and its many intricacies. Hands on seminars have been held at high schools, colleges, civic centers, churches, and too many to list business locations. We have provided valuable advice and directions on getting started in our sport. How to cast, how to rig up properly, how to fight a fish with a fly rod, which fly to use, and where to go fly fishing are just a few questions participants ask.

Once involved, many enthusiasts quickly turn to tying their own flies that really catch fish. To address this need, DFF members have held events focused on fly tying from the beginner to expert levels. Local and nationally renowned DFF tiers have presented patterns for both warm and cold water species. Their flies have ranged from simple, one-feather patterns to complex, inspirational classics.

The monthly tying events at Cabela's model this tradition. For the past twelve months, all participants have added to their knowledge banks. Beginners have progressed to the intermediate stage. Intermediate tiers have improved their tying techniques tenfold, and expert tiers are now presenters and mentors. Every 3rd Tuesday participant has exhibited premiere skills and produced fly patterns worth showing off. From the super difficult Water Wasp to an artistic, fishable Dragon Fly to The Sugar Ridge Bass Buster and the CQ Woolly Bugger, all are suitable for framing. Yes, I'm bragging on every tier in the room. Congratulations! You did yourself proud. Keep up the great work.



To make all of this progress possible required assistance from many, committed volunteers. These people were also generous with their time and the materials they donated. Taking step-by-step photographs of each instructor's fly, practicing tying steps that forecasted participant difficulties, assembling materials, making kits, and always being available usually required ten - fifteen hours per presenter per session! This shows tremendous dedication to our organization and to me personally. Furthermore, participants themselves have contributed to the success of the 3rd Tuesday endeavor. Without you, there would be no 3rd Tuesday.

My sincere thanks go to every participant and instructor. Each of you has made this idea a reality and made the past year a fulfilling one for me.



Testing Fly Rods

by Rex Walker

In a recent issue of “Flyfisher” magazine, George Daniel wrote: “Test All Rods Before Purchasing: Test casting a rod is the best choice before making a purchase. Picking a fly rod is like the Harry Potter scene when Ollivander, the wand maker, says the “wand chooses the wizard.”” << There is so much truth in this statement.

I truly believe that casting several fly rods before purchase is a wise decision. I have seen many rods purchased based solely on price. OK, I get it, even the lower priced fly rods are not inexpensive. So, I understand someone focusing on cost for their first rod since they don't know if they will like fly fishing or not. But, I'm not talking about beginners. I have seen more experienced fly fishers purchase rods based solely on price than beginners. I have seen them purchase the most expensive rod model because “it is the most expensive, so, it must be the best.” Often these rods were not designed for the style of fishing they plan to do with it and they end up unhappy with its performance. I've even seen some of them purchase another rod or two while searching for the perfect rod. They would have saved money and been happier quicker by taking time to test cast some rods first.

Test casting fly rods is the fun part of rod shopping. Go to a fly shop or a fly fishing show and cast every rod you that you can. Ignore the brand names and prices. Just go cast some rods. Narrow down your rod options to the ones that feel good to you and your casting style. After all, you will be the person fishing with it, so, who cares what someone else thinks about the choice? Don't be shocked if you discover the rod you like is one of the cheaper options.

So... how do you test cast a rod anyway???

It seems that the most popular way to test a fly rod is go for the maximum distance it will cast. But, if you want a small stream trout rod, do you really care if the rod will cast 100 feet? Wouldn't it make more sense to test how the rod will perform in the 15 to 40 foot range? However, if you're looking for a saltwater flats rod, then maximum distance may be your first priority. Decide what type of rod are you looking for and how you plan to use it; general purpose rod, small stream rod, nymphing rod, flats rod, bass rod, tarpon rod, etc. Ensure that you test cast a rod based on how you plan to use it.

