



The Kentuckiana Fly Fisher

...to introduce and educate the sporting public to the sport of fly fishing.

Your Derby City Fly Fishers newsletter for May, 2018

President's Letter



Why do we do some of the things that we do?

As most of you are well aware, we have a very vibrant fly fishing club full of members who are eager to participate and help with our fly fishing activities. To that end, our club has always tried to make a point to be able to support and help worthy fly fishing related organizations such as Casting for Recovery (women with breast cancer), Reel Recovery (men with cancer) and Project Healing Waters (United States Veterans). I personally believe that it is nice to be able to "give back" and share, through volunteerism and otherwise, some of what we as individuals, and we as a club, may have to offer, to those that may need a helping hand. Every once in a while however, I get the question of "Why do you, or, why do we, do such?" And after wrestling with a multitude of various good answers, I think the best, simplest, and most succinct is,Because it's the right thing to do! Within the near future we have various opportunities to volunteer to help such groups as the aforementioned. If any of you would be willing to help, please feel free to reach out to me or any of our board members.

In this DCFF Newsletter is part of a letter, which I wrote about 5 years ago, to Ruby Gordon with Reel Recovery. I was a DCFF volunteer "Fishing Buddy" helping at a Reel Recovery Retreat at the time. It is titled "A Tribute to Sammy". I believe it helps illuminate the good that our club can do. I hope you too, realize the impact we can have.

A tribute to "Sammy"

2013 Reel Recovery Retreat, Henryville, Indiana
- via an excerpt from a letter to a fellow Reel Recovery
colleague -

George Tipker (DCFF) to Ruby Gordon (RR) (November 2013)

...

On a back corner of my desk, ... but where I can see them, I keep pictures of our Reel Recovery retreat "group pictures" standing in front of each other, in reverse chronological order. And for whatever reason while looking for something in my file cabinet this evening, I came across this past year's participant list.

During our most recent retreat, some 6 months ago now, as a volunteer "fishing buddy", I spent time with an exceptional gentleman attending our May 2013, Henryville, Indiana retreat, who traveled all the way from Texas to participate. His name was Sammy. I looked up Robert Samuel Hicks' ("Sammy") address on our participant roster and then I did an internet search for him in Bedford, Texas, the town in which he lived. I guess I had somewhat subconsciously delayed doing this, as I feared the thought of what I might discover.

I had the opportunity and great pleasure of speaking with Sammy at length one day during our retreat, on the front porch, just he and I, and I learned much about this wonderful fellow. We shared stories about life, work, our families, cancer (as my wife went through it,) breast cancer and many other things ... just general sincere conversation. Sammy suffered from Mesothelioma. If my recollection is correct he only had one lung left and the lung that remained was tumored. Sammy tired easily, and thus was part of the reason we were on the porch, and even there, our conversations were delayed a bit, while he coughed deeply to clear his airway. I sensed undoubtedly from conversing with Sammy, that he was a good family man, was a hard worker, recently retired from many dedicated years as the head maintenance supervisor over the Dallas Ft. Worth Texas Airport, he knew the Lord, and he dearly loved his wife & family. He was one of those people that you just knew, had to have been liked by everybody.

Sammy had plans for his recent retirement, but cancer wasn't one of them. He understood, and seemed unbelievably "okay"; dealing with it (cancer) and he had already been through a lot, at the time of our visit/retreat. Sammy told me that he always wanted to fly fish and he knew his opportunities were possibly growing short. Somehow he learned of Reel Recovery, but I don't recall how, and he somehow also learned that the nearest, soonest, Reel Recovery retreat was our Henryville, Indiana retreat, some 800+ miles away. Sammy went on to say that he really wanted to partake, but didn't want to leave his wife/family given his condition and his seemingly lapsing time table. Sammy told me though, that his wife encouraged him to attend, as this was something that he always wanted to do .. learn to fly fish. Her encouragement was conditioned however; only if he thought that he could physically make the trip; and that she would be "okay" during their short time apart. Sammy knew his trip would be difficult, ascending and descending as airplanes do, with only one lung and his given condition; and apparently it was, but he made it.

Sammy had a good time and he truly enjoyed his retreat and it was very fulfilling, for both of us, I am certain. Sammy expressed his sincere gratitude to me and the entire volunteer group of "fishing buddies" for giving up their time to spend with, and assist participants, such as he; and to Reel Recovery, for facilitating such a retreat.

