

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ April 2026
Volume XLIX ♦ Number 3 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

Good day fly fishers, and I hope you're doing well. Heading into a new month and deeper into our spring season gives you the opportunity to be outside and on the water. The fish have been active for a while so now is the time to go fishing.

The northern states are still dealing with snow and freezing temperatures.

The Club auction was held March 16th, and I hope you had a chance to attend and enjoy the evening with fellow fly fishers. The auction gave you a chance to find that piece of equipment you needed or a trip you wanted to take.

Heading into this time of year our club schedule of events and outings increase, so be sure to check the calendar in The Leader to find the things you want to do.

Fly tying to learn new patterns and how to tie them is held at Cabela's in Allen the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Dan Montayne to add your name to the class list .

Need help with your casting? Arrive early to the monthly meeting at 6 pm in the gym before our meeting at 7 pm to get some practice and tips from our Casting Chair, Bill Slaughter.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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DFF Program Schedule

DFF Board 2026

President • Dave Smith
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dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com

Vice-President • Al Palmer
207-522-6852
alpalmer451@gmail.com

Past President • Julia Bell
214-980-9978
flyshrgirl@gmail.com

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

Secretary • Terri White
254-337-1676
terriwhitefnp@yahoo.com

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972-953-5456
vaughndubose@gmail.com

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972-948-1736
shawn@beecivilbalm.com

Trustee 2028 • Chris Wegmann
214-734-0559
bensdad87@msn.com

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972-571-7622
dshatz86@gmail.com

Casting Chair • Bill Slaughter
972-342-9630
slaughter.bill@gmail.com

Conservation • OPEN

Director of Outreach
Paul Locklear
318-518-8945
sfclock@aol.com

Fly Tying Chair • Dan Montayne
214-693-4643
montayne@verizon.net

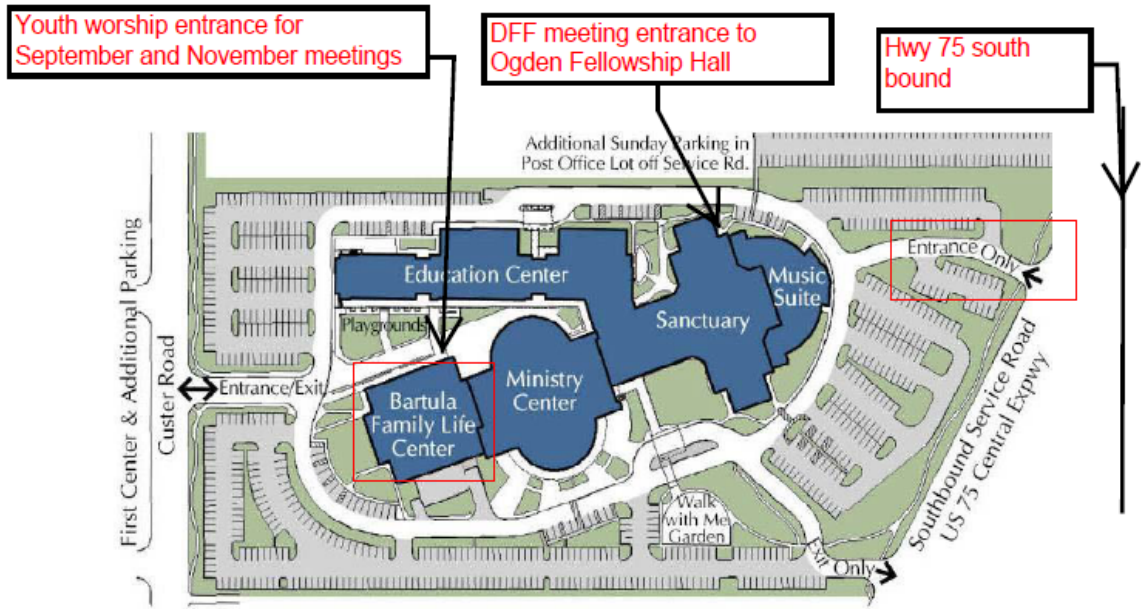
IT Specialist • Jeff Ziehm
214-202-2826
jziehm55@gmail.com

Membership • Jonathon Ramirez
860-501-4173
jonathonramirez97@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor • OPEN

Outings Chair
Joel Williams
972-880-1788
joel.williams53@gmail.com

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



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

Next month's meeting will be **April 13th**, at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

Location: Youth Room • **Time:** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Casting Practice: Gym, 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM (unless noted)

April 13th—Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, speaker Aaron Gordon
May 4th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
June 1st—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
July 6th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Ogden Room, Fly Tying Meeting
August 3rd—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
September 14th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
October 5th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
November 2nd—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
December 6th—DFF Holiday Party

Happy April Fly Anglers!

