



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

June 2019
Volume 21, Issue 6



Club Meeting
Thursday, June 20
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 pm Fly Tying and Social Hour
6:00 pm Casting Practice
7:00 pm Capts Randy and Truett Cawfield
Fly Fishing the Lower Laguna Madre

Jack Lehman's grandson
Elliot with his first fish



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message **Shawn Riggs**

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SKIFF

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To contact officers:

Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

Well the temperatures are clearly rising and I can think of no better way to combat it then heading to your favorite local fishing spot to wade in the cool waters as you try to land another fish. For those new to the sport or to the Austin area that might not have a preferred honey hole picked out quite yet you can't go wrong with some of the local Texas State Parks around the Hill Country and the fishing opportunities that they offer to anglers.

McKinney Falls State Park is located within Austin city limits and has beautiful Onion Creek running through where you can cast at sunfish, crappie, and several species of bass. This park has tons of shade near the water and you can spend hours kayaking or wading this Austin gem.

Buescher State Park is just a small drive from Austin near Smithville and has a 30-acre lake to try your luck. This is where I recently camped with my kids over Spring Break and is a great place to target sunfish and largemouth bass. Most of the shoreline isn't very friendly to false casting but there are some spots near the boat ramp and damn with ample space to cast.

Pedernales Falls State Park is only about a 30-minute drive west of Austin and has the gorgeous Pedernales River running through its boundaries. You can target bass, sunfish and even try your hand at landing a carp in its tranquil waters.

The club has done several outings over the years at Colorado Bend State Park. This park is about two hours northwest of Austin so it is a bit of a drive but when the white bass run is in full swing this park is hard to beat. Once the annual spawning is on then you will find the Colorado River teeming with aggressive bass but be warned it can also be teeming with anxious anglers lining the banks and shallows to enjoy one of the best spawning white bass spots in the state.

Other reasonably close parks where fishing is possible include Palmetto State Park with the San Marcos River found inside, Guadalupe River State Park, Blanco State Park and Inks

Lake State Park on the banks of Inks Lake formed from the dammed Colorado River.

Don't forget that a fishing license is not required if you are fishing within the boundaries of a state park in Texas. I assume that most of our club members have a fishing license but this provides a good opportunity to take a spouse or non-angling friend to try their hand at mending a line or roll casting without being out any funds on a license and you may even find yourself a new fishing buddy after the experience. Buy a Texas State Parks Pass and you get unlimited entry into all state parks for an entire year. All of the parks I've mentioned also have abundant trails for hiking and opportunities for birding. There are often good trails for biking, places for swimming and geocaching has really gotten big at the state parks too. There are always good spots to picnic and bathrooms available nearby. Go for the fishing but stay and enjoy all that these Texas escapes have to offer.

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

4/1/2019 to 4/30/2019

Begin Bal. Checking \$17,059.04

Income:

Dues \$30.00

Merchandise \$25.00

Total Income \$55.00

Disbursements:

Speaker \$150.00

Total Disbursements \$150.00

Net (\$95.00)

Unencumbered: \$8,483.69

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery \$1,047.52

SKIFF \$7,377.83

Ending Bal-Checking \$16,964.04

November Vote on Amendment to State Constitution to Ensure that Sporting Goods Taxes go to State Parks

by Shawn Riggs

I wanted to bring up a topic that is very important to me and it should be important to every Texan who enjoys the outdoors in our great state. As many of you know I previously worked for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as a Revenue Manager and part of my team's job was accounting for Texas State Park entrance and camping fees. These activities bring in necessary dollars to help sustain the infrastructure and personnel at over 90 beautiful state parks across our state. These revenue streams are decent but I can assure you that they don't even begin to address the financial needs of all the parks especially those that have been around awhile and need desperate repairs and upgrades to bring them up to a respectable level.

In 1993 Texas lawmakers passed House Bill 706 that created the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. This was not a new tax but allowed the state to carve out a portion of the existing 6.25% state sales tax to fund state parks and state historic sites. This legislation allowed up to 94% of the sales tax on sporting goods to go to state parks with the remaining 6% designated to support historic sites across Texas. In theory

it meant every time a Texan purchased anything from a new fishing rod or shotgun to a new bicycle or set of golf clubs that the sporting good sales tax portion charged would go to help support parks and historic sites throughout the state. This was a great accomplishment and the intent was for the funding to be dedicated to these parks and historic sites but unfortunately it was also subject to the discretion of the legislators.