Personally, I like to test cast a rod in multiple situations to see how it performs and whether or not it “feels good” to me. Here's how I test a rod:

1. Make several false casts at about 35 feet of distance. I want to get a feel for the rod. Can I feel the rod load? Does it feel like I have control of the line throughout the cast? Let's face it, every fly rod can make a 35 foot cast, but does the rod in your hand “feel good” to you while doing it?
2. Make a pick up and laydown cast at 35 feet. Does the rod feel smooth, load easily, and control the line?
3. Pick several random targets, one close at maybe 20 feet, one about 30 feet, and one at 45 feet or so. How does the rod perform when you need accuracy at varying distances?

4. Roll cast – Make a couple of roll casts. How does the rod perform? Some rods are better at roll casting than others, but I would not buy a rod that can not roll cast. Roll casts are used in all fishing situations. Sometimes for presentation. Sometimes for line management (remove slack). Sometimes to get a fly “unstuck” from a rock. Sometimes to raise a sinking line back to the surface to make another cast. The ability to make a roll cast is critical to me.
5. Distance – The last thing I'll check is how the rod performs for longer distances. I'll make several false casts using a double haul just to get a feel for how the rod performs with faster line speeds and more line in the air. How much distance? Well, it depends on the rod, for a 3 wt trout rod, I might just focus on 40 feet, but for a flats rods, I might want to see how the rod feels carrying 70 feet of line in the air. Distance performance is the lowest priority to me when testing a rod. It is fun to make a long distance cast, but an 80+ foot cast is just not needed that often where I fish.

I can go through all of those steps in just a few minutes. You only need to make one or two casts of each of the different skills and 3 or 4 false casts are usually enough to get a feel for the rod. If you need to make multiple casts to decide if you like it, then that particular rod is probably not the best choice for you. It is obvious when you find the right rod, it just feels comfortable to cast. “Comfortable” and “feels good” are personal decisions that nobody else can make for you.



A few extra comments. Test rods in the weight you are interested in purchasing. Comparing a 3 wt. in one rod to an 8 wt. in a different rod model is not an apples-to-apples comparison. If possible, use the same fly line for each rod. It is easier to tell the differences in the rods when the same line is used.

Once you've narrowed down your options to rods that fit your casting style, then factor in the other variables such as price, fit and finish, warranty, availability, etc. Those items are important and we can't ignore them. But, focusing on casting performance first by test casting will help you avoid purchasing a rod that you don't enjoy casting or fishing.

Good luck and have fun!



—Rex
FFI CI
TFO Rods

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

As you read this, 2022 is half gone. And what a year it was. June 4th, Texas Free Fishing Day saw the DFF teaching team helping in several public events. I got to do the Carrollton Catfish Event and help our group of four Instructors. It was well attended and gave out some good prizes. I also met His Honor, the Mayor.

We have assisted this event for some time. The parents sign-in their youngster, and then go fish. Based on the bait they use, the catch is almost entirely Catfish. Here is a youngster with her proud catch.



The family groups spread out and the kids fish.



When the time is up, they award prizes for longest fish. It is broken up by age group, and here is a young man with his prize. The trophy and tackle box of fishing stuff is neat.



For a city park fun event, this is a good one.

The June 7th Meeting was a fly casting teaching event led by Rex Walker. It was in a park near the Church. Bring your own rod and reel.... If you were not there, you missed a good one. Rex had gotten a great selection of Certified Casting

Instructors, and the park was spacious and we had it almost to ourselves. Jere counted 47 rods there, though no official head count was taken. With perhaps half a dozen or more helpers, the actual total count had to be in the 50's. What a great meeting.

Here is the group getting their marching orders from Rex at the start of the event.



Rex had a lot of good casting games. Accuracy casting, distance casting, casting technique, and the casting learners in the groups migrated from one station to another.

We really need to do these things more often, in Jere's opinion. The energy and enthusiasm were contagious. This kind of originality keeps us fresh and energized.

