

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ April 2024
Volume XLVII ♦ Number 4 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by *Dave Smith*

We are now another month into the spring season and with all the recent rain the local ponds and creeks will be in good shape.

The days will be warming up and the fish are starting to move onto the beds. I hope all of you have a chance to enjoy the weather and time on the water.

In the spring months there are a number of events to take part so be sure to **check the calendar in *The Leader***. A special event in April will be the **8th annual DFF Fly Fishing & Nature Outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch April 13th** hosted by Jeff & Catherine Gannon. A must event on your calendar.

People who attended the auction

March 11th enjoyed a good evening. The club did well during this event with the live and silent auction and buy-it -now table. The money taken in helps to fund our programs during the year. I'd like to give a **special thank you** to all the members who helped with the setup and running a smooth operation that evening.

If you're not able to be on the water fishing, no problem as there are tying events taking place to help you hone your skills.

The 3rd Tuesday Tying Classes with Dan Montayne have been well attended and those taking part have added to their tying skills.

Danny Soltau has also put together a **2nd and 4th Tuesday tying night at McNeals** in Plano. Looking to improve

your skills at the bench, these are two great opportunities.

Enjoy the days ahead out on the water, hope to see you there or at the tying bench.

Dave Smith

President, Dallas FlyFishers



Dave at the DBU fly tying session

In The April 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 Recap
- 7 Fly Tying Corner
- 8 Fly Tying Nights
March Outings Report
- 9 Winning Tom's Rod - Reflections on a Legacy
- 10 DFF Education Corner
- 12 Stream Team Water Watch monitoring
- 13 The Conservation Corner
- 14 Membership Renewal Form
- 15 Fly Fishing Fair

DDF 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
flyshrgirl@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Trustee 2024

Jim Latschaw
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

DDF Program Schedule

by Danny Soltau & Patrick Grobauer

CHANGE OF VENUE & DATE!

Due to an expected increase in traffic because of the solar eclipse, our April meeting we'll be moved to **APRIL 1st**.

Since the church will be closed that day, please find us at **Ten50 BBQ in Richardson**. It is located across central from the church and slightly north of Arapaho. They have a private room with plenty of space and a large TV for our presentation.

Ten50 BBQ

1050 N Central Expy
Richardson, TX 75080

Previous Meeting **March**: AUCTION DAY. No meeting was held.

Upcoming Meeting **April 1st**: Lee Blanton

Lee will be talking about creek fishing, focusing on fly selection, and effective rigging techniques.



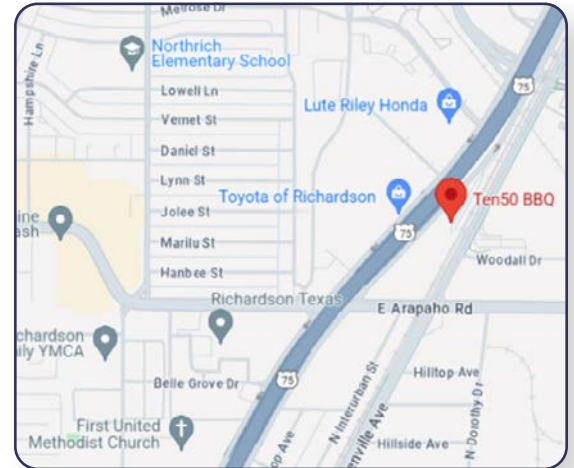
2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

By Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

April 1st: Lee Blanton, Lee will be talking about creek fishing, focusing on fly selection, and effective rigging techniques. His presentation will be completed by a fly tying demonstration, where he will guide us through tying the Hippy Stomper and Panhandler.

May 13th: Brett Wedeking, Renowned fly tier, writer, and guide out of Seattle, WA. Brett will be discussing how to fish hatches for trout out west, and fishing for salmon and steelhead on the west coast. Hosted Travel & Fly Fishing in Washington State.

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



His presentation will be completed by a fly tying demonstration, where he will guide us through tying the Hippy Stomper and Panhandler.

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 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 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.

April 1st - Lee Blanton, Lee will be talking about creek fishing, focusing on fly selection, and effective rigging techniques. His presentation will be completed by a fly tying demonstration, where he will guide us through tying the Hippy Stomper and Panhandler.

