

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ January 2024
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

Happy New Year to everyone!

A new year is underway with lots to look forward to with many great speakers for the monthly meetings. The big event for 2024 will be our Fundraiser Auction March 11th.

Thanks to the Board members who are rolling off the Board this year for all their hard work in the past, and welcome to the new Board members who have come forward to serve. The Board members who carry over and still serve, thanks for all your great work.

The Angler Education, which is an area our club excels in, had another great year

in 2023 teaching new fly fishing people the skills needed to succeed. Club members worked close to 3,000 hours teaching; congratulations to all who helped.

Many of you may not know me in person or my background. I'm from Toronto, Ontario, and like most boys in Canada, I wanted to be a hockey player. Well, that didn't come to fruition. I decided to do the next best thing, work in the business. I spent 40 years in hockey as a Trainer and Equipment Manager. Hockey brought me to Dallas in 1993 when the Minnesota North Stars moved and became the Dallas Stars. The Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999. I

retired from the Stars in 2005. In 2008 I was inducted into The Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto in the Trainer/Equipment Manger category.

The fishing part started on the grandparents' farm pond. The greater part of my life was spent spin fishing. In the late 1980's, I took up fly fishing, and once retired, it became my new passion.

I look forward to serving as club President.

All the best in the new year,

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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DFF - Christmas Party!

by Julia Bell

Ho! Ho! Ho!, Jingle Bells, Happy Festival of Lights, and overall joy and merriment festooned the 2023 DFF Holiday Party. We enjoyed being with one another and breaking bread once again with long-time friends, spouses, and family, especially since we are a handsome lot, all decked out in something other than fly fishing garb. We reveled in honoring member-volunteers, Jere Anderson and his most current run of 14 years as the Newsletter Editor, Lajan Barnes and her service as Trustee 2023 and Programs Chair, the 2023 Board, and Inducting the 2024 New Board Members. Lajan's last program had many raffle items for party-goers; Georgann and Richard Johnson created a new game involving us all; Jere told funny stories; and we enjoyed delicious food and camaraderie. We missed those who could not attend due to illness and travel and saved a seat for those who we lost this year. If you could not attend, here's the Save-the-Date notice.

The 2024 Holiday Party is Sunday 1st December 2024, and we hope to see you there!



2024 Board Inductees:

L to R: Dave Smith, President; Art San Roman, Vice-President; Vaughn Dubose, Trustee 2026; Marshall Baldwin, Co-Newsletter Editor; Julia Bell, Past President; not pictured, Patrick Grobauer, Co-Newsletter Editor



2023 Volunteer Members Recognized

L to R: Richard Johnson, Education Chair; Art San Roman; Kimberly Penick of TFO; Jere Anderson, Newsletter Editor and Conservation Chair; Dr. Ray Galloway of DBU; Russ Pate



Jere Anderson Honored

President Julia Bell honors Jere Anderson for 14+ years of service as the DFF Newsletter Editor



Raffle

Programs Chair Lajan Barnes announces prize winners

DFF Program Schedule

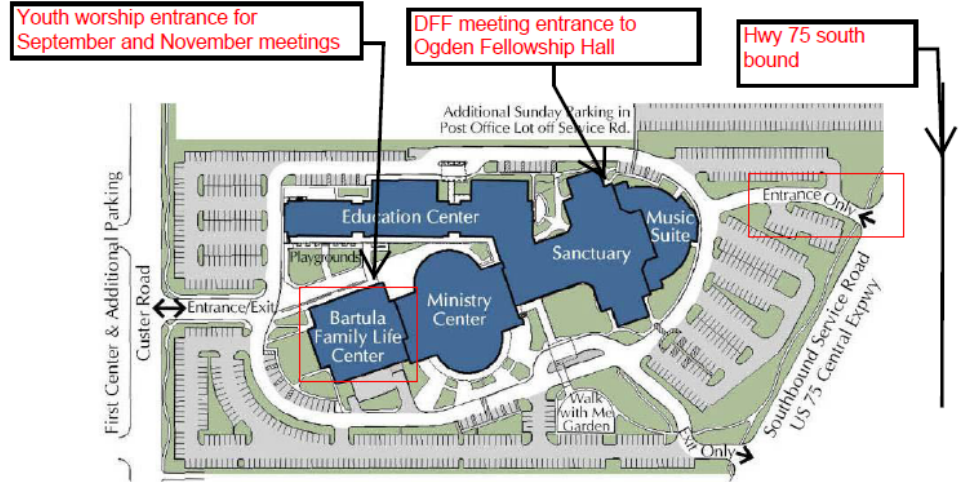
by Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

We continue to meet at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080. Some months we will meet on the west side of the church in the Youth Worship Center, which will be announced in the newsletter. There is plenty of parking on both sides of the building. Hope to see you in 2024. See the map for room locations.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN, fly tying will start at 5:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00PM.

