

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

After our May outing, I was asked by two fishers, one a fly fisher and one a bait caster, why would I go fishing in the rain. They asked not from a safety viewpoint, as there was no lightening, the rains were not hard or heavy, so there was no rising waters over which to be worrisome, but asked from a standpoint of having a good day on the water—being able to cast to specific spots because a fish is moving into range of the fly, being able to see fish, being able to see drop-offs, which have “high fish potential,” and seeing potential hazards that would impede the fly. Some of my best days of fishing happen in the rain. I find that my mileage time spent on the water takes over when I’m limited in other areas beyond my control. I rely on what I have learned in the past from fishing, from hearing speakers, from hearing fly tyers, from knowing how to read murky waters—how fast is the water moving, what is the current’s path, what is the depth, relying on using my wading stick to determine water column depth before I take a step—just many skills experienced fly fishers discuss and share willingly with others in the community. This just did not seem to satisfy the fly fisher who really did not believe me that fishing in the rain can be good. I shared my more memorable catches where rain falling is captured in the photos of caught fish, and still I received disbelief that fishing can be enjoyable, rewarding, and productive. This caused me to wonder about my angler’s disbelief.

In 1986, **Norman MacLean** was giving some guest lectures at his University of Chicago. Having an almost double-major in History and English, I genuinely wanted to travel to Chicago to hear MacLean speak. However, it was spring which meant softball,

so my friend went without me, but he brought back a copy of *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories* for me. I read it cover to cover and have many times since, and one of the lines in the *A River* novella that has stuck with me from the moment I read it is “Many of us would probably be better fishermen if we did not spend so much time watching and waiting for the world to become perfect.” I think my fellow fly fisher felt the disbelief that fishing in the rain couldn’t be accomplished with joy or satisfaction or success because he viewed it as less-than-perfect conditions for fishing.

I’m fish crazy; there’s no doubt about it, so any time an opportunity arises to go fishing, I almost always take it, and it’s undoubtedly those less-than-ideal conditions that have made me a better fly fisher. The wind has taught me to double-haul and cast over my shoulder. The rain has taught me where to cast my fly even though I can’t see the fish; it has taught me when I need to use heavier flies or the reasons to own lightweight sinking lines, such as a 135 and a 150 grain. Did I really want to cast in the wind? No, not at first, because it was difficult and challenging, but then, I became determined to do it, because not every day is going to be windless. One day, on a club outing to Purtil Creek SP in April 2009, the wind was up and **Cody** kept telling me to cast backwards over my shoulder. We’d just returned from a long, saltwater trip, and I didn’t want to do it. Cody decided it was time I learned, regardless, and he wasn’t positioning the boat to help me cast. I had no choice but to cast “backwards;” wouldn’t you know, the first time I do it, I landed my fly pretty near where I was targeting and ended up catching the biggest Crappie of my life to date.

The absolutely only way we will ever become better at fly fishing is water mileage and fly tying is wise mileage. Hearing experts speak about how to fish and tie better is only a part of improving our skills. Do not wait for that “perfect” day. Instead, change the mindset to knowing that almost every day is a perfect day to go fly fishing. The experience alone will be a fine teacher, and you will leave the water a better fly fisher than when you awoke.

Here’s to bent tips and happy days!

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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DFF 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: Dale Harris presented excellent information about camping and safety tips fishing from a kayak or canoe. Thank you for the valuable information. Peter Rea tying presentation of the Shannon's Fly for Texoma and the black mamba fly proved to be a new pattern for me. Thanks to these faithful members for their great information. Don't forget you can watch it again if you missed it. Check out the DFF YouTube video.

Future Meetings:

June 5: Bob Clouser! This will be a **ZOOM meeting only beginning at 6 PM.**

ATTENTION FOR JUNE 5TH MEETING!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The ZOOM meeting will begin at 6 PM (CDT) and last for a couple of hours, followed by our short business meeting. Look for the email to access the meeting using your computer, laptop or phone.

DO NOT GO TO THE CHURCH - NO ONE WILL BE THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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. We will not have fly drawings 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.**

REGISTRATION and RSVP REQUIRED: Please RSVP to **Bill Sargeant** at tyflyer@sbcglobal.net or **LaJan Barnes** at NLBARNES@AOL.COM.

Please don't forget to register by July 7th to make sure there are enough materials and tables set up. We will have two tyers at each table. Non-tyers can sit with advanced tyers to watch.

WHAT TO BRING: Vise, tools, including a hair stacker, tying light, and one spool of 140 denier white thread. All tying materials will be provided for the flies - no sneak peak about which flies we will tie - it's a surprise. We hope to have a similar set up as last year with enough power sources for lights.

PROGRAM: Advanced fly tyers tie along. Bill will demonstrate how to tie two advanced surprise flies. We won't know which ones until the event. Experienced tyers will enjoy tying these advanced patterns. If you are a beginner feel free to just watch and learn or come and sit next to advanced tyers. Please feel free to come to the meeting even if you are not going to tie along.

