



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

July 2019  
Volume 21, Issue 7



Club Meeting  
Thursday, July 18  
**Northwest Recreation Center**  
6:00 pm Fly Tying and Social Hour  
6:00 pm Casting Practice  
7:00 pm Pat Vanek –Fly Fishing the Brazos River

Redfish caught by Nils Pearson  
during Port O'Connor outing at  
Pringle Lake



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
**Charter Club**

# President's Message **Shawn Riggs**

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## Port O'Connor Outing

Well I spy two blue crabs, claws locked, as they circle the sandy bottom like a crustacean ring around the Rosie. I'm not sure if they are doing battle or it's some type of mating ritual but as my vessel glides over them quietly they continue their primitive dance either unaware of my presence or too engaged to care. I watch as a white heron wades knee deep along the shoreline picking at the shrimp skittering across the water's surface.

I continue to paddle deeper into the passage, one of many channels that cut back and forth between the bays, and as the keel cuts through the water it spooks a few reds that were holding just below. I don't actually see them but the large plumes of sand kicked up from their swift departure resemble the cartoonish clouds of dust that rise up as the Road Runner quickly escapes the clutches of Wile E. Coyote once again and give away their previous positions.

I watch a small sheephead graze on barnacles cemented to the old column of a long forgotten pier that stretches out in front of a dilapidated stilt house that is slowly falling into the sea. With its dark vertical stripes set against its gray body the sheephead gives off the impression of a zebra grazing on the short grasses that grow on the African savanna. I spot two redfish feeding at some unseen bait on the bottom. Their singular spotted coppery tails swishing above the water as they chow down.

This is saltwater fishing on the Texas coast at its finest. What a fun and relaxing outing I had with the club last month fishing the teeming waters of Seadrift and Port O'Connor. My first outing found me sitting in the front of Dave Bush's Panga boat as we motored past the jetty, through Matagorda Bay and into the gulf. At this moment I realize that it's probably too late to inform him that I get severe motion sickness. As we finally come to a stop and the boat begins to rise and fall with the large swells I am questioning my decision to join this excursion. We don't see anything promis-

ing and head back to shallower and thankfully calmer water in Matagorda Bay, when Dave spots birds working the water. There are seagulls, terns and pelicans diving into the water at bait that is being driven up from below by bigger fish. We begin to cast and I would say for at least two solid hours we catch undersized seatrout, at times every cast landing a trout. They seemed partial to the chartreuse clousers Doug and I were offering then but really would have probably hit anything we threw their way.

We were catching trout just off what the locals call Bird Island, an Audubon bird sanctuary now named Chester Island, that is home to at least 18 species of birds including brown pelicans, laughing gulls, herons, egrets and terns and they number in the thousands. As we continue to pull in trout after trout you can hear the harmonious calls of these feathered inhabitants in the distance cheering us on. Only hunger

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

6/1/2019 to 6/30/2019

<b>Begin Bal. Checking</b>	<b>\$16,691.41</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Clothing	\$20.00
Square	\$33.62
Franchise Tax Refund	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Income	\$103.62
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Speaker	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$150.00
Net	(\$46.38)
Unencumbered:	\$8,219.68
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$1,047.52
SKIFF	\$7,377.83
<b>Ending Bal-Checking</b>	<b>\$16,645.03</b>



## Port O'Connor outing cont.

and the heat finally took us off this spot and back to the boat ramp to head back to our temporary home.

The next day I kayaked with Nils and Brandon in Barroom Bay for a bit and as I continued working the back channels between there and Big Bayou they headed east. I made about three casts at those tailing reds and even though I couldn't entice them with the shrimp pattern and they eventually spooked, the opportunity to even cast at them was memorable. The next morning I kayaked the Lagoon with Guillaume and though we didn't so much as see a mullet we had a good paddle and enjoyed the scenery.

I also had the opportunity to fish with my dad in Shoalwater that evening. He had driven in from Victoria, just picked up his boat from the shop in Port O'Connor, and wanted to take her out for a spin. We fished with conventional tackle and I caught a couple of nice reds on a gold spoon and he caught a trout and real nice redbfish on a motor oil shrimp tail lure. Any chance to spend quality time with my father on the water that I grew up fishing is never passed up.

Kathi and Gary joined us for a couple nights of the outing and they kayak fished Seadrift with Brandon and Nils. The wedding of a good fishing buddy of mine taking place in San Antonio that Sunday evening meant I had to head back to Austin early but I heard that Dave and Doug took his Panga out for another trip and

View from Shawn's kayak





## Port O'Connor outing cont.

even dropped Brandon and Nils off to wade the shoreline of Pringle Lake and that they did quite well. What a terrific outing we had. The fishing was good, the food even better but the camaraderie built on the trip was the best part of all and what I always look forward to most when hanging out with like-minded anglers who love to swap fish stories over drinks into the wee hours of the night and pick up again over coffee at first light.



Dave with trout



Brandon and Gary study map while kayaking



Port O'Connor outing cont.