We want to send Colby Burke and his wife well wishes on their relocation to Montana. If you have any content...please reach out to Julia Bell, flyshrgirl@gmail.com

Sincerely, The Dallas Fly Fishers

Reach us: <https://dot.cards/dallasflyfishers>

or use your mobile to scan the QR code here:



April's Speaker will be Aaron Gordon

Rachel and Aaron Gordon's love of fly fishing and the beauty of the outdoors was engrained in them as children. Aaron's outdoor adventures began in childhood and continued as he pursued guiding Colorado rivers at age eighteen. Rachel learned to tie flies on her father's lap before kindergarten and started managing his fly-fishing business before she graduated college. Aaron and Rachel spent their honeymoon floating and fishing the Flaming Gorge of the Green River, then they settled into a mountaintop fire lookout cabin for their first "home." They made Sandpoint, Idaho, home twenty years ago and have fallen in love with the mountains and rivers of this beautiful region. Aaron has extensive experience guiding on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Main Salmon, the Kootenai, the Clark Fork as well as the Lochsa and Coeur d'Alene Rivers. Much of his free time is spent floating and fishing rivers closer to home, such as the Clark Fork and the Kootenai.

The Kootenai River is our main river that we enjoy fly fishing on in the northern Panhandle of Idaho. The Kootenai is often described as a hidden gem, which means you won't be crowded by other anglers while fishing the river. The Kootenai holds Redband Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Bull Trout. The river also holds Kokanee, Burbot and Sturgeon. The river is a classic dry-fly fishery that is best fished from a drift boat due to its size.



2026 Calendar

April 11th – Beginner Fly Fishing Class with Paul Locklear, 11:00 am, Rosemeade Recreation Center, 1330 E. Rosemeade Pkwy., Carrollton, TX

April 11th – DFF Outing to Latham Springs Encampment, 8 am – 2:30 pm, 134 Private RD 223
Aquilla, Texas 76622-2582

April 11th – Texas Fly Fishers Casting Competition at Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival, 10/11 am at King Fly Rods, Holly Fields, Shop #127 on Sir Richard's Way, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie, TX 75167

April 13th – DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

April 18th – DFF Outing to Stoney Hollow Park, 8:30 am, 4100 Coldwater Creek LN, Plano, 75074

April 25th – Beginner Fly Fishing Class with Paul Locklear, 9 am – 2 pm, LLELA (Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area), 201 E Jones St., Lewisville, TX

May 1st – 2nd FFI 4th Annual Gulf Coast Classic Fly Fishing Festival, Learning Campus, Gulf State Park, 20249A State Park RD, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

May 2nd – Alamo Fly Fishers' Bud Priddy Any Fly Event, Nueces River from Camp Wood to Uvalde, TX, Nueces River RV, 32598 Texas 55, Uvalde, TX 78801

September 24th – 26th – FFI Fly Fest, Redding Civic Auditorium, 700 Auditorium DR, Redding, CA 96001

November 6th – 8th – Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend SP, Zwolle, LA 71486

2026 DFF Fundraiser Auction

by Dave Shatzer

The 2026 DFF Fundraiser Auction was held Monday, March 16, 2026, and it was a success for your club. The auction site, the Plano Event Center, provided a great venue to host this vital event. If you needed a second fly rod, I hope you didn't go home empty-handed.

This year's DFF Auction raised \$9113 for the club's funds. These Auction funds go a long way toward sustaining the club for two years. The attached photos show the wonderful evening had by all. A big "Thanks" and appreciation should go out to the Auction volunteers without whom this event would not be possible.

