

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

"Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate, you have not wasted your time but have done your best."

--Sir Robert Baden-Powell

Being an archivist, I often hear people talk about preservation and conservation, and the one misconception that I have learned people mistakenly make is thinking that these two ideas mean the same. However, the two are different concepts with a common end-result of protection. National Geographic defines conservation as measures that protect the environment through the responsible use of natural resources while preservation protects the environment from harmful, human activities. Conserving a fishery typically involves sustainable fishing practices, e.g., regulation limits on the numbers and sizes of fish that can be harvested. Preservation would involve setting aside part of or even all of a fishery from human fish harvesting, as TPWD did in December 2022 and February 2021 to protect marine resources during freezing weather conditions along the Gulf Coast.

Though 2023's Earth Day has passed, that doesn't mean we should move its ideals to the back of our minds. The first Earth Day in 1970 propelled the ideas of Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* from print to action. It helped create the EPA and the passage of environmental laws—the Clean Water Act in 1972 and the Endangered Species Act in 1973, to name two. In 1990, Earth Day became a global observance, and 2020 marked the 50th Earth Day celebration. A tenet of both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts is to leave a place better than it was found. The National Park Service asks visitors to practice a "Leave No Trace" principle. Trout Unlimited's website says, "Conservation is our passion. Together, we make fishing better." The International Game Fish Association received the United Nations Environment Programme accreditation for its international work with recreational anglers in protecting marine and freshwater fisheries via conservation projects. Fly Fishers International strives to preserve water bodies and their surrounding habitats, promoting "protecting the legacy for fly fishing in All Fish, All Waters." To achieve these monumentally important endeavors, these organizations depend upon membership dues and donations.

Asking anglers to dig dipper in their pockets to support these worthwhile organizations is not easy; however, action needs to be taken. The Outdoor Industry Association's 2022 Special Report on Fishing indicated that Americans who went fishing were up 4.5% in 2021 as compared to their 2019 figures, meaning 52.4 million Americans fished. From another perspective, this number of people fishing has great potential to be the greatest grassroots conservation movement this country has seen. Requiring no money, very little time, and minimal effort, every angler can practice sound conservation principles.

The ↑2U Litter Prevention Campaign, an EPA Trash Free Waters grant program, targets personal responsibility consciousness by asking each

angler to pick up trash they see along their fishing path. In Texas in 2004, the Nueces River Authority was the first to implement the program. With its success, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program wrote and received a grant to extend the program to its region. The pillars of the program are the angler and the recyclable, yellow mesh bag emblazoned with the ↑2U logo which holds about 1/3 cubic yard of litter. Whenever I head out to fish, I loop it on to my belt, fish a spot, collect trash, and move to another spot. Friday, I fished less than 50 yards of river and collected 2.13 pounds of trash, but more importantly than that, on Saturday, a lady approached me letting me know she had seen me the day previously while I was out on the water. She asked about the fishing, but she talked about the trash collection, letting me know that she was inspired to just carry a bag and pick up the bits of trash she sees while out on her walks and hikes. Conservation can be catching and easy and effective, a move I think that makes it Earth Day every time an angler is on the water.



—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. 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: Meredith McCord, what a treat to have this caliber of a speaker in April. I hope you were able to be there or listen in on Zoom. She demonstrated how to tie the Spunky Bunny fly, which will be the first fly in the fly box for the 2nd quarter attendance only drawing. Meredith talked about her pride and joy "the Redfish of Louisiana" and explained that we don't have to cast very far to catch big fish. Do you know what the scissor set is? If I remember correctly, it is a cross between a strip set and trout set, which is what she uses to land fish just off the bow of the boat. Meredith showed a video of her catching fish on two rods consecutively, first one then she immediately picked up another rod and caught the second fish, and landed both! She talked about sight casting 101 and the difference a pair of polarized sunglasses can make in different light conditions and the different colored lenses. Meredith is featured on the Discovery channel if you get a chance to watch it. A link was sent out to the membership to watch the fly tying portion if you want to tie the spunky bunny fly, only thing she forgot to tie in was the flash.

Future Meetings:

May 1: Dale Harris and Peter Rea, DFF members. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall. Topic:** Buffalo National River: How to stay drycamping and safety tips fishing from 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 a river. **Fly tying demonstration at 5:30:** Peter will be tying the black mamba fly, which will be followed by the 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. 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, which will be held at the July meeting.

