

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell



In mid-August, **Cody** and **I** traveled to Atlanta to attend the national seminar for another of my passions, needlepointing, which plays second to fly fishing but gets my attention during Texas' hotter months. While in Atlanta, we attended the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club meeting. We had an enjoyable time learning about potential, new-to-us freshwater fishing and species, their outreach, a local fly shop, The Fish Hawk (a great, all-inclusive shop should you ever be in the area), and many fun, like-minded fishing folk. One

of those folks was **Rick Lee**. Rick was one of the current Fort Worth Fly Fishers' original founders in the early-to-mid 1980s. We enjoyed talking about Metroplex fly fishing.

The commonality of what fly fishers share has the potential to grow the sport, conservation, and future generations of fly fishers. About 20% of the DFF's membership are dual members with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers, so to further advocate this commonality, we are working with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers in cross promotions of events and interests. Though our social media outlets are structured differently, members of each club's Facebook pages and newsletters will see the occasional posts of events and interests from one another. For reference, anyone can see FWFF Facebook posts, but only their administrators can make posts. **Jeff Ziehm**, a dual club member, will be posting DFF events on the FWFF page. The DFF Facebook structure is for-members-only; however, we have granted the FWFF membership to the DFF Facebook page, and they will be promoting FWFF events on our Facebook page. We hope that the like-mindedness we share will foster more events like our annual joint DFF-FWFF South Fork, Colorado outing in July.

Other events happening for the DFF this month are:

- Most members' fishing licenses have expired, so renew your 2023-24 license online, by phone—1-800-895-4248 M-F 8am – 5pm, via their app, Texas Outdoor Annual, or in-person. For further details about licenses, please visit: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/licenses/fishing-licenses->

[stamps-tags-packages/fishing-licenses-and-packages](https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/licenses/fishing-licenses-and-packages/)

- **Aaron Reed** will have items for sale at Monday's meeting, so come prepared to shop. For more about Aaron Reed, visit his blog at: <https://flyfishingaustin.thelocalangler.com/author/aaronreed/>
- **Bill Sargeant** was kind enough to let me know that **Shannon Drawe**, Texas Fly Caster, interviewed our own **Danny Soltau** in late August. That interview can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVPZzRKZK0xDqRRaGyMaeVw>
- Though the weather hasn't exactly been our friend, our South Llano River Outing is still happening. We are planning a Zoom meeting on Sunday 10 September 2023 at 3:00 pm for those who are going or are interested in going. Please send an email to the club address letting us know your interest, so we can share the Zoom link and fishing handouts with you.
- September is the beginning of our Board Members nomination and election process. Currently, the open positions we will be filling are: **Vice-President, Trustee 2025, and Outings Chair**. The success of any club thrives on those willing to volunteer their time. If you have an interest to serve the club and its members while furthering your own fly fishing enjoyment and club success, please reach out to any board member.

- PRAY FOR RAIN!

Here's to bent tips and happy days!

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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DFE Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN FOR EACH MEETING, 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. Special fly drawing for attendees only (see article in this newsletter).

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 September and October. November we will meet in the Youth Fellowship Hall, NW side of building upstairs in the back. December is our Christmas/Holiday party.

Previous Meeting: August 7: Nick Gallegos, Los Pinos Fly Shop, Albuquerque, NM. I hope that you were able to attend the August meeting. I'm sorry I had to miss it. I understand that Nick did a great job and tied specific fly patterns useful in NM. Those flies will be in the 3rd quarter special fly drawing during our September meeting for attendees only.

Future Meetings: 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. FLYTYING 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: 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. He will have his book for sale following fly tying and his presentation. The flies tied by Aaron will be in the 3rd quarter special fly drawing at the end of the meeting for attendees only.

October 2: Donavan Clary, Oklahoma Fishing Guide. **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. Donavan will tie a baitfish pattern that he designed called a belly dagger. It can be tied in different sizes and colors to imitate a number of native baitfish patterns in that area.

Presentation Topic: Fishing the Lower Illinois or the Lower Mountain Fork Rivers. Donavan plans to talk about the Illinois River system above and below Tenkiller lake, which is a Neosho bass and smallmouth destination that's becoming recognized around the world. He will also talk about the year round trout stream below the lake. If time permits, he would like to talk about the forage species of the bass above the lake and touch on the habits and feeding mannerisms of the most sought after fish. There are 5 species of bait that compile 98% of the smallmouth diet year round.

November 6: Greg DeMars, DFE member. **Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center. Topic: DFW local waters fishing.** It doesn't look like Greg's book will be published in time for this presentation; however, he will reveal local fishing spots.

December 3: Sunday - Christmas/Holiday party.

Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 **Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:30 PM

Cost: \$50/person

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

Activities: Dinner, Raffle, New Officer Induction, Awards Ceremony.

Dear Members, *If you have been around someone who is ill, and exposure is 10 days or less from a DFE 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 DFE, 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!*

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

September 12th - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

September 19th - Dan Montayne's Fly Tying Class, Cabela's Conference Room, 6:30 PM.

September 23rd - Rosemeade Recreation Center basic fly fishing class 9AM. 1PM

September 24th - Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 9AM.

September 26th - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

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 10th - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

October 13th-15th - Is Oktoberfisch, **BUT THIS YEAR IS CANCELED.**

October 17th - Dan Montayne's Fly tying Class, Cabela's Conference Room, 6:30 PM

October 28th - Basic Fly Fishing Class at LLELA, 9am – Noon.

October 31st - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

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

November 6th - 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. 10AM.

