

## Derby City Fly Fishers December 2024 Newsletter

The latest DCFF Board of Directors meeting was conducted on:  
Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for:  
Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

**NOTE:** The normal first Wednesday of the month January meeting date is pushed back a week to deconflict from New Years Day.



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### DCFF Tip of the Month:

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Do not be intimidated by dirty water – learn to love it.

Abnormal water fluctuations that create “chocolate milk” conditions are a whole different matter, but fish become accustomed to the normal fluctuations in stream and river levels. They learn how to feed effectively in the changing visibility conditions associated with both rising and falling water levels. Fish don’t stop feeding when the water becomes stained, murky, or even dirty – they just adapt their feeding patterns to accommodate the changing conditions.

Stained or murky water can help keep you hidden from the fish and it indicates that plenty of food is also being carried downstream with the sediment in the water. Fish are seldom feeding in the middle of the murkiest portion of the main current, but you can bet they are set up to feed where that dirty water meets clear (or at least notably cleaner) water flows. These pockets of dirty to cleaner water flow transitions may be limited on your river or stream -- but that is what makes finding concentrations of feeding fish easier.

Effectively fishing dirty water places a premium on your ability to read the water and correctly interpret the behavior of the flow below the surface. The fisherman that can key in on the structure, depth, and current seams to build a mental model of where fish will stack up to feed is the fisherman that will learn to love dirty water.

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## President's Letter:

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### Looking Back

... I am Still Amazed



My initial ***President's Letter*** for our club newsletter was titled “**Maybe I'm Amazed**”. It was about my personal journey into the world of fly fishing and how amazing it is to be involved with (and connected to) such a great group of people – people who so warmly welcomed me in and shared their world with me. My pledge then to you, as the incoming President, was to keep that warm and welcoming **Derby City Fly Fishers** spirit the main focus of our club. In reflecting on the past two years, I believe you have all risen to help **DCFF** meet that goal.

As I pen this final ***President's Letter*** for our club newsletter, I find myself filled with a mix of nostalgia and gratitude. Serving as President of the **Derby City Fly Fishers** has been an incredibly enriching experience over the past 2-year span. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved by working together. From our monthly club events and fishing trips to our annual **Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show** -- every experience has strengthened our bond as a community

of passionate anglers. I am forever grateful for the friendships forged, the stories shared, and the lessons learned on the water.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and enthusiasm. Your participation and support have made **DCFF** a welcoming and vibrant place for both seasoned fly fishermen and newcomers alike. Together, we have not only improved our skills, but also fostered a love for the sport that will continue to inspire future generations.

As I step aside and pass the torch to our new leadership -- I am confident the club will continue to thrive. I encourage each of you to support the incoming President and Board of Directors as they bring fresh ideas and energy to our activities. Please stay connected and continue to share your adventures, tips, and stories. I look forward to seeing you all on the water and at future club events. My best to you all.

Fish on!

Ralph Swallows  
DCFF President

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## DCFF 2025 Board of Directors:

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The proposed slate of candidates for the **2025 Board of Directors (BOD)** was elected at the **20 November, 2024** General Membership Meeting (**GMM**) by a quorum of current members. One uncontested change to the initial slate of candidates was made at the GMM before the vote. **Joe Gahlinger** was nominated for **Treasurer** and initial nominee, **Jeff Moore**, withdrew his name from consideration.

The current 2024 and newly elected **2025 DCFF Board of Directors** is listed below. New Officer and Director names are highlighted in Red. Thank you to all our new Board Members for stepping forward to serve the membership.

Title	2024 (Current)	2025 (Future)
President	Ralph Swallows	<b>Michael Broome</b>
Vice President	Michael Broome	<b>Sean Chandler</b>
Secretary	David Campbell	David Campbell
Treasurer	Roger Charbonneau	<b>Joe Gahlinger</b>
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	<b>Ralph Swallows</b>
Newsletter	Jeff Moore	Jeff Moore
Conservation	Jeff Daiber	Jeff Daiber
Webmaster	Joe Gahlinger	<b>Gus Dattilo</b>

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## Upcoming Events:

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**DCFF Eat & Talk Shop**  
**Wednesday December 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!

