The President’s Letter
by Dr. Lou Montanaro

Well 2015 is under way. The winter is moving on and we have been graced with some nice weather allowing us to get out and try out that new fishing gear. In the upcoming months the club will be involved with Fly Fish Texas on March 14 at the Freshwater Fisheries. If you have not attended this event in the past is will be worth you while to attend this one. There are a number of seminars, demonstrations and fishing opportunities. The club will be involved with our basic fly fishing class headed up by Mr. Richard Johnson at the back fly fishing only pond. We will need volunteers for this event to help with casting, knot tying, fly tying and my favorite, fishing. In addition, volunteers to demonstrate their fly tying prowess will be called upon. The fisheries will be well stocked for the event and we have found over the last few weeks that dropping a LouDan (jig head pheasant tail, prince or hare’s ear) with or without a strike indicator in any pond as well as stripping a crackle back or small black or brown wooly bugger really fast, will stimulate the fish to bite on nearly every cast. Johnny Martinez is putting together a club outing at Lake Athens on March 28. This will be mostly boat fishing as there is little bank space with access to fishing but there are enough club members with boats to accommodate everyone. The plan is to fish until early afternoon and then reconvene at the bait shop for a picnic lunch and share stories. Lake Athens is about 100 miles southeast of Dallas and is generally clear water. It has a reputation for large bass and has produced several sharelunkers. Many bass clubs host tournaments there in the spring so we won’t be alone. It is our opportunity to show them that you can use a fly rod on a lake (not just a river) and actually catch as many fish (if not more) than they can. In the past we have been very successful with size 10-12 black, olive or brown wooly buggers as well as crackle backs or soft hackles in size 14-16 fished in tandem with the wooly bugger. Along with bass, monster blue gill, crappie, white bass, and catfish can be expected. At this time of the year, sight fishing for bass will be exceptionally effective. Our 2015 auction spearheaded by Jeff Ziehm and his team will be on April 6 at the Wyndham Park Central. This is our only fund raising event and the club greatly depends on the income generated. Start looking through your gear that you never use and feel you can part with and help out your club. Guided trips offered by club members have been very popular in the past and have helped generate $1000’s. If you have a favorite fishing spot and want to share it with someone, please volunteer your services and help out your club. You can tell your spouse that you have to go fishing to help out your club!

On a local fishing front, Texoma has been producing some large hybrids and stripers but to get them you will need a boat, a fish finder, sinking line, large flies and an 8 weight or bigger. The fish have been at 30-40 feet so it still takes a minute for fast sinking line to get down that deep. Steve Hollenshead will be speaking to the club on Monday, February 2 on just how to catch them so come on out and educate yourself. Check out Orvis Depthcharge line which was recently on sale for half price, it has about 35-40 feet of sinktip in front of the floating line. I was told by a tournament bass fisherman that Lake Tawakoni will turn on for largemouth on the east side in the shallow coves around any structure after the first full moon in February. Texas Parks and Wildlife continues to stock local ponds with rainbow trout until March. Look for stockings in Prosper, Frisco, and McKinney in the upcoming weeks. For a full list of ponds, check out their web site or simply “Google” “Texas rainbow trout stocking”. Of course for an easy “fishing in a barrel” experience you can go to Texas Freshwater Fisheries and use size 10-12 jig head hooks with something brown tied on it. It likely represents a trout pellet which is the only food they seem to know although a weekend or two ago they seemed to be rising for a hatch and taking emergers towards the end of the day. Do I hear dry fly? In the upcoming months we will try to put together another Broken Bow trip although many have just returned from the Red River Rendezvous which was held there recently but you can never get too much fishing in my book. Have a wonderfully fishy spring.

—Lou Montanaro
Don’t even think about missing this one. The TFFC will stock a ton of good trout, some big ones as well as the regular ones, and there will be fly tying, fly casting, fly fishing, and lots of stuff to see. BBQ lunch for a modest price, and lots of chances to participate as a DFF member.

**February Meeting**

*by Malcolm Duke*

The February meeting will be noted North Texas Fly Fishing Guide Steve Hollenshead presentation on striper fishing. The stripers are bank running in the spawn so it is a good time to get the complete scoop on how to target these big, fast running, hard pulling fish. They are likely to be the biggest fresh water fish you can regularly get on a fly rod in North Texas.

