



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

June 2017
Volume 19, Issue 6

Club Meeting
Thursday, June 15
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour
7:00 Presentation by Casey Cravens
Fly Fishing New Zealand



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

Mike Morpew with bass caught
on private lake near Abilene
Photo by Rusty Pool

Officers:

President

Matt Bennett

m.bennett151@gmail.com

Vice President

Dakus Geeslin

dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov

Treasurer

Shawn Riggs

shawn.p.riggs@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Dopson

Phil@PhilDopson.com

Past President

Jim Gray

Texasjimgray@yahoo.com

Conservation

Ed Parsons

Eparsons@me.com

Education

Mike Morphew

Mikemorphew@hotmail.com

Merchandise

Vern Harris

harris.vern@gmail.com

Membership

Jon Creed

Membership@AustinFlyFishers.com

Newsletter

Nils Pearson

NPearson@austin.rr.com

Outings

Dave Bush

aff.outings@me.com

SKIFF

Dave Hill

flyfisher149@gmail.com

Manuel Pena

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

We're apparently starting to transition to our warmer, dryer weather pattern of summer, but we did get some nice rains this week I heard. I spent the past week or so up at our family cabin near Durango, Colorado. There's still a ton of snow around 10,000 feet that has yet to melt, which bodes very well for a nice water year if anyone else is making plans to head up there.

Our June 17th outing to the Llano is getting pushed back one more week to June 24th. The Llano received a good bit of rainfall this past week also and is currently around 250cfs in town and still rising. It's not going to get super blown up, but likely be too hide to comfortably wade. The Llano fishes the best around 75-100 CFS in my opinion, which gives us all more room to spread out comfortably.

As a reminder, our next monthly meeting in July will be held at the Filson store at the Domain. I will be sending a separate invitation from Filson to all of you a bit later.

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

5/1/2017 - 5/31/2017

Beginning Bal. Checking \$15,801.80

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$122.97
Auction	\$360.00
Merchandise	\$570.00
SKIFF	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,052.97

Disbursements:

Crawfish boil	\$250.00
club hats	\$731.68
Speaker expense	\$150.00
Casting For Recovery	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,131.68

Net (\$1,078.71)

Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds \$5,948.95

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$628.17
SKIFF	\$8,145.97

Ending Balance-Checking \$14,723.09



My Dad, Robert Bennett, and our guide Rob Coddington of Duranglers on the San Juan River this past Wednesday. Dad's holding a 19.75" brown trout caught on 6x tippet and a size 24 fly.

June Speaker – Casey Cravens

Casey Cravens is our speaker this month and will be presenting on fly fishing opportunities in New Zealand.

Casey Cravens has explored New Zealand's rivers and lakes, across both the North and South Islands, for 23 years. He specialises in the Dunedin, Gore, Queenstown and Wanaka regions--the Mataura River, Otago and Southland streams, and the wilderness rivers of New Zealand's South Island in Fiordland, Mount Aspiring and Westland. His fishing obsession dates back to a childhood in a hot dry land far, far away. For 28 years he's fly fished for a wide range of species--from Texas black bass and redbfish to Rocky Mountain cutthroats, to Quebec's sea-run brook trout and Atlantic salmon. A few years back he spent six months in Chile and Argentina exploring the far-flung fisheries of Patagonia and improving his Spanish.

Casey moved to Dunedin in 1993, where he raises two fine sons. He enjoys backpacking the South Island high country with camera and fly rod, sight fishing with a dry fly, and tying new patterns for hatch-driven rivers like the Mataura.

A member of the New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides' Association, Casey is a brand ambassador for Thomas and Thomas Rods and on the pro staff of Einarsson Fly Reels. He enjoys reviewing gear, writing, photography and giving talks on conservation, fly fishing traditions, techniques and destinations.



AFF Volunteers

Dave Hill and Manuel Pena volunteer at Buda fishing derby



Crooked Island, Bahamas by Nils Pearson



Our Guide Kenny and Brandon

If you read last month's article on Acklis Island, you read about Brandon and my time on Acklins Island. We participated in a **Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters** hosted trip for a week of guided fishing on Crooked Island. The following article is the second of three that will cover three fishing locations and our experiences on our trip.

