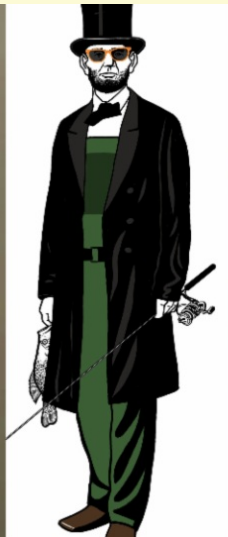


Derby City Fly Fishers

February 2024 Newsletter

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:
Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:
Wednesday, March 6th, 2024



President's Letter:



Ferris Bueller's Day Off

The popular movie ***Ferris Bueller's Day Off*** was released in 1986. The movie has become somewhat of a cult classic. If you haven't seen the movie, you are probably at least familiar with the title.

The movie's main character, Ferris Bueller, is a popular high school student who just wants a day off. He devises a plan to trick his parents into thinking he is sick and needs to stay home from school. His parents take the bait and Ferris gets the day at home to recuperate.

Ferris' next move, however, is inviting some high school friends to join him in a "road trip" to Chicago to experience all that town has to offer. The teens can't go on this adventure without a car, so they "borrow" a restored 1961 Ferrari. You guessed it -- the classic car ends up stolen and destroyed. As the day progresses, there are a series of other catastrophic events. In the end, however, all things return to order and are seemingly put right.

The main theme of the movie revolves around living life without regrets and taking time to smell the roses. The movie ends with Ferris looking up into the camera and leaving the audience with these parting words: "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around you could miss it."

It's been 38 years since the movie was released and Ferris Bueller

could never have known how right he was about the speed of life. To say life is moving fast these days is a huge understatement. If we compare 2024 to 1986, the pace of life is seemingly moving at the speed of light.

We now live in an "instant" world. Most want quick results as well as instant responses -- and then they are disappointed when they don't get them. We text, send emails, and leave voicemail messages. We expect immediate responses -- and we are often disappointed when we don't get them. Speed is the name of the game, and we want it all right now. Ferris was right, "Life moves pretty fast ..."

Technology is a culprit and also a hero. Technology affects every area of our lives. It is like rocket fuel. Technology propels the world we live in and moves us ever faster. The fast pace of life today can give you a dizzy feeling. You might feel that you are losing control or that daily life is slipping away and maybe even falling apart. The fast pace of life today can create a sense of disenchantment because we can never quite catch up with it. Technology, however, can also save your life; provide you comforts never before imaginable; make it easier to access the great outdoors and to stay out there much longer.

What technology provides must be weighed against what it takes from us. For Fly Fishers, the negative impacts of technology can rob us when we take it with us to the water. We may be in a hurry to do it, fishing fast, thinking we have to catch more and more. The rewards of fly fishing then get measured against the common technology standard's of more, bigger, and faster. The experience of catching the fish, enjoying the beauty of nature, or the companionship of our fellow Fly Fishers is somehow lost. We just can't slow down enough because we're conditioned to expect immediate results due to the constant advance of technology.

What is the remedy? Is there a remedy? Everyone can find their own way to deal with the fast pace of life today. We have to be intentional about it and make an effort to slow down. Being grateful is a great place start. Taking time to enjoy the magnificence of creation is another.

We Fly Fishers share a camaraderie that should be cherished and celebrated. Enjoy it! Think about what's really important and live in the moment. Time is precious and how we spend it is our choice. Time also shares a common trait with technology -- it never stops. Ferris Bueller was right, "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around you might miss it."

Fish on!

Upcoming Events:

DCFF Eat & Talk Shop
Valentine's Day / Ash Wednesday
Wednesday February 14th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Rooster's
10430 Shelbyville Road -- Louisville, KY
[Google Map Link to Roosters](#)

If you don't already have plans to Eat & Talk Shop in private with your Valentine, please join us for a special Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday gathering.

