



June 2023 Newsletter

President's Letter



Hot Fun In The Summertime

As I write this letter, June 2, 2023 is the first day of this year that the temperature will reach 90. The song rolling around in my mind is Sly & the Family Stone's hit from 1969. Most of you will know it and probably start humming it before you finish reading this letter, "End of spring and here she comes back, them summer days, those summer days. That's when I have most of my fun". Summer is one my favorite season of the year and it's definitely a fun time of the year. As it stands now it looks like we're certainly in

for some "hot fun" this summer. The weather is shaping up for an extended time of high temperatures and little rainfall. While the temperatures may be a little more that we want the low rainfall has a silver lining providing great flows for fishing on some of our favorite fishing grounds.

One of DCFF's favorite spots, the Cumberland River, has been offering some very fishable flows with low generation schedules during the day. Who knows how long this will last but the current out look on generation favors good flows for fishing by boat and also wade fishing. We've been getting great reports from DCFF members of successful outings on the Cumberland River. June is a great month for fishing the Cumberland River so get down there if you can.

The Ohio River at the McAlpine Dam is very fishable right now and with the low rain outlook these waters should continue to offer great wading opportunities. The McAlpine Dam tailwater offers some of the best Stripper fishing you can find anywhere and it's right in our backyard. If you go, you'll want to take an 8 weight or higher rod and definitely a wading staff. The rocks are slick but you'll be fine if you watch your step. Fishing a chartreuse/white mid size streamer like a clouser or wolly bugger with a sinking line will do the trick. McAlpine Dam has a hotline for flow information (502-775-5056). When you call they will give you the current flow information (gauge reading). When the lower gauge reading is between 11ft-13ft wading access is great down by the dam. It's best to access this water from the Indiana side of the river. Just head over the bridge go down by the dam at the train bridge. Remember to be careful down there as the wading can be difficult and the rocks can be very slick. The flow is heavy and if the warning siren goes off don't wait around long. Fish early morning and late evening for best results.

Our club just finished two great trips. We had our first trip to Shakamak State Park in Indiana and it was a great trip. Be sure to read Wes's write up. This trip will definitely be repeated. We also made another trip to float the Green River and had good results even with low flow. Some nice smallies were caught with excellent weather the whole trip. Coming up next week is our Obey Trip and first club trip to the Cumberland River. We're expecting great times and excellent fishing on these trips, and as expected it will be "hot fun in the summertime".

Ralph,

Plans for the Foreseeable Future

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

And Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday June 14th , 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Rooster's

10430 Shelbyville Rd Louisville, KY

(at Moser Road, west of Blankenbaker)

[**Google Map Link to Roosters**](#)

This month, our regularly scheduled Board Meeting has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict. The Board decided to conduct their meeting in conjunction with the Derby City Fly Fishers Eat and Talk. We have the private event room so it should be quiet enough for conversation, with plenty of room to get comfortable, 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 food and drink. You can come when you want, eat and drink if you want, tie a fly or two, get a little insight into the operational side of DCFF, but mostly just share some camaraderie.

***Derby City Fly Fishers
General Membership Meeting
Lake Michelle (Southern Hills),
Carr Township, Indiana
Wednesday June 21st 6:30 to 8:30 pm.***

[**Google Maps Link to Southern Hills**](#)

This is our second outdoor meeting of the summer season. Southern Hills Lake provides a beautiful setting for some great camaraderie and an opportunity to do a little fishing as well should you so desire.

Fishing is **Catch and Release, no Indiana fishing license required.** Lake Michelle is private property.

Kayaks or other similar small boats are welcome. Don't forget your PFDs!

Fly rods and reels will be available for those looking for some casting instruction or just an opportunity to practice.

Food, soft drinks and water will be provided. Cost for the meal is \$5.00.

BYOB if desired. Please act responsibly!

Don't forget to bring a camp chair!

Derby City Fly Fishers' Fly Tying

Wednesday June 28th 6:30 pm

Cabela's, Louisville

and

Thursday June 29th 6:30 pm

Bass Pro, Clarksville

This month, David Campbell will be leading the classes.

As always, beginners are welcome. There will be experienced tyers available for individual instruction.

Remember, tools and materials are provided at no cost. But if you have your own tools, feel free to bring them.

A big thanks to David and all those willing to share their time and talents leading these classes.

