

## **Derby City Fly Fishers**

### **June 2024 Newsletter**

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:  
Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:  
Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024

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### **DCFF Tip of the Month:**

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Quickly identify the weight of any fly line by using a Sharpie pen to mark bands on the fly line near the leader loop. A narrow band equates to one unit while a wide band would represent five units.

A 3-weight line would be identified with three narrow band marks, a 5-weight line with a single wide band, and a 7-weight line with a wide band and two narrow bands.

Different fly line types can also be quickly identified in this method by using different Sharpie pen colors to differentiate between floating, sinking, and/or sink tip lines.

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### **President's Letter:**

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## **Thin Places**

or

... you may need to  
take your shoes off.



Summer is a magnificent time of year, and the Derby City Fly Fishers summer events schedule is currently in full stride. Our club has had several great trips to date, but we have also had to cancel a couple due to high water. Regardless -- our summer is off to a great start!

The Shakamak State Park trip was a big hit. We had great success on the water and a wonderful time around the campfire with fresh fried fish on consecutive nights for dinner. We also had some fine fellowship and camaraderie around the traditional DCFF fire pit as it blazed brightly late into every evening. It was truly a time of bonding that can often be missed given the busy lives we lead today. The Shakamak trip will always be remembered as one of the best of times for this DCFF member.

The title of this letter, ***Thin Places***, might seem a bit odd. If you indulge me a little, however, I think I can shed some light on that particular phrase. The Shakamak State Park trip, you may soon see, revealed a true "thin place".

The idea of "thin places" has been around for centuries and originated in ancient pagan Celtic culture. The concept is that special places exist where the veil between this world and the next is very thin -- a special place of discovery, self-renewal, and even divine encounter. The concept was made popular when ancient Celtic Christian culture began to practice and associate it with special locations infused with a spiritual experience and the Divine. As time passed, the idea of "thin places" expanded to include not just locations; but also people, gatherings, and events.

In our little world of Fly Fishing, I believe we encounter "thin places" quite often. We may not have thought about it in this way -- but our passion of Fly Fishing naturally takes us to locations, events, and gatherings with likeminded friends that are truly of special significance even though we may not notice or recognize it at the time.

Elizabeth Barret Browning wrote a poem that might shed more light on this concept of "thin places":

*Earth's crammed with Heaven,  
and every common bush afire with God;  
but only he who sees takes off his shoes,  
the rest just pluck blackberries.*

This elegant little poem just won't let me move on. It made me pause, think, and wonder -- have I been paying attention, or am I too preoccupied with trivial things to notice what is really here? Am I too focused on catching fish or maybe getting there? Do I fail to notice the magnificence of the world I live in, the wonder of creation, and also how it shouts of the Creator? Do I need to take off my shoes, slow down, and soak in the significance of the world and the people around me -- or am I simply plucking blackberries?

It takes some effort to recognize "thin places" and I am not sure we can just go looking for them. More often, "thin places" find us when we least expect it. Maybe it is a slower than normal early morning boat ride up the Cumberland River in heavy fog and mist. Perhaps wading a river alone only to make the perfect cast and land a fly gently on the water. An early morning cup of coffee around the campfire. A well told fish story while sitting around the fire pit some evening.

If we just pay attention, "thin places" abound for those who love the outdoors. Remind yourself often how special this world really is -- a gift we have all been given, but especially to those among us with a love for this passion we call Fly Fishing. So, tomorrow, strive to do more with your life experiences than just pluck the blackberries.

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows  
DCFF President

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## Upcoming Events:

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**DCFF Eat & Talk Shop**  
**Wednesday June 12th / 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!

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## **Canoe Kentucky Sponsored Kayak Fly Fishing Boot Camp**

**Saturday June 15th  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

### **Canoe Kentucky**

7323 Peaks Mill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

[\*\*Google Map Link to Canoe Kentucky\*\*](#)

Our friends at Canoe Kentucky have put together a comprehensive, full day, Boot Camp designed to get you "up to speed" and on the water in a modern sit-on-top fishing kayak so you can determine if this is truly a viable option for you. They are giving priority access for this Boot Camp to members in good standing from Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers (NKFF) and DCFF. Class size is limited to keep the experience focused and relevant. If you are interested, don't delay -- register today!

Boot Camp will start with some classroom instruction designed to acquaint you with how to safely and efficiently fly fish from a sit-on-top kayak, as well as the advantages and disadvantages so you can determine what size, style, and price point might best suit your kayak fishing needs. The staff then matches you with an appropriate, full featured, demo kayak -- and then you head out on Elkhorn Creek for a planned 6-mile Smallmouth Bass fishing adventure. The class will debrief after the float around the campfire.

