

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell



As we enjoy the year-end final holidays, I am reminded of **Ralph Waldo Emerson's** poem about gratitude and for just how much we have to be thankful and gracious.

*“For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.”*

Even though our local time on the water has been interrupted lately, our ponds, creeks, streams, lakes, and rivers are being recharged with the sweet, glorious rainfall. The lower-than-normal temperatures are aligning to provide some favorable trout fishing conditions. Our gatherings provide us the time to share ideas and comradery to plan future outings. Yes, we indeed have been given many generous gifts.

At noon on Friday, I learned of **Dave Whitlock's** sudden passing from a stroke on Thanksgiving Thursday, and I thought how fortunate we were to have had *the Whitlocks* come back to the DFF one more time. By virtue of the knowledge Dave shared with the club upon each visit and published in his books, magazines, and paintings, we have

inherited Dave's rich and indelible legacy. We will dearly miss Dave's creativity and influence and are indebted to Dave and Emily for their lifetime commitment to fly fishing.

Additionally, Dave, the club's first speaker in January 1972, encouraged the 1971 founding members to continue with their efforts of creating a club that would seek to bring understanding of our sport to many people. From the early beginnings to today, the DFF Board strives to provide opportunities that broaden our understanding, helps us improve our techniques, allows us to teach others, and creates events for us to go fishing. It is a gift and pleasure to volunteer with such dedicated people who not only share a personal passion for fly fishing but who have a desire to share that passion with others. As the time comes for some board members to conclude their service to the board, I am thankful for those who have chosen to continue the volunteerism legacy by assuming the newly vacated roles. Please help me in welcoming **Dave Smith** as Vice-President, **Dani Rose** as Trustee 2025, and **Ed Bowen** as Casting Instructor.

While I am saddened by the empty chairs at our table and fewer gifts to buy, I am grateful for the time I was given with family and friends, as I am a better person for having

known and loved them and to have the opportunity to honor their legacy. To our absent friends.

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

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers



Our New Vice President, **Dave Smith**.

At this time the Editor does not have a picture of the New Trustee, **Dani Rose** or of **Ed Bowen** the new Casting Instructor.

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DDF Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

Previous Events: November meeting did not disappoint with a great fly demonstration by **Keira** and **John** showing us some great places to fish by way of the River Access and Conservation Areas Program (RACA). If you missed it, you can check out the email link from **Jeff**.

Our Final 2022 Program is the Holiday Party: Deadline to Register is November 27th.

December 4th Sunday - Christmas/Holiday party

Date: Sunday, December 4, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 PM

Location: TG Steakhouse
518 W. Arapaho Rd, #133
Richardson, TX 75080

Cost: \$50/person, click the link to pay and make reservations now on the **DDF website:** <https://dallasflyfishers.org/holiday-party>

Activities: Dinner, Raffle, New Officer Induction, Awards Ceremony. Special items are two Dave Whitlock signed prints, two of **Charlie Craven's** books, the four flies Charlie tied at our October meeting, and much more!

2023 Speaker Line Up

Please add these dates to your calendar and support our great club! See each meeting for details regarding fly tying and presentation times.

MAKE A NOTE: THE TIMES OF THE FLY TYING AND MEETINGS HAS CHANGED

FLY TYING TO BEGIN AT 5:30 and end about 6:15 PM instead of 5 to give those working until 5 a chance to join the fun. Then we will break from 6:15 to 7 PM, followed by our speaker presentation at 7 PM.

We continue to meet at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080. Please note that there are two locations for our meeting rooms at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080. Make note of the location of our meeting room for each meeting. Most of our 2023 meetings will be in the **Ogden Fellowship Hall** on the NE side of the building. Unless otherwise noted our fly tying will be from 5:30-6:15 PM, 6:15-7 PM break for dinner and visiting, speaker presentation to begin at 7 PM followed by our brief business meeting and drawings for flies.

