

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ February 2025
Volume XLVIII ♦ Number 2 ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The Texas weather at the moment has us staying close to home and off the water. We now have a chance to get our gear in order for the warmer days ahead. Your fly boxes can be organized and replacement flies tied up.

Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife site to see the list of stockings of trout near you. Watch the calendar in The Leader for tying events provided by club members Dan Montayne and Danny Soltau.

Heading into the warmer months there are some must visit events on the calendar.

- Red River Rendezvous March 14-15 in Denison Tx.

- Nolan River outing March 20th

- If fly tying is your passion put the Sow Bug Roundup March 27-29 in Mountain Home AR. on your to do list. I have tied there a number of times in the past. You will have a chance to watch over 60-70 tiers from many states do their magic at the bench. If you have not gone before it

is well worth the trip with great fishing in the area.

Hope your New Year is off to a good start and be sure to wet a line when you have a chance.

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

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



In The February Issue

Page:

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | On the Water |
| 2 | DFF Board 2025 |
| | DFF Program Schedule |
| | 2025 Program Schedule of the Speakers |
| 3 | 2025 Calendar |
| | January Outings Report |
| 4 | Upcoming DFF Outings |
| 6 | Caddo Fly Fishing Expo |
| | Fly Tying Events |
| 7 | Fly Tying Corner |
| 8 | International Sowbug Roundup |
| 9 | Conservation Corner |
| 11 | Membership Renewal Form |

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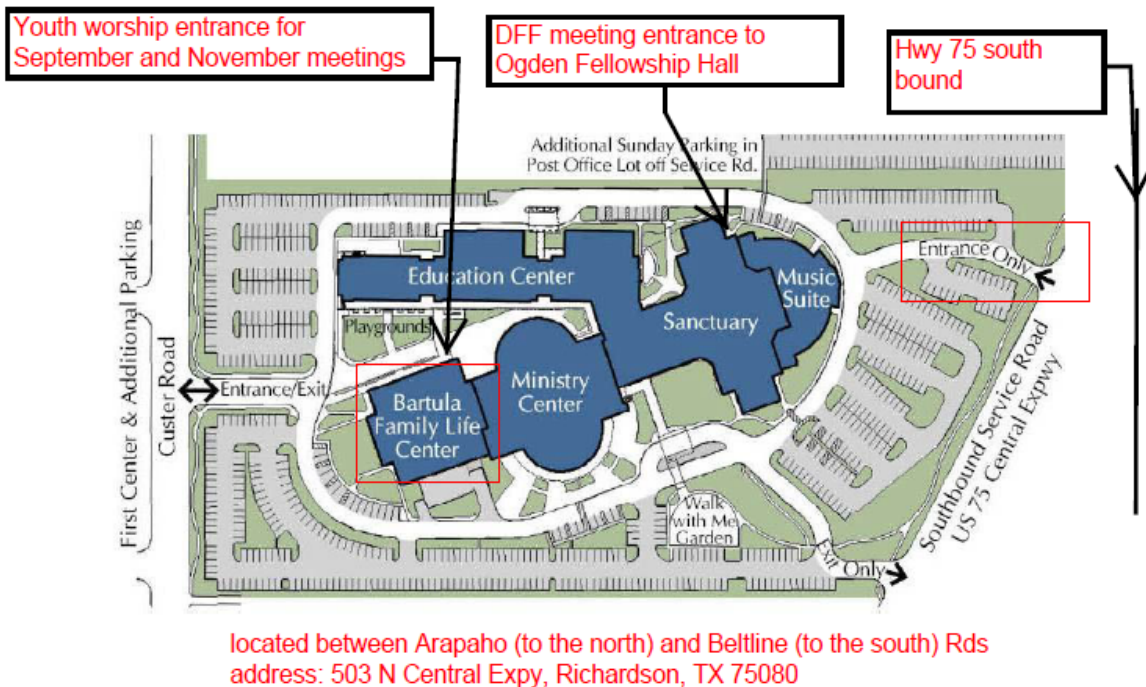
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DFF Program Schedule



This month's meeting will be February 3 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 07:00 PM.

