



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

September 2022
Volume 24 Issue 9



Austin Orr Certified Casting Instructor

**Our AFF Meeting Thursday, September 15
at Northwest Recreation Center**

**– 6 pm Casting Instructions from Austin Orr
this evening's casting session will provide
realistic scenarios for teaching purposes
for all casters from beginners to advanced**



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club**

President's Message by Kathi Harris

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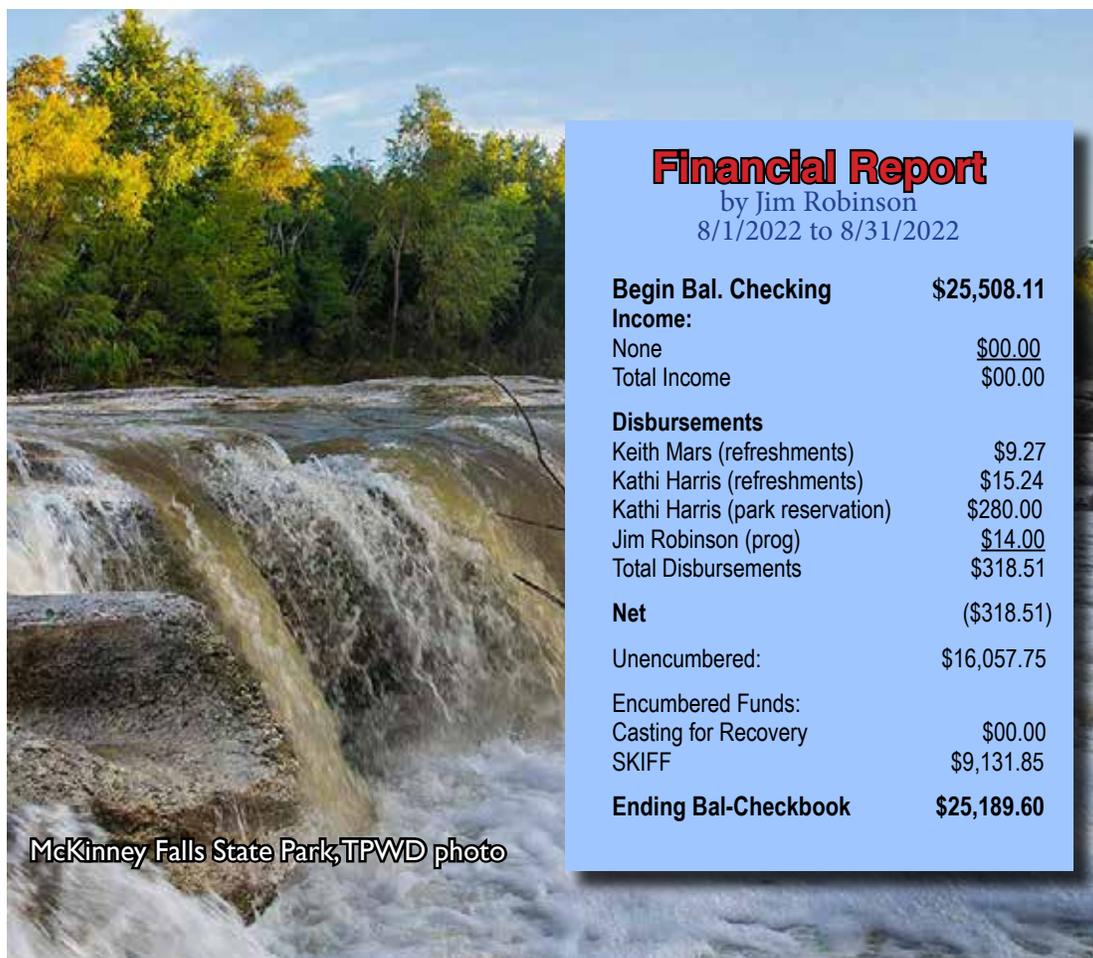
Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

A Fall is coming! Labor Day to Thanksgiving is typically the best time of year to fish Central Texas and the Texas coast. September is still warm enough for plenty of bass action, October is peak red-fish time and November brings us into trout stocking season. There's a couple of events coming your way to get you ready to go fishing. First, we are hosting a free casting class on September 15th conducted by certified casting instructor and club member Austin Orr. Next, Texas Hill Country Fly Fishers is hosting their annual Oktoberfisch event in Kerrville on October 21-23, where you can attend hands-on classes and seminars led by pro-level fly fishing experts and authors. Details and registration available at thcff.org.

