

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ November 2023
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

I attended the State Fair as a visitor its last weekend, which means I had cause to cross the Trinity River in Dallas County in several places. When I crossed over the Trinity at the I-20 bridge, I was saddened to see that the large boulders and riverbed just downstream of I-20 were once again exposed as they had been in 2011. I fished from those boulders in 2011, walking along dry riverbed to reach them. It always makes me think about how the intended Dallas-to-Houston waterway and its locks would have controlled the drought and high-water conditions. I then had to return to Fair Park on Thursday after the Fair's last day. **WHOA!** What a difference the overnight rains made. Coming up I-45, there was just a large mass of water—no ponds or stone abutments upstream of the State Highway 310 bridge at the south end of William Blair, Jr. Park, no exposed boulders and riverbed upstream of Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation, no signs of the Summer 2023 drought were visible. **AMEN** and **HALLELUJAH!**

As fly fishers, who are enjoying really wonderful fall fishing, this means a new ploy to approaching the fish. If you do not have sinking lines in your

arsenal, now is the time to add them. While it will be a bit before we are wade fishing and sight casting in our favorite creeks and rivers, sinking lines can assist with successful bank fishing. The downstream water flow will keep weighted flies within the 1-2 feet water column depth on a floating line, which is not where the fish are holding. Switching your rigging to a sinking line with fluorocarbon leaders and tippet will help put your fly where fish are holding.

If one has minimal experience with sinking lines and tips, trying to understand the veritable swamp sinking line construction and grain weight generate is nigh impossible because of the many features manufacturers use to create their sinking line. On-the-water experience is the best teacher for gaining knowledge, but having a beginning point as to what to do and why assists in the sinking construction learning curve. With the rate of moving water we're having, a sinking line is better than a sinking tip (which varies from 9'-15' typically) for getting the fly deeper in the water column. As the flow begins to subside, I switch to a sinking tip, as there is less water column to cover and a slower flow rate won't affect water column depth as drastically.

As for leader and tippet material, I prefer fluorocarbon in these higher flows. I do not mind the higher expense as the fluorocarbon will minimize any frustrations I'm likely to encounter in these conditions. Also, I want a little more bulk in my leader butt, so the transfer of energy from the line to the leader is smooth during the cast. Somewhat limiting its success in obscure and high flows, monofilament is too stretchy, buoyant, thin, and can break at the knots when encountering swiftly traveling flotsam, or that bass you think is a log until it finally tugs back.

Interestingly, I do not use the same brand of line for my rigs. Instead, I prefer performance of a line for that specific rig, so you'll see a Teeny line, an old, but dearly loved first-gen Scientific Angler Sharkskin line (I do fish wearing gloves), and an Orvis Depth Charge on my reels. For my 4# reel, I



line it with 130 grain line that has a tungsten core, sinks at 4 inches per second, has high visibility for muddy waters, and is a one-piece line with a 24' sinking head and a 66' floating body. My 5# has an original 150 grain Sharkskin line, and when it finally dies, I haven't decided what my new line will be. My 6# has the original Depth Charge Orvis 200 grain line. Like the Sharkskin line, that specific Orvis line is no longer manufactured, but I have always appreciated how slick and easy, for a sinking line, the Orvis lines are to cast.

As for casting the lower grain sinking lines, not much adjustment has to be made, unlike the heavier sinking lines, but do know that a kick exists which occurs on the back cast when it's fully extended and stops. The line's weight creates a slight bounce or "kick" and slack is created. Opening up the loop slightly remedies the problem; sinking lines aren't designed for tight loops.

Lastly, use weighted flies, but get the weights from beads, cone heads, and wire bodies. Eliminate bead chain and dumbbell eyes, as their non-aerodynamic design serves as a by-catch for all that small flotsam dislodged from raging flow rates.

This is the perfect time to experiment with new materials and techniques, and even though mistakes are likely to occur in the initial experimentation, stick with the education. Learning what doesn't work teaches what will work and helps to improve angling skills and knowledge.

Here's to bent tips and happy days!

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers

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DFF 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. November will be our last drawing for flies tied by our speakers for those that attend in person (see article in this newsletter).

We continue to meet at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080. Our November meeting will be held in the Youth Fellowship Hall NW side of building upstairs in the back. December is our Christmas/Holiday party. Registration for that has begun, so check your emails how to do that.

Previous Meeting: October 2: Donovan Clary, Oklahoma Fishing Guide, did not disappoint. Donovan tied a baitfish pattern that he designed called a belly dagger and showed how it can be tied in different sizes and colors to imitate a number of native baitfish patterns in that area. He showed many slides of where to fish the Lower Illinois River above and below Tenkiller Lake. Donovan showed us what the Neosho bass looks like and how it can be distinguished from the smallmouth.

Donovan has offered to help us out during our November 16-17 outing on the Blue River for free since guides are not allowed. He is also will to take calls and emails if you have any questions and be there to help us catch some of the stocked trout. Thank you, Donovan.

Future Meetings: We have two presentation meeting remaining. Please join us for those as well as the Christmas/Holiday party in December.