Shawn's Dad with redfish



Tailing redfish in Barroom Bay



Dave, Doug, and Panga



# July Presentation by Pat Vanek –Fly Fishing the Brazos River



GUIDED FLY FISHING TRIPS ON THE RIVERS OF CENTRAL TEXAS  
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**Pat Vanek**

TPWD Licensed Guide

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## Fly Fishing the Brazos River

The Brazos River below Lake Whitney, from the dam to Waco, offers miles and miles of amazing fishing for many different species, but the largemouth bass fishery is really special. The Brazos routinely shows off largemouth of 5 pounds or better.....and bigger are there!

In this presentation, I hope to share with you my passion for fly fishing this river, not just for largemouth, but for any species that will eat a fly. The Brazos is home largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass, as well as the "true" bass species, strippers and white bass. There are also plenty of sunfish, drum, catfish, and carp to cast a fly to.

We will cover access on the river, tips and techniques to target bass, what water to fish, and what water to ignore, gear and fly patterns, and the different stretches of the river I guide on. This information can be applied to other rivers and creeks across Texas to help you find and catch bass on the fly.

## My Bio

I started fly fishing at around age 10 or 11 with a Martin glass rod and model 62 reel from an S&H Green Stamps store. I caught my first fish on the fly, a big red breast sunfish, on Turtle Creek in Ker-ville, on that rig. I still have it today.

I have been fly fishing the Brazos river tailwater below Lake Whitney, as well as other central Texas and Hill Country rivers for over 20 years. Over those years, I've learned, mostly the hard way by spending countless hours on the water, how to successfully find and catch the bass, sunfish, and other species. In addition to largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass, there are carp, channel cats, drum, and some really big red-breast sunfish in the Brazos. I will throw a fly at all of them.

Currently when not guiding, fishing, hunting, or tying flies, (or unfortunately

at my "regular" work) I am at home near Crawford with my wife and 13 year old triplets. I am also active in our local fly club, The Waco Fly Fishing Club, having served as the club's past treasurer and president for 3 years.

I really enjoy sharing my knowledge of fly fishing and tying with others, and teaching this great sport both on the water and off. I enjoy giving fly fishing presentations to clubs around the state and helping out with fly club or other local fly fishing and tying classes.

I currently own and operate my guide service, Bosque Valley Fly Fishing, guiding fly fishers on the rivers of central Texas and tying custom fly orders .

I hope you enjoy the presentation and maybe learn a tip or two to help you be more successful on the water. It really is an honor to get to speak to your club!

## SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

I've mentioned previously that the vast majority of the SKIFF trips we conduct take place during the summer break from school in the months of June through August. In June I welcomed kids from three different U.S. Army families based at Fort Hood aboard. Thanks to the Austin Fly Fishers and other friends of the SKIFF program they have developed, we're able to say "Yes" to each request that comes in.

**DUGGER FAMILY:** On Thursday, June 13th, the two oldest sons of Captain and Mrs. Zach Dugger came aboard for a morning spent in pursuit of white bass and sunfish on Stillhouse Hollow. This was the third SKIFF trip of the 2019 season.

CPT Dugger is a West Point graduate who commissioned as an Army aviator. He went on to certify in fixed-wing aircraft. CPT Dugger recently deployed to Southwest Asia. He and his family will next head to Bozeman, Montana where he will attend Montana State University to obtain his Master's Degree, then move back to West Point, NY, where he will instruct cadets.

Caleb, age 3, and Zane, age 5 were surprisingly alert at our 6:20am start time. I try to start as early as parents are willing to arrive so as to get in our fishing before the summer heat really kicks in by late morning.

With kids this young, I knew we'd have to shoot for instant gratification and build in multiple transitions to keep their interest up.

Neither young man had ever landed a fish before, to "Job 1" was to get each boy to land a fish. We accomplished that within minutes of their arrival by using fiberglass bream poles and balsa floats to target bluegill feeding on hatching insects in the pre-dawn light near shore.



Cobian-Avalos family

These fish earned the boys a TPWD "First Fish Award". When all was said and done, Caleb and Zane had landed 30 fish.

**COBIAN FAMILY:** On Saturday, June 22nd, I conducted the 4th SKIFF program trip of the 2019 season. Maria Cobian and her three children, 12-year-old Analie, 7-year-old Alexavier, and 5-year-old Camila all rose at 5:30a to meet me at Stillhouse Hollow. The children's father, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Luis Avalos is currently assigned to Fort Bragg, NC, where he serves in a civil affairs role. SSG Avalos has served for 15 years. Mrs. Cobian serves as a contracted dental technician at a dental clinic on Fort Hood.

The kids landed a total of 93 fish, including white bass caught by downrigging and sunfish caught on bream poles up in shallow cover. Camila earned her "First Fish Award" with a 10.25" white bass.

**BOYD FAMILY:** On Saturday, June 29th, I welcomed aboard Mrs. Chelsea Boyd and her two children, Christopher Boyd, age 9, and Seren-

ity Boyd, age 7, for the season's fifth SKIFF trip. The children's father, U.S. Army Sergeant Jordon Boyd, is a mechanic with eight years of service. As with many of the support roles in the military such as maintenance, food service, communications, etc., personnel in such roles tend to begin training exercises earlier than the majority of personnel they are providing support for, and then stay out in field training environments longer, all so that the services they provide may be provided from start to finish of such exercises. SGT Boyd has been routinely away from his family due to such duty commitments while the kids have been on their summer break from school.

