

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ April 2023
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

With a foot in winter and another in spring, March's weather waffled between the extremes reminding us of what has been and what is to come. These wide weather ranges provided some excellent fishing around the state. O.H. Ivie Lake produced a multitude of Sharelunker Largemouth Bass with Lake Nacogdoches, Lake Alan Henry, and Possum Kingdom Lake generating one each. Then, the early blooming of flowering trees and wildflowers signaled an earlier-than-normal White Bass Run season giving truth to the fishing apothegm, "When the Redbuds are blooming, the White Bass are running." Typically, the North Texas runs begin about 12 days after the Central Texas runs, and this year continued to hold true. The DFF enjoys at least one White Bass Run outing, and many thanks to Dave Shatzer who organized our first White Bass Run Outing of the year to the Nolan River. Hopefully, our Latham Springs and Susnet Ridge Outings provide us with excellent camaraderie and catches, too.

March's tumult didn't contain itself to just the weather. In February, Fairfield Lake State Park's future seemed permanently decided. It was closed at the end of business on 28 February but then reopened for day-use only in mid-March, just in time for schools' spring breaks. Fairfield Lake, once a warm-water lake, produced a Sharelunker last year and has continually produced quality bass. The park's closure comes as Vistra Corp sold the land leased by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to a private developer. In the late 1960's, Vistra Corp constructed the dam and Big Brown Power Plant, which was fueled by lignite coal from the nearby Turlington Mine. With dwindling mine production by 2014, falling natural gas prices, and ERCOT's determination that Big Brown's electrical

supply was not required, the plant closed in 2018. I worked in Fairfield from 2006-2015, and many spring, late summer, and early fall evenings, and weekends, I would fish, kayak, and camp at Fairfield Lake SP. I caught my only land-locked Redfish in Lake Fairfield and spent many hours targeting Tilapia on flies created and tied by John Peterie. I never caught a Tilapia, but that Redfish from my kayak was a hoot. A fish-powered vessel always makes for a telling adventure. Fairfield Lake SP's future remains undetermined as state legislators seek to intervene in its pending privatization.

Many spend the winter months tying in preparation for spring fishing. Our biennial auction, occurring in the even years, produces some beautifully tied flies for bidders, but when it's an odd year, our membership doesn't have as many opportunities from the club to find flies to fill their boxes. However, this year, member Grant Adkins graciously donated three fly boxes full of trout and bass flies for the club to auction. As we did last year, we will be auctioning these boxes online, and the winning bidders will receive a box of handsomely tied flies. Thank you, Grant for your most gracious and thoughtful donation. The club appreciates your contribution and support.



In addition to the guest speakers, outings, and the annual Holiday Party, the Dallas Fly Fishers provides an excellent education outreach which includes non-DFF sponsored education events, such as the Boy Scouts and UT Southwestern cancer retreat. While your support of the auction generates a healthy budget, we need your support in the off-auction years, as well. In the auction off-years, the Board plans for the auction, which includes accounting for the tangible items we will be offering. One of the contributions you can help the DFF achieve can be accomplished through estate planning. Endowing your fly fishing and tying equipment in your will or trust or bequeathing a small donation will provide continued education opportunities and support of future DFF education opportunities. Thank you for considering helping further the goals and objectives of the DFF.

Here's to bent tips and happy days!

-Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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DFE Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

MAKE A NOTE: THE START TIME OF THE FLY TYING HAS CHANGED FOR 2023!

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 June (Zoom only) and November (Youth Fellowship Hall, NW side of building upstairs in the back).

Previous Meeting: Streamside Class: We had a full registration for the he streamside bug collection. Unfortunately, the dam had been opened up and the full force of the reservoir was flowing at 2500+ cfs, which prevented us from getting in the water. The Bug Guy said he would come back some time to complete this event. We just don't know when. All of those who registered for this event will be given first opportunity for the rescheduled event. Everyone should have been issued a refund.