Looking back on it, the time I spent with Sammy was all too short, but every minute was well worth it, for me and hopefully for him too. I am truly glad I had the opportunity to meet Sammy then, spend time with him and get to know him, and consequently, I won't forget him anytime soon. His smile and spirit were uplifting to all of us, even during the adversity that he was facing.

And I think Ruby, you will certainly recall at the end of our retreat, after most participants were leaving, or had already left, a number of us volunteers were sitting round-table discussing future plans for generating money in order to help fund, facilitate and continue future retreats for our local Kentucky/Indiana Reel Recovery program. You had an envelope in your possession that you had just recently been handed by a Reel Recovery participant who had already left for his trip home. You had inadvertently, temporarily, forgotten about it, but then remembered, and you opened it at some point during our post retreat meeting. Inside you found a donation check to Reel Recovery, unsolicited and unexpected, for an unbelievably generous amount of \$1000. The check was from Sammy.

I found record of Sammy in Bedford Texas. Robert Samuel Hicks died, one month and one day after our Reel Recovery Retreat. He had just turned 66 years old. Sammy learned to fly fish ... I learned more.

Rest in peace my friend; thank you; and God Bless you!



... and this is why we do what we do.

George

Sammy Hicks

Coming in May, 2018!

Tuesday, May 1 Our good friends at Quest will offer Fly Tying instruction from 6 to 8 PM at Quest Outdoors, 4600 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY. Phone is 502 290 4589.

Wednesday May 2, 6:30 PM; Board Meeting: The Board of Directors will meet again at Rooster's, 1601 Greentree Boulevard, Clarksville, IN. Guests are welcome. Attending a Board Meeting when you are not a member gives interested people the chance to see concerns we have, hear our thoughts, express their own thoughts, and see decisions proposed and approved or denied.

The meeting usually lasts until 8:00 or 8:30. It is briefly interrupted for a meal, paid for individually. One reason we encourage everyone to attend this meeting is that

we would like you to evaluate for yourself whether you would like to help manage our club. Derby City Fly Fishers is a good, strong club. But as in all such organizations we need members to become active and help manage. Doing so can be very satisfying and lots of fun as well.

Current Board Members are:

George Tipker, President; Roy Been, Vice President; Jessy Clements, Secretary; David Temple, Treasurer; Joe Gahlinger, Membership; Jack Miller, Program Director; Mike Norris, Travel Director; Gerry McDaniel, Education; Ralph Swallow, Marketing; Jack McGuire, Raffles; John Herrin, Conservation; Doug Stull, Newsletter; Scott Webster, Website; Jim Bearden, Healing Waters; Brian Kaluzny, Club History.

Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 PM Eat and Talk Shop: We gather at the Golden Corral restaurant, 1402 Cedar Street in Clarksville, IN for **Eat and Talk Shop**. This is a fun evening where food is tasty and plentiful and the talk can range widely, from fly fishing techniques and equipment, to questions and answers, to planning for the next outing or event. It is a great place to get to know fellow anglers and get your questions answered.

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 to 8:30: This is our monthly Membership Meeting, the first outdoor meeting of 2018. We will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Otter Creek Park, in the Garnettville picnic area there. A pulled pork dinner will be served. Cost of the meal is \$5.00 for members. Guests eat free! Fishing is done by many, both before the meeting and after. The club owns several fly rods which will be used to teach all aspects of fly casting and fly fishing. This is a great time for learning for both novices and experienced fishermen and women. Fishing is Catch and Release. You are required to have a Kentucky Fishing License and Trout Stamp.

Wednesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 24, at 6:30 PM: These dates and times are devoted to fly-tying instruction. The Wednesday class will be at Cabela's in Louisville, Kentucky. The Thursday session will be at Bass Pro Shop's second floor auditorium in Clarksville, Indiana, both at 6:30. It is good to get there early so as to find a seat and set up your vice and organize your tools. Our instructor on both evenings this month is Krey Keeney. Krey will teach us to tie a Chernobyl Hopper and a Crackleback. Here they are:



Crackleback



Chernobyl Hopper

Admission to our fly tying classes is **FREE!** Club membership is not required! You need bring only yourself. All tools and materials are furnished free by Derby City Fly Fishers. The teacher will lead the tying instruction, which is shown on a screen. Experienced tiers will circulate among the students to provide assistance if you need it.. You will leave with a couple flies you tied that are capable of attracting and catching fish, and the ability to tie more of them yourself!