- Cost is \$125 (**\$138.79** total after taxes and fees),
- Participants must be at least 12 years old,
- Bring your own lunch,
- Bring your own fishing gear,
- For full event details:  
[\*\*DCFF Kayak Fishing Boot Camp\*\*](#)
- For any additional questions or concerns, contact:  
[\*\*John Bramel\*\*](#)
- To register:  
Call the Canoe Kentucky Peaks Mill retail shop:

**(502) 227-4492**

Specify you are calling to sign up from DCFF for the:

***How to Fly Fish from a Kayak Boot Camp***

June 15, 2024

- Once registered with Canoe Kentucky ...  
Sign up [HERE](#) (or via the DCFF Events Page link)

Many DCFF members fly fish from a kayak, and most of them would not have it any other way. If you are interested in experiencing the unique options fishing from a modern kayak presents without breaking the bank or wandering into a kayak purchase blindly -- this Boot Camp is for you. See you there.

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**DCFF General Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday June 19th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Lake Michelle (Southern Hills)**

**Carr Township, Indiana**

[Google Map Link to Outdoor Meeting](#)

We had to cancel our first outdoor meeting in May, but we are headed back outdoors for the remaining Spring and Summer general membership meetings (GMMs). Meetings are always open to guests and non-members, so if you know someone who might be interested in fly fishing -- please, invite them to attend.

Lake Michelle provides a beautiful setting for some great camaraderie and an opportunity to do a little fishing, should you so desire. Fishing here is all catch and release, but **NO** Indiana fishing license is required as Lake Michelle is on private property.

Kayaks or other similar small boats are welcome, but don't forget your PFDs! Please bring your own fishing gear, but club fly rods and reels will also be available for casting instruction or an opportunity to practice. There will also be a casting demonstration presented by a certified fly casing instructor which should benefit beginner and accomplished fly fishers alike.

A BBQ dinner with sides, soft drinks and water will be provided. Cost for the meal is **\$5.00**, collected at the meeting. Bring your own "adult beverages" but please consume them responsibly. Seating is very limited, so we highly recommend you bring your own folding or portable camp chair (and maybe an extra for guests).

Please RSVP for this meeting using the link below so we can get a semi-accurate count and ensure we have enough food and drinks for

everyone:

### [RSVP for June Outdoor Meeting](#)

The General Membership Meeting (GMM) is always scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We will continue to meet outdoors at various locations during the remaining 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.

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## **DCFF Fly Tying**

**Wednesday June 26th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Cabela's**

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

... and then again on ...

**Thursday June 27th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Bass Pro Shops**

951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN

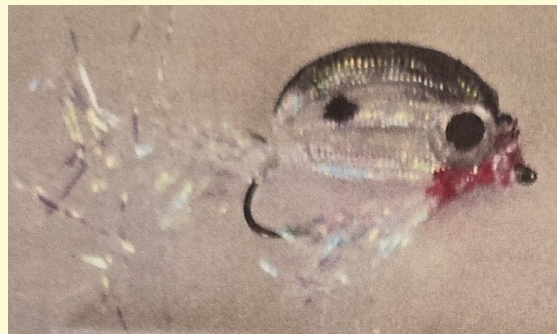
[Google Map Link to Bass Pro Shops](#)

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.

**Jack Miller** is our instructor this month. He will be tying the **Floating Mylar Minnow**.

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



**Hook:** Mustad 3366 (Size 1) or similar

**Thread:** 210 Denier in any appropriate color

**Eyes:** Stick on type

**Body:** Mylar tubing filled with foam:

- Mylar chord (size - large) in pearl or silver
- Foam sheet (2mm) cut into strips:
- One of 3.25" x 0.25" (one-quarter inch)
- Two of 4" x 0.1875" (three-sixteenth inch)

**Misc:**

- A Black and a Red Sharpie pen
  - Sally Hanson's *Hard As Nails*, UV or Epoxy
  - Zap Super Glue
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**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](mailto: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.

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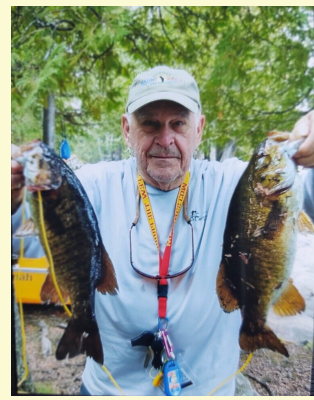
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## Volunteer Opportunities:

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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](mailto:education@derbycityflyfishers.com)



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## **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.

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## **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.

**NOTE: We need volunteers**, especially for the afternoon session. You do not need to be an expert fly fisherman to help someone 1-on-1 with the basics.



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.

