

Derby City Fly Fishers

November 2024 Newsletter

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:
Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

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



DCFF Tip of the Month:

Sunlight may indeed be the best disinfectant -- but it kills monofilament leader line! Exposure to humidity, temperature extremes, and especially ultraviolet light (even in diffused form) starts to degrade the molecular structure of the nylon material that monofilament is extruded from.

Fluorocarbon leader line is less sensitive (but not immune) to the

same degradation effects of humidity, temperature, and UV rays. Thrifty fishermen save money by buying more expensive fluorocarbon leader line in bulk -- but they only purchase less expensive monofilament leader material as it is needed.

Get in the habit of protecting your leader line (monofilament and fluorocarbon) by storing it in a cool, dry and dark location until it is needed. On the water, keep your leader line in a dark pocket that should stay dry all day.

See **Mike Parker's** discussion about leader line in the Feature Article section below. More good stuff to add to his advice on fly line from last month's newsletter! Thank you, Mike.

President's Letter:

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

... the true mission of
Derby City Fly Fishers



The science fiction drama film ***Close Encounters of the Third Kind*** was a 1977 release written and directed by Steven Spielberg. The \$19.4 million production eventually grossed over \$300 million worldwide and received many nominations and several prestigious film awards, including two at the 50th Academy Awards. The main character, Roy Neary (played by Richard Dreyfuss), depicts an average blue-collar worker whose life course dramatically changes after an encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO).

The reference to “... ***of a Third Kind***” in the film title is derived from an official classification rating system defining different levels of close encounters with extraterrestrial beings. Encounters of the first kind involve simply observing a UFO while encounters of the second kind involve observations of a UFO that leave physical traces of a presence. Encounters of a third kind, however, are those that involve actual human contact with a UFO or extraterrestrial life form.

The film progression starts with electric utility lineman Roy Neary

observing UFOs flying over his truck so close that they leave light burn marks on his face. After this close encounter of a second kind, Roy becomes oddly obsessed with the unique geological formation called Devils Tower near Moorcroft, Wyoming. This chronic obsession eventually leads Roy to build a large clay model replica of the rock formation in his kitchen and eventually travel to the site, arriving just before aliens land a UFO there. The film ends when Roy willingly enters the UFO with the aliens for a trip to worlds unknown ... a close encounter of the third kind.

Right now, you are likely pondering what UFOs and aliens have to do with fly fishing, in general, and Derby City Fly Fishers in particular. Let me try to make that connection for you.

DCFF just completed our annual beginner's outing on November 2nd at Otter Creek. This year's event was very well attended. By my count, we had more than twenty (20) new or prospective fly fishers in attendance. One of the more inspiring statistics was the number of young participants. Skill levels varied, but generally most participants were beginners with little to no prior experience fly fishing.

DCFF provided everyone at the beginner's outing with instruction on essential equipment, fly casting basics, and some actual "on the water" fishing experience. It was just enough to perk interest without overwhelming the audience, and it worked! We observed a great level of enthusiasm among the participants – maybe something akin to a close encounter of the second kind with fly fishing. There was a budding "Devils Tower" obsession building among the participants to learn more about the sport of fly fishing.

Most DCFF members are fully obsessed with this pursuit of a close encounter of a third kind involving a fish on the other end of a fly line. Many of us have already collected a Devils Tower of fishing equipment and some knowledge and experience to go along with it. We have already embarked on our close encounter of the third kind and have willingly boarded the spaceship. Our true mission now is to share that obsession with others – to help them board the spaceship with us.

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows
DCFF President

DCFF Board of Directors:

The initial slate of candidates for the **2025 Board of Directors (BOD)** is published below. The first four (4) positions listed are **Officers** and the remaining nine (9) positions are **Directors** as defined in **Article-7** of the current **DCFF Bylaws**. Position name changes are listed below in **Red**.

Election of the new Board of Directors will take place at the scheduled **20 November, 2024** General Membership Meeting (**GMM**) and a quorum of members is required to conduct the election.

If you are interested in nominating someone for a Board position (or wish to volunteer yourself), please contact any current **BOD** member to initiate that change to the published slate of candidates.

Nominations can be accepted until the slate is finalized for voting at the November GMM.

Title	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 November 13th / 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 November 20th / 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.

Election of 2025 DCFF Board of Directors:

NOTE: The primary order of business at this month's GMM is the election of a new Board of Directors for 2025. The current slate of candidates is posted above in this newsletter. Please make every effort to attend the meeting this month, as we require a quorum of active members to be present for the vote.

