

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

Each year in early winter, the DFF board donates 10% of its net income from certain line items within the previous year's annual budget to nonprofit charities related to fly fishing. This year the board decided to donate to a conservation effort and awarded \$793.00 to the Friends of Furneaux Creek. Furneaux Creek falls under the auspices of LLELA and is the site of our monthly entomology surveys. Our donation will help fund soil erosion conservation and two Kid Fishing events.

Conservation efforts impact fishing drastically and occur at all levels from grassroots, individual clubs' efforts to concentrated, multi-faceted, multi-agency group efforts. Once such conservation effort achieved a substantial goal in protecting the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed, home of the planet's most prolific wild Sockeye Salmon ecosystem. This continued and concentrated movement eventually involved the US Environmental Protection Agency who made its final decision 31 January 2023. Specifically, "The EPA decision prohibits the South Fork Kaktuli River and North Fork Kaktuli River

watersheds as disposal sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material for the construction and routine operation of the mine plan described in Pebble Mine Limited Partnership's... application."¹ Relying on the Clean Water Act, not only is the Bristol Bay watershed protected from the Pebble Mine dredging specifically, but this decision also places limitations on any future mining proposals for the area.²

I am a pretty conservative person with a less-is-more philosophy, except with fly tying material and needlepoint thread, and then, I don't think I can have enough. The "Say No to Pebble Mine" conservation campaign has been occurring for at least a decade, and I often wondered why it took so long to understand what the effects of dumping dredged materials near a watershed would actually do when we have many examples of similar situations readily available to study and teach. I am an historian by profession, so I think the record serves well. I was against the Pebble Mine for two reasons, the Clark Fork River and having fished the Bristol Bay watershed.

In the summer of 2009, I worked at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge, Montana. The Clark Fork River, whose headwaters were upstream in Butte and Anaconda (south of Deer Lodge along the I-90 corridor), ran through the park before joining the Blackfoot River just east of Missoula; all of which are the northern watershed to the Columbia River. One day, I was tasked with videoing the US Fish & Game Survey being conducted in the park. Now, I thought we were going fishing to take the samples but that was not the case. Instead,

Osprey chicks provided the sample study. [Clark Fork Osprey Study at GRKO.](#) [CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

A couple of weeks prior to the study, Cody and I traveled south to tour Anaconda, the fish hatchery there, and do some fishing. When we were purchasing our fishing licenses everyone had told



us to fish Anaconda and immediately followed that with "Don't eat the fish!" We assured folks we were catch-and-release fly fishers, but we soon learned this was a warning and not a conservation measure.

In 2007, efforts had begun to clean up the mining results from dumping sledge filled with arsenic, copper, and other chemicals near the headwaters of the Clark Fork River. The slag heap and smokestack are Anaconda icons. Seeing the park's 2006 and earlier photos and studies of the river meandering through its boundaries, I could not believe just how nasty and dead the river was, because Cody and I had been fishing the river after closing hours with permission, just so long as I kept a documentation of what we caught, and it was pristine and clear and full of bugs and fish. Many guides launched trips just south of the park and floated through the park with clients hooking some of their first fish of the trip. Only two years

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1. Fly Fishers International, "Positive Developments on Three Important Conservation Efforts," *FFinsider* 1, no. 41 (3 February 2023), <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/News/positive-developments-on160three-important-conservation-efforts#statements>, (last accessed 25 February 2023).

2. Jason Ching, "What EPA's 2023 Pebble Decision Really Means," *Wild Salmon Center*, 23 February 2023, <https://wildsalmoncenter.org/2023/02/23/whats-epas-2023-pebble-decision-really-means/>, (last accessed 23 February 2023).

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Fishin' Tales

(Continued from page 1)

of cleanup had been implemented and the differences were indescribable.

Part of this cleanup effort involved creating a tiered, three-pond settlement system to filter impediments before the river meandered on its way. We set out to fish the Anaconda Settlement Ponds and finally understood the warning. Government officials prohibited any public access to the first settlement pond which lays closest to the slag heap. To access the second settlement pond, visitors parked in a lot about a mile away and walked. That walk was miserable, as mosquitoes plagued almost every step of the way, and we wore waders, caps, and Buffs. I say almost, because about 25 yards from the pond, the mosquitos vanished as if a spray of concentrated deet magically manifested itself out of nowhere. There was not a buzz, a bite, a nasty girl to be seen, heard, or felt. We plopped our float tubes in clear, transparent waters and began calling the fish we were targeting much like billiard players call their shots. The scuds in this pond had us catching trout measuring in the pounds, not inches, but they were the ugliest trout I have ever seen in my life. Upon having our fill of catching, we began the trek back, encountering a US Fish and Wildlife official who checked to make sure we had no stringer and strongly advised us to thoroughly shower and wash all our equipment rigorously. While recovery implementations were achieving success, there was obviously something not right with the water. We tried fishing topwater, and while Cody caught one fish, they just would not come up, because no entomology could live topwater, and once the fish were about 20 inches from the top, their behavior became erratic. One fish I was targeting topwater became suspended in this section, flailing on its side swimming frantically in a circle. I eventually used the butt of my rod to right it and push it down farther. It recovered, and I learned to release my caught fish with a shove to get it below this "zone." I've never encountered anything like it before or since.