Kentuckiana Fly Tyers

KFT conducts their monthly meeting the **First Tuesday of each Month** at the **3rd Turn, 10408 Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown** (the old Moose Lodge). [Google Map Link](#) If you haven't tied before, and would like to learn, they will provide you with the equipment, materials, and instruction to start you out. If you already tie, come out and bring whatever you would like to tie, and socialize.

Please **RSVP** to kentuckianaflytyers@gmail.com stating you plan to attend so they can make sure they have enough materials.

Remember that 3rd Turn does not serve food, so bring any snack you want, and you can even bring your dog for a night out.

Quest Outdoors FLY TYING

4600 Shelbyville Road

[Google Map Link](#)

Quest Outdoors conducts fly tying classes the 3rd Saturday of

each month. And like DCFF classes, tools and materials are provided at no cost. But if you have your own tools, feel free to bring them.

2023 CLUB TRIPS

Below are the planned trips for 2023. Details for the majority of these trips have been finalized and are ready for signups. You can find information by clicking the links below or details can also be found on our [web site](#).

***** Please note*****

***For insurance purposes, participants in club trips must be members of Derby City Fly Fishers and have a signed Liability Waiver on file.

** All costs are based on the best information available at the time of publication of the trip. Any subsequent price increases will be communicated as soon as the Club is aware of them. Participants will be responsible for any price increases. Trip coordinators will determine the best method for handling payment of the increase

*** All DCFF club trips are subject to cancellation. If a trip is cancelled any deposit made will be refunded.

JUNE:

[2nd – 4th Elkhorn River](#)

[8th – 9th Obey River \(Dale Hollow Tail Waters, Celina, TN\)](#)

[9th – 11th Cumberland River \(Helm's Landing\)](#)

JULY:

[14th – 16th Cumberland River \(Helm's Landing\)](#)

AUGUST:

[18th – 20th Cumberland River \(Helm's Landing\)](#)

[27th – Sep 2nd Camp Buffalo Bill \(Cody, WY\)](#)

SEPTEMBER:

[8th – 10th White River \(Ft Wayne, IN\)](#)

[15th – 17th Cumberland River \(Helm's Landing\)](#)

NOVEMBER:

[4th Otter Creek \(Beginners Outing\)](#)

8th -12th North Carolina (Waynesville, NC)

Green-Sullivan Indiana State Forest May 2023

Wes Krupiczewicz



The club had a great inaugural warm water fishing trip to Western Indiana and the Green-Sullivan State Forest Area. In addition to the numerous lakes in the G-S Forest, there are other lakes in the Duggar Unit of G-S Forest, three larger lakes in Shakamak State Park, and lakes in the Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area. All areas are an easy drive from Shakamak State Park. On some of our club trips, we tend to crowd each other with limited water. Not here!

We stayed in a group bunk house in Shakamak State Park. The bunk house had recently been remodeled and had 11 double bunk beds with new mattresses. Since we limited the trip to 8 bunk mates, everyone had a lower bed with storage in the upper bed. We were joined by two club members staying in the campground area.

The kitchen included an electric stove top and oven, a microwave, a sink, and an apartment size refrigerator; the kitchen was small and crowded by a bunk bed, so we kept that bunk empty to store utensils and food stuff. Fortunately, we brought a folding DCFF table to help with meal preparation. Outside, we had four picnic tables, our DCFF popup and a two burner propane stove top as well as our camp chairs. A very comfortable arrangement overall.

We shared group meals including breakfast and supper. Unlike our trout trips, this was not all catch and release. There are nice fish cleaning stations in the area and we took advantage of those to have a fish fry one evening with at least 5 pounds of panfish fillets served with deli sides.

There was a fire pit, so we gathered after supper to enjoy the camaraderie of the fire! We purchased the wood at Shakamak, making it a little pricey but with a large group, individual costs were small at about \$10 each for four nights.

Fishing was good to excellent with good numbers of large panfish and small bass taken by all. Productive panfish flies included mops, various nymphs and of course, the trout magnet! Topwater poppers took a number of the bass. Most of us fished out of kayaks or canoes, but larger boat were well accommodated by good launch ramps on

most of the lakes. Large boats are limited to trolling motors, so there were no issues with large boat wakes. We were a little early for the panfish spawn this year, but a lot of the other fishers we talked with indicated that the 2nd week of May is usually great.

