

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ July 2024
Volume XLVII ♦ Number 7 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The month of June is done and the summer season is underway. The days of rain last month added to the local waters making for some good fishing conditions. I was able to catch a number of Bluegill on a floating ant pattern - great fun!

Many of you will be planning your summer trips with hope of finding good fishing in your travels. A number of our members will be heading to South Fork,

Colorado, in mid-July for some great fishing. Good luck to all! I hope to see some pictures of fish caught.

I will be heading to Ohio the end of June to visit family in the Cleveland area.

I plan to do some fishing in the rivers there before heading back.

The June meeting was a fun evening, as Phil Blackmar gave us some good tips to improve your casting in all conditions. Phil told some of his golf stories from the past while on tour.

All the best in your fishing adventures and stay safe on the water.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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DFE Board 2024

President

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

Vice-President

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

Past President

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Trustee 2024

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

Trustee 2025

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

Trustee 2026

Vaughn DuBose
972-953-5456
vaughndubose@gmail.com

Auction Chair

Dave Shatzer
972-571-7622
dshatz86@gmail.com

Casting Chair

Ed Bowen
214-477-1423
ed.26936@gmail.com

Conservation

Jere Anderson
972-618-6714
jaand75023@cs.com

Education Coordinator

Richard Johnson
469-877-0695
rljgj@hotmail.com

Fly Tying Coordinator

Dan Montayne
214-693-4643
montayne@verizon.net

IT Specialist

Jeff Ziehm
214-202-2826
jziehm55@gmail.com

Membership

Mike Becker
214-288-3885
kuduguy@verizon.net
Dave Shatzer
972-571-7622
dshatz86@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

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

Outings Coordinator

OPEN

Programs

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

DFE Program Schedule

by Danny Soltau & Patrick Grobauer

For this month's meeting we will be back at our regular meeting location at **First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.**

We appreciate everyone's flexibility over the past few months as we tried to find alternative locations due to conflicts with the church's schedule.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN, fly tying will start at 6:30PM for each meeting, followed by our speaker presentation meeting at 07:00PM.

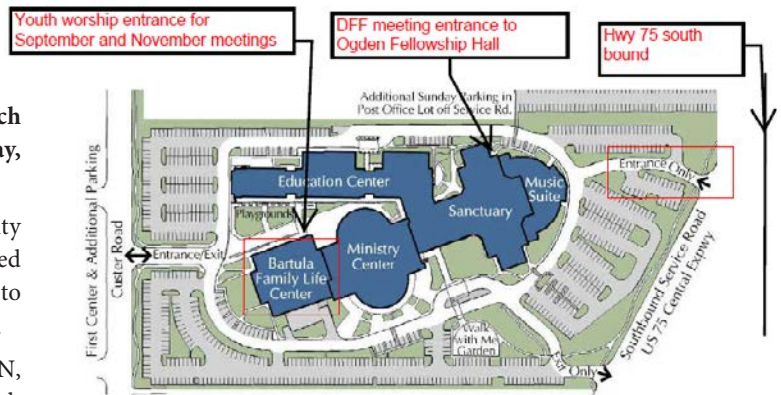
Previous Meeting June: Phil Blackmar

Phil Blackmar provided an overview of key casting techniques, and explained the importance of timing, tracking, acceleration, and the use of double hauling. He emphasized that technique and dedicated practice yield superior results compared to relying solely on physical strength. Phil demonstrated this philosophy through practical drills such as the pick-up and lay-down technique, designed to hone the fluidity and precision of casting motions and showed how mastering

double hauling can significantly increase line speed and enhance overall casting control.

Upcoming Meeting July 1st: Ron Begnaud, Redchaser guide service South Louisiana.

A Louisiana native and seasoned fly fishing guide with nearly three decades of experience in the Louisiana Marsh. Specializing in targeting giant redfish, black drum, and other species, Ron offers exceptional sight fishing opportunities in one of the country's best fisheries. Based near New Orleans



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

2024 Program Schedule of the Speakers

By Danny Soltau, 2024 Programs Chairman

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.