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). Nick will be covering changing topics and tactics for each of the sections. He will go in depth on certain aspects of each of the water ways that make them unique & differ from one another. He will cover key points that make these particular sections of river difficult to fish, and explain how to read and combat constantly changing conditions in order to have a successful catch.

September 11: Aaron Reed, award-winning outdoor writer and Army veteran. He currently splits his time between New York City, where he is a tugboat captain, and his home near the San Gabriel River in Georgetown, Texas. When he is not working, chances are you can find him knee-deep in a stream somewhere around Austin, often with one or more of his three boys, trying like heck to become a better fly fisherman. **Meeting Location: Ogden Fellowship Hall. FLY TYING WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 PM and end about 6:15.** Our break will be from 6:15 to 7 PM. Then our speaker presentation will begin at 7 PM. **Presentation Topic: Texas Gulf Coast or San Gabriel River Georgetown.** The general presentation is simply the title of the book: *Fly Fishing Austin & Central Texas*. There have been some recent issues -- private landowners damming a river, the state shutting down access at another popular site, and workarounds to those. Aaron will highlight those in his presentation.

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 that will reveal local fishing spots.

December 3: Sunday - Holiday/Christmas Party - TBD

If you were not thrilled with our location the last two years, please make a recommendation. Remember that we need to accommodate all eating habits and still be cost effective. We have tried to keep the cost to \$50/person. Email LaJan at nlbarnes@aol.com with your recommendations after you have made a call to the place you propose to get an idea of the cost and menu options. LaJan will be glad to follow up and consider all options.

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.

2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

by Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

Still finalizing the speakers for the fall but have a number of "feelers" out and need to solidify who is going to be where. I am hoping to have a photography specialist, another two Texas or regional locals.

January 8th: Kelly Galloup - 1st segment on Dry Fly Tips and 2nd segment on Streamer Fishing, I. will speak with membership on where they would like Kelly to delve into specifically. Kelly is a 20 year friend and has an incredible knowledge base and fun loving personality all things fly fishing.

February 5th: Rick Matney, operates Chrome Chasers Steelhead and Fishing Lodge in Alaska, Rick Matney outfitters out of Bozeman and a popular contributor to various hunting and fishing media outlets. He is an EXCEPTIONAL chef and we are planning to have Rick talk about cooking fish and game along with whatever questions folks have about different fisheries.

March 4th: No speaker due to Auction.

March 11th: Our major source of funds for the DFF, our Auction. It is in the Plano Center again.

April 1st: Brett Wedeking - Renowned fly tier, writer, and guide out of Seattle, WA. Brett is going to do half tying, and half fishing related topics.

May 6th: Lee Blanton, talking fly tying and deer hair techniques for 1st half, then discussing different bream fisheries and bass fisheries around Texas and Alabama

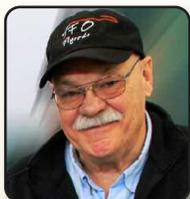
June 3rd: Phil Blackmar, casting expert and legendary golfer from Texas talking about simple drills and tricks to improve casting in tough conditions.

2023 CALENDAR:

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

May 30th: Ladies Tying Night @ McNeals, an article is in this Newsletter.

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 13th: Open Tie Night @ McNeals, an article is in this Newsletter.

June 20th: Dan's warm water fly tying at Cabela's at 6:30.

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

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

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

October 2nd: Donovan 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.

November 19th: Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

December 3: Holiday/Christmas Party - TBD.

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DFF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR THE 2024 SCHEDULE

The beginning of the 2024 Programs and major events calendar. We are getting ready for another great year at the Dalla Flyfishers. Danny Soltau is hard at work setting things up.

January 2nd-6th: DBU Outdoor Experiences Class.

January 8th: Kelly Galloup - 1st segment on Dry Fly Tips and 2nd segment on Streamer Fishing, I. will speak with membership on where they would like Kelly to delve into specifically. Kelly is a 20 year friend and has an incredible knowledge base and fun loving personality all things fly fishing.

February 5th: Rick Matney, operates Chrome Chasers Steelhead and Fishing Lodge in Alaska, Rick Matney outfitters out of Bozeman and a popular contributor to various hunting and fishing media outlets. He is an EXCEPTIONAL chef and we are planning to have Rick talk about cooking fish and game along with whatever questions folks have about different fisheries.

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

March 4th: No Regular Meeting. This is the month of our Fund Raiser Auction.