2025 Program Schedule of the Speakers

February 3rd: Capt. William Townsend will be coming up from Corpus Christi to talk about his guiding operation for redfish and speckled trout in the Rockport/Corpus area. A couple of our members have fished with William and he is one of the preferred guides on the Texas coast.

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.

February 3rd — Capt. William Townsend, Monthly Meeting, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

February 15th — Bonham SP Outing, 9am - 4 pm, meet at the Boat Dock

February 18th — Cabela's Allen Third Tuesday Tying, 6:30pm

February 22nd — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, Rosemeade Center, 1330 E. Rosemeade PKWY, Carrollton, 9am - 2pm, bring your own water and lunch

February 23rd — Stream Life Furneaux Creek Nature Trail, 10am

March 3rd — Monthly Meeting, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Room 203

March 10th — 11th DBU Dr. Ray Galloway's Outdoor Experience Class, KNES 1111 DBU Campus

March 14th & 15th — Red River Rendezvous, Eisenhower State Park, Denison, TX

March 15th — Boy Scout Merit Badge, Trevor Reese Scout Camp, Athens, TX, 8am - 4pm

March 20th — DFF White Bass Outing, Nolan River, meeting at Rock Creek Bridge, 7:00 am

March 27th - 29th — Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home, AR

March 29th — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, 367 Freeport PKWY, Coppel, 9am - 2pm, bring your own water and lunch

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

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 — Monthly Meeting, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

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

July 7th — 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 — Monthly Meeting, 6:30 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

September 8th — 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 — DFF Holiday Party, location TBD

DFF January Outings Report

Goose Island State Park

Wednesday: The trip began Wednesday evening when I met Colby at Goose Island State Park, and we set up camp for the adventure ahead.

Thursday: Thursday morning, we met a new friend, Bob, at the kayak launch. The day started rough for Colby when his trolling motor broke, and shortly after, he snapped a paddle. While Colby stayed closer to the boat ramp, Bob and I paddled toward the flats. Thankfully, fishing improved as the day went on. By the afternoon, we caught 4 redfish (24"-28") and 6 black drum, all shaped like footballs. Colby capped off his challenging day with a solid 24" redfish.

Friday: The three of us reunited at the kayak launch Friday morning, heading straight for the flats. Overcast skies made sight fishing tricky, so we adjusted our approach to chase tailing fish instead—a decision that paid off. Our totals for the day included 1 flounder, 4 redfish, and 2 black drum.

Saturday: Colby left early for a Jiu-Jitsu tournament in San Antonio (where he won—congrats, Colby!). Bob and I ventured back to the flats for one last outing. The redfish were especially picky, refusing most of our offerings. Switching tactics, we paddled over to some cuts and landed 6 speckled trout. By noon, strong winds from an incoming front blew us off the bay, ending the trip.

Conclusion: Despite some early setbacks and challenging conditions, the trip was a fantastic success filled with great fishing and new friendships. We're already looking forward to our next adventure!