To me, this experience alone was enough to say that the Pebble Mine discharge plan was ludicrous. While the remediation efforts were proving successful, and are still ongoing today along different sections farther downriver, why expose wildlife to such drastic impacts?

When Cody and I fished Bristol Bay in 2014, one day our trip was hiking and fishing the Katmai River in the Katmai National Park & Preserve. It was an amazing experience seeing those Sockeye stack up, but even more thrilling was our close encounters with Grizzly Bears.



One section of river had an island, and there were bears on the island and alongside the riverbanks. We needed to access the island to make our way downstream. I came so close to a bear, I could have petted her hind leg. We stopped near them to watch them gorge on the Sockeye, and in no way were we afraid, cautious, but never worried or scared. The fish had all their attention.



I cannot even imagine how long the recovery efforts would have taken to build back the area to pre-Pebble Mine effects. Trying to successfully recover birds, bears, fish, insects, grasses, and all other wildlife that rely upon the water sources is a monumental effort with no guarantees. Learning from the past what not to do is an important tool that should not be ignored.



Here's to bent tips and happy days!

-Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

DFF Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

FLY TYING WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 PM and end about 6:15 to give those working until 5 PM a chance to join us. Our break will be from 6:15 to 7 PM. Then our speaker presentation will begin at 7 PM, which has not changed, followed by our brief business meeting and fly drawings.

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. We will be meeting in the Ogden Fellowship Hall on the NE side of the building for all meetings except for March (changed from Ogden), June (Zoom only) and November.

March 5th (Sunday): Two spots left as of February 23! The streamside bug collecting is on! We were able to switch our March and April speakers so that Robert could lead the streamside but collecting trip and be our speaker March 6th. **PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED!** If you registered and cannot attend you are responsible to find your replacement. No refunds.

Location: LLELA (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area) - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are registered to attend, please be aware that there is usually a line at the entrance so please plan your arrival accordingly and expect a 20 minute or so wait to get in so that you can arrive at the parking area but 1:30.

Date: Sunday, March 5, 2022

Time: 1:30pm - 4:00pm

Description: Streamside Entomology Class by Robert Younghanz, an entomologist, aka, The Bug Guy! Arguably, the most common blind spot for the fly fisher is an understanding of aquatic insects, their life cycles and habitat, which is the key to fly selection, catching more fish and having more confidence on the water. Some of you may remember Robert from our meeting in May 2022.

March 6: Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy. Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center, NW side of the building.

Fly tying will begin at 5:30 PM. Our very own Dutch Baughman will be demonstrating how to tie the Ray Bergman fly named the Moisc and one of Dutch's flies named the Stone Hopper. Both flies were originally designed for bass and panfish, and both have proven to be exceptionally effective.

Our March speaker will be Robert Younghanz. Robert's presentation begins at 7 PM. 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.

April 3: Meredith McCord, Co-Winner of the Ladies Tarpon Fishing in 2022 on a fly.

Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall, NE side of building. Topic: "The Redfish of Louisiana"

Meredith holds 241 records (IGFA). Her topic will be "The Redfish of Louisiana." Meredith will demonstrate how to tie the Funky Bunny at 5:30, which she caught a 40 lb 14 oz Red Drum (Redfish) on 8 lb tippet November 2018, an IGFA world record! Meredith travels around the world to fly fish, lead guided fishing trips, and lectures throughout the USA on the many aspects of fly fishing. Ware honored to have her for our March meeting. Check out her website (<https://meredithmccord.com>) and the IGFA website for Meredith's world records (https://igfa.org/igfa-world-records-search/?search_type=AnglerNameDetail&search_term_1=132761)

May 1: Dale Harris and Peter Rea, DFF members. **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. Dale and Peter are looking forward to sharing their experiences on

the Buffalo River in Arkansas and what it would be like to camp and fish on that river.

Fly tying demonstration at 5:30: Peter will be tying the flies that you would want to use on the Buffalo followed by a short break from 6:15-7 PM. Their presentation will begin at 7 PM, followed by our short business meeting and fly drawings.

