



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

December 2020  
Volume 22, Issue 12



**Casting for  
Recovery**



**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
Charter Club**

# President's Message by David Bush

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I suspect that 2020 will be remembered as an unusual and challenging year for all of us. The pandemic continues to disrupt life as usual and has everyone yearning for a return to normal. Prior to the need for social distancing, our club meetings were a highlight of each month for me. I miss visiting with old friends and meeting new visitors interested in learning more about fly fishing and our club. With last week's FDA approval of the first Covid-19 vaccine, it's good to see that there's light at the end of the tunnel, and we will hopefully be able to resume club meetings in the foreseeable future.

For many people, the holiday season is about giving. Due to the fallout from the pandemic, more people are in need this year than perhaps at any time in recent memory. The news is full of stories of employees losing their job, restaurant owners struggling to stay open, small businesses closing their doors, and many people stressed out and suffering from the whole ordeal. For anyone looking for ways to help, it can be overwhelming trying to decide where to contribute your time or resources. For starters, local food banks and shelters can always use money and supplies. Did you overstock your pantry early in the pandemic? If you did, now might be a good time to pare it down. Need a meal for the family? The neighborhood mom and pop restaurant can probably use your business more than the corporate place down the street. If you have the time, choose carry-out instead of delivery so the restaurant doesn't lose most of their profit to the delivery company. (Not that I have anything against delivery companies, but those DoorDash founders did okay for themselves with their IPO last week.) For holiday shopping, stop by locally owned stores instead of resorting to online shopping. Jeff Bezos won't miss your business, but the local stores will. Every Christmas season for many years I gift shop at a unique local store so I went by there today. Too late. Sadly, they folded.

At this month's meeting we'll be hearing from one of the organizations that we raise funds for each year, Casting for Recovery. CfR is a terrific non-profit that assists women with breast cancer, and Austin Fly Fishers is proud to be a long-time sponsor. I encourage everyone to attend the meeting online to learn more about CfR and their mission as well as how they can change lives. This year my interest is piqued more than usual because two women in my extended family have been battling breast cancer.

I'm eager to learn more that I can share with them and hopefully help their recovery. Perhaps you know someone who falls into that category, too.

Normally during our December holiday party, we hold auctions to raise money for Casting for Recovery. Since we aren't able to hold our party this year, we'll be holding an online raffle or two instead. I had hoped to have everything in place to start a raffle prior to this month's meeting, but a series of unexpected challenges is making that impossible. Nonetheless, we'll kick it off as soon as we can so watch for the announcement.

Once again, we will be broadcasting our monthly meeting live on Facebook which can also be viewed at a later time. To participate, go to our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/](http://www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/) at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 17, to join live. Alternatively, if you are a member of the Austin Fly Fishers Facebook Private Group, go to [www.facebook.com/groups/22082405715/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/22082405715/) at the same time. If possible, I encourage you to join the meeting in real time so you have the opportunity to ask questions of our speakers. We will be going live a bit before 7:00, so feel free to drop in a little early to make sure you're all set.

Whatever your faith traditions are or are not, and however you celebrate the holidays or do not, I wish you good health, prosperity and the love of family and friends. In my faith tradition we celebrate Christmas and wish those who celebrate the same a...

Merry Christmas!

Dave

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

11/1/2020 to 11/30/2020

<b>Begin Bal. Checking</b>	<b>\$17,929.35</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
McBride SKIFF	\$800.00
Total Income	\$800.00
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Total Disbursements	\$00.00
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
Unencumbered:	\$10,058.00
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$2,365.52
SKIFF	\$6,305.83
<b>Ending Bal-Checking</b>	<b>\$18,729.35</b>

# December Speakers – Casting for Recovery, Texas



## Online Event with Susan Gaetz and Dana Williams

Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 pm

[www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/](http://www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/)

Our December speakers will be Susan Gaetz and Dana Williams representing Casting for Recovery, Texas.

Susan spent over 20 years as a professional photographer with a passion for medical stories. While on assignment for a medical journal, she photographed a Casting for Recovery retreat. Inspired by the program, she began volunteering and launched the CfR Texas program in 2005. Susan joined the CfR staff in 2010 and currently serves as the National Program Director.

Dana Williams became President of Texas Women Fly Fishers (TWFF), a statewide club which promotes fly fishing for women but welcomes men, women, and children, in 2019. As a breast cancer survivor, she discovered a passion for fly fishing through a Casting for Recovery retreat in November, 2017, with her participation sponsored by TWFF. She enjoys throwing streamers and hoppers for warmwater streams such as Brushy Creek, Lower Colorado River, and the Llano, but her true love is the Guadalupe River tailwater trout fishery and euryonymphing. She works at Texas Department of

Transportation leading the Innovation and Cost Efficiency program and resides in Austin, TX with her author husband Greg Buford. She has three children in college and as an empty nester is fortunate to be able to fish weekly. Her favorite fly is the perdigon.



