

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ June 2024
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The month of May is behind us and all things summer will soon be here. I hope you had a chance to enjoy Memorial Day weekend with family and friends remembering that Memorial Day honors the brave men and women who went into battle so we can enjoy our freedom.

The many days of rain have added to our lakes, rivers, and streams, giving us a new challenge of where the fish are holding. Plan

a trip to your special water and see if you can outwit the fish in their new location.

Our May meeting was filled with loads of tips and information on all things bugs and the flies used to imitate them. Brett Wedeking's tying video is available on the Club's YouTube channel, so be sure to check it out for lots of valuable information.

The June meeting will be a can't miss event, featuring Phil Blackmar, who will be providing casting tips and drills to help you improve on the water.

Be sure to get out on the water and try those new flies you've just completed and work on your casting and fishing skills.

Till next time, hope to see you on the water or at the tying bench.

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



In The June 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
- 5** DFF Fly Tying Corner
- 6** May Outings Report
- 7** Fishing Close to Home
- 8** DFF Education Corner
- 10** The Conservation Corner
- 11** Membership Renewal Form

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DDF Program Schedule

by Danny Soltau & Patrick Grobauer

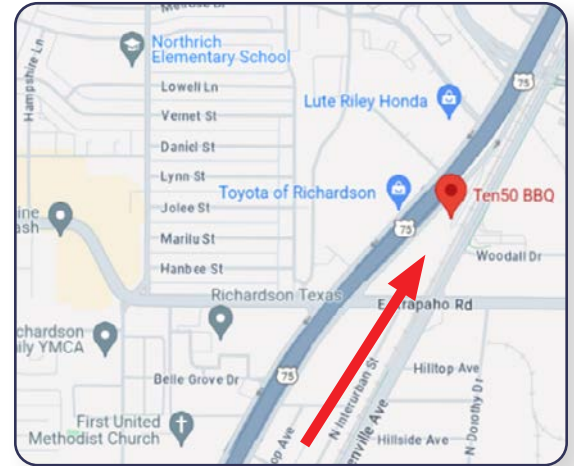
REMINDER

We will be meeting at **Ten50 BBQ in Richardson** again. 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. UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN, fly tying will start at 6:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00PM.

Ten50 BBQ
1050 N Central Expy
Richardson, TX 75080

Previous Meeting **May:** Brett Wedeking

Brett provided detailed guidance on what flies to use and when, explaining effective fly fishing strategies and he delivered an engaging presentation loaded with all sorts of bug information. His fly tying video can be found on our YouTube channel.



Upcoming Meeting **June 10th:** Phil Blackmar

“Throwing Big Flies on Big Rods” casting expert Phil Blackmar will be talking about simple drills and tricks to improve casting in tough conditions. Appealing to all levels of, beginning with novice casters and progressing to intermediate and advanced skill levels.

2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

By Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

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 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.

June 1st – Youth fishing at Keller Springs Road (near the library). For information or to volunteer, call Richard at 469-877-0695

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 6th – Youth Stream Fishing at the Pavilion in Branch Hollow Park

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, dos and donts for fishing trips.

September 6th – Latham Springs Baptist Encampment

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

September 27th & 28th – Second Annual FTG Rendezvous
The Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Group has announced the highly awaited Second Annual FTG Rendezvous, scheduled to be held in Farmers Branch

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 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.uteblufflodge.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.

Second Annual FFY Fly Tying Group Rendezvous

September 27th & 28th, 2024

Dallas, TX – The Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Group has announced the highly awaited Second Annual FTG Rendezvous, scheduled to be held in Farmers Branch, Texas, on September 27th and 28th. This event promises to unite fly tying enthusiasts from far and wide for a weekend of education, camaraderie, and celebration in the heart of the Lone Star State.

Nestled in a suburb of Dallas, Farmers Branch provides the perfect backdrop for this year’s Rendezvous, located just 20 minutes away from both Dallas’ major airports - DFW and Lovefield.

Registration for this gathering will kick off in June, with eager participants urged to keep a keen eye on the official FFI Website and dedicated event page for updates and sign-up information.

