

Derby City Fly Fishers

October 2024 Newsletter

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:
Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

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



DCFF Tip of the Month:

Keep your fly line clean! Dirt and grime coating a fly line adds unwanted friction and drag as the line shoots through the rod guides. This can dramatically reduce casting distance & accuracy as well as foul your rod guides with the same dirt and grime.

Clean your fly line (and even your rod guides) regularly using a damp soft rag (micro-fiber cloth works great). The cleaning process is even more effective if you dampen the cloth with any of the widely available fly line treatment liquids. These fly line treatment products will not only clean your line, but also leave a slick coating on the surface that will help it shoot through the rod guides smoothly. Fly line cleaning and treatment will help the line float higher on the water surface and also lift off the water surface with less drag. Regular cleaning will also extend the life of your fly line.

See **Mike Parker's** discussion about fly lines in the Feature Article section below. Good stuff!

President's Letter:

We Bring the Rain



Active members of Derby City Fly Fishers (DCFF) for any length of time have likely heard the quip that “we bring the rain”. That phrase is kind of a well-earned DCFF trademark. The truth is – rain has often been a big factor during many of our club trips over the years. If rain has not made a huge impact on one (or more) of your personal fishing trips -- you might want to start buying lottery tickets! Most of us, however, have all dealt with rain playing a major factor on more than a few fishing excursions.

Rain has also impacted our DCFF trip schedules over the years. We had to cancel trips on more than one occasion this year and (if I am predicting accurately) rain will also impact future trip schedules. We may, indeed, bring the rain – but the rain will always have an impact

on the best laid plans and schedules.

Rain again played a major role on a recent fishing trip for me. The annual King Salmon run occurs every Fall on central Michigan's Pere Marquette River. The Pere Marquette River flows west into Lake Michigan and the King Salmon run up the river to spawn in late September. This annual spawning run draws an enormous number of anglers to the river during daylight hours.

A small group of us plan an annual trip in late September to Baldwin, Michigan to fish this King Salmon spawning run. Utilizing headlamps and lanterns to light our surroundings, we fish from dusk into the early morning to avoid the normally crowded daylight conditions on the river. We have been making this trip for years and it is usually very successful. We normally catch many Kings and experience great early Fall weather. This year, however, the trip did not quite work out as expected.

We arrived in Baldwin to find drought conditions similar to the dry spell we also experienced back home in Kentucky and Indiana. The water levels on the Pere Marquette River were extremely low. We battled the low water levels the first night and found the King Salmon very difficult to catch. The record low water levels and heavy fishing pressure from the daylight anglers made the Kings very wary. We caught only a few fish that first night -- far short of expectations. We needed rain!

We were all encouraged to hear a weather forecast that called for late rain on the second day. We headed out that evening with high expectations and were astonished to find hardly any other anglers on the river. We had the river to ourselves and managed a little better success than the first night, but results were still far short of expectations. The rain did not arrive as forecast, so we returned to our cabins a little less enthusiastic than we had departed. Little did we know what the weather had in store for us.

We awoke the third morning to a steady rain. The rain continued through the day and into the evening. By the time we made it to the Pere Marquette the third night it was raining buckets. We discovered quickly how good our raingear was (or was not) in a torrential downpour. Needless to say, we had the river and the parking lot to ourselves. Even the locals would not fish in rain that heavy. We ended our night of fishing earlier than normal because the river was rising rapidly and the results were still short of expectations with only a few Kings caught.

It was still raining on the fourth morning and even the sandy ground of Baldwin, Michigan had puddles of standing water. Drought conditions were now officially behind us. Expectations were high for the fourth

night of fishing and we were certain the bite tonight would really be on. We speculated that all the rain would call in large pods of King Salmon that may have been waiting for the next surge of rising water to trigger their spawning instincts. The rain ended late in the afternoon, but when we returned to fish -- the parking lot was empty and, once again, we had the river completely to ourselves. That should have been a clue!

The Pere Marquette had risen close to a foot in four days, now making the river very difficult and dangerous to wade. We only managed to catch two fish the fourth night and ended the evening much earlier than usual. The Pere Marquette continued to rise overnight. By the fifth day, the thrill of catching a 30-pound King Salmon was no longer worth the risk the rising waters presented.

Once again, DCFF had truly brought the rain! We are, however, a resilient club. Whenever there is rain -- we can still find the liquid sunshine. This rainy trip to Baldwin, Michigan inspired us to establish the first ever DCFF bowling tournament. Sunshine or rain, we will bowl again next year. We also started the initial planning process for a new DCFF trip to John Bueter's Salmon Camp in Baldwin, Michigan. Look for this new trip when the 2025 Trip Calendar is published. DCFF may bring the rain, but we can also find the sunshine in any weather.

