

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ May 2024
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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

Mother Nature is doing that Spring thing in Texas. We go from great days to be out then back into stormy weather.

It's good to have all the rain because we know what's coming in the hot Texas summer.

I'm sure it was a disappointment for many that the outing at Sunset Ridge Ranch hosted by Jeff & Catherine

Gannon was canceled due to weather they made the correct call to cancel the event. Hopefully something can be planned to try again in the months ahead.

Fishing at local area ponds is a fun time these days as Bass, Bluegill and Crappie are ready to battle. The fish I have caught for the most part have been small but the tug on the line keeps us coming back.

Our tying classes are turning out

people with new or improved tying skills. The best part is they are catching fish on a fly they tied. Great stuff.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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DFE Program Schedule

by Danny Soltau & Patrick Grobauer

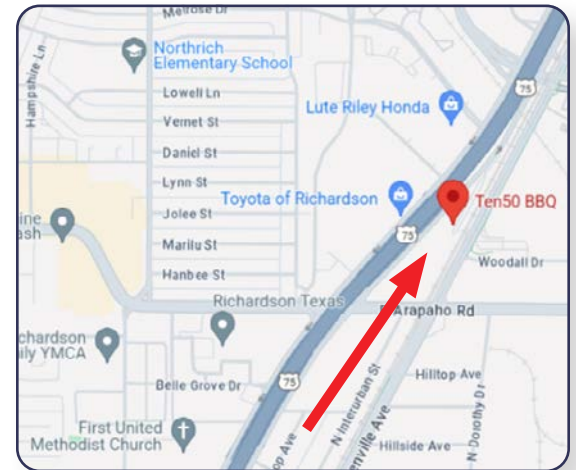
REMINDER

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 5:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00PM.

Ten50 BBQ
1050 N Central Expy
Richardson, TX 75080

Upcoming Meeting **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.



2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

By Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

Our Guest April 1st was Lee Blanton, Lee talked about creek fishing, focusing on fly selection, and effective rigging techniques. He presented a fly tying demonstration of 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.

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.

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.

May 18th – Youth fishing at the Carrollton Senior Center Library Pond; For information or to volunteer, call Richard at 469-877-0695

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 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

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

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

by Jeff Gannon

POSTPONED Due to high rains and overflowing ponds in April, this outing was postponed to the Autumn. No definite date has been set yet, but we will keep you informed.

Sunset Ridge Ranch

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.



Pond at Sunset Ridge Ranch

Texas Council Event, Fly Fishing Meetup – Waco, TX

Brazos Park East **POSTPONED**

Further information will be available on our Facebook Group

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!



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.

Fly Tying Events

The DFF has three fly tying events per month. The **Third Tuesday** is organized by **Dan Montayne** at Cabela’s/Bass Pro and has been going for three years now. They just finished a two part series about the art of dubbing with great results, so make sure to sign up for his newsletter.

He will also bring tools if you call ahead.

The second and last Tuesday of the month is a free tying night hosted by Danny Soltau in Downtown Plano. He just recently moved the tying location to his shop at Dirty Water Fly Co. Tying starts about 7PM, feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks.

The patterns are selected by Danny who provides all materials if you don’t have any. 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**

April Outings Report

Nolan River Outing

by Dave Shatzer – Auction Chair

Thursday, April 4, 2024

The theme, for this year's Nolan River White Bass Outing, was the ever-changing conditions in the pursuit of this springtime fish. More about that later. We had a turnout of seven DFF members for our Nolan outing. All of us met for lunch at the Break Room Brewing Co. south of Cleburne before heading to the afternoon bite.

On my third time to fish the Nolan River about four years ago, Jeff Ziehm and I fished it the day after a decent spring rainstorm. The water levels were right in the middle of low and high-water extremes that we have seen ever since then. We caught 75 white bass between us and I thought "it doesn't get any easier than this." Little did I know.

The last two years, water levels have been

quite low. Last year, some white bass were trying to spawn in the 8 inches of water at the gravel bar at the mouth of Rock Creek, where we walk into the Nolan. This year the high-water depth at that gravel bar was at least four feet deep. This year's Nolan outing was originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 26. It was canceled due to rains that had the Nolan flowing at over 200 cfs.

Flow rate was around 100 cfs for this year's



outing but the Lake Whitney level was several feet higher than in past years. In fact, the lake level was embayed on the Nolan River for one mile upstream of the Rock Creek entrance. We saw several small boats fishing the Nolan this year. Flowing Nolan stream water began just upstream of the limestone cliffs.