November 6: Greg DeMars, DFF member. **Topic: Dallas and Fort Worth local fishing waters.** It doesn't look like Greg's book will be available in time for his presentation; however, he will reveal a few local fishing spots. **Meeting Location: Youth Worship Center, Northwest side of the church.**

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

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

Deadline for Registration to attend: November 27th. The Holiday Party is a pre-pay event only; there will be no at-the-door sales the day of the event.

Activities: Dinner, Raffle, New DFF Officer Induction, and Awards Ceremony. Reservations are now accepted for the Christmas/Holiday Party; please take a moment to make your reservations so that you don't forget! We have to submit our attendance numbers a week before the event in order for the restaurant to be prepared for us and have sufficient food.

There are three ways to register and pay:

1. On-line with a credit card:
<https://dallasflyfishers.org/holiday-party>
2. In person at the November 6th meeting (cash, check, or card)
3. Mail-in check to be received by November 27th. Make check payable to DFF, and mail to: Dallas Fly Fishers, 8349 Club Meadows Dr., Dallas, TX 75243

We will have several bucket raffles items: **Aaron Reed's** book (Fly Fishing Austin & Central Texas), boxed flies (from **Donovan Clary**, **Nick Gallegos**, and **Dave Smith**), a 2024 DFF membership, a TFO 5 wt 9' fly rod/reel/combo (generously donated by **Kimberly Pennick**) to name a few. We will accept cash, checks or your card for the bucket raffle tickets. Tickets: \$1 donation = one ticket, \$5 donation = six tickets, \$10 donation = 12 tickets, \$20 donation = 25 tickets, \$50 donation = 65 tickets, \$100 donation = 150 tickets.

I hope to see you there.



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!*

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

October 29th - Stream Team Water Watch monitoring, Branch Hollow Park, 9AM.

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 14th - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

November 19th - Stream team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 10AM

November 21st - **Dan Montayne's** Fly tying Class, Cabela's Conference Room, 6:30 PM

November 28th - Open tying at McNeals in Plano.

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

December 17th - Stream Team water monitoring, Branch Hollow Park. 10AM

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 Dallas Flyfishers. **Danny Soltau** is hard at work setting things up.

January 2nd–6th - DBU Outdoor Experiences Class. With the TFFC closed we are in need of some suggestions on where to take the students fly fishing.

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.

Jan 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 - March 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 13th - 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.

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

July 1st - **Danny Scarborough**, Texas Guide out of Forney, tying local bugs TBD and local fisheries around DFW

July 13th-20th - South Fork Colorado Outing. This is a great time with your best of the rest fly flingers from the DFF and FWFF.

August 5th - **Stephen Palmer** - Discussing travel prep, strategy, do's and don'ts for fishing trips.

2024 Newsletter Editor Needed

by Julia Bell

I want to extend my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to **Jere Anderson**. Jere took over his latest round as Newsletter Editor from me mid-2009 and choosing to serve the club for the last 14 years as editor and other positions. This will be Jere's last The Leader publication, as Jere will be with family in California during December. Thank you for all you have done, Jere. It has been my honor to work with you on The Leader. You have served all of us well and faithfully! Jere will continue in his role as Conservation Chair. One of my last jobs as president will be to see to the publication of the December newsletter. Therefore, the 2024 Board is seeking someone to take on the role of Newsletter Editor beginning with January issue.

You will have help and be mentored for as long as you need to feel comfortable in the role. The Newsletter Editor position entails:

- Setting the article deadline for the next month
- Communicating with the various members for their monthly contributions
- Asking the membership for any articles they wish to contribute
- Forwarding all received articles to the Graphics Designer
- Emailing the completed newsletter from the

Graphics Designer to the membership

The Newsletter Editor is not responsible for designing and formatting the articles. We have a Graphics Designer that takes care of the look of the newsletter. If you would be interested in helping the club fill this vital service to the fly fishing community, as our readership is well beyond the club, we would love to have you on the Board. Please contact **Dave Smith**, dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com or **Julia Bell**, flyfshrgl@gmail.com. As of this time, we have not found a replacement, so fulfilling this role is of the utmost urgency, as Jere will not be extending his tenure if someone else does not take on this role.

2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction

by Dave Shatzer

I am sure you all are coming to the DFF November 6 meeting. I mean our speaker is none other than our own **Greg DeMars** presenting on “Local Waters.” We still need donation items for our 2024 Fundraiser Auction. So go in your closet and look over your flyfishing stuff, please bring us what you are not using anymore. Those old rods, reels, and assorted other equipment can be money for your DFF club. If you can’t make the November meeting (due to the Holiday Party in December, we will not have another meeting until January 8), we can pick up your donations. If you live Plano and north, **Jim Woodman** 651-226-7690 can get your items. Plano and south, **Dave Shatzer** 972-571-7622 can pick up or meet somewhere to receive your donations.

— Dave Shatzer



Dallas Fly Fishers
Fundraiser
AUCTION

PLANO EVENT CENTER
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. • Plano, TX 75074

Monday
MARCH 11TH
5:30PM until 8:30PM

ADMISSION
\$15 per person
FREE for Both Attendees if you bring a Non-DFF Member.