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: Donavan 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 that will reveal local fishing spots.

December 3: Sunday - Holiday/Christmas Party - TBD

2024 Programs - Danny Soltau Program Coordinator

Here are the 2024 meeting dates and the projected lineup for some of the meetings. Danny Soltau has been working hard to put the 2024 speaker list together. Add these dates to your calendar and watch for the final list of speakers.

January 8th - Kelly Galloup - possible seminar with the FWFF club

February 5th - Rick Matney, Montana

March 4th - Brett Wedeking, Pacific Northwest

April 1st - Phil Blackmar

May 6th - Lee Blanton

June 3rd - TBD

July 1st - DFF member or local

August 5th - TBD

September 9th - TBD

October 7th - TBD

November 4th - TBD

December 8th - Sunday - Christmas/Holiday party - location 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 29th: Basic Fly Fishing Class at the Rosemeade Recreation Center. You can stay after and get certified as an Instructor. Call **Richard**.

April 30th: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

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.

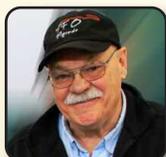
May 15th-16th: DBU Outdoor Recreation class that DFF helps with.

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

May 20th: Youth fishing, behind the Senior Center, Keller Springs Road. 9 – 12, call **Richard**.

May 21st: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

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.



June 25th: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

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.

July 31st: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

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

August 20th: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

August 26th: 8 to noon. Castle Hills basic Fly Fishing skills and some fishing. Call **Richard**.

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.**

September 14th-17th: Country Outing on the South Llano River in Junction, TX.

September 25th: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

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-3rd: 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.

Outings

by Julia Bell

May 10th Brazos River Outing; May Outing will find us on the Brazos River at Rainbow, Texas just east of Glen Rose on U.S. HWY 67. We will be meeting at the Brazos Outdoor Center TPWD Leased Access Area on Wednesday 10 May 2023 beginning at 8:00am and lasting until you've had your fill of fishing.

The Brazos Outdoor Center costs \$5 per person to enter the premises, has restroom and bathhouse facilities, and a small convenience store on-site. This is a shore/wade-fishing river trip, but if you wished, you could easily bring your own canoe/kayak/float tube or rent a kayak or canoe and paddle around the area or schedule a shuttle service for the day float on down river.

The weekend's rains provided some water to the river below DeCordova Dam, so we'll be monitoring river heights and flows with this gauging station link: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/08091000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

Take US HWY 67 south through Cedar Hill, Midlothian, and Cleburne. When you see the kayak, canoe rental site on the north side of 67, move into the left/south lane. You will be turning left/south after you cross over the Brazos on to Somervell County Road 316. Cross over the 67 northbound lanes and turn left. You will see the entrance shack where you will pay your \$5 entrance fee (please try to have exact cash). We will break for lunch around 12:15 pm at the facility. If you have any questions, please reply here, and we will get back with you.

Here is the map link for the Brazos Outdoor Center: https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/lease_access/brazos_outdoor_center_map.phtml

Should you wish to contact the Brazos Outdoor Center, here is their link: <https://www.brazosoutdoorcenter.com/services285f5d4d>

The fishing has been quite good recently, so it is our hope that it continues into mid-May. Our April 3rd Tuesday Fly Tying pattern would be an excellent choice for this outing. You do not have to RSVP to attend, but we would enjoy knowing if you might be attending.

September 14th-17th Hill Country Outing on the South Llano River in Junction, TX. It's been more than a generation since the DFF enjoyed an outing in the Hill Country on the South Llano River. Have you wanted to catch a Guadalupe Bass, a Smallmouth, or a Rio Grande Perch? Have you wanted to try kayak/canoe fishing? Have you wanted an extended weekend of fishing? Then, the South Llano River trip is for you. While this trip offers kayakers and canoeists an opportunity to explore floating and fishing, there are plenty of areas to wade fish, as well. There are three hotels, a state park, and several RV parks in Junction to secure lodging for your weekend visit. (Shady Morgan Campground no longer exists.) Please let us know if you will be attending or need help securing lodging.

