

# The Leader



*Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers* ♦ *August 2025*  
*Volume XLVIII* ♦ *Number 8* ♦ [www.dallasflyfishers.org](http://www.dallasflyfishers.org)



FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

## On The Water

*by Dave Smith*

### WARNING

DFF members it has come to my attention in the past that emails have gone out with my name attached asking for money or gift cards for some cause. I will NEVER ask this of our membership these are SCAMS please delete.

Now to the fun things. The summer months are rolling on and I hope you have had a chance to take a trip to a special fishing spot or plan to go in the future. If you have taken that trip think about writing a short article for The Leader about your experience and be sure to add a picture.

I would like to thank Colby Burke our new Newsletter Editor for taking on this important task. You can forward your article to Colby

at [colbymburke@gmail.com](mailto:colbymburke@gmail.com).

If you are looking forward to being on the water and don't tie your own flies there is an opportunity to learn from two of the best. Sign up for the 3rd Tuesday class with Dan Montayne at Cabela's in Allen. You can also take part in Danny Soltau's last Tuesday of the month class at Dirty Water Fly Shop in Plano. These are both evening events. Now is that great or what and it is FREE to take part. If you are just starting to tie or want to improve your skills at the vice these are the people to help you. Be sure to check the calendar in The Leader and on the club web site for upcoming events.

Until next time I hope to see you on the water or at the tying bench.

*Dave Smith*  
*President, Dallas FlyFishers*



## In The August Issue

Page:

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1  | On the Water                  |
| 2  | DFF Board 2025                |
|    | DFF Program Schedule          |
| 3  | 2025 Calendar                 |
|    | Expense Report                |
|    | Welcome our Newsletter Editor |
| 4  | July Outings Report           |
| 6  | Hill Country Relief Rally     |
| 7  | Bug Picking Data Sheet        |
| 8  | Conservation Corner           |
| 10 | Membership Renewal Form       |

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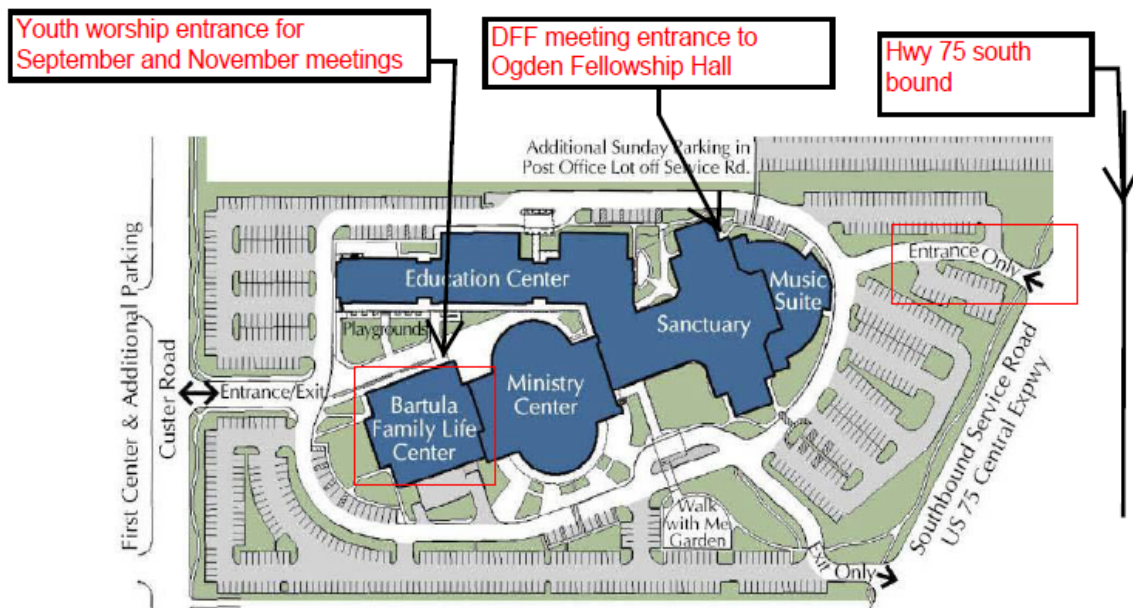
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## DFF Program Schedule