Thanks to manageable winds and some sun-filtering cloud cover, the kids were able to put exactly 100 fish in the boat before Serenity was ready to throw in the towel as the sun's heat could be felt in the midst of our fourth hour on the water.

We used a combination of downrigging, vertical jigging, and slipfloating to catch these fish.



## **AFF Outings** by David Bush

### **September 22-28, South Padre Island**

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in September. 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](mailto:npearson@austin.rr.com). Details for gatherings, group fishing, and guide fishing opportunities will be shared with participants as the outing approaches.

### **October 18-20, 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 <https://www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/about-oktoberfisch>. Stay tuned for details of the club's plans for participation.

## **Club Sponsors**

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2019. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

**Marcus Rodriquez** – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Central Texas Guide

**Capt. Billy Trimble** – <http://trimbleflyfishing.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport/Texas Coastal Bend

**Chris Johnson** – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Living Waters Fly Shop and Central Texas Guide

**Pat Dorsey** – <http://www.bluequillangler.com/> Fly Fishing Colorado

**Capt. Scott Hamilton** – <http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/> Fly Fishing Florida's Atlantic Coast

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

**Kevin Stubbs** – <http://www.expedition-outfitters.net/> Fly Fishing the Devils River

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

**Capt. Steve Soulé** – <http://www.theshallowist.com/index.asp> Fly Fishing Galveston

**Jeff Davis** – <http://allwaterguides.com/jeff-davis/> Fly Fishig the lower Colorado River

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

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

**Nick Streit** – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

**Capt. Randy and Truette Cawfield** – <http://www.lagunamadre.net/styled-33/index.html>

Lower Laguna Madre

**Pat Vanek** – [BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com](mailto:BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com) Rivers of Central TX



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**Captain Eric Glass**

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**Capt. Scott Hamilton**  
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# Capt. Fred Lynch

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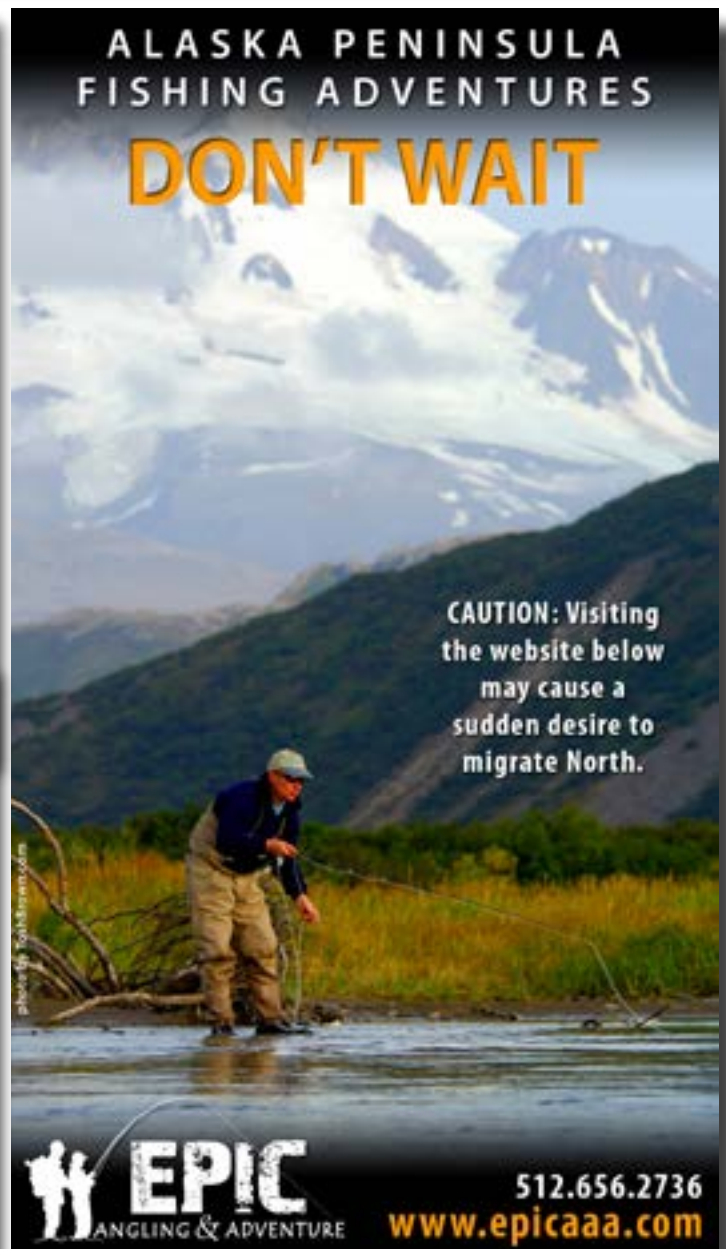
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