The 7th Annual Gannon Ranch Outing

by Julia Bell, picture edits by Jere Anderson



What a success the 7th Annual Sunset Ridge Outing hosted by Catherine and Jeff Gannon was for the members! Catherine and Jeff greeted their 42 guests with coffee and donuts, water, and rides for those needing a little help navigating the Bluebonnet-laden hills to get to a pond of the angler's choosing. Early morning cloud cover provided enough shade to make the topwater bite successful. When the clouds burned off, weighted flies fooled the fish into taking a bite. In moving up from the southern ponds, visitors met the horses and turkeys, including getting to pet a turkey hen, and even one of the swans decided to show off her wingspan and flap across the water with grace. Lunch regaled attendees with a Chick-Fil-A meal and fishing tales aplenty. Some bid the bluebonnets, fish, and animals adieu after lunch, while others chose to hit the waters with new patterns tied on their tippets or hike more of the trails through the Bluebonnets. I had the privilege to help Jim Crump net a Largemouth Bass that was hunkered in the shoreline growth, determined to not reappear. This was our largest crowd at Sugar Ridge Ranch, and what fun we had! The Gannons have invited us back for an 8th outing, so mark your calendars for Saturday 13 April 2024 to return to Sugar Ridge Ranch and the Bluebonnets. Thank you, Catherine and Jeff for humbly sharing your wonderful slice of Texas with the club. This outing is a club favorite for many anglers and their non-fishing partners. Here is our traditional Group Picture.



Editors Note: Here are a few pictures to get you fired up to be not miss the next time. Ed Bowen, our casting coach had four fish, three fat sunfish and a bass.



With all these wild flowers, it is hard to concentrate on fishing. This is so beautiful.



They have planted some White Swans in the fishing water. The box in the middle of the pond is a nest of baby Swans, and the Male standing guard is the bird between the photographer and his mate.



Here is the incredible Texas Spring Time floral display. How anyone who loves the beauty of nature can do much besides be amazed at the beauty of the Ranch is beyond me.

As expansive as the property is, they have this utility vehicle to help you get around.



It is not possible to talk about a DFF Outing and not get a few pictures of our Presidential family. Here is **Cody** with a good bass and a big grin.



And President **Julia** admiring the latest addition to the ecology, some Turkeys.



Always helpful **Julia** landing a fish for **Jim Crump**. Teamwork, the name of the game in the DFF.



So another great trip to the Sunset Ridge Ranch is in the History Books. Don't miss more of these than you have to. I am sad to have missed this one. As a Conservationist and a true lover of the beauty of nature, it is a sad time for me to have missed this one. Blessings to Jeff and Catherine for all the hard work that built this monument to Texas Ecology, and for their generous gift to the Club of an outing there in the spring at as close to the peak of the spring wildflower bloom as possible.

The Casting Corner

by Ed Bowen

We had our second fly casting class offering at Cabela's on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Three people signed up. There is still plenty of room, so 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.

And if you talk with someone interested in beginner fly casting instruction but cannot attend our Saturday morning opportunity,

please let Ed know. We will try to accommodate all comers.

Also, we will soon be offering a stream-side opportunity on how to fish with a fly rod to those new to fly fishing. Watch for more in your email.

New Texas Fly Fishing Retailers

by Russell Husted

Super excited to announce two new Texas retailers that will support fly fishing and events across the state. The first is **Los Pescadores**, and they are soon to open as a Coffee and Saltwater Fly shop that will reside on South Padre Island, on the lower Texas coast. Los Pescadores will be a gathering place devoted to the arts of coffee and fishing, and the community that these art forms inspire. The General Manager, **Daniel Keomoungkhoun**, and Director of Operations **Russell Husted**, are super excited to share their passion of coffee and fly fishing to this beautiful community, we will call home.

Los Pescadores is a place you can come for "the rest" that is the rest of the story. It's a story about community, comfort and a unique view to watch life pass by right in front of us. We will tell stories, many of them possibly true, on story nights. We will have demonstrations in coffee, art, fly tying and just about anything that seems interesting - but always legal! Simply enjoy life, or let your amazing adventures begin at Los Pescadores

Coffee & Outfitters in Historic Downtown Port Isabel, Texas. Set to open in early 2023, please come see them when in the area. Or check them out on-line, and load up on the great selection of fly fishing gear and supplies, plus so much more, including their great coffee!!

