

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *April 2025*
Volume XLVIII ♦ *Number 4* ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The calendar tells us spring has arrived, but the high winds make for temperatures on the cool side. The high winds and dry conditions have made for fire conditions around the state. Hopefully, rain is on the way to help with the dry conditions and top up the lakes and rivers.

The fishing is starting to improve with a number of members reporting good

catch rates on their favorite water. Now that the spring fishing season is underway, be sure to check out your gear before heading to your favorite spot.

The recent Red River Rendezvous was a fun event attended by a number of DFF members. A Girl Scout group was there and had a chance to tie their first fly with some of our club members. Thank you to the members of The Red River Fly Fishers for putting on this event. I'm looking forward to next year already.

The monthly meeting for April will feature BLANE CHOCKLETT on Monday the 7th. Be sure to check The Leader for information on events in the calendar for the month.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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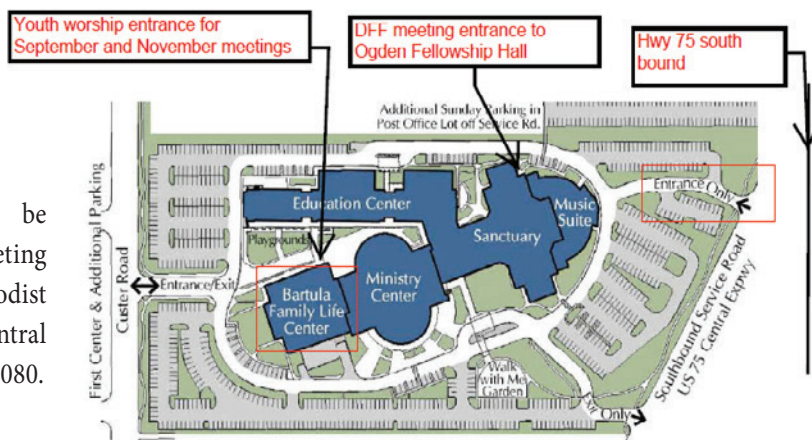
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DFF Program Schedule

This month's meeting will be April 7th at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.



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

The DFF has a new, active line-up prepared for the membership

5-5:45 PM - Happy Hour Hang Out + Snack Time @ Burger Island. Yum! (Less than 5 Minutes from First United Methodist on Arapaho) - 525 W Arapaho Rd #8, Richardson, TX 75080
Menu link: [checkle.menu/burgerisland_richardson](#)

6-6:45PM - FREE Casting Workshop in the Gymnasium adjacent to the Youth Worship

OR 6-6:45PM - Fly Tying Demo in the Church within the room for the month

7PM - Presentation

2025 Program Schedule of the Speakers

April 7th - Blane Chocklett - Guide, Designer & Author

Blane grew up fishing the small mountain streams near his home in Blue Ridge, Virginia. As a youngster, he started a guiding service and, in the late 90s, opened Blue Ridge Fly Fishers in Roanoke, Virginia. Blane has worked for years to create patterns that have all the intricate nuances of flies with the strike-generating action of conventional lures. The Chocklett Factory currently produces many of his most popular patterns.



Blane Chocklett

A decade ago, Blane returned to the river where he now owns and operates his guide service specializing in float trips for musky, smallmouth bass, stripers, trout and many other species. Blane also hosts trips internationally and in the United States.

Blane is the Southeastern Field Editor for [Fly Fishermen](#). He is an advisor or brand ambassador for many of the industry's top brands: Patagonia, Temple Fork Outfitters, Scientific Anglers, Costa, Yeti, Sightline Provisions, Renzetti, Adipose Boatworks and Hog Island Boatworks. For more about Blane, visit his website at [Blane Chocklett](#).

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.

April 7th — **Blane Chocklett, Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

April 12th — **Jerry Hamon Memorial**, 2:00 – 6:00 pm, Lavonia Park Lot 34, Lavon, TX

April 15th — **Third Tuesday Fly Tying**, 6:30 Cabela's in Allen,

April 26th — **Beginner Fly Fishing Class** at LLELA (Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area), 201 E. Jones ST, 9am - 2pm, bring your own water and lunch

May 5th — **Austin Orr, Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

May 16th-17th — **ArkLaTexOma's Bluegill Bash** on Lake O' the Pines, Island View RV Park, Friday 10 - 5; Saturday, 8 - 5, 903-767-7930