January 8th: Danny Scarborough, owner of Houston Fly Fishing Guide Service

Topic: Danny 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. **Meeting Location:** Ogden Room



located between Arapaho (to the north) and Beltline (to the south) Rds
address: 503 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080

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

February 5th: Rick Matney, operates Chrome Chasers Steelhead and Fishing Lodge in Alaska, Rick Matney outfitters out of Bozeman and is 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, and half fishing related topics. Hosted Travel & Fly Fishing in 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 5th: Steven Palmer, trip prep strategies and planning (date to be confirmed)

September 9th: Ricky Congero, Florida Bass Fishing trip prep strategies and classes

October 7th: Dan Soltau, Water column approach and strategies to attack different depths with flies and lines

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

2024 Annual Red River Rendezvous

By Jim Kelly

Recreation Hall / Eisenhower State Park
50 Park Rd 20 / Denison, TX 75020

This is a free (park admission required) event, sponsored by the Red River Fly Fishers, for fly tiers and those wanting to be fly tiers. It starts at 3:00 PM on Friday, March 1st and ends at 5:00 PM on Saturday, March 2nd.

There is no planned agenda. Tie what you, when you want. Watch other tiers, many well-known in our area, tie a variety of patterns. Pull up your vise and tools and tie along with them. Share your patterns and skills with others. There will be a table for new tiers with vises, tools and materials available.

Enjoy the fellowship and food. Free pizza on Friday evening. Free breakfast snacks on Saturday morning and free cold cut sandwiches with all the trimmings for lunch. Bottled water is available. We usually have some delicious desserts donated by volunteers.

If the weather permits, we will have free casting lessons throughout the event. Bring your own rod / reel or use one of ours.

This facility is the home meeting place of the Red River Fly Fishers. It is a modern, climate controlled, building with clean rest rooms and a commercial kitchen. If you have dietary requirements, you are welcome to bring your own food and drinks. There is ample parking.

Jim Kelly
214-384-6810 • jimandmax@aol.com
www.rfff.org

2024 Calendar

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-3rd - 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

Jan 11th - 14th - Dallas Safari Show

Jan 16th - DFF Third Tuesday Tying Night at Cabela's 6:30 pm, RSVP with Dan Montayne

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

Jan 27th - **Dr. Ed Rizzolo** - [Fly Tying Festival](#)

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 1st - 2nd - Red River Rendezvous, Eisenhower State Park

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 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 6th-10th - White River Outing, Cotter, AR

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 5th - **Stephen Palmer** - Discussing travel prep, strategy, do's and don't's for fishing trips.

September 9th - **Ricky Congero**, Florida Bass Fishing trip prep strategies and planning

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.

November 4th - OPEN

2024 Outings Coordinator Needed

by Patrick Grobauer

The club is still looking for an outings coordinator to plan and schedule our fly fishing trips. As Outings Chair, you're primarily responsible for planning and organizing fly fishing trips for club members, which involves researching and selecting suitable fishing locations, as well as coordinating the logistics of the trip. You will also be responsible for communicating trip details, such as dates, locations, equipment needed, costs involved with the membership and providing a quick recap for our monthly newsletter after the outing.

If you would be interested in helping the club fill this vital service to our local fly fishing community, we would love to have you on the Board.

Please contact Dave Smith, dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com or Art San Roman, arthursanroman@msn.com for further details.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

JAN 20TH, 2024 | 10AM - 1PM

Two levels of play: Social and Competitive | Silent Auction and Raffle Items on site
Prizes to be awarded | Proceeds to benefit the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International

TEAM FEE \$100 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 games guaranteed- Bring your own paddle- Balls supplied- Includes swag bag	LOCATION Chicken N Pickle 2965 State Highway 161 Grand Prairie, Texas 75052
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TO REGISTER EMAIL: communications@texascouncilffi.com

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US



SCAN ME



Major Events in 2024

by Jere Anderson

I will be working with the new Director of Inland Fisheries at the TPWD. He and I presented the Texas water access program to the FFI Council Presidents Meeting my first year of the Texas Council. I will be writing about our Outdoor Opportunities in Texas for the first few months of 2024. There is a huge number of great Conservation Articles possible about what our state agency is doing. I am also looking forward to working with the new DFF Board. We have some great plans.

