



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

August 2019
Volume 21, Issue 8



Club Meeting
Thursday, August 15
[Northwest Recreation Center](#)
6:00 pm Fly Tying and Social Hour
6:00 pm Casting Practice
7:00 pm Ryan Schaper will be discussing Fly fishing from a kayak or SUP (stand up paddle board) in both rivers and at the Texas Coast!

Rosy Pickworth on the Chama River
in Northern New Mexico



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

Fly Fishers International Expo by Austin Orr

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Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

Attending the annual Fly Fishers International Expo has been a goal of mine since even before I became a CI. This July, the event was scheduled to be held in what some consider to be the beating heart of fly fishing: Bozeman, Montana.

To say I was excited would be an understatement. Perhaps that's what affected my judgement and made me think it would be alright to drive up instead of flying in and renting a vehicle. Driving was cheaper, yes, but you can be sure that I won't do that again. It's just a touch over 1600 miles, one way, from Austin to Bozeman.

I had two main goals:

Fish as much as possible, and attend as many Expo events as possible. I know this sounds mutually exclusive, but I've been married a long enough now to understand that compromise can be balanced on a razor's edge.

For the sake of the story, I'll skip the parts where I was driving from daylight to dark, catching a bit of sleep, and then forging onward again before sunrise. It sounds like some kind of forced march, but I was driven by my desire to get to the water.

First stop: the Madison. If you're looking for wilderness solitude, this place is the exact opposite. However, with insane fish-per-mile counts and an international reputation for lots of trout as well as big ones, I had to stop. After dropping by Galloup's Slide Inn to get the latest news and grab a couple flies, I headed to the Three Dollar Bridge. There are no drift boats allowed on that section of the river so wading anglers abound.

I ended up with 5 or 6 nice fish, missing just as many as I hooked, all on dries of various types. My most memorable fish there was an 18 inch rainbow that ran hard straight across the current, making me jump up on a nearby rock to raise my line over a mid-stream boulder as the fish made a solid attempt to run into my backing and cut me off at the same time.

I didn't like the location for the sheer number of people - they were everywhere - and

the obvious hook scars on most of the fish I caught.

The next morning (after a quick fishing session at first light), I had the opportunity to attend a 'future leadership' meeting. True to the title, the gathering was focused on providing some of the background, current goals, and future aspirations of the club formerly known as the Federation of Fly Fishers. The newly hired President and CEO, Patrick Berry, was on hand to chat and talk about the vision for the future of Fly Fishers International. We also got to hear from the top brass in the organization on what they're working on now and issues faced in each of their zones of responsibilities.

Being able to have face-to-face discussion with FFI's leaders was one of the biggest highlights of the trip for me. Just as interesting was the presentation on the Learning Center. In the last year or so, FFI has built up a repository of fly fishing knowledge and information on their website. If you sign in with your FFI credentials on the site, you'll get access to a ton of great learning and teaching materials, as well as things like Fly Club Best Practices. We were told

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

7/1/2019 to 7/31/2019

Begin Bal. Checking	\$16,645.03
Income:	
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements:	
Club FFI insurance	\$325.00
Speaker	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$475.00
Net	(\$475.00)
Unencumbered:	\$7,744.68
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$1,047.52
SKIFF	\$7,377.83
Ending Bal-Checking	\$16,170.03

Fly Fishers International Expo cont.

that many more things were coming to the Learning Center, so that's definitely something to keep an eye on.

After that, each day was mostly spent at the Expo with brief trips to the water in the morning and evening. I spent the bulk of my time out at the casting fields, sponging up the knowledge coming from the MCIs. There were plenty of learning opportunities for fly fishermen of all levels, with our club's own Stacy Lynn leading a class on Sight-casting in Saltwater.

One of my favorite learning sessions was on mentoring CI hopefuls and helping them prepare for the CI Test. Being able to have an open discussion with a few of the Casting Board of Governor members that actually had a hand in the test's creation was certainly eye-opening. I also got to learn about the Casting Challenge series that FFI is developing. The different levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) increase in difficulty and are a great way for a caster to judge their skill level and improve.