**March Meeting**

*by Malcolm Duke*

The March meeting will feature Zoe Ann Stinchcomb of the Freshwater Fisheries Center, where she is Education Director. Zoe Ann helps us every time we go to the TFFC with her skills as an entomologist. She is very knowledgeable and a great speaker. Come to learn everything about our bugs and the flies that make the fish go crazy for their favorite bug.

**Fly Fish Texas, March 14th**

*by Jere Anderson*

Don’t even think about missing this one. The TFFC will stock a ton of good trout, some big ones as well as the regular ones, and there will be fly tying, fly casting, fly fishing, and lots of stuff to see. BBQ lunch for a modest price, and lots of chances to participate as a DFF member.

**April Meeting, The Annual Auction**

*by Jeff Ziehm*

This is our major fund raiser and responsible for half or more of our total budget. We need donations of fly collections (ten in a little box) or other gently used fly fishing gear. Books, rods, reels, if you bring it it will sell. Plan to attend, on our regular April meeting night, Monday April 6th. Good food, good friends, and lots of stuff to bid wildly on…

**2015 DFF Auction**

The April meeting will be our annual fundraising auction. The 2015 DFF Auction will be held Monday, April 6, at Wyndham Dallas – Park Central, our normal monthly meeting location. The bar opens at 5:00pm. The auction opens at 5:30pm. As in previous years, we will have a silent auction and a live auction.

Donations include guided trips on the White Rivers, the Mountain Fork, the Brazos, Lake Tawakoni, and Lake Fork. We have rods, reels, flies, and fly tying material. We have casting lessons, books, dvd’s and artwork. Something for everyone!

Our largest donation source is you, the DFF membership. If you have a rod, reel, vice, or anything related to flyfishing that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to the auction. If you tie, flies are always welcome. Donations can be given to Peter Rea 214-701-7585, pwrea@swbell.com) or Jeff Ziehm 214-202-2826, jziehm@us.ibm.com)

Through the generosity of DFF Trustee Michelle Huddleston, our featured donation this year is a seven day stay at her private vacation home in Silverthorn, Colorado.

This 5 bedroom house sleeps 13, and is minutes from the Gold Medal Blue River. Excellent house for multiple families. The week needs to be used during the Sept 1 to Nov 15 window. Details can be found at www.twocabinsrental.com. Value: $3150

