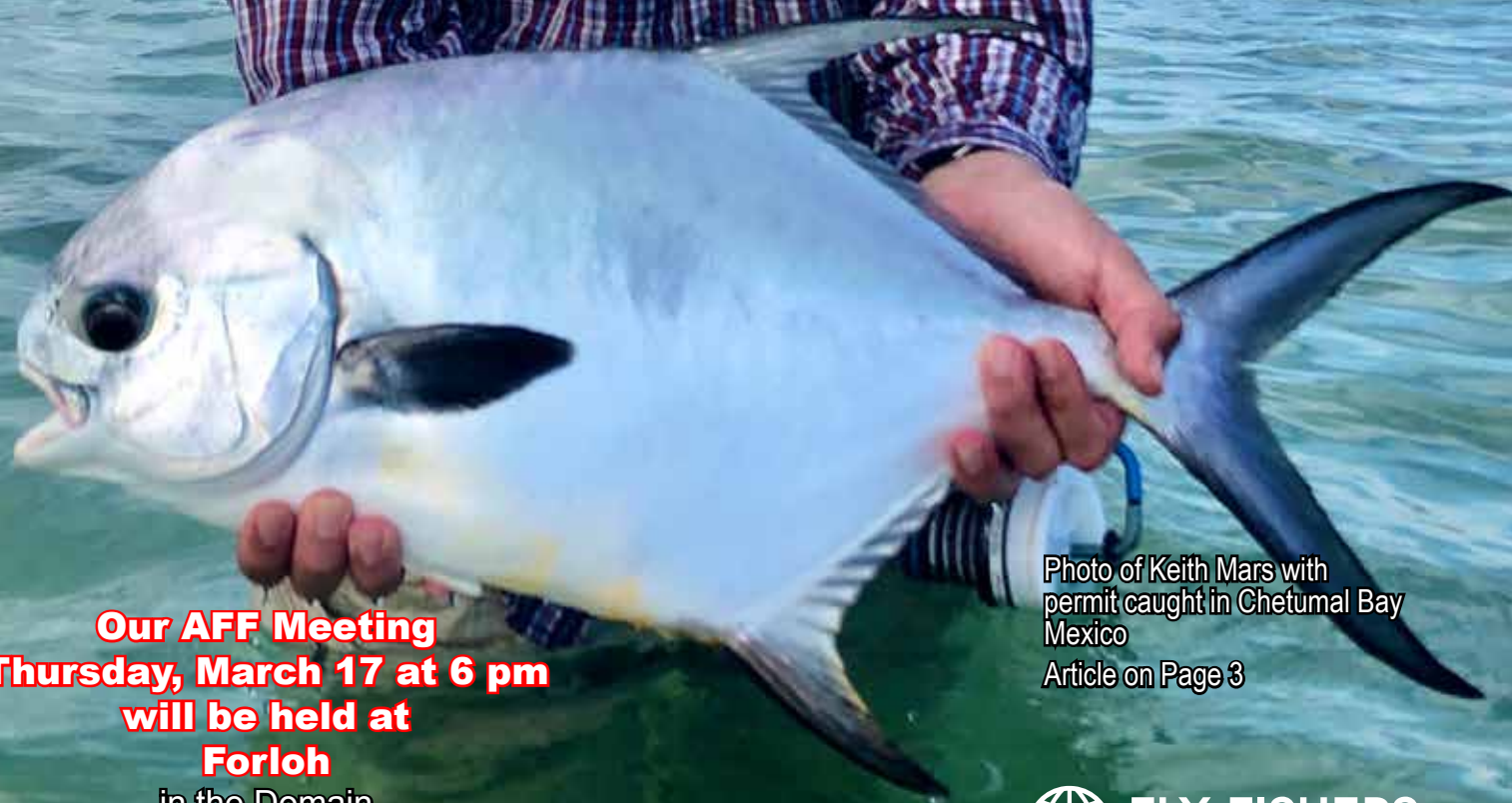




AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

March 2022
Volume 24 Issue 3



**Our AFF Meeting
Thursday, March 17 at 6 pm
will be held at
Forloh**

in the Domain
3211 Palm Way, Suite 140,
Austin, Texas 78758

Photo of Keith Mars with
permit caught in Chetumal Bay
Mexico

Article on Page 3



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President's Message by Kathi Harris

Only eat oysters in months containing 'R'. According to scientists at the Florida Museum of Natural History, that advice may be a 4,000 year-old example of sustainable harvesting, as ancient Gulf Coast inhabitants appear to have avoided oyster harvesting during the summer spawning season.

