

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ March 2024
Volume XLVII ♦ Number 3 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

We are fast approaching that fun time of year. The weather has taken a turn for the better and that means the fish will soon be ready for action. March is the start of a busy time for fly fishing folks here in North Texas.

The **Red River Rendezvous** starts things off March 1st and 2nd at Eisenhower State Park. Many of North Texas best fly tiers will be there so sit in and watch or bring your vise and

tie along. There will be free casting lessons as well.

The following weekend **March 9th** will be the **Trinity River Fly Fest** in Fort Worth.

The big event for Dallas Fly Fishers will be our **Fundraiser Auction March 11th** at The Plano Event Center. All your fly-fishing needs can be found at this event with Live Auction, Silent Auction and Buy-IT-Now table. I had a sneak look at the items, so I know you don't want to miss this event.

Later in the month **March 21st to 23rd Sow Bug** takes place in **Mountain Home Arkansas**.

The following week on **March 26th** a White Bass outing on the **Nolan River** is planned.

The month of March has something for everyone. Hope to see you along the way.

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

Dave Smith

President, Dallas FlyFishers



This year's Sow Bug Roundup Special Event Fly - Classic March Brown Traditional Wet Wing Fly

In The March Issue

Page:

- 1** On the Water
- 2** DFF Board 2024
DFF Program Schedule
2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers
- 3** 2024 Calendar
2024 Outings Coordinator Needed
- 4** Upcoming DFF Outings
- 6** 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction
- 7** Fly Tying Nights
February Outings Report
- 8** Urban Fishing Tales - Johnson Creek
- 9** Club Outings
- 10** Texas Fishing
- 11** Stream Team Water Watch monitoring
- 12** The Conservation Corner
- 13** Membership Renewal

DFE 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

DFE 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.

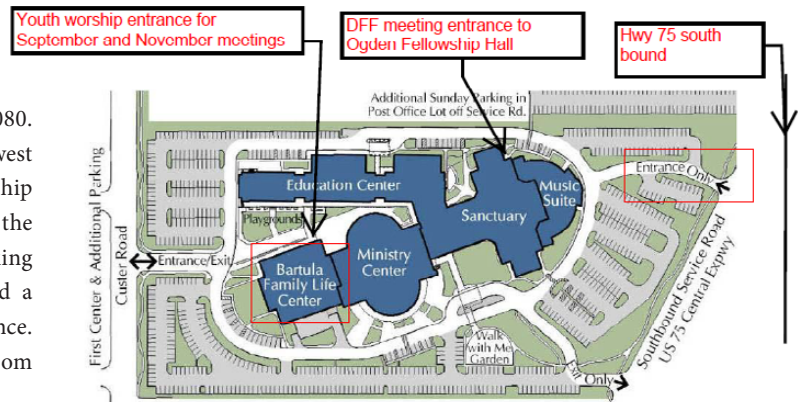
UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN, fly tying will start at 5:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00PM.

Previous Meeting February 5th: Cari Ray

Cari had a great presentation about casting and fly line concepts. She talked about different tapers and how fly lines can improve your fishing in different situations

and when not to use them. Before the official meeting, Cari gave a great introduction on casting, which is available on our DFE Youtube channel. Go ahead and check it out!

Upcoming Meeting March 11th: Our March meeting will be replaced by our Fundraiser auction. See you there!



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

2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

By Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

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.

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 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.

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.

April 20th - Texas Council Fly Fishing Meetup, Waco, TX

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; 8:00am - 3:00pm, \$8 entrance fee, please have exact change

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 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

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.

Upcoming DFF Outings

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.



Red River Rendezvous at Eisenhower State Park



Fly Tying at Red River Rendezvous



Photo from a previous outing at Nolan River

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.

Texas Council Event, Fly Fishing Meetup – Waco, TX

April 20, 2024 • Brazos Park East

The Texas Council is hosting an event on the banks of the **Brazos and Bosque Rivers, in Waco, on the 20th of April**. A fun filled, educational day that all Texas clubs, and the general public, are invited to. Brazos Park East is a very large city park, that has plenty of space, for all types of activities, including two boat ramps that provide great access to these wonderful rivers. Activities will include a fly fishing tournament, casting and tying instruction, presentations from local speakers, food trucks, and more! The focus of the event will be on education, and conservation, with some fun mixed in. Please put this date on your calendar, and bring your family and friends to Waco!