This fun filled event is the primary club fund raiser for the year, so please plan on attending and bring friends. Entrance fee is $10. A light dinner will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.
**CALENDAR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31st</td>
<td>Teaching the Basic Fly Fishing Certificate at the Robson Ranch Retirement Community. We need lots of participants, as this will be a big crowd. Contact Richard Johnson to volunteer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2nd</td>
<td>Striper Fishing in North Texas with Steve Hollenshead, a noted fly fishing guide. Once again this was sent to the Editor as “stripper” fishing. About half the time the Editor gets striped bass programs as “Stripper” fishing, not “striper” fishing. But Steve’s programs are very interesting, so be there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7th</td>
<td>The Texas FlyFishers will host the 23rd Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival. The Festival will take place in the auditorium at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Road in Houston, Texas, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with lunch and refreshments provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21st and 22nd</td>
<td>Is the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited event, Troutfest. This event is on the Texas Council web page and on <a href="http://www.grututroufest.org">www.grututroufest.org</a>, the web site for the event. It is in the New Braunfels area, and should be great.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>Fly Fishing Entomology, taught by Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, of the TFCC, the best field Entomologist I know.... This will be too good to miss.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7th</td>
<td>Is Fin and Fun 2015. Every three years the scouts have a great campground at the Clement Scout Ranch near Athens, TX, which has had a signup of around 1300 in years past. For at least the last 24 years, DFF with help from FWFF and other clubs has done the fly tying part and fly casting part of this event. It is huge, and will need quite a few folks to support it. We are allowed to campout with the scouts and they feed us, not to mention the fishing is usually great in the Ranch lakes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9th and 10th</td>
<td>Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Recreation class, one day of classroom and one day fishing at the TFFC. They have stocked the ponds for Fly Fish Texas, so this should be primo fly fishing time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14th</td>
<td>Fly Fish Texas an event where we volunteer to arrange for the fly tiers, and the club also teaches two rounds of the fly fishing certificate in the fly fishing pavilion, to the rear of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Center. Lots of chance for you certified instructors to cover your pledge to teach at least one session a year. If you want to tie for the public; morning, afternoon or all day shifts are available. Contact Jere. Our tables are filling up fast, and we need the names for the badges by February.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24th</td>
<td>Fly tying at the Denton Senior Center, 2 to 4pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26th-28th</td>
<td>The Sowbug Round-up, a fly tying event. Sow Bug is in Mountain Home AR the location of the Southern Council Fly Fishing Fair. This is a really fun time with as many as 100 tiers, about ten of which are from the DFF. It is a long drive for three days of fly tying, but very good company and learning experiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>A DFF outdoor day with fishing at Lake Athens, and cookout and fun and games. This is being organized by our club Secretary and Lake Athens Fly Fishing Guide, Johnny Martinez. Details as we get them, watch the calendar on the web site. There is a poster in this Leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6th</td>
<td>Is the DFF Auction, our major fund raiser. Please bring your donations of fly collections, gently used fly fishing equipment, and other memorabilia to be auctioned off. Jeff Ziehm is the Auction Chairman again this year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22nd</td>
<td>Is Earth Day with celebrations all over Texas on the weekends before and after the 22nd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28th</td>
<td>Teaching the Basic Fly Fishing Course at the South Lake Recreation Area in Denton, TX, from 9am to 2pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2nd and 3rd</td>
<td>Is the Smallmouth Rendezvous in Talliquah, OK. This is a fly tying and meet the public event that has very good references from our members as a fun time. It is only about 4 hours north of Dallas, so it is easier to get to than many other events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4th</td>
<td>The May meeting of the Dallas Flyfishers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7th</td>
<td>Probable date for the next cycle of the Fly Fishing Instructor Certificate. Become one of the few, the proud, the Angler Education Instructors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16th</td>
<td>Teaching the basic fly fishing certificate at the Carrollton Senior Center. Doors open promptly at 9 am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29th to 31st</td>
<td>The Second Annual Texas Fly Fishing Fair. This is the Texas Council Event and is the equivalent of the old Southern Conclave. It is in New Braunfels and the Texas Fair is really the ticket. Our first one last year went well, and planning is already underway for this year’s event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1st</td>
<td>June meeting of the Dallas Flyfishers. Possibly Jen Ripple, a very active writer and editor of Women’s Fly Fishing information, as our June speaker. Not solid yet, but favorable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6th</td>
<td>Turning Point. A chance to help some kids who really deserve our help have good outdoor day at the park a Bachman Lake. We have done this for several year now, and it is a very good feeling to hep out such a deserving group of kids.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14th</td>
<td>Fly tying class at the Denton Senior Center, 2 to 4pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 11th</td>
<td>August 15th, in Bend OR, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary Fly Fishing Fair of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. You do not need to be a member to attend, and it has lots to do. Talk to Jere about this year’s IFFF fly fishing fair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18th-19th</td>
<td>The Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair, Civic Center, Ocean Springs, MS. This is the new Coastal Council, approved in its current form in November of 2012, at the same IFFF Board Meeting that approved the Texas Council. If you are a salt water fly fisher, this is your event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2nd-4th</td>
<td>The Southern Council Fly Fishing Fair, Mountain Home, AR. This is the Council we belonged to for so long, and many of us still participate and fly tie at this event. Support it if you can. It is a great opportunity to fly fish for big trout in those famous tailwaters below the AR dams. Take a week off and go for it. For some reason, our Texas Council folks still get well deserved awards at this event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20, 27</td>
<td>November 3,10th, the four session Tuesday fly tying roundtable at Cabela’s Conference room from 6pm to close for four weeks. The format will be like last year’s very successful event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>November 1st, The Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA. This year it is wisely moved off of the opening of gun deer season, so a few more of you will be able to attend.</td>
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**Most of these dates are available on the web. This longer view is for planning your spring and summer……**
• On Saturday, March 28th 2015 join the Dallas Fly Fishers for a day of fly fishing, fun and fellowship.
• Fishing begins at Day break and we’ll meet up for lunch at 1pm.
• Lake Athens is a 1799 acre lake with clear water with healthy vegetation and structure Athens produced two Share-a-Lunkers last season.
• Some of our members have caught some large, largemouth Bass and Bluegills up to 11.5 inches weighing over a pound, along with Crappie, Spotted Bass, Gar and Catfish.
• Some recommended flies and lures are Wooly buggers, Leach patterns, Clouser Minnows, Cap Spiders, Dead Head Minnows on floating or sinking lines.
• Lake Athens offers very little bank access so a water craft is recommended. We are organizing shuttle service for kayaks and kickboats to expand your fishing area and back seat rides for those who don’t have boats but want to fish (limited to first come first served).
• If you have a boat and would like to host a guest fisher please let us know.
• Please begin to RSVP if you are coming and what kind of water craft you have.
• Look for more details to come.
• Visit us a our next monthly meet at the Wyndham suites, on Alpha Road or find us on Facebook or at dallasflyfishers.org.

