

Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
July 2016
Volume 18, Issue 7



Club Meeting
Thursday, July 21
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morphew
7:00

Nils Pearson with redfish
caught south of Baffin Bay
fishing with Capt. Fred Lynch
Photo by Ed Parsons

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President's Message by Matt Bennett

It looks like we're starting to return to fishable levels in most of our area rivers and streams. The Llano has more water than we've seen this time of year in quite a while, though it is a bit offcolor. They finally quit releasing water out of Lake Georgetown, so the downstream areas around the park are once again wadeable. The Guadalupe still is up-and-down and you'll need a kayak or boat, but I've heard the striper fishing is fantastic right now. All in all, we're in pretty good shape for the summer if you're able to make it out.

We just wrapped up an outing on the Llano, and you missed out if you weren't there. The fishing was pretty good, water levels were great, and we even had a little shore lunch and beer tasting. Look for some more information on that further on in the newsletter.

We're looking to get some more outings scheduled for the summer. If you're interested in hosting, please contact me or our outings coordinator Dave Bush to get something scheduled. Hosting isn't a challenge and I'd be happy to help however I can. Look for a couple more beginner-focused outings on some local water bodies later this summer, similar to the one our Vice President, Dakus Geeslin, hosted earlier this year.

In our multispecies contest, on the standard fly side, as of 7/5, Steven Turner is far in the lead with 12. Charles Cresswell holds down 2nd with 6 species, and I'm in third with 5. On the Tenkara side of things, Rob Gonzalez has 9, Jacob Eikstead has 6, and Michael Kenny has 2. Remember to send your photos in within a week of your catch to contest@austin-flyfishers.com to be counted. Rob Gonzalez entered an Orangespotted Sunfish this week, one of the first I've seen caught in this area. Very cool!



Jim Gray on Llano River Outing

Financial Report by Shawn Riggs

6/1/2016 - 6/30/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$11,935.50

Income:

Dues (AFF&FF)	\$220.28
Merchandise	\$20.00
Club donation	\$20.00
Auction	\$190.00
SKIFF	\$25.00
Total Income	\$475.28

Disbursements:

Refreshments	\$20.00
speaker expense	\$150.00
Moticos Studios – website	\$589.00
Total Disbursements	\$759.00
Net	(\$283.72)

Ending Balance-Checking \$11,651.78

*Casting for Recovery on Hand	\$670.30
SKIFF Total Donations	\$26,406.54
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,907.57
SKIFF on Hand	\$5,498.97

Club Announcements by Dakus Geeslin

July Speaker

At our July meeting, Jim Gray will be our speaker. Jim has been fly fishing, fly tying and rod building for over 30 years, the last 20 based in the Central Texas Hill Country. Jim is an active member of the Austin Fly Fishers and has served as both the President and Vice President. He is currently the Vice President of the IFFF Texas Council. Jim is a frequent presenter at Texas, Louisiana and Florida fly fishing clubs, giving presentations on Hill Country rivers, tying Hill Country flies, fly fishing for carp and fly fishing England and beyond. In 2014 he was recognized as the IFFF Texas Conservationist of the Year, and in 2015 he was recognized as the IFFF Texas Man of the Year. Jim and Jeff Hoelter designed the Llanolope, one of the most popular flies in Central Texas. Jim also developed the Jim's Damsel and the SB100. Most weekends you can find Jim fishing the Llano or Colorado River, or when conditions are right, chasing carp on smaller streams and lakes.



Llano River Outing by Matt Bennett



We had our first summer outing of the year on the lower stretches of the Llano River at Long's Fish Camp near Kingsland. I think we ended up with about 15 people or so show up to fish the morning until the heat drove us into the shade around lunch time. Special thanks to Andy Macfarlane who brought and cooked burgers and sausage wraps, and some growlers of beer that we all shared as well. The fishing was pretty good considering the head and full sun. Lots of fish caught on small surface poppers like Llanolopes, and a bunch caught subsurface on small Lunch Moneys, Clousers, and other streamers as well. We'll try to get another outing on the books for the Llano in the fall once it cools down a bit. Thanks to everyone who made it out!

Llano River Outing cont.



SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

On Wednesday, June 23, I fished a SKIFF program fishing trip with Mrs. Katie Erp and her two children, seven-year-old Eden, and not-quite-four-year-old Warren. SKIFF stands for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. It is a free program which provides professionally guided fishing trips to the children of soldiers who, due to military duty, are separated from their families.

Katie's husband, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Andy Erp, is currently deployed with the U.S. Army and serves in an unmanned aircraft unit. The family met me at the only open public access point on Belton Lake around 6:40 AM. I reviewed with the kids where all of the safety gear was stowed, and then showed them the fundamentals of using the fishing equipment we would employ today.

A few minutes' ride upstream from Belton Park put us in what has been a fishy area over the last two weeks or so. We started off our trip using a pair of downriggers. One was equipped with a three-armed umbrella rig, and the other with a two-armed tandem rig. Five Pet Spoons were doing the dirty work set down around 22 feet where sonar revealed a majority of the fish were holding.

It did not take us long at all to get the kids into their first fish. We pulled fish consistently using the pair of downriggers for a full hour. As is typical for kids his age, Warren began to get antsy despite the good fishing. So, simply for transition's sake, we moved to a new area, did a little sightseeing near the waterfall on Belton Lake, and then picked up fishing again with a new method, this time using live shad as bait.