Connect with Los Pescadores at [@lospescadores](https://www.lospescadores.com/)
<https://www.lospescadores.com/>

The second new Texas retailer is **Coffee and Caddis**. While still looking for that prime location, Coffee and Caddis is set to serve the North Texas area through other means. Starting off with their own blend of coffee, that will be available early 2023. The Brazos River blend is a unique blend that is what you always hoped your morning coffee would be like. This coffee will be available on-line, and in retail locations soon. Coffee and Caddis is also in the fly fishing guide business, with local and knowledgeable guides **Cole Risinger** and **Russell Husted**. Combined they have over 40 years of fly fishing

experience, and specialize hunting fish in North Texas. Your trip will start with fresh coffee and treats as we confer about the amazing day of fishing ahead. Professional photography is also available so that you can remember and share with others how great of a trip you had. Owner Daniel and team have also established an on-line business, that will also be available in 2023, with quite the selection of gear, flies and more. Boxes of flies will be put together for you based on the season, and what's hot, trending in the area. Stay tuned and follow Coffee and Caddis on Facebook, and Instagram.

Connect with Coffee and Caddis at [@coffeeandcaddis](https://coffeeandcaddis.com/)
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"FUELING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!"

Earth Day 2023

by Jere Anderson

This EARTH DAY saw **Jere, Roger, Richard Johnson, and Ed Bowen** all at work explaining the Earth in all its Glory to the public.

Richard was part of a very large crew planning Bald Cypress Trees in the morning. This was part of one of the most important Conservation Efforts world-wide. Reforestation, both in nature's forests and planting trees in Urban Areas count towards the total. Trees were planted in four city parks.



Roger Rohrbeck, Ed Bowen, Richard Johnson and Jere were at the Earthday Celebration sponsored by the Master Naturalists at the Carrollton Josey Ranch Library. We have taught the Fly Fishing Certificate there before.

Our table was decorated with Roger's great pictures of the bugs we found in Furneaux Creek as part of a water quality monitoring project and are glad to be involved. Jere had some bugs in bottles from the 1990's.

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Richard and Ed Bowen did a stream team simulation searching for bugs in some water and bottom sand.

The crowd did not come near the numbers we had with a booth in Fair Park those three or four years, but they were interested in what we had to say.

the different plants and animals is incomprehensibly complex. It is important to try to explain that to the public.

Some huge strides have been made since the first Earth Day in 1970, so help where you are able to keep it going. In the last newsletter a trip report noted that two of our members hiking back from fishing one of our best rivers had picked up a quantity of trash along the way. GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT. Simple, but effective. And every little bit contributes to the massive total we need to accomplish.

All in all, the folks that were there were given a lot to think about in terms of our Earth and what is happening on it or to it, whichever you believe. Preservation of our planet is not as simple as Climate Change folks want us to believe. The important inter-relationship between all



DDF Outing to the White River April 17-22

by Mike Becker

Our fifth annual trip to the White and Norfolk Rivers

released into the rivers causing severe swelling. Throw in 25 mph winds, a consistent cloud cover and below normal temps that slowed the hatch for good measure.

the fish was very high. We probably had 15 each of the first two days and better than 20 on the last day when the wind finally subsided. The brown to rainbow ratio was probably near 2:1.

in and around Cotter, Arkansas is in the books. DDF members attending were **Mike Becker, Dave Shatzer, Mike Skrehot, Suzan and Guy Thornberg** and **Mike Tichenor** and several of their non-member friends. We did manage to get together one evening for dinner and to swap lies at Senor Frog's. DDF member **Bill McNally** was a late addition and is booked to fish on April 23 and 24.

The large browns prefer the slower water near the bank. The swollen river banks were considerably higher on the shoreline making overhanging trees a challenging factor in casting and hook setting. The high winds were a further complication that led to numerous snags and forms of wind knots never before seen by man. In short, it's hard to catch fish when the fly is out of the water.

Dave and I had at least 3 doubles. Although we saw very few rises, I managed to land one nice brown on a caddis dry. We mostly fished with Dally's tailwater jigs, Dally's soft hackles and girdle bugs below an indicator. Most fish were taken on the dropper.

The trip was planned last year in an attempt to hit the height of the caddis hatch. We managed to time the outing to the hatch; however, Mother Nature decided to throw us a couple of curves that resulted in the most difficult fishing conditions we have had in any of our prior trips.

