

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ December 2023
Volume XLVI ♦ Number 12 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Fishin' Tales

by Julia Bell

In our house we have several framed individually tied flies and two DFF fly plates. They hang on the wall, and I pass by them every day. To me, while those flies are truly wonderful pieces of art, they were also my accountability reminders, serving as an inspiration these past three years to be a good servant. There are flies from eight DFF Past Presidents, 14 current members, and 10 Fallen Members. For our newest and newer members, some of these names won't mean much to you, so I do apologize, but please know that there were people before you who were wonderful people who left a legacy of stewardship and shared their talent freely which inspired today's club stewards. To our longest-standing members, hopefully, these names will evoke fond trips down memory lane.

To **Richard Blair**, **Charlie Ducote**, **Malcolm Duke** (who hand-crafted the large fly plate shadow box), **Norm Goheen**, **Gracie Lou**, **Slim Mitchell**, **John Peterie** (the first DFF member I ever met in 2002 at

the Houston fly tying show), **Harvey Stahl**, **Big Dale Wilkerson**, and **Mike Verduin**, I hope you would have been pleased with my presidency, as I sincerely tried to endow your legacy to the club and make thoughtful decisions that represented the Dallas Fly Fishers well. I miss you! Every fly tying technique you taught me, every fishing trip shared, every fly rod built, and the many stories you told left a permanent and wonderful impression upon me that I hoped I shared well with others. To our 21st century Past Presidents, **Jeff Ziehm** (president when I officially joined the club), **Fred DuPré**, **Charlie Ducote**, **Jere Anderson**, **Dan Montayne**, **Lou Montanero**, **Peter Rea**, **Jack Janco**, and **Al Hillman**, I hope I represented your leadership well, and that y'all are happy to have me in the Past President Club.

To the membership, I hope my mistakes were few and did not affect you, and I apologize for any that did. I hope you found content that grew your fly fishing skills, interests, friendships, and passion for fly fishing altogether. It has been an utmost privilege to serve you.

To the Board, you embody the spirit of service, dedication to something well-loved, volunteerism, and grace. Your talent and ideas and energy meant the world to me. Thank you for your time and making me look good.

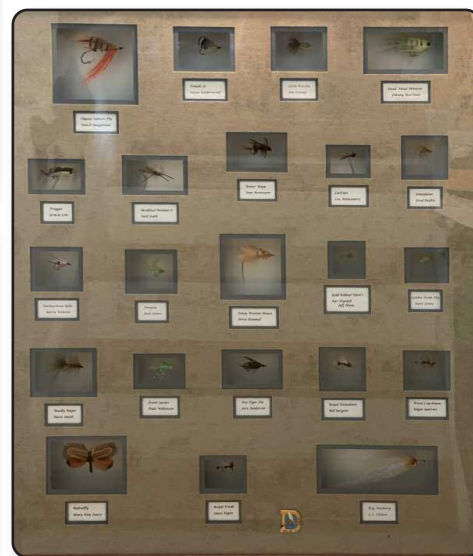
To **Dave Smith**, you are going to be a great club president. You have different ideas that are going to continue to grow the club. You are patient with those you are teaching. You understand the challenges leading a club entails. Your passion and enthusiasm for fly fishing is contagious. I am fortunate to serve as your Past President. Thank you.

I look forward to breaking bread with you at the Holiday Party. *Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and be safe and well this holiday season.*

Here's to bent tips and happy days!

