



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

June 2020
Volume 22, Issue 6



Jeff Hoelter on the Llano River



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INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by David Bush

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Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

Welcome to the future! Well, at least to the foreseeable future. As everyone knows, due to Covid-19, we are not able to hold our monthly meeting in person. Therefore, starting this Thursday which is our traditional meeting date, Austin Fly Fishers will be holding its monthly meeting live on Facebook. To participate, all you need to do is go to our Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/> at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 18, to view live. Alternatively, if you are a member of the Austin Fly Fishers Facebook Private Group, you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22082405715/> at the same time. The video of the meeting including our featured speaker will be available on our Facebook pages to view at a later time if you can't make the 7:00 start time. However, by participating live, you will be able to ask questions of the speakers using the Facebook comment feature. We will be going live at 6:45, so feel free to drop in a little early to make sure you're all set up to join in.

Scott has a great speaker lined up for this month who he will introduce elsewhere in this newsletter so do your best to join us on Facebook live if you can for the best interactive experience. In addition, we have more speakers already lined up for future meetings so be sure to watch for those announcements. These virtual meetings actually give us the opportunity to host great speakers whom we otherwise wouldn't have been able to schedule for a conventional meeting due to travel limitations. Therefore, if you know someone in the fly fishing world who falls into this category (great speaker, couldn't normally travel), please let Scott or me know, and we'll see what we can do to arrange for them to speak at an upcoming virtual meeting.

Speaking of Facebook, you may wonder why we have two Facebook websites. Originally, the public Page was created to share information about the club and later the Private Group was added to improve member interaction. Our Page is public and features posts from AFF administrators which anyone on Facebook can read and respond to. It provides a good landing spot for anyone

who might search Facebook for fly fishing around Austin. Our Private Group, which is linked to the Page, is a moderated site available to those who request and are granted admission. The intent of our Group is to encourage interaction since any group member can initiate a discussion or ask a question of the closed membership. Therefore, as you might expect, the Group is a more active site. If you are not a member of our Group, but would like to join, simply go to the Group link above and request to join by clicking the "+ Join Group" button. By the way, membership is not restricted to club members, but is open to anyone with an interest in fly fishing to expand the reach of the club. Currently our Group has 719 members with more joining every week so it's becoming fairly large and increasingly active.

In addition to expanding our Facebook presence, we are working to increase our Instagram visibility. Therefore, if you're an IG user, be sure to follow the club at <https://www.instagram.com/austinflyfishers/>.

Until next month, be safe...

Dave

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

5/1/2020 to 5/31/2020

Begin Bal. Checking \$18,412.82

Income:

Total Income \$00.00

Disbursements:

Scott Kerrigan (zoom) \$13.58

Total Disbursements \$13.58

Net (\$13.58)