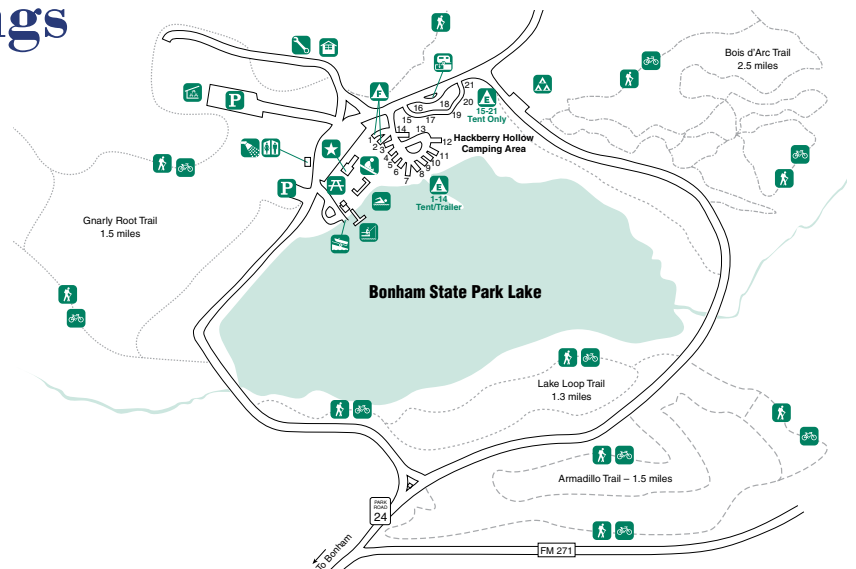




Upcoming DFF Outings

Bonham State Park

For February, and with cooperation of the weather, the DFF is headed north to Bonham State Park on Saturday 15 February 2025 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm to chase Bass and Panfish. The lake is 65 acres and has shore access for wade fishing and kayaks, float tubes, and boats under trolling motor power are allowed on the lake. To learn more about Bonham State Park, click this link: [Bonham State Park website](https://www.texasstateparks.com/bonham). For more information, please contact Joel Williams, the DFF Outings Chair.



Nolan River White Bass Outing

by Dave Shatzer

Spring fishing season will be starting in about a month. We have planned the March DFF outing for the white bass run at the Nolan River on Thursday, March 20. Program your navigation app to Blum, Texas, just south of Cleburne. We will be trying the “morning bite” and so we will meet at **7 AM, March 20 at the bridge over Rock Creek, 1.7 miles of Blum on FM 933**. We park on either side of the highway just to the north of the bridge. The

trail to the Nolan River is on the west side of the highway. When the white bass are in the Nolan River, they normally are not picky. White, silver, and chartreuse clousers, or anything that looks like a shad minnow are the “fly of the day.”

For those interested, we will meet for lunch at the Break Room Brewing Co., just south of Cleburne on Route 174, at 1 PM. So get up early and join us on March 20.

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.

<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.



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

Fly Tying Events

The DFF has three fly tying events per month. The **Third Tuesday** is organized by **Dan Montayne** at Cabela's/Bass Pro and has been going for four years now. Check out his article above and make sure to be there for PART 2 of his dubbing class.

He will also bring tools if you call ahead.

The second and last Tuesday of the month, Danny hosts a free tying night at McNeals in Downtown Plano. Show up early and get some good food. The tying starts about 7PM. The patterns are selected by Danny of the Dirty Water Fly Company who brings the materials. If you need tools, call ahead and he will probably have enough of them for you too. Both of these gentlemen have contact information in the newsletters for their activity, be sure to call them for information.

Join us for Open Tying Nights twice a month on the 2nd & last Tuesdays @ 7 PM in the south room! All materials provided, please RSVP to reserve tools if needed!

RSVP at Dirty Water Fly Co or drop an email to dan@dirtywaterflyco.com 469-573-5040

32nd Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

DFF Fly Tying Corner

by Julia Bell

Cody and I attended the Texas Flyfishers of Houston annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival on 25 January. Though the venue has changed from Bethany Christian Church (the church sold to another church), the Terrace United Methodist Church offered an excellent venue as well, and was a little warmer though less nostalgic than the old gym. We visited with several friends and were glad to see Fort Worth Fly Fisher Russell Husted there as well. At one time, more than a dozen DFFers headed south to tie at this event. Oddly enough, I learned about the DFF at the 2002 festival.

This year's featured speaker was Josef Borski, whose presentations covered unique, saltwater flies. Other topics were about Marabou, Weed Guards, and saltwater flies. Cody tied the Big Dale Bonefish Fly, which attracted the

attention of many Houston members who thought they would be excellent for their upcoming White Bass Run beginning mid-to late February; Russell tied his Natural Hair Clousers; and I, who was attracted to this crazy Ripple Ice Fiber material from Gordy & Sons and coneheads with eye cutouts from Fishing Tackle Unlimited, created a fly hopeful of catching Largemouth Bass and Gar; I named it pa'o, pronounced pah-oo, as it reminds me of a Hawaiian Hula skirt I once saw, and I also tied Bob Ververka's Foxy Tail Crab.

Cody and I love this event and appreciate the opportunities it provides attendees to hear from some great featured and local tyers. Mark your calendars for January 2026.