Recommendation: Try the Seaguar knot for leader to tippet connections or as a blood knot alternative when building leaders. This knot was designed by line manufacturer Seaguar to connect monofilament to fluorocarbon and reportedly retains 97 percent of the line strength. Blt's easier to tie than the blood knot although the finished product is not as pretty. Just Google Seaguar Knot for plenty of how-to videos or go to Seaguar.com. Another tip I picked up from their site is to use Chapstick to moisten the knot. Honestly, I'm a little skeptical about that, but as someone who really doesn't like spitting on the line, I'm willing to give it a try. I'll let you know how it goes.

Happy Fishing!

Kathi



Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

8/1/2022 to 8/31/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$25,508.11
Income:	
None	<u>\$00.00</u>
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements	
Keith Mars (refreshments)	\$9.27
Kathi Harris (refreshments)	\$15.24
Kathi Harris (park reservation)	\$280.00
Jim Robinson (prog)	<u>\$14.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$318.51
Net	(\$318.51)
Unencumbered:	\$16,057.75
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$9,131.85
Ending Bal-Checkbook	\$25,189.60

McKinney Falls State Park, TPWD photo

Casting Session by Austin Orr

The goal of the evening of casting is to provide realistic scenarios for teaching purposes. Beginners and advanced casters alike will gain valuable insight and get to practice casts that are necessary in the wild. We will cover situations ranging from tailing redfish to skipping a popper under a riverbank tree branch. Austin will be on hand to discuss these scenarios and ways to approach each one. There will be plenty of time to ask questions.

Austin Orr was given his first fly rod at the age of 9 and never looked back. After arriving in the Corpus Christi area in 2008, he spent a decade exploring and fishing all the flats, beaches, jetties and nearshore rigs that he could walk, paddle or motor to. In 2011 he earned his Casting Instructor certification from Fly Fishers International. In his day job, Austin works with TPWD Fisheries Management in San Marcos, helping assure there are fish and beautiful places in which to catch them for generations to come. In keeping with his passion for teaching, Austin started Elevate Fly Casting in 2019 to provide a resource for dedicated anglers who'd like to level up their casting and fishing knowledge. You can find him on Instagram [@elevateflycasting](#) or at elevateflycasting.com.



Austin Orr

Conservation Report

by Keith Mars

As Austin Fly Fishers, you know public lands are crucial to healthy waters. And healthy watersheds and healthy fisheries go hand-in-hand. Public lands are vitally important to habitat connectivity and as Trout Unlimited says, “habitat connectivity helps trout take care of themselves”. The same logic goes for about any fishery. These public lands are also crucial in advancing our country’s goal of preserving 30 percent of U.S. land by 2030.

Remember, the next time you are fishing Barton Creek or down at Padre Island National Seashore, these public lands are your lands. Be the best steward and advocate you can be as your actions today are an investment in the future of our public lands.

If you are interested in national organizations fighting the good fight for public lands look no further than the following resources:

Trust for Public Lands

<https://www.tpl.org/>

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

<https://www.trcp.org/>

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

<https://www.backcountryhunters.org/>

Trout Unlimited

<https://www.tu.org/>

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

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

Since my last update, I conducted three Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trips during the month of August, bringing the total number of trips for the 2022 season to ten.

Trip #8 – 01 August, 2022

On Monday, August 1st, I conducted the eighth Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2022 season.