Many thanks to all the Donors who so graciously gave us the volume of bid items. Now a word to our members, "Support the Guide Shops and Guides" that gave trips. If you are planning a trip to Missouri, Louisiana, New

Mexico, Colorado, plus here in Texas, book a trip with one of our sponsor guide shops. Here is the complete Guide List:

South Fork, CO, Wolf Creek Anglers – Rick McGuire
Rio Chama, NM, Nick Fly Guide Service – Nick Gallegos
Lake Taneycomo, MO, River Run Outfitters – Carolyn Parker

Driftless Region, MN, Twin Cities Fly Fishing – Eric Schlobohm

Brazos River, TX, Upstream on the Fly – Greg Welander
Brazos River, TX – Russell Husted Texas Rivers – Danny Scarborough

Texas Gulf Coast, Matagorda Loops Fly Fishing – Capt. Ron Ridgeway

Virginia Fly Fishing – Austin Conrad
Texas Gulf Coast, LightandFly – William Townsend
Louisiana Gulf Coast, Redchaser Guide Service – Capt. Ron Begnaud

Estes Park, CO, Sasquatch Fly Fishing – Joe Croteau
Texas Hill Country, LaCroix Fly Fishing – Cody LaCroix
Fly Fishing with Danny – Danny Scarborough
Lakewood Window – Blaine Rush

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



March 2026 Fuller's Folly Outing Recap

by Jeff Ziehm

Our March outing took place at Fuller's Folly on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Fuller's Folly is one of the new TPWD Leased Access sites. It is open to the public, but you need to register and complete a liability release first.

We had 13 attendees: Dave Shatzer, Al & Mariya Palmer, Pat Kennedy, Ron Eberhardt, Harlan & Diana Thatcher, Jean-Marc Fort, Chris Atkins, Julia Bell, Cathy Candler, Grant Murphy and myself. If I omitted anyone, my apologies.

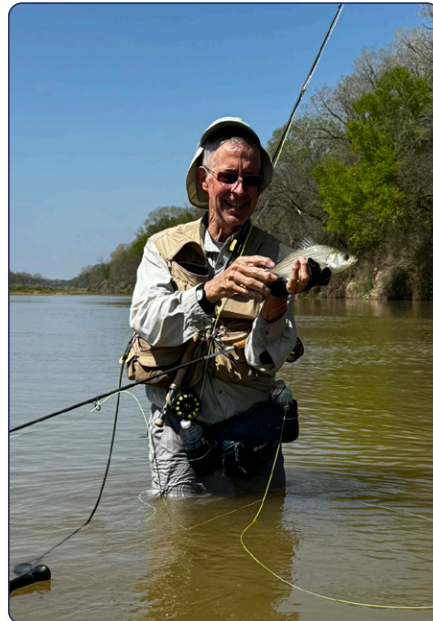
Jean-Marc is not a club member. He lives in France and was in Arlington visiting his son. He asked us if he could join our outing, and of course we said yes. Jean-Marc was a delight. The main form of communication was charades or Google translate, as Jean-Marc spoke no English. But we all spoke the universal language of fly fishing.

The Brazos was flowing at a nice level. 153cfs. The water was cloudy, even though it has not rained recently. I think this section of the Brazos is often off-colored because the clay bottom puts a lot of silt into the water.

Fishing was slow. Some members caught zero or one fish. Julia was probably the most productive, catching quite a few white bass.

All in all, it was a fun and relaxed outing with good company. We are already looking forward to two outings next month--Latham Springs and Stoney Hollow Park.

More information about Fuller's Folly is available here: https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/lease_access/fullers_folly.phtml



Upcoming DFF Outings

Latham Springs Outing

Our April outing will be at the Latham Springs Camp and Retreat Center. This is one of my favorite outings. Easy bank/wade fishing. Lots of fish. The outing will take place on Saturday April 11, 2026 from 8:00 - 2:30. Outing cost is \$12.00 per person. You pay the day of the outing. If you would like to attend, sign up with Jeff Ziehm. 214-202-2826. jziehm55@gmail.com. The camp requires we provide them with a list of attendees names, so please contact Jeff if you would like to attend.

We will meet for lunch at 1pm by the trees near the picnic tables (marked in orange on the map). Bring a sack lunch, non-alcoholic beverages, and a lawn chair.

We have access to two ponds (marked with a purple check on map) and the Brazos River. Most prevalent species are: Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Catfish, and Sunfish. There is shore fishing available

on all water bodies and wading on the Brazos. For the Brazos, monitor this water gauging station for accurate water flows near our outing [here](#):

I normally fish topwater for the first few hours, and then switch to streamers after the topwater bite slows.

