



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

November 2017  
Volume 19, Issue 20

## Club Meeting

Thursday, November 16

Northwest Recreation Center

6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour

7:00 Tim Birdsong biologist and Chief of Habitat Conservation for TPWD will speak to the club about the Progress in Restoring and Preserving the State Fish of Texas

Steven Turner with black drum caught while fishing with Capt. Eric Glass during the AFF annual South Padre outing

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## President's Message **Matt Bennett**

This Thursday marks the last official program and meeting of the year at Northwest Rec Center. While we haven't been able to wrangle together many outings this year due to weather complications and other factors, it's still been a successful year through the programs and other opportunities we've had. Thanks for helping make our club successful.

Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for Friday December 15th at 6 PM at Casa Chapala, the same venue as last year. We swapped up the menu a bit this year and look forward to everyone getting together once again for some fellowship and fundraising for Casting for Recovery. If you have any items that you'd be willing to donate to our auction this year, please contact a board member. We appreciate your support and hope that we can continue to sponsor two women for their CFR retreat, as we have in years past. More information and a sign up link is further in the newsletter. We are trying to presell tickets this year via SignUp.com to make it easier for everyone at the actual event and would appreciate if you would go this route so that we have an accurate head count prior to the event.

I also want to take a moment to thank Dave and Manuel for all the hard work they put into our SKIFF program, which is our biggest success story as a club. When you see them next, please let them know how much you appreciate their work. They do this all behind the scenes and keep it running smoothly. Thank you guys - we all appreciate you.

We are still in great need for new board members for next year, particularly for Vice President, who is in charge of scheduling our monthly programs. Please, please consider this as our monthly meetings are the lifeblood of our club.

Looking forward to seeing the end of this year and all of 2018 will bring for our time together!



## Holiday Party Casa Chapala

Friday, Dec 15th at 6 pm

Please join us for an evening of fellowship at Casa Chapala as we reflect on 2017 and start planning for 2018. There will be a raffle and silent auction to raise funds for Casting for Recovery. Dinner will be served at 7 PM and a Cocktail Hour with a cash bar will start at 6 PM. Please sign up for the event before Dec 10th at <http://signup.com/go/sYOgeqy>.

## Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

10/1/2017 - 10/31/2017

**Beginning Bal. Checking \$16,121.31**

### Income:

Dues AFF FFI	\$125.94
Total Income	\$125.94

### Disbursements:

Sticker Mule	\$333.00
New Phase fly boxes	\$1,035.11
Austin Screen Printing	\$353.11
SKIFF	\$4,146.25
Total Disbursements	\$5,867.47

**Net (\$5,741.53)**

### Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds	\$4,491.89
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### Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$628.17
SKIFF	\$5,259.72

**Ending Balance-Checking \$10,379.78**

## November Speaker – Tim Birdsong

Our speaker this month will be Tim Birdsong. Presentation Title: Progress in Restoring and Preserving the State Fish of Texas: Reflecting on 25 Years of Guadalupe Bass Conservation. Tim is a fisheries biologist and Chief of Habitat Conservation for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division. Tim coordinates efforts statewide to conserve freshwater habitats and steward the diversity of Texas freshwater fishes, including the official state fish of Texas, Guadalupe Bass. In 2017, TPWD and partners reached a milestone of 25 years of concerted efforts to restore and preserve Guadalupe Bass populations throughout their native Hill Country streams. Noteworthy accomplishments over that timeframe included restoration of hybrid populations in portions of the Llano River and namesake Guadalupe River, reintroduction of Guadalupe Bass to portions of the Blanco and San Antonio rivers, preservation of refuge populations in the Pedernales and lower Colorado rivers, improved habitat management along hundreds of miles of stream corridor in the Hill Country, and improved access for Guadalupe Bass anglers along nearly 100 miles of Hill Country streams through establishment of paddling trails and angler access leases. Tim's presentation will provide an overview of TPWD's Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative and profile active projects underway throughout the Hill Country. Tim will also spotlight Guadalupe Bass conservation projects recently initiated in the San Gabriel River and Brushy Creek, and invite active involvement by the Austin Fly Fishers in the planning and delivery of these projects.