Here’s the site for event registration:

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/FTG-Rendezvous>

Event Details:

Location: Springlake Event Center, 2280 Springlake Road, Suite 100, Farmers Branch, TX

Event Highlights:

- **Featured Tiers:** Witness the mastery of demonstration tiers from across the Fly Tying Group as they showcase their skills on both Friday and Saturday.
- **Classes and Workshops:** Dive deep into a diverse array of fly tying subjects through engaging classes and workshops designed to cater to all skill levels.
- **FTG Fly Box Exchange:** Participate in the beloved tradition of the FTG fly box exchange.
- **Banquet and Fundraising Event:** Enjoy great food and philanthropy at the Friday night banquet, where attendees can support the fly tying community while forging lasting connections.

- **Meet and Greet:** Seize the opportunity to mingle with fellow Fly Tiers from across the globe, fostering new friendships and fostering a sense of unity within the community.
- **Rendezvous Merchandise:** Commemorate your Rendezvous experience with exclusive shirts, hats, and pins available for purchase prior to the event.

As the countdown to the Second Annual FTG Rendezvous begins, mark your calendars and prepare to join us in Farmers Branch for an unforgettable celebration of the artistry and passion that unite us all.

For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or further information, please contact:

Barry Webster FTG Rendezvous Planning Committee Head – barrytwebster@gmail.com

About FFI Fly Tying Group:

The Fly Tying Group of Fly Fishers International (FFI) is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly fishing experience. Archiving historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching and demonstrating the use of materials and tying techniques are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly.

The Fly Tying Group’s work revolves around sharing and teaching to provide opportunities for the fly fishing community to learn new or enhance their current skills. We share information through our newsletter, tying demonstrations at events, maintaining a comprehensive video library, and teaching about the art of fly tying on FFI Online.

DFE Fly Tying Corner

The Art of Wings

by Patrick Grobauer

This month's Third Tuesday Tying event was a delightful dive into the art of tying wings. As a first-time attendee at Cabela's, I was welcomed by a group of seasoned members and experienced fly tiers. Despite the group being slightly smaller than usual, the experience was rich and rewarding, with Dan and Dave providing exceptional guidance on various wing techniques and demonstrating the proper method for attaching wings to flies using the pinch wrap.

As a beginner fly tier, I never felt out of place or overlooked. The camaraderie was great, and everyone ensured that each participant was keeping up and nobody was left behind.

We kicked off the tying session with a theoretical overview of the three main types of fly tying wings. This was followed by a hands-on session. The chosen fly for the evening was a **Hendrickson Dun with Extended Body**.

Throughout the session, Dan's detailed explanations and patient demonstrations made the process accessible, even for a novice like myself. The supportive atmosphere of the group transformed the evening into a fun experience.

If you're a fly tier yourself, make sure to check out Dan's fly tying classes at Cabela's in Allen and you won't be disappointed.



Practicing the pinch wrap technique



Patrick, Jere and Dave at Third Tuesday Tying night



Hendrickson Dun with Extended Body (Patrick's first try)

Fly Tying Events

The DFE has three fly tying events per month.

Every **Third Tuesday** is organized by **Dan Montayne** at Cabela's/Bass Pro in Allen and has been going for three years now. This month's class was all about wings and was extremely valuable for all attendees. If there is a certain technique or fly you would like to know more about, feel free to reach out to Dan and he'll add it to the calendar. He will also bring tools if you call ahead.

The second and last Tuesday of the month are both hosted by **Danny from Dirty Water Fly Co.** Every **second Tuesday**, Dan is hosting an **instructional tying night at his shop in Downtown Plano**. This is great for new and experienced tiers. BYOB / BYOF

Every **last Tuesday** of the month, DFE will be meeting at **McNeal's for BYOTS** (Bring Your Own Tying Stuff) in Downtown Plano. This is more of a social event with Happy Hour specials on food & beverage and free tying, so bring whatever fly you'd like to tie.

If you need tools, call ahead and Danny will have enough for both events.

Both of these gentlemen also have newsletters for their activity so be sure to sign-up.