March 11th: Our Auction and Fund Raiser. This is a very fun, exciting and important event. **PLAN TO BE THERE.**

Outings

by Julia Bell

Our June outing will be close to home. We will be fishing LLELA, Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area, on Sunday 11 June 2023 about 2:00 pm until just before sunset. Buffalo, Catfish, Bass, and Sunfish are common species found at the Lake Lewisville tailrace and farther downstream. A 5# or 6# is a good rod choice with warm water floating line. Wet wading and bank fishing options exist. We will keep an eye on the water flows with this gauging station: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/08053000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

Address: 201 E. Jones St., Lewisville,
TX 75057

Cost: \$5.00; credit card only

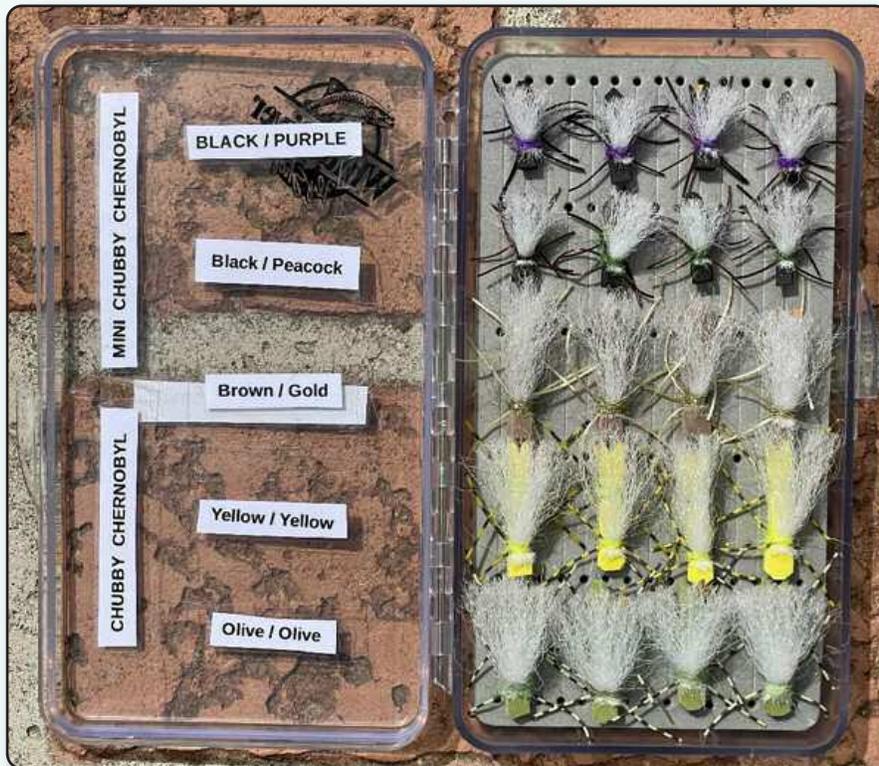
Our July Colorado Outing with the FWFF Club is from July 15th to July 22nd. A full article with pictures is in this Newsletter. This one is too good to miss, if you want a week of South Fork Colorado fishing. The lodge is full but there are plenty of other places to stay in the town.

Our September outing is to the Texas Hill Country on the South Llano River in Junction, TX on September 14th – 17th. This is an all-access trip appealing to wade fishers, float tubers, and kayakers/canoers. You can pick short stretches or long floats; fish one, two, or three days. There are three hotels in Junction, South Llano River SP, and several RV parks (Shady Morgan Campground no longer exists). A 4# or 5# rod with warm water floating line is a good rig setup. We will be targeting Guadalupe Bass, Rio Grande Cichlid, five different Sunfish species, Bass, Crappie, and Catfish.

The Online Auction for the 3rd and final fly box donated by club member Grant Adkins is now live.

<https://dff.betterworld.org/auctions/june-2023-grant-adkins-flies>

This fly box contains 20 chubby chernobyl ants, 8 regular chubby chernobyls and 12 mini chubby chernobyls. The chubby chernobyl ant kind imitates a stone fly, and kind of imitates a beetle. They are dynamite in both cold and warm water.



Please support your Dallas Fly Fishers and consider bidding. Bidding closes this coming Sunday at 6pm. Since our June meeting is a Zoom Only meeting, arrangements will be made to get the winning bidder their flies.

-Jeff
The Dallas Fly Fishers

2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction

by Dave Shatzer

We have a date for our 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction. It will be **5-9 PM, Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Plano Event Center.** Our last DFF Fundraiser Auction in March, 2022 was very successful at PEC, making \$13,764 Net Profit for our club. Starting at the August meeting, we will start forming the committees for the various functions in putting on the

Auction. Later in the fall, we will begin the collection of Donated Items for the Auction.

One thing that DFF members can do this summer is solicit for Donated Guide trips, which are our biggest moneymaker in the Auction. So when some of you go out on a guided day trip over the few months, help us

out by asking your guide if they would donate a day trip for the DFF Auction. They get exposure from a flyfishing club that is over 200 members strong.

So put the Auction on your calendars, Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Plano Event Center.

In Celebration of **Women's Fly Fishing Month**, FFI Women Connect will be hosting a fly fishing contest. The contest is currently running until June 30th. You are able to submit a photo that you have taken in the last year and have the opportunity to participate in 1-10 categories. Prizes include fly fishing gear and 1:1 mentoring with casting, fly fishing and fly tying experts. All participants will be able to attend a Fly Fishing photography seminar with **Brian 'Keefe**. You may sign up and see the rules at this link: FFIWC Photo Contest (flyfishersinternational.org). Proceeds benefit FFI Women Connect and Area Councils.