Friday, May 25 through Sunday, May 27 are the dates for our annual Bluegill Fishing Expo at Lake Barclay, in Western Kentucky. Complete info is shown on the derbycityflyfishers.com website. Great fun, and we endeavor to stay out of the wind affected part of Lake Barclay and fish the calmer water.

Club Membership

Club membership is important. It is also very low cost to each individual. But it yields fun, fellowship, education, and fishing info that are of great advantage to you. The fee is only \$20.00 per year for you; \$25.00 per year for the whole family.

For non-members, we ask that you consider it. For active members, we remind you to pay your dues each year. Thank you.

2018 Trip and Outing Schedule

Past:

January 19-21 Otter Creek Weekend
March 10 Otter Creek Instructional Outing
March 10 3 PM Floyds Fork Parkland Fly Tying
March 26, WF4 gathering and Fund raiser
April 5-8 North Carolina Trip @ Waynesville, NC

Coming:

May 25-27 Lake Barclay for Bluegill
June 9 Blue River in Indiana
June 26-28 Brookville Indiana Tailwater
July 13-15 Cumberland Tailwater @ Helm's Landing
August 17-19 White River near Anderson, IN with 3 Rivers FF
September 21-30 Trout Camp @ Helm's Landing
October 20 Otter Creek Instructional Outing
November 8-11 North Carolina Trip @ Waynesville, NC
November 16-18 Otter Creek Weekend November 17 Mystery Fly Tournament for Reel Recovery @ Otter Creek

North Carolina Trip April 5 - 8, 2018

Jim Bearden reports the trip was well attended. Fishing was very good, and the restaurants there always are. As usual, some caught a few, others caught many. All had a good time. Here is a photo of a nice 21 inch trout caught by Jeff Webster, a long time fisher but fairly new fly-fisherman on the Big Laurel River:



Lots of Fly Tying Available

As you are aware, DCFF offers Fly Tying instruction twice a month, on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 at Cabela's in Kentucky and the following evening at 6:30 at Bass Pro, in Indiana. Our classes are at no-charge, as are most of the following.

As stated above in Coming in April, Quest Outdoors offers Fly Tie training in their shop on Shelbyville Road in Louisville. Their next class is Tuesday, April 3. It runs from 6 to 8 PM. The phone is 502 290 4589. Some of those classes are taught by our own long-time member and skilled angler Del Striegel, a very good guy!

Orvis offers a free class at their store in Louisville. It is on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM. They will supply tools if necessary, but people generally bring their own. The phone is 502 425 0198.

There Are Two Kinds of Trips!

There are lots of fly fishers in DCFF, and naturally, lots of trips are taken. What newcomers need to understand is that only club members who have paid their dues are permitted to go on trips sponsored by Derby City Fly Fishers. We strictly enforce that rule, because if we do not, we jeopardize our insurance coverage. There are other trips organized by individuals who would like to go someplace together and fish. The rule stated above does not apply to that sort of trip. You will see that we report on either kind of trip in this newsletter.

Decorate Shirts, Jackets, Etc.

Ralph Swallows has taken over our Merchandising job and has arranged with:

**Derby City Embroidery LLC,
Rhonda Summers, Manager**

310 Breckenridge Street

Louisville, KY 40203

Phone 502 394 9922

FAX 502 266 7525

Email Rhonda@derbycityembroidery.com,
to have clothing stitched with the DCFF Logo. It
is your responsibility to deliver the garments,
pick them up on completion and pay for them.
The price for 1 to 5 shirts is \$5.75 each. The
price per shirt drops with greater quantities.
Just about any garment or fabric can be used.



Should you have questions, Ralph Swallows will
be glad to help. His phone is 502 836 8841.

Ralph's email is ralphswallows@att.net.

In his job as Merchandise Manager, Ralph Swallows is developing a wide
array of DCFF sponsored items you might be interested in acquiring. That
includes an interesting variety of fly boxes, a nice wading staff, and other
items. These can be seen at indoor Fall and Winter DCFF meetings, or you
can contact Ralph.