April 4th – NOLAN RIVER White Bass Run

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

May 13th - Brett Wedeking, Renowned fly tier, writer, and guide out of Seattle, WA. Brett will be discussing how to fish hatches for trout out west, and fishing for salmon and steelhead on the west coast. Hosted Travel & Fly Fishing in Washington State.

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

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

New Date - 2024 Nolan River White Bass Run – North Texas

by Dave Shatzer

April 4, 2024

NEW DATE & LUNCH LOCATION (see below)

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 Thursday, April 04, 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.

Change in lunch plans. For anyone interested, we now plan to meet for lunch at **The Break Room Brewing Co**, 4001 SH-174, Cleburne at 1 PM and then head to the Nolan for the “afternoon bite”.

In the past two springs, we have dealt with too little water affecting the fishing quality. We have the opposite condition this year as Lake Whitney is slightly above full level. The white bass are in the Nolan River but Lake Whitney is backed up way upstream relative to typical years. To be able to fish flowing Nolan River water, **this outing will require a little more walking** than in the past. To get where the catchable white bass are, folks will need to walk in on the Rock Creek path and then walk at least a mile north upstream to access the flowing Nolan River.

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. Hope to see you @1 for lunch or 2:30 at the Rock Creek bridge.

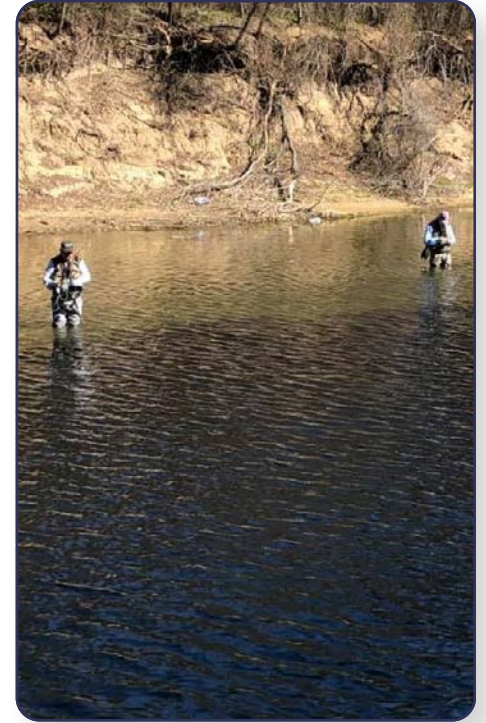


Photo from a previous outing at Nolan River



Pond at Sunset Ridge Ranch

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

Registration Closed.

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.

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@texascouncilfi.com or 682-261-1702!



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 a 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 DFF Fundraiser Auction - RECAP

Hello DFF members,

The 2024 DFF Fundraiser Auction was held Monday, March 11, 2024, and it was a huge success for your club. The auction site, the Plano Event Center, provided a great venue to host this vital event. We had tons of gear and trips and it looked like a good time was had by all.

Now for the bottom line, this year's auction was a great event. We had 84 registered bidders which was just slightly less than 2 years ago, with an overall profit of ~\$12,000. Despite our growth since the last auction, this year's turnout was slightly lower compared to 2022. However, it's important to recognize that the funds raised from these auctions play a significant role in sustaining the club for the next two years. Let's view this as an opportunity to come together as a community and make the upcoming auctions even more successful. With the strength of our expanded membership, we can achieve greater results than ever before!

A big "Thanks" and appreciation should go out to the Auction volunteers without whom this event would not be possible.



.....

