



THE LEADER

OCTOBER 2004

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CONSERVATION REPORT

by Bob Voelker

Blue River and the Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study: Staff of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board recently initiated a multi-year study of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, which includes the Blue River. The aquifer supplies flow to many area rivers and streams, but more information is required to properly manage and protect the region's water resources. The investigation will be the most intensive analysis of surface and groundwater relationships ever conducted in Oklahoma. Periodic stream flow and stage height monitoring devices have been installed at sites on the Blue River and several creeks in this drainage system. Study results will provide state and local decision makers with information to determine how water resources in the region should best be utilized while protecting area springs and streams, especially in light of a recent proposal to transfer as much as 80,000 acre-feet per year of that water to central Oklahoma.

Lower Mountain Fork: The Lower Mountain Fork River (LMF) fishery is limited from reaching its full potential by seasonally high water temperatures. This is due, in part, to warm water being released during summer power generation. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is seeking to improve water temperatures and thereby enhance trout fishing by investigating methods of moderating water discharge temperature. A model designed to determine potential temperature improvements was recently completed, indicating that accessing colder water below the intake structures would be the most viable solution to warm water discharges. A water quality study is now underway, and if the reservoir and tailwater impacts of using colder, deeper water are acceptable, a subsequent engineering feasibility evaluation will follow.

National Forest Roadless Area Conservation: In August, an executive decree transferred decisions over the building of roads in the national forests from the federal government to the state governments, a reversal of the policy in the Clinton administration. This rule impacts significantly on the State of Idaho, where the roadless areas:

- ❖ Comprise 75% of the remaining habitat for endangered Chinook salmon and steelhead; and
- ❖ Harbor nearly 60% of the remaining habitat for the Idaho state fish, the west slope cutthroat trout.

Other states that may be significantly affected by logging roads under this new policy include Oregon, Alaska, Colorado and Wyoming. The shift in control over roads will create individualized state-by-state battles over logging roads and their impact on fish habitat.

FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMS

October 18: Rob Woodruff, fly-fishing guide for the SE Oklahoma area (and East Texas). Rob will present a program on fly-fishing for trout and smallmouth bass.

November 15: Jeff Guerin, fly-fishing guide from SE Arkansas, will speak about fly-fishing on the Little Mo.

December 12: DFF Holiday Dinner & Party 6:00PM, Crown Plaza Suites Hotel.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Our scheduled speaker for the September meeting cancelled, as did the back-up speaker Fred DuPre arranged. Lucky for us, Fred Lynch from Corpus Christi came to our rescue. He presented an interesting program on fly fishing the flats for several different types of saltwater fish. For more information or to arrange a guide trip with Fred Lynch, call him at (361)533-4227.

FUTURE OUTINGS

October 16-17: We will hold our annual joint overnight canoe trip on the Brazos with the FWFF. The trip this year will be on a different section, south of Lake Whitney. Starting at Bucks and renting our canoes at Rhodes Canoe Livery (where you can rent canoe and be shuttled). Fred DuPre has fished this stretch and says it fishes well and is scenic. For more details contact LC Clower (972)463-5126 lcclower@comcast.net

October 23-24: Smallmouth time on the upper Mountain Fork and associated creeks north of Smithville, OK. This outing will follow Rob Woodruff's presentation on smallmouth fishing in eastern Oklahoma.

November 5-7: Toledo Bend Rendevous. A great time for fly tying and eating great food. For details see Pineywoods Fly Fishers website or check with members of the Roadkill Roundtable.

November 13-14: We will have another FWFF joint outing, this time at Daingerfield State Park to fish for pickerel. More details to come.