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

We are thrilled to have Katie Cowen and the Texas Women Fly Fishers teaching and hosting a tie along on **August 4th**. The FFI recently introduced a saltwater fly tying portion to their fly tying department, and Katie will be teaching two of the main patterns featured in the certification process. Coincidentally, they are two of the most versatile patterns out there; the Clouser Minnow and the Gartside Gurgler. They are highly effective both in saltwater and freshwater.

**Tyers must RSVP**, and all materials will be provided. Please bring your own tools and vise.

**5PM Hang Out, Meet + Greet @ Burger Island**

**6PM Tying + Setup Begins, Ogden Room @ First United Methodist Church**

Looking ahead, we will be welcoming renowned Texas fly tyer Chase Smith in September. He will be demoing a number of his patterns, and talking about design and how to use them in Texas and beyond. He is one of the most influential tyers out there pushing the edge of fly design.

Dan Soltau

Dirty Water Fly Co

Shop - 469-573-5040 • Cell - 406-600-6732

1410 K Ave #1105D • Plano, Texas 75074

**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.



## 2025 Calendar

The 2025 Programs and major events calendar. We are having another great year at the Dallas Flyfishers. **Danny Soltau** has been hard at work setting things up.

**August 4th:** Katie Cowan & Dani Rose Tie Along Monthly Meeting, 6:00 FUMC Richardson

**September 8th:** Chase Smith of Fishchase Flies Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

**September 26th–27th:** FFI Fly Fest, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**October 6th:** Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

**October 31st–November 2nd:** Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA

**November 3rd:** Monthly Meeting, TBD

**December 7th:** Annual Holiday Party, TBD

### DALLAS FLY FISHERS Income and Expense Statement For the Twelve Months Ended 6/30/25

Income	
Membership income	\$ 7,398
Auction income	3,120
Raffle income	1,556
Contributions income	64
Merchandise income	223
Holiday party income	1,600
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 13,961</b>
Expense	
Newsletter expense	\$ 3,400
Speaker expense	6,650
FFI Dues	600
Meeting room rental	1,300
Administrative expense	1,142
Printing expense	681
Holiday party expense	2,424
Donations	1,345
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$ 17,542</b>
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ (3,581)</b>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 23,633

## Welcome our New Newsletter Editor

### Colby Burke

Howdy, I'm Colby Burke. As a longtime contributor, I am proud to serve as your new newsletter editor. As a child of the depression, fishing was not merely a means of entertainment, but rather critical to my family's survival.

I'm 31 years old and have been fishing consistently since I was 15. Having no family members who fished, I learned from watching Sunday morning TV. My early mentors were Bill Dance, Jimmy Houston, and Roland Martin. I would walk to lake Lewisville and fish several times a week.

I first learned to fly fish on the tailwaters of the San Juan River in New Mexico 8 years ago. Armed with only an 8 weight kit rod, I caught more fish on the San Juan than I have since. Broke off my fair share too.

Since then I have travelled the country in pursuit of fish on the fly. I've fly fished in 8 states so far and am constantly planning my next trip.

Come see visit me at work at Orvis Plano, or come see me any day I'm off. I'll be tying flies or having beverages at Dirty Water.



# DFE July Outings Report

## South Fork Outing

This year's South Fork, Colorado outing took place July 12 – 19.

We had 14 attendees: Dave Shatzer, Pat Kennedy, Larry Abrams, Jeff Gannon, Guy & Susan Thornberg, Zach Hamilton, Vaughn & Janet DuBose, Cody & Julia Bell, Chris Wegmann, Scott Balch, and myself. If I omitted anyone, my apologies. There was also a good turnout from the FWFF's, headed by Russell Husted.

