



## March, 2021 Newsletter

The Board of Directors met via ZOOM on **Wednesday, March 3rd**. This newsletter will update you on the results of that meeting as it relates to upcoming club events.

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### President's Letter

#### Make Memories, but Take Pictures

I remember going to my grandparents house on random weekends as a child. Sometimes we would be told at 6pm on a Friday to pack a bag, grandpa was on his way. Sometimes we had all week to spend anticipating the trip, uncle and grandma picking us up, meeting grandpa at work, and leaving straight from there.

My grandparents lived in a small house just south of Saint Louis, but had a house in rural Missouri where they were retiring to. It was a 2hr 15min drive if you went the speed limit. My grandma once made it in 90 minutes.

The crib from my childhood was there in the back bedroom, being used as storage, overflowing with blankets and pillows. There were mattresses stacked against a wall that would be pulled into the living room and dining room, set up for the night, re-stacked in the morning.

Grandpa had a pair of boats. If the conditions were halfway decent, we went fishing. If the conditions were bad, we went scouting for future fishing opportunities. If the conditions were really bad, we went driving to see where the roads went.

But the goal was always to go fishing. Every weekend possible. Oppressive heat? We could stop midday and jump in the water.

Blistering sun? SPF55. Windy? Watch your cast, add a sinker or three. Raining? Fish don't care, get a poncho. Thunder? Ok, back to the car.

The joke as a child was that grandpa could double as a Bass Pro. The walls of lures professional anglers have that you see on Instagram? That was Grandpa in the 80's.

But this isn't about my grandpa, its about my uncle. Mom's younger brother. I have vague memories of him getting married. It didn't last, and he moved back in with his parents. He never tried to move out, and grandma probably wouldn't have let him.

Uncle got the "big" boat. The faster boat. He would stop at the butcher shop and get beef jerky for us. There would always be soda or Gatorade in a cooler. And we would always catch fish.

I feel I fish in the spirit of my grandpa, I'm just happy to be out in nature. My wife reminds me of my uncle. She is a bear to be with until she finds a fish. Uncle would go all over the lake looking for fish. If we had no luck, we would go screaming over to the next cove and try there. He knew there were fish in the lake, and we would find them. We would catch bluegill, usually limiting out, and head home when it started getting dark.

Fish were cleaned at a counter grandpa had attached to his garage. An old bathroom vanity top...without the sink. A bucket sat under the sink cutout, and uncle would clean the haul with the efficiency you see in one of those YouTube videos of super efficient workers. Sometimes one of us would be tasked with ribbing out the fillets. We would be surrounded by neighborhood cats, begging for their share. The fillets would sometimes be frozen, sometimes fixed that evening for dinner, depending on what time we got back.

My uncle knew how to fly fish. On rare occasions he would have a cheap fly rod in the boat. However, he was a spin fisherman. He loved fishing, talking about fishing, taking people fishing, planning where he was going to fish. I have zero doubt that I have spent a significantly larger amount of time fishing with my uncle than fishing with my dad.

It was my uncle that taught me how to shoot, that bought me my first pellet rifle. My uncle that took me to the Hunter Education class. My uncle took me hunting.

I have so many amazing memories of going to the country with my grandparents, and my uncle.

A few times he had to work on a Saturday. He was working as a dump

truck driver at the time. He let me ride along, and he would position the truck, hop out, unlatch the gate, and let me work the PTO to dump the load.

Uncle has invited Jessy and I to go fishing with him multiple times. He had a newer, bigger boat, but we never found the time to get all the way over there to make those memories.

So many memories, but no photos.

My uncle passed away on Valentine's Day from complications of pneumonia and a general disregard for his own health, a completely avoidable situation. He never met Eli, only saw photos. My mom, aunt , and grandma went through photos for the memorial slideshow. They were able to come up with about 25 photos of him. Most were him fishing, or in a boat, or near a boat. Almost all were him not looking at the camera, his face obscured by his ever present trucker hat.