And then, the Biggy of the year, the 8th Annual LAFFF, Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival, was June Tenth and Eleventh. This event is headquartered at the Lake Athens Marina. It is planned, led, and organized by Johnny Martinez of Johnnyonthefly.com. This is an event to be proud of, as it donates to two very important charities. Fifty Fly Fishers were registered for the Fishing Contests, and many others worked the fly tying, the fly fishing education, the casting, and the scoring of the fishes.

We have a great picture of Cody winning the distance casting event.



His 83 foot double haul did the trick. After the fishing was over on Saturday, everyone came inside to enjoy the A/C and the lunch.



Here is the front office. Angler Education Counseling and the gals that check everyone in, and keep the scores sorted out. A very exacting job, and important.



The full list of winners, and their awards and prizes are on the DFF Facebook page. As usual this was a great success.

The June Dan Montayne Fly Tying and Warm Water Fishing congregation completed a year of fun 3rd Tuesday Evenings tying new flies. I can hardly believe that we have done an entire year of these Third Tuesday Treasures. I was the Instructor of the first one with Dan doing a fly too. The attendance has grown from about 14 to one event of 29. If you have missed them all, you may have missed a lot of knowledge and a lot of fun with a great group of fun Guys and Gals learning some new flies.

This June Meeting was somewhat of a review. 5 of the past tiers named a couple of their favorite flies. Then we set up four tables of about 4 tiers each and an instructor. At each table we tied the lead instructor's favorite flies. So you could get a lot of tying in led by some of the really good Teaching Tiers. Here are some pictures.



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The Activity Report

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This is Dan and his table. The Bell Family and Bill Sargeant among others. That must be the most talent at one table in quite a while.



Jim Woodman had been the mentor for a table of intermediate fly tiers for the entire year. Here three of them are with Jim.



Jim Crump led the table I chose to sit with. We did pretty good. I got to help the Gentleman beside me. Richard Johnson started at this table too.



After the break lots of folks move to be with another tier. Here is Dave Smith being the Mentor of the Bell's, and Richard Johnson.

You get the idea. When year two gets started, be sure to get to some of the Third Tuesday Sessions. Some great ones teach in a very Ad Hoc fashion. There is much to learn, and iced water and a snack often show up too.

As one of the first Area Chiefs of Angler Education who is now on Kiera's team of North Texas Angler Ed Instructors, I try to get to all the annual meetings I can. I just missed getting signed up for this one, but here is the picture of Kiera's Team. You will notice that many of them are Dallas Flyfishers.



Great work, Area Chiefs. We are proud of you all and of Kiera.

Then the last weekend of the month, June 26th, the water monitoring party got to play in the Furneaux Creek in the hot weather. We found our usual bugs, but I expected them to be a lot larger than usual as they approach hatching into the adult form any day now. There is an article about this in this newsletter.

So now, on to July and the rest of the summer.

Our July meeting is a fly tying event, led by one of our long time really great teachers of the classic arts of fly tying, Mr. Bill Sargeant. Details are also available on Page 2 in the Meeting Notes. The only things that you will need to bring are a vise, tools, a light if you wish, and a spool of 70 denier black thread. All other materials will be furnished.

July is also the month of the joint Colorado Outing with the DFF and the FWFF. Jeff Ziehm is coordinating the DFF participation. The stories from this outing are legends. This trout is about to inhale a big Mayfly.



The first event of the second year of Dan's Warm Water Fly Tying is the 19th of July. Another E-mail will be sent, but be sure to give Dan a call and get on the list.

So summer is here at last and the fishing seems to be good, based on the pictures members are posting in the DFF Facebook pages. Get out there and enjoy the summer of 2022. We have been cheated out of a couple of good summers and I am ready to hit the water. I hope for more cool and a lot more rain. But if we just must fish early and late to beat the heat, it is just regular Texas in the summer. The fall programs are set to be some real prizes and going on into 2023 it looks like our wonderful classic events are coming back.

