

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ February 2024
Volume XLVII ♦ Number 2 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL



On The Water

by Dave Smith

We are well into the New Year as we enter a new month. The weather has not been our friend lately, with some chilly temperatures. The good thing about our time spent indoors is that it gives us a chance to check out our fly boxes as we plan for warmer weather and the trips ahead. We can now fill in those gaps in our boxes with our favorite flies. For those who do not tie, no problem – there are events around the corner to help you out.

The Fundraiser Auction on March 11th at the Plano Event Center will offer many options to fill out your box. Another must-see event is The Fly Fishing and Brew Festival in Mesquite Tx, on February 24th and 25th. If

you're looking for the latest gear and all things fly fishing, don't miss this one. Fly tiers from the area will be there demonstrating different patterns to cover all waters. I plan to tie on both days in the Dirty Water booth, so stop by and say hi. The above events should have you well on your way to a fun spring on the water.

The Red River Rendezvous will take place at Eisenhower State Park March 1st and 2nd, providing another great opportunity to watch many top fly tiers from North Texas showcase their skills. Whether you're looking for help in tying or new patterns, you can watch or bring your gear, tie along, and enjoy the fun.

Hope to see you at the bench or on the water.

Dave Smith

President, Dallas FlyFishers

A Thank You to the DFF Board and Membership

by Julia Bell

Dear DFF Board and Membership,

Thank you for your most considerate and kind appreciation gift to Living Waters Fly Shop. Your generosity overwhelmed me, especially since I was not expecting a gift. Cody kept your surprise well and has told very little of what he knew! I always considered your gift to be the time and energy you gave to the club and helping me. Since January 2021 when you put your faith in me, I perceived being the club president a privilege, a viewpoint I will maintain for the rest of my life. I hope my mistakes were few and caused little consternation and interference with the sport we so passionately love. Jeff Ziehm, thank you for your charitable presentation; I did get a little choked by your thoughtful conspectus. Thank you all for your support, for having me as your president, and for your gracious gift. I look forward to visiting and fly fishing the Texas Hill Country soon.

Here's to bent tips and happy days,

Julia Bell

Past President, Dallas FlyFishers

In The February Issue

Page:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | On the Water |
| | Thank You to the DFF Board |
| 2 | DFF Board 2024 |
| | DFF Program Schedule |
| 3 | 2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers |
| | 2024 Outings Coordinator Needed |
| | 2024 Calendar |
| 4 | Upcoming DFF Outings |
| 6 | 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction |
| 7 | Fly Tying Corner |
| 8 | Stream Team Water Watch Monitoring |
| 9 | Dallas Baptist University: A One Day Adventure |
| | Income and Expense Statement |
| 10 | The Conservation Corner |
| 11 | Membership / Renewal |

DFF Board 2024

President

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

Vice-President

Art San Roman
214-873-9123
arthursanroman@msn.com

Past President

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Trustee 2024

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

Trustee 2025

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

Trustee 2026

Vaughn DuBose
972-953-5456
vaughndubose@gmail.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

Marshall Baldwin
503-475-8498
marshall.a.baldwin@gmail.com
Patrick Grobauer
469-381-6952
grobauer.patrick@gmail.com

Outings Coordinator

OPEN

Programs

Danny Soltau
406-600-6732
dan@dirtywaterflyco.com

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 and a sign will guide you to the entrance. Hope to see you. 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.

Previous Meeting **January 8th**: Danny Scarborough

During the presentation, Danny went over tying his weedless flip flop fly that landed a 10.5 lb largemouth down on Lake Conroe with DFF member Tom Rawles. It is a really cool fly design that is meant to fish in heavy cover and weeds. The tying presentation was followed by the outlook for the overall season of guiding he does. Starting with the white bass run starting next month, and transitioning into bass, bowfin, and carp season during March and April and into summer. He specializes in sight fishing for the bowfin and carp, and loves to have anglers looking to challenge themselves with those species. Once the summer heat hits, he is spending time chasing the alligator gar in east Texas. Fishing is typically better in the mornings and evenings but can go throughout the day depending on the day and whether anglers want to deal with the Texas heat. We had a number of summer days last year where the fishing was best during the heat of the day. Fall brings all day fishing back into play during October and November, and depending on weather patterns that could be on the river or local lake systems.