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows
DCFF President



Some photos from the soggy Pere Marquette trip.

DCFF Board of Directors:

The initial slate of candidates for the **2025 Board of Directors (BOD)** is published below. Director position name changes from 2024 are highlighted in **Red**. Cell phones and other small devices may display the table below in a stacked and/or compressed view that may be

difficult to interpret correctly.

Notification of the membership prior to the election is required by the **DCFF Bylaws**. If you are interested in nominating someone else for a Board position or wish to volunteer yourself for a position on the Board, please contact any Board member to initiate that change to the published slate of candidates before the election.

Director	2024 (Current)	2025 (Future)
President	Ralph Swallows	Michael Broome
Vice President	Michael Broome	Sean Chandler
Secretary	David Campbell	David Campbell
Treasurer	Roger Charbonneau	Jeff Moore
Membership	Ted Richards	Ted Richards
Education	John Froehlich	John Froehlich
Development & Donations	Mike Parker	Mike Parker
Trips	Mike Norris	Mike Norris
Marketing	Steve Kuric	Steve Kuric
Programs	Michael Ragan	Ralph Swallows
Newsletter	Jeff Moore	Jeff Moore
Conservation	Jeff Daiber	Jeff Daiber
Webmaster	Joe Gahlinger	Gus Dattilo

Upcoming Events:

DCFF Eat & Talk Shop
Wednesday October 9th / 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!

Current Information

DCFF General Membership Meeting

Wednesday October 16th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Bass Pro Shops

951 E Lewis and Clark Pkwy -- Clarksville, IN

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

Our **General Membership Meetings** (GMMs) 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 **Jim Sauerheber**, Owner and Operator of **Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing** guide service. Jim's home waters are the Cumberland and Barren Rivers where he has guided trips since 2011. His presentation will be focused on fishing the Cumberland River as well as tips for fishing with a guide from a boat. His article in the Summer edition of *Dark Skies Fly Fishing* magazine titled [Fly Fishing the Cumberland River](#) provides some insight into what we might hear from Jim at the GMM.

New DCFF logoed items will be available for purchase at the Merchandise table, so bring some extra cash in case you find 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 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.

Current Information

DCFF Fly Tying

Wednesday October 23rd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cabela's

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

... and then again on ...

Thursday October 24th, 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 Claksville 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.



Jason Scannell is our instructor this month. He will be tying a variation of the **Low Fat Minnow** and also a smaller size often called the **Baby Fat Minnow**. These patterns imitate a variety of baitfish well, and they are good for catching any species of bass. Find the full list of materials by clicking either **Current Information** button below.

[Current Information \(Oct-23\)](#)

[Current Information \(Oct-24\)](#)

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.

DCFF Fifth Wednesday in October **Wednesday October 30th**

Fly Fishing 101 Class

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cabela's

5100 Norton Healthcare Blvd -- Louisville, KY

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

DCFF schedules special events in any month with five (5) Wednesdays. Join us for the second in a series of **Fifth Wednesday Fly Fishing 101** sessions. The July Fifth Wednesday meeting focused on useful fly fishing knots. This meeting will focus on flies. DCFF will provide everything needed to participate. Registration is not required -- just show-up, bring a dose of patience, and learn (or teach) a few useful fly fishing tips and techniques.

[Current Information](#)

Volunteer Opportunities:

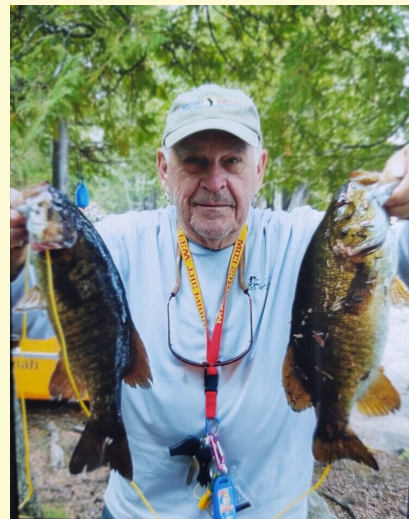
Contact DCFF Education Director, **John Froehlich**, for more information or to support any of the volunteer opportunities listed below. If contacting via email, please include a clear reference to the specific event in the Memo section and include your own best contact information in the body of the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

John Froehlich

DCFF Education Director

(270) 314-0362

education@derbycityflyfishers.com



J. Graham Brown HS Fly Fishing Club

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.

Current 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.

Current 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.

