



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

February 2022  
Volume 24 Issue 2



**AFF Returns to the  
Northwest Recreation Center  
For Our Monthly Membership Meeting  
Thursday, February 17 at 6:00 pm  
Mike Morphew will be presenting Fly Tying  
-----Masks are Required-----**

**TPWD Launches Prize Giveaway  
for Tagged Guadalupe Bass in  
Lower Colorado River  
See Article on Page 3**

Photo courtesy Texas Parks and  
Wildlife Department © 2022



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INTERNATIONAL  
Charter Club**



# President's Message by Kathi Harris

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Here we are in the much-maligned month of February. Poor February, it's tough being the month thought of as 'the dead of winter' with only a market-contrived holiday to celebrate. On the other hand, fishing in February can be fantastic. Brave a little winter weather and you are likely to be rewarded with no crowds and hungry fish.

Of course, February fishing in Texas means your insulating base layers will be sunscreen and a t-shirt. So, you may still run into others out on weekends but you can still enjoy fishing in some glorious weather. And you don't have to limit your winter fishing to Texas.

Going skiing? Consider taking your fishing gear, too. Many ski-country fly shops and guide services remain open in winter and will welcome your business. Having become a non-skiing

spouse, I have done some guided winter fly fishing in Colorado and New Mexico and am now claiming it as my new winter sport. It's fun! And wading boots are a lot easier to walk in than ski boots.

Recommendation: Have you ever stuck a pencil through a plastic fly line spool and slowly, awkwardly transferred a fly line from or to a reel? Of course you have! Ever tried this with your spouse? Even more fun! This month's recommendation is a handy, inexpensive tool called a line winder. We have the "Reel-E-Good" brand Spin Fly Winder. You can mount a reel on one end and a spool on the other and just turn the little handle to easily change out lines. There's multiple types out there, so just look around for the one that suits your fancy.

Happy Fishing!

Kathi

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson  
1/1/2022 to 2/31/2022

<b>Begin Bal. Checking</b>	<b>\$28,367.93</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Memorial (SKIFF)	<u>\$490.00</u>
Total Income	\$490.00
<b>Disbursements</b>	
State Comp (Franchise)	\$50.00
Casting for Recovery	\$3,000.00
Speaker	\$150.00
Earthlink (automation)	<u>\$127.29</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,327.29
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$2,837.29)</b>
Unencumbered:	\$17,398.79
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$8,131.85
<b>Ending Bal-Checking</b>	<b>\$25,530.64</b>

# TPWD Launches Prize Giveaway for Tagged Guadalupe Bass in Lower Colorado River – TPWD news release\*

AUSTIN – Grab a rod and reel and head to Central Texas for a chance to catch one of 30 tagged Guadalupe bass and possibly win a prize. From February 4 until August 31, any angler who catches one of the tagged Guadalupe bass from the Lower Colorado River near Austin and Smithville will be awarded a prize package and be entered into grand prize drawings at the end of the seven-month period.

This contest is the latest effort to help recognize the ecological and recreational importance of the Lower Colorado River - home to the current state record Guadalupe bass. The tournament is being hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) along with partners, All Water Guides, Cleanup the Colorado, and the Texas River School. The Colorado River flows right through the heart of Central Texas with a proximity close to the urban population center of Austin, yet this river fishery remains an under-utilized recreational resource.

“We’re incredibly appreciative of our partners and the attention they bring to the Lower Colorado River,” said John Botros, Inland Fisheries River Access Coordinator at TPWD. “Not only will All Water Guides bring the experience of catching a Guadalupe bass to their clients, but they also bestow upon anglers a responsible fishing ethic.”

Of course, nobody likes seeing trash when you are out enjoying the river, added Botros. Many thanks to Cleanup the Colorado and their efforts coordinating the recent LoCo Trash Bash events which have removed over 21 tons of trash from the Colorado River.

TPWD’s investments in angler access and monitoring, the removal of tons of trash from the Colorado River

during the LoCo Trash Bash events and educating youth on paddling skills and river ethics supports the collective goals to improve the river environment and get people out on the river. TPWD believes that people can grow a sense of river stewardship through a good experience on the water and the joy of catching a Guadalupe bass.

“We are very grateful for the support from partners like TPWD, All Water Guides, Texas River School and the hundreds of volunteers who have participated in cleanup activities on the Colorado River” said John Erskine, Board Chair of Cleanup the Colorado. “Our goal is to raise awareness of and appreciation for this wonderful resource. We are happy to support this Guadalupe bass prize giveaway so that more people get out and enjoy the river and the great fishing opportunities that exist so close to Austin. We believe that the more people who use the river the more they will be motivated to protect it and keep it clean!”

