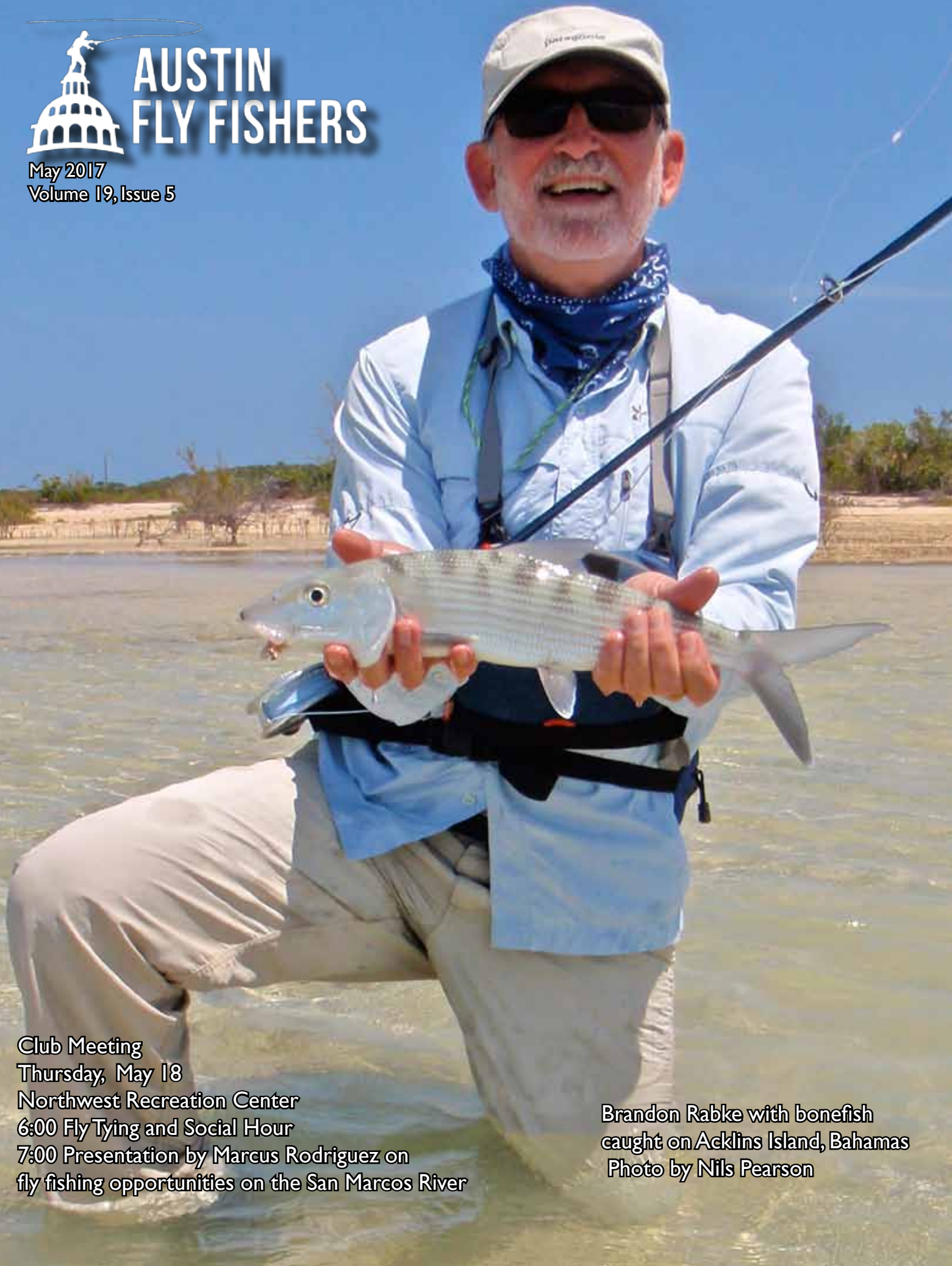




AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

May 2017
Volume 19, Issue 5



Club Meeting
Thursday, May 18
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour
7:00 Presentation by Marcus Rodriguez on
fly fishing opportunities on the San Marcos River

Brandon Rabke with bonefish
caught on Acklins Island, Bahamas
Photo by Nils Pearson

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President's Message Matt Bennett

Our spring has seemingly transitioned to summer early this year - it's starting to get pretty warm during the day and we haven't had a ton of rain. That looks to change later this week which would be great - our creeks definitely need a good flush from the excess algae already to be taking over. This is typically our wettest time of the year, so keep your fingers crossed.