Many thanks to all the Donors who so graciously gave us the volume of bid items. Now a word to our members, "Support the Guide Shops and Guides" that gave trips. If you are planning a trip to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Colorado, plus here in Texas, book a trip with one of our sponsor guide shops:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Conejos River, CO, Conejos River Anglers - Pat Blankenship | SW Colorado, CO, High Country Fishing Charters - Scott Taylor |
| Illinois River, OK, Donovan Clary Fly Fishing - Donovan Clary | S. Platte River, CO, The Peak Fly Shop - Brad Tomlison |
| Texas Coast, TX, Fly Fish Rockport - Jeff Johnson | Rush Creek, TX w/ Les Jackson - Les Jackson |
| Lakewood Window Cleaning - Blane Rush | Guadalupe River, TX, Action Angler - Chris Jackson |
| San Juan River, NM, San Juan Anglers - Cole Glenn | Rio Chama, NM, Nick Fly Guide Service - Nick Gallegos |
| Brazos River, TX, Fly Fish Mitch - Mitch Kemke | Lake Taneycomo, MO, River Run Outfitters - Carolyn Parker |
| South Fork, CO, Wolf Creek Anglers - Rick McGuire | Brazos River, TX, Upstream on the Fly - Greg Welander |
| Lower Mountain Fork, OK, Beavers Bend Fly Fishing - Chris Schatte | San Juan River, NM, Fisher of Zen - Cari Ray |
| Driftless Region, MN, Twin Cities Fly Fishing - Eric Schlobohm | Brazos River, TX - Russell Husted Cabelas - Allen |
| White River, AR, Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher - Steve Dally | Taos, NM, Rivers, Zia Fly - Spencer Siem |
| Lake Fork, TX, Fly Fish Fork - Alex Guthrie | Texas Rivers, TX - Danny Scarborough |

If you are planning a flyfishing trip this year, you can also always access our Guide List on our website, <https://dallasflyfishers.org/friends>

DFE Fly Tying Corner

The Art of Dubbing

by Dan Montayne, DFE Fly Tying Coordinator

To my surprise, Cabela's returned to regular hours this month, which turned out to be a positive decision for DFE's Third Tuesday event. We really needed the extra time because of the complex topic - dubbing. Though many tiers have negative feelings about this art form, multiple fly patterns require it. Why? It's because dubbing gives any fly a more natural shape, silhouette, and movement in the water. As fly fishers know, these attributes definitely increase catch rate.

For me, learning to blend my own dubbing over several decades has resulted in a product I prefer to most commercially packaged materials. Besides, it's less expensive in the long run and takes less effort than many people think. Therefore, my personal challenge for this series was to convince others of its many advantages and ease of use without making it seem too difficult or time consuming.



Dan teaching the art of dubbing

The evening began with a discussion about the pros and cons of chenille and then moved to an explanation of the advantages of using dubbing. After that, the rest of the evening was hands-on. Tiers created their own dubbing from a variety of materials as they worked through the multiple steps involved:



Properly Blended Test Noodle



Participants of the dubbing class at Cabela's



Participants of the dubbing class at Cabela's

cutting, separating, and blending components, both by hand and with electric blenders. They learned that coarseness and absorbency, along with fiber length, showed specific hook size and fly pattern matchups. Another advantage, not expected by most participants, was a simple test which indicated that the blend was ready for use. Much to everyone's surprise, their mixtures went effortlessly to the thread. No falling off the hook or wax applied to keep it in place.

For two hours, all participants underwent a process of intense blending, cutting, and mixing raw and processed materials. They found that dubbing mixtures involved much more than pinching off amounts of material and twisting that group onto thread. They discovered how easy it was to identify binders and Bright Accents and finally, the perfect mixture percentage for thread application.

Suddenly, the next learning curve surfaced. How much newly blended material should be separated and applied to the thread itself? As instructors checked each tier's dub, they found too much volume, resulting in finished noodles that were too long and bulky. The solution was to try again with half the amount to shorten the noodle to one inch. In the end,

the process became multiple one-inch applications for each tapered body.

In retrospect, the evening was particularly successful as a full room of converted dubbing artists emerged. All left ready to apply their new-found blending skills. Some even took out their phones before the session ended to order blenders on the spot! They wanted to be ready for Part II of Dubbing Techniques.

Part II of this series will continue on April 16, 2024, our next Third Tuesday event. Tiers will begin with forming multiple dubbing shapes. Then they will learn how to apply those shapes to form two vastly different flies. Topics like flat dubbing, ball dubbing, under body and under wing dub, and collars will greatly enhance the usefulness and movability / strike inducer presence for every fly pattern a tier undertakes.

Finally, Congratulations, Participants! You are well on your way to becoming Dubbing Artists. WELL DONE!



Successfully blended material



Applying the new skills

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. Check out his article above and make sure to be there for PART 2 of his dubbing class.

He will also bring tools if you call ahead.

