



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

May 2020
Volume 22, Issue 5



Jim Gray with carp



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by David Bush

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I hope everyone is managing to stay healthy while we continue to social distance. Unfortunately, it's starting to feel normal to don a mask in public and to break out the hand sanitizer as needed. A reliable vaccine can't get here soon enough as far as I'm concerned.

It could be many more months before we're able to safely resume our normal monthly meetings in-person, so we're planning to begin live online meetings starting in June. Scott has a great speaker lined up assuming we can get a solid broadcast platform in place which I'm confident we can do. So, stay tuned for the digital version of AFF meetings starting next month. In addition, we're considering other activities such as outings and casting instruction as long as we can maintain safe social distancing. Feel free to contact me if you have any other ideas for a safe fly fishing activity.

Of course, we're fortunate that the fish know nothing of this pandemic and continue to bite as usual. The warm weather has certainly gotten the sunfish moving and looking to bed, and the bass are hitting topwaters as expected so plan to get out before the heat of summer begins to take its toll. As difficult as this time is, at least we're all fortunate to have a hobby that we can enjoy while avoiding potential exposure.

If possible, please continue to support our terrific local fly fishing businesses who have supported us over the years. Sure, you might be able to save a few bucks buying gear from big online sellers, but they won't be there for you down the road when you need some personal help or just want to know where the fish are biting or what fly is working.

Until next month, be safe...

Dave

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

3/1/2020 to 3/31/2020

Begin Bal. Checking	\$18,512.82
Income:	
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements:	
P.O. Box	\$106.00
Total Disbursements	\$106.00
Net	(\$106.00)
Unencumbered:	\$10,541.47
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$2,365.52
SKIFF	\$5,505.83
Ending Bal-Checking	\$18,412.82

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

4/1/2020 to 4/30/2020

Begin Bal. Checking	\$18,412.82
Income:	
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements:	
Total Disbursements	\$00.00
Net	\$00.00
Unencumbered:	\$10,514.47
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$2,365.52
SKIFF	\$5,505.83
Ending Bal-Checking	\$18,412.82

Catching Carp during the Pandemic by Jim Gray



I've been practicing social distancing since the Covid-19 outbreak, but it hasn't stopped me from spending some quality alone time on our local rivers. I set a personal goal of 100 carp on fly in 2020, and I've been fishing Brushy Creek, the San Gabriel and the Llano as often as I can. I'm little of the pace, with 20 carp caught so far, but now that it's warming up, the carp are back to feeding in the shallows and I'm getting plenty of opportunities to cast to feeding fish.

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear Friends of SKIFF, as I reported to you last month, my business, like all non-essential businesses in Texas, was closed from March 24th through April 30th. This was a significant blow to Rebecca and me, as it happened in peak season for the Belton Lake hybrid striped bass fishery, which is my most heavily booked time of year.

As Gov. Abbott eased restrictions on May 1st, I resumed business and will run one or two trips per day every day except Sunday through the first week of June, at a minimum, to try to make up for the loss.

HAWBAKER FAMILY TRIP: Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak, I had the Hawbaker family on my SKIFF list, scheduled for Saturday, April 11th. The Hawbaker boys, Matthew (age 13) and Caleb (age 9) were separated from their dad, Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Hawbaker, as he was on a temporary duty (TDY) assignment away from Fort Hood in his capacity as an Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot of 19 years.

As soon as we had some clarity about resuming business, I scheduled the Hawbakers for Saturday morning, the 2nd of May.

Because Ryan's assignment had concluded by this time, he was able to join his sons on the water.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated. Because I continued to scout baitfish and gamefish locations on my own during the shutdown, I was able to keep up with the movement and locations of both, and was able to put the Hawbakers on fish from start to finish.

We fished 4 locations, all in deep, clear water, and found very willing white bass congregated in large schools at each. Using my white, ¾ oz. Hazy Eye Slabs with stinger hooks attached, we fished vertically while the boat was held still by the Spot-Lock feature on my trolling motor.



Using a technique I refer to as “smoking”, we got the fish excited and kept them that way for an extended period at each of the places at which we stopped.

