



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

April 2017
Volume 19, Issue 4



Club Meeting
Thursday, April 20
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour
7:00 Presentation by Jim Gray Fly Fishing for exotics
in the canals of Florida

Rick Wagner with blackfin tuna
caught offshore in West Palm, FL
with Captain Scott Hamilton
Photo by Nils Pearson

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President's Message Matt Bennett

It's technically spring here in Central Texas now, but it hasn't really felt like winter since December, with numerous record-high temps being set. The redbuds bloomed early this year, and the white bass started running a bit earlier than normal as well. As I write this, I'm hearing reports of the Llano run starting, which typically bookends our Central Texas runs. You'll be able to find some sporadic fish there through mid-April, I'd bet.

Speaking of the Llano, I'll be hosting our first outing out there on April 29th after our next meeting. It's always a popular outing, so I wanted to ensure you have plenty of notice to attend. That date is weather-dependent, of course, but we look to have ample water flows. This will be at Long's Fish Camp near Kingsland. I'll have more details at the meeting for those interested.

Another event I failed to mention at our March meeting is the upcoming Fly Fishing Film Tour stop in Austin at the Paramount Theater on April 13th. We've participated as a club in years past, and this is a great event to get out and visit with other fly fishing folks in the Austin area. I'm always amazed at the number of people I see at these events who don't know we have a great local fly fishing club. If you're planning to attend, I'd appreciate it if you'd mention the club to friends and folks you may meet there.

Jim Gray is our planned speaker for this month, and he'll be presenting his newest presentation on fly fishing for exotic species around South Florida. Jim's presentations are always top-notch, so I'd encourage you to plan to attend this one.



Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

3/1/2017 - 3/31/2017

Beginning Bal. Checking \$15,948.62

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$286.71
Auction	\$220.00
Merchandise	\$70.00
Total Income	\$576.71

Disbursements:

IFFF Dues	\$810.00
Speaker expense	\$400.00
Total Disbursements	\$1,210.00

Net (\$633.29)

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds \$5,541.19

Encumbered Funds:

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

Ending Balance-Checking \$15,541.19

April Speaker – Jim Gray

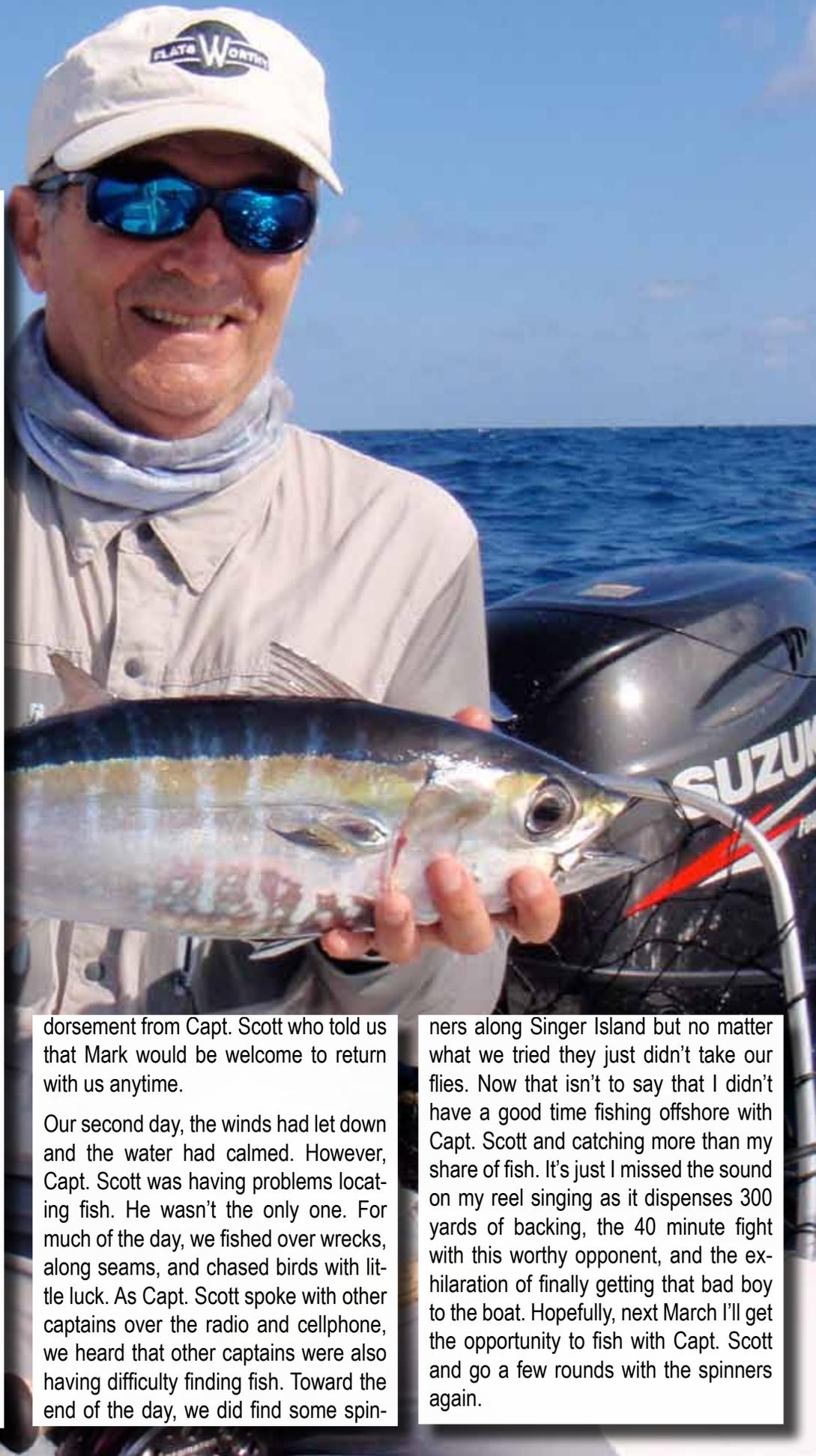
Jim This months speaker is Jim Gray, past president of the Austin Fly Fishers and current president of the International Fly Fishers Texas Council. Jim has been fly fishing, rod building and fly tying for 35 years. This will be the 6th presentation that Jim has given to the Austin Fly Fishers. Previously, Jim spoke to us about Fly Fishing in England, Finding Your Own Secret Spot, Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country for Carp, Fly Fishing the Llano River and Fly Fishing the Colorado River. His job has given him the opportunity to fly fish all over the world, but his favorite places to fish are the Texas Hill Country and his native South Florida.