They just tied a super fun crawfish pattern, so make sure to sign up for his newsletter.

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@dirtywaterfly.com
469-573-5040

March Outings Report

Nolan River – Part I

by Patrick Grobauer, Co-Editor Newsletter

With our club outing coming up at the Nolan River, we decided to scout the area the week before to get a little bit of pre-fishing in. Jeff, as our personal guide, was able to put a fun group together, and we were joined by Mike and Guy for some Tuesday afternoon action.

Morning temperatures that day were a little chilly, so we were hoping for it to warm up. Gladly it did, and it ended up being a gorgeous day with temperatures in the mid to high 70s. Water flow was right around 150-160cfs.

We started our trip at "Roughnecks Bar & Grill" in Rio Vista. For anybody who hasn't been, I can only recommend giving it a try. It's good



Jeff, Patrick & Mike w/ Guy taking the picture

old American food with a great atmosphere, large portions and is very affordable.

Arriving at the first spot, we were surprised by the number of cars on a Tuesday, only to be surprised again when we ended up having the whole river to ourselves. Other than a family catching fish further downstream (with some questionable techniques which I don't want to



Patrick caught a drum, first fish of the day

elaborate further), there wasn't much traffic. However, after an hour of fishing and only catching one drum throughout the group, we quickly decided to move on to the next spot.

Getting to the next spot took a little more effort but after roughly 30 minutes of hiking we made it safely and were excited to start fishing. "Word on the street" was for the fish to be pretty spread out and to downsize, which we did.

We split up into two groups with Jeff and I fishing a pool right before a deeper, narrow channel, forcing the fish through said channel. The water was stained, but far from chocolate milk and I decided to start it off with my "Furry Captain" from last Tuesday's Fly Tying night at

McNeal's, although it's not necessarily a white bass fly. I tied them in two different colors and decided for the lighter, more natural one.

Right as Jeff was explaining where and how to position my fly, he already got bit. Not even a second later, it was fish on for me too, and we were doubling up for the first time, which seemed to be a common theme that afternoon. Over the radio we heard similar reports from Guy and Mike, who were fishing a little further downstream.

We continued fishing and later joined Mike and Guy at another hole. After the bite seemed to die down for me, I tied on another one of my self-created flies. It's based on a clouser minnow, but I



A (somewhat) electric clouser minnow...

added some...let's just call them "ideas of mine". In reality, I just didn't have the right materials because I'm new to tying, but the fish didn't seem to care and I started catching again.

"Word on the street" was true though. The white bass were pretty spread out and the bite was on and off throughout the afternoon, with fish preferring slightly smaller flies. Color didn't

seem to matter too much. We caught them pretty consistently, but not in high numbers and most of them being males still.

The highest number of fish actually seemed to be concentrated in mostly flat water.

All in all it was a great day of fishing and I can't thank the group enough for bringing me along to my very first outing. Take my advice above with a grain of salt since I'm a beginner, but I tried to collect as much information as

possible and put it in this report.

Depending on how much rain we end up getting for our upcoming club outing, we should be up for some good action.



Jeff, celebrating a great day in/on the water



Mike, Jeff & Guy on the way out

Winning Tom's Rod – Reflections on a Legacy

by Julia Bell

Once again, I enjoyed another DFF auction. I've been coming to the DFF auctions for over a decade and have many fond memories of members' participation who are no longer with us today. Being on the receiving end of someone's legacy giving to the club holds new importance for me the longer I am a DFF member. Tom Klaasen was one of our members who chose to be a DFF legacy donor, and when I saw his 3/4# 2 pc. Orvis rod in the auction, I wanted that rod. I fished with Tom when he fished that rod at one of Jeff Gannon's outings. Cody and I sat with Tom at the 2022 Holiday Party, and he talked about some escapades he enjoyed fishing with that rod,

and I did need a 3# rod, as I did not have, nor have I ever had one.