Group consensus was that we are going back and possibly expanding the trip to more participants if we can get additional leader/coordinators. In addition to the twelve group bunk houses at Shakamak, there are 20 family cabins that accommodate smaller groups as well as almost 200 campsites. Reservations will need to be made in advance, but probably not as early as we did this year in January. Hope to see you there next year.



For more trip photos, click [HERE](#).

Ant Hatch?

Most of us are familiar with the fly called the “San Juan Worm.” It comes to us from the San Juan River in northwest New Mexico. But the San Juan is famous for another reason. The once-a-year carpenter “ant hatch.”

The carpenter ant hatch isn’t really a “hatch,” but is a once-a-year occurrence in early summer. It all depends on having just the right conditions. There has to be sufficient rainfall to drive the carpenter ants out of their underground homes. This movement is their signal to mate. And after mating, many of them

end up on the surface of the San Juan, where large trout eagerly gorge on them.

My wife Kim and I visited the Soaring Eagle Lodge for 3 days in the summer of 2021. We were part of a group that was hosted by the Blue Quill Angler fly fishing shop out of Denver. The lodge sits right on the banks of the San Juan.

The San Juan is an interesting river. It is a large, low-gradient tailwater flowing out of the bottom of the Navajo Dam in the high desert country of northwestern New Mexico. The 4.2 miles below the dam are designated the "Quality Waters" by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. In this section, there are an estimated 12,000 rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout per mile, with an estimated average size of 17"! For comparison, the famous Madison River in Montana has an estimated population of 3-4000 fish per mile.

The first mile below the dam is designated for wading only. Which makes for a short float if you limit yourself to the Quality Waters section. It is possible to float about 14 miles in total, however. At the put-in, you will see quite a few drift boats, and your boat will initially join in a rotation that floats a few hundred yards downstream, and then go back upstream to the put-in and float back down. Once you leave that general area, you are by yourself. [See photo of boats below.]



Navaho Dam in the background.

Despite this constant pressure, there is no lack of fish to be caught. One day during this rotation, another member of our group got into a very large brown. He had the fish close to the boat, where he was able to get a good look at it.

Then, because his reel seat was loose, the reel came off his rod and fell to the bottom of the boat where, of course, the line got tangled. The big brown chose that moment to bolt, andbroke off! The waters echoed with the sad moans of our poor companion!



One of the many large rainbows Kim landed.

Just prior to our arrival at the lodge, the area had had some rain. We started off with tiny #26 nymphs and caught some nice rainbows. In the afternoon, ants appeared on the water's surface and we switched to large ant dry fly patterns. The "ant hatch," which we had never heard of, was on!

That night, more rain fell, and the next two days were spent fishing nothing but large dry ant patterns. The fish were consistently large, many in the 18"-20" range. It wasn't necessary to target a rising fish. Rather, if you put the fly in a likely spot, the trout would happily find and devour your fly. It was an awesome experience.

Kim had never had a lot of luck timing her sets on dry flies. But she nailed it, time and time again. At one point she had a large fish on, that was putting up quite the battle. Several boats nearby witnessed the struggle. When Kim successfully landed the big boy, cheers were heard across the water. A nice bit of affirmation!

Below is a photo of one of the large flies we used, on 5X tippet. At one point, I landed 5 good size fish in about 7 or 8 casts. That's not to say the whole day was like that, but it was certainly a lot of fun. Our guide was Rusty, and he was great – never overly excited, patient, good with instruction, and encouraging. If we ever come back, we will certainly ask to be with him again. Kim and I chuckled when he consistently called our fly line, "your string."



We matched "the hatch" with this dry fly.



Another of Kim's beautiful rainbows.

At the end of our trip, the owner of Soaring Eagle Lodge told us that he has had clients trying to time the ant hatch for 15 years, but have never been able to do it because of the unpredictability of the rains. We showed up for a one-time visit and hit it perfectly. Better to be lucky than good I guess.

The food and accommodations were very nice, but not plush. Each set of guests has its own cabin which faces the river. Within a few seconds of leaving your cabin, you can have a line in the water. I highly recommend both the river and the lodge. For us, it was an experience of a lifetime. And we are going back!

