



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
November 2015
Volume 17, Issue 11



Club Meeting
Thursday, November 19
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos
7:00 Banning Collins –Presentation on Fly Rods

Bring your donations to this month's meeting for
the Casting for Recovery Auction to be held at our
Holiday Party in December

Carroll Hall with 30" redfish caught
along the Arroyo Colorado with
Capt. Rick Hartman

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President's Message by Jim Gray

Despite more rain and high water, many club members have been finding good fishing opportunities. AFF had a successful outing to the coast, a great trip to Broken Bow and even had time to help the Fredricksburg Fly Fishers with Oktoberfisch. I hope you have been able to participate in some of these events. Business travel has limited my fishing opportunities, but I did make it to Oktoberfisch in Junction TX, along with quite a few other club members. This was my first trip to Oktoberfisch, and I really enjoyed it. I helped Dakus Geeslin and TPWD with conservation programs targeting the Llano River. We worked on a water quality study, an entomology class and a fin clip survey targeting Guadalupe Bass. Along with the conservation programs, there was also casting and fly tying programs. I'm already looking forward to next year. Great job by our friends in the Fredricksburg club.

The AFF Board has decided to move the date of our annual holiday party. We think by moving it up a week, and having it on Friday, more members will be able to attend. The new date is Friday, December 11. After dinner, we will have an auction/raffle to benefit Casting for Recovery. Through to the generosity of our members, we have been able to sponsor two women to attend a CFR retreat each year, and I hope we can continue to do so. If you haven't come to the party before, I encourage you to attend this year and bring your spouse. It's great fun, and we always have great fly fishing auction and raffle items. Why not come and get yourself a Christmas gift?

My term as AFF President ends in December, as does the term of the VP. We also have an open position for Director of Education. Several other long serving board members would love to take a break, so if you are interested in any role with the club, please come to the November meeting and talk to me. Trust me, you won't be sorry if you decide to serve.

Finally, a note on the "Big 5" fishing contest. After the success of the "Texas Species" contest we ran last year, we thought a contest based on catching big fish would be popular. That hasn't been the case. We have had very few entries and will be suspending the contest. The few people who did register fish will be given fly boxes with a selection of popular Hill Country flies tied by our outstanding tying group.



Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

10/1/2015 - 10/31/2015

Beginning Bal. Checking \$10,394.19

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$288.63
Auction	<u>\$220.00</u>
Total Income	\$508.63

Disbursements:

Speaker Expense	\$150.00
Mtg Refreshments	<u>\$27.67</u>
Total Disbursements	\$117.67

Net	\$330.96
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Ending Balance-Checking \$10,725.15

*Casting for Recovery on Hand	\$1,085.38
SKIFF Total Donations	\$22,592.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$18,667.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,925.37

Donations Needed for Casting for Recover Fundraiser

Since 2005, Casting for Recovery Texas has held 15 retreats and served over 210 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 cover the costs of 2 participants (\$2,000). We raise these funds during our annual Holiday Dinner with a silent auction. To make this year's silent auction a success, we need quality donations for the silent auction and door prizes. Please bring your quality donations (e.g., rods, reels, fishing gear, painting, posters, books, or other items fishing or non-fishing: hotel stays, dining cards, nice items, etc.) to our meeting this Thursday, or contact Doug Kierklewski or Dave Hill who are overseeing our efforts—they will be happy to accept your donation and get the merchandise organized for our auction in December. Please feel free to contact any of the Holiday Dinner and CFR Fundraiser Team: Doug K., Dave H., Shawn R, and Jack L.

November Speaker –Banning Collins

Our November speaker will be Banning Collins. Banning was born in Vail, Colorado where his passion for fishing started with his family. It only grew with the opportunities to live on the coastal waters of Stuart, Florida and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. His family's move to Austin, Texas marked the beginning of his career in fly fishing by working at the Austin Angler and can always recall the first fish on the fly rod on the Blanco River. He gained great perspective and knowledge with the great staff everyone remembers so well. Leaving Austin after graduating high school, he moved back to Colorado where he studied at Colorado State University and started his professional guiding career in Vail.

Currently, Banning resides in Austin, Texas with his wife, daughter and his pointer Ruby consulting and sales with manufacturers and retailers in flyfishing, conventional, hunting and outdoor industries. He continues to make his avocation a vocation parlaying into more experiences and friendships each year and many miles on the road. It is hard to say his favorite type of fishing, but he has been chasing fishing lately that pull hard!