Our guest speaker for this month is Metro Sewer District's **Trent Winlock**. His presentation will be focused on the definition of water quality – specifically, what it means for habitat, fish, and the humans who pursue them as well as a discussion of the water quality in and around the Floyds Fork watershed.

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

NOTE: DCFF has no fly tying scheduled for the months of November or December to deconflict from traditional holiday events. Be ready to re-join us for some more great fly tying in 2025.

DCFF Fly Tying is normally scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of every month (in Louisville, KY at Cabela's) and then again on the following Thursday (in Claksville, IN at Bass Pro Shops). Tools and materials are provided at no cost. Beginners are welcome, and experienced tyers will be available for individual instruction. See you next year!



NOTE - For those interested in additional Fly Tying options:

Kentuckiana Fly Tyers (KFT):

CHANGE NOTICE: KFT has canceled all of the remaining **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 normally offers Fly Tying 101 classes monthly on most Saturday mornings at their Louisville retail location ([Link Here](#)) in the Paddock Shops. No classes are currently scheduled, but should resume sometime in the future as the weather turns colder. Check the current schedule ([Calendar Here](#)) to see if any classes have been added.

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:

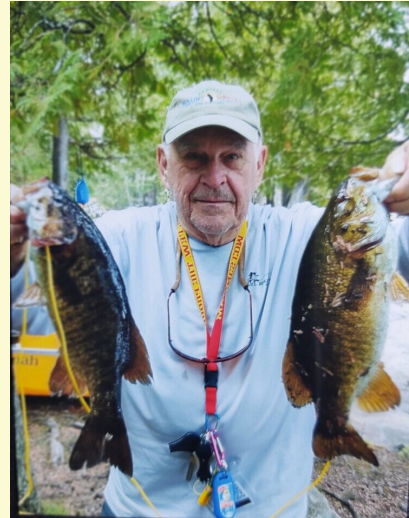
Contact DCFF Education Director, **John Froehlich**, for more information or to support any of the volunteer opportunities listed below. If contacting via email, please include a clear reference to the specific event in the Memo section and include your own best contact information in the body of the 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 all of the 2024 DCFF club trips! 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. We will have a tentative 2025 Trips schedule posted to the website prior to the 2025 DCFF Fly Show.

Feature Article:



Fly Fishing Leaders

... straightening out the leader and the confusion.

By: **Mike Parker**

DCFF Director of
Development & Donations

Cue to a common scene at a local Fly Shop:

Owner: Can I help you?

Customer: I'm shopping for a leader. My buddy said that all I'll need is a 9' 5X! What should I buy?

Owner: Great! Where are you headed?

Customer: Chasin' Smallies down at the Falls. I just bought some killer Gamechangers!

This scenario is replayed on an almost daily basis! Everyone seems to think that a 9' 5X leader is all that most fishermen will ever need. Is that a valid assumption?

First, what do all those numbers mean? Take, for example, a common 9' 5x 6lb leader. A simple explanation is the leader is 9 feet in total length, gradually tapering down to a 5X tippet section (the thinnest part of the leader, usually about 2 feet in length) with a break strength rating of 6 pounds. Leaders typically run from 0X to 8X (the larger the "X", the finer and weaker the material).

Your leader selection should also be determined by several factors not captured in the coding discussed above. You must take these other factors into consideration in order to get your leader and tippet combination to "turnover" your offering -- whether it be a small simple dry fly, a huge streamer or popper, or even a large strike indicator and nymph combo.

1. Target Species:

Bluegill would use lighter leader and tippet combinations than larger target species like Musky, Salmon, Stripers, or Steelhead.

2. Fly size:

The 9' 5X leader initially referenced would NEVER be able to successfully cast a huge Gamechanger fly. The pattern is too bulky and very heavy when wet. A very simple formula you can use to get "in the ballpark" is taking the fly size and dividing by 3 or 4. Using this basic formula, a #16 fly should perform well with a 4X or 5X leader.

3. Fly Presentation:

Is the fly designed to be fished on or below the water surface? A wary Trout feeding on the surface might require a longer 9-14 foot leader tapering down to a 5X to 7X tippet to match the dry fly size. Just remember, longer leaders can also detract from your casting accuracy. White Bass, Smallmouth, and Musky that are attacking baitfish, frogs, or mice won't be as "leader shy" as a wary Trout feeding on the surface. For these species, you can simply use a short (4-5 foot) non-tapered leader. I sometimes just use 4-foot of straight 12-pound monofilament leader. Using too long a leader with a sink tip or full sinking fly line creates a bow in the presentation making sub-surface strike detections difficult.