We began our trip at 7AM, and by 10AM had amassed a catch of 88 fish. Based on what I saw on sonar, I felt we still had a shot at hitting 100 fish, even though by this time the morning bite was definitely waning.

At this point, I changed up a bit (primarily to offer Caleb a bit of variety), and introduced the fellows to downrigging. Our first pass over a group of white bass holding near bottom in 40 feet of water yielded a triple – one fish on each of the 3 lures on the 3-armed umbrella rig we were downrigging with.

We stopped atop these fish and worked them until we landed our 100th fish right at 10:30AM.

Ryan texted me following the trip saying, “Thank you again, Bob. The boys and I had a great time, they can't stop talking about it. This is a wonderful ministry”.

So, I, in turn, thank each of you for your support which provides the resources to make days like this on the water for our military families possible, and has done so for nearly 11 years now.

In the photo you can see from left, Ryan, Matthew, and Caleb Hawbaker with a sampling of their catch of 100 fish, which included 97 white bass and 3 freshwater drum.

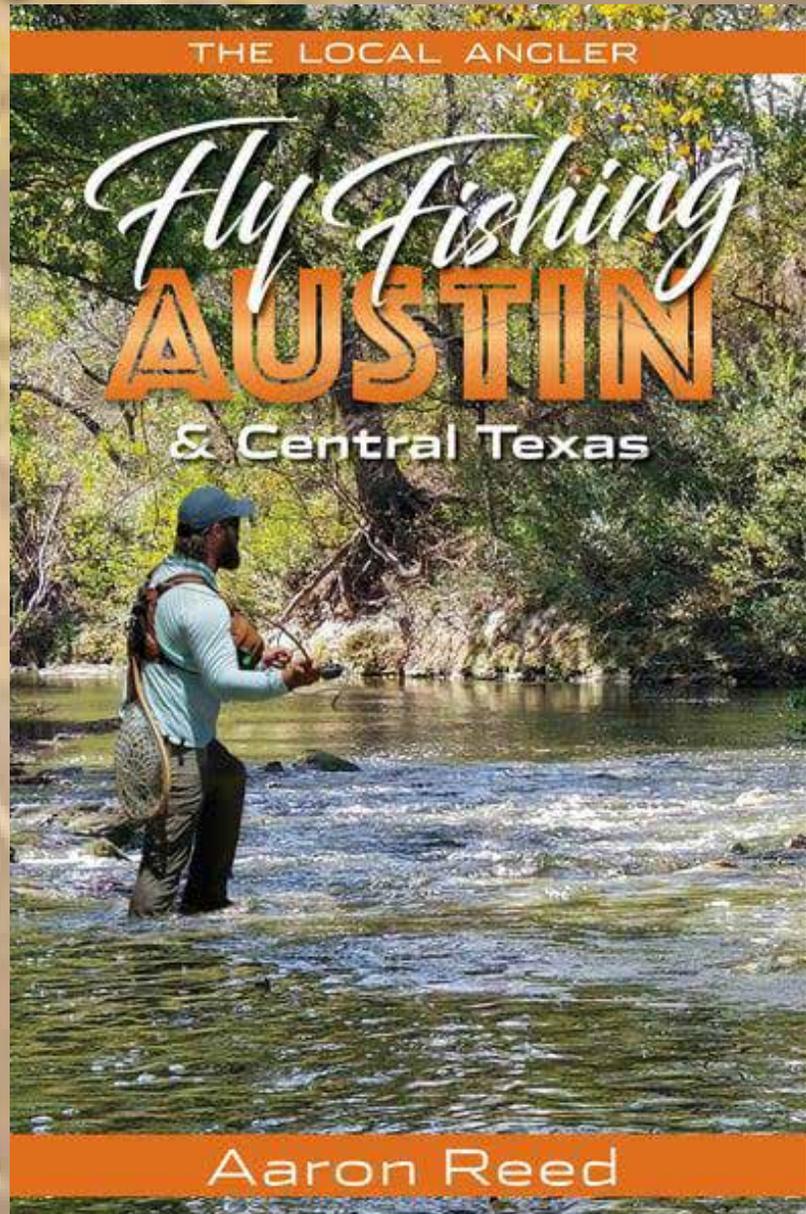
New Book by Scott Kerrigan

New Book: *Fly Fishing Austin and Central Texas* by Aaron Reed

If you haven't heard of this new guide book, you need to stop reading and get yourself a copy now. Full disclosure: the author and I are friends, but Aaron's gregarious nature permits him many, so my endorsement can be accepted without much bias.