For all the most updated information on the event, follow the Texas Council on Facebook and Instagram, or contact **Russell Husted** at rhusted@texascouncilffi.com or 682-261-1702!



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

The 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction is only a few days away. It will be held Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Plano Event Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy. Doors open at 5 PM, previous announcements may have said 5:30 but there's a lot of stuff in this DFF Auction. You will need lots of time to go through the 131 items in the Silent Auction alone.

This year, we have tons of rods, reels, fly boxes plus guide trips, so no one should leave empty-handed. Besides hundreds of items in the Silent and Live Auctions, you can find other things that you need in the Raffle Baskets and Buy-It-Now booth. It's a great social evening with light finger foods being served. This is our main club fundraiser so everybody wins. The spring fishing outing at Jeff Gannon's property is one example of where DFF uses the funds. DFF picks up the tab on the box lunches served that Saturday.

My theme for this Auction is Bring a Friend. Please be thinking of a couple non-DFF fly fishers that you can bring to the Auction. Admission to the Auction is \$15, but free for you both if you bring a non-DFF person to the Auction.

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
5:00PM 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

DFE Fly Tying Nights Are Back

by Jere Anderson

The DFE 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

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!

February Outings Report

by Julia Bell

The northern Hill Country looked to be having great weather leading in to their White Bass Run; however, a quick, two-day cold front slowed fish activity. Nevertheless, three DFEers decided to give White Bass fishing on the Lampasas River a try. We fished the Lampasas at Maxdale accessing the river via the Parrie Haynes Ranch property, where we learned that White Bass were being caught earlier in the day downstream at the FM 580 bridge crossing, so we had hope.

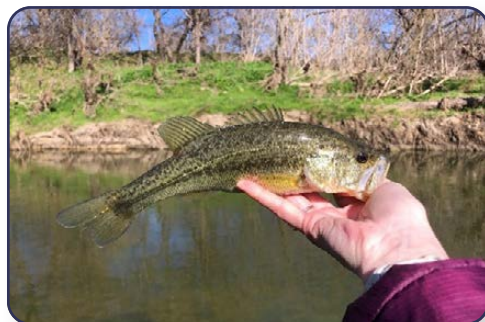
The first thing I noticed was since closing the Old Maxdale Bridge access, the river is much cleaner and not as crowded. Recent rains had the river flowing nicely and clear. Initially, Ron and Cody decided to fish the river between the new



Ron Eberhardt, Julia Bell, Cody Bell



Recent Bed Activity



Lampasas River - Largemouth Bass



Lampasas River - Spotted Bass

and old Maxdale Bridges while I headed farther downstream making my way to the Glover Branch area. Cody made his way upstream about 1½ miles, and while he didn't catch any fish, he did see Gar and Sunfish. I saw evidence of recent

beds but had yet to see any fish.

The cloudless day and bright sun warmed the east bank, and I finally caught my first fish, a Largemouth Bass, dead drifting an intermediate sinking line tight against the shore with a very slow retrieve. It was a gentle, subtle take versus a more normal, aggressive eat. Using the same techniques about 100 yards downstream I caught my second fish, a Spotted Bass. As the shadows were getting long, I headed back upstream.

I fished the next day chasing Catfish. Again fishing a intermediate sinking line, I used flies with shiny coneheads. Monday was about 10°F warmer, but the fish just did not want to eat or

move, as the nighttime temperatures just cooled too much for the fish to be actively feeding, yet. Later in the week, I fished the Paluxy from Big Rocks Park to 1 mile downstream. The river is healthy, flowing between 64 cfs to 54 cfs, and expanded from shore-to-shore without any dry, exposed riverbed. Though the daytime

temperatures were nice and warm, the nighttime temperatures were keeping the fish inactive. I did finally find repetitive success still using the intermediate sinking line, still using weighted flies, but this time I chose flies with rubber legs. Color scheme did not matter. Fly weight did not matter. Rubber legs made all the difference.