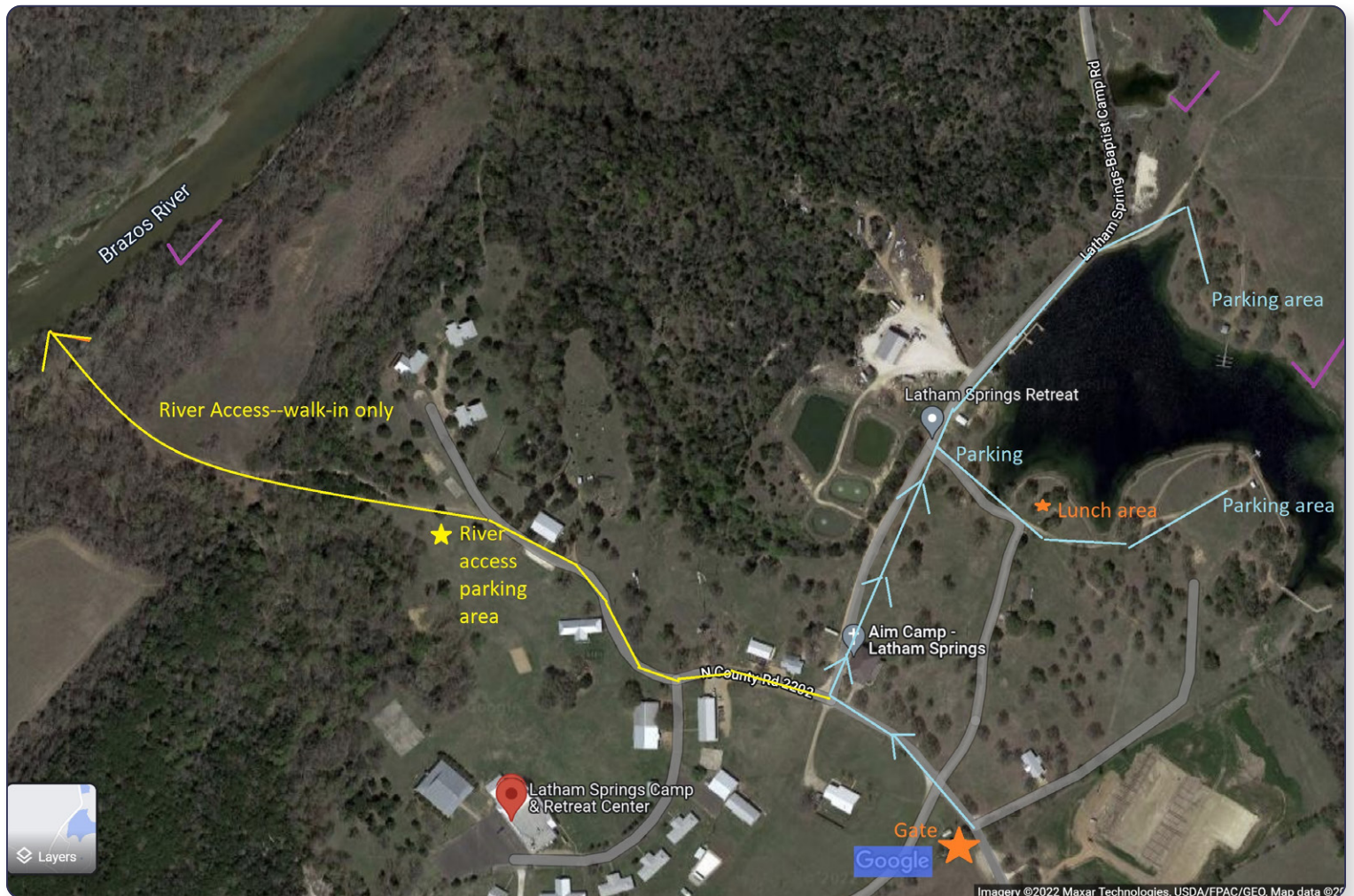
The address is:

Latham Springs Camp and Retreat Center

134 Private RD 223

Aquilla, Texas 76622-2582

Driving Directions: Travel south on I-35 south of Hillsboro; Between Hillsboro and Abbott take the FM 1304 Exit; Travel west on FM 1304 approximately 12 miles to N. County Road 2202; Turn north (right) on County Road 2202, go approximately 3/4 of a mile; At the camp, Country Road 2202 will become Private Road 223.