However, throughout the years that followed an average of only 40% of the tax instead of the allowed 94% was actually allocated to Texas State Parks. The elected lawmakers used the rest of the collected funds to help them balance the state budget. Well recently State Senator Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham and State Representative John Cyrier, R-Lockhart collaborated on Senate Bill 6 and Senate Joint Resolution 24 which will assist state agencies such as the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission plan for long term projects, much needed repairs and even new designated state parks and historic sites. Their legislation aims to amend the Texas Constitution to ensure that the state parks division and historical commission will

always receive the entirety of the collected sporting goods tax. The joint resolutions passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor so now the proposed amendment will be placed on the ballot in the general election in November for voters to decide and only requires a simple majority to pass.

This is a momentous opportunity for outdoorsmen and women to make their voices heard and ensure that all the funds collected from this sporting goods tax actually goes towards supporting state parks and historic sites like they were intended. Full funding will ensure that deferred maintenance needs are addressed and aging facilities are upgraded for the millions of visitors who frequent these places every year. This will ensure that they remain open and relevant for generations to come. Please consider voting yes in support of the Texas Sales Tax on Sporting Goods Dedicated to Parks, Wildlife and Historical Agencies Amendment when it hits the ballot this fall and help keep these local fishing spots and all around Texas treasures funded well into the future.



Kathi Harris hooks up carp at 2019 PerchMaster Tournament

June Presentation –Kingfisher Inn and Guide Service Arroyo City



Capt. Randy Cawfield

A native of Brownsville, TX, Capt. Randy Cawfield grew up fishing and duck hunting the Lower Laguna Madre. At the age of 18 he left South Texas to pursue college and seminary degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as a pastor in several churches in Texas and New Mexico all the while chasing trout with a fly rod all over the west. After years of feeling the urge to move home to the Valley, Randy and Lydia, his high school sweetheart and wife of 28 years, finally returned home with their five children. In 2007 Capt. Randy took over ownership of Kingfisher Inn and Guide Services in Arroyo City, TX. One of Capt. Randy's greatest pleasures is seeing new clients and novice fly fishers catch their first redfish on a fly rod. In addition to guiding fly fishers Capt. Randy loves serving his community as the lead pastor of River Church Brownsville. Randy and his son Truett are now working together as Kingfisher Fly Fishing Company.

Capt. Truett Cawfield

Capt. Truett Cawfield began seriously fly fishing at the age of 10. He was raised in the outdoors hunting and fishing in Texas and New Mexico from the time he could walk. Catching trout in high mountain streams and shooting ducks on the Lower Laguna Madre were all part of growing up. These experiences inspired Truett to study Natural Resources and wildlife biology at Texas Tech University where he also worked as a technician studying bobwhite quail across West Texas. This gave him an intimate knowledge of the ecological relationships between organisms he had grown up observing in the outdoors. Educational and scientific experience compounded on his practical knowledge of both the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of South Texas. Today he guides anglers armed with more than a decade of year round fly fishing experience on the Lower Laguna as well as a formal education in environmental sciences. In addition to guiding, Truett is currently doing master's degree research on Lower Laguna Madre Snook funded by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant.

Yellowstone Trip by Juan Shepperd

Last Fall, I asked a friend if he wanted to join me on a trip to [Yellowstone National Park](#) to fly fish some of the area waters. I used to work in Yellowstone in 1995. It's an amazing place. Twenty years later – I took my wife and kids and in 2015. They loved it. My wife proclaims now it is her favorite place on the planet. Being a fly fisherman, it's my favorite place too. It is vast and wild and there are so many places to fish, it's similar to Texas Hill Country in the sense you can't fish it all on one trip. Not in few days or weeks, even. You'll need months. If not years. For this fly fishing trip, my friend and I focused on waters that offered guided boat fishing trips. Namely, the Salt, Snake and Madison Rivers.