White bass were caught in the usual riffles with the standard, clouser rigs. This year featured two additional white bass techniques that were previously unknown to me. The first one was "sight" fishing for white bass. With all the rain, the water was cloudy and brown, so how was I "sight" fishing? I went to the Nolan a few days before the outing. At dusk near the north end of the limestone cliffs, I noticed lots of white bass rising. I stripped my standard clouser rig through the ripple and caught a white bass on the first cast. I caught three more in the few minutes of daylight I had left.

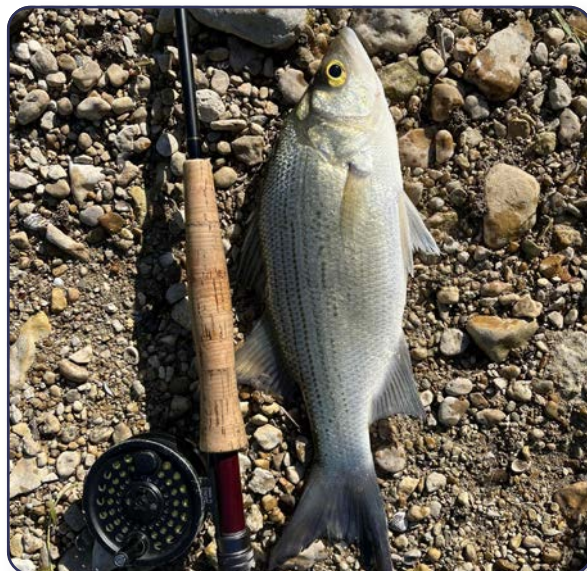
Patrick Grobauer was the champion fisherman on the DFF outing and he discovered a second, successful technique. We came to the same spot at upper of the limestone cliffs and almost no white bass were rising.

Patrick used the white popper pictured and caught 15 white bass. The rest of us also caught some white bass but nothing like Patrick. I am convinced the popper's color, white, which was similar color to the standard clousers, was also the secret. A few of us tried other poppers but did not have success like Patrick.

White bass season is fairly short in the Nolan and unlike the Brazos River, the Nolan does not support good numbers of bluegills and bass. When the white bass fishing is good, there's nothing like it. The scenery is not bad

either. Pictured is an entire ranch field with acres of Indian paintbrush in bloom.

Dave Shatzer



The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



We survived a very busy March and April, when a lot of fishing, teaching and fly tying kept us busy. Lots of good fishing wisdom has been expressed on the FB pages, posted by the members. I really love the local day trip postings, since those are the ones that our fellow club members can take the hint and go on their own.

The Garrison Ranch Texas Wildflower outing was rained out, which hurts your Conservation Officer. This fabulous project of the Garrison Family is indescribably beautiful, and one of my favorites.



It is getting to be family vacation time. Even if you just go on a day trip or an overnighter, get out there and make the youth aware of the beauty and wonder of nature. Any young person that belongs to a DFF member is way ahead of the rest of his fellow youth. Take the time to pass on the knowledge. Explain how to be safe in the Outdoors.

In our great American West, we have some of the most impressive vacation locations on the planet. Several of us fished and hiked, and even climbed a few mountains in our fabulous Western States. Judy and I camped a lot with our kids. They grew up while we were in Northern California, and so saw a lot of Yosemite. Snow camping, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing in the winter gave us year-round outdoor activity. My fly tying and fly fishing matured thanks to living about a mile from Andre Puyans "Creative Sports Enterprises". We also worked hard for the Diablo Valley Fly Fishers. This got us close to a lot of wildlife who all were well adjusted to Human Visitors. If you are not doing these things



or something a lot like it, you may be missing an opportunity to teach and bond with your young adults as they mature.

We traveled from the far west coast to Yellowstone on several occasions. It was the first National Park and is near the top of the list for best National Park. There is year-round activity and great rangers who IMO really know their stuff. But this sign is NOT how you must think about the park and its inhabitants. Both your safety and theirs is at stake.

Having grown up on a farm with large animals, I am instinctively cautious. I watch out for animals that seem to be agitated. Do not approach them too fast. The grazing animals are less dangerous than the meat eaters only because you are more likely to survive an attack. You can still sustain serious injury, so respect the animals' feelings. As a human, you understand that each of us has an invisible zone around us that if anyone or anything intrudes into it, you become agitated. The big animals have a similar area that has an invisible "Do not intrude" sign on it. While many of these animals will tolerate you near their comfort zone, they may still become frustrated and make a move to encourage you to back off.