First and foremost, this is the year of our Auction Fund Raiser. This is a huge event, and between now and March just about everyone can help in one way or another. It is our major source of funds and is also responsible for the great speakers we have been getting. So whether you help with the organization of things or actually work the event on auction day, your support and help is much appreciated. Our Auction Chair needs help now, so please call Dave if you can help.

A really great event that was held up for the Covid Thing is back on. The Toledo Bend Rendezvous near Zwolle, LA, is a great one. This is a Pot Luck and Fly Tying Campout, and great fun. It is in November so watch for

more information. After we had been to this one a lot of years ago, we FFI Clubs of NE Texas decided we needed one of these that was a lot closer. So our Brothers of the Red River Flyfishers started one of our own, holding it in the State Park on the Red River. This is a fun spring event, so watch for it.

A really great one held by the Southern Council in Mountain Home, AR, called The Sow Bug Roundup is in March. This is a two and a half day event with auctions, raffles and tons of great information from the really great one's in our sport that come and entertain the masses.

Much has been accomplished, and much more is in the works. In the meantime, find a niche in our club activities and be a part of the success. As you can see, a lot is available. Dallas Flyfishers and the FWFF Club have a trip to CO to fish for a week. Jeff Ziehm



Jere Anderson and Dave Smith tying flies at the Sowbug Roundup

usually leads, so watch for this one. I do not think we have more than a couple of weeks anywhere around the year that we're not doing something fun and exciting. We try to have someplace like the Calendar on page 3 of the Newsletter with the big Commercial and FFI Club Events. This gives you a one stop point to be on top of all that is important.

See you there.

2024 Fundraiser Auction

by Jere Anderson

When we have our January 8, 2024 meeting, we will have only two months until our DFF Fundraiser Auction which will be held 5-9 PM, Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Plano Event Center. Starting now, we will be lining up volunteers for many functions necessary to hold our Auction. The needed Jobs are: PEC setup, Labeling "party" - just before the Auction, affix label to all items, Check in & Check out Team, Raffle ticket sales, Buy It Now Table, Food Line Monitor, Silent Auction runners, Live Auction spotter/runners, Clean Up

Some of the earlier functions like Setup and Labeling can be in done in a couple hours beforehand and then at the Auction help us for us for a few minutes at the Silent or Live Auctions. There will still be plenty of time to eat, socialize, and bid on your favorite items. If you think you might be able to help, drop me an email or sign up at the January 8 meeting.

We still need rod, reels, and other equipment for the Auction. If you find something you would like to donate bring it to the January meeting or let me know and we will pick it up. Also please think about a non-DFF fly fisher that you might bring to the Auction. We need lots of exposure. Thanks!

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

Meet the New Board Members

It's My Dad's Fault

by Art San Roman

Art San Roman – Vice President

Growing up in Raton, New Mexico, I can recall tagging along with my father and his buddies as they fished the nearby Cimarron River, where my dad used a fly rod with worms and fireballs to catch rainbows and browns. I can also remember us watching Curt Gowdy's fishing episodes on TV's American Sportsman and reading articles about fishing in his Outdoor Life and Sports Afield magazines.

I got my first fly rod for Christmas when I was twelve, and, after finding my Dad's old fly tying kit in our basement, started trying to tie flies. As a teenager,

I actually sold my Woolly Worms to our local sporting goods store for 25 cents a piece! With the Cimarron practically in my backyard, I was fortunate to be able to fly fish regularly until I left the area as a young adult in 1982.

For many years thereafter, opportunities to fish became few and far between. About five years ago, however, I decided that things had to change. I now tie regularly and make a point to take a bucket list trip every year or two. I have been a member of the DFF for the past three years and also volunteer with Texas Parks and Wildlife teaching people the sport. Along the way, I have received the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards in fly tying from Fly Fishers International.

I look forward to serving as vice president.



A New Horizon

by Patrick Grobauer

Patrick Grobauer – Co-Editor Newsletter

First off, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the warm welcome and help I've received in my new role as the newsletter co-editor so far. As a newcomer to the world of fly fishing, I am incredibly humbled and excited to embark on this journey with all of you.