The Dallas Fly Fishers invite you to fish with us at the First Annual Lake Athens Fish Fest

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For more in or to RSVP message us on Facebook or contact Johnny Martinez at johnny2448@gmail.com or 972-697-7096.

Lets Go Fishing!
Rocky Mountain Rambling

by Jim Crump

In 2008, when after 50 years, I once again became a party of one, I decided some travel and fly fishing in a cooler climate was better than being a couch potato in the Texas heat. So, as some of my friends in the club know, I have made it a practice for the past seven years to spend a considerable portion of the summers in the Rocky Mountains, camping, fishing and traveling about in my home-converted Chevy 1500 extended work van. My first year out, I lived in a Chevy Blazer with a cot in the back. Traveling mostly alone, I have covered much of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana plus some of New Mexico, Utah and Idaho - wherever there is water, especially running water.

Knowing this, several of the club members have expressed interested in my travels and in the fishing opportunities in various places I have camped. Also, I have been asked about my camping life and practices in my van considering it has been a relatively plain and simple (and inexpensive) operation. For example, I use no water or electricity hookups when I am in the forests. I do not heat the van during the cold nights, but depend instead on my 32 degree mummy sleeping bag. And I don’t run the engine for heat. I pump and fetch my water in the campgrounds. If the comforts of home sound sparse, they are offset by my high degree of mobility. I frequently move from one camp location to another every few days - so I keep my setup simple. I have camped in 31 or more locations during a summer. A tremendous attraction to doing this, of course, is that most of the campsites are on rivers and lakes or in the tall, deep forests thus you see a lot of lovely scenery and wildlife. When the time finally comes for a nice shower, I break down and check in to a commercial RV park for a night.

My cooking efforts consist of whatever I can concoct using a propane burner and a teakettle of water. This affords oatmeal or grits for breakfast with skillet fried toast and instant coffee. Add in some raisins, sliced apple, almonds, peaches and you’re eating. I like to swing open the double doors of the van and enjoy the scenery with breakfast. I usually put a snack of popcorn, chips, grapes or a sandwich in the back of my fishing vest and eat it on the water during a fishing break. Dinner may be summer sausage, jerky, lunchmeat with rye bread, Rahmen noodles, canned soup or canned vegetables, canned meat, raw veggies, chips and the like. I look for food that is slow to go bad. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to change to a fresh indicator less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I fish dry fly of the same pattern after every fish, squeezing a dry fly and learned from other fishermen. These include changing to a fresh leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to change to a fresh indicator less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can.

As a dry camper (RV jargon for no hook-ups), these newer lanterns and lights that go easy on batteries are a big help and that’s what I use until taps. I may read or listen to satellite radio before going to sleep to assure myself that the other world is still out there. The only TV I see is in RV camps or public places. Use of the cell phone may or may not be possible from the campground.

