



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
August 2015
Volume 17, Issue 8

Club Meeting
Thursday, August 20
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos
6:00 Casting Clinic
7:00 Presentation -Dale Connally will share plenty
of pictures and helpful information he has picked up
wade fishing the San Juan River

Ed Parson's grandson Ben with his first
trout caught on the Gunnison River in
Colorado

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President's Message by Jim Gray



Last week, the International Federation of Fly Fishers celebrated their 50 year anniversary with a 4 day fly fishing fair in Bend Oregon. The fair was kicked off with an awards banquet where clubs and individuals were recognized for significant contributions to the sport. Last year, the Austin Fly Fishers received the J. Stanley Lloyd Conservation Award for our work with the Kyle Lake Project, the Brushy Creek cleanup and the Brushy Creek Lake aquatic planting. This year, I'm pleased to announce that the Austin Fly Fishers received the McKenzie Cup, an award given annually to the club that has made the most outstanding contribution on behalf of the IFFF. The McKenzie Cup recognizes sustained contribution, and it's a testament to the great work that our members and officers have done for many years. When we were announced, the presenter talked about our conservation efforts, our work with fly tying and casting and the work we do with SKIFF. I believe it was SKIFF that really differentiated us from other worthy clubs. Not many groups can boast of a self-funded program that has such a positive impact and was the brain child of our members, most importantly, Ron Cruse. Ron's legacy has been carried on admirably by Manuel Pena and Dave Hill. Great work guys. It was an honor to accept the award on behalf of the club, along with fellow officers Carroll Hall, Jeff Hoelter and Matt Bennett.

Speaking of Matt, the accolades continued when our VP, Matt Bennett received the Charles Brooks Memorial Life Award. This award is given to an innovative fly tier with a love of the outdoors and fly fishing. Most importantly, he needs to be a "character", and I think we can all agree that Matt fits the bill. What was already a special night was made even more so when Matt was surprised by his parents and sister flying in from Louisiana to join him at the banquet and celebrate his accomplishment.

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

7/1/2015 - 7/31/2015

Beginning Bal. Checking \$9,346.15

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$272.34
Auctions	\$280.00
SKIFF	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,052.34

Disbursements:

Kevin Hutchison	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$300.00
Net	\$752.34

Ending Balance-Checking \$1,098.49

*Casting for Recovery Deposit	\$1,085.38
SKIFF Total Donations	\$21,292.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$17,137.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$4,155.37

Club Announcements by Matt Bennett

August Speaker

Our August presenter will be Dale Connally, PhD from Baylor University and the Waco Fly Fishing Club. Dale will share plenty of pictures and helpful information he has picked up wade fishing the San Juan River in New Mexico without a guide. He has made multiple trips spanning over 20 years.

If you've never fished the San Juan, it can be on of the most frustrating experiences in fly fishing. You will likely see more fish in a day than you'll see the rest of the year combined -- the river is full of large rainbows and a few nice browns. One of North America's premier trout tailwaters, this is a very technical fishery. Dale will shed some light on habitat, diet, and successful tactics for fooling these wiley fish, and you should be able to pick up a few tips you can apply to your trout fishing anywhere.



Dale Connally on the San Juan River

SKIFF Donation

On July 27 th, the Austin Fly Fishers SKIFF program, received a \$500 donation from the Women Helping Others (WHO) of Sun City, TX . The mission of WHO is to support existing charitable organizations with time, donations and assistance.

It is very generous groups like WHO, who help the AFF and Bob Maindelle continue the SKIFF program. We sincerely appreciate their support and enthusiasm for the program.



Dave Hill receives the SKIFF donation from WHO Vice President, Celia Olson

Fly Tier Award

Matt Bennett is joined by his family when he received the Charles Brooks Memorial Life Award. This award is given to an innovative fly tier with a love of the outdoors and fly fishing.



