



THE LEADER

January 2004

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PREZ SEZ

by Jeff Ziehm

Sixty-five members and guests attended the 2003 Holiday Party at the Crown Plaza Suites. After a delicious dinner, the new DFF board members were introduced.

Jim Crump will be the DFF 2005 Trustee and Cody Bell will be the 2006 DFF Trustee. Fred DuPre, in addition to being an outstanding program chairman, has volunteered to be the FFF Southern Council liaison. A number of folks have volunteered to assist with the 2004 DFF auction. Tom Burkhalter has volunteered to chair this band of merry men and women. I am confident ex-auction chairmen Bob Tomlinson and Slim Mitchell will be adding the benefit of their years of experience. My thanks to all the new board members.

Mark Eskew and Bill Sargeant were awarded the 2003 President Award. Mark was the founder/organizer of our club library. More recently, Mark has spearheaded the club involvement with the Boy Scout fly-fishing merit badge program. Bill is the club fly-tying coordinator and organized the on-going fly-tying classes. Congratulations to both Mark and Bill.

Joe Meier was awarded the 2003 Founder Award. Joe was the 1980-1981 club president and was one of the original club founders from the early 1970s. We were also privileged to have six ex-presidents join us for this year's Christmas party.

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|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Slim Mitchell | 2001-2002 | Jere Anderson | 1998-2000 |
| Jeff Hines | 1990-1991 | Norm Goheen | 1984-1986 |
| Al Wilke | 1982-1983 | Joe Meier | 1980-1981 |

Thank you all for your on-going support.

Sue Spangler and Annie White made the center pieces for the party. They were Christmas trees with flies as ornaments. One lucky member at each table got to take the center piece home with them.

The night finished with Bob Tomlinson raffling off four fly-fishing rods and buckets of assorted fly-fishing paraphernalia.

I went fishing three or four weeks ago, up at the Red River, just below the Texoma Dam. For my first time ever, I was skunked. There were about ten other fishermen scattered about, and I did not see anyone catch a fish. My only theory is that the lake was

still turning over, sending low oxygen water into the river, but I would have thought that would have been finished by late November. The day was not a total loss. I stopped at Loy Lake on the way home and fished for about an hour. It was a 70 degree sunny day, and the bass were active. I caught a number of fish from the bank. One of the wonderful things about living in Texas, you can have good warm water fishing all winter on the periodic days when it warms up just a bit.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMS

January 19-Jesse King, owner of the Three River Fly Shop in Broken Bow, OK and a guide on the Lower Mtn. Fork River. Jesse and his wife Linda are active members of the Lower Mtn. Fork River Foundation. Jesse will speak about fly-fishing in the Beavers Bend area.

February 16-Annual Fly-tying Extravaganza coordinated by Bill Sargeant and Slim Mitchell.

March 15-Charlie Cypert, designer of the Cypert Minnow. Charlie will speak on fly-fishing for White Bass and Stripers.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

Our November speaker was Ed Koch from Boiling Springs, PA. Ed is an author, dry fly fishing guide and tying instructor. He presented a slide show on midges, emergers, the bugs they emulate and how to fish with these flies.

Ed mentioned tying nymphs on size 28 thru 32 hooks. Several people wanted to know where to purchase hooks that small. Feather-Craft, out of St Louis, sells Tiemco TMC518 midge dry fly and emerger hooks in sizes 28, 30 & 32 for \$4.40 per 25.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

FUTURE OUTINGS

by L. C. Clower

January 24-25: Broken Bow, OK. Great trout fishing in the Lower Mtn. Fork River. Everyone is responsible for making their own arrangements for lodging and bringing their own food. Look at the Beavers Bend website for a listing of nearby accommodations. www.beaversbend.com There may still be cabins available in the park and there are a few reservable RV sites within the park. Tent camping is available in the park on a first come basis.