—Julia

President, Dallas FlyFishers



IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE

Page:

- 1 Fishin' Tales
- 2 DFF Board 2023
- 2 DFF Program Schedule
- 2 2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers
- 3 2023/24 Calendar
- 3 2024 Newsletter Editor Needed
- 3 The Casting Corner
- 4 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction
- 4 Dutch Baughman Wins FFI Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award
- 5 TPWD Winter Trout Fishing Opportunities in Texas
- 5 Blue River Outing, Oklahoma
- 6 November Stream Team
- 7 The Conservation Corner
- 8 Membership / Renewal

DFE Board 2023

President

Julia Bell
214-980-9978
flyshrgl@gmail.com

Vice-President

Dave Smith
214-918-7171
dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com

Past President

Jack Janco
C-214-542-1738 H-972-542-8692
jackjanco@icloud.com

Treasurer

Steve Jackson
214-356-2184
steve@vantexholding.com

Secretary

Jim Woodman
651-226-7690
lakebud002@gmail.com

Trustee 2023

LaJan Barnes
410-925-9858
nlbarnes@aol.com

Trustee 2024

Jim Latschaw
214-808-6806
jimel312@hotmail.com

Trustee 2025

Dani Rose
281-460-0645
dani@thedanirose.com

Auction Chair

Dave Shatzer
972-571-7622
dshatz86@gmail.com

Casting Chair

Ed Bowen
214-477-1423
ed.26936@gmail.com

Conservation

Jere Anderson
972-618-6714
jaand75023@cs.com

Education Coordinator

Richard Johnson
469-877-0695
rljgj@hotmail.com

Fly Tying Coordinator

Dan Montayne
214-693-4643
montayne@verizon.net

IT Specialist

Jeff Ziehm
214-202-2826
jziehm55@gmail.com

Membership

Mike Becker
214-288-3885
kuduguy@verizon.net
Dave Shatzer
972-571-7622
dshatz86@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

OPEN

Outings Coordinator

OPEN

Programs

LaJan Barnes
410-925-9858
nlbarnes@aol.com
Danny Soltau
406-600-6732
dan@dirtywaterflyco.com

DFE Program Schedule

by LaJan Barnes, Program Coordinator

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: November 6: Lee Blanton was our speaker and tier for this meeting. He tied his Panhandler Fly and a modified Hippie Stomper during the our fly tying time. Lee uses both to fish for panfish as well as the Red eye bass in his home in Alabama. The Panhandler fly landed two (fly rod) state record sunfish! What a treat to watch Lee tie a fly that caught a record fish. Check out the video on our YouTube channel if you missed meeting.

Our last gathering of members for the Year!

December 3: Sunday Night - Christmas/Holiday party. **This is a pre-pay event only; there will be no at-the-door sales the day of the event.**

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

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

January 8th: Danny Scarborough, owner of Houston Fly Fishing Guide Service, is an experienced fly fishing guide with 12 years of fly fishing under his belt offering guided fly fishing trips around Texas for carp, largemouth and spotted bass, sunfish, white bass, striped bass, crappie, bowfin, gar, and even channel catfish in the Dallas/Fort Worth/Houston areas. Danny guides guests from rafts, kayaks, and wade fishing and some trips include overnight camping along the banks.

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.

April 8th: Brett Wedeking, Renowned fly tier, writer, and guide out of Seattle, WA. Brett is going to do half tying,

Deadline for Registration to attend: November 30th.

Activities: Dinner, Raffle, New DFE 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.

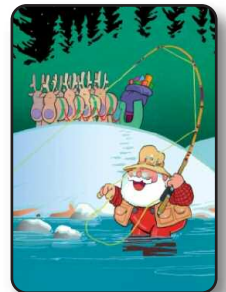
There are two ways to register and pay before the event:

1. **BEST WAY TO PAY** - On-line with a credit card:

<https://dallasflyfishers.org/holiday-party>

2. Mail-in check to be received by November 30th. Make check payable to DFE, 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 DFE 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.



and half fishing related topics. Hosted Travel & Fly Fishing Washington State.

May 13th: 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 10th: Phil Blackmar, casting expert and legendary golfer from Texas talking about simple drills and tricks to improve casting in tough conditions.

July 1st: Ron Begnaud, Redchaser guide service South Louisiana.

August 8th: Steven Palmer, trip prep strategies and planning.

September 9th: Ricky Congero, water column approach and strategies to attack different parts with flies and lines.