December 3rd - Holiday/Christmas Party – 6pm – 8:30pm
T G Steakhouse, 518 W. Arapaho Rd., Richardson
Dinner, Raffle, New Officer Induction, Awards Ceremony

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.

January 27th - Junior Ranger Fishing 101, Rosemeade Recreation Center.

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 - Fly Fishing Class, 9 – 3, ages 12 and up. Rosemeade Recreation Center.

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, located in the Plano Conference Center This is a very fun, exciting and important event. PLAN TO BE THERE.

March 11th-15th - Spring DBU Outdoor Experiences Class.

March 21st-23rd - Sow Bug Roundup in Mountain Home AR.

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.

April 13 - 8th Annual Gannon Ranch Outing.

May 3rd-4th - The Lake Fork Bass On a Fly contest.

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.

The Fort Worth Fly Fishers Fundraising Auction is September 9th. It is huge, so try to be there.



**It's almost time for the 2023
FWFF Auction, fellow fly fishers!**

As our Annual Auction approaches on **Sept. 9**, you now have more reasons than ever to register.

First, everyone who has purchased a paid admission by Sept. 4 (Labor Day) will receive \$25 in complimentary coupons for use in the \$5, \$10, and \$20 raffles. That's in addition to the catered Mexican food dinner and two drinks from the bar included with a paid ticket. It's a great deal.

Second, to make it easy for people to attend this outstanding event, we are offering a free admission. This is good ONLY for entry to the

auction, but comes with no dinner or drinks, and no complimentary raffle coupons. The cash bar is still available for drink purchases.

We really need folks who plan to attend the Auction to **REGISTER NOW!** It will help us plan the amenities so everyone has a great time. Simply go to the [FWFF website](#), click on the 2023 Auction Tickets post, and follow the directions. It's easy and secure.

**Thanks, and we hope to see you
Sept. 9 at the Auction!**

Fly Tying Page

by Jere Anderson

As a long time fly tier who ties with the DFF as often as I can, it gives me great pleasure to note that there are three really fun and informative DFF fly tying opportunities in any month.

The second Tuesday is a fun fly tying gathering by our 2024 Program Chainman, **Danny Soltau**. He sponsors these on every second and last Tuesday of the month. They are held at McNeal's Tavern and Eatery on Avenue K in Plano. They are a lot of fun and well run. It is a good relaxing couple of hours with some fun fly tiers.

Then on the third Tuesday is the long time Angler Education Instructor, **Dan Montayne** who has been the brains behind an event known as the Warm Water Go-To Flies and Fishing Skills Group. This group meets in Allen Cabela's Conference Room with the teaching support and mentoring skills of a lot of the talented people in the DFF. This group finished its second year of entertaining and educational gatherings and will start its third year in September.

So now we have supervised fly tying on the second, third and last Tuesday of the month.

This page will attempt to keep all of you informed who are interested in attending some of these opportunities if you are not already one of the faithful. Dan and Danny will contribute the words of wit and wisdom for this page, and Jere will just edit it as a regular feature.

DO NOT MISS these chances to learn or to just join in the comradery of some fun and talented DFF folks.



Another great pair of tying nights at McNeal's - big thanks to all who attended!

As the heat continues, we are thrilled to hear about local and travel related fishing reports. However, the extensive heat is concerning, and it is making an impact all over. The tying bench has been seeing some lovely flies tied and lots of great folks in making a mess whipping up their next idea. It is a great way to beat the heat!

The Second Tuesday, August 13th, there was a fantastic turnout at McNeal's for Open Tying Night where the Karen's Minnow was a hit. Many new fly tyers were present and thanks to all who helped lend a hand to our new tyers entering the fray.

I hope you attended the evening of the last Tuesday of the month which was August 29th. We tied the Captain, one of our top selling bluegill flies originating in the St. Louis area. It is a Prince Nymph style fly with a few tweaks. It is deadly and fun to tie!

I look forward to seeing folks in and around The Fly Shop in the future and greatly appreciate the support!

Thank you!!!

-Danny and the crew



Fly Tying Nights
McNeal's TAVERN & EATERY
PLANO, TX
FALL SERIES
HOSTED BY DIRTY WATER FLY CO.

Join us for Open Tying Nights twice a month on the 2nd & last Tuesdays @ 7 PM in the south room!
All materials provided, please RSVP to reserve tools if needed!

9/12 - Gartside Gurgler
9/26 - Ray Charles
10/10 - Gluten Free
10/31 - Halloween Bugger
11/14 - Squimp
11/28 - Stripper's Glitter

RSVP at Dirty Water Fly Co or drop an email to dan@dirtywaterflyco.com
469-573-5040

Forecast shows (slightly) cooler weather, and maybe a start to a real fall. We have one triple digit day to contend with in the next week, and hopefully things stay cool from there. On a more positive note, the Fall Series tying night schedule is out. We have awesome flies in store from topwater minnows, to saltwater flies, to tried and true trout bugs.

Our Summer Finale was great last Tuesday with a great turnout from our supporters. The Captain was a hit to tie, and many bluegill will be caught with flies tied that night. Congrats to all the folks who took home prizes and thank you to all who made it down. Now, it is on the fall series!

This weekend at the bench, **Lee** is in tying more deer hair bugs and is available for lessons on Saturday. Holler to set one up! We had a great series of classes and lessons last weekend. Lots of deer hair was harvested and great flies were tied. Thanks to everyone who participated! I will be spinning up mice and streamers for local barber extraordinaire **Jared**, who is off to central Wyoming on Sunday.

This is a great weekend to stop by for fly tying at the shop. We also have a few new shop vises from Renzetti to play with. After our remodel, there is more space for new materials so please feel free to chime in on what you would like to see added to the selection. It is also the primary kickoff weekend for the college football season, and you can bet we will have the game on front and center.

