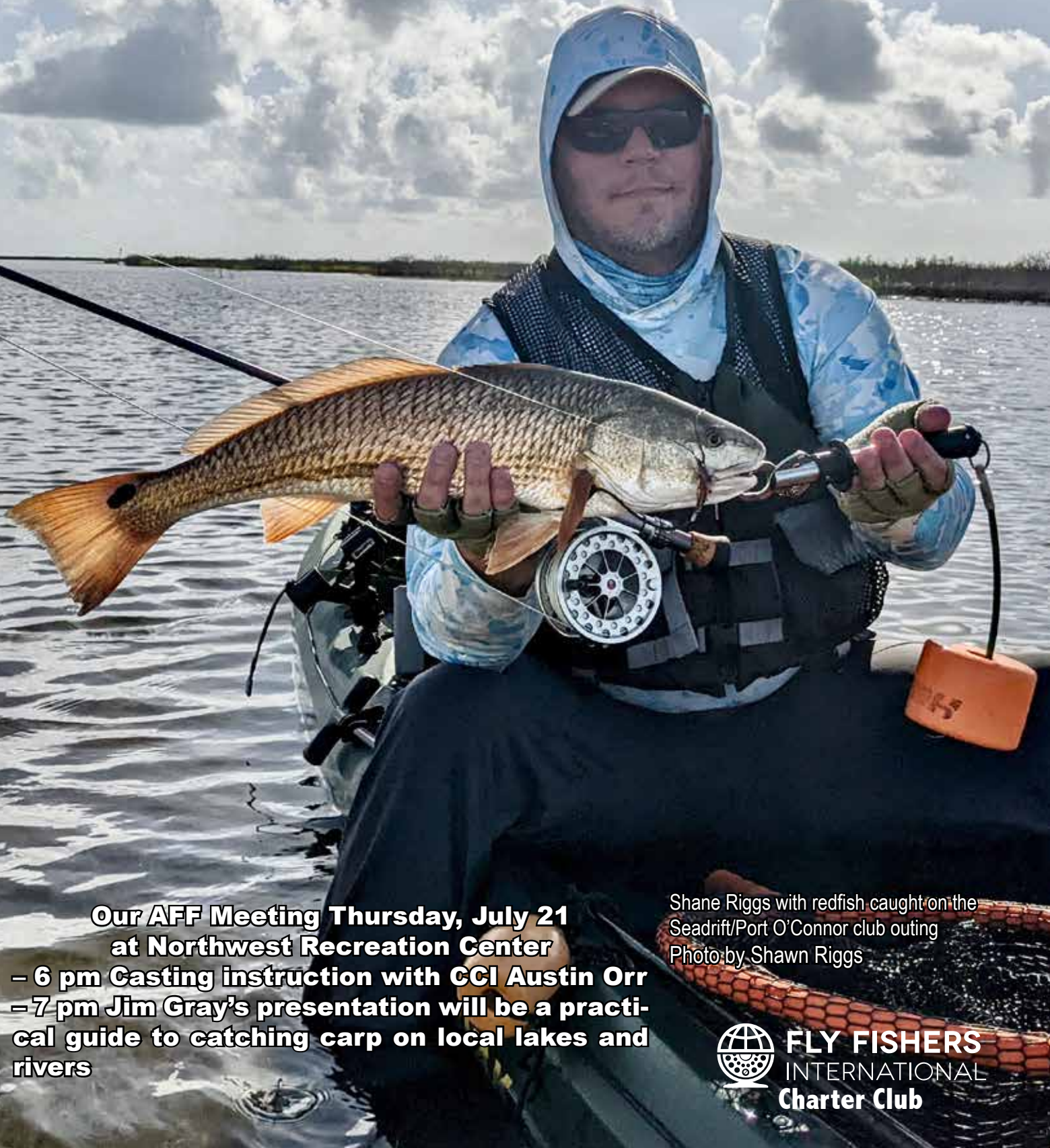




AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

July 2022
Volume 24 Issue 7



**Our AFF Meeting Thursday, July 21
at Northwest Recreation Center**

- 6 pm Casting instruction with CCI Austin Orr
- 7 pm Jim Gray's presentation will be a practical guide to catching carp on local lakes and rivers

