



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

January 2017

Volume 19, Issue 1

Club Meeting
Thursday, January 20
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour
7:00 Presentation

Cover Photo by Chris Johnson

Officers:

President

Matt Bennett
m.bennett151@gmail.com

Vice President

Dakus Geeslin
dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov

Treasurer

Shawn Riggs 512-656-7670
shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Dopson
Phil@PhilDopson.com

Past President

Jim Gray
Texasjimgray@yahoo.com

Conservation

Ed Parsons 512-413-3895
Eparsons@me.com

Education

Mike Morphew
Mikemorphew@hotmail.com

Merchandise

Vern Harris 512-863-4792
harris.vern@gmail.com

Membership

Jon Creed 512-203-7056
Membership@AustinFlyFishers.com

Newsletter

Nils Pearson 512-565-7647
NPearson@austin.rr.com

Outings

Dave Bush 512-694-1323
aff.outings@me.com

SKIFF

Dave Hill
flyfisher149@gmail.com
Manuel Pena 423-8898
mtexas@aol.com

Webmaster

Brandon Rabke
brabke@texas.net

Directors at Large

Doug Kierklewski
flyfsh@hotmail.com
Jeff Hoelter
JPHoelter@gmail.com

President's Message Matt Bennett

I hope all of you had a great holiday season. With the temps back-and-forth like they have been, hopefully you were able to fish a little bit on the warmer days. I've been eager to get out, but haven't been able to do so quite yet. Trout season is in full swing on the Guadalupe, and I'm sure the white bass will be starting to move soon, if they haven't already.

Our holiday party went well I thought - the food was good and I think everyone had a good time. Lots of people took home some nice auction and raffle items, myself included. With the funds left-over from last year, we were once again able to raise enough money to sponsor two women for Casting for Recovery. Thanks to everyone who donated items, and was involved in planning, setting up, and executing the party. I'd love to hear your feedback if you have any as we look towards next-years event.

The start of another year allows us to refocus our efforts as a club - what is it that we want to accomplish and do together as a club in 2017? I have my own ideas, as does our board, but I would be interested in hearing your thoughts. We'll continue to have great presentations at meetings and hopefully the weather will cooperate a bit better for some additional outings this year. I'd like to see us get back to some conservation projects as well. Please let me know what you'd like to see this year as members.



Financial Report by Shawn Riggs 12/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$10,306.87

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$121.05
Dinner Tickets	\$888.96
Raffle Tickets - CFR	\$912.95
Silent Auction - CFR	\$1,044.92
Merchandise	\$675.00
SKIFF	\$406.00
Total Income	\$4,048.88

Disbursements:

SCasa Chapala - Holiday Party	\$1,199.14
Total Disbursements	\$1,199.14
Net	\$1,716.89

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds	\$5,599.36
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Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$2,628.17
SKIFF	\$6,645.97

