



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
March 2016
Volume 18, Issue 3

Club Meeting
Thursday, March 17
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morphew
7:00 Jud Cole will make a presentation
on fly fishing the Roaring Fork Valley

Charles Cresswell aboard Frenzy
out of Quepos, Costa Rica
with his first sailfish of the day

A \$25 off coupon with a \$50 purchase has been provided by Orvis on our Sponsors Page

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President's Message by Matt Bennett

The redbuds are blooming, which typically means the white bass run is a "go" in Central Texas. There's been some fish caught, but I don't think they've been in large numbers in our immediate area. Last week's rainfall certainly put a damper on our first Colorado Bend weekend - I got over 5" at my house in eastern Round Rock. We'll try again very soon as we have some further reservations for the campground.

Jim Gray, myself, and Mike Morphey, along with Chris Johnson, ventured up to Fort Worth this past Saturday for the first annual TWRD Fly Fest, put on by the Tarrant Water Recreation District, the Fort Worth Fly Fishers, and the Texas Council. Although this event was put together just a couple months ago, the turnout was fantastic. This is another great Texas event to put on your calendar for next year.

Speaking of events, a few more for this year that you'll want to make sure you're a part of are our annual Crawfish Boil and Creek Cleanup, the Destination Texas Expo, which is in Grapevine this year, as well as a large coordinated river cleanup on the Lower Colorado River.

Our annual Crawfish Boil and Brushy Creek Cleanup is a great event that we partner with Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock. This has been set for April 9th this year. This is a great event that we always enjoy and enables us to clean up one of our local water bodies and enjoy some good food and fellowship together. I hope you'll be able to make it to this - I'll have more information at the meeting.

On May 21, there is a coordinated river clean up on the Lower Colorado River involving many different organizations in the Central Texas area. We've been talking about doing one of these on the LoCo for a while now, and really would like us to partner with the already-committed efforts on this. Put this date on your calendar as well and stay tuned for more information.

Finally, the Destination Texas Fly Fishing Expo put on by the Texas Council will be September 9-10 in Grapevine. Kelly Galloup and Pat Cohen will be the featured guests this year - you'll remember Kelly from our February Presentation and Troutfest last year. If you've never seen Pat's deer hair work, you are in for a treat. I'm very excited about these guys coming down, as well as the other presenters that Jim Gray and the Texas Council are working to line up. I hope you'll join us in Grapevine so that we can have a great club presence.

A couple club items that I will also mention at our upcoming meeting are the beginning of our 2nd Annual Multispecies Fly Fishing Contest and our efforts to get more spring outings together. I'm looking forward to Judson Cole's Presentation at our upcoming meeting this week and hope you'll join us this Thursday, but if you can't make it, I'll be sending out the information about these after.

Financial Report by Shawn Riggs

2/1/2016 - 2/29/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$11,449.33

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$312.59
Auction	\$200.00
Advertising Revenue	\$90.00
Total Income	\$602.59

Disbursements:

Web Page Service	\$127.29
Speaker Expense	\$150.00
Meeting refreshments	\$17.13
Total Disbursements	\$294.42

Net \$308.17

Ending Balance-Checking	\$11,757.50
Casting for Recovery	\$2,670.30
SKIFF Total Donations	\$23,692.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,307.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,385.37

March Speaker

Jud Cole

Jud was born with a fishing rod in his hand! Though maybe not literally, he was certainly destined for a life on the water.

Jud is originally from Abilene, TX and grew up in a very outdoor driven family. The outdoors was for him what video games are to some, a way to lose yourself in something. Although not always with a fly rod, as a youngster, he could often be seen floating around in a leaky, decrepit, paddleboat, fishing for anything that will bite. "I was fascinated by life below the surface of the water; and wanting to hold it, if only for a second, in my hands," Jud is quoted.

After a short stint in the corporate world, Jud began guiding full time in the Hill Country. He has been guiding on the Guadalupe for over 6 years now and calls this river home. He also chases the warm water species in the many other Hill Country Rivers. The San Marcos is his favorite, and if you get the chance to fish there with him, ask about the Marcos Madness. In the summer you can find him guiding on the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers in Colorado.