The recently-canceled Llano River outing has been rescheduled tentatively for June 17th. This is Father's Day weekend I know, but I wanted to get something on the books. We can discuss this at the meeting this week and see if it does need to be moved further. Again, we'll be meeting at Long's Fish Camp near Kingsland and fishing the better part of the morning. There's good BBQ to be had nearby for lunch for those interested. You do need to be a member of our club (and also IFFF) in order to attend our outings.

Our parent organization, the International Federation of Fly Fishers has recently undergone some rebranding and is now Fly Fishers International. I'll discuss this a bit more at the meeting. Most of you know that Jim Gray and I are part of the board of the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International. The entire board is working hard to bring value back to the clubs as our main focus. I'll discuss this a bit more on Thursday.



Dakus and his first redfish

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

4/1/2017 - 4/30/2017

Beginning Bal. Checking \$15,315.33

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$486.47
Total Income	\$486.47

Disbursements:

Total Disbursements	\$0.00
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Net	\$486.47
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Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds	\$6,027.66
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Encumbered Funds:

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

Ending Balance-Checking	\$15,801.80
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May Speaker – Marcus Rodriguez

Marcus Rodriguez is well known throughout the Texas fly fishing community. He currently guides full time for Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock, but 1998 he co-founded the Guides of Texas, one of the most respected outfitters in the hill country.

Marcus joined Living Waters Fly Fishing in December 2016 as a full time guide, and now guides exclusively through the shop. He guides the Guadalupe River during the winter/spring trout season and once the weather warms, he turns his attention to our wide array of warm water species. Throughout his fly fishing and guiding career, he has introduced countless people to the joy of fly fishing Central Texas. With its spring fed creeks and crystal clear rivers, Marcus believes the Texas Hill Country is a world class fly fishing destination that everyone should experience.

Marcus has nearly 20 years of guiding experience under his belt and guides over 1000 river miles in the state of Texas. He has been featured in a number of publications including Southwest Fly Fishing, Austin American Statesman, Denver Post, Lone Star Outdoor News, and Texas Blue-Ribbon Fly Fishing. Marcus was also a featured guide on Fly Fishing the World and Ford Motor Company's TV series: The Outfitters. He is also a member of the R.L. Winston Pro Staff, a former board member of the San Marcos River Foundation, and one heck of a canoe paddler! In addition to all of these accomplishments, he is one of the finest people you will ever meet and every day spent on the water with him is an absolute blast!



Acklins Island, Bahamas by Nils Pearson



In 2016 six members of the Austin Fly Fishers traveled to Great Inagua, Bahamas for a week of fly fishing. While most of the group returned to Austin after that trip, Brandon and I flew to Andros and spent another couple of days on Fresh Creek. While there, I spent a day fishing a little south of Fresh Creek on Bowen Sound with guide Hermon Bain. Unfortunately, Brandon was not able to join me because he was in bed with a bad cold. After last year's positive experiences in the Bahamas, Brandon and I were eager to return and put together a trip to the islands for 2017 that would include three primary fishing locations with somewhat different fishing experiences. Our plan was to do some DIY fishing on Acklins Island, join a **Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters** group for a week of guided fishing on Crooked Is-

land, and end our trip on Andros Island fishing Joulter's Caye with fishing guide **Hermon Bain** for 3 days. The following article is the first of three that will cover these three fishing locations and our experiences on our trip.

Getting to Acklins Island

As most people flying to the Bahamas know, flying commercial airlines to the out islands from the US usually takes 2 days. Invariably, you will spend your first night in Nassau and catch an early flight the following day to one of the out islands. Brandon and I left Austin on a Tuesday with a stop-over in Fort Lauderdale (if you stopover in Ft. Lauderdale, try the sandwiches at Food Network restaurant—they are great!) and got into Nassau late that evening. We spent the night at Orangehill <https://orangehill.com/> and took the Wednesday morning flight to Acklins on **BahamasAir**.