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

Bluegills on the Fly

by Patrick Grobauer

“If you had to choose just one fly for bluegill, what would it be? This month’s fly tying session at Cabela’s in Allen revolved around this question, and the answer came quickly: ‘The Black Cap Spider,’ originally designed by Michael Verduin.

The reasoning behind this fly choice is that a bluegill fulfills the majority of its feeding underwater. Secondly, this fly, with or without rubber legs, can be fished 12 months of the year. It is a reliable, year round panfish, crappie, and bass producer. By varying the size and color, you can entice the wariest of warm water fish.

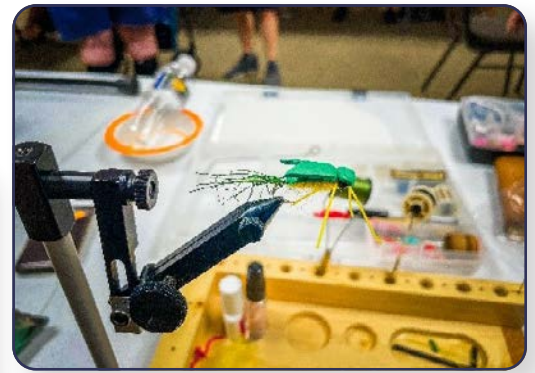
During the session, we tied two varieties of the fly: a weighted version using lead and chenille to get it down to the bottom, and a ‘Dub Style’ version for topwater or slow sinking. Some wondered if brighter, less natural colors would still attract fish—feel free to experiment and share your results!

The session concluded with another topwater fly, presented by Jere Anderson, called “Helm’s Panfish Predator”. It’s also featured as ‘Morrisfoam Predator’ in Skip Morris’s book ‘Tying Foam Flies,’ which I highly recommend. To maintain its topwater properties, consider using monofilament or preformed plastic dumbbell eyes instead of lead eyes, which could reduce buoyancy.

Of course, every fly tying session deserves a proper “outing” to test the latest additions to the tackle box. On a hot afternoon at my local creek, the Predator attracted plenty of topwater action from bluegill and bass alike. I look forward to trying the Black Cap Spider soon, confident it will perform just as well. I’m already looking forward to our next session and the opportunity to learn more.



Black Cap Spider (Dub Style)



Helm’s Panfish Predator

Social Fly Tying Night @ McNeal’s

by Patrick Grobauer

Danny from Dirty Water Fly Co recently changed it up a bit, and this month I had the pleasure of attending his ‘new’ social fly tying event for the first time. Held every last Tuesday of the month at McNeal’s Tavern in Downtown Plano, the event has evolved into a true ‘Open Tying Night,’ where attendees are encouraged to bring their own tying stuff (BYOTS) and patterns to tie.

I still somehow managed to forget all my fly tying tools that night. Thankfully, Danny lent me some of his. Thanks Danny!

For this session, I decided to focus on foam flies—they’re affordable to make, durable, and fun to tie and fish.

Given the abundance of dragonflies and damselflies around my local creek this time of year, Jere and I decided to tie patterns inspired by them. The pattern called for attaching foam to a needle to create an extended body, but lacking one, I improvised with twisted lead instead. The thorax is a light-colored dubbing and wings are made from fine deer hair, with just a little bit of flash added to it. Despite my lack of preparation and showing up empty handed in terms of tools, I’m still quite happy with how my damselfly turned out. It was a fun event with lots of people joining in a great atmosphere. See you at the next session!



Fly Tying Events

The DFF 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 focused on Bluegill flies. 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, DFF 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. **July has five Tuesdays**, so keep that in mind when planning.