Kim and Mark Rougeux

**** Request for raffle items ****

Inventory of items raffled off at our General Membership Meetings each month is getting low ! If you have any fly fishing items you haven't used in a while, or if you are looking for a way to kill some cold winter hours, maybe you could tie up some of your favorite flies and please consider donating them to the club. You can contact our Raffles Director at mparker@derbycityflyfishers.com if you have any questions or suggestions, or just bring your donated items to our next General Meeting at Bass Pro. Thanks in advance!

Gerry McDaniel's Fly-Fishing Hotline

Gerry McDaniel, a world record holder, a licensed and professional guide and a founding father of Derby City Fly Fishers, will answer your phone calls to discuss any of your fly fishing questions. With over 60 years of fly-fishing expertise for bluegill, bass and trout, and countless hours on the Cumberland River, Gerry can help beginners to experts with any subject, whether it be equipment, rod setup, fly selection, techniques, fly tying, rod building or anything that has to do with the Cumberland River. Gerry has graciously offered to take your call and help the club promote its mission to introduce and educate the sporting public to fly fishing. Give Gerry a call at 502-432-2995.

A Guide to the Lower Cumberland River, by Gerald E. McDaniel, consisting of a series of USGS topographic maps from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee border. It includes points of interest and public access points. It will be available for purchase at our general membership meetings the third Wednesday of each month.

*** KENTUCKY FISHING LICENSE RENEWALS ****

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits can be purchased at [Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Online License Sales site](#). (Annual License is valid through February)

**** INDIANA FISHING LICENSE RENEWALS ****

[Renew your IN Fishing License Here](#) (Annual License is valid through March)

MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

DCFF Classified ad section - a location for club members to advertise fishing equipment for sale or purchase used gear from other club members. Classifieds are live with some items listed for sale already.

There is NO cost to advertise; however a sellers must be a club member who is current on their dues and is registered on the website. Anyone can see the items for sale, only sellers must be registered to sell.

[Derby City Fly Fishers Classifieds – Derby City Fly Fishers](#)

Member registration on website. DCFF club members can register on the DCFF website for membership This will allow club members to

sell items on the classified ad section, and provide access to members only website content (coming soon).

[Website Membership Registration – Derby City Fly Fishers](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Our club membership is growing! I want to thank everyone for joining and renewing their memberships. If you need to reach another member and don't have their contact information, please feel free to contact me at membership@derbycityflyfishers.com.

Michael Ragan

Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for family memberships. Life-time memberships can be purchased for \$350 for individual or \$500 for a family membership (immediate household family.) You can get more information on membership benefits, types of membership, as well as pay online by clicking [here](#).

Membership Stats through May:

Lifetime Members:	12
2023 Members (Total):	222
2022 Members	197

New Members May, 2023:

Kristen Sharber
Jason Scannell
Gregg Potter
Amy Price



New member Kristen Sharber. First time catching a fish on a fly rod. Fishing with Greg Williams of *Cumberland River Bottom Ticklers*

Note: If your contact information has changed, especially your email address, let our Membership Director, Michael Ragan, (membership@derbycityflyfishers.com) know ASAP so you won't miss any club emails.

Board Members through 2023

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.**

President - Ralph Swallows
Vice President - John Froelich
Secretary - David Campbell
Treasurer - Roger Charbonneau
Membership Director - Michael Ragan
Program Director - John Froelich
Trips Director - Mike Norris
Education Director - Matthew Clements
Marketing Director - Steve Kuric
Raffles - Mike Parker
Conservation Director - Jeff Daiber
Newsletter Editor - Steve Cullen
Webmaster - Joe Gahlinger
Brian Kaluzny - Historian

Webmaster - Joe Gahlinger serves in the role of Webmaster. You can continue to send pictures to for inclusion on our website at webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com. Joe would welcome any suggestions or content.



Thanks for taking a look at the newsletter!
I hope you found it to be an enjoyable read.
Fishing opportunities have opened up with the change of seasons! Hopefully you are getting out there. if you have something to share, PLEASE DO!

Also, please consider the possibility of helping me out with the newsletter in a more direct manner. I'm looking for someone to back me up and assist with content generation, editing and anything else you have to offer to make the newsletter better. Trust me, this doesn't require a high level of technical skill or expertise. If it did, you wouldn't be

reading this. :-)

Thanks in advance!

Steve Cullen

You can reach me at: newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com

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