It's this South Florida connection that Jim will talk about at this month's meeting. For the past 20 years, Jim has been hunting for exotics in the canals that crisscross Florida. Everyone knows about peacock bass, but there are over 40 species of exotic fish that have a breeding population, and many of these are viable fly fishing targets. Jim's presentation will cover the tactics, flies and techniques for 10 exotic species. He will even give you directions to local hot spots. According to Jim, "there aren't many places where you can hit a local canal and catch fish from North America, South America, Asia and Africa, and the list is constantly growing. Just this month, three new species were caught on fly - arowana, red-tailed catfish and flower-head cichlid. South Florida really does offer something special for anglers looking for a new challenge."

Before the meeting, Jim will be tying his favorite fly for exotics, a reverse craft fur bait fish in peacock colors.



Offshore in South Florida by Nils Pearson



I have to admit that I have become a little spoiled. I say that because for the past 2 years my scheduled trips to West Palm Beach, Florida have coincided perfectly with good weather and the mass migration of spinner sharks. Last year, my friend Rick and I had the time of our lives hooking up spinner sharks. While fishing with [Captain Scott Hamilton](#), we spent hours attracting spinner sharks with blood trails, watching anxiously as small pods cruised up to inspect our flies, and setting the hook on numerous takes with 60 lb sharks spinning as they leaped skyward. This year however, that wasn't the case. Having scheduled my trip months in advance, my arrival to Florida was met with a poor spinner shark migration and less than optimum weather.

This year, on our first day the heavy seas and high winds made our offshore adventure a rough ride. Rick had brought along his daughter's boyfriend for his first exposure to fly fishing offshore. Fortunately, though he is rather new to fly fishing he proved himself to be quite able. Before we left the harbor, Capt. Scott gave Mark a casting test. I have to say that I was very impressed by how well Mark was able to get a good 40 feet of line out with good loops as we all watched. After that, we headed to the inlet and banged our way offshore. On this day, we never located the spinners, but we hooked up blackfin tuna, Spanish mackerel, blue runners, bar jacks, bonito, dolphin, and a couple more species that I can't remember. To say that Mark enjoyed his first day fly fishing offshore would be an understatement. He had a blast. And he also got the en-

dorsement from Capt. Scott who told us that Mark would be welcome to return with us anytime.