Because there are only 2 commercial flights a week to Acklins, you really don't want to miss your flight. The only other way to get to Acklins would be to hire private charter costing around \$2,500.

Fishing Acklins

Brandon had made arrangements through Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters to stay at **IVel's**, a hotel operated by Velma Ferguson. This portion of our trip was to be DIY and IVel's B&B had the ideal setup. As part of our arrangements, we ate our meals at IVel's and we were provided a car to use during our stay to explore different fishing locations. Of all of the places I have stayed in the Bahamas, IVel's has the best accommodation by far. IVel's has the best constructed buildings that I have seen on the out islands. In addition, the rooms, beds, bathroom, and air conditioning were terrific!



Lovely Bay

Snug Corner

Ivels Masons Bay

Jumbey hole

Acklins Island

Delectable Bay

Salina Point

After arriving at the airport, Ms. Velma's son Shawn greeted us and gave us the keys to a car. We left the airport, headed north on the highway and reached our accommodations. Brandon took the wheel and I was the designated "reminder". That is, drive on the left-hand side of the road. Fortunately, there wasn't much traffic and the road was newly paved with fresh asphalt. The topic of newly paved roads would come up on each island we visited. We learned that elections were coming up in May and the minister representing the out islands was busy getting roads paved and handing out temporary jobs in hopes of securing his election to another 5-year term. The island residents hoped that the roadwork would be completed before the elections because after the election the work on the roads would cease and the temporary jobs would vanish.

After dropping off our bags at Ivel's, meeting Ms. Velma and eating lunch, we drove south stopping at a mangrove covered peninsula about 3 miles from of our accommodations. There was a sign for Jumbey Hole and a parking spot just across from our intended fishing spot (we came to find out that Jumbey Hole was actually a cave located in the interior of the island). After a little bushwhacking, we walked along the sandy shore of this strip of land in search of bones.

Not being much of a do-it-yourselfer, I always follow Brandon's lead. In addition to his previous experience stalking bonefish, he has spent a considerable amount of time fishing the Texas coast in search of redfish on his own. From his experiences, he has gained enormous skill in finding places where fish like to congregate. As you know, before you can sight-cast to a fish you have to find one. After catching his first bone, Brandon settled into a location that turned out to be a bonefish highway. At this location on the outgoing tide, the bones were hugging the shore, making a 90 degree turn,



and darting through a small channel to deeper water. Standing on either of the channel, we cast to the schools bones as they headed out this passageway. Even though I only caught a couple of fish, it was delightful to watch the schools travel between us as they swam to the safety of the bay.

The exodus of bones came to a halt after about 45 minutes and Brandon suggested that we drive south to Delectable Bay. He had fished that area a couple of years ago and found that there was another fish highway located in a channel that contained an old rock wall. Upon reaching the spot, we soon realized that the low tide had all but dried up the acres of mangroves that were separated from the bay by the wall. Brandon then suggested that we walk over to the open bay along the shoreline to find the bayside inlet to this lagoon. By this time, the tide had turned and was incoming. After a bit of a walk, I located an inlet to the lagoon. As I watched the water flow in, I noticed a seam that was a little deeper. Upon closer inspection, I saw a shadow moving about at the bottom of this trough. I immediately cast into the seam and let my fly drift toward the shadow. Holding the line taught, I felt a hit and strip set my fly immediately. My line ripped through my stripping finger, in no time my reel was screaming and I was into my backing. After another hookup in the same location, it was getting late and time to head back.

In our remaining days on Acklins, Brandon and I drove to Lovely Bay and kayaked the area. Waded for bones in Snug Corner and returned to Jumbey Hole and Delectable Bay. On each outing, we were fortunate to have the flats entirely to ourselves with numerous opportunities to catch bones. Not only finding bones but also catching them.