January 9: Danny Soltau, Owner of Dirty Water Fly Shop, Plano. **Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center, NW side of the building.** Dan is a great supporter of the DFF, please come and support Dan. **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: Alan King and **Stephen Weaver**, co-founders of Good Fly Organization will provide casting instruction. The Good Fly Organization is a non-profit organization co-founded by **Stephen Weaver, Alan King**, and **George "Rusty" Dunn**, all three of which are graduates of Texas A&M. The purpose of Good Fly: "In a world of chaos and stress, Good Fly uses fly-casting to renew the mind and refresh the spirit." They are certified fly-casting instructors. What a treat! **Meeting Location: We hope to be in the Youth Worship Center and the gym; however, that has not been confirmed.** They are located on the NW side of the building. We will send out an email once we have confirmation. **Topic:** We hope this will be our 2023 casting clinic. We will begin the clinic at 6 PM in the gym on the first floor (NW side of the building). The business meeting, etc. will be in the Youth Worship Center on the 2nd floor above the gym at 8 PM.



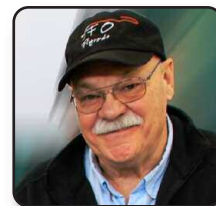
March 6: Meredith McCord, Winner Ladies Tarpon Fishing 2022, Saltwater Fishing. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall, NE side of building.** **Topic:** TBD.

April 2nd (Sunday): Streamside bug collecting. Since there is a limit of 20 people, we will try and give preference to those that did not get to attend in 2021, then it will be opened up to all to fill up the class. **Location:** TBD (possibly LLELA since that worked well in 2022)

April 3: Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** I am glad to say that we will once again enjoy the antics of The Bug Guy at our evening meeting and the bugs that we try to imitate when we fish. We will also host another streamside bug collecting event on Sunday April 2nd.

May 1: Dale Harris, DFF member. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** How to stay dry camping using a kayak or canoe. Dale is retired from his job as a telecom worker, but has been camping since the 1980's - so he has many years of camping experience. Dale has been on more than 20 weeklong wilderness camping trips. Eight of those weeklong trips were camping out of a canoe. Also, over the last 20 years, he has gone canoe camping 10 to 12 times a year on weekend canoe camping trips. He is the president of the Dallas Downriver Club and this is what they do. Dale is looking forward to sharing his learned camping experiences and to share his expertise with other paddlers who want to go camping on a river. He wants to make sure that campers obtain the correct gear for on-the-river camping trips for safety purposes and fun.

June 5: Bob Clouser! This will be a ZOOM meeting only due to the travel distance and Bob's age (which he is only 84 his next birthday). Bob now lives in Florida and doesn't travel far from home these days. Bob will tie his famous clouser on a new hook design (AHREX™ SA210 Bob Clouser Signature) and present a program about small mouth bass. **NO TYING AT 5 PM, ZOOM WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM (CDT).**



July 10: Bill Sargeant, tying along meeting. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** Once again Bill will show us how to tie some great flies. Since this is a tie-along meeting, tying will be from 6 to 8 PM followed by our short business meeting. **NO tying at 5 PM!**

August 7: Nick Gallegos, Los Pinos Fly Shop, Albuquerque, NM. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Fishing the Chama River & Northern NM Rivers.

September 11: Aaron Reed, award-winning outdoor writer and Army veteran. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Texas Gulf Coast or San Gabriel River Georgetown.

October 2: Donovan Clary, Oklahoma Fishing Guide. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Fishing the Lower Illinois or the Lower Mountain Fork Rivers.

November 6: Greg DeMars, DFF member. **Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center.** **Topic:** DFW local waters fishing. Greg hopes to have his book published in time for this presentation.

December 3: Holiday/Christmas Party - TBD

Dave Whitlock Passing

It breaks my heart to let you know that we lost Dave last night to a massive stroke. He was working on his boat next to our casting pond when it hit, and was flown to Tulsa for care. But he broke the tippit [sic] and drifted gently back to the deep water, the wild that he loved and spent a lifetime exploring, writing and painting about.

We shared 30 wonderful years together and I was able to see, first hand, the huge mark he made on our sport. He was so honored when Fly Fisherman Magazine recently named him as one of four greats that make up the Mt. Rushmore of fly fishing. But I think he left an even bigger mark on those who knew him and who got to share a river with him. The shimmering leap of a trout, the heavy pull of a largemouth or the feisty dance of a bluegill were things that he dearly loved, made his heart race and brought out his big smile...every time!