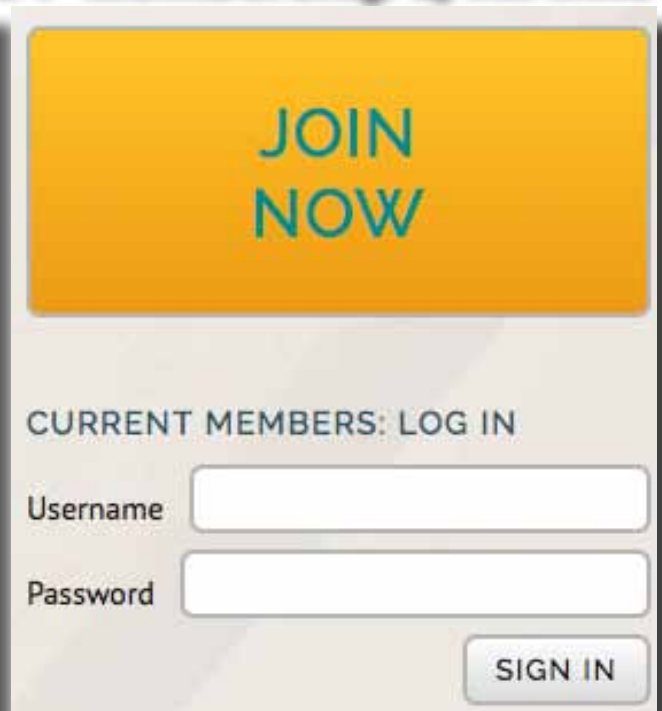
Ending Balance-Checking \$1,4837.50

It's Time to Join/Renew Your AFF Membership by Jon Creed

With 2016 behind us, we welcome the unknown adventures, memories, & fly fishing that we have to look forward to in 2017. After reading the January 2017 newsletter please consider taking a moment to check out the new website [Austin Fly Fishers](#) and log into your account to view your profile and current membership status. If you're not currently a member, please consider renewing or joining.

Your membership in AFF not only goes towards providing outstanding speakers and outings, but also education, conservation, and causes that improve our local & state fisheries. Member support allows AFF to give back to our communities and alongside providing beneficial social and educational aspects to each of you.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact me at Membership@AustinFlyFishers.com



JOIN NOW

CURRENT MEMBERS: LOG IN

Username

Password

SIGN IN

Outings by Dave Bush

It's now time to start scheduling our club outings for 2017. We should have plenty of water in local lakes and rivers this year which means good opportunities for outings as long as the weather cooperates.

As always, outings don't happen without club members stepping up to host. Following is a list of potential destinations I'd like folks to consider volunteering for and adding to our outing plan. Let me know which outings interest you, and we'll get them scheduled. Destinations not on this list will also be considered, so let me know what interests you.

- Guadalupe River
- Llano River
- Lower Colorado River
- Sabine River
- Colorado Bend State Park
- Lower Mountain Fork River
- San Marcos River
- Fayette County Lake
- Lake Bastrop
- Lady Bird Lake (Nils Pearson, Doug Kierklewski)
- Decker Lake
- Houston County Lake
- Port O'Connor
- Port Aransas
- Mustang Island/North Padre Island (Nils Pearson)
- South Padre Island (Nils Pearson)

To volunteer, see me at one of our monthly meetings, and we'll discuss a good time to schedule a trip you're interested in hosting. Thanks!

January Speaker – Chris Johnson

Chris is the owner and head guide of Living Waters Fly Fishing, a fly shop and guide service based out of Round Rock, Texas. He has guided the Texas Hill Country for over a decade, and has fly fished the heart of the state for almost 20 years. Chris is an IFFF Certified Casting Instructor, Umpqua Signature Fly Designer, Tenkara USA Guide, TPWD Angler Educator, member of Whiting Farms Pro Team, and part of Scott Fly Rods Pro Team. Chris is dedicated to sharing his passion for the sport and investing in the next generation of fly anglers. He is often a featured presenter/fly tier at fly fishing, outdoor, and community events throughout the state. Chris and his shop have also been featured in several outdoor magazines including Trout, Garden and Gun, and Tenkara Magazine. Chris was awarded the 2014 Man of the Year from the IFFF Texas Council and in the same year, Living Waters was the recipient of the IFFF's prestigious Lee Wulff Award. In addition to fly fishing, Chris is passionate about film and photography. He co-produced the short film "Unspoken," in an effort to raise awareness for Rio Grande Cutthroat trout conservation. As a result, Living Waters is working with Trout Unlimited as a Gold Level endorsed TU Business to restore Rio Grande Cutthroat across their native range. Chris is happily married to his lovely wife Emily. Together they enjoy running the shop, fly fishing the world, and raising their daughter Lydia in the sport.



South Florida Exotics by Jim Gray

For many fly fishers, catching exotic tropical gamefish will forever remain on an unchecked "bucket list". Given time and financial constraints, fishing trips to the streams and rivers of Southeast Asia, Africa and South America are beyond the means of most of us. But it doesn't have to be that way. There is a place a short plane ride away that offers all this, and more. The South Florida counties of Palm Beach, Broward and Dade have become a prime destination for anglers chasing peacock bass, clown knifefish, snakehead, Mayan Cichlids and more.....much more. The Florida Wildlife Commission has identified 34 invasive species that have breeding populations. Dozens of other species have been caught, and are likely breeding as well. While this would seem like an environmental catastrophe, FWC's Non-Native Fish Research facility can find no evidence that populations of native fish are adversely impacted. Due to the temperature ranges required for these fish to survive, they are unlikely to ever spread beyond this limited area.