For next year's planning purposes -- 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:

- [Fall North Carolina](#) (Cancelled) (8-11 Oct)
- [Otter Creek Instructional Outing](#) (2 Nov)

Feature Article:



Fly Lines A Brief Explanation

By: **Mike Parker**

DCFF Director of
Development & Donations

So, you just picked up a great deal at a local garage sale. A new (to you) fly rod and reel but it doesn't have a fly line. What to do? "I don't know what line to buy!"

Most all rods will be marked with the rod length, line weight, and rod weight on the butt section closest to the cork grip. If this is not the case or the inscription is worn, no problem. Bring the rod into a local

fly shop (Quest Outdoors, Orvis, etc.) and the shop will cast the rod with reels loaded with “demo” lines in various weights to determine the best match.

Great! You determine the rod is a 9-foot / 5-weight (very common in our area). Major line manufacturers (Rio, Cortland, Scientific Anglers, Airflo, etc.) produce no less than 50 different fly lines each. What now???

The easiest way to eliminate any confusion is to simply ask yourself, “How will I fish, where will I fish, what will I fish for?” If like most of us, you’ll probably do some small stream Trout fishing, maybe some stream fishing for Smallmouth, or maybe some farm pond fishing for Bass and panfish, and someday, a trip with DCFF to Montana or Wyoming!

Believe me when I tell you, you can easily fish all of the above scenarios with a floating line. A very popular configuration is a “Weight Forward” floating line. The construction of this line places a bit more weight into the front section of the line making casting a bit easier. The rod will “load” or bend easier with a small amount of line outside the rod tip.

Another really great option is called a “Double Taper”, a line ideally used in smaller line weights for a very delicate presentation. A big bonus with the “Double Taper” is that the front and back of the line is identically tapered which means that after a season or two, you can reverse the line and use the backside that was closest to the backing. This is like getting a “twofer!”

Fly lines come in many colors, some insanely bright to dull and subdued, to absolutely clear. The brighter lines allow the caster to better view their casting stroke and loop formation. Some feel that the bright lines can spook fish, but the jury is still out on that one. I tend to prefer fly lines colored with the more subdued colors (gray, tan, olive green, etc.)

As you progress in the sport, you can add sink tip leaders to your floating line for fishing lakes or deeper rivers. These tips attach to the front of the floating line allowing for greater versatility.

When you become hopelessly immersed in fly fishing, you can add extra spools to your reel to accommodate different fly lines or start adding new rod/reel combinations to your arsenal.

Fly lines can and should be cleaned periodically. You can either buy commercially available cleaners or simply clean them in a mixture of Dawn dish soap and warm water. Make sure that the line is thoroughly rinsed to eliminate any and all remnants of the soap. Rio

Products also makes a great product called “Line Speed” that helps restore slickness and aids in the floatation of a recently cleaned fly line, essentially restoring that new line feel and performance.

If you practice your casting, try to **ALWAYS** cast on water. **NEVER** cast on driveways (sand, dirt, pavement) and avoid too much casting on grass as this will put very fine abrasions in the line and anyplace other than the water will very quickly soil the line.

Lastly, if at all possible, visit a local fly shop where you’ll receive expert advice from their staff.

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 just two (2) new members in September, but no membership renewals. We have a total of **64** new members that have joined DCFF in 2024. DCFF currently has a total of **22** Lifetime members and **214** current annual members (**236** 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.

Gallery:



The Missoula, MT Trip was great with some little trout, some big trout, and many in-betweens caught while floating some pristine waters.



National Hunting & Fishing Day Salato Wildlife Education Center

DCFF participated in the well attended event last month. For full details and all the photos, use the link below ...

[Salato Event Link](#)

EDITOR NOTE: DCFF Conservation Director, Jeff Daiber, briefed the Board on several upcoming events that will be announced at the next General Membership Meeting. These events will also be posted on the web site soon where you can get all the details.



One of two nice Brown Trout caught by DCFF Member Larry Lehman while fishing the Little Elkhart River near Middlebury, Indiana last month.

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 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:

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.

If you couldn't tell from all the TV advertisements -- it is



election season!

DCFF will soon be electing a new slate of Board members for 2025. The initial slate is published in this edition of the Newsletter, but if you have an interest in serving, **NOW** is the time to reach out to the Board to get your name on the ballot or nominate another member.

Many 2024 Board Members have volunteered to remain serving the membership in current or new positions in 2025. Take time to thank our future and departing Board Members for serving. With membership approval, I will remain in my current position as **DCFF Newsletter Director** for 2025. There are changes to the Newsletter format and distribution schedule that will be rolled out for 2025. Your feedback on these changes is welcome.

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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