June 2nd — **Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

July 7th — **Bill Sargeant Tie Along Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

July 12th – 19th — **South Fork, CO Outing**, lodging at Ute Bluff Lodge, Cabins, & RV Park

July 18th – 19th — **Caddo Flyfishing EXPO**, Jefferson, TX

August 4th — **Katie Cowan & Dani Rose Tie Along, Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

September 8th — **Chase Smith of Fishchase Flies Monthly Meeting**, TBD

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

October 6th — **Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden 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

2025 Newsletter Editor Needed

Due to health concerns, Marshall Baldwin has resigned his position as Newsletter Editor. We wish Marshall continued success in his health recovery. With Marshall's resignation, the DFF is in need of a Newsletter Editor. You will have help and be mentored for as long as you need to feel comfortable in the role. The Newsletter Editor is NOT responsible for designing and formatting the articles. We have a Graphics Designer that takes care of the look of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor position entails:

- Communicating with various members for their monthly contributions
- Monthly deadline is the 23rd; newsletter is typically e-mailed to the membership on the 1st
- Forwarding all monthly content to the Graphics Designer and communicating any needed edits
- Emailing the completed newsletter from the Graphics Designer to the membership
- Attending the monthly Board meetings via Zoom, almost always the first Sunday of the month

If you would be interested in helping the club fill this vital service to the fly fishing community, as our readership extends well beyond our club membership, we would love to have you on the Board as our Newsletter Editor. Please contact Dave Smith at dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com.

DFF March Outings Report

Red River Rendezvous

Photos by Mariya and Al Palmer

The Red River Fly Fishers hosted their annual Red River Rendezvous fly fishing extravaganza March 14th and 15th at Eisenhower State Park on Lake Texoma. Many area fly tyers attended the annual event, and Bill Sargeant and Rex Walker along with several tyers helped a local Girl Scout Troop earn requirements for their fishing badge. Rex helped attendees improve their casting skills, and many tyers shared information about flies they were tying. This is always a fun event hosted by a wonderfully gracious club, so mark your calendars for the 2026 Red River Rendezvous.



The Fickle Nolan River

by Dave Shatzer

This year's Nolan River White Bass Outing was Thursday, March 20th. We decided to schedule the "morning bite." We had a beautiful day, not a cloud in the sky but the temperature was a cool, 39 degrees at 7 AM and later warmed up to 60 degrees. The scenic pictures included in this report were taken by new DFF members, Maria and Albert Krylova. I never heard how the Krylova's did for the entire outing, but Maria pictured holding that white bass was equal to the number of white bass that I caught on my first rip to the Nolan.



Jeff Ziehm and I did a reconnaissance trip on Sunday evening. Jeff caught a few white bass but it was tough sledding. Since it has not rained in North Texas since Friday, March 7, conditions were the same for last Thursday's outing. Lake Whitney is full and impounding still-standing water all the way up the Nolan River to the limestone cliffs over a mile north of Rock Creek. Lake Whitney was full last year but the main difference was this year's lack of rain. This year the upper parts of the Nolan do not have enough water depth for a decent white bass push upstream. Rains over the next few weeks could improve conditions and maybe give a late white bass run this year.

The challenge was to catch white bass in a basic lake setting, not having the usual collection areas for the fish, such as the downstream of riffles. I started out Thursday morning immediately downstream of Rock Creek. It is where Jeff and another fly fisherman caught several white bass at dusk on Sunday night. My usual tandem pair of a chartreuse Clouser followed by an all-white Clouser got no bites.

I had to change it up. First change was the white Clouser fly was replaced by the Clouser on the right side of the picture. Although it may not look like it in the bright sunlight, the third fly is mostly varying shades of gray with some strands of magenta fiber and silver foil down the middle. When the fly is wet, it shows a dark lateral line down the middle. You ask, what does that mimic? Why, of course, it mimics a Blackstripe Topminnow. I did not sleep through last month's speaker, Greg DeMars' talk. He pointed out that the Blackstripe Topminnow is very commonly found in North Texas streams. When Jeff and I were there on Sunday evening, we saw schools of minnows with a dark lateral line. Hmm.

The second thing I changed up was the fishing location. I crossed the Nolan River near Rock Creek and proceeded north on the west bank. Although I never fished from the west bank, I moved north about 400 yards north of Rock Creek. I chose a gravel bar that allowed me to wade out knee deep and cast across to the east bank. At 9 AM, the white bass were hungry for the gray Clouser that mimicked the Blackstripe Topminnow. Almost all the bites were on the trailing gray fly, but the last fish finally bit on the chartreuse Clouser.