It was a low snowpack year, so water levels were lower than last year. The Rio Grande River flow at Wagon Wheel Gap was in the 275 cfs range throughout the week, 25% lower than last year. Average daily high was 75°, low 52°, a nice relief from the Texas summer heat.

Dave and I flew to Colorado Springs and rented a car. Chris Wegmann flew to Durango. Most others drove. Everyone stayed at Ute Bluff Lodge, some in the lodge, some in cabins, and some in the Ute Bluff RV park.

Daily routine was to wake up around 6am, chit chat with folks about where they were going to fish that day, and leave for fishing around 7:30am. In the evening kibitz with people about where they fished that day, how was the fishing, what flies were used, and where they were going to go fishing the next day.

### Agenda for the week:

Date: Sunday, July 13, 2025

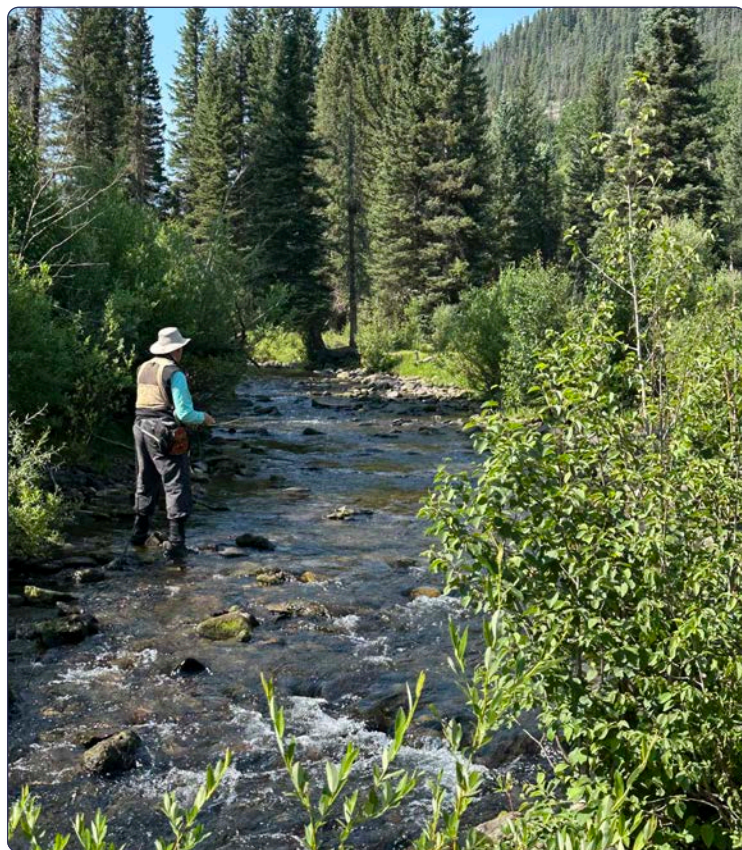
River: South Fork

River char: Plunge pool

Species: Brown

Flies: Parachute Adams and H&L Variant

Comments: 10 weeks after back surgery. I was not sure how long I could fish. Fished 3 hours, taking lots of breaks. I was very happy



with that. I fell twice. My back surgeon cleared me to fly fish, as long as I didn't fall. I was lucky. Need to be more careful.

Sunday evening we were treated to a Fly Fishing South Fork presentation in the Ute Bluff Lodge community room. Presenter was Russell Husted. This was Russell's 69th trip to South Fork!

Date: Monday, July 14, 2025

River: Alamosa

Access: Predator Ranch thru Wolf Creek Anglers

River char: Riffle Run

Guide: Jim

Species: Rainbows

Flies: H&L w PT dropper

Comments: This was our 2nd year fishing the Predator Ranch. Ranch access requires a rod fee and a guide. Beautiful water and big fish.