Banning will give a very open and conversational presentation base around rods - actions, material, build - and their applications, including fish fighting tactics.



Fishing South Padre

by Nils Pearson

One of the disadvantages of scheduling an outing a year in advance is that one can never predict the weather conditions that far in advance. In order to reserve a week's worth of fishing with South Padre fishing guide Eric Glass, we made arrangements a year in advance to fish with him on Oct 17-23.

Despite the red tide, wind, high water, and occasional showers, we all had a good time. If I learned anything about the Lower Laguna Madre this trip it is that you really have to cover a lot of water with a skilled guide to find redfish. During our outings with our guides we fished as far south as South Bay and up into the ship channel, as far west as the Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Arroyo Colorado, as far north and east as the sand flats close to the Mansfield Cut. That is a lot of water! For many of us, we relied on the expertise of Captains Eric Glass, Rick Hartman, and Dale Friday. In addition to fishing with these guides, we did some wade and kayak fishing. Neither of these methods of fishing brought much in the way of results. But sometimes it is nice to just get out on your own and take a long walk or paddle on the bay – casting to redfish is simply a bonus.



Checking out a flat on the north-eastern bayside of SPI with Capt. Dale Friday

Fishing Lake San Martin with Capt. Eric Glass – Brandon with a redfish

Fishing South Padre continued



Fishing Lake San Martin with Capt. Eric Glass –Cress and Ed caught redfish

Fishing South Padre continued



Fishing the Brownsville Ship Channel with Capt. Eric Glass –Phil caught a snook and Cress a mangrove snapper

SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

This Labor Day Monday I conducted the season's 15th SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trip treating Eric and Roxy Flores to a very productive morning on Belton Lake.

Eric and Roxy's step-mother, U.S. Army Sergeant Marri Flores, is currently stationed in South Korea where she works in a military transportation unit. Eric and Roxy's step-father, Donnie Snider, a U.S. Army veteran, was able to accompany the kids as a non-fishing spectator on our trip.

The skies were cloudless this morning and so there was plenty of "seeing light" before sunrise. Once the light reached that "magic" level, the fish turned on and began to feed on the surface for nearly 90 minutes. The intensity of the feed rose and fell, but never stopped during this hour-and-a-half run. During this time we used "Cork Rigs" equipped with hand-tied flies of my own design to imitate the very small baitfish these white bass and hybrid striped bass were feeding on. Although the majority of the bait this morning consisted of small threadfin shad, there was also a low percentage of American silversides mixed in. The flies we were using did a great job of imitating both, and nearly every well-placed cast was answered with a strike. By the time the feed concluded, the kids had boated 43 fish. This isn't bad given that neither had used a spinning outfit before arriving at the courtesy dock this morning.

At one point, as the sun rose and shone directly on the nearly calm water, the action just about died. During this time, because I was still seeing fish on sonar showing near the surface, we simply flatline-trolled the umbrella rigs I had intended to downrig with. This continued to produce fish for us until a southerly breeze kicked in, rippled the surface, and re-energized the topwater action.

Once the topwater action died for good, we managed a few more fish by using



slabs fished vertically along an anomaly in the bottom in the same general area where we'd experienced the topwater action. This, too, died fairly quickly after giving up just 5 more fish. Our tally now stood at 48 fish.

So as to introduce the kids to "pole fishing" with a bream pole, we spent a few minutes up in the shallows fishing for sunfish and blacktails. I always like to show folks who are otherwise limited to fishing from shore this technique as it can be used in any body of water where sunfish exist. The fact that Eric and Roxy seemed excited to get their little brother and little sister in on some fishing just gave me that much more reason to demonstrate this tactic. We wound up catching 14 fish on the poles, including bluegill sunfish, green sunfish, and blacktails.

By now, it was just after 9:00am, and, over the past several weeks, I've been experiencing a solid 9:30a to 10:45a bite by sub-surface white bass. So, as we

approached that time, we got "on station" and began patrolling the area where this has been occurring with our downriggers in the water. The hope was to find the fish with downriggers and then really work over any population of fish we located by using slabs fished vertically. Well, this worked like a charm. We got into a large, aggressive school of white bass numbering in the hundreds and caught fish from out of this population for a solid 45 minutes. We added exactly 50 more white bass to our tally, with (too) many missed fish that dropped off right at boat-side or just after they were hooked. The Redneck Fish'n' Jigs Model 180 did the trick on these fish.

By 10:30 the fish had given up for the morning, the breeze was slowing and the sun was warming it up as a wave of recreational boaters began to arrive at the lake. It was then that we agreed we'd done well and that it was time to head on in.

