

Derby City Fly Fishers

May 2024 Newsletter

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:
Wednesday, May 1st, 2024
The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:
Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

**Most of my money is spent on Fly Fishing,
Bourbon, and betting on Horses ...**

... the rest of it, I spend foolishly !!!

DCFF Tip of the Month:

Replace any monofilament leader at the start of every season and any monofilament tippet on a regular basis during the season.

Sharp hooks, good knots, and fresh tippet land more fish!

President's Letter:

The Cumberland River
and

Wolf Creek Dam

... To Everything
There is a Season



The **Bryds** released their hit song "**Turn Turn Turn**" in 1965. That song hit number one on the US Billboard Hot-100 in a short time. The lyrics are well known and many of you might be singing them in your head right now:

*... to everything
turn, turn, turn,
there is a season
turn, turn, turn,
and a time to every purpose under heaven ...*

Well, this is such a season -- an opportunity for the members of DCFF to take action. The Wolf Creek Dam operations may soon see a major renovation project that could have a great impact on our beloved Cumberland River. I anticipate this renovation could result in significant improvement to the fishery as well as an overall positive impact on the entire Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam. As stakeholders and users of the Cumberland River, we all have an opportunity to let our voices be heard in helping to shape a positive outcome.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has opened a public comment period to help them formulate changes to the current Wolf Creek Dam Water Control Manual (WCM) policy. That comment period is active today, but closes soon on **May 15, 2024**. I am asking all members of DCFF to take action and make comments via email during this short public comment period.

DCFF Director of Conservation, **Jeff Daiber**, has been in contact with USACE and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife regarding these changes. He has put together an excellent response for my submission from DCFF. You can also use the same points in crafting your own email response to USACE. Read further in the Newsletter for details on how to find the USACE Project Planning Branch letter, a copy of the official DCFF comment letter, where and how to provide your own comments, and some bullet points you can use to craft your own response.

Your voice needs to be heard. A letter from our club is great -- but not enough. DCFF membership currently exceeds 200 and hundreds of individual responses to USACE makes a much bigger impact than a single response from your club. This is a season and a time to take action. Let your voice be heard.

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows
DCFF President

EDITOR'S NOTE ... scroll down to the *Feature Articles* section of the Newsletter where you will find all the information you need to submit a comment as requested by Ralph above. You can make a difference!

Upcoming Events:

DCFF Eat & Talk Shop
Wednesday May 8th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

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

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 May 15th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP Pavilion
at the
Egg Lawn in the Parklands
[Google Map Link to Outdoor Meeting](#)

PLEASE NOTE: We are headed back outdoors for the Spring and Summer meetings. Meetings are open to non-members, so if you

know someone who might be interested in fly fishing invite them to attend.

The General Membership Meeting (GMM) is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We meet outdoors at various locations during the Spring & Summer months. 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.

Our first outdoor gathering is traditionally an instructional meeting. This is an opportunity for those new to Fly Fishing, or those wanting to dip their toes in the water to learn some new skills. For others who would like to hone their skills, this is an opportunity to learn a new tip or two. The Parklands also offers an opportunity to get a little time on the water, if you so desire.

Club member and Certified Fly-Casting Instructor, **Jack Miller** will be demonstrating some casting techniques which will be helpful to all skill levels. Included will be the oval (or circle) cast used when throwing heavy flies; some basic tips for the benefit of our newer members; some pointers on how to handle sink tip lines ... plus other valuable techniques.

Fly rods will be available for instruction. We'll have our traditional pulled BBQ meal from Frank's including soft drinks and water. A \$5 donation per attendee is requested to help offset the cost of the meal. No RSVP required -- just be there with an appetite for BBQ and fly fishing!

DCFF Fly Tying

Wednesday May 22nd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cabela's

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

... and then again on ...

Thursday May 23rd, 6:30 - 8:30 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.

Zoom link instructions will be published and distributed in a weekly email update so club members can also take part from home or on the road using their own tools and materials. Contact [Michael Broome](#), DCFF Vice-President, if you have any questions or concerns about using Zoom to connect to the Fly Tying demonstration live, or to provide valuable feedback after the event.

Brian Kaluzny is our instructor this month. He will be tying the **Rainbow Warrior**. This fly was developed by Lance Egan, a competitive fly fisherman from Utah. It works well in tailwaters, but can be fished almost anywhere. The pattern is particularly suitable for trout, rock bass, and bluegill.



Zoom participants tying from home or on the road can use the materials list below:

Hook: TMC 2457, Dai-Riki #125 Caddis Pupa, or Nymph Hook in sizes #12-22

Thread: 6/0 or 70 Denier in red (depending on hook size)

Bead: Silver Tungsten size 1/8" or 3/32" (depending on hook size)

Tail: Ringneck Pheasant Tail Fibers (Natural)

Body: Pearl Tinsel (Large)

Thorax: Wapsi Sow Scud Dubbing (Rainbow)

Brian will be tying on a size #12 hook with the option for participants to use a size #16.