AUCTION FEATURES:
Bamboo Rods | Hardy Reels
Lifetime Dallas Fly Fishers Membership
Exclusive Guided Trips
FINGER FOOD & CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Live Auction • Buy-It-Now • Silent Auction • Raffle

For More Information - Visit www.dallasflyfishers.org/auction.html or Call 214-202-2826

Important Trout Fishing Notice

by Jere Anderson

The Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens Texas is where we often go to fish for abundant planter Trout that they start stocking in early December. The stockers are usually catchable until late March or so. It is a wonderful place with a great little museum and a Lagoon Show in a giant fish tank.

Well, this year we are out of luck. The TFFC is shut down and it may be as long as a year or more before it reopens. This changes a lot of plans. If you are one of out many who regularly fish the TFFC, be sure to make other plans. The TPWF has a planter schedule and so you can put the link in your cell phone and

know immediately where the fish have been planted most recently, and hopefully a few places near to your favorite places to fish.

We will try to keep you informed in the Newsletter and on Facebook where the planter Trout are and are doing the best.

November Outings

by Julia Bell

Our first November outing is the Toledo Bend Rendezvous at North Toledo Bend State Park in Zwolle, Louisiana 3-5 November 2023. You can choose to stay in the park at one of the group camping cabins, reserve a campsite, a cabin, or a glamping site, or stay at the Driftwood Inn and Lodge by the Lake, 281-701-8591, or the Budget Inn & Lodge, 318-256-7281. This is a tying rendezvous on the east side of Toledo Bend Reservoir. Access to the lake and fishing is available by the campsites and by the Group Camp area. We bring our vises and setup in the Group Camp Room for the weekend tying whatever flies we choose. If the weather is nice, many choose to go fishing, and sometimes, casting demos and instruction are available, too. Cost is \$40 for the weekend, \$20 for one night, \$10 for one day. For further information, visit the TBR website: <https://flycasting.bravesites.com/>

Our second November outing is to target Rainbow and Brown Trout on the Blue River near Tishimingo, Oklahoma on 16 – 17 November 2023. There is primitive camping on the river, many Air B ‘n B cabins on the river, Scotty’s Blue River One Stop & RV Park (most of the reviews are for the eating and not the RV portion), and Lake Texoma State Park in Kingston, OK. Many make this a day trip from the Dallas area, as the Blue River forms the NE portions of Lake Texoma. Trout stockings begin 1 November 2023 and continue through 1 March 2024.

After our October meeting and upon learning of this outing, **Donovan Clary** wrote to **LaJan**, “I have fished the Blue River many, many times since 1992. It's a wonderful fun place, and I really enjoy fishing there.

It is owned by the [Oklahoma] Dept. of Wildlife, and they do not allow any guiding there; otherwise, I'd be there all winter long. It's that good. You are all in for a treat. I'd like to volunteer to meet you all there and spend the day with you if the date works out.

I have some information over the blue river that I've shared in presentations I'd be happy to share—maps, access areas, key areas I find fish year after year.

Would anyone benefit from it? If so, I'll get some maps together and send you. And hopefully, if you all don't mind, I'll meet you there.”

We would like to get a head count of those who are or might be attending this outing, so please RSVP to **Julia Bell**.

In-Person Attendance Incentive – Speaker Tied Fly Drawing for October and November Drawing November Meeting

by LaJan Barnes

The flies tied by our speakers in October and November for the 4th quarter drawing will be during our November meeting since the Christmas/Holiday Party is in December.

Donavan Clary's flies (belly daggers) and **Greg DeMars** (flies to be used in our local

waters) will be included in the 4th quarter drawing at the end of our November meeting. I had previously mentioned that it would be at the December Christmas/Holiday party; however, the drawing will be after Greg's presentation in November. Everyone who attends the November

6th meeting will receive a free ticket for the special drawing at the end of the meeting (you must be present to win).

Good Luck to the next winner! Stay tuned for the in-person attendance incentives during 2024.

The Casting Corner

by Ed Bowen

We have had several fly casting classes at Cabela's since the last report. In addition, two classes were held at Frisco Ponds for contacts received from the Grapevine Bass Pro shop. Other interested parties have been to our TPWD Beginner Fly Fishing (BFF) classes at Rosemeade Rec Center and LLEA. If you run into someone interested in attending, please have them contact **Ed Bowen** at ed.26936@gmail.com or texting 214-477-1423. This class will be primarily focused on

beginners, and it is available to DFF members and non-members alike. Please direct any interested parties or questions to Ed.

And if you talk with someone interested in beginner fly casting instruction but cannot attend our Saturday morning opportunity, please let Ed know. We will try to accommodate all comers.

A new initiative, which started with the TPWD BFF class at LLEA on October 28,

2023, is offering an invitation to participants to attend a beginner fly fishing class (if you are a member of DFF or join DFF). This is aimed at an introduction to fly fishing for someone who has never fly fished. The goal will be to equip the participant with the knowledge, and some of the skills, needed to actually fly fish. Please point any interested parties to **Ed Bowen** (ed.26936@gmail.com or texting 214-477-1423).

