



July 2023 Newsletter

President's Letter



The Ache for Returning

Some of my earliest childhood memories are of fishing trips with my

dad. Before I go any further, I should explain what I mean by "trips". A fishing trip with my dad was a pretty simple excursion. We didn't travel far. Our destination was just outside of Charlestown Indiana to the banks of 14 Mile Creek. Our tackle was simple, a cane pole, spool of black 20-30lb nylon fishing line, a red and white bobber, split shot sinkers, some hooks and a Maxwell House coffee can for the worms we would dig when we got to the creek. The trip wasn't usually very long, maybe a Saturday morning or Sunday evening and sometimes a late afternoon during the week. It didn't matter when they were because I always wanted to go. When we returned from a trip, I always had an ache to go again. That ache for returning is still with me today. What I would give to spend one more afternoon on that creek with my dad. Those trips are the some of the best memories of my childhood.

One of the great things about those early fishing trips, was the simplicity. It didn't take long to get our tackle together. There were no waders to put on, rods to put together, leaders or tippets to tie, flies to sort out, or hatches to worry about. A cane pole is easy to learn how to use. It's just not a complicated thing. It didn't take much to get a "drift" with a cane pole. If I took the bobber off the line, I was "Euronymphing". Our target was anything that would bite a red worm. Size and numbers weren't a big deal, so success was easily had. Fun was the goal of the trip and fun was what we had. It didn't take much to entertain me since I had a genetic disposition to love the outdoors and all things in nature. Catching a fish was a thrill and getting wet and muddy didn't bother me a bit. It didn't bother my dad either. My dad was an encourager and would spur me on by saying, "you ain't been fishing til you fall in". Falling in the creek is not hard, it's a simple skill, especially if you get a little encouragement.

I really saw my dad when we were fishing. It was usually just me and him. He was relaxed and always smiling. The creek bank was his element and he felt at home. He let me run wild, he didn't care if I fished or jumped in the creek. If I tangled the line, he never scolded me, he would help me get it straightened out. He felt free out there. I could tell. He liked being there. And he liked being with me. Watching me enjoy what he loved. He truly loved fishing and the outdoors and passed that love of fishing on to me.

My dad left a great legacy with a lot of fond memories that I'll always cherish. It wasn't a complicated thing. Didn't cost much. And was something we both loved. My dad always made time to take me fishing. He was intentional about it. Spending time on the creek bank with me was his way of showing his love for me and I felt that love. I have an ache to return and it's why I love fishing so much.

When I fast forward my life's tape to today and the flyfishing excursions I go on. It is far more complicated and expensive than the simple fishing trips of my early days. Yes, going to the creek is a little more of an excursion than it once was. The simplicity of the cane pole and a can of worms is long gone. Today's fishing trips are big undertakings, with complicated equipment, tactics and

techniques. However, I have no memory of a flyfishing trip that was any more satisfying and meaningful than the feeling I had on my way home from a fishing trip with my dad. That's why I always have, "the ache to return".

Ralph,

Plans for the Foreseeable Future

Derby City Fly Fishers Eat and Talk

Wednesday July 12 , 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Rooster's

10430 Shelbyville Rd Louisville, KY
(at Moser Road, west of Blankenbaker)

[Google Map Link to Roosters](#)

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, but mostly just share some camaraderie.

Derby City Fly Fishers General Membership Meeting Pricewaterhouse Pavillion, The Parklands

Wednesday July 19, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

[Google Maps Link to Pricewaterhouse Cooper Pavilion](#)

This is our third outdoor meeting of the summer season. Come out and join us for some great camaraderie.

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.

Derby City Fly Fishers' Fly Tying

Wednesday July 26 6:30 pm

Cabela's, Louisville

and

Thursday July 27 6:30 pm

Bass Pro, Clarksville

This month, Steve Kuric will be leading the classes. Steve will be showing us how to tie Walts Worm and the Sexy Walt's Worm.

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 Steve 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.

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)

Obey Trip June 2023

By Joe Gahlinger

We had twelve members take part in the June 2023 Obey River Trip. The Obey is the tailwaters to Dale Hollow Lake. It is seven miles from the Dale Hollow Dam to its confluence with the Cumberland River. It flows



through the town of Celina, Tennessee. I've lost track but believe this was our fifth Club Trip to the Obey. As with past Obey trips, this one had some unique characteristics and happenings.

First, the dam release schedule was quite different this time. We had long periods of no generation followed by almost equally long periods of only 1 generator flow. This allowed for almost all-day fishing. We have fished no generation conditions on past trips but did not have extended periods of 1 generator flow. Turns out, one generator produces a moderate (but manageable) current and navigable water from the Donaldson Park Boat Ramp up to the Moody Ramp (about 5.5 miles.) Under no generation conditions we are usually limited to a little over three miles (Donaldson to Island) of navigable water. This opened up stretches of the river we hadn't fully explored in the past. And better yet, provided some pretty good fishing. Although no club records were set in terms of numbers or sizes caught, everyone caught fish and enjoyed some very pleasant fishing conditions.

