



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

June 2022
Volume 24 Issue 6



Kevin Cloonan in Steamboat Springs, CO
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Our AFF Meeting Thursday, June 16
at Northwest Recreation Center
6 pm Informal Get-Together
7 pm Cassio Silva presentation

-Cassio is going to tell us all about fishing locally for
a species found only in Texas, Guadalupe Bass



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Charter Club

President's Message by Kathi Harris

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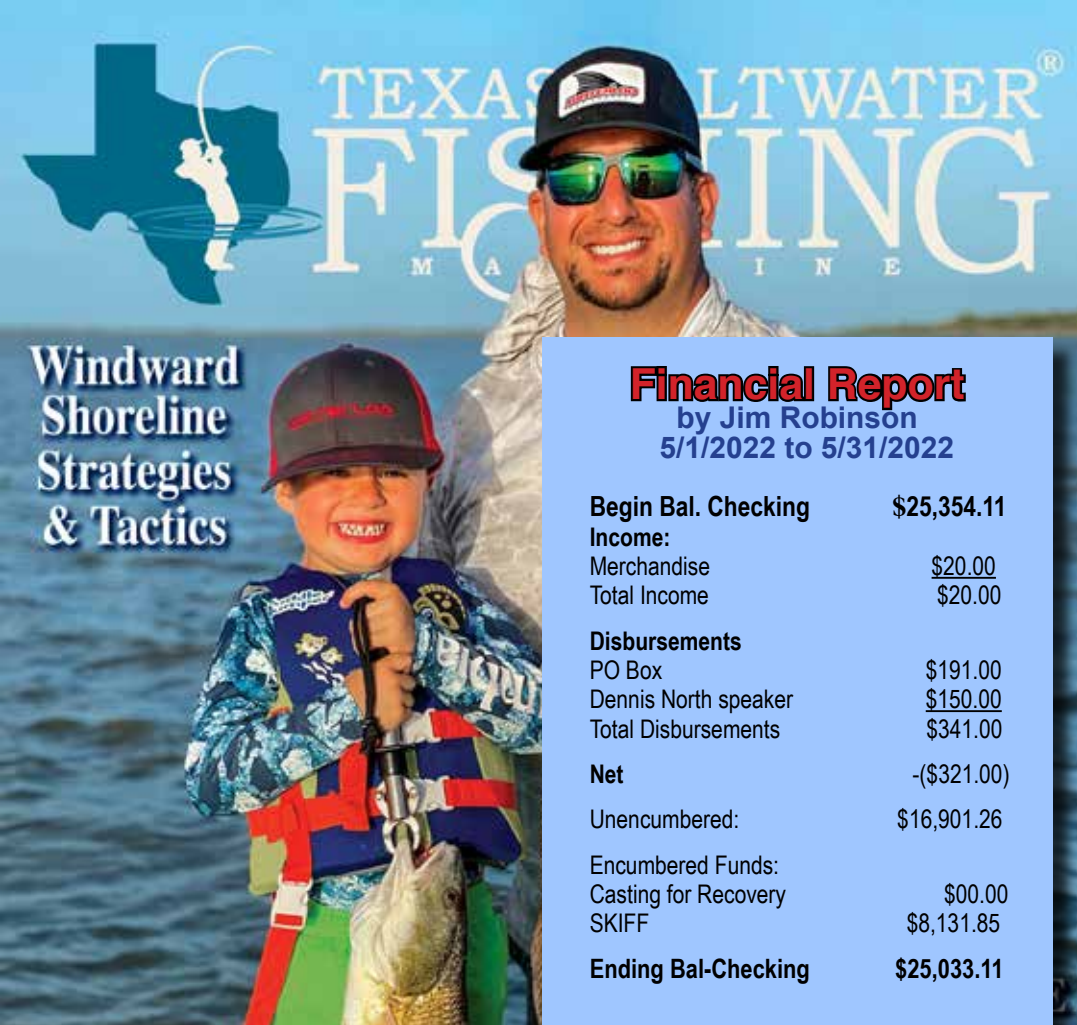
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Summer! We jumped from the frying pan of record May heat directly into a June fire of unrelenting triple digits. Full disclosure from this native Texan, there's no real way to beat the Texas heat outdoors. You can only take evasive maneuvers, such as heading to the coast. It will still feel hot but there's usually a breeze and you can get wet while wading and you get to fish the salt. I am convinced that saltwater flyfishing from a kayak is the hardest possible way to catch a fish, so extra patience may be required. Still, it is a lot of fun. Our June 17-19 outing to Port O'Connor will be a good opportunity to check out the Texas coast.

