

# Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the  
International Federation of Fly Fishers  
December 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 12



Club Holiday Party  
Please join us on  
Friday, December 11 at 6:30 pm  
Mimi's Cafe at the Arborwalk

Ed Parsons with redfish caught in  
South Louisiana



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## President's Message by Jim Gray

It's December and that means it's time for our annual Holiday Party. This year we are doing something a little different. To increase attendance, we have moved the party up 1 week, and we are having it on Friday, instead of Thursday. This year, the party will be held on Friday, December 11 at Mimi's Cafe at The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 N. Mopac Expy. We will start gathering for the social hour at 6:30PM, with dinner served at 7:30PM. To help us plan, we ask that you respond to the invite invitation that was sent to our AFF mailing list. If you didn't receive an invitation, please send me a message at [texasjimgray@yahoo.com](mailto:texasjimgray@yahoo.com) and I'll make sure you get one.

We always have a great time at the party, and it's for such a good cause. The money we make from the auction and raffle goes to support Casting for Recovery. For many years, we have sponsored 2 women who are recovering from breast cancer. The good news for you is that you have the opportunity to help someone in need, while getting a great fishing related gift. If you've been to the party in the past, you know just how much cool stuff we have, and this year is no exception. Rods, reels, flies, packs, vests and so much more.

The party will be my last official function as President of the Austin Fly Fishers. It's been an incredibly rewarding 2 years, and I want to thank you giving the opportunity. In our November meeting, members elected Matt Bennett as the new President and Dakus Geeslin as the Vice President. Mike Morphew will also be joining the AFF board of directors as the Education Coordinator. The club couldn't be in better hands, and we are very lucky to have such great officers. I plan to stay active and will remain on the board as the Past President. I also plan to work with the IFFF Texas Council as the Vice President focused on Education. I'm looking forward to the new challenge.



## Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

10/1/2015 - 10/31/2015

**Beginning Bal. Checking \$10,725.15**

### Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$148.93
Auction	\$235.00
SKIFF	\$1,000.00
Kyle Lake Donation	\$500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,883.93</b>

### Disbursements:

Manuel Pena Dinner Ticket	\$75.00
Bob Maindelle	\$1,640.00
Advanced Embroidery	\$47.55
Banning Collins - Speaker	\$150.00
FFF - Dues	\$340.00
Group Insurance	\$350.00
New Phase - Fly Boxes	\$999.45
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$3,602.00</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$1,718.07)</b>

**Ending Balance-Checking \$9,007.08**

*Casting for Recovery Balance	\$1,085.38
SKIFF Total Donations	\$23,592.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,307.57
<b>SKIFF Balance</b>	<b>\$3,285.37</b>

## Austin Fly Fishers Holiday Party



Come to the Holiday Dinner and bring your spouse, significant other, or fishing buddy. Reminisce about the great year we had with our AFF family: big trips, big fish, conservation efforts, and support with community organizations like TPW, SKIFF and CFR. The Social Hour begins at 6:30 and Dinner at 7:30 at Mimi's Cafe (10515 N. Mopac Expy at the Arborwalk).

CFR Fundraiser includes a silent auction and raffle to sponsor 2 women for the Texas Casting for Recovery (CFR) breast cancer retreats. Since 2005, Casting for Recovery Texas has held 17 retreats and served over 230 breast cancer survivors from all over the state of Texas. The Austin Fly Fishers is a proud sponsor of this program and each year we sponsor two women. Shop early, get your Christmas presents, and support a good cause at the Holiday Dinner CFR Fundraiser.

## SKIFF Donation

The AFF Skiff Program was awarded a \$1000 grant from the Austin Woods and Waters Club and the McBride Foundation. The McBride Foundation distributed \$29,000 in grants on October 22 to twenty two Central Texas organizations that support a variety of outdoor related activities and conservation efforts. The presentations were made at the Austin Woods and Waters Club 2015 Fall Banquet.