TPWD is also grateful for its partnership with the Texas River School located in East Austin. Not only does the Texas River School teach paddling skills and river ethics to youth and the underserved community, but they also provide public river access for paddling and fishing as a partner in TPWD’s leased river access program.

“Texas River School and the Chautauqua Foundation have always experienced great benefits working with TPWD and think the Guadalupe bass prize give-away is another wonderful opportunity to showcase our stretch of the Colorado River,” said Joe Kendall, Founder and Executive Director of the Texas River School. “Our access site is located about four miles downstream of the Montopolis Bridge in

Austin, and the public access that we provide would not be available had it not been for the support of TPWD. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard how great the fishing is along this portion of the Colorado, or even heard ‘I just caught my personal best!’”

## **Prize Give-Away Information:**

•From February 4- August 31, any angler who catches one of 30 tagged Guadalupe bass from the Lower Colorado River near Austin and Smithville will be awarded a prize package and be entered into grand prize drawings at the end of the seven-month period.

•Eligible Guadalupe bass are tagged with visual Floy anchor tags that read “Reward – Clip tag and call TPWD 512-754-6844.” Each tag has a unique ID number.

•Guadalupe bass have been tagged by TPWD in the Colorado River at locations near Little Webberville Park (just east of Austin) and near the leased river access sites near Smithville.

## **Anglers who catch an eligible Guadalupe bass should:**

•Take photos with the fish with the tag, preferably with the segment of river and habitat where the fish was caught in the background of the photo.

•Clip the tag from the fish and take a photo of the tag legible enough for the tag number to be read. NOTE: DO NOT pull out the tag from the fish.

•Call the number on the tag to report the tagged fish catch, claim a prize, and to be entered into the grand prize drawing. Anglers should be prepared to provide the tag number, submit photos of the catch, and describe where the fish was caught. Submitted photos will become property of TPWD and may be used in social media or in Agency communications.



## Contest cont.

• Gift packages containing a Yeti 18 oz bottle and a Buff will be awarded for each eligible tagged Guadalupe bass caught, and grand prizes include a half-day guided trip with All Water Guides, a Yeti Tundra Haul cooler, and complimentary canoe/camp site rental at the Texas River School.

“All Water Guides is proud to support TPWD efforts to bring attention to the Guadalupe bass, our state fish and a favorite freshwater species,” said Alvin Dedeaux, owner of All Water Guides. “The tagged Guadalupe bass competition on the Colorado River will highlight what a great urban fishery we have in our backyard. We hope that you will get out on the water and join the fun!”

The public can learn more details about the prize give-away program by visiting the official website.

To learn more about efforts to conserve Guadalupe bass or where to go fishing for this species, please visit TPWD’s Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative webpage, [www.tpwd.texas.gov/conserveguadalupebass](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/conserveguadalupebass).

\*Information courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department © 2022

## February Speaker – Mike Morphew

I am originally from England and have been tying flies and fishing for trout, salmon and saltwater fish for over 40 years.

I was first drawn to the art of tying as a boy when I watched a guy tying at a show in the UK. I watched him for hours until my father pulled me away. As I was leaving the guy said “come here” and he gave me all his half empty packs of materials I was feeling like Christmas morning! I tied my first fly in a pair of needle nosed pliers held in a woodworking vise. I later found out that the guy was the legendary John Veniard who I later became friends with whilst starting up a Fly Dressers Guild club.

As an educator in my working life I like nothing more than teaching the art of dressing a hook and have spent hours at shows and clubs demonstrating skills for beginners and proficient tyers from setting a dry fly wing to the simple wolly bugger and still get a thrill from seeing a youngsters face after tying their first fly.

I became interested in tying ultra realistic patterns about 15 years ago and have found these flies and bugs to be a huge attraction at shows, both here in Texas and shows I have attended around the States.

Although not for fishing I have found tying these helps me with thread control when tying any other fly from simple trout flies to fully dressed salmon patterns.

I tie the realistic flies and bugs mostly for clients and these are mounted in box frames of glass domes, recently at a show I was asked to tie a range of patterns for a museum.

Since moving to Texas I have had to adopt my tying and fishing for Bass and bluegill, I have loved the challenge but still miss my trout and to that end travel to Oklahoma and Arkansas every year.

