

Derby City Fly Fishers

August 2024 Newsletter

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

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:
Wednesday, September 4th, 2024



DCFF Tip of the Month:

A simple knot tied perfectly is almost always stronger than a complex knot tied poorly.

The perfect fishing knot is the one you can tie correctly -- every time! Can you tie your "go-to" knot perfectly, every time, on the water, with 7X or 8X tippet, to a small fly, with numb fingers?

President's Letter:

Life in the Fast Lane

or

70 Passed Quickly



The DCFF President's Letter published in the August 2023 Newsletter last year focused on what a milestone turning 70 years old had been for me. I realized then that I could truly see and feel the horizon of my life clearly for the first time, and I embraced the emotions that come along with that realization.

That letter also reflected back on a fishing trip to the Little Red River in Arkansas with friends who were almost as foolish about fly fishing as I had become. We completed six (6) floats on that trip covering thirty (30) miles of pristine water – quite impressive for a group of “old men”. My closing remarks in that letter to all of you a year ago focused on how grateful I was for the bonds of friendship I had developed over the years of fly fishing and the cherished memories that came with the building of those unique bonds.

I'm now in my 71st year – so the horizon of my life is now even a little closer, and my Septuagenarian status is showing:

First: I've been to the doctor's office more times last year than I have been in the previous 20 years – but don't worry. The doctors and nurses all tell me I am “A-OK” ... but they just want to be certain! The medical tests seem endless, and the “white coats” all keep asking me if I have fallen lately. Fallen lately? I am a fly fisherman, so of course I have fallen lately! Becoming a member of the Slippery Rock Swim Team is an integral part of the sport.

Next: I discovered it is much easier to fall asleep the older I become. All I need today is a comfortable chair and a lull in the conversation and I can find myself in dreamland in just a few seconds. I have witnessed the same in many of you reading this message, so don't throw stones from your glass houses!

Finally: I don't think my wife misses me as much as she used to when I am away from home on a fishing trip. She keeps asking me ... “when is your next fishing trip”? For a while I

thought she wanted me around – but now I am not so sure. Maybe I am not as helpful around the house as I used to be, or maybe she likes being alone more – or, maybe she has been talking to the doctor's and is worried I might fall down.

When I was younger, I often wondered about what I would be doing when I got to this age in life. Back then, it was easy to underestimate how fleeting the days could be. The days and choices all mattered -- but it seemed like time and opportunity were almost endless. Now that I'm older, it is hard to estimate how much time and opportunity I still have left. The days and choices all still matter -- but the sand slipping through the hourglass of life seems to be falling much faster today.

Staying motivated and fighting the tightening grip of age is a constant battle. Sometimes it is tough to avoid talking myself out of tackling a new or challenging pursuit, because of my age. I often need to remind myself that it is never too late in life to start a new or challenging pursuit.

Today, fishing seems to be the one solid constant in my life. Fishing has always been an integral part of what I thought my life story would hold. Fly fishing, however, was the unexpected turn in my life that I did not see coming. Fly fishing is an almost limitless pursuit. You can always catch a bigger fish, catch more fish, catch different species, cast better, read the water better, tie a better fly, ... I hope you catch my drift.

Cultivating a limitless mindset about fly fishing is the primary motivator that keeps me excited about the sport past my 7th decade. Why? We can always improve, and anything is possible (even when not practical or realistic). Maybe that is why so many of us pursue this sport with passion. We dream big! We will present a topwater fly all day -- just hoping for the one big and exhilarating splash of a topwater take.

Fly fishing is still one of my true joys, even in my 70's. Every day on the water is still one to attack with gusto, enjoy in the moment, and appreciate after the fact.

Also, for those of you that are concerned:

- I have not fallen down on dry land lately,
- I took a few "cat naps" today, and
- "Honey, before you ask – I'm going fishing again tomorrow".

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows
DCFF President

NOTE: Follow Derby City Fly Fishers in the media ...

View the May 21, 2024 episode of *Kentucky Afield* [HERE](#) featuring Club President, Ralph Swallows, demonstrating how to catch White Bass with a Fly Rod at Nolin River.

While you are at it, listen to the podcast on the *Fish Untamed* blog site [HERE](#) detailing the **Wyoming Cutt Slam** successfully completed by DCFF members Michael Broome, Steve Kuric, and Walter Montgomery.

Upcoming Events:

DCFF Eat & Talk Shop

Wednesday August 14th / 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 August 21st / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP Pavilion at the Egg Lawn in the Parklands

[Google Map Link to Outdoor Meeting](#)

We are headed back to the Parklands again for our last outdoor **General Membership Meeting** (GMM) of the summer. Meetings are always open to guests and potential members, so if you know someone who might be interested in fly fishing -- please, invite them to attend.