So, if your white bass fly box looks anything like mine did with nearly all white and silver Clousers, change it up and get some Clousers with a dark lateral line down the side so you can "Match the hatch."



Scouting America Merit Badge University Fly Fishing Merit Badge, March 15, 2025

by Paul Locklear, Dallas Fly Fishers, Education Director

On an early Saturday morning in the Piney Woods of East Texas, the members of Dallas Fly Fishers and Lonestar Fly Fishers teamed up for a joint venture at Trevor Rees-Jones Scout Camp. They conducted a beginner fly fishing course for the Scouting American Merit Badge University.

Each Scout learned parts and balance of the fly rod and how it works, how to demonstrate the ability to cast a fly rod 30 feet consistently and accurately using both overhead and roll cast, tying flies and matching the hatch, and

learned about different types of flies, including wet, dry, streamers, and popper flies.

Scouts demonstrate how to tie knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing. Scouts reviewed a copy of the Texas Fishing Regulations and discussed Fishing Laws. Further discussions included Fishing Ethics, Sportsman Behavior and how it relates to fishing, and Code of Scouting America, including aspects of "leave no trace".

It takes a lot of extra effort to make these events successful, and I would like to recognize and thank the instructors for going above and beyond. This is a day-long event and one that is always a pleasure to watch these young people learn a new sport and advance to their next levels in scouting.

Upcoming DFF Outings

South Fork, Colorado Outing

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 2025 are July 12-19.

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](#).

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.



Gerald “Jerry” Hamon

**December 11, 1954 -
February 24, 2025**



Caddo Flyfishing Expo

When: July 18th & 19th, 2025 • Where: Historic Downtown Jefferson Texas (44 miles from Shreveport, LA)



Details:

You are an accomplished fly tyer. The North Louisiana Fly Fishers would like to invite you to be one a select group of fly tyers to participate in the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets. The general store is a destination of it's own.

The event will offer:

- Incredible fishing on Big Cypress Bayou just steps from the front door of the convention center.
- Reserved tying spot for Friday afternoon and all day Saturday
- Dinner for invited tyers Friday night (plus complementary food Saturday)
- Seminars , bucket draws, and raffles all day Saturday

This will be the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

If successful, we plan to offer the expo every odd numbered years. The success of this event depends on quality fly tyers like yourself. We would love for you to be a part of this successful event. Spots are limited. If you can participate please let us know. Email the club at: nlffclub@gmail.com

Please put "Caddo flyfishing expo" in the subject line of email. This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets.

The general store is a destination of it's own.

If you have questions feel free to contact Steve Oliver at: 318-349-6411 or Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854

ArkLAtEXOMA Fly Tyers

Second Annual



*Bluegill Bash on
Lake O' the Pines*

Friday May 16th, 10 – 5 Saturday May 17th, 8 - 5

Island View RV Park - 1099 Lindsey Rd.

Jefferson, Texas 75657 903.767.7930

(30 minutes from Jefferson, Texas)

Friday – Fly Tying and Fellowship

Saturday – Fly Tying and Fishing

There will also be...

- Casting Contest
- Free Casting Lessons by Certified Casting Instructors
- Mystery Fly Fishing Bream Tournament
- ...and more!

Visit our webpage for more information:

Arklatexomaflytyers.com

Questions feel free to call Mike Hawkins 903.353.3357

An Average Angler's Blue Ribbon Tour

Adventure Log: Part 2

by Colby Burke

The itinerary:

Dallas, TX

Navajo Dam, NM

Gunnison Gorge, CO

Salida, CO

Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Yellowstone National Park, WY

Cascade, MT

Flaming Gorge, UT

Dallas, TX

Gunnison Gorge, CO: June 24-29

Getting into the gorge was intense to say the least. It was easily the most nerve wracking, dangerous off road driving I'd ever done, in the unforgiving dark of midnight no less. The trail was one truck wide, winding through the canyon, occasionally mere inches from cliff edges towering up to 100 feet. Although considered child's play by experienced off-roaders, it was terrifying for the uninitiated. The campsite was completely empty, featuring amenities like no cell service whatsoever. The bugs, however, were encouraging. I had never seen that many Caddis in one place. As I laid my head down on the pillow in my truck camper that night, I was ecstatic for what I was sure would be unbelievable fishing the next morning.