As a guide book, this one is exceptional. Full-color photography. Detailed maps, coordinates, step-by-literal-step descriptions of pieces of water. A key guide detailing the types of access and fishing available.

But it goes beyond guide book in many ways. It educates new fly fishers and old alike on topics ranging from fishing with kids to Texas river law. It's filled with entertaining quotes and It even has a soundtrack, people. It can be purchased locally at Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock or ReelFly in New Braunfels. Also online through major booksellers like Amazon and Barnes and Noble. If I haven't convinced you...more fishing for me!



Online Event with Aaron Reed in June

Before COVID-19, we had Aaron scheduled to present to the club and sign books in June. But since we will not be hosting in-person events for the foreseeable future, we are working on putting together an online broadcast, possibly on Facebook, with Aaron for June. Stay tuned for more details.



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

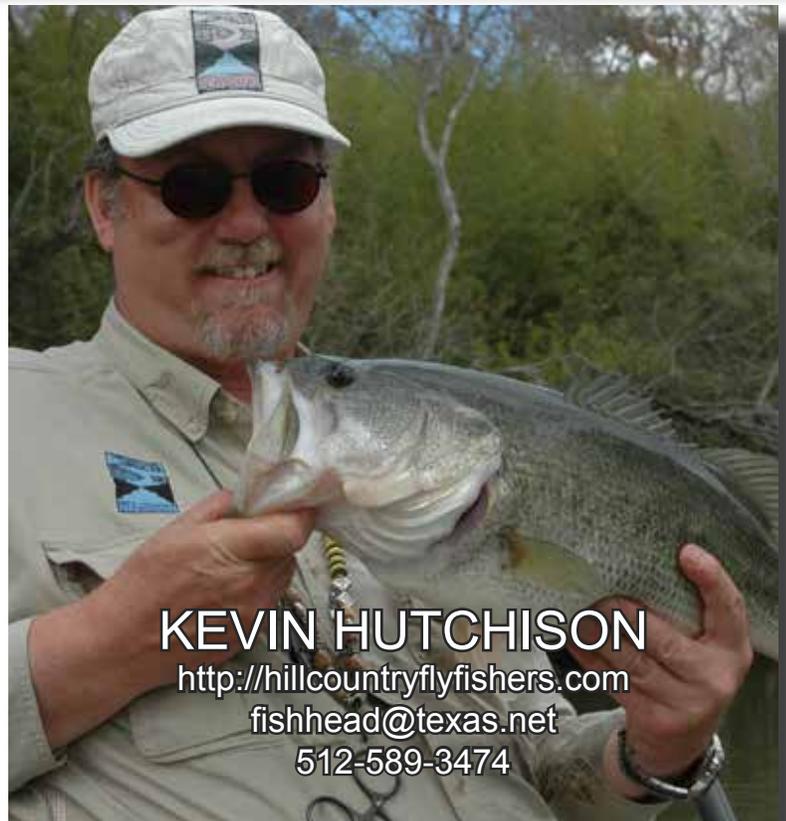
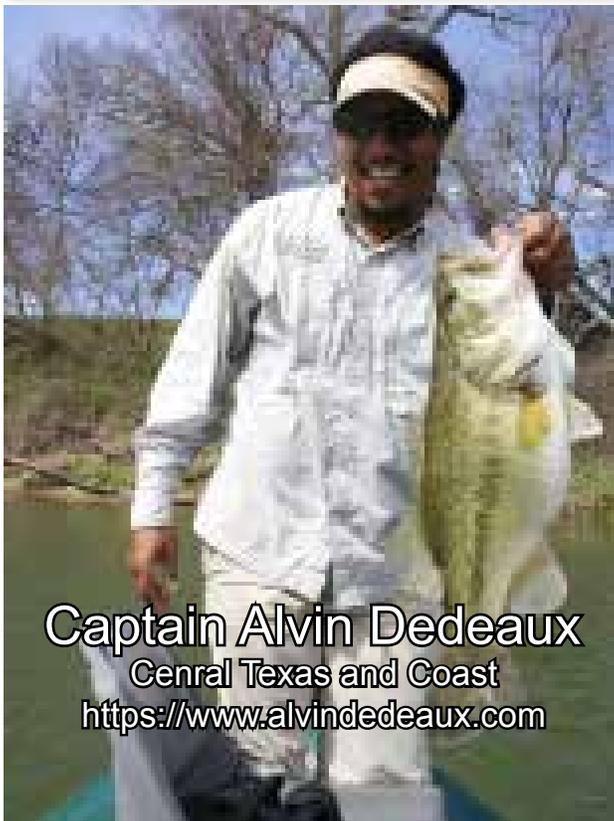
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