Meeting: Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy, as usual was entertaining as well as informative about the bugs we are trying to duplicate when we go fishing. He discussed the different stages of life cycles of the May Fly, Caddis Fly, and Stone fly to name a few. Additionally, Robert explained the difference between holmetabolous (complete metamorphosis) and Hemimetabolous (incomplete). Do you know the difference? Complete metamorphosis is characterized by the insects as their beginning stage does not look like the adult stage (e.g., caddis flies, butterflies, bees, wasps, beetles). A Mayfly is an example of an insect that represents incomplete metamorphosis, in which its lifecycle stages looks similar to the last only slightly bigger as it ages. The adult form is often only distinguishable from the nymph by the size and wings. Now don't you wish you had attended the meeting? 😊

Fly tying was demonstrated by **Dutch Baughman**. Dutch showed how to tie the Ray Bergman Moistic. Questions galore prevented him from demonstrating how to tie his Stone Hopper. Both flies were originally designed for bass and panfish, and both have proven to be exceptionally effective.

Future Meetings:

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. We are

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:

*LaJan's Programs Overview has the 2023 Speakers listed.
It's looking to be another grand year with the DFF!*

April 1st: Basic Angler Class, 9-12 at Watterworth Park 13000 William Dodsen 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 22nd: Earth Day. Lots to do. The DFF is helping with a booth for the public.

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 15th-19th: DBU Outdoor Recreation class that DFF helps with.

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

October 2nd-6th: DBU Outdoor Experiences Class. Great fall fishing and fun to teach.

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.

2024

February 24th-25th: Fly Fishing and Brew Festival, Mesquite, TX.

In-Person Attendance Incentive – Winner of Speaker Tied Fly Drawing - 1st quarter

By *LaJan Barnes*

The winner was **Neil Staab** pictured here at one of our third Tuesday fly tying sessions. The fly box drawing for the 1st quarter was drawn during our March meeting. The flies were tied by our speakers in January (Stripper's Delight by Danny Soltau), February (Guide's Choice Hare's Ear Nymph and the Black Boudreaux by Dave Smith), and March (Ray Bergman's Moistic and Dutch's Stone Hopper by Dutch Baughman). Everyone who attended the March 6th meeting in person received a free ticket for the special drawing. Board members were 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.

The 2nd quarter fly box will be flies from: April, May, and June (hopefully, Bob Clouser will send me the flies he ties during zoom) meetings, which will be drawn during the July meeting since none of us will be there in-person.



Nolan River White Bass Outing

by Dave Shatzer

Thursday, March 23, 2023

We had a good turnout for our Nolan River White Bass Outing, although it's hard to estimate, but I would say over 20 DFF members participated. Nine of us met for lunch at the Buffalo Creek BBQ in Cleburne before heading to the Nolan.

Water levels were fairly low at the river and the Nolan/Brazos Rivers watershed could use several good rains. For the most part, not a lot of white bass were caught. A contingent of 4 DFF folks went for the morning bite and they reported slow fishing with only a few white bass caught. The afternoon DFF fishers did not do any better. I observed the spin fish group with their jigs only catching a few small white bass. Hopefully, the big movement of the white bass is yet to come in the next few weeks, provided there is more rain.

With the low water levels, one could see the other fish species, even if the white bass were not there in large numbers. The smallmouth buffalo and spotted gars were easy to see cruising by. Pictured is new DFF member, **Kevin O'Brien**, holding a spotted gar that he caught by sight casting. Note the streamer hanging out of his bill, so it was legal DFF fly catch. Walking back up the trail, **Kevin and I picked up 30 pieces of trash. How many trash items did the rest of you pick up? Along the trail, we noticed the bluebonnets were just starting to come out** maybe that means the bulk of the white bass are a week or two away too?



-Dave Shatzer

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.

EARTH DAY is Here, So Don't Miss It

by Jere Andersn

One of my favorite events is sponsored in our Great State of Texas by Earthx.Org. It still is held as close to Arbor Day as possible.