See everyone soon and thank you for the support!

-Danny and the crew

Ugly Flies Catch Fish Too!

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

What makes an ugly fly a work of art? What makes an ugly fly absolutely perfect? The answer is when it catches its first fish. So many times I've heard the statement, usually from novice tiers, "It's kind of ugly but not too bad!" Ugly is good. Ugly flies do catch fish!

Whether you consider your end result on Third Tuesdays to be good, bad, or ugly, let me review the reasons we hold these monthly meetings. We meet to:

- expand all levels of skill in applying materials to a hook,
- learn proper thread control, proportions, and substitutions,
- understand where feathers come from and where they best fit the fly,
- understand where and how to use hair in the creation of tails, wings, hackle, and fly heads



To accomplish this, we focus on offering a no pressure environment for learning to tie flies at multiple levels. All materials and coaching are provided for every session. The Dallas Fly Fishers organization, over its 50+ years, has been blessed with a multitude of super tiers.

Some have achieved national and international recognition. But maybe one of their greatest contributions, in my opinion, lies in the many quality tiers ready to instruct you each month. In addition, we use instructions and explanations that invoke questions and solutions, not criticisms, rejections, or tests. The tier's result is the tier's success. Let us help you on your journey of fly fishing and fly tying.

Where does the ugly fly fall in this context? As you climb the ladder of tying accomplishments, "ugly" turns to "near 'nuff" to "not too bad, huh?" And finally, WOW! Remember, ugly is not necessarily bad. The fish will still like it, and ugly in nature can be so beautiful. Cabela's Third September *Tuesday is just around the corner. Plan now to join us. Call, text, or email. We'll save you a spot.*

In-Person Attendance Incentive – Speaker Tied Fly Drawing for July, August and September – Drawing September Meeting

by LaJan Barnes

The flies tied by our speakers in July, August, and September will be nestled in a new fly box for an in-person attendance only drawing at the end of the September meeting. There is a correction from the August newsletter (*sorry about that*) **Donavan Clary's** flies will be included in our 4th quarter drawing at the Christmas/Holiday party. The 3rd quarter drawing of speaker tied flies will be from July, August, and September: **Bill Sargeant's** Royal Trude and **Henry's Fork Hopper**, **Nick Gallegos** (NM), and **Aaron Reed** (TX). Everyone who attends the September 11th meeting will receive a free ticket for the special drawing at the end of the meeting (YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN).

The 2nd quarter winner of the flies tied by **Meredith McCord**, **Peter Rea**, and **Bob Clouser** was **Lance Huckeba**. *Congratulations Lance!*

Good Luck to the next winner!

This was read at the memorial service for Tom Klaasen by Richard Johnson

ODE TO A FISHING FRIEND

LISTEN, Y'ALL WITH TEARFUL EYES, FROM THE OBITUARIES I READ, OFT IS SPOKEN OF PLACES AND PEOPLE FOR ALL OF US TO REMEMBER, I KNEW TOM FOR JUST A WHILE, ALWAYS RECOUNTING A FISHING ADVENTURE.

TOM FISHED FRESH AND SALT AND NORTHERN ICE, HE FISHED NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST, FROM MICHIGAN TO CALIFORNIA TO COLORADO, TO ARKANSAS, TO MISSOURI, TO LOUISIANA, AND, OF COURSE, TO TEXAS. THE WATERS WERE AS VARIED AS THE LANDS.

TOM HAD HIS FISHING HOLES IN MICHIGAN, FRYING PAN RIVER, LEWISVILLE LAKE, WOODY'S PONDS, COUNTRY BROOK, LLELA, ATHENS, BRAZOS, TEXOMA, AND WHITE RIVER.

HE CAUGHT COLD-WATER FISH: BROOK TROUT, RAINBOW TROUT, STEELHEAD TROUT, BROWN TROUT, LAKE TROUT. HE CAUGHT WARM-WATER FISH: LARGE-MOUTH BASS, SMALL-MOUTH BASS, PERCH, CRAPPIE, AND STRIPPED BASS, GAR, CATFISH, AND SUNFISH GALORE. HE CAUGHT SALT-WATER FISH: RED FISH, OCEAN TROUT, FLOUNDER, AND MORE.

TOM USED BINOCULARS ON THE LAKE TO FIND THE BIRDS THAT DECOYED THE FISH. HIS BASS BOAT WAS CALLED "A FISH AND SKI BARGE" BROUGHT FROM LOUISIANA TO THE AMUSEMENT OF US ALL. BUT IT PROVIDED A PLATFORM TO STAND ON TO FISH.

TOM PREFERRED TO FISH WITH FLIES, THE 56er WAS HIS GO-TO FLY, BUT HE DABBLED WITH NYMPHS, WET AND DRY FLIES, AND AT TIMES, WOULD BRING OUT A STREAMER OR PLUG TO FIND HIS FISH PRIZE.

HE SOMETIMES VIOLATED THE "CATCH AND RELEASE" RULE TO PREPARE EPICURIAN DELIGHTS. WHEN HE CAME BACK FROM THE COAST, HE WOULD BRING SEAFOOD AND OYSTERS AND WITH MY GARDEN OKRA WOULD PREPARE A TOUCH OF NEW ORLEANS GUMBO.

TILL THE END, HE DID DREAM OF THE NEXT TRIP TO BE TAKEN. MICHIGAN, FRYING PAN, WHITE RIVER, ATHENS, AND MORE. EVEN TWIN LAKES AND FURNEAU CREEK MADE HIM EXCITED. A FRIEND TO US ALL, GONE TO FIND MORE FISHING WATERS FAR BEYOND.