My friend had never fly fished. He lives on the Texas Coast and loves fishing, so I knew he was in for a treat. We overnighted near Alpine, WY, after flying into Salt Lake City. The next morning, we met our guide on the nearby Salt River. I had never heard of it and suggested it because I thought it'd be a nice first day. It's an hour South of Grand Teton National Park, and it's beautiful. The Salt River is an intimate, gentle, smooth rolling river. There are hardly any trees. Lots of brushy banks. Tons of wildlife. With lots of hungry Cutthroat and Brown Trout.

After a full day of fishing, we drove North to Jackson Hole and spent the night before fishing the Snake River the next day. Simply put, the Snake is a monster. It's headwaters begin in Yellowstone National Park. It flows South and absorbs the Salt, then west and takes on



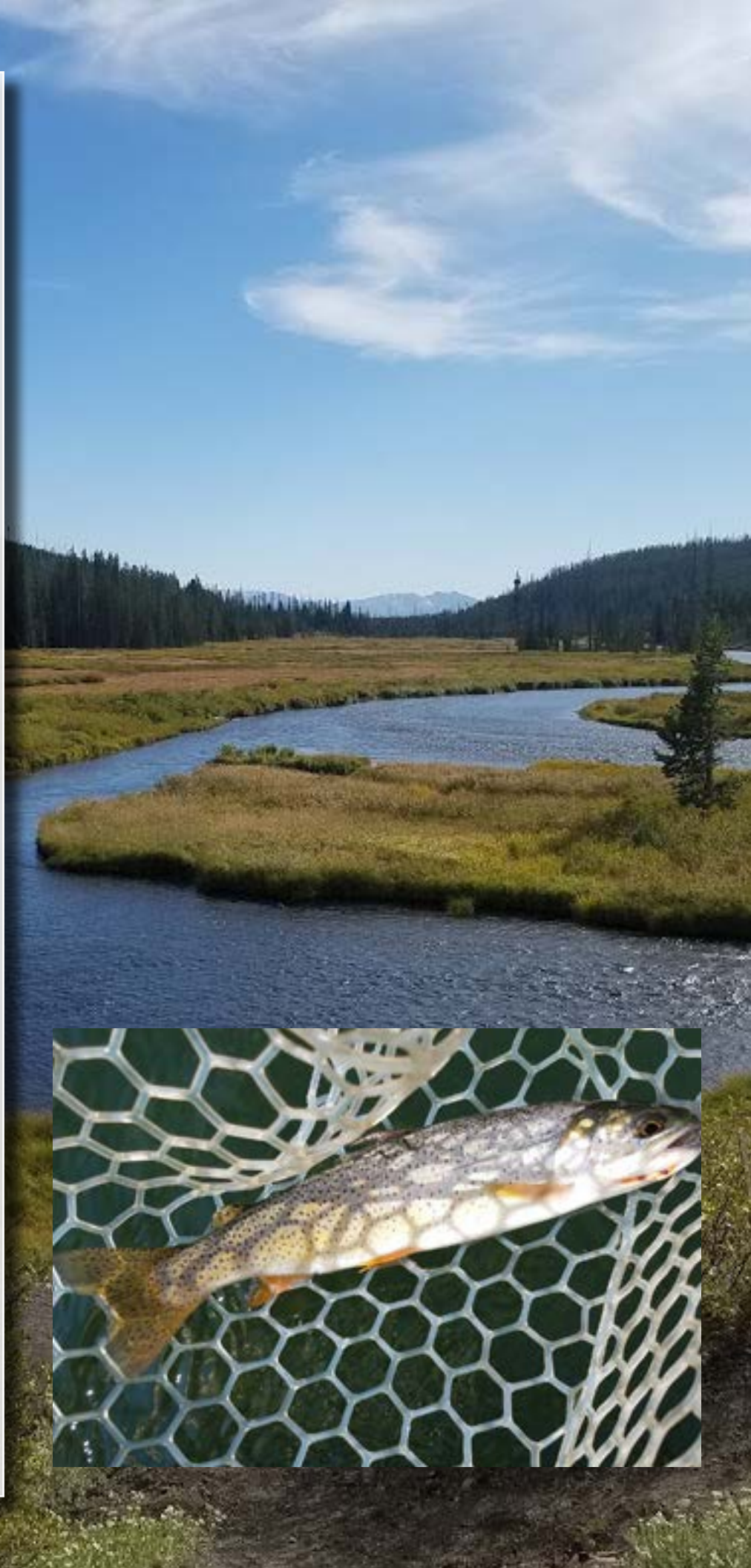
Yellowstone cont.