People always ask me what’s the best fish you have caught and it has to be not the biggest but the most rewarding and that is my fish of a lifetime a 21 ½ lb brownie on a size 12 fly and a 6 lb tippet.

Other achievements that I am proud of is in 2003 whilst living in the British Virgin Islands I was asked to tie and present Her Royal highness Princess Anne with a fully dressed salmon fly display, which I presented to her.

Being awarded the Gold certificate for the FFI tying awards is another achievement.

I now live in the quaint historical town of La Grange, Texas



## SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F.,

As I write this summary of January 2022's Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (S.K.I.F.F.) activities, Central Texas is firmly in the grip of Winter Storm Landon which will serve to drop our water temperatures to a year-to-date low before we warm up again. Before the storm moved in, temperatures on Lake Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir stood around 52F.

For those of you new to Austin Fly Fishers and/or unfamiliar with SKIFF, SKIFF is an acronym for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. It is a program now in its 12th year, sponsored by the Austin Fly Fishers, and supported by individuals and entities, all of whom desire that kids separated from a parent by that parent's military duty, be given an opportunity to experience the outdoors through fishing during that time of separation, free of charge. The program offers a time of respite for the home-front parents who may need a short break from single-parenting.

For the month of January we were able to serve two families, each with three children.

**Ryan Family** - On New Year's Day 2022, I fished with siblings Jordynn (age 9), Jacob (age 8), and Jessica (age 7) on what was the 2022 season's first SKIFF trip.

The children's father, Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Ryan, is an aviator with 19 years in the U.S. Army. He is currently deployed to Europe as a battalion commander. The kids' mom, Lieutenant



The Ryan family: (from left) Jessica, Jacob, Lindsay, and Jordynn landed 100 fish in just under 3 hours' time as prefrontal weather put the fish in overdrive this morning in advance of a major cold front due in in the forthcoming overnight hours.

Colonel Lindsay Ryan, also an Army aviator with 16 years in the military, arranged the trip for the kids after seeing a post about the opening on the Fort Hood Area Events Facebook page.

The morning's fishing was pretty straightforward. Thanks to a stiff southerly breeze and moderately thick, complete gray cloud cover, the fish started feeding at 7:46AM, drew attention from birds, and from that point until 10:30 it was just a matter of staying in the center of mass of the action in 32-34 feet of water.

Given that I had three elementary-aged kids with minimal prior experi-

ence, and given that we faced a pretty stiff breeze, I opted to rig up each of my rods with white, 5/8 oz. Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs. These have the same length as the smaller 3/8 oz. slabs, but are thicker and wider, so, they sink faster and provided more feel for the kids.

When all was said and done, we landed exactly 100 fish, including 1 largemouth bass, 7 juvenile hybrid striped bass, 1 legal hybrid striped bass, and 91 white bass.

**Fullerton Family** - On this cold, rainy Monday, January 24th, I fished with three of the four Fullerton brothers – Ian (age 12), Josh (age 10), and





From left: Josh, Ian, and Christian Fullerton endured very tough weather conditions to put together a mixed bag of 71 fish, including white bass, hybrid, largemouth, and drum.

Christian (age 7), on what was the 2022 season's second SKIFF trip.

The boys' dad, U.S. Army Chaplain Derrick Fullerton, is currently deployed to Europe; we'd been talking about putting this trip together since well before he departed.

Since the boys' mom, Karen Fullerton, homeschools all four of her boys, their schedule is flexible. When I saw low pressure weather moving our way and moderate temperatures accompanying that weather, I reached out to see if the older boys could make it.

As I left the house, there was between 31 & 61% chance of rain over the 4 hours I'd be with the boys, and only 7/100th of an inch accumulation called for. Well, you guessed it — we had a cold, continuous rain the entire morning with air temps starting at 50 and falling to 48 by 11AM. We got

more than a half-inch of rain!

The boys were true troopers and so eager to catch fish I just didn't want to let them down. Their mom told me as she dropped them off that this trip had been the topic of conversation for a few days, and that the boys were in no way difficult to rouse this morning.

We endured a dark, wet, cold first two hours, landing only 5 fish during that time. With the boys all wet to the skin, we took a warm-up break with all 4 of us huddled in the single cab of my truck with the heater blasting on our reddened hands. Snacks helped get the boys' mind off the cold and, after about 30 minutes, they were chomping at the bit to get back out again!

