



MAY MEETING REPORT

Due to a family medical situation, our scheduled speaker, Ed Koch from Pennsylvania, had to change his trip to Texas. We were lucky that Brian Gambill was willing to move up his speaking date.

Brian is a guide on Lake Fork and presented a very informative program on fishing there. He even tied some of his original flies, prior to the program. Brian's slide show even included a picture of one of the lakes resident alligators.

Prior to the meeting, Ken Cole held casting lessons. Dick Robinson, Rudy Sarich, Bill Sargeant, Slim Mitchell & Greg Harned took advantage of this opportunity to improve their casting skill. Bring your fly rod to the next meeting and join the fun.

(See related photos in CLUB PHOTOS)

FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMS

June 16th - Guides of Texas, Marcus Rodriguiz and Johnny Quiroz from San Antonio, will be presenting fly fishing the Hill Country. They will discuss six rivers, access points, favorite spots and techniques.

July 21st - Tom Hawthorne, The Ozark Anglers from Little Rock, will be presenting a fly fishing program on the Little Red River. Tom's presentation will cover favorite spots, techniques, favorite flies and aquatic life.

August- No Meeting

DDF Fly Tying - 3rd Thursday each month

Beginning June 19th DDF will have a fly tying "session" on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Location will be the Campbell Green Rec Center, 16600 Park Hill Drive, Dallas beginning at 7:00 pm. These sessions will be semi-structured with a theme, but the emphasis will be on the exchange of ideas and techniques. No materials will be furnished; however, patterns will be published in advance so you can accumulate the

necessary materials in whatever colors, hook size or variations you wish. If you don't know how to tie the patterns, there will be ample assistance available.

There will be plenty of space so come one and all and bring your new patterns and ideas. If you would be interested in coordinating a session or have any questions, contact Mike Verduin, Diane Blair, or Bill Sargeant, telephone numbers on front page of the Leader.

June 19 Coordinator: Mike Verduin

Woven Body Flies: River Witch, Bitch Creek, E.T. Catalpa Worm.

Learn weaves for nymphs, extended bodies, etc.

July 17 Coordinator: Bill Sargeant

Hair Wing Flies: Elk and deer hair Caddis, Wulffs, Humpys

Aug 21 Coordinator: Diane Blair

Soft Hackles: Bring lots of Upland Game Bird hackle and body material of your heart's desire. There will not be a Leader published in July, so patterns for the September, October, November and December sessions will be in the August edition and on the DFF website. Note: There will be a structured fly tying class held this fall for DFF members.

Fly Off 2003 - Pettigrew Ranch

This years Fly Off was a great success with a great attendance, good food & plenty of fun. Fish were caught and smiles were showing. The Biggest Fish was caught by Benson Fowler. There was a tie for the Biggest Sunfish caught by Richard Komar & Mark Eskew. Dave Etgen caught the most fish. Bill Sankey won the drawing for the Dan's Fly Shop Rod. Norm Goheen won the casting accuracy contest and received a Ovis Battenkill 5/6 disk reel donated by The Orvis Co. Gerry Butler won the casting distance contest and received a Bogagrip donated by Blue Drake. Barry Lachman won the Booby prize and was awarded casting lesson donated by Ken Cole. A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who helped put this outing together & to the prize donors.

(See related photos in CLUB PHOTOS)

FUTURE OUTINGS

by L. C. Clower

The return of the Annual Bluegill Slaughter will be June 14th and 15th at Lake of the Pines. DFF used to hold an outing around the first of June every year, at Lake of the Pines, up until about 1985. Lake of the Pines got crowded with bass tournaments about

then and we quit going. Then Lake Fork came on as the primo trophy bass lake and took the pressure off the rest of East Texas. Since there's been some interest in reviving the Annual Bluegill Slaughter, we took a look at 'Pines after the Tyler State Park outing. The four most interesting areas are Hurricane, Alley and Johnson Creeks and the area due north above the 155 Bridge. Mike Verduin recommends the islands and pad fields out from Willow Point. Vegetation covers 15 to 20 percent of the lake surface every summer with acres and acres of hydrilla, lily pads on the upper end and in the backs of creeks and coves. Hair frogs, Dahlbergs, long weedless rabbit strip streamers and Deceivers should work, weedguards recommended. Carry some muddlers in natural colors or white with some silver flash, some pickerel should also be found in the pads. Bluegills should fall for Black Thing nymphs, Cap spiders, foam spiders and dragon nymph patterns.