I always have a maximum bid whenever I participate in an auction. Sometimes, my first bid is my maximum, and if someone wants it more than me, I'll get outbid. Other times, I'll choose to bid back and forth up to my maximum. At this auction, it was no different in that I had a maximum bid, but thanks to Tom's legacy, I factored in a hefty sentimentality to my maximum bid, because I wanted to own and fish with Tom's rod. Yes, I know, the rod is an inanimate object. However, as my preacher said, "Death is more universal than life; everyone dies, but not everyone lives." Tom's rod brought him joy and adventure and camaraderie, which he shared with others. From my viewpoint, Tom lived life fully and a part of that full life lived well was achieved through fly fishing.

In the middle of March, I fished the Hill Country with Living Waters Fly Fishing on a guided trip. I had my 5# lined with an intermediate sink tip, and I had Tom's rod lined with an old Rio product, but brand new Rio Gold #3 line. What a hoot I had with Tom's rod. I called



Largemouth Bass in Johnson Creek

pocket water spots and caught many Guadalupe Bass on top water and subsurface action. I really am appreciative of Tom's legacy giving and being the new owner of his rod. After all the success I had, per my usual fashion, I gave the rod a name; it is the TKO—Tom Klaasen Ovation—as a round of applause for Tom's act of giving, and that the rod has already given and will continue to give me great cheer with its whippy action and many fish catches. **Thank you, Tom; thank you! You are missed and remembered fondly.**



DFE Education Corner

The Rosemeade Recreation Center Angler Education Class

by Jere Anderson

Some of the biggest Education Events that we do are some Outdoor Education Classes for the Rosemeade Recreation Center. This one was for 25 students and had a dozen DFF Instructors busy all day:



March's class at Rosemeade Recreation Center



Dan Montayne & Peter Rea teaching

The many hours of instruction were focused on fly tying and casting in the morning, and then on knots and other subjects in the afternoon. The students ranged from quite young people to some seniors. Many had some experience with fishing flies, so each of the instructors paced our teaching to match our students.

Then we had our snack and taught about knots, bugs and some other details of the wisdom of fly fishing.

I like these classes and we did have a lot of smiling faces as we taught them a lot of neat new wisdom. This is an important Conservation Project IMO, the passing on of our knowledge of enjoying Nature and the great Outdoors. These classes for the public are one of the Dallas Flyfishers major accomplishments and often it is a great deal of fun.

We train Instructors and if you are getting good at it will offer to certify you as an Area Chief. The Area Chief is authorized to train trainers. Do volunteer to help if you are not currently on the short list of people we depend on in the Angler Education Activity.



This gentleman preferred my foam flies, and they are quite basic, so we tied several. He was very pleased with how easy it was to achieve the level of detail that makes a good-looking fly.



Jeff, celebrating a great day in/on the water



Mike, Jeff & Guy on the way out

Introduction to Fly Fishing – Dallas Baptist University

by Dan Montayne

Our Beginning Fly Fishing class at Dallas Baptist University was again met with excitement and overwhelming success. Day one of this course is a first time exposure to many aspects of fly fishing: tying flies, equipment, the lifecycle of some aquatic insects, knots, leader assembly, fish identification and handling, safety, and casting training. It's a lot to absorb in one day, but this month's group of predominantly young women grabbed onto the challenge and didn't let go. This unique group became quick buddies who asked intuitive questions and supported each other every step of the learning process. After six hours, everyone left ready to catch fish the next day.

Day two gathered on campus at the water's edge for casting instruction and the pursuit of the main objective, catching fish on the fly they crafted the previous day. The temperature was on our side, but the wind posed some difficulty. Even so, students persevered and landed some beauties.

Two new instructors joined the team - Arthur San Roman and Bill Slaughter. Thank you for volunteering your time.



Caught fish on the previously crafted fly



Caught fish on the previously crafted fly



March's class at DBU with instructors

Stream Team Water Watch Monitoring

by Jere Anderson

As our non-winter is fading, we are seeing more bugs. These are the new hatch, we surmise, and represent the food web for the spring hatchlings of our favorite sport fishes. We are also seeing bugs that we did not see before.

It is good to see such a plethora of new lifeforms, and how good the stream looks. Now if we keep getting a little rain every few days to keep the water fresh, this is shaping up to be a bumper year of new fishes.

Our usual crew of Roger Rohrbeck, Jere, Richard Johnson, Patrick and the water ladies that do stream Chemistry did not have a bad month this winter with February, our usual coldest month, setting new high temperature records all over North America.