Our second day, the winds had let down and the water had calmed. However, Capt. Scott was having problems locating fish. He wasn't the only one. For much of the day, we fished over wrecks, along seams, and chased birds with little luck. As Capt. Scott spoke with other captains over the radio and cellphone, we heard that other captains were also having difficulty finding fish. Toward the end of the day, we did find some spin-

ners along Singer Island but no matter what we tried they just didn't take our flies. Now that isn't to say that I didn't have a good time fishing offshore with Capt. Scott and catching more than my share of fish. It's just I missed the sound on my reel singing as it dispenses 300 yards of backing, the 40 minute fight with this worthy opponent, and the exhilaration of finally getting that bad boy to the boat. Hopefully, next March I'll get the opportunity to fish with Capt. Scott and go a few rounds with the spinners again.

The Fly Tyer's Corner Recipe by Jeff Hoelter

CDC Elk Hair Caddis

The Elk Hair Caddis (EHC) is an easy to tie dry fly that should be in every fly box. The original, as tied by Al Troth in the late 1950s, included a dry fly hackle palmered over dry dubbing and reinforced by a counter wrap of fine gold wire. This is then topped by a clump of elk hair that forms both the wing and a small head at the same time.

Through the years there have been countless variations and material substitutions as most everyone who ties this fly develops their own technique or subtle change to make this fly their own.

My favorite update is substituting Cul de Canard (CDC) for the dubbed body, hackle, and wire. This greatly simplifies the procedure and, I believe, improves flotation on an already very buoyant fly. One method, as brought to us by Hans Weilenman of the Netherlands, is to tie the CDC in by the tip at the back of the hook and wind forward with touching wraps allowing the barbs of the feather to flow freely toward the rear. This technique generates a lot of movement even when the fly is sitting motionless in the water.

But the method I'm going to describe is to spin the CDC feather into a rope after tying the tip to the back of the hook, and then wrapping forward to create the body of the fly. I believe this is a Marc Petitjean technique but I have to give props to Chris Johnson at Living Waters for showing me how good the segmented body looks using this method.

I'm not sure there is a wrong way to fish this fly. Drift it through riffles or seams. Dead drift it near the bank under tree limbs or next to vegetation. In flat water, if it attracts no attention just sitting on the water, try skittering it across the surface like an insect trying to escape the film. This is also a great fly for Tenkara fishers.

I plan to demonstrate this fly before the April meeting so stop by if you get stuck. Also don't forget the fly tying sessions available on Tuesday evenings at Sportsman's Finest, and on Wednesday evenings at Living Waters in Round Rock.

Materials list:

Hook: Tiemco 101, size 12-18

Thread: GSP 50

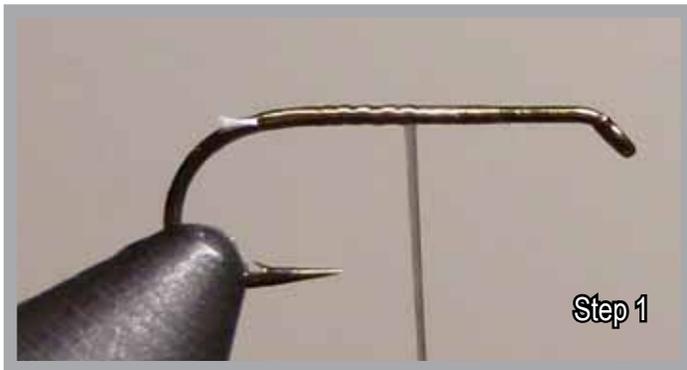
Body: CDC feather, tan, yellow, olive, black, all good

Wing: Elk Hair



Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 1: Tie in the thread and lay down a base ending up at the center of the hook shank



Step 2: Select a CDC feather and tie in on the hook with one loose wrap. The base of the feather should be over the bend of the hook.



Step 3: Grip the base of the feather and pull it slowly to the left allowing the loose wrap of thread to gather the feather barbs. Stop just as the tip clears the hook eye. Take a few more wraps with the thread.



Step 4: Now wrap the feather down toward the bend of the hook stopping just above the barb and wrap forward again to just behind the hook eye.