A special thank you to all of the Texas FFI members that have contributed prizes: **Capt. Stacy Lynn, Cari Ray, Dutch Baughman, and Ron Mayfield.**

If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out. **Dani Rose, Womens Outreach Director, Texas FFI Council.** Womens.outreach@texascouncilffi.com.

In Celebration of Women's Fly Fishing Month FFI Women Connect invites you to enter our:

Fly Fishing Photo Contest



Deadline: Don't Miss out!

June 30 11:59 PM PST

Photos taken anytime in past year are eligible.



How to Enter:

Scan QR Code or copy link for full details.

Please review guidelines. <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/get-involved/ffi-women-connect/ffiwc-photo-contest>

www.flyfishersinternational.org/get-involved/ffi-women-connect/ffiwc-photo-contest



Photo by Brian O'Keefe

Entry Fees:

\$20 for 1 photo, \$30 for 3 photos, \$50 for 10 photos. Proceeds benefit women's fly fishing programs.

Prizes: **Everyone Wins!**

Professional Fly Fishing Photographer **Brian O'Keefe** will lead a **Zoom Photography Seminar** for all contest entrants. ***Individual Prizes** will be awarded based on the winners in each category. Prizes include: 1:1 fly fishing teaching sessions and/or merchandise. **A full list of sponsors and prizes will be made available by the end of May.**

Photo Categories:

- 1. Warm water fish caught by a woman
- 2. Cold water fish caught by a woman
- 3. Saltwater fish caught by a woman
- 4. Photo of your best catch on a fly you tied
- 5. Photo of most interesting fly you tied that caught a fish
- 6. Best group fly fishing photo featuring women
- 7. Best buddy photo featuring women
- 8. Best Underwater photo (may be partially over & under) of fish
- 9. Release photo of a fish caught by a woman
- 10. Best casting photo of a woman angler

DFF / FWFF Joint Colorado Outing for 2023

by Jeff Ziehm

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado this July. Dates for 2023 are July 15th to the 22nd.

It is the responsibility of the attendees to make their own travel and hotel plans, and bring their own gear. There is fishing available that will satisfy most anglers; small creeks, large rivers, and high mountain lakes.

Our home base will be the Ute Bluff Lodge.

<https://www.uteblufflodge.com>

If they are full, there are many other lodging options in South Fork.

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day, and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal "where did you go today and how did you do?" gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that

can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday the 15th mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fishing in the afternoon, and next 5 days, returning home on the 22nd or 23rd.

You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque, and rent a car.

If you have any questions, contact **Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.**

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



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

The high country scenery is worth the trip.



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

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



Two New Fly Tying Events

by Danny Soltau, The DFF Program Chair

This has been written by Jere Anderson, from Danny's Input.

We are happy to announce two new Monthly Fly Tying Events. On the second Tuesday, one week before Dan's Warm Water Sessions, will be an open tying event at McNeal's in Plano. The first one was very successful with a great turnout and a lot of fun flies tied. Photo in upper right corner.

Lots of fishing stories were exchanged and it was great to see such a solid crowd of outdoor enthusiasts getting together and tying flies. Danny wants to thank everyone who came, and make sure you don't miss this next second

Tuesday, June 13th. For more information talk to Danny on the shop phone at 469-573-5040.

Even more great news.... He is also sponsoring a Ladies only event on Tuesday, May 30th. WOW, two new chances to be part of the fun, and all very close by for our members who live in one of the many towns that border Plano. So mark your calendar, with open fly tying event on the Second Tuesday and a Lady's Event on the fourth Tuesday, our new Program Leader for 2024 is keeping us busy.

Danny has a Shop Newsletter about his new shop, The Dirty Water Fly Company, and it would be a good idea for those of us in the area



to stop by and say hello. Do get on his E-mailing List. He has lots of activities to book and a growing fly shop. The address is:

Dirty Water Fly Company
1410 Ave K, store 1103
Plano, TX

May Fly Tying Report

by Jere Anderson

May brings Part 2 of tying flies with the purpose of matching a favorite aquatic food source. If you missed April's Part 1 session featuring The Hair Catcher and tied in the tradition of Dave Whitlock's Red Squirrel Hair Nymph, it's not too late to catch up with the Winged Adult Variant. 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 body material. This session focuses on a large soft hackle and the final adult stage that features a top wing, body noise, and motion. Materials will change slightly from last month, but the final adult variant will tempt the wariest fish. The last 30 minutes of the evening will feature tying a multi-fly leader. We tried to cover this during the April session but ran out of time. You'll focus on the assembly of a two or three wet fly leader. Register for this fun filled Tuesday evening now!

Important Reminders:

- Reminder tying starts at 6:30 PM to 8:30 at Cabela's Allen TX. That means we have to be cleaned up and out of the store by 9:00 PM.
- The focus of these sessions is to introduce beginning fly tiers to this art, help all tiers improve their skills, and create fly patterns that catch fish.
- Everyone will benefit from bringing a pair of magnifiers with a power of 2.5 - 5.0. They will definitely help you see the thread and placement of materials much better.
- Contact: TEXT **Dan Montayne** to register or cancel. Call or Text: 214-693-4643 Email: montayne@verizon.net

- If you need to borrow equipment for the evening, include that in your communication.
- If you have tying equipment and tools, please bring them.
- All pattern instructions and supplies are provided by our club and/or donated by individual tiers.