Unencumbered: \$10,527.89

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery \$2,365.52

SKIFF \$5,505.83

Ending Bal-Checking \$18,399.24

June Speaker –Aaron Reed by Scott Kerrigan

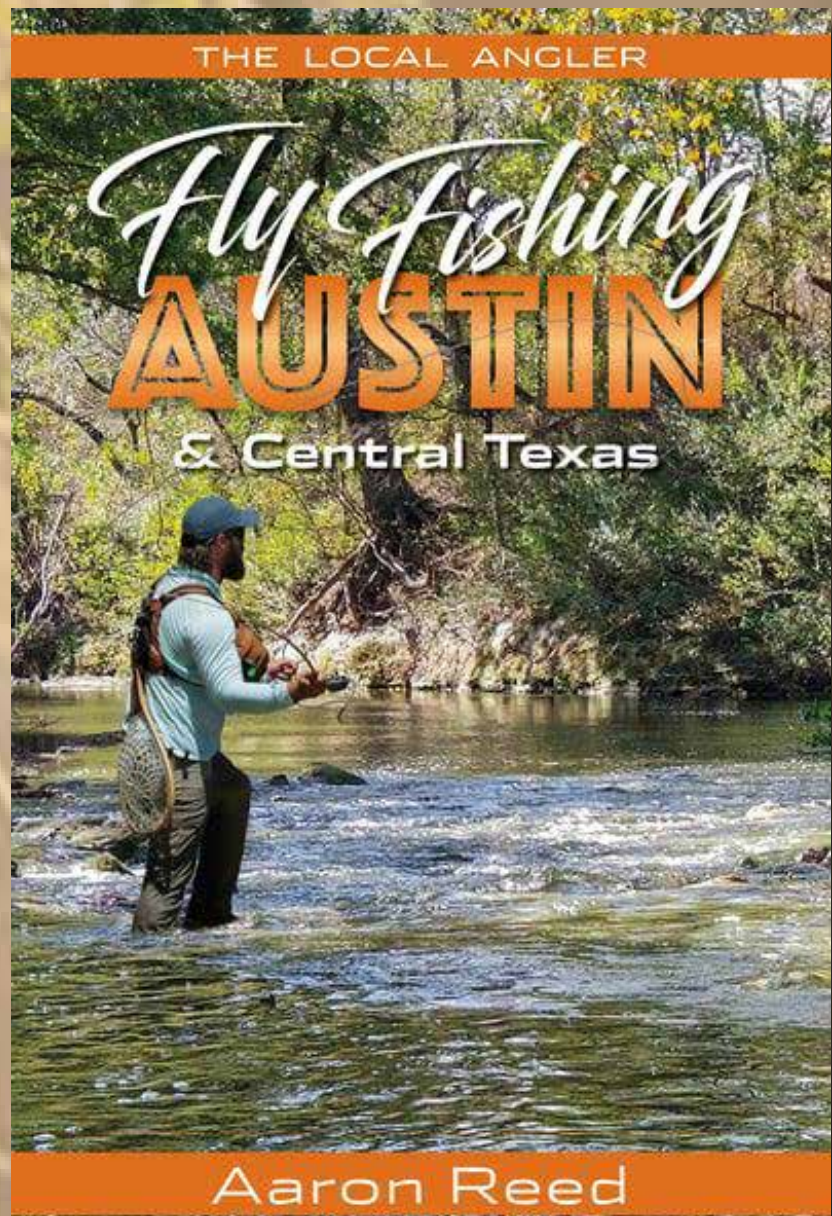
Online Event with Aaron Reed

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, Aaron Reed will be presenting “The Lampasas: The Last Unspoiled Central Texas Stream?” over the internet.

As Dave mentioned in his President’s Message, the Austin Fly Fishers will be holding its monthly meeting live on Facebook. To participate, all you need to do is go to our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/> at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 18, to view live. Alternatively, if you are a member of the Austin Fly Fishers Facebook Private Group, you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/22082405715/> at the same time.

Aaron’s new Book: *Fly Fishing Austin and Central Texas* describes some of the best spots for fly fishing central Texas. With Aaron Reed as your guide, you can enjoy dozens of wades and paddles, all within easy reach of Austin. Discover secluded spring creeks braced by soaring limestone cliffs. Wade in broad pools dotted with lily pads and stands of water willow. Fish in neighborhood ponds and float deep, slow rivers. Easy-to-follow narrative, detailed maps, and gorgeous color photographs make it easy to “Go fishing now!” even if you have only a few hours to spare.

There’s something for every angler in central Texas. Visit the nation’s southernmost trout fishery in the



Canyon Lake tailwaters. Find seven species in a single day, including the native Guadalupe bass and the Rio Grande cichlid. Fly Fishing Austin and Central Texas is your passport to the challenges and rewards of angling in this unique and beautiful region.

Aaron Reed is an award-winning outdoor writer and Army veteran. He currently splits his time between his native Texas Gulf coast, where

he drives a tugboat, and his home near the banks of the San Gabriel River in Georgetown, Texas. He is a founding member of the Texas Streams Coalition and has worked for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. When he is not working, chances are you can find him knee-deep in a stream somewhere around Austin, often with his wife and one or more of his three boys, trying like heck to become a better fly fisherman.

Fishing the Llano River by Nils Pearson



Jeff holding Guadalupe bass



While Jeff and I wade, Jim gets to deeper spots in a float tube

For the past couple of Sundays, Jim Gray and Jeff Hoelter have been showing me different sections of the Llano River to fish. We travel to the river before dawn and enjoy the cool morning air and avoid the crowds that can descend on some of this water later in the day. By noon, we are off the water when the swimmers and sunbathers often arrive and it is too hot to fish. I have to say that I have been very surprised about the beauty of this river. Fishing with a Llano popper, I have caught guads, perch, and catfish. However, for every fish I catch, Jim catches 10 and Jeff catches 5.