## Dave Hill shares his fly tying skills with Boy Scouts



# Fly Fishing South Padre Island

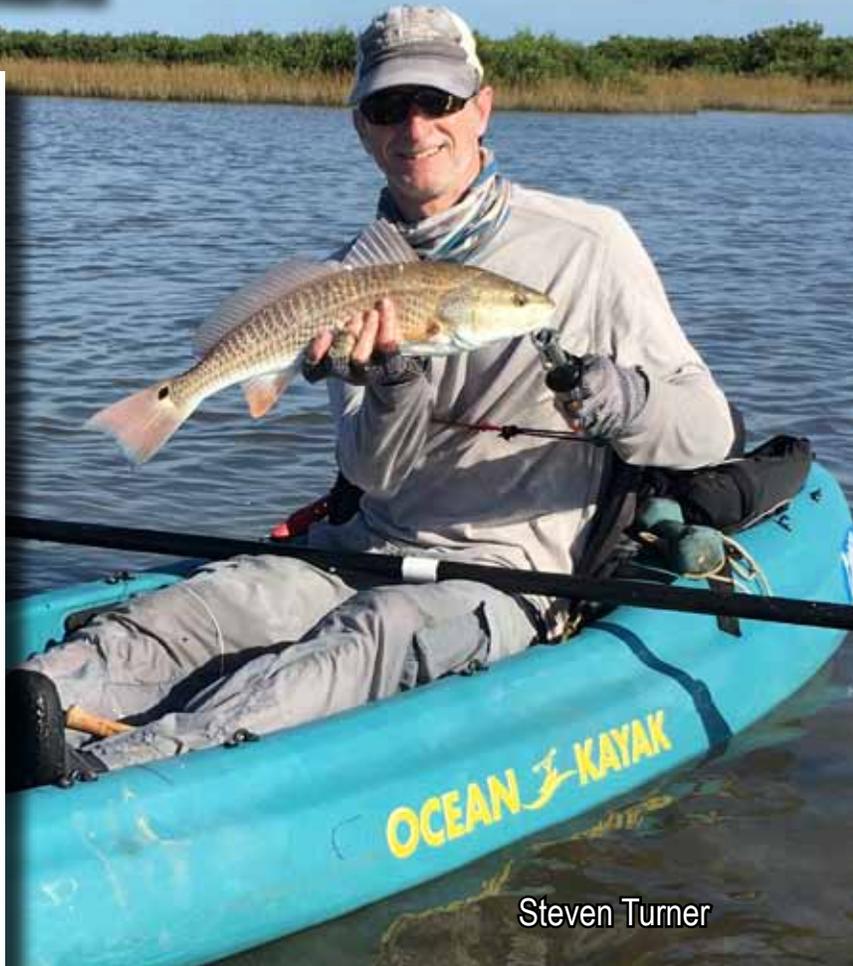
by Nils Pearson and Brandon Rabke

This year, seven AFF members made the trek to South Padre Island from Oct 22 – 28. As conditions go, we were very fortunate. There was no red tide, we had moderate morning winds that picked up in the afternoon, and mostly clear skies. Unfortunately, the cold front that proceeded our trip had pushed the dusky anchovy migration out of the surf. That meant that the roving schools of ladyfish, bonito, Spanish mackerel, and sharks that prey upon the anchovies were not in the shore break. On the upside, the water in the Lower Laguna Madre was clear and you could see the redfish on the flats. The story of our trip to SPI will be told in two parts. Brandon's report on his kayaking trip to South Bay with Steven Turner will be followed by a description of fishing with Captain Eric Glass.

## Kayaking South Bay

Steven Turner and I left early for the SPI outing. When I arrived on Thursday, Steven was already there and I joined him at his condo where I had a bed reserved for me. The rest of the AFF group was due to arrive the following Sunday. Over dinner that evening, we talked about where we might want to fish the next day and decided that we would give South Bay a try. Early the next morning, we launched our kayaks at the Isla Blanca Park boat ramp, located near the jetties. The first part of the trip to South Bay requires paddling across the Brownsville Ship Channel. Once you're safely across, you can follow a protected shoreline to the entrance of the bay and not have to worry much about boat traffic. The whole paddle, from the launch site to a point far enough into the bay where you can start fishing, takes about 45 minutes.