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Matt Bennett

Bennett's Lunch Money

The Lunch Money was created out of need for a bite-sized baitfish streamer for the Texas Hill Country. Most of our baitfish are in the 2-3" range and due to our normally ultra-clear water, our bass can be fairly finicky, which meant it needed to both look realistic and have the right amount of movement to work correctly.

The original iteration was named the "Llano Critter" after the Llano River west of here, where it produced very well. The original variation was based off of Charlie Craven's Gonga streamer and tied hook-down with larger legs, a spun craft fur head, and just a tail (no wrapping for a profile transition) on a TMC 8089. After coming across Laser Dub a few years back thanks to Mike Schmidt's patterns, I incorporated that to give it a nice, translucent profile in the water with just the right amount of sheen. I also flipped the fly to ride hook up at that time, as I'd often get fish following the fly and wanted to be able to retrieve slower without hanging up on the bottom. Originally I trimmed the head to shape but after brushing the Laser Dub back instead, I ended up with a similar shape with

more water-pushing bulk. After the TMC 8089 was discontinued in the smaller sizes, I moved to a Gamakatsu B10S, which has allowed me to tie it in a few more sizes.

I continue to refine it a bit as new materials are released, like Hareline's new Double Pupil Eyes, and Senyo's Fusion Dub and Fusion Legs. Many of the available colors listed on my website incorporate special colors of Fusion and Laser dub that I blend myself. Umqua Feather Merchants picked up the rights to this fly early last year, and certain colors will be available through them at the beginning of 2016. The full lineup is available through my website, flygeek.net.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S, Size 2

Eyes: Hareline Double Pupil Lead Eyes, Black/Yellow w/ Black Pupil

Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon, White

Tail: Hareline Black Barred Zonker Strip, Gold Variant

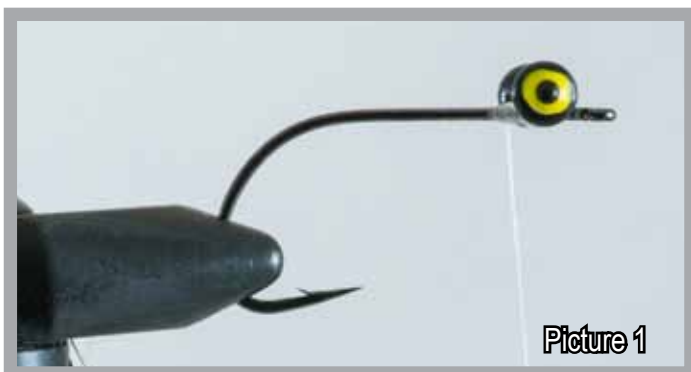
Legs: Hareline Grizzly Flutter Legs, Black Barred Root Beer

Body: Senyo's Laser Dub, Brown, Yellow, Sculpin Olive

Marker: Prismacolor/Copic Red, Black, Back, Yellow

Glue: Loon UV Flow

Step 1: Attach your thread to the hook and create a bump of thread about 2 hook-eye lengths back from the eye of the hook. Figure-eight on your eyes. I used the medium size for a #2, small for a #4, and x-small for a #6.



Step 3: Remove the hook from the vise. Slide the zonker up the hook shank to where your thread base ends, then flip it 180 degrees back towards the hook bend. Tie in your tail and move your thread in front of the remaining piece of zonker facing towards the hook eye.

Step 2: Wrap back on the hook shank until you're above somewhere between the barb and hook point. Measure out your rabbit strip tail – I typically do 1.25 – 1.5 shank lengths. Invert your vise and poke the hook point through the skin-side of the zonker strip at the point you measured out.



Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 4: Wrap your thread to the midpoint between where the tail and lead eyes are tied in. Grab the remaining zonker piece and wrap a collar with 2-3 wraps, depending on the thickness and length of the zonker. I did 2 here. Tie down and cut the remainder of the zonker strip off.



Step 5: Tie in two Grizzly Flutter Legs at their midpoint on the side of the hook directly in front of your collar.



Step 6: Pull the two front-facing legs over the top of the fly, stretching them to opposite side of the hook. Wrap backwards with your thread, binding them down securely. Do not stretch them too much as they can break fairly easily.



Step 7: Take two clumps of Yellow Laser Dub. Find the midpoints of each and tie them on the top and bottom of the hook shank.



Step 8: Use your non-bobbin hand to hold these clumps back towards the tail and build a small thread dam in front to keep them laid back.



