



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
June 2016
Volume 18, Issue 6



Club Meeting
Thursday, June 16
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos by Mike Morphew
6:00 Casting Instruction
7:00 Dan Cone will speak to the club about how,
where, and when to fly fish the Llano River

Cover Photo by Jeff Hoelter
Rainbow caught in Pisgah National Forest,
North Carolina

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President's Message by Matt Bennett

I feel like I'm on repeat yet again, but a very wet May forced us off the water for the most part. We had to cancel our Llano River Outing, which I am tentatively re-scheduling for July 2nd. Additionally, the big Lower Colorado River Cleanup was canceled, and is rescheduled for 6/25. Hopefully the weather will cooperate a bit this month, but it does feel strange to complain about too much water given our water situation not too long ago.

Our Multispecies contest is ongoing for those who have been able to find some water to fish. On the conventional fly side, Steven Turner currently leads with 7 species, Charles Cresswell is 2nd with 6, and Ryan Kirkbride is 3rd with 4. There's five people tied with three each. On the Tenkara side, Rob Gonzalez is in the lead with 4, and two people are tied for 2nd with 2 year - Jacob Eikstead and Michael Kenny. The Llano outing would be a great place to add some numbers to your totals - just saying!

Speaking of the Llano, Dan Cone will be presenting this month on some of the water he fishes on the central and upper sections of the river. With the water we've had this year, it's much easier than in the past to get a kayak or something similar down the river. We'll see if we can nail down some float options and consider doing a Llano float, if there's interest. It's a great way to hit some of the water in-between access points that doesn't get fished as much.

As a reminder, 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. Mike Morphew and I will also be featured tyer's at the event - hopefully you won't let that stop you from coming out.



Financial Report by Shawn Riggs

4/1/2016 - 4/30/2016

Beginning Bal. Checking \$12,272.21

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$667.89
Auction	\$165.00
SKIFF	\$1,030.00
Total Income	\$1,862.89

Disbursements:

Speaker expense	\$150.00
SKIFF	\$600.00
AFF website	\$1,000.00
FFF - Dues	\$360.00
FFF - Dues	\$70.00
Postmaster - Stamps	\$18.80
Total Disbursements	\$2,198.80
Net	(335.91)
Accounting adjustment	(\$0.80)
Adjusted Net	(336.71)

Ending Balance-Checking \$11,935.50

*Casting for Recovery	\$670.30
SKIFF Total Donations	\$26,381.54
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$20,907.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$5,473.97

June Speaker

At our next meeting, Dan Cone will be presenting on fly fishing the Llano River. Dan grew up fishing on the Llano River between Mason and Kingsland. First with worms, hellgrammites and a Zebco 202, later progressing to roostertails, small crankbaits and ultralight rods. While on a summer break from Texas A&M, he was introduced to fly fishing on the Llano River. Dan quickly became a convert to fly fishing and a few years later began guiding on the Llano. Since then, he has added other rivers in Central Texas to his offerings, and for 8 years guided in Colorado, before settling back down in the Hill Country. Dan will be with the Austin Fly Fishers this month to talk about how, where and when to fly fish the Llano River.



AFF Assists Explore Austin Organization

On Saturday May 21st, several AFF and Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited members helped teens and mentors from Explore Austin in learning to fly fish. Explore Austin (exploreAustin.org) is a non-profit organization with a mission "To Change the Lives of Underserved Youth through Leadership, Mentoring, and Adventure." AFF Vice President Dakus Geeslin and Explore Austin Director of Development, Laura Nettleton planned and coordinated the event at McKinney Falls State Park.

Although unsafe and unfishable high water conditions in Onion Creek within the park prevented the group from fishing, longtime AFF member and supporter and Certified Casting Instructor, Kevin Hutchison lead the group with valuable casting lessons and games. The Explore Austin teens, adult mentors, and staff were all very eager to learn and a few had prepared for fly casting by watching instructional YouTube videos. Everyone had such a great time learned so much that the AFF and GRTU plan to collaborate with Explore Austin on future fly fishing events. If you are interested in helping out, please contact AFF VP, Dakus Geeslin. A big thanks to fellow volunteers: Dakus Geeslin, Kevin Hutchison, Phil Dopson, Bill Crumrine, Rick Collins, Joe Olague, Chris Summerville, Doug Kierklewski, Rob Gonzales, and Ed Ramirez.