June Recommendation: Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine. Although this publica-

tion is not focused on flyfishing, it does contain plenty of helpful, relevant information. My favorite sections are the timely fishing reports from area guides. The guides tell us generally where and specifically how they've been catching fish, frequently while wading, information that I've successfully translated into flyfishing from a kayak. I also like the solar/lunar and tide tables provided. I have proven that most fish don't read these tables. However, it is possible to occasionally run into some of the more literate ones and catch one or two. You can pick up this magazine in convenience and grocery stores at the coast or subscribe.



The image shows the cover of the magazine 'Texas Saltwater Fishing'. The title is in large, white, serif font against a blue background. Below the title, there's a photo of a man in a cap and sunglasses holding a fishing rod, and a child in a life vest holding a fish. The text 'Windward Shoreline Strategies & Tactics' is written in a stylized font on the left side of the cover.

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson
5/1/2022 to 5/31/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$25,354.11
Income:	
Merchandise	\$20.00
Total Income	\$20.00
Disbursements	
PO Box	\$191.00
Dennis North speaker	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$341.00
Net	-\$321.00
Unencumbered:	\$16,901.26
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$8,131.85
Ending Bal-Checking	\$25,033.11

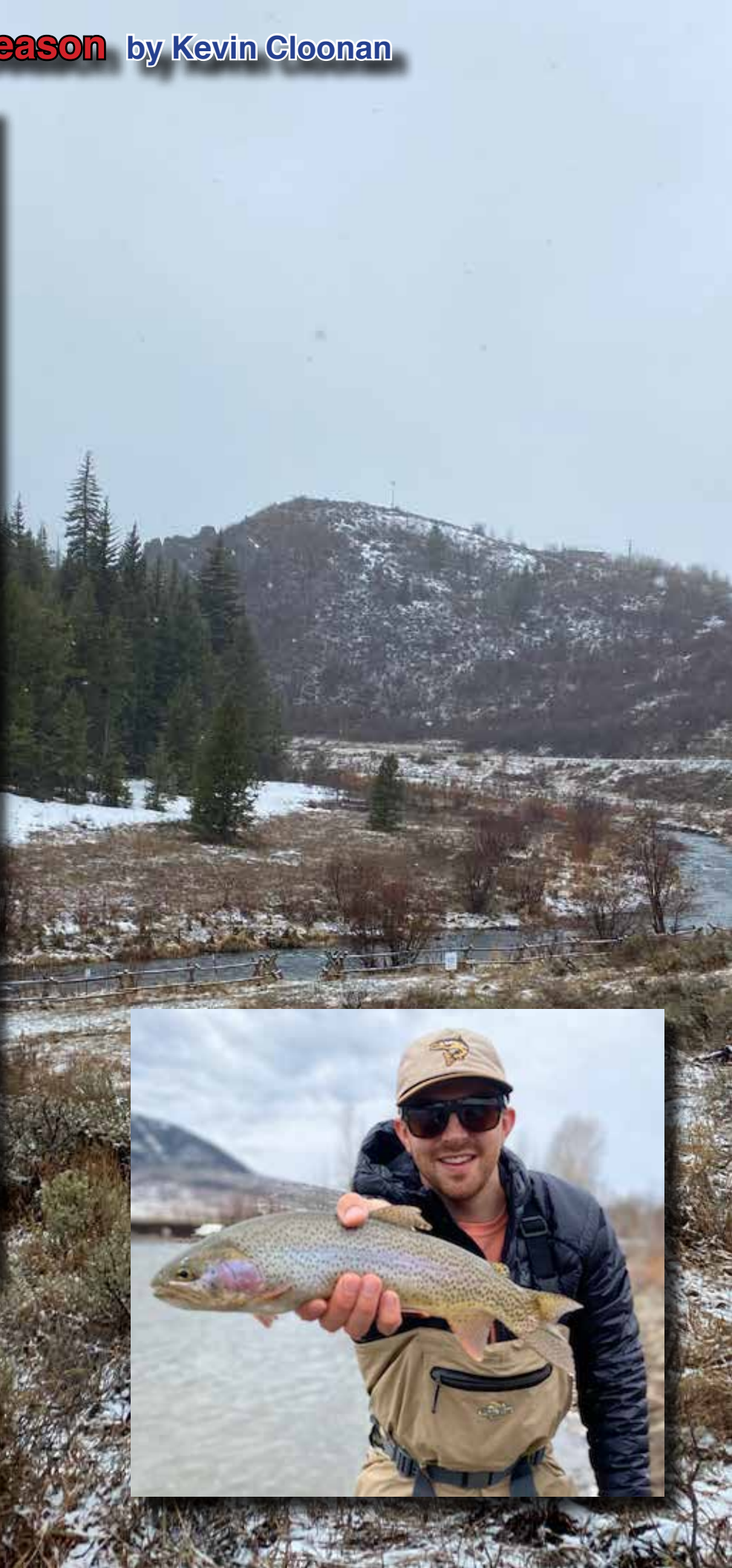
The Gamble of Mud Season by Kevin Cloonan