It was immediately clear in the morning that this place was magical. There was a Yellow Sally hatch in tandem with a thick Caddis hatch. The river was at a slight boil resulting from the abundance of rising fish. After casting for about three hours and trying six different dry flies in an attempt to match the hatch, I finally found a willing trout. A beautiful 12-13-inch brown trout ate a size 18 Caddis emerger, tied below a parachute adams. After that first fish it got a little tough again, but with my newfound confidence in this fly, the only of its kind I had in the box, I tried a different spot. I found an island dividing the river into one big and one small run. I fished the small, shallow, and clear run. I had to crouch approaching the water to not spook the trout I observed feeding on the surface. While stalking close to the fish in the tall grass I began casting from one knee, like they do in New Zealand. I immediately snagged the tall grass behind me. After duck-walking over to retrieve

my flies, I continued with my potentially unnecessary display of stealth. My Caddis emerger was eaten the moment I got my flies near the bank, underneath the overhanging bushes, which took some effort. I caught 3 fish from the one single run, within 30 minutes. All relatively small, with the biggest being around 13 inches but I was finally beginning to feel like a real fly angler.

I came back to camp to find my \$130 shower bag that I left to heat up in the relentless sun had been taken. After some pouting, I accepted my losses, made dinner, and headed off to bed.

I emerged from my camper in the morning sporting only my boxers, fully confident that I would still be alone. As I prepared my morning coffee, a drift boat pulled into the ramp next to me. I threw on a pair of tan trail pants as quickly as I could.



The guide asked me if I left a shower bag out yesterday. I got my shower bag back! Well, kind of. He offered to mail it to me.

Another boat came up before I left the campsite. The guide in this boat walked right up to me and asked if I wrestled upon noticing my disfigured ears. After explaining that my cauliflower ear is from training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, we talked about my trip for a bit. He was so intrigued by my story that he gave me nearly

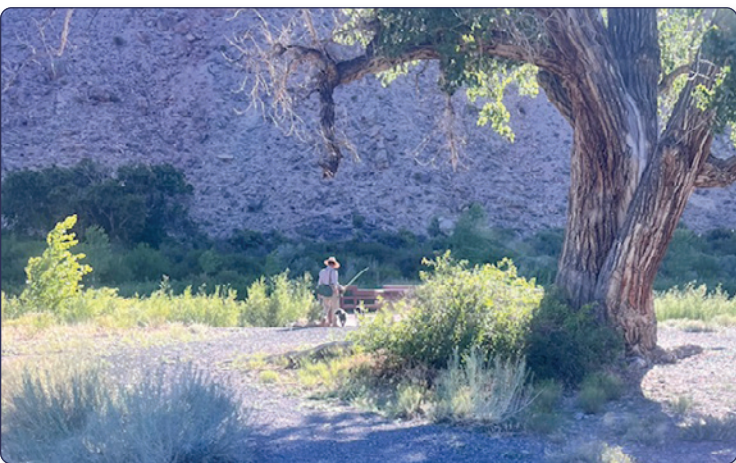


\$30 worth of flies.

Upon beginning my day of fishing, I tried every dry fly in my box including the flies the guide gave me. Nothing was working. I went back to the truck and got my lone Caddis emerger from yesterday. I got bit immediately. First cast. Later, I had to do some technical casting to sneak my fly 40-50 feet away below a tree in heavy wind. A guide floating past told me I looked like I knew what I was doing, which was much needed encouragement on a tough day of fishing. I caught one skinny brown trout around 14 inches under that tree.

The Gunnison Gorge is visually breathtaking, and the fishing action packed. I headed off to bed with newfound confidence and optimism for the morning's fishing adventure. Although I had only one Caddis emerger, I knew I could at least land a few fish.

Following a solid seven fish day, I met a man named Jeff and



his partner Annette. We discussed our day of fishing and how camping was going. They were camping in the same campground as me. When it began to rain, we decided to head back and continue our conversation at their campsite. Upon arrival, Jeff suggested I go catch a fish, so he could judge my skills. I

immediately tangled my leader around the rod. Devastating. After untangling my rig, I enticed a strike quickly. The small brown trout did not gently take my fly, but rather obliterated it. I landed the eight-inch trout after a short fight. Wet wading in sandals amidst the pouring rain, in the middle of nowhere Colorado. What a remarkable memory.