To ensure plenty of action, I am employed four rods. Two were baited with live bait, and two were baited with chunks of fresh, dead shad. The live



baits worked their magic on hybrid strip-er, and the deadbaits did pretty well for channel catfish. Warren lasted about 30 or 40 minutes at this location before another transition was necessary.

We headed back down stream nearer to where we had launched and I re-employed the downriggers, this time in the vicinity of open-water schooling white bass, hoping to encounter these fish as they sounded. We were able to pick up two whites and a short hybrid using this tactic.

Our final transition came within 20 minutes of the close of our trip when we moved up into shallow, newly flooded brush and used poles equipped with slip-

bobbers and small hooks to target sun-fish and black tail shiners. We were also surprised to pick up a small smallmouth bass in this way. For our efforts today we wound up putting 22 fish in the boat and hopefully made the wait for dad's return from overseas a little bit shorter and more bearable.

Providing homefront parents with some time of respite has become one of the most appreciated aspects of this SKIFF program. The Austin Fly Fishers donates funds and seeks funding from individuals and organizations to make this SKIFF program a reality for homefront spouses and their children.

The Fly Tyer's Corner

Recipe by Jim Gray Photos by Jeff Hoelter

Jim's Damsel Nymph

This is my go to fly for carp, and it's been very effective for me, with hundreds of carp caught over the last few years. The fly has evolved from a very simple design using a single marabou feather and green wire, to the version I'm tying today. The addition of the vinyl rib creates a segmented body, and the mini bug legs add to the realism. I guess you could argue that the carp don't know the difference, but when I see my fly silhouetted next to a real damsel fly nymph, it gives me a lot of confidence.

Materials

Hook - Gamakatsu S10S, size 8

Thread - UTC olive 70

Eyes - medium black bead chain

Tail/under body - strung marabou blood quills olive brown

Rib - vinyl rib medium olive

Legs - mini bug legs olive

Collar - hen cape grizzly/olive

Head - olive dubbing

Step 1: Tie in a bead chain eye, leaving a small space between the bead chain and hook eye. Take the thread to the back of the hook, into the bend.



Step 2: Create a tail by tying in the tip of a marabou feather. I like the tail to point slightly down. When you fish the fly on the bottom, it will flip over and the tail will stand up.



Step 3: Tie in the vinyl rib, leaving it hanging off the back of the fly. Move the thread forward, just behind the eyes.



Step 4: Twist the marabou into a tight 'rope' and palmer it forward. It should taper to be heavier behind the eyes. Tie it down behind the eyes and trim the excess marabou.



Step 5: Wrap the vinyl rib forward and tie it off behind the bead chain eyes.



Step 6: Using 2 mini legs, fold them over 2 times and tie them in so they face out to the sides of the fly, forming legs.



Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 7: Behind the eye, tie in the tip of a hen hackle feather, wrap it around the hook and tie it off.



Step 8: Lightly dub the thread and create a head by wrapping the dubbed thread behind, through and in front of the eyes. Whip finish and put a small drop of head cement on the thread.



Mike's Tying Tips

by Mike Morpew

Homemade Wing Burner

At t If you have ever wanted to use a wing burner for creating a wing on a caddis or mayfly pattern you can purchase them in sets but sometimes you need a special size or shape and if your like me you want to save some money. I make all my wing burners whether for fishing flies or my realistic patterns and its very simple.

Start with a strip of brass, (available at hobby shops, or hardware stores as shim stock.) ½ inch wide, .025 to .032 inch thick and about 8 and 1/4 inches long.

The pictures below shows the quick and easy process.

Once cut into lengths the brass is bent in half tightly with pliers

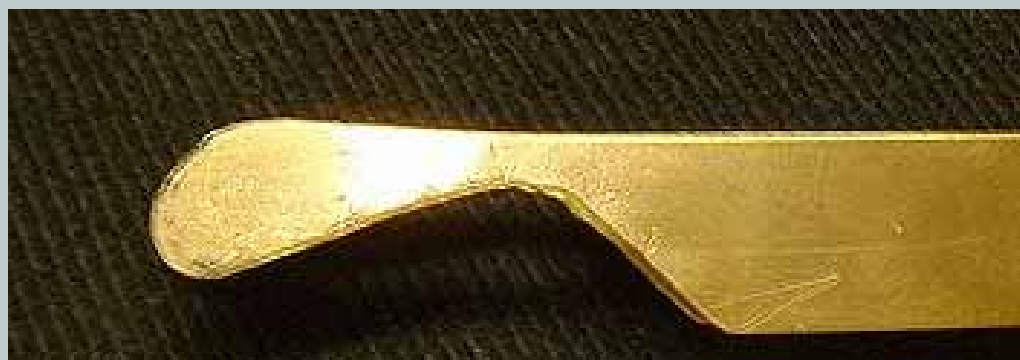
Draw and out line of the desired wing shape

Cut with a fine hacksaw to rough shape then use a file to finish

There you have it a home-made wing burner

Simply place the desired feather into the burner ensuring that the stem is central

Burn the excess away with a cigarette lighter



Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2015/2016. 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

Capt. Jeff Johnson – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport

Jeff Davis – <http://www.flyfishrockport.com/> Fly Fishing the lower Colorado River

Jud Cole – <http://centraltexasflyfishing.com/> Central Texas and Colorado

Rus Schwausch – <http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/> Fly Fishing Southwest Alaska

Dan Cone – <http://www.castellguideservice.com/> Fly Fishing Central Texas





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