November 26-28: Celebrate at least part of your Thanksgiving weekend at Broken Bow. Abby Golman will be planning this outing. The outing is planned for approximately Wed. Nov. 24 through Sun. Nov. 28, but of course everyone is welcome to come and go before or after those dates, depending on personal preference. There are numerous cabins in the area, and Abby has that information, if anyone needs it. If enough folks are interested Abby can arrange to get the large cabin that we rented a couple of years ago. It has the following amenities:

sleeps up to 13 (one double bed and eleven twins)

four bedrooms, living room w/wood burning fire place, full kitchen

Cost for 8 people is \$120/night, plus \$15 for each add'l person

Located on Hwy 259 near Three Rivers Fly Shop

This was a great deal two years ago because the more people that stayed there, the less each person paid per night. However, if we do this again, Abby will need solid confirmations from each person that he/she will definitely be there, because the cost per night will go up dramatically if people change their minds at the last minute. Keep in mind that there are also lots of 2 to 6 people cabins in the area if you prefer a little more privacy and it's always best to book your cabins well in advance, as the area fills up quickly on holidays such as this!

Abby can be contacted at (214)969-4246 work (214)340-3110 home
agolman@akingump.com

SEPTEMBER OUTING REPORT

by Steve Prachyl

Saturday morning, September 25th several of our good DFF members showed up bright and early at Lake Fannin. We unloaded our canoes, kayaks & kick boats with help of flash lights. We showed off new flies and pointed at good spots on the map or out over the water. Dawn's early light found the first of us ready and on the water. Right away black bass started hitting poppers in the shallows, and big bream gulped grasshoppers at the dam. But it was too good to last. Canoes and fly rods were no help once the bright sun reared it's ugly head. The east wind began to blow and the fishing slowed. We knew we were doomed....so the sandwiches came out. Except for Cody Bell, he persevered and landed an 11 lb. Channel Cat on that bright afternoon. Go Cody !!! Steve Kraisinger was there the day before (he spent the night) and he really nailed them

most of the day, fly fishing on Friday, with the clouds and rain..... Everyone agreed that Lake Fannin is a pretty lake with crystal clear water and deep cattails.

One short note: I have volunteered to help L.C. organize some of the DFF outings. My interest lies mostly with the local events, Lake Fannin, the Brazos, Lake Crockett, the Blue River... So, please send me an email and recommend a place and a date....Steve Prachyl (rhymes with Rachel) email: steveprachyl@sbcglobal.net home phone (972) 238-7729.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

THE HEARD MUSEUM'S OUTDOOR NATURE FESTIVAL

On Saturday September 25th & Sunday September 26th fourteen DFF members volunteered to demonstrate Fly Casting and Fly Tying at the Heard Museum's Outdoor Nature Festival. John Peterie tied colorful foam spiders on safety pins to hand out to the kids. They were a BIG HIT. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to represent our club and introduce the public to our club and Fly Fishing.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

LAKE FORK GUIDE BRIAN GAMBILL'S FOAM FROG

MATERIALS

Hook: Mustad 37187 #6

Thread: Monocord

Weedguard: Mason hard mono 20 lb.

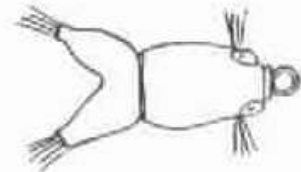
Body material: Closed cell foam - white

Legs: Fine cut flat strand rubber (spinner bait skirt material)

STEP 1: Tie and glue in weedguard with thread ending at top of hook bend.

STEP 2a: Cut foam to a "Y" shape 2 1/2" long and 1/2" wide.

STEP 2b: Cut a "V" out of one end about 3/4" deep and taper the other end to 3/8" wide.



STEP 3: Tie foam in at base or “Y” along hook shank.
Make 4 wraps then bring the thread to behind
the hook eye.

STEP 4: Tie in foam behind the hook eye, make 4 wraps,
tie off and cut.

STEP 5: Trim foam behind hook eye.

STEP 6: Glue wraps and exposed hook shank on underside
of fly.

STEP 7: Cut a “V” notch on top side of fly 1/4" from nose
and glue eyes in place.