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.

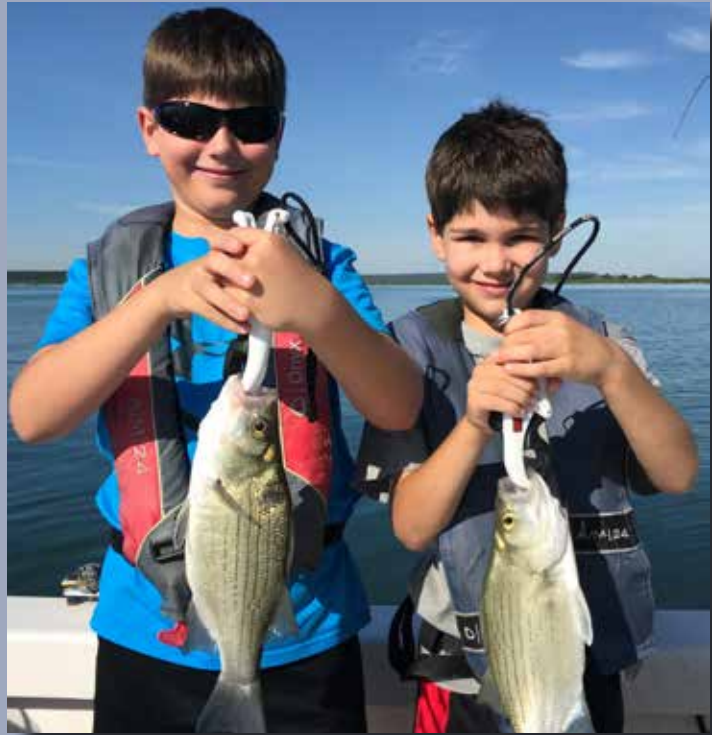
As Gov. Abbott eased restrictions on May 1st, I resumed business and will run one or two trips per day every day except Sunday through the first week of June, at a minimum, to try to make up for the loss.

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 Hawbakkers 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 Hawbakkers 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

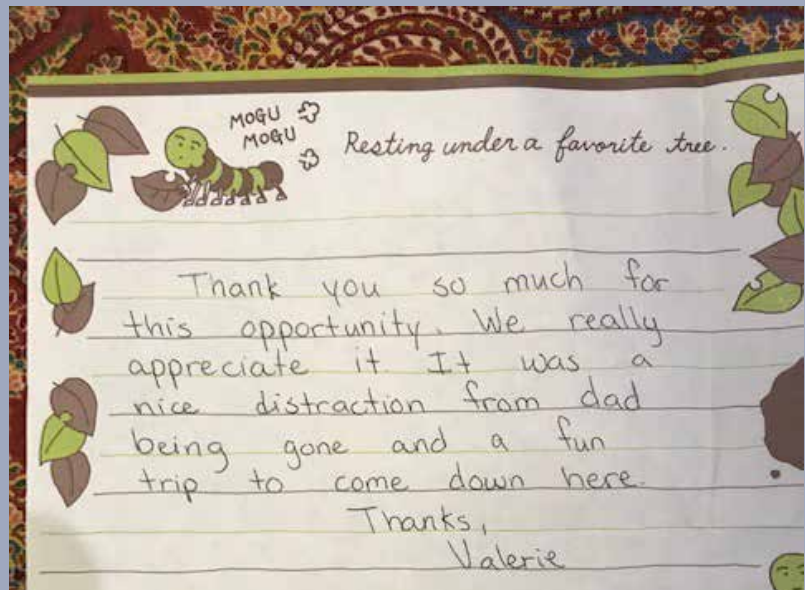


each of the places at which we stopped. We began our trip at 7AM, and by 10AM had amassed a catch of 88 fish. Based on what I saw on sonar, I felt we still had a shot at hitting 100 fish, even though by this time the morning bite was definitely waning.

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.