Dave and I were guided by **Steve Dally** for three days, Our other members decided to DIY. I know that **Mike Skrehot** caught several trout (including a very nice brown) in the still water near Denton Ferry RV Park and **Guy Thornberg** managed to land a brown on the Norfolk fishing from a drift boat.

Many of the browns were in the 20" class. Dave wins the crown again this year by landing a very fat 23" brown on the last day. The fish didn't know how to quit and it fought forever; it went down deep, upstream, under the boat, across the bow and headed for deeper water in the middle of the river before coming to the net near the Gaston's dock. It was an epic fight; and happily it swam away in good condition.

Northern Arkansas has received heavy rain falls this spring resulting in the Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes approaching capacity. Also, the Mammoth Springs National Fish Hatchery that provides stockers to the White is flooded and out of operation. Large volumes of water are being

Despite the challenging condition, Steve managed to get Dave and me on some very nice fish drifting sections below the Bull Shoals Sate Park and Tool Creek Shoal. Although we didn't have those big 30 plus fish days, the quality of

We are working on dates for next year. Watch the newsletter and web site for updates. This spring period is the height of the season; guides and accommodations tend to get booked early.

—Mike Becker



The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson



Sow Bug on March 23rd – 25th was one that I hated to miss. **Dave Smith** and I often tied with **Grant Adkins**. He often won some of the fly tying awards at Sow Bug. Over 1100 attended, and the youth day of Saturday Morning was a huge success. A standing ovation to the many, many folks who labor hard to make this one of the best events in the South.

Some the present and former DFF Members won prizes.



Fred DuPre with two of the fly tying awards.



Grant Adkins who donated flies to our meetings with his two awards.

March 25th was a huge event, the Boy Scout Merit Badge University. We had a big part in this one, being given responsibility for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge items. How this works is the organizers have some Merit Badges that need support, so various groups pitch in to help. We have a lot of CAI's including Jere, who are instructors trained to give Boy Scout Training. While there were dozens of merit badges the youth could sign-up for training, the DFF did three of the 8 goals of the Fly

Fishing Merit Badge. Our classes were full, and the kids were active.

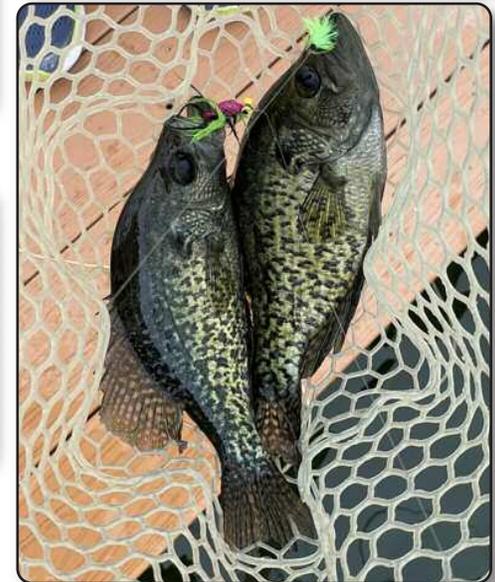


Our Instructor Team



This is the TFFC Fly Fishing Pond. It has a bit too much vegetation, but enough open water where I have found fish before to be worth a try. We have taught here many times before, and helped the TFFC build the pavilion that we teach in. Teaching Fly Tying outdoors on a windy day can test your ability to stay cool under pressure.

March 30th, was the Latham Springs Outing. This is private property, and a group can rent it for what seems like a very reasonable price. Our group caught some good fish and had a good time. Here are a few pictures. Don't miss the Fall Outing to this location.



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Activity Report

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April 3rd, the April Meeting featured an excellent presentation by Meredith McCord, who guides and arranges trips when she is not too busy visiting clubs like us. Her presentations have great videos that I love, and the ones for our meeting had some Red Fish being sighted, the fly presented and the fish taking. Great work.



Here is a picture from her last summer trip to Bolivia, I believe.