This always draws a crowd, so be sure to sign-up for the June event with Dan Montane.

Here is the fun group of dedicated feather benders from May 15th.



This a great group. If you are not sure you are ready for this level of fly tying, come anyway and this table with a highly skilled Mentor, **Jim Woodman**, will help you. This table always accomplished a lot and had fun doing it.

The large group looked like this.



Here is Dan coaching this side of the room.



Here is Dave Smith coaching the side I was on. There were 6 pretty good feather benders on our side also.

Here are my two flies, the instructor's flies are in the Club Events Article.



I was part of the original four or so that Dan drafted to help, and I am glad I did. While I never had the neatest set of flies, I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. If you want to have fun with a great group, and learn a bit in the process, here could be the place for you.

Next time is June 20th. Get on Dan's E-mail list if you want to get in this. The good vibes and the skills exchanged can make your day.

Outdoor Fishing Event at The Carrollton Senior Center

by Jere Anderson

This very successful event was supported by the great group of volunteers from the DFF. About 25 kids attended with their parents and as well as we can tell, most got a sunfish or two. These outdoor experiences in support of Daniela Flores of THE CITY OF CARROLLTON REC. DEPT. are an important contribution to the community. The facility is the lake behind the Josey Ranch Library.

Much credit for keeping the rods in good shape and helping bait with worms and corn

go out to; Beverly Lyttaker, Ed Bohem, Art San Ramon, Tom and Grayson Costlow, Bob Stevenson, Richard, and Jere assisted by my Grandson Matthew. What a crew!

Here are a lot of pictures, and Jere might go back and fly fish the more NE End of the lake.

Lots of fun for the younger set. This is just one of a series of city lakes that fish well. My Grandson who helped here and I will exercise the fish a little and maybe they will be bigger next time.



Water Watch Stream Team Monitoring

by Jere Anderson

One of the most interesting things we do regularly as a club is our role in Conservation Projects. I became the Conservation Chairman on day one of being a DFF Member. Brian Shivers needed a Conservation Leader, and in spite of my protests that I knew next to nothing about the issues facing us in Texas, he grinned and said "You will learn."

He was right, and I have had a lot of fun and many challenges over the 30 years I have helped with Conservation Issues. One of my favorites is based on an understanding that the base of the food chain is the billions of little life forms that for the most part live in our lakes and streams. There is too much to do for me to even touch the edges, but one of its components is to do Water Quality Monitoring.

A team of Master Naturalists do the chemistry park of the monitoring. Temperature, PH, turbidity, and the like have now been kept of a couple of years, I think. So when Richard suggested that we of the DFF could help by doing an evaluation of the bottom of the food chain that is represented by all the tiny animals in the stream bottom, I jumped on that chance.

The stream life team today consists of **Roger Rohrbeck**, an Entomologist; **Ed Bowen**, a knowledgeable fly fisher and our Casting Coach;

Richard Johnson and Jere Anderson, a pair of experienced and knowledgeable fly fishers. We get a couple of buckets of stream water, bottom sediment, and some aquatic plant samples, all of which are habitat for the bottom of the aquatic Food Chain.

This month we have had two stream Team Events. Our usual day is the 4th Sunday of the month, and in April, we did use April 26th. But with Memorial Day on our usual weekend, in May we went for the 21st of May. So here are the two reports. I will tell you that I have never seen such an abundance of little lifeforms in one sample.

April 26th Stream Team

Here is the first event, on April 26th. **Ed** takes great macro lens cell phone pictures, and here are a few.



A Mayfly Nymph, note the fibers on the sides of the abdomen. These are on the gill structures.



Leech.



Dragonfly Nymph.



A Jumping Spider who I assume just fell in our water sample. I believe these to be terrestrial animals.

Roger has a microscope that has a camera platform attachment, so between the two of them we get great documentation. Notice that Ed's Dragon Fly Nymph and the images under Rogers laboratory quality equipment are identical and very detailed. Look at the fibers on the legs and bodies. Notice the tiny antenna. These are not too far off what would be considered good quality images even if we were in a major University Laboratory.



Dragonfly Nymph



Damselfly Nymph

3 paddle-like gills ==>

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Water Watch Stream Team Monitoring

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May 21st Stream Team

For May, we did not do the fourth Sunday, since that would be in the Memorial Day Weekend. So on May 21, the water watch team met and attacked the project of documenting our water

quality. In addition to our usual great group of water wise bug identifier, my daughter kept the notes and my Grandson helped with getting the water and finding the bugs. Here is the group picture.



From left to right is **Jere Anderson**, my grandson **Matthew Finklea**, **Ed Bowen**, and **Roger**. The two Master Naturalists are the team that do water chemistry and help with the bug picking.