The Austin Fly Fishers would extend our appreciation to the Austin Woods and Waters Club for their generous contribution to the Skiff Program.

Jim stated at the September meeting that the Skiff Program really distinguishes the Austin Fly Fishers from other fly fishing clubs. The Skiff program was noted when the McKenzie Cup was awarded to AFF earlier this year. Please take time to review the Skiff notices in the monthly AFF newsletters. It is a great way to be reminded of the sacrifices many military families make, and the great job Bob Maindelle does.

I would also like to thank Bob Maindelle, Shawn Riggs, Phil Dopson, and Dave Hill for their assistance in obtaining this recent donation.

-Manuel Pena



Dave Hill accepts donation from Austin Woods and Waters Club



## AFF Outings by Dave Bush

First and foremost, thank you to all the volunteers who hosted club outings this past year. Despite a year when Mother Nature did her best to discourage us, we had some memorable trips. For those who gave their time and energy to make these trips a success, your help was greatly appreciated.

If you are a club member and have never or seldom participated in our outings, I'd encourage you to make 2016 the year you change that. Don't worry if you're new to fly-fishing or have never tried the type of fishing offered during an outing. One of the purposes of our club trips is to introduce members to new destinations or techniques so that you can expand your fly fishing experiences with the guidance of others. All you have to do is let the outing host know that you're new to the situation, and they'll do their best to match you up with someone to help you out. Another benefit of participating in club outings is that you'll get to know other like-minded members much better which will enhance your overall club experience. We're a friendly bunch of folks who share the sport of fly-fishing and look forward to getting to know you during an outing.

For myself, I know that participating in club outings when I was new to the sport was instrumental in helping me become a better fly fisherman. Whether it was real-time feedback on my casting skills (or lack thereof), fly selection, gear advice, or fishing techniques, I always went home having learned a great deal from other members. In addition to learning about fly-fishing on club trips, the fellowship enabled me to become friends with many other members through the experiences we shared.

For 2016, we'll continue the way outings get hosted and scheduled. If there is an outing you would like to host, let me know as soon as possible, and I'll get it on the calendar. In addition to the destinations that we schedule annually, I always like to add one or two new destinations each year so even long-time members can try something new. If you know of a spot that the club has never fished or hasn't fished in a long time and would like to host a trip there, please let me know, and I'll be happy to consider it for a 2016 outing.



Mark McGarrah and Ed Parsons with redfish caught in South Louisiana



# Broken Bow

by Matt Bennett photos by Jeff Hoelter

Five of us journeyed up to the Lower Mountain Fork River in Broken Bow for a little bit of trout fishing. Fortunately, we snuck up there in between heavy rain events and the weather was very pleasant. We all wound up with fish, with Stuart Fontenot schooling us on bigger fish, catching a bunch of nice trout on Saturday. Most of the action was subsurface deep-drifting nymphs under an indicator, but I managed a couple of trout on streamers, as well as a bonus largemouth bass and a walleye as well. Stuart and I got into some rising fishing Saturday evening and caught a few on very small #26-28 cream midge dry flies, and Mike Morphew managed a few on dries as well.

If you've never fished the Lower Mountain Fork river in Oklahoma, I'd encourage you to consider attending our next outing up. We may try and do two different ones next year, since we all had such a good time. Being a state park, it can get fairly crowded, especially if there's a festival going on, like there was during our outing. It was difficult to keep everyone focused on the fishing with the smells of onion rings and BBQ drifting up the river from the folk and craft festival downstream -- or maybe it was just difficult for me.





# Montauk Point

Photos by Captain Jim Levison



Doug Kierklewski with false albacore  
caught off Montauk Point, NY

# SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

This afternoon I conducted an after-school Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun (SKIFF) trip for Juliahna and Ethan Dixon of Harker Heights, TX.