Monday evening we had a group dinner. Russell provided the pulled pork, beans, and corn on the cob. Guests provided dessert. Pulled pork was delicious.

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025

River: Park Creek

Access: Kelly Park (3rd Meadow)



River char: Riffle run in meadow, pocket water in canyon

Species: All Browns

Flies: #16 Parachute Adams

Comments: Slow in the canyon. Most fish caught in the canyon. Ran a double dry with a #12 H&L on the top, # Adams on the bottom. No hits on the H&L.

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

River: North Clear Creek

River char: Riffle run

Species: Browns and Rainbows

Flies: #16 Parachute was most effective

Comments: Good water, but a long drive. 80 minutes from South Fork.

Wednesday evening Bruce from the FWFFs entertained us with singing and guitar playing. A South Fork tradition, and part of the trip I always look forward to.

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025

River: South Fork

River char: Riffle run.

Species: Brown

Flies: Double dry rig with H&L upper and #16 parachute adams lower. This fly caught most of my fish this week.



Thursday evening we had a group dinner at Rachel's. Rachel's is a food truck on steroids, and has quickly become one of the best eateries in South Fork.

Date: Friday, July 18, 2025

River: North Clear Creek

River char: Riffle/Run

Species: Rainbow and Cutbow. Chris Wegmann caught 2 splake. The splake is a cross between a brook trout and a lake trout.

Flies: #16PT and #16 Parachute worked the best. I got a couple hits on the #12 H&L.

Start making plans for next year's South Fork outing. It will be July 11-18 2026.

I hope to see you there.

Jeff





# *Hill Country Relief Rally*

**FLY FISHING FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT  
CENTRAL TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF**



**12—6 PM**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**MIDDLETON BREWING**

**101 OAKWOOD LOOP  
SAN MARCOS, TX 78666**

## **ACTIVITIES INCLUDED**

- **FLY TYING DEMOS**
- **CASTING INSTRUCTION & CHALLENGE**
- **RAFFLE & AUCTION**
- **COLD BEER & GOOD COMPANY**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CENTRAL  
TEXAS FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS**

## IS YOUR CREEK POLLUTED? BUG PICKING DATA SHEET

### Bug Picking Summary Sheet - Furneaux Creek @ Branch Hollow Park - 07/20/2025

#### Group 1 - Pollution Sensitive

- ☐ Stonefly Nymph (Plecoptera)
- ☒ **Mayfly Nymph (Ephemeroptera)**
- ☐ Caddisfly Larva (Trichoptera)
- ☐ Dobsonfly Larva (Megaloptera)
- ☐ Gilled Snail (Prosobranchia)
- ☐ Cranefly Larva (Diptera)
- ☐ Water Penny Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)
- ☐ Riffle Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)

☒ **0 Total Group 1 Specimens**

#### Group 2 - Somewhat Sensitive

- ☐ **Dragonfly Nymph (Anisoptera)**
- ☒ **7 Damselfly Nymph (Zygoptera)**
- ☐ Scud (Amphipoda)
- ☐ Crayfish (Decapoda)
- ☐ Waterboatman (Corixidae)
- ☐ Water Strider (Gerridae)
- ☐ Other Aquatic Beetle Larva (Coleoptera)
- ☐ Watersnipe Fly Larva (Athericidae)
- ☐ Clam or Mussel (Bivalvia)
- ☐ Freshwater Snail (Gastropoda)

☒ **7 Total Group 2 Specimens**

#### Group 3 - Pollution Tolerant

- ☐ Soldier Fly Larva (Diptera)
- ☐ Midge Larva (Diptera)
- ☐ Black Fly Larva (Diptera)
- ☐ Lunged Snail (Pulmonata)
- ☐ Leech (Hirudinea)
- ☐ Planaria (Turbellaria)
- ☐ Aquatic Round Worm (Nematoda)
- ☐ Aquatic Horsehair Worm (Nematomorpha)
- ☐ Tadpole (Amphibian)
- ☐ Giant Water Bug (Hemiptera)