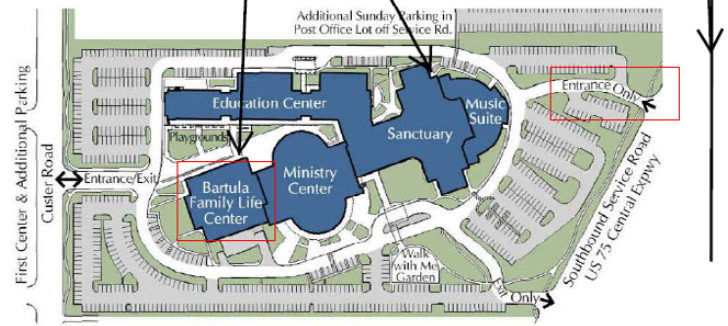
Upcoming Meeting **February 5th: Cari Ray, Texas Hill country guide and operator on the San Juan in New Mexico**

Topic: Cari's expertise in casting and fly line concepts is noted. She will be tying flies ideal for the hill country

Youth worship entrance for
Septombar and November meetings

DFF meeting entrance to
Ogden Fellowship Hall

Hwy 75 south
bound



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



waters and discussing presentations needed to be successful down there. Her main presentation is centered on understanding fly lines, how they work, and what they can do to make your fishing day better. This will include impacts on casting and presentation made by your fly line and why/how it all works.

Meeting Location: Ogden Room

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: **Cari Ray**, Texas Hill country guide and operator on the San Juan in New Mexico will talk about fly lines.

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: **Danny 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 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.

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.

February 5th - **Cari Ray** - Texas Hill country guide and operator on the San Juan in New Mexico

February 18th - Lampasas River Outing - White Bass Run

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 13th - 14th - Spring DBU Outdoor Experiences Class

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

March 26th - Nolan River White Bass Run

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 5th-11th - White River Outing, Cotter, AR

May 11th - Latham Springs Baptist Encampment

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'ts for fishing trips.

September 6th - Latham Springs Baptist Encampment

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

Upcoming DFF Outings

Lampasas River Outing – Killeen, TX

by Julia Bell

February 18, 2024

Based upon Aaron Reed's Fall 2023 presentation and Danny Scarborough's January 2024 presentation, we are going to **the Lampasas River** to chase Central Texas White Bass on **Sunday 18 February 2024**. The projected weather forecast for the Killeen area has the temperatures above 60°F several days prior to our planned outing. We will need to check in and pay our fee at the Parrie Haynes Ranch, where we will receive the access code for parking and for river access. For those who would like to make a weekend event, there are cabins and RV spaces for rent. For more information, please visit their website for further details and to make reservations. PHR Parrie Haynes Ranch (parriehaynesequestriancenter.com). If the weather forecast changes, and there are not enough days prior to our outing at or higher than 60°F, we will reschedule this outing. Since this is a weekend outing, there will be crowds, as the Hill Country and Central Texas have warmer temperatures than the Metroplex.



Red River Rendezvous at Eisenhower State Park



Fly Tying at Red River Rendezvous

2024 Annual Red River Rendezvous – Denison, TX

by Jim Kelly

March 1-2, 2024 • Recreation Hall / Eisenhower State Park
50 Park Road 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.

2024 Nolan River White Bass Run – North Texas

by Dave Shatzer

March 26, 2024

Spring is definitely the best time to be fly fishing in North Texas. Our DFF March outing will be focused on the white bass run at the **Nolan River on Tuesday, March 26, meeting there at 2:30 PM**. Program your navigation app to Blum, Texas, just south of Cleburne. The meeting spot is the bridge over Rock Creek, 1.7 miles of Blum on FM 933. We park on either side of the highway just to the north of the bridge. The trail to the Nolan River is on the west side of the highway. For anyone interested, some of us plan to meet for lunch at Buffalo Creek BBQ, 402 Henderson St., Cleburne at 1 PM and then head to the Nolan for the “afternoon bite.” So mark your calendars and break out your white/silver clousers and white woolly buggers and come join us?