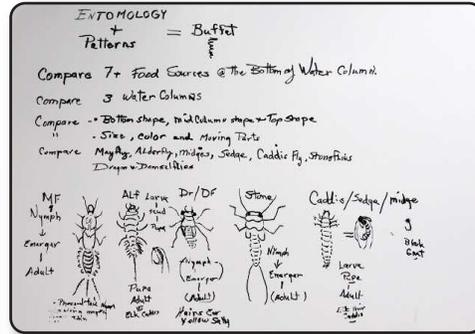
Then on April 15th, we were treated to a huge gift of a chance to fish, hike, or just sit back and enjoy the beautiful Texas Natural Spring Blooms on the grounds of the Sunset Ridge Ranch. The weather had been good, so the blooms were coming along well. An article about this great adventure is elsewhere in this newsletter. Here is the lunch break of above 40 Flyfishers.



April 18th was our Third Tuesday Fly Tying and Fishing Wisdom class at Cabela's. April's warm water pattern, the Hair Catcher, tied in the tradition of **Dave Whitlock's** Red Squirrel Hair Nymph, was presented by Dave Smith. This versatile fly can be tied on hook sizes from #2 to #20 and utilizes any style or shaped hook. You may also choose any available animal body hair. Your selection of rabbit, squirrel, or possum hair or packaged real fur dub is a great choice for this fly. We also learned to prepare and blend hair. This step is important in forming a proportioned, tapered body. Talk about a pattern for every occasion?

The Conference room at Cabela's in Allen was full, and we all had fun. **Dan Montayne** had

a graphic that was full of information about how the flies we try to imitate progress in size, depth for their active phases and how to present them to the fish.



Then a room full of participants were instructed by **Dave Smith** in how to tie the fly of the month.



A family joined our group who had never tied before. Jim Woodman led them and the young man in tying their flies.



If you are not in these pictures, you are missing a lot of fun. Some very good club members are here and as we approach the end of our second year and move on to year number three, you really need to ask yourself, "Why am I not in these pictures?"

April 22nd was our chance to be a part of Earth Day. We shared with the Master Naturalists with whom we are the stream team monitoring the health of the aquatic food chain with the Friends of Furneaux Creek Nature Trail. Roger, Rickard and Jere talked about the food web that sustains the species in the Nature Preserve. There is an article in this Newsletter.

April 29th is yet to come, but it is usually a big outdoor class at the Rosemeade Recreation Center. Contact Richard Johnson to be a part of it or to stay after for an hour and become certified as a TPWD Angler Education Instructor. This is a big one, it can have 40 students or more.

May 1st, Our monthly meeting will fill you in about Kayak Camping. How to stay dry, and many hints and tips for light weight camping.

May 6th, World Championship Bass on a Fly Contest. Contest is at Lake Fork Marina. This is one that the DFF usually wins something at. The Flyer is in this newsletter.

May 10th, we hope you can join us for our May outing on the Brazos River in Rainbow, Texas east of Glen Rose on US HWY 67 at the Brazos Outdoor Center TPWD Leased Access Area on Wednesday 10 May 2023 beginning at 8:00 am and lasting until you've had your fill of fishing. The Brazos Outdoor Center costs \$5 per person to enter the premises, see map, and has restroom and bathhouse facilities, and a small convenience store on-site. This a shore/wade-fishing river trip, but if you wished, you could easily bring your own canoe/kayak/float tube or rent a kayak or canoe and paddle around the area or schedule a shuttle service for the day and float on down river. Currently, flows are easily wadable with about a 4 feet water gauge height and about a 16-20 cubic feet/second

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Activity Report

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flow rate. The fishing has been quite good recently, so it is our hope that it continues into mid-May.

May 15th- 16th, DBU Outdoor Recreation Class. Once again the DFF will assist Dr. Ray Galloway by teaching fly fishing skills to his

Outdoor Recreation Class. Classroom at DBU on Monday and probably fishing on Tuesday at the TFFC. We need some DFF folks that want to fish with the youth.

May 16th, Third Tuesday Fly Tying and Warm Water Fishing Lore, Cabela's in Allen.

Do not miss out on the group trips being arranged for this early summer. **Jeff Ziehm** leads the DFF part of an excellent outing to South Fork CO. From the pictures, it must be a lot of fun.

— Jere



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

The summer weather is here, and we have survived two of the most active months in our DFF Club Calendar.