☐ **0 Total Group 3 Specimens**

This water appears to be:  
(Not Polluted)    (Okay)    (Polluted)

**Blow Fly Adult**



**Tadpole**





# August Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



## Bug Picking

One of our best Conservation projects is an event held every month on the last Sunday. It is called Bug Picking, but more accurately it is an inventory of the insects and other little critters that make up the lower edge of the food chain in a beautiful urban restoration project. Our part is but a fraction of the work that monthly goes into this marvelous urban nature study, but it's very relevant to we who fish with baits that match the current bug hatches. It also gives us a good view of how the urban outdoors is doing from a point of view that recognizes the effects of weather, temperature and seasons.

While this is but a small part of the big picture, it is important. We get our samples from Furneaux Creek at Branch Hollow Park. It is along the Blue Bicycle Trail, and is an urban environment. When we first did this I was concerned that all the yards and their care with chemicals and such would make the Creek sterile. That has proven to be pessimistic. In fact, the



water quality measurements show good water most of the time, and the ecology of the stream is often startlingly abundant. There is a picnic table cover there and our DFF Bug Pickers take one table and some water quality analysts take the other. Between the two groups we have a veritable mountain of solid data about the water at this point.

Many of you have volunteered to help over the years, but there is usually a core group that know their stuff and get right to work when we arrive. The current group is our Entomologist Roger, the organizer Richrd Johnson, our active sample gatherer Ed Bowen, and Jere who had been a water monitor since before he was transfer to Texas in the early 1990's. Lots of other capable and enthusiastic bug pickers have been our helpers as well and sometimes a passer-by would stop and get involved. It has been fun and very important. Our history of the water quality and the Entomology are very good. Quite frankly I am surprised at how seldom the creek seems to be damaged in spite of the close proximity to all the landscaping and construction chemistry.

Some amazing bugs are found. And some life forms that are really important like the time we took our sample as a big hatch of tadpoles occurred. We had literally dozens of them, perhaps as many as 100. In any case we could use a few more interested bug identifiers. How this works is that the team finds the bugs in the silt and vegetation of the water sample and then puts them into little cups. Roger puts them under his microscope and identifies them. Often, we have 20 or so samples in one batch of water, and those will be many families of potential fly patterns to tie and fish. So this is both fun and educational.

Come join us. Our usual stream team outing is on the last Sunday of the month. Any of the four of us regulars can get you on the list for the next one. Then you just need to be at Branch Hollow Park at 9AM on that Sunday. Bring any science students in grade school on up.





## New Lakes in the Region C water Plan.

One of the activities I became involved with in the mid-1990's was a state wide water plan. I thought it was a good place of connect with the other Outdoor Groups. I am from a part of the country where water is captured and maintained in the wet season to insure adequate supplies in the dry times each year. Here in Texas we are usually troubled with lots of drought, though as we found this year a sudden wave of generous rainfall can also be a danger to property and unfortunately to the lives and safety of our citizens.

Our Group for the Dallas area was Region C, with the far North West region being Region D. The difficult process centered on getting the stakeholders to cooperate was more of a fued IMO that a process. However in the end, three new lakes were deemed to be needed for the '94 water plan. There was scarcely an environment of cooperation, but the plans turned in the 1990's water plan. In reality it seems that nobody had enough of a picture of the growth of Texas in the early 2000 peeriod, and so while there seemed to be a plan, the tension remained. The plan had three new Lakes in our Region C.