November 4th: Open, seeking a lady presenter or two for the fall presentations.

2023 CALENDAR:

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

December 11th - 7:00 pm Zoom, Texas Council FFI General Board Meeting
2024 Officer Election and 2024 Events Calendar.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87228301962?pwd=dWxnNWwhONnRoQ0s4Q0dOUzBOVEE0QT09> Meeting ID: 872 2830 1962, Passcode: 980858

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 - Danny Scarborough - Owner of Houston Fly Fishing Guide Service specializing in Texas freshwater fishing from the DFW Metroplex to Houston, and February 5th.

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

February 5th - Rick Matney - Chef, owner of Rick Matney Outfitters, and manager of Chrome Chasers Steelhead and Fishing Lodge in Alaska.

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.

*Danny's Program Schedule has the 2024 Speakers listed.
It's looking to be another grand year with the DFF!*

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 8th - 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 13th - 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 10th - Phil Blackmar, casting expert and legendary golfer from Texas talking about simple drills and tricks to improve casting in tough conditions.

July 1st - Ron Begnaud, Redchaser guide service South Louisiana.

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 8th - Stephen Palmer - Discussing travel prep, strategy, do's and don'ts for fishing trips.

September 9th - Ricky Congero, Florida Bass Fishing.

October 7th - Dan Soltau - Water column approach and strategies to attack different parts with flies and lines.

October 18th - North Toledo Bend State Park in Zwolle, LA.

2024 Newsletter Editor Needed

by Julia Bell

After taking on the Newsletter Editor position since September 2009, Jere published his last newsletter in November. One of my last jobs as president was to see to the publication of the December newsletter, as Jere is getting ready to leave Texas to spend some time with family in California during December and January. Therefore, the 2024 Board is seeking someone to take on the role of Newsletter Editor beginning with the January issue. You will have help and be mentored for as long as you need to feel comfortable in the role, as both Jere and I will still be on the Board. 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. 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

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, flyfshrgri@gmail.com. As of this time, we have not found a replacement, so fulfilling this role is of the utmost urgency.



The Casting Corner

by Ed Bowen

Kimberly Penick (TFO), reached out to us for fly casting support for the DIVA Women Outdoors Worldwide program. On November 11, 2023, **Dan and Doris Montayne, Dr. Lou Montanaro, Dave Smith, Bill Campbell,** and

Ed Bowen provided casting instruction at Big Lake Park in Plano. This park adjoins Spring Creek so we were able to combine some fishing techniques along with casting instruction. A good time was had by all.



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

Dutch Baughman Wins FFI Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award

In October, FFI recognized individuals who have contributed and reached the penultimate success in each area of fly fishing. Dutch Baughman received the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, the most prestigious fly tying award and is recognized as the gold seal of fly tying accomplishment. “This award is named in honor **Wayne “Buz” Buszek** who developed a retail business during the mid-1900s where he established a standard of excellence for fly tying materials.” Buz also created many excellent fly patterns including the Western Coachman and Old Gray Mare. Buz’s passion and skill for fly tying continue to inspire the highest skills in fly tying today. This award, likewise, is presented to individuals who have demonstrated the highest skills in fly tying and made significant contributions to the preservation of the artform of fly tying.

FFI President **Patrick Berry** highlighted the successes that led **Dutch** to be the 2023 award recipient. Dutch received the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award “...for willingly sharing his passion and deep knowledge of fly tying for many years. He is a key member of the