AFF Outings by Juan Shepperd



June 20, Colorado River, Roy Guerrero Park Athletics Field 8 am

Originally, before COVID19, I planned a multi-day float on the South Llano River for the June 2020 Outing. Since many people are still getting their feet wet, so to speak, after the easing of restrictions and still not traveling far from home, I've adapted and made the outing close-to-home just for you. The new Austin Fly Fishers (AFF) June Outing is just miles from downtown Austin on the Lower Colorado River (LoCo, for short) and allows you to float and fish and get out and wade too. As I communicated in an earlier newsletter, AFF Outings are the Saturday after our monthly meeting. This month's Outing is this Saturday, June 20, 2020.

Group will meet at 8 am and put in below Longhorn Dam. There is free parking at Roy Guerrero Park Athletics Field at 515 S Pleasant Valley Drive. The put in is easy, though you'll need to carry your kayak or canoe a ways down to the river. Better to pair up and help each other. Please bring Personal Flotation Device (PFD), plenty of water, cell phone, fishing license, anchor, rope and/or chain to secure your boat. There is good fishing for Stripers, Sunfish, Guadalupe Bass, Largemouth Bass, Carp and freshwater Drum.

There are several distance options too, depending on how long you'd like to fish, and how adventurous you'd like to be. Shortest route is fish and float near the Dam and paddle back to Guerrero Park. Middle distance offers you a chance to go past the Montopolis Bridge and fish some of the Colorado River's tributaries, like Boggy Creek and Walnut Creek. Great places to slow down, fish, and work the area. If you want to go farther, I suggest you contact Texas River School prior to this trip and arrange shuttle service, which would be a 6 mile float approximately. Or buddy up with someone with cars at the put in and take out points. Texas River School is just beyond another Travis County park called John Trevino Jr Metro Park at Morrison Ranch, 9501 FM 969 Rd, Austin, Texas. There may be parking available here, I do not know. I have driven past it only. I will try to have more information before our Club meeting on Thursday. If you miss that, remember it is a long float down to FM 973 crossing. If you get lost or separated, get your boat off the water, and call an uber. Take this river far enough, and you'll end up in the Gulf of Mexico.

June 22-24, South Llano State Park

Also, if anyone wants to join, I am planning on fishing the South Llano River on Monday 6/22 – Wednesday 6/24. I have a tent reservation at South Llano State Park. If camping is not your thing but you want to check out the fishing, there are a few motels in town. You may contact me through the Club website.





Oct 1-5 New Mexico: Land of Enchantment

I have organized a Northern New Mexico Trout fly fishing trip for Oct 1 - Oct 5, 2020. It is a 3-day, 4-night package with lodging, meals and 3-days of guided fishing with an Orvis endorsed fly fishing guide service. This is not an official Club outing. The trip is limited to 6 people in a 4-bedroom, 2-story cabin (7 people if someone wants to bring a spouse/significant other and share a queen bed). Each bedroom has a private bathroom. The cabin has a living room/common room, fireplace and deck. It is located on the Chama River, where you'll find good populations of large wild brown and rainbow trout. Other water we can fish include the Brazos, Los Pinos and San Juan Rivers. Early October is a great time to fish this part of the country. You will need to reserve a spot on this trip with a credit card.

Forgive me, I must state the obvious. It is important to you and me and anyone interested in this trip. I understand COVID19 has disrupted a lot of fishing plans. None of us know what the future holds. At this time, this lodge and outfitter are practicing safe, state of New Mexico mandated protocols. It is critical if you are interested in this trip, and are comfortable with the situation, you practice safe social distancing. Before, during and after the trip. Exercise good judgement. If you are feeling sick, do not go. Fishing and enjoying the outdoors should be relaxing and fun and safe. While it is not an official club outing, your actions and behavior reflect on the Austin Fly Fishers and impact - literally - the health and enjoyment of your fellow outdoors enthusiasts. Please keep everyone's health and safety in mind and act responsibly. Thank you.

Here's a high level itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive at the Cabin around 4:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon. Settle in. Dinner at the cabin.

Day 2: Guided fishing at one of the locations offered. Lunch on the river. Breakfast and dinner will be served at the cabin.

Day 3: Guided fishing at one of the locations offered. Lunch on the river. Breakfast and dinner will be served at the cabin.

Day 4: Guided fishing at one of the locations offered. Lunch on the river. Breakfast and dinner will be served at the cabin.

Day 5: Breakfast will be served at the cabin. Check-out by 11:00 am.

