



## August 2023 Newsletter

### President's Letter



### TURNING 70

It's finally here. I've reached a new milestone, I'm officially "70". This is the big one for me, I think. I have no idea what 80 will be like but I have a tendency to think by that time it may just be another birthday. You may be thinking I'm making a big assumption because who says I'll even make it to 80. You would be right. The average lifespan of the American male is 76.4 years. But who says I'm average. 😊 This age 70 milestone is a little different than reaching 40, 50, or 60. Explaining

it is a little difficult. I find myself a little emotional and nostalgic and I've even been a little weepy. My wife, Sue, has even brought it up to me and asked me if I was "ok". Well, I think I'm ok but her question has made me think about it. It wasn't like this at other age milestones, so why is it like this at this one? That's what this letter will endeavor to answer. By now you're thinking, what the @\$%! Is wrong with him and what does this have to do with fly fishing? Stay with me. Now that I've got the fly on the water, let me see if I can set the hook.

Last month my letter was about fishing with my dad and the great legacy he left me. Thinking about those days with him are some of the best memories I have. Those memories are not really about catching the fish but about spending time with my father. I carry those memories with me at all times and can recall them anytime I want. It's easy to yearn for those free and magical days of my youth realizing what a blessing it is. But along with this nostalgia comes a 'bright sadness'. We're happy to recall the memory but we're sad that we can never return to that place and time again. In the drift boat of life we get to fish that spot one time because we're moving on a fast river.

Last week a group of us went to Arkansas and fished the Little Red River. We made some great memories. It was a Kayak trip and we made 6 different floats and covered almost 30 river miles. Who but a bunch of "fools" would fish that hard. This was a physically demanding trip for a bunch of old guys. The thing that really stuck with me was the thought that there would come a time when I wouldn't be able to make that same effort. For the first time in 70 years I had a glimpse of the horizon.

This letter is about the DCFF legacy and the memories we have the opportunity to make. Being a part of DCFF gives us the opportunity to be around others who are as foolish about fishing as we are. The trips and outings we have create the opportunity to make lasting memories. These are memories that will stand the test of time, even when we don't. The important thing to remember is how precious this opportunity is. It won't last forever. As I pass the 70 milestone this realization lands hard on my mind. There will come a time when the memories are all I have and I'll be thankful that I have them.

Ralph



## **Plans for the Foreseeable Future**

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

**Wednesday August 9 , 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 August 16, 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 August 23 6:30 pm  
Cabela's, Louisville  
and  
Thursday August 24 6:30 pm  
Bass Pro, Clarksville**

This month, John Froelich will be leading the classes. John will be showing us how to tie a hopper pattern called "Ol Mr. Wiggly".



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 John and all those willing to share their time and talents leading these classes.

**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](mailto: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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

## **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 \(Helm's Landing\)](#)

## **OCTOBER:**

[10th -13th North Carolina \(Waynesville, NC\)](#)

## **NOVEMBER:**

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

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### **July Helms Landing Fishing Report**

Fishing the Cumberland River is always a challenge due to ever changing conditions. Weather plays a roll, but generation rates, both the on days before and during the trip, also play a significant roll.

On the Friday night of our July trip, the weather forecast was for strong thunderstorms mid morning Saturday. Since we typically launch at daybreak off the rocks downstream of the Helm's ramp, that forecast could make us weather the storm somewhere on a bank. Before dawn Saturday, the outlook was not as bad, but there was still the possibility of storms that morning. The generation forecast was favorable, so we all took rain gear and headed out.

The storms never did show up, but it did rain most of the day so the rain gear was handy. The fish catching was remarkable! We put four boats in at Helms, some fishing up river and some fishing down. A straw count at the end of the day indicated that we caught over 500 fish between eight anglers!

Sunday was a completely different story. The cold front that moved through on Saturday really put the fish down and we caught few despite good flow conditions and fair weather. You just never know. The old saying that you've got to spend the time on the water and pay your dues is quite true.

Two of the four Helm's trips are complete. All beds are full in August but there are some slots available in September. Hope you can make it out this year.

WES

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## **\*\* 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](mailto: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!

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## **!! 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!

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## **Gerry McDaniel's Fly-Fishing Hotline**

As you may have already seen or heard, Gerry fell and broke his leg in June. 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. Gerry's number is: 502-432-2995.

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 502-432-2995.

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### \*\*\* 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)

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## 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](#)

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## 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](mailto: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): 229  
2022 Members 197  
Lifetime Members 12  
New Members 78

## New Members June:

Michael Hagen  
Matt Lindblom

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

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## 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

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com)

Derby City Fly Fishers | PO Box 6344, Louisville, KY 40206

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