To be in remoteness, one may camp in a national park, a national forest or BLM areas (Bureau of Land Management) in order of the less primitive to more primitive depending on your level of fascination with creature comforts. For instance, BLM land is au naturale (you just stop). In an RV park, I may pay $22 and up per night, in national parks $15 to $20, in national forests $8 to $17 and BLM $0 (that’s zero). In late August and early September when school starts, you may be able to stay free in a national forest. With a Golden Age Passport you can enter national parks free and get Â½ price on the cost of campsites in national forests. It’s a good buy if you’re a senior.

I like sleeping in my van when in bear country such as The Wind River Range or Brooks Lake above Dubois, WY. It’s metal, not canvas. It’s comforting since this is the area where they transfer problem bears from Yellowstone.

Besides looking over your shoulder for bears, moose and big cats, they are differences in fishing up there as compared to say, Arkansas. Ordinarily you are going to move more if you’re fishing in free running water. I rarely find that you can stand in one place and cast to a pack of trout. Some of the rivers can be tough wading, such as the Taylor and Gunnison in Colorado. The current can be fast depending on the snowmelt, but the riverbed is not usually as deep as the White in Arkansas at heavy flow. Thunderstorms can come up in a few minutes with nearby lightning. More than once, I have hunkered under a poncho on the bank waiting on rain, hail and lightning to stop. Even though rising water from dam releases are not a problem in the places I fish, rain can raise the level of a stream so that you can’t cross it. I once took a long hike through the brush on Sand Creek off the San Juan in Colorado to get to my truck on the other side.

Generally, you are likely to find more fly fishers using dry flies because there is more surface feeding and top action than you may be used to in these parts. To me, it’s the best when the fish are taking big dry fly hoppers, caddis, stimulators and stoneflies although there are certainly times when nymphs and streamers are called for. I use strike indicators less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can. Most of my dry fly fishing in places like The Frying Pan and Rio Grande in CO, Wind River in WY and Gallatin in MT, is done up close. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to fish. Generally you are likely to find more fly fishers using dry flies because there is more surface feeding and top action than you may be used to in these parts. To me, it’s the best when the fish are taking big dry fly hoppers, caddis, stimulators and stoneflies although there are certainly times when nymphs and streamers are called for. I use strike indicators less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can. Most of my dry fly fishing in places like The Frying Pan and Rio Grande in CO, Wind River in WY and Gallatin in MT, is done up close. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to fish. Generally you are likely to find more fly fishers using dry flies because there is more surface feeding and top action than you may be used to in these parts. To me, it’s the best when the fish are taking big dry fly hoppers, caddis, stimulators and stoneflies although there are certainly times when nymphs and streamers are called for. I use strike indicators less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can. Most of my dry fly fishing in places like The Frying Pan and Rio Grande in CO, Wind River in WY and Gallatin in MT, is done up close. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to fish. Generally you are likely to find more fly fishers using dry flies because there is more surface feeding and top action than you may be used to in these parts. To me, it’s the best when the fish are taking big dry fly hoppers, caddis, stimulators and stoneflies although there are certainly times when nymphs and streamers are called for. I use strike indicators less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can. Most of my dry fly fishing in places like The Frying Pan and Rio Grande in CO, Wind River in WY and Gallatin in MT, is done up close. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to fish. Generally you are likely to find more fly fishers using dry flies because there is more surface feeding and top action than you may be used to in these parts. To me, it’s the best when the fish are taking big dry fly hoppers, caddis, stimulators and stoneflies although there are certainly times when nymphs and streamers are called for. I use strike indicators less up there and prefer my nymphing ‘high stick’ style if I can. Most of my dry fly fishing in places like The Frying Pan and Rio Grande in CO, Wind River in WY and Gallatin in MT, is done up close. I fish fairly short, mostly upstream and close in with a 10 foot leader in my attempt to avoid drag (my Achilles Heel). For this I like to fish.

