

Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
September 2016
Volume 18, Issue 9



Club Meeting
Thursday, September 15
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morpew
6:00 Casting
7:00

Ted Mendrek with snook
on Florida's Atlantic coast
Photo by Greg Welander

Officers:

President

Matt Bennett
m.bennett151@gmail.com

Vice President

Dakus Geeslin
dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov

Treasurer

Shawn Riggs 512-656-7670
shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Dopson
Phil@PhilDopson.com

Past President

Jim Gray
Texasjimgray@yahoo.com

Conservation

Ed Parsons 512-413-3895
Eparsons@me.com

Education

Mike Morphew
Mikemorphew@hotmail.com

Merchandise

Vern Harris 512-863-4792
harris.vern@gmail.com

Membership

Jon Creed 512-203-7056
Membership@AustinFlyFishers.com

Newsletter

Nils Pearson 512-565-7647
NPearson@austin.rr.com

Outings

Dave Bush 512-694-1323
aff.outings@me.com

SKIFF

Dave Hill
flyfisher149@gmail.com
Manuel Pena 423-8898
mtexas@aol.com

Webmaster

Brandon Rabke
brabke@texas.net

Directors at Large

Doug Kierklewski
flyfsh@hotmail.com
Jeff Hoelter
JPHoelter@gmail.com

President's Message by Matt Bennett

I'm sitting down to right this right before heading up to the Destination Texas Fly Fishing Expo in Grapevine. It should be a great event and I hope that many of you made it up for a day or two. Jim Gray, Mike Morphew, Rob Gonzalez, and Edward Ramirez, and myself all had programs scheduled this year. I'll fill you guys in on how it went at our next meeting.

We had a great end of August weather-wise with a bunch more rain and even have some cooler temperatures in the forecast, which means it's time to get back out on the water if you've been using the heat as an excuse like I have. Our rivers are in great shape to fish well through the rest of the year. We have several fall outings already on the books, and you can bet that we'll try to sneak in a few more local outings as well. Check the website for more information or talk to Dave at the meeting.

Speaking of the website, a very special thanks to Ed, Nils, Dave, and Brandon for spearheading the new design and layout. We've been well overdue for quite some time and they, along with our web designer Angela, did a great job putting this together. We have some good ideas about where we want to take it from here, including local fly pattern recipes and more. Stay tuned for what's coming next.

Finally, we have two very good presentations coming in the next couple months that I wanted to let you know about now. On October 20th, Captain Scott Hamilton will be back to our club from Florida and be talking about fly fishing in bluewater. Scott is the only full-time fly guide I know of out of his area, and will present on the unique

opportunities available on fly off of the Florida coast - spinner sharks, dolphin, bonito, and much more. On November 17th, noted author and guide Pat Dorsy will present to our club for the first time on tailwater opportunities in and around the Denver area. Pat is a great guide and tyer and will have a host of knowledge to share with us on trout fishing around the front ranger. Both of these presentations should be great and I hope you're able to join us.

Financial Report by Shawn Riggs

8/1/2016 - 8/31/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$11,956.00

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$175.91
Auction	\$250.00
SKIFF	\$1,750.00
Merchandise	<u>\$70.81</u>
Total Income	\$2,246.72

Disbursements:

Colorado Bend Fees	\$100.00
Insurance	\$350.00
Square Credit Card Reader	\$53.04
Website	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,003.04

Net \$1,243.68

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds \$5,105.41

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$670.30
SKIFF	\$7,423.97

Ending Balance-Checking \$13,199.68

Club Announcements by Dakus Geeslin

September Speaker

At our September meeting, Captain Steve Soulé, "the Shallowist", will be our speaker. Captain Steve is a full-time professional fishing guide and seasoned tournament angler who fishes the Galveston and Matagorda Bay complexes of the Upper Texas Coast. Steve specializes in fly-fishing and light-tackle fishing with artificial lures, targeting trophy trout, redfish, and flounder. As a Federation of Fly-Fishers certified fly-casting instructor, Steve teaches casting from basic through expert in the Houston area. Steve regularly gives casting and fishing clinics and conducts seminars at local clubs and retailers in addition to national events. Captain Steve was one of the founding partners of the coastal fly-fishing school in Houston. <http://www.theshallowist.com/>



SKIFF Program by Manuel Pena

On August 22, the Skiff Program was presented with a \$1500 donation from the Sun City Hunting and Fishing Club.