In the evenings we returned to the main house at Ivel's where we would have dinner with the other guests (all fly fishers) of the B&B. Sam was a young fellow from New York, Barry and Lars were from the UK. Each evening as we gathered at the table, we shared our fishing experiences in different locations. Barry and Lars had fished together for many years and almost always without guides. During one of our conversations, Lars made a very interesting observation regarding DIY fishing, "sure you will catch more fish with a guide. But the few fish you catch on your own, you remember each one of them." After my experience at Delectable, I couldn't agree more with Lars. Without any effort, I could easily recall the details of every fish I had caught that day. The images of each catch were etched into my memory. However enjoyable DIY fishing is, there are many great fishing locations that can only be accessed by boat. In these instances, hiring a guide is often the only way to get to these fishing spots. For me, a combination of DIY and guided fishing usually works best.



The Fly Tyer's Corner by Matt Bennett

Rio Getter

The Rio Getter is a fly I specifically developed to target our Rio Grande Cichlids native to this area. It's a small subsurface nymph designed to ride hook point up. It's turned into one of the best all-purpose Texas Hill Country flies in my fly box today. It started out as a beadhead, but Chris Johnson made the recommendation that I flip the hook with lead eyes. I tie these anywhere from a size 14 for panfish and cichlids, up to about a size 8 for bass, carp, etc. I do change the hook to something more stout if I've targeting carp with it, these

smaller hooks will bend out on a big fish. Feel free to experiment with colors, I tie it in Black, Olive, Rust, and Tan.

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S #14

Thread: Lagartun 74 denier, Olive

Eyes: Plated Brass Eyes, X-Small

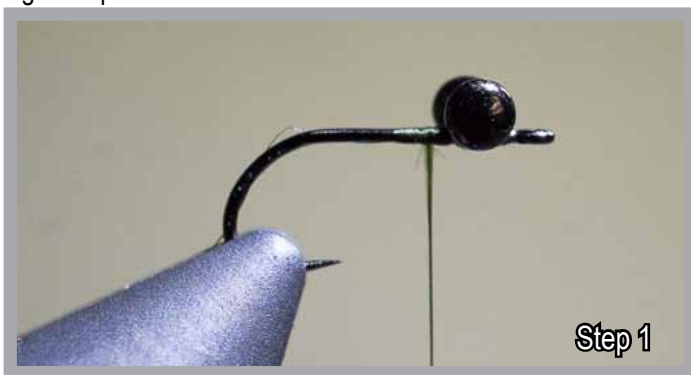
Tail / Wing: Whiting Coq de Leon Chickabou, Natural

Legs: Grizzly Micro Legs, Root Beer

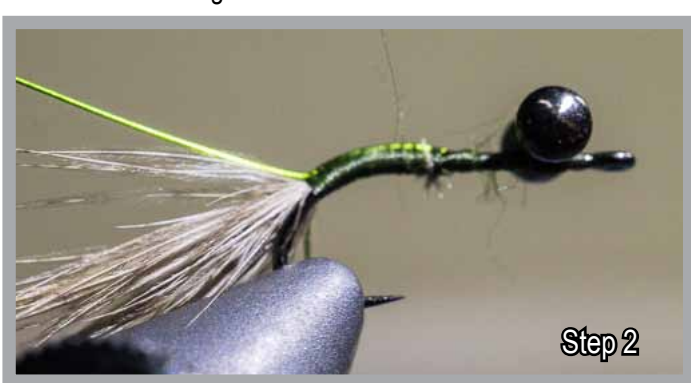
Dubbing: Whitlock SLF Near Nuff Sculpin Olive

Rib: Ultra Wire, Small Chartreuse

Step 1: Place the hook in your vise. Lay down a small thread base, making a slight bump around 1 hook-eye length back from the front of the hook. Tie in the eyes on the bump using figure-eight wraps.