Even when the fishing action is slow, the walk along the river makes it a great trip, seeing the spring flowers. Our outing date should be prime time for the white bass run out Lake Whitney. For those that have not experienced the white bass run, it can be some of the best fly fishing ever. Come join us.

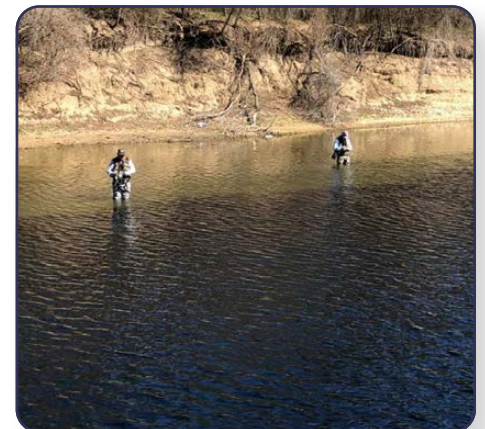


Photo from a previous outing at Nolan River

8th Annual DFF Fly Fishing and Nature Outing – Ennis, TX

by Jeff Gannon

April 13, 2024 • Sunset Ridge Ranch • 7:30 am to 1 pm

In rural Ellis County at the properties of Jeff & Catherine Gannon & Family
1234 Sugar Ridge Rd • Ennis, TX 75119

Open to DFF members & spouses. Sign up with name and number attending via DFF facebook page, email to gannon.jeff@gmail.com, or text 214-608-7507.

Menu: A Chick-fil-A box lunch at noon will be provided. Bottled water will be available or BYOB if you wish.

Bring your own chair

Fishing and Nature Info: Easy fishing for beginners and as fish are close to shore so casting expertise is not required. 5 Ponds totaling ~10-15 acres stocked with Bass, Panfish, and Catfish are available for fishing. **Bass less than 14" in 3 of the ponds need to be kept or thrown on the bank due to natural over population. A table for filleting fish will be available.** 100-200+ acres are available for nature hikes for those that do not plan to fish. Bluebonnet season will be in full swing and we should have many acres of them this spring.

Onsite transportation to/from ponds provided as needed. Contact Jeff for directions if needed. Google Maps has proper location.

The Bluebonnet Festival in Ennis is this same weekend so visit town after fishing for additional entertainment.



Pond at Sunset Ridge Ranch

2024 White River Outing - Arkansas

by Mike Becker

May 5 -11, 2024

If you haven't fished the **White River near Bull Shoals Reservoir in Arkansas**, it should be a bucket list must. Several club members have landed personal best browns and rainbows on the White.

DFF will be returning to the White River this spring in pursuit of those large browns and rainbows. If I guessed correctly, we will be on the river during the caddis hatch. The White River is a great year round fishery. If we get lucky, we will encounter a perfect storm of caddis hatching in dynamic numbers and hungry, large browns coming out of their winter holes to feast.

Attendees are responsible for their own arrangements. We generally get together in the evening hours to have a meal, exchange fish stories, maybe fish some more, and enjoy some socially responsible community.

Dave Shatzer and I will be reserving an vbro in Cotter and booked 3 guided days beginning on 5/7 with Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher (www.theozarkflyfisher.com). Denton Ferry RV (www.dentonrv.com) is a great spot if you intend to RV and a short drive to the Wildcat Shoals access.

Dally's is a regular contributor to DFF's auction and has a roster of experienced guides. I have a helpful North Fork and White River fishing map that identifies wade access areas on the rivers, depending on the water level. Boats are available to rent at Bull Shoals park and several other facilities. There are several campgrounds, cabins and lodges along the river. Hotels are available in Mountain Home which is about 16 – 20 miles from Cotter

Several members have indicated to me that they will be fishing the area around the same time. Please plan to come for all or part of the week.