Richard L. Johnson 8.12.23

Gunnison Gorge Float Trip

by Russ Pate

Says writer **Joe Daniel**, “Like all good adventures, the Gunnison Gorge float has a rough entry.” The trip requires you to hike off the rim of the Gunnison Gorge along the Chukar Trail for a 1 mile 600 feet descent to the river. When in the Gorge, you encounter 1,000 foot cliffs, water flowing at 850 ft/s at 60 degrees.

My daughter and I used RIGS Fly Shop to outfit this trip. They do 2 trips for 3 days each week and have quite a bit of experience doing it. We started with the 1-mile hike. I was really concerned about this hike since I haven’t been moving around as much as I should. Well, I overcame that barrier with some ease.

It took the guides about 30 minutes to get the boats ready. Each trip consists of 3 boats with a guide and 2 people fishing. Each of the boats carry a waterproof duffel with all your gear for 3 days of travel on a 14-mile route. This trip is mostly fly fishing with a 1-mile stretch of river for white water rafting on the third day. Along the way we encountered some rapids that require deft oarsmanship.

On our first day, we fished from the boat some. At times we stopped to wade fish. The first place we stopped was about an hour into the trip. Our guide for the day, Drew, rigged us up with a double nymph setup. One of the nymphs was a perdigon or Spanish bullet. I did well, having hooked 4 fish and landing two. Sophia was working on her casting and hook setting and hooked 2 fish. After fishing there 45 minutes to an hour, we floated the river with our nymph rigs until lunch.

Since you have the full day to fish, the guides had us eat lunch and take a 2-hour siesta. They anticipated some dry fly action in the afternoon. So, we did that.

After the siesta, Drew rigged us up with a Chubby Chernobyl Ant and a Dirty Hottie (looks like an ant). The fish were receptive. We had numerous strikes and I landed 3 brownies. The great thing about throwing dries, it’s a lot easier on your arm. The next thing we knew it was dinner time.

The nights were relatively warm on the river. The outfitter provided a cot, sleeping pad, sleeping bag and camp pillow for us. Due to it being warm, the low 60’s, I slept on top of my sleeping bag. I slept comfortably and awoke refreshed in the morning.

That morning coffee was on the boil at 6:30. The outfitter have us a complimentary YETI cup for the trip, so we had our coffee in that cup. One of guys in our party spotted a brown trout in soft water. He used the dry fly that was on his flyrod from the previous day. He caught that fish after casting to it a half dozen times. It was a nice 16-inch brown.

The outfitter rotates the guides each day. That day **Sophia** and I fished with **Jack**. Jack is very energetic and talks through the process of fishing constantly. He points out the targets we need to hit. I started the day fishing with a double dry fly rig, but Jack soon changed it to a hopper-dropper rig. Soon, I was catching fish. The fish we were catching were mostly on the banks of the river.

We hit a shelf that Jack knew that was under faster water that held big rainbows. I would cast to the top of the rapid with a quick mend. Soon, I had a big rainbow on. This fish took all my 6-weight rod, and I couldn’t bring the fish into me due to the fast current. I played the fish until it spit the hook out. After that fish got off, I hooked another fish and had the same problem. There wasn’t any slack water to retreat to land the fish.

Compared to the first day, the river opened into a park setting. The first day, we were in the canyon. The currents were softer than they were in the canyon.

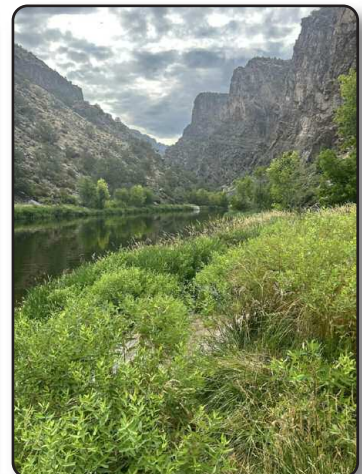
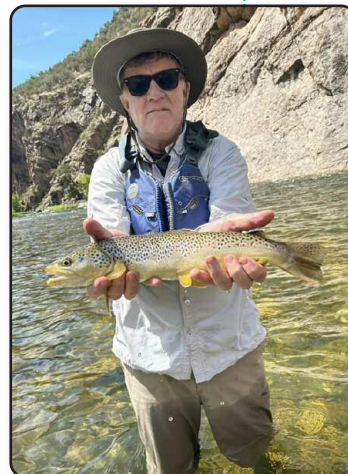
We fished until about noon time. Again, we took a 2-hour siesta to wait until the temperatures cooled down. When we started, Jack had me fish a double nymph rig. I caught a few on it. Later, he switched to a double hopper rig, and I had a lot more action on that rig than the nymphs.

It wound up to be a good day for both Sophia and me. She caught about a half-dozen fish, and I caught at least 10. I was in a good casting rhythm and had lots of chances. It was fun. By the time dinner time came, I was thoroughly exhausted from all the casting. It was a good day.

That night for dinner, the guides cooked us New York strip and Brussel sprouts. It was a fine dinner for a big day on the water.

The last day, we spent most of the morning navigating through class III, IV, and V rapids. It was fun going through that white water. Its something I don’t do often. After the rapids, we fished in a park like setting. The river was settled. Today, we didn’t take a siesta. We ate lunch and fished on through the day. It was a bit windy, and I had trouble getting into a rhythm. That day was my least productive day.