On the lower end there are rip rap and gravel banks. Look for vegetation or wood cover along with the gravel and rock structure, may be some smallmouth to be caught there. Kayaks, canoes, pontoons, and float tubes should all work well enough here, and hey, if you got a bass boat, bring it.

Meet up at Johnson Creek (Corps of Engineers park) (903)755-2435, look for the DFF banner. Johnson Creek Marina (903) 755-2530 has houseboat and pontoon boat rentals, plus gas and groceries. For additional info or assistance call L. C. Clower (972) 463-5126 or email lcclower@airmail.

July 12th we will fish Loy Lake. Make sure you arrive early, the fish stop biting at about 10:00an. For more info on this Day Outing and directions to Loy Lake, call L. C. Clower (972)463-5126.

July 17–20 will bring us back to Whites Landing, at Lake Fork, for a week-end outing. We will be the guests of Annie White & Bob & Sue Spangler at this private RV park. There is plenty of room for everyone to fish & play. This RV park is on a small cove with a boat ramp & a dock. We can fish for bass & panfish from the dock, the bank, canoes or boats. There is limited overnight RV camping but plenty of room for tents behind Annie's or Spangler's RVs. The only restroom facilities are in Annie's & Spangler's campers so plan accordingly. There is also a small hotel down the road. (Gateway Inn (903) 383-7959). Each person will be responsible for their own food, drinks & insect repellent (A MUST!!). For those interested, we can dine out Saturday evening. Call or e-mail Spanglers for directions (& gate code) (972) 475-4737 spanky@ticnet.com.

How about an August outing? Beat a hasty retreat to Rockport the weekend of August 9 & 10 along with the Fort Worth Fly Fishers. Most stay at Hunts Castle but everyone's responsible for their own arrangements. Contact Ron Newton fignewton01@yahoo.com, Outings Chairman for FWFF or L. C. Clower lcclower@airmail.net (972) 463-5126.

Memorial Day Week-end On The Llano River

by Abby Golman

A group of eight DFF members, two guests, one member of the Texas Women Fly Fishers, and our friend Constance Whiston attended the Memorial Day weekend outing and had a great time on the Llano River in the beautiful Hill Country of southwest Texas. Joining the group for the outing were new friends Gail and Darren Crowe. Gail is a class mate of mine from the University of North Texas. Both Gail and Darren work for the federal prison system, and we sure had a great time listening to their stories. Mary Rohrer of the TWFF joined us for the Saturday kayak trip and then returned home to Fredericksburg that night. As always, we enjoyed seeing her. Some folks stayed at the Townhouse B&B in Mason, Texas, and a few folks brought their RVs and stayed at the Fort Mason City Park just outside of town. On Saturday we kayaked a 4.5 mile stretch of the Llano River from the James River Crossing to a spot on the private property of the Homer Martin Ranch. The weather was sunny, hot, and about 85 degrees. The brisk breeze was a two-edged sword in that it kept us somewhat cool but made it hard having to paddle into the wind. We certainly got a good workout, and the scenery was just beautiful! Several folks caught fish, but "the big one" remained as illusive as ever for us that day. That night we traveled about 30 miles north into the town of Brady for a great BBQ dinner. The really bad weather moved in on Saturday night, and the rain continued off and on all day Sunday. Since fishing was out of the question, we took a little road trip into Fredericksburg, about 40 miles south of Mason. We had lunch at a local German restaurant (yes, most of us ate American food!) and then walked the main street which is lined with dozens and dozens of quaint little stores and shops. Luckily the rain held off during that time. After returning to Mason, a few folks decided to try their luck fishing at the James River Crossing, and the rest of us relaxed for awhile. Later that night, we traveled deep into the heart of the Hill Country area to see the bats come out at sunset. This entailed a long off-road drive, crossing a flooded low-water bridge (I won't say who tried to walk it and fell on their tushies!) and then a short hike to the viewing area. We quickly found out that Rule No. 1 when viewing the bats is to HOLD YOUR NOSE! If you do that, you can relax and enjoy the sight of thousands upon thousands of bats that continue to flow out of the cave for at what we were told can be up to two hours. Monday morning found us all awake and vertical at an early hour. Given that the rain had moved in again overnight, we packed up and hit the road for the long drive home. Even though we really only got one good day of fishing on the river, the scenery and the company made the whole trip worthwhile. As always, Constance was most gracious in lending her expertise to us all. However, Constance joined us on this trip as our good friend, not as a professional guide, and therefore we wanted her to be able to relax and enjoy the trip! For those who have never been to the Llano River, it is one of the prettiest warm-water rivers I've ever seen. I've fished this river about five times since last April, and I've never fished the same place twice! Every turn of the river offers a different view and a different fishing experience, and I highly recommend that everyone fish it at least once in their life. Another great aspect of this river is that if you don't want to kayak a stretch for the day, you can simply drive all around the area and fish the different low-water bridges and other access points. Since the Llano is so long and passes near or through so many different little towns, you can also stay someplace new each time. Constance has