Shane Riggs with redfish caught on the
Seadrift/Port O'Connor club outing
Photo by Shawn Riggs



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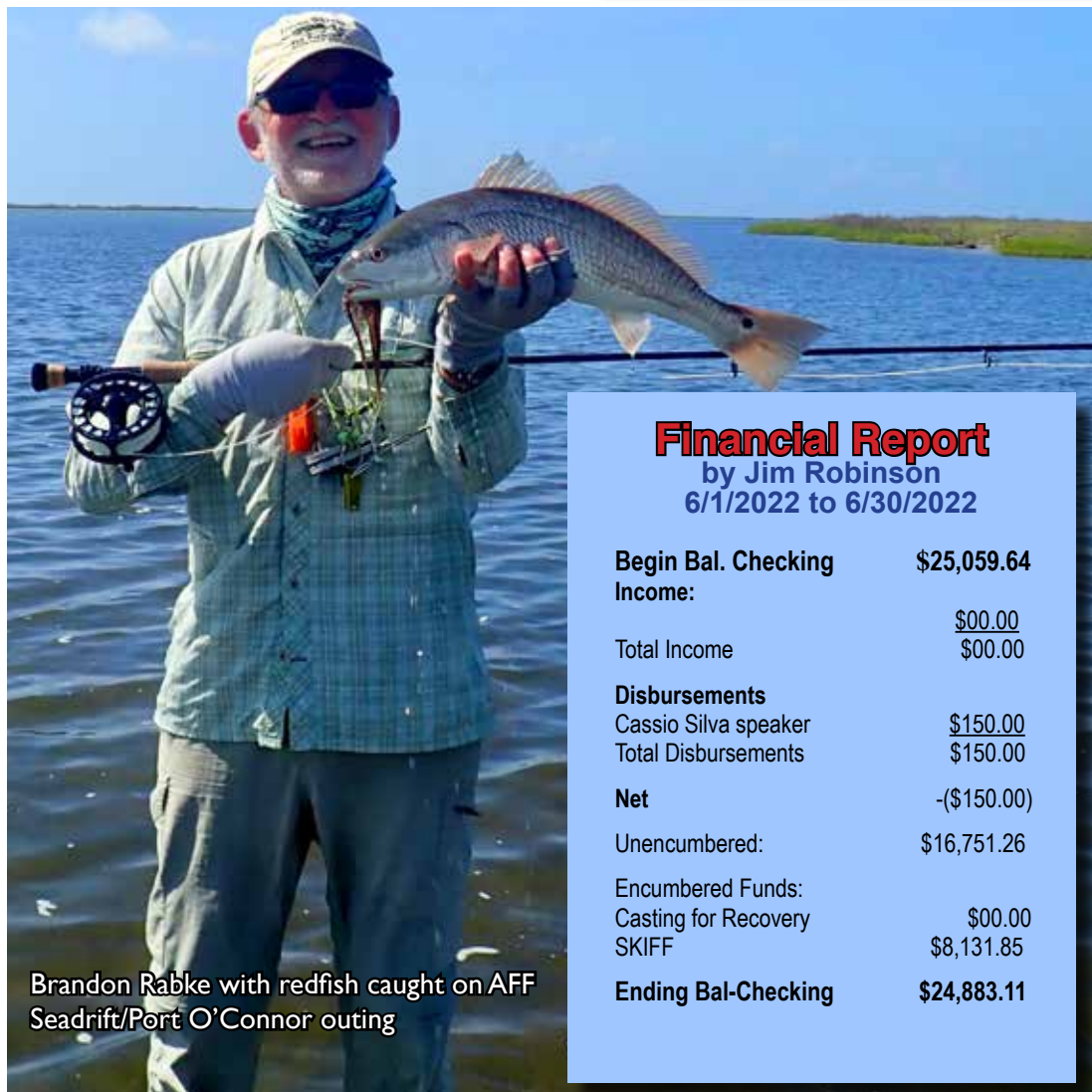
"It's too hot to fish!" Those were the words of an elderly gentleman being interviewed a few years ago on the local news. Folks thought it was just a funny hyperbole, but I knew he was serious. So, what do we do when it's hot enough to sauté a bass filet on the sidewalk?