If you have an interest in going, please contact Mike Becker at 214-288-3885 or kuduguy@verizon.net.

2024 South Fork Outing – Colorado

by Jeff Ziehm

July 13-20, 2024

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to **South Fork, Colorado this July**. Dates for 2024 are July 13-20.

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

Our home base will be the Ute Bluff Lodge - <https://www.utablufflodge.com>

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

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day, and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal "where did you go today and how did you do?" gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fish Sunday afternoon, and next 5 days, and return home the following weekend.

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

Please let me know if you are planning on attending. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.

2024 Fundraiser Auction

by Dave Shatzer

Our DFF Fundraiser Auction is only a little over a month away and will be held 5-9 PM, Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Plano Event Center.

We have had a good response for Auction volunteers, but we could always use more. The work is not too hard and really gets folks involved in the Auction.

We still need rod, reels, and other equipment for the Auction. If you find something you would like to donate an item, bring it to the February meeting or let me know and we will pick it up.

This coming Auction is shaping up to be a good one. We have lots of fly rods and reels to buy. The large number of flies and fly boxes is like a spring caddis hatch on steroids. **We have over thirty guided trips to bid on.** Surely, one of these trips is on your bucket list?

A successful Auction definitely depends on high number of Auction buyers. Plan on bringing a friend or neighbor, especially one that is not a DFF member. Remember our Auction promotion that if you bring another non-DFF person, the \$15 entry fee is waived and you both get in free.

Take a sneak peek into our upcoming auction. We've collected a wide variety of fly fishing essentials, from high-quality rods and reels to hand-tied flies and guided trips. Whether you're a seasoned angler or a newcomer, we have something for you. Stay tuned for more details and get ready to bid on your favorite items!



Jungle Cock Cape



Full Day Guided Fly Fishing with
Wolf Creek Anglers for 1 or 2 Anglers
and other Guided Trips



Fly Box



Fenwick Aetos
Fly Rod



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 or Call 214-202-2826

Fly Tying Corner

Why is the first fly we learn to tie a Woolly Bugger?

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

The choice of the Woolly Bugger (streamer) as a first pattern revolves around important factors. First and foremost, it catches fish in virtually any water you've chosen, providing that water has fish in it. Second, the initial introduction to placing various materials on a hook looks difficult but is easier than you think. In addition, this fly can be modified with hundreds of variant materials. For these reasons, a starting point to fly tying begins with the Woolly Bugger pattern.

Take a moment to analyze what makes this fly work. Due to the use of turkey marabou, the tail has lots of flare and action. The depth that it can be fished is controlled by a wrapped lead under body. The wrapping thread can be whatever you have available, and the body can be simple chenille utilizing any color or size. The addition of a single saddle hackle feather provides additional movement, bubbles, and noise that mimic a desirable aquatic food source. The head design can be wrapped thread, beads, cones, or eyes that push water. Finally, the assembly sequence mirrors hundreds of patterns and fits all hook sizes, making this fly a perfect beginning.

My suggestions would be to tie this pattern in three sizes (small #12 to #10, 2x long hooks). Logical pattern colors should be neutral, black, and olive. Chenille bodies might be brown, chartreuse, or white, using micro thru large sizes. Hackle feathers of any color and length will apply nicely. (Use what you have.) Interested in learning the Woolly Bugger pattern??? Contact me for a focused session.



DFF Fly Tying Nights Are Back

by Jere Anderson

The DFF has three fly tying events per month. The **Third Tuesday** is organized by **Dan Montayne** at Cabela's/Bass Pro and has been going for three years now. He will also bring tools if you call ahead.

The second and last Tuesday of the month is a free tying night at McNeals in Downtown Plano. Show up early and get some good food. The tying starts about 7PM.