[\*\*Current Information\*\*](#)

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~~**DCFF General Membership Meeting**~~  
**DCFF Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday December 18th / 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Endris Lodge**  
Lapping Park -- Clarksville, IN  
[Google Map Link to Endris Lodge](#)

Instead of a **General Membership Meeting** for December -- let's have a **DCFF Christmas Party** instead!!!

This is purely a social event. Enjoy some food, drink, and fishing tales with each other at this festive time of year. **DCFF** will provide plates, cups, plastic ware, napkins and even some non-alcoholic beverages. Club members are encouraged to bring a favorite dish to share with

others. Don't forget to also bring a serving utensil, if appropriate, for the dish you will be sharing.

The lodge will be decorated in fine Holiday fashion with a fire roaring in the fireplace to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. **Endris Lodge** allows alcoholic beverages, so BYO (if so inclined). Please consume any alcohol responsibly. Spouses and significant others are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

Current Information

## DCFF Fly Tying

**NOTE:** DCFF has no fly tying scheduled for 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.

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## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

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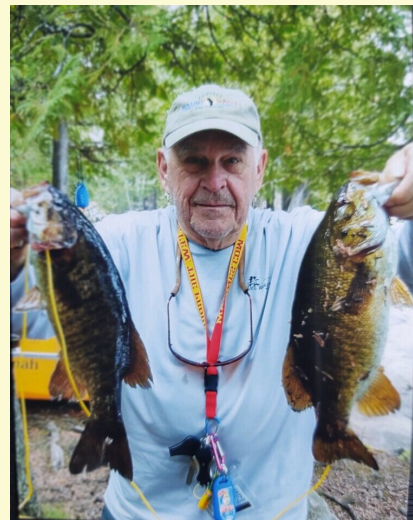
Contact DCFF Education Director, **John Froehlich**, for more information or to support any of the volunteer opportunities listed below. If contacting via email, please include a clear reference to the specific event in the Memo section and include your own best contact information in the body of the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

### **John Froehlich**

DCFF Education Director

(270) 314-0362

[education@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:education@derbycityflyfishers.com)



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## **J. Graham Brown HS Fly Fishing Club** **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:

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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.

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**NOTE:** This is not a club sponsored trip for next year, but WKU has offered DCFF first crack at available slots for this trip before they open registration up to other clubs and the general public.

## WKU Fly Fishing Montana Trip

September 22 - 27, 2025

Missoula, MT

DCFF Priority Registration Deadline is Dec 15, 2024

Western Kentucky University (**WKU**) is again offering a Fly Fishing Trip to Missoula, MT in 2025. While not a DCFF sponsored trip, WKU has reserved the week of 22-27 September, 2025 and is offering up to 17 slots to DCFF members. **Dr Raymond Poff** (WKU Recreation, Park & Nonprofit Administration) is the trip leader. If interested, you will be coordinating directly with him for registration, payments and trip administration details.

If 17 DCFF members sign up, Dr Poff will run the trip as a DCFF exclusive program. Any slots not claimed by DCFF members will be opened up to other community members after the Dec-15 priority access deadline.

Click [HERE](#) for all the details, key dates and the application link. You must complete the application by December 15th to request your spot. If more than 17 applications are submitted spots will be filled in the order applications were submitted.

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## Feature Articles:

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November GMM





## Water Quality

... follow-up

By: Trent Winlock

Environmental Engineer  
Metropolitan Sewer District  
(MSD)

Our November General Membership Meeting (**GMM**) featured guest speaker **Trent Winlock**, an Environmental Engineer for **MSD** (and avid fly fisherman). Trent discussed water quality in and around **Jefferson County** as well as how stream and river health is monitored by **MSD**. This is Trent's promised follow-up with links referenced during that presentation. This is some great information! Thank you, Trent.