February 21-22: Lake Daingerfield State Park. This month is peak time to try for chain pickerel, so here we go. Go east from Dallas on I 30. At Mount Pleasant go SE on Highway 49 to Hwy 259, then south on Hwy 259 to Daingerfield. At Daingerfield take Texas 11 on to the state park. The 47 acre spring-fed lake holds chain pickerel, largemouth, and perch. The lake is situated in a depression which reduces the wind on the water, so it is relatively protected. Bring something that floats: float tubes, canoes, kayaks, or pontoon boats. Bring Clousers, bendbacks, Zonkers or Lefty's Deceivers in red and white, red and yellow or the ever-popular chartreuse and white. Bring some of the same in black or olive for early, late and cloudy conditions. Early, late and cloudy, fish the edges. When the sun comes up (or out) look between the lily pads and try fishing over weedy dropoffs into deeper water.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

February 7: 2004 Fly Tying Festival, Houston, TX

13-15: Little Mo Fly Fest, Murfreesboro, AR.

March 13: Fly Fish TX, Athens, TX.

12-13: Sowbug Roundup, Mountain Home, AR.

13-14: Shallow Water Expo, Austin, TX.

19-21: Spring Rendezvous, Bistineau State Park, LA

NOVEMBER OUTING REPORT

The DFF Annual Thanksgiving Outing was a success. 20 DFF members and their guests made the trip to Beavers Bend State Park in Broken Bow, OK. Several people caught fish, some more than others. Bob Spangler and Jonathan Gonzalez both caught an 18-20 inch rainbow. Fred DuPre caught the most fish. Rumor has it that he caught over 20 trout on Sunday. The Friday night potluck was well attended with plenty of good food and great fish stories. A few people tied flies but most just relaxed and enjoyed the company. Saturday evening a couple of FWFF members joined with DFF members for a brief visit.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

CASTING ESSENTIALS
Getting it together before the fish start biting
by Ken Cole

Now that the holidays are over and the "Fish More In '04" resolution has been made, its time to start tuning the cast up for spring sandbass. It'll be here before you know it. I'll review the 5 essentials of a good cast, then take a closer look at #1.

1. Slack in the fly line must be kept to an absolute minimum. The rod will not properly load with slack.
2. The rod tip must travel in a straight line path, both horizontally and vertically, through the casting arc.
3. The casting arc must be of appropriate width and the casting stroke must be of appropriate length.
4. There must be a defined stop of the rod, and an appropriate pause, at the conclusion of each forward and back cast.
5. Power must be applied correctly.

Slack will kill a cast quicker than anything. Too much slack and the rod never loads, or loads just as you stick the rod tip in the dirt behind you. Get into the habit of starting EVERY cast with the rod tip as low to the water's surface as possible and no sagging line in front of your rod hand. Get that line anchored under a finger of the rod hand, or get a death grip on it with the line hand. Also, strip in as much of the squiggles in the line laying on the water surface. This straightens the line and gets it sliding into the pickup move with very little movement of the rod tip. A short, soft haul as you transition into the back cast will help eliminate any slack that has crept back into the line due to wind or current. By eliminating as much slack as possible, your back cast will become higher, snappier and easier. Good loops will surely follow.

DFE FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE PROJECT UPDATE
AND
REQUEST FOR MATERIAL
By Mark Eskew

Our Fly Fishing Merit Badge Project is off to a really good start. Over 10 DFE members have volunteered to help, and their certification by the BSA is underway. BSA's Circle 10 Council has promised to advertise our class throughout the Dallas area, and we're getting valuable help from the Federation of Fly Fishers and several other fly fishing clubs. Because of our good progress, two merit badge classes are being scheduled for next spring.

We still need your support. If you missed out and want to volunteer, give me a call at 972-661-2940 – we can use more DFF'ers to help out.

If you feel that you can't afford the time but still want to support the effort, consider donating material. The boys taking a class will need basic fly fishing equipment, entomology material, fly tying material and vises, and access to a good fishing hole where they will be guaranteed to meet their requirement of catching two kinds of fish. Please contact me if you have a donation, and I'll arrange to pick it up.

Thanks for your support.