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) (INSTRUCTIONAL)

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

Happy Hour All Night

5/28 6/25 7/30 8/27

DIRTY WATER FLY CO. 2nd Tuesdays @ the Shop

JUNE 11TH STUART LITTLE MOUSE FLY

JULY 9TH CONEY BOLOGNA SHRIMP FLY

AUGUST 13TH

SEPTEMBER 10TH WILD THING DIVER

TOOLS + KIT'S AVAILABLE

DFF Education Corner

May Day Youth Fishing

by Jere Anderson

On May Day, a handful of DFF folks assisted the Carrollton Recreation Department with a Fishing Tournament that drew roughly 60 people. About a dozen DFF Members helped and with some of our best like Dr. Lou who coached and demonstrated fly rod fishing, a lot of wisdom was available. Richard had brought a ton of the educational material that we have available to Angler Education Instructors from TPWD. Wisdom abounded, and as long as the weather which threatened all day held off, we had reason to hope for a fun time in the Outdoors for these families.

Up front we had two of our safety pin fly tiers making a giving out flies to the young people. They always love these. Jose Brooks is our leading tier of the great little safety pin flies that the kids like so well. He ties for the DFF at almost all our outings that are family oriented. Jere helps a little.

We also helped untangle the closed face spinning reels. They are almost fool proof, but we had a few that outsmarted our young fishermen.



The Carrollton Recreation Center volunteers pass out the fishing rods, bait, and undid tangles. Then the youth hit the water. It was rumored that a very large batch of catfish had been planted. In the past we have had very good luck catching these fish. This time it was a bit slower.



The luckier youth got their catfish measured, and the trophies were awarded for each age group.



The catch was measured, and winners were declared in each age group.



This fishing dock is a great idea. With the fence all around, you could take the toddlers up where their older siblings were fishing and not have to worry about them falling in. It gets a bit crowded, but fish were caught, and I am not aware of any injuries.



The family groups picked a spot on the shoreline and had a relaxing day with the kids during the bursts of sunshine. All in all, it was a great chance for a city family to feel like they had spent the morning in a pretty country lake area.



For those without a fish or trophy, Jose Brooks passed out foam safety pin flies. They were very popular. And then the rain returned. Everyone ran for cover, but most had fun and even caught a few good fish.

When I got home about 15 minutes later, it was raining so hard I just sat in the car a waited about ten minutes for it to let up before making the run to the house. Our weather in Texas is always crazy on an El Nino Year, so this is to be expected.

Go out and have fun. These kids and their parents, even the ones that do not fish and had no clue what to do, got a lot of help and had fun. We need to do this more often.



The Conservation Corner

Reflections on Weather Trends, Outdoor Adventures, and Conservation: Looking Ahead to Summer

by Jere Anderson



As I write this, almost 2 weeks before you see it, I will go out on a long limb and predict the longer term trend, as I see it. This winter was very warm and wet in our neck of the woods due to a well understood cyclic trend known as El Nino. This is warm and wet, and we had some amazing amounts of rain across the South. Now it is getting warmer as summer season hits us but is still very wet. My experience with Southern Storms has left me believing that a hurricane is almost a more dangerous rainstorm as it is a windstorm. Already huge rainstorms are forming in the areas where the storms usually can build the energy to become a hurricane. So, I am about as comfortable as you can be about these rains' storms getting breezier and breezier.

Rainstorms with multiple inches of rain per hour have been with us since about mid-June. Sometimes a wet spring and early summer makes our warm water fish thrive, and sometimes it just flushes them from the feeder streams and into the reservoirs. In any case, we are getting better and better fishing days in our favorite urban stream and lakes, and I am glad. Last month I suggested in this column that you get busy on those summer camping plans. Pick a few goal destinations and hit the internet looking for reservations and activities.