The pictures of our February discoveries are below, and it was a good day.



Midge Larva



Moth Larva



Horsehair Worms



Soldier Fly Larva



Mayfly Nymph

The next stream team event occurred on the 24th of March. It was cold and blowing, but the team was ready. Given the large amount of rain early in the previous week, we were concerned about the quality of bugs we would get. Nature was with us, however, and a huge number of great bugs were found.

The usual stream team of Richard, Jere, Roger

and our new editor, Patrick, were treated to some impressive samples. The Water Quality team got good readings, which are sometimes biased by the water chemistry being contaminated by the runoff. But this was good also. Here is the inventory of bugs from our March “bug picking session”.

Our collection was impressive and the water quality good. The bugs are growing fast, we were able to catch a couple of fat minnows and even found some turtles. So the creek appears to be in good shape.

This cooperative project with the group that

is restoring the natural quality of the area is a fun project and very educational. If you wish to take part, the date and time of the next Stream Team will be **on April 28, at 10:00 a.m.** You are welcome to come and help. Whole families got so caught up in the fun that they and their teenagers helped and were excited by what they found.

If you have a little bit more time, you're welcome to fish the creek with us after. Patrick and Richard both caught a sunfish in some deeper pools. The fish seemed to be active, and we got plenty of bites, but with the water being



Riffle Beetle Larva



Crane Fly Larva



Damselfly Nymph



Dragonfly Nymph

only 59.5F, they weren't committed enough. It was still fun and it's an easy way for beginners to hone their casting skills and with warmer weather fishing will only get better from now on.

Join us and learn more about our aquatic life. It will make your fly selection make more sense, and hopefully more effective.



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



That was an amazing winter. Wet and warm, and more so than I remember for some time. The upside is that the Colorado River that feeds two major reservoirs may be getting some water. This is important due to so many

people that are almost totally dependent on that water for both the water and for hydroelectric power, and with some left over for Agriculture. I have relatives on the west coast, and they were getting forecasts of snow fall in FEET. Being told that the hills behind the house may be seeing TEN FEET of new snow tonight is not on my personal list of something to look forward to. Now a warm, rainy spring could cause flooding like you can't believe.

Here in Texas and the South our warm spring is encouraging our sport fish to spawn early and often. The fishing activity is going very well in terms of finding lots of eager fish in need of a fly. Even Jere is getting fish. Get outdoors. Get involved.

Managing Environmental Systems

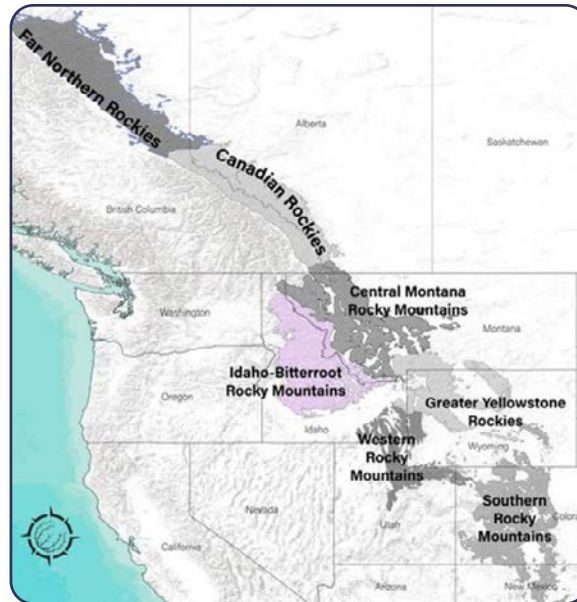
Thousands of caring people are hard at work restoring the balance of nature. One such important activity is restoring the animals that are now missing from various regional environments. How do we do that, and is it working?

Protected natural areas like National Parks seem like a good place to start, but in many of these cases they are more concerned with overcrowded animals than they are about possible extinction. It seems to Jere that a good plan might include deciding where the core areas are, and then what needs do these major locations have?

To begin with let's take the major underdeveloped area of each of three major continental areas. Clearly the biggest is the Andes Mountains, a chain that is the west coast of South America. Western Europe's major mountains are the Alps, which are centered in Switzerland, and span parts of four bordering

counties. In North America, the last major mountain range is one of my favorites, the areas that make up what we in Conservation Studies call the Y2Y or the Yellowstone to Yukon ranges.