"I get to share my passion for the outdoors with my clients, and I enjoy watching their faces react, in much the same way as mine so many years ago. They are discovering something new about themselves and their surroundings. I am rewarded with many friendships made on the river and have shared time on the water with many successful and inspiring people. Many of these people comment about me 'living the life that they only dream about!' That is reward enough for me!"



Sailfish in Costa Rica

by Charles Cresswell

My longtime friend Raybourn is a retired American Airlines pilot. He owned and lived on for four years a 47' Hatteras, sport fishing throughout the world. A year ago we both agreed that a once in a lifetime fly fishing trip (fly fishing experience being less than a decade for each of us) should be a reward for our 70th year. He found, and we booked the "Frenzy".

We would be in Costa Rica 6 days, and spend February 19-21, 2016 on the Pacific attempting to catch Sailfish on the fly. The details of the gear, crew, boat and owner's philosophy may be found on the Frenzy Costa Rica website. The fly is a faux Clouser, pink and white, with two 7/0 hooks and a chunk of Styrofoam for that popper effect.

Sailfish lurk at 200 to 400 foot depth waiting to ambush prey. They kill as many fish as they can before returning to eat, and they have been scientifically timed and measured 68 MPH, doing 100 meters in 4.3 seconds. The boat crew sets up an isosceles triangle of teasers with the 90 degree angle far left behind the boat. Teasers are Balleyhoo bait fish sewn with metal line and strong thread, then inserted in the tease flasher with a Hulu type skirt, all of which is connected to conventional rods and reels. Two of these four teasers are attached to outriggers, the other two positioned in rod holders. The intent is to create a bait fish like commotion.

The open water triangle near right behind the boat is where the fly is cast. The sailfish come to the surface and attack the teasers ripping apart the Balleyhoo bait fish. The mates are grabbing two more rods with bait fish attached and "tease" the sail-



fish towards the approximate 30 foot from the boat open area where the fly is thrown when the command "cast" is given. The rod is similar to a two handed Spey rod. Our first mate Marco is one of the world's best, and knew just when to jerk his baitfish out of the water, instruct a "cast" and continue teaching if a hookup occurs. Ideally the fishes focus and attack changes from the real bait fish jerked out of the ocean by the mate to the fly you threw in front of him. If this sounds complex, it is more so. 90% of the time it was our Captain Jose shouting to the mates in Spanish of the impending Sailfish attack, the two mates locating the one or more predators, casting themselves, teasing and finally commanding us, the only ones using any kind of hook, to cast. Any conventionally geared boat may bring more than 20 sailfish a day to the boat to be released. Five a day on the fly is considered fine. Experiencing the insanity of the tease made me realize, but for the killer nature of a wild Sailfish, hooking one on a fly rod is most problematic.