I can't fathom life without him yet. For all these years we have done everything together. But, if I learned one thing from Dave, (and I learned many), it is to take on each day with willingness and curiosity and go out there and keep casting forward.

My kids are here with their arms around me and I'll reach out when I can. We will come together for a celebration of Dave's life, but we don't know when that will be just yet.

Thanks to all of you who have touched our lives so profoundly.

With love,
Emily



Editor's notes: Here are some of the pictures from Dave's last visit to the DFF. So many of us have learned so much about flies, fly fishing, tying his amazing patterns, that it is going to leave a hole in the hearts of a lot of us.

Dave with our 50 year Coffee Mug and his great Bass Graphic.



Dave tying and talking through a set of three flies.



Dave demonstrating how to present the three fly rig that was the basis of his presentation.

2023 CALENDAR:

December 4th - The Holiday Party, at the same place as last year. *There is a sign-up article in this newsletter and on our web page.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2023 SCHEDULE.

LaJan's Programs Overview has most of the 2023 Speakers listed, as well. It's looking to be another grand year with the DFF!

January 3rd, 4th: KNES1111 at DBU Dallas. **Dr. Ray Galloway's** Outdoor Experiences Class.

January 9th: **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 3rd-4th: The Red River Rendezvous in Eisenhower State Park. Friday dinner and Saturday Lunch are provided. This is a great event.

February 6th: **Alan King and Stephen Weaver**, co-founders of Good Fly Organization. **Topic:** casting clinic or how to practice cast on your own.

February 17th, 19th: TU Troutfest at the Lazy L & L Campgrounds.

February 25th-26th: The Fly Fishing and Brew Festival in Mesquite.

March 6th: **Meredith McCord**, Winner Ladies Tarpon Fishing 2022, Saltwater Fishing, Details to follow.

March 23rd-25th: Sow Bug, Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mt. Home, AR.

March 30th: The Spring Outing at Latham Springs. There is an \$8 fee, but it fishes great.

April 2nd: A repeat of the very successful bug gathering and identification outing,

April 3rd: The Bug Guy at our evening meeting and the bugs that we try to imitate when we fish. We will also host another streamside bug collecting event on Sunday April 2nd.

April 15th: The beautiful Texas Spring Outing at the Sunset Ridge Ranch.

May 1: **Dale Harris**, DFF member. **Meeting Location:** **Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** How to stay dry camping using a kayak or canoe. Dale is retired from his job as a telecom worker, but has been camping since the 1980's – so he has many years of camping experience.

June 5: **Bob Clouser!** This will be a ZOOM meeting only due to the travel distance and Bob's age (which he is only 84 his next birthday). Bob now lives in Florida and doesn't travel far from home these days. Bob will tie his famous clouser on a new hook design (AHREX™ SA210 Bob Clouser Signature) and present a program about small mouth bass.

July 10: **Bill Sargeant**, Fly tying demonstration. **Meeting Location:** **Ogden Fellowship Hall.** Once again our DFF members share their expert fly tying prowess.

August 7: **Nick Gallegos**, Los Pinos Fly Shop, Albuquerque, NM. **Meeting Location:** **Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Fishing the Chama River & Northern NM Rivers.

September 11: **Aaron Reed**, award-winning outdoor writer and Army veteran. **Meeting Location:** **Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Texas Gulf Coast or San Gabriel River Georgetown.

October 2: **Donavan Clary**, Oklahoma Fishing Guide. **Meeting Location:** **Ogden Fellowship Hall.** **Topic:** Fishing the Lower Illinois or the Lower Mountain Fork Rivers.

November 3rd-5th: Toledo Bend Rendezvous, at Toledo Bend State Park near Zwolle, LA.

November 6: **Greg DeMars**, DFF member. **Meeting Location:** **Youth Worship Center.** **Topic:** DFW local waters fishing. Greg hopes to have his book published in time for this presentation.

December 3: Holiday/Christmas Party - TBD

Red River Report

by Jeff Ziehm



I had not fished the Red River below the Denison Dam for a few months, so I thought I would give it a try. It was a foggy, overcast morning, which I thought might help.