I welcomed aboard 10-year-old Braden Sepaugh, 7-year-old Tucker Sepaugh, and their mom, Mrs. Amber Sepaugh.

The boys' dad, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Sepaugh, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot, has served in the military for 14 years. He is deployed to Europe from Fort Hood. Mrs. Sepaugh will be teaching elementary-aged kids at Central Texas Christian School in Belton as the new school year begins.

This trip consisted of using a "smoking" tactic 100% of the time, for a catch consisting of 100% white bass — 83 of them to be exact. Smoking refers to racing an MAL Lure (inline spinner) up off the bottom to imitate the panicked flight of a small baitfish trying to elude a gamefish.

Trip #9 – 02 August, 2022

On Tuesday, August 2nd, I conducted the ninth Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2022 season.

I welcomed aboard 9-year-old Emerson Rayburn and her 7-year-old brother, Weston Rayburn. Prior to this morning's trip, neither child had ever caught a fish before.

The kids' father, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Chris Rayburn is a fixed-wing aircraft pilot for the Army's military intelligence branch. He recently received orders taking him on a months-long mission to Africa.

Knowing he was going to be separated from his kids for quite some time to come, he contacted me to see if he could take a pre-departure fishing trip with them. We (the SKIFF organization) gladly granted that request.

We landed exactly 73 fish, and every last one of them came on a vertically worked MAL Dense Lure with chartreuse tail. We watched every fish we caught chase and overtake our lures on Garmin LiveScope. This technology allowed me to advise the kids on when to continue their retrieves and when to allow their lures to return to bottom — for this reason alone, it was invaluable.



From left: Braydon, Amber, and Tucker Sepaugh with a pair of fish the boys landed simultaneously. We released 100% of our catch. These fish taken from cooler, deep water will perish very quickly if not released immediately, thus, I do not hold them in the livewell.



From left: Weston and Emerson Rayburn during the kids' farewell fishing trip prior to their dad's departure on a months-long mission to Africa.

Trip #10 –10 August, 2022

On Wednesday, August 10th, I conducted the tenth Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2022 season.

I welcomed aboard the Froschauer family including Abby (mom), and her daughters, 9-year-old Molly, and 8-year-old Rose.

The girls' father, U.S. Army Master Sergeant (E-8) Paul Froschauer, has been serving for 19 1/2 years. He is a part of the Army's Armor Branch and was recently deployed to Germany.

We caught white bass by working MAL Dense Lures vertically, and by using downriggers. We also went up shallow and fished for sunfish in the hydrilla. The girls' 60 fish tally included 32 sunfish, 2 freshwater drum, 2 largemouth bass, and 24 white bass.



Rose Froschauer holds a "triple" she landed on a 3-armed umbrella rig while we were downrigging at mid-morning as her sister, Molly, looks on.

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

It's hot outside. When the sun beats down on you, find shade. Better yet, find water. Texas is in the middle of one heck of a drought and I know going outside is one the last things most of you would like to do. However, if you can muster the courage and energy, I think you'll be rewarded.

I drove 3 hours to West Texas recently – I call Junction, Texas “West Texas” though I understand that's debatable. It's undeniably West of Austin. It's dry, arid country. Looks like the desert. That is until you climb a ridge or bluff and see a green ribbon below. The South Llano River is a desert Oasis. It's a magnificent river and a welcome sight to the dusty, weary traveler. It's Spring fed, like the San Marcos river, and is a great place to kayak and wade and fish. I did all of that and forgot it was a hundred + degrees. Cool water will do that.

Fish will too. The Austin Fly Fishers recently rambled down to Texas Coast. Kathi highlighted their success in the last newsletter. I can't comment on the weather at the Coast, but the fishing looked excellent.

I will be out of town the 3d week in August. I do not have a Club outing planned. I encourage you to join the Club at the August 18 meeting to hear about other club members' recent fly fishing adventures. I'll be in Utah in June and hope to fish around Salt Lake City. Probably the Provo or Weber. Maybe the Green. If you know these rivers personally, drop me a line.