Stoney Hollow Park Pond Outing

Join us for the DFF April Outing on the morning of April 18th! We'll be fishing at Stoney Hollow Park Pond, just southwest of Hickey Elementary School, located at:

Hickey Elementary School
4100 Coldwater Creek Ln, Plano, TX 75074

This is a City of Plano Public Park. We'll meet in the parking lot at the far southwest corner of the school parking lot. (See Map Below). Meet at the red dot below

Schedule & Location

- Meet @ 8:30 AM
- Fish for several hours
- Head to either Ye'Old Butcher Shop or Lockhart's for some lunch

Fishing Details

Target species include:

- Panfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Carp

We recommend bringing a 4- to 6-weight rod.

Recommended flies:

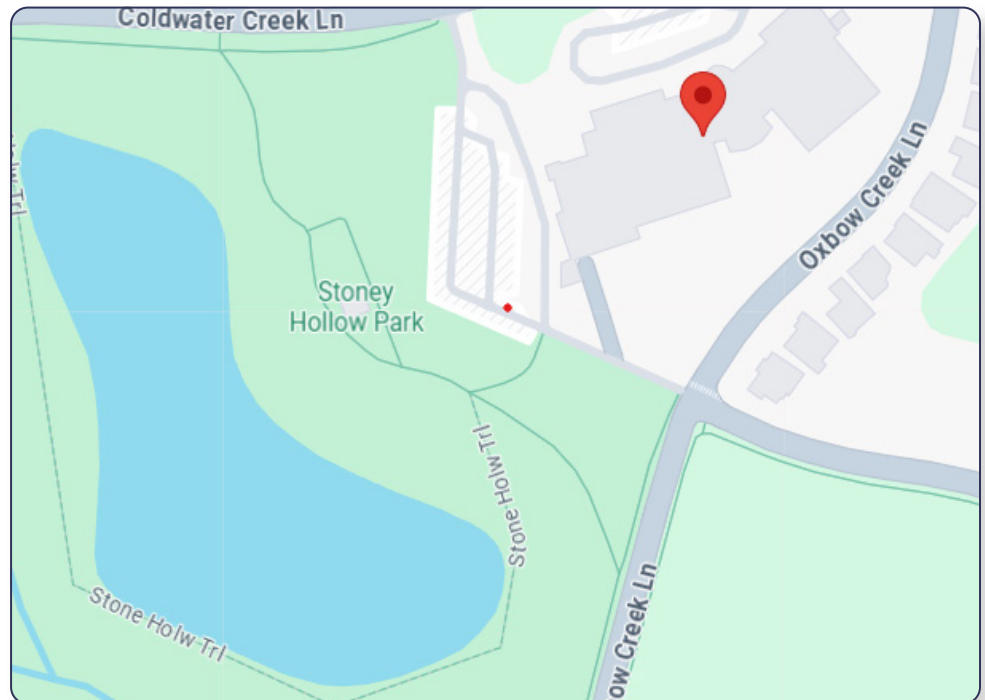
- Poppers
- Small to mid-sized streamers

Please RSVP with Joel Williams:

(972) 880-1788

joel.williams53@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!



Texas Fly Fishers Casting Competition

Welcome to the 1st Texas Fly Fishers Casting Competition, being held on April 11th at 11am at Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie, TX (2511 FM 66, Waxahachie, TX 75167). Admission for competitors is free (\$37 savings) and includes fly fishing gifts and discounts for your fans. Compete in Accuracy and Distance. Send an email to info@kingflyrods.com. We will respond with the King's code for free admission. You must be a fly fisher to enter.



Go Fish!

March on the Brazos!

by Sheryl Latham

Instead of bemoaning the poor white bass run in North Texas this year, pick up your spirits with a trip to the Brazos! There you will find many species, large and small, waiting for your fly!

On a recent trip to fish the Brazos (near Latham Springs), Debbie Williams and I had a terrific day on the water, catching lots of largemouth bass, freshwater drum, and saucer sized sunfish. This was our third stellar trip over the last year with guides Jordan Marsh and Will Herring at [Brazos River Fish Camp](#). Their airboat, though a bit noisy, quickly delivers anglers from one great hole to another, enabling those who enjoy wade fishing to cover a large swath of the Brazos River that might otherwise not be accessible due to low water conditions and limited access points. A float trip can also be arranged, with the airboat delivering anglers and raft to a location far enough south of the Lake Whitney dam to allow a leisurely day of floating and fishing down river to the Fish Camp. On this most recent trip, we fished both up river and down river from Brazos River Fish Camp.