I grew up in South Florida and most of my family is still there. I'll make 4 or 5 trips each year to visit, and when I do, I spend time fishing the urban canals and lakes that dominate the



Peacock Bass Fly



Peacock Bass

Florida Exotics Cont.

landscape. A travel fly rod and a hand full of flies is all you need to take advantage of this unique fishery. Finding places to fish on foot is pretty easy, and most fly shops will be happy to point you to a few places, or you can just use google maps do a little exploring.

Peacock bass are the undisputed star of the fishery, and are common in most lakes and canals. They will aggressively take a fly and are great fighters. While fishing for peacocks, you are also likely to catch other cichlids and talapia, with the Mayan, Midas and spotted being the most common. There's also a chance to catch some truly rare species. Just this month, catches of redbtail catfish, flowerhead cichlids and arowana have been reported. If this sounds interesting to you, stay tuned. I've put together a presentation on Fly Fishing for South Florida's Exotics that I'll be giving to clubs and shops this spring.



Jaguar Gaupote



Mayan Cichlid

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



From left: Emily and Josh Reynnells with white bass that fell for our small, 3/8 oz. slabs.

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

As the last day of balmy, 70 degree weather moved east out of Texas, I conducted the last Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the year with 11-year-old Emily Reynnells and her 8-year-old brother, Josh, aboard this past Wednesday morning, Dec. 28th.

Above: Emily Reynnells, daughter of U.S. Army Major Steve Reynnells and his wife, Johanna, with the largest fish of the final SKIFF trip of 2016. This Stillhouse Lake largemouth measured 18 inches.

Like many military kids today, it seems Josh and Emily's dad, Major Steve Reynnells, has been gone on duty more than he has been at home during their lives. Major Reynnells served in Iraq from 2010 to 2011. He was then sent to Fort Polk, LA, from 2014 to 2016. Then, just when he thought he might get to return to Texas and his family from Fort Polk, he got orders sending him to Afghanistan, where he is currently serving, for nearly another year. And then there is the training, field time, and schooling that takes place even when our soldiers are back

at their home posts that often keep them from truly being at home, even when they are "home".

I picked the kids up at their home in Harker Heights, TX, with my boat in tow and we headed for Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, a 6,000 acre impoundment managed by the Corps of Engineers. With school out for the Christmas break and dad overseas, the kids' mom, Johanna, scheduled a bit of needed respite time without the kids around. This is one of the most welcomed features of the SKIFF program – providing a break to the homefront parent.

The kids were excited to see whitetail deer along the way, and the flock of coots at lakeside that greeted us as we arrived at the launch site.

The conditions were good for white bass fishing, with some grey cloud cover and a manageable southerly breeze. Additionally, a migratory population of gulls feeding on shad pushed to the surface by hungry white bass beneath made fish location fairly simple.

Over our 4 hours together, the kids landed exactly 51 fish with Emily's 18 inch largemouth anchoring the catch. Using

an "easing" tactic with a white 3/8 oz. slab was the key as we held steady over top of the fish using the newest Minn Kota trolling motor "Spot Lock" technology so the kids could more easily look and feel for strikes down 20 to 40 feet below the boat.

THE SEASON IN REVIEW ...

Thanks to your donations, contributions, fundraising efforts, scholarships, grants, program discounts, encouragement, and more, we were able to put exactly 44 kids on the water over the course of 19 guided trips in 2016, thus bringing the total number of kids SKIFF has taken fishing since its inception in 2009 to 346.

This year those 44 kids landed 1,081 fish – an average of over 24 fish caught per child. The grand total number of fish caught since the program's start now stands at 8,382.

In 2016, seven of our SKIFF participants landed the first fish of their lifetime and were awarded a Texas Parks and Wildlife "First Fish Award".

For all of this, "thank you" just does not seem adequate, but, nonetheless, THANK YOU!!!!