4. Leader Material:

The two primary leader materials are Fluorocarbon or Nylon (also called Monofilament). A third option is Co-Polymer, which is a combination of Nylon core and Fluorocarbon coating in an attempt to combine the best characteristics of both mainstream leader materials. This material type is a discussion for another day!

Fluorocarbon:

Fluorocarbon line is made from very dense material with good abrasion resistance that sinks in water. It has very little stretch which can help strike detection and it is also very hard to see in the water -- almost "invisible" to fish. These properties all make Fluorocarbon leader an ideal choice for nymphing.

Fluorocarbon is also more expensive (about triple the cost of Nylon).

Nylon:

Monofilament line is extruded from Nylon material. Nylon has some noticeable stretch, and it also floats on the water surface well. Nylon would be a better choice for fishing dry flies because it won't tend to pull your dry fly under.

Now that you know the basics, here is an example of how you might put that knowledge to good use. Hopper and Dropper rigs are a great starting point. If I were to fish a #6 Hopper with a #16 Beadhead Pheasant Tail nymph, I might opt for 7-8 foot, 3X Nylon leader to the Hopper with 3-5 foot of 5X Fluorocarbon from the Hopper hook bend to the Nymph. If the leader kinks fishing this setup, it is likely the dry

fly is spinning during the cast. You can correct this unwanted spinning by going to a thicker leader (dropping to a 4X or 3X from the original 5X).

Every time you change out a fly, you use about 3-inches of tippet material. After a half dozen or so fly changes, you may have used up the tippet section of the leader. Don't throw it away! Simply add on a new 2-3 foot section of tippet material and you are back in action.

Leaders are usually purchased as pre-tied, knotless, and tapered. You can, however, tie your own custom leaders using various sizes of materials. This is rewarding for some, but others find it very tedious. These self-tied leaders can also require up to 8-10 knots to achieve the desired butt-to-tippet taper. These knots can become a moss and slime magnet in some water environments. You can find many of these common self-tied leader formulas on YouTube, if that interests you.

Good leader brands to trust are Rio, Orvis, Scientific Anglers, and Airflo. Rio makes correct leader selection a bit easier by labeling their leaders by species (Bass, Trout, Bonefish, Toothy Critter, etc).

I hope all that information gets you pointed in the right direction. If all else fails, go to your local fly shop and ask them to recommend something based on your fishing plans -- just don't be insulted if they recommend a common 9' 5X 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

Membership:

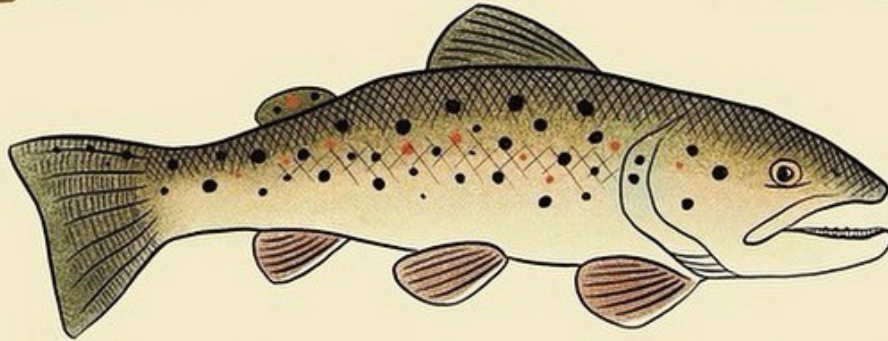
Annual memberships expire the end of December. Make sure you put a reminder on your New Years "To Do" list so your membership does not lapse.

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.

Local Events:

BLUEGRASS TROUT UNLIMITED

FUNDRAISING BANQUET



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

6:30 - 9:30 PM AT



1170 MANCHESTER ST. #140 LEXINGTON, KY

The Louisville and Bluegrass Chapters of Trout Unlimited have merged into one under the Bluegrass Chapter charter. Their annual fundraising banquet is the day after our DCFF November GMM. Get more information and purchase tickets with the link below.

[Current Information](#)

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.

[Current Information](#)

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.



Election season is over - YEAH! Well, almost. Come cast your vote for the 2025 DCFF Board of Directors during the November GMM. There will not be any grandstand speeches, mudslinging, or dirty politics here -- I promise you. Also, once that vote is cast -- election season really is over. DOUBLE YEAH!

Do you have any ideas, feedback, or inputs for the Newsletter? Is so, please send them using my email link below. Your feedback, recommendations, and inputs are always welcome.

Tight lines,

Jeff Moore
DCFF Newsletter Director
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!