Fly rods will be available for instruction or practice. We will have our traditional pulled BBQ meal from Frank's including side dishes, soft

drinks and water. Cost for the meal is **\$5.00** per person payable at the meeting.

We need a good estimate of attendees so we can order enough food and drinks for everyone. Please click below and **RSVP no later than Sunday, August 18th**, so we can order the food on Monday:

[**RSVP for August Outdoor Meeting**](#)

[**Quest Outdoors**](#) Fly Shop Manager, **Dave Baker**, will present a demonstration on single-handed Spey casting with a regular fly rod. Dave will do the demonstration on the water in a relatively open spot on Floyd's Fork near the Pavillion. There is no need for attendees to bring waders or to get in the water with Dave for the casting demonstration, but the technique is best demonstrated on water.

The General Membership Meeting (**GMM**) is normally scheduled for the **3rd Wednesday** of every month. Meetings will return to Bass Pro Shops in September for the upcoming Fall and Winter months -- so enjoy this month's final outdoor meeting of 2024. 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.

DCFF Fly Tying

Wednesday August 28th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Cabela's

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

... and then again on ...

Thursday August 29th, 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.

NOTE: The normal Zoom link for the Wednesday session will not be available this month, but should resume again in September.

Dan Jackman is our instructor this month. He will be tying a **White Mouse**

and **Foam Cicada** patterns. Dan will provide all the materials. These patterns will be tied with 8/0 white and black thread, if you want to use your own.



If you own super glue and/or a hair stacker -- please bring those to the session as Dan only has a limited supply of his own for others to use.

NOTE - For those interested in additional Fly Tying options:

Kentuckiana Fly Tyers (KFT):

CHANGE NOTICE: KFT is switching days and locations for future sessions!!! Mark your calendars appropriately.

Starting in September, KFT will conduct a monthly session on the **1st Monday** of every month at **Rooster's**, 10430 Shelbyville Road in Louisville, KY (the same location as our monthly Eat & Talk Shop). Tying will start at **7pm**, so come early (maybe 6pm) if you want to enjoy some food (and drink) first.

To make matters a little more confusing for this first session at Rooster's in September -- please note, the September (only) meeting date will be the 2nd Monday in the month, **September 9th, 2024** (to deconflict from Labor Day which falls on the 1st Monday of the month).

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. Currently, they are offering Fly Fishing 101 classes in lieu of Fly Tying, but will resume Fly Tying sometime in the future when the weather turns colder.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities:



2024 Casting for Recovery Retreat

Sunday, October, 27, 2024

8:30 am - 2:00 pm(Central Standard Time)

[Lure Lodge](#)

at

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

DCFF is seeking 8 more (12 total) **River Guides** to help the ladies (participants) fly fish **Hatchery Creek**. During this event, wading is not necessary. Hatchery Creek (both the public and catch & release sections) is easily fished from the banks. The ladies will have all the necessary equipment (rods, reels, vests, flies, etc.) -- however, it is

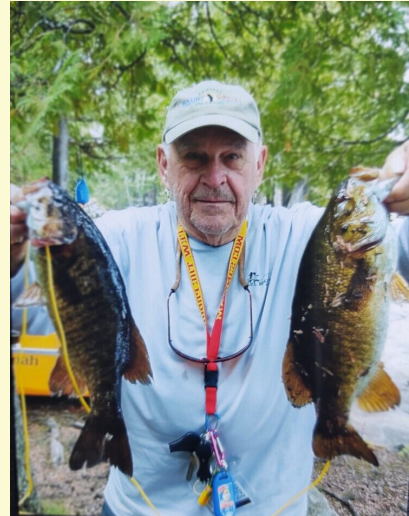
probably a good idea to bring your own extra tippet, strike indicators, nippers, forceps, etc. to help tie on new flies. The retreat (with lunch provided and included) should conclude by about 2 pm (CST).

To volunteer as a **River Guide** or answer any questions about this event, please contact:

George Tipker
gtipker3@gmail.com
(502) 594-2066

Contact DCFF Education Director, **John Froehlich**, for more information or to support any of the volunteer opportunities listed below. If contacting via email, please include a clear reference to the specific event in the Memo section and include your own best contact information in the body of the message.

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



J. Graham Brown HS Fly Fishing Club Friday, August 23rd -- Friday, December 13th

DCFF is doing our part to help our youth get out on the water, because "take a kid fishing" has always been a great idea. For a third year, DCFF has been asked to continue our **Youth Outreach Program** with **J. Graham Brown High School**.