In fishing more with dry flies, I have adopted some things I have seen and learned from other fishermen. These include changing to a fresh dry fly of the same pattern after every fish, squeezing a dry fly frequently in the crook of my elbow to dry it out on my shirt, using dry floatant more and fishing with the rod tip high to prevent drag. I have been asked about my camping life and practices in my travels and in the fishing opportunities in various places I have camped. Also, I have been asked about my camping life and practices in my van considering it has been a relatively plain and simple (and inexpensive) operation. For example, I use no water or electricity hookups when I am in the forests. I do not heat the van during the cold nights, but depend instead on my 32 degree mummy sleeping bag. And I don’t run the engine for heat. I pump and fetch my water in the campgrounds.

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fishing with a dry fly, wherein you see a fish rise to your fly and turn away at the last second. This is frequently attributed to drag.

Another challenging aspect for me of fishing in the swift waters in the high country is landing a good fish which is in fast, turbulent water in a rocky streambed. If the stream bank is not too rugged, I try to keep the fish in place and walk down to it rather than pulling it upstream. Bringing such a fish to net is not at all a sure thing and you may go to your backing just due to the combined strength of the fish and the water pressure. I have learned for example that you do not try to pull a fish toward you up over a half submerged rock with water overflowing it, you do not coax a good fish to such shallow water such that the net will not go under him but will instead knock the fly off his mouth, that a fish running far downstream can pull your tippet under a rock and pinch it so it breaks off and that you should always re-tie your fly on after landing a good fish lest the next one take advantage of the wear on your knot. And on and on. Every one a heartbreaker.

To have something to read and look at when I no longer go on these trips, I have kept a daily log of each summers trip and a lot of pictures of memorable places in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. I have a pretty long list of rivers, streams and lakes that I have some acquaintance with. If you’re headed to new destinations in the Rockies, I might be able to provide some useful information on them.
The Conservation Corner

by Jere Anderson

The Texas Council of the IFFF is making good progress on conservations issues and in getting our profile as a source of citizen support for conservation causes in place. We now have a serious conservation project going in all four of our regions of the Texas Council, and the Dallas Flyfishers are working on getting a couple of more going. A group led by Peter Rea, our VP, is gaining some traction on a project to restore the Samuel Farms property and get it stocked with fish. This is a complete makeover with plans to get some handicap access and I will try and get a catch and release regulation for other than the winter trout stockings…. There is a long way to go to get this all done, but Peter had been tireless on this one for so long. We will also put this on the list of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Habitat and Access Projects that Russell and I are a part of.

Beach restoration in the south, stream access near Austin on the Colorado, stream access on the Brazos from Whitney to Waco, and the new paddling trail near Mineola, TX, all are good projects. Plans for many more are forming. I would like to see more catch and release posting at city parks and various landscape waters in the MetroPlex. Have you noticed that when we show up and Friday Fish a lake or pond, that gradually we see more and more other folks also fishing there? Have you also noticed that often in a very short time, the water body STOPS being a good fishery? I have a hypothesis about this. We will call this Anderson’s Hypothesis; (I always wanted a hypothesis…..) I think what happens when we do show up is the locals figure out that this body of water fishes good. This is something they did not know before. So they start fishing the little lake or pond. We do catch and release fishing with barless hooks and careful releases. They do a 100% kill. One of us is ruining the fishery, care to make a guess which one of us is the probable culprit?

So what is the answer? Well an obvious way to at least extend the survival time of the fish is to do NO KILL fishing. But can we do that? I know that the Austin Fly Fishers are setting up Kyle Lake as a no kill lake. It is hard to enforce in city parks, but with posting and a public awareness campaign, perhaps we can make progress. It is worth the try. These lakes come back in a year or two, Russel Creek Lake near my house is a case in point. But better is to extend the life of the lake. Since these people are not using the fish they kill for the most part, why not suggest that they just drop the little fishes back in the water? So a good game plan is for all of us, upon noting a catch and kill fisherman that we do not believe is feeding his family their only protein, just politely suggest to him that the fishing will be better and last longer if you put those little guys back. Most folks will listen politely, and some may actually take the hint….