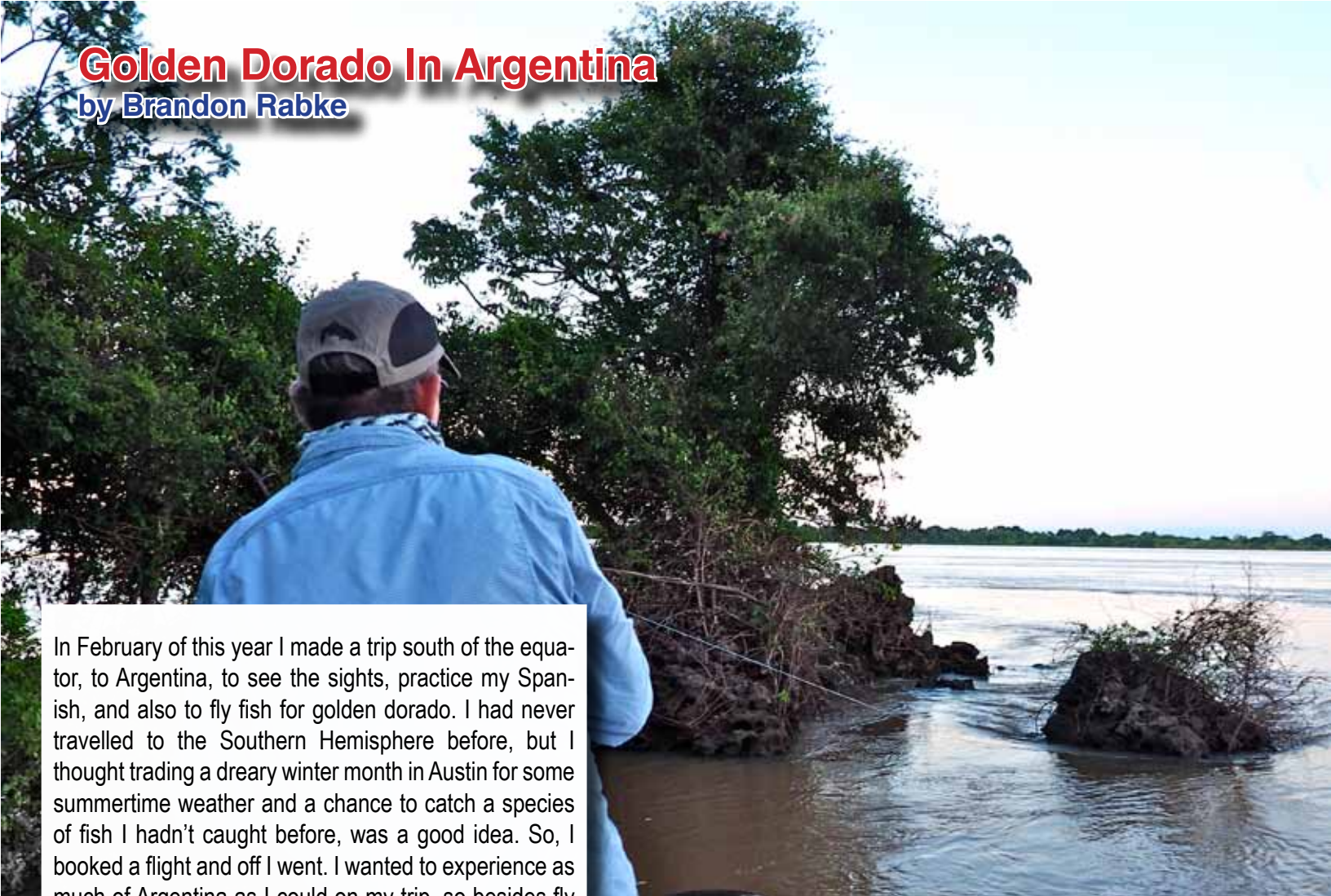
I tested the drag setting, initially concerned that I might not be able to extract line. I could but not easily. I don't have the space to relate the issues about where in its hard mouth a sailfish needs to be hooked, but once on, the line taken by the Cheetah of the sea initially seems instantaneous. My senses could not adjust to that initial run, then trying to cope with what seemed an immense distance away the fish often began an acrobatic display caught only on a Gopro.

There is so much to tell. But going into this trip, I'd let myself daydream about making a legal catch of a Sailfish using a fly rod, and fly fishing techniques. After that, whenever and wherever fisherman might gather to relate tales of their fishing experiences, I would always be able to say "Let me tell you about the time I caught a Sailfish in the fly". I caught four sailfish ranging from an estimated 70 to 100+ lbs, and Raybourn caught three sailfish and a 35 lb Jack Crevalle. It was an experience for my life.



Golden Dorado In Argentina

by Brandon Rabke



In February of this year I made a trip south of the equator, to Argentina, to see the sights, practice my Spanish, and also to fly fish for golden dorado. I had never travelled to the Southern Hemisphere before, but I thought trading a dreary winter month in Austin for some summertime weather and a chance to catch a species of fish I hadn't caught before, was a good idea. So, I booked a flight and off I went. I wanted to experience as much of Argentina as I could on my trip, so besides fly fishing, I spent some time in Buenos Aires, and I visited the famous Iguazú Falls on the Brazilian border as well.