Being born and raised in Salzburg, Austria, I've always been an avid hiker. However, moving to the US in 2018 and the absence of mountains in Texas brought me into the world of fishing. Initially, I began with bass fishing and later transitioned to focusing mainly on Crappie and catfish. I only started fly fishing about two months ago but immediately fell in love with it and I look forward to making great memories with the club.

Stepping into this position is an honor and I can't thank Jere enough for his past years as Newsletter editor. The support and passion that each of you have for this sport have truly inspired me. Through this newsletter, my aim is to not only contribute to our community but also to learn alongside each of you. I see this role as a wonderful opportunity to connect, grow, and foster a sense of camaraderie among us. This journey wouldn't be as exciting without your ongoing support, encouragement, and contributions. I welcome your feedback, suggestions, and stories with open arms so please feel free to reach out to me.

Once again, thank you all for entrusting me with this responsibility. I'm honored to be part of this incredible community and excited about the adventures that lie ahead. Tight lines and happy fishing!



Angler Education

by Jere Anderson

We are a great teaching club as well. This is an important part of our mission. We teach scouts, Recreation Center classes and just about anyone. It is a great deal of fun helping

with everything from Angler Education Fly Fishing Certificates to just taking a lot of kids bait fishing. The conservation mission of helping people know how to appreciate the great outdoors and to take care of it is very important. We also get lots of hours of teaching time registered, which helps the TPWD Budget with Federal Money for our volunteer hours.

Richard Johnson keeps us in touch with Civic Groups. We assist with a credit class



at Dallas Baptist University. We help adult and youth groups with our immense Fishing Knowledge, and we both have fun. Below is a typical DBU Class. We are teaching one now about the time you read this.



December Angler Education Class at DBU

The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Embracing 2024: Fishing Hopes, Nature's Gifts, and Fly Fishing Adventures

Happy 2024 to you and best wishes for a great year. I hope your Holiday Month was full of great things and family fun.

2024 looks like it could be a good one. We are expecting a warmer wetter winter due to El Niño, and if true, our lakes will be full, and the drought will be reduced for most of Texas. I would hope that our fish will be active early and that by the time you read this, that the Spawning Bass are active and nesting. Go get us some. Last year was a bumper crop of Share-A-Lunker's and I want a lot more of these to be fly rod fish. We live in the quarter of the USA blessed with the best

outdoor opportunities in the nation. Hit that water and have fun.

So let us move forward enjoy our gift of nature. The trout are being stocked, and while one of our best trout puddles at the TFFC is closed for remodeling, the little fish will be planted almost everywhere that public accessible water exists. Huge numbers of our little warm water species are some great action on a fly rod, and are almost everywhere. Tie up those little flies. Attend one or more of our three fly tying Tuesday's per month and get some help, if you are unsure that you have the best patterns. Keep your eye on the Newsletter and watch for Outings in the Spring. Lots of fish in lots of places with the bonus of being out there with one of the most fun Fly Fishing Clubs on the planet.



Conservation Projects

I want us to have a bumper year of Conservation Activities as well. One of our most important is Trash-off events in the springtime. I will try to keep a list in this column, so you don't miss them. Normally, the participants get together and bring in a ton of litter, then have food and fun to round out the day. Both springtime all over Texas and the world need these activities.

The annual world meeting of the climate forces is called COP28 this year. The thing is over, and I bet not a word about clean-up comes out of it. China, possibly the world's biggest polluter, is building a ton of Coal Fired Power Stations to add to the air pollution. They are also believed to be one of the world's biggest contributors to the Ocean Plastic Problem. America, on the other hand, has been actively cleaning up its pollution footprint ever since our First Earth Day in 1970 when Air Pollution and Water Pollution were the big hot buttons.

We have made some huge strides. Our cities were so polluted with Smog due to engine exhaust from Gasoline and Diesel vehicles that it was a standing joke for TV comics. Lines like "we don't trust air we can't see and taste" were common. But vehicles cleaned up their exhaust a lot and added safety items as well. Today's autos are some of the least polluting in the world. In fact, since the thermal power stations to generate the electricity for EV's are enough more polluting than the gasoline powered autos they replace, it is debatable if electric cars really are less polluting when you view the entire energy picture. Trading highly efficient fuel burning vehicles for less efficient thermal powerplants may not be better.

