



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

March 2017

Volume 19, Issue 3



Club Meeting

Thursday, March 17

6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour

7:00 Presentation by Captain Billy Trimble

**Fly Fishing the shallow saltwater flats
of the Texas coastal bend**

**Jim Gray with mayan cichlid caught in
canal located in Boca Raton, FL**

Photo by Nils Pearson

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President's Message Matt Bennett

I just got back from a weekend filled with fly fishing events in North Texas - it was great to see some of you at these events also. I'll give a brief report on the ones I attended at the meeting on Thursday. Suffice it to say that each event was good in different ways, but the Fly Fest in Forth Worth on Saturday was probably the biggest success, attendance wise. There's definitely some positives and improvements to take away from all of these for next year's planning.

I've heard some of the white bass runs are getting ramped up and a few are finishing. I spoke with Keith Barnes about the Buchanan and Llano runs, which are just kicking off. If you're interested in these, now is the time to be out there. The cold spell today possibly knocked them back a but, but the fishing should get good again with the rain we had this weekend and the warming temps. I'm hoping one of you will step up to host an outing out there this month.

Speaking of outings, we are busy planning a few others and I'll hopefully have a tentative date for our inaugural "workshop" outing on the Llano River some time very soon. I briefly mentioned this at our January meeting, but this will be a good event for newer fly fisherman to learn about the Llano River and have an opportunity to fish with some of our more experienced members. We do something similar to this every year and it's always a bit hit. Look for a date for this one very soon, with a couple more other locations to follow later in the year.



Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

2/1/2017 - 2/28/2017

Beginning Bal. Checking \$15,657.39

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$318.88
Auction	\$170.00
Merchandise	\$40.00
Total Income	\$528.88

Disbursements:

Refreshments/PO Box	\$87.65
Speaker expense	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$237.65

Net

\$291.23

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds \$6,174.48

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery \$2,628.17
SKIFF \$7,145.97

Ending Balance-Checking \$15,948.62

March Speaker – Captain Billy Trimble

Captain Billy has been fly fishing the Texas Coastal Bend since 1980 and guiding 1999. Capt. Billy has traveled the country fishing from Alaska to the Caribbean in the Bahamas & Central America (and loves to talk fishing!). Originally from Junction, Texas Capt. Billy has spent his life fishing the Texas hill country and traveling the Rocky Mountains hiking to remote streams in search of fishing water.



South Florida Exotics: Part 2 by Nils Pearson

As many of you may recall from the January issue of the AFF newsletter, Jim Gray has been targeting exotic tropical gamefish in southern Florida for quite some time. Well, it just so happens that I was scheduled to make a trip to West Palm, Florida in late January at the same time Jim was visiting with his family in Boca Raton. As a matter of fact, we were on the same JetBlue flight to Fort Lauderdale and that turned out to be a fortunate coincidence for me. Jim had already rented a car for his visit and graciously offered to take me to my hotel. Jim thought it would be a good idea to stop along the way to my accommodations to fish a canal in Boca Raton.

After traveling north on I95, we got off the highway and Jim drove us to a small office park with numerous professional businesses with lots of vacant parking spaces. After opening my suitcase and pulling out a couple of rods, Jim produced a box of flies and we put together our rods and reels and headed out to the canal.

Fortunately, this canal had lots of public access because it was located along a public hike and bike trail. With the peacock baitfish pattern fly attached to my line I followed Jim's lead and began to blind cast along the canal. I would cast across the canal to the opposite side stripping my fly through the clear water. After each cast, I would walk forward a couple of feet and throw another cast. Before long, I caught a nice largemouth bass. When I showed it to Jim, he was a little disappointed that I hadn't hooked up an exotic. Up to this point, Jim had already caught a peacock bass and a mayan cichlid.

We proceeded down to the end of this canal where combined with a much larger canal that must have been 50 yards wide and ran perpendicular to the original canal. Now, I cast our about 40 feet into the canal and retrieved my line as I had been doing on the smaller canal. Not long after I began working the shoreline, I had a strike and I saw a silver fish come flying out of the water. At first, I thought it must be a small tarpon. Upon hearing the commotion, Jim looked over at me and seemed to know immediately what I had caught. He climbed down the steep canal bank and retrieved the most unusual fish I had ever



Jim Gray walks along a canal in Boca Raton, FL



Nils Pearson with clown knifefish

South Florida Exotics: Part 2 cont.

seen. As we got the fish up onto the grass, Jim told me that he had been trying to catch this species of fish for a long time. I had caught a clown knifefish. Somehow, my lucky cast hooked up this beautiful fish that rarely takes a fly. After a flurry of pictures, it was getting dark and time for a bite to eat and head to my hotel.