DFF Participates in TPWD Weekend at the State Fair



Annually, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department takes over the Poultry Building each opening weekend at the State Fair, and 2023's outreach was another success! Visitors interacted with the DFF, Texas Council FFI, the Audubon Society, Game Wardens, an opportunity to catch large Channel Catfish, Go Outdoors, Cedar Ridge Preserve, and many other aspects of interacting with nature and the outdoors throughout Texas. The DFF's Paul Locklear and **Bill Slaughter** manned the DFF Booth both Friday and Saturday, tying flies and sharing education possibilities, while **Keira Quam** assisted those interested with casting. **Rick Haness** and **Julia Bell**

manned the Texas Council booth sharing fly fishing interests available throughout the state. We had many contact **Richard Johnson** wanting to attend the Basic Fly Fishing Class that was to have occurred at LLELA on October 28th (which will be rescheduled). In interacting with visitors about how or why they were showing an enthusiasm for fly fishing, it seems that the tv series **Yellowstone** is to the 21st century as **A River Runs Through It** was to the 20th century in generating interest in fly fishing, as **Yellowstone** was mentioned often. Regardless the path folks are taking, the new interest from a wide genre of people was exciting to see!

Fly Tying Page

by Jere Anderson



It gives me great pleasure to note that we now have three really fun and informative DFF fly tying opportunities in any month.

The second Tuesday and the last Tuesday of the month is a fun fly tying gathering by our 2024 Program Chainman, **Danny Soltau**. They are held at McNeal's Tavern and Eatery on the Southeast corner of Avenue K in Plano. Bring your own tools, or call him to borrow some. It is a good relaxing couple of hours with some fun fly tiers. Skill levels from beginner up to award winner will be there.

Then on the third Tuesday the long-time Fly-Tying Coordinator, **Dan Montayne** is the

leader of an event known as the Warm Water Go-To Flies and Fishing Skills Group. This group meets in Allen Cabela's Conference Room. Dan has an announcement he sends out. Call him to get on the list.

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

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!

The Second Tuesday, October 10th was a fun night of fly tying. There was a good turnout at McNeal's for Open Tying Night where the fly was a small dry fly. Many new fly tyers were present and thanks to all who helped lend a hand to our new tyers entering the fray.



The fly on October 31st was a hit.

Halloween Buzzer dressed for Bass & Trout (Black/Brown/Orange/Yellow Woolly Buggers)

-- Special giveaways for those dressed in (intentional) costumes

-- Candy and Materials Included. Food, beer, and other beverages provided by the illustrious **McNeals** staff and kitchen.

Many of the attendees tied a few of their own. 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

A Time to Tie and Time to Fish

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

October's Third Tuesday event at Cabela's heralded a renewed excitement to create both trout and bass patterns. Cooler weather and the anticipated annual trout stocking schedule also heightened interest in fly patterns that address both species. Art San Roman presented an outstanding dual pattern that perfectly fit the bill. The Henry's Fork Salmon Fly, followed by examples and discussion of the Fork Gurgler, demonstrated the ease in which a stimulator type pattern can be converted to a bass diver/gurgler for fall and spring fishing.

What you missed:

The Henry's Fork Salmon Fly



The Henry's Fork Gurgler



As we move into November, our esteemed presenter is **Mr. Jim Kelly**. Jim's expertise as a valued tier will showcase a new fly by **Landon Mayer, The Mini jig Leech Damselfly Nymph**. This program is a must to attend. This pattern will require magnifiers and a light source, so plan ahead.

As in the past two years, the date and location for our November tying event will change. It will be held at the First United Methodist Church,



the one where we gather for our monthly DFF meetings. **The date is November 14, which is the second Tuesday of the month**, not the third. We do this for two reasons: Cabela's uses its meeting room for holiday activities in November and December and to avoid scheduling events during Thanksgiving week.

In January, 2024 we will return to Cabela's for a new season of patterns that work for warm and cold water. Plan now and mark your calendar for November and January.

What to look forward to in 2024:

Crawfish, an intermediate and fun fly.



Latham Springs Outing Recap

by Jeff Ziehm

On Saturday, October 7, five DFFers attended the Latham Springs outing: **Mike Becker, Bob Nachtrieb, Terri White, Paul Dougherty, and Jeff Ziehm.** Paul had just joined DFF the previous Monday at our meeting.

A cold front had just come through the previous day. **Julia** predicted it would be slow early in the morning, and she was right. From 8am until 11am, a few fish were caught, but

just a few. And those were mostly on streamers.

At 11am the dinner bell went off. The sun was up, the water was warming, and the fish became more active. And the best part, the topwater bite was on.

I had my best luck with my Miss Prissy look-alike, the Betts Poka Pop popper. A girdle bug

and an unweighted black wooly bugger fished on a sinktip line were also effective.

Everyone in attendance caught fish. This is one of my favorite outings. I hope to see you there in the spring.

— Jeff



Editor's Note: *Not only have I fished here with the DFF, but our Church Youth Group also has Father Son Campouts here. They do not seem to be as tuned to the merits of a Father-Son Fishing Trip as I am but give me time.... This place is too good to miss. And fishing is easy enough that I should be able to teach the video game generation to enjoy the outdoors in this venue.*

Alaska Trophy Adventures Lodge July 2 - 9, 2023

by Mike Becker

I've always been fascinated by the sockeye salmon run and have wanted to go to Alaska to experience it. I'd been talking to **Wayne McGee** of Alaska Trophy Adventures Lodge (www.atalodge.com) at the February fly fishing show for a couple of years. I admit that I was skeptical because the price of this trip was so reasonable. One reason for the reasonable price is that fly-outs are not embedded into the cost. I finally decided to pull the trigger on the trip for the first week of July.