authored a section on the Llano and San Gabriel rivers in the book "Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country," revised edition 2002 (the original edition was authored by Bud Priddy, and each section of the 2002 edition was revised by various authors). Her section gives an in-depth look at fishing these rivers, and also tells you where to go. Check it out!

As for our new friends Gail and Darren, we sure hope to see them again soon. This was their first fly fishing trip, and it turns out they're both naturals. To see them casting throughout the day on Saturday's kayak trip, you'd never know this was their first time!

I hope to see everyone at the next outing to this beautiful, diverse, and scenic river!

(See related photos in CLUB PHOTOS)

NEWS FROM ORVIS

Orvis (Preston at Royal Lane) is doing a promotion for the month of June. Anyone who brings in an old rod can get a 25% discount on either a T3 or TLS rod. For example, for a 865 T3 you would save around \$150. Same goes with reels. If you bring in an old reel we will give you a 25% discount on any Large Arbor Battenkill reel. We will then be giving all the old rods and reels to different organizations to use in teaching kids to fly fish such as the YMCA or the Boys Scouts.

Meet Our New Fishing Manager

Paul Range : Orvis - Fishing Manager
Orvis Dallas (Preston at Royal Lane)
214-265-1600

I am a native Texan, I was born in Fort Worth and grew up on a ranch in Justin, Texas where my grandparents and parents harvested wheat, maize, hay and raised 4,000 hogs and a few hundred cattle. My father taught me to fly fish at the age of ten on our ponds and creek, fishing for bluegill and largemouth bass. We also spent a couple of weeks every summer camping and fishing for brookies in the Powder horn Wilderness in Colorado. As I got older we would also squeeze in a few days on the San Juan where I learned that trout do get bigger than 12" !!!

After graduating from the University of North Texas I moved out to Atlanta, GA where I worked at the Atlanta Orvis store and its sister store in Norcross for 2 years, before being transferred here to Dallas. I enjoyed fishing extensively in the mountains of North Georgia and North Carolina for wild brook trout and stocked rainbows and browns. Atlanta also has the luxury of having the Chattahoochee River running through Atlanta with over 26 miles of fishable trout water. (A convenience I took for granted - It was great to have trout waters so close that you could get a couple of hours of fishing in after work every day!).

I look forward to fishing the many lakes here in the area again and learning to fish the Texas Coast. I enjoy fishing for all species, but have always enjoyed trout fishing more than anything. Hopefully I will be able to attend your next meeting and work with you guys in the future. Thanks for your time. I look forward to meeting you.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Jere Anderson

What's Hot and What's Not

We are going into our summer break, so it is important to note the events from here until the newsletters begin again. There are quite a few big events going on in this time frame.

The biggest and grandest of them all is the IFFC National Conclave in Idaho Falls, Idaho on August 4 - 9. This event is the granddaddy of them all, and should be on every Flyfishers list of "Things I need to do at least once in my life". The fishing is great there also. My Grandparents lived near there, and as a grade school aged bait dunker, I remember lots of big fish, and long lazy days on the water with Grandpa and Dad. It don't get any better than that.