The Roadkill Collection

Disclaimer: The name of this column does not in anyway have anything to do with the nebulous group of tyers that roam these parts calling themselves the "Roadkill Roundtable." The word "roadkill" is commonly used by tyers everywhere and we consider it "fair game." (pun intended)

Since we've got a couple of months before seriously thinking about bass and bluegill, let's turn our thoughts to trout. What flies do we normally fish in the winter months when most mayflies and caddis aren't hatching? Nymphs, emergers, more nymphs, midges, sowbugs, scuds and streamers. If all these fail, go sit by the fire. Let's do two small flies this month that are essential in everyone's flybox. Don't cringe over the word small. Small flies are easy; it's the seeing that's hard. Get some magnifiers, a good light and a profile plate. (If you don't want to spend thirty bucks on a profile plate, stand a piece of white or gray poster board on the far side of your vise ...makes all the difference in the world.)

Ken's Emerger – Ken Cole

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Hook: | #20 – 24 dry fly |
| Thread: | Olive 8/0 |
| Trailing shuck: | Thread - 3 pieces (tag plus doubled piece) |
| Body: | Thread |
| Thorax: | Brown dubbing |
| Loop wing: | CDC feather barbs – gray or white |

1. Start thread behind eye and wind to bend, leave tag.
2. Tie in short piece of tying thread, doubled. This will give you, along with the tag, three pieces of thread for the trailing shuck.
3. Wind thread forward and stop at rear of thorax.
4. Tie in CDC barbs pointing to the rear.
5. Dub thorax.
6. Bring CDC barbs over thorax and tie down loosely behind eye.
7. Lift barbs with bodkin to form loop, about 2/3 of shank length.
8. Tighten wraps, whip finish and trim CDC leaving a small bit (1/16 inch or less) protruding over eye.
9. Trim the 3 strands of shuck to one hook shank length and fray.

RS – 2 – Rim Chung

This fly can imitate many emergent mayflies, but the one most common is the Blue-Winged Olive.

Hook: #18-22 Tiemco 200R
Thread: Olive 8/0
Tail: Two black moose body hairs or micro-fibbets, split
Body: Olive dubbing
Wing: CDC puff, gray or white
Thorax: Dubbing to match body

1. Start thread behind eye, wind to bend and make thread bump.
2. Tie in tail material, hook shank length, and split. Note: This is the only difficult part of the fly. Measure your first fiber and position directly on top of the shank. Take one wrap over the material and directly in front of the bump. As you tighten the thread let the material roll to the far side of the shank and secure with another wrap. Hold the second fiber against the near side of the shank, take one wrap and adjust length. Secure with 2 more wraps. If this is too hard, tie in a half dozen fibers, spread with the bump and trim out the center.
3. Dub body to rear of thorax.
4. Tie in CDC puff, pointing toward rear.
5. Dub thorax and whip finish.
6. Trim CDC puff to a stub.

As an alternative, you can tie the wing at the front of the thorax and use white foam instead of CDC. Cut a sliver of 3mm foam about the diameter of a toothpick, tie it in and trim to a stub. This is a popular version on the San Juan.

A note on thread: Thread build-up is always a concern and on small flies is critical. Remember, two wraps should hold most material in place. Also, Giorgio Benecchi 12/0 thread, sold in many of the tying catalogs, is strong and will be more forgiving when you take those extra wraps. In one of his videos, Chris Helms spins deer hair with this thread.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Jere Anderson

Happy New Year

A New Beginning and A Few Endings

In the last month, I have achieved some serious personal milestones. I turned 65, so I am officially an elderly person (common expressions like “old fart” are not considered to be PC enough these days). The second milestone is the FED has offered me an early out. I will probably accept this offer, so I will at last have a planning date for my last day of work. Third and last of my mini-milestones is that I am starting my twelfth

year on the DFF Board. I have been the President, the newsletter editor, and Conservation guy. At one time I was all of these at once. That was too much, but my friends took some of the stuff off my hands, and for that I am grateful. However, this is probably my last year as board member. If anyone wants to be the next Conservation guy and Outreach coordinator, this is a good year to do it in.

