



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

November 2022  
Volume 24 Issue 11



Chris Johnson

**Our AFF Meeting Thursday, November 17  
at Northwest Recreation Center**  
- 6 pm Premeeting Fellowship  
- 7 pm Chris Johnson will make a presentation  
on fly fishing the Guadalupe River



**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
Charter Club**



# President's Message by Kathi Harris

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It's the most wonderful time of the year...Whether you're a cheerful elf or a total grinch, there's no denying that November and December can be terrific fishing months in Texas. Just in time for trout stocking season, our November 17 speaker will be Chris Johnson from Living Waters Fly Fishing. Chris, a trout expert, top-notch fly fishing guide and local fly shop proprietor, will be enlightening us with tips and tricks for fishing the Guadalupe River.

Just in time for stocking stuffing season, we'll be hosting our annual Christmas party fundraiser on December 15 from 6 to 9 pm at Rudy's BBQ on North Lamar. We'll be raising funds for Casting For Recovery and SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids

Involved In Fishing Fun) with plenty of great gear and gifts on offer in our auction. Come join us for beer, BBQ, fish stories and shopping to support great causes. Invitations with a link to purchase tickets will be going out shortly as well as posted on our website.

Recommendation: Become a member and mark your calendars for March 18-26. AFF has booked a group campsite at Colorado Bend State Park for the famed white bass fishing! Members will have the opportunity to sign up for the limited camping spots and days they want to attend. All AFF outings are 'members only' so join up today!

Happy Thanksfishing!

Kathi



Kathi caught this redfish while fishing with Capt. Eric Glass on the Laguna Madre

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

9/1/2022 to 9/30/2022

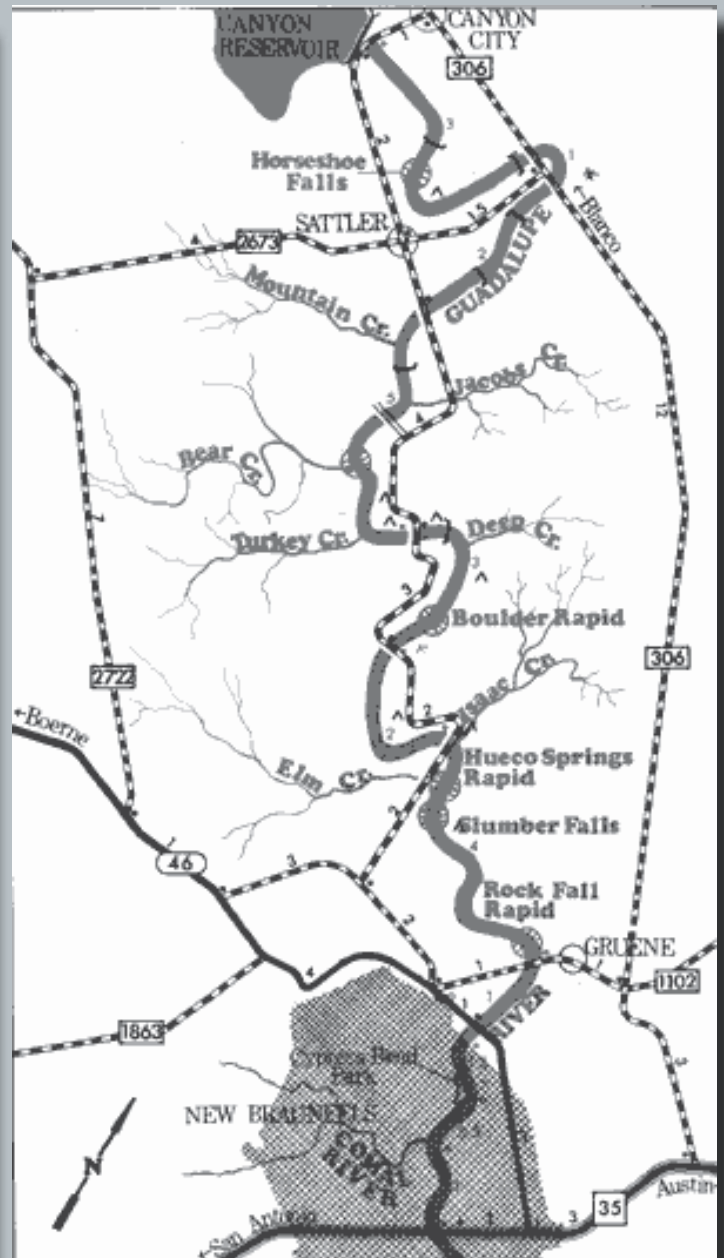
<b>Begin Bal. Checking</b>	<b>\$25,039.60</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
None	\$00.00
Total Income	\$00.00
<b>Disbursements</b>	
None	\$00.00
Total Disbursements	\$00.00
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>
Unencumbered:	\$15,907.75
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$9,131.85
<b>Ending Bal-Checkbook</b>	<b>\$25,039.60</b>

