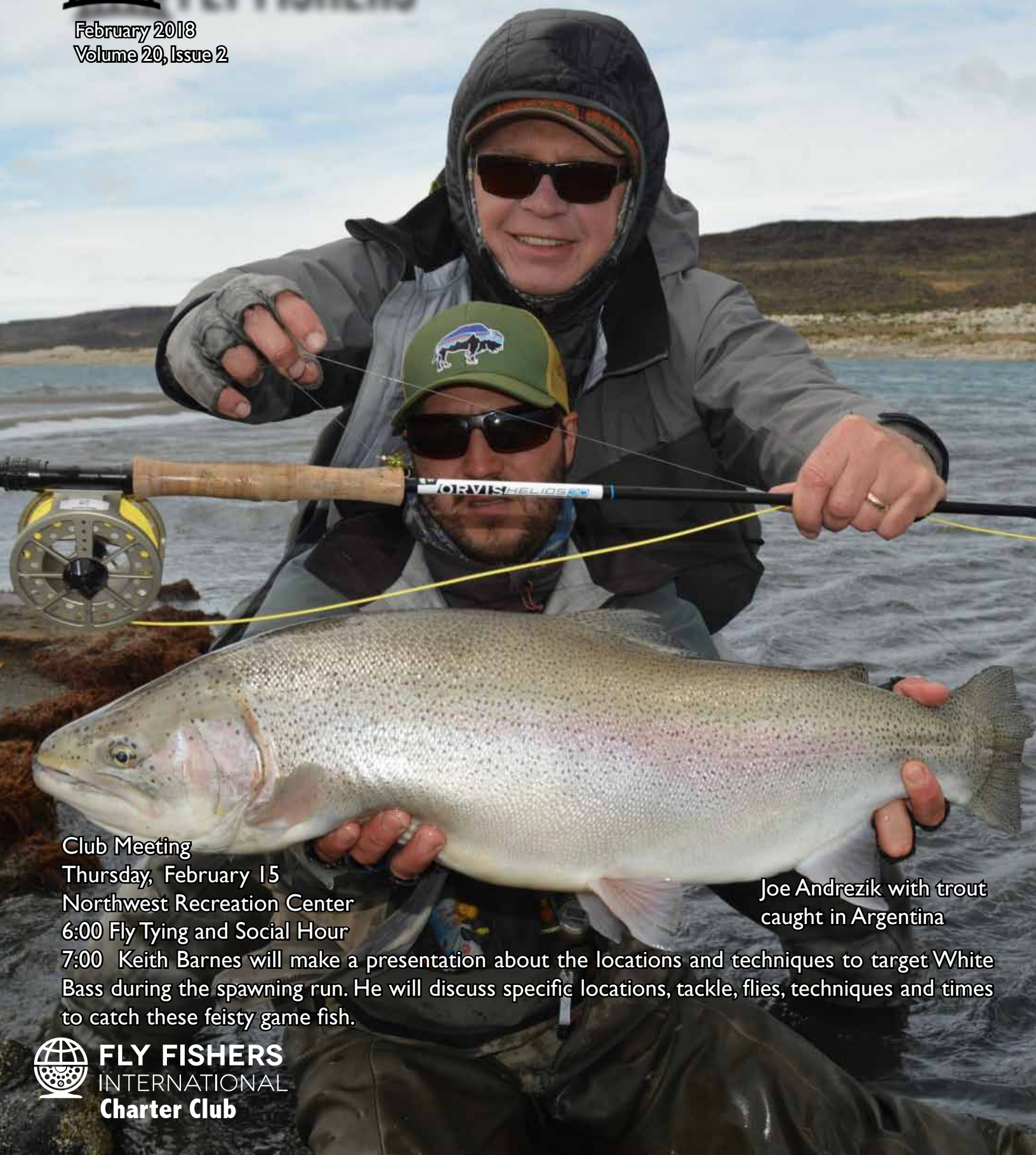




# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

February 2018  
Volume 20, Issue 2



Club Meeting  
Thursday, February 15  
Northwest Recreation Center  
6:00 Fly Tying and Social Hour

7:00 Keith Barnes will make a presentation about the locations and techniques to target White Bass during the spawning run. He will discuss specific locations, tackle, flies, techniques and times to catch these feisty game fish.