Mud season in Colorado was in full effect this Spring. We landed in Steamboat Springs ahead of a cold front after a week of warmer weather and melting snow. This meant most rivers were super cloudy (aka mud season) and fishing could be slow, but it also meant less anglers on the water.

Our first day was spent on a guided wading trip with Steamboat Flyfisher at one of their private access ranches along the Yampa. Muddy water meant big bright flies on double nymph rigs. We ended up having our best day of the trip with both of us netting double digit fish - a mix of rainbow, brown, and cutbow trout. I highly recommend Steamboat Flyfisher. We stopped by their fly shop almost every day to either pick up flies or to pick their brains on where we should head to next.

Our second day was spent at the tailwaters at Stagecoach State Park. Being a tailwater, it was less affected by the melting snow, and the water was crystal clear. The fish were picky, and you had to be stealthy, but when they ate you saw the entire thing. We used mostly attractors with small midges, but we had an hour or so of rising fish and racing to find the dry fly that would work.

The next day, we hiked 3 miles to Sarvis Creek in the snow. This was our first sight of true mud season - 0 fish and water that you couldn't see below the surface.



The Gamble of Mud Season cont.

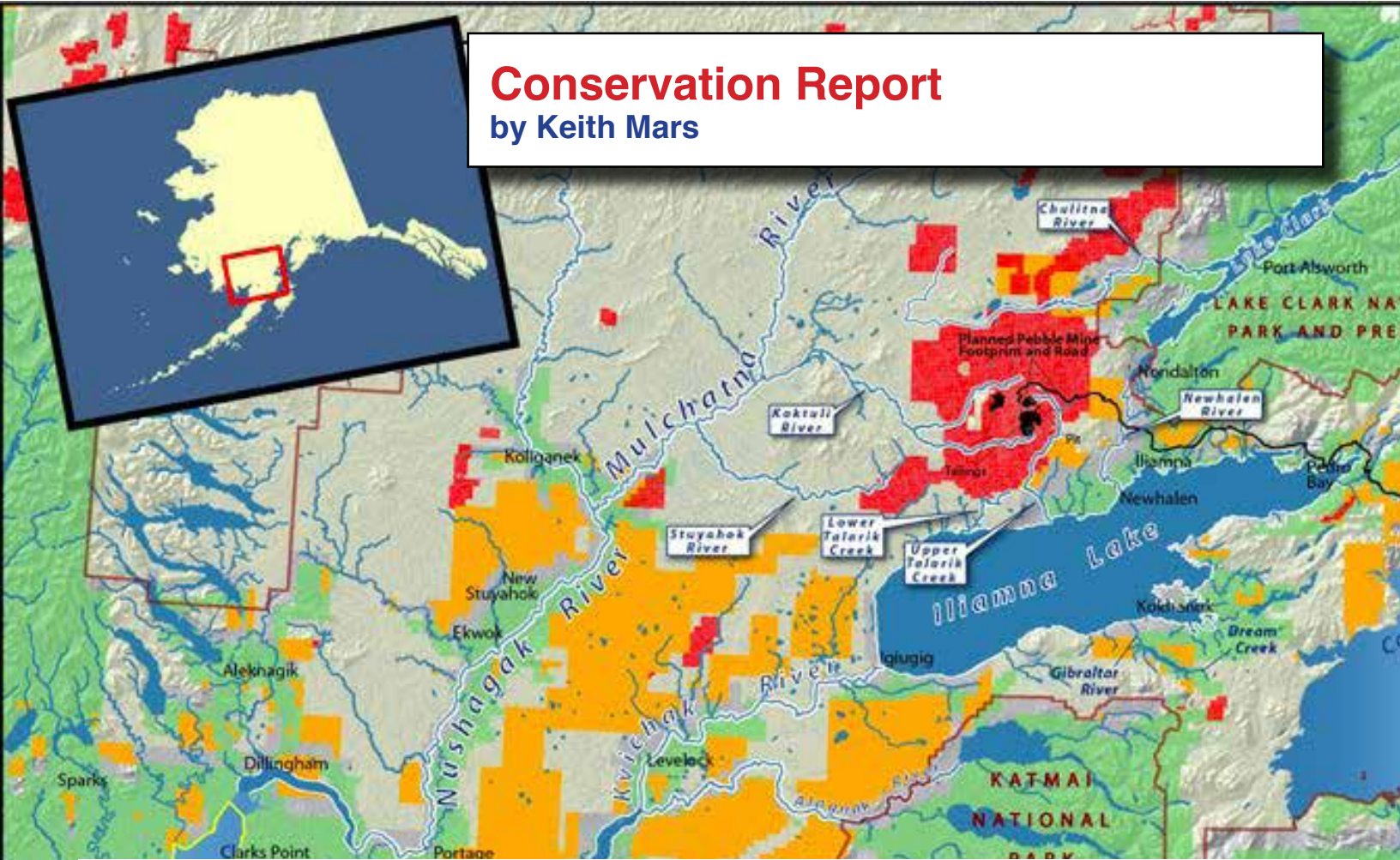
The rest of the trip was spent in downtown Steamboat, which fished surprisingly well. The stretch from the 5th Street Bridge down to the library was the most productive with good sized rainbows and browns. We caught almost all of our fish on zebra midges in deep water right at the end of the seam just when you think it's time to pick up your flies and recast.