The river was running like chocolate milk in the morning because of all the rain. I stopped early for lunch and hung out under the awning for around an hour and a half. I met an older man and proudly told him I was on a six week fly fishing trip, to which he replied, "So you just left your wife at home to work?"

Shortly after virtually fleeing from that conversation, the river had begun to clear up, so I went back out. As was the pattern, Caddis and Yellow Sallies were the ticket. I managed to net a couple beautiful, but small brown trout.

As the sun began to set, I went back to camp to do chores. The chores included my first ever river bath, my first in any capacity in seven days. With the water running at 53 degrees, it was all I could do to submerge myself completely twice, once to wet and once to rinse. To my surprise I felt clean. After warming back up, I did laundry with a truly breathtaking view of the setting sun's rays peeking over the cliff faces of the Gunnison Gorge.

Later in the evening, I met a man named Mike. Mike was fly casting nicely, dodging a tree in his back cast, a dock railing in his front cast, and expertly managing his line, all with two dogs tied to his belt. He came over to talk to me and one of his dogs took a massive dump, 20 feet from my truck camper while we were talking. I am aware that is not the most eloquent piece of literature, but it's accurate. He said, "looks like he left you a present" and walked away without picking it up. Do not be like Mike.

I decided it best to leave the gorge. My bug spray had run dry, the trash was piling up, and the ice in my cooler was rapidly changing states of matter. So, I headed for the Arkansas River, but not before stopping at a recreation center for my first proper shower since I got to the San Juan. I felt like a new man.



Gunnison Gorge: Camaraderie: 5/10

Fishing: 7/10

Accessibility: 3/10

Amenities: 2/10

Salida, CO: June 29 – July 2

A few short hours after my shower, I drove over the continental divide. Honestly, I have no idea what that means, but I do know that it was high enough in elevation, 12,100 ft, that I had to grab my emergency oxygen canister. I'm unsure of the side effects of high altitude, but it was difficult to focus. After a couple close calls, I made it over the continental divide, thanks in part to my emergency oxygen.

My first sight of the Arkansas River was concerning. The whitewater rivaled that of famed rafting rivers across the country. I planned to see how fishable it was in the morning light.

Upon sunrise, it was clear that the Arkansas was completely unfishable and unsafe to wade. The local fly shop, Arkanglers, directed me to an alpine lake about an hour away. With a clear forecast until the evening and a full box of flies, I was optimistic.

About halfway through the steep two-mile hike to the lake I began to hear thunder and see storm clouds forming over the mountains. Foolishly I carried on. By the time I got to the lake the rain had begun to fall, and the thunder was directly overhead. It was too late to turn back, so I waited out the weather in the lakeside alpine meadow. After 30 minutes of light rain and mild thunder, the weather subsided.

With clear skies, I began to chase the greenback cutthroat trout that call this lake home. After about two action free hours, and countless fly changes I found where the fish were staging. I finally got the fly selection right and caught my first greenback cutthroat ever. A beautiful little eight-inch fish, with colors vibrant as a strutting peacock. Just then, the second storm began to roll in over the mountaintops.

This storm felt much more ominous. I figured it was best to stay put because the trail was surrounded by towering, spindly pine trees. At 11,800 feet I endured a relatively severe thunderstorm, featuring small hail, for about 30 minutes. As soon as it passed, I scrambled down the mountain to the safety of my truck.

Following my chilly brush with Mother Nature, I set out for camp to meet up with Danny for the first time. I met Danny on a Reddit post I made, inviting other anglers to come fish with me. If my mom knew I was meeting up with a stranger from the internet, she would have been furious.

Danny was a super nice guy. He brought me Reese's, even though he is allergic to peanuts. I couldn't wait to fish with this guy in the morning.



Danny was insistent on fishing a stretch of the Arkansas headwaters. I agreed, allowing spontaneity to keep the trip from becoming over planned or stale. The water was astonishingly high and fast. After searching for current breaks and pocket water, I discovered a small tributary. I threw my size 6 olive dungen into the meeting point of the streams and got a strong take, my first cast in this new spot. The fish made a mad dash for the fast water but luckily, I was using a 16-pound leader on my 8-weight streamer rod. I was able to turn its head and guide the fish into the net. This was the prettiest 16-inch brown trout I have ever seen.