Henry's Fork, enters Hell's Canyon and is joined by the Salmon River, before it joins the Columbia River, and flows out to the Pacific. We put in just south of Jackson Hole. Below Jackson Lake, the river drops 15 feet per mile creating strong, powerful, rushing water. Fortunately, the fishing is outstanding but you need a guide or a boat. We caught a lot of fish. Saw a lot of boats. Moved fast the whole time. It was a workout and, when done, I needed a beer.

The next day, we took a break from fishing and did some sightseeing. In Grand Teton National Park, we saw elk, ducks, geese and moose. The next day, we went to Yellowstone and saw a lot more wildlife. One hour after entering Yellowstone, we heard about bears munching on a bison and went to go see. About 15 minutes from the Lake Hotel, on the other side of the Yellowstone River – a safe distance for me and all tourists – was a meal ticket for any predator who wanted it: Dead Bison. I am not sure how it died. Regardless, my friend and I went back 2 times during our stay and saw 3 bears. The fishing is spectacular in Yellowstone and on the Yellowstone River, that some few fly fisherman kept on right on fishing paying no attention to the bears.

The Yellowstone River is the crown jewel in a Park loaded with blue ribbon trout water. If you want to fish spectacular water, I encourage you fly fish in Yellowstone National Park. There's something for everybody. Five different kinds of trout: Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Lake Trout and Rainbow, as well as Grayling and Whitefish. There are lakes, rivers and many streams and creeks. It's incredible there is this much trophy water in one place. Hallowed names: Yellowstone, Madison, Gibbon, Gallatin, Gardner, and Firehole Rivers. While there are a lot of tourists, most of them are in cars. Get off the road, and you avoid the crowds. Many of these rivers are right off the road. Plus, there's wildlife everywhere. I could fish the Park the rest of my life.

After 2 days of sightseeing Yellowstone, we fished the Madison River – which is formed when the Firehole and Gibbon rivers join inside the Park – before it leaves Yellowstone. The Madison River is a beautiful river loaded with fish. It's similar to the Snake. It starts



Yellowstone cont.

inside the Park, then flows west, where it joins other water. It's not as fast or wide as the Snake. It is perfectly paced water, in a way. We saw and caught a lot of fish.

"Where does this River end?" I asked my guide. "New Orleans."

I gave him a look, knowing we were headed west.

"Yeah, Gulf of Mexico," he added.

I didn't believe him, so I looked it up.

Sure enough, he's right. The Madison joins the Gallatin and Jefferson where it forms Missouri River in Three Forks, MT. The Missouri then flows east and southeast, through the Midwest for 2,000+ miles before joining the Mississippi River above St. Louis, Missouri and then finally rolling down to New Orleans. That's another great thing about Yellowstone - since it straddles the Continental Divide, water flows both east and west. Some of it flows out to the Pacific, and some of it flows down to the Gulf of Mexico.

I don't know how many fish I caught. It doesn't matter, really. That trip reminded me to be grateful. I am fortunate to have visited and fished some of Yellowstone's waters. All of it catch and release, except Lake Trout. After fishing in the Park, I am thankful for freedom. I am thankful for nature. I am thankful to share nature with wildlife and experience it in such a raw setting. Yellowstone is a magical place. I know I'll return. Hopefully, someday, maybe some Austin Fly Fishers will join me.



AFF Casters Improve with Austin Orr by Scott Kerrigan

“Cast like you mean it.” That’s Austin Orr’s simple but effective approach to the art and science of fly casting. Austin is AFF’s very own Certified Casting Instructor (CCI). At our May board meeting, Austin proposed offering affordable casting lessons to AFF members and affiliates. The board overwhelmingly approved. An email was sent out to members to sign up for sessions on June 4th and 27th. I signed up for the first session, along with AFF VP David Gaines and Texas Women Fly Fishers’ President Dana Williams.

Austin designed these casting clinics for intermediate and advanced casters. His reasoning was very specific. “For the beginner fly caster, there are now more resources than at any point in history,” he said, “However, it seems like the more experience you have, the less chances there are for deliberate improvement.”*

Dana, David and I met Austin at Bailey Park near UT’s campus at 6PM. Austin had set up a series of casting stations with ropes, hula hoops, and plate-sized casting targets. Mother Nature added a bit of a challenge for the students, beginning with a small trickle, following with increased winds, and finishing with a downpour.