One beautiful early summer day I was in Yellowstone, resting on the grassy hillside by the road. A rather large group of young male

Elk were slowly grazing down the road toward me. I remained very still and moved my camera slowly so they would not be alerted by sudden movement. Soon I was sitting in the middle of several dozen juvenile bull elk, and they seemed content to have me there. I was careful to not make a sudden movement, and they just continued to slowly graze on down the roadside pasture. After they passed a Park Ranger who had been watching the Elk Herd came over to me and was very complimentary about me keeping my cool surrounded by all those huge racks of antlers. My experience in the cattle business was valuable, but mostly just being calm and non-threatening was the real solution. Being so close to so many huge antlered animals is an experience I am unlikely to ever forget.

The Bison are the most plentiful animals you will see. There are huge herds of Antelope as well, but they are usually in the high country of the North-East part of the park. The bison are the ones who attract the most visitors' attention. They are calm animals for the most part and readily mix with the humans. That is the problem. They are very placid until something sets them off. I think the lesson here is that wild animals are a lot less predictable than our farm animals, and so giving them more space and fewer surprises is a good idea.

This handsome fellow in the wildflowers is a picture worth taking.

Much more important is to discourage animals



from camping with you. If you leave food out, the animals will come to see your lunch counter. I have more often had Raccoon problems, but we are careful about that so perhaps the message is that avoiding the problem is the best cure. Keep all food in steel and locked. They are very strong animals, so a foam or plastic storage unit is not an option. Lock the stuff in the car with the windows up whenever you leave the campsite. Judy moved our boxed cereal in the back of the station wagon but did not check all the windows. The Raccoons searched until they found the partially open window and then the party was on.

But the real danger is meat. Cooked or uncooked, it is food for the big carnivores. Doing anything that attracts Mother Bears with new cubs is a very bad idea. They are aware that only about half of the cubs will make it to adulthood and are ready to fight to the death for them. I saw a Grizzly Bear with new cubs in Yellowstone a few years back. They were foraging for food early in the summer. I saw a big male Bear wandering around near them.

When he realized who he was about to meet he turned around and ran fast out of there. So even a hungry carnivore has the instinct to not meddle with the new Mommy Bear.

However dangerous the big Bears are in the wild, in Yellowstone they are in contact with humans a lot. The rangers try to keep them separated by a safe distance, which leads to their being some very tolerant bears. A bear has a litter about every two years. Notice the Park Rangers

trying to look calm while the tourists rustle around with cameras in front of an animal. The Rangers keep a census of the animals, and it is possible that this is the park's oldest bear. This amazing animal is Bear 399, and is just out of hibernation.



She is a Yellowstone Grizzly Bear showing off what the Park Rangers believe is her 37th cub to the tourists. What a marvelous record of longevity.

Since we all fish, do not let a chance to fish some of these waters go by. Fred DuPre and I were on the Yellowstone River in Livingston MT at an FFI Meeting, and found we had a light day of activities. Fred linked up with the big fly shop in town and got us a good guide. On the morning that we had booked, Fred and I hit the fly shop at the crack of dawn. The guide said it was a bit too late for nymphs, and the next big hatch was Hoppers, so let's try Hoppers.

He drove us about a half hour back towards Yellowstone Park and launched. The hoppers began to work as the morning sun hit the water.

I had never caught a Yellowstone Cutthroat, so I was ready to have a new experience. Fred was front seater and with his better experience he was catching fish almost on the first cast. It took me a while to get one, but after that I knew what to watch for and I began to catch fish. The moral of the story is this. Go to just about any of the fabled destinations and let the family go crazy with fun stuff while you get in some great fishing.

Do consider a family trip or at least an outing to one of the great recreational opportunities our system of Parks gives you. Teach the family about the marvels of nature. Attending the Ranger talks can be very educational, they are well trained. Once in a long time you may get to help one of them out. I was at the big Ranger Station by Yellowstone Lake getting our fishing permits, and the ranger had just been given several pages about catch and release. He was not too sure what all the terms meant, so I suggested that I do that kind of training for Texas Angler Education, can I help you? He was very relieved, and after a few of the terms were explained he certainly knew how to put it all together. So be helpful where you can.

Have fun and best wishes for a fun and successful outdoor summer.



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