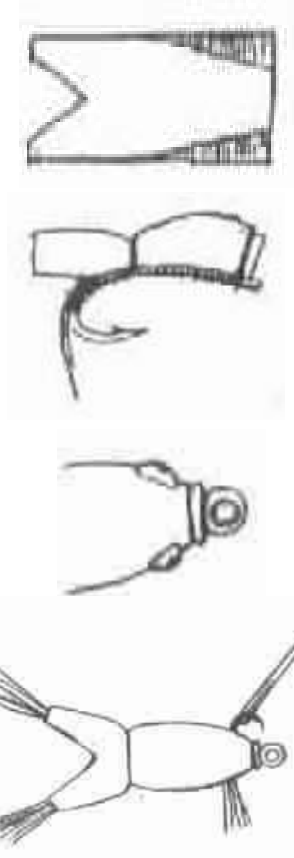
STEP 8: Using a sewing needle, run front legs (rubber
strands) and glue in place. Trim to 1/2".

STEP 9: Insert rear legs with sewing needle coming out
at tip of “V” and trim to 1" long.

STEP 10: Trim foam part of rear legs with scissors to round
shape. Body can be rounded if desired.

STEP 11: Color with fabric markers. Light colors first
graduating to darker colors.

STEP 12: Pull weed guard around to hook eye and insert
into foam and glue.



POND MANAGEMENT IN TEXAS

by Scott Manley

As an avid fisherman, I am interested in the management of Texas Freshwater Ponds. A well managed pond is not only advantageous for the environment but can also yield many hours of pleasure to fisherman. According to the Pond Management Committee of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, “Most farm ponds and small impoundments in Texas are not managed at their highest potential for fish production. This is unfortunate, since an estimated 20 percent of fishing trips in Texas are to these waters.”

This summer I had the opportunity to attend a couple of wildlife conservation camps. The Texas Brigade camps are for high school students with an interest in wildlife conservation. At this years Bass Brigade Camp, I learned about fresh water fish habitat

and how to manage it. Today I would like to share with you some of the information I learned about managing freshwater ponds.

Pond management is very important so your pond can reach its potential. There are a number of things to consider when managing a pond including the water shed, fish population and aquatic vegetation.

You must first start with the water shed and the land around your pond. Without a proper water shed it is impossible for you to effectively manage your lake or pond. A water shed is the path the water takes and the habitat in that path. Without proper trees and grass surrounding the pond, the land will erode and the soil will be washed into the pond over time. Most ponds in Texas are actually built to support livestock. However, animals around a pond can cause erosion. If you want a clean pond to fish in but still sustain the needs of livestock, you need to keep the cattle out of the pond. One way is to build a trough where water is pumped into it from the pond and fence the animals out. This way they can still get water without wading in the pond and eroding the banks. Since this can get quite costly, the cheaper way is to fence the pond so only part of it is available to the animals. Some people will even place rocks around the pond so the animals can drink but not wade and destroy the ground. Although trees are good, you do not want them on the dam of your pond. Tree roots, especially willow trees, will push their way through the soil on top of the dam and cause cracks to form.

Once you have established a successful water shed you should then manage the fish population in the pond. The four main ways that fishery biologists estimate the fish population in a pond or lake are Electro Shocking, Gill Nets, Frame Nets and Catch Records.

Electro fishing shocks up fish and allows you to observe the population of fish in the pond or lake. It has a generator which provides 500 - 1000 volts of electricity. There are two booms that come off the front of the boat with wires that transmit the electricity into the water. The fish are temporarily stunned and after proper data is recorded the fish are released unharmed. There are also two methods which use nets. There is a Gill Net which is used primarily in late winter and early spring. Fish become entangled in these nets allowing biologist to study them. The nets are placed in deeper water so they target mainly catfish and white bass. Another type of net called a Frame Net. It is used in fairly deep water in fall and early winter. This targets mainly crappie. My favorite method to assess fish population is by keeping Catch Records. You can use this by just going out and fishing and taking data on the fish you catch. By keeping accurate records of the number and type of fish, you can manage a healthy ratio in your pond.