The check was presented by Club Vice President Gary Massaglia to Bob Maindelle, Dave Hill and Manuel Pena. Three other organizations also received donations on this date. The Sun City Hunting and Fishing Club raises funds from a yearly dinner and charity auction.

Over 325 military children have benefited from a Skiff fishing trip because of the efforts of Bob and the generosity of so many. The kids have also caught and released over 7000 fish. The Austin Fly Fishers are very thankful for the continued support of the Sun City Hunting and Fishing Club members. Your donation will bring joy to many military children in the central Texas area.

Our sincere thanks,



Florida Fly Fishing by Ted Mendrek

During our annual trip to the ICAST/IFTD industry show, Greg Welander and I tacked on a couple of days to do some fishing around Florida. As you can see from the our photos, the fish Gods were good to us. Wow, that state has so many fishing options! We managed to fish both coasts and also did a some canal fishing down around the Everglades. Little sleep and lots of driving, but well worth it.

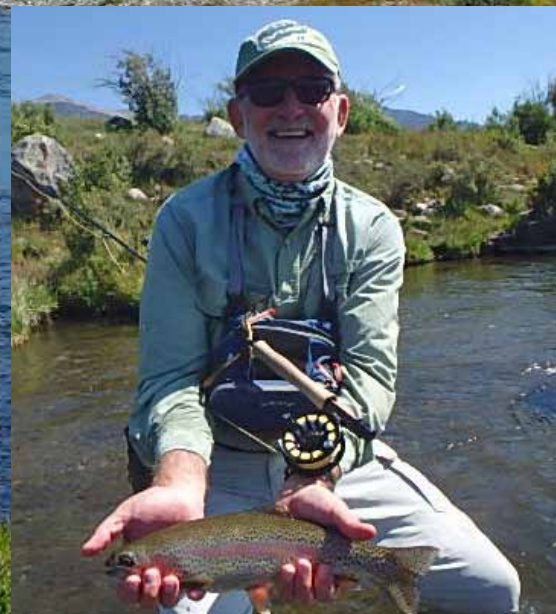
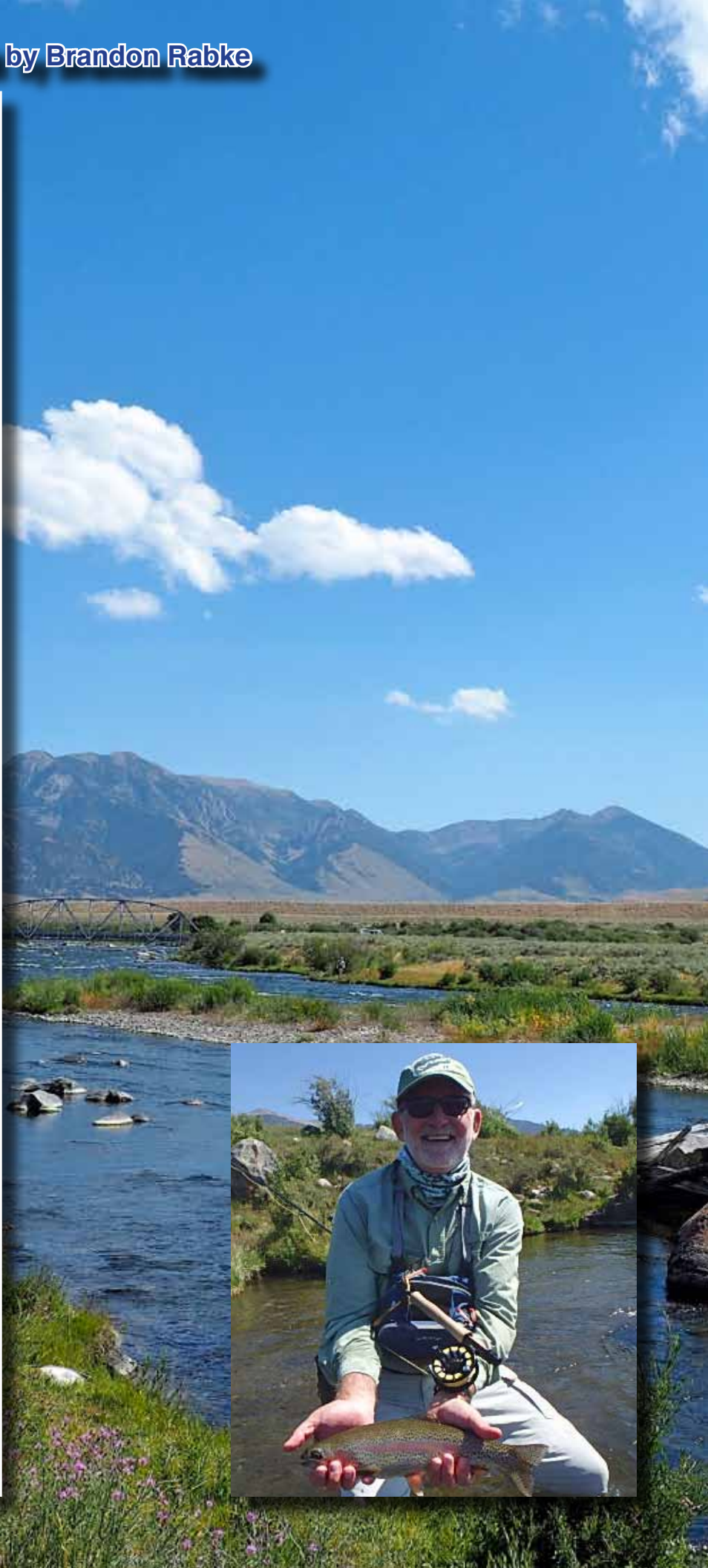