Getting to Crooked Island

Because Acklins and Crooked islands are so close together, there is a small public ferry (center console fishing boat) that can take about 10 people between the islands twice a day. So as you might expect, Brandon and I fished Acklins Island until the afternoon and caught the afternoon ferry over to Crooked. We had planned to drive to the north of the island and leave our car at the ferry landing. This was not necessary be-

cause we met a couple who had been visiting Acklins and planned to take the same time as we had planned. So, we crammed our belongings to their car and headed off to the ferry.

Fishing Crooked

We had made arrangements through Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters for our stay and it was an all inclusive package (accommodations, meals, and guides). We simply had to get to Crooked on Saturday to meet up with the other participants which included Joe Andrezik an AFF club member. After breakfast at Willie Gibson's restaurant, we headed over to the dock and hopped aboard a flats skiff and headed out to fish the various destinations on the island. Brandon and I fished together each day. We asked the guides to take us to places that could be easily waded. They did and each day we probably walked a

good 7 or 8 miles on hard-bottomed sand flats. When conditions did not permit wading, we took turns casting from the bow of the boat.

Crooked Island

As you may know, hurricane Joaquin devastated this island in October of 2015. Although all of the residents of the island survived, they were all still recovering from the effects of this storm. Almost every structure had to be rebuilt, the cell towers replaced, and the personal trauma of the experience was still evident.

On a positive note, the residents of the island are some of the most welcoming and friendly persons I have met in the Bahamas. And, our 7 days of fishing were spectacular! You can see from the following pictures our days were filled with great fishing and wonderful people.

Crooked Island continued



Brandon with Barracuda



Joe with Mutton Shapper



Bonefish cruising the flat

Crooked Island continued



Joe with Barracuda



Our guide Michael removing hook



Nils with Bonefish



From left: Alicia Wegmann, Jayden Lamay, and Giovanni Lamay, each with a white bass they caught while we downrigged in the opening minutes of our afternoon SKIFF program trip.

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On May 20th, I finished the 2nd Soldier's Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip of the 2017 season. Joining me this evening were Alicia Wegmann (15), Jayden Lamay (9), and Giovanni Lemay (8). Chaperoning the kids were their mom, Michelle Oster, and Michelle's mother, "Oma" Denise.

Alicia, age 15, caught the largest and the most this evening as she followed directions well and stayed very focused on the fishing.

Michelle and Alicia lost Alicia's father, Sergeant Robert Wegmann Jr. in 2008. Sergeant Wegmann received a Purple Heart after being wounded overseas when a roadside bomb exploded. Sergeant Wegmann and his battle buddy would both lose their lives as a result of this incident.

A wet, mild cold front moved through Central Texas this morning forcing a postponement of my morning trip. As the front slowly moved out, the skies cleared, the humidity dropped, and the lightest of northwesterly breezes replaced the dead calm of the midday period.

All three kids had fairly limited previous bank fishing experience, so we began with downrigging for loosely schooled white bass which were both suspended and bottom dwelling. With the pair of Cannon Digi-Troll electric downriggers I've got on board, I ran both balls at 25 to 30 feet deep trailing tandem rigged Pet Spoons behind each. Over the course of 90 minutes we landed a total of 20 white bass which came as both singles and doubles.

When it became clear that the boys were getting a little antsy even with our success, it was time for a transition.

By request, we made a special trip to the base of the Belton Lake waterfall where Michelle must have taken, literally, 100 photos of her and the kids with the waterfall in the background from a number of different views I provided by maneuvering the boat.

With this request scratched off the list, we began our final chapter of this evening's fishing trip by parking over top of a group of deep, bottom hugging white bass using the Minn Kota Spot Lock technology. I equipped each of the kids

with a spinning rod rigged up with a three-quarter ounce slab retrofitted with a Hazy Eye stinger hook.