June 5: Bob Clouser! This will be a **ZOOM meeting only beginning at 6 PM**. Bob does not travel much these days but is still active locally in Florida where he lives in Florida. He will demonstrate how to tie his famous clouser on his new hook design (AHREX™ SA210 Bob Clouser Signature) and present a program about small mouth bass. The ZOOM meeting will begin at 6 PM (CDT) and last for a couple of hours, followed by our short business meeting. We will not have a fly drawing since we are not meeting in person. I hope to obtain the flies that Bob ties for our quarterly drawing.

July 10: Bill Sargeant, tie-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. There will be no tying demonstration at 5:30 PM.

August 7: Nick Gallegos, Los Pinos Fly Shop, Albuquerque, NM. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall. Topic: Fishing the Chama River & Northern NM Rivers** (Rio Los Brazos, Rio de Los Pinos, and possibly the Chavez Creek). Nick will also tie specific fly patterns that would be used in those areas. He will dissect the Chama River into 3 large sections: headwaters/freestone section, the tail water section (El Vado), and finishing at its last tail water section (Abiquiu).

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

Dear Members,

If you have been around someone who is ill, and exposure is 10 days or less from a DFF event, we are asking that you please enjoy the event via Zoom from home. We are trying to limit exposures to others, whether it is COVID-19, the Flu, the common cold, or any other communicable disease. We appreciate your help in working together to keep everyone healthy.

2023 CALENDAR:

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!

March 3rd-4th: The rescheduling of the Red River Rendezvous in Eisenhower State Park. Friday dinner and Saturday Lunch are provided. This is a great event.

March 5th: A repeat of the very successful bug gathering and identification outing, Sign-ups required.

March 6th: **The Bug Guy** at our evening meeting and the bugs that we try to imitate when we fish. **Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center, NW side of the building.** We will also host another streamside bug collecting event on Sunday March 5th.

March 11th: Trinity River TRWD Fly Fest. Details at trwdflyfest.com.

March 17th-19th: National Fishing Expo in Fort Worth, Will Rogers Coliseum.

March 21st: The March Third Tuesday Fly Tying Therapy Session. Register with **Dan Montayne**.

March 23rd-25th: BSA University, from 8am to 4 pm at the TFFC. Need about a dozen Helpers, call **Bill Slaughter**.

March 23rd: Nolan River White Bass Outing. An article is in here somewhere.

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

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

April 1st: Basic Angler Class, 9-12 at Watterworth Park 13000 William Dodsden Pkwy. Farmers Branch, TX. Volunteers needed for this event. Hours are 8-12 Contact **Paul Locklear, 318-518-8945 Bill Slaughter 972-342-9630** for sign up

April 3rd: **Meredith McCord**, Winner Ladies Tarpon Fishing 2022, Saltwater Fishing, **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall.** Details to follow.

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

April 18th: Third Tuesday Fly Tying seminar, Cabela's at 6:30.

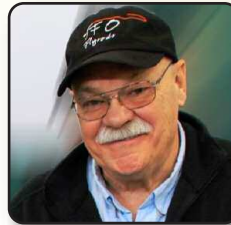
April 29th: Basic Fly Fishing Class at the Rosemeade Recreation Center. You can stay after and get certified as an Instructor. Call **Richard**.

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.

May 6th: 14th World Championship Bass on The Fly, Lake Fork Marina.

May 16th: Third Tuesday Fly Tying Seminar, Cabela's at 6:30.

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.

July 15th-22nd: The joint DFF/FWFF Colorado Outing. This is coordinated by **Jeff Ziehm** from our side. It fills early, so get planning. The stories from this outing are legends.

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.**

October 13th-15th: Is Oktoberfisch, more details later.

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

In-Person Attendance Incentive – Speaker Tied Fly Drawing

by *LaJan Barnes*

The flies tied by our speakers in January, February, and March will be nestled in a fly box for a drawing. Everyone who attends the March 6th meeting will receive a free ticket for the special drawing at the end of the meeting. One lucky winner will receive those special flies. Board members are excluded from the drawings since they are usually at the meetings. In addition, ZOOM attendees are excluded from the drawing (sorry). We will do the same at the end of each quarter. We hope to see more of our members at the meetings.

Our first fly box will be flies from: January - Stripper's Delight by **Danny Soltau**, February - Guide's Choice Hare's Ear Nymph and the Black Boudreaux by **Dave Smith**, and **Dutch Baughman's** soon to be tied at the March meeting – **Ray Bergman's** Moistic and Dutch's Stone Hopper. Only those in attendance in March will be eligible for the drawing.