Fly Fishing the Salt River, Wyoming

by Ed Parsons



Ed Parsons
with Dave Barber (guide)
www.Jacksonholeflyfishingtrips.com



Fly Fishing the Crooked River

by Jim Gray

While we were in Bend Oregon for the IFFF 50th Anniversary Fair, Matt Bennett and I decided to take a day and sample some of the local water. We stopped at the Fly Fishers Place in Sister Oregon to get the skinny on the best places to fish. They recommended the Crooked River below the Prineville Reservoir, about 45 minutes out of Bend. For flies, they suggested we start with a double nymph rig and move to brown caddis and PMDs for the evening hatch.

When we arrived at the river we were surprised to find the water the color of milky tea. Apparently, conditions had changed the day before when water from the dam was being drawn from the top of the lake instead of the bottom. Drought conditions and unseasonably high temperatures had caused an algae bloom. It looked like the day would be a bust, but we were already there and decided to give it a shot. We started with upstream nymphing, and after a slow start we started to catch some fish.

As the day wore on, Matt noticed a small hatch coming off and we switched to dry flies. We ended the day with 20 redband trout and a 8 mountain whitefish. These were new fish for both of us, so we were more than happy with the results. The water conditions were poor, but the winding desert canyons carved by the river are spectacular. I'm already thinking about going back and fishing the Crooked when conditions are better. I also want to try the Metolius River for bull trout and the Deschutes for steelhead.



SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On Friday, 31 July, I conducted the eighth SKIFF trip of the 2015 season, taking the Christenson kids, Zach, Marissa, and Brock out on Belton Lake in pursuit of white bass and hybrid striped bass.

My heart goes out to this Army family, and I'm glad to be able to offer a little something to them for the sacrifices they make to be an Army family.

Since hostilities began in Iraq, Ryan Christenson has been deployed as follows:

Iraq – 12 months from 2003-2004

Iraq – 12 months from 2005-2006

Iraq/Kuwait – 12 months from 2011-2012

Germany – 3 months in 2014

In between these dates, there was training, schooling, gunnery, etc. which also takes soldiers away from home. Ryan is currently at the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, CA for 10 days. He will return there for over a month in October, and will then head to South Korea in early 2016 for about 1 year (unaccompanied by his family). And this is by no means unheard of for Army families. While dad is gone, mom is mom 24/7/365, and these fishing trips offer just a bit of a breather. So, "thank you" to all of you who donate to make these possible!

Today I was a little worried about our results because (although the thermometer wouldn't indicate it) we actually had a mild cold front come in overnight which changed our wind direction and varied the barometric pressure. These "wrinkles" always have an effect (normally negative) on the fishing. As we got out there today, there was zero surface activity — that in itself was a change over the last two weeks or so during which time there has been daily topwater action of some sort.

The fishing was a bit slower than normal, with fish holding lower in the water column than has been the case over the



past week or so. Between 9 and 10AM we hit into a nice "patch" of fish in about 32 feet of water, spread over an 80 yard area with ample bait in the same vicinity. We made pass after pass with our downriggers and picked up singles, doubles, and triples of white bass and hybrid striper on most every pass over this time span.

By the time these fish eased up, we'd boated a total of 26 fish, giving each child multiple opportunities to "man the rod".

To add variety, we spent our final hour or so up in shallow water fishing in and around the flooded terrestrial vegetation which now holds multiple species of sunfish, small largemouth and smallmouth bass, and blacktail shiners. We used

ream poles baited with worms under slip floats to add another 14 fish to our tally before the winds got still, the temperature climbed, and the kids were ready to wrap it up.

SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trips are provided free of charge to families whose children are separated from a parent due to that parent's military service, thanks to the Austin Fly Fishers and a network of supportive individuals from all over the U.S. All it takes is a phone call from a parent to me at 254-368-7411 to reserve a date. SKIFF is open to children in elementary and middle school, as well as teens in high school.

TALLY = 39 FISH, all caught and released

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Richard Pena

Fiddle Sticks Crab

This First off, I would like to start by saying that I take no credit for the design of this Fly. This is a pattern that I took from Drew Chicones book, Redfish Flies, and one that was created by Capt. Ron Ratliff as stated in his book.