After a couple of days of sightseeing in Anchorage, I flew to King Salmon. On July 2, I took a brush plane piloted by Wayne's son, **Jacob**, from King Salmon to the ATA lodge on the Alagnak River in the Bristol Bay area. We were met at the lodge's air strip by Wayne and his wife **Sue** and escorted to a welcome reception in the dining room. After room assignments and unpacking, it was off to BYOB happy hour and dinner. After dinner, the 22 fisher persons received orientation, met the guides and got paired up for the week.

My fishing partner was **Chuck Campbell**, a retired investment banker from the Chicago area. Chuck is a self proclaimed BS salesman with a mouthful of samples. When

he is not fishing, he makes humorous YouTube videos. Our guide was **Capt. Sam Vassar**. Sam is from Houston and is a super senior at Texas A&M.

The daily routine is simple. Once the generators are up and running, coffee is available in the dining room; 8:00 lunch materials are brought out and each person makes their own lunch; 8:30 breakfast is served; 9:00 meet your guide at the dock and fish until 5:00; 6:00 BYOB happy hour and hors d'oeuvres; 6:30 dinner and stories. Guides will prepare a shore lunch on request. Chuck and I passed on a shore lunch to have more fishing time and avoid being visited by big, brown furry creatures.

Our first day of fishing was July 3. The activity report was that the sockeye were starting to run in small numbers; perhaps of 3 to 6 in a pod. Chuck and I decided that we would focus on rainbows, grayling and char until the run heated up.

Alaska had an unusually high snow fall last winter. Anchorage had 8 feet of snow. Consequently, the river was high and the current was quite strong. Fortunately, the river

base is fairly level sand and gravel. We often found ourselves waist high in water. Although the footing was firm, you had to be wary of the strong current when you moved.

Over the next few days we fished various braids of the river and caught a good number of 20" - 30" rainbows on 7 and 8 wt. rods using streamers, mice and even on a dry. Grayling were caught on 5 wt. rods using a variety of dry flies. The char were caught on 7 and 8 wt. rods using streamers.

Once the salmon run began in earnest, the trout became sparse. Although we landed smaller numbers of trout in the mornings, the action was shifting to sockeyes. The salmon run is an amazing sight. It's a steady stream of nose to tail fish, 5 and 6 abreast. We used 9 wt rods with a long tippet in a flossing technique. The fly is simply tied with tinsel streaming off of the hook shank. Several pieces of split shot are attached several feet from the fly. You make a short cast past the far side of the fish and slowly drag the split shot on the gravel to create a bouncing fly movement. If you can't feel the split shot bounce you are too light; if you feel it drag you are too heavy. The salmon were consistently snapping off 20# tippet, so we changed to 30#.

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These are incredibly strong, hard fighting, acrobatic fish that will regularly take you into and out of your backing several times before they seem to fatigue. You always fight these on the reel; their movement is too fast and strong to attempt to strip line. Be prepared to fight for several minutes. It could take 5 - 10 minutes to get it to the net.

A couple of precautions were: always keep an eye out for bears, strip set to the side (a missed set will have a heavy projectile flying straight at your face), always fight to the side, never let your reel hand get near the crank when the fish runs (they take line at such a fast rate, the spinning crank will bloody or crack your knuckles), keep your trigger finger off the line when the fish is running (you'll get quite a burn) and be prepared to crank fast. Also, if you man the net, keep it

in front of your face to protect yourself from flying objects. These fish seem to get an energy boost when they see the net.

During our visit, we saw some amazing wildlife - eagles, bears, moose. We also visited an unoccupied beaver lodge. We watched several bears on the shore line snorkeling for fish. The guides filet salmon on the river side. While Sam was hard at work, Chuck and I were on constant guard duty watching for bears. The fish carcasses draw gulls from Bristol Bay and the bears follow the gulls. We had one very curious visitor; but, we were able to scare him off by yelling.

On departure day, frozen salmon filets are wrapped in an insulated blanket packed in a box for airline travel. You travel back to King Salmon via brush plane. My 25 keepers yielded 47# of filets.

Simply stated, this was an amazing trip. The housing is comfortable and the food is well above par. **The McGee family** treats you like family and goes out of their way to make you feel comfortable and at home. Like most lodges of this nature, diesel generators are the sole source of electricity and are shut down at night. Wayne and Sue placed a battery system in my room to enable me to operate my CPAP machine at night.

I went on this trip as a single and left with about 50 new friends. If you are planning a salmon adventure to Alaska, this is definitely worth a serious look.

— Mike Becker

Here is the lodge:



Stream Team Water Watch Monitoring

by Jere Anderson

On the first of October, we got off to a good start with our participation in the Ecology of Furnaux Creek near their outstanding nature preserve area. This is important since we are monitoring the health of the base of the food web. Both the water Quality work that the Chemistry Team does to ensure the safety of the stream, and the inventory of the bottom of the food web that the DFF Team does give us a lot of confidence that even the water in well developed areas is healthy and thriving.

I have been involved in water quality issues since well before being transferred to Dallas and getting involved in Conservation Projects in Northeast Texas. The documentation of the aquatic lifeforms in this water body borders on amazing. The seasonal variations in active food sources for our finny friends is inspiring.