Just as we got on top of this area, the northwest breeze ramped up just a tad, and the fish responded positively to this little wrinkle in the weather. We sat on top of this one area then later "spot hopped" just a few yards to the west, over a 52 foot bottom and wore out the white bass and short hybrid stripers. The kids ran our tally up to 76 fish including two keeper hybrid, one drum, one large-mouth bass, and a roughly 1 to 6 ratio of short hybrid striper to white bass making up the balance.

As the sun set right around 8:20, the action died quite quickly.

SKIFF program trips are provided free of charge to kids who are separated from their military parent by that parent's duty, be it something as short as a TDY assignment or gunnery, to something as lengthy as a deployment or NTC/JRTC rotation. A call to me at 254.368.7411 is all it takes. The generous men and women of the Austin Fly Fishers make this possible.

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jeff Hoelter

Red Possum Soft Hackle Nymph

This month's offering is another simple soft-hackle nymph (or flymph if you prefer) that may suggest a caddis nymph pupa. Clearly it doesn't hurt to match the profile, size and color of the insects in your local waters, but I don't usually look at these patterns as a specific menu item but rather as just something alive. The shaggy body and subtle movement of the hackle in the water just screams "lunchtime".

I have the best luck fishing this fly slowly by itself or as a drop-per under a popper or hopper.

Materials list:

Hook: TMC 3761 or Mustad 3906b size 6 to 18

Thread: Brown

Underbody: .015 lead or lead-free wire (optional)

Body: Dubbing, Amber Possum or SLF Red Fox Squirrel Nymph 02

Ribbing: Gold Wire small

Hackle: Brown Partridge or other Soft Hackle.

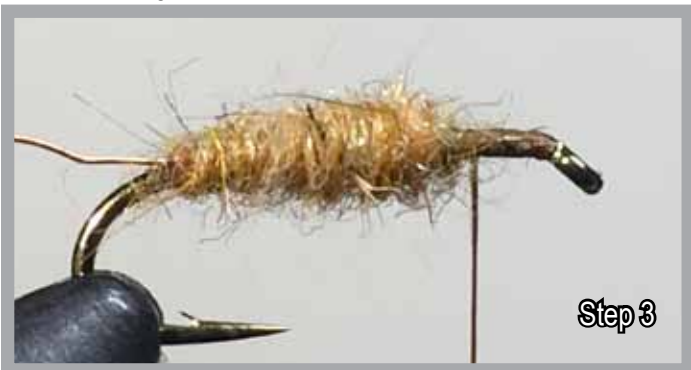
Step 1: Insert hook into the vise and put down a layer of thread. Add a few wraps of lead if desired.



Step 2: Attach the gold wire just behind the lead wraps and taper the body with thread as shown.



Steps 3: Use dubbing to create a body that tapers from the rear so it is a bit larger at the front.



Step 4: Counter wrap (wrap in the opposite direction) the wire rib and tie it down with thread. Wrapping in the opposite direction makes the rib stand out a bit more and keeps it from getting lost between the wraps of dubbing.



Steps 5: Prepare a soft hackle, in this case a partridge hackle, by first, removing the fluffy stuff at the base of the feather. Then grasp the tip of the feather with one hand and pull the fibers through the fingers of your other hand to force them out to roughly a right angle to the stem. The tips of my scissors are pointing to section of the stem that will be attached to the hook.



Fly Tyer continued

Step 6: Fin Attach the prepared hackle shiny side (out side of bird) facing up just in front of the dubbed body. Trim the tip of the hackle away from the eye of the hook.



Step 7: FiWith hackle pliers, take two or three wraps while at the same time you fold the hackle barbs away to keep them from being trapped. Tie off and create a neat head (hopefully much neater



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.

Marcus Rodriquez – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Central Texas Guide

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

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

LIVING WATERS
FLY FISHING

Fly Fishing Central Texas' Best Kept Secrets

FLY SHOP & GUIDE SERVICE
(512) 828-FISH
LIVINGWATERSFLYFISHING.COM

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



TenkaraUSA®
Streamlined fly-fishing

tenkarausa.com

Club Sponsors cont.