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.

DCFF Fly Tying 101 Class
Fifth Wednesday in May
Wednesday May 29th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cabela's
5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY
[Google Map Link to Cabela's](#)

The club schedules special events in any month with five (5) Wednesdays -- and May 29th is a special 5th Wednesday event.

Are you new to fly tying? Do you ponder what the heck a "locking wrap" is or what the "squiggly tool" does? Well, we have answers for you. A **Fly Tying 101** session will be held in Cabela's conference room. All you need to bring is yourself and anyone else who might be interested. Everything else will be provided. If all goes well, some of the mysteries of fly tying will evaporate and you might even have one or two new flies. No fee or registration required. Be there!

DCFF 2024 Rod Building Class
Most Thursday's
May 30th - July 11th, 2024
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cabela's
5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY
[Google Map Link to Cabela's](#)

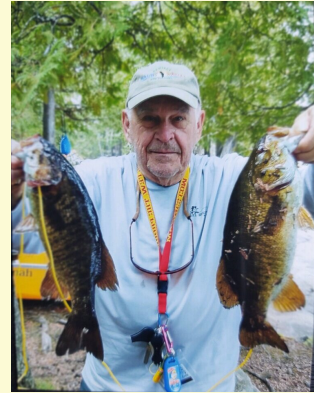
PLEASE NOTE: The class will be limited to six DCFF Members on a first come, first served sign-up basis. At last check, there were still two available slots. Registration will close whenever all six slots are taken but not later than May 20th. Detailed information about the class, rod

options, costs, and a link to sign-up for one of the six student slots can be accessed [HERE](#).

Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact DCFF Education Director, **John Froehlich**, for more information or to support any of the volunteer opportunities listed below.

John Froehlich
DCFF Education Director
(270) 314-0362
education@derbycityflyfishers.com



Reel Recovery Retreat

Thursday & Friday, May 16th & 17th

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

[Google Map Link to State Resort Park](#)

This is the annual retreat sponsored by the Kentucky/Indiana Chapter of Reel Recovery. You can learn more about Reel Recovery [HERE](#).

This year's retreat has 14 participants and they need 14 fishing buddies to support one-on-one help. The fishing sessions will be on Hatchery Creek. You do not have to be an expert fly fisher -- just be able to help the participants cast, tie on flies, and fish. DCFF has supported these retreats for many years and our volunteers have always found the experience to be very rewarding.

Contact **Mike Lubeach (502-494-9791)** for more information and to volunteer.

Floyd Knobs Sportsmen Club

Saturday June 15th, 10:00am - 2:00pm

4869 Scottsville Rd, Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

[Google Map Link](#)

DCFF has been invited to present a modified Fly Fishing 101 class. Two or three volunteers needed to help. Expecting about 20

participants.

Fly Fishing 101 Outing

Saturday June 22nd, 9:30am - 3:30pm

PNC Achievement Center
Parklands of Floyds Fork
[Google Map Link to PNC Pavilion](#)

This event is offered by the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife in partnership with Derby City Fly Fishers and The Parklands of Floyds Fork. The program will teach the basics of fly fishing to include rod and reel setups, casting, fly types, basic gear, and knot tying.

The morning session, 9:30am to noon, will be in the classroom, followed by a bring your own “brown bag” lunch. From 1:00-3:30pm will be casting and fishing in Floyds Fork. We need “fishing buddies” and any extra waders.

You can sign up to be a **fishing buddy** by clicking [HERE](#).

If you want to participate as a **student** click [HERE](#) to get more information and register for the class.

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. Several 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.

ALERT: We currently have four (4) available slots for the June Boundary Waters trip. Past participants have all had great things to say about this trip. Check out the trip description and details [HERE](#) .

As trip details are finalized, the links for those specific trips will be activated and updated online. Once active, you will be able to get all the information about each individual trip and sign up for them:

<u>Shakamak State Park Indiana (Full)</u>	(8-12 May)
<u>Green River (Full)</u>	(15-19 May)
<u>June Cumberland River</u>	(7-9 Jun)
<u>Waterfalls Lodge Canada (Full)</u>	(8-15 Jun)
<u>Boundary Waters Minnesota</u>	(9-15 Jun)
<u>Fly Fishing 101 - Louisville</u>	(22 Jun)
<u>Obey River Tennessee</u>	(10-12 Jul)
<u>July Cumberland River</u>	(12-14 Jul)
<u>August Cumberland River</u>	(16-18 Aug)
<u>Camp Buffalo Bill Wyoming</u>	(25-31 Aug)
<u>Missoula Montana (Full)</u>	(9-14 Sep)
<u>White River Indiana</u>	(12-15 Sep)
<u>September Cumberland River</u>	(13-15 Sep)
<u>Fall North Carolina</u>	(8-11 Oct)
<u>Otter Creek Instructional Outing</u>	(2 Nov)

Feature Article:

Submitting a Comment to USACE

Q: What is all the fuss this month about submitting comments to the Army Corps of Engineers?