EarthX

Earth Day 2023

CONFERENCE APRIL 19-23
EXPO APRIL 21-23
DALLAS, TX - FAIR PARK



Earthx2023 is the largest green gathering on the planet.

About this event

Earthx2023 is the largest green gathering on the planet held around Earth Day in April to celebrate progress, impact and innovation. This convening in Dallas, TX has grown to become the largest event of its kind. Earthx2023 brings together environmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, world leaders, speakers, interactive programming, and subject matter experts along with live music, art, and food. Earthx2023 creates a fun and engaging atmosphere for thought, exploration and experiential learning.

Get the details at <https://earthx.org/exhibit-at-earthx2023>

Red River Rendezvous Fly Tying

by Jim Kelly, photos by LaJan Barnes

On Friday and Saturday, March 2nd and 3rd, the Red River Fly Fishers hosted their annual Red River Rendezvous. It was held in the Recreation Hall at Eisenhower State Park in Denison, TX. The event was postponed for one month from the originally scheduled February dates due to warnings of potential icy weather. Incidentally, this was an exact repeat of the 2022 Rendezvous. Friday was set-up day with a limited number of tiers getting an early start. Pizza was served to

those first day attendees for an early dinner. Saturday started bright and early with coffee and pastries being served. During the course of the day more than thirty-five tiers participated, ranging from first time tiers to the very highly skilled. They demonstrated a tremendous variety of patterns, sizes and colors. We saw new techniques, new materials, and new ways to improve old processes. The tiers ranged in ages from seven years old to several octogenarians. A large

number of the participants were members of the Dallas Fly Fishers, many returning every year to support this event. What a fun way to spend a beautiful early spring day. For lunch the RRFF provided a picnic of sandwich meats and all the trimmings plus some delicious deserts donated RRFF members.

A date will be announced shortly for the 2024 Red River Rendezvous.



Helping Dr. Galloway with His DBU Outdoor Experiences Class

by Jere Anderson

March 13th and 14th was my favorite teaching opportunity, the Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Experiences Class. A day in the classroom and a day on the water at the TFFC. How can that possibly not be a great day with these young adults. They tied flies, did knots and learned about what fish eat and how to entice them with a fly. Tons of fun. The DFF part of this class is organized by Dan Montayne, who does a great job. We all have fun, both the Instructors and the Students.

We tie flies in the morning and with 5 experienced Instructors, the students get a lot of individual attention. This picture in Jere's students, and Doris Montayne was a great helper. We had two foreign students, that did very well.



Fly Tying Wizard at large, **Dan Montayne**, and his two students.



Jere being supervised by **Dr. Ray** who often ties at these.

The following day we went to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, by Lake Athens. This place is key to the research that gives us such great Largemouth Bass to catch, and it has a lot of good visitor things going on. If you don't feel up to coming with us when we teach there about 6 times a year, just go on your own. They have a great visitor center where you come in, and it is worth the trip.

Our Students caught quite a few fish, and had a lot of fun. Casting and fishing are what it is all about. Jere was having too much fun fishing to get any fishing pictures.



Jim Woodman was watching our group and trying as I was to keep the bait dunkers from standing behind one of our students while they were casting.



One of the really fun things to do is to have each team of two students bring in a bucket of pond water and shore debris. Then we go through the material and identify the life forms that constitute the fish's diet. This is great fun, and the well furnished Conservation Center Classroom with the support of **Kate Barkalow** of the Texas Fisheries Division makes this easy. I often remember having some bugs hatch as the water they are in warms up inside the building giving us swarms of little bugs all over the place.

We had some samples that I had not expected. One group got a thing that resembled a Tadpole, but the head was about the size of a ping pong ball and the tail was 2 inches long. Lots of Crayfish, locally called Mudbugs, and dozens of tiny black dots that were bugs so small that they were not even easily identified under the good quality microscopes. Of course we got the same bugs that our team that monitor Furneaux Creek find. Lots of Damsel Fly Larva, Mayflies, and a collection of fresh water Mussels.