Due to COVID-19, Casting for Recovery made the difficult decision to cancel all 3 retreats scheduled in Texas this year, and another 52 retreats across the country. We know that many women with breast cancer were looking forward to our retreats -- and needed the hope of something normal that our retreats would have offered them. In the absence of retreats this year, we refocused our efforts and developed new alumnae resources to ensure that women with breast cancer received support and connection at a time when so many people are experiencing isolation.

Studies now show that due to COVID-19, women are delaying exams and mammograms, and those that have been diagnosed are delaying follow-ups. There is also a significant increase in mental health needs at this time. We know there will be an even greater need for quality of life/education programs like CfR's, in the near future.

We are actively preparing for 2021 and plan to hold in-person retreats with safety protocols in place. We will host at least 2 retreats in Texas, both in November. To date, the CfR-Texas program has held close to 30 retreats serving over 400 women from around the state.

All of us at Casting for Recovery, participants and volunteers alike, are grateful for the long-time support of the Austin Fly Fishers! Our 15-year relationship means so much to all of us and we can't wait to see you on the water at our 2021 retreats! If you know a woman who could benefit from our program, here in Texas or another state, please visit our Retreats webpage HERE: <https://castingforrecovery.org/retreats/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Susan Gaetz, Program Coordinator for CfR-TX at 512-940-0246 or [susan.gaetz@castingforrecovery.org](mailto:susan.gaetz@castingforrecovery.org)

Sincere thanks to each of you!  
Susan

## Thankful that the phone kept ringing

As our nation paused this week to give thanks to God for the freedoms and other elements of our culture which make us uniquely American, I did not have to think very long about what, during this past year, I am thankful for.

I actually got a head start and useful prompting on this healthy discipline of counting my blessings by my pastor, Justin Moss. During our morning worship services at Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen last Sunday, Pastor Moss opened the floor during the time normally reserved for his sermon, and gave those in the congregation an opportunity to publicly state what they were thankful for.

I thought once or twice about raising my hand to share what I will share here and now, but thought the explanation may be a bit too long for the circumstances that day. Then, after the service, as I volunteered in our church's nursery with a saint of a lady, Mrs. Casey Moore, the Lord confirmed for me through her that I should not keep this story to myself.

Going back to mid-March of this year, the spring warmup was taking place, water temperatures were rising, day length was increasing, and the fishing was coming on strong. I had a very full and profitable week of fishing during the week of spring break, which normally serves as the start of a busy season which typically does not relent until late August when our local school districts go back in session.

As we all watched the news, this thing called coronavirus seemed to be getting more and more attention each day. Then, that virus which seemed a world away, was suddenly sickening people in Bell County.

Judge Blackburn ordered non-essential businesses like my own closed. I came very quickly face-to-face with the loss of income in what are normally my two peak months – April and May.

As it turned out, I lost 6 days of business in March, and the entirety of April. When it appeared Governor Abbott would begin to loosen restrictions around the first of May, my wife and I sat down to assess our situation.

We agreed I could work “doubles” – conducting two fishing trips per day – for as long as it took to make up for what was lost. I told her I would still not work on Sundays, which I have always set aside for worship, and I would still not work on Thursdays, a day which my wife and I set aside for one another in a thing we call ‘marriage maintenance day’.

Rebecca concurred that taking off Sundays was prudent, but, she told me to reconsider Thursdays. I asked her if she would be okay not doing our dates and day trips for a while and she told me that, after being cooped up with me for the previous forty days, she would be quite alright if I were out of the house a little more, at least for a while!

So, the plan was made – I would work doubles as long as it took to recover what was lost.

That was a long-winded introduction to the thing I am thankful for. You see, I only had to maintain that pace until June 6th.

Just because I was willing to run two trips per day in no way meant clients were necessarily going to create that level of demand for fishing trips. Indeed, some clients whose trips were impacted during the closure chose not to make up their trips due to ongoing concerns over COVID-19.

Thankfully, that turned out to be the exception and not the rule. The Lord truly provided for Rebecca and me in that the phone started ringing on May 1st, and it has not stopped ringing since that time, and so I am thankful to God for that. By June 6th, I was able to scale back to one trip per day, and my wife and I resumed our marriage maintenance days on Thursdays.

But, that is not all. After scaling back to a more normal summer schedule running just one morning trip per day during the heat of the summer, I expected business would drop off when school went back in session in August. But, when in-person school attendance was pushed back until the Tuesday following Labor Day, I enjoyed a “bumper crop” of business for the several weeks school was delayed.

I then thought that surely once the kids returned to school, the normal fall slowdown in business would soon follow. Well, here we are at the end of Novem-

ber, and that has yet to happen, with the entirety of December now mostly booked.