If you can't head for cooler pastures, try fishing locally early in the morning or near/after dark. Many people advocate night fishing, and I hear mouse patterns can attract big bass at night. Of course, night fishing has its own set of hazards to be mindful of, such as boat traffic or attempting to walk/wade/stumble along unfamiliar banks. And bats. Just ask

our previous president Dave Bush how to execute the perfect 'bat' cast!

Recommendation: If you can't get out of Texas during July or August, I recommend consulting Aaron Reed's book, Fly Fishing Austin & Central Texas. Along with detailed information on where, how and for what to fish, Reed provides plenty of suggestions for local wet-wading fishing spots or locations near parks with shade trees and shelters. Really, this book is an ideal fishing companion year-round in Central Texas.

Happy Fishing!
Kathi



Brandon Rabke with redfish caught on AFF Seadrift/Port O'Connor outing

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

6/1/2022 to 6/30/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$25,059.64
Income:	
	\$00.00
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements	
Cassio Silva speaker	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$150.00
Net	-\$150.00
Unencumbered:	\$16,751.26
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$8,131.85
Ending Bal-Checking	\$24,883.11

AFF Seadrift/Port O'Connor Outing by Kathi Harris

Tailing redfish! I was caught by surprise by a small pod and I imagined the fish thinking, "Why are you surprised? Haven't you been looking for us?"

A group of seven of us had indeed been searching for and catching plenty of fish during our club outing over Father's Day weekend. Shawn Riggs very generously let us use his family's house as our base of operations while we fished various areas around Seadrift and Port O'Connor. The abundance of fish was a pleasant surprise as there was very little tide movement and the fishing forecast was fair, at best.

Some of the areas fished were Welder Flats, Shoalwater Bay, the Lagoon, Espiritu Santo Bay, and the shallows near Boggy Bayou. By far the most productive areas were Barroom Bay and Mule Slough. The water level was so low that even our kayaks got stuck in the mud in the Lagoon. However, the unusually calm conditions on Saturday morning enabled Gary and I to wade fish on the bay side of the spoil island, where black drum found my small red or orange spoon flies to be attractive.

Meanwhile, the rest of the group were finding numerous pods of tailing reds around the Barroom Bay shoreline and in the cuts and marsh areas to the south, despite the heavy boat traffic. Nils and Brandon, in a canoe with a trolling mo-