This activity is often the high point of the trip for many of the students. It can save a slow fishing day, but this time even Jere got 8 fish. Don't miss the chance to go with us when we teach this in May. You will have fun and get to help some very active young people get going on a life in the outdoors. By then it will be tee-shirt weather, and very relaxing. The youth in the class are quality learners, and so are fun and easy to work with.



Here is the fishing day group picture. Too much fun, almost.



We tied two flies, a soft hackle and a woolly bugger.



DFF VP **Dave Smith** and his students and club Secretary **Jim Woodman** with his two.



Peter Rea with this fine group.

The Casting Corner

by Ed Bowen

We're off and running. We had our first fly casting class at Cabela's on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Although only one person attended, we hope to build on this. If you run into someone interested in attending, please have them contact **Ed Bowen** at ed.26936@gmail.com or texting **214-477-1423**. 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.

But wait, there's more. **Dan Montayne & Ed Bowen** put their heads together and will be

offering a class on how to fish a particular fly. Their intention is to start this as a quarterly event and see where it leads. This will be done at a local pond, stream, or lake, and focus on successful techniques for fishing one type of fly. The kick-off event will be in April, so watch your email for more information.

Stream Team Water Monitoring

by Roger Rohrbeck with Comments by Jere Anderson

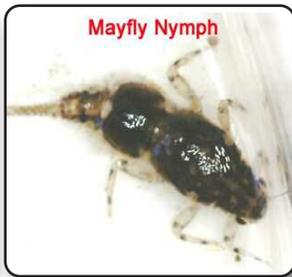
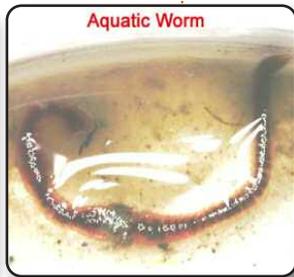
For some number of years now, the Dallas Flyfishers have been helping the Master Naturalists monitor the ecological status of the Furneaux Creek Natural Area. The Naturalist Team does the water chemistry and we do a bug picking and evaluation of the general health of the miniature wildlife. **Roger** has a microscope that allows him to

photograph the miniature wildlife we find, take their picture and then in the quiet of home evaluate their species.

Roger who is our scientific bugs scientist, **Richard Johnson** who is an active member of the Naturalist Area, and Jere are the usual team, but other DFF members help out. If you

want to help, we usually do the stream Team Evaluation on the last Sunday of the month.

This last month, the rains had come, and the weather was warming up after our 4 day Texas Winter was over. It was a slow day, but the new hatched bugs are just getting going. Here are the pictures.



The stream ecology is good to moderate and seems to support a lot of different life forms. It is unusual for us to not find more than a dozen specimens in an hour.

Jere was sorry that our Bug Guy class was blown out by too much water through the gates at the Lake Lewisville Dam. They really get some good stuff. Come join us in doing the

water quality monitoring on this treasure of a conservation project outdoor area.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

Just as the last newsletter was going out, the Texas Fly Fishing and Beer Festival was going on.

Reports are at www.txflyfishingfestival.org so go look.



I will not report on this one, but a huge number of pictures is available at the web site.

March looked to be very busy, and the first weekend proved it. It began with a huge storm on Wednesday, and then brightened up to be beautiful on Saturday. So the three North Texas Clubs; the DFF, the FWFF and the Red River Flyfishers, held an event that was great. The organizers in the Red River Club schedule the group building in Eisenhower State Park, and invite everyone. An article about this is in this newsletter.



This shot shows the large crowd. A lot of talent here.

What a group. Why were you not here?? This is a great group, and it is impossible to be around them and not learn something. If

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Activity Report

(Continued from page 7)

nothing else you get to appreciate how a knowledgeable group like this can enjoy sharing.