The patterns are selected by Danny of the Dirty Water Fly Company who brings the materials. If you need tools, call ahead and he will probably have enough of them for you too.

Both of these gentlemen have newsletters for their activity so be sure to call them for information.

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

1/9 - Marabou Clouser
1/30 - Bream Gurgler
2/13 - CH Flash Bugger
2/27 - Pistol Pete Popper
3/12 - Furry Captain
3/26 - Pop Star

FLY TYING NIGHTS
McNeals
TAVERN & EATERY
PLANO - TX

HOSTED BY
DIRTY WATER FLY CO

WINTER SERIES

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

Stream Team Water Watch Monitoring

by Jere Anderson & Ed Bowen

On the first Sunday in January, the Stream Team caught back up and performed the December Stream Team Analysis. This is scheduled on the last Sunday of the Month but was delayed a week



The water Chemistry team with Lisa Runyon

due to the Holidays. We are happy to report, that in addition to our usual team, we had four new members participate in this month's stream sampling! Glenn Lubbe, Carl Parsons, Patrick Grobauer, and Brandy Odum. Patrick recently joined our newsletter team as a co-editor. Jere Anderson, Lisa Runyon, Richard Johnson, Roger Rohrbeck, and Ed Bowen made up the rest of the team.

The water Chemistry team was member short this time. However, Lisa Runyon did the job single handed. Great work, Lisa.

It seemed at first that our collection was small, but as the water in the pans warmed up, we found more and more specimens. At the end of the day, we were just about where we usually are in terms of numbers. Furneaux Creek was as clear as I have ever seen it. That, and the diversity of aquatic insects we found, attest to the stream's health.



The bugs team

After our collection, Ed was able to catch some bluegill and snapped a picture of a muskrat swimming by.



Muskrat

These pictures with captions are the work of **Roger Rohrbeck**. His bug identification skills are unmatched in our team and you can follow his work on his website:

www.flyfishingentomology.com

And that is a very good collection on a bitterly cold day from about an hour on the water.

Consider joining us on the next Stream Team Project. We meet in **Branch Hollow Park** just south of Hebron Parkway near Carrollton, every last Sunday of the month. In the winter we start at 10 AM to give the winter cold a little more time to become friendly.



Damselfly Nymph



Crane Fly Larva



Dragonfly Nymph



Caddisfly Larva

Dallas Baptist University: A One Day Adventure in Fly Fishing

by Dan Montayne, DFF Fly Tying Coordinator

DFF began the new year with teaching fly fishing at Dallas Baptist University during the first week in January. However, this traditionally two-day class was condensed to one full day because of the holiday week. After much discussion, event volunteers came up with a plan that demanded a fast pace. Even so, students jumped right in for their first experience with the art of fly fishing. Following introductions, a brief explanation of the differences between conventional and fly-fishing equipment, and an overview of a mayfly's life cycle, students accepted challenge number one. They tied their first fly. Frowns and looks of doubt

initially flooded every face, but with the patience of each DFF volunteer, broad smiles appeared as Woolly Buggers emerged. With flies in hand, we headed to the ponds at DBU for the second challenge...casting. With lots of wind at their backs and Woolly Buggers flinging, one angler finally caught the ultimate prize, an elusive bluegill. Whether they landed a fish or not, students made a point of thanking DFF volunteers for a fun-filled day. **Appreciation goes to Ray Galloway**, the professor who sponsors this event, **and to the instructors** who braved the cold and wind to make the day an overwhelming success.



Income and Expense Statement

by Steve Jackson

The financial statement below is published every six months, covering the preceding 12 months. The goal is to keep our membership informed about our budget and the state of DFF Finances. Please feel free to reach out to me with any comments or questions.