I got there around 9:30am. They had not been releasing recently, which makes for easy wading, but is not best for fishing. I like fishing the Red River just after they have finished releasing.

I started off just below the old bridge pylons. Last time I was there I visited with a fly fisherman in a kayak. He said he had good luck fishing this section, catching about 30 small stripers. Well, I should have brought my kayak with me. I was skunked, other than one aggressive Silverside minnow. He needed to be careful. There was also a Great Blue Heron looking for him.

Next I headed up to the “do not cross” overhead cable. Again, no stripers, but the smallmouth buffalo were in abundance. I normally fish for smallmouth buffalo with an

olive girdle bug or an olive damsel fly nymph. But the one I caught this day was on a chartreuse and white clouser. He barely fit in my net.

Even without a lot of fish, it was a great day on the water. I will try again when they start releasing.



November Bug Picking

by Roger, narration by Jere



Attached is the November Bug Picking data sheets from our support of the Master Naturalists that we have been working with for some time now. The weather was around freezing but some nice fish food was found in the very cold water.

**IS YOUR CREEK POLLUTED?
BUG PICKING DATA SHEET**

Bug Picking Summary Sheet - Furneaux Creek @ Branch Hollow Park - 11/20/2022

<p>Group 1 - Pollution Sensitive (Found In Good Quality Water)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stonefly Nymph</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mayfly Nymph</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Caddisfly Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dobsonfly Larva (Hellgrammite)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grass Shrimp</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water Penny Beetle Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Riffle Beetle Larva or Adult</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Beetle Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cranefly Larva</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Total Group 1 Specimens</p>	<p>Group 2 - Somewhat Sensitive (Found In Good Or Poor Quality Water)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Diving Beetle Larva</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Dragonfly Nymph</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Damselfly Nymph</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Scud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waterboatman</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Coiled Snail</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Freshwater Bivalve</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Total Group 2 Specimens</p>	<p>Group 3 - Pollution Tolerant (Found In Any Quality Water)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Midge Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Blackfly Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic True Fly Larva</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gilled Snail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leech</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Planaria</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Aquatic Worm</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Total Group 3 Specimens</p>
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This water appears to be:

(Not Polluted) (Okay) (Polluted)



Who Could Ask For Anything More?

by Dan Montayne, Fly Tying Coordinator



“Impressive” seems insufficient in describing the Third Tuesday events featuring “Go To” warm water fly creations. This theme emerged in June of 2021 with a goal of assembling tiers and bettering the skills of novices and pros

alike. It focused on field tested, warm water favorites that catch fish. Through the referral program, we also introduced fly tying to newly interested individuals. The lure of creating a fly that has the reputation for catching warm

water fish just makes good sense. Perhaps the following masterpieces will convince you of the talent in our club and those one hour rewards our attendees experience during each session.



As 2022 draws to a close, I want to thank this year’s guest instructors, who continuously inspired all attendees. Performances from **Jim Kelly, Bill Sargent, Danny Soltau, Art San Roman, Jere Anderson, Dave Smith, Jim Woodman, Dutch Baughman,** and **Jim Crump** generated club growth by sharing their expertise. These session leaders cannot be thanked enough for their efforts and for the numerous hours of preparation, practice, and materials assembly that precedes each and every session. Their attention to instructional

clarity and detail for each pattern is also visually apparent. The rewards for all of this work lie in the smiles of accomplishment radiating from each tier. Those smiles literally bring light to a room and encourage our faithful participants to return month after month to keep this program moving forward. Who could ask for anything more? Again, my sincere thanks go to all DFF members and prospective members involved in our Third Tuesday gatherings.

Finally, the next time you visit the Cabela’s in Allen, please say thanks to all the staff in the fly

fishing department for their continued support and hosting of Third Tuesdays. Their smiles are very important, too.

Please remember that we will NOT meet in December. The first tying event for 2023 is January 17. That’s the Third Tuesday at the Allen Cabela’s; 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Mark your calendars now.

Happy Holiday wishes to all of our faithful tiers!