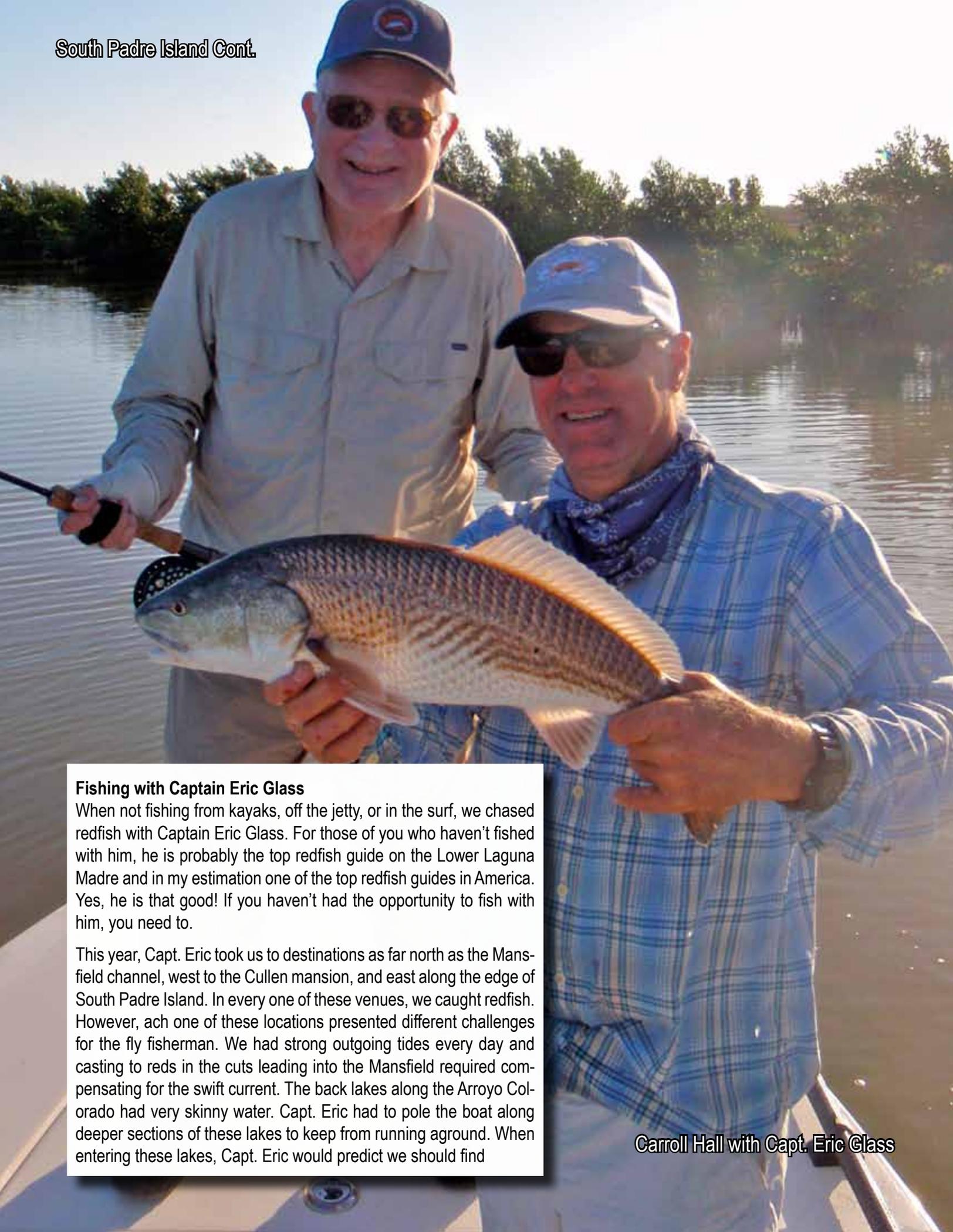
It didn't take long to find the fish after we paddled into the bay on Friday morning. Steven started seeing, then catching redfish that were cruising right up against a grassy shoreline on the edge of a nice flat we found. I was further out on the flat and saw reds, two large black drum and even some snook. I got several shots at fish, including a big snook, but it wasn't until I moved to the grassy edge that I also started to hook up. I ended up with four or five reds for the day and Steven caught nine. We returned to South Bay on Saturday but we didn't do as well. We still saw and caught fish, but not as many. It didn't help that the wind had stiffened from the day before and so it was harder to manage our casts and our kayaks. What I think affected the fishing even more, however, was that there were probably four times as many fishing boats buzzing by the edge of the flat as there were the previous day. The weekenders had arrived and were out in full force.