FFI Fly Tying Group and has been instrumental in establishing the Buz Buszek Fly Tying Library.... Dutch’s demonstrations and instruction promote the advancement of the art of fly tying and other tyers and his generosity is unmatched. Dutch is an outstanding tyer, demonstrator, instructor, and historian on the art and techniques of fly tying. Dutch has done more for the expansion and preservation of fly tying than any other individual that many of us are aware. His tying skills have been honed over more than 60 years. He can tie flies to teach the beginners or the most advanced classic Atlantic Salmon flies. Dutch began his fly tying journey after seeing an artificial fly in a magazine. His first year of fly tying in hand, he then obtained a vise in 1957. Fly fishing and fly tying became a critical and a very important part of a place to belong and is a lifelong connection. His fly tying journey has been enriched by excellent teachers, mentors, and friends, including **George Grant**, **Michael Radencich**, **Wayne Luallen**, and many others. Dutch enjoys fly fishing for all species but became deeply involved with Steelhead and Salmon of the Pacific Northwest. He’s a member of the Texas Roadkill Round



Table Fly Tying Group established in 1972, and enjoys teaching fly tying and demonstration fly tying at events across the country. What an incredible legacy Dutch; we are honored to extend our congratulations to you.”

The DFF would like to also congratulate Dutch on his success and recognition and thank Dutch for his contributions to our club and its members. **We appreciate and applaud you, Dutch.**



The Last 2023 In-Person Attendance Incentive Drawing - Speaker Tied Fly Drawing for October & November

by LaJan Barnes

The winner of the flies tied by our speakers in October and November for the 4th quarter was during our November was **Larry Johnson**. ***Congratulations Larry!***

Stay tuned for the in-person attendance incentives during 2024.

TPWD Winter Trout Fishing Opportunities in Texas

Reprinted from the TPWD Website

Each year, the Inland and Coastal Fisheries divisions of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stock approximately 40 million fish in public lakes, ponds, and saltwater bays. Many of these fish are produced in the state's three saltwater and five freshwater hatcheries.

Stocking can be a useful fisheries management tool, but it is not a cure-all for poor fishing. The numbers spawned by wild populations usually outweigh the numbers produced and stocked by TPWD hatcheries. However, stocking can be helpful for:

- Starting populations in new or renovated waters

- Supplementing populations having insufficient natural reproduction
- Increasing species diversity by introducing fishes such as striped bass
- Restoring populations that have been reduced or eliminated by natural or man-made catastrophes
- Providing catchable-size fish for educational activities and community fishing lakes
- Enhancing the genetic make-up of a population (for example, Florida largemouth bass)
- Taking advantage of improved habitat resulting from increased water level or new vegetation

Most fish are stocked as fingerlings or fry. These small fish may take several years to grow to sizes that would interest an angler. In some cases, however, the department stocks adult fish for immediate harvest. Schedules for these special stocking programs are listed here.

Rainbow Trout Stocking - TPWD stocks rainbow trout in approximately 100 locations each winter. Dates and locations are listed on the website in mid-November each year at this link:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml

Blue River Outing, Oklahoma

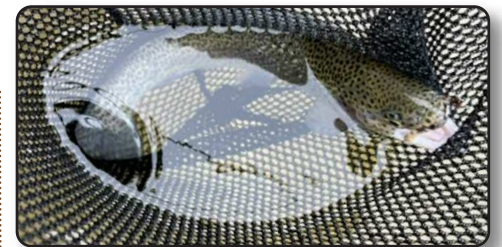
Our November DFF outing was Thursday, November 16 at the Blue River PFHA (short for Public Fishing and Hunting Area), near Tishomingo, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation starts stocking rainbow trout each week, throughout the winter, from November 1. For more Blue River information including maps, the website can be found at <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/wheretofish/southeast/blue-river-pfha>.

We had nine DFF fishers make the two-hour trip from Dallas. After most had a delicious breakfast at our meeting place, Scotties Blue River One Stop, we headed to the park. Chris Wegmann was more qualified to lead the field trip since he had been to the Blue River previously. Donovan Clary, our October speaker, had planned to meet us at the stream, but couldn't make it. He did advise

us to start in the lower end of the park, where the ODWC does the most stocking in the early season. This area to the south had plenty of good-looking water.