I began catching Spotted Bass and Sunfish regularly. Though we will warm up to record-breaking daytime temperatures for a couple of days, we will also have one more cold front before the month ends, so it seems that flies that really project movement combined with slower retrieves into pocket water will provide success.



Paluxy River - Spotted Bass



Paluxy River - Spotted Bass

Urban Fishing Tales – Johnson Creek

by Patrick Grobauer

Johnson Creek is a small stream that flows through Arlington and Grand Prairie, connecting multiple storm water runoffs to the West Fork of the Trinity River. Ever since I moved to Grand Prairie, I was glad to have a creek so close to my house and although I did fish it several times, I haven't spent the time to explore it past its easily accessible banks.

The creek holds a lot of (smaller) fish, but parts of the creek are heavily pressured due

to its easy access under George Bush tollway and CP Waggoner Park, so they can be very finicky. However, further downstream, past the dam, I barely ever see people because of heavy vegetation and difficulty to access deeper pools. A couple months ago I tested how far I can wade, but it gets too deep too quickly – so the only other option was dragging a kayak about half a mile through brush, over a dam and rocks to get to deeper water.

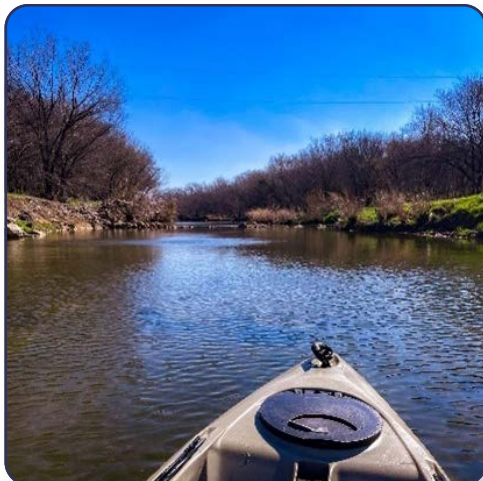
Water that day was relatively clear since we haven't gotten much rain lately, with blue skies and warm temperatures. There was no noticeable flow.

Being new to fly fishing, fishing from a kayak turned out to be quite difficult so I probably spooked most of the fish before I even got close enough to cast in reach. I worked my way downstream to the big dam, where Johnson Creek connects to the Trinity River. I mainly fished weighted flies. The water was pretty cold still, so I didn't expect the fish to be very active.

Walking down the dam to reach Trinity River, I saw a few big fish in the shallow, fast



Shallow part of Johnson Creek



Deeper section

running water. From the tail fin sticking out, they appeared to be carp, but no matter what I threw at them they didn't want to participate in my fishing so I never found out for sure.

On the way back on I mainly fished the south side of the bank where the water was warmer. I

saw a bunch of bait fish, so I switched to an olive green woolly bugger, hoping fish would be more active in warmer water along the bank. I saw a couple of gar and eventually ended up catching a small largemouth bass. It was a relatively slow retrieve and a very subtle take in shallow water, like I was hoping for.

With this report I would mainly like to point out the joys of urban creek fishing and I might be wrong by saying that I don't think our urban creeks are going to hold our next PB bass, BUT,

I love exploring those little urban creeks and it makes me forget how otherwise fast paced our lives are. People rushing from one appointment to another, stopping for food and coffee along the way, preferably the one with the shortest line so they can get back on the road as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately a lot of the plastic that comes along with it, eventually ends up in creeks and along the banks and Johnson creek is no exception. And with the next big storm it's all going to end

up in the Trinity river.

It's a problem I don't have a solution for, but we can all do our parts by being more mindful with how much trash we produce ourselves. Grand Prairie's 'Adopt-A-Stream' program is hosting a cleanup March 2nd and I'll be happy to join to hopefully reduce some of the waste along the shore. I know other cities have the same or similar programs if that's something you'd be interested in. In the meantime, happy fishing and tight lines!



West Fork Trinity River



Largemouth Bass in Johnson Creek

Embrace the Outdoors: Exciting Club Outings, Solar Eclipses, and Conservation Initiatives!

by Jere Anderson

We have several great Outings scheduled that are a chance for our less highly skilled fly rodders to go and get some hints and tips from our more highly skilled Club members. In any case a good

excuse to get on the water is usually all we need.