Would I do this trip again? Yes, I would. Because it’s a remote 14-mile trip, the fish do not get pressured too bad. For me, it’s about getting away from the crowds. And you see sights and animals like the Rocky Mountain sheep that you normally don’t see. When you get trout on that is 14 to 18 inches, you get a worthy fight. This trip is a bucket list destination. It’s on the list of 50 places to fly fish before you die, and it’s well worth the effort and money.



New Mexico Fly Fishing Trip – A Picture Essay

by Dani Rose

I recently returned from a trip to New Mexico, which included DIY fly fishing adventures and guided days with Land of Enchantment Guides. I won the trip during this year's Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Trout Fest. While I have been to New Mexico several times, I had never fished the Chama River, which was the target river for the GRTU package. And I was excited to escape the July Texas heat and get some of that hopper action in.

There are few places where you can fish so many rivers, that present different fishing opportunities and views. You can go from the lush, alpine forest, to a high desert river in a couple of hours or less. And as a bonus, you will experience the famous New Mexican food and warm hospitality.

Pecos River: We decided to fish the Pecos on our way up to the Chama. If you haven't fished the Pecos, I would highly recommend it. It is very accessible and easy. The high altitude was a welcome relief from the record heat that New Mexico was experiencing. We did climb the windy road quite a bit in order to avoid the summer swimmer enjoying the river and to beat the heat.

Cowles Ponds is where we fished afternoon and early evening. It's an interesting location, because it has still ponds that are broken down by age. It would be an excellent place to help a beginner hone their skills before putting them on the river. A few feet over, you can walk right into the Pecos.



Pecos River. Photo by Dani Rose.

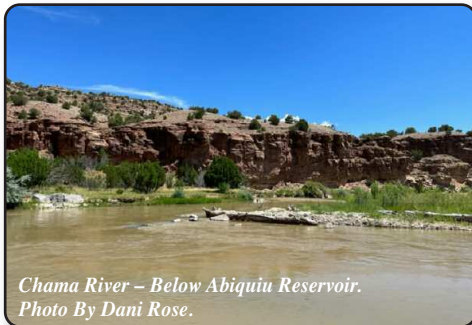
We had a lot of fun with the small hatchery fish in our stretch. They were eager to take dries and

also nymphs. While we didn't catch a state record, we were happy with the tug of our rods. The scenery was absolutely beautiful. The New Mexican fly fishers that were on the river were a true delight and demonstrated the community of this sport. One even gave me a productive spot.

Chama River, Below Abiquiu Reservoir: The next day, we decided to fish our way up the Chama River on our way up to Chama the town. Our fishing adventures were definitely impacted by the record heat that New Mexico was experiencing during our visit. Our first stop was just below the Abiquiu Reservoir. As was discussed in the last DFF meeting (Fishing the Chama), the river coming out of the lake was just like chocolate milk. That didn't deter us from throwing a line in and giving it a try.

Because of the heat, our target was not trout. We put on bass bugs in hope we could land something. Unfortunately, our couple of hours there did not yield results. We still enjoyed the view and exploring new waters. It was a distinct change from the Pecos.

If you decide to adventure below the dam, make sure your car can withstand rough roads. While I do not believe a 4-wheel drive to be necessary, a higher clearance car would be recommended. This is a spot that we vowed to return to, when the conditions were better.



Chama River – Below Abiquiu Reservoir. Photo By Dani Rose.

La Roca Ranch: Our package included a stay at the La Roca Ranch, formerly known as the Quinlan Ranch. We had the entire ranch to ourselves, including the staff. The hospitality was incredible. This ranch can host up to 20 people. Not only do they have access to fishing on the property, but you can also hunt.

El Rio de Los Pinos, CO: Our first day of guided fishing was the next morning. Due to the heat, we opted to drive into Colorado. We fished El Rio de Los Pinos, which is public land. The hopper



El Raco Ranch. Photo Credit, Dani Rose.

action did not disappoint from the very first cast. Because we were in an open field, it was necessary for us to be stealthy as we approached our target. And an accurate cast was needed. And with all top water flies, timing on setting the hook was key. My memory has us catching more than missing. We did encounter more deer flies than I have ever seen in my life. Keeping covered up was very important. They didn't care that we had bug spray on. They were relentless.



El Rio de Los Pinos, CO. Photo Credit, Beth Bierman.

Brazos River: We were hoping for cooler weather the next day, but the temps did not want to give. We planned for early on and early off the river. We fished the beautiful Brazos River. Access to the river was through fishing access through private lands. It's a bit tricky and you need to basically be in the know or be with a guide to access the area, but it was certainly worth it. We didn't experience high catch numbers, but enough to be happy with our hopper dropper set up.



Brazos River. Photo Credit, Dani Rose.

(Continued on page 8)

New Mexico Fly Fishing Trip – A Picture Essay

(Continued from page 7)

Upper Chama: Our third and final guide day was spent on private waters on the Upper Chama. Again, it was extremely hot, so we were back to early on and early off. Water temps were regularly monitored by our guide. The part of the Upper Chama that we fished had several improvements on the river, which made for some great fishing holes. Unfortunately, if you don't have a guide, you are out of luck. There is plenty of public access on the Chama and fly shops in New Mexico are happy to help.



Upper Chama. Photo Credit, Dani Rose.



Conejos River, CO. Photo Credit, Beth Bierman.

to do some stopping and scouting at a few spots before we decided to fish at a public access at campgrounds – Aspen Glade and Mogote. The river was much larger than those that we had fished in New Mexico and there were quite a few more anglers on the river.

All through out the Conejos, there are public access areas that are generally full. If you want a spot, you need to get there early. The Conejos was much swifter and required us to practice the best on river wading safety habits. While most of the people that we encountered were friendly, my fishing partner did have an angler high hole her. It put an unfortunate damper on the afternoon.