Fortunately, although a light drizzle continued to fall, the skies had brightened and the light SW breeze continued. Through rain-speckled glasses,

I stared at the rain-splattered side-imaging absolutely scrubbing it for any signs of white bass life we could find. At 10:55, we had a breakthrough!

For the next hour and twenty minutes the boys watched their baits descend on Garmin LiveScope into fish piled up on bottom. As they retrieved their slabs (white, 5/8 oz. Hazy Eye Slabs) upwards slowly, the fish followed, overtook them, and struck. We caught white bass, juvenile hybrid, largemouth bass, and freshwater drum. By making 3 "short hops" in the same general area, we added 66 fish to our tally in that final effort before mom's minivan pulled up about quarter past 12. We ended the trip with 71 fish landed.

Thank you all for making a way for days like this, for kids like these, to happen!

--Bob Maindelle



# Outings -Floating the Dechutes River in the Fall

by Juan Shepperd

I'm thinking ahead. Many people feel the period between mid September and mid October is the best time to fish. Anywhere. End of story. Period. I don't know about your place, but with global warming, mosquitos are still buzzing at my house even in October. What better way than to get out of Texas for a while and treat yourself to a fly fishing trip out west? Not only will you escape the Texas heat, you'll likely see some Fall foliage.

I've secured a guided Deschutes River Float trip in Oregon with 3 nights lodging, meals prepared for you each day, shuttle, and 4 days of guided fishing from 10/9/22 - 10/12/2022 for \$2400. Gratuity and alcohol is not included. BYOB. The Deschutes is Oregon's best known river. It's a desert oasis with wild rainbows, hearty steelhead, whitewater and stunning scenery. I'll be fishing for rainbow (redside) trout primarily in the 15 -20 inch, but I hope to land a steelhead, fresh from the Pacific and running up the Columbia River through the Deschutes and on his way upstream further still to where he was born.

If this trip interests you, let me know.

-Juan





# 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

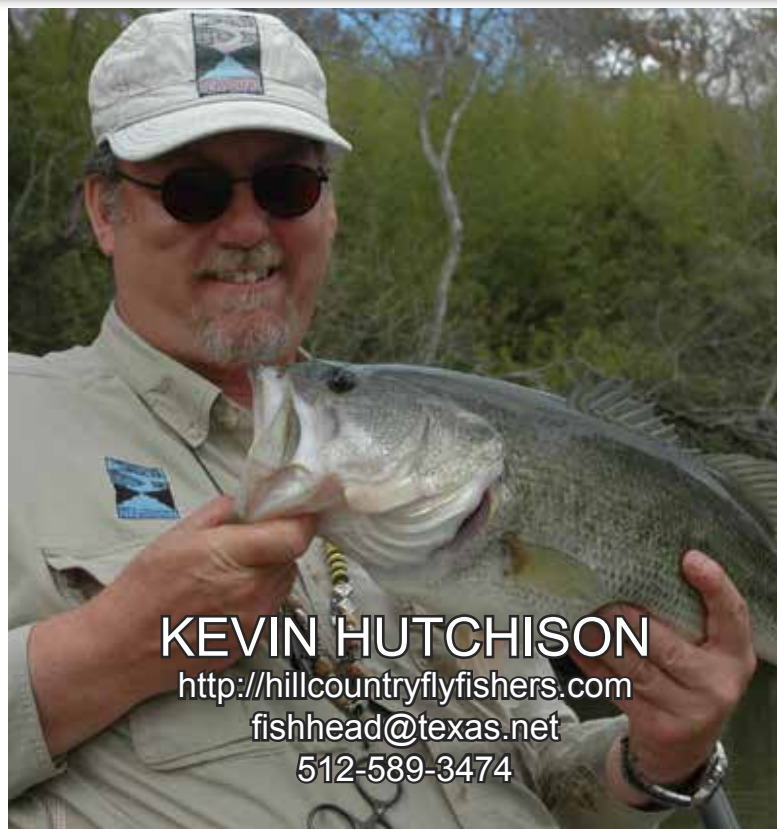
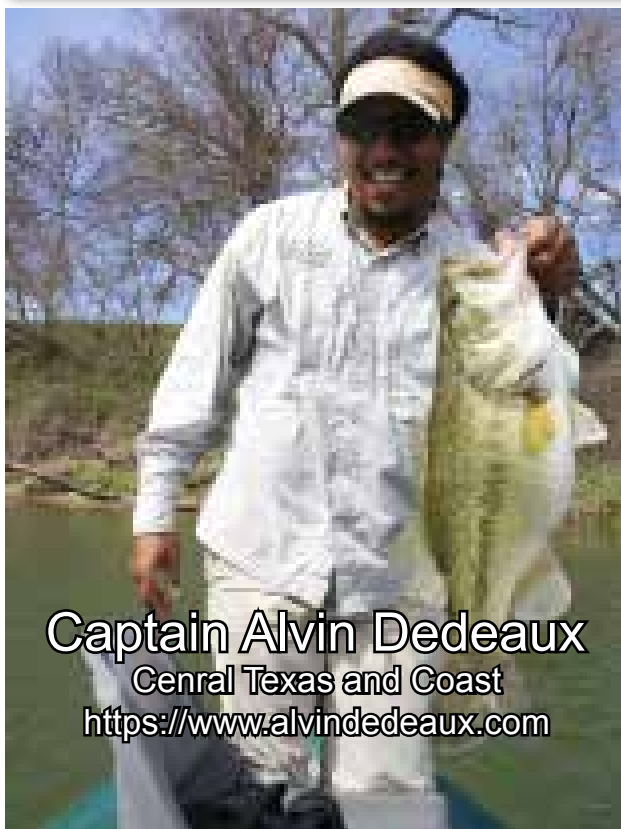
**Nick Streit** – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