I was impressed with the scenery and the water quality. Along the over 6 miles of river access, there is a high degree of water clarity for being located in the Texas-Oklahoma region. The ideal fishing spots were the pools, like the one shown, with water flowing over small staircase falls. The indicator nymph rigs seem to be fairly simple, just a pheasant tail, conventional or jig-headed (or as we say in DFF, a LouDan pheasant tail, named for Dr. Lou Montonaro and Dan Montayne).

I think we made the outing a little early in the season. I do not think the stocked rainbows had gotten distributed around the park. I fished at least dozen pools before I got a



rainbow bite. At a pool near campground #2, I got four hits and landed two rainbows. At the upper end of this pool, I caught a third fish, but he was a "native." It was a smallmouth bass and he grew up in the Blue River and not a hatchery tank in Arkansas

Blue River is a nice winter time fishing spot and I am definitely going back in the next few months. The northern part of the park, north of Route 7, is quality water. It is restricted to barbless hooks and the northern most area, is catch and release. The Blue River is close enough to Dallas to get your mid-winter fly fishing fix.

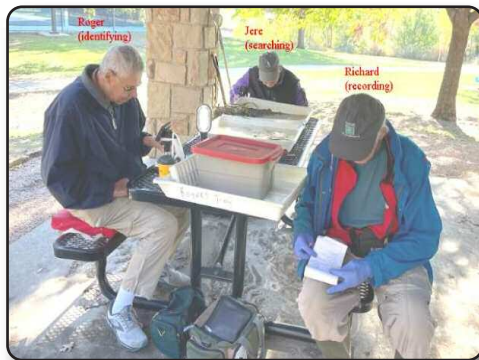
—Dave Shatzer

November Stream Team

by Ed Bowen and Jere Anderson

The stream Team is one of our most important and best conservation projects. Its goal is to help the hard working members of the Carrolton Blue Trail Bike Access have a healthy stream to admire. Ed is our water sampler with **Richard Johnson**. They go out in the water and bring in samples of the stream vegetation and bottom silt. Then the hard work begins.

Jere and **Roger Rohrbeck** help Ed find all the little animals and identify them while Richard logs the results. This time there were quite a lot fewer than usual. We suspect the stream was flushed by the huge storm the week before. We did find a few that are unusual.



Two that are not often part of the inventory are below;



These are red water worms.



This is a leech, a very popular bait in Minnesota.

As well we found our usual plethora of great items for the bottom of the food chain. These were not as abundant as they have been in the past. Our opinion is that the huge flood of runoff from the bid deluge the last week or so of October scrubbed the stream and our favorite bugs were just a bit downstream in the little lake. In any case there is very little cause for alarm. The chances that this is evidence of a long term event is small and a

warm spring should allow our stream to recover nicely.



As part of the same project, the Water Quality Team takes a stream sample and analyzes it for pollutants and general health. This is like the water quality monitoring we of the DFF did in the 90's. The two scientists have needed help, so Matthew has been supporting them for a couple of months now.



Here are Matthew and Suzanne Dooling doing the Aquatic Science evaluation.



This is Richard comparing notes with Ed Bowen and Suzanne of the water analysis for accuracy.

This project has been a part of our Conservation Activities for more than a year, and we should be very proud of its accomplishments. Folks just walking by see us and wonder what we are doing. They come over and join the party. In the end they have a better understanding of the importance of a careful and consistent monitoring program. And they have fun helping.

I believe that a lot of these kinds of data points are valuable in making key decisions by the Water Management Staffs. No technical decision is harmed by a solid history of data for a significant time period. We of the DFF have been a key member of the various regional work teams and have contributed data to several national projects. Water is probably second only to clean air in terms of our survival. So my point is that this project is important, and better yet, is fun.