For the next couple of days, I fished offshore with Captain Scott Hamilton. I will cover my blue water exploits next month. Suffice it to say, the weather was rough and opportunities for spinner sharks few. As you would expect, I had a good time fishing with Capt. Scott in difficult circumstances.

On my final day of the trip, Jim offered to take me fishing on the canals before I caught my flight in the afternoon. Again, we started out on the canal in Boca Raton where I had had my once in a lifetime fish. This time the wind was blowing a good 20 mph and gusting into the 30s. Again I worked my way up and down the canal but this time with little success. That was not the case for Jim. He was able to again hook up Mayan cichlids, peacocks, and largemouths. As the time for my flight grew closer, we had planned to get lunch together. However after we got in the car, Jim told me of a canal just south of the airport that he had not fished but looked promising. Knowing that there was plenty of food at the airport, I decided that it would be silly to pass up this opportunity to fish this last canal.

This canal served as a median separating fairly busy roads on either side. I couldn't help wonder what the passing motorists thought of these 2 guys fly fishing in this urban water. Again, we walked along the bank blind casting into the canal. With about 15 minutes before I needed to head to the airport, I saw this large pipe that fed water into the canal. I thought to myself this looks like a pretty nice place for any type of bass to ambush bait that would be poured helplessly into the canal. I spread my casts out along the structure that this current had produced on the shallow water. Lo and behold, I had a good strike on my 3rd cast. Before long, I saw a brightly colored peacock bass on the end of my line. Wow, what a way to end my trip to Florida. Thanks to Jim Gray, I smiled all the way to the airport.



Peacock Bass



Mayan Cichlid

The Fly Tyer's Corner Recipe by Matt Bennett

Bennett's Lunch Money Fly

The Lunch Money was created out of need for a bite-sized baitfish streamer for the Texas Hill Country. Most of our baitfish are in the 2-3" range and due to our normally ultra-clear water, our bass can be fairly finicky, which meant it needed to both look realistic and have the right amount of movement to work correctly.

The original iteration was named the "Llano Critter" after the Llano River west of here, where it produced very well. The original variation was based off of Charlie Craven's Gonga streamer and tied hook-down with larger legs, a spun craft fur head, and just a tail (no wrapping for a profile transition) on a TMC 8089. After coming across Laser Dub a few years back thanks to Mike Schmidt's patterns, I incorporated that to give it a nice, translucent profile in the water with just the right amount of sheen. I also flipped the fly to ride hook up at that time, as I'd often get fish following the fly and wanted to be able to retrieve slower without hanging up on the bottom. Originally I trimmed the head to shape but after brushing the Laser Dub back instead, I ended up with a similar shape with more water-pushing bulk. After the TMC 8089 was dis-

continued in the smaller sizes, I moved to a Gamakatsu B10S, which has allowed me to tie it in a few more sizes.

I continue to refine it a bit as new materials are released, like Hareline's new Double Pupil Eyes, and Senyo's Fusion Dub and Fusion Legs. Many of the available colors listed on my website incorporate special colors of Fusion and Laser dub that I blend myself. Umqua Feather Merchants picked up the rights to this fly early last year, and certain colors will be available through them at the beginning of 2016. The full lineup is available through my website, flygeek.net.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S, Size 2

Eyes: Hareline Double Pupil Lead Eyes, Black/Yellow w/ Black Pupil

Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon, White

Tail: Hareline Black Barred Zonker Strip, Gold Variant

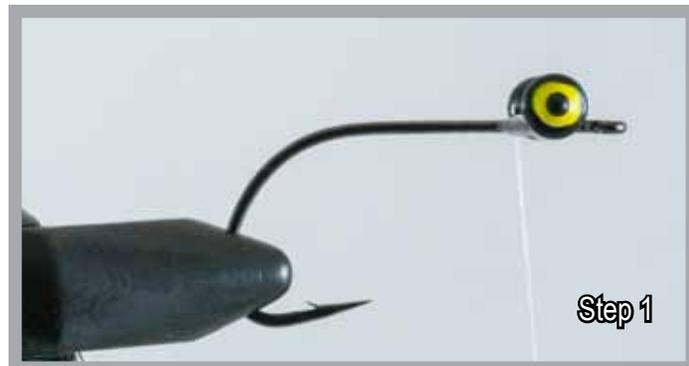
Legs: Hareline Grizzly Flutter Legs, Black Barred Root Beer

Body: Senyo's Laser Dub, Brown, Yellow, Sculpin Olive

Marker: Prismacolor/Copic Red, Black, Back, Yellow

Glue: Loon UV Flow

Steps 1: Attach your thread to the hook and create a bump of thread about 2 hook-eye lengths back from the eye of the hook. Figure-eight on your eyes. I used the medium size for a #2, small for a #4, and x-small for a #6.