While we no longer worry about the calendar when eating oysters, I learned at Troutfest that we do still need to focus on oyster sustainability. I attended the panel discussion "Conservation on the Texas Coast" with John Blaha (Coastal Conservation Association), Dakus Geeslin (TPWD), Chuck Naiser (Flatsworthy founder), moderated by Trout Unlimited President and CEO, Chris Wood. There I learned that Texas is the last remaining Gulf Coast state that allows harvesting of wild oyster reefs.

Apparently the other Gulf States have closed their natural reefs to harvesting due to damage from pollution, algae, red tides, hurricanes and over-harvesting. Now Texas reefs are also being pressured. Texas Parks and Wildlife, having already closed some areas to harvesting, has proposed expanding the closures to protect the reefs.

From Texas Parks and Wildlife: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/proposals/202203_oyster.phtml: "The proposed amendment would prohibit the harvest of oysters in Carlos Bay, Mesquite Bay, and Ayres Bay. This closure is intended to protect the ecologically important and unique oyster habitat from increased harvest pressure. Oyster reefs provide habitat for many fish and invertebrate species, protection against erosion, and improved water quality via filter feeding. Conserving healthy oyster

reefs benefits fisheries and the overall health of the habitat. There have been several natural (hurricanes, freshwater inflows, drought, flooding) stressors to the reef in recent history that have impacted Texas oyster reef health and recruitment. Additionally, there were a record number of boats harvesting in this area in 2021."

TPWD is accepting public comments on this proposal online through March 23, 2022, which leads me to this month's recommendation: Use the link above to submit your comments on these proposed changes to the Statewide Oyster Fishery Proclamation. You can also express support by attending the next meeting of the Commission and submitting a comment card. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 24 at 4200 Smith School Road in Austin.

Let's make March "Get Involved In Conservation Month"!

Happy Fishing,
Kathi

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson
2/1/2022 to 2/28/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$25,530.64
Income:	
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements	
February Speaker	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$150.00
Net	(\$150.00)
Unencumbered:	\$17,248.79
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$8,131.85
Ending Bal-Checking	\$25,380.64

Chetumal Bay, Mexico – by Keith Mars



It's October 2021 and I'm on a flight to Mexico for a week on the flats. A lot has happened in the world since my last trip to Xcalak in 2019. What has not changed is the sight of bonefish flashing against the sand bottom of knee-deep water, tarpon rolling along the beaches, and the mythical permit tailing one second and gone the next. At least that is what I envision, sipping my coffee, chatting with my fishing friends for the week, and looking out on the glass flats from our ocean-front lodge on the Mexico/Belize border.

This is my second trip in three years to the Costa de Cocos lodge with my pals from the St. Peter's Fly Shop in Fort Collins, CO. Those guys run solid, well-priced trips and will treat you like family. Permit, on the other hand, well that's a different story. I've seen them, casted at them, had one or two show interest in my fly, but never any takers. They get in your head. However, this time, I got lucky.

I was spoiled on this trip as Christmas came early on the first day, though it started out differently. After 18 months of mothballed flats boats we had a issues getting a few boats going. I was

solo that day with my guide, Alan, and drew one of the misfiring outboards. After a few hours we got back on the water.

For the next few hours we found some nice schooling bones and searched for tarpon with no avail. It was late afternoon, the sun dipping into the western sky, when we hit our last flat. Just as we are dropping anchor to wade for bones I hear, "Stop! Grab the permit rod. Now!" I look up and see a school of black tails 100 feet away. I grab the nine weight and start wading.

We get to 50 feet and I cast. It's short, but feels like a chance. Slow, long strip on the crab and a quick, sharp tug. Then, the line goes slack. As I look around dumbfounded I hear my guide cussing at the marauding barracuda that cut my tippet. I open my fly box and Alan peruses. He closes the box and pulls a fly out of his shirt box. It's a floating crab to mimic the small crabs that hide in the floating sargassum. I tie it on and we start walking.

Unbelievably, the permit are still feeding. We are now at 35-40 feet and I make the cast. It falls short, but the

school is bigger than we realize as they spook. Alan says, "pick it up. 30 feet, 2:00". I make the cast, then one slow strip and I see a permit crest the water and scoop the fly off the surface like a trout rising to a dry. I feel the line go tight and strip set. It feels like a good set and we are off to the races.

The line clears and in no time into my backing. We go back and forth between runs and finally Alan brings the Permit to hand. Success! My first permit! We take a picture and then quickly back into the water. What an amazing fish. The power in the tail. The markings. Just amazing.

I'm on cloud nine as we motor back to the dock and are the last boat in. My group is nearby as I approach and let out "palometa!" as we revel in the shared happiness of me being the lucky one that day. Ah, what a moment. If you are looking for a wonderful fishery, great people and a fishing-focused lodge look no further than Costa de Cocos. And, if you like the idea of hosted trips look up the good folks at St. Peter's Fly Shop. They will treat you right, and I hope the permit do too.