# November Speaker

## Chris Johnson – Fly Fishing the Guadalupe River

The Guadalupe River is Texas' only year-round trout fishery and is ranked as one of the top 100 trout streams in the United States! While at times it fishes very similarly to western tailwaters, the Guadalupe would not be truly Texan if it were not just a little bit different. Have you ever caught a striped bass, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, sunfish, and rainbow trout in the same trip? It can happen on the Guadalupe! Chris has guided this special fishery since 2008 and often fishes the river outside of the unofficial "winter trout season." This presentation will focus primarily on teaching you how to effectively target rainbow and brown trout on the Guadalupe. Chris will cover fly selection, reading the water, entomology, perfecting your presentation, fishing different flow rates, and much more. Whether you are a first time Texas trout angler or a Guadalupe veteran, you will learn something from this presentation focused on our TU chapter's home water.

Chris Johnson is the owner and founder of Living Waters Fly Fishing, a fly shop and guide service based out of Round Rock, Texas. He has guided the Texas Hill Country since 2006 and has fly fished the heart of the state for over 25 years. Chris has been a licensed guide in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Alaska. Chris is a FFI Certified Casting Instructor, Umpqua Signature Fly Designer, Tenkara USA Guide, and TPWD Angler Educator. He is also a pro team member for Whiting Farms, Scott Fly Rods, Dyna-King, and Scientific Anglers. Chris is dedicated to sharing his passion for the sport and investing in the next generation of fly anglers. He often is a featured presenter and fly tier at fly fishing, outdoor, and community events throughout the state.





# Conservation Report

by Keith Mars

## The Clean Water Act Turns 50

The next time you are out on the water you may need to thank the Clean Water Act for restoring or keeping that water clean and safe for drinking and fishing. 50 years ago, the Clean Water Act was signed into law. This landmark environmental legislation required water quality protections for all US waterways. 50 years later, the CWA is still our primary tool for protecting and restoring America's waterways.

Before the Clean Water Act, cities dumping raw sewage into our rivers was all too common. Industry dumped waste without consequence. Too many creeks and rivers became so polluted that fishing and swimming was banned. Infamously, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio was so polluted that it caught fire in 1969 when sparks from a passing train ignited oil slicked debris. Sadly, this was not the first time. There had been a dozen fires from industrial waste dating back to the mid 1800s.

Fast forward to 2022, and the remarkable successes of the Clean Water Act are apparent as are the challenges that still remain. By controlling point source discharge into our waterways, the Clean Water Act dramatically reduced sewage and industrial waste. Further amendments over the years have worked to address non-point source pollution such as stormwater and agricultural runoff and add protections for headwater streams and wetlands. Thanks to these standards, nearly half of America's waterways now meet safe drinking and recreation standards. However, the flip side is that nearly half are impaired meaning they do not meet the Clean Water Act water quality standards.

Looking forward, there is still much work to do to preserve and restore our waterways. Despite the successes of the Clean Water Act, there are still looming political challenges. In 2023 the US Supreme Court is likely to hear a case that substantially limits the scope of the Clean Water Act. Also, there is the perpetual tug-of-war on how to define Waters of the US that may further limit the Clean Water Act if tributary streams are not protected.

Austin Fly Fishers care about fisheries and by extension care about the clean water that supports them. If you want further information click on these links to reports from the National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/NWF-Reports/2022/Five-Decades-of-Clean-Water1> Trout Unlimited <https://www.tu.org/magazine/from-the-president/the-clean-water-act-at-50/>

Sincerely,  
Keith Mars  
@conservationonthefly



# SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

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

For the month of October we provided fishing opportunities for three kids from two families, both on the Columbus Day Monday school holiday. With daylength decreasing, afternoon trips now generally do not fit well with kids' school schedules, so Saturday mornings or holidays will see most of SKIFF reservations going into the winter.