I like this fly in particular because it is a great pattern that engages many different fly tying techniques and also when finished and executed properly looks semi-realistic. In addition, depending how ambitious you are, the pattern is very flexible and can be made to fit the location you plan to fish. I personally like tying this fly in Olive, but many people with much more experience have recommended Tan as a great alternative to mimicing the Blue Crab on the Texas Coast.

Lets Begin!

Hook: #2 Gamakatsu SL11-35

Thread: Danville Waxed 6/0 Flymaster OR Ultra Thread in 140- Brown or Olive

Legs: Ultra Chenille (Micro)

Body: Deer Body Hair

Weight: 5/32 Dumbbell Eyes

Eyes: EP Shrimp Eyes (I use Small)

Adhesive: Clear Cure Goo Hydro

Step 1: Lets Start by laying down some thread at the bend of the hook. Dont forget to also build up a small bump towards the point of the hook to lay our dumbbell eyes.



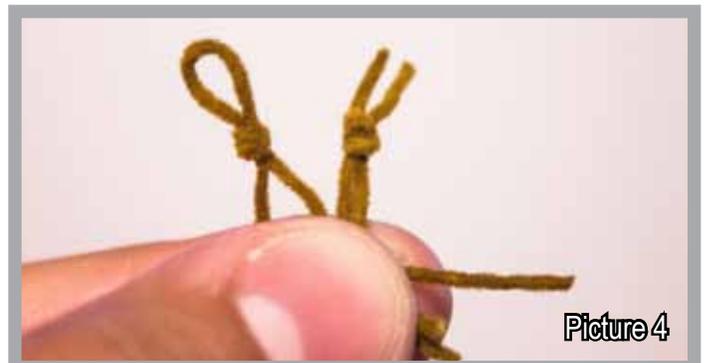
Step 2: Tie in the dumbbell eyes right behind the thread bump with a series of tight figure eight wraps. If you want some extra security you can also put some clear cure goo on the thread to make the fly much more resilient. turn the hook around with your vice.



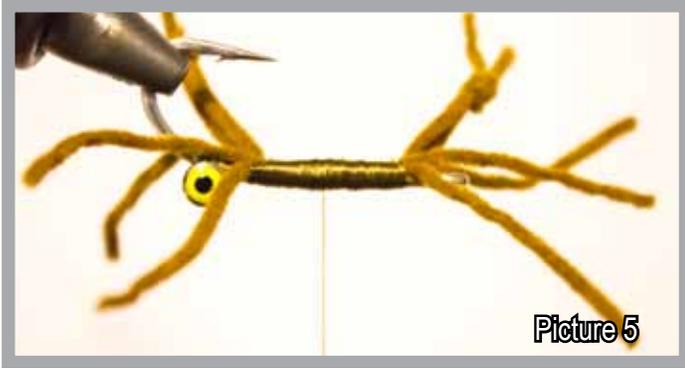
Step 3: Cut out three 2 1/2 inch pieces of micro chenille and tie them into the fly. Seperate the legs by placing them on the outer edge, on center and inner edge of the shank in relation to you. Wrap back to the bend of the hook, building up the body, and secure the chenille to the hook.



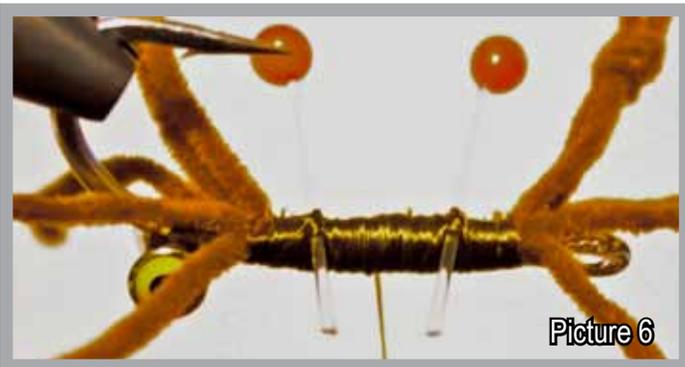
Step 4: Cut out two 4 inch pieces of chenille. Fold them in half and tie a knot about 1/4 inch from the folded end. Cut the loop to create the claws. TIP: When you fold the chenille, twist it before trying to make your knot. A pair of tweezers can also help you pull the tag end of the chenille through the loop.