April Members Meeting

The Tackle Time topic was "Small Stream Fishing", which was done by
Scott Webster. Scott is one dedicated fisherman. He had many photos of streams,
some in Arizona and some in North Carolina, with a wide divergence in between
ranging from Mexico to Colorado, Missouri, and Arkansas. Scott is also a tough
individual who is willing to do some serious hiking in order to get to good waters
which hold truly wild trout. It was a fascinating presentation covering difficulties in
casting and presentation in small stream fly-fishing and the need for safety that is always
present. Thanks for a fine job, Scott.

The main speaker was Tom Van Arsdale, who is employed by the Kentucky
Department of Fish and Wildlife in its Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Tom was assisted by George Athanasakes, who leads the ecosystem restoration
group of Stantek Engineering.

These two gentlemen worked together on the creation of Hatchery Creek. Now
they will embark on the improvement of bank stabilization of two sections of Otter
Creek. That work will probably begin in the late Spring/ early summer of 2019. The
work itself may take two years. But the portion of it that will affect the Garnettsville
picnic area will be completed in the first year, assuming all goes well.

The Garnettsville portion of the project involves reshaping the stream, banks, and
feeder streams over a length of about 1300 feet. The goals are complex to
describe. But the overall thrust is to achieve a self-preserving natural flow to the
stream. The result to the fisherman should be a stream with lower banks running in
a series of riffles, runs, and pools.

The downstream work will require alteration of some 8000 feet of stream that lies
between the Blue Hole and the Ohio River, about two miles upstream from the
Ohio River. It is expected to take two years. This section is not fished much now
because of sweepers and fallen trees. The expectation is that it will be of much

greater use for fishing after the project is completed.

Also of interest is that the money required for this project does not come from taxes. It is acquired from businesses and landowners who pay into a fund in lieu of doing stream mitigation work themselves because of development on their land. Also, the designer and contractor are responsible for monitoring and repairing any deficiencies for five years.

Project Healing Waters

The Healing Waters organization is a large national charity that works with clubs like ours to support and improve the lives of current military personnel and veterans. Healing Waters' goal is to do that by helping those people learn fly fishing in all of its aspects.

Our representatives give time for that twice each month at the Louisville Veterans Hospital, teaching and practicing fly casting, fly fishing, fly tying, rod building and all aspects of our sport.

If you would like to participate, give Jim Bearden a call. Jim is the Director of our Project Healing Waters. His phone is 502 439 6804. He will be glad to suggest to you how you might participate in this meaningful activity.

Pictures from Fellow Anglers

Ranger Bob Sawtelle celebrating his Happy Birthday, with boat captain Nolan Sawtelle. On the Blue River! Looks like it was a nice birthday!



April, 2018 North Carolina trip. Carol Smith, Jim Smith, Bob Kincheloe. Either getting ready to fish or resting after fishing! Good group!

**Sydney Abbot fishing the bridge on
Pigeon Forge in North Carolina**



**Daughter Amy Abbot on the same
waters**

**Jay and Kelby Johnson on the
Middle Branch of the Red River**



**Mike Stich with fine Smallmouth
Bass on the Tuchsagee in North
Carolina!**



**Samuel Landow's nice trout from
Floyd's Fork**



**Niice Largemouth, maybe on a
Stealth Bomber(?), Salt River, by
Scott Webster**

**White bass out of the Salt River, on
a white streamer, by Scott Webster**



Editor's Comments



Contact Me

We have some special thanks to say for this newsletter. They are to Brian Kaluzny for technical assistance on the writeup of Otter Creek Renovation, Scott Webster for his email recapping that same presentation, and again to Scott for reducing the complexities of photos so that Constant Contacts program could copy them. Thanks to Gerry McDaniel for the photos of the flies to be tied - an excellent idea. Also, as is often the case, to Joe Gahlinger for his technical assistance.

Finally, thanks to President George Tipker for helping us to remember "why we do what we do"!

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. If you have complaints or suggestions I would like to hear about them.

We can make this newsletter better if more photos are sent me either by email to dougstull@twc.com. or on Derby City Fly Fishers Facebook account. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Doug Stull
Derby City Fly Fishers
email dougstull@twc.com
Cellphone 8127861223