The fishing leg of my journey took me to the small town of Itatí, situated on the banks of the Paraná River in northern Argentina. Just across the (surprisingly wide) river is Paraguay. My home for the next week was the nearby, and very comfortable, Paraná on the Fly Lodge. It was there that I joined a group of fellow fishermen hosted by Gink and Gasoline. All of the guides were very nice, friendly, and competent young men, and the meals at the lodge were always something we looked forward to. Our main quarry each day was golden dorado, but we also had chances at such other local species as, pacu, boga, and pira pita.

Casting a fruit resembling fly, and hoping a pacu would hear the plop in the water and come over and bite, was definitely a fishing technique I had not tried before! Something else about this trip that was different, and quite memorable for me, was the presence of Howler monkeys in the area. Sometimes while we were out fishing, we would see them or hear their somewhat terrifying roar coming from the treetops, as we glided and fished close to the riverbank in our skiff.



The dorado gets its name from its bright gold color and they are known for their incredibly ferocious strikes, high jumps, long hard runs, and fighting stamina. During my week fishing the Paraná, I was fortunate to catch enough dorados that I can attest that their reputation is well-deserved.

I caught all of my dorados on big, dark streamers. I didn't catch large numbers of fish, maybe three or four per day is all, but most of them were stout, heavy fish. Whether it was beginner's luck, or perhaps my choice to switch to an intermediate sink tip line early on, I actually ended up with the three largest dorados for the week. The biggest was estimated by my guide to weigh about sixteen kilos and it took close to thirty minutes to land on my 8-weight rod. I think my guide, Rodrigo, was even more excited than I about the catch. After the fish was boated, photographed and then released, Rodrigo phoned in an account of our experience to the other guides. La Vaca, or, The Cow, is how he described the fish, and when we arrived back at the lodge, there was champagne on ice waiting for us and everybody congratulated me on my catch.

I enjoyed my trip to Argentina and I hope to return one day and get another chance at the hard fighting golden dorado. Perhaps next time I will split my time between fishing dorado on the Paraná, and trout fishing near the town of Mendoza.