Have you found a few youths that are fascinated by science? If so, don't let April 8th

go by. On that day and centered in a band that is centered in the Dallas Area is going to be the **closest Solar Eclipse in your lifetime.** Get some special eye protection, or some very grave damage can be done to your eyes in minutes. This is reputed to be a full solar eclipse, which means that the sun will be no more than a ring of fire around the moon.

Be sure to attend our most important public gathering, the **DFF Fund Raiser Auction** the second weekend in March. I have gotten a lot of good stuff there and have donated quite a few things that I won in other group events like Sow Bug to our auction. So in a manner of speaking, it is a clearing house of some very treasured items, donated by some very well equipped DFF Members. It is also the source of the funds that allow us to have the great speakers that we do get,



and to make them available in person or by Zoom. That is a really great benefit to the DFF. There have been several months of sign-ups and exciting information about this March Meet. Bring a friend. Do you know that if you do admission is free? Did you know about the food? Go through our FB page and our web sites as well and notices in this Newsletter.

The club's activity levels are as good as I remember them. So, find some that look like fun and join in. Conservation projects like the **Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring**, **Spring Trash-off projects** that are a few hours of trash pickup and then a social gathering of the dedicated working team. An excellent Conservation Project is a huge expanse of **Texas Native Spring Flowers at the Sunset Ridge Ranch**. The Gannon Family let us share the beauty of their spring wildflowers.

A big responsibility is the education of the public about our great Texas Outdoors. Our Education programs train fly fishers and instructors. We even train the volunteers that teach the teachers, called **Area Chiefs of Angler Education**. These volunteers who generously donate their time and wisdom are a big Conservation Project. Richard has some classes coming up for the public, and it is a great chance to see a kid jumping up and down with excitement over his or her first fish.

The spring fishing shows, and group gatherings are a way to take part in our many important Environmental Projects. Skill related activities like **fly tying and casting events**, as well as outreach to the public are very

important parts of our Conservation Programs. I am is very proud of all the support our programs and activities we get from the Membership.

Be involved. It is fun and often educational. Support the Outdoor Programs of the FFI Clubs and the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division. We all have a role to play and a result to be proud of.



Texas Fishing is off to a great start

by Jere Anderson

One of Jere's favorite metrics for how our trophy fisheries are doing is the Texas Parks and Wildlife's Share-A-Lunker Program. Well hold on to your hat, this season is a whopper. The contest's biggest class in terms of fish size is the Legacy Share-A-Lunker, which requires a 13 pound Largemouth Black Bass. This year, on the same day, three such fish were registered from

three different Lakes. On February 5th, a 13.15 from Lake Naconiche, a 13.82 from Sam Rayburn and a 13.87 from O. H. Ivie were all registered. O. H. Ivie was a big winner last season.

So get out there you fly flingers. I NEED a picture of a Northeast Texas fly rod caught Share-A-Lunker. These are very handsome fish, and to get three of the biggest trophy class on the



Ben Milliken at Naconiche Lake - 13.15lbs



Alec Morrison at Sam Rayburn - 13.82lbs



Aaron Suess at O.H. Ivie - 13.87lbs

same day from three different Lakes, is a tribute to the great job that Inland Fisheries is doing promoting our big Bass Fishery.

Our warm wet spring will help the entire encyclopedia of Texas Sport Fish, so if there is a permanent wet spot near you, go fish it.

Stream Team Water Watch Monitoring

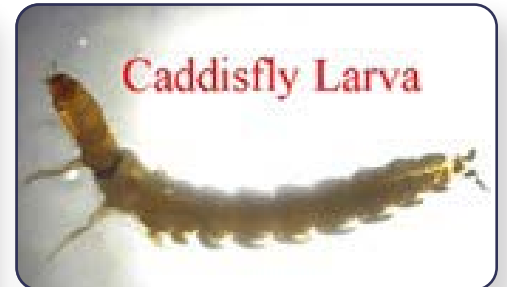
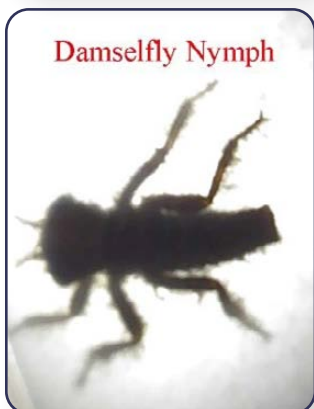
by Jere Anderson