On Columbus Day morning, I welcomed an 8-year-old young man on board by the name of Keegan Hughes. With Keegan's infant sister at home to take care of, Keegan's mom dropped him off and then returned about four hours later to hear Keegan excitedly detail his catch.

Keegan singlehandedly boated 50 fish on Lake Belton, thanks in part to the foundation his Grandpa JD had built by teaching Keegan to cast. The fish we caught came mainly on MAL Original lures worked vertically.

Keegan's dad, U.S. Army Sergeant (E-5) Vincent Garcia has been in the military for three years. He is currently deployed to Poland where he serves as an artilleryman.

On Columbus Day afternoon I welcomed aboard Paisley (age 7) and Leighton (age 6) Schmidt.

In what is definitely the exception and not the rule, the kids' father, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Josh Schmidt was able to accompany his children. CW2 Schmidt has served for 16 years.

CW2 Schmidt and his Warrant Officer Advanced Course class graduated a few days ahead of schedule from their course held at Fort Sill, OK. Hence, he was able to join his kids unexpectedly as he returned home to Fort Hood qualified to promote to Chief Warrant Officer 3 in the Air Defense Artillery branch where he works with the Patriot Missile system.

CW2 Schmidt helped me help his own kids be successful. We used a combination of vertical (smoking) tactics and downrigging tactics to land 80 fish on Lake Belton.