Steven Turner



Brandon Rabke



**Fishing with Captain Eric Glass**

When not fishing from kayaks, off the jetty, or in the surf, we chased redfish with Captain Eric Glass. For those of you who haven't fished with him, he is probably the top redfish guide on the Lower Laguna Madre and in my estimation one of the top redfish guides in America. Yes, he is that good! If you haven't had the opportunity to fish with him, you need to.

This year, Capt. Eric took us to destinations as far north as the Mansfield channel, west to the Cullen mansion, and east along the edge of South Padre Island. In every one of these venues, we caught redfish. However, each one of these locations presented different challenges for the fly fisherman. We had strong outgoing tides every day and casting to reds in the cuts leading into the Mansfield required compensating for the swift current. The back lakes along the Arroyo Colorado had very skinny water. Capt. Eric had to pole the boat along deeper sections of these lakes to keep from running aground. When entering these lakes, Capt. Eric would predict we should find

Carroll Hall with Capt. Eric Glass

## South Padre Island Cont.

5 reds in this location and every time we probably doubled his estimate. In these waters where the reds were actively eating with their tails raised, the fly had to be cast right on the nose of the red to get his attention. Otherwise, it would go unnoticed. Casting to the reds on the open flats required just the opposite. When casting to cruising reds, fly needed to be placed on the bottom and ahead of the red's path. As red approached this fly, it needed a long strip and stop to get noticed. And, when properly worked, the red pounced on the fly.

What can I say? I never get tired of sight casting to redfish and watching them inhale a fly. That well placed cast and aggressive take and thrilling run. Fortunately, everyone on this trip caught reds. You might even say that we caught more than we expected. All in all, this SPI outing was a great success. Our group had a good time fishing together, sharing meals, and catching up on each other lives.



Brandon Rabke



Gary Heintschel



Kathi Harris



Curtis Trompler

# The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jeff Hoelter

## Griffith's Gnat

The Griffith's Gnat is a very simple and popular trout fly brought to us by George Griffith to imitate midges. Its pretty easy to tie, using few materials, but midges are small. Very small. This example is tied on a size 16 hook but once you get the hang of it, try to tie it well into the 20's.

I plan to tie this fly before the November AFF meeting so if you have any questions or comments, bring them with you. Fly tyers

of all skill levels are invited to attend the free weekly tying sessions sponsored by Sportsmans Finest on Tuesdays, and Living Waters Fly Shop on Wednesdays. Contact them directly or visit their websites for more details.

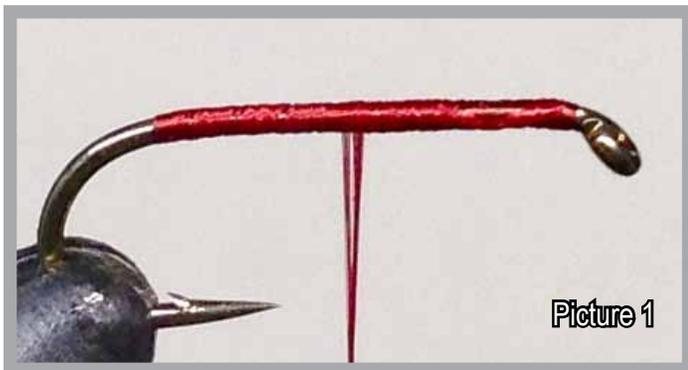
Materials:

Hook: Standard dry fly hook size 16-26

Hackle: Grizzly dry fly hackle

Body: Peacock here

**Picture 1:** Mount the hook in the vise. Start the thread and wrap back to just above the barb of the hook.



**Pictures 4:** Wrap the peacock forward with touching wraps and tie off just behind the eye of the hook.



**Picture 2:** Strip the barbs from the bottom 1/4 inch of the base of the hackle stem to make it easier to attach to the hook without distorting the fibers. Attach the hackle to the hook just above the hook barb. A quick search of the web shows a mix but it looks like most people attach the hackle dull side up. It looks pretty good either way.