January Fly: Stripper's Delight



We Have a Winner in our Renewal Raffle

In the New Years Edition of our Newsletter we were excited to announce that for all new and renewal memberships submitted no later than Tuesday 31 January 2023 11:59 pm, your name was entered in a drawing *for a new TFO 4# fly rod.*

The drawing has been held, and the lucky winner of a really great fly rod outfit was a renewal,
— **Mr. John Standefer** —
Congratulations...



RED RIVER RENDEZVOUS Eisenhower State Park

March 3, 2023

Setup

2:00pm to 7:00pm

Dinner provided bring your own drinks

March 4, 2023

7:00am to 4:00pm

Breakfast and lunch provided
bring your own drinks

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

Activities:

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

Cost: State Park Entrance Fee

For more information:

www.rfff.org



26th Annual International Sowbug Roundup

March 23rd, 24th & 25th, 2023

Travel is Fun

Travel + Fly Fishing is an Adventure

Make your next adventure at the Sowbug Roundup



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

Presented by
North Arkansas Fly Fishers
Sponsored by the
Mountain Home A&P Comm.

www.northarkansasflyfishers.org -
www.sowbugroundup.org
See us on Facebook

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

7th Annual DFF Fly Fishing and Nature Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch

April 15, 2023

7:30 am to 1 pm

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

Sign up with name and number attending via email to
gannon.jeff@gmail.com or text 214-608-7507

Menu

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

Fishing and Nature Info

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

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

100-200+ acres are available for nature hikes for those that do not
plan to fish. Bluebonnets season will be in full swing and
we should have many acres of them this spring.

Onsite transportation to/from ponds provided as needed.

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

2023 Trout Stocking Schedule

There are a few stocking dates left! See the table below and visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department trout stocking website. We listed the Dallas metroplex area county stocking locations that remain for March. So, go out and catch yourself some trout. You can even catch your dinner since the trout won't live through spring as the weather starts to heat up. Here is the website so that you can find out more details and the location of the stockings.

(https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml/neighborhood-fishin.phtml?s=o)

Harvest Regulations

- No Minimum Length Limit; Daily Bag = 5 trout
- An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake (CFL) or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles.
- Special limits are in effect on parts of the Guadalupe River.

License Requirements

- Trout anglers will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement. Anglers under 17 years of age are not required to have a license. More about fishing licenses and stamps.

- Licenses and endorsements are not required when fishing within a Texas State Park.

Locations and Dates

Dates and locations are subject to change. Most trout stocking occurs between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. exact times are unavailable. Total quantity is distributed over the scheduled stock dates. Hatchery is the TPWD facility delivering the trout. Hatchery contact information is listed below this chart.

Neighborhood Fishin' ponds (marked with *) will be stocked frequently throughout the season.

City	Stocking Location	Total for all dates	Remaining Dates
Dallas County			
Duncanville	Lakeside Park*	1,896	3/3/2023
University Park	Caruth Park	1,000	3/5/2023
Denton County			
Denton	South Lakes Park Pond	2,400	3/3/2023
Grayson County			
Denison	Waterloo Park Pond	5,742	3/5/2023

DFF / FWFF Joint Colorado Outing for 2023

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 2023 are July 15th to the 22nd.

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 15th 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 22nd or 23rd.

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.

To warm your appetite for this great group outing, here are a few pictures from the most recent one.



Here is Jeff with a nice trout. These are the major species sought.



The high country scenery is worth the trip.



The evening gathering for a sing-along and tales of the fish you got is great.



The clean snow melt water is beautiful and plentiful most of the time.

DFF Bonus - Nolan River White Bass Outing

by Dave Shatzer

Spring is definitely the best time to be fishing in North Texas and one DFF outing per month is not enough. I will lead a white bass outing to the Nolan River on Thursday, March 23, meeting there at 2:30 PM. Program your navigation app to Blum, Texas, just south of Cleburne. The meeting spot is the bridge over Rock Creek, 1.7 miles of Blum on FM 933. We park on either side of the highway just to the north of the bridge. The trail to the Nolan River is on the west side of the highway.

For anyone interested, some of us plan to meet for lunch at Buffalo Creek BBQ, 402 Henderson St., Cleburne at 1 PM and then head to the Nolan for the “afternoon bite.”

So mark your calendars and break out your white/silver clousers and white woolly buggers and come join us? Even when the fishing action is slow, the walk along the river makes it a great trip, seeing the spring flowers. When the action is good, it is magical. Many of our members have caught 40 white bass in a few hours. I have caught “doubles” (that is catching a white bass simultaneously on two flies). **Jeff Ziehm** caught a nice smallmouth buffalo in between his white bass.