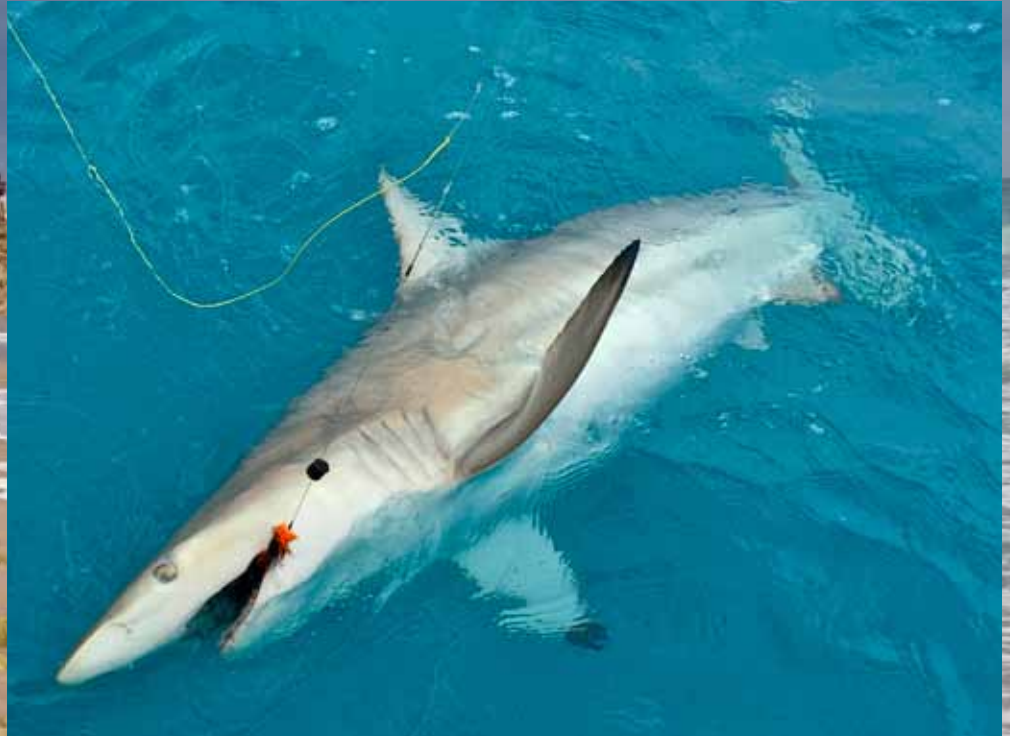
West Palm Beach

by Nils Pearson

I spent 2 days with Captain Scott Hamilton fishing for spinner sharks off the West Palm coast. I probably hooked up 6 spinner sharks each day and managed to get a total of 4 to the boat. My friend Rick Wagner is holding a wahoo. According to Scott, this was only the 7th wahoo he has caught in the past 25 years while fishing this area. As always, had a great time fishing with Scott.

If you ever want to wrestle with the big boys, that is, take part in a fight in earnest that involves grappling with one's opponent and trying to bring him to the boat with all your strength, give Scott a call. You won't regret it!

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SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On Saturday, 27 Feb., I conducted the second SKIFF trip of the 2016 season. SKIFF stands for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun, and exists to get the children of soldiers out on the water while those soldiers are away from their families due to military duty.

Although Josh enjoyed catching fish, he enjoyed releasing them even more. I equipped him with my small bait net and then deposited every fish we caught into that net for him to release.

Joining me this afternoon were Emily and Josh Reynnells of Harker Heights, TX. The children's father, U.S. Army Major Steve Reynnells is currently stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. With dad gone, and big sister, Lauren, now in college at Dallas Baptist University, that leaves mom, Johanna Reynnells, as essentially a single parent of two elementary-aged kids for a majority of the time. Mrs. Reynnells needed a break, and I was glad to oblige by getting the kids on the water for most of the afternoon.

Water temperatures have already risen into the high 50's on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, and the white bass we were targeting are definitely on the move up into the upper reaches of the reservoir, in and near the Lampasas River.

Based on success I enjoyed with two clients from South Dakota earlier this week, I began our trip in deep water. I find deep water buffers some of the factors that often diminish a shallow bite, such as turbulent weather, calm conditions, and bright conditions.

This turned out to be a good choice, as we sat for 90 minutes on top of one boat-sized area and landed 51 fish including 49 white bass and 2 freshwater drum, all fishing vertically with slabs. The Spot Lock feature on my Ulterra trolling motor held us tightly atop the bottom feature we were fishing, and allowed me the



freedom to move about to unhook fish, untangle lines, and coach.

It's funny how, even on the best days of fishing, kids' enthusiasm can wane in situations that would keep adults' hearts pumping for hours. Despite the one-fish-every-two-minutes catch rate we were enjoying, Josh wore out first. Having fished professionally with kids for years now, I had to reach into my bag of tricks to keep him engaged so Emily could continue fishing. I pulled out my "thumping stick" and had Josh beat on the bottom of the boat while having him observe sonar to watch the fish "reply" to his efforts. I put Josh in charge of returning all caught fish to the water using a variety of creative techniques. And, of course, there was good, old reliable "snack time".

By around 4p, the kids were both ready for a change of scenery, so, we headed up towards the Lampasas River observ-

ing for helpful bird activity as we went. Although the gulls and terns didn't provide us with any clues, sonar sure did, indicating a nice school of white bass holding on the edge of the river channel in a place that would lend itself to more vertical jigging, which the kids were now experts at.

We landed another 15 fish at this second and final stop of the day, then cranked 'er up and headed 'er home to mom and Princess, the family dog. The kids put together a respectable catch of 66 fish during their afternoon on the water.

If you are a military family and mom or dad is away on duty of any sort, please call me if I can help your situation by providing a free fishing trip.

If you are a supporter of SKIFF, thank you for coming alongside the Austin Fly Fishers to make such trips possible for the families at Fort Hood, TX, and beyond.