March Meeting at Forloh

Our Thursday, March 17 meeting will be held at Forloh, in the Domain

Representatives from Forloh will tell us about their latest products and we'll get a remote presentation on fishing Montana from True Waters Fly Fishing in Kalispell, MT.

Come have a beer and snacks and find out what's up at Forloh!
Meet, greet and shop starts at 6 pm, meeting starts at 7 pm.

Forloh at the Domain
3211 Palm Way
Suite 140



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SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F.,
February's wintry weather kept SKIFF grounded this past month. With not a single weekend's worth of weather suitable to take children out, the only other possibility was the long, Presidents' Day weekend.

I made plans with the Hawbaker family to take their two eldest children out on that holiday Monday, but, a late night call from Mrs. Hawbaker from the emergency room of our local hospital put an end to those plans as one of the boys due to fish with me had severe abdominal pain.

We rescheduled that trip for March 21st, so, hopefully I'll have photos and a solid fishing report to share with you all concerning that trip about this time next month.

In the meantime, thank you for your support of the SKIFF program!

--Bob Maindelle

New Conservation Chair

by Keith Mars

Howdy, Austin Fly Fishers,

My name is Keith Mars and I am a new name to you in this newsletter. Well, I hope to change that. I am honored to serve as your new Conservation Chair, and hope to bring my personal and professional experience in conservation to advance our club's values in fisheries conservation. I look forward to meeting you at our monthly events, and want to hear what conservation issues are important to you. Some of my goals in this position are to identify our club's conservation interests and priorities, connect our membership to timely calls to action, and grow our club's voice from Brushy Creek to Aransas Bay, and the fisheries we travel to or hope to fish one day.

More to come in future months, but I do want to pass along some updates and a time-sensitive call to action.

TPWD Changes to Speckled Trout Limits

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20220302a>

Stream Access Win in New Mexico

https://www.backcountryhunters.org/new_mexico_supreme_court_rules_in_favor_of_public_access_to_state_waters

The public comment period is open until 5:00cst on March 23, 2022. Make your voice heard to protect oyster habitat in the middle coast.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/proposals/202203_oyster.phtml

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

Fishing Local Waters — Doug Kierklewski on the Guadalupe,
Brandon Rabke on the Colorado River below Marble Falls,
and Kevin Cloonan on the Lower Colorado River





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

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



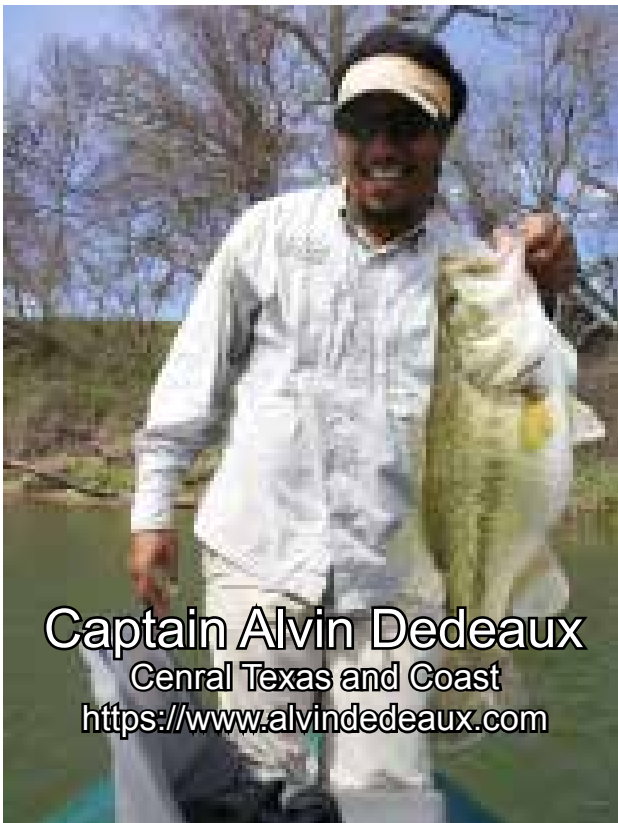
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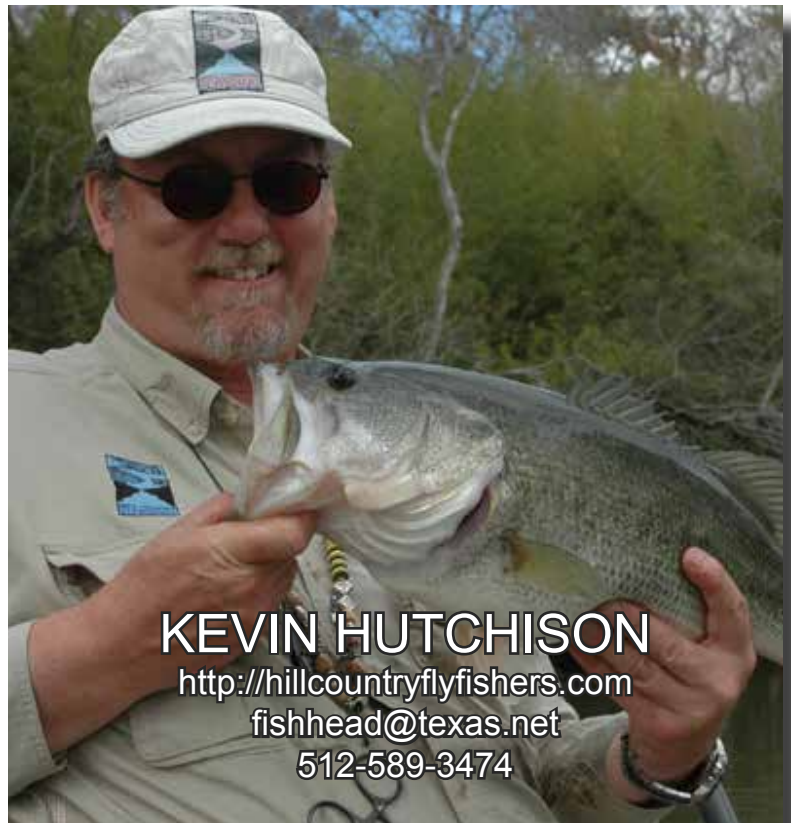
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and
1333 S Congress Ave #110,