Their High School Club meets every second or third week on Friday mornings at the school on 2nd Street beginning about 9:15 am. Meetings start the week of August 23rd and conclude December 13th. We usually host a graduation fishing trip to Floyd's Fork.

We have always had a great team of DCFF volunteers assisting and look to you for continued support. You do not want to miss out on this rewarding experience and you don't need to attend every session to participate. There will be weeks when only two or three DCFF volunteers are needed.

Mike Parker will be the DCFF coordinator for these events this year. If interested, call or send me an email and include your contact

information.

DCFF Mentorship Program

He Ain't Heavy ... He Is My New Fishing Buddy

Many new club members join DCFF because they are also new to the sport of Fly Fishing and want to learn more about it. Many of these inexperienced club members join after the January show. By years end, however, we are lucky if we retain even half of these self-proclaimed "newbies." **WHY?** Some feedback points to a lack of inclusiveness. We make it easy for new members to know what is happening in the club, but maybe a poor job of helping new and inexperienced members participate.

Can a **Mentorship Program** help? We don't really know until we try, and there really is no down-side. Can you help a new member that might also be new to the sport by making yourself available to call for information, ideas, or just to answer some basic questions? Can you make yourself available to go fishing with a new member? Can you help them cut their teeth on the water a few times, so they feel more comfortable and confident striking out on their own or participating in a DCFF trip? You do not have to be an expert to be an effective mentor -- you just need to help a new member take the first few steps toward what might become a life-long passion for them with the right one-on-one care and guidance.

Becoming a mentor can be a very rewarding and gratifying experience, and it can lead to life-long friendships and new fishing buddies! To become a DCFF Mentor, call or send me an email and include your contact information.

Club Trips:

DCFF still has a solid lineup of great fly fishing trips planned for the remainder of 2024. All current year trips are active on the [2024 Trips](#) page of the DCFF Web Site. Some trips are already full, but additional trips can always be considered -- so stay tuned! This schedule is always subject to change, but it should give you a good planning guide as posted today.

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>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 (Full)</u>	(8-11 Oct)
<u>Otter Creek Instructional Outing</u>	(2 Nov)

Feature Article:

Jack's Knot

If you are looking for a terminal fishing knot that is easy to learn, simple to tie, strong, and small in profile -- you may want to investigate **Jack's Knot**. Even if you are not currently looking for a new "go-to" terminal fishing knot, you may still want to investigate Jack's Knot simply to compare and contrast it against whatever knot you are currently using most often.

Jack's Knot is named for and attributed to our very own talented fly tier and fly fisherman -- DCFF club member, **Jack Miller**. Jack first presented the knot for use as a terminal fishing knot in a [LETTER](#) to ***Fly Fisherman*** magazine in the summer of 2012 from a hand-drawn [SKETCH](#) with notes he put together in November of 2011. Jack Miller's knot has since been adopted by, tinkered with, and updated by fly fishermen across the globe.

Sometime after the knot's public introduction, a similar knot pattern was found documented in the ***Ashley Book of Knots*** (published in 1944) as knot [#1118](#) with a notation as being an "excellent knot for snares" -- so a knot for rope or twine rather than a terminal fishing knot. I may be missing something with my untrained eyes, but the knot depicted as #1118 is not the same as Jack's Knot (you tell me if you see it differently). While others may dispute the claim, I think it is safe to say Jack Miller invented Jack's Knot. Someone decades or centuries ago may have twisted and turned a strand of rope or twine into the same (or a similar) pattern -- but Jack Miller documented and presented his knot specifically for use in fishing as outline above. Jack's Knot is truly Jack Miller's baby!

What makes Jack's Knot a great terminal fishing knot? The list is long, but here are the three main advantages of Jack's Knot:

1.) **STRONG:** A 100% knot is defined as a knot that will break only at or above the rated breaking strength of the line it is tied with. If Jack's

Knot is not a 100% strength knot, then it is damned close and much stronger than many other popular terminal tackle fishing knots.

2.) **SMALL:** Typical strong terminal tackle knots (such as the San Diego Jam, Palomar, or even the Improved Clinch) are large profile knots when tied correctly with the line coiling over itself multiple times. Jack's Knot, on the other hand, provides similar knot strength in a much slimmer "figure-8" finished knot profile.

3.) **SIMPLE:** Once you incorporate all of Jack Miller's tips and tricks for tying the knot, it is one you will be able to tie correctly without even looking (by feel only). The simplicity of the Jack's Knot makes it easy to tie correctly every time.