It was mind blowing to see how many bugs we had. Besides the usual sample, we got more than 50 tadpoles in our samples. Here are the examples of our bugs. What was different was that normally we have more Damsel Fly Nymphs than Mayfly Nymphs. This time we got very few Damsel Flies. I suspect that the huge number of tadpoles were devouring our Damsel Flies. We will see next time since these tadpoles will be more mature by June 25th.



Some better pictures from Ed Bowen's cell phone camera are here:



The sample count was very high, and lots of good bugs were documented. We had mostly bugs that need average or better water quality, and it is Jere's belief that we have that abundantly. That is great considering that we are sampling water deep in an Urban Environment.

Any club member that wants to watch or help, this project is normally on the last Sunday of the month. Please contact Richard Johnson or Jere Anderson if you are interest or have questions.



Just two days after you got the May Newsletter, we had two events. One of the most important Education Events is teaching Basic Fly Fishing at a Community Center. This event at the Rosemeade Recreation Center went well in spite of negative weather. We had 15 volunteers teaching 27 students, and were able to certify 6 new Instructors all in one event. Here is the group picture above.

We also trained some new Instructors. Here is that group picture.



The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

Then the next day, the Stream Team that monitors the urban water quality met on our usual last Sunday of the month. It was a beautiful day and the aquatic life forms were enthused and active. We got a huge number of different bug species, and lots of each of them. Elsewhere in this newsletter is the report on all the little animals we found and identified. If you want to see what fun this is, we meet the last Sunday of the month at Branch Hollow Park and you are welcome to come and help. Please let **Richard** know if you have never been involved in this activity. It is intensive and we need helpers who will focus on our mission. The Bugs Team is **Roger Rohrbeck**, **Ed Bowen**, **Jere Anderson** and **Richard Johnson**.



Our May meeting was **Peter Rea** and **Dale Harris** presenting floating and camping in the Buffalo River Wilderness Area in Arkansas. **Peter Rea** and **Jere** had talked about this over 20 years ago doing it in Canoes. Jere had River Raft Experience but was not a good canoe guy. Now with sit on top Kayaks, the program covered all aspects of the floating and camping options and sounds like a real deal.

Peter Rea also tied a couple of interesting simple flies that looked to be promising. Here they are:



Right after that program, on May 10, we had The Brazos River Outing. I don't remember if that was a downpour day or a sprinkles day, but the

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Activity Report

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rain was off again - on again, for most of that week. I hope someone does write an article about this outing, as it looked like a good one.

After that was our Summer Break event at Dallas Baptist University. It was a very unusual one for two reasons; 1) it did not overflow and have students on a wait list, and 2) They were all Freshmen rather than our usual group averaging Senior Level. But they were bright, attentive and fun to talk to. Here is a picture of the whole class. **Bill Slaughter** is teaching knots.



The next day started with rain and it was to be our fishing day. However it all cleared off and we really caught some fish from the triple pond area in the South West Corner of the Campus. I have not gotten any pictures, but the day opened with our usual Casting Training, then we fish. One of the girls got a good Catfish on a fly to start the day.

Then a lot of Bass and even more Sunfish hit the beach. I believe that everyone but one of the students got fish, and often several of them. Lot of fun and when the 2023 -2024 School Year blooms in the fall, it is a lot of fun and very rewarding to work with Dr. Galloway and his class.

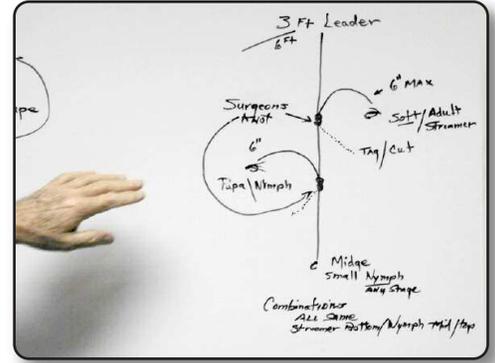
After all that, the evening of May 16 was **Dan's** Class at Cabela's. We had two flies to tie, both wet flies.

Here are the instructors flies, tied by **Dave Smith**.



Then we talked about a triple dropper rig for wet fly fishing. How to tie it and how to cast it so it does not turn into a hair ball. Dan had a diagram and full explanation. I have fished a similar rig with Fred DuPre on the White River in high and low water. It takes some practice, but it can be cast tight to the shoreline brush on the White.

An event to end the month was a May 20th Fishing Lesson Day that Richard and a few of us helped with. Purely a bait dunking day, but



helping a youngster catch their first fish is always fun. An article about this is in this Newsletter.

And for the last and most fun event for May, our Water Watch Team once again tested the water and sought animal life in an urban stream. We also have an article in this Newsletter about this water watch and the one at the end of April.

Our 2024 Program Chairman is sponsoring a ladies fly tying night on May 30th at McNeals in Plano. On June 13th is an open fly tying night. An article about these is in this newsletter. Contact **Danny** at **469-573-5040** for details.

At the time of this newsletter going to press, that is all I have. June seems to be relaxing a bit, so get that fly rod out and hit the water.