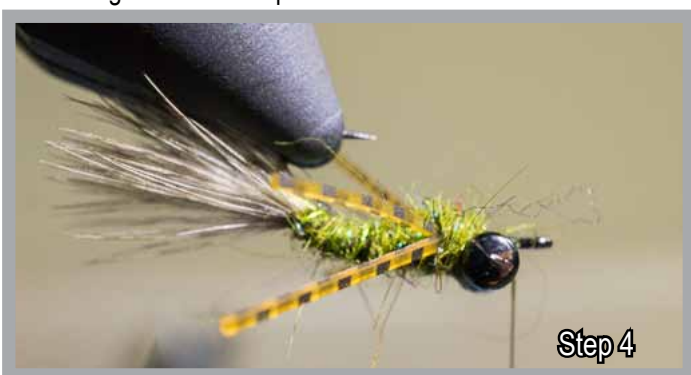
Step 2: Lay down a thread base halfway down the hook bend. Tie in the tail and ribbing wire.



Steps 3: Dub a body from the tail to the eyes, and counter-wrap the wire to rib the dubbing.



Step 4: Take one rubber leg, cut in half. Lay one piece aside for the next fly, and cut one half in half yet again. Tie in the legs on the top of the hook, right next to the eyes and secure. Dub back over the legs a bit to sweep them back.



Steps 5: Moving in from of the eyes, tie in a wing, being careful not to leave material over the hook eye. Cut the waste flush as close as you can to the shank without cutting your thread. Whip finish and coat with Loon UV Flow and cure for durability.



Step 6: Finished Fly



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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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Chris Johnson – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Living Waters Fly Shop and Central Texas Guide

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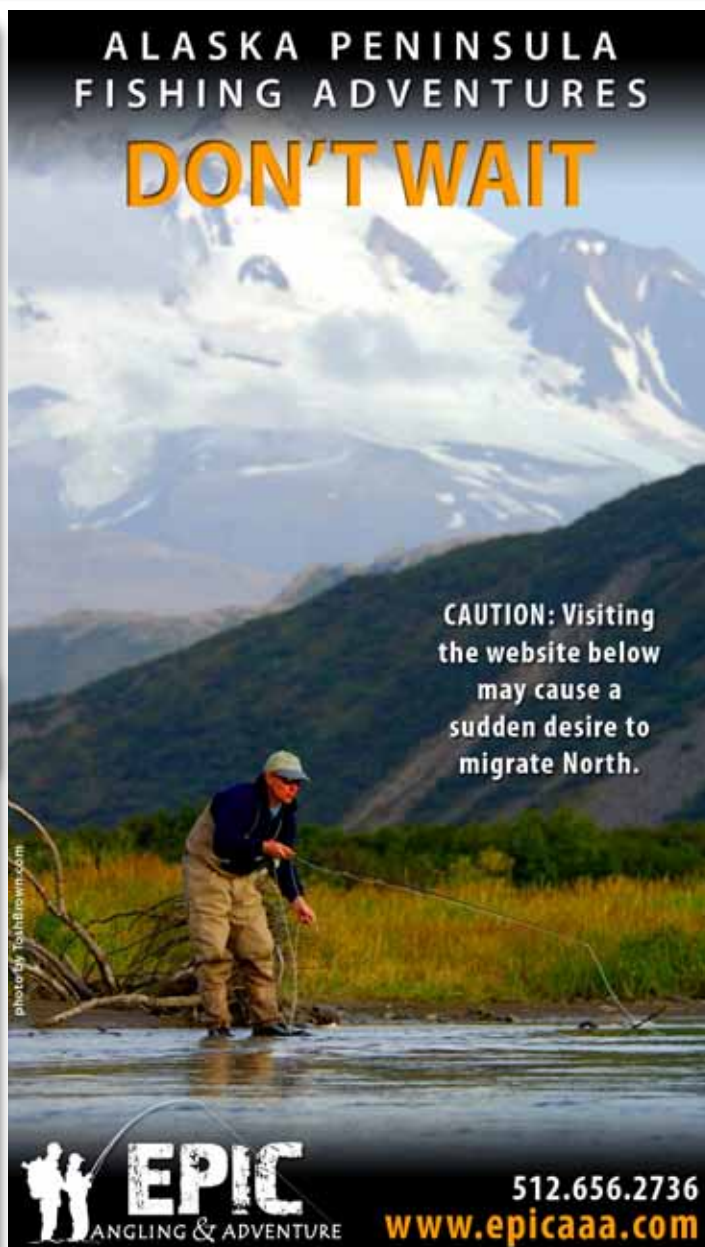
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