We meet to Eat & Talk Shop the 2nd Wednesday of every month in Rooster's private event room that is comfortable, quiet enough for conversation, and has good lighting for fly tying. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of your DCFF club mates a little better, swap some fish stories, and enjoy some good food and drink. Come when you want, eat and drink if you want, tie a fly or two -- but mostly just share some camaraderie. We are, after all, best known as an eating and drinking club with a fly fishing problem!

DCFF General Membership Meeting
Wednesday February 21st / 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Bass Pro Shops
951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN
[Google Map Link to Bass Pro Shops](#)

PLEASE NOTE: Earlier than normal start time to accommodate Bass Pro Shops winter hours of operation for the FEB & MAR meetings!

The General Membership Meeting (GMM) is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We meet indoors at Bass Pro Shops during the winter, in the upstairs auditorium. Our GMM is an opportunity to share club news and event updates, so all members are encouraged to attend to stay up to speed on all club activities.

This month is our annual Fly Fishing 101 event. We will have experienced club members manning individual stations to:

- address basic fly fishing topics,
- answer your individual questions, and

- provide some useful "hands on" experience.

There is much to learn about fly fishing, and this meeting packs a major chunk of it all into a clear and concise set of useful information designed to get any angler and experience level out on the water with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to catch fish.

DCFF Fly Tying

Wednesday February 28th , 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Cabela's

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

[Google Map Link to Cabela's](#)

... and then again on ...

Thursday February 29th , 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Bass Pro Shops

951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN

[Google Map Link to Bass Pro Shops](#)

DCFF Fly Tying is scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of every month (in Louisville at Cabela's) and then again on the following Thursday (in Clarksville at Bass Pro Shops). Tools and materials are provided at no cost, but feel free to bring your own. Beginners are welcome, and experienced tyers will be available for individual instruction.

New for 2024, all Fly Tying presentations will be recorded so members can participate remotely using Zoom -- how neat is that! An updated list of materials will be published for each fly and distributed in a pending weekly email update so Zoom participants can also take part from home or on the road using their own tools and materials.

This month, we will be running a final "beta test" for the Zoom experience. If you would like to take part as a beta tester for the Zoom connection experience, please contact [Michael Broome](#), DCFF Vice-President, for Zoom connection details and to provide valuable feedback.

David Campbell is our instructor this month.

He will be demonstrating the **Crackleback**.

For those participating via Zoom, these are the basic materials:

- Hook: any dry fly, size 10 to 16
- Thread: 8/0 or 70 denier (any color)
- Body: turkey round fibers or dubbing
- Back: two peacock herls

- Hackle: furnace or brown



NOTE - For those interested in additional Fly Tying options:

Kentuckiana Fly Tyers:

KFT conducts a monthly session on the 1st Tuesday of every Month at 3rd Turn Brewing, 10408 Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown, KY (the old Moose Lodge). 3rd Turn Brewing ([Link Here](#)) is canine friendly, but they do not serve food. You are welcome to bring food or a snack and wash it all down with one of their fine craft beers. Experienced and new fly tyers are all welcome. KFT will provide the equipment, materials, and instruction -- but experienced fly tyers are also encouraged to bring their own tools and materials. Send an email to KFT if you want to be added to their monthly email reminder list, or to RSVP for an upcoming session at:

kentuckianaflytyers@gmail.com

Orvis:

Orvis offers Fly Tying 101 classes monthly on most Saturday mornings at their Louisville retail location ([Link Here](#)) in the Paddock Shops. These are free classes designed for beginners. All tools and materials are provided on location at no cost. Access the current schedule ([Calendar Here](#)) and register for any listed classes. Orvis also offers a more advanced Fly Tying 201 class for those who complete a Fly Tying 101 class.

Quest Outdoors:

Quest conducts fly tying classes the 3rd Saturday of every month at their retail store ([Link Here](#)) located in Louisville at 4600 Shelbyville Road. Tools and materials are provided at no cost, but you are also welcome to bring your own.

St Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday March 9th / 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Wick's Pizza Parlor

975 Baxter Avenue -- Louisville, KY

[Google Map Link to Wick's](#)

A group of DCFF members dedicated to upholding our club moto of being an **Eating and Drinking Club with a Fly Fishing Problem** will be attending the 2024 Louisville St Patrick's Day parade next month (as spectators, **not** as parade participants). They invite any and all club members to join in on the fun.

The parade starts at 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 9th and typically lasts about 2 hours. The group plans to meet in front of Wick's Pizza Parlor (see link above) on the public sidewalk. Standing and siting locations are on a first come first serve basis, so plan to arrive early to secure your prime viewing spot (2:15 pm at the latest). Feel free to bring food and refreshments to enjoy during the parade.

Club Trips:

DCFF has a solid lineup of great fly fishing trips planned for 2024. All of our current year trips are now active on the [2024 Trips](#) page of the DCFF Web Site. Many trips are already full, but additional trips are being considered -- so stay tuned! This schedule is always subject to change, but it should give you a good planning guide as posted today. As any new trip details are finalized, the links for those specific trips will be activated online. Once active, you will be able to get all the information about each individual trip and sign up for them:

[Spring North Carolina](#) (10-13 Apr)
[Floyd's Fork Instructional Outing](#)(27 Apr)
[Shakamak State Park Indiana](#) (Full) (8-12 May)
[Green River](#) (Full)(15-19 May)
[June Cumberland River](#)(7-9 Jun)
[Waterfalls Lodge Canada](#)(8-15 Jun)

NOTE: *Signup deadline for Canada Trip extended to 14-Feb!!!*

[Boundary Waters Minnesota](#)(9-15 Jun)
[Obey River Tennessee](#) (10-12 Jul)
[July Cumberland River](#)(12-14 Jul)
[August Cumberland River](#)(16-18 Aug)
[Camp Buffalo Bill Wyoming](#) (25-31 Aug)
[Missoula Montana](#) (Full) (9-14 Sep)
[White River Indiana](#) (12-15 Sep)
[September Cumberland River](#)(13-15 Sep)
[Fall North Carolina](#) (8-11 Oct)
[Otter Creek Instructional Outing](#) (2 Nov)

Feature Articles:

Cold Weather Trout Tips (Continued)

This month's instructional articles expand on the Cold Water Trout Tips from the January edition. The first article, pulled from the **Orvis Fly Fishing Learning Center** is authored by a fly fisherman who needs no introduction. We received permission to re-print excerpts from a winter fishing article by **Tom Rosenbauer**, Marketing Director of Orvis Rod & Tackle.

Tips for Winter Trout

Tom Rosenbauer
Marketing Director,
Orvis Rod & Tackle



1. In winter, trout won't move more than a few inches for your fly and they'll be close to the bottom. So, fish your flies deep and slowly. Your best bet is a nymph fished dead-drift.
2. Winter streams are typically very low and clear, so keep your tippet as long and light as possible. You often need to go to 6X or 7X with small nymphs. Mirage Fluorocarbon can really give you an advantage because of its transparency.
3. In tailwaters and spring creeks with stable water temperatures, you may find trout rising to midges any time from dawn to dusk. Early mornings are often surprisingly productive. Look for them and give some midge patterns a try. You may be pleasantly surprised by the big fish that will take such a small pattern.
4. Warm afternoons, either sunny or cloudy, may stimulate stonefly or blue-winged-olive mayfly hatches. Keep your eye out for both hatches.
5. You'll find most fish rising in the middle or tails of bigger pools. Look for water that is almost, but not quite, still and you'll increase your odds.
6. Trout eat minnows and crayfish during the winter but won't chase them far. A small streamer, fished upstream like a nymph with an occasional twitch, may interest a trout.
7. Don't bother fishing high water in winter. Flooded or dirty water

combined with cold water temperatures make fly fishing nearly impossible. Stay home and tie some great patterns instead!