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## Club Trips:

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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. Some 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, but the sign-up deadline of 10-June is almost here! 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:

<a href="#">Fly Fishing 101 - Louisville</a> .....	(22 Jun)
<a href="#">Boundary Waters Minnesota</a> .....	(23-28 Jun)
<a href="#">Obey River Tennessee</a> .....	(10-12 Jul)
<a href="#">July Cumberland River</a> .....	(12-14 Jul)
<a href="#">August Cumberland River</a> .....	(16-18 Aug)
<a href="#">Camp Buffalo Bill Wyoming</a> .....	(25-31 Aug)
<a href="#">Missoula Montana (Full)</a> .....	(9-14 Sep)
<a href="#">White River Indiana</a> .....	(12-15 Sep)
<a href="#">September Cumberland River</a> .....	(13-15 Sep)
<a href="#">Fall North Carolina</a> .....	(8-11 Oct)
<a href="#">Otter Creek Instructional Outing</a> .....	(2 Nov)

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## Feature Article:

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**Cicada Invasion 2024**  
... here a Cicada,  
... there a Cicada,  
... everywhere a Cicada!!!

**Q:** What is a Cicada?

**A:** You can go to Wikipedia for the long, boring, and detailed definition -- but the short version that a fisherman might understand is this: Cicadas are big, ugly, noisy, bugs that most fish find



satisfying and tasty. The most common North American genus, ***Magicicada***, include seven species of periodic Cicada that spend the majority of their lifespan as underground nymphs emerging in distinct broods in massive numbers in very predictable 13-year and 17-year patterns.

**Q:** So why all the fuss about Cicadas this year?

**A:** The distinct 13-year and 17-year periodic Cicada broods only emerge in the midwestern and eastern United States in the same year every 221 years, with 2024 being the first such dual-brood year since 1803.

**Q:** What is all that noise?

**A:** Male Cicadas are known for their exceptionally loud songs, produced by vibrating membranes called ***tymbals*** near the base of their abdomen. The noise they make is used to attract the female Cicada, and when one male starts "singing" all the others join in. Large groups of Cicada have been recorded at **120 decibels**, which is as loud as a chainsaw and even louder than most live rock music. The chorus they sing can truly be deafening.

**Q:** When will this Cicada invasion occur?

**A:** Mature Cicada nymphs emerge as spring ground temperatures rise, so generally from late April in the southern USA to early June in more northerly latitudes. Once they emerge, their activity can last four to six weeks. The emergence in Kentucky typically starts in the late May to mid-June timeframe. By mid-July, most adult Cicadas have died.

**Q:** How do I fish the Cicada invasion of 2024?

**A:** It isn't as easy as tying a Cicada pattern fly and dropping it in the water near some singing bugs. An **Outdoor Life** magazine article by **Dac Collins** summarizes the issue in this excerpt from the full article (available online) from May 22, 2024 titled [\*\*\*How to Fish the 2024 Cicada Hatch\*\*\*](#):

Periodical Cicadas ... .. emerge in such huge

numbers that when fish finally realize they're a food source, they go bonkers over them. This presents another challenge, though, because fish will sometimes gorge so heavily on Cicadas that they'll get their fill overnight, or before you show up with a rod in hand. Similarly, if there are tons of Cicadas falling on the water, the fish can get so overwhelmed by natural bugs that they have a hard time finding the artificial ones.

**Q:** Where can I get more fishing related information?

**A:** Most of the fly fishing oriented web sites you already use have good information you can uncover with a simple word search using "Cicada" as a reference term. A great article focused specifically on the 2024 Cicada hatch is in the current June-July 2024 issue of **Fly Fisherman** magazine.

Here are a few online links to get you started:

Game & Fish Magazine:

[\*Here They Come: Cicadas Arrive to the Delight of Gamefish, Anglers\*](#)

Field & Stream Magazine:

[\*Welcome to The Cicada Report\*](#)

Panfish on the Fly web site:

[\*Fishing The Big Bug - The Brood X Cicada\*](#)

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

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

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## Membership:

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We added **2** new members in May and a total of **52** new members have joined in 2024. DCFF currently has a total of **21** Lifetime members and **219** 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.

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## Downstream Casts:

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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\*\*\*](#)

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## **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.

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### **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!

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### **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:

[Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Online License Sales site](#)

Indiana fishing licenses can be purchased or renewed at:

[Renew your IN Fishing License Here](#)

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## **DCFF Board Members for 2024**

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

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.



Summer is here! Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs Thursday, June 20, 2024 at about 4:50 pm. The days are getting longer until then -- but after Summer Solstice we start to get shorter days and less daylight fishing time on the water. Enjoy the extra time on the water while you can.

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). Was the Cicada information of interest? Let me know.

Tight lines,

Jeff Moore  
DCFF Newsletter Director  
[newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com)

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

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