

The Kentuckiana Fly Fisher



Event Helps Introduce More Women to Fly Fishing

Report contributed by Donna Errett of the Big Oaks Conservation Society

The sky was dark on the morning of June 7 as students and instructors arrived for the fourth annual Outdoor Women @ Big Oaks event. Lightning flashed in the northern sky, inspiring canoeists, archers and hikers to take along ponchos. But the rain held off, and everyone enjoyed the cool breezes as they learned to call turkeys, identify trees and wildflowers, set up a campsite and cook in an outdoor dutch oven.



Larry Drake works with a student on the basics of fly casting

The wind did not deter Kim Smith and his two assistants from ably instructing two two-hour sessions in the art and technique of fly fishing. Soon the participants were enjoying success and improving their casts.

It has become a small tradition each year that on the first Saturday of June volunteers from the Big Oaks Conservation Society organize a day of outdoor instruction and recreation for women ages 14 to 85 at Old Timbers Lodge, a National Historic

Landmark building on the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge.

As the day ended, tired but happy women and instructors on their way home learned on car radios that record amounts of rain had fallen a mere 50 miles north,

closing roads, flooding homes, businesses, a hospital and changing the course of the Wabash River. At Big Oaks it was just another perfect day of outdoor fun.

Upcoming Events:

Regular Club Meeting

Bass Pro Shops Sept 17

NOTE TEMPORARY VENUE CHANGE - ADDITIONAL DETAILS INSIDE

Fly Tying

Bass Pro Shops Sept. 24

Board Meeting

Corner Café Oct. 1

See details inside and at

[www. derbycityflyfishers.com](http://www.derbycityflyfishers.com)

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Upcoming Meetings and Outings

Monthly Meeting - September 17th

Venue Change: Due to the high winds this past weekend, the Nature Center is without power. This month's meeting has been moved to Bass Pro Shops. Future meetings will return to the Nature Center unless otherwise announced.

Part of DCFF's mission has always been the promotion of warmwater and other fly fishing pursuits beyond the more traditional trout fishing. This month's meeting offers a great opportunity to learn about one of the most exciting forms of "non-traditional" fly fishing you could ever choose to pursue: fly fishing for the

mighty Musky! Mike Arnold from Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers will join us to present information on gear, techniques, and where to fish for these beasts.

Tackle Time begins at 6:30, and Mike's presentation will follow at 7:00. Don't miss these exciting presentations!



Fly Tying - Sept. 24th

This month's fly tying session will feature soft hackle flies. Soft hackles trace back to some of the earliest days of fly fishing, and remain one of the most successful categories of flies available to the modern fly fisher. Tied in many different color and material combinations, these flies fish well when dead drifted like a conventional nymph and are often extremely productive when fished with the traditional wet fly swing as the emerging form of any number of insects.

Join us at 7:00 at Bass Pro Shops in Clarksville to learn how to tie this great fly, and make sure to add it to your arsenal if you're not using it currently. Materials will be provided, and a limited number of vises are available for those that don't have one of their own.

Recipe

(Hare's Ear shown, but many other varieties exist)

Hook: Nymph, size 10-14
 Body: Natural Hare's Ear Dubbing
 Rib: Gold Wire or Oval Tinsel
 Hackle: Grey Partridge, Wrapped



September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

President's Corner

Derby City Fly Fishers – Four Short Years Old

Derby City Fly Fishers was formed a little over 4 years ago as an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers to educate and entertain our membership and the general public in the sport of fly fishing. Many of our original members are still active in the club and welcome a procession of new fly fishers having joined DCFF as recently as last month. Our current membership of about 160 includes men, women, and young people.

Our monthly format generally includes 4 sessions; board meeting, general meeting, fly tying, and an outing. We communicate among ourselves at the meetings, via the monthly e-newsletter, our website (www.derbycityflyfishers.com), and among our membership. All members who wish to stay current with club events may do so by accessing these facilities. The officers and directors welcome any and all inquiries relative to the club.

The club board of directors meet each month on the 1st Wednesday to discuss and plan club business. All members are welcome to participate.

Our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesdays are held outdoors in the warm months and at the Louisville Nature



Club members on a recent outing to Elkhorn Creek. Derby City Fly Fishers' Mark Wood, Chris Cron, Howard Eaton, Chris Smith and Jim Wilmoth were joined by members of the Frankfort Fly Fishing Club for an enjoyable day of fishing and camaraderie.

Center otherwise. The indoor meetings begin at 6:30pm with "Tackle Time" instruction on various topics, continue with welcome and general business, featured program, raffle, and social time concluding at 8:30pm.

These meetings are planned to be educational and entertaining while allowing members to 'catch up' on the latest fishing tales.

Fly tying occurs the 4th Wednesday and meets at the Bass Pro auditorium. This is an excellent opportunity for the beginning fly tyer to learn to tie the most popular flies. The club has vises and materials available for those who need them. Experienced members are on hand to assist. Furthermore, the tying activity is projected on the 'big screen' so one can easily follow along during the various steps. It is a big thrill to catch a fish on a fly that you have tied.

Club outings are numerous, diverse, and fun. This year we have gone steelheading in Ohio, stream fishing in North Carolina, floating and wading the Cumberland River on day and overnight trips, floated the Dix River, waded the Elkhorn, and fished the host lakes at our summer outings. This fall we will fish the Cumberland River, Otter Creek,

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Year Two Update on the Lake Cumberland Tailwater Status

Article reprinted from the August 2008 Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's Newsletter

Repairs to the Wolf Creek Dam (forming Lake Cumberland) are now in the second year of a long term construction project.