Second, we tried out new lodging arrangements. While four folks stayed at the "fabulous" Valley View Motel in Celina, TN, the rest of us stayed in a cabin on the Cumberland River that Mike Norris has access to. The Valley View contingent were all first time Obey trippers and they got to enjoy the memorable experiences that only the Valley View can provide – 'nuf said!! Mike's cabin was very nice, comfortable, and was a great venue for winding down after a day of fishing. Mike provided delicious dinners and breakfasts and we had ample fuel for some pretty spectacular campfires. The only drawback to the cabin was the travel distance to the Donaldson Ramp – a little over 50 minutes. Fortunately, the Obey generation schedule meant we didn't have to be at the ramp at the crack of dawn and thus were able to enjoy a little extra sleep and a relaxed breakfast before heading out. Another advantage of the cabin is that it has easy access to a boat ramp on the Cumberland that provides an alternative to the Obey. Finally, the Valley View contingent tried out the River Front Lodge in Burkesville, KY on Friday night and reported it was a great place to stay, reasonably priced, with charging stations for boats, ample parking, close access to the Burkesville Ramp, several nearby restaurants for both dinner and breakfast, and it's only 25 minutes from the Donaldson Ramp on the Obey. Will definitely be an

option for next year's trip.

All-in-all, another very enjoyable Obey trip. Already looking forward to next year's trip and with the additional lodging options, we may be able to accommodate more participants.

You can view this report and more pictures on our website [here](#).



David Campbell at right with a very pretty fish caught on the Obey trip[.

Photos submitted by Brian Kaluzny from the recent Boundary Waters trip.



For more photos, click [here](#).

Reel Recovery

By Larry Lehman

Steve asked me to write

something that would serve as an introduction to Reel Recovery for new DCFF members who are not familiar with this program. I will begin with a quote from their web site at .

reelrecovery.org

“Reel Recovery was founded in 2003 by a group of avid fly-fishers, inspired by their fishing buddy’s ongoing battle with brain cancer. Witnessing first-hand the beneficial impact fly-fishing provided their friend, they created Reel Recovery to provide the same opportunity for other men battling the disease. Combining expert fly-fishing instruction with directed “courageous conversations,” the organization provides men with all forms of cancer a unique opportunity to share their stories, learn a new skill, form lasting friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of cancer.”



DCFF’s involvement with Reel Recovery began in 2005 with a retreat in August at Wooded Glen near Henryville, Indiana when some members served as “fly-fishing buddies” to the participants. One retreat was held each year at Wooded Glen through 2018. In 2019, the site for the annual retreat was switched to Hatchery Creek located below Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery near Jamestown, Kentucky. No retreats were held in the USA in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic although two retreats were held in New Zealand. Retreats cover approximately 2 ½ days. The participants begin their first, of several, structured courageous conversations about cancer and dealing with cancer with the retreat coordinator in the evening of the first day. Ted Larrison, a licensed clinical social worker and a former DCFF member, has facilitated these meetings since 2011. Fishing buddies join the group at breakfast of the second day. We fly fish together before and after lunch on day two and after breakfast on day three. A special ceremony closes the retreat after lunch on day three. The participants share what the retreat has meant to them and they receive a gift box of flies.

Basically, Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that conducts FREE FLY-FISHING RETREATS nationally and internationally for men living with all forms of cancer. Over 4,000 men have been served in the last 20 years of retreats in many places. DCFF has been a dedicated supporter of Reel Recovery with fishing buddies, fund raisers, and cash donations. Visit the Reel Recovery website for much more information than what I have shared here, for photos of past national and international retreats, including the Kentuckiana retreats, and for a form to fill out for volunteers.



Reel Recovery participants and volunteer fishing buddies pose for a group picture before fly fishing in Hatchery Creek, May 18, 2023. Mike Lubeach (Kentucky/Indiana State Coordinator) and Ted Larrison (conversation leader), are also pictured.

**** 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!

!! BACK IN STOCK !!

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. Now, and for a limited time, there are two formats to choose from. There are 5 of the original large format books **signed by Gerry** and available for \$35. When they are gone, they're gone. We also have available, the NEW smaller format books for \$40. Come check them

out!

Gerry McDaniel's Fly-Fishing Hotline

As you may have already seen or heard, Gerry fell and broke his leg this past Monday. Doctors placed a rod in the leg and Gerry is currently recuperating at UofL Hospital. He will be there for awhile until he is able to be moved to a rehab facility. He would certainly appreciate your thoughts and prayers and especially phone calls. He has a new temporary phone number as his old phone is out of commission. New number is: 502-445-2219.

He would certainly enjoy talking to you.

We will provide updates as they become available.

For those out there new to the club or who might not know him, Gerry is a world record holder, a licensed and professional guide and a founding father of Derby City Fly Fishers. He will gladly 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 502-445-2219.

***** 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 June:

2023 Members (Total):	224
2022 Members	197
Lifetime Members	12
New Members	75

New Members June:

Scott Bishop

Charles & Kyline Hantz

Jimmy Mai

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, 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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