Summer Edition 24 Fly Tying Nights FREE 4 ALL

(SOCIAL NIGHT) DW! FLY CO. (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Last Tuesdays of the month @ McNeal's TAVERN + EATERY PLANO, TX

DIRTY 2nd Tuesdays @ the Shop WATER FLY CO.

JUNE 11TH STUART LITTLE MOUSE FLY

JULY 2ND CONEY BOLOGNA SHRIMP FLY

AUGUST 13TH SEADUCER BAITFISH

SEPTEMBER 10TH WILD THING DIVER

Happy Hour All Night 5/28 6/25 7/30 8/27

TOOLS + KIT'S AVAILABLE

May Outings Report

The White River

by Mike Becker

This year, club members Diana and Harlan Thatcher joined Dave Shatzer and me on the White and Norfolk. Dave and I had intended to spend a day fishing for smallmouth on Crooked Creek. Unfortunately, the heavy spring rains created a torrent of water in Crooked Creek and we were unable to float it. Maybe next year. We fished both the Norfolk and White. Guides were booked through Dally's Ozark Fly Fisherman in Cotter,

Arkansas. Dave and I were guided by Steve Dally, Chad Johnson and Brian Beatty. Diana and Harlan spent three days with Larry McNair.

Except for breezy conditions, Mother Nature was quite cooperative. Although we had several evening thunder storms, we never needed our raingear while on the water and air temperatures were comfortable. Unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers seemed to be working against us; and, we learned a new excuse - the water was too cold. Evidently, the powers that be decided to turn over the lake and release water from the bottom of the dam. It's a deep lake and the lower water columns

are quite cold. On May 6, Steve measured the water temperature at Rim Shoals (which is about 14 miles below the Bull Shoals Dam) at 48 degrees; which meant the water temperature just below the dam in the prime trout areas was 45 or 46. Consequently, the water temperature was too cold to stimulate the caddis hatch and we saw very few bugs.

Although we did not rack up the large numbers of fish caught, we did manage to bring some nice fish to hand. Diana and Harlan definitely took the prize by landing 15+ fish daily, including Harlan's 22" brown and Diana's 18" Rainbow. Dave and I kept pace for the first two days, but hit a single digit dry spell on day 3. Nevertheless, Dave did land a nice 19" brown; and I managed browns at 22" and 23". I also got a cutthroat on the White. Most of the fish caught were middle teen sized and probably more rainbows than browns. A Dally's tailwater jig behind a girdle bug seemed to be the most effective combination with most fish caught on the dropper. Unfortunately, we had no dry fly activity.



I think this was DFF's seventh annual trip to the White River. I am always anxious about this trip because the prospect of hitting the caddis hatch in late April and early May brings the hope of battling large browns and rainbows. In the weeks before the trip, the guide reports indicated that they were only seeing small numbers of caddis; and, I thought we were going to hit just in time.

Although 2024 was not really indicative of our normal White River experience, I am confident that next year will be better and will begin looking at dates before too long. Stay tuned.

Political commentator George Will once said "anybody can have a bad century" when talking about the Chicago Cubs. The way I look at it, if I go 6 for 7 in any sport, you should get a hall of fame nod. Sometimes the magic works and sometimes it doesn't.



Fishing Close to Home

by Patrick Grobauer

As temperatures rise in Texas, I tend to slow down. Despite six years here, the heat still gets to me. But it just means I have to get out early, and what better way than exploring local creeks nearby, preferably within walking distance from home?

biting that day. It was a good day to try out some new flies from my tackle box, ones I hadn't used before. With the water clear enough to see several feet deep, it was fascinating to see how the fish were reacting to them.

I caught way too many fish to count, some

hold up in the water, and improve your casting skills. Small creeks often limit your casting space, providing excellent practice for future, bigger trips.

We often overlook what's right in front of us. While this type of fishing might not be challenging or exciting enough for everyone, it could be just what you're looking for.

Give it a try and find out! And remember, watch out for snakes!



The other day, while walking my dog, I found a small, flowing spillway in the neighborhood that I had no idea existed. Naturally, I thought, "Ooo, this looks fishy!" So, I had to find out if there were any fish.