**Picture 5:** Wrap the hackle forward with close, but not touching wraps and tie off just behind the hook eye. Tidy up and whip finish.



**Pictures 3:** Select 3 or 4 strands of peacock herl and remove the delicate tips (half inch or so). Tie them to the hook around mid shank and wrap back to just above the barb. Now wrap the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook.



**Picture 6:** Midge hatches usually occur during low light conditions, especially in the evening. Because midges are so small, you may want to add a post made of hi viz antron or poly before tying in the hackle and herl.



## Fly Fishing in Sweden by Doug Kierklewski

I recently had a trip to Sweden for work. On the weekend, a co-worker and I did a half-day trip with a guide I had used before to fish for pike in the Vaxon Archipelago. The guide was from "Catch and Relax" in Vaxon and provides fly fishing tackle. Vaxon is approximately 40 minutes by taxi from Stockholm, or a 30-minute boat ride. My coworker, who used a spinning outfit, got skunked, and I got lucky and caught 5 pike with my fly rod. Other fly fishing opportunities in Sweden include sea trout, rainbow, brown trout, salmon, and char.



Doug Kierklewski with guide Bo Lundgren

## 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 Rodriguez** – <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 Fishing 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. 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](mailto:blueh20fly@aol.com)



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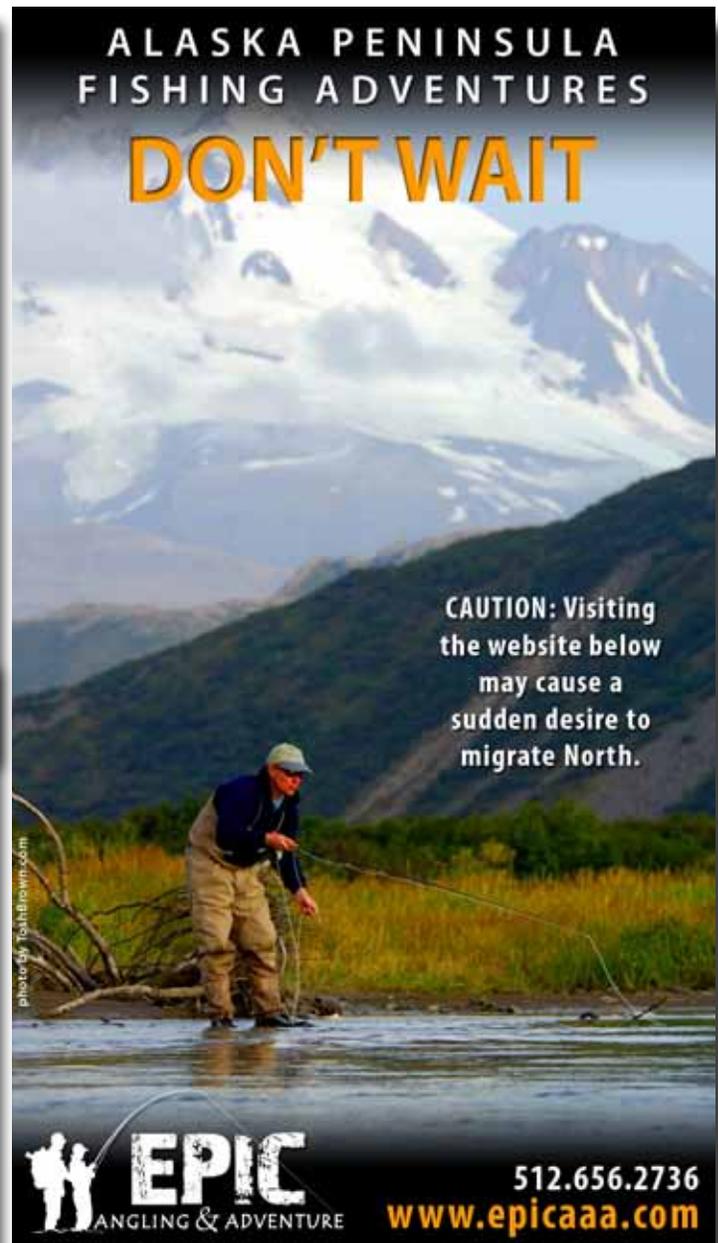
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