As a result of the construction process, the water level at Lake Cumberland remains reduced and continues to be maintained from a summer elevation of 723 feet above sea level (fasl) to 680 fasl in order to reduce pressure on the dam and help facilitate the construction process.

Maintaining the lake elevation at 680 fasl drastically minimizes (especially during a dry year) the amount of water that may be released from Lake Cumberland into the Lake Cumberland tailwater. Cold water release through the dam is critical to maintain the state's premiere rainbow and brown trout fishery.

Similar to 2007, Fisheries Division personnel have been in regular communication with the Nashville District of the Army Corps of Engineers to alter release schedules to best conserve water yet maximize the cool water for the management of the trout fishery.

As a result of low rainfall, all releases are currently occurring through the use of sluice gates. These gates are located near the bottom of Lake Cumberland where water is cold. However, it contains little dissolved oxygen.

As the water is released through the sluice gates, it combines with oxygen in the atmosphere to rapidly increase its dissolved

oxygen content. Each sluice gate can release 1,500 cfs of water (roughly half that of a turbine release).

Late last summer, orifice gates were installed on two sluice gates to help reduce the amount of flow even further. An orifice gate is a



steel structure which fits in the intake opening of the sluice gate to limit the flow down to 260 cfs, thus further conserving the amount of water released from Lake Cumberland during periods of little to no rainfall.

At present, despite being somewhat dry this summer, a large portion of the Lake Cumberland basin has experienced above average precipitation for the last several months. This has resulted in measurable inflow into Lake Cumberland, something that wasn't present at times last summer.

This has allowed the Corps of Engineers to release more water, compared to last year. In addition to the around-the-clock orifice gate releases, several weeks ago the Corps of Engineers allowed for one hour of sluice gate flow each at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

At the Department's request, to mitigate for a period of forecasted hot weather, they increased the

amount of sluice gate flow up to two consecutive hours in the morning and two hours in the evening.

Currently, the Corps of Engineers is releasing four consecutive hours from a sluice gate in the morning and two hours in the evening, in addition to the around-the-clock orifice gate releases.

Unfortunately, this past winter was not quite as cold as last year. This resulted in the hypolimnion (the layer of water below the thermocline, which is released through the dam) being several degrees warmer. While the Corps of Engineers is releasing more water compared to the previous year, water temperatures in the lower part of the tailwater are still reaching levels considered stressful to trout, above 68 degrees.

Encouraging is that once again low water levels provide an excellent opportunity for wade fishing anglers to get out and enjoy trout fishing. The trout fishery above Burkesville remains exceptional with many anglers reporting good catches.

Sampling data from last fall supports these reports as electrofishing catch rates for brown trout were the highest ever recorded and the rainbow trout catch rates were only slightly less than the record breaking 2006 catch rate.

Boaters should use caution when navigating some of the shallow areas of the tailwater. Smaller boats or boats with jet-drive outboards are recommended and boaters should time their trips to take advantage of slightly higher river levels during maximum flows.

The Last Few Casts

Suggest and Lead an Outing

Kenneth Kloeppe is the club's "Trips Director" and provides oversight on the club's various outings and trips. Many of our trips are day trips to nearby waters in Kentucky or Indiana. Other trips might take us to North Carolina, Michigan, Tennessee, Ohio, and other spots for 'overnight' venues. Many of the trips are planned as a result of a member's experience on certain waters. This is where you can help the club by suggesting, and perhaps, leading a trip to a spot that you

believe our membership would enjoy. Outings could have as few as 2 people but normally have 8-14 members involved. Don't keep all those secrets to yourself! Share the wealth and fun with others. Typically we try to get the most bang for your buck on these trips; most have been quite reasonable costwise. Contact your officers or directors with your trip of interest.

Thank you.....

Phil

President's Corner (cont.)

and return to North Carolina. We might even shoehorn in a salmon and steelhead trip up north. Otherwise we hear stories of members fishing the many lakes, ponds, and streams in Southern Indiana and Kentucky. Most of the trips are suitable for the beginner to the experienced fly fisher.

The 4th Annual Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show will once again be held in Louisville on Saturday, February 21, 2009. We had a superb show earlier this year and club organizers are planning a larger and more diverse offering for next year. Club membership came out and supported our last show in enthusiastic numbers. We unleashed some hidden talent on set up, promotion, fly tying, announcing, and most of all welcoming the public. We selected the February 21 date so as to provide the least competition from similar shows and local events. David Campbell and Kenneth Kloeppe are co-chairmen for the show and solicit your early commitment to volunteer your help. Help is needed now for those

interested in promotion, media contact, vendor relations, graphic composition/design, and program development.

Our club website is excellent. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with this great site. It not only provides information about the club and current events, but also offers a vast resource for local waters, techniques, equipment, instruction, and many related links.

Many of us see Derby City Fly Fishers as a "work in progress". We've developed a strong and enthusiastic membership, placed our footprint in the regional fly fishing community, and are open minded about further improving our agenda. The club is fortunate to consist of many talented and interested members; we need your help in further shaping the club's future.

The Best to You on the Water,

Phil

In Memoriam - Ed Story

Ed Story, founder of Feather-Craft Fly Fishing in St. Louis and originator of the ever-popular Crackleback fly, passed away last month. Ed and Feather-Craft have been very kind to DCFF in the past, donating items on numerous occasions for raffles and for the annual Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show. Whether you talk to members that have visited the store or spoken with him by phone, you'll typically hear the same description that people from all over the country rushed to post on message boards and other online forums: that of a gentleman who loved what he did for a living and quickly and graciously gave of his time and advice, even if it was for something that didn't produce the most profit for his store.

Visit www.feather-craft.com to read details of a memorial fund set up in Ed's honor.