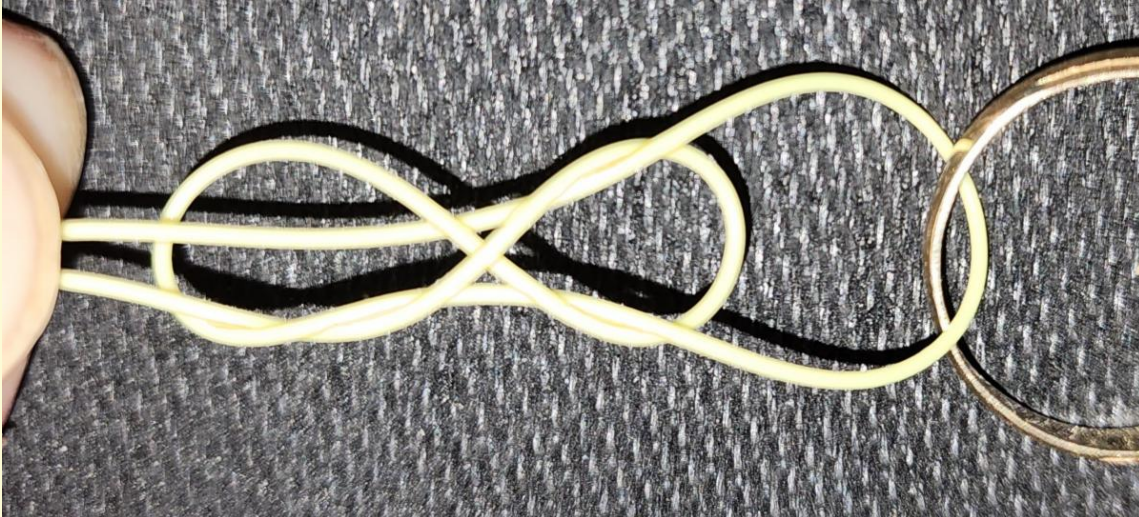
Other advantages only become apparent once you start using Jack's Knot. You can tie the knot quickly, so you will waste less time on the water changing fly patterns. Tied correctly, the knot has a very short tag end to cut off, so your tippet will last longer. Jack's Knot works equally well with monofilament or fluorocarbon line. It can also be tied "in the air" or without a hook, so it can quickly and easily be used as a dropper knot. Jack has also tinkered with variations on the knot that you may find useful in different situations.

You can find step-by-step instructions for tying Jack's Knot with photos and diagrams on any number of helpful web sites. You can also find many videos on YouTube (and other media sites). Be advised, however, some of the material readily available on the internet profiling Jack's Knot contain errors or depict the knot being tied incorrectly. Much of the online media may be a good introduction to the pattern and layout, but watching Jack Miller tie the knot with tips and hints is a much better method.

You can find an excellent video from Jack [HERE](#).

Even better, ask Jack to demonstrate the knot for you at the next DCFF club meeting. Pay close attention to how he manipulates the line with his fingers and try your best to mimic that same technique. Jack Miller is a true gentleman, and a very patient instructor. We are all privileged to have Jack as a DCFF club member!

EDITORS NOTE: The only photo I include in this article is that of the figure-8 pattern you should see before cinching the knot tight. When learning to tie Jack's Knot, if you do not see the figure-8 pattern depicted in my photo below -- you have not tied the knot correctly, so start over!



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 **3** new members in July and a total of **62** new members have joined in 2024. DCFF currently has a total of **22** Lifetime members and **211** current annual members (**233** total 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:

Derby Park Fishing Swap Meet:

The 1st Annual Derby Park / Expo Five Fishing Swap Meet kicks off:

Saturday and Sunday **September 14th & 15th, 2024**

at the

[Deby Park Flea Market](#)

2900 7th Street -- Louisville, KY 40216

Buy, sell, or trade new and used fishing, boating, RV, bait & tackle equipment. For questions about the event, or if you would like to sign-up as an exhibitor, contact:

Jerry Wilkerson: (502) 718-5968

Lynn Richardson: (502) 636-3532

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 Fall and Winter 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:

Kentucky 2023 annual fishing licenses expired the last day of February. Indiana 2023 annual fishing licenses expired the last day of March. To purchase or 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](#)

NOTE: If you purchase an annual pass to the Otter Creek Recreation Area, these passes expire the last day in May. You can purchase or renew your annual Otter Creek pass through May of 2025 by using the same KDFWR link listed above for license purchases.

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.



Cooler weather is on the way! Thank you for reading (or at least scrolling) to the very end of the August Newsletter. 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).

I had no feedback from last month's informal poll, so I will ask again this month.

Q: Are we packing too much into each Newsletter? If so, what would you scale back or eliminate? If not, what would you add or expand on?

Tight lines,

Jeff Moore
DCFF Newsletter Director
newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com

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

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