Step 5: Clip the base of the CDC feather with your hackle pliers and twist it 4 or 5 times to make a bit of a rope with the feather. Wrap this "rope" forward with touching wraps stopping just behind the eye. You may have to twist the rope again after a few turns to keep it tight. At this point the body of the fly will likely look very ragged with the CDC barbules that have escaped the "rope". These should be trimmed close to resemble the picture.



Step 6: Clip a small bunch of elk hair and clean out the fuzzies. Place the tips down in a stacker to even them and put them on top of the hook holding them very tightly with your material hand right at the tie in point just behind the hook eye. Make the first wrap of thread with just medium amount of pressure (it should just start to cause the elk to fold). Each additional wrap should be a bit tighter than the one before. Don't let go with the material hand until you have 5 or 6 wraps holding the elk hair. You should now be able to pinch both sides of the hook to support the tips and the butts as well as the hook and pull straight down on the thread to make sure everything is tight. Now take several turns of thread behind the hook eye and in front of the hair and whip finish. Separate the wing tips from the thicker butt section and trim the butts close at an angle to form the head of the fly. Apply a little head cement and it should be ready to fish.



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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.

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

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Jud Cole – <http://centraltexasflyfishing.com/> Central Texas and Colorado

Capt. Rus Schwausch – <http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/> Fly Fishing Southwest Alaska

Capt. Billy Trimble
Shallow Water Flats Fishing
Texas Coastal Bend

<http://trimbleflyfishing.com/>
361-205-1266



Capt. Scott Hamilton
Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

<http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/>
blueh20fly@aol.com



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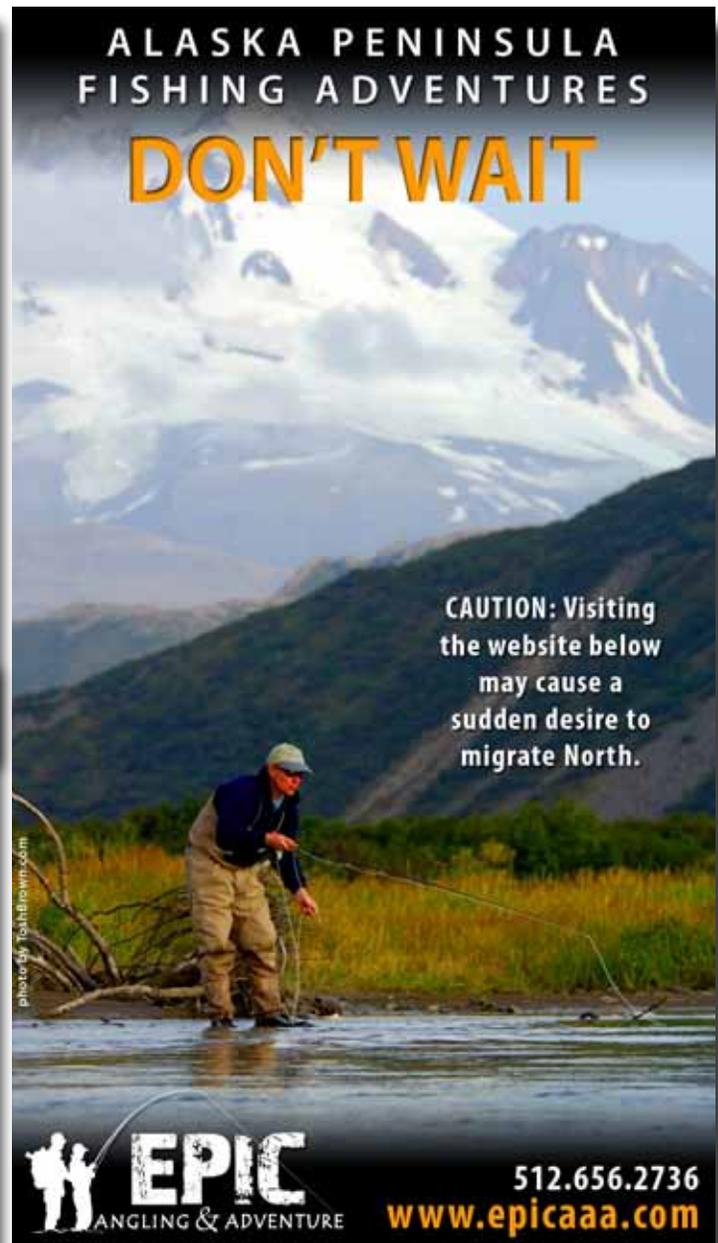
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