- Jere



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

After decades of drought the eccentric rainfall and flooding of this Spring goes on. Old lakes that have been dry for decades are now filling. This is a disaster for the farms that have built houses and roads on the old Lake Bottom, which is now turning into new Lake Bottom. These empty lakes are great farmland since they are flat and the soil is in great shape.

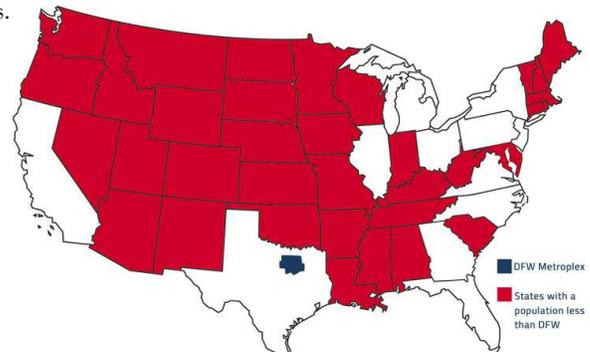
California had several lakes in the flood plain that is the San Joaquin Valley. Many have been commercial gardens for a very long time. So perhaps the real disaster is the loss of the farm land that grows a very large percentage of the things we seek in the food markets. In any case this is nature reclaiming its lake site.



FILE - Farmland in the Tulare Lake Basin is submerged in water in Corcoran, Calif., April 20, 2023, after more than a dozen atmospheric rivers dumped record-setting rain and snowfall. Nearly half of the U.S. West has emerged from drought, but intense water challenges persist, scientists said Tuesday, May 9. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

If our data sources are accurate, we in NE Texas are just a little short on the long-term basis of our annual water. I hope the spring rains keep up. It is a time when we get forecasts of extreme weather but in reality, the extreme weather is just a band in the air mass. I get nervous about tornado alerts but have been lucky so far. It was not that many years ago when **Jeff Ziehm** was narrowly missed by a tornado.

What we need to remember is that with the growth of the Dallas Metroplex that today's water will not be sufficient forever. We are the 9th largest city in America, and we are growing. Look at this map. The blue area is the Dallas Metroplex. It is slightly above 8 million people. The red states are entire states that do not have 8 million people. This puts us in proportion and might make it a bit clearer why we need to keep ahead of our water needs.



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The Conservation Corner

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So why do we need more water in the future? Because in the future there will be more of us. I believe it is due to migration to areas perceived as more desirable. So when I was attending the water board in the early 90's we could see the need for more reservoirs. The discussions often became a bit heated, but the final water plan said that for now, we need three more. These are the three that are in the State Water Plan and have been for 25 years or so. Two of those are under construction, and one is almost ready to go online in the next few months. The third was the most controversial and is still being contested. That one is the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

This has been a contested item since the early 90's. There is still a rather vocal group attempting to stop this one by taking it out of the State Water Plan. The justification 25 years ago was that this reservoir was really in Water Zone D, and so it was the Dallas Group in Zone C trying to steal their water. Since this is a statewide plan, the claim that their water was being stolen did not get too far. The Big Picture plan needed quite a few new Lakes all over the State, so this was not out of line with the rest of the plan.

In this case a lot of energy is going into how unfortunate some of the people are as they are losing beautiful land that has been in the family for a long time. I too agree that it is unfortunate, but unless another location for the third reservoir can be found to replace this one, it is hard to make a case that we should not keep up with the growth of the population in terms of having water for them. My family is still on the land I grew up on, and we have held on through a few challenges. But some day it will go and become a bunch of 3-acre homesteads. We will miss the land we worked so hard on, but its time will come. Is this third reservoir a change of land use whose time has come? I cannot possibly speak for the multitudes of folks whose future water is at stake.

Our State Parks System

An article in the Dallas Morning News caught my eye. It had some eye-popping statistics in it. We are aware that the Texas State Parks System is a hundred years old this year. However, since in Texas over 94% of the land is in private ownership, the number of places to have a state park of any size is very limited. Of the less than 6% of the land not private property, just 3% is State Owned and of that only about .6% of the Texas Land is part of our Texas Park and Wildlife managed property. To add to that concern, until Big Bend National Park was dedicated there were NO National Parks in Texas. That is almost embarrassing IMO. We widely imagine ourselves to be a real outdoor world, but the numbers make it look like we need some work on this issue. A Texas Tech study documents that Texas is 35th in Park acreage per Capita. And it suggests that it has been lower than that recently. Worse than that, we just lost Lake Fairfield State Park. The land was for sale, and TPWD missed the chance to get a real lock on that location. I camped there in the 90's and it has amazing wildlife. A huge deer herd that has lots of new Mommy Deer trying to keep the young ones out of trouble. Now unless a miracle occurs that land and its wildlife will become a high dollar development. We need more parks a lot more than we need more big buck developments IMO.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine is talking about several more parks, but I am not sure if the number of new camping spots is enough to handle the current overflow, much less the growth. A DFF member recently reminded me of all the camping outings we used to take. Jere's favorite park in Purtil Creek State Park. Two of our camper groups would go in a bit early and get two large sites near the Rest Rooms. Then the rest of the group would either share our sites or get their own near to ours.