Adding to the Bells' fly boxes



Russell's Natural Hair Clousers

28th Annual
INTERNATIONAL
SOWBUG
ROUNDUP

Presented by North Arkansas Fly Fishers

MARCH 27TH - 29TH, 2025

**Welcome to a Top 10
Fly-Fishing Destination.**



Pat Dorsey

Master Fly-Fishing Guide



Tim Flagler

Fly Tying Instructor

*Join us as we
**Celebrate Euro
Nymphing** on
the Norfolk
& White Rivers
with vendors,
seminars, food,
& special guests!*



**Baxter County
Fair Grounds**

Mountain Home, AR

**FREE
ADMISSION**

for adults accompanying
children 12 and under

9am - 4pm



February Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson



Welcome to our Texas 6-day winter. While it was fun watching the lovely snowflakes fall, many people were inconvenienced to the point of being at risk of damage, both personal and financial. Later, near the end of the month, we had some temperatures in the teens, which are enough to do real damage.

Typically, we will have a bit more weather fun this year, and then a very wet March to get us off to 2025 in style.

The Texas Winter Energy shortfall is upon us.

What is abundantly clear is that some developments of additional electric sources are vital. With all the EV Charging stations and all the new modern homes going up in Texas that need a clean, reliable energy source, it is imperative that we have a plan, and that it gets funded and implemented.

It was not that long ago that a hugely hard winter storm resulted in a rolling blackout to conserve energy to ensure that everyone got some of it in time to save their house from burst pipes and structural destruction. Our home was saved by having hot water that did not need electricity, and a huge fireplace with a gas log that was able to keep the house up to the low 40 degree range.

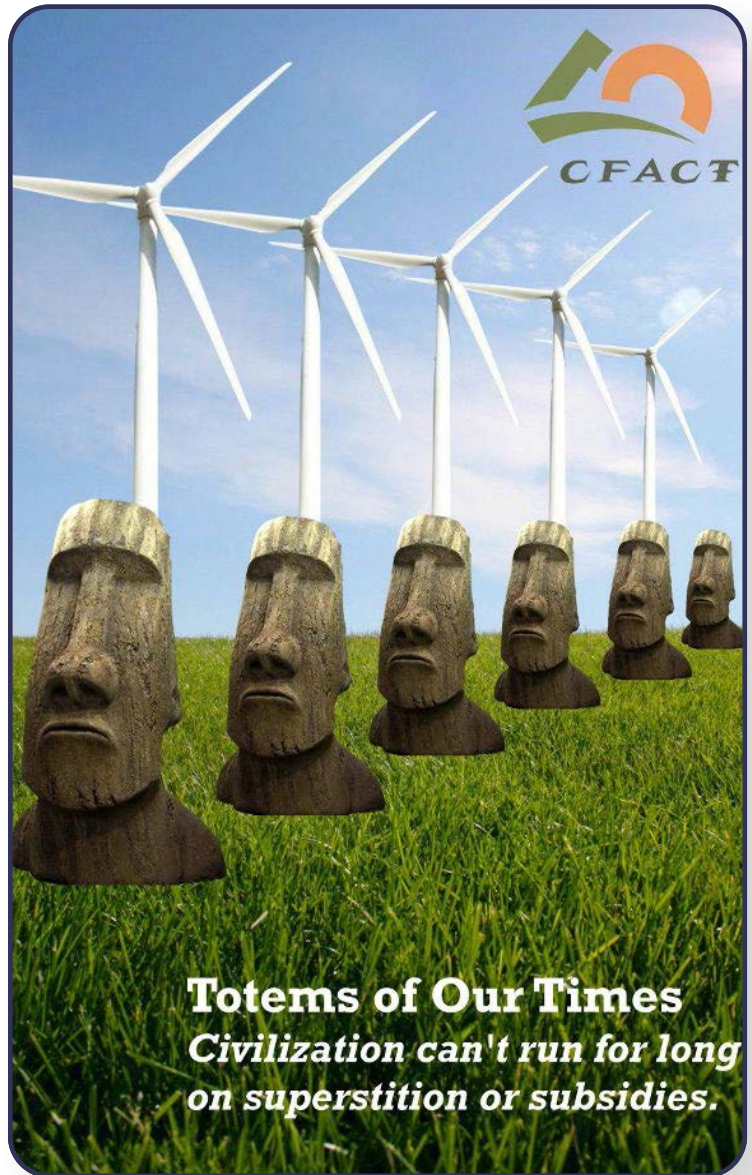
The so-called green energy is not adequate and will not handle more than minor amounts of hard cold weather. It has even come to be a major pronouncement of the new Presidential Administration. Their thoughts on wind and solar power are rather harsh as President Trump reflected:

“Windmills are littered across our country like dropping paper, like dropping garbage, it is the most expensive energy ever. They only work if they get subsidies. The only people who want them are the people getting rich off the subsidies. So we’re going to try and have a policy where no windmills are being built....Off the coast of New Jersey they want to build like 200 windmills and people are going crazy. Nobody wants them.... You see what’s happening in the Massachusetts area with the whales. They had two whales wash ashore in a seventeen-year

period, and now they had, what, fourteen this season? The windmills are driving the whales crazy.”

Wind turbines and solar panels have developed cult status in the climate world. The impossibility of recycling the massive fiberglass turbine blades, and the critical need for a reliable electric grid, in light of the increasing power demands of the AI revolution, stopping further environmental destruction from wind and solar, and fostering affordable, realistic electricity generation won’t be easy.

An organization named CFACT looks forward to bringing all this to our attention. CFACT once erected model wind turbines beside models of the famous “Moai” heads of Easter Island at a UN climate conference in Bonn.



Totems of Our Times
Civilization can't run for long
on superstition or subsidies.

As much as we should be careful, the current best choices that can be developed rapidly are to exploit our abundant petroleum reserves. I would also very much like to see more projects to develop our Nuclear Power sources. They are relatively straightforward to design and build, and there are newer technologies maturing into an opportunity to have more power online without destroying our environment. Almost an example of the mythical “Have your cake and eat it too” Philosophy. It is likely that a low impact architecture could also give us power without destroying the world of wildlife.

The Programs to protect the wildlife in our Western Mountains had a great year.

Going into 2025, we can't help but reflect on the stories that shaped the year behind us. This past year, our Y2Y community proved just how powerful storytelling can be. Whether it's the stories we tell about nature or the ones nature whispers to us, these moments connected us deeply to the wild places and wildlife we strive to protect. Today, we're excited to share the stories you loved most in 2024. These stories sparked joy, inspired change, gave visibility to Y2Y's conservation work, and reminded us of the power of our collective impact.

1. You were moved by stories about grizzly bears.

From reconnecting a grizzly bear superhighway across the Alberta-British Columbia border, to mourning the death of famous grizzly bear 399, and celebrating the stories of grizzly bears coming back to their historic ranges, these stories ignited action for this special and important species. In my home state of Washington, Grizzly's are being reintroduced in the Northern End of the Cascade Mountain Chain. They were hunted out so long ago, I did not remember them existing in my lifetime.

2. You got excited about wildlife crossings.

With your love for tales on how animals use these bridges and underpasses, other success stories on crossings around the world, and the near completion of the Bow Valley Gap overpass in Alberta, you helped us celebrate more safe journeys for wildlife and people. More than just a route around the

night animal encounters, the bridges and overpasses are valuable shelters in the extreme winter storms. This is a unique solution, and I am glad that it works as well as it seems to.

3. You were inspired by Indigenous-led caribou recovery.

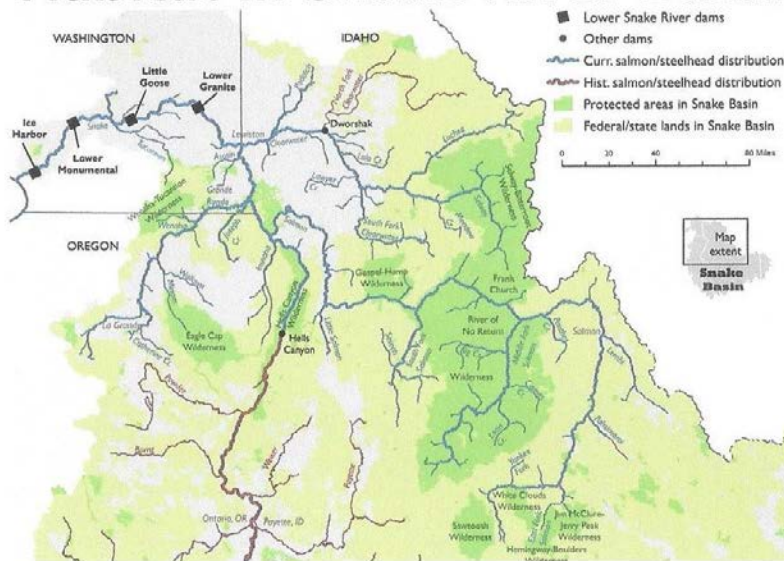
Together, we celebrated permanent habitat protections through the huge expansion of the Klinse-za/Twin Sisters Park in northeast British Columbia. This inspiring story about saving the mountain caribou herd that was once on the brink of extinction had you (and thousands of others) feeling hopeful for the species' future.