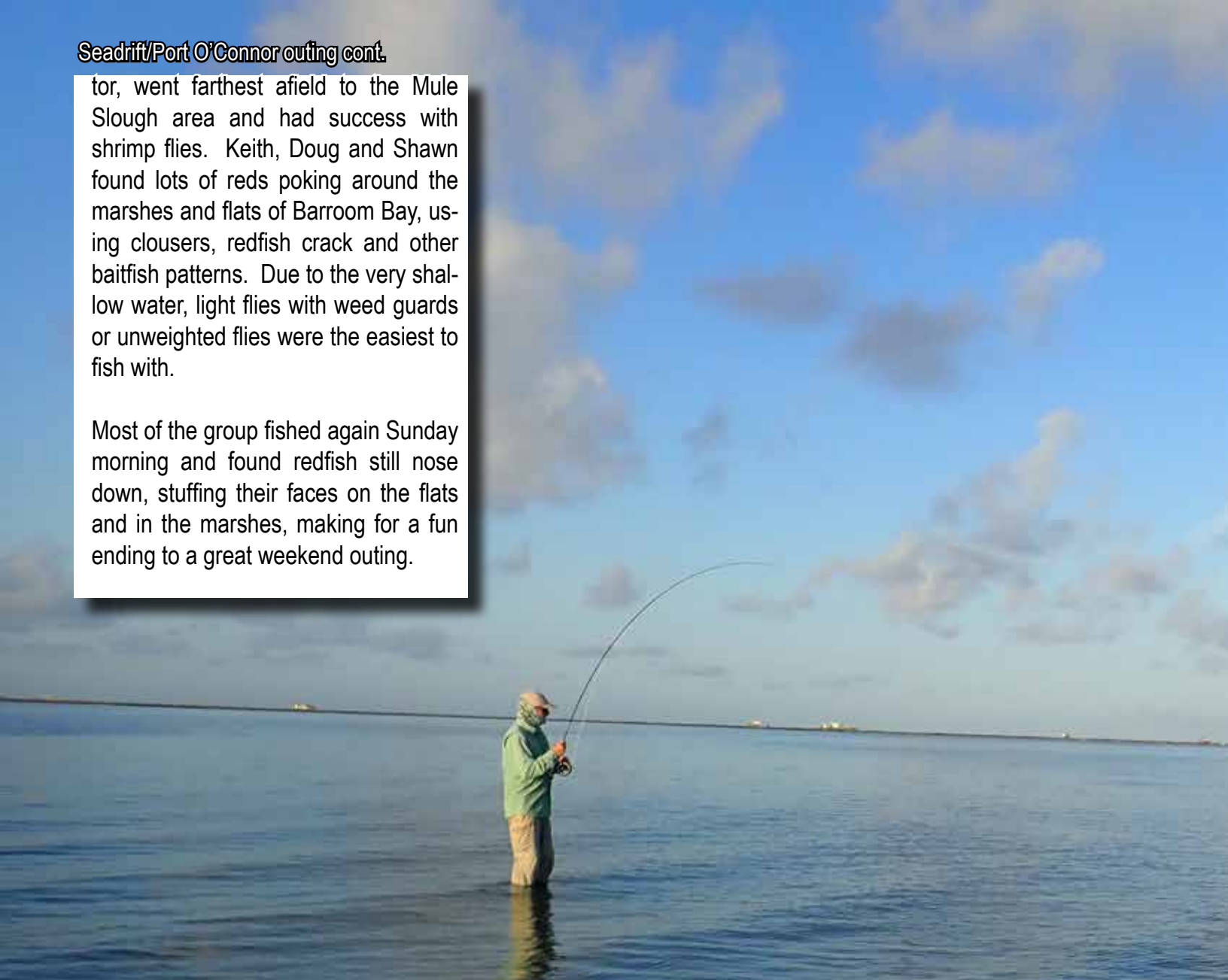


Brandon Rabke with black drum

Seadrift/Port O'Connor outing cont.

tor, went farthest afield to the Mule Slough area and had success with shrimp flies. Keith, Doug and Shawn found lots of reds poking around the marshes and flats of Barroom Bay, using clousers, redfish crack and other baitfish patterns. Due to the very shallow water, light flies with weed guards or unweighted flies were the easiest to fish with.

Most of the group fished again Sunday morning and found redfish still nose down, stuffing their faces on the flats and in the marshes, making for a fun ending to a great weekend outing.



Nils Pearson with redfish

Conservation Report

by Keith Mars



Keep Fish Wet

It's Summer is officially here though in Austin it felt like summer started months ago– the hottest June on record and 21 days of 100+ degree heat. But, that's a topic for a different time. Summer water temperatures can be difficult on fish for many reasons, and depending on how high temps get, the stress on caught fish can be lethal. So, what does a conservation-minded Austin Fly Fisher do to help ensure that caught-and-released fish see the next caddis or shrimp breakfast?