There are still 2 spots left on the Deschutes River Float in Oregon in October. Please let me know if you'd like to join.

I know some of you prefer Salt. I've mentioned this before, there's a lot of Texas saltwater experience in the Club. Way more than I know. I would love if someone would organize another “local” saltwater outing this Fall. I am happy to help and/or get out of the way. The fishing looks fantastic this year on the Texas Coast. I see lots of smiling faces. Great to see the fish back after last year's freeze killed so many. Kudos to Texas Parks and Wildlife sweeping in to protect coastal fisheries and make changes to this year's regulations.

Finally, I am toying with the idea of a winter Louisiana fly fishing trip. Considering my family and I often drive 12 – 16 hours to New Mexico and Colorado each year – with kids (you remember how much fun that is!) - the idea of an 8 hour Louisiana trip seems almost local. If you're interested in making this trip, let me know. It won't stay hot forever.

Club Sponsors

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



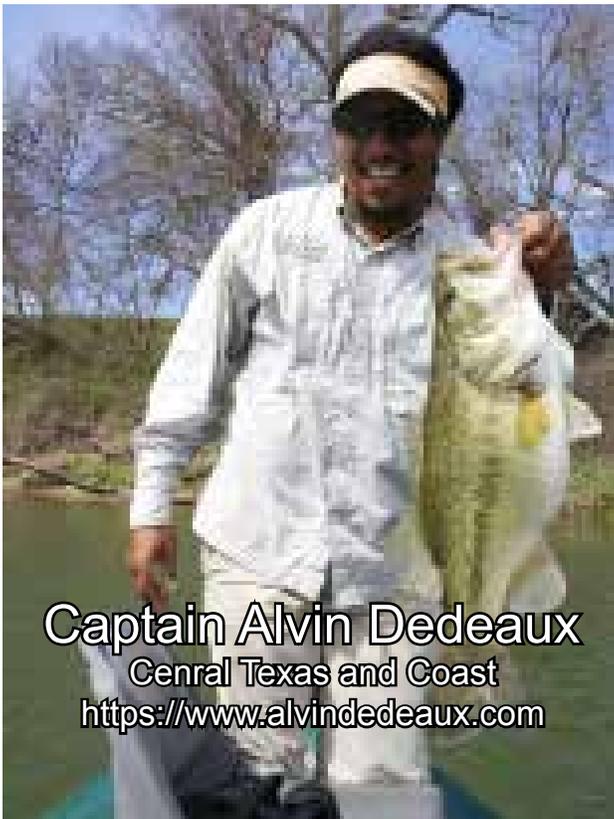
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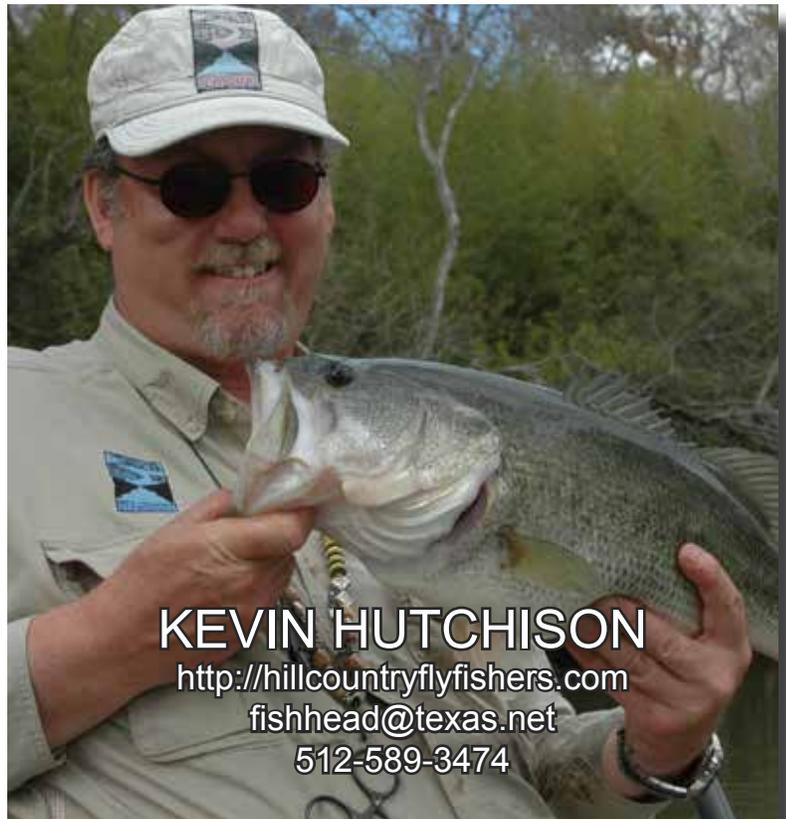
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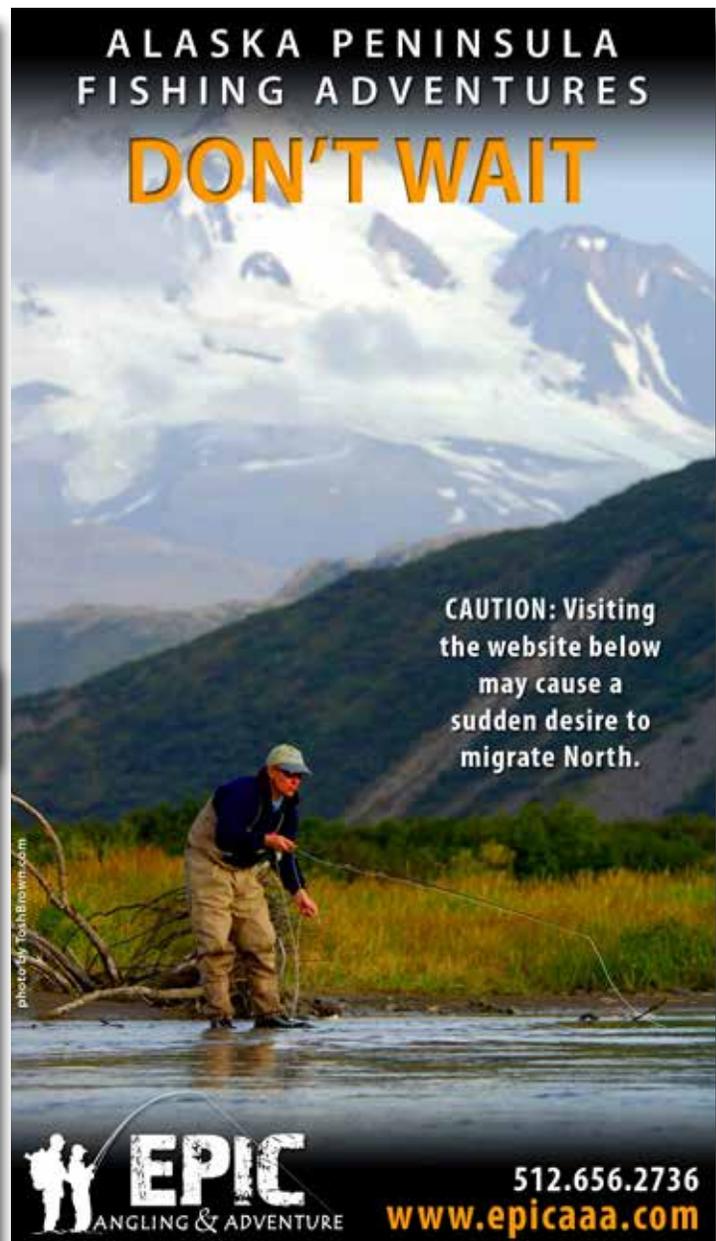
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