The process is very basic and attempts to have a regular beat to it so we can judge and document the seasonal variations. Some very seasonal things happen like the invasion of tadpoles in the two events prior to this one. The number of active life forms and which species dominate during various seasons of the year are fascinating findings. We perform the evaluations every month on the last Sunday of the month. The DFF Calendar has them in it. Come out some time at about 9AM and watch or join the party. The October Stream team end of month activity was rained out this time.

The water Chemistry team and an observer are hard at work getting the data we need to spot a contamination problem. None so far.



Roger Rohrbeck sets up his projection Microscope, and **Richard** prepared to log the findings. This time **Ed Bowen** brought a bucket of fine silt up from the stream bottom that was full of nymphs of various species.

There was a great assortment of aquatic lifeforms. Here are some pictures. Both **Ed Bowen** and **Roger** capture the images of the little life forms.



The bug patrol gets a couple of buckets of stream bottom along with some vegetation in case the bugs we want are hiding in the root masses. The samples are then poured out into shallow sample pans and the search begins.

Northern New Mexico in the Fall –Delightful– Try It Sometime

by Dave Shatzer

I have gone fly fishing in northern New Mexico several times over the past twenty years and went again October 1-7. Originally, it was my business that took me to Santa Fe about this time in the fall, so I started tacking on a few days of fly fishing each year. Streams that I have fished include the Pecos, Cimarron, Red, Brazos, Chama, and Rio Grande. **Dani Rose** wrote an excellent article on New Mexico in the September Leader and I will not try to top that but rather tell my New Mexico experiences from the perspective of the Fall time of the year.

After staying the night in Taos, I headed to the Rio Brazos, a tributary of the Chama, less than 20 miles southeast of the town of Chama. The location of my favorite Brazos spot can be found in a very useful “Fishing Waters Map” found in the “places to fish” area of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish website [https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/fishing-conditions-trip-planner/Fishing Waters Map](https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/fishing-conditions-trip-planner/FishingWatersMap). This interactive map actually has far more listings of public access than on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website. There are eleven such sites within a twenty-mile radius of Chama, N Mx. Pictured below is the sign for this Brazos site. The NMDGF pays a consideration to the HOA of this small mountain cabin group. The parking area is very limited and when it’s full, you’re out of luck. I have been going there for 12 years and I guess no one has abused the fishing privileges because the HOA still allows access.

The Rio Brazos was in its full glory (pictured) as the willows and aspens were turning gold. This fishery is located at the mouth of the magnificent Brazos Canyon (google Brazos Cliffs). Corkins Lodge, a flyfishing destination, is immediately upstream at the mouth of the canyon. The first day was subject to intermittent, mountain showers. Almost everyone fishes a nymph rig

this time of the year. The fly of the week was a size 16 flashback pheasant tail dropped with a various size 18 pheasant tails or caddis nymphs. The Brazos catch was entirely rainbows this year although I have caught browns here in the past. Monday, I did pretty well in spite of the rain. I came back to the Brazos two days later and had one of my best days ever. The flashback pheasant tail was the “fly du jour” again. After the bottom fly early on got tangled in the rainbows flopping around in my net, I cut the bottom dropper fly off and just fished with the size 16 flashback pheasant tail. I caught fish until the fly was completely destroyed.

On Tuesday, I tried the Rio Chama tailwater of the El Vado reservoir. Our August speaker, **Nick Gallegos**, focused most of his talk on this. As Dani Rose said in her earlier article, the water is chocolate brown and terribly silty. Both El Vado and Heron Lakes are very low as they work on the dams. I only got one bite and I didn’t even know a nice rainbow was on for several seconds. This was my first time to El Vado but in the past, I have had a couple wonderful days on the Chama downstream of the Heron dam. These are very good fisheries but my advice would be to wait until 2025 when they are scheduled to finish the reconstruction.

I decided to check out a few other places on the Rio Chama. I tried the Chama just north of town, entering the river at the Route 17 bridge. Now that New Mexico has reinforced the rule allowing fishermen to access a river as long as they stay in stream bed, this allows access to places that we would not have fished in past years. Unfortunately, the water flow in the Chama is quite low and I did not fish it long

To finish my trip, I drove back to Taos to try the Rio Grande. If anyone has driven west of Taos, they have seen that the Rio Grande has cut a



mini-Grand Canyon. So those of you that have been in this area are thinking, “*how is a fly fisherman supposed to fish that?*” The Rio Grande can be accessed south of Taos, near Pilar, N Mx. The main access point is the John Dunn bridge north of town. I had never been there so I decided to try it. The flashback pheasant tail worked great, but the only problem was, all I caught were tiny 6 to 7” rainbows. I have only one fish picture of a really nice rainbow caught several years ago down in the Rio Grande canyon. What the difference in the fishing experiences? This year’s tiny rainbows were caught fishing by myself, the pictured big one was with a guide from the Taos Fly Shop. I guess I’m not ready to be a guide. Leaving the Rio Grande, I talked to a doctor from Dallas and he reported having a good day fishing the Costilla tailwater, just 45 minutes north of town. Along with the Red River up from Questa, there are other options close to Taos.