Then on Sunday a double header. The Stream Team Water Quality Monitors met on the water at Furneaux Creek Park and did our bug census. The little animals were just getting active as the weather warms, and the new hatched little ones were abundant. In my judgement, the quality of the urban water is better than just adequate. There is an article about this elsewhere.

To top that off, round two was to be our March Speaker's great bug picking class on the tailwater of Lake Lewisville. However, the dam was running most of the gates open, and so the wading area was in deep white water. The meeting was a redemption, to an extent.

Dutch tied a pair of really neat flies shown below.



The Monday March 6th Meeting was full of information about the bugs they did not get on Sunday.



He had a lot of information and it could have gone to be a 4 hour class. **Jere** wishes that a few more of the slides at the end of his presentation were scheduled a bit earlier, they seemed full of information to me.

March 11th was the great Fort Worth FlyFest. This is a fishing event, a food and beverage event, and is usually a nice day in the

sunshine while wading and casting to a lot of planter Trout. This one did not get the level of support from the DFF that Jere would have expected. It is free and has a lot going for it. Here are a few pictures out of the FB pages.



As usual a huge crowd. Lots of fly fishers and even more outdoor lovers.



They mostly came to catch the huge plant of really big trout by our seasonal planting standards.

Fly tiers and booths were in the building. We taught Boy Scout Merit Badge milestones for years at this event. Even if you don't tie, it is fun to watch the great ones bending the feathers and making great works of art.



At 11 am the Big Trout Contest began and ran until 4:30 pm. Lots of fun fishing in a crowd.

Our thanks go out to the Trinity River Water District for sponsoring this great public event.

March 13th and 14th was my favorite teaching opportunity, the Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Experiences Class. A day in the classroom and a day on the water at the TFFC. How can that possibly not be a great day with these young adults. They tied flies, did knots and learned about what fish eat and how to entice them with a fly. Tons of fun.



Dr. Ray watching **Jere** teach flies. Usually we can get him to sit at a vise and tie a few.

The following day we went to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, by Lake Athens. This place is key to the research that gives us such great Largemouth Bass to catch, and it has a lot of good visitor things going on. If you don't feel up to coming with us when we teach there about 6 times a year, just go on your own. They have a great visitor center where you come in, and it is worth the trip.

One of the fun things to do there is a bug picking exercise. It is led by a very knowledgeable fisheries scientist, Kate Barkalow. We give the youth a bucket and an aquarium net, and they go to the ponds all over the place. Then we go through it and find the little lifeforms. The students examine them under the microscopes and identify them from a sheet of pictures.

The Conservation Center has a great classroom with all the technology you need to do this. Often the youth have as much fun doing this as fishing.



And the fishing day group picture. Too much fun, almost.

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Activity Report

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By all means, if you love to fish and enjoy helping some great young people learn our occult recreation, be sure to sign up with Dan or Jere for the May class. The full story is in another news item in this Newsletter.

On the 21st, we had another of Dan Montayne's fun Third Tuesday Fishing Lore gathering. Cabela's is back in summer hours so we had an extra hour of camaraderie. We did a streamer fly, taught by Art San Ramon, that is much like a lot of patterns I have tied over the years, growing up in Salmon and Steelhead Country. It is a good learning tool, and if you tied this basic one, you could tie a ton of good patterns for getting those minnow eaters in our fisheries environment.

Here are a few pictures, but if you tie or want to learn, you are really missing the boat if you don't come to these. Don't worry about anything, we have loaner tools. If you have some, it is better to learn with the tools you will use to tie your flies.



Here is **Dave Smith** and **Jim Woodman** helping the tiers that want a mentor.



Dan Montayne leading and **Jere** with three other members tying.



Our Instructor and a table of some very skilled tiers. Jim Crump and Neil Staab I have tied with. The man in the purple shirt is Art San Ramon, who taught this class.