The science behind catch-and-release has come a long way and is truly a conservation tool when practiced correctly. Keep Fish Wet (keepfishwet.org) is an exceptional organization with a science-driven approach to catch and release fishing. Sorry to say, but no more just “hoping for the best” after holding a fish out of water for what seems like eternity trying to take a “grip and grin” photo. Sorry, but that fish will likely live longer on Instagram than back in the water. That said, we have all been guilty of poor fish handling, self included, and many of us just lack knowledge on what really matters when catching, fighting, landing, and releasing a fish. Each of these chapters in bringing a fish to hand matters and arming yourself with good knowledge can make a difference in sustaining fisheries.

I encourage you to take a look at the Keep Fish Wet website for some awesome info. For those of you, like me, that say, “oh that's interesting, I'll make a mental note and come back to it....and never do”, I'll pass along some key tips.

1. Pinch barb. You don't need 'em! The fish and your fumbling fingers will thank you. And, p.s., that goes for salty fish too.
 2. Keep Fish Wet! Avoid or minimize the time that fish is outta water. If you take pictures, and we all do, keep that fish in the water until its glamor shot and then back in the water asap.
 3. Wet those hands! This is good practice for all fish. Get those hands wet to minimize removing slime and scales.
 4. Reduce your handling time in hand and the net. Friendly reminder, debarbing your hooks reduces handling time.
- Enjoy your summer fishing and remember to learn and practice good fish handling hygiene.

July Speaker – Jim Gray



Our speaker at the Austin Fly Fishers July 21 meeting is one of the most accomplished fly fishermen in central Texas, Jim Gray. Jim has been fly fishing and fly tying for over 40 years, the last 25 based in the Central Texas Hill Country. Jim is an active member of the Austin fly fishing community and has served as the president of the FFI Texas Council and the Austin Fly Fishers. Jim is a frequent presenter at Texas, Louisiana and Florida fly fishing clubs, giving presentations on Hill Country rivers, tying Hill Country flies, fly fishing for carp, fly fishing England and fly fishing for exotics in South Florida. Jim and Jeff Hoelter designed the Llanolope, one of the most popular flies in Central Texas. Jim also developed the Jim's Damsel and the SB100. Jim spends much of his angling time chasing carp on our local Hill Country streams and rivers. This year Jim is on a quest to catch 30 different fresh water species in Texas, and 60 species overall.

Jim's presentation will be a practical guide to catching carp on local lakes and rivers. Jim has caught over 1000 carp on fly and will share his proven techniques.

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



Harrison, Rochelle, "Flat Daddy" Bruce in yellow shirt, Grace, and Lillie Masteller with a few of the mature white bass we took on Lake Belton during the 2022 season's 5th SKIFF program trip just for military kids separated from their parents.

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

Since my last update in June, I conducted the fifth Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2022 season.

Joining me was Mrs. Rochelle Masteller and her three kids, Lillie (age 13), Grace (age 9), and Harrison (age 6).

Mrs. Masteller's husband, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Bruce Masteller, is currently deployed. He has served for 19 years. Rochelle is a U.S. Army veteran who did four years in an administrative role.

What a neat family the Mastellers are! Yes, SFC Bruce Masteller is deployed, but, a miniaturized "flat" version of him still gets to participate in family activities while he's gone. Mom (Rochelle) is from near the Ohio/Pennsylvania border where she grew up fishing from the bank for walleye and perch in Lake Erie. As we got to talking about this, she fondly recalled the Walleye and Wine Festival and the Perch and Pilsner Festival celebrated each year in her hometown of Ashtabula.

She and Bruce had taken the kids fishing before, but never from a boat, and never with spinning gear, so, we had some fundamentals about boat safety and gear we had to go over before the fishing started.