—Dave Shatzer



The Casting Corner

by Ed Bowen

Good news. Cabela’s in Allen has agreed to allow us to use their parking lot for casting classes. This invitation is largely due to Dan Montayne’s highly successful 3rd Tuesday Fly Tying class and his excellent relationship with Cabela’s staff. So, we are

going to start this effort on the Saturdays following the 3rd Tuesday fly tying class. The first class will be on March 25, 2023 and run from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Interested parties will be asked to register beforehand with **Ed Bowen** via

ed.26936@gmail.com or texting 214-4771423. This class will be primarily focused on beginners, and it is available to DFF members and non-members alike. Please direct any interested parties or questions to Ed.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

Only in Texas....

February started off with crazy weather and went rapidly downhill. Our one week winter, a great Texas tradition, featured 80+ hours below freezing, but none of those in Plano were bad enough to be dangerous to your house. Just drip a little water to keep the vulnerable pipes from freezing, and you will be pretty safe.

I felt badly for those we had to drive as part of their daily routine, since the wet ice without the snow that gives your tire something to grip, can be really dangerous. This condition forced the rescheduling of

one of my favorite events, the Red River Rendezvous. Many who had to decide between that event and the Houston FFI club, the Texas Fly Fishers, had a very important 30th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival. Charlie DuCote and I attended this one more than once, and it was too good to miss. However many of us were unable to face the ice and wisely missed this one.

Our DFF meeting for February featured a group who are known as The Good Fly Organization. They had a program about working on fine tuning your casting issues. Dave Smith tied some flies. Here they are.



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Activity Report

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On Saturday, February 11th, **Michael Ahnhut**, a DFF member posted in our Facebook Page that he was going to the TFFC to fish, and anyone else was welcome. The remains of the Texas one week winter was still with us, but the fish were desperate for the fake food offerings our fly tying experts brought with them. The fish were active and BIG for the TFFC. **Michael** caught a 20 inch trout and a 5 pound catfish. Here are a couple of them.



He was primarily fishing the DFF Signature Fly, the LouDan. WOW.

On February 18th, a small group of fanatic fly fishers were fishing some private water. About 7 DFF members, and the fishing was slow. The water was cold and dark so it was not exactly ideal fly fishing conditions. That is too bad, but it is a treat to try to fish there. Of course, **Jim Crump** got about 9 fish, mostly Bass, and a real quality Crappie was caught.

On February 17th-19th was the Trout Unlimited Troutfest in the Lazy L&L Campgrounds. I don't yet have any pictures.

This is a really important event and a lot of very important people are there.

On February 21st, the **Dan Montayne** warm water fly tyers met at Cabels's. We had a good turnout in the experienced classroom, and another 6 or so in a separate class for more novice tiers. That was a success, with **Jim Woodman** teaching the novices and **Dan** and **Dave Smith** covering the bases for the more experienced group.



Dan increasing the wisdom of **Jere** and some other wise and experienced ones.



Here is **Dave** with **Bill Sargeant**, **LaJan**, **Kiera** and others attacking the pattern for the night.



Jim Woodman inspiring our enthusiastic new tiers.

All in all these Third Tuesday gatherings are too much fun. If you tie, even if you are a beginner, we have a treat for you. Quite a few of the room full of more experienced tiers began in this group therapy for novices. Your next chance will be March 21st. Mark your calendars. Reservations with **Dan Montayne** are needed, bring your own tools if you have

them, but we have loaners so don't let that stop you.

February 22nd was another fun day at the TFFC with 9 of the Stephenville Youth, fishing. This was very successful last fall and we have been doing well fishing here this year. So we were very positive about our Fishing Season getting going.

We had a double-header weekend. We taught the Fly Fishing Certificate at the beautiful Coppell Biodiversity Center on Saturday, February 25th. We had an abundance of great DFF Instructors and about 30 students eager to learn.



One of my favorite classes to teach is for **Roger** and I to teach bugs, what fish eat, and how to use that information to catch them. The big mat on the table is a graphic of a farm pond and the students take the fish models I have and put them where they should be and what they might be enticed to hit from your fly box. Lots of good answers.



This was also the weekend of the Fly Fishing and Beer Festival in Mesquite. I believe that it was well attended according to one of our members who was teaching there.

So much for the history lesson. We have a veritable avalanche of events coming in March and beyond.

Followed on March 3rd and 4th with the rescheduled Red River Rendezvous, which is recovering from our one week Texas Winter.