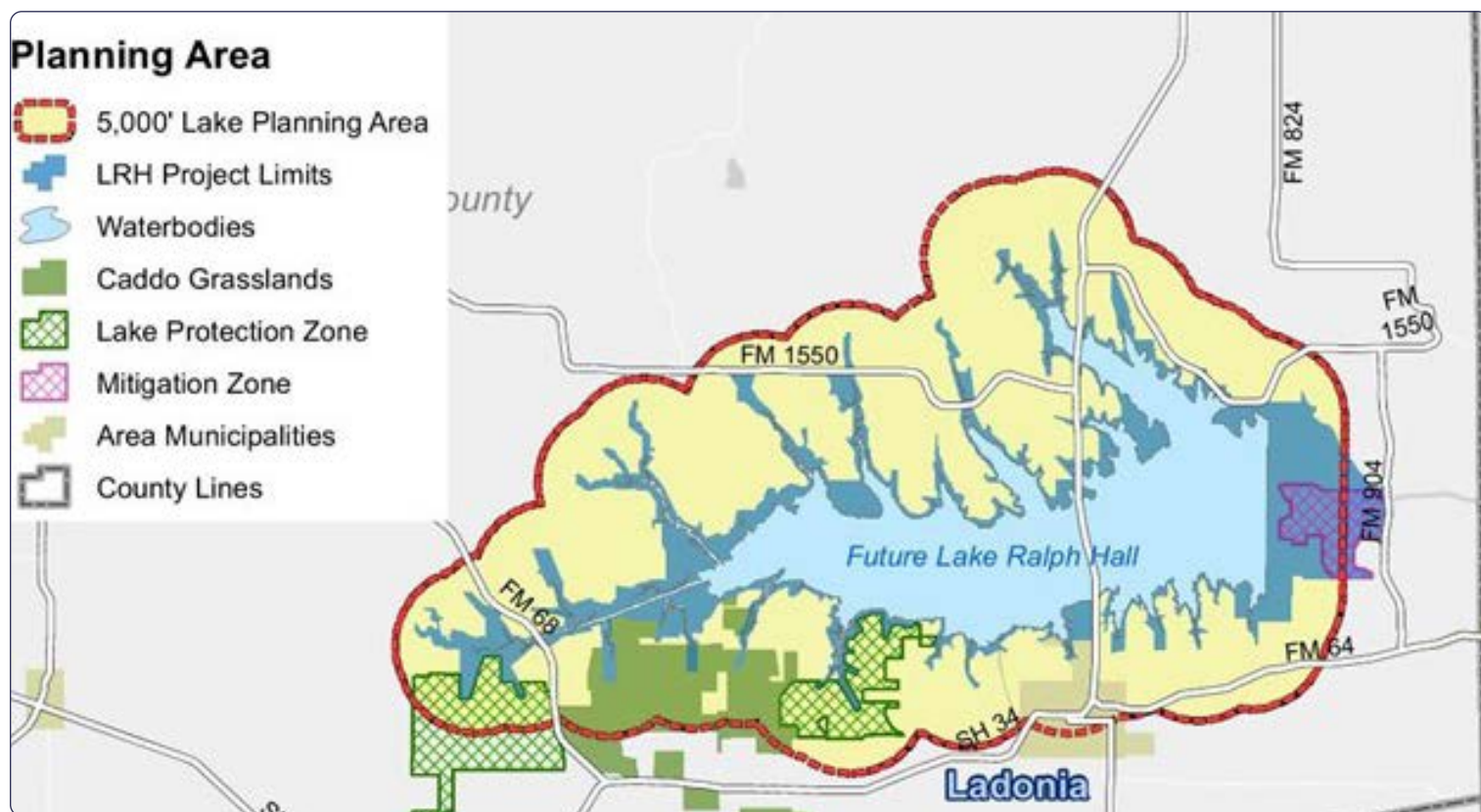
Water utilities are working to finish two big Northeast Texas lake projects: Bois d' Arc Lake and Lake Ralph Hall. The Bois

d'Arc Lake project – the first reservoir built in Texas in 30 years — is filling with water and the North Texas Municipal Water District, which has the rights to that massive project, says it will open soon to the public to enjoy the myriad recreational activities it will provide.