Jordan and I spent most of the day catching big sunnies, bass and drum, while Debbie and Will were targeting big bass. We had great success with a purple Kreelex and a small black mini Dedeaux popper. If you have never fished with Alvin Dedeaux's popper, I highly recommend you give it a try. These tall, thin (mostly glued) foam poppers

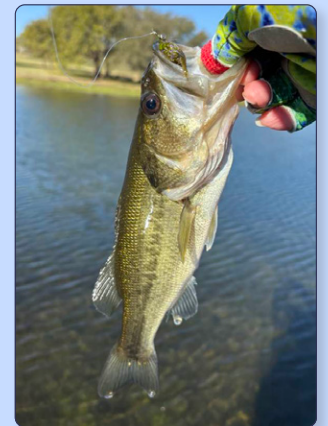


Go Fish!

Our members are taking the card game to a whole new level. Their literal interpretation serves as an inspiration to us all, and what an active bunch we have who love to cast a fly and Go Fish! This new column lets us share in everyone's fishing passion and adventures each month. Feel free to post your photos, story, blurb on our Facebook page or email Julia Bell, interim newsletter editor, flyfishgrl@gmail.com. Short or long, we want your adventures!

Dan Inns--LLELA is perfect flows now, 300 – 500 cfs. Go sight-fishing for Smallmouth Buffalo with slow sinking nymphs or little streamers (left).

LaJan Barnes—My Happy Place! (right)



have incredible action on the water – noisily pushing far more water than the very popular Surface Seducer Double Barrell popper we tried. Debbie also had success with Pat Vanek’s brown bucktail clouser. This super sparse fly is tied with red thread and a little gold flash, and is very productive for white bass and other species. The biggest bass of the day was caught on a black bunny crawfish pattern known as Sky’s Spelunker (Jordan caught a 6.7 lb bass the following day on this fly). With expert coaching from Will and Jordan, we cast the fly out to the desired spot, let it sit on the bottom, with an occasional twitch or short strip to capture the attention of the fish, and then repeated the action until the targeted bass finally committed to removing the annoyance. The clear water and limestone river bottom make sight casting possible.

While you can book a half day trip with Brazos River Fish Camp, I would not recommend that. You would miss a great lunch and so much great fishing! The time passes too quickly when you are catching so many beautiful fish.



Go Fish!

Discombobulation and Catching

by Julia Bell

After driving around East Texas and Central Texas and seeing signs similar to what we saw in the early spring of 2011 before our record-breaking drought, I decided to fish with TWFF at Latham Springs Encampment. Though they may be more challenging to catch, I like to chase river fish, because they can be quite hefty, so I headed to the Brazos River first before spending some time on the lake.

My plan was to go fishing. I didn't do that. I had the



river to myself, and Oh! was I ever so glad about that, not because I was greedy, but because I decided to put on a one-woman show of Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*. I embarrassed myself enough and was grateful there were no witnesses, and then, I went catching.

First, my wading boots of three years did not fit. Wait! What?! Wore the wrong socks, and this already niche sport sure isn't making a Woman's narrow boot—they'd sell maybe three, and two pairs would be to me. Then, my chest waders of at least 10 years would not stay up. I had my phone in my bib pocket, and the waders kept sagging around my waist. What in the world? Being 5'2", wearing waist-high waders won't keep me dry one foot past the shore. Finally got those straps cinched as tight as they would slide, and they stay up respectably. I need a backpack to carry all my diabetes stuff, my lunch, water bottles, and some extra fly boxes. It's too big for me, but hey, it's fluorescent orange, floats (which keeps me from going under when I step off some unseen shelf—not a theory but a truth), and it will carry a second rod nicely. It really has no way to hook things on its outside, so the "system" for carrying my largeish net is not ideal, as evidenced by the number of times it became disconnected, and its 1970s telephone cord tether jerked me back after the net separated at the magnet quick connect and hung up on some stump 10 feet behind me. Then, I fished an area really broadly, about an 8 o'clock to 4 o'clock range. I used my whole body to cast; the spot was great; and I stayed there awhile, which meant my right foot sunk in the soft sand up to my shin. So, I try wriggling my foot back up to the riverbed without losing my boot, and it's not working too well. I just get frustrated and start jerking my leg, hard, and it eventually works so well, that I forgot my physics lesson about an object in motion stays in motion. On that last hard jerk, I freed

my foot and just toppled on over, like someone had just pushed me into the water. I landed on soft mud and didn't have far to fall, so no worries, but now, I was picking algae clumps off of me and dumping water out of my bib pocket. I'm grateful only the good Lord witnessed this debacle; otherwise, TPWD would have demanded their fishing license back and escorted me off the water, post haste. Fear not, though, because my persistence and patience were rewarded and regained my sea legs quite fashionably so. I didn't go fishing; I went catching. I ended the day with 37 fish to hand, catching six different species, and if that's the price the gods demand, I'll gladly pay it to have such a great day on the water.