I grabbed my small 3wt rod, headed to the local park, and started fishing upstream toward the spillway. Along the way, I found plenty of little pools and deeper sections, each filled with panfish. I spotted a few bass, but they weren't

bigger, some tiny, and it was a whole lot of fun.

Fishing doesn't always have to mean an expensive trip out of state or hiring a guide service for the biggest, rarest catch. Sometimes, it's enough to simply enjoy a sunny day with a small rod, catching panfish that don't care much about the fly you use.

For beginner fly fishers, this is also a great opportunity to test your own flies, see how they



DFE Education Corner

Youth Fishing in the Carrollton Senior Center

by Jere Anderson

A BIG SUCCESS

While it was not as big as usual, some very important instruction was given. The primary goal of these outings is to help some kids and their parents have fun in the Outdoors. 30 folks signed-up to go fishing with us. Several of our best fishing instructors were there to coach and to untangle the bait fishing rigs. It was a beautiful day, bright and sunny, but not too hot. All I can say is that if you were not one of the 10 or so DFE folks there, you really missed a great morning in Texas.

After a team of fishing instructors got all the rods rigged and baited, the parents and their kids lined up to get a rod and go for it. Thanks to an official that had given us a waiver on having fishing licenses for this event. Many of the families would not have been willing to participate without this.

Everyone was off to the pond to pick a good spot to fish. They spread out and went to work getting the youth's bait in the water. Many seemed to have fishing skills, so we concentrated on coaching the family groups as needed.

There is a great fishing pier at the Center, with a fence to reduce the chances of a little one going in the water. I worked with some bait dunkers there. They kept wanting to cast way out in the pond, but I knew the sunfishes were more likely to be under the dock. I did get a few to just let the bait hand down along the edge of the sun shadow. Fishing was a bit slow until the sun hit the water, but then it was good enough that almost everyone had a fish or had been beside someone getting a fish.

As they began to see fish being caught, the family groups were spreading out to give the youth some space. On each side of the fishing dock, bank fishing adults and youth were busy trying to find where the fish were.

Most of the families moved to be along the banks with a distance between them for safety. I had a few that needed a little encouragement to not fish so close together.



Here is a team effort to be proud of. Dr. Lou, with Dan and Doris Montayne, took over this side of the pond. They corrected casting mistakes, and they began to get fish. As the day warmed up, the bank running sunfish got active.

The first team along this bank was Dr. Lou coaching the young lady in bait dunking techniques, and then he began casting his fly rod. Whichever rod got a fish, he would set the hook and put a bend in the rod so the fish was unlikely to escape, and traded rods with his student. She landed a half dozen fish, about half and half by fly rod or bait rod. What a day to remember for her.

Thank you, Dr Lou. Your generosity in both your time and sharing the much more exotic fishing gear is an image that we can be proud of. It is hard to tell which of them had the most fun, but my money is on the young Lady. What a smile.

One youth's Mommy caught a Bass that had come into the Sunfish water along the bank for a snack. That was the big fish of the day, and it was coached by the Montayne Family.

All the kids of all ages got something; I think.

Here is a Fish that that was caught by a youth that one of the parents was helping. I believe he got more than this one.

If you are a parent and who remembers teaching our own kids to fish, then you know the great memories that we create here.

Come out and make the day for our little customers at these events. As the Conservation Officer, I truly believe that an important mission is getting more outdoor literate citizens out there. This is a great starting point. Did you ever get a relative to take you fishing as a school age youth? Did you ever forget it? I did not and I bet many of these youth will have

a memory forever.

Our Education committee led by Richard Johnson has a whole list of events such as these. I would like to see more of our members come out and fish with the kids and help the ones that need help. Just be there and enjoy fishing with a little buddy. They need you, and I bet you will get something from the experience also.

Upcoming events are:

On **June 1st**, we are teaching a fishing event at the **Josey Ranch Athletic Complex, Keller Springs Road**. They are expecting to have a fresh Catfish Plant.

On **July 6th** at the **Pavilion in Branch Hollow Park** will be stream fishing near where we do the Stream Team Water Quality Studies.