Club Announcements Cont.

SKIFF Donations

Summer is the time of the year when the majority of SKIFF trips take place, especially when we have a wet spring. Bob Maindelle is hopeful that a large number of children will be able to take advantage of a SKIFF trip this summer.

The SKIFF program relies on donations from a variety of groups and individuals. Recently the SKIFF program has been the recipient of two sizable donations.

The Dripping Springs Wild Game Dinner Committee, an outreach project of the Dripping Springs United Methodist Church, awarded the SKIFF Program \$1000 at the end of April, 2016.

Jim Key, the past president of the Sun City Hunting and Fishing Club, passed away on March 21 st. Jim was a big supporter of the SKIFF Program. Jim's wife asked family and friends to make a donations to the SKIFF Program instead of sending flowers to his funeral service. Over \$1500 was donated to SKIFF because of this request.

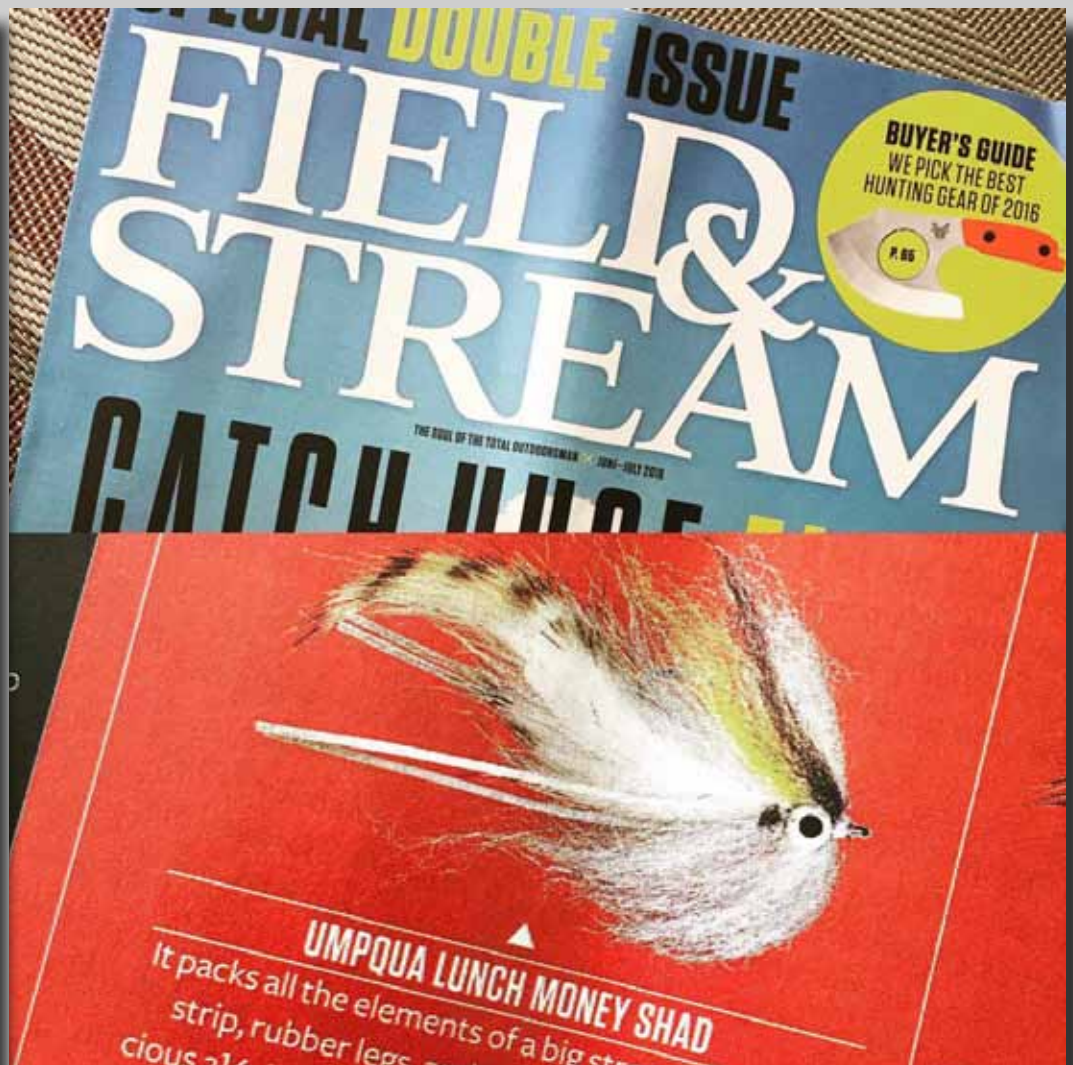
Over 300 military children have a taken a free professionally guided fishing trip because of the generosity of so many. If you would like to contribute, help raise funds, write letters or even volunteer as a deck hand on a SKIFF trip please speak with us. We want to thank all of our SKIFF friends for all their help.

