



## December, 2021 Newsletter

The Board of Directors met on **Wednesday, December 1st via Zoom**. 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

#### **Cold water fishing**

By Matt Clements I am a fan of trout fishing. In this town that means i'm limited to seasonal fishing (if I don't want to go on a 2 hour drive). So for years I would wait until temperatures got low enough on Otter

Creek for trout to be stocked, and go there on my days off to see if I could entice the fish to hit a fly. Occasionally, I would be bold enough to go driving to Cumberland River or Brookville, normally in the warmer months. (I did drive to Brookville one time, in the snow, to go fishing the tailwater with a friend that had not fished there before.) Most of these trips have long since faded from specific memory, however one lives on.

I drove my filthy white 2000 Ford Explorer down to the blue hole parking area, where I sat for 10 minutes questioning my life choices. Did I really want to get out in the cold and put on my waders? It was warm in the vehicle. The temperature outside was a brisk 4 degrees Fahrenheit. I was in that horrible position of "I really want to go fishing" contrasting "it is stupid cold outside."

I decided I had already driven all the way down here, so it would behoove me to go ahead and see if I could catch something. I jumped out of the vehicle, rushed to the back, and got my waders on as quick as I could. I figured the extra layer of material would keep me just a touch warmer. I got out my favorite rod at the time, a Saint Croix Legend Elite 7 foot 9 inch 3 weight. It is currently somewhere in my basement. I think. I hope. I walked a very long, very cold, half mile down to the Creek. There were icicles hanging off the rockface on the opposite side from snow melt the previous day. There were snow covered sheets of ice extending from the bank out towards the middle of the Creek. I had to tromp through a section of ice out to the middle so that I could move up and down inside the Creek. Walking on ice, specially near water, is not something I'm fond of. I worked my way upstream to the bend, fishing as I went.

I needed to clean ice off the guides of my rod every other cast. The ice on each side of the stream necessitated short casts. If there was the slightest hesitation of retrieval, even with a small amount of line being used, the ice buildup on the eyelets would freeze to the line holding it in place. My hands were numb.

I fished my way back downstream from the bend, and managed to hook a trout with a crackleback. He fought aggressively, but I still managed to land him exceedingly quick, probably due to the short cast I was limited to. I used my fancy ketchum release tool to get the fish off the hook and back in the water as quick as I could. As the line was constantly freezing to the guides in the cold air, I figured the fish wouldn't be too happy being out of the water. The rainbow trout was about 11 inches long. I worked my way downstream and fished for another couple of hours that day. I Didn't get any other hits. I definitely didn't catch any other fish. I wandered the long, cold, uphill, half mile back to the vehicle.

I had originally planned to fish at the Garnettsville Picnic Area after



getting to the vehicle. But after eating lunch I decided I was still cold. I drove home wearing my waders that day, because it was really too cold to take them off right then. Also my boots were frozen on. I checked the weather when I got home. From the 4 degrees it was when I started fishing the temperature had risen to a balmy 7 Fahrenheit. The sun never peeked out, it was an overcast day. There was a breeze the entire time so you could really feel the bitter chill. And I only caught one fish.

There have been times where I've gone fishing and pulled ridiculous numbers of fish out of the water. I fished Hatchery Creek a couple times about 15 years ago. I was there at just the right time in the fall to have the horrible predicament of having a difficult time catching my limit, because everything was too big. For those that don't know, rainbow trout taste great when they are 10 to 12 inches long, they get much bigger than that and they start getting tough. And after days of straightened hooks and more 18 to 19 inch fish then we bothered counting we finally got our limit. But the fishing trip that stands out in my mind is that day where I went out in the cold, fished for hours, and caught one fish.

I don't know that there was anything special about that trip, that fish, that place, possibly that weather. Overall it was much more uneventful than a lot of other trips I've been on. But that is the single most memorable day of fishing in my life. I don't know that there is a moral to this story, other than for me to encourage everybody to go out and make memories. Because you don't know which ones are going to stick with you.

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## **Plans for the Foreseeable Future**

### ***Derby City Fly Fishers Eat and Talk***

**Wednesday December 8th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint

3408 Indian Lake Drive, Louisville, KY  
(off of Westport Rd near Gene Snyder)

[Google Map Link](#)

We will be gathering this coming Wednesday at Martin's BBQ Joint. There is plenty of room to observe appropriate social distancing, good lighting (great for fly tying) and good food. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of your DCFF club mates a little better, swap some fish stories, all while enjoying some good BBQ and drink. You can come when you want, eat and drink if you want, tie a fly or two if you want but mostly just share some camaraderie.