Trout School, Montana by Brandon Rabke

When August rolled around this year and the temperatures began to rise, I decided it was time to head to the mountains to find cooler weather, enjoy a change of scenery, and to do some trout fishing. After doing some online research, I picked Ennis, Montana as the place I would go. Ennis is a small town in the southwestern part of the state, not too far from Yellowstone National Park, and right in the heart of some very nice fly fishing country. Because I still consider myself something of a novice when it comes to angling for trout, I decided to attend a three-day trout school offered by one of the local fly shops. The classes, taught by the Madison River Fishing Company (www.mrfc.com), were just what I needed to reacquaint myself with the techniques used for catching trout on a fly rod.

A total of five people signed up for the school, and our instruction began during a welcome reception held the evening of our arrival. For the next three days, class took place in the field while we were actually fishing. Our instructors were Matt and Brian – both very knowledgeable, friendly, and patient fellows who guide out of the fly shop. We spent the first two days wade fishing. One day on the narrow, meandering Ruby River and the next on the larger Madison River. Because there were fewer people around, and we were somewhat more protected from the wind, the Ruby was a good setting for our first day of class. Besides receiving valuable instruction on small stream fishing techniques, I also caught a few fish, both trout and whitefish, during our day on the Ruby.

On the second day of class, we all headed to the Madison River and fished the area around Thee Dollar Bridge. The Madison, as it courses from Quake Lake towards Ennis, is generally fast flowing, fairly shallow, with a rocky, cobble bottom, and an occasional large boulder scattered here and there. Because of its shallow and rocky character, this stretch of river is known by some as the “Fifty Mile Riffle”. The riverbank was mainly open and grassy, with some sage brush and smaller shrubs, and it was fairly easy to walk along and fish from the



Trout School Cont.