The Yampa doesn't come to mind for most people when they think of fly fishing out west. But the good thing about fly fishing is it often takes you to beautiful places, and Steamboat Springs was one of those places. As Joe Humphreys reminds us, "Don't forget to look up, look at the beauty around you."



Conservation Report

by Keith Mars



End Game for Pebble Mine

It's time to put one more nail in the Pebble Mine coffin. This proposed mine has been one shannagin after another and continues to threaten Bristol Bay, the world's largest Sockeye salmon fishery in the world. Now, I've never been to Alaska. Money and time have been insurmountable factors to date. That said, keep in mind most of Bristol Bay and its watersheds are on public lands. That means you own it, I own it, we own it and it's our duty to keep it wild. So, how do we do that? We'll start with a primer on what is the proposed Pebble Mine and why conservation-minded fly fishers should care, and we'll finish with a call to action in the current EPA rule comment period.

At the center of this fight is Bristol Bay, 40,000 square miles of vast, largely intact tundra, wetlands, and estuaries. In the mid 2000s mineral deposits were discovered in this area and the plans were put in motion for the largest open-pit mine in North America. It stands to reason that an open-pit mine of this size and the infrastructure to support such a mine might just be in conflict with the environmental and cultural significance of the Bristol Bay watershed. The so-called Pebble Mine has been a 30 year saga in various stages of being nearly dead to being nearly permitted. Groups ranging from local organizations to heavy hitting national organizations, like Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership have all put their resources behind stopping the mine. The who's who of the fly fishing world, Orvis, Simms, Abel, etc. have also put their weight behind protecting Bristol Bay.