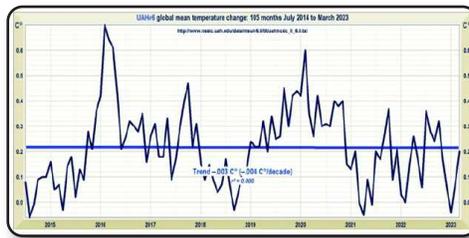
For many of you, it is pollen season. While I do not like the yellow dust on my car, I do not suffer from allergies or other such aggravations. So if you do have allergy issues, hang on for the next 6 weeks or so.

Some leftover business from the Fall has just come in. Remember my writing about something called COP27? That stands for Council Of Participants number 27, and they happen annually. They are called for and led by various Governmental Officials, the latest one being organized by the President of Egypt. I have been waiting for the final volume of the report, which came out in March of 2023. It is called the Sixth Assessment Report. Since the IPCC was created in 1988 there have been 6 Synthesis Reports. These accumulative reports come out roughly every 7 years, so we are safe until about 2030. The version that I have is not final and already spans more than 84 pages. This Synthesis Report does not introduce any new information or findings. While the IPCC Reports include some good material, the Summary for Policy Makers for the Synthesis Report emphasizes weakly justified findings on climate impacts driven by extreme emission scenarios. The most important finding of the past 5 years is that the extreme emissions scenarios, commonly referred to as “business-as-usual” scenarios, are now widely recognized as implausible high. These extreme scenarios have been dropped by UN Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Agreement. However, the new Synthesis Report continues to emphasize these extreme

scenarios, while this important finding is buried in a footnote:

“Very high emission scenarios have become less likely but cannot be ruled out.”

This graph is from the University of Alabama Huntsville, who maintains the satellite land and water temperature data set. It has shown no significant rise in temperature for almost a decade.



There is a lot to be done with the issues raised by Climate Activists. More work on alternatives to burning Fossil Fuels is still a good idea, but more by the conversion from the really dirty ones like low grade coal to cleaner ones like natural gas. This is an international issue and needs cooperation at the highest level. The USA is rapidly going to cleaner power. Texas converted many Thermal Powerplants from lignite (a very low-grade coal that is very dirty when burnt) to Natural Gas during the major maintenance cycle in 2010. The better fuel had been more available with the development of Fracking, so we are setting an example. The graphic shows that the average surface temperature in the USA is flat to slightly declining. So perhaps our question really might be, “How do we get the world’s top polluters to join our clean energy projects?”

My favorite Climatologist is Dr. Judith Curry who is a true climatologist. She once headed The Department of Earth and Atmospheric

Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and has a PhD in Geophysical Sciences. I have been following her testimony in front of science groups and congress, and her Blog. She believes that there is much science out there, but it is not being taken advantage of when it suggests that the political winds are blowing the wrong way. Here are a few of her main points that I like best.

Even people that don’t know much about climate science have heard that 97% of climate scientists agree. But exactly what do they agree on? Not nearly as much as is portrayed in the media. Everyone agrees that:

- Surface temperatures have increased since 1880
- Humans are adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, and
- Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases have a warming effect on the planet

However, there is disagreement on the most consequential issues:

- How much of the recent warming has been caused by humans
- How much will the planet warm in the 21st century
- Whether this warming is ‘dangerous’
- And how should we respond to the warming, to improve human well being

The first two points are in the realm of science, requiring logical arguments, model simulations and expert judgment to assess “whether” and “how much.” The issue of “dangerous” is an issue of societal values, about which science has little to say. Whether reducing CO2 emissions will improve human wellbeing is an issue of economics and technology. This is also contingent on the relative importance of natural climate

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variability versus human-caused global warming for the 21st century. Volcanoes and stormy weather have a natural impact on Climate, so to claim that if we all had electric cars the world would be safe from Global Warming is absurd.

The justification for some caution in believing everything you hear is simply that many prognoses have been made since the 1970's Earth Day, and almost NONE of them turned out to be true. Here are a few examples from an extensive article in my possession.

- Before WWII there were many alarmist articles about the coming Ice Age.
- Then as the temperatures crashed in the 1050's to 1970's, articles about the famines from our food supply being unreliable during the Ice Age led to a prognosis by Paul Ehrlich, a Stanford Scientist, that we would be rationing water by 1974 and food by 1980.
- However when the global temperatures turned the corner in the 1980's, the tune changed and island nations going under water and an ice free North America became more stylish.
- By 2000, predictions of the world being snow and ice free were popular.
- Al Gore predicted the end of civilization as we know it by 2010.