Distance and accuracy were challenged at each station. We practiced different presentations and alternated between roll and overhead casts to reach our targets. The most difficult station for me proved to be hitting a 6-inch target about 6-10 feet away. After some practice, I was able to hit them more consistently with delicate roll casts and wristy steeple casts. Dana, who said this station was “just like Brushy Creek,” excelled here. No wonder I’ve spooked a lot of fish on Brushy and similar water bodies.

Throughout the session, Austin asked us about our upcoming fishing trips and goals. I was headed to Florida to visit family in a few days, hunting for saltwater fish, particularly snook and juvenile tarpon. We also have several saltwater outings on the Texas coast planned as a club over the next few months. Maintaining accuracy while still achieving distance was a primary goal of mine. Austin’s curriculum helped me achieve those goals.

If you’re looking to advance your cast, I highly recommend taking Austin up on it. The next group session is Thursday, June 27th from 6-8PM at Bailey Park. The group rate is \$30 per person. You can also schedule individual lessons for \$75 for 2 hours. You can’t beat these prices in our area. Email Austin at elevateflycasting@gmail.com to schedule. You won’t regret it.

Austin’s lesson has already paid off for me. While I didn’t get as much fishing in on my Florida trip as I’d have liked, I did catch a snook from the beach on my first cast.

* This is not to say that as a club, we neglect beginners. Austin and others can regularly be found in the soccer field off the Northwest Rec Center parking lot from 6-7PM for casting practice and demos prior to our meetings each third Thursday.



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Topsy-turvy spring weather gives way to summer

The Killeen Independent School District, in which all school-aged kids on Fort Hood attending public school are enrolled, rang the final bell of the 2018-2019 school year on Friday, 31 May.

The week leading up to this event saw a sharp spike in requests for fishing trips as parents began to map our summer plans and submit vacation requests to employers.

Although summer fishing is not the most productive of the year, it is the most predictable due to the fairly stable weather we experience during typical Texas summers.

Downrigging to find and catch white bass suspended above the thermocline, and then working these concentrations of fish over with vertical tactics, in addition to pursuing shallow sunfish, will make up the lion's share of the fishing effort right on through the re-start of classes on Monday, August 26th.

The very wet, unstable weather of this past spring made this the single most difficult spring of the fourteen in which I've guided here in Texas. The water stayed cooler longer than usual, then flooding came, then came the extended period of high flows through the dams to drain off that flood water.

As I write this, Lake Belton is still over 3 feet high and Stillhouse Hollow is still over 5 feet high.

At least three SKIFF trips were postponed due to foul weather since my last report to you.

I'll hope to make those up, and then some, over the next 2 ½ months.

To that end, on Sunday, June 9th, I requested and was granted permission to set up a publicity booth immediately



Bob Maindelle publicizing the SKIFF program outside the Academy store in Killeen, TX, right outside the gates of Fort Hood. Each year the majority of the SKIFF trips conducted are conducted during the summer break from public school.

outside the doors to the Killeen Academy store. Manager Steve Knowlton, who thinks very highly of the SKIFF program, was instrumental in pushing my request through the bureaucracy quickly.

I was scheduled from 1-6pm, and during that time a steady flow of customers came and went. I added two SKIFF trips to our calendar as a direct result of the effort, including the Dugger family's trip on June 13th, and the Gibson family's trip on August 16th. I was also able to "network" with a number of other families who were not yet certain when their soldier/parent would be departing.

Mr. Knowlton was very open to having SKIFF return to Academy, and I made a number of observations and notes that will make the next effort even

more effective, such as requesting a pay-day weekend, and publicizing the sign-up via Facebook prior to the event.

Finally, Mrs. Denise Igo, a long-time supporter of SKIFF and sole administrator for the very highly subscribed to "Fort Hood Area Events" Facebook page (and whose own children were treated to a SKIFF trip many years ago) has once again agreed to "plug" SKIFF on her page, encouraging hometown parents to sign up during the summer months when family schedules are easier to manage.

This all lays the ground work to take advantage of the next 3 months before school, sports, dance, and other extracurricular activities once again make scheduling, especially for multi-child households, a tough row to hoe.