April Conservation Corner

Invasive Black Carp Nearing Texas' Red River

by Julia Bell

Angler Alert: Be on the lookout for Black Carp!

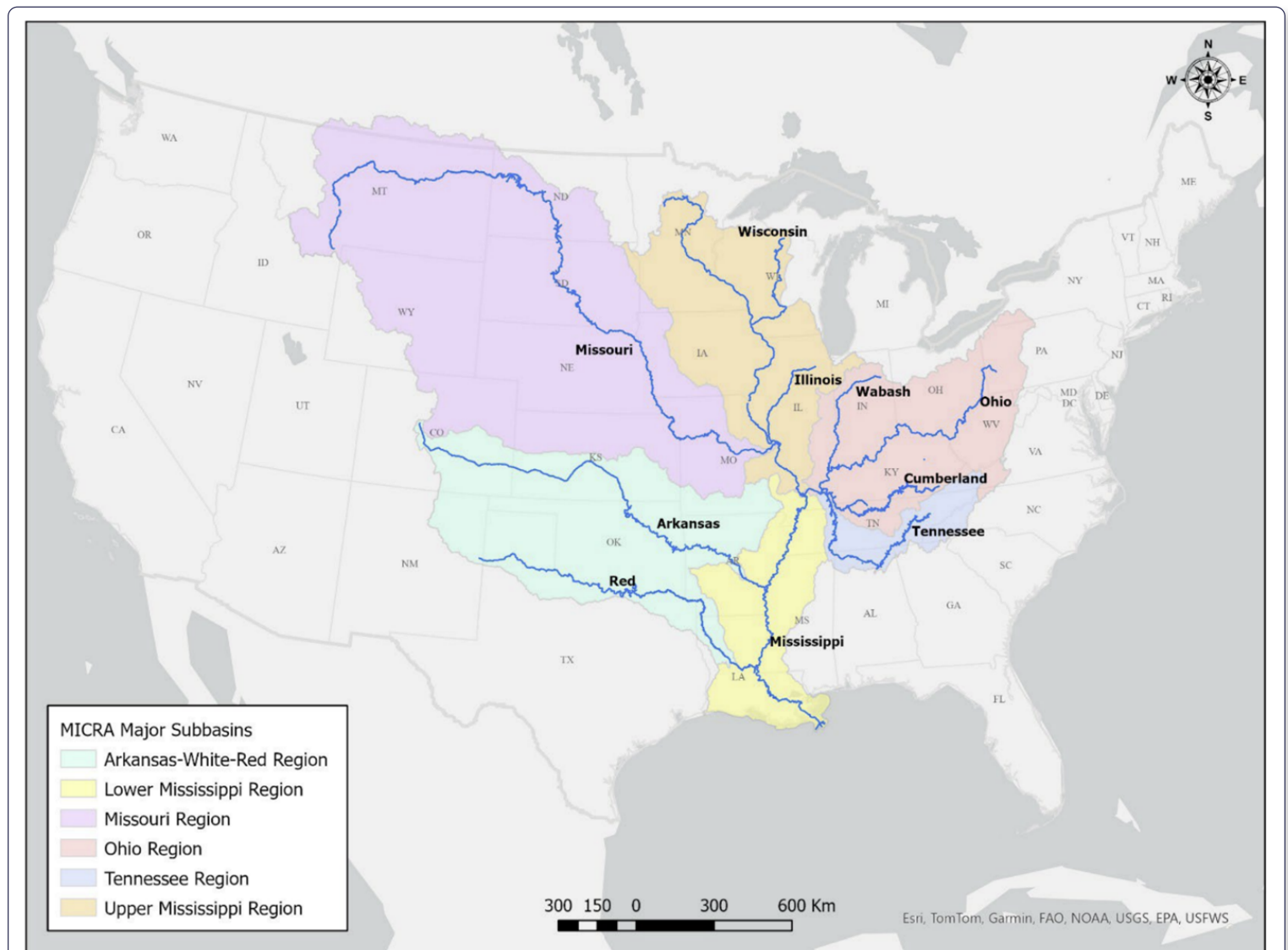
Invasive Black Carp have not yet been documented in Texas, but a new report shows they are now close by in the Red River. If you capture a black carp, you may be eligible for a \$100 per fish bounty.