4. You were inspired by improved flow in our major rivers enabled by Dam Removal.

For decades the five dams on the lower Snake River have damaged the huge Salmon and Steelhead Trout runs to the huge wilderness area that is the middle of Idaho. We in the FFI Conservation Committee have supported the science that documents the damage that these dams do and talked about what a great improvement in the Snake River spawning area would be available.

Removing the dams on the Klamath River in Southern Oregon and Northern California is an equally important freeing up of a river system. All these early dams were a great deal less than useful and in most cases are no longer of any value.

Salmon and Steelhead Habitat in Snake River Basin



The Snake River Basin represents the coldest most undisturbed habitat in the Lower 48:

Our Next Year

We of the Dallas Fly Fishers have some new board members. They are all active in the club and will have a positive impact on our activities. Jere supports the activities they are leading and hope to be able to support their enthusiastic goals. As the longest continuous board member, I hope my assistance will be a positive role. The Education and the Outings programs are two activities that I very much care about. If you have any ideas or would like to help with the projects of these groups, please contact the new board members. I am sure that a pool of available resources to make things happen would be welcomed.

The new year brings in our usual seasonal fishing events. The White Bass runs need you to watch for them. The fish stage up at the end of the fast water, and in the slower water feel safer in the deeper parts of the rivers. They will wait for the smell and temperature of the right kind of water in their spawning area. Then the race is on. The fishing is fast and furious, but sometimes it comes and goes faster than you can hear about it. After that the stream and shallow water spawn of the Black Bass and the sunfish will go on for months. They all take flies, so fish slow over the nests and get the males guarding the nest sites to hit in defense of the nests. Hundreds of fish are caught, with ten fish bags of good ones being frequently available. Do not forget to register your best catches for the TPWD Share-A-Lunker Program. They keep pictures of the big ones so you can brag about them for years with the Inland Fisheries Division keeping your documentation fresh on their pages. Right now, the Planter Trout Fishing is tailing off.

But if a few trout for breakfast with the scrambled eggs is your thing, you can have it for a couple of months before they are all fished out.

As it all settles down to stable spring and summer fishing, lots of great trips can be had from the guides that advertise on our club pages. Most of them have a few open spots on a trip now and then that they will sell at a deep discount to a club member.

Spring and summer also bring us lots of education opportunities. We have many Boy Scout registered education trained members as well as both Area Chiefs and Angler Education Instructors available, so if your Church group or Recreation Center wants to sponsor an outing we can help.

Happy trails to you, and best of luck on those early fishing trips. It can get cold, but the fish come back as it Warms up. Go for it and write us a note or an article for the Newsletter. The Newsletter Calendar on the third page of the Newsletter has many of the best group gatherings. Sow Bug Roundup, the Red River Rendezvous and our big trip to Colorado coordinated by Jeff Ziehm are some of the best. Watch these and find a partner; it makes them better when you do.

Get involved. Our Outdoors needs all your help.



MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL								
To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to: Dallas Fly Fishers 8349 Club Meadows Dr. Dallas, Tx 75243	New Member <input type="checkbox"/> or Renewing My Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (Check one) Date _____							
	Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____							
	E-mail address: _____							
	Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____							
	Address: _____							
You can also join or renew online at http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html	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)							
	<table border="0"><tr><td>New Members:</td><td>Renewing Members:</td></tr><tr><td>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</td><td>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</td></tr><tr><td>After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year</td><td></td></tr></table>	New Members:	Renewing Members:	Annual membership dues: \$36 per year	Annual membership dues: \$36 per year	After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year		After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year
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