Lower Laguna Madre

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

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





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**Captain Eric Glass**

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



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**Capt. Scott Hamilton**  
Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

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# Capt. Fred Lynch

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# Kevin Stubbs

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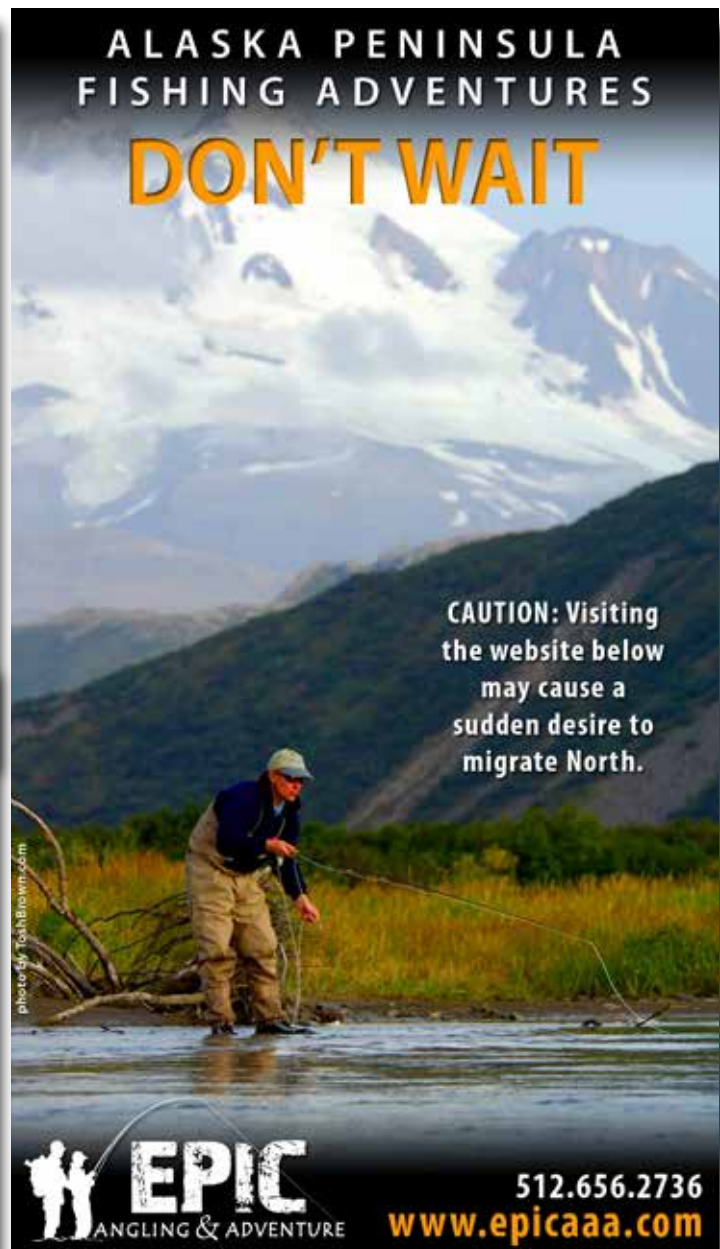
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