

## **Derby City Fly Fishers**

### **September 2024 Newsletter**

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:  
Wednesday, September 4th, 2024  
The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:  
Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024



---

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

---

The first cast at a new spot on the water is your most important presentation at that location. Make it perfect!

Lake, river, pond or stream -- your first cast at a new spot is your chance to make a good first impression. The first cast is often a resident fish's first look at your offering. Subsequent casts become tougher to generate a reaction strike, and a poor first cast will likely spoil the new spot if you spook or alert the fish.

---

# President's Letter:

---

## Fly Fishing the Fall Season



Summer is officially over on September 22nd, but Fall is definitely knocking at the front door now. Kids are back in school, Labor Day has come and gone, and the overnight low temperatures are dipping.

The temperature this morning (as I jotted notes for this edition of the newsletter) was a cool and refreshing 60-degree Fahrenheit. The forecast tomorrow calls for morning temperatures in the 40-degree range. What a welcome change after the blazing high 90-degree temperatures we sweated through in August. While September is off to a nice cool start, the 90-degree temperatures typical of late Summer are sure to make a few more appearances before Fall is truly in full swing. The transition from Summer to Fall brings cooler temperatures, radiant foliage, and also a change in fish behavior -- making this an exciting time to hit the water.

DCFF still has some great trips to take advantage of this year. We have openings for this week's White River, Indiana and also Cumberland River, Kentucky trips – but hurry! The White River trip is a great Smallmouth Bass wade fishing opportunity, and the Cumberland River trip offers exceptional Trout fishing. If you can take advantage of either trip, you will have a great time.

Our October wade fishing trip to North Carolina is full. Twenty club members will make the trip this Fall. Historically, this is a very popular destination that always fills up fast and never disappoints. North Carolina has almost limitless opportunity for some great wade fishing with plentiful easy stream access, so you may want to plan a trip there on your own this Fall. The Little Pigeon River near Waynesville, North Carolina is a good area to target.

The 2024 DCFF trip season ends in November with our Instructional Outing to Otter Creek. This is a great opportunity to get some hands-



on instruction from experienced DCFF members. We have intentionally designed this outing to be a learning experience for our new and/or inexperienced members. The day will be spent learning the basics and then putting that knowledge to the test on the creek hunting hungry Trout. If you could use some basic instruction and on-the-water experience to improve your fly fishing skills, then this trip is for you.

We took our Summer club meetings outdoors with great participation and good weather. These outdoor meetings offered some excellent casting instruction from Jack Miller (DCFF), Dave Huff (Whuff Rod Company) and Dave Baker (Quest Outdoors). They all did a great job and we are grateful for their time and effort. DCFF is fortunate to have their support, and we should all be thankful for everything they do for and with DCFF. The Fall season will bring our club meetings back indoors to Bass Pro Shops in Clarksville, Indiana starting this month.

The DCFF Board is currently working on plans for next year. We will publish a new lineup of trips for 2025 before year's end. Our 2024 trips calendar was a busy one, but 2025 promises to be even better. We welcome your suggestions and help on trips, as well as club activities. If you have a great idea for a future club trip or event – please reach out to the Board about those ideas. We appreciate your help and are grateful for your continued support of Derby City Fly Fishers.

The cool breezes of Fall are blowing, but things at DCFF are just heating up!!!

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows  
DCFF President

---

## Upcoming Events:

---

**DCFF Eat & Talk Shop**  
**Wednesday September 11th / 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 September 18th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

### **Bass Pro Shops**

951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN

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

We are headed back indoors for our **General Membership Meetings** (GMMs) until next 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.

Our guest speaker for this month is **Greg Williams**, Owner and Operator of **Cumberland Bottom Ticklers, LLC**. Greg has fished the Cumberland River since 1998 and has guided on it since 2013. His presentation will be focused on tips for successfully fishing the Cumberland River.

Some new items will be available for purchase at the DCFF Merchandise table, so bring some extra cash in case you see something you can't live without.

The General Membership Meeting (**GMM**) is normally scheduled for the **3rd Wednesday** of every month. Meetings are in the Bass Pro Shops 2nd floor auditorium for the Fall and Winter months. We meet outdoors only during the 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.

---

## **DCFF Fly Tying**

**Wednesday September 25th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

### **Cabela's**

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

... and then again on ...