The Great North Toledo Bend Rendezvous Has Returned

Photos by Julia



After a two-year, COVID-19 hiatus, 40 fly tyers returned to North Toledo Bend State Park in Zwolle, Louisiana for the beloved Toledo Bend Rendezvous. Fly fishing clubs from Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas gathered for a weekend of fly tying, pot luck meals, friendship, and a few tricks mixed in with lots of treats since for only the second time, Rendezvous was held on Halloween weekend. The Saturday evening raffle contained many guided trips, autographed prints and books from fly tying artists, and a complete rod/reel combo donated by the North Louisiana Fly Fishers. This year, **Linda** and **Walter McLendon** celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary!

Rendezvous hosts tyers in the group dining hall, where vises are set up and the tying commences beginning Friday afternoon and lasting through Sunday morning. Spectators are encouraged to attend and sit across from tyers to watch how patterns are tied, to ask questions about patterns and how they're fished, and enjoy the day.

Linda McLendon runs the kitchen, cooking and managing the various potluck sides for breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. With members from clubs in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas, the variety of dishes and snacks are always a tasty treat for attendees. Mark your calendars to attend Rendezvous in 2023, as reservations have been made for 3-5 November. In addition to staying in one of the bunk houses, attendees have the option to reserve a cabin, RV, tent, or glamping spot by visiting the North Toledo Bend State Park website, <https://www.lastateparks.com/parks-preserves/north-toledo-bend-state-park>.



Cody tying. Dave and I liked to tie beside the Bell Family at this party.



Jerry Hamon with a great beard. The next picture is his streamer fly.



A good looking streamer fly by Jerry Hamon. This will get bass this spring.



No tying event is complete without Spanglers.



This Gentleman taught my oldest daughter at LLELA to tie a fly. Bill Slaughter is a great tyer and teacher.



Johnny Martinez tying for his bass fishing business. Looks good to me.



Here is a great picture of the multitudes in the fly tying room/Dining Room.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson



The Meeting for the rest of 2022 is our Holiday Party. It is too late to sign up by now, But be sure to be there if you did. However, the year did end with a bang. Some great events and lots of fun.

On October 28th – 30th the return of the Toledo Bend Rendezvous in North Toledo Bend State Park near Zwolle, LA, did happen again. This is a great event with bunk houses and a full kitchen. You can come and tie your favorite flies, or just come and learn. You can sit on the porch in the evening and enjoy the beautiful Fall Colors, or you can fish the Lake from the State Park. This year the attendance was roughly 40 of the great fly tiers in North Texas and beyond. **Julia** wrote us an article.

There was a Basic FF Class at the Carrollton Rosemeade Rec. Ctr on Saturday, November 5th, from 9 am to 2 pm with a 1 hour certification option from 2pm to 3pm. Club members were encouraged to become certified instructors. Here are a few pictures.



We gathered on an early morning after a big rain storm.



This was the class and instructors.



We even created a new instructor. Good work, all of you.



The young ones had fun and learned.



We have a lot of great instructors that work well with youth.



And I got to teach knots to these two more mature students.

For a smaller class than we usually have at this venue, it worked well.

On November 4th – 6th, was our beloved FFI Annual Meeting, a Zoom Event this year. Several of the DFF experts gave sessions. This one is typical.



November 7th, our great support group in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries, led and coordinated by our Angler Education Specialist, **Kiera Quam**, were our speakers. Kiera fly tied, and the speaker was John Botros, River Access Coordinator. We were planning to have Tim Birdsong, the Deputy Director of Fisheries Management and Conservation. Jere has worked projects with both of these respected Leaders. Unfortunately Tim could not be there so John did a great job with the materials he was to present and to cover the information Tim was expecting to cover.



Kiera ties a neat foam popper. She made it look easy.



You need one or more of these in the spring Largemouth Bass Season.

(Continued on page 8)

Activity Report

(Continued from page 7)



Kiera and John Botros.

For the few of you that may not be familiar with the River Access Program, this is a vital link between we stream fly fishers and our public waters. When we formed the Texas Council in 2014, **Jere** was doing Conservation for them. I was seeking some advice from **Dr. Glenn Erickson**, FFI head of Conservation. His suggestion led to me connecting with **Mr. Birdsong** and talking about the River Access programs. He and I ran a meeting that I invited several Texas Council activists to, and we agreed to help find some suitable locations for an access program. TPWD still has the legal responsibility to sign them up, but our widely travelling fly fishers had a list for them to talk to before long.