So the last weekend of the month was full of items, but if we are to get the Newsletter in your hands in a reasonable time for you to plan your Flyfishing Life for April, we have to cut the flow of news off somewhere.

It is unfortunate that one of the best items, The Sow Bug Roundup at the Baxter County Fairgrounds will be March 23rd-25th, a day or two before you get this Newsletter. I love it, and a lot of us have tied and bid for great crazy stuff at the auctions and raffles at this event. Perhaps I will get enough to report it in the May Newsletter.

Several of your fellow DFF's took part in the Boy Scout Merit Badge University that same weekend. I was very proud to be a part of this. According to the Signup Document something like 639 were going to be there and the 40 signed up for fly fishing even had a potential student on the wait list. Our part of it was organized by Bill Slaughter, one of our very active Education Leaders. Here is a picture of the DFF and friends that taught the 40 scouts.



The March 23rd Nolan River White Bass Outing has an article in this Newsletter. It is a great place to fish the White Bass run. Good access, and a walkable bank and wadable fishing water if the rain does not mess it up. I used to love to fish for the White Bass from Lake Whitney, guided by Charlie Cypert. He go us on a lot of stripers also, thanks to a highly effective lure known the Cypert Minnow.

March 30th is our outing to Lathram Springs. This is a pay for event since it is a Private Park. I hope you go there is still time to get the details off our FB page.

It looks like we survived March, so on to April. It isn't a lot easier than March.

On April 1, at a Park in Farmers Branch, is a basic Fishing course. We need to support these as well as our Fly Fishing Classes. It is

in the Calendar, and you need to call **Paul Locklear, 318-518-8945** **Bill Slaughter 972-342-9630** for sign up.

The greatest Spring Event in our calendar, the outing to the Sunset Ridge Ranch is a real DO NOT MISS EVENT. The fishing is great, the wild flowers are great and they have lunch. YOU MUST SIGN_UP, The information is on a poster on page 4. Here is a picture.



This place is too good to miss.



Here are last year's participants. A better group of Fly Fishers to have a backyard party with would be hard to find. Our Hosts make this a great day in the Texas Spring.

Then on April 18th will be another of the really fun Warm Water Fly Fishing Wisdom group therapy meeting chaired by Dan Montayne. Great or merely good, you will learn something, and have a fun group of DFF Members to learn it with. Contact Dan to be on the mailing list for this event. We are finishing up our second year and it is really fun.

April 29th will be a Basic Fly Fishing Class for the public. Lots of people often show up for these. It is in the Rosemeade Recreation Center, and if you attend and want to learn how to be the organizer of these events, come prepared to stay an hour or so after and become a Certified Texas Angler Education Instructor.

That does it for most of the stuff up to the May Meeting. Have a great summer.

— Jere



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

April has a very famous environmental event. An old outdoor celebration, Arbor Day, in 1970 was baptized to be Earth Day. It is a widely supported event, and while many who support it are not quite on target with support of an important issue, we are still all in this together. I have pushed for many of the causes that are the basis for this event. The first Earth Day had three major targets to work on.

The first major issue was Air Pollution. I lived in Southern CA and the LA Smog was the target of endless bad jokes by TV comedians. I was a pilot and as you flew South from the Santa Barbara Region, you would cross the Hollywood Hills and find yourself staring at a huge bowl of an ugly grey air mass, so thick you could not make out the buildings in the Downtown. This poisonous mass was attacked by lots of automobile exhaust clean-up (do you remember the introduction of catalytic converters?). Huge improvements have been made and jokes about CA folks never trusting air they cannot see and taste are no longer common.

The second major issue, and one I very much agree with was water pollution. The poster child for this one was the Cuyahoga River that runs from Cincinnati to Cleveland and was so polluted that the end of Lake Erie where it dumps in was almost sterile. The river was so full of partially treated sewage and industrial waste that in the winter when it froze over, you could drill a small hole in the ice and light the methane. Do-it-yourself Tiki Torches. Major fires occurred in the 1960's in all the flammable waste. While river pollution and the health of our aquatic little friends is a big deal to we Fly Fishers, we still need to stay on top of these pollution issues. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has done wonders with this problem, but it probably will never go away completely.