**Thursday September 26th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

### **Bass Pro Shops**

951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN



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 Claksville at Bass Pro Shops). Tools and materials are provided at no cost, but feel free to bring your own. Find the full list of materials for both flies [HERE](#). Beginners are welcome, and experienced tyers will be available for individual instruction.



**Jack Miller** is our instructor this month. He will be tying a **Velcro Fly** and also the **2EZ (Too Easy) Ant** pattern. DCFF will provide all the materials. These patterns will both be tied with black thread, if you want to use your own.



---

**NOTE** - For those interested in additional Fly Tying options:

**Kentuckiana Fly Tyers (KFT):**

**CHANGE NOTICE:** KFT has canceled all of the **Fall 2024 Fly Tying Meetings** due to unexpected circumstances. They plan to resume meetings in the future. We will let you know when meetings resume.

**Orvis:**

Orvis offers Fly Tying 101 classes monthly on most Saturday mornings at their Louisville retail location ( [Link Here](#) ) in the Paddock Shops. Lately, they are offering Fly Fishing 101 classes in lieu of Fly Tying, but should 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**

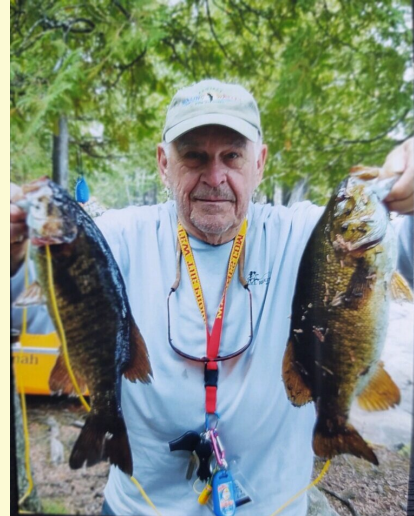
DCFF is seeking 8 more (12 total) **River Guides** to help the ladies (participants) fly fish **Hatchery Creek**. During this event, wading is not necessary. Hatchery Creek (both the public and catch & release sections) is easily fished from the banks. The ladies will have all the necessary equipment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



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](mailto:education@derbycityflyfishers.com)

---

**National Hunting & Fishing Day**  
**Saturday, September 28th, 2024**  
**9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Salato Wildlife Education Center (SWEC)**  
1 Sportsman's Lane -- Frankfort, KY 40601  
[Google Map Link to SWEC](#)

**Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)** is asking **DCFF** to join in celebrating **National Hunting & Fishing Day** on September 28, 2024 at the **Salato Wildlife Education Center (SWEC)**. This is another great opportunity to build a stronger relationship with **KDFWR**. DCFF volunteers will demonstrate casting and assist visitors fishing the lake located on the property. We need at least three (3) and optimally six (6) DCFF volunteers.

---

**J. Graham Brown HS Fly Fishing Club**  
**Now -- 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 started the week of August 23rd and will conclude on 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:**

---

We have worked our way through most of the 2024 trips. All current



year trips are active on the [2024 Trips](#) page of the DCFF Web Site.

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:

- [White River Indiana](#) ..... (12-15 Sep)
  - [September Cumberland River](#) .....(13-15 Sep)
  - [Fall North Carolina \(Full\)](#) ..... (8-11 Oct)
  - [Otter Creek Instructional Outing](#) ..... (2 Nov)
- 