Speaking of great patterns, here's some to make winter fly fishing hot. Check out these ... [SNIP]

EDITOR'S NOTE ... to see a list of the Nymph, Dry & Streamer patterns Tom recommends, access the full article [HERE](#)

Expanding on the themes discussed above, are excerpts from **Nathaniel Treichler**, CEO of The Fly Crate, and a prolific author:



Winter Fly Fishing Tips: Trout in the Winter 101

Nathaniel Treichler
CEO,
The Fly Crate

[SNIP] ...

Go Small, Go Slow, Go Low

We know that the trout will be much less aggressive than any other time of the year. They will have a somewhat sedentary existence, moving as little as possible. Therefore, it is really important to use small flies, slow presentations, and drop them right down to the fish.

Dry fly action is not impossible during the winter, but you should see dry-fly hits as a pleasant exception to the winter rule. In the wintertime, you should stick to nymphing almost exclusively – even adding a small split shot when the water is deep enough. The trout will not be surfacing to feed, but rather waiting for their next meal to drift by slowly where they can reach out with little effort.

You are advised to use smaller flies than other times of the year. For midges, small sizes between 18 – 22. You can use slightly larger stonefly imitations around the 14 – 16 sizes. If you are on a body of water where trout are clearly preying on minnows – try a size 8 streamer. Many anglers also slide down a tippet size, with around 5x – 6x the best for winter. This will let the nymph drop lower into the pool.

No matter the fly, try a slow retrieve. Let the nymph sink slowly down

into the holes and pockets behind the best structure. Keep in mind that trout will really seek out the best pools – so if you catch one fish try a few more casts in the same spot and you might find a second bite!

Find the Right Water

Finding the right water is just as important as anything else to winter trout success. In the wintertime, the right water means slow-moving water that is relatively warm and stable and temperature.

You can see the clear pattern that the trout are attempting to conserve as much energy as possible. Therefore, they will avoid turbulent water which requires more of their power to navigate through. Trout will also avoid shallows to hide from predators – birds, cats, mink, bears, and all sorts of warm-blooded animals will be looking for the sluggish trout. They find safety in deeper pools.

Additionally, trout prefer to eat insects floating by slowly, and not coursing through rapid water – so stay out of fast water or stagnant water. The best location is a moderately moving stream with enough water structure to provide some quieter water. Rocks of course will work – but many anglers recommend logjams that slow the water significantly to be the best structure. Make sure to look for eddies and deeper pools created behind the structure.

Water that has a consistent temperature, especially if it's relatively warm, will hold the most trout. The best water is usually spring-fed channels. Springwater actually remains at stable temperatures throughout the whole year. While this may seem like very cool water compared to sun-warmed summer water, the spring water will likely be above the average water temperature during the wintertime when the ambient water temperature plummets.

Another excellent spot for winter fishing is a tailrace. A tailrace occurs when waterfalls over a dam, water wheel, or other structure.

Tailwaters virtually never ice over and push bait downstream to the trout. The water temperature is typically stable and a bit warmer than the rest of the stream, because the tailwater is dumping directly out of the reservoir – and large bodies of water do not cool down as low or fast as a small stream. Flowing tailwater almost never ices over, so it can be fished all winter. Look for the previously mentioned structure and deeper pools slightly downstream of the spillway ... [SNIP]

EDITOR'S NOTE ... to see the other helpful winter fishing topics Nathaniel addresses in this article and a list of the patterns he recommends, access the full text [HERE](#)

More articles on cold weather trout fishing from **Tom Rosenbauer**:

[*Best Flies for Winter Fishing*](#)

[*How to Find Trout in Winter*](#)

[*Winter Fishing Tips*](#)

More articles on cold weather trout fishing from **The Fly Crate**:

[*Tips for Finding Winter Trout*](#)

(Nick DeVecchio)

[*How to Fly Fish in the Winter: Top 15 Winter Trout Flies*](#)

(Nathaniel Treichler)

[*Winter Fly Fishing Tactics to Catch More Trout*](#)

(Nick DeVecchio)

If you have a topic that would be appropriate for future DCFF Newsletter feature articles, please send your recommendations to:

newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com

Membership:

Good news -- DCFF is continuing to grow. We have added **31** new members in 2024. We have a total of **20** Lifetime members and **182** annual members that have joined or renewed in 2024.