But there is still more I am thankful for. During the time my business was shut down, I posted a series of Facebook messages each day I was shut down. I nicknamed my efforts to keep from going stir-crazy “Operation Corona Quell”. Each day's post consisted of what I did to please my wife, what I did to whittle down my ‘honey-do’ list, and what things I did to stay physically and spiritually healthy.

These became more popular than most of the detailed fishing reports I traditionally post on my Holding the Line Guide Service Facebook page.

One day during the shut-down, someone whom to this day remains unknown to me, and whom I can only assume knew of my situation through my Facebook posts, placed an unsigned card in an envelope in my mailbox. The envelope bore no postmark, so, I assume this person hand-delivered this to my home. As I opened it, inside was five hundred dollars in cash which came at a time when my business cash flow was reduced to zero indefinitely. I am thankful for that person, whoever they are, and their generosity.

There is more. On several occasions folks who were aware of my situation asked me to help them with some manual labor (hauling items which required a pickup truck, taking down a tree, etc.) with the intention of overpaying me for these chores which I was more than glad to do just to keep my hands working.

These things are humbling things, reminding me that my Creator honors humility and generosity, thus encouraging me to pursue both of those things more intentionally in my own relationship with others.

Finally, I am thankful that the America I have personally experienced in the ways I have described herein since COVID-19 hit, is definitely not the America I see portrayed in the news media, nor is it the America I see in Washington D.C. We may not be at our best as a nation right now, but there is still no better, nor more free a place to live here on earth, and I am thankful to be where I am, doing what I do, with the people I do it with and for.

## **AFF Outings** by Juan Shepperd

Hi Austin Fly Fishers.

As we settle in for the Holidays and end quite an extraordinary year, I am grateful for this Club (and like-minded people, whether they support fly fishing, conservation, education and/or the outdoors), the Club leadership, the guest speakers, this year's outings, and an eventual end to Covid-19. I smile when I think of the good times.

They'll be no Club outing in December. Santa (at my house at least) is behind. For those of you who enjoy standing in a river waving a stick and slinging a fly, or if you enjoy fishing from a boat drifting a beautiful Texas Hill Country tailwater, great reports from the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam. Lots of holdover fish and plenty of new rainbow and brown trout stocked by Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Fishing has been outstanding.

Our local fly shops have a wealth of information they will share with you. Visit one of them and/or hire a guide to put you on fish. You'll have a lot of fun.

With that said, as we all settle in for the Holidays, wishing all of you and your family a happy and safe Holiday Season!

Feliz Navidad, everyone!

Juan



Capt. Fred Lynch

# 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

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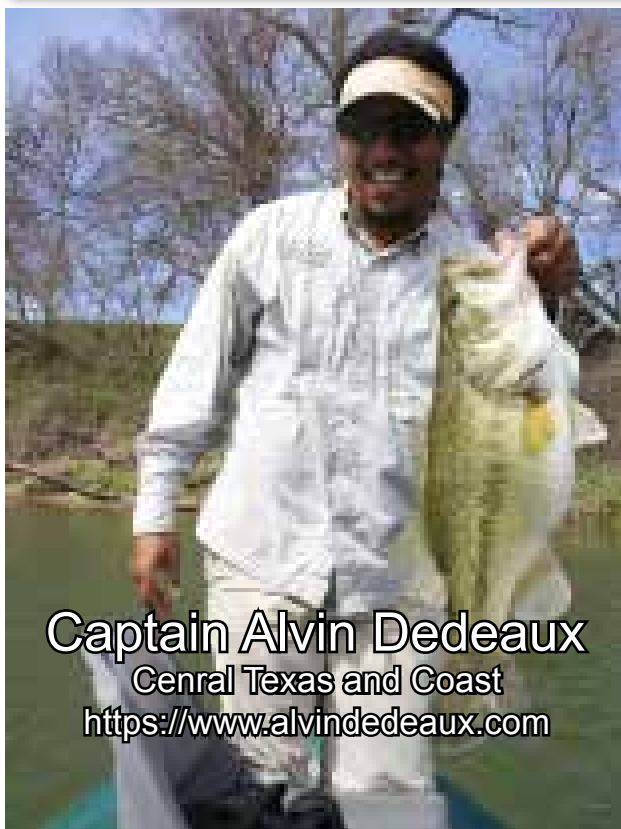
**Nick Streit** – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