Joe Andrezik with trout  
caught in Argentina



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**Charter Club**



# President's Message Shawn Riggs

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As the As much as I love angling and landing fish, I have to say that teaching another person to fish ranks right up there with it. Educating someone else on the proper technics of casting/retrieving and having them learn to read the water and find a suitable lure or fly for the situation can be challenging at times but it can also be a lot of fun. When your pupil finally puts it all together and par-lays it into a successful catch it is a truly amazing experience to be a part of.

I am lucky that my son, Hudson, has always enjoyed the great outdoors. He was exposed to fishing early in his life. I have taken him numerous times since he could hold a fishing pole whether to Lady Bird Lake or on my dad's boat at the Texas coast. Even though he liked it I have to admit that on most of those early trips he was more concerned with what kind of snacks we brought along or looking for turtles on the water's surface

or pelicans flying overhead. Usually after about thirty minutes of watching a bobber or blind casting he was bored and wanted to play Crossy Road on my phone.

Now that he is a little older, he possesses the necessary patience to spend hours at a time on the water pursuing our finned adversaries. He has moved on from his Zebco spin-cast combo to a conventional Shimano bait caster setup. (We are already working with a fly casting practice rod and he is almost ready to make the leap). Last Spring, he landed his first big fish a 17 1/4 inch seatrout on a red and white black back soft plastic in Shoalwater Bay. My father and brother accompanied us on that trip and we had just started a second drift across the bay when Hudson hooked into what seemed like a good sized fish. After about twenty minutes of hard fighting he begged for one of us

## President's Message cont.

to take over because his hands were cramping up but I told him he was almost done and to just keep his rod tip up and the pressure on. Well another ten minutes later that trout finally tired and got close enough to net and you should have seen the smile on my boy's face. We were all hooting and hollering on the boat scaring away any other fish around for miles but we didn't care. We took several pictures of Hudson with his catch and then we kept fishing with limited success. When we got back to the bay house he couldn't wait to tell his mother and sisters of his big catch. I was so proud of him and his accomplishment that day. All the hours spent practicing and honing his casting had paid off.

My son loves baseball and has since he was two. I have coached him for many years and always enjoy watching him play. Baseball is another passion that my son and I share in life. I only

mention this because if you ask him what his most favorite memories are in his short nine years of living he mentions hitting his first home run over the fence, winning the Championship game on his 8u baseball team and attending a World Series game this Fall and watching our beloved Houston Astros play an amazing Game 5 against the Los Angeles Dodgers and ultimately winning the back and forth battle in extra innings. But not surprising right up there with these warm remembrances which revolve around a baseball diamond is his memory formed that day he caught his first big fish and how excited he was of landing that trout after the long struggle between the two of them.

I share this story to inspire everyone to teach someone this beautiful craft we call angling. Whether it's your son or daughter, nephew or niece, spouse, friend or co-worker just share your knowledge of fishing with them. Volunteer

to be a river guide at a Casting for Recovery retreat or become a Texas Parks & Wildlife Angler Educator teaching youth groups and scouts how to tie a wooly booger or how to false cast. If your students stick with it and finally catch that first fish, be it a sunfish in a neighborhood pond or a big trout on the Texas Gulf Coast, you will feel so proud of what they learned under your tutelage. I bet you it will almost feel as good as if you caught that fish yourself. Almost. It will remind you of when you first stated your journey to becoming the avid angler you are today and why we love this sport. Remember the old saying "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

And may I add that it will be a lifetime they will spend forming unforgettable memories as they spend countless hours on the water in their pursuit of those elusive fins. It is a noble endeavor.

## Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

1/1/2018 - 1/31/2018

**Begin Bal. Checking \$14,656.17**

### Income:

Auction	\$190.00
SKIFF	\$50.00
Dues AFF FFI	<u>\$393.75</u>
Total Income	\$633.75

### Disbursements:

SKIFF Caps	\$480.00
Casting for Recovery	\$2,000.00
FFI Dues	\$305.00
P. Breeden (speaker)	\$150.00
Earthlink -internet	<u>\$127.29</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,062.29
Net	(\$2,428.54)
Accounting adj,	(\$33.03)
Adjusted Net	(\$2,461.57)

### Unencumbered:

Unallocated Funds	\$5,884.88
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### Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$0.00
SKIFF	\$6,309.72

**Ending Bal-Checking \$12,104.60**



## February Speaker – Keith Barnes



Our speaker this month will be Keith Barner. His topic is Fly fishing the White Bass Runs of Central Texas. His presentation will include the locations and techniques to target White Bass during the spawning run. In particular, he will discuss specific locations, tackle, flies, techniques and times to catch these feisty game fish.

More about Keith in his own words. I live on the Highland Lakes and have been fishing these lakes for over 30 years. Fishing has always been a big part of my life. As a child, I fished every chance that I could. The desire to feel a fish pulling on my line has never dimmed, in fact it has grown stronger.

While I have been fly fishing for most of my life, I didn't make the transition to dedicated fly fisherman until about 20 years ago. I put down my conventional tackle and really haven't picked it up again. I have concentrated on learning and developing techniques to target fish on the Upper Highland Lakes of Central Texas with a fly rod. Living on the western shore of Lake Buchanan, I have spent countless hours, on more days than I care to admit, pursuing every species of game fish found in Central Texas.