Step 5: Secure both claws on either side of hook, positioning them so the knot sticks out 1/4 inch. Secure the chenille with a series of thread wraps.



Step 6: Take your EP Shrimp Eyes and tie the eyes towards center on both sides with a series of figure eight wraps. Advance your thread to the center of the hook right between the eyes. Do not worry how far your eyes stick out, they can be adjusted later. When cutting the stems leave enough room so that you can grab the eyes with a pair of pliers/tweezers.



Step 7: Cut a 1 inch long section of your deer body hair, about a pencil width in diameter tie it in between the eyes with roughly 7-8 wraps. Note, you are not spinning the hair. Keep it between the shank of the hook and the point.



Step 8: Advance your thread to just behind the eye of the hook and trim your deer hair!



Steps 9: Whip Finish.



Step 10: This is up to you, but I like to apply clear cure or loon uv fly finish to my thread wraps to make this fly last longer.



Steps 11: Mottle the legs and claws with your choice of marker/color





Picture 12

AFF Outings Update and Calendar 2015 by Dave Bush

September 19-23, Mustang Island State Park

We'll be camping at Mustang Island State Park near Corpus Christi in September during a new moon which is a favorable time to fish the area. The Park offers good camping amenities with excellent access to bay, surf, jetty, near-shore, and offshore fishing. If you'd rather not camp, plenty of rental properties are available nearby in Port Aransas or Corpus Christi at offseason rates. For non-fishing family members, there are plenty of activities available in Corpus. Stay tuned to the website for additional information.

October 3, Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament, Port Aransas

The annual Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament is once again being held in Port Aransas. The event supports Casting for Recovery and is the premiere fly fishing catch and release tournament on the Texas coast each year. For further information, see the website at www.lydiaannflymasters.com.

October 16-18, Oktoberfisch, Junction

The annual Oktoberfisch gathering sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers is once again being held on the South Llano River near Junction. This popular event draws fly fishers from across the state. Details are available at www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/oktoberfisch/. Stay tuned for details of the club's plans for participation.

October 17-25, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in October. Yes, during a new moon for optimum tidal conditions. South Padre also offers a wide variety of fishing options from wading for redfish to fishing wrecks offshore. South Padre has a lot of rental options available at reasonable rates since it's the low season. Like the Mustang Island trip, South Padre is also a very good destination for non-fishing significant others. While this outing is scheduled for an entire week, you're welcome to attend for as long as you like. Watch the website for details as they emerge.

Date	AFF Event	Subject/Destination	Speaker/Event Host	Status
8/20	Meeting	Fishing the San Juan River	Dale Connally	Confirmed
9/17	Meeting			Confirmed
9/19-9/23	Outing	Padre Island National Seashore	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
10/3	Special	Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament		Confirmed
10/15	Meeting			Confirmed
10/16-10/18	Special	Oktoberfisch		Confirmed
10/17-10/25	Outing	South Padre Island	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
11/19	Meeting			Confirmed
12/17	Meeting	Holiday Party		Confirmed