Credit for the many locations and the success of the program goes to TPWD, but Mr. Birdsong and I presented the program at the FFI International Meeting in Montana to a meeting of the FFI Council Presidents, and they were enthusiastic. We were asked to come back with a status report. It seems that we have more than enough status now.

November 15th, was a **Dan** Tuesday and the last one for 2022. Cabelas did us a favor (not intentionally) and had us unable to use the conference facility in the Allen Store. Instead

we got out regular meeting room a FMUC, which is much bigger and more usable. As usual the turnout was great, and we needed the extra space. Both **Jere** and **Doris Montayne** were shooting pictures all over the place. Here are a few.



These stations are set up for tiers that want a little more help. That is **Dave Smith**, our new Vice President and **Jim Woodman** our taker of the minutes leading the tiers.



The place was our FMUC class room, and that gave us a lot more room for fly tiers.



And here is **Jim Kelly**, our instructor for November.

November 30th, the Stephenville High School group went to the TFFC. They are usually planting Trout by this time. Many were needed to help us teach some fun youth how to be an Outdoor Person.

And then our famous Holiday Party on December 4th, will close out the year. The Holiday Party Plans are coming together and an old guy you all know will also be having a Birthday on that day. Keep up the great work everyone. The club is as active as at any time I can remember in the 30 years I have been a member.

DDF Holiday Party

When: Sun, December 4, 5pm - 8pm

Where: TG Brazilian Steakhouse (map)

TG Brazilian Steakhouse in Richardson

Festivities begin at 5 PM:

518 W Arapaho Rd #133, Richardson, TX 75080

<https://www.tgsteakhouse.com>

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving, and a Merry Christmas. Most of the 2023 items are in the Calendar and a full year of programs are in the Meeting Notes.

- Jere





The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

Just in time!! Just in time for Yellowstone Park's 150 birthday, the park is repaired almost and open to tourists. It is my favorite, and so I am personally glad. Happy Birthday, Yellowstone, and may you have many more. With all the animals, the thermal features and great fishing, we must always take care of this great resource. With Hotels, Cabins, and campgrounds all over the park and all the hotel rooms just outside the North and West entrances, it is easy to visit in comfort. It is also the most active "almost volcano" in the lower 48. But it is subject to the forces of nature. An extreme rainstorm put the park down, but not out. This has been a real puzzle of a weather year.

A big issue for us is Water. With almost all of it coming from rain, and that being seasonal at best, some careful planning is needed to be sure of our supply and adequate reserves. We were having problems with too much rain in the Northern Rockies that washed out Yellowstone, and too much water in the rest of the Southeast from the remains of Tropical Storms. Both of those seemed content to miss Texas. However, the latest series of storms has the official rain fall in the Dallas Area above normal. So, I think we are in very little, short term danger.

The rise in big business coming to North Texas is not an insignificant event. They often bring a sizable number of the more senior staff that explodes our needs. I was on the state Water Planning Group for our Region C the mid '90s. We argued our way to three possible additional water catchers, and now in the 2020's we are finally bringing one online, just beginning to build number two and are still fighting over number three. WOW.

With our long-term shortage of rainwater, it is a blessing that our water basins are in such good shape. With the mighty Rivers on the West Coast and the Mississippi going dry it is even more to the credit of North Texas that we are in moderately good shape. The West Coast Rivers have been in a serious drought since about 2000.

New Lakes on the Sulphur River have quite a few interesting sub-projects. For one, it is a

place where an endless dig for Native American Artifacts and Fossils is occurring. An onsite museum and the promise of space in the Dallas Perot Museum of Science are in place, and care is being taken to avoid damaging parts of the site that have not yet been examined. The onsite displays have been moved to the project building for now as the digging activity is getting more intense. Here is a great discovery.



Bones from the Tylosaurus find in the bed of the North Sulphur River

A recent Fannin County fossil find of a Tylosaurus in July, on a section of the North Sulphur River owned by Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD), continues to tell paleontologists a story written approximately 100 million years ago, when much of Texas was covered by a huge inland sea.