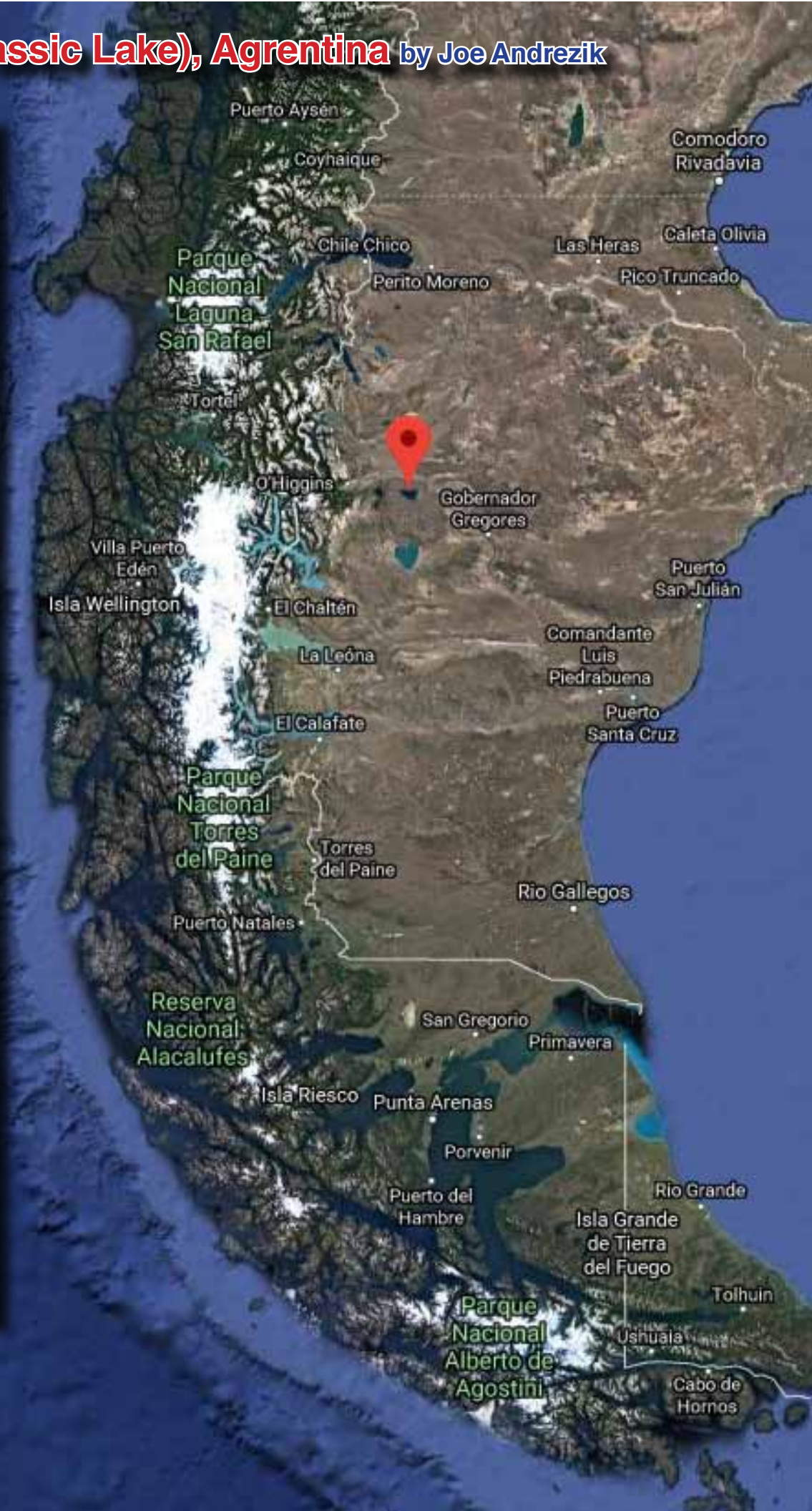


# Lake Strobel (Jurassic Lake), Agrentina by Joe Andrezik

I recently returned from a trip to Laguna Verde Lodge in far southern Argentina. The lodge is located just a few kilometers from the famous Lago Strobel AKA Jurassic Lake. The lake is fed by the Barrancoso River which originates in the high Andes Mountains. It's sources is snowmelt and glacier ice.

In the early 1980's several lakes and rivers were stocked with rainbow and other trout. The rainbows were from the McCloud river hatchery. There has not been another stocking since then. The Rainbows loved the environment of Lago Strobel and the river and have grown to unusually large size. In our group our average "cookie cutter" trout were 9-11 lbs. We caught a 12.5 lb., 17 lb. and a 15 lb. during our stay. I am told that most weeks someone catches a 20 lb. or larger trout. We did not experience that but there were several fish that seemed to be 15 lbs. or greater that were not brought to the net. (But who can tell, we are fishermen and women!)

The ranch or estancia has several smaller lakes and lagoons which are connected by Moro Creek. During our stay Moro Creek had just dried up. Each lagoon has its own healthy population of trout. Laguna Verde is just a few steps from the lodge and