In 2022 the pendulum has swung back to an opportunity to put this mine to bed. The EPA issued a revised Proposed Determination that would prohibit the use of certain waters in the Bristol Bay watershed as disposal sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with mining the Pebble deposit. The posting is open to public comment until July 5. If you want more information on the Proposed Determination and make public comments go to this website <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay>. If you prefer using a form letter may I suggest leveraging Trout Unlimited's resource.

https://www.tu.org/magazine/special-places/bristol-bay-epa-announcement/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=informz&zs=A4DCb&zl=x3l73

Keep in mind, there is a bigger fight beyond this proposed EPA action. Executive and legislative actions are still needed to permanently protect Bristol Bay. In the meantime, If you would like further information on protecting Bristol Bay and the science behind it, I suggest going to this fantastic The Nature Conservancy resource.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/alaska/stories-in-alaska/bristol-bay-interactive-map/#:~:text=The%20Nature%20Conservancy%20has%20invested,m most%20productive%20wild%20salmon%20rivers.>

Map created 2/27/2028

June Speaker – Cassio Silva



Our speaker at the Austin Fly Fishers June 16 meeting will be fly fishing guide Cassio Silva! Cassio is going to tell us all about fishing locally for a species found only in Texas, Guadalupe Bass. Come and find out where and how to catch the state fish of Texas. More about Cassio can be found at CassioSilvaFlyFishing.com

Cassio grew up on a small island in Brazil, fishing has always been part of his life. Cassio's father, an avid diver and spear fisherman, sparked a passion for the water and pursuing fish that still burns strong today. After picking up a fly rod, this passion grew and has taken him on some of his greatest adventures. From salmon fishing in British Columbia, chasing trout from Colorado to Montana, and pursuing saltwater species on the Texas Coast and beyond.

Prior to guiding and teaching others about fly fishing, Cassio spent many years in the classroom as a high school History and Social Studies teacher. Guiding allows him to combine two devotions, fishing and teaching. With this background, he works with both novice and experienced anglers of all ages, teaching new skills, sharing his knowledge, catching fish and making memories!

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



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

On the evening of May 31st, I conducted the fourth Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2022 season.

Joining me was Mrs. Angel Pavey and her four kids: Lana (14), Shane (11), Wyatt (9), and Oliver (6).

Mrs. Pavey's husband, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Josh Pavey, is currently training at Ft. Irwin in California's Death Valley at the National Training Center. SFC Pavey has been in the Army for 18 years and is currently classified as an electronic warfare specialist.

Trying to figure out how to keep four kids ages 6 thru 14 engaged for 3.5 hours of fishing was a bit tricky.

Normally, with fewer kids aboard, I can mix in some shallow water sunfishing, but, with four in the boat (and a stiff breeze), that just did not seem like a recipe for success. So, we stuck with what had been working very well of late, and that was fishing MAL Lures vertically for white bass grouped heavily on bottom.

Given the kids' very limited experience, I went with MAL Dense Lures (with white tails now that the threadfin shad spawn is over) used in deep water with a "smoking" tactic. These sink the fastest, thus enabling the kids to be in the strike zone near the bottom consistently while avoiding tangling with one another by keeping lines very vertical. I chose barbed hooks so we were sure to land a greater percentage of those fish which were hooked by avoiding losing them while transferring them from the water into the boat, as can happen when using barbless hooks. As is often the case on afternoon trips (especially as the summer approaches), things started off slowly and picked up right before sunset.

I was pleasantly surprised at how quickly all of the kids got the hang of the technique at our first stop. Angel helped Oliver a bit at first, and, after that, he did just fine on his own.

Despite catching 51 fish, every fish which came aboard brought a new round of screams and cheers. I'm not getting any

younger, and I find working with young kids takes more energy than it used to, but, it is energizing to see kids get so much enjoyment for something which for me is routine.