When it comes time to tell Eli stories of my childhood, I have no doubt that there will be plenty of adventures with uncle recalled. But I won't have a collection of photos to show, as he was disinterested in being photographed.

By all means, go out and make memories. But for those important moments that you won't necessarily be able to remember, take pictures. One may be worth a thousand words. But it could also be worth a thousand pages.

My Uncle and I, when I was around my son's age. In the living room at my parents house. I don't remember this.

But I have a photo.

Matthew Clements



# Plans for the Foreseeable Future

**DCFF Eat & Talk - will not take place** this month due to current Covid-19 restrictions and concerns.

**Monthly Members Meetings - will not take place** this month due to current Covid-19 restrictions and concerns. Note however, we have a GREAT lineup of speakers for later in 2021, so we look forward to the new year!

**Fly Tying Classes - will not take place** this month.

## Trips

**LAKE BARKLEY** May 1-2

**GREEN RIVER** May 19-21

**CUMBERLAND RIVER** May 21-23

**OBEY RIVER / CUMBERLAND RIVER** June 9-13

**CUMBERLAND RIVER** July 9-11

**CUMBERLAND RIVER** August 13-15

**CODY, WY** Aug 22 - 28, 2021

**CUMBERLAND RIVER** September 17-19

**NORTH CAROLINA** November 11-1

**Note: All listed trips are now available for sign ups. Please be sure to visit the web site for links to these trips.**

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## LAKE BARKLEY BLUEGILL TRIP REMINDER !

**Submitted by John Froelich**

### LAKE BARKLEY BLUEGILL TRIP ~ MAY 1-2

Great trip for beginners. Bluegill and shellcrackers should be very active. Primitive camping at Cravens Point campgrounds, easy access to launch for motor boats. No advance deposit required, \$9.00 per night camping fee. Bring food and drinks, no restaurants nearby. Kayaks or motor boat, forget bank fishing. Several are arriving on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, additional information provided after registration on website Signup Genius. Feel free to call John at 270-314-0362.



## BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA TRIP REMINDER !



John Froehlich with prize catches from a previous BWCA trip.

John is also leading a small contingent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in June. This is NOT an "official" club trip and will not be posted on our web site. His BWCA permit allows for up to eight people and there are three (3) slots left.

The BWCA is in northern Minnesota, within sight of the Canadian Border with smallmouth and walleye the target species. A [Level 2](#) skill level is required and the trip involves primitive camping and canoeing. Following a two-day, 16 hour drive to Crane Lake, MN, the group will meet the outfitter and be transported by jet boat from Zups Outfitters to a staging area. After being outfitted with necessary gear, it's on to the drop off point followed by a 1 to 2 hour flat water canoe paddle into the "no motor" area and the primitive camp site on an island.

Group will depart Monday June 21 (time to be determined) and return on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The group must be even numbered and not exceed 8 people (BWCA permit rules). Estimated cost, including gas, motels, food, gear rental, permits etc., should be about \$1200 per person. A **nonrefundable** deposit of \$200.00 is required at registration. The remaining expenses are pay as you go. Should cancellation be necessary, deposit would be transferrable only if another person stepped into your place. John has made this trip at least 6 or 7 times and is addicted! In the picture John is holding two good reasons to go!!

If you are interested contact John at 270-314-0362 or [johnfroehlich9014@gmail.com](mailto:johnfroehlich9014@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.

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**\*\*\*\* KENTUCKY FISHING LICENSE RENEWALS \*\*\*\***

**Don't forget your fishing license expired February 28!!**

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits can be purchased through the secured [Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Online License Sales site](#). Replacement licenses can be [printed online for free](#).