Fly Fish Texas is coming up at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX, on March 14th. It is the best fly fishing show in North Texas. The five clubs that put it on in the first place still head the various committees, with Walter McClendon being our point man. Jere will coordinate the demonstration fly tiers, so if you want to tie for half a day or a full day, contact him. Richard will coordinate the morning and afternoon sessions at the fly fishing pavilion in the back of the TFFC. Fort Worth Fly Fishers will handle casting and the various other events are covered by the Red River Fly Fishers, the East Texas Fly Fishers, and the Pineywoods Fly Fishers. This is a great party, and various speakers and programs make it all worthwhile. This year is the 16th Fly Fish Texas. We need to get out to every fly shop, tackle shop, and gathering place of outdoor people and talk up the show, it is too good to die, and we have not hit the over 900 paid attendance mark in several years.

One last note…. I subscribe to the EPA blog site, and offer the following as an example of our government’s bureaucratic brilliance. In headline news, the EPA has done a high dollar science project and has concluded the following:

EPA has finalized the science report, Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters. The report concludes that streams, wetlands, and other open waters influence the health of downstream waters. EPA, along with other federal agencies and states, can use this scientific report to inform policy and regulatory decisions, including the Clean Water Act Rule being developed by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Find the report here. http://go.usa.gov/uYNV

In Jerespeak, this is a BFO, a Blinding Flash of the Obvious. But since water is our big issue, I felt the need to publicize that the EPA now believes that what happens upstream effects those of us downstream. Who would have concluded that without their assistance? This is surely like the cowboy wisdom to never drink downstream from the herd.

Thanks for your support in the year 2014, and we are full of plans and goals for 2015. Keep your eyes on our newsletter and take part in them. You will be glad you did.

Tight Lines and Big Fish….

—Jere Anderson
2015 has a full calendar through early June already…..

This last weekend held two great events. We have been teaching at the Denton Senior Center, both the Fly Fishing Certificate on a weekend day and a long time member, Ian Kinsella has been teaching fly tying on a weekday once a month for a while now as well. These are great outreach and educational opportunities, and I very much support the DFF finding more of these to teach. Here are the pictures from last weekend.

The big event was the Red River Rendezvous. This has been a goal of many of us in the Dallas Fly Fishers for many years. To have an event that was like the Toledo Bend rendezvous, but with its focus on the North Texas Clubs. Leave it up to the very active and well organized brothers of the angle from the RRFF to actually accomplish that. This location, in Beavers Bend State Park in SE Oklahoma works very well, and I hope it is able to become a tradition like the event in the fall at the North Toledo Bend State Park has become.

For a first shot at a new location the 40 plus attendees got a good chance to sit and tie together, as well as fish one of our favorite spots. The Saturday Morning temperature was 26 degrees, just a trifle less warm than I like, but the fishers had a good time and some fish cooperated. The RRFF folks had a great one fly contest. You got a little bag of feathers, yarn and tinsel and had to tie a fly using those materials. Then you fished that fly and reported your catch. It was a hoot just to try to make something out of the materials, but I got a fairly interesting (to the humans, not the fish) fan wing out of it. The winner was a young man whose parents also tie and fish, and who I will wager that we will hear a lot about him over the years...

The park has A-Frame looking bunk houses with about a dozen bunks each, however there are also rental vacation homes that are positively luxurious… The one that I was fortunate to share with a great group of FWFF fly tiers was a 4 bedroom with pool table and hot tub, however I doubt that anyone was very tempted by the hot tub on a porch with a strong wind and sub freezing temperatures. The bunkhouse accommodations at the park looked good, and there were spots to put your hardside camper as well. So, from Friday noon until Sunday noon we tied, ate, talked, ate and fished. Here are the pictures.
Next year, the probable date is the weekend between the NFC/AFC championship games and the Super Bowl, so nobody has any good reason not to be there. Let’s fill those bunkhouses. There are at least ten of them, and the fishing is pretty good too……

Next is the really big one, the Robson Ranch basic fly fishing certificate class. There will be upwards of 50 students and it is an opportunity to get on the Radar with some of the really big retirement communities. I hope to see quite a few of you helping there.

February 7th has a great fly tying event in Houston that Charlie and I did a few times. If you are not yet signed up, you may not get to tie, but it is a good show and for a modest price, you get the show and get fed.

February 21st and 22nd is the GRTU Troutfest. This is the annual public event held by the Guadeloupe River Trout Unlimited Chapter in the area near New Braunfels. The web page is www.grtutroutfest.org and it looks very good.