DALLAS FLY FISHERS

Income and Expense Statement

For the Twelve Months Ended 12/31/23

Income	
Membership income	\$ 9,041
Auction income	585
Holiday party income	2,700
Raffle income	1,330
Contributions income	481
Name badge income	266
Merchandise income	70
Total income	\$ 14,473

Expenses	
Newsletter expense	\$ 2,358
Speaker expense	7,278
Meeting room rental	2,000
FFI Dues	500
Auction expense	496
Liability insurance	475
Entomology class supplies	900
Holiday party expense	2,551
Administrative expense	685
Outing expense	594
Class supplies	81
Name badge expense	251
Printing expense	564
Donations	793
Total Expense	\$ 19,526
Net (Loss)	\$ (5,053)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 17,321

The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Just a few notes about the Climate Conference. This one was the 28th in the series, and it actually has some positive notes. Since these are almost purely Political, with minimal good science in them, I love it that the world conference to eliminate Fossil Fuel consumption has for the last couple of times been held in a nation whose economy is largely being a petroleum pumper and shipper. Better yet the next one was due to be held in a European Nation, but instead will be in an oil patch country again.

Now the good news. A great deal of good science is getting published about Climate Change, and like good science often is, it suggests that more research on alternatives and how to implement them is needed. As

an Engineer, I understand it is good science to look for alternatives and to publish these results. In the last couple of years, some of this has begun to happen. I applaud the more open thinking since this is exactly how science progresses.

So why do I think that any such thing is happening?

The UN's annual climate meeting (COP28) is over and the reaction to "the Dubai Consensus," is not unexpected. It is being heralded as "historic" and "landmark" by the mainstream media. "COP28 ends with historic deal to 'transition away' from planet-warming fossil fuels," Time Magazine wrote. These articles are filled with much pizzazz and little substance. The actual agreement is far more "business as usual" than it is revolutionary. Specifically, the "consensus" calls for countries to "transition away" from fossil fuels in a "just,

orderly and equitable manner" – whatever that means, since none of these terms are defined in the document.

If you are one who really believes that variations in CO2 are totally the cause of Climate Change and hence lead to the Climate Crisis, this conference lost ground for you. If you doubt enough Climate Science is involved in the understanding of an almost purely scientific Atmospheric Physics problem, you too may have lost some ground. I personally believe that little of the Good Science in the research being done is getting published, so it is hard to judge how much I should be concerned.

In any case we are being pummeled by a very cold winter during a year of exceptional hot weather, the El Nino periodic event. Can we at least get weather and climate separated in our thought process?

Texas State Park Centennial Year

The celebration in 2023 of 100 years of our State Parks was a big hit. I don't know how many of you have camped, hiked and fished our great collection of State Parks. I was amazed to learn how fast the number of them is growing.

Many of these State Parks are great Historical Sites. They are being managed as recreation sites, with Fishing being a leading choice of things to manage. Go to the pages in the TPWD online and read about them. The address is tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/wheretofish

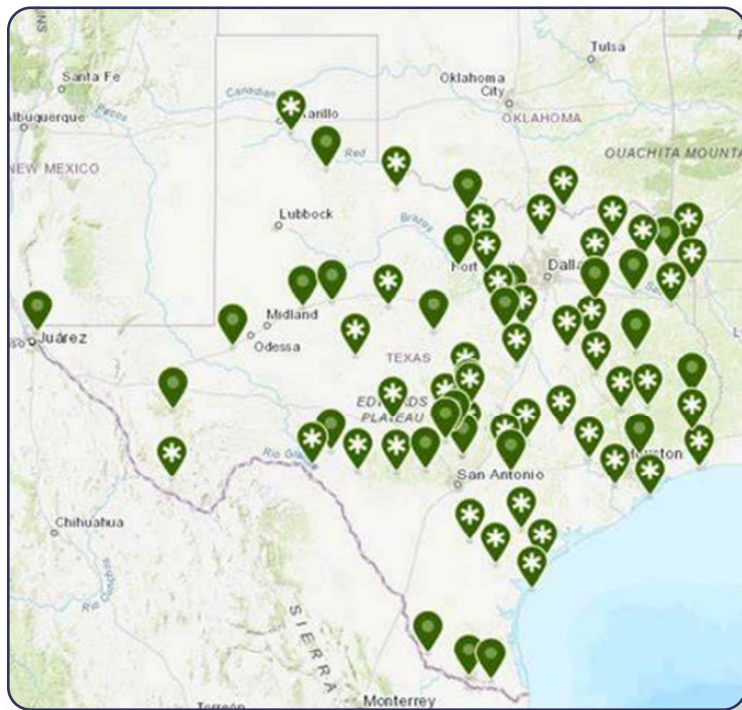
The many sites with great history are often closer than you think. Or if you need to go to some event a bit further away, do not miss the chance to see what else is in that area.