**Best Wishes for many fishes.
May they be bigger and
more full of fight.**

— Jere



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

It looks like if I had NOT decided to take the job back in Texas, that by now I would be regretting staying in California. Once in the 1970's we had some water rationing, and the Lake Shasta was about half full, however today is a lot worse. How can that be? I left the green, wet and cool Pacific Coast for the rock deserts, with scrub brush, sage brush and tumble weed. Here in Texas we are on the edge of being short of water due

to no snowpack to keep us well watered in the rain free summers. That was and is the mythology of the Pacific Coast Residents about Texas.

However, it is not true. Here is a perfect example. One of my favorite lakes in CA was Lake Shasta which was full of fish and swimming areas. It even had a quality campground. The family and the fishing age youngsters loved it. Here is a great picture of this beautiful resource, as it is today.



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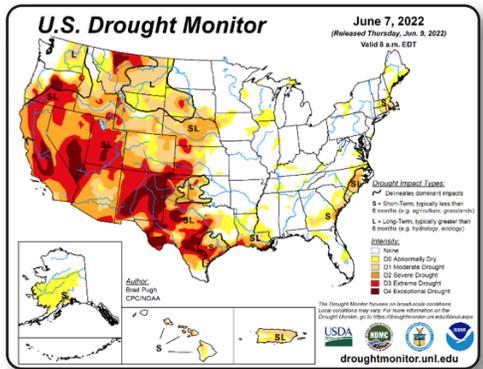
This lake holds the water from the McCloud River, the home of the brood stock for the rare and treasured McCloud River Rainbow Trout. WOW.

The biggest Water Source I know of that provides water to CA, both residential and agricultural, is the mighty Colorado River. This is the river that brings all the water for the Grand Canyon. It is regulated to some extent by the Glen Canyon Dam in Colorado, then it flows through the Grand Canyon and fills Lake Mead to hold water for Southern CA and AZ. It also generates a huge amount of electricity, much needed by the growing residential developments.

Here is the Hoover Dam and Lake Mead today. In the spring a lot of water was supposed to flow over the spillways. Now the pool is way down. It is so low that the original Lake Bottom is near the surface, and wrecked boats from all the years are appearing.



So how is Texas doing? We are part of the South-West, much of which has perpetual drought problems. Worse than that, we North-East Texas citizens are in one of the fastest growing areas of the USA. More people consume more water and a lot of other things related to nature. What is the situation? Here is a recent map, from NOAA and the USDA. It is less than a month old, and that is about as close as you can get. These things are a lot of work with a lot of data.



I hate to see severe drought in Washington. I grew up on a small farm in Western Washington. Its water was a drilled well, and we could run a one-inch water hose around the clock, if needed. Many a summer we had to water the garden and the livestock during most of the daylight hours. But it never seemed to be a drought, just that the rain comes when it feels like it but the garden is not so tolerant. A lot of the family food supply was that garden and the livestock were our 4-H projects. Were we in a drought? I did not think so, it is just that there are wet months and not so wet months, even in the lush green land of the Pacific Coast Regions.

In the last couple of weeks, some improvement in the lack of rain in the Western Mountains is getting a little relief. Last year, Texas was in trouble about now, but then a really wet early Summer refilled our reservoirs. Unfortunately there is such a thing as to much of a good thing. The northern most end of the rain band in the West seems to be part of the flooding in Yellowstone National Park. I have fished the Yellowstone River from where it leaves the North Entrance to the Park up through Livingston where the FFI Headquarters is. It is or was beautiful water and from its spring high point to end of summer I remember it as fishing very well. The point is that most of these drought areas are also subject to violent bursts of rain, and with little or no warning.

Just a few years ago we had a good drought going in Texas too, but the weather is fickle. So, for now, we are building more Lakes to handle the needs of our burgeoning population. The last batch of heavy rain in May seems to have almost filled the new Lake Bois d'Arc. It looks great, and is just in the Knick of time, I believe. The Texas Water Board Web Site states that our reservoirs are just above 80% full as of June 20th. It is normal to have late June and July rains top up the reservoirs according to the Water Board Pages.