Then on **August 24th** we will have casting classes in the big green yard area and then fish for Sunfishes at Castle Hills in Lewisville. This is a beautiful area and perhaps a family picnic would work but be very careful to pick up after your group. This is a private pond, and we are glad to be allowed to teach and fish there.



Some Additional Thoughts

We live in the part of the USA with some of the very best opportunities for a fun-filled and relaxing experience in the Great Outdoors. Do not forget we are a Fishing Club, and if I may say so, a very good and well-known one. Even if you just drive to one of our many lakes, all of whom are full right now, and watch the fishing birds and the top water activity of the fish, you can get enjoyment, and perhaps some knowledge. Fish our small streams that feed the rain runoff into those lakes. Many of them are full of sunfish. I have a 3-wt. homebuilt rod that loves those little fish. Write me a note on either Facebook or by posting in our pages on the web. Let us know where we should be sending our members to find those fish.

Help us find Outings that are fun. Many years ago, I was part of a group in the club called Outreach. We went camping in state parks. We fished in the areas near our camp sites. Bird watching and arguing about was that a Hawk or an Osprey sharpened our species identification skills. Chasing Raccoons and possums robbing our campsites sharpened our attention to the details of running a secure camp site.

A large group of our DFF Women would set up a camp that was a luxury. Most park sites have power, and so they brought fans and lights to allow reading and talking well into the night. They were a great part of the club's experiences. It was a real bonding experience for all. Jere's campsite usually was the Saturday Night Potluck and BBQ. No one was assigned anything, but a balanced feast usually resulted.

Many support groups get their members outdoors with some people that care, and these groups need our help. The opportunities to take part are posted from time to time on our FB page. **If you can help, please talk to the sponsor group and see if you can fit in.**

Have a full and fun summer and get the family out there. Our Outdoor lives are in danger in many ways, so be sure to give me a heads-up if you see a need for a conservation project. Nature needs those of us that care and want to fix things.



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Summer is here, and lots of travel is in the cards.

The warmer temperatures are bringing out some stories about their “Green Economy” darlings, the Electric Vehicles. The great success story of the first Earth

Day was all the pollution reduction projects that it spawned... Automobiles since the early 1970's have become so much cleaner that they are now very likely to be doing a less pollution job of converting petroleum into motion than by burning it in a generation plant. The additional overhead of sending it out on wires to charging stations and then achieving motion in an EV includes many losses. Even in the best of times, these darling EVs have short ranges compared to a tank of petroleum.

Since I seldom drive 100 miles in a full day and could have a trickle charger in the Garage for the EV, I would be able to live with the limitations. I am concerned that the cost of EVs being twice the price of a petroleum vehicle, and the similar gap in maintenance costs, will continue to keep one of these machines out of my driveway.

If you want the vehicle to make good on its promise of saving us from climate change due to combustion pollution, then it has been a bad year. During the winter, the EV crop was an endangered species in many parts of the major economies. With batteries that have less capacity when very cold, vehicles use more of the battery to heat the vehicle than to drive on. Stories have surfaced from all over the western economies about dead vehicles left at charging stations that did not have enough power to get them back on the road again.

Did it occur to you that if wind or solar power is not available to charge your EV, you are NOT SAVING anything? With petroleum fired generators producing the power for the batteries, your net gain may be negative. Very much needs to be improved to make utilizing EV's for your daily driver practical. Can we really say it produces a better environment?

I am an Engineer by profession and our mission is to evolve better alternatives or at least more efficient versions of current alternatives. Two such alternatives are Solar and Wind



Power. Solar farms are having problems with winter storms. Here in Texas, a huge hailstorm destroyed much of a solar farm that cost hundreds of millions and covered about 2 square miles in Damon, TX.

Today's solar panels are not very recyclable, and the minerals used in them are scarce. The Labs are coming up with better panels, but for now, they are very expensive and have insufficient service life. They blanket the land and make it useless for other things. Wind farms can still be used as crop land in many cases. Solar is a day shift power as well and needs lots of battery storage to be useful in the evening when much of the world is having a power consumption peak. They are also not very useful on cloudy days and winter seasons. The Solar panels currently available are full of limits.