-Manuel Pena and Dave Hill

Matt's Fly Selected by Field and Stream

I was surprised to get a text a week or so ago from my friend Mark Dillow telling me to pick up the latest Field & Stream article and flip over towards the back to page 112. Field & Stream had put together a list of the Top 20 New Flies for this year and there, along with creations from other fantastic tyers like Rich Strolis, Mike Schmidt, and Pat Dorsey, my Lunch Money was chosen to be included in the list. It is definitely a very cool honor to have a fly in a magazine that I've grown up reading ever since I was a kid. They specifically liked the Shad color, which is one of my favorites for around here as well.

-Matt Bennett



Maine in the Spring by Jon Creed

Every spring I go home to Maine to visit family and go on a multi night camping trip with my mom up to Caucomcomac Stream (North Maine woods near the Allagash waterway system made famous by author Henry David Thoreau) to fish for landlocked salmon and brook trout, with the occasional smallmouth and perch caught. This spring because of the mild winter and little snow fall the water levels were very low and the fishing just wasn't what it had been in the years previous. Nonetheless, the weather was amazing the trip very relaxing! We foraged and ate fiddleheads (see pic) which is something I so look forward to and of course I had to pair those with some Maine Lobster and steamer clams!



SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

Despite the crazy rain, lightning, flooding, etc. I've still been able to conduct SKIFF trips on our local lakes. Here is a synopsis of these last two trips, which, incidentally, resulted in 3 "First Fish Awards" for three soldiers' kids!

Here are excerpts from the last two full reports I posted. Thank you so much for your donations and support allowing kids to fish and homefront spouses to get a "breather" from single parenting.

On June 4th, I conducted the 2016 season's fifth SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trip. I was joined by little Sullivan (Sully) Alexander of Killeen, and his pet stuffed owl, name "Owl".

Sully's dad is a U.S. Army helicopter pilot currently deployed to Turkey. His wife, Camille, has Sully and Sully's little sister, Caroline, who is less than a year old, to look after. While today's fishing trip was certainly intended to help Sully land the first fish of his life, the bigger goal was to give Camille some time without both children to look after for a few hours.

On Saturday, May 28th, I conducted the 2016 season's fourth SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trip. Joining me for this adventure were Mrs. Jessica Ochoa, and her 11-year-old daughters, Nevaeh Ochoa and Alycia Williams, as well as the baby of the family, little Arianna Ochoa.

From left: Neveah Ochoa and Alycia Williams earned their TPWD First Fish Awards as they targeted sunfish in the newly flooded green brush on Lake Belton.

The girls' dad, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ochoa is currently deployed to South Korea where he serves as a mortarman in an infantry unit.



The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Jim Gray

Jim's Big-Eye Popper

Compared to many other fly tiers, I don't tie a lot of different patterns. I have 30 or so "go to" patterns that cover most of my fishing - fresh and salt. It may seem like a lot, but when you think about all the different fish that we target, it's not all that many. In order for me to add a new pattern, it has to be something special. It must be effective, easy to fish, versatile and easy to produce. It also has to look good in my fly box. The Big Eye Popper checks all the boxes. Poppers are great producers on our local rivers, and some of the easiest flies to

fish, and this fly is very versatile. You can tie it in almost any size and color, fishing for all kinds of fish. Finally, the materials list is short and inexpensive.