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Activity Report

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A flyer is in this newsletter. Casting, fly tying, camaraderie with some of the best North Texas fly folks in our business, and free food. WOW.

Then on Sunday, March 5th, is a really indepth class in the bugs that fish eat in our environment. The class will be in the water and you will be coached in how to find and identify our aquatic species. The instructor is known as “**The Bug Guy**” and he brings kits of the tools you need to do your own evaluations later. This is a must sign-up class and has a fee. It is excellent, however and well worth the cost.

Then on March 6th, the Bug Guy who is leading the class above, will do a presentation for our March Meeting. This will be a good one and will cover a lot of information as I

recall his presentation last year. You can catch more fish if you know what bug and hence what fly are they feeding on.

A real indepth weekend on the Trinity River in Fort Worth on March 11th, is sponsored by the Trinity River Water District (TRWD). The event called a FlyFest is detailed at trwdflyfest.com. Food, contests, classes and lots of fishing. How could you miss?

For the traveling fly tiers in the club, a great event known as The Sowbug Roundup takes place on the Baxter County Fair Grounds in Mountain Home AR. This is a three day event on March 23rd – 25th. Details at the flyer in this newsletter.

That week is also our Nolan River White Bass Outing. Thursday March 23rd is the date. An article about this is in this newsletter.



The all out favorite event is the Spring Outing to the Sunset Ridge Ranch. This is so beautiful and so much fun. Great Fishing, great food, wonderful fly fishing with some very highly skilled fly fishers.

Another great one is the DFF-FWFF Colorado Outing to South Fork. There is an article in this newsletter. Be there at least once in your life.

– Jere



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

Only a Texas winter can do this.....

I am beginning to write this on Groundhog Day, February 2nd. I love that our citizens doubt the Meteorological Scientists, but rely on an overweight Rodent to predict our weather. It amuses my peculiar sense of humor as we are having a record setting winter blast.

Here in Texas, we are usually South of the cold weather Storm Track, but one good Winter blast every couple of years still gets in to remind us to not assume anything about Nature. Our quick peek at winter weather was from January 29th to February 3rd. Temperatures first dropped below freezing at 9 p.m. on that Sunday in Dallas-Fort Worth and did not go above freezing until about 9 a.m. Thursday, a time span that would be 89 consecutive hours below freezing. Back in 2021, DFW had 139 consecutive hours below freezing between Feb. 13 and 19, the fifth most consecutive hours below freezing in local weather history.

Hopefully this short burst of Northern Weather is enough for us. It is enough for me with the loss of

the Red River Rendezvous and the challenges of getting all the way to Houston for the Dr. Ed Rizzolo event.



A pedestrians walks beside an icy Magnolia Avenue on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Tarrant, Dallas and 20 other North Texas counties were under an ice storm warning.

“Slushy roads persisted well after temperatures got above freezing,” according to NWS Fort Worth. Welcome to the sunny Southland. This has been a hard winter in many lands. Germany who at one time was the poster child for low carbon energy found this winter that due to lack of wind and lots of clouds over Europe that their new energy sources were not remotely effective enough, and it had to fire up its highly polluting coal fired

powerplants. Perhaps more evolution is needed on the current implementations of the wind and solar harvesting technology.

Jake Fogleman, a policy analyst at the Independence Institute’s Center for Energy and Environment, highlights another factor limiting Electric Vehicle expansion. Net Zero Emissions enthusiasts presume EVs contribute to decarbonization primarily because battery-powered electricity emits no CO2. The problem is that the huge amount of electricity needed to recharge EV batteries today is generated primarily by burning hydrocarbon fuels.

Fogleman commented that this weather scenario involving an extended period of low wind and minimal sunshine strains Colorado’s electrical grid to a point that, as the Colorado Public Utilities Commission has warned in a report published late last year, it poses a “significant threat” to future grid reliability. If the environmental benefit of electric cars depends upon the electricity being generated by renewables, states like Colorado may face an insurmountable barrier because wind and sunlight are unreliable sources of energy in winter months.

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The Conservation Corner

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I believe climate change is real, but it is something to be solved rather than just adjust your lifestyle to accept it. The solutions in place now are at best only partial solutions. My Engineering Education suggests to me that a universal solution may not exist in today's technology, but it is still better to continue searching for the magic formula than to convert to a solution that still needs work.

My conservation preference is to work on things like the very large number of plant and animal families that are suffering major reductions in their numbers. We who live on the edge of the Rocky Mountains and Westward from there are currently responsible for a very large percentage of the animals indigenous to the North American Continent. Just 200 years ago these animals were the dominate species, and had achieved a balanced distribution that provided needed food, shelter and survival opportunities in good weather and bad. They could migrate to escape major weather changes or bad years for their forage base.