If you have a few days and willing to drive, you can't beat a trip to New Mexico for variety and access. The issue you will face is that the state does not have Hoot Owl restrictions and therefore measuring water temps on your own (and insisting your guide does) will be a must during high temperatures. You can even hop over to Colorado. If you have questions and want to put a trip together, there are a lot of DFFers that fish New Mexico and any of us would be happy to help. You are welcome to reach out to me at dani@thedanirose.com or call me at 281.460.0645.

–Dani

DFF Outings

by Jere Anderson

September Outing

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 several 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. Julia & Cody Bell are staying at Tree Cabins RV and Resort, site 24.

Hotels & Motels

Best Western Dos Rios, 800-568-8520

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Junction,
877-859-5095

Quality Inn & Suites Junction, 325-446-3572

Rodeway Inn Junction, 325-446-4588

Sun Valley Motel, 325-446-2505

RV Parks & Cabins

Junction North Llano River RV Park,
325-446-3138

Pecan Valley RV Park, 800-426-3065

South Llano River State Park, 325-446-3994
or book online via the Texas State Park app

Tree Cabins RV and Resort, 325-446-3388

October Outing

Our October outing will be our fall trip to the Brazos and the ponds at Latham Springs Encampment on Saturday 7 October 2023 from 8 am – 3 pm. Cost is \$8; please have exact change.

You will need to bring a sack lunch, non-alcoholic beverages only, and a lawn chair,

and we will meet for lunch by the copse of trees near the picnic table and bocce area at noon (marked in orange on the map).

We have access to three ponds, a lake, and the Brazos River (marked with a purple check on map). A map of the facility has been included. Most prevalent species are: Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Crappie, Catfish, and Sunfish. Canoes, float tubes, kayaks, and non-motorized vessels can be used on the lake; the smaller ponds can accommodate a float tube, if desired. There is shore fishing available on all water bodies and wading on the Brazos. Monitor this water gauging station for accurate water flows near our outing: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/08093100/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

The address is: Latham Springs Baptist Encampment

134 Private RD 223
Aquilla, Texas 76622-2582

Stream Team Strikes Again, and The Bugs Were There

by Jere Anderson

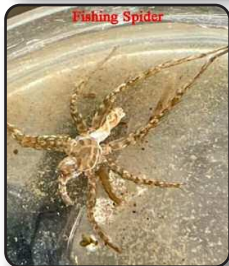
The July stream team water quality monitoring session happened too late to make the August Newsletter. So here will be a double edition with the results of the July and August Water Watch as two sections. The first one is July 31st.

Ed Bowen's knowledge, his camera work, and his energy doing a job that can be labor intensive at times is much needed. The great bug pictures are the hard work of Ed Bowen. He is the latest addition to the team and a great help.

July Stream Team

Richard Johnson, Roger Rohebeck and Ed Bowen were there with the help of **Suzanna Dooling** and **Lisa**, the two Master Naturalists doing the water quality sampling. One bug in particular was not readily identifiable. The sampling size hasn't changed much but some of the insects are certainly getting bigger as the season progresses. The water was pretty clear where we collected samples but there was silt on the stream bed that clouded the water if disturbed.

Here are the July Bug Pictures.



I did not see the number of Caddis Nymphs that we are seeing in much of our water near the mountains. Due to our heat and lack of fresh water, the stream water quality was not as good as usual, but the food chain was intact and while the water had a musty smell, the water sample we took was full of minnows and damsel flies.

Lisa, the water watch water chemistry teams regular scientist was alone so Matthew moved over to her table and helped with that part of the Stream Team duties. Richard, Roger and **Jere** then did the food chain inventory. Lots of minnows and a huge inventory of the Damsel and Dragon family nymphs. We missed the fun camera work of Ed Bowen, but here are Rogers pictures from his projection Microscope.



Mayfly Nymph

These are on of over 600 species of Mayfly, and are an important species to tie a matching fly for us.

Dragonfly Nymph



These are two of our most abundant Texas Aquatic Insect families. They were dominate for the last of the summer an into the fall.



Damselfly Nymph

What great pictures and such high resolution. The majority of samples were members of the dragon fly and damsel fly family. For a hot summer, these are to be expected.

August Stream Team

On August 27th, the stream team met again to get our last summer evaluation done as the fall weather changes begin to stress the food chain. The water was a bit lower than usual, but still has lots of bugs.

So our conclusion is that eve with the stress on our open water resources, that the Ecology is strong and if our fall rains ever return, being cooler and wetter will be good for fishing.

Our next two Water Watch events are scheduled for October 1st, and October 28th. We meet at 9AM at Branch Hollow Park in Carrollton. Bring your boots, we first get out samples out of the stream.

Casting Instruction and Fishing at Great Private Park

by Jere Anderson

It has been an uncomfortable summer, but this Saturday was beautiful. The park has a lot of shade trees, and a gentle breeze kept the hot spots from developing. A huge turnout of our club's best Casting Instructors volunteered and we even had a fly tier tying foam floating Dry flies on safety pins to give to the students.



It looked to me like a lot of folks had a lot of fun and worked at being a better casting artist. **My Grandson** was there and he will be with us on Sunday for our Stream Team Environmental Monitoring. Today, he was a casting student.



The casting was coached by many, and **Jere** got in on some coaching a few about details of a good cast and what to do next after the fly hits the water where you wanted it to be.



So our club and our rods were once again valuable in introducing some folks to out sport, and even though it is seen as way too complex, they went away knowing that with patients and practice that a great time in the outdoor can be yours. As an encouragement we had a fly tyer giving away foam flies on safety pins so you can wear them.