The Fly Tyer's Corner Recipe by Jeff Hoelter

Frenchie

To kick off the new year, I've chosen an easy to tie fly called the Frenchie. As the name implies, it was developed by the French Competitive Fly fishing team. Despite its' simplicity, it has proven effective not just for trout, but also for many other species in both cold and warm water situations. This pattern is also useful for Tenkara if a faster sinking fly is called for.

While this example is tied on a jig hook with a slotted bead, it can also be tied on a standard nymph hook and bead. Experiment with other colors of thread and dubbing.

Materials

Hook: TMC 400 BLJ or similar size 12 to 16

Bead: Slotted bead, color, your choice

Weight: .015 lead free wire

Thread: UTC, Red, 70

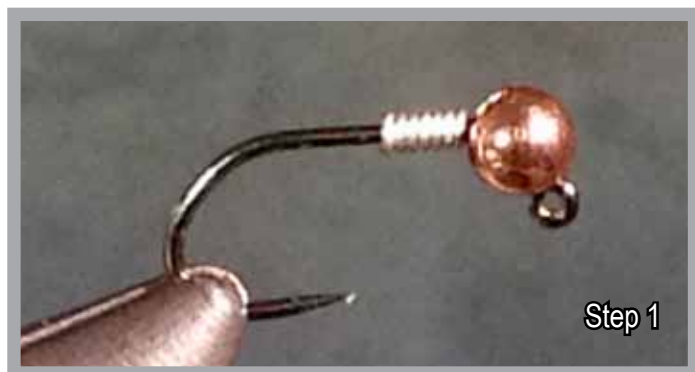
Tail: Coc de Leon fibers

Rib: Small gold wire

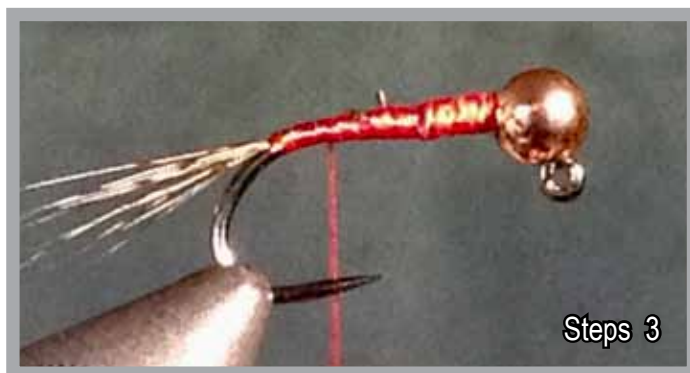
Body: Pheasant tail or

Abdomen: Ice Dubbing, UV shrimp, orange, red or whatever color you choose

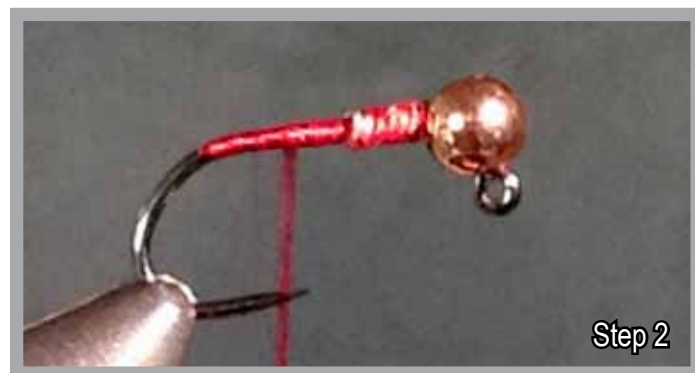
Step 1: Slide the slotted bead over the point of the hook and mount it in your vise. Lock the bead in place with a few wraps of lead or lead-free wire.



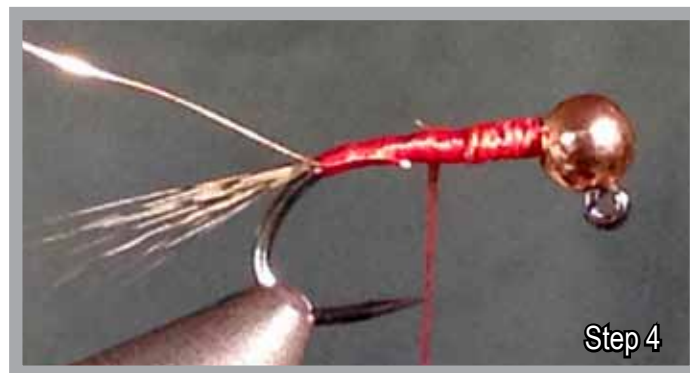
Step 3: Cut 8 or 10 fibers from a Coc de Leon feather and tie them in at the bend of the hook so it is about as long as the length of the hook shank. Wrap the base of the fiber down stopping just behind the lead wraps. This will help build up some bulk in the back half of the hook to make it easier to make a smooth body in later steps.