## Feature Article:

---

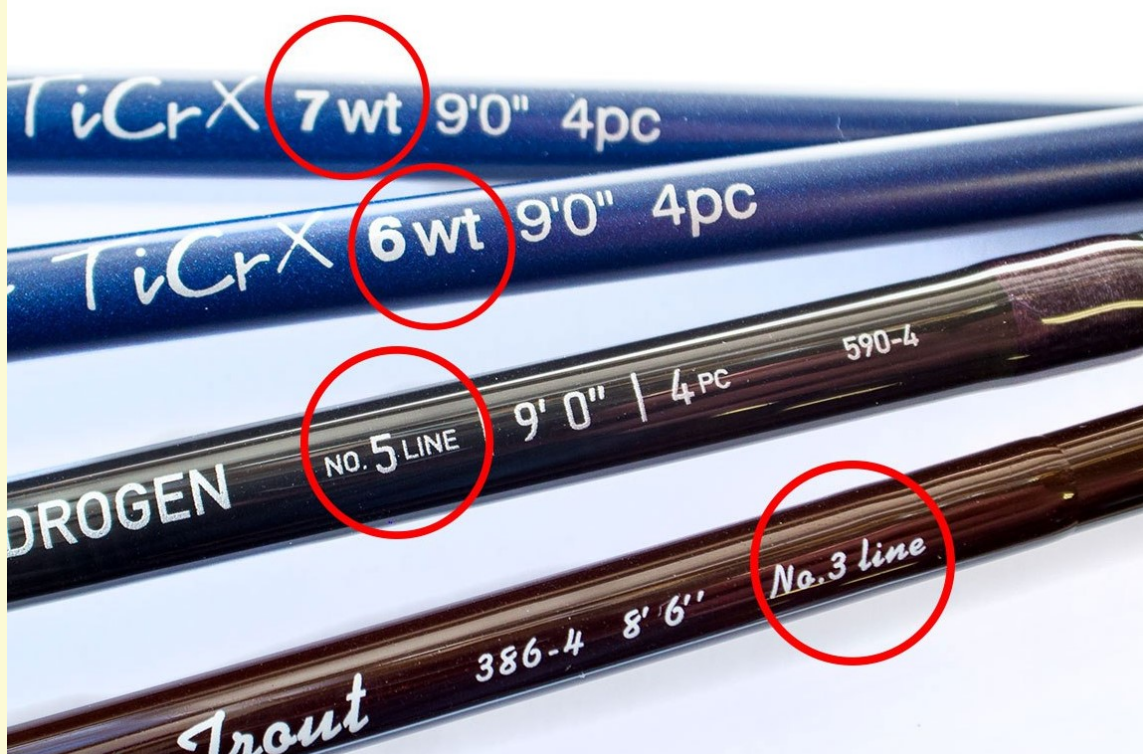
### Fly Rod Characteristics

General terms have been adopted over the years to help define how a fly rod acts and feels. These terms can often be confusing for those new to the sport. Even experienced fly fishers often confuse these terms or mis-apply them.

If we boil the wide array of different general terminology defining fly rod characteristics down to the basics, you can probably focus on just three primary but distinctive terms:

#### **Line Rating:**

Line ratings are assigned to fly rods that have a specific rod blank material, taper, stiffness and recovery speed designed to efficiently cast a particular range of fly line weight and thickness. Implicit in that designation is just how effective the middle to tip section of the fly rod is at loading and unloading (recovery speed) while casting a narrow range of fly line weights. In short, the line rating defines what weight fly line a rod blank will efficiently cast.

**Action:**

The action of a fly rod describes where the rod blank bends under load. If the majority of the bend in the rod blank occurs in the tip section (with little to no bend in the middle or butt end sections), that rod action is described as "fast". Conversely, under a similar load, if the rod bends smoothly through the tip and middle sections (and even down into the butt end section), that rod action is described as "slow". Slow action rods are also often described as having a "parabolic" bend. Between those two extremes, fly rod actions are defined as "moderate".