Upon releasing that fish, the bite was nonexistent, so we decided to do reconnaissance on some spots for tomorrow via the local fly shop's expertise. They were able to direct us to a spot to fish tomorrow and recommend some dispersed camping spots on public land.

We left for the Blue River at dawn. It is a gorgeous stretch of river when it's running properly. Unfortunately, it was not running properly that day. The water was high. After covering some ground, we managed to find a spot that looked like it could hold fish. A nice shallow run with a large boulder disrupting the mild current. I threw the trusty olive dungen from yesterday just downstream of the boulder and got bit on my fourth cast. I missed the hook set. That was the story of the entire day, missed fish.

Salida, CO: Fishing: 5/10

Camaraderie: 10/10



April Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Spring time in Texas.....in my opinion a great time to be alive. After a fairly mild Winter, the flowering trees in my neighborhood are sprouting. Little green buds and white flower buds cover the early sprouting varieties. My Red Oak came through with zero damage and little need to do some trimming. My two Crepe Myrtles are budding out and are in need of more water to bring them online. To the best of my knowledge, our Northeast Corner of Texas is ready for the spring storms and the rain. The downside is that this is the



range fire season. Otherwise, the usual spring activities are trying to get off the ground.

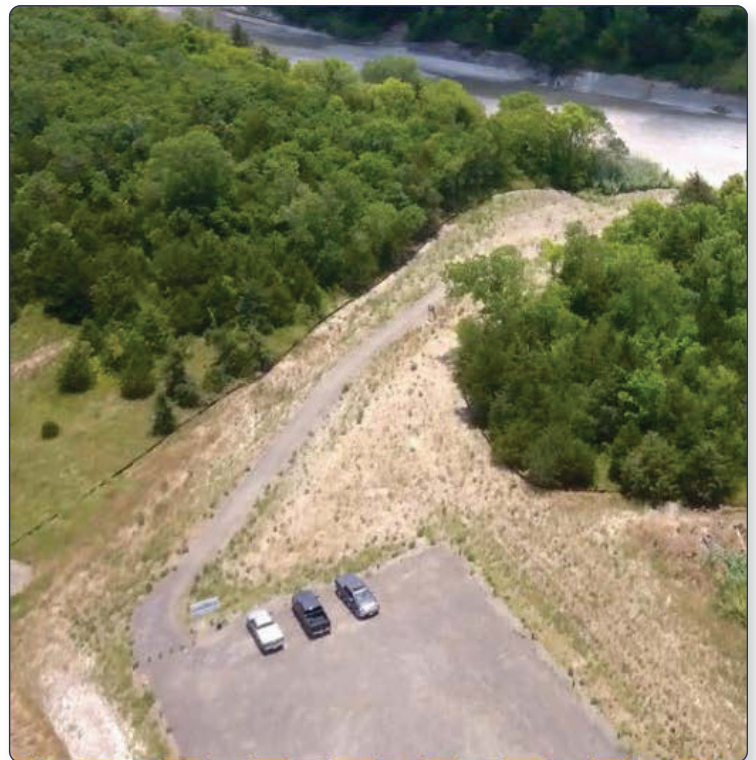
Our beloved outdoors is about to be invaded by the city folks. Their lack of understanding of our world is amazing. I think many of them think the sign below is actually how they are to behave. Of course, the Bison see it as the beginning of the Tourist Tossing Season, so if you are out there and see some unenlightened tourist about to risk the life of an innocent child, go kick their anatomy. We, who have lived among the big grazing animals, whether it was on a farm or spending a lot of time in the wild, cannot believe the magnitude of the ignorance shown as tourists risk it all approaching a large animal without any sense of the potential risk involved. Last year, we lost the Sow Grizzly that was believed to be the oldest of the Yellowstone/Grand Teton herd with her new cubs. Fortunately, she lived long enough to get the new bears trained in how to be a successful Park Bear. But that big bear was famous and many who knew a little about the Grizzly Families were feeling the loss.

The New Dam and Third Lake

The Lake Ralph Hall project is approaching a significant milestone with the imminent completion of the final section of its 32-mile water delivery pipeline. Last month, key stakeholders, including the Upper Trinity board members and staff, engineers, contractors, and local city and county officials, gathered to celebrate the extensive collaboration that facilitated this achievement. The event featured speeches from principal project partners and attendees had the opportunity to sign a commemorative piece of pipe for future display.