Here are the graphics from the January 28th Stream Team bug picking outing. It is unfortunate that our Stream Team Water Watch happened on the last Sunday of the month. This makes most months ecology project fall after the Newsletter Deadline. However, the results are interesting and educational. Our Editor, Patrick, has taken an interest and along with Ed Bowen, Roger Rohrbeck and Richard Johnson, we have a crack team.

The next event happened on February 25th, and thanks to a rapidly warming winter, Jere expected the bugs to be very active. It is typical to see lots of freshly hatched larval bugs from about now to the heat of summer. Unfortunately, this date also occurred after we went to press with the Newsletter. However, the Stream Team Water Monitoring Project try's to use the last Sunday of the month. So mark your calendar. Come join us at Branch Hollow Park on the Carrollton Blue Bike Trail at 9AM.



Here are the bug pickers freezing on January 28th. Standing is Roger, our esteemed Entomologist. Editor Patrick, and Jere are picking through the bug little. It was interesting due to the number of larvae that are not our usual findings.



IS YOUR CREEK POLLUTED? BUG PICKING DATA SHEET

Bug Picking Summary Sheet - Furneaux Creek @ Branch Hollow Park - 01/28/2024

Group 1 - Pollution Sensitive
(Found In Good Quality Water)

- Stonefly Nymph (Plecoptera)
- 2 Mayfly Nymph (Ephemeroptera)
- 1 Caddisfly Larva (Tricoptera)
- Dobsonfly Larva (Megaloptera)
- Gilled Snail (Prosobranchia)
- Cranefly Larva (Diptera)
- Water Penny Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)
- 1 Riffle Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)
-
- 4 Total Group 1 Specimens

Group 2 - Somewhat Sensitive
(Found In Good Or Poor Quality Water)

- Dragonfly Nymph (Anisoptera)
- 1 Damselfly Nymph (Zygoptera)
- Scud (Amphipoda)
- Crayfish (Decapoda)
- Waterboatman (Coricidae)
- 5 Clam or Mussel (Bivalvia)
- Water Strider (Gerridae)
- Other Aquatic Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)
- Watersnipe Fly Larva (Athericidae)
- 6 Total Group 2 Specimens

Group 3 - Pollution Tolerant
Found In Any Quality Water

- Soldier Fly Larva (Diptera)
- Midge Larva (Diptera)
- 1 Black Fly Larva (Diptera)
- Lunged Snail (Pulmonata)
- Leech (Hirudinea)
- Planaria (Turbellaria)
- 3 Aquatic Round Worm (Nematoda)
- Aquatic Horsehair Worm (Nematomorpha)
- Tadpole (Amphibian)
- 4 Total Group 3 Specimens

This water appears to be:

(Not Polluted) (Okay) (Polluted)

The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



The spring and the warmer months are upon us. After a wild early January, a calmer winter arrived and we are doing so much better. It is a “by the book” El Nino winter. In this column, I will seek facts wherever possible. In

the world of science, we are not here to worship what is currently believed, but rather to question it. This I how our knowledge moves forward. It is important to note that scientific theories are constantly evolving and being refined as new evidence and observations emerge.

One of the most widely known theories is Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, written as a published paper in the early 1900’s. This enduring piece of science has survived our space age, and is constantly being refined, but not significantly revised. In fact, Einstein’s theory of relativity itself was a refinement of Newton’s laws of motion and gravitation which were formulated in the 1600’s. Therefore, it is possible that future scientific discoveries may lead to further refinements or even revisions of such a well-studied major piece of knowledge as Einstein’s

Theory.