Juliahna and Ethan Dixon with a sampling of the fish we landed this evening. The kids landed a total of 114 fish tonight, including their first fish ever, thus earning a TPWD "First Fish Award".

Juliahna is a 5th grader and Ethan is in the 2nd grade. They are the children of U.S. Army Major Aaron Dixon and his wife, Ashley Dixon. MAJ Dixon is currently deployed to Southwest Asia serving as a general's aide.

With baseball caps, windbreakers, cheese & peanut butter crackers, and jelly sandwiches all packed and ready to go, I picked the kids up from their home since it was on my way to the boat ramp so as to give their mom a little more time to herself. We headed to Belton after a slow trip to Stillhouse yesterday helped me finalize my decision on the matter, despite the little extra drive time it takes to get to Belton. In hindsight, I'm very glad we did this.

We caught fish consistently from start to finish using 3 separate techniques, including downrigging with Pet Spoons, using slab spoons vertically, and casting to fish on topwater. We caught a mix of fish today including white bass of various sizes, hybrid striped bass of various sizes, and 2 smallmouth bass, one of which was the largest fish of our trip.

As we started the trip, things were a bit slow on the downriggers at the first area we tried, producing about 6 fish in 40 minutes. We relocated and found white bass in deeper 32-36 foot water and caught them initially on downriggers, then switched over to slabs after seeing how heavily congregated the fish were near bottom. This was interrupted by a 30-minute spell of rowdy surface action nearby, after which we went back to using slabs.



By the time this area was tapering off, our final area of the evening was just starting to heat up. As we arrived, I could see fish beginning to suspend from 10 feet down to bottom in 25-27 feet of water. Every one of the 4 downrigger passes we made was answered with pairs of multiple hookups on the 3-armed umbrella rigs equipped with Pet Spoons — a situation which just screams to be fished more thoroughly. We stopped trolling, Spot-Locked with the Minn Kota trolling motor, and proceeded to "wear 'em out"

until more rowdy topwater action pulled us off of these fish.

We pursued topwater fish for the entire time span from sunset until dark. I cast a Cork Rig with a small shad imitator, and I had the kids throw a Redneck Fish'n' Jigs Model 180 in 3/8 oz. for simplicity's sake since they were beginners with the spinning gear. As the topwater action began, the kids were amazed a how much more the activity there was versus just 20-30 minutes earlier.

I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids. It costs \$65 to sponsor one child for a fishing trip.

To make a donation using the internet, go to <http://austinflyfishers.com/skiff.html>

or send a check payable to Austin Fly Fishers. Mail your check to Austin Fly Fishers, SKIFF Program, P.O. Box 10504 ,Austin, TX 78766



# The Fly Tyer's Corner

## Photos and Recipe by Mike Morphew

### Mike's Pink Hot Spot Nymph

A pattern I came up with for the recent trip to Oklahoma with some of the guys. It certainly proved its worth and caught me several nice fish with the best being a 2 lb rainbow in beautiful condition I think that this will be a killer on the Guad in the smaller size but this can be tied up to 12 to still be effective. Fished under an indicator slightly upstream. Many takes were as expected on the swing at the end of the drift.

#### Materials:

Hook: Curved scud or shrimp heavy wire sizes 12 through 20

Thread: olive Danvilles 8.0 waxed

Bead: silver to match hook size

Tail: pheasant tail fibers tied a little longer than normal (Hares ear fibers can be used for extra mobility in the water)

Body: pheasant tail fibers

Rib: very fine gold wire

Thorax: dubbed shrimp pink dubbing ( I mix my own using blends of SLF fine and antron)

**Step 1:** Slide the bead onto your hook



**Step 3:** Select about 8 pheasant tail fibers and tie in as a tail



**Step 2:** Attach the thread and make touching turns back to the bend



**Step 4:** Tie in the wire rib





## Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 5: Wind the pheasant fibers down to the bead



Step 7: Dub on the dubbing to make a neat ball behind the bead



Step 6: Wind the rib in an opposite direction than the fibers



Step 8: The completed fly



The last picture shows the pattern in different sizes and some with a gold bead





## Mike's Tip by Mike Morphew

### Feathercraft Soft Spools

We all have the same problem I'm sure with packets of chenille, rolls of yarn etc.