Guides provide all the flies, tippet and leaders. If you want to bring your own rod, 4 and 5-weight rods are best. If you don't have a fly rod, your guide will have one you can use at no extra cost. If you need waders, these too can be provided to you though you will need to communicate shoe size in advance. You are responsible for your own New Mexico fishing license (and Colorado fishing license, if you want to cross the state line and fish). Guide gratuity is extra. Alcohol is BYOB.

Price of this 3-day, 4-night package fly fishing trip with lodging, meals and 3-days of guided fishing (2 people per guide) is \$1,485.00. Again, you'll need a credit card to secure a spot. The trip is more than 3 months away. I hope this gives you enough time to ask for time off at work. Clear it with the better half or family at home. Budget and save money. If driving, Austin, TX to Chama, New Mexico is roughly a 13 hour drive. You may want to consider leaving Austin early and fish some of New Mexico's other beautiful rivers and streams. Maybe stop in Santa Fe the night before and enjoy dinner and a cold beer or margarita. That's up to you. Be at the cabin by 5:00 pm on October 1, 2020.

If you have more questions about this trip, please reach out to me.

Juan

(5-one-2-7-Five-1-Seven-7-ate-3, diezcaballos@gmail.com)

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 Rodriguez – <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

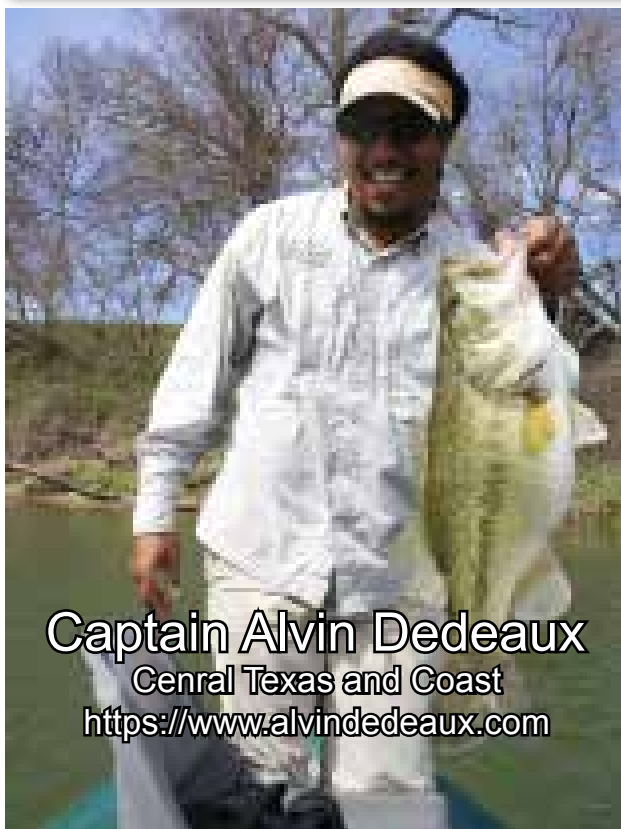
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