Today with so many fences, highways, towns, and with factory scale agriculture, the animals are more restricted in their freedom to move when their safety needs it. Many great National Parks have provided islands where the native species could live and reproduce in relative safety, but as the population of some herds of animals grows, in prior times the excess animals could expand their range. That is less possible today.



One of the most interesting projects to build a coordinated solution to this lack of mobility is a gem of a project known as the Yellowstone to Yukon Project or Y2Y. This mind-boggling idea is to ensure that the excess animals in a region can spread out and find more suitable forage. More to the point, this project includes the needs and traditions of the Native Tribes and respects their beliefs coordinated as well with beliefs and needs of modern cultures. All of us seem to agree that the preservation of the natural world is a pressing need. This project includes issues for 5 states in the USA, 3 Canadian Provinces and two major International Borders. That is a lot of real estate. Here is the big picture of Y2Y.



This project is too much to grasp in its entirety by any one person, so it is being coordinated as a group of major issues. Each of these issues is owned by a group who are seeking a useful yet affordable solution. Since we understand a more local issue fairly well, we shall start with the Yellowstone Park to the Canadian Border segment.

The Y2Y project wants to build structures to let the migrating animals get safely across everything from county Roads to Interstate Highways. For example, between Yellowstone Park and the Canadian Border, bridges have been built across heavily traveled roads for the animals.



Y2Y supports building suitable infrastructure to keep wildlife connected. Currently more than 117 existing wildlife underpasses and overpasses have been built. The Yellowstone to Yukon region now has more such crossing structures than anywhere else in the world. Here is an animal bridge over the Trans Canadian Highway.

This whole concept of migration corridors allows the animals with increasing numbers to spread out, and it helps the animal groups to roam and seek

better forage, better protective cover for birthing their young and a bazillion other reasons. The expectation (or at least the hope) is to slow and possibly reverse the decline in the numbers of animals in each population. An example of a Y2Y project that a group is working on will provide migration corridors for the wildlife in the Bow Valley of Alberta, Canada, near Calgary.

Rapid development in this narrow valley has the side effect of cutting off the connection between two large populations of wildlife. An apex species to study is the Grizzly Bear, since if they have access so does a plethora of lesser species. The problem arises when a large influx of citizens arrive that want to build and live there. The Bow Valley is a wide low elevation valley that provides migration paths for a large number of carnivores like the Grizzly Bears and the Grey Wolves, as well as grazing for thousands of grazing animals. It is about in the middle of the Y2Y project path, and hence its importance is greater than it appears. It could cut the project in half about in its middle. This would put immense stress on the migrations and survival of a great number of important wild life.

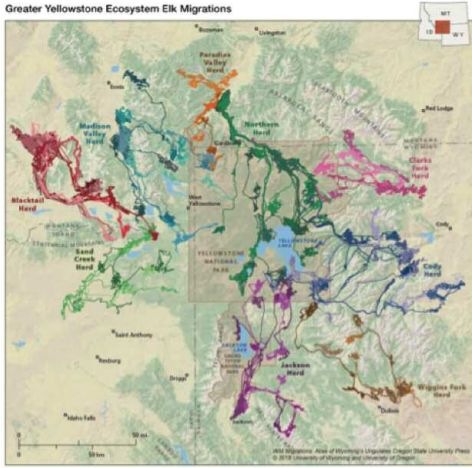
One that is very important and close to us here in the mid-west is supporting the seasonal migrations in and out of the wildlife preservation areas of Yellowstone Park. While the park itself is a great wildlife preserve, the ability of the Park's Ecology to carry the thousands of our most precious wildlife diminishes in the winter. If the animals do not move to lower elevations, they will strip the edible forage bare and then starve in the near arctic conditions that occur in the winter at these elevations. Since we humans have built our villages right up to the boundaries of the animals summer range, it is inevitable that conflicts will occur as these seasonal migrations pick up momentum in the early fall months.

Mostly the big bears and wolves are not as endangered as the grazing animals which suffer from being the targets of hunting seasons. Careful regulation and tracking the numbers harvested compared to the number of animals of a given species that have increased in the growing season as a minimum is required.

Here is a map that shows the intrusion of man vs the domain of the Elk Herds around Yellowstone.

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Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Elk Migrations



Note that the Park is the grey square, and the private and tribal land is the graphic. The graphic is of Elk Migrations, but Antelope, Mule Deer, and Bison all are with similar needs for pathways to more survivable lower elevation winter range.