DCFF annual memberships renew on New Years Day of every year. We currently have about **100** annual members that have yet to renew their membership this year, so join DCFF or renew your membership for 2024 today. It is quick and easy from the [Membership](#) page of the DCFF web site.

Downstream Casts:

Request for GMM Fund Raising Items:

Inventory of donated items supporting DCFF fund raising projects at our General Membership Meetings each month is getting low! If you have any fly fishing related items or reference materials that someone else may find useful -- or if you are looking for a way to kill some cold

winter hours, perhaps you could tie up some of your favorite flies and consider donating them to the club. Contact our Development and Donations Director, [Mike Parker](#), if you have any items to donate, questions or suggestions. You can also just bring your donated items to our next General Membership Meeting.

Gerry McDaniel 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**.

Gerry's ***A Guide to the Lower Cumberland River*** contains a series of USGS topographic maps from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee border. It includes points of interest and public access points and will be available for purchase at indoor general membership meetings.

DCFF Member Classified Ads:

DCFF Classified ad section is a convenient location for club members to advertise fishing related items for sale or to purchase used gear and equipment from other club members. There is **NO** cost to advertise, but a seller must be a club member who is in good standing and registered on the website. Anyone can see the items for sale, but only club members can list items to sell.

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

DCFF Programs:

Your DCFF Programs Director, [Michael Ragan](#), is looking for anyone interested in helping with GMM meeting materials and coordinating guest speakers.

DCFF Web Site:

Your DCFF Web Site is a combination of art, science, magic, sweat and (sometimes) tears compliments of your Webmasters, Joe Gahlinger and Gus Dattilo. They rely on inputs from the membership to keep the site current, functional, and useful -- so continue to send pictures, inputs, updates and suggestions to both at:

[**webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com**](mailto:webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com)

When it works, it is a feature -- when it doesn't, it is a bug!

Fishing License Renewals:

NOTE: Kentucky annual fishing licenses expire the last day of February. Indiana annual fishing licenses expire the last day of March. Don't forget to renew your annual license soon!!!

Kentucky hunting & fishing licenses/permits can be purchased at:
[**Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Online License Sales site**](#)

Indiana fishing licenses can be purchased or renewed at:
[**Renew your IN Fishing License Here**](#)

DCFF Board Members for 2024

President:	.....	Ralph Swallows
Vice President:	.....	Michael Broome
Secretary:	.....	David Campbell
Treasurer:	.....	Roger Charbonneau
Membership Director:	.....	Ted Richards
Education Director:	.....	John Froehlich
Development & Donations:	.....	Mike Parker
Trips Director:	.....	Mike Norris
Marketing Director:	.....	Steve Kuric
Programs Director:	.....	Michael Ragan
Newsletter Director:	.....	Jeff Moore
Conservation Director:	.....	Jeff Daiber
Webmaster:	.....	Joe Gahlinger
Assistant Webmaster:	.....	Gus Dattilo

The Board Members listed above can all be reached directly via email from the [**Board of Directors**](#) page on the club web. Don't hesitate to contact a Board Member with questions or recommendations - we'd love to hear from you.

Thanks for taking a look at the newsletter! If you enjoyed this content, maybe you have something to contribute for next month. This is your newsletter, so help me keep the content relevant and informative.

Spring is just around the next snowstorm and will be here before you can take full advantage of all the great winter fishing



opportunities we have here in Kentuckiana. Don't pass those opportunities by. Throw on an extra layer of clothing and get out there. The fish are hungry and waiting.

Tight lines,

Jeff Moore
Derby City Fly Fishers Newsletter Director
newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com

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

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