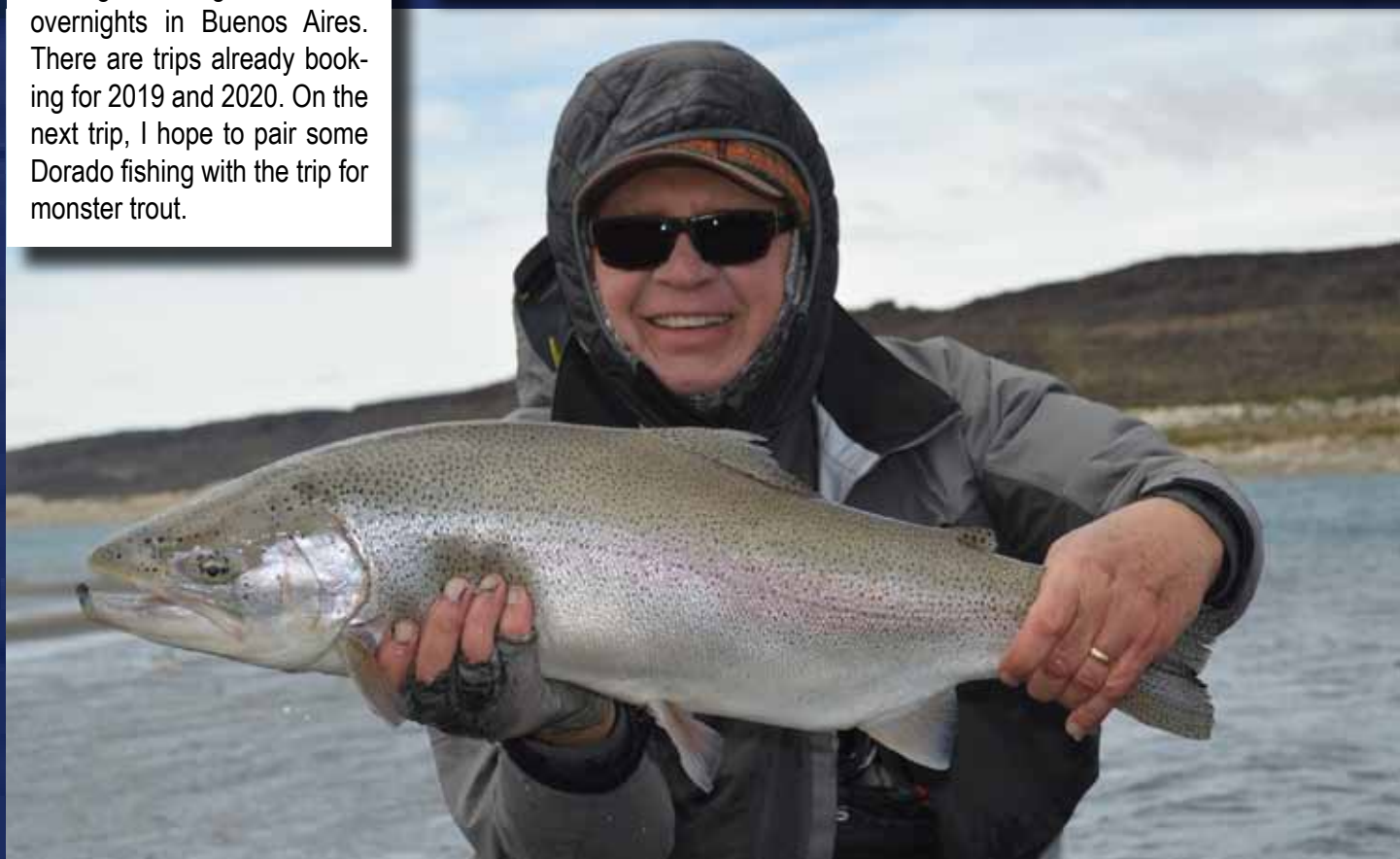


## Lake Strobel cont.

one afternoon some in our party caught large rainbow, brown and brook trout from the lagoon. All would have been trophy fish back home I am told.

Lago Strobel and it's environs is a very windy and rough place but well worth the effort to fish there. The lodge is comfortable but not luxurious. The staff is wonderful, courteous and very helpful. Laundry service is available daily at no charge. The guides are exceptional. All speak adequate English and they KNOW fish.

I went with Steve Hollensed who mainly guides on Lake Texoma. We booked through Flywater Travel in Ashland OR. (Ken Moorish is one of the owners of Flywater Travel.) All went very smoothly. Cost of the trip was \$5,715.00 excluding airfare, gratuities and overnights in Buenos Aires. There are trips already booking for 2019 and 2020. On the next trip, I hope to pair some Dorado fishing with the trip for monster trout.





# Winter Bass Fishing

by Matt Bennett

Jeff Hoelter and I drove up to the Waco Fly Fishers meeting to attend Pat Dorsey's presentation on a cold February day. We met up with Bob Hanley of the Waco club, who took us out to his duck lease a bit east of town for a few hours of fishing. We honestly weren't expecting much with air temps in the low 40s, but we both had a pretty banner day.

I think we fished about 2 1/2 hours and caught about 80 bass between the three of us. Nothing giant, but all of the fish were very healthy and in good shape. I fished a Lunch Money and also some big deer hair flies in a full sink line, and had several fish eat the latter fly off the surface before it got too deep. Pretty unusual for a cold winter day, but a welcome diversion from all the time I've been spending on the vise.





# The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jeff Hoelter

## Mercury TS Brassie

This month's pattern is a mashup of design elements and techniques borrowed from other flies including Pat Dorsey's Top Secret Midge and Mercury Brassie and Jay Zimmerman's Iceman Midge. It is quick and fairly easy to tie and is a good choice to use as the bottom fly in an indicator dropper nymph rig under an egg or legs. This example is tied on a size 16 hook but I normally tie it on size 18 or 20.