Our inland USA water was so polluted by industry in 1970 that in many places it could be lit with a match. The water was giving off enough methane from the organic wastes in it that explosive mixtures of methane

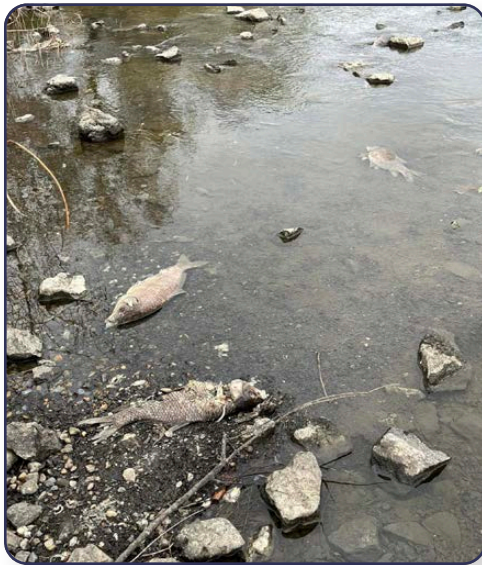
and air were not totally unheard of. That is mostly cleaned up, or at least much cleaner. Most of our fossil fueled electric power is now done with Natural Gas, which burns much cleaner. It is highly reliable and has few seasonal problems. The exhaust from these power plants is mostly water (H2O) and Carbon Dioxide (CO2) which are both vital parts of the life cycle of every living thing, both animal and plant, on our planet. The current alternatives known as "Green Power" are hugely more expensive and much less reliable. Last winter, Germany and Great Britain both of which had huge investments in so called "Green Energy" found that it did not generate but a tiny fraction of its designed power in the winter weather. I am an Engineer by training, and do not doubt that alternatives will be found and developed, but for now what we count on here in Texas is well developed and reliable.

Crowdsourcing Conservation

by Julia Bell

Crowd-sourcing from concerned, like-minded folks possesses a significant partnership role in conservation. Witnessing, documenting, and accurately reporting events observed while out fly fishing, can expedite help and badly needed resources in an urgent situation.

In 2022, Round Rock's Brushy Creek suffered a fish kill due to wastewater leeching into the creek. Several anglers made the discovery when they showed up to the area for a day's fishing. They reported their observations to Living Waters Fly Fishing shop owner Chris Johnson who notified TPWD. Brushy Creek had suffered an inexplicable fish kill the year previously when

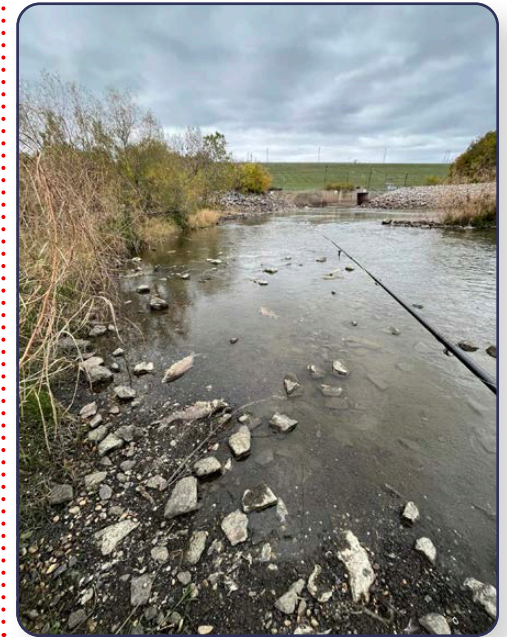


waters rose from their normal 30 CFS to 130 CFS, and again in 2019 when over 100,000 gallons of wastewater from the treatment plant leaked into Brushy Creek during a power failure. During the 2023 Spring across several Texas river basins, a Golden Alga Bloom was probably responsible for numerous fish kills. However, definitively having an answer can be difficult for the TPWD Kills and Spills Team, because the more time lags from kill to report to biologists surveying the area, the more difficult it becomes to trace the source. "Large numbers of small fish may be killed. Predators such as birds and raccoons may eat larger dead fish before they are observed or counted. Also, dead fish quickly sink below the surface, which interferes with counts. Estimates of numbers of killed are only as good as the evidence available on the scene."

In November 2023, DFF member Dan Inns

went to fish the Lewisville Tailrace chasing Smallmouth Buffalo, when he stumbled upon a fish kill. He reported his findings on our Facebook social media page. Fellow member and TPWD employee Keira Quam directed group members to make reports to the Kills and Spills Team by phoning the 24-Hour Communication Center in Austin at 512-389-4848. To learn about how and with whom the Spills and Kills Team works and partners, visit

<https://tpwd.texas.gov>



2024 DUES ARE DUE NOW

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