After a couple of days fishing, we would have a potluck group dinner Saturday Night. These were great fun.

The raccoons are aggressive thieves of your food, so keeping it locked in the car was a good idea. I had a big one getting in my tent and coming out with a whole loaf of bread under its arm. I wish someone had gotten the picture of the furry animal doing a three-legged run scampering away from the huge yelling animal in hot pursuit. The little guy decided the bread was not worth the risk, so he dropped my sandwich material to get all his feet on the ground, and then the race was over. He was home free.

I believe that the chance to get out in the real world and be entertained by nature is too good to pass up. Get out and travel. Both near like our one-day outings and multi-day expeditions such as the joint venture to Colorado this summer with the FWFF are great things to do. Take advantage of the chance to unhook from your real life, and just get time to relax and breathe the fresh air. Have time to fish, time to sip some morning coffee and sit back and do whatever makes you enjoy a few days doing what you want to do. Everyone has a good time together, and an afternoon nap never hurts anyone. Watching nature and marveling at its complexity and beauty is a great pastime.



This handsome animal is Yellowstone Bear 399, with this year's cub. She has been doing her part to preserve the bear population for an amazing 37 years. What a record! It is interesting to note that while Bears are somewhat reclusive, this Bear Mother is at relative ease around all the people. Notice the Park Ranger monitoring the crowd. If you come back from wading a great body of fishing water and find this beautiful Bear in your campsite, try not to startle the animal. She probably would just move off into the woods if you are careful not to make her or her cub feel threatened.

Here in the west, we have some of the great treasures of the National Parks system. Between Yosemite and Yellowstone my family has been enjoying them since I was a Grade School kid. We were mostly campers in my birth family. Judy and I and our family have all the stuff for tent camping, but often there are cabins or motels just outside the park that are not that hard to fit in the budget. Do you have a favorite memory of a family campout or cabin colony experience? There is too much beauty outdoors. Our Conservation projects done by a huge number of organizations and involving tens of thousands of individuals have been a monument to the care and the taking of responsibility for our world.

Other Projects

We of the DFF do a lot of fascinating and important Conservation projects. I am hugely proud of the very large number of our members who lead

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The Conservation Corner

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and/or take part in these important tasks. My list of great things to help with are.

- 1) Education and Coaching of fledgling Outdoor Adventurers.** With all the Angler Education activity, the Boy Scouts Merit Badges, and just support of beginning fishing events, we can teach the skills and help develop the attitudes needed in Outdoor Recreation. Nothing is more of a reward to the trainer than to have a beaming youngster run over to show you their first **fish**.
- 2) Plant Trees.** We need more trees. Besides the beauty of a mature forest, they help control the temperature and the air quality by sequestering CO2. They also provide shelter and food for a huge number of species from bacteria to grazing animals.
- 3) Water Quality.** From our Water Watch Monitoring to conserving our water when the reservoir levels are low, all these can make a difference. Fishing gives us a chance to watch for problems ranging from Invasive Species of plants to non-native aquatic animals. When you report your sightings to the Parks and Wildlife specialists that are responsible for maintaining an accurate status on every water body, it could be a great help. Being careful not to accidentally transport a problem from one water body to another is also something we need to be careful about. Clean your boots and your boat to minimize unwanted hitchhikers.
- 4) Keep Texas Beautiful.** Trash pickup ranging from the big group projects in the springtime to just picking up any little bit of candy wrapper or other trash is an endless task, but important. Jere has over a hundred Yellow Trash Bags and will bring them to meetings for you

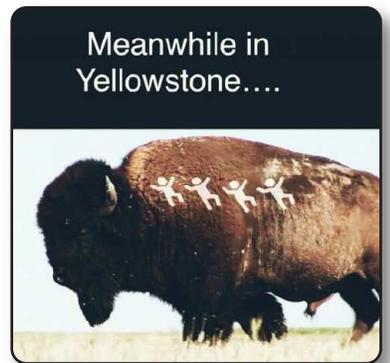
to take. If you take one, be sure to keep it in an easy access location so you can grab it. Your fishing boat, your car, or your fishing vest are good locations.

Have a super summer. As it gets hotter during the day, plan to go fishing early and get off the water by about 10 AM. Take a lunch break and a beverage of your choice and hit the water again about 3 PM. Often an evening breeze comes up in Texas, so that will help.

Be careful in the natural world. Most biting bugs are harmful but can be avoided. Insect repellent can be effective and is not very expensive. Be friends or at least be friendly with any wildlife you meet and avoid close encounters with animals that have temper tantrums. I don't think they keep score, but if they did you might meet this guy. In air combat terms he is one more win from being an Ace.

Best wishes for many big fishes. Have a great summer.

Many of our members post some great pictures of their big adventures like a week fishing a distant prime location on our FB page. **Jeff Ziehm** seems to like to post a picture of him with a very small animal. Fun is Fun, so let us share your spirit of adventure. A good stringer of panfish the size of your hand will be envied by all.



FLY -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