### Materials

Hook: TMC 2487 or 2488 or similar short curved hook

Bead: Silver lined Killer Caddis bead

Thread: UTC 70 color to match dubbing (thorax)

Abdomen: 2 strands wine, 1 strand silver Ultra Wire

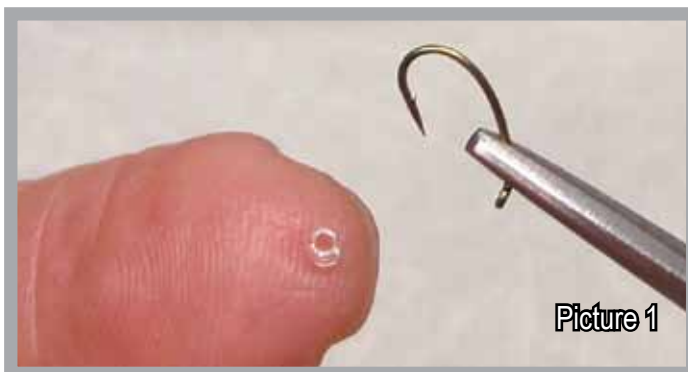
Wing: Glamour Madera #2400 embroidery thread

Thorax: Super Fine dubbing, Rust Brown



**Picture 1:** Grab the hook in a pair of tweezers or hemostats and pick up one of the beads on the tip of your finger.

**Picture 2:** Move the hook toward the bead to feed it onto the hook.



Picture 1

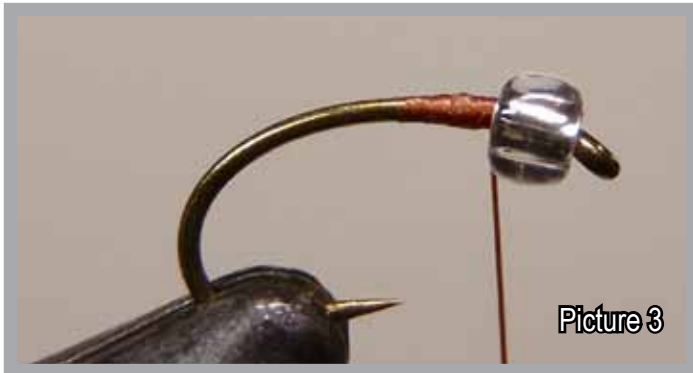


Picture 2



# Fly Tyer cont.

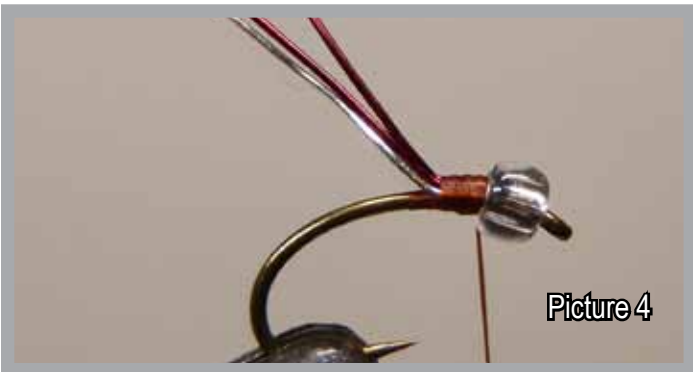
**Pictures 3:** Start the thread just behind the bead and make a few wraps. No need to wrap the thread down to the bend.



**Picture 6:** When you get to the back of the hook, firmly grasp the wire and simultaneously pull and rotate the wires until they break. Usually it will break cleanly and there will be no need to smooth the wire around the hook.



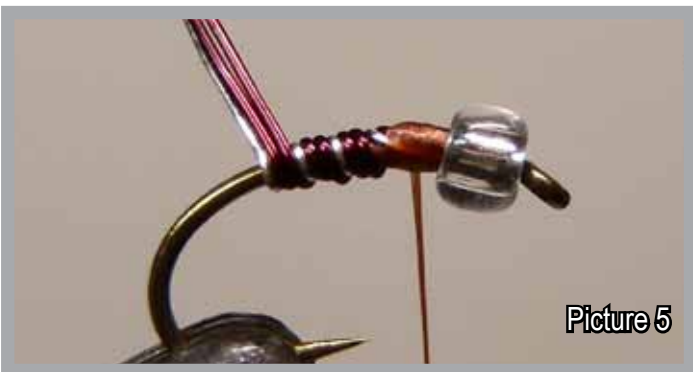
**Pictures 4:** Cut 3 four inch lengths of wire and attach them firmly behind the bead. You can be creative with the choice of colors but I usually select 2 matching colors to represent the body of the midge and another contrasting color to represent the body segmentation or rib.