IS YOUR CREEK POLLUTED? BUG PICKING DATA SHEET

Bug Picking Summary Sheet - Furneaux Creek @ Branch Hollow Park - 11/01/2023

Group 1 - Pollution Sensitive (Found In Good Quality Water)	Group 2 - Somewhat Sensitive (Found In Good Or Poor Quality Water)	Group 3 - Pollution Tolerant (Found In Any Quality Water)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stonefly Nymph	<input type="checkbox"/> Diving Beetle Larva	<input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito Larva
<input type="checkbox"/> Mayfly Nymph	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Dragonfly Nymph	<input type="checkbox"/> Midge Larva
<input type="checkbox"/> Caddisfly Larva	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Damselfly Nymph	<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfly Larva
<input type="checkbox"/> Dobsonfly Larva (Hellgrammite)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Scud	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic True Fly Larva
<input type="checkbox"/> Grass Shrimp	<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Gilled Snail
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Penny Beetle Larva	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterboatman	<input type="checkbox"/> Leech
<input type="checkbox"/> Riffle Beetle Larva or Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Coiled Snail	<input type="checkbox"/> Planaria
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Beetle Larva	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Bivalve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Aquatic Worm
<input type="checkbox"/> Cranefly Larva	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Strider	<input type="checkbox"/> Tadpole
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Total Group 1 Specimens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 Total Group 2 Specimens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Total Group 3 Specimens

This water appears to be:

(Not Polluted) (Okay) (Polluted)

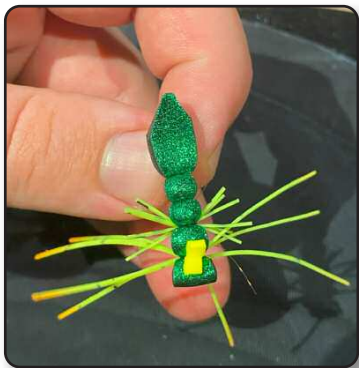


The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

It is the end of 2023, and it has been an interesting year for Conservation. One of my favorites is the record number of Share-A-Lunker entries. This is a really interesting program. The state wins by getting the genetic material from some of the biggest and best Texas Bass, and we fishing people get to have a real chance at a fish of your lifetime. If the El Nino gives us the warm winter we are expecting, then the early spawn will be in January again, and the really big ones will be available. Do me a big favor and get one of these spectacular fish on a fly rod. Drought is challenged but not eliminated by fall rain storms, and the El Nino winter promises to be wet. If so then our lakes will be overflowing and the spawn will be on early.

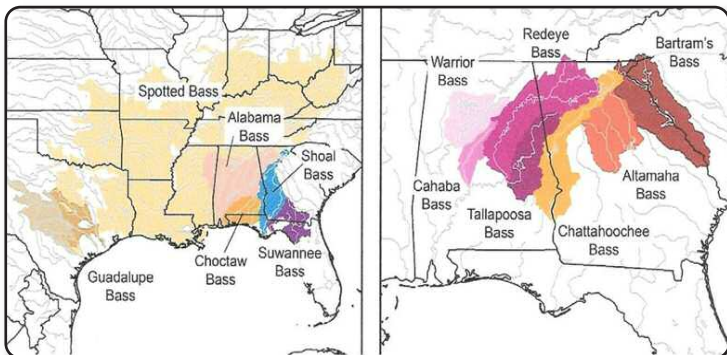
Our speaker change for the November DFF meeting was Lee Blanton. Lee tied his Panhandler Fly and a modified Hippie Stomper. Here are the flies.



He uses both to fish for panfish as well as the Red eye bass at his home in Alabama. The Panhandler fly landed two (fly rod) state record sunfish! His presentation was about bass fishing opportunities in North Alabama including gear, general locations, and species.

For years I have been posting articles about the 17 species of Black Bass, and how over half of them live in the waters of Alabama and Georgia. Most of them occupy only one water shed as well. This make them extremely vulnerable.

Here is a graphic. It is from the National Fisheries Association, and has been used by the Conservation Group of the FFI in our Bass Projects.



You do not need to be a fisheries scientist to realize that this is very dangerous. Just one good chemical spill by someone farming this area or spraying the forest for pine beetles could be a chemical spill accident that

would totally eliminate an entire species. This bothers your Conservation Chair a lot.