More than that, though, Lake Ralph Hall – which has some distance to go before it starts to fill with water – also has a unique exhibit to offer, according to the Upper Trinity Municipal Water District. The exhibit is a fossil park, where tourists can dig up fossilized remains of prehistoric creatures that once roamed throughout Northeast Texas.

For now, UTRWD has opened a temporary fossil park. The temporary park is located immediately east of Farm to Market Road 2990, on the north side of the river, just west of the old park site. This temporary fossil park will remain open until construction of Lake Ralph Hall is finished, according to UTRWD. The fossils became exposed thanks to rapid erosion along the shores of the North Sulphur, an unintended consequence of the waterway having been channeled in the late 1920s.

A new permanent fossil park can be created downstream of the lake's dam, UTRWD said. UTRWD and the city of Ladonia "are working to select another spot where fossil hunters can continue to easily access the river bottom after the reservoir is



built. By offering access to different locations on the Sulphur River, the park relocation will provide opportunities for additional untapped fossil discoveries,” UTRWD said in a statement on its website.

However the endless friction about the third new reservoir is now looking more like an ongoing feud now more than 30 years later. This is a tense situation given the rapid growth of the Dallas/Ft. Worth whose growth rates are some of the highest in the Nation. The “not in my back yard” mindset is tough, and the issue of appearing to be diverting a key resource from one District to another is not setting well either. If it were not for the water being thought of a Agricultural Water in region D, and population water in Region C, it might not be so hot and issue. As it is, this conflict looks like it may be headed to mediation by the Texas Water Board. It is unfortunate tht after most of 30 years of discussion, the issue is still looking like it may get tangled up on the Courts for n even longer time. The good news is that the rapid building of the two Reservoirs that are coming on line even as we speak will hopefully span this additional political maneuvering.

## The Weather, what Next?

While Texas weather if often a riddle, this year has been a real surprise party. Winter has been wet to historic extremes, but without much in extreme weather. No power rationing due to excessive needs for energy to save your house from damage due to excessive heating needs or to protect against structural damage due to excessive freezing conditions. In 2021 we had those weeks of sub-freezing and extreme weather that

saw many of us facing power rationing. This winter barely got below freezing. The most extreme weather had been the extreme rainfall in the middle of the state that has done so much damage. Then the political noise about failure to warn people in time about excessive runoff in many of our very rocky regions where there is very little soil to retard the runoff. My personal opinion is that a lot of the damage was made more life-threatening by poor reactions. We have had a great deal of sudden and extreme rainfall in smaller regions that were very high in risk of human and property harm that might not have been so bad with a bit more warning and some evacuation plans that were carried out early and with haste.

I am even more aware of the noise about Climate Change being kept to a minimum. In any case your homes have had the damage held to regional issues. I know it is not a happy event to see the extensive storm damage if the damage included your home, and I deeply regret not having words to soften the blow, With luck, our hot and dry season will be softened by have a great deal of stored up water ad the rains stop and the heat builds in again. If we can avoid a season of major extreme storms, we can get ready for the time until our fall weather brins back cooler weather and brings our fall season.

Until then be careful and get ready for the fall fishing season. I love it the most in any case.

Best wishes for a fun summer until the school season starts again.



<p>To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to:</p> <p>Dallas Fly Fishers</p> <p>8349 Club Meadows Dr.</p> <p>Dallas, Tx 75243</p> <p>You can also join or renew online at</p> <p><a href="http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html">http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html</a></p>	<h2>MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL</h2>	
	<p>New Member <input type="checkbox"/> or Renewing My Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (Check one)      Date _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____</p> <p>E-mail address: _____</p> <p>Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____</p> <p>Are you a current member of the Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (check one)</p>	
	<p><b>New Members:</b></p> <p>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</p> <p>After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year</p> <p>After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year</p>	<p><b>Renewing Members:</b></p> <p>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</p>