1.) Interactive map showing water quality across the region:

### [Water Quality Indicators](#)

- Each icon represents one of our monitoring sites
  - Three (3) on the main stem of Floyds Fork
  - Another four (4) on tributaries of the Fork
- Each year can be toggled on/off
- A dropdown for each year allows you to drill down into that year's data
  - Click the ">" symbol

2.) Map showing many of the USGS gauges in Jefferson County:

### [USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

- Each dot represents a gauge
- Clicking a dot brings up that site's information
- Most sites also have water quality info available

3.) Report on the most recent State of the Streams:

### [State of the Streams Report](#)

- Published every five years
  - Includes water quality trends in each watershed
  - Includes background information on water quality and biological assessments
- Floyds Fork section starts on page-47 of 2021 Report
  - Includes 2 tributaries of the Fork
- Previous reports can be found [HERE](#)
  - Use **Water Quality Synthesis Reports** section

- Started publishing reports in 2009

4.) Information on how MSD monitors streams:

[\*\*MSD Water Quality Monitoring\*\*](#)

If any **DCFF** members would like to participate in our **Citizen Monitoring Program**, please contact me. You can adopt a monitoring site and help us keep tabs on some of the smaller tributaries around the county. Long Run (a tributary of Floyds Fork) is of particular interest.

There are a few local groups working to protect Floyds Fork. The **Future Fund Land Trust** (the land acquisition group behind the Parklands) is the most active:

[\*\*Future Fund Land Trust\*\*](#)

Let me know if DCFF would like to schedule a tour of the treatment plant or if the group would like to learn more about water quality or MSD. Always happy to share info.

Thanks again for the opportunity to come talk with the group.

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## **Your DCFF Newsletter**

**... Past, Present, Evolution, and Future**

### **Past:**

The **DCFF Newsletter** you receive today is the result of some hard work, dedication, and vision that can be traced directly to the creativity of prior Newsletter Director, **Steve Cullen**, who improvised on the great work **Doug Stull** had passed along to him. The style, layout, and content you see in the current **DCFF Newsletter** is essentially a clone of the format Steve had developed over many years and, since there was no need to re-invent the wheel, it is essentially the same format you receive today.

### **Present:**

Notable additions to the core **DCFF Newsletter** content in 2024 included the **Tip of the Month** section and a **Feature Article** segment. You can always find archived copies of the **DCFF Newsletter** [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) if you ever want to reference a prior edition.

### **Evolution:**

The **DCFF Newsletter** has evolved, over time, into a mix of our **Weekly Update** information as well as what might be considered more mainstream club news content. The **Constant Contact** web platform we use to create and distribute club communications is ideal for our **Weekly Update**, but is lacking in many features and

functionality for creating content you might find in most club newsletters.

### **Future:**

In 2025, we will be stripping out any “what’s happening” information from the traditional club news to reduce content bloat and streamline the focus of our **DCFF Newsletter**. You will still receive your **Weekly Update** every Monday, but we will not be repeating that information in the **DCFF Newsletter**. The **DCFF Newsletter** will also be published and distributed on a quarterly basis starting in 2025 instead of the current monthly schedule. You can expect your future **DCFF Newsletters** to be published in **PDF** format with a mid-February, mid-May, mid-August and mid-November quarterly distribution schedule.

### **Feedback:**

This is your newsletter, so let us know your thoughts and inputs.

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If you have a topic that would be appropriate for future **DCFF Newsletter** feature articles, please send your recommendations to:  
[newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com)

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## **Membership:**

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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.

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## **Past Events:**

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### **DCFF Members in the News**

In September, **DCFF** club members **Walter Montgomery**, **Steve Kuric** and **Michael Broome** took a 2-week trip to Salt Lake City to attempt the **Utah Cutt Slam**. The trio traveled 500 miles on highway and forest service dirt roads throughout the state in a quest to each catch the four (4) native cutthroat trout species. The State of Utah presents a certificate of completion to those able to successfully complete the "slam". Last month, this trip was documented in an hour-long pod cast on the **Fish Untamed** blog site [HERE](#).