For those new to SKIFF, SKIFF is an acronym for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. It is a program now in its 13th year, sponsored by the Austin Fly Fishers, and supported by the McBride Foundation, the Sun City Rod and Gun Club, the Sun City chapter of Women Helping Others (WHO) and a number of supportive individuals, 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 also offers a time of respite for the home-front parents who may need a short break from single-parenting.

Thank you for your support of the SKIFF program!

--Bob Maindelle

Outings by Juan Shepperd

June 17-19, 2022 - Port O'Connor

Shawn Riggs has invited AFF members to stay at his family's house in Seadrift, Texas and fish the Port O'Connor area. The house can sleep 4-6 in 2 bedrooms. Each room has a queen bed and a full or twin bed so each bedroom can fit up to three. The bunkhouse connected to the boat barn can comfortably sleep 8-9 in bunk beds. There's also plenty of parking for RVs. Folks can arrive starting Friday at 8:00 AM and have use of the house until Sunday afternoon. Members only on AFF outings, please. Please RSVP to Shawn at shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com and he will provide the address.

For this outing, a kayak or power boat is recommended. There's kayak launch spots at several area fish camps/marinas. The Hook and Line Map F135, Espiritu Santo Bay is a good reference for kayak fishing the area.

For meals, Shawn has offered to make breakfast tacos and a grill is available for grilling whatever you'd like to bring or catch for dinner. Bring your own lunch supplies. There's multiple area restaurants, so dining out is also an option.

Hope to see you there!

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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

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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>