According to Ronald S. Tykoski, Ph.D., Vice President of Science & Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, paleontologists are planning to work with UTRWD later this year into early 2023 to recover the rest of the specimen.

Tylosaurus are part of the Mosasaurus family, giant predatory marine reptiles which grew to more than 40 feet in length (the length of a semi-truck trailer) and weighed up to 15 tons (about two elephants), making them one of the largest and most ferocious sea predators ever. Its jaws were lined on each side with two rows of pointy, cone-shaped teeth. Tylosaurus used its snout to locate prey, which, once inside the sea monster's menacing jaws, was swallowed whole.

"Large vertebrate fossil specimens as complete as this one are hard to come by," said Dr. Tykoski. "This is a big Tylosaurus and beautifully preserved, with great detail present in the bones which gives researchers the chance to look at subtle details and anatomical nuances - telling us a lot more about these extinct animals."

Once all the bones are fully cleaned up, they will be taken to the museum's collection facility for safe storage, care and further study.

On the International Climate Change Front, a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Egypt just wrapped up. This meeting in known as COP27. This group of representatives of about 142 Nations, are meeting for the 30th year since the Climate Conference was started in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. In 2009 the attendees decided that the rich nations would come up with 100 billion Annually and would distribute it to the rest of them. In some years many of the delegates arrive just to look for the money line. When they don't find it many of them just go back home.

The first action leaked from this conference is that they want to blame the rich nations for all the extreme weather and other natural forces. To offset our guilt, they want to up the ante to over two Trillion dollars to compensate the poor nations for the hardships allegedly foisted on them by the nations whose success is claimed to be the cause of climate change. Since the 100 Billion got them nothing, any bets on this one?

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The Conservation Corner

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The next one, COP 28, will be held in another oil patch nation, the United Arab Emirates. It too is unlikely to be a supporter of the turn off the oil movement.

While nothing much was accomplished, it will be interesting to see if many of the delegates get to a common agreement of any kind. There is so much to do. China, among the many nations building those horribly polluted Coal Fired Power Plants is now hands down, the world's biggest polluter. Coal fired thermal power was phased out in part by much cleaner Natural Gas Powerplants in the USA. So far this meeting mostly just criticizes the use of petroleum products but is not doing much to build a consensus for an alternative.

There are a lot of examples to follow on what to do next. Options to recycle better, to make less trash, to stop cutting so much forest wood that is too valuable for its Carbon Sequestering power. Everyone of you can think of a half dozen good projects for this world body to work on.

My vote is for a lot more study and work on reducing pollution of our Oceans. Most importantly, plastic pollution.

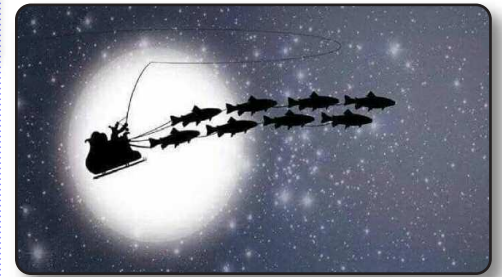
This is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, or at least a collection of ocean debris that represent it. An organization named Ocean Cleanup has some technology that seems to work, but the problem is so vast that it is hard to see if they are making a dent in the problem. Worse than that, after they get the trash out of the ocean, what should they do with it?



Recycle is the easy answer, but much less easy to implement. Ultimately some way of making less plastic and/or catching it before it gets in the ocean will have to be part of the solution. So if you want a problem that needs a lot of work just to make a list of alternatives, here it is. In the meantime our oceans are getting more and more polluted.

Our fall rains are greening up my yard nicely, so perhaps a warm wet winter will break the grip that the current drought has on so many people. I hope so, since a lot of unintended consequences of the drought are impacting our economy and our outdoors. We had a great year for our 50th birthday, and I am very proud of all that the 200+ club members have done. Our teaching people to love and care for our great outdoors is huge, and greatly admired. The whole Texas Council is good at this one, and I am glad.

Have a very Merry Holiday Season, and best wishes for a warm and wet winter. We need one.



FLY -Jere



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