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



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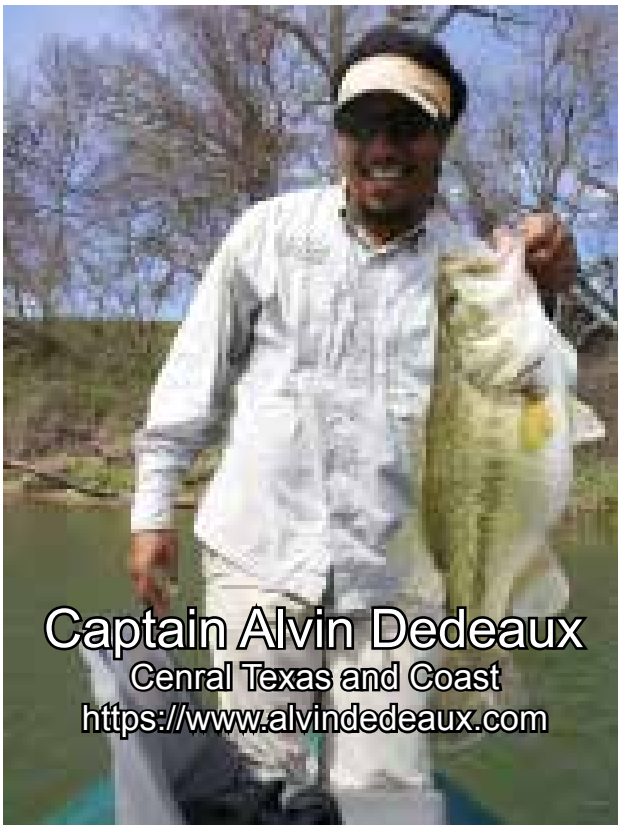
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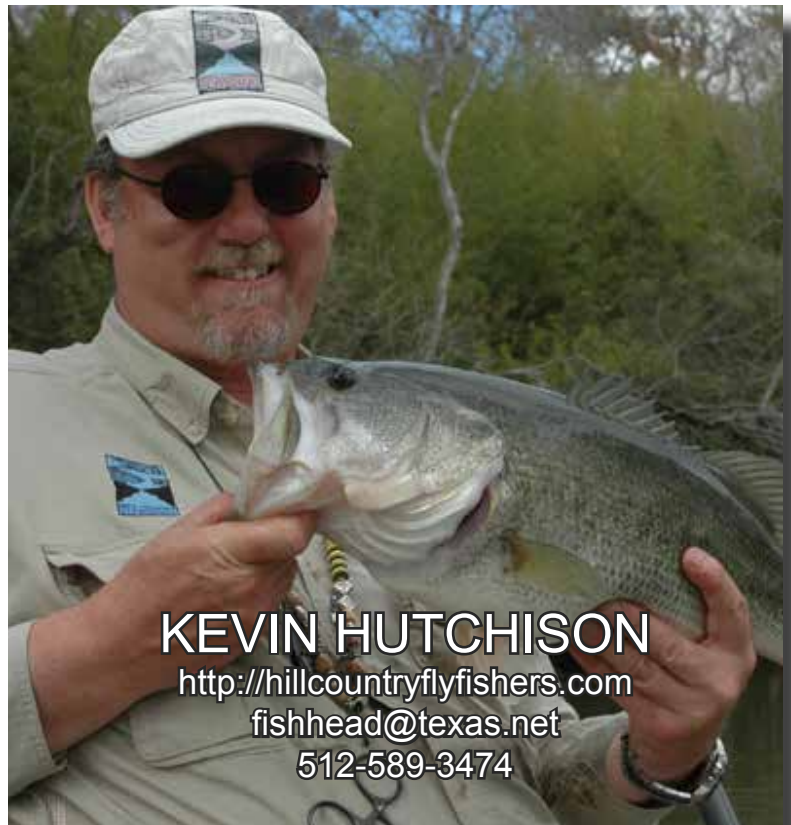
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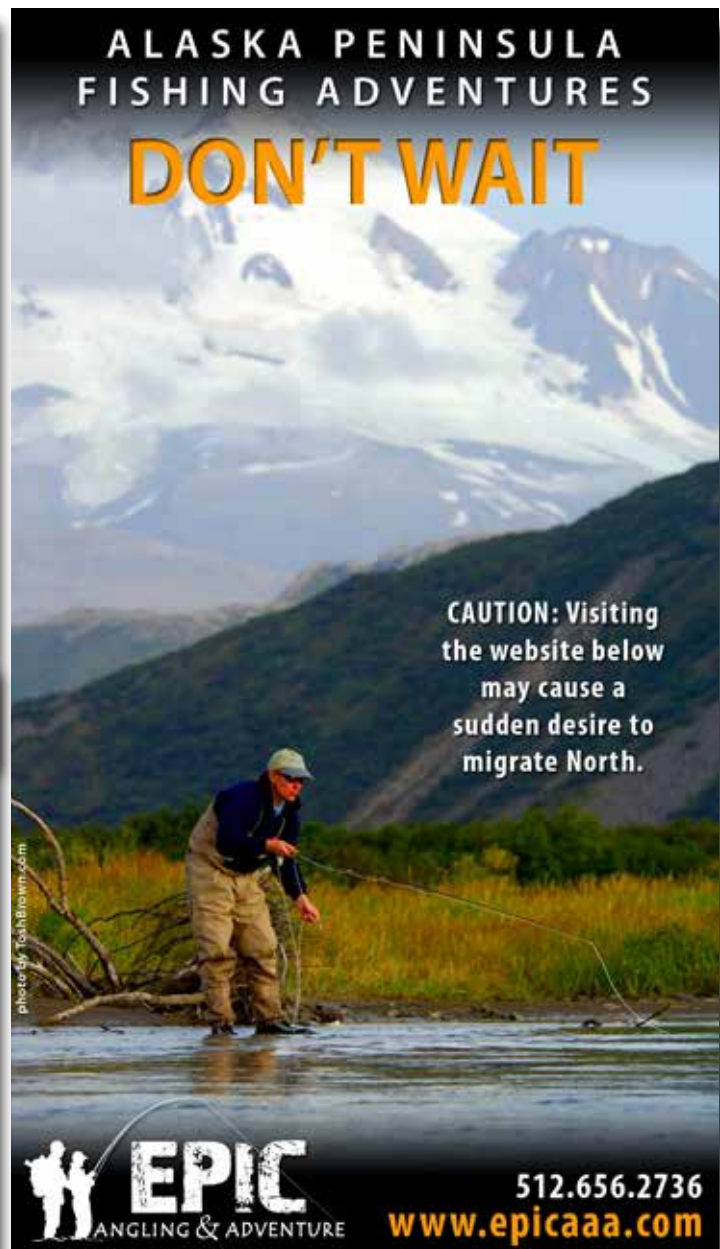
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