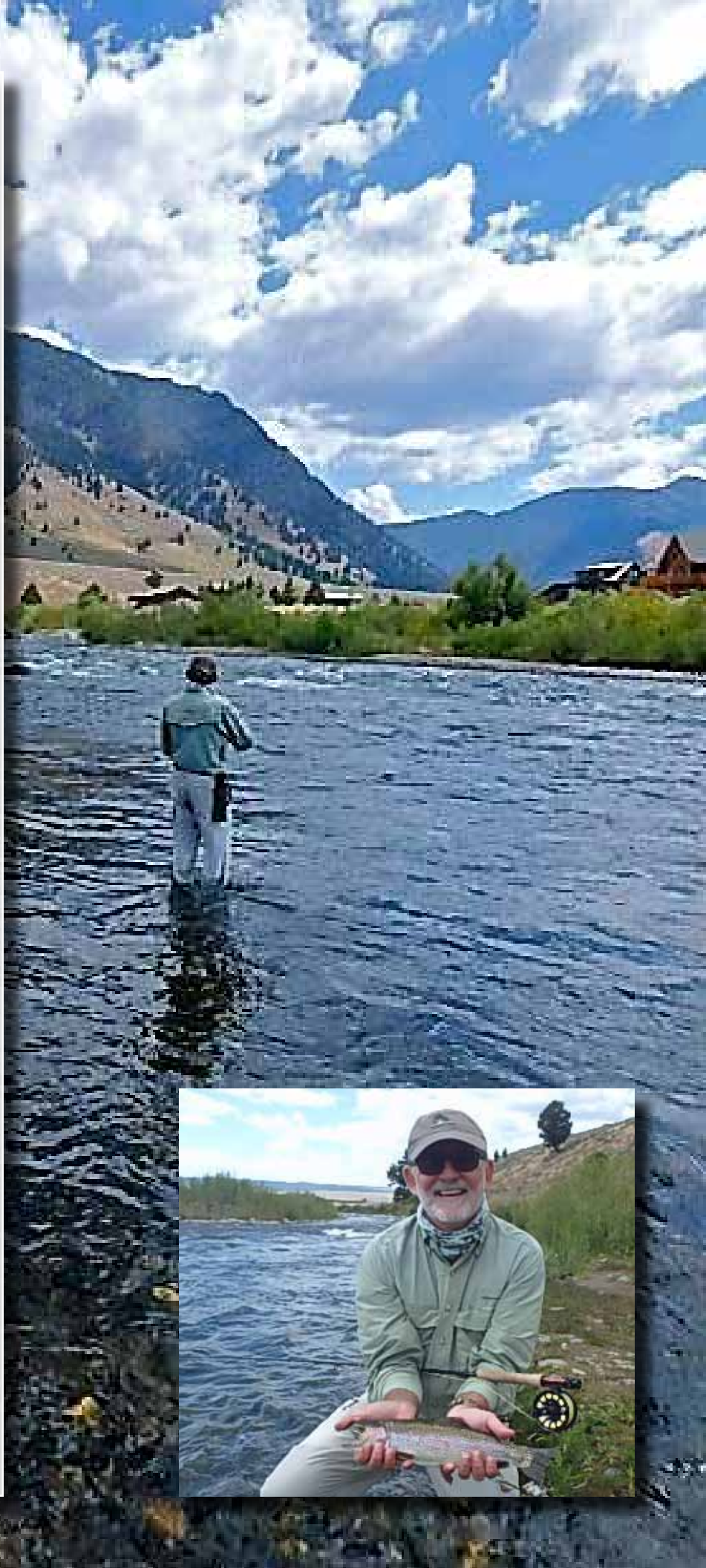
bank. Even when I waded, I stayed pretty close to the bank and out of the fast water.

I tried both nymph rigs and surface flies as I walked and fished the river's edge. I caught a few trout using both methods, though it was usually easier to follow a brightly colored indicator drifting in the current, than it was to spot little ant or caddis flies. That was especially true when fishing choppy water or when there was a lot of sunlight glinting off the water's surface.

During our lunchtime break, Matt and Brian gave us a streamside lesson in entomology, and it was quite interesting to examine all of the bugs that we seined up from the bottom of the river. A couple of large stonefly nymphs came up in the seine, and I started using an imitation of that bug as the top fly on my nymph rig.