Fall is a great time to fish northern New Mexico. The mornings are crisp and cool but you will be taking off layers of clothes before noon. I had great fishing at times and other times it was slow. At all times the scenery was great. The final scenery picture was taken a few years ago just north of Chama. Like the Santa Fe guide told when I first inquired about fall fly fishing in New Mexico. He said, “*Fall is a great time to fish, our trout don’t leave, only the crowds of people leave.*”

– Dave Shatzer



The Activity Report

by Jere Anderson

That does it for October. It was a good month. The excessive heat from El Nino faded a bit and a few rain showers were very welcome in my yard. November is going to be a riot. Lots to do on every weekend and the early peak of the fall fishing indicates to me that if you are not busy doing fly fishing things, you may be missing the point. In any case I hope to see you in a few of these.

October 1st, Stream Team Water Monitoring. Branch Hollow Park, 9 am. This is a great conservation project, and can be valuable. It is fun and relatively easy as well. With some new team members, we are doing better and it is more fun. There is an article in this Newsletter about our adventures.



October 2nd, Donavan Clary, OK Fishing Guide. His great trips are often pictured in the DFF FB pages. It is impossible to speak too highly of this Guide who posts to our FB pages. He did a great presentation which is available on his web pages.

October 2nd-3rd, Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Experiences Class by Dr. Ray Galloway. This will be led by Dave Smith and is something we of the DFF have been doing since about 2006. There is a story elsewhere in this document. Here are our students.



October 7th, was our October Outing to Lathram Springs Encampment, an outing that often catches a lot of fish of many species. This year it followed some heavy rain and was rather soggy. The five fearless Fly Flingers of

the DFF went and there is an article in this newsletter. This place is really great, and Jere was very sorry to have missed it.

October 10th, Open Tying at McNeals, Danny led a group of brave fly tiers in doing a very small fly.



These are a lot of fun, and Danny is very creative in his fly selection.



Dave Smith and I tied a size 18 dry fly. Jere is not usually doing a fly smaller than a 10 or a 2X long 12, but this was fun.

October 17th, Dan Montaine's Fly Tying Class at Cabela's was great. Lots of talent there. We tied a streamer Fly much like what I fished with in the big water of the Western Rivers. Art San Ramon led the class, and it was his fly. The helpers were Bill Sargent, Dan, Dave Smith, and Jim Woodman. I saw some of the intermediate tiers that I had coached that are now tying with the big kids. That is always a treat.



This is Al teaching his streamer fly.



Dan and Jim Woodman work with one of our novices. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants more help.

October 28th, Basic Fly fishing Class at LLELA, and the October 29th, Stream Team Water Monitoring. Branch Hollow Park, 9 am, were both canceled by the rain. As a conservationist, I am aware of the huge drought problem in Central Texas, but I sure hate to lose some great projects like these.

This is the end of the line for this newsletter. We want to get you the news while it is still news. But November still has some Outings and some big events. You need to sign up for the Holiday Party NOW. You must be pre-registered and no door tickets can be sold. Go to page 2 of this newsletter where LaJan has all the details.

October 31st, Open Tying a McNeals, 7PM.

October 31st, Halloween Night.

November 3rd-5th, The famous Toledo Bend Rendezvous, Toledo Bend State Park, Near Zwolle LA.

So, another one bites the dust. Our November is a bit sparse, which is often true.

November 6th, our speaker is Greg DeMars, a club member, talking about a subject Jere wants to know a lot more about, our local fishing opportunities.

Then our three Fly Tying opportunities and a Stream Team Water Watch, and we are up to our famous Annual Banquet and Holiday Party.

Get that fly rod out and hit the water.



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

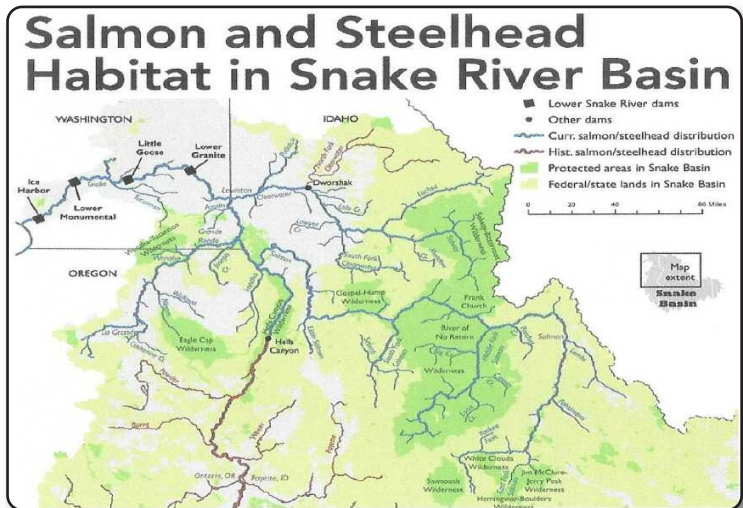
There is visible progress in the effort to restore healthy and abundant salmon populations across the Columbia River Basin.

Fly Fishers International has worked for decades with our valued Conservation Partners to conserve and rebuild salmon populations in the Columbia and Snake River Basins. I grew up fishing in the lower Columbia River, that stretch from the Pacific Ocean to Bonneville Dam. The multi-million fish Salmon runs, not to mention similar Steelhead Trout runs, were something that even an outdoor family like we were did not worry about it.