Steps 2: Start the thread in the middle of the hook and wrap over the wire to secure it. Wrap the thread to the back of the hook stopping at the bend.



Step 4: Tie a length of gold wire in just behind the lead wire and wrap it back to the bend of the hook.



Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 5: Clip a section of 8 to 10 fibers from a pheasant tail.



Steps 6: Tie the pheasant in by it's tips just behind the lead wire and wrap it back to the bend of the hook. Use additional thread wraps to build a smooth tapered body and let the thread hang just behind the bead.



Step 7: Wrap the pheasant forward with touching wraps to just behind the bead and tie it in. Try not to let the pheasant twist while you are wrapping it forward. It might be easier to use a hackle plier for this.



Steps 8: Counter-wrap the wire rib forward with 4 or 5 wraps in the opposite direction so it doesn't get lost in the pheasant.



Step 9: Use a small amount of Ice Dub for the thorax. This should end up with a ball of dubbing about the same size as the bead. Take a few extra wraps of thread behind the bead so it makes a little hot spot. Whip finish and it's ready to go fishing.



Fly Tying Tips by Mike Morphew

Sticking and Squeaky Bobbins

Although most bobbins of thread you purchase are nice and smooth in their use you will come across some that stick and sometimes squeak during use, both are annoying to say the least. The bobbin that sticks occasionally will break your thread usually at the most inopportune moment.

If this happens the remedy is easy, take a candle and rub it in each of the bobbin openings, this will lubricate it during use and make for smoother tying.



Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2015/2016. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

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

Capt. Jeff Johnson – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport

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



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Capt. Scott Hamilton

Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

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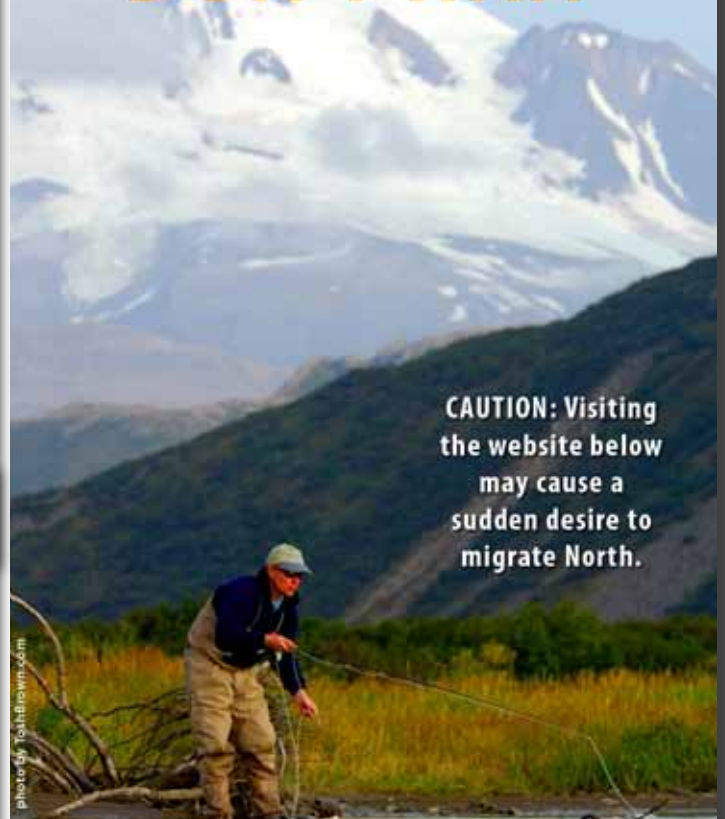


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Phone: 210-602-9284
email: kevinstu@msn.com