So young or old, our casting games were fun. Thanks again to the dedicated and ever there and eager to help members of our Club. This is our mission, Outreach is a very important part of our mission.



Richard books us a lot of great public events with the groups that need some experienced help to better understand and enjoy the great outdoors. This one did not get a good a sign-up as we had hoped, but the actual turnout was great. Twelve Instructors dedicated 49 hours to this Outreach Event, and the 34 registered Students had a full plate of things to do. It was an opportunity that the DFF can be proud of.

The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

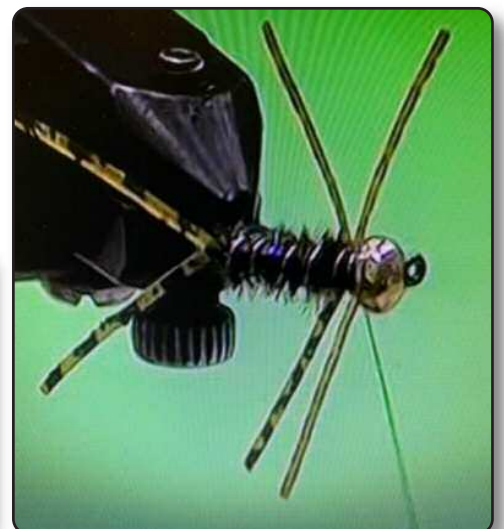
August was a strange month. It is somewhat like the school year. There was a lot to do. Be a part of one of the most active FFI clubs and join in on what interests you. The first full week had three events in it, back to back. Then we had a bit of a rest and the last of the month had another cluster.

July 30th, Stream Team water quality evaluation happened too late for the August newsletter. But since there are now going to be two Water Wach Events, a separate article is in this Newsletter.

August 7th, **Nick Gallegos** had a program about fishing the Chama and Northern NM. A

lot of us have been there, so we were looking forward to this one. Your Editor has been offered an article about their trip to the Chama, and how it went. Thanks, these are what we want in the Newsletter.

He tied some flies, which are here.



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Activity Report

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His presentation had a good coverage of Euro Nymphing, that was very informative. How to rig your flies, and how to present the flies were very informative.

August 8th, Second Tuesday open fly tying at McNeal's at 7 pm in Plano. Contact **Danny** at **469-573-5040** for details. If you even slightly are interested in fly tying, you need to attend just one of these. I would bet you find it interesting. Don't miss this one. Here are the pictures of the crowd and the flies.

These Groups, being led by **Danny Soltau** are developing a following. They are a social event as well as a skill builder. And they are FUN.



August 15th would normally be the Dan Montayne warm water wisdom class at Cabela's. However the August meeting is skipped and you

will have to wait for one of these meetings, the next one is September 19th.

August 26th, 8 until noon, fly fishing and casting instruction at Castle Hills Park. This is a pond and a nice green spot near Dr. Lou's residence. It is a great place to hold an outdoor skills practice session. And then you get to fish his water. A big turnout was present, and we had a lot of fun. There is an article about this in this newsletter.



August 27th, Stream Team water quality evaluation. Our team of bug identifiers and a Master Naturalist team of water chemistry did our monthly evaluation of the Aquatic Ecology in a great nature study area. **Jere** was amazed at all the Damsel Fly nymphs and minnows. The water was stagnant and not as clean and clear as we are accustomed to finding. But the bug life was certainly abundant. There is an article in this newsletter.

August 29th, Fourth Tuesday open fly tying at McNeal's at 7 pm in Plano. I have attended these and find them fun, even on days that I can't tie. Contact **Danny** at **469-573-5040** for details. Here is the late August event, the crowd and my flies.



The Labor Day Holiday will delay our September Meeting until September 11th. So this newsletter is a bit later than usual. But the Club activities are worth the wait.

September 11th, the speaker is an Outdoor Writer. I look forward to his stories.

September 12th, Open Tying Night at McNeal's. Activity begins at 7PM. Contact Danny at his fly shop if you have questions, and bring your own tools if you have them.

September 19th, Dan's Warm Water Wisdom Meeting. Contact **Dan Montayne** to attend.

September 23rd, Teaching the Basic Fly Fishing Certificate at Rosemead Recreation Center, contact Richard to attend or to help.

September 24th, Stream Team Water Monitoring. Branch Hollow Park,

September 28th, 4th Tuesday Open Tying night at McNeal's. Bring your own tools, or contact **Danny**.

We have late summer bugs so big the pilots of these bugs need a multi-engine rating on their pilots license. Get that fly rod out and hit the water. Be careful to drink lots of water and avoid heat stroke or any other heat caused exhaustion problem.



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, what is it and what can we do about it?

As your Conservation Leader, I must acknowledge that the pollution of our Home Planet becomes more worrisome year by year. More and more adverse effects, some of them with the potential to hasten the next Extinction Event, are discovered but not dealt with in any kind of effective manner. I have been ignoring this one since it seems to be a mid ocean pollution and I was not fully aware of its impact everywhere the oceans touch. This information is now readily apparent to have a dangerous potential.



For years, plastic has been building up in the ocean in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Now, according to Treehugger, scientists have identified another worrying impact: The garbage is carrying coastal species to new parts of the ocean.

What's happening?

During 2018 and 2019, The Ocean Cleanup visited the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. This area is surrounded by rotating currents that take up most of the northern Pacific Ocean.

The Ocean Cleanup collected 105 plastic samples. They were later analyzed by the Floating Ocean Ecosystem (FloatEco) team, made up of researchers from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The FloatEco team found that more than 70% of the samples had coastal species like shellfish attached to them. They found 37 different species normally found only along the shoreline, and the samples contained more coastal species than ones native to the open ocean.