On the last day of trout school, we floated and fished the Madison from the comfort of drift boats. The weather was nice and I appreciated the change of pace from the previous two days of wading. We mainly fished dries, and if you managed to get a good, drag-free, drift of your fly over a deeper trough or alongside a rock or boulder, you were often rewarded with a trout rising to take your fly. At midday, the drift boats pulled up and anchored next to the riverbank and we set up folding tables and chairs under the shade of a big tree. From our shady spot we enjoyed a cold beverage and nice lunch, while also admiring the view of the river and surrounding landscape.

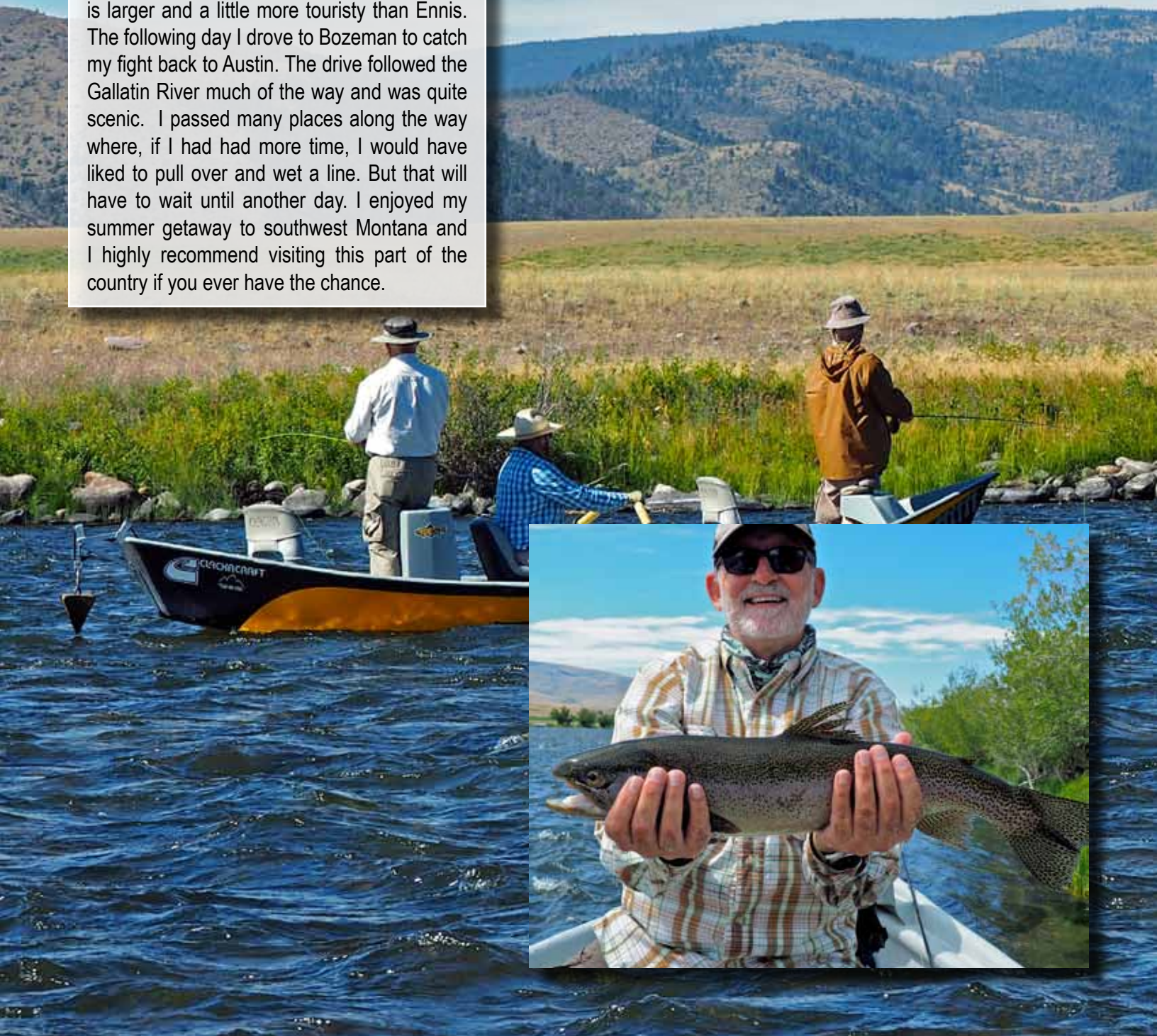
Shortly after lunch and while we were back in our boats and drifting down the river, I hooked up with what turned out to be my best fish of the trip. It took a big-legged hopper and I knew it was a good fish when, after I hooked it, it briefly surfaced and I saw the size of its tail. It looked wide and it stood out against the water. After that first quick glimpse of a big tail, and then as I felt the solid, heavy weight of the fish jerking at the end of my line, I got pretty excited. By then, Brian also knew it was a good trout, and he was doing all he could do to manage the boat and keep me in position to fight the fish. After several strong runs the