While there is nothing that might be characterized as errors in these most basic Laws of Physics, both Newton and Einstein had some shortcomings in their work. Newton’s Laws of Gravitation and Motion were good close to the surface of large objects like our planet. Einstein was able to develop the mathematics of the cosmic forces as they apply to the incomprehensibly immense distances of the Universe. Both of these basic principles of Physics have led to the additional theories that are evolving today, but not because of them being in error. As we consider further understandings of the complexity of our Universe, they will evolve and be refined. So while these early principles of science stand the test of time, our understanding of how they apply to our current knowledge evolves.

An example of the growth of knowledge exists in the dual sciences of Weather and Climate. These two fields are very complex sciences and are evolving in their depth of understanding. Let us begin with the science of Climate.

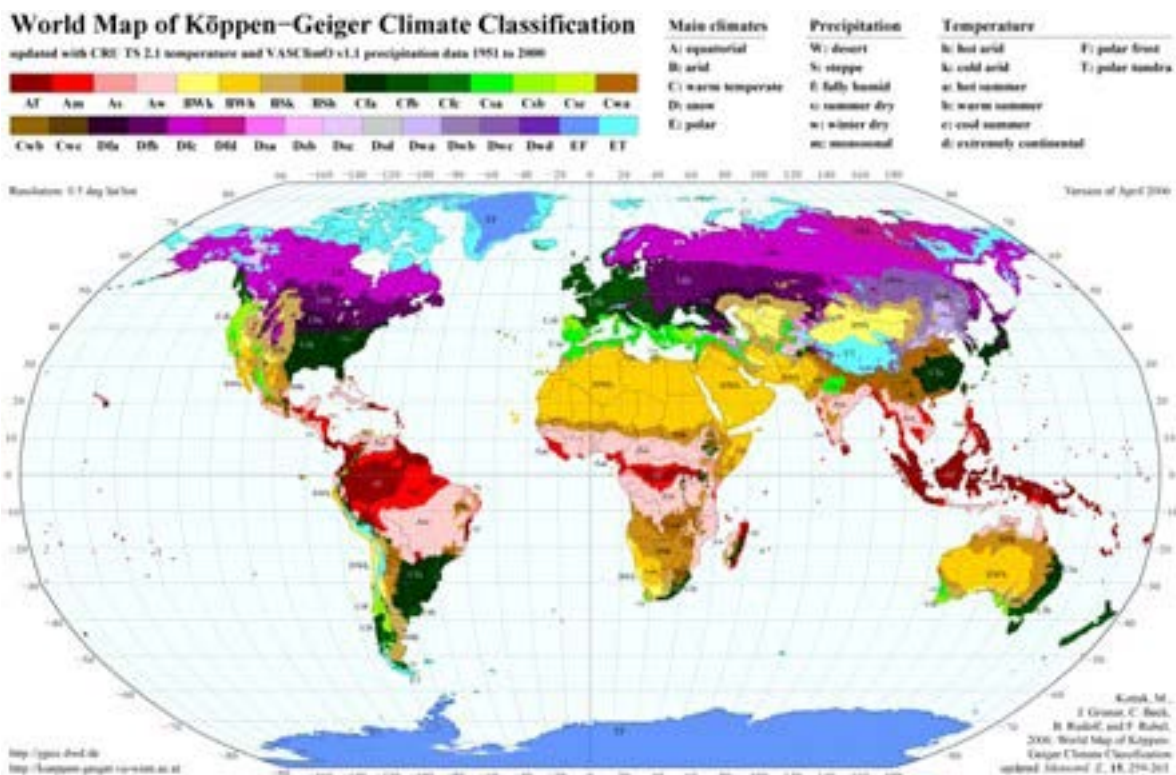
The current definition of climate science evolved in the 1880’s, a definition that has held

up very well. This graphic is the current state of Climate Science, and it is very much the same as it was in 1884. Note that there are many climate zones, and any statement about the Earth’s Climate as a single entity would be inaccurate.

The graphic below is the Köppen climate classification, and it is a widely used system for categorizing climates based on patterns of seasonal precipitation and temperature. It was first introduced by German-Russian climatologist Wladimir Köppen in 1884, with subsequent modifications by Köppen himself and later by German climatologist Rudolf Geiger. This system uses the temperature and precipitation and how they factor into the climate of a given area.