So perhaps a short history lesson is appropriate.

The drought of the 1950s is still considered the "drought of record" and remains the most severe in Texas in the past 125 years. But current water plans do not take into consideration possible declines in Texas' water supply due to future changes in the rain patterns. This current

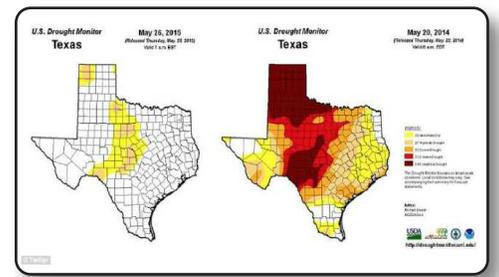
drought started with more intensity than the drought of 1950-56, the driest on record. We again have a generally warm Atlantic Ocean, and that tropical area in the Pacific Ocean might develop later this year, but it's still a little too early to say if it tends to mean dry conditions.

The 2011 drought devastated Texas farmers and ranchers, and lake levels were down as much as 50 feet in some lakes while several West Texas lakes completely dried up. Do you remember a big lake on the Texas Southern Border that dried up totally? It was just a trickle of a stream in the old lakebed.

So, what is the score? For now, we have drought in the whole state, with lesser drought in the North-East section where we are. One thing is for sure, we are near the edge of a bad situation while it is so hot. If the precipitation does not increase, that may get worse. We still must face that there are wet years and drier years.

So, what seems to cause the variation in rainfall? There is an atmospheric phenomenon called the Jet Stream. It is much like a river of moving air and weather seems to run along this flow. If we get a wave in it and are near to its track, we get lots of rain events. If it moves North, we miss the rain, but everyone else east of the Rocky Mountains get plenty. This last winter we got very little. It is fickle.

Today, the major drought in the Southwest from California to most of Texas is very severe. But it is subject to change. Whether it is true or just a hope, CA seems to be seeing more moisture. They are so far behind that it will be years to get back to normal, even if it rains buckets full every few days. What does that mean for us? If the drought line retreats and more water comes into our area, we could be OK. We are good now. But we were quite a bit behind schedule this winter and early spring. My point is that rainfall is variable. Here is an example from the 2011 Drought.



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The right-hand graphic is just after the 2011 Drought. The left hand one is just one year later. Clearly these dry years come and go, and often with surprising speed. Just one good rainy season and all that red and brown area becomes reasonably well watered.

That is almost frightening. We have no control over the rain cycles, but we can hope that we have enough reserve in our managed Reservoirs to ride out the tough spells. So far Texas has been lucky or smart, it is not clear which one. California has not been. Water is the element that is most required for life on this planet. Every living thing, plants, and animal, need a regular supply. We are the water planet, with about 2/3 of our surface area covered with Oceans and other water bodies. But wait now... That Sea Water is not usable for most plants and animals. And only about 4% is in the form of Fresh Water. Of that, a lot

is ice, and a lot is in huge lakes. Lake Superior on the USA/Canadian Border is supposedly about half of the fresh water we have stored.

Fortunately, the Texas Water Board is keeping and eye out for us. They are the source of many of these graphics, and I attended the Region C Water Board Meetings in the 1990's. Much of what they do is more political than science, but we do seem to be out in front of the wave in terms of water management, most of the time.

As a Fly Fishing activist, I am even more concerned about having water for our fish and other recreational purposes. 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 work with the Master Naturalists to monitor a small urban waterway. The restored natural area there is a great tribute to the hard work that has gone into fixing up the area as a nature trail and educational resource. I really enjoy helping the

Friends of Furneaux Creek Nature Trail and the Dallas Flyfishers also help these kinds of projects more than many groups. But don't let your guard down. Our fishery is enhanced by the dedication of the Inland Fisheries Division. It is in great shape compared to where it was when I returned to Texas in '92. Good water management is a big part of Fisheries Management. Water everywhere needs our help and attention. 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 Fly Fishers International? 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