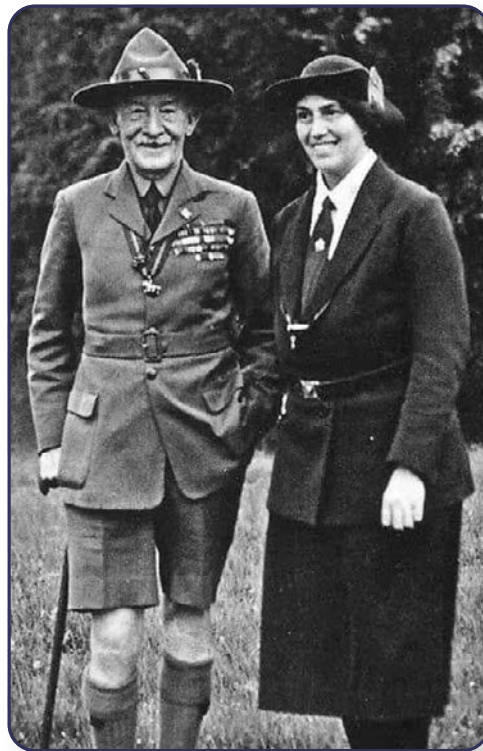
The wet spring might be making folks hold off on reservations, so you might still get lucky. The Joint DFF FWFF Colorado Fishing Trip looks good. I am not able to wade fish fast water nor can I scramble up and down rocky cliffs. I would have to get a guide and fish the San Juan or some other such nearby water from his floating device. But I will be doing that more locally.

Another important gathering of like-minded public spirited Texas Anglers is a new event. Our beloved International Group, the FFI, is working to revive the spirit of the old Conclaves that dozens of our two clubs' members had supported for a long time before they faded out. This one is sponsored by the Fly-Tying Group of the FFI. A lot of great tiers from our Texas Council will

be there and tying. This one was written up in the last Leader, and it is open for registration now. The dates are Friday, September 27th, and Saturday, September 28th. There is a banquet Friday Night and lots of fun stuff. I loved the fly tying events more in the FFI Conclaves, so I can't see how our FTG Conclave can possibly miss being a highlight film Event. I have already signed up.

Come on, fly fishers, get those outings and trips planned. Keep up the good work on our mission, namely, to enjoy the Outdoors, but make sure the next group to the same place does also. This is the most important part and is one of the original goals of the Boy Scouts. They would have a total commitment to the principle of 'Leave No Trace'. Most importantly, the scouts were started by a man who believed that a one-week campout was better and more educational than 6 months in a classroom. This founding principle is what our youth program believes at least in part.

I'm not sure the term "power couple" existed in the 1800's, at the time this photograph was taken, but what a couple these two were and what a role they both played, in the lives of so many,



all across our world, both then and since. Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell we thank you both, for your legacy of Scouting and Guiding to humanity and thank you to those millions and millions of Scouts, Guides and Leaders both in your time and since who have shared and sustained that legacy throughout our World.

Who else played a role in founding Scouting?

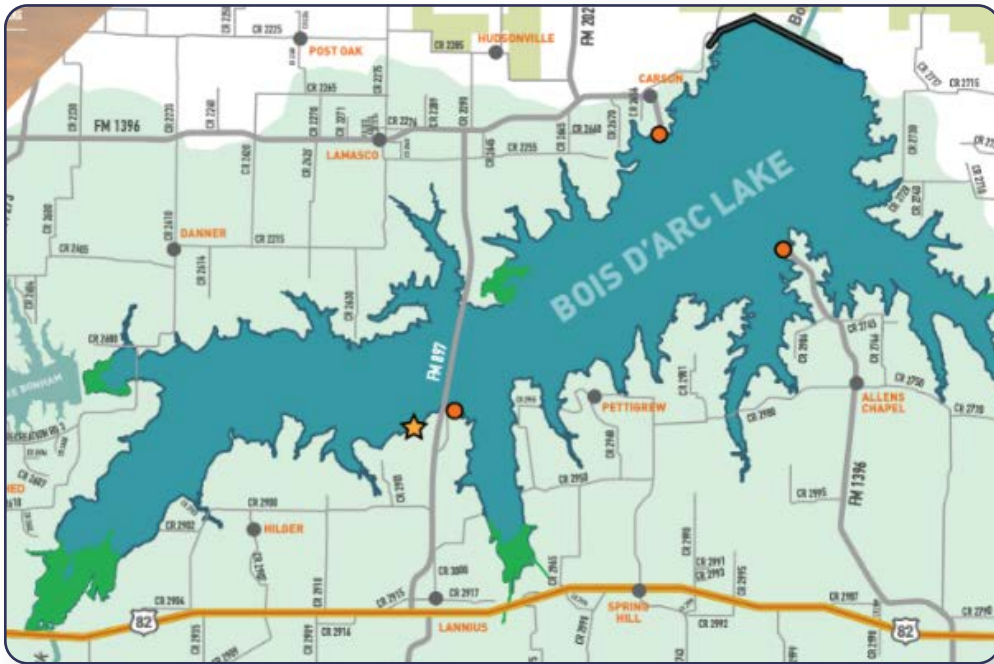
Warrington Baden-Powell was the founder of the Sea Scouts. Robert Baden-Powell knew from his own experiences and the work he had done at Beaulieu River Camp that this was another form of training which would be as useful to the country as wilderness scouting, and that his brother Warrington was experienced in this field, and so he had him take on the business of writing a Guide Book on it.