A: The US Army Corps of Engineers (**USACE**) controls the water release schedule at Wolf Creek Dam. That release schedule has the most significant impact on the quality of fishing in the Cumberland River below the dam. These effects are both short-term (day-to-day) and longer term. The USACE controlling document defining guidance for establishing a release schedule is the **Wolf Creek Dam & Lake Cumberland Water Control Manual (WCM)**. The impact of proposed revisions to the WCM are currently being evaluated and "scoped" by USACE under the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**. USACE is soliciting comments from all stakeholders, and that comment period closes **15-May**.

Q: Why should I comment?

A: Because the release schedule is driven by many different priorities (flood control, power generation, water supply, recreation, etc), many different stakeholders with different priorities will be submitting comments. The Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam is one of the most significant fisheries in our region – maybe the only fishery in Kentucky supporting naturally reproducing trout populations. You are a stakeholder as a DCFF member if you have ever fished, will fish, or might even never fish the Cumberland River. This is a unique

opportunity to help USACE develop policy that improves the fishery and makes fishing it safer and more enjoyable without negative impact to other stakeholder priorities.

Q: How do I comment?

A: The easiest way to submit a comment is as simple as sending an email, not later than **May 15th, 2024**, to:

corpslrnplanningpubliccom@usace.army.mil

You can also submit via "snail mail" (see instructions in the USACE Scoping Letter). If you have any questions or issues, call:

Mr Brad Potts
(931) 310-2596

NOTE: For email submissions, put your comments in the body of the email rather than as a separate attached file. Government servers and network security systems are notorious for stripping out attached email files to protect their networks.

Q: What should I say?

A: If you have ever fished the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam -- you already know at least a few comments from personal experience. If you have never fished there, or are having trouble converting your thoughts into words ... we suggest:

1.) Read the DCFF Comment Letter submitted by President **Ralph Swallows**. The comments submitted by DCFF should give you a good starting point to Cut, Paste, and Edit similar comments into your own words. Find Ralph's letter [HERE](#).

2.) To create your own unique comments, you may want to focus your attention along these general priorities:

- Safety: flow schedules should be planned to provide a safety cushion for anglers below the Dam (from shore, wading, or in a watercraft);
- Planning: you can't plan a trip in advance to tailwaters unless a flow schedule is known and there is confidence it will be adhered to;
- Conservation: flow schedules should be developed to limit extremes in water levels, provide sufficient oxygenation, and avoid rapid changes in water flow rates;
- Economic: anglers help the economy wherever great fishing opportunities exist.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: The document referenced above can be accessed here:

1.) Find the **US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Scoping Letter** [HERE](#)

2.) Find President **Ralph Swallows** official **DCFF Comment Letter** [HERE](#)

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

Membership:

We added **4** new members in April and a total of **49** new members have joined in 2024. DCFF currently has a total of **21** Lifetime members and **214** annual members. Do you have a friend or family member interested in joining DCFF? It is quick and easy from the [Membership](#) page of the DCFF web site.

Downstream Casts:

DCFF Fly Show 2025:

Save the date to your calendar! The 2025 DCFF Fly Show is scheduled for Saturday, **January 18th, 2025**. Be there, or be square.

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. Meetings move outside for May-August, so Michael is seeking material and speakers now to fill the September, October, and November meetings when we will move back indoor.

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

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

Fishing License Renewals:

NOTE: Kentucky 2023 annual fishing licenses expired the last day of February. Indiana 2023 annual fishing licenses expired the last day of March. Don't forget to renew your 2024 annual license !!!

Kentucky hunting & fishing licenses/permits can be purchased at:

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.



Club trip season has arrived. Are you signed-up for a few?

The normal educational material we put in the **Feature Articles** section will return next month. This month, the priority is USACE's Scoping Letter and our opportunity to submit comments. I hope you will heed DCFF President **Ralph Swallow's** request and submit your own comments.

I still seek your feedback -- good, bad, or ugly. This is your newsletter -- so let me know what you want to see (or want to eliminate). Summer is almost here, so enjoy what is left of

Spring!

Tight lines,

Jeff Moore

DCFF Newsletter Director

newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com

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

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