This is one small illustration of how the human migration to the highly desirable high country is crowding into the domain of some of our most iconic species. And this, in a nutshell, is the conflict that Y2Y hopes to be influential in the search to achieve a peaceful solution.

We must not go back to the days near the 1900-time frame when a Bison Herd of Tens of Millions of animals was down to not many more than a few thousand. We are back in the tens of thousands of animals and the number is growing rather than diminishing. Humans need to share a bit better, and to understand that the complexes of the animals need to not only have a summer home, but also to find shelter when the winter season arrives.

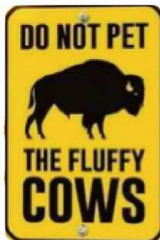
Our Fishing Season is Here!!

Some very good Bass have been taken for the Legacy Lunker titles. Keep it up folks. The early spring fishing for planter Trout and our beloved warm water fishes have been going well, too. Be sure to get out there in this milder early spring weather. The DFF is arranging more good fishing outings, not to mention that many Outdoor Shows are good places to meet our fellow fly flingers and perhaps get some information on where are the places that fish best in the early season.

Our Education Offerings are a chance to teach a few more Texans the joys of our outdoor world. In the process you get to develop your fishing skills and to create another potential Conservation Minded citizen. There will never be too many Outdoor Minded Fishermen and Fisherwomen.

The spring time is a good time to organize a stream clean-up. Many of us do them when we can and after doing a few hours of trash collection, break for a picnic lunch and then give the fishing a try. We can expand our own knowledge of some good places that fish well and are not more than an hour from home. Drop me a note. Keeping a list and directions with a clue about which fly took which fish would be worth gold to some of our members that have not yet gotten out enough.

Have a great Spring Time and blessings for lots of better fish. I doubt that there is such a thing as too good a fish, but be sure to keep them wet, and if possible do not lift them fully out of the water. We are blessed to be in a part of the world with some of the world's best sport fishing. Some of it is nature and a lot of credit goes to our friends at the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. If you find a group of our TPWD folks working to plant fish, repair shoreside vegetation, or just about anything else, stop and talk to them. They are an encyclopedia of knowledge about our waters. Or just ask Keira when you see her. She is part of Angler Education, but she has contacts in Inland Fisheries and is a world of good news and knowledge of her own.



As we get out and about just remember the lessons we have learned in prior years.

Be careful in the outdoors, be wise and be safe. I hope this Bison got these women's Jeans off a campsite and not while a human was in them. This animal was at Custer State Park, near Custer, South Dakota. Be careful and don't pet the fluffy cows.



I guess I need to confess here. Once a very long time ago when my now nearly 60-year-old Son was still in High School, the family went to Yellowstone. I was raised a farm boy with a fair amount of experience reading the mood of large grazing animals, so we went everywhere, always felt safe, and loved it.

One day we were near the geyser basin and a handsome Bison was grazing on an acre of lush green grass. I got the kids together a safe distance away and we took a picture of the three kids that were with us and the great handsome animal. I did not detect any sign of agitation, so we took some more pictures of the High School aged teenager, our grade school aged girl and a roughly 3-year-old toddler.

Suddenly the Bison decided that he had put up with these dopey humans about as much as he was going to, and he charged. The toddler was knocked down, but unhurt, and the two Teens had run in opposite directions. I froze and the Bison chose to concentrate on our middle daughter who had ducked behind a little fir tree about 4 inches in diameter. I yelled for her to stay behind the tree and keep talking to the big animal to distract him so we could get in and pick up the toddler. She did, and we got the little one and retreated to the boardwalk just behind us. The boy headed back to the car with the little one, and so all I had to do now was get the Bison to forget about the girl behind the little tree. I told her to be quiet and do not move. In a couple of minutes the big animal had forgotten why he was interested in the little tree and went back to grazing, and the two of us got on the boardwalk and beat feet back to the car. Nobody was hurt, and it became a legend of our family adventures in the outdoors. So we were lucky and played it smart and nature sided with us this time.

You will see this picture a million times. Stop and let the animals drift off the road as they chose. Do



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The Conservation Corner

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not honk, do not get out of your car. Take pictures through an open window, but if a big animal seems interested in the window, quietly roll it up. These animals are so handsome and powerful it is a pleasure to mingle with them if you are safe, and they are not agitated.

Stay well, the Texas Winter finally gave up for the year so go for it. Enjoy the outdoors and take the family with you as much as you can. Family ties are built on adventures like this and they can be done safely. Never miss a chance to get the kids out and up close to such an imposing sight as several dozen Bison Families.

Be safe, have fun and you have our best wishes for a long and adventure filled life.



-Jere

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