Lower Laguna Madre

Pat Vanek – BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com Rivers of Central TX

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Kevin Stubbs

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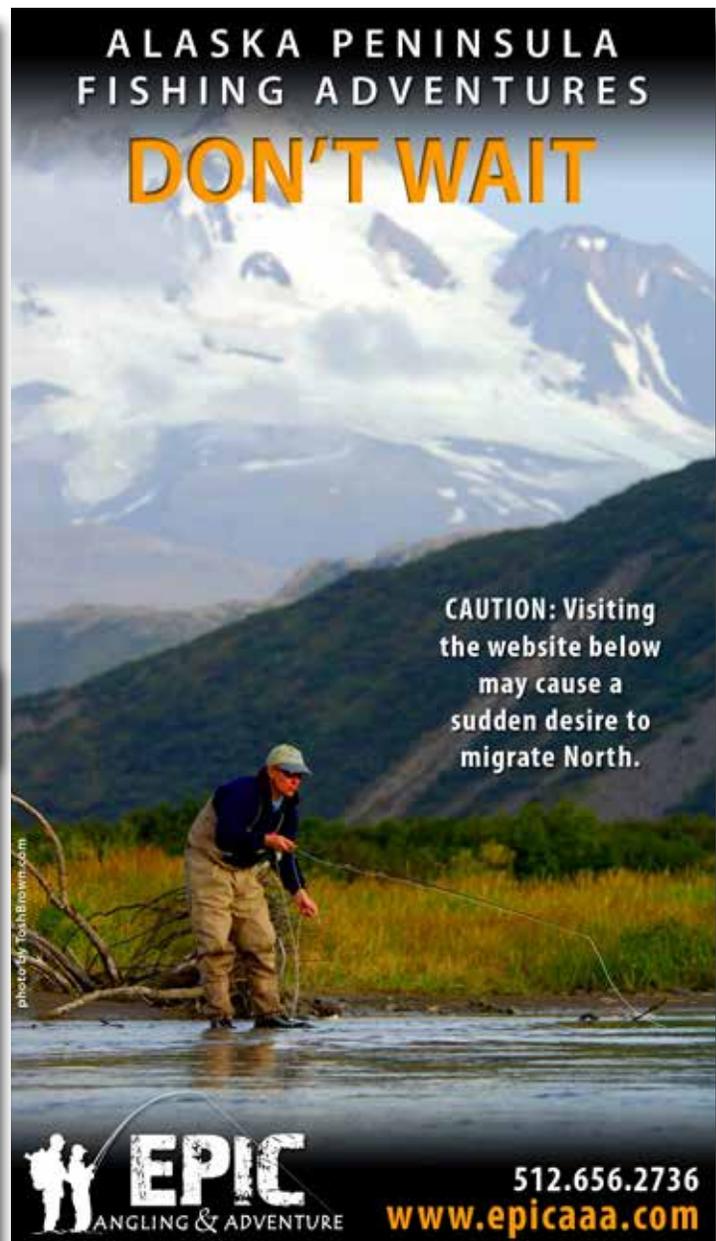
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