Pat Dorsey
Fly Fish Colorado

<http://www.bluequillangler.com/>
800-435-5353



Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

<http://www.flyfishcorpus.com/>
(361) 533-4227



Hermon Bain

Fresh Creek | Bowen Sound | Joulters Cay
Andros Island, Bahamas

<http://www.hermonsandrosbonefishing.com/>
242-471-6870
info@hermonsandrosbonefishing.com



Club Sponsors cont.



ORVIS®

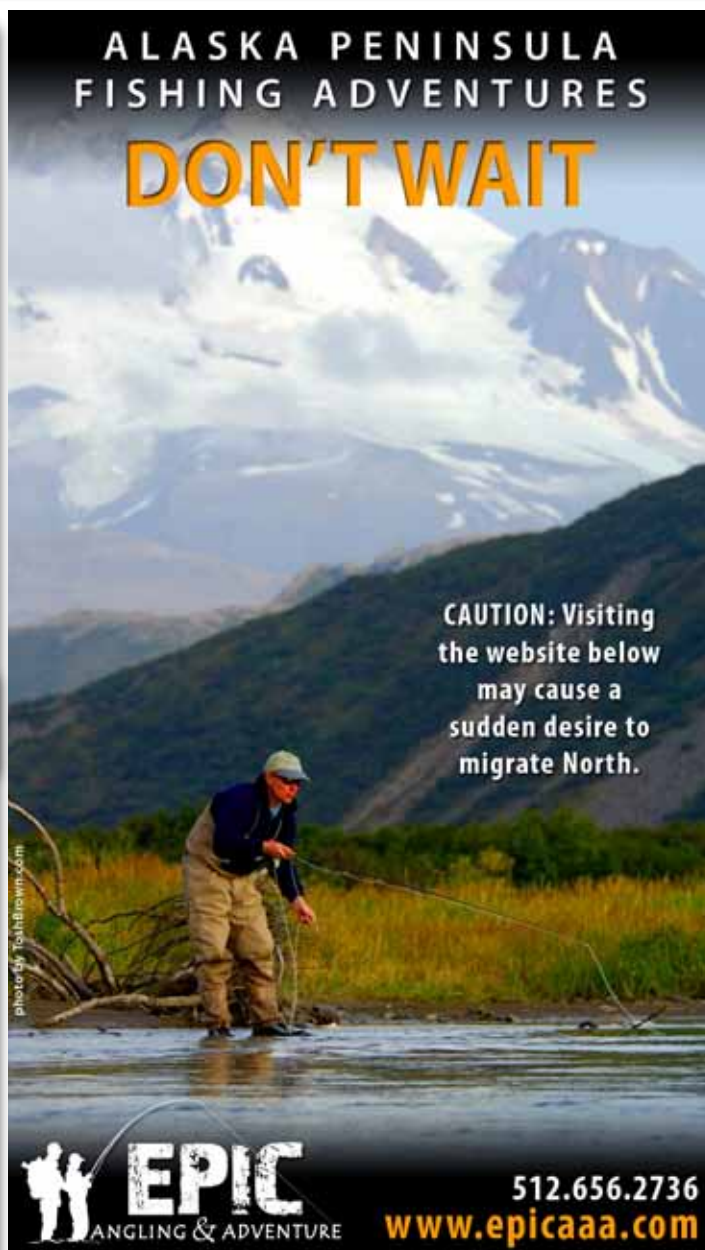
The Arboretum
10000 Research Boulevard
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 795 - 8004



**SPORTSMAN'S
FINEST**

THE FINEST FLY SHOP IN CENTRAL TEXAS
Austin, Texas

12434 Bee Cave Road
Austin, Texas 78738
Phone 512-263-1888
Fax 512-263-2444
SportsmansFinest.com



ALASKA PENINSULA
FISHING ADVENTURES

DON'T WAIT

CAUTION: Visiting
the website below
may cause a
sudden desire to
migrate North.

EPIC
ANGLING & ADVENTURE

512.656.2736
www.epicaaa.com

Club Sponsors cont.