You should also plan for the twin events at the first of October, the Southern Conclave and the Texas Expo. The Southern Conclave, our own region's event, is October 4 - 5 at the Baxter County Fairgrounds in Mountain Home AR. The first year they used the fairgrounds was 1999 when we did the conclave, and it was a scramble to get it all figured out. By now it probably has gotten down to a science. In any case, this is the biggest of the conclaves, even eclipsing the IFFC show in the heart of big trout land. Perhaps the change of venue to Idaho Falls will bring back the glory of the IFFC, but you can bet on the Southern Conclave being a great show.

If you wish, I will be coordinating the fly tiers for the Texas Expo again this year. We had a good time last year, with Annie White and Bob Tumlinson helping with the fly casting, while Charlie and Jere tied a bazillion little bugs for a bazillion little kids. Several other folks were there also. This may be the biggest outdoor show in America, and it is certainly the biggest in Texas. All for free,

you and about 50,000 other folks can shoot shotguns, shoot black powder rifles, kids can fish for trout or catfish, or you can go to the fly fishing tent and help us introduce the public to the gentle arts of flyfishing. The location is the TP&W headquarters buildings on Schoolhouse road in Austin, TX. The dates are October 5 - 6. The web site has an error, and shows Saturday and Sunday as 4 -5. Jere will be getting volunteers in the June and July meetings, since Constance needs the list before the September meeting.

We are tying at Bass Pro Shops now with the unfortunate demise of the Backwoods at Coit and Campbell. More folks need to go there and tie. The audience is in the thousands if you total the crowd in and out in a day, and certainly hundreds of them give us at least a quick look-see. Give it a try.

Conservation Issues

The legislature of Texas is back from their media event (the roundup of our dedicated elected officials hiding out at the OK Corral). While they were gone, the backroom deals that propel legislation through our fine Texas process occurred resulting in a very few of their bills being on the docket, but a lot of other stuff is going fine. Below is the quote from the legislature web site for May 20th.

"Agency capitol staffers say a House-Senate conference committee may this week finish its work on the state budget bill. After that, both houses must pass the budget, and we should have a clear picture of what TPWD's budget situation will be like in fiscal years 2004-2005. Today the full House passed SB 155 on second reading, which must still face a third and final vote in the House. The bill would prohibit motorized vehicles in most Texas riverbeds. This Wednesday, the House Natural Resources Committee will consider SB 1374, which would place a moratorium on water rights permits for instream flows and set up an appointed Study Commission to analyze options to provide river instream flows and inflows to bays and estuaries."

These are both good bills in the opinions of most conservation groups. They do ignore a lot of folks that have different opinions, but when your legislator fails to show up for the committee meeting, his opinion doesn't get heard. Something to think about in the next election.

There are a lot of you who wonder what conservation things can you do personally. Perhaps one of the best little projects is to always carry a garbage bag in the boat, the truck or the fishing car. Then when you are back from fishing, take just 10 or 15 minutes to try to get about a half a bag of stuff picked up. If you see debris in the water, snag it with the landing net and drop it in the boat. Then put it in the garbage can either at the launching ramp or at home. If every one of the nearly 3 million Texas fishermen (that noun covers both male and female, both young, old and in between) did this, one heck of a lot of garbage would not be littering our water, our shorelines and our beaches. Try it, and of course a suggestion to the litterbugs you see might also be in order. Be careful about educating the idiots that leave the mountains of junk on the picnic areas however. If they really can't see that as unsightly, then they may be hard to talk to. So be contentious, but cautious. I certainly don't want anyone hurt by a beer soaked idiot who didn't care if he made a big mess.

Have fun and get out there and fish. Fish early and late as the summer gets hotter. You might try night fishing. Bass move back to the shallows and crappie hang out around bridge pilings at night. All of these are fly eaters that get very active as the sun gets lower. For that matter, a cooler full of your favorite non-alcoholic beverage, a comfortable chair, a spinning rod, a can of bait and a warm summer night can be a great combination. Be sure to use the bug repellent, but I have a lot of happy memories of such outings.

Tight Lines and Big Fish