A final consideration in Pond Management is the Aquatic Vegetation. Scientists have classified aquatic vegetation into four main classes. There are algal plants such as Muskgrass and Planktonic algae which small fish or fry and aquatic insects feed. These plants provide the most oxygen to the water. The second class is floating plants such as Duckweed. The third class is the Submerged plants such as Bladderwort and Coontail which are good for smaller fish to hide in from predators. The fourth class is the Emergent plants such as Cattail, Water lilies and Button brush. These are often found along the edges of ponds and provide excellent shade and cover for larger fish to wait and ambush their prey. Although these plants provide oxygen, food and the needed cover for the fish to survive, you can have too much of a good thing. Submerged plants can especially cause problems. For one, they can become so thick it is virtually impossible for larger fish to move through them. They can also block the sunlight from getting to the algal plants and thereby stopping photosynthesis and limiting the oxygen supply.

Since fish need oxygen to breathe it can get so bad that the fish actually die. I have seen summers where the submerged plants took so much oxygen out of the pond there were 7 and 8 pound bass surfacing trying to breathe. An example of a submerged plant that has caused problems in this part of the country is the Hydrilla. It is a non-native plant, originally from South America. It was brought into the United States for a decoration in small water gardens. Hydrilla grow very rapidly - more than twice its size in just one day. When it becomes too large or numerous in a small water garden, people tend to take it and put it in nearby ponds or lakes. It then gets on boats or boat trailers and spreads to other lakes and ponds.

There are three main ways to control vegetation such as the hydrilla - chemical, mechanical and biological. Chemicals such as herbicides used properly can control vegetation by killing unwanted plants. You must be careful and know what herbicides to use if you only want to kill certain plants and it can be very costly. Mechanical control is another way to fight off unwanted plants. Roller chopping is one method used on larger lakes. It is a big machine on pontoons which actually cut the vegetation. It is basically a lawn mower for aquatic vegetation. The disadvantage to this is that is very costly, can only be used in shallow water, and is hard to truly control fast growing plants like hydrilla. The last method is biological. An example of biological control is through fish like the grass carp. This can be easier and less costly. Grass carp will actually eat the vegetation and keep it from growing so rapidly. These three methods if used correctly can be very efficient in controlling unwanted vegetation and help in pond management.

Healthy ponds are ponds where the water shed, fish population and aquatic vegetation are all managed properly. If managed right you can have a productive body of water to enjoy. Aldo Leopold, known as the father of conservation, said, "The urge to comprehend must precede the urge to reform". Hopefully today I have given you the urge to comprehend by sharing with you the knowledge of how to maintain a healthy pond. Now it is up to you to act. One thing that I have learned from the Texas Brigades is that it is up to each of us to protect and preserve our great out doors for future generations.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual DFF Holiday Party will be held at 6:00pm, Sunday evening, December 12th, at the Crown Plaza Suites Hotel. This is the same location as last year. The Crown Plaza Suites is north and west of the Central Expressway (US 75) / LBJ (Interstate 635) intersection.

The cost is \$25.00 per person for a sit-down meal and several hours of camaraderie with the best group of Fly Fishers in Texas. Don't miss this great chance to salute the holidays.

On the back of this Leader you will find one of our holiday party sign-up slips. Please complete this form and mail it and your check as soon as possible. December is closer than you think and we need an accurate head count for the party by early December.

DF F 2004 HOLIDAY PARTY REGISTRATION FORM

Attendee Name(s) _____

Make check payable to: Dallas Flyfishers Mail to: Fred DuPre, 3605 Brentwood Dr,
Colleyville, TX 76034. If you have any questions call Fred at (817)577-8646.