The third major issue was a winner. You need to be sitting down. In 1970, we were concerned about the coming ice age. Even

with the Time Magazine Cover Story about this, it will still be disputed by today's Climate Change activists. The issue stems from the hottest year in the weather history during the 1900's was around the 1930's. Then a rapid cooling took effect and produced the cold spot about 1970 - 1980 that today is cited as proof that we are heating up rapidly. They seem to miss that the rapid heating from 1970 to today was just going to get us back to where we were in the mid 1930's.

So here we are today and the hot buttons, according to the Earth Day activists today, are some of Jere's favorites.

- **Environmental Education**, such as we do with projects like teaching outdoor subjects, bringing attention to issue like protecting our wildlife. The stream health studies we do with the Master Naturalists are good to do also. We will have a part in the Earth Day Celebration sharing a booth with our Master Naturalist friends.

- **Global Cleanup**. Start small like having a trash pickup day. This year's Earth Day will have dozens of them to join and work for a bit then some celebration. Many Industrial Groups are trying to develop a sweeper to pick up the masses of Ocean Garbage.

- **Plastic pollution** needs to be more biodegradable, and less difficult to either recycle or to destroy. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is largely plastic pollution.

- **Plant Trees**. This attacks the need to sequester more carbon, and it adds to the beauty of our home planet. A hike in an old forest is inspiring. The animals need them too.

You have a few that you like, bring them up as projects if you wish. We do get involved in a lot of activities that only a few members hear about.

March has been an active month, with great programs, and greater outings. However we have some important issues that need our attention. No matter how much water we get

from California to Texas, we still need to pay some serious attention to our water management. In 2022 about this time of year, a huge snowpack which was expected to deliver a lot of water out west in a gradual spring melt was hit with a very warm wet storm that washed all that snow and the rain into the rivers around Yellowstone Park. The surge of water exceeded the ability of the watershed to contain it, and so a great deal of damage was done to the rivers and to the humans that live near them. This was a huge tragedy, and worse yet it did a lot of damage to our best park on its 100 Birthday year.

Here in Northeast Texas our drought was broken by all the rain, but not to the point where we can ignore our water management issues. We have three new lakes coming online to help with the huge numbers of businesses coming here need the available places to build a factory or headquarters and to find the houses to move their most critical staff. This can be good, but Jere is a bit skeptical that we may be just trading one problem for another. How are we going to provide the services for all these people and still keep our feeling of the Texas open landscape with all of its great fishing, hunting and outdoor recreational opportunities?

Let's start with water..... When I was first here in 1992, I ended up on the Water Board. We were planning for our future, starting with a guesstimate of how much more we needed and how soon, through the basic detail of how can we do that? In our region we became more focused on three sites for new reservoirs. One was to be Lake [Bois d' Arc Creek Reservoir](#). which is coming online as we speak. It is filling and will probably be able to launch a boat there by late 2023. Water is already flowing in lesser quantities into the North Texas Water System. However, that is not enough, as the invasion is more population than we had in our planning assumptions. It is good that it is coming online, and not a heartbeat too soon. There are still many square miles of shallow flats for our warm water fishes to be flooded.

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Here is a recent picture and the water is now up to the outlets.



The second new lake is Lake Ralph Hall. It is also known for the Ladonia Fossil Park location. An attempt to straighten a meandering creek many years ago went wild. The result was a continually eroding ditch that yields fossils from the Cretaceous Period when the area was part of the Western Interior Seaway. How many of you know that the midwestern states were sea bottom 100 million years ago? Erosion continues to expose a new set of fossils with each rainfall here. This erosion is uncovering lots of Native American Artifacts, as well as some fossils in great shape from as much as 100 Million Years ago. This Park is going to move as the earth moving for the dam progresses. The new location will be a bit downstream from the new dam. The most important fossils are being carefully moved to the care of the Perot Museum and their staff paleontologists. This way some very important finds will be preserved and studied by real science.