**Tip size  
in 64's**

**Extra Fast:**  
Flex in  
upper 1/4  
of blank

**Fast:**  
Flex in  
upper 1/3  
of blank

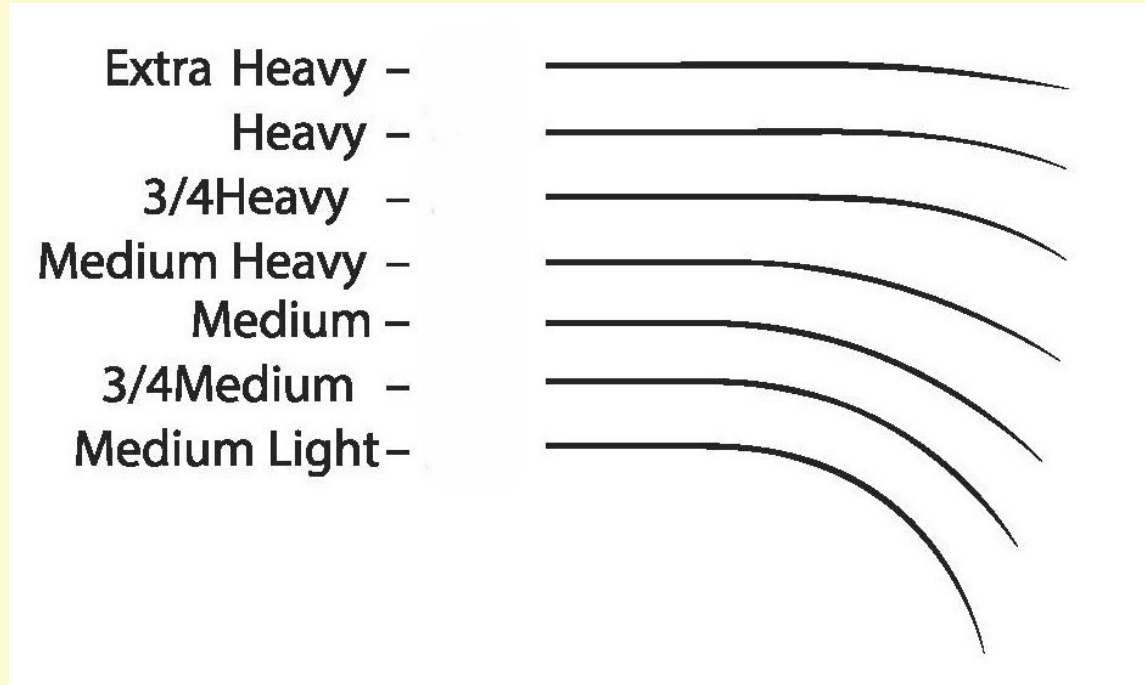
**Moderate:**  
Flex in  
upper 1/2  
of blank

**Slow:**  
Flex from  
lower 3rd  
to tip

**Power:**

In Physics class, we all learned that power is defined as the rate of

doing work (or work divided by time) so the term is absolutely not applied correctly in describing a fly rod. What we define as "power" in a fly rod should actually be described as "work" -- but I digress. If rod action is a description of where a rod blank bends under load, then rod power describes how much load the blank can sustain without structural failure. Under similar static loads, a "light" power rod blank will have more angular displacement (or bend) than a "heavy" power rod. A "medium" power rod blank would bend somewhere in-between.



Other terms are also used to define fly rod feel and performance (such as "stiffness", "recovery speed", "taper", and "line speed") but all of these more specific characteristics are broadly applicable to (and supporting of) the three primary terms discussed herein. The overall performance and feel of a fly rod is a combination of all three of these basic characteristics. A single descriptive term (5-Weight, or Fast Action, or Heavy Power) paints an incomplete picture. While an average 3-Weight fly rod can often be assumed to have a slower action or lighter power, that isn't always the case and every 3-Weight rod will have slightly different action and power characteristics.

Modifiers are also utilized to fine tune the fly rod terms. For example:

- Sub 3-Weight Line Rating
- Extra-Fast (XF) Action
- Moderate-Fast (MF) Action
- Extra-Light (XL) Power
- Medium-Heavy (MH) Power

The applications, advantages, and detractions these fly rod characteristics present is an entirely different discussion -- but at least



now you understand what the terms are actually describing. The mix of these characteristics to seek when buying a specific fly rod for a specific application is an even bigger rabbit hole to jump into -- but maybe later.

Until then, here are some excellent references that deal with the topic, but also expand on them a little more:

- An excellent YouTube video on the difference between fly rod "power" and "action" here ...

### [Tim Rajeff on Fly Rod Action vs Power](#)

- A short 1-minute article on fly rod "action" here ...

### [Fly Rod Action Explained](#)

- Maybe the best online article I found discussing all three of the primary characteristics discussed in my article comes from a blog post here ...

### [Fly Rod Line Rating, Power, and Action](#)

- Finally, an article from Orvis that jumps forward into the next topic of choosing the right characteristics in a fly rod ...

### [Understanding Rod Action and Choosing the Right Rod for You](#)

---

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)

---

## **Membership:**

---

We added just one (1) membership renewal in August, but no new members. We have a total of **62** new members that have joined DCFF in 2024. DCFF currently has a total of **22** Lifetime members and **212** current annual members (**234** 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

**[Derby 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](mailto: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 here! Fall is a great season to get out on the water in the Kentuckiana region.

We will soon be electing a new slate of Board members for 2025. If you have an interest in serving, **NOW** is the time to reach out to the Board.

I am happy to remain in my current position as **DCFF Newsletter Director** for 2025, but I know there are club members out there with better skills and a clearer vision for the future. Please consider offering your services to the membership in this capacity -- I welcome the competition.

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!