



December 2023 Newsletter
Happy Holidays!

President's Letter



Tis The Season to Be Thankful! (what the “Almighty” did with a Trout)

It's the holiday season. Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas will soon be here. This is a great time to reflect on the year that's behind us and contemplate on what the coming year may bring. We can't predict the future but we hope good things are ahead. We are reminded to be thankful in this season for our blessings. Counting blessings is something I've done over the years and writing those blessings down has been a powerful reminder of all the good things this life has given me. Before I go further, I know the holidays are difficult for many. Maybe you've lost a loved one or faced one of the many challenges life can bring. This year may have been a tough year and you are just ready to move on. If so, my thoughts and prayers are with you. My intent is not to be a "Pollyanna" about life and its difficulty. My hope is that you'll smile and remember something special and pleasing. And since this is a Fly- Fishing club we'll stay in our lane and be thankful for all things fishing, especially the Trout. Here's a saying I've heard often, "give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, teach him to fish and he'll eat for the rest of his life". The basic idea is true. Teaching someone a skill enables them to be autonomous and independent, capable of taking care of themselves. But, for some fun, let's change the quote a bit and think about in context of what we do at DCFF. If we changed that quote to read "teach a person to fish and they'll eat for a day, teach a person to be a Fly-Fisher and they'll, the ending of the quote can be endless. How about an ending like, they'll spend money the rest of their lives, they'll talk about Trout all the time or they'll be gone fishing all the time and sometimes be a bore about it? You catch my drift? (pun intended) Once you've ventured into the realm of fly-fishing and caught the fever of chasing Trout your hooked. You may be able to relate to one or all of endings and you probably have some you can add yourself. The thought here is that this obsession of Fly Fishing is really something to be thankful for and there are many blessings to count.

The Trout is a wonderful creation. One of the great things about the trout is that it doesn't get bored. The trout is content to swim around looking for an easy meal. It doesn't contemplate the big questions of life like, "why am I here?". It doesn't struggle with its' identity or think it needs to be somewhere else. The trout's only goal is to stay alive, find food, reproduce and try not to get caught. This is how the "Almighty" created the trout to be. We, on the other hand, can't sit still. We need things to do. We do ask the big questions of life and think about why we're here. We do get bored and when we meet our basic needs, we look for something to do besides sit still. This is how the "Almighty" created us to be. Our obsession with the Trout gives us focus and enthusiasm. It allows us to forget the cares and problems we so often have on our minds. The things that trouble us can be left on the riverbank while we're focused on our pursuit allowing us to clear and refresh our minds. This is good rest for the soul and you just can't put a price on it. For that I'm thankful.

Here's another blessing of the Trout. We don't chase the trout alone. We have friends who join us. Yes, there's a whole tribe that has the same affliction. They just can't sit still. They go to the store and buy fly-fishing gear instead of what they went there to buy. They talk like you. Conversations with them are about the next fishing trip, the last fishing trip, the latest fly equipment and on and on it goes. They need time to clear their minds and rest their souls. It seems we don't get bored with this routine. We keep coming back for more. Those friends are really something to be thankful for.

Merry Christmas and Fish on!

Ralph

Derby City Calendar of Upcoming Events

Derby City Fly Fishers Eat and Talk

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Rooster's

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

[Google Map Link](#)

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

Christmas Party

Wednesday **December 20**, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Endris Lodge at Lapping Park, Clarksville, IN
[Google Map Link](#)

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.) The lodge will be decorated in fine Holiday fashion and with a roaring fire in the fireplace even Scrooge would get into the Christmas spirit. Endris Lodge does allow alcoholic beverages, so BYO if so inclined - just be responsible. Spouses and significant others are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

Derby City Fly Fishers' Fly Tying

***** NOTE *****

No fly tying for the months of November or December in observance of the Holidays. But be ready to re-join us in 2024. We have some volunteer session leaders lined up but can always use MORE! Please volunteer to show us your favorite fly! You can contact us at education@derbycityflyfishers.com if you wish to help out

Kentuckiana Fly Tyers

3rd Turn
10408 Watterson Trail
Jeffersontown, Ky (the old Moose Lodge).
[Google Map Link](#)

KFT conducts their monthly meeting the **First Tuesday of each Month** at the **3rd Turn, 10408 Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown** (the old Moose Lodge). 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.