Step 2: Wrap back on the hook shank until you're above somewhere between the barb and hook point. Measure out your rabbit strip tail – I typically do 1.25 – 1.5 shank lengths. Invert your vise and poke the hook point through the skin-side of the zonker strip at the point you measured out.



Steps 3: Remove the hook from the vise. Slide the zonker up the hook shank to where your thread base ends, then flip it 180 degrees back towards the hook bend. Tie in your tail and move your thread in front of the remaining piece of zonker facing towards the hook eye.



Step 4: Wrap your thread to the midpoint between where the tail and lead eyes are tied in. Grab the remaining zonker piece and wrap a collar with 2-3 wraps, depending on the thickness and length of the zonker. I did 2 here. Tie down and cut the remainder of the zonker strip off.



Fly Tyer Cont.

Steps 5: Tie in two Grizzly Flutter Legs at their midpoint on the side of the hook directly in front of your collar.



Step 6: Pull the two front-facing legs over the top of the fly, stretching them to opposite side of the hook. Wrap backwards with your thread, binding them down securely. Do not stretch them too much as they can break fairly easily.



Steps 7: Take two clumps of Yellow Laser Dub. Find the mid-points of each and tie them on the top and bottom of the hook shank.



Step 8: Use your non-bobbin hand to hold these clumps back towards the tail and build a small thread dam in front to keep them laid back.



Steps 9: Repeat steps 7 & 8 with a clump of Brown on top, and Yellow on bottom. Remember that the fly rides hook-up.



Step 10: Move your thread in front of the eyes. Repeat steps 7 & 8 with Sculpin Olive on top, and Yellow on bottom. Whip finish.



Steps 11: Brush the fly very well with a dubbing brush. I am partial to Hareline's Ultimate Dubbing Brush for this. I'll brush it forward over the hook eye and then back towards the tail.



Step 12: Finish the fly. I add marker spots and color the thread to match the top and bottom of the fly before coating with Loon Flow and curing.



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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.

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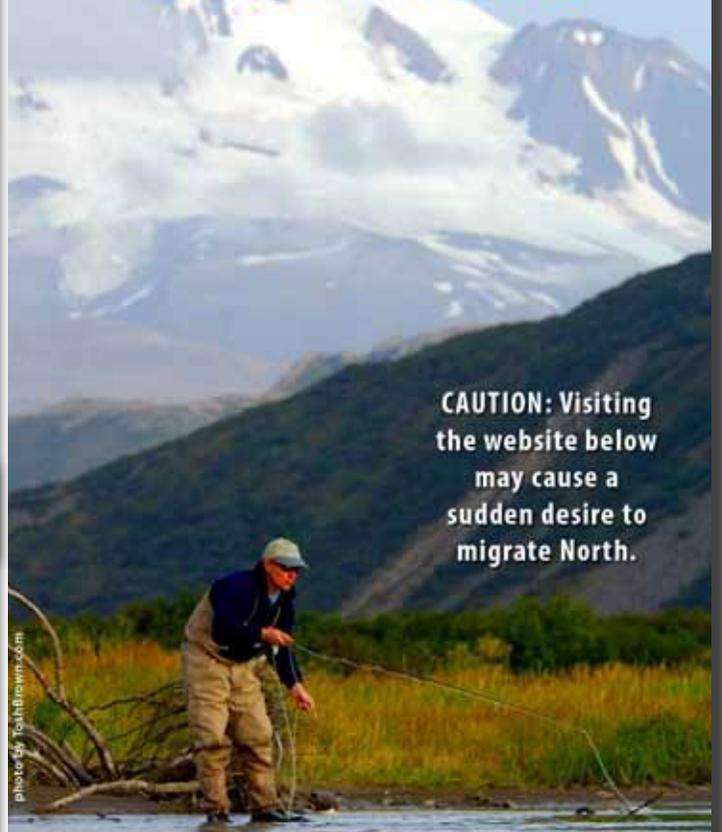
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