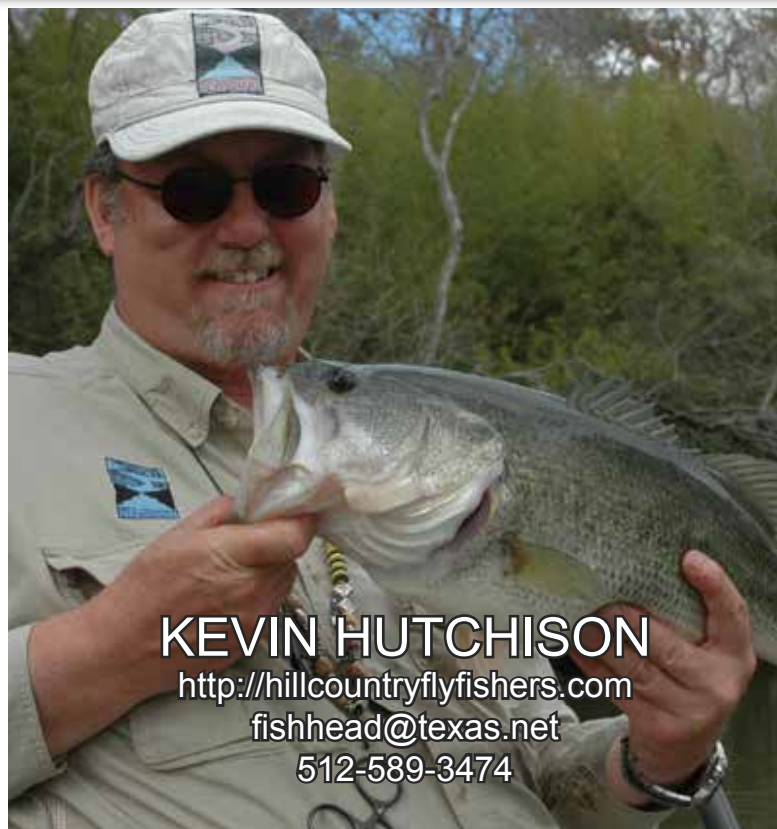
Lower Laguna Madre

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

Capt. Alvin Dedeaux – <https://www.alvindedeaux.com> Central Texas and Texas Coast



Captain Alvin Dedeaux
Central Texas and Coast
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KEVIN HUTCHISON
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Captain Eric Glass

South Padre Island, Texas
<http://www.captainericglass.com>

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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/>
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Nick Streit

New Mexico and Southern Colorado
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Capt. Fred Lynch

Fly Fish Corpus Christi

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



Kevin Stubbs

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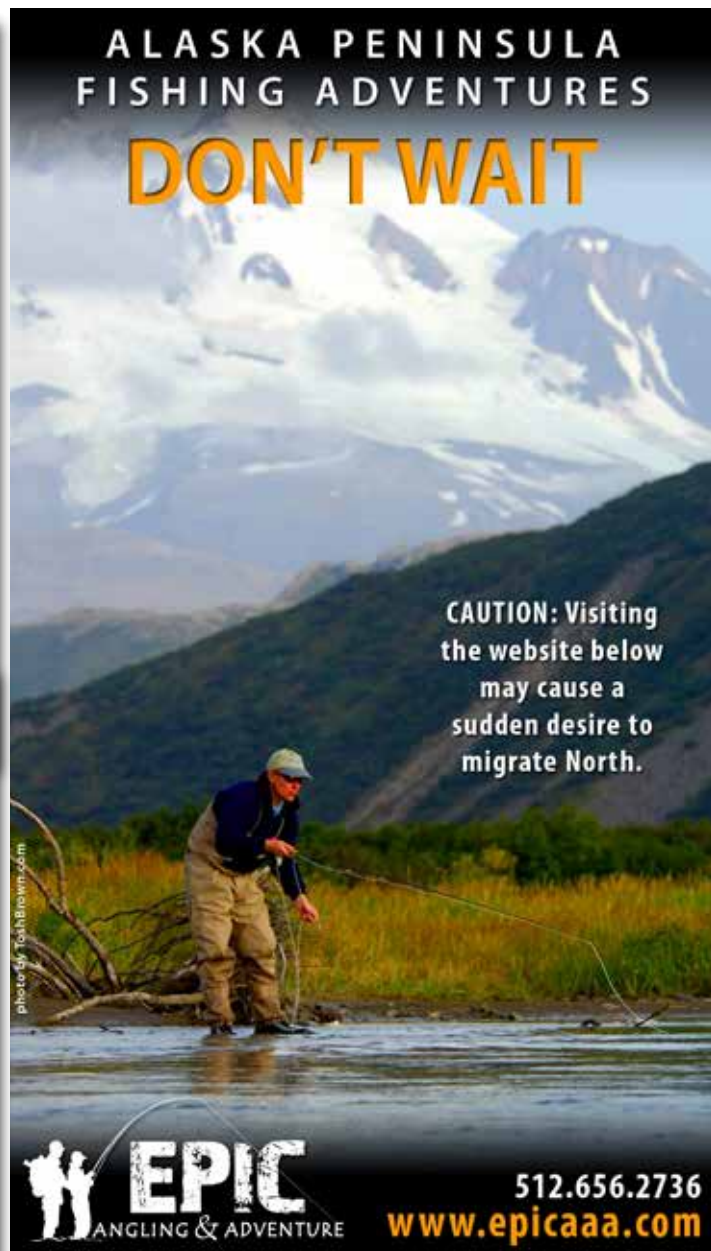
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