Nothing more annoying than opening packet after packet to find a knotted mess and don't forget trying to find that certain color and size amongst the many in that box or drawer.

Well some years ago I found these great spools and for a long time have been trying to find them over here in the States.

Well after a long search I have sourced them from "Feathercraft".

So simple to use and the ease of use speaks for itself. Simply flip open the spool, wind on your material, and snap the spool shut. I keep mine on a length of dowel on a material pegboard for easy selection. Just pull off the required amount, cut and replace the spool. No more ziplocks, no more hunting, no more of that mixed mess of materials.



<https://www.feather-craft.com/wecs.php?store=feacraft&action=display&target=EW187>





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

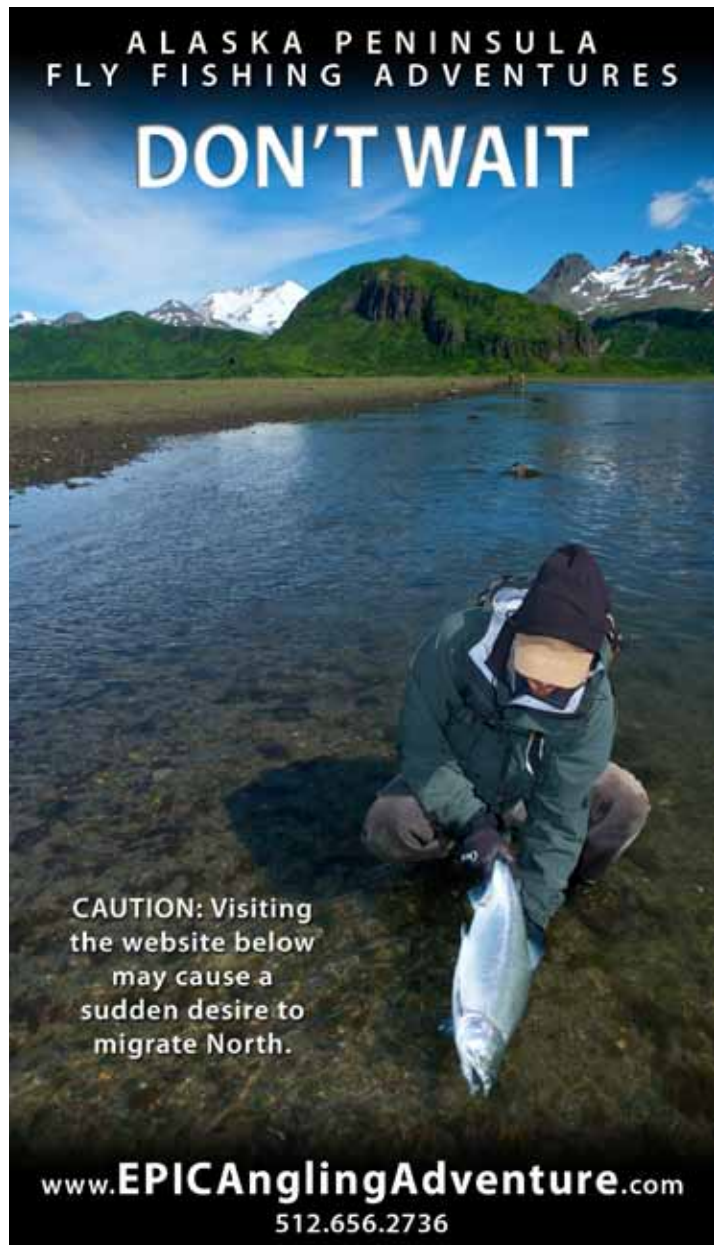
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