Step 9: Repeat steps 7 & 8 with a clump of Brown on top, and Yellow on bottom. Remember that the fly rides hook-up.



Step 10: Move your thread in front of the eyes. Repeat steps 7 & 8 with Sculpin Olive on top, and Yellow on bottom. Whip finish.



Step 11: Brush the fly very well with a dubbing brush. I am partial to Hareline's Ultimate Dubbing Brush for this. I'll brush it forward over the hook eye and then back towards the tail.



Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 12: Finish the fly. I add marker spots and color the thread to match the top and bottom of the fly before coating with Loon Flow and curing.



Mike's Tip by Mike Morphew

Easy Dubbing Brush

There is always a need for a dubbing brush in our armory and here is my favorite that I made about 20 years ago and it is still as good as new. Very simple to make all you need is a piece of brass braising rod or very thin dowel would work as well. I made mine about 4 inches in length, works well for me. It needs to be thin to be able to get into those difficult areas under the hook bend etc. A piece of Velcro (the piece with the hooks not the soft side). Some superglue and that's about it. Super glue a strip around the end of the rod and let dry. I have seen similar made using popsicle sticks but I prefer the round profile for my tying



Calendar 2015 by Dave Bush

Date	AFF Event	Subject/Destination	Speaker/Event Host	Status
11/19	Meeting	Fly Rods	Banning Collins	Confirmed
12/11	Special Event	Mimi's Cafe 10515 N. MOPAC EXPY	Holiday Party	Confirmed

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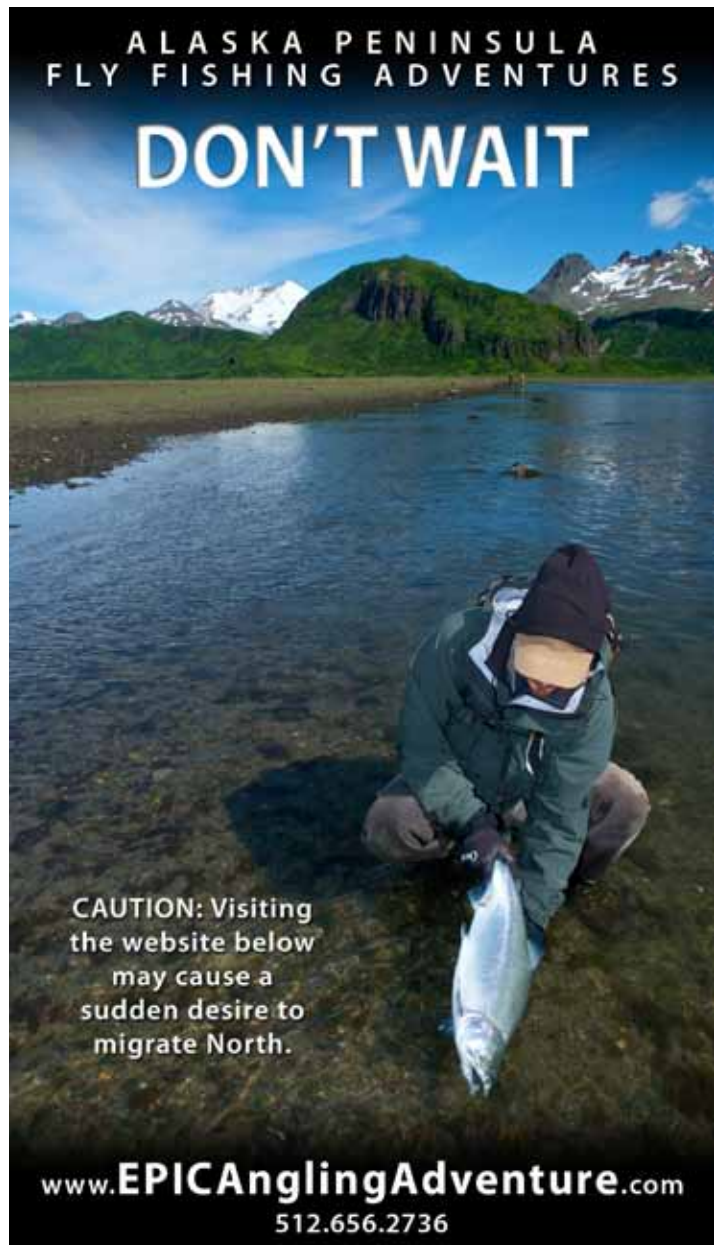
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