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**FLY OF THE MONTH**

# GT's Brood X Cicada

By George Tipker



This is the year of the massive 17 year brood X Cicada hatch, in and around our area. For those of you that have witnessed, and we're lucky enough to fly fish during this time 17 years ago, or during another of the large sub hatches (7 year, 13 year etc), you know just how crazy good top water fly fishing will be. Millions and millions of

these large, 2 inch+, black and orange(Brood X variant) behemoths will be stirring up all kinds of commotion everywhere, including on our waterways. And everything, and I repeat everything, seems to eat them, including fish(all fish). At the height of their hatch, (which should be during the months of May/June/July), the term we sometimes use in fishing of "feeding frenzy", will be a literal understatement! At the right place and at the right time (which can go on for weeks long) a cast fly won't last on the top of the water more than 5 seconds without being blasted. On some occasions I've actually witnessed fish(trout included) coming out of the water and hitting my fly just before it's about to even land on the water. No kidding! It's crazy and practically unbelievable until you witness it! I know that sounds "fish story-ish", but don't take my word for it, ask others in our club that have fished the big Cicada hatches. If you can endure the annoying incessant noise created by these critters, you will certainly be rewarded on the water.

Anyhow, I was asked to present my Cicada pattern as our DCFF March newsletter fly of the month. This is a really good fly pattern which fairly represents the Brood X Cicada. It's a big fly and not overly complicated, but it does take a bit more time than some common ties. You can take liberties to modify it a bit(hook size, leg color variations, midge flash wing colors, etc), but I would strongly suggest sticking with the prominent colors of black and orange. If you follow my basic instructions in the following link(also in our DCFF Flybrary), and after a couple practice ties, this pattern will soon practically crawl right out of your hand.

And fishing wise during this hatch period, you don't have to normally do much other than cast it out and let it hit the water and it produces strikes immediately. However if necessary, it is also a good technique to twitch it just slightly by moving it an inch or two at a time, then let it

rest; then repeat. The midge flash very thin strand wings, along with the legs, undulate when pulled, then open back up at rest, imitating how you will find most Cicadas on the water(wings splayed out after desperately trying to take flight again). This pattern works great! Enjoy this Brood X Cicada summer. It won't be back for another 17 years. Good luck!

For tying instructions, click the following link:

<https://derbycityflyfishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GTs-Brood-X-Cicada.pdf>

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## Board Members

Matthew Clements, President  
Ralph Swallows, Vice President  
Jessy Clements, Secretary  
Mark Rougeux, Treasurer  
Joe Gahlinger, Membership Director  
John Froelich, Program Director  
Mike Norris, Trips Director  
Matt Clements, Education Director  
Roy Been, Marketing Director  
Mike Parker, Raffles  
Jeff Daiber, Conservation Director  
Steve Cullen, Newsletter Editor  
Jim Bearden, Fly Show Director  
Webmaster, Jim Wilmoth  
Brian Kaluzny, History

These Board Members can be reached by email by going to the [Derby City Fly Fishers website](#), clicking on **About** in the header menu, then **Board of Directors**. There you will find the list of Board Members, job descriptions, and email addresses. Don't hesitate to contact a Board Member with a question or suggestion - we'd love to hear from you.

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**Webmaster** - Jim Wilmoth continues to update and upgrade our website. He would very much like to incorporate more pictures from members on the site. You can submit pictures to him at [webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com). He would also welcome any suggestions for improving the site.

## Membership

Just a heads up that membership dues for 2021 are now due. If you haven't done so already, **please renew now, online (preferred) or in person at a club meeting (it may be a while before we have one.)** Annual dues are \$20 for individual or \$25 for family. Also available are a Lifetime Individual Membership for \$350 and a Lifetime Family Membership for \$500 (details at the web link below.) You can easily join or renew online by clicking on the link below.

Click [here](#) to Join or Renew your DCFF Membership



Thanks for taking a look at the newsletter!

I hope you found it to be an enjoyable read.

We appreciate the help We've received with content. Feedback has been very positive. Keep it coming! We're looking for more "Fly of the Month" submittals. If you have one you would like to see published, let me know and I'll be happy to assist

you with getting it done.

If you fish, send me some pictures. Even better, take a couple of minutes to write a short paragraph or two to tell your friends at DCFF about it. I enjoy hearing about your experiences as do others. I look forward to hearing from you!

And if you have any suggestions for making the newsletter better, please tell me about them.

Thanks in advance!

Steve Cullen

Derby City Fly Fishers

You can reach me at: [newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com)