Salmon Recovery

I recently wrote an article about removing the 5 dams on the first few miles of the Snake River. The reason for doing that is because they produce no value or useful service, and they do severely damage the Salmon Runs on the Columbia River System. This long-fought battle to uncork our rivers that are key to the migration of one of our favorite sport and food fish has troubled me since I was a teenager in Southwest Washington State.

Now I found a great article about a similar problem and my favorite solution being utilized again. It is to be applied to the Klamath River in far Northern California. The Northern California Salmon in the Sacramento River were very nearly extinct in the last 40 or so years when I was living there. The cause was too much water being captured by dams for irrigation. This water is eventually released, but if it is not being released when the hatcheries are releasing the Salmon Smolts, they die. Those rivers must run free or at least run freely when the water is needed by more than Agri-Business. The Klamath River is also in need of some very major rethinking.



"It fills my heart to know that salmon will migrate through this river reach on their way to spawn in the upper basin"

A series of dams that have impacted the health and population of salmon in the Klamath River in California is soon to be removed in the largest project of its kind. According to the Good News Network the work to get approval for the deconstruction is 20 years in the making, involving legal challenges, advocacy, and a partnership with tribal nations to rehabilitate the river to its natural state.

Four hydroelectric dams will be removed from the area, allowing salmon to travel upstream and spawn without obstruction for the first time in about a century, with the river once supporting a reported one million Chinook, or "king," salmon, as well as other fish species.

(Continued on page 8)

The Conservation Corner

(Continued from page 7)

According to Science.org, the first 36-meter-tall (118-foot-tall) dam was installed in the river in 1918, and in addition to restricting salmon access, the dams have increased the presence of toxic algal blooms that harm oxygen supplies.



“It fills my heart to know that salmon will migrate through this river reach on their way to spawn in the upper basin,” Yurok Tribe vice chairman Frankie Myers said, per the Good News Network. “For the last century, we have watched the dams suffocate the life out of the river (and) I would like to thank the KRRC and the Shasta Indian Nation for the opportunity to help our salmon runs and our river recover for our children and the next generations.”

The Copco No. 2 dam was removed in September, per the local outlet Herald and News, while the Copco No. 1, Iron Gate, and JC Boyle dams should be deconstructed in 2024, according to the Good News Network.

The river currently supports around 25,000 salmon, but numbers are expected to steadily increase when the project has reached completion. The dams had obstructed access to hundreds of miles of river habitat and affected the quality of water, leading to the spread of fish diseases.

Not only did these factors have a significant impact on the Chinook salmon population, but the dams also presented challenges to the way of life for various tribal groups that relied on the fish.

“Very refreshing to read an article about hope and taking actual steps to undo a bit of the damage that we have done,” said the Los Angeles Times’ report of the dam deconstruction.

The Thoughts of Chairman Jere

These are my last words until the 2024 February Newsletter. I want to wish most sincerely that every one of you have a very Happy Holiday Season. We of the DFF had a good year with some significant accomplishments.

We also suffered some bad news on the Conservation Front Lines. These issues will be clearer after the big international meeting happening about now called COP-28. This is a political meeting and has little to do with real life Conservation. Its results will be available in January and the final paper written and edited for public consumption available about March. I will report on it when the final results are published.

I hope the predictions of a warmer and wetter winter due to the El Nino are good. The hottest year will probably end up being 2023, topping the current hottest year 2016. Since both are El Nino years, why is it so hard to see that the weather cycles play a big part in the alleged Climate Change?

In any case, we have a lot of local issues like our planter Trout season beginning about as you read this. As a native of the West Coastal Mountains, I am highly unimpressed with our hatchery pet trout, but fly rod trout are almost a religion, so get out there and be blessed.

I hope to see a lot of you at the Banquet. Say Hello. All you wonderful outdoor believers are a blessing to me.

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