2019 PerchMasters Celebration

AFF Outings by David Bush

June 27-30, Seadrift, TX

Our club President, Shawn Riggs, has invited club members to join him at his family compound in Seadrift, Texas. It is about a three hour drive from Austin. The place is located only 20 minutes outside Port O'Connor. There are several places to launch boats or kayaks from in the area. There is a free boat ramp in Seadrift called Sanders Park at Swan Point with access to San Antonio Bay, Charlie's Bait Camp is a mile down the road from the neighborhood and the day fee to launch a boat or kayak there is \$8.00 and there is a free boat ramp in Port O'Connor at Froggie's Bait Dock, both of these ramps have access to Espiritu Santo Bay.

This area of the Gulf Coast has great saltwater fishing for redfish and speckled trout and even the occasional flounder. There are miles and miles of shoreline to target reds via kayak or wading and open bays within paddling distance to find schools of trout. There are also several back lakes for those with a boat to reach such as South Pass, Long, Pringle, Power, Contee and Twin Lakes. There is also Boggy Bayou and Powderhorn Lake to try your luck as well as a pier in Port O'Connor on King Fisher Beach that extends into Matagorda Bay. There are really countless options when looking for bodies of water to fish in this area.

The house has two bedrooms and there is a bunkhouse in the boat barn. In all there are around eleven beds, a couple of cots, a few couches and plenty of floor space. There is also room to park a travel trailer or RV but no hookups. If you are interested please e-mail shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com and he can give you exact directions to the place....

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. 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 Fishing 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



Captain Eric Glass

South Padre Island, Texas

<http://www.captainericglass.com>

Club Sponsors cont.

Capt. Billy Trimble
Shallow Water Flats Fishing
Texas Coastal Bend

<http://trimbleflyfishing.com/>
361-205-1266



Capt. Scott Hamilton
Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

<http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/>
blueh20fly@aol.com



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Nick Streit

New Mexico and Southern Colorado
<https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main>



Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

<http://www.flyfishcorpus.com/>
(361) 533-4227



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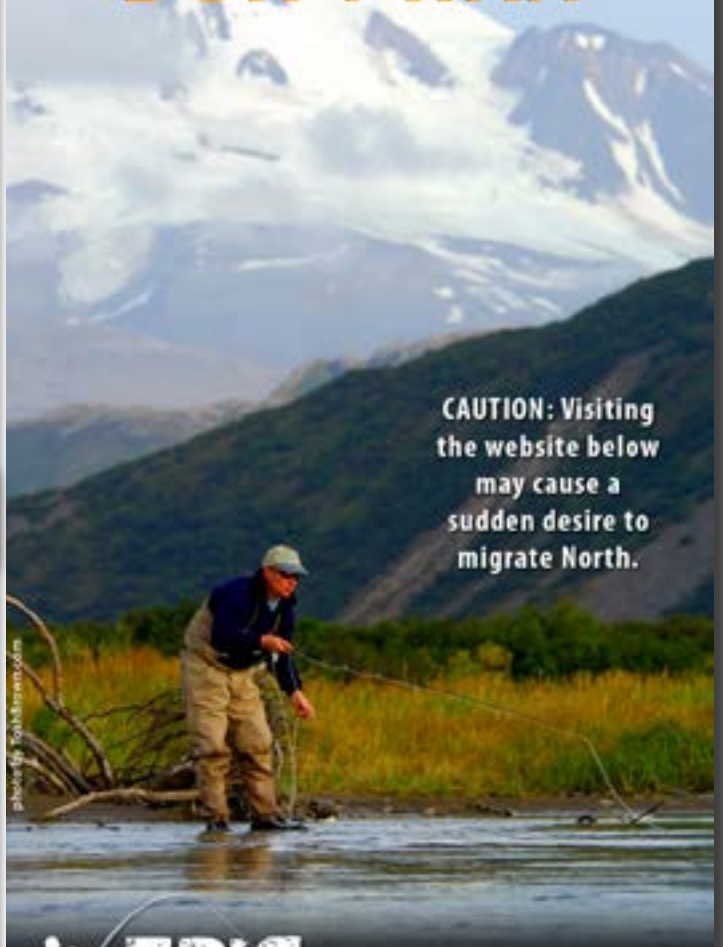


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