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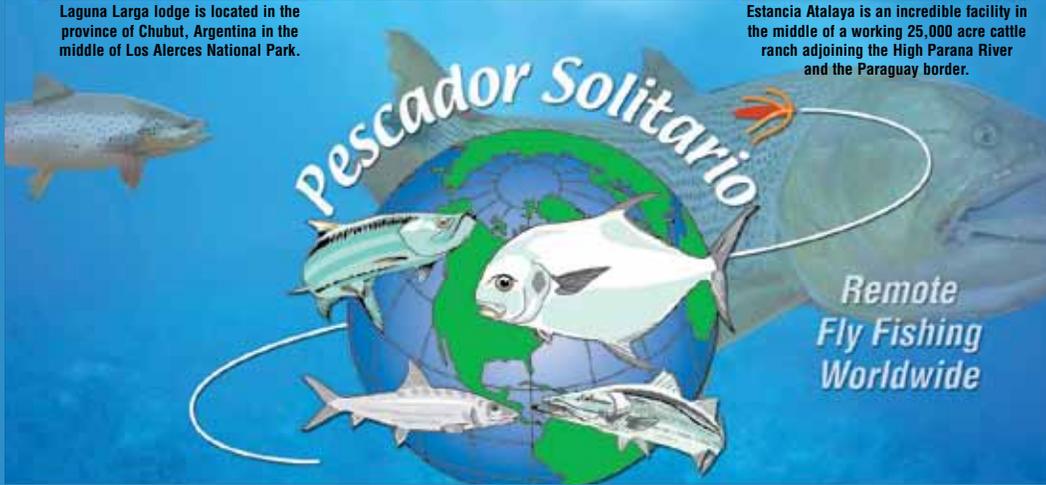
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Laguna Larga lodge is located in the province of Chubut, Argentina in the middle of Los Alerces National Park.

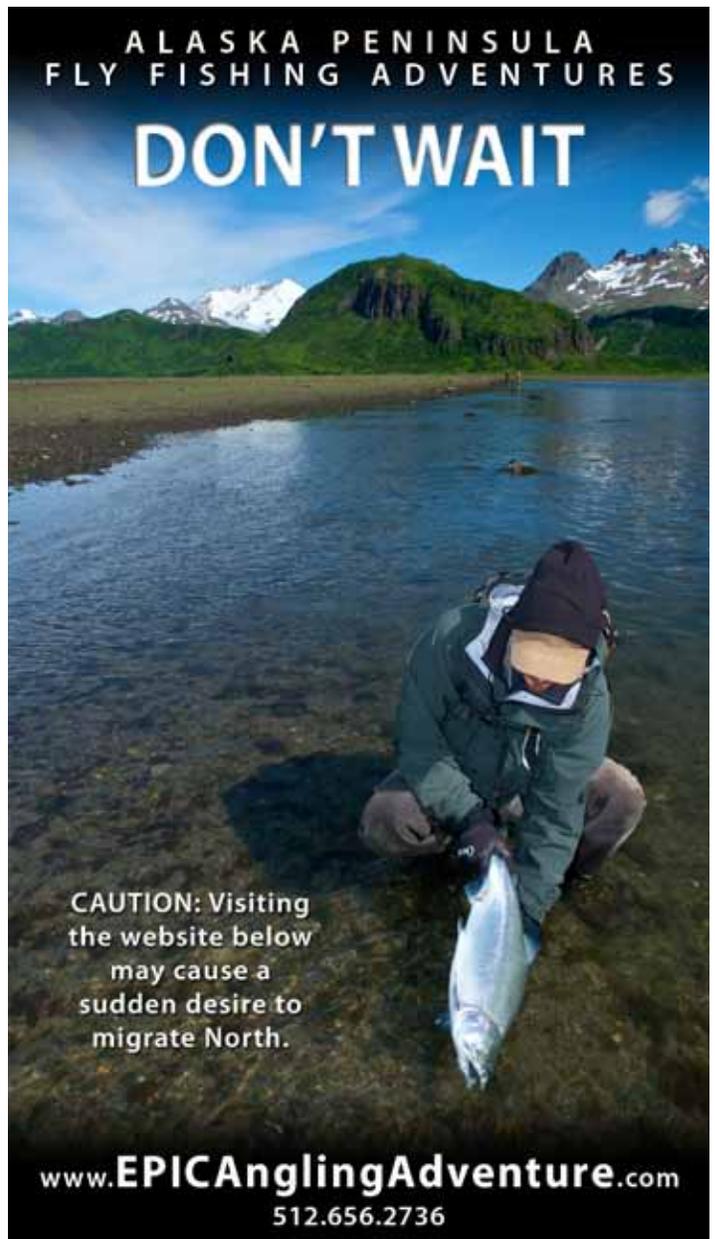
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