**Pictures 7:** Lock the wire wraps with a small drop of super glue just at the ends of the wire on the back of the hook OR coat the entire wire body with UV resin or Sally Hansons as I did here. Then take a small length of the embroidery thread and attach it just behind the bead.



**Picture 5:** Wrap the three wires together down the hook with smooth touching wraps. You can stop occasionally and use your thumb nail to push the wraps forward to make sure there are no spaces between the wires.



**Picture 8:** Dub a small amount of Super Fine in the shape of a ball for the Thorax, Whip finish behind the bead. Trim the wing short and tease it a bit so it stands up and you are finished.







## Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2018. 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

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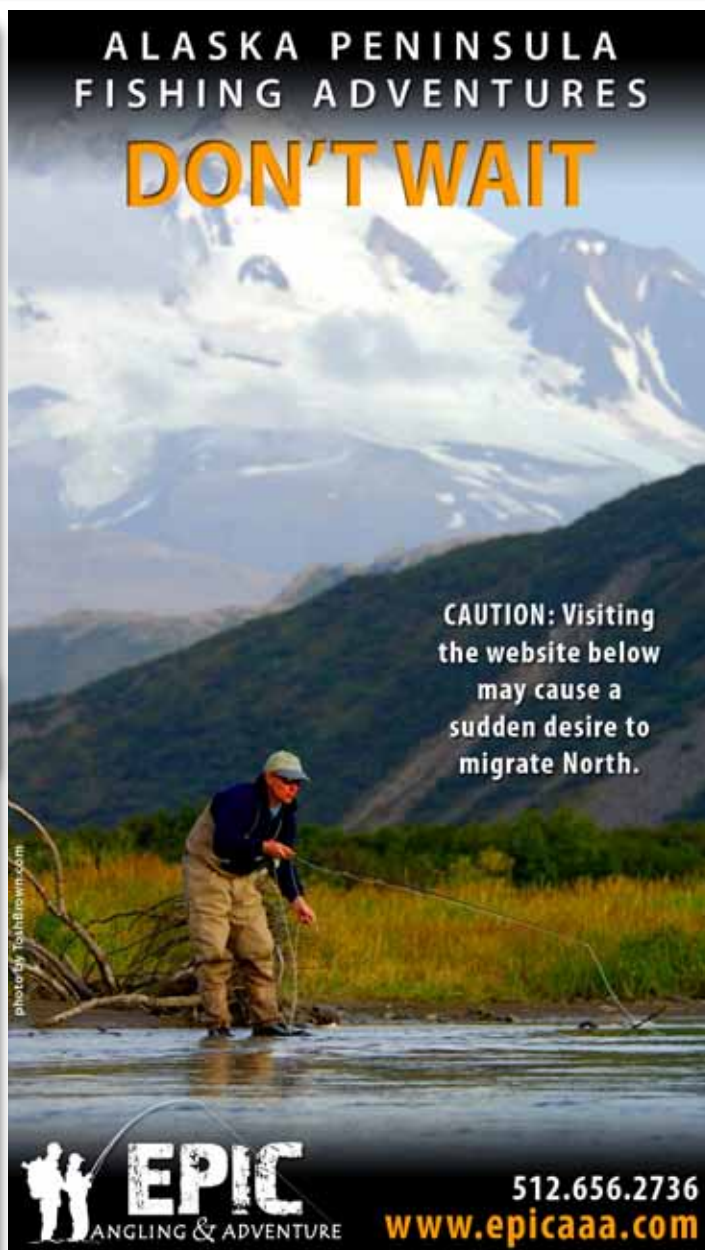
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