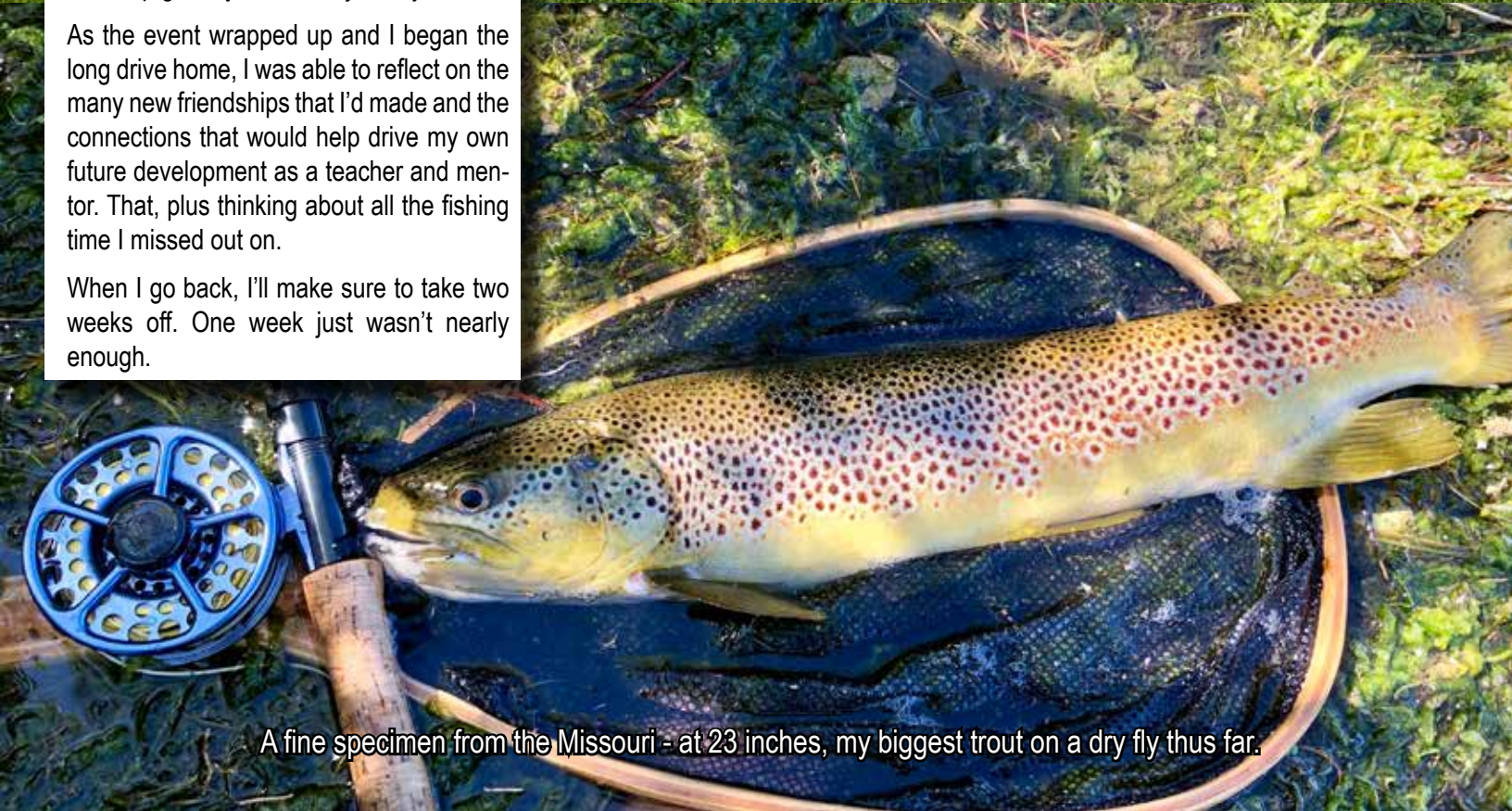
Have you been thinking about trying for the CI test? Being able to ace the Gold Level of the Casting Challenge is a good indicator that your casting skills are up to snuff. If you'd like to pursue becoming a CI, be sure to chat with either myself or Stacy so we can help guide you on that journey.

As the event wrapped up and I began the long drive home, I was able to reflect on the many new friendships that I'd made and the connections that would help drive my own future development as a teacher and mentor. That, plus thinking about all the fishing time I missed out on.

When I go back, I'll make sure to take two weeks off. One week just wasn't nearly enough.



AFF's own Stacy Lynn presenting on the beautiful grass of the casting fields



A fine specimen from the Missouri - at 23 inches, my biggest trout on a dry fly thus far.

Fly Fishers International Expo cont.



Dropping in at a bridge on the East Gallatin. No need to hop and fences, the wading is easy.



A snakey Madison River 'bow that crushed a hopper just before I got chased off the water by a thunderstorm. You can see the deformation on his face from hook scars.



August Presentation by Ryan Schaper



My name is Ryan Schaper and I am the Owner and lead guide for Go Outside Expedition Company. I have been fly fishing the Texas Hill Country for over 7 years now. I learned to fly fish from my kayak on the San Marcos River and the Upper Guadalupe river. My uncle has had property on the upper Guadalupe for almost 20 years so I have been a river rat for a long time! When I am not with clients my favorite species to target are hands down Common Carp in freshwater (I love redfish too but hey who doesn't!) . Something about sight casting a tailing fish in skinny water, watching the fish eat, setting the hook and just watching line disappear off the reel drag screaming just gets me going!