Here are a few examples of the finds.



The Cretaceous Period yields fossils of large marine reptiles. These fossils span the 5th Extinction Period which wiped out the huge reptiles, the Dinosaurs, that were dominant. The finds include ancient sea turtles, one of which is on display at the Perot Museum, 50 foot long Mosasaurs, 95 foot long Plesiosaurs, Devil's Toenail oysters, ammonites and worm tubes. Ice-age fossils from mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers, miniature horses, and camels are also found in the embankments of the Sulphur Riverbed that stretches ten miles or more in each direction. If you want to go fossil hunting, here is the location picture.



This fossil hunters dream is a good spring expedition, but be careful to not go too soon after a rain. The erosion canyon is deep, the sides are steep, and so it is imperative that you stay out of the creek bed until the runoff subsides. Happy Hunting....

I need to make a clarification. I am well aware of the climate changes that these fossils document. I am also well aware of a lot of science going into alternatives to our current technologies. As a holder of two Engineering Degrees, I can't very well be against the development of a better way to accomplish certain needs of our modern society. But as an Engineer, I find that not all solutions are best for all flavors of a problem. In short, one size fits all technology is rare and can be harmful.

An example of just such a conundrum is wind power. Here is a picture of the golden rolling hills, the foothills of the Sierra Mountains in CA. Please do not become angry, but this is ugly. This is Altamont Pass, just east of San Francisco.



But I am just back from the 4 major Islands in the Hawaiian Group, and in all of them, Oil Tank Ships are tied up to the docks unloading oil for power generation. This is an accident waiting to happen with all that flammable stuff being pumped near the Hotels and Cruise Ship Docks. The Islands have lots of near vertical landscape that cannot be built upon, and ridges facing the ambient wind direction. I bet money most of you would never think I would say this, but these are ideal locations to build Wind Power. The ocean breezes almost never cease, and the wind machines would not be offending either the eyes or ears of the citizens and tourists. Here is an ideal ridge on the island of Maui.



Getting back to the wind power debate, my opinion is that there probably is a place where wind power is a reasonable solution, both from an availability and perhaps even a cost standpoint. I don't have any cost information, but I am aware of the fan blades

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The Conservation Corner

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have a service life after which they must be destroyed. Currently, wind power is a leading generator of technology that cannot be recycled when it hits the end of its service life. The generator turbines and the gear boxes themselves are steel. Lots of copper wire which is readily reused. But the massive blades are composite materials. They are as long as a football field, so transporting them to a recycle center is very expensive. At the present time they are cut into pieces that are short enough to go on a semi-trailer and be hauled to a burial landfill like the one pictured here in Casper, Wyoming. This is like the burial yard for the radioactive parts of our nuclear reactors in Hanford, Washington which will be dangerously radioactive for eons.

Here is the Casper Site.



So there are still some details that need to be worked out, but a Danish Company is hot on the trail of ways to reuse these big fans. Until then, we will continue to look for places where wind energy is cost effective, and where sites

are available. The Cotton Fields along I-20 in central Texas have wind generators in the cotton fields. That is not a bad idea, and since the farmer now has two cash crops on the same land. It could be a cost-effective farming plan.

As an engineer and a data processor, I cannot be against technology. I do reserve the right to point out that some times and places are better than others, no matter what technology you are talking about.

Keep up your spirits, and get those fish... We are a fly fishing club, so write up your adventures.



-Jere

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to:

Dallas Fly Fishers
8349 Club Meadows Dr.
Dallas, Tx 75243

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

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

New Member or Renewing My Membership (Check one) Date _____

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

New Members:

Annual membership dues: \$36 per year

After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year

After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year

Renewing Members:

Annual membership dues: \$36 per year