When I was first a DFF member in the 1990's we camped several times a year on a multi-day fishing trip with a big potluck feed the evening of the first day.

My favorite was Purtil Creek State Park near the town of Eustis. In fact, I led that campout several times. I would go several days before and get a big campsite that was convenient to the Bathrooms. If enough asked me to do it, I would get a couple of campsites that had a lot of open space in them. Then my big barn of a tent would be Headquarters and the other campers would grab the sites near to mine or share mine.

With all the boats, kayaks, float tubes or just plain shore fishing, we could put a lot of folks on the water. The park also had a playground for the kids.

The campground on Lake Ray Roberts State Park was the Anderson family favorite and had a great boat launching area. Fishing near the



Dam or going across the lake and fishing along the breakwater at the marina both yielded tons of Crappie and quite a few Catfish. Bass were everywhere.

I am not flexible enough to campout anymore, but most of these parks that have water, also are rigged up for shoreline day fishing. This and the many city parks that we teach at are stocked with Sunfishes and in the winter, with Trout. Julia often helped out my

Newsletter days with pictures and information about her search for Urban Fly Fishing sites. When I was Charlie DuCote's VP we started a book of pages that each time you found a fishing spot you would fill in the blanks on one of our pages and put it in the book. That effort was not very successful, but it is an idea. How about developing a log out pa for local fishing trips? Put it up online so everyone can see where our

members are hitting fish, and what species.

Also go to texassharelunker.com and see where the trophy class Largemouths are being found. There are a lot of great fish out there from a TPWD program to enhance our Black Bass Fish sizes since 1986. I want to see a few Fly Rod Caught Fish in this list. I know this club has some of the best Fly Flingers around. Go get those big ones.

As I go to press this is the top picture on the Share A Lunker page of the recent big ones.

With a very warm year turning into a tough early winter, be careful. Protect your investment in your home and the safety of your loved ones. A house in our block called a fire engine at 4am to investigate water running from an unoccupied house. In daylight a foot thick ice coat about 5

feet wide was on the outside of the house under the bathroom window. Several inches of fresh ice were running all the way to the street. I assume the house is a huge loss, and if the shell is still good that a new interior will be needed. That is big bucks. Thankfully no human life was at risk.

As it warms the bass and Crappie will be moving shallow to spawn. Our beloved Sunfishes that are such a good fish on a 3 wt fly rod or on a child's close face spinning rod will also be available. Then head back inside when another wave of arctic air comes along. We are blessed with great fishing and great fish. Take advantage of it year-round. This is typical Texas Spring Fishing.

As it warms up and we travel further afield, be sure to be aware of other species besides fly fishing humans that are afield. Most of them can be avoided, but a few are quite sensitive about potential enemies near their new youngsters. Here is one of the most sensitive ones. A mother Brown Bear with new cubs is an alert guardian of her brood, and will fight anything that she perceives as a threat.

in the big parks. Moose, Antelope and of course Bison abound and are exciting to watch. Just our song birds return and the bloom of our wild flowers makes a day trip worthwhile.

Be a good Outdoor Visitor and perhaps suggest a better way to someone that seems a bit less knowledgeable than you are. Every little bit helps.

Have a great adventure in your life with nature.



Shawn Strength landed this 16.65-lb. ShareLunker at O.H. Ivie



Brown bear with cubs

Enjoy watching all the herds of grazing wildlife

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