***Derby City Fly Fishers  
Christmas Party***

**Tuesday December 15th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Marine House  
3758 Pulliam Drive  
Louisville KY  
[Google Map Link](#)**

**Please note the day! TUESDAY!**

This is a purely social event to enjoy each others company at this festive time of year. The Club provides non-alcoholic drinks, plates, cups, plastic ware and napkins. Club members are encouraged to bring a dish to share (don't forget a serving utensil if needed.) Marine House does allow alcoholic beverages, so BYOB if so inclined - just be responsible. Spouses and significant others are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

***No General Membership Meeting in December***

Come one, come all to the Christmas Party!

***Derby City Fly Fishers' Fly Tying***

**There will be no fly tying in December due to the  
Holidays.**

**Fly Tying will resume in January!**

# **Trips**

Derby City Fly Fishers will start posting trips for 2022 soon! So watch future newsletters and the web site for updates!

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## **!! SAVE THE DATE !!**

### **KENTUCKIANA FLY FISHING SHOW**

JOIN US FOR THE 15TH KENTUCKIANA FLY FISHING SHOW Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show January 29th, 2022  
Paroquet Springs Conference Center Shepherdsville, Ky 40165

#### **WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP !**

The Derby City Fly Fishers will host the 15th annual Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, January 29th, 2022, 9:00am to 5:00 at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center located at 395 Paroquet Springs Drive, Shepherdsville, Ky.

For those who may be new to the club or are new to the area, The Kentuckiana Fly Show is focused on fly fishing and the tools that allow anyone to pursue the sport. The show is for anyone interested in starting to fly fish, as well as the advanced fly fisher. Casting demonstrations and seminars on fly fishing will be presented throughout the day. As many as 40 vendors will have booths where you can purchase gear, trips and just about anything related to fly fishing. We will also have people demonstrating the art and craft of fly tying. As usual, we will have "Kids Corner". Where children of all ages are welcome to tie using tools and materials furnished by DCFF.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP OUT, PLEASE EMAIL JIM BEARDEN AT:  
[\*\*jim@derbycityflyfishers.com\*\*](mailto:jim@derbycityflyfishers.com)

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## **Fall North Carolina Trip**

By: Joe Gahlinger

Eighteen club members made the Fall North Carolina Trip November 11<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>. There were a mix of trip veterans and five first timers. We all stayed at the Jonathan Creek Inn



in Maggie Valley. Other than some overnight rain Thursday evening, weather was Chamber of Commerce perfect; not to mention the Fall colors were probably the best I have seen of the seven Fall trips I have made. All our regular streams had been recently stocked (in fact, the West Fork of the Pigeon was stocked on Friday while some members were there.) The Shelton Laurel, West Fork of the Pigeon and Raven Fork (Cherokee Tribal Waters) water conditions were near ideal. Unfortunately, due to seasonally uncharacteristic water releases on the Tuckasegee, the only day we could fish the Tuck was Saturday. Most of our group joined about half the population of western North Carolina to fish the Tuck Saturday morning. In spite of the crowded conditions, a number of our contingent did very well, while the rest of us had fair to mediocre success, but it was a glorious day to be on the water. We retired to the West Fork of the Pigeon Saturday afternoon and most enjoyed good success there. As is traditional on the NC trips we had group dinners, trying out two new restaurants in the process and lived up to the Club's unofficial motto, "An eating and drinking club with a fly fishing problem!" I believe there were only two to join the swim team on this trip, a good showing since the Tuck and Raven Fork each usually claim more than that. A wonderful trip with great people in a beautiful part of the country – ya just can't ask for more!!







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## Member submitted photos

Mike Parker submitted this beautiful photograph he took on Big Snowbird in Western North Carolina.



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## FLY OF THE MONTH

### Christmas Fly

Submitted by Jim Wilmoth

A streamer pattern showcasing Christmas colors to help celebrate the holidays (might even catch a fish).



### Recipe:

**Hook**-size 4 streamer hook 2XH/5XL

**Thread**- white 3/0 and red 3/0

**Tail**-pearl Monoflash

**Body**-white floss

**Ribs**-green tinsel and red tinsel

**Beard**-green saddle hackle

**Wing**-white calf's tail

Complete instructions for tying can be found: [HERE](#)

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## Board Members

Matthew Clements, President  
Ralph Swallows, Vice President  
Jessy Clements, Secretary  
Mark Rougeux, Treasurer  
Michael Ragan, 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.

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## Membership

It's not too late to **renew your membership for 2021**. We had a rough start to 2021 due to COVID restrictions, but we're getting back into our full swing of activities now and would love to have you back. Annual dues remain the same, namely: \$20 for individual and \$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 (preferred) by clicking on the link below.

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

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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. Keep it coming! We're always looking for another "Fly of the Month". 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)

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