Garney Construction, serving as the Construction Manager at Risk for the pipeline, collaborated with five engineering, construction, and consulting firms, and 11 contractors to install 3,400 sections of pipe.

“This project epitomizes teamwork and coordination at every stage,” stated Garney Area Manager, Andrew Beck. “Daily coordination was necessary with the other engineering, construction, and consulting companies on both pumped and gravity-flow segments of the pipeline, tunnels beneath roads, or other infrastructure, a new balancing reservoir and control station, as well as a new pump station managed and built by Archer Western.”



I am more interested in the new Fossil Dig Area. This will be a park, with facilities like picnic areas and parking so families will have a place to work with the youth and explain what they are finding.

The temporary Ladonia Fossil Park was permanently closed on March 3rd. They planned closure was necessary to protect the public as construction on the Leon Hurst Dam continues. Water is backing up in the North Sulphur River channel causing the temporary park to be inaccessible. In addition, construction crews will soon begin clearing land near the temporary park.

“Safety remains our top priority, and we appreciate the public’s patience as we work to build a new, permanent fossil park with access downstream of the Leon Hurst Dam.”

Upper Trinity is coordinating with the city of Ladonia, and the Ladonia Chamber of Commerce to open a new fossil park on FM 904 this fall (2025). The permanent park will have a parking lot, easy access to the riverbed, and additional amenities. Upper Trinity will share more about the new park as its opening approaches.

The Damage caused by DOGE (pronounced like it was spelled “DOG’s”) is being felt in our outdoor world.

The wilderness manager for Washington’s Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, coordinates maintenance for over 600 miles of trails. Thirteen projects had been planned for 2025,

among them fixing up the gnarliest section of the 2,650-mile-long Pacific Crest Trail. The work would have required Forest Service workers to helicopter into the Mica Lake area to clear trails by hand so horses could get through to provide stock support for volunteers to conduct repair work.

The loss of these key environmental stewards will be keenly felt across the West, home to most of the nation’s public lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Besides the personal blow of losing what many workers described as “a dream job,” the impacts will have a massive ripple effect on the health of public lands — and on people’s ability to enjoy them safely.

Forest Service employees generally tackle arduous, unglamorous work that, if done correctly, is invisible to most of those who benefit from it. Every winter, when visitor numbers dip along with the temperature, snowstorms and avalanches topple trees and wreck infrastructure. Come spring, agency personnel begin clearing trails and repairing structures to prepare for the summer crowds. In designated wilderness areas, where mechanized tools are prohibited, not even power drills or wheelbarrows are allowed. Licensed trail managers clear routes using crosscut saws, axes and occasionally an explosive or two.

THE FOREST SERVICE STAFF targeted by DOGE also include the biologists and botanists who ensure that projects on public land comply with environmental regulations. These staff members conduct surveys of the landscape before signing off on logging, mining or other activities. The sudden hemorrhaging of agency employees means that many economically valuable



projects will be delayed or halted altogether.

Judy and I grew up in this Northern Cascade wild country. We hiked and camped with the family we had as well as the family we were born into. Here is a picture of a 4 month old Jere being held by my Mother.



She and Dad were hikers, climbers and campers. Judy's family was also an outdoor family in these North Cascade wild country. I am fearful of the possible effect on this pristine environment due to drastic reductions in support for them.

And at Home on The Fly Fishing Front Lines...

Jere loves all the teaching and presentations we get to do for the public. I love to have a tying station and tie for the public at Sow Bug, the Red River Rendezvous, and the like. For many of my 30+ years with the DFF, Dave Smith, Fred DuPre, the Bell Family, and many others would look for where the DFF Table was so we could all be together. IMO it was a backbone activity of the Club.

Our many teaching activities at Recreation Centers, often with a kid fishing event attached, was as important to me as my Church Youth Fishing opportunities. We have a huge number of Area Chiefs of Angler Education and Boy Scout CAI certified members that are scattered to the four winds for much of the Spring.

So while we are a fishing Club, we are a public-spirited group that takes our opportunities to enlighten the public seriously. A booth on Earth Day and participating in Trash Off Events were things we did to make our little corner of the planet a better place.

You get the picture. We have much to be proud of and should stand proud in the light of our group's considerable work. I wish you all a long and Happy involvement in the Conservation Activities. Our work is fun and important.



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