Why does it matter if shellfish are hitching a ride?

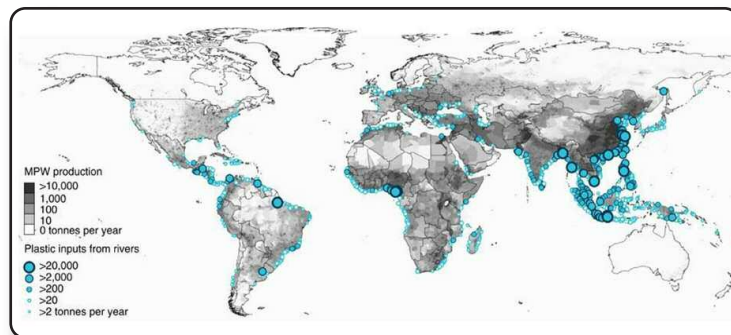
Normally, sea creatures that are adapted for life near the shore are stuck in one place. Individuals from species like barnacles and sponges don't tend to move more than a few inches at a time. Now plastic trash is acting like life rafts for these species, carrying them to new places.

"This discovery suggests that past biogeographical boundaries among marine ecosystems — established for millions of years — are rapidly changing due to floating plastic pollution accumulating in the subtropical gyres," Linsey Haram, research associate at SERC, said in

a UH press release. When species travel to new places like this, they can become invasive — thriving and multiplying so quickly that they damage the existing ecosystem.

What's being done about the problem?

Based on the information provided in the map, the most significant concentrations of river plastics are coming from countries off the coast of Asia, including China, the Philippines, and Vietnam.



Ten rivers — eight of them in Asia — contribute 88-95% of river-to-ocean plastic pollution in the world's oceans, according to research published in [Environmental Science & Technology](#). This study estimated (after a [clarification](#)) that rivers transport between 470,000 and 2.75 million tons of plastic into the sea annually, with China's Yangtze River as the most significant contributor.

Many factors may contribute to the disproportionate share of plastic pollution from Asian countries. Southeast Asia has undergone [rapid urbanization](#) in the last century, and its waste infrastructure has not increased at nearly the same rate, according to a World Bank report.

So what can be done? This is important, since roughly half the Oxygen in our atmosphere comes from the oceans. Can we ever repair the damage?

First, we need to recognize this is a world problem and a real one. Some world organization like the IPSS needs to have this be a big item at the next world meeting in the UAE this next November. These same nations that are the dominate plastic polluters are also known to the IPSS as the leading atmospheric polluters. This seems to be far more dangerous to the safety of our planet than the variations of temperature which are normal seasonal events. This will only get worse, and it can destroy many of the life forms on our planet. Since these nations are already on the list as leading sources of Greenhouse Gasses and hence the dominate drivers of Climate Change, this would seem to be a good item for COP28.

So far most of the solutions to Plastic Pollution are in two boxes; 1) do a better job of disposal so the trash is less likely to get into the world's water, and 2) find a way to pick up what is already in our oceans. Most of the pick up the pollution projects seem to be some kind of sweeping up and bringing it back to land to be disposed of properly.

This means that for now all we have is a need to use biodegradable plastic items, and a need to catch the trash before it moves out into the ocean and breaks down into the microparticles that are so dangerous. That is not a pretty picture. It is a call to action, and I hope the Environmental Movement becomes more active in this war to save our

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The Conservation Corner

(Continued from page 12)

oceans. This article is about the best known of the open ocean garbage patches. I suspect the physics of ocean currents has one of these in each of the major oceans, not just the North Pacific. I understand that 5 of our major Oceans has a similar problem.

In fact, we here in Texas have a similar issue with Ocean Litter control in the Gulf of Mexico. A very interesting Conservation Group known as "Keep Texas Beautiful" has dozens of trash offs in the course of the year. They do education and project management in a lot of ways. And they are successful at becoming funded enough to really accomplish important tasks and projects.

The information web site they have states that in September of 2020, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) was awarded over \$400,000 through an EPA Trash Free Waters grant. KTB leveraged partners from its existing affiliate network and chose three unique Texas communities in the Gulf of Mexico watershed to provide funding and technical assistance to create benchmark programs for litter cleanup and prevention that can be shared throughout Texas and beyond. These projects promote education, infrastructure and cleanup activities with an end goal of reducing litter and its eventual flow into the Gulf of Mexico.

Short-range Goals:

1. Litter diverted from flowing downstream by capture devices.
2. Litter cleaned by enhancing current litter cleanup activities.
3. Increased reporting of litter issues in Galveston Bay.

Long-range Goals:

1. Cleaner beaches, parks, roads, and waterways with less visible litter.
2. Reduction of the amount of litter collected and cleanups needed.
3. Increased community resiliency through stronger local partnerships.

4. Strong litter prevention programs verified and shared with other communities for replication.

Due to the population residing in the Houston-Galveston region, projects like this one are bringing hope and more importantly success in protecting our Ocean by our southern border.

Houston-Galveston Region



In the Houston-Galveston region KTB leads projects concentrated on the bayou system throughout the city. We partnered with Buffalo Bayou Partnership to install boom systems to capture and divert trash flowing through the area. These materials were then vacuumed up by a specialized vessel run by the Partnership. It is a very good idea to catch the litter before it enters the open water, and this is an example of citizen action to supplement litter capture.

So be proud, Texas. We love our outdoors and are doing big things to protect and in some cases rebuild the outdoors we all love. Not just FFI folks, but citizens of all interests working together.

I am impressed.



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