Wind power was once a major source of industrial power. Windmills in the 1800's were a major source of power. As steam power plants became available, the windmill faded. Modern civilization is based on our ability to produce electrical POWER. Our modern sense of power is inextricably related to controlled performance expectations: when we turn the knob, we expect the stove to go on 100% of the time – not just on those wildly intermittent occasions when the wind is blowing within a certain speed range.

In energy generation terms, the wind turbine equivalent is to attempt to replace the single truck with golf carts. How many golf carts would it take to equal the cost, speed, reliability and

load capacity of a single eighteen-wheeler in making daily interstate deliveries? This is a trick question, as the answer is that there is no number that would work: not ten, not a hundred, not ten thousand, not a million. The same situation exists in the electricity sector: no number of wind turbines will ever equal the cost, reliability and output of one conventional thermal electricity plant. These towering things are falling down and blowing down in our spring weather as well. A lot of opportunity for a better Engineered Product seems to be the future.

The power plants have evolved over the ages to be more reliable and cost effective. Hydroelectric power is another winner for more reliable power, even if they do have risks in times of drought. When I was an engineering student in the 1960's nuclear power was the darling technology, but legal hassles limited its adoption. Is it time for another look?

Engineers were able to develop much more flexible power, though it is amusing to realize that we have come the full circle here. The anti-oil politics seems to have us looking at windmills, a technology we gave up on well over 100 years ago. Wind farms in the coastal waters are something I am against due to the probable impact on coastal sea life such as the whales on the East Coast Waters.

Vacation pictures

Do get a lot of pictures on your trips. I am finding a lot of photographic activity about Bears. Pictures of Bear family groups and articles about projects related to sustaining these native species. I was a farm boy in the 1950's or so, and was a hunter. I seldom shot anything, but the idea of having a way to break up a charging bear was comforting, even if it never happened. In Washington at this time our native Bear populations were the various Black Bear families in the coastal hills from Alaska to the middle of California. Bears with reddish pelts called Cinnamon Bears and in western Canada an area was populated by Black Bears that had white coats. We were careful to keep their existence a secret since we were sure if their presence were known more than a few hunters would kill one just to say he did. In Washington Bears were so plentiful that there was no closed season and no limits on the number you killed. I was sad about

that even as a teenage hunter.

California had a unique subspecies known as the California Golden Bear. It was so treasured it is the bear on their state flag even today. The sad thing is that it was hunted to extinction about 1900. Apparently, there were differences of opinion about how to preserve a treasured natural species.

Though I was not aware of them, it seems that we also had Grizzly Bears. Projects to reintroduce the species seem to be going forward. People once killed and eradicated grizzlies from the North Cascades, and now people are going to bring them back. Agency officials desire to transfer three to seven grizzlies into the ecosystem from existing populations each year until an initial population of 25 individuals is established. Beyond that,



additional translocations will be considered to supplement the population, ultimately aiming for 200 individuals.

Until then there are plenty of Black Bears in the hills and forests from the Rocky Mountains

to the Pacific Ocean. They are cute and playful creatures that need to be respected. Keep your camp food in steel and in the trunk of your vehicle.

Your Conservation guy made a mistake last month. I had a picture out of a Yellowstone Park Picture Folder that I captioned as being this season's emergence of Yellowstone Bear number 399 with this year's Cub. That was an error. It was last year's picture, and here is this year's picture. The year-old Cub is really getting big. The Mother is believed to be 28 this year and seems to be in good physical condition.

Everyone probably has a favorite wild species, and mine certainly is the Bear. In Alaska the native totem pole craftsmen are very wise in the native culture. One of the species that a tribe may link to is the Bear. In talking to these senior tribal members for several days, they were comfortable that my tribe was the Bear.

As a fellow bear, I love and respect these animals.

The major parks are bursting with new life, so go, get those pictures and memories, and return safely. It distresses me

greatly that so many human induced incidents of animal encounters keep happening. As a farm kid, I was aware of the need to respect the large animal's space. But when people are thinking of sitting their darling toddler on a bear for



a picture, I am aghast. Thanks to many Park Rangers trying hard to be everywhere at the same time, few disasters happen. Don't be one of the risk takers. Leave the big animals plenty of room.

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