While you are at it, listen to the podcast on the ***Fish Untamed*** blog site [HERE](#) detailing the **Wyoming Cutt Slam** successfully completed by the same trio of **DCFF** members on an earlier trip.

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## Taylorsville Lake Habitat Project

On December 3rd & 4th a DCFF conservation team of **Jeff Daiber**, **Bill Harrod** and **Johnathan Howe** supported the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (**KDFW**) by adding fish structures in Taylorsville Lake. These structures will help protect and grow panfish and bass.

### [Photo Gallery](#)

It was COLD, but the team left with warm thoughts of how such projects promote conservation, camaraderie, and improve our Commonwealth. Special thanks to the team for representing **DCFF** on this worthy project — especially given the weather conditions!

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## Downstream Casts:

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### **DCFF Fly Show 2025:**

Save the date to your calendar! The 2025 DCFF Fly Show is scheduled for Saturday, **January 18th, 2025**. Be there, or be square.

[Current Information](#)

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### **Request for GMM Fund Raising Items:**

Inventory of donated items supporting DCFF fund raising projects at our General Membership Meetings each month is getting low! If you have any fly fishing related items or reference materials that someone else may find useful -- or if you are looking for a way to kill some cold winter hours, perhaps you could tie up some of your favorite flies and consider donating them to the club. Contact our Development and Donations Director, [Mike Parker](#), if you have any items to donate, questions or suggestions. You can also just bring your donated items to our next General Membership Meeting.

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### **Gerry McDaniel Fly Fishing Hotline:**

Gerry McDaniel, a world record holder, a licensed and professional guide and a founding father of Derby City Fly Fishers, will answer your phone calls to discuss any of your fly fishing questions. With over

60 years of fly fishing expertise for bluegill, bass and trout, and countless hours on the Cumberland River, Gerry can help beginners to experts with any subject -- whether it be equipment, rod setup, fly selection, techniques, fly tying, rod building or anything that has to do with the Cumberland River. Gerry has graciously offered to take your call and help the club promote its mission to introduce and educate the sporting public to fly fishing. Give Gerry a call at **(502) 432-2995**.

Gerry's ***A Guide to the Lower Cumberland River*** contains a series of USGS topographic maps from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee border. It includes points of interest and public access points and will be available for purchase at indoor general membership meetings.

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### **DCFF Member Classified Ads:**

DCFF Classified ad section is a convenient location for club members to advertise fishing related items for sale or to purchase used gear and equipment from other club members. There is **NO** cost to advertise, but a seller must be a club member who is in good standing and registered on the website. Anyone can see the items for sale, but only club members can list items to sell.

**[Derby City Fly Fishers Classifieds](#)**

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### **DCFF Web Site:**

Your DCFF Web Site is a combination of art, science, magic, sweat and (sometimes) tears compliments of your Webmasters, Joe Gahlinger and Gus Dattilo. They rely on inputs from the membership to keep the site current, functional, and useful -- so continue to send pictures, inputs, updates and suggestions to both at:

**[webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com](mailto:webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com)**

When it works, it is a feature -- when it doesn't, it is a bug!

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### **Fishing License Renewals:**

Kentucky 2023 annual fishing licenses will expire the last day of February, 2024. Indiana 2023 annual fishing licenses will expire the last day of March, 2024. To purchase or renew your 2025 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.

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## 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.

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I will continue into 2025 as DCFF Newsletter Director.

In 2025, I will also take over the duties of creating and distributing the DCFF Weekly Updates.

If you read the Feature Article section this month, you also know major changes are coming to the Newsletter in 2025.

The DCFF Newsletter will now be published quarterly (instead of monthly) and will be distributed in Adobe's Portable Document File (PDF) format. You can expect the first quarterly edition of the DCFF Newsletter in mid-February with subsequent scheduled distribution dates in the middle of May, August, and then November.

Do you have any ideas, feedback, or inputs for the Newsletter?  
If 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](mailto:newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com)

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