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Mike Morphew

Yellow Olive Quill Soft Hackle

This is the fly I demonstrated at the last meeting and it received a great response so I thought I would share it here for everyone. This is one of my own designs and catches trout anywhere they hang out with their mouths open! It can be tied any sizes ranging from 12 down to 20

Materials required

A curved shank pupa hook
Thread: Olive Danvilles waxed
Gold bead to match the hook size
Body: Hemingways synthetic Quill in yellow olive
Underbody: built up thread to form a taper to the eye
Hackle: small brown partridge
Non tacky resin ie: Deer Creek Diamond fine

Step 1: Put a bead on the hook and place in the vise



Step 4: Now wrap thread to form a tapered underbody (for this fly in the picture I took about 80 wraps)



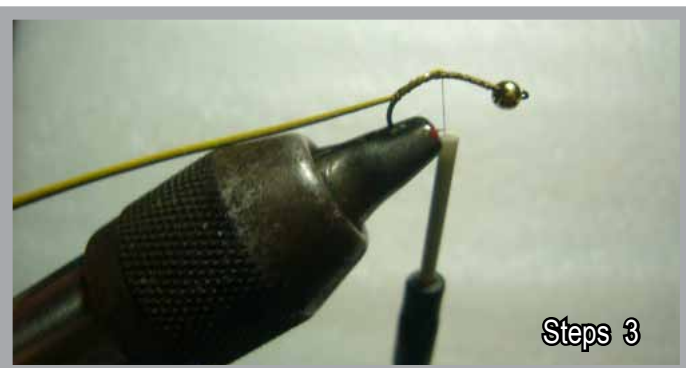
Step 2: Attach the thread and wind back to around the bend



Step 5: Now carefully wrap the quill in touching turns to about 1/8 inch behind the bead and tie off



Step 3: Tie in a piece of the synthetic quill by the narrow end



Step 6: Now dub a small amount of olive dubbing (any will do)



Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 7: With the dubbing create a small ball behind the bead



Step 8: Select a small brown partridge feather and strip off all the fluff at the base and hold the feather by the tip and stroke back all the fibers as shown



Step 9: Cut the very tip off the feather as this will be the tie in piece



Step 10: Tie in the feather



Step 11: Carefully wind two times behind the bead keeping all the fibers pointing to the rear

Step 12: Secure with the thread and cut off the waste stem

Step 13: Whip finish behind the bead

Step 14: For extra protection and shine add a small amount of resin to the quill body



Step 15: Cure with a UV light



Tying Tips by Mike Morphew

Annoyed with chenille twisting and you always having that 2 inches of waste to throw in the garbage can?

Here is a simple trick that stops both of the above happening. Uncard your chenille and roll around your fingers and place into an old film canister with a small hole drilled in the top, pull the loose end through the hole.

Simply tie on the chenille and wind it holding the canister and then cut off, no waste and no kinks!



AFF Outings by David Bush

Colorado Bend State Park

Wow, we just can't catch a break with the weather during outings. Of course, the rain is welcome, but better timing would be nice. Fortunately, we do have two more reservations at Colorado Bend State Park this month if the white bass are still running. However, it's hard to predict whether the flow and stage will drop back to safe levels before our next outing scheduled for Saturday, March 19, through Tuesday, March 22. For now, the outing is tentative pending conditions. Stay tuned to your email or come to the meeting for a final decision mid to late this week. Our final reservation is March 24-29 if we decide to use it.

Additional Outings

Please see me to host more outings this year. With plenty of water we have more opportunities than we've had in a few years so let's take advantage of it.

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2015. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Kelly Galloup – <http://www.slideinn.com/> Fly Fishing the Madison River

Capt. Eric Glass – <http://www.captainericglass.com/> Fly Fishing South Padre Island

Tim Cole – <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/> Information and presentations on snakes

Kevin Hutchison – <http://hillcountryflyfishers.com/> Fly Fishing the Hill Country

Banning Collins – <http://www.classv.net/> Outdoor Marketing Services

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