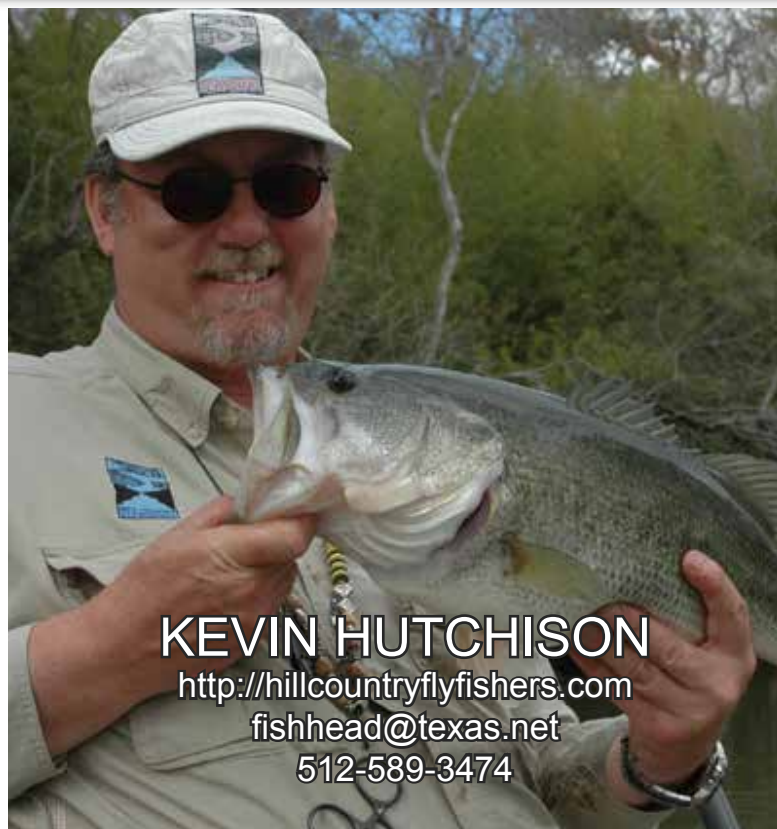
Lower Laguna Madre

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

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



**Captain Alvin Dedeaux**  
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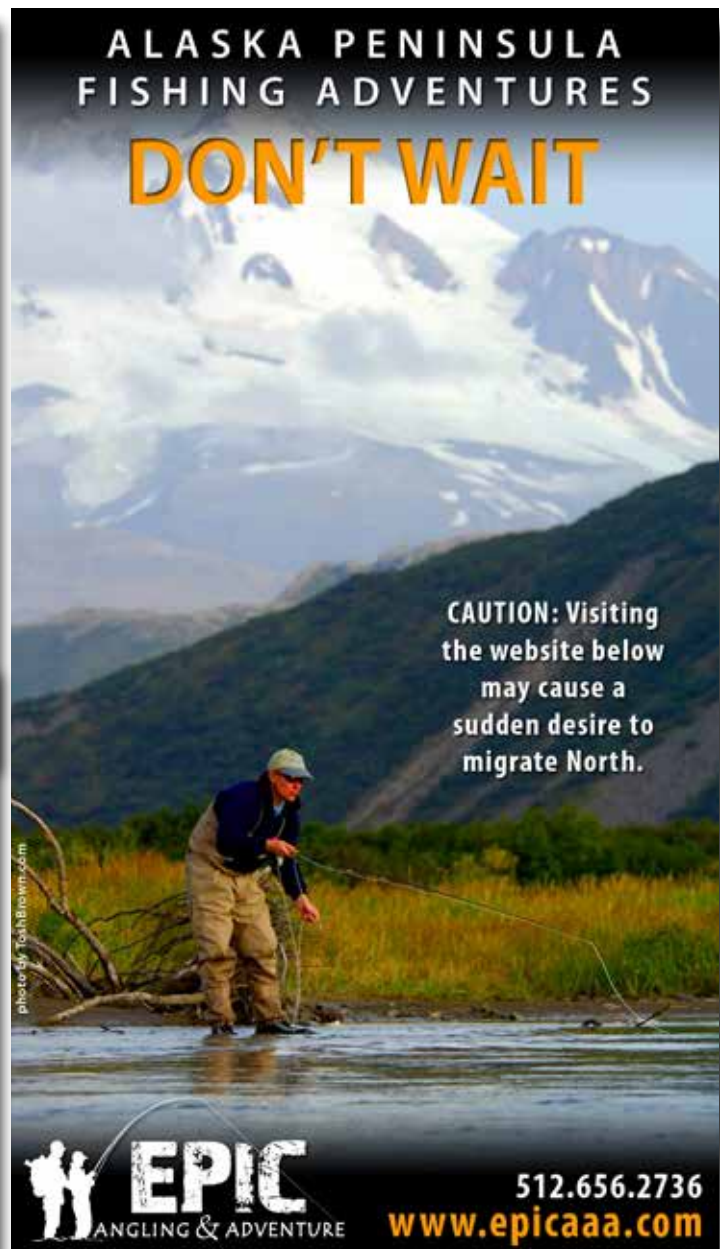
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