Bounties of \$100 are available for black carp captures in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Reimbursements are limited to 10 awards per person per month, subject to funding availability. Captures can be from commercial

fishing activities or sportfishing sources (e.g., hook and line or bowfishing). Report catches immediately to your local resource agency.

Black carp and other commonly misidentified species

Black carp and grass carp look similar, but can be differentiated easily as black carp possess a longer and narrower head, darker external coloration (ranging from



Bounty range map

black to blue grey), a nearly straight lateral line with slight decurvature midbody, and when viewed from the top down the upper jaw is not visible. The upper jaw on a grass carp is prominent and visible from the top down and the lateral line initially declines near the length of the pectoral fin then continues straight along the body. Grass carp are olive, silvery white, or olive brown, but coloration should not be used as a primary method of identification because fish color can vary. For more information on invasive carp identification, visit icrcc.fws.gov/fact-sheets. Common carp are a non-native species that possess a single barbel at each corner of the mouth and a stockier elongated body than black carp. Common carp are distributed through the requested reporting range. Darker colored common carp have been mistaken for black carp previously.

Potentially mistaken native species

Blue suckers are a native fish species protected in some waters. Take care to identify and release blue suckers



Blue sucker

Photo: USGS



Bigmouth buffalo

Photo: USGS



Smallmouth buffalo

Photo: USGS



Black carp

Photo: USGS



Grass carp

Photo: USGS



Common carp

Photo: USGS



Common carp barbel

Photo: USGS

alive. Blue suckers are identifiable by the long dorsal fin as pictured, elongate body, and bottom oriented or sucker mouth. Native species of buffalo, such as the smallmouth buffalo and bigmouth buffalo pictured, possess large scales and individuals' coloration may be similar to black carp. The bodies of these fish are stockier than the more elongated black carp

ODWC Confirms First Report of Invasive Black Carp in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation confirmed the first report of a Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) within a private pond in McCurtain County. Black Carp are one of the four invasive carp species (i.e. Bighead Carp, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, Black Carp) native to Asia and found within the United States. They were imported into the United States in the 1970s and 1980s as a biological control agent for snail pests in aquaculture ponds. By the 1990s, Black Carp had escaped captivity and were found in natural waters in the Mississippi River Basin where natural reproduction has been documented.

Black Carp are benthic molluscivores that stay close to the bottom of the water column feeding on mussels and snails. They have strong pharyngeal teeth that they use to crush mollusk shells. Black Carp have the potential to seriously impact already imperiled native mussel species and may compete for food resources with other native benthic fishes including Smallmouth Buffalo.

Arkansas: Rachael Irby mrachael.irby@agfc.ar.gov
(501) 517-3904

Known watershed basins: Arkansas, Red, White, and Lower Mississippi

Oklahoma contact: Erika Sarvela, ODWC Invasive Carp Biologist, at erika.sarvela@odwc.ok.gov or call (580) 596-8025 or (918) 200-4815 for fish identification and to submit your entry.

Known watershed basins: Arkansas, Red and White

Texas contact: Monica McGarrity monica.mcgarrrity@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 552-3465.

Potential watershed basin: Red

Alternative Contacts: USFWS-Columbia FWCO, Jeremiah Smith, jeremiah.smith@fws.gov, office: (573) 306-5889, cell: (573) 864-7301

Tetra Tech, Josh Mitchell, josh.mitchell1@tetrattech.com, (217) 969-2045

State of Illinois, Invasive Species, dnr.ans@illinois.gov

If you catch a Black Carp:

- **KEEP it** - Snap pics and note location
- **COOL it** on ice or freeze it
- **CALL us** so we can track it

1. [Black Carp Found in Oklahoma](#), press release bulletin (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, March 17, 2026)
2. [[@Fish Texas – Texas Parks and Wildlife](#)]. [“Help Us Track Invasive Black Carp.”](#) Facebook, December 16, 2025.

3. [Keep, Cool, Call: What to do if You Capture a Black Carp](#) (Virginia: Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee) July 2025, accessed March 23, 2026

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to: Dallas Fly Fishers 8349 Club Meadows Dr. Dallas, Tx 75243	M E M B E R S H I P / R E N E W A L	
	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	or Renewing My Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (Check one) Date _____
You can also join or renew online at http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html	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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (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