Since the signing of treaties with tribes in the region in 1855, dam construction, overfishing and population growth have changed the ecosystem of the basin and severely depleted wild fish populations. That has in turn substantially harmed the tribes' ability to exercise their rights to fish in the Columbia and Snake, reserved when they ceded millions of acres of their lands in treaties with the federal government. At the time of treaty signing, there were up to 10 million salmon a year returning to the Columbia and Snake River Systems. Today's returns are a fraction of that, and some tributaries in the interior Columbia Basin see only a few dozen salmon come home.

The Columbia and Snake were once among the mightiest salmon producers in the world. But the combined effects of habitat destruction, overfishing and industrialization are overwhelming the abilities of one of the most adaptive and powerful species on earth, which is even able to overcome the effects of volcanic eruptions and survive.

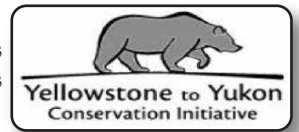
A new Federal order builds on prior statements and commitments to restore wild salmon and other native fish to the Columbia Basin. While the words "dam removal" do not appear in the document, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in its most recent scientific report on the basin found dam removal on the Lower Snake River would be essential to restore healthy salmon runs on the river. The removal of the five dams on the lower end of the Snake River would make thousands of miles of spawning grounds available to our migrating fish. We of the FFI have been writing articles about the need to open access to all this natural water for years. So much of the area is in nature preserves and park status that it would be more easily protected as well. The Snake River Basin represents the coldest and most undisturbed habitat in the Lower 48:



"This is a step in the right direction," said Shannon Wheeler, chair of the Nez Perce tribe, which is a party to the litigation and has long sought removal of dams on the Lower Snake to rebuild salmon runs.

So don't let up now. We may be close to a goal I remember from my youth, the removal of the five obstructions to our precious Salmon Runs. This could more than double the amount of undisturbed spawning areas and will give the young Salmon a clear run to the ocean. Keep up the good work, my fellow FFI Conservationists. We can hope that we are near to a big victory. Just having the Federal group join in and support opening the paths to the region is a huge opportunity.

I have taken a Salmon River Float Trip, and as the only one on the trip that brought a fly rod I was assigned to get fishing as soon as we landed at the next camp site. Fresh monster Rainbows for dinner improved my standing with the group immensely.



I have written about a huge project known as the Yellowstone to Yukon Project so here is the 2022 status.

Y2Y's ambitious but achievable mission is to connect and protect habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive. It is advancing because of all of us working together. This progress is thanks to a growing movement of many groups determined to help carry out and scale up conservation work across the region. And it helps that we have unprecedented alignment in national and global commitments to nature, matched by significant levels of investment by governments, foundations, and businesses. It is a time for hope and to learn from what has come before.

Y2Y is a model for global conservation efforts. Our role is deeply appreciated, and integral to making the Y2Y vision a success. So many others from around the world have been and continue to be inspired to advance similar large landscape and seascape efforts, so getting it right in the Yellowstone to Yukon region also supports conservation at a huge scale around the world.

We are making a tangible difference in safeguarding not just protected areas, but the spaces between them to restore and retain connectivity. Ultimately this work addresses industrialization impacts and maintains habitat and biodiversity, supporting humans and nature into the future.

Some of the successes in this last year included 55,000 km of B.C. and Alberta trails that were identified and mapped as part of a recreation ecology project, 25 percent of which weren't on the radar of resource managers. Knowing where people recreate will ultimately improve recreation management and help us share space with sensitive species such as grizzly bears and wolverines.

A suite of highway crossings is advancing on Highway 3 in B.C., along with a new wildlife overpass on Highway 1 in Alberta, and various measures to mitigate busy roads in Montana and Idaho, which will help to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions for the safety of all. Three wildlife corridors of continental-scale significance were boosted to protect animal movement between the Cabinet, Purcell and Selkirk mountains, as voluntary private land conservation ensured that the different properties would remain open for safe wildlife passage. With more than 117 existing wildlife underpasses, overpasses and fencing, the Yellowstone to Yukon

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The Conservation Corner

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region now has more such crossing structures than anywhere else in the world.



Fifteen First Nations Councils are supported in their actions to realize their visions for wildlife habitat across the Y2Y region are safeguarded through Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area designations.

Grizzly bears roaming along Montana's Big Hole River will be kept out of conflicts with thousands of campers through the installation of 37 food

lockers to keep them away from campers' food supplies. A key corridor for sensitive species like grizzly bears and threatened native trout was improved in Montana's Lolo National Forest through road restoration and the removal of 12 culverts.

You get the idea. While the region from Yellowstone Park to where the Yukon valley crosses over into Alaska is a monumental effort, just trying to grasp the immensity of such an area is a challenge few of us can accomplish. So this project evaluates the basic problem of providing our major wildlife with safe ways to move to a better location. It does not matter if the reason is a hard winter, forest fires, or human intrusion onto their forever home locations, we have to find a way to make a difference.

Jere loves this project and its basic concept. The bonding of the First Nations with modern civilization to protect what are clearly our mutually owned and respected resources, is an almost unheard-of accomplishment. Then to break a project that is clearly too vast to grasp in its entirety into workable size issues and working on these is pure magic. Keep track of this project. It is too good to lose and too big to totally comprehend.

Have a great Fall Fishing Season and best wishes for the Holidays.

 -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