Boiled down by decades of experience, we conservation minded outdoor skilled adventurers have reduced the basic concepts to this "Leave No Trace" poster. Use this knowledge no matter what part of the Natural World you are introducing someone to.

The New Lakes Are Coming Online.

For many years, the three lakes needed in the 1994 Texas Water Plan have been in the news. The first one already has a FB Group called The Reel Bois d'Arc Lake Fishing page. The lake is full, and the fishing is not bad for a lake with little history to guide you. These pictures are purported to be from this lake in the last few weeks.

If so then the lake is not only open, but the efforts to have it fish well from day one is working as well. The TPWD current Largemouth Record is over 9 pounds.



The Second New Lake is Lake Ralph Hall. It is under construction and the Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Wildlife organization are hard at work making it likely that it will fish very well when it gets finished.

The 7,600-acre lake, is also expected to be a prime fishing location for anglers. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff and biologists from the Inland Fisheries Division, in partnership with UTRWD, had the rare opportunity to shape the fish habitat literally at the ground floor. The Denison District embarked on a massive fish habitat installation project in early 2024. "To see a new reservoir construction in the area and having the funding to utilize for fish habitat that will benefit anglers for the next several decades is tremendous." TPWD staff placed three different types of habitat, called "reef balls", "spider humps" and gravel spawning beds at multiple locations around the lake. These beds will help the sunfish and bass have more reproductive success as the lake gets going."

Here is the face of the new dam, and the little concrete hootches are fish holding areas when the lake gets done and fills. TPWD will share the structure's coordinates with a Fish Habitat Web Map in the future so anglers can go right



to the exact spots and fish on them. Anglers will be able to target the habitat improvements as soon as the lake fills.” In addition, a coastal style fishing jetty will be built by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District to enhance shoreline access for fishing once the lake is completed. Construction began on Lake Ralph Hall in June of 2021.

Go Fish

So all is well with our North Texas fishing opportunities. Hit the water and catch a few. Take those pictures and send them to Jere to put in an article or write up the great trip you had and send it to the Editor, Patrick Grobauer, whose address is on page 2 in the left sidebar of this newsletter.

Lots of local groups are exploring the impoundments within an hours drive, and the pictures that get posted on Facebook look positive. Try those new flies you tied with one of the three Tuesday’s a month of fly tying we sponsor. Getting a big batch of fish, even little ones, on a new fly while fishing a new location is great fun.

This summer is going to be exciting from a weather standpoint. I remember a long time back we had a girl scout group that we gave our fly fishing class to, and were scheduled to fish the TFFC with them the next day. But the TFFC called us and said they were going to close that day because of a hurricane threat. The big wind did not come, but for years I kidded the head of the TFFC about missing the chance to go on record as a great site to fly fish in a hurricane.

Get involved. Our Outdoors needs all your help.



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