On March 7th, is the huge scout thing we do every three years, Fin and Fun 2015. In the past, as many as 1300 scouts, leaders, and parent helpers have signed up for this. Our part is to run the fly tying that is not as hard now that the porch is enclosed. Can you imagine the fun teaching fly tying to total beginners on a windy porch? Well that is what we used to have to do. We also coordinate the fly casting, though our brothers of the FWFF usually take care of the details. Last time, Fin and Fun 2012, three DFFers and Jeff Goff did the fly tying and Jim Bass and Jose Benivides of FWFF did the casting. That was only possible with so few because they were all good at what they do, and it was a much smaller turnout. We need to be staffed for a big one if this spring turns out to be warm and relatively wind free.

Once again we get to play with the fish with the students from the Dallas Baptist University Outdoor Adventure class on Monday March 9th in the classroom and then at the TFFC on Tuesday March 10th. The trout will have been stocked for Fly Fish Texas by then, so it should fish very well.

And then on March 14th is THE BIG ONE. Fly Fish Texas with DFF organizing the Angler’s Pavilion and our beloved fly tiers competing with Jay “Fishy” Fullem for the crowd’s attention. A great team of tiers from DFF, Pineywoods, RRFF and FWFF will be there, with others no doubt being added at the last moment. We also are teaching two complete cycles of the Basic Fly Fishing Certificate to the public at this time. Lots of fun and you will have lots of chances to take part.

They need basic fly tying instructors, casting instructors, and folks to meet and explain stuff to the crowd. Jerry Hamon and his Kayak Club will even do some demonstrations and a lecture in the classroom. This event is too good to miss. Tell all your friends and if you have a connection to a scout troop, get them to be there in uniform. Late News Flash—the publicity release for this event is on the TP&WD web page with speakers and all.

A new event this year, the DFF will have a fishing day and a lunch at the Lake Athens Marina, just beside the TFFC on March 28th. Fish the lake in the morning, and come in for tall tales and grilled lunch at noon. If you are not at the Sowbug Roundup in Mountain Home, AR, on this weekend, our picnic and fishing tournament is the best thing you can do.

Of course the Big Deal of the Day is the DFF Auction on April 6th. This is our big fund raiser. For a $10 buck admission you get a bidder number and snacks. Lots of live auction, silent auction and raffle items to spend your money on. We can also use some donations, so be sure to call a board member if you have a donation for the auction. Lots of goodies to bid on and lots of fun.

The weekend of April 10th and 11th, is the Caddo Conclave, a very good fly tying gathering at Caddo Lake State Park. Programs, presentations and lots of fly tying, combined with the unbelievable scenery. This is a great lake with cypress trees, Spanish moss, paddlefish and chain pickerel. A goodly population of gators makes this a lake that you really need to watch where you are going, but it is too beautiful to miss.
For those of you that love long range planning, the Second Texas Fly Fishing Fair will be in New Braunfels on the 29th – 31st of May, 2015. For all of you that did not get to the first one last year, don’t forget to make time for the next one…

The 50th Anniversary Fly Fishing Fair of our national body, The International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) will be in my home waters, Bend, OR, in the middle of August. Right on the banks of the Deshutes River at the Riverbend Convention Center Hotel, it is way too convenient to fishing and the dozens of boutique breweries in town. What a great vacation idea. Several Dallas Flyfishers will be tying, presenting, and hopefully receiving some awards.

The calendar is full of goodies so don’t forget to go to a few. Go browse around the new web site built by Jeff Ziehm. You might also hit Friday Fish with us as the weather warms up. Lots of fish are caught by our intrepid fly flingers in the spring time. And whether you fly tie or just want to sit and shoot the bull with us, our fly tying groups are fun and informative. Look at our calendar in this newsletter for the complete line up of classes and outreach opportunities. Richard Johnson and I will try to keep it current.

Don’t forget that with the trout planting already underway, that your license may be expired, and you need to renew before you hit the water.

Best fishes for a happy and productive fishing season in 2015.

—Jere Anderson—

To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to:
Dallas Fly Fishers
7700 Glasshouse Walk
Frisco, Tx 75035

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