And the beat goes on. The Paleontologists reading the fossils suggest that both extreme swings of weather and climate have happened in this Geological Period. We were totally ice free for about half of the 65 million years and had CO2 as high as 2000 parts per million. And life thrived. I am not suggesting that we should forget about fixing what we see and figure out what we want to see. I do suggest that things happen in a cyclic manner and that which we have survived before just might be something we can handle again.



I believe that Climate Activists have something to say that is worthwhile. What if all that human intelligence focused its energy and were to use it to work on some problems we understand? Issues like rebuilding forests, water conservation, wildlife species survival and food availability?

The next COP meeting is in November in the United Arab Emirates. Since they are mostly working on justifying the elimination of fossil fuels, holding the meeting in an oil patch country seems questionable. We get to send our delegates, so I nominate Fred Flintstone. He was not popular in Egypt, but I want to see how the Flintstones and the citizens of Abu Dhabi do.

In any case this is the last Climate Change post I will write until after COP 28, to be in the January 2024 issue of our newsletter.

WATER ISSUES

I have been trying to keep up with the water situation in this column. We have gone from CA having a 20+ year drought to having as much as 80 FEET of snowpack in the Lake Tahoe Region. This huge amount of stored water could be almost worse than way too little water. The CA reservoirs are now fuller, and a lot of restrictions have or are being lifted. A lake that was empty for 40 years is now wet.

Here in Texas a lot of good work is being done to extend our water to cover the needs of our population growth. It is too early to tell, but the worst damage probably was the drawdown of the underground aquifers that feed the thousands of wells outside the cities. It may be a long time before these are refilled, if ever. Our TX reservoirs are doing better. We still have extreme drought in the Austin Area and need more water almost everywhere. But the Texas spring cloud bursts are due between now and mid-June, so we still have time.

Some creative alternatives may help with the shortages. I have been in touch with **Mr. Dustan Compton**, the Conservation Manager of the Tarrant Regional Water District, and they have been working with the Regulators about how to draw off a bit of the excess water in a very rainy spring and use it to supplement the precious licensed water

allotment that is needed in the summertime. This is a very challenging issue, since they must also be careful to not reduce the flow going to users down stream from the source of the additional water. As an engineer, I am pleased to see such a creative solution. Extreme care needs to be taken to be sure that everyone's needs are considered. But from what I read the plans sound like an example of a carefully thought-out solution. Great job, Gentlemen, and I am looking forward to seeing more of these creative solutions at work.

FISHING SEASON

How is your favorite fishing water doing? Our winter was mild, and the early bloom of our beloved wildflowers is one of the great payoffs of an easy cold weather season. The fishing tales of members chasing our planter Trout in places like the TFFC have been exceptional. The FB page has lots of pictures of successful fishing trips for many species by our members fishing at our local hot spots. One of my favorite spring things is the annual TPWD Share-A-Lunker Contest. Last year was stellar but hold on to your hats. For the year 2023 through the end of March, the TPWD Web Page shows 171 Share-a-Lunkers registered. WOW.

Jere has not been fishing as much as he wants to, but I have an open spring calendar. Let me know where you are having the best luck on fish the right size for my 5 wt.



Here are **Julia** and **Jim Crump** early season basses.

The Conservation Corner

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Our TX Springtime weather is thriving for lots of species. But I keep seeing articles about there being many species that are having their numbers reduced. Keep looking out for trash, pollution and the like that might be impacting our fish. We are very fortunate to be living in the corner of the USA that has huge populations of good catchable fish. In the last newsletter, **Dave Shatzer** and **Kevin O'Brien** picked up trash along the trail to the Nolan River as they returned. This is very

commendable and a great example of how a little thoughtfulness and some attention to the details can make a BIG difference. How many times have some of us gone striper fishing below the Dam on Lake Texoma and found a veritable field of trash in the fishing area? Picnic trash, foam boxes that held bait, McDonald boxes, and even dead fish that should either be taken home and cooked or returned to the Red River. This trash in our waters if not removed will ultimately end up in

the Gulf of Mexico and contribute to a mini version of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

As a Club, we do a lot of teaching and mentoring with youth and adults to pass on to them our love of being an Outdoor Activist.

**Keep up the really good work.
Best wishes for many fishes.**



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