Whenever there is such a gap in ages with the kids I have onboard, the fishing becomes a bit challenging. Lillie (age 13) was a very capable assistant who aided me greatly in helping to make her siblings successful. The challenge lay in finding sufficient action, and over a 3.5-hour time span, to keep my youngest member of the crew (Harrison, at age 6) engaged in the summer season when fishing is typically tough.

We switched back and forth between downrigging (to find and catch fish), to working MAL Dense lures vertically (to capitalize on what we'd found), and "going fast" (Grace's favorite) from one fishing area to another, all to keep it interesting for the kids. That, plus a few well-timed snacks, a visit to the waterfall, and the assignment of kid-specific tasks (placing fish in livewell, culling fish for photos, releasing fish, rigging up downriggers, stowing gear for travel, etc.) kept

everyone in the game. And, thanks to mom-wisdom, we had a learn-to-read video game onboard for Harrison, just in case.

Our 34 fish catch included exactly 31 white bass, 1 short hybrid striper, 1 sunfish, and 1 blue catfish.

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!



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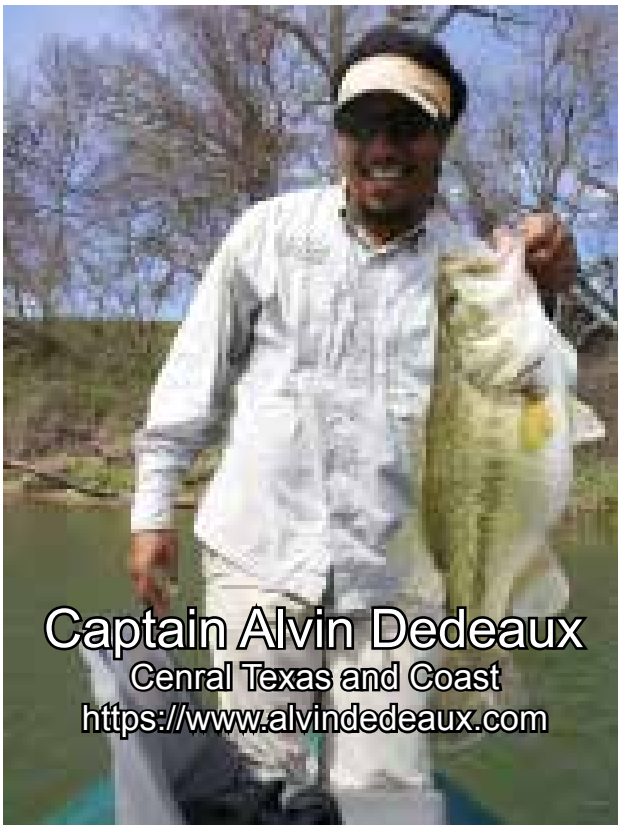
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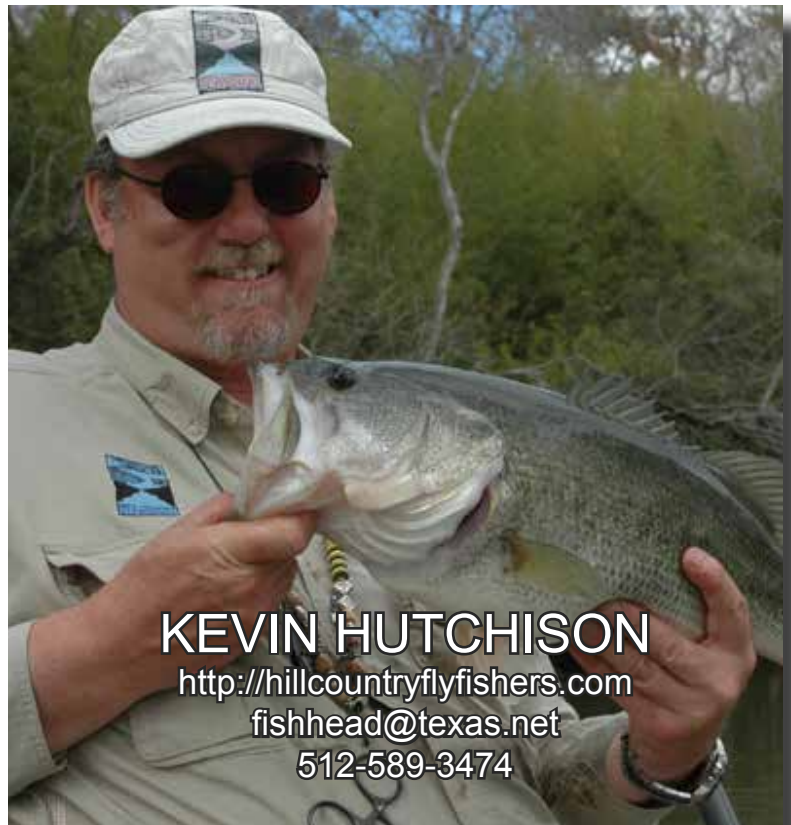
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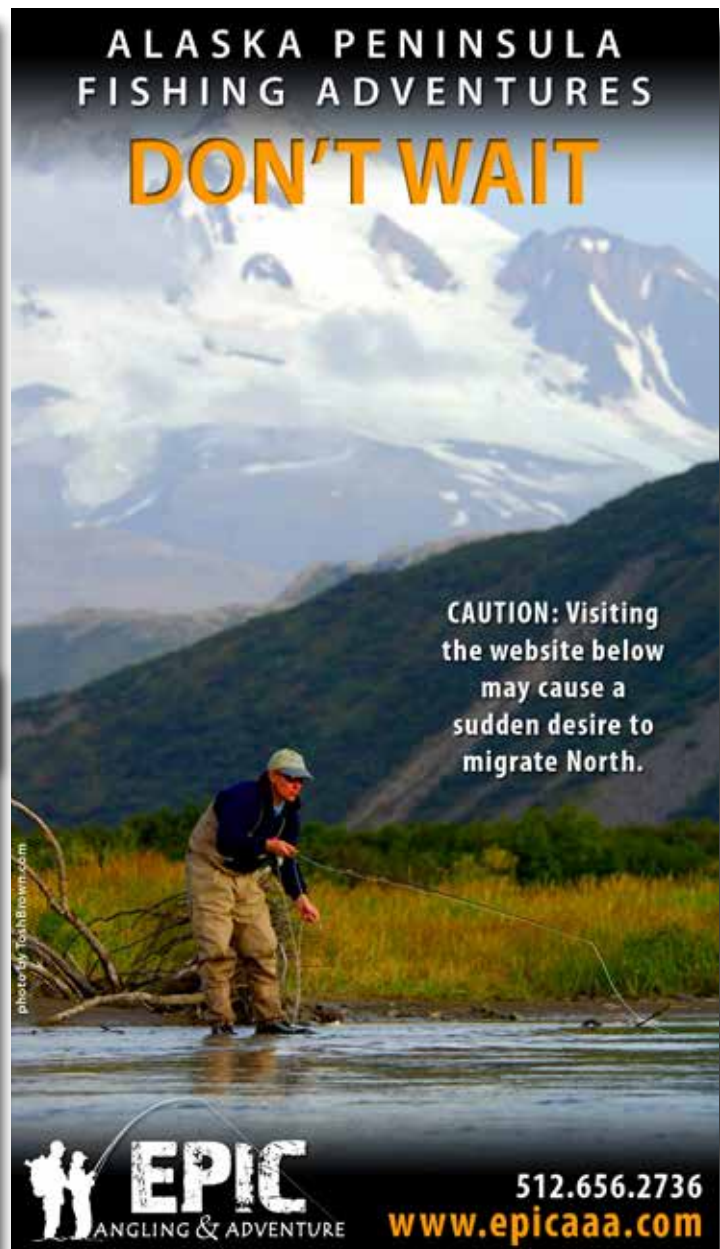
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