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

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



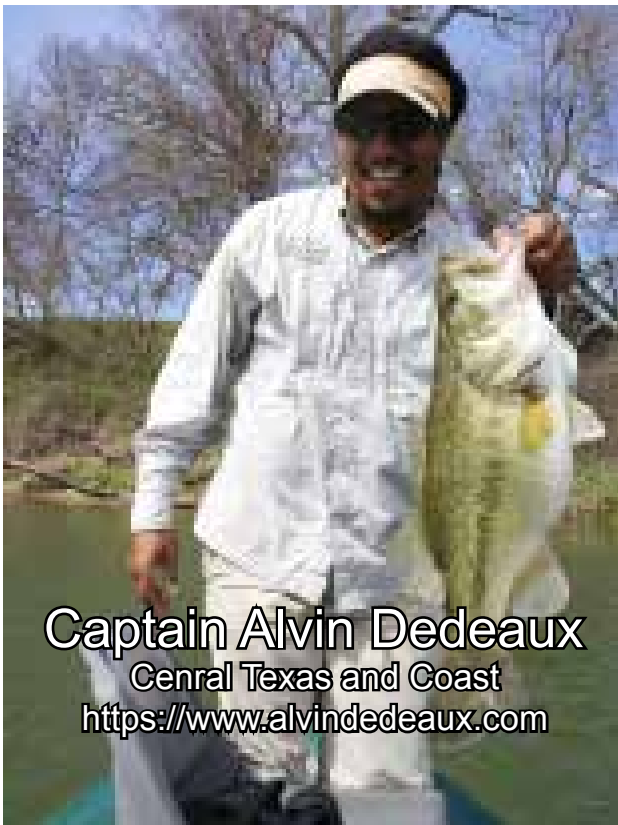
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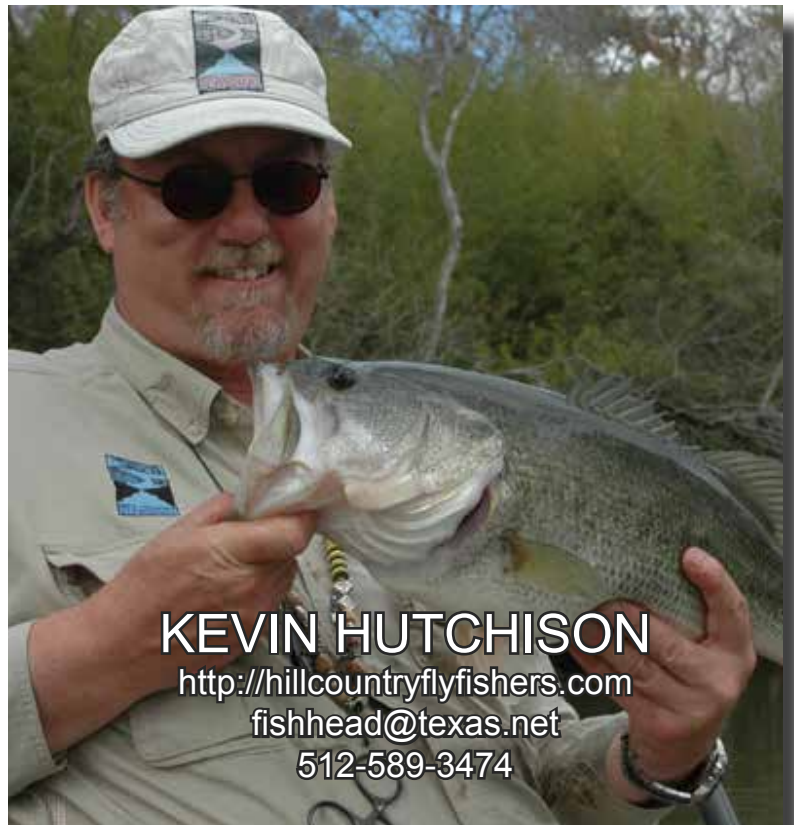
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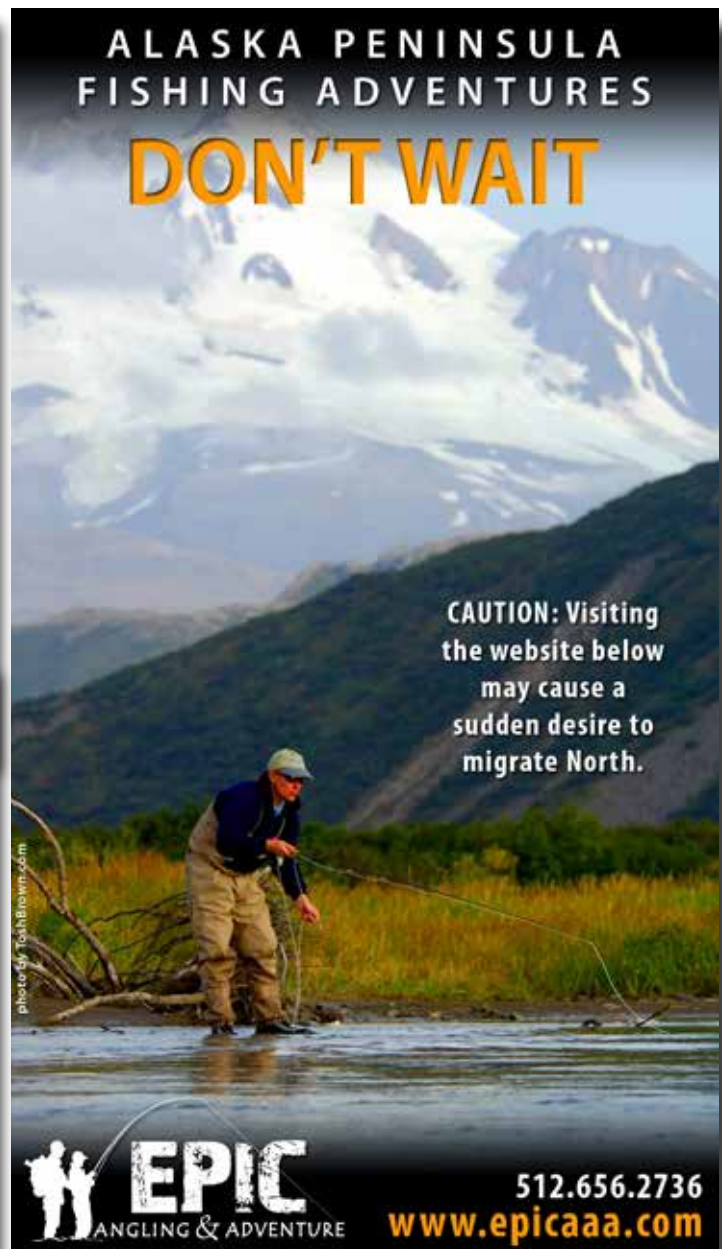
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