Materials

Hook - Gamakatsu B10S size 4

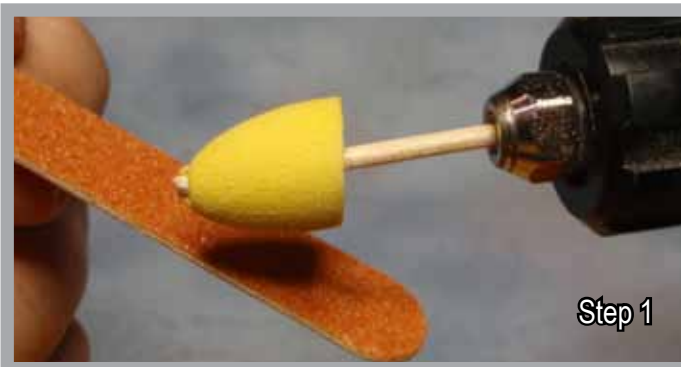
Thread - Ultra Thread UTC 140 Denier

Body - 7/16" foam cylinder, shaped

Tail - deer hair

Eyes - 8mm doll eye

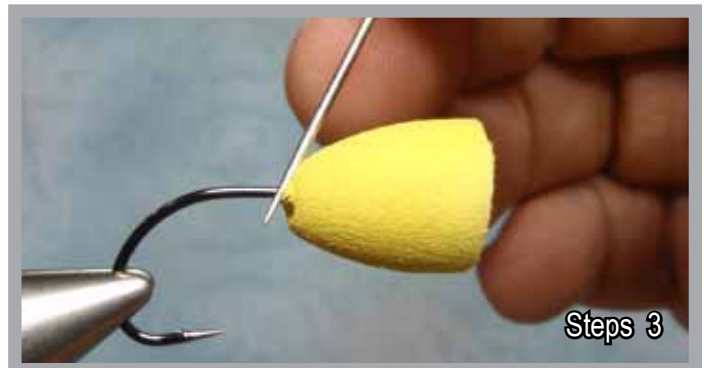
Step 1: Shape the popper body. Most of my poppers are made from shaped closed-cell foam. The popper body in this photo was made from a flip-flop. To shape the poppers, use a dremel tool and an emory board. Use a sanding stone to create a cupped face. If you don't have the tools to create the foam cylinders, you can buy them from most fly shops.



Step 2: Once the body is shaped, use a small dremel sanding stone to create a recess at the back of the fly. This will help you hide where you tie in the tail.



Step 3: Use a bodkin or heavy needle to poke a hole through the center of the popper body. Slide the body onto the hook and determine the best place to tie in the thread base so the tail will be covered by the recess at the rear of the foam body.



Step 4: Tie in the thread base and then tie in a clump of stacked deer hair for the tail. I like a heavy tail, and use a clump a little less than the size of a pencil. Hold the hair in place on top of the hook. You aren't trying to "spin" the hair, you want it to stay in place.



Step 5: Wrap thread over the butts of the deer hair so it will easily fit into the recess at the rear of the popper body.



Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 6: ATo create a good base for the foam to be glued to, tie in a thread base over the hook. I go over the hook 3 or 4 times to make sure the foam body can be secured.



Step 7: Slide the popper body over the hook and rest it on the eye. Coat the thread with Krazy Glue. I also put glue in the foam body recess to make sure the tail is secured. Once you brush on the glue, you only have a few seconds, so be ready to push the popper body back onto the tail as soon as the glue is applied.



Step 9: You can adjust the hook, foam and eye size to make flies in all different sizes and colors.



Mike's Tying Tips

by Mike Morphew

Organizing Your Dubbing

At the last meeting I was asked by a member to demonstrate dubbing techniques. Which prompted me to this month's tying tip.

I am sure many of you have dubbing boxes or draws full of dubbing packs. I came up with an idea many years ago that has kept my dubbing in good order and I use it like a painter uses his pallet. It is a cheap storage method and makes choosing a shade and type very easy.

I use a ring binder and purchase plastic coin holder inserts, I find each compartment takes the average packet of dubbing and it is very easy to pull the required amount for each fly.

Mixing is easy as all colors are there to hand, I keep natural, synthetic separate and have separate inserts for specials like real seals fur.



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/> cCentral Texas and Colorado

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



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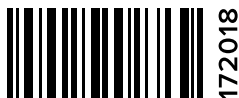
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