Captain Alvin Dedeaux
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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

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Nick Streit

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Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

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



Kevin Stubbs
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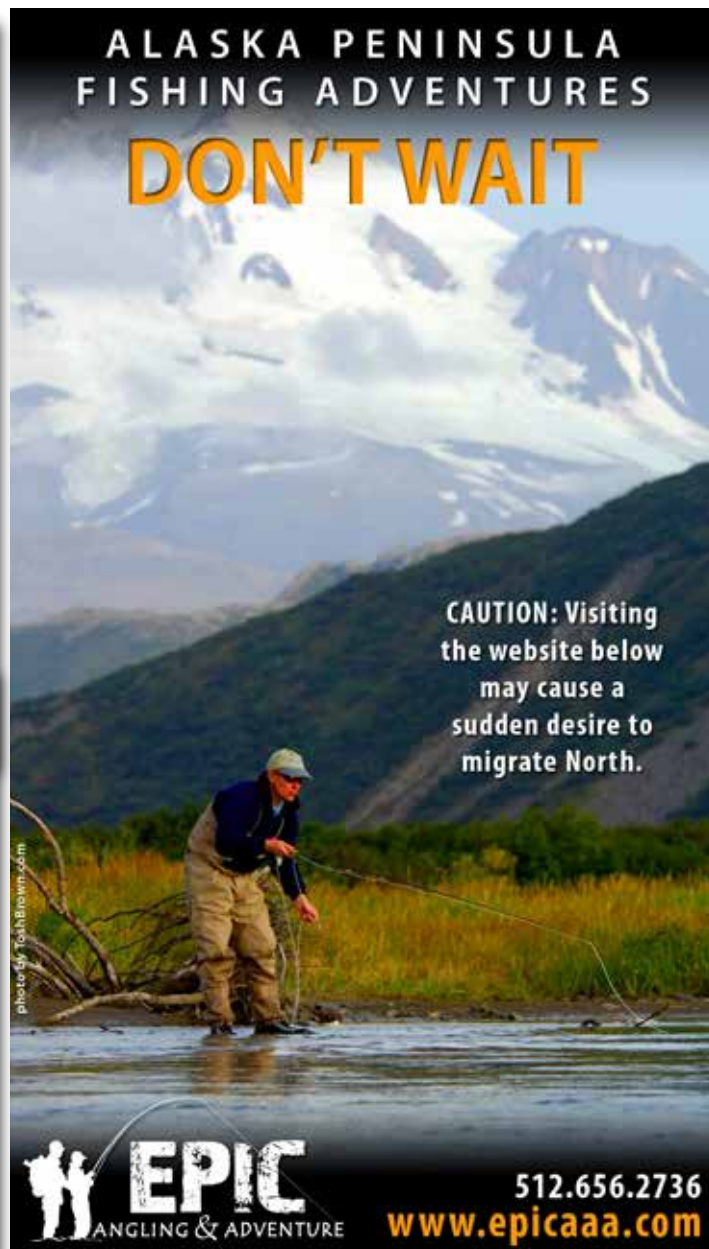
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