The time for the spring spawners in Texas to stage near the spawning flats will soon be here. This means that double-digit bass on topwaters are possible. It doesn't get much better than that. Get out there and enjoy the breaks in our winter weather. Catch a lot of fish. Have a lot of fun. This is the time of year when the biggest bass are caught. This time I want a Share-A-Lunker caught by a Texan. The idea of the only registered fly rod over 13 pound bass being caught and killed by the mishandling of the monster fish by a California based tourist who was after hatchery trout is embarrassing to real southern fried bass men. Get out there and win back our prestige.

There is a new deal from the TP&W this year. If you are fishing with a kid (defined as someone under 17) and you are in a state park, you do not need a fishing license in most cases. This is a good chance to get that neighbor of yours that is too frugal to buy a license and his kid out there. Invite him and his kid to share the boat with you at Joe Pool Lake, Purtil Creek State Park, or some other location with a state park on it. Try it, they will like it.

Conservation Issues

Arkansas issues dominate the radar screen right now. The most important is the minimum flow issues brought to our attention when Mr. Forest L. Wood wrote to the Southern Council of the FFF. In his letter he solicited our support on this issue. The EIS (Environmental Impact Study) is or soon will be complete. It will be available on the web at <http://www.friendsofthenorthforkandwhiterivers.com/> and at the Corps of Army Engineers site <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/planning/wrminflows.html>

He will face formidable opposition. The entrenched water interests want the water for other boondoggles. The farmers, the city planners, the industrial interests all want the water to not be "wasted" on fish. They seem unmoved by the fact (and it is a fact) that the fishery is worth more to Arkansas than their little special interests ever thought of being. Already fake "news" stories about how this will dramatically raise the price of electricity all over the state and other such misinformation are being sucked up by the clever analysts at the news media and published.

So as the plot thickens we will help Forest out with our support. I will have copies of his letter at the January meeting, and sample points for your letters or e-mails. To make it easier to contact them, the COE has built a special mailbox for this project. Its address is minimum.flow.project@usace.army.mil This may be the most important thing we can do for fishing in this winter season. The fight will be long, and a lot of money is on the table. We need to get in the fight in large numbers. The trout need our help.

Tight Lines and Big Fish

FFF SOUTHERN CONCLAVE 2003 JR FLY TYER OF THE YEAR

DFF member Kristina Murri was the recipient of the Jr Fly Tyer of the Year, 2003 award. She is a very talented young tyer and is well known for her tying ability. She has also demonstrated her 5th grade science project entitled "Testing Knots Used For Fly Fishing" for Texas clubs.

Kristina is the daughter of DFF member Rich Murri and grand-daughter of long time DFF member John Peterie.

(See related pictures in Club Photo Album)

FLY TYING FESTIVAL 2004

The Texas Flyfishers Club has announced that A.K. Best will be the featured fly tier at the 2004 Fly Tying Festival. Best is author of Production Fly Tying and several other books, and has been featured in many fly-tying videos. Every tier should be able to learn something from him. Mark your calendar now for this very special occasion. It will be held at the Holiday Inn at Antoine on I-10 on Saturday, February 7, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They anticipate having at least 50 tiers at this year's festival. There will be five one-hour presentations during the day beginning at 11:00 a.m. Admission is \$10.00 adults, \$8.00 seniors (62 and older), \$5.00 under 18, and \$14.00 for the entire family. The Holiday Inn is giving a special rate of \$59 a night. To take advantage of this rate you must make your reservation no later than January 16, 2004, and mention that you are attending the Fly Tying Festival. The Holiday Inn's number is 713-681-5000.

LITTLE MO FLY FEST

February 13-15th (16th for those who have it off) organized by Jeff Guerin. See his website www.littlemissourifyfishing.com

This is Valentines Day and if you have a "Valentine" who's not into fly fishing, let them look at www.murfreesboroarkansas.info to see what else there is to do.

FLY TYING CLASSES

Sponsored by Dallas Parks & Recreation Dept.

16600 Park Hill Drive

Dallas, TX

214-670-6314

Beginning Fly Tying --- Starting 1/29/04

Six classes for \$60.00 + materials (\$15.00 total)

Tools furnished

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm --- Thursdays

12 Students maximum ---12 years old +