Trout School Cont.

fish tired and we finally got him up to the boat and I eased him into the net. Brian rowed over to the bank and anchored. We took a few moments to catch our breath and also to get a good look at the fish. It was a nice rainbow that measured twenty-two inches long. After taking a few photos we made sure the trout was fully revived, before we released it from the net and watched it glide back to deeper water. It was a real beaut, and the biggest trout any of us had seen during our three days of fishing.

After trout school in Ennis, I spent the last night of my trip in the town of West Yellowstone. It is one of the gateways to the National Park and is larger and a little more touristy than Ennis. The following day I drove to Bozeman to catch my flight back to Austin. The drive followed the Gallatin River much of the way and was quite scenic. I passed many places along the way where, if I had had more time, I would have liked to pull over and wet a line. But that will have to wait until another day. I enjoyed my summer getaway to southwest Montana and I highly recommend visiting this part of the country if you ever have the chance.



The Fly Tyer's Corner Recipe by Jeff Hoelter

Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle Nymph

The Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle Nymph is a variation on one of the most popular and effective nymphs around. The original Pheasant Tail Nymph was tied by Frank Sawyer to imitate a mayfly. Al Troth further developed the pattern by adding the peacock herl thorax which has become the standard. If you tie the pattern without a tail, it becomes an effective caddis fly imitation too. Substituting glass beads or metal beads for the thorax increases this fly's versatility even more. And don't as-

sume this fly is only for trout. It makes a great dropper off the back of a hopper or popper for any of our hill country streams.

Materials

Hook: TMC 3761 or Mustad 3906B size 10 to 26

Thread: Brown

Ribbing: Fine copper wire

Abdomen: Pheasant tail barbs

Thorax: Peacock Herl (or glass or metal bead)

Hackle: Partridge

Step 1: Prepare the Partridge hackle by removing the fluff at the bottom of the stem down to the barb size you want to use (should be about the length of the hook shank). Then remove 2 or 3 barbs from the bottom right hand side as you view the feather from the outside. (see photo). This will make it easier to align when you start to wrap it around the hook.



Step 2: Start the thread just behind the eye and tie the hackle stem on the top of the hook behind the eye with the inside of the feather (concave side) facing up. Leave room on the hook to wrap the hackle and make a nice head.



Step 3: Tie in a few inches of copper wire and about 6-8 barbs from the Pheasant tail and wrap back to the bend of the hook and then forward to thorax.



Step 4: Wrap the Pheasant Tail barbs forward and tie off. Then counter wrap the copper wire over the abdomen with 4 or 5 wraps for the rib.



Step 5: Tie in 3 or 4 peacock herls for the thorax and wrap them forward to the hackle.



Steps 6: Fold the hackle stem back so it is perpendicular to the hook shank and then make 2 wraps and tie it off. Remove any excess hackle. Tidy up the head and add head cement.



Mike's Tying Tips by Mike Morphew

Problems Tying Weed Guard

A tip to stop the annoying problem of monofilament slipping when tying in weed guards

Crimp the tie-in end of a monofilament weed guard with a pair of serrated pliers. Insert the end of the weed guard in the tip end of the pliers, not the side, and squeeze tightly and push the guard up or down. This creates a series of grooves along the end of the weed guard and a flat place to tie the material in. The grooves catch and hold your thread wraps, and the guard does not slide around as you tie it in place. This little step saves time and aggravation.