The borders of the climate zones do not move very much. This graphic was fine tuned in last half of the 1900’s. The borders of the climate zones do sometimes move a few miles in a decade which would not change this map perceptibly.

This is the best definition of Climate and is a very durable definition. It is based on the basic natural processes like plant domains and long-term weather patterns. The highly political



and nearly science free noise we are getting in the media is totally contrary to what NOAA and other solar scientists are predicting. They are predicting a sharp drop in solar radiation which is the energy source to run the planet. If true, rather than rising temperatures, science is predicting sharply falling global temperatures through the 2040's. This is contrary to the political predictions, so watch for who will win out.

The Science of Weather, Meteorology, is both seasonal and transient. Some patterns like the El Nino Pattern of weather repeat at multi-year intervals. Others like the regional rainy seasons and droughts are annual and somewhat predictable but have little to do with changes to the regions climate. Another variable is that the stations where the weather is monitored are in places like Airports and Big City Buildings. These give false readings, often high by quite a bit. The wild swings of heat and humidity in the built-up areas gives us a phenomenon known as Heat Island Data. So be sure your favorite data is mostly rural. These are the real state of the weather that averages out to climate eventually. This heat island data would be quite a bit higher, and so the climate alarmists are able to claim their dream comes true. Reality is quite a bit more reasonable, and the world may not be burning up.

The reality for Dallas this season is that it is quite a bit wetter, and quite a bit warmer. So, we are having a relatively mild winter, as expected after the long term warm spell we have going on now. But there is a lot of very good data out

there that indicate a rather stable Climate Profile, despite the swings in short term weather. This is good and would seem to be much less of a cause for alarm than the IPCC seems to be trying to frighten us into.

What I am referring to is that every warm period is touted by the media as proof that we are about to burn up. I suggest we examine the attached graphic. This comes from some climate data published by Climate Magazine and agrees with many other such graphs I have seen. These data are for the last 220 years ending about 2010. Note that the peaks in the blue line have very similar values. This would indicate that while temperature rises and falls, the climate numbers remain nearly level.

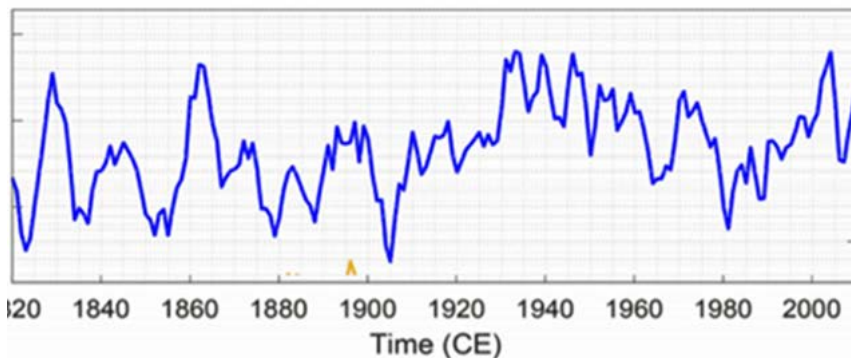
Note that a very large drop occurred about 1900. This weather change caused a period of famine in Europe and drove the last mass immigration from Europe to the USA. Then the temperature climbed to the 1935 - 1940 period. This was the high temperature point recorded for the 50 states in the 1900's. It was a period of great stability. Then the weather began to cool again

dropping down to the lows in the 1980's. It was in this period that we held the first Earth Day and one of the worries was the coming Ice Age.

This did not happen, but the Climate Alarmist Culture latched on to the rapid warming going back up to 2000 as proof that we were doomed. They totally missed that the temperature was just returning to where it had been for decades. As you well know, the hottest years in recent history are the weather peaks due to El Nino in 2016 and 2023. However, unless I have missed something the end does not seem to be racing towards us. The weather is erratic as usual, but our Climate as indicated by the Ecology of our planet seems to be relatively stable. My point is that weather is variable but within a range.

In fact, Solar Scientists have predicted that the Sun, our sole source of energy, is going into a cooling period. If this is true, we may see more times like the left hand side of the graphic.

Have a great adventure in your life with nature.



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