Join us for the
2024 KENTUCKIANA FLY FISHING SHOW
Paroquet Springs Conference Center
Shepherdsville, Ky 40165

The Derby City Fly Fishers will host our annual Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show on **Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center located at 395 Paroquet Springs Drive, Shepherdsville, Ky.** Admission is \$10. Active military and children 12 and under are free.

The Kentuckiana Fly Show is focused on fly fishing and the tools to allow anyone to pursue the sport from beginner to accomplished and everywhere in between. We will have over 40 vendors and exhibitors from surrounding states to make purchases or just ask questions. Casting demonstrations and seminars on fly fishing will be presented throughout the day. We will also have fly tiers demonstrating the art and craft of fly tying. As usual, we will have “Kids Corner” where children of all ages are welcome to tie a fly that they can take with them. All tools and materials will be furnished free of charge. In addition, representatives from the Kentucky and Indiana Departments of Fish and Wildlife will be available to answer any questions concerning state fishing regulations and opportunities. Casting instruction will be conducted throughout the day for anyone interested in learning to cast a fly rod

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Relevant information is posted to the Fly Show [Web Page](#). The most recent addition is the volunteer [sign-up](#). The success of the show depends on volunteers and the more we have the easier the workload is on everyone involved. Most jobs are

two-hour time blocks. You can sign up for multiple blocks and different jobs if you're so inclined. Please consider helping out and go to the [sign-up](#) pick your job and time. You will also find links there to information pertaining to hotel accommodations for those interested.

And finally... If you receive *On the Fly South* E-publication or their newsletters, you probably saw notice of our 2024 Show in their December newsletter! If you aren't already subscribed, I encourage you to sign up. It's totally free, and a great resource. You can find them [here](#).

NOTICE

At the December Board of Directors Meeting, proposed changes to the DCFF By-Laws were voted on and approved for presentation to the General Membership for final approval" Members will be receiving notification of the specific changes via a separate e-mail notice in the near future, so please be on the lookout and let us know if you don't receive your notice. You can reach out to Ralph Swallows at president@derbycityflyfishers.com

2024 CLUB TRIPS

Even though the Club Trips are finished for this year, we still have a lot of things going on. Not the least of which is setting the trip schedule for 2024 and planning for the 2024 Fly Show. So check our [web site](#) frequently and read the monthly Newsletters and these weekly announcements to stay current. Last but not least, **consider getting involved with Club events and trips**. It takes effort to make these things happen and many hands make for light work. It's the best way to meet people, learn about fly fishing and best of all find new fishing buddies!!!

Do you have a legal background?

From time to time, *Derby City Fly Fishers* finds itself in want of legal guidance. If you have a legal background and would be willing and able to assist the Club on an informal basis, please let us know. You can contact **Ralph Swallows** at ralph@derbycityflyfishers.com or **Roger Charbonneau** at rcharb@derbycityflyfishers.com

Gerry McDaniel's Fly-Fishing Hotline

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.

***** 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 Report as of Nov 30 2023

Total Members: 253

2022 Members: 197

Lifetime: 13

New Members: 94

New Members Since Nov/1/2023:

James Gardner

Adam Holmes

Bill Marvel

Randy Myers

Sam Miller

Dane Thorne

Cris Clayton

Collin Wells

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

Fund Raising - Mike Parker

Conservation Director - Jeff Daiber
Newsletter Editor - Steve Cullen
Webmaster - Joe Gahlinger
Brian Kaluzny - Historian

Congratulations to our newly elected 2024 Board!

Results of the DCFF 2024 election are as follows:

Executive Board

President - Ralph Swallows
Vice President - Michael Broome
Secretary - David Campbell
Treasurer - Roger Charbonneau

Directors Board

Membership - Ted Richards
Programs - Michael Ragan
Education - John Froelich
Trips - Michael Norris
Marketing - Steve Kuric
Development and Donations - Michael Parker
Conservation - Jeff Daiber
Newsletter - Jeff Moore
Website - Joe Gahlinger

Webmaster - Joe Gahlinger serves in the role of Webmaster. Gus Dattilo has joined Joe Gahlinger to help manage the web site. You can contact both by emailing webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com. They welcome any pictures or suggested content you may have.



It's with great pleasure that I welcome Jeff Moore as our newly elected Newsletter Director!

It has been a pleasure serving Derby City Fly Fishers as your Newsletter Editor and I hope you've found it a useful and enjoyable read. I'm looking forward to getting our newsletter from Jeff coming January! Please help him out with content whenever and wherever possible. I know he'll appreciate it!

Steve Cullen

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

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