AFF Outings by David Bush

September 21-25, Mustang Island and North Padre Island

We'll be fishing around Corpus Christi for this outing. The area offers excellent access to bay, surf, jetty, nearshore, and offshore fishing. Participants are welcome to participate whenever they like and to choose the accommodations that best suit them. For those choosing to camp, the Mustang Island State Park is a good choice. The Park offers good camping amenities with surf fishing on-site. If you'd rather not camp, plenty of rental properties are available nearby in Port Aransas or Corpus Christi at offseason rates. For non-fishing family members, there are plenty of activities available in Corpus. Those planning to participate should email Nils Pearson at npearson@austin.rr.com. Details for gatherings, group fishing, and guide fishing opportunities will be shared with participants as the outing approaches.

October 1, Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament, Port Aransas

The annual Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament is once again being held in Port Aransas. The event supports Casting for Recovery and is the premiere fly fishing catch and release tournament on the Texas coast each year. For further information, see the website at www.lydiaannflymasters.com.

October 14-16, Oktoberfisch, Junction

The annual Oktoberfisch gathering sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers is once again being held on the South Llano River near Junction. This popular event draws fly fishers from across the state. Details are available at www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/oktoberfisch/. Stay tuned for details of the club's plans for participation.

October 15-23, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in October. South Padre offers a wide variety of fishing options from wading for redfish to fishing wrecks offshore. South Padre has a lot of rental options available at reasonable rates since it's the low season. Camping is also an option. Like the Corpus Christi trip, South Padre is also a very good destination for non-fishing significant others. While this outing is scheduled for an entire week, you're welcome to attend for as long as you like. Those planning to participate should email Nils Pearson at npearson@austin.rr.com. Details for gatherings, group fishing, and guide fishing opportunities will be shared with participants as the outing approaches.

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2015/2016. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Kelly Galloup – <http://www.slideinn.com/> Fly Fishing the Madison River

Capt. Eric Glass – <http://www.captainericglass.com/> Fly Fishing South Padre Island

Tim Cole – <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/> Information and presentations on snakes

Kevin Hutchison – <http://hillcountryflyfishers.com/> Fly Fishing the Hill Country

Banning Collins – <http://www.classv.net/> Outdoor Marketing Services

Capt. Jeff Johnson – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport

Jeff Davis – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing the lower Colorado River

Jud Cole – <http://centraltexasflyfishing.com/> cCentral Texas and Colorado

Rus Schwausch – <http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/> Fly Fishing Southwest Alaska

Dan Cone – <http://www.castellguideservice.com/> Fly Fishing Central Texas



Hermon Bain

Fresh Creek | Bowen Sound | Joulters Cay
Andros Island, Bahamas

<http://www.hermonsandrosbonefishing.com/>

242-471-6870

info@hermonsandrosbonefishing.com

ORVIS®



The Arboretum
10000 Research Boulevard
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 795 - 8004



LIVING WATERS

FLY FISHING

Fly Fishing Central Texas' Best Kept Secrets

FLY SHOP & GUIDE SERVICE
(512) 828-FISH
LIVINGWATERSFLYFISHING.COM

ALASKA PENINSULA
FISHING ADVENTURES

DON'T WAIT

CAUTION: Visiting
the website below
may cause a
sudden desire to
migrate North.



12434 Bee Cave Road
Austin, Texas 78738
Phone 512-263-1888
Fax 512-263-2444
SportsmansFinest.com

 **EPIC**
ANGLING & ADVENTURE

512.656.2736
www.epicaaa.com

Texas' premier Gulf Coast
fly fishing guide service

FLY FISH
ROCKPORT

Aransas Bay | Redfish Bay | St. Charles Bay | San Antonio Bay
Copano Bay | Matagorda Bay | Baffin Bay | Upper Laguna Madre
www.flyfishrockport.com 503-348-6309 Jeff@flyfishrockport.com



tenkarausa.com

Kevin Stubbs
Expedition-Outfitters.net

Phone: 210-602-9284
email: kevinstu@msn.com