The Y2Y region is bigger than all but one of the continental regions. The importance of each of these in the drive to have something left unaltered by Human Intervention is shown in this table. The Alps are .188 million square KM and are 52% wild. The Andes are 2.342



million square KM and are 81% wild. Our Y2Y is 1.364 million square KM and is 95% wild.

Here are the Y2Y mountain ranges, and an extra in the violet hue. I agree with including this one which is the subject of the FFI effort to get the five dams at the Washington State end of the Snake River to stop blocking the Salmon Runs into the Idaho Wilderness areas.

This collection of western mountain ranges is too wonderful to adequately describe and is a great treasure for our western outdoor lifestyle. I am somewhat biased, since I grew up in the Western Mountains.

The Y2Y ranges cover several of our most important and scenic National Parks and the Canadian Province of Alberta's Banff National Park.

This data is from a group known as Conservation Biology. Their goal seems focused on protecting biodiversity and fragmentation of the remaining wild areas. I like their quality information to facilitate studies of species movement. These are often due to population pressure (overcrowding). They also provide

the people with knowledge that leads to numerous ecosystem benefits. Recreation opportunities and a place to learn about nature as it has evolved are two of my favorites.

Many projects to allow the wildlife to move to more favorable winter grazing ranges to protect their herds from seasonal stress are a success in terms of winter survival. And projects to make humans and our lifestyle not so incompatible with the needs of the native wildlife are working well. Here is a sample of such a project.

Both the Canadian Highways along the border going into the interior and our highways in Montana are succeeding in reducing the winter kill of wildlife by building ways for them to cross the major Highways with more safety. These overpasses also serve as shelter in extreme





winter storms.

In each of the major regions, detailed analysis of the ecosystems based on the Koppen-Geiger climate regions has been performed. This gives us a common base for analysis and planning we lacked before. With the enlightened viewpoint we have from these data, we can design projects that not only solve a specific problem, but also are less likely to create another different one in its place.

Some issues that have bother me a lot are the needs of our Native American Cultures. Our plains tribes had a major dependance on the Bison. It was part of their blankets and tents. It was fresh meat food, and preserved winter rations. Many of these tribes have not seen a

free roaming Bison Herd for the greater part of 200 years. Yet, we have had such overpopulation issues with the Yellowstone Bison that they gave Black Powder Hunts for our muzzle Loader fans back in the 1990's. Now we are at last going to move the excess animals to certain Native American Tribal Lands for the first time in a very long time. Their Elders will get to teach the children the ways of their Ancestors as a living history lesson. I greatly respect and support such activities.

These are the kinds of projects that make me feel good, but also make me wonder about why it took so long to figure out what to do. With this more detailed understanding of

the environment, some projects to re-introduce top end predators can be managed. They are trying this in Yellowstone with the Black Wolf in the northern end of the park. So far, I have been led to believe that the new predator seems to be finding a niche. So, a huge amount of good work is going on in our beloved Outdoors.

It is time to plan that big family vacation if you have not done that already. Many great places to visit are booking up fast, and many are even full for the rest of the year. But local or national places to visit, be careful to respect the wildlife. Don't do this.

This club is very active and our Outings notices that begin on page 4 of the newsletter are better

than we have had in a long time. If you fish locally, several families are posting their latest success on our FB page. Go check them out.

With the Eclipse coming up in a few days crowds of folks will be out there. Many will be city folks that litter a lot. We may have a few projects to pick up after them.



Get involved. Our Outdoors needs all your help. Have a great Springtime.



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



FLY FISHING FAIR

APRIL 20, 9AM-4PM
BRAZOS PARK EAST, WACO TEXAS

Food Trucks, Beverages, Vendors, Kids Activities
A day of fun for the whole family!

FREE PRESENTATIONS & CLASSES, BEGINNER & ADVANCED:
Fly Casting, Fly Tying, Rigging, Gearing Up & Finding Fish

FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT

Whether you are experienced, a "newbie," or just wanting to learn more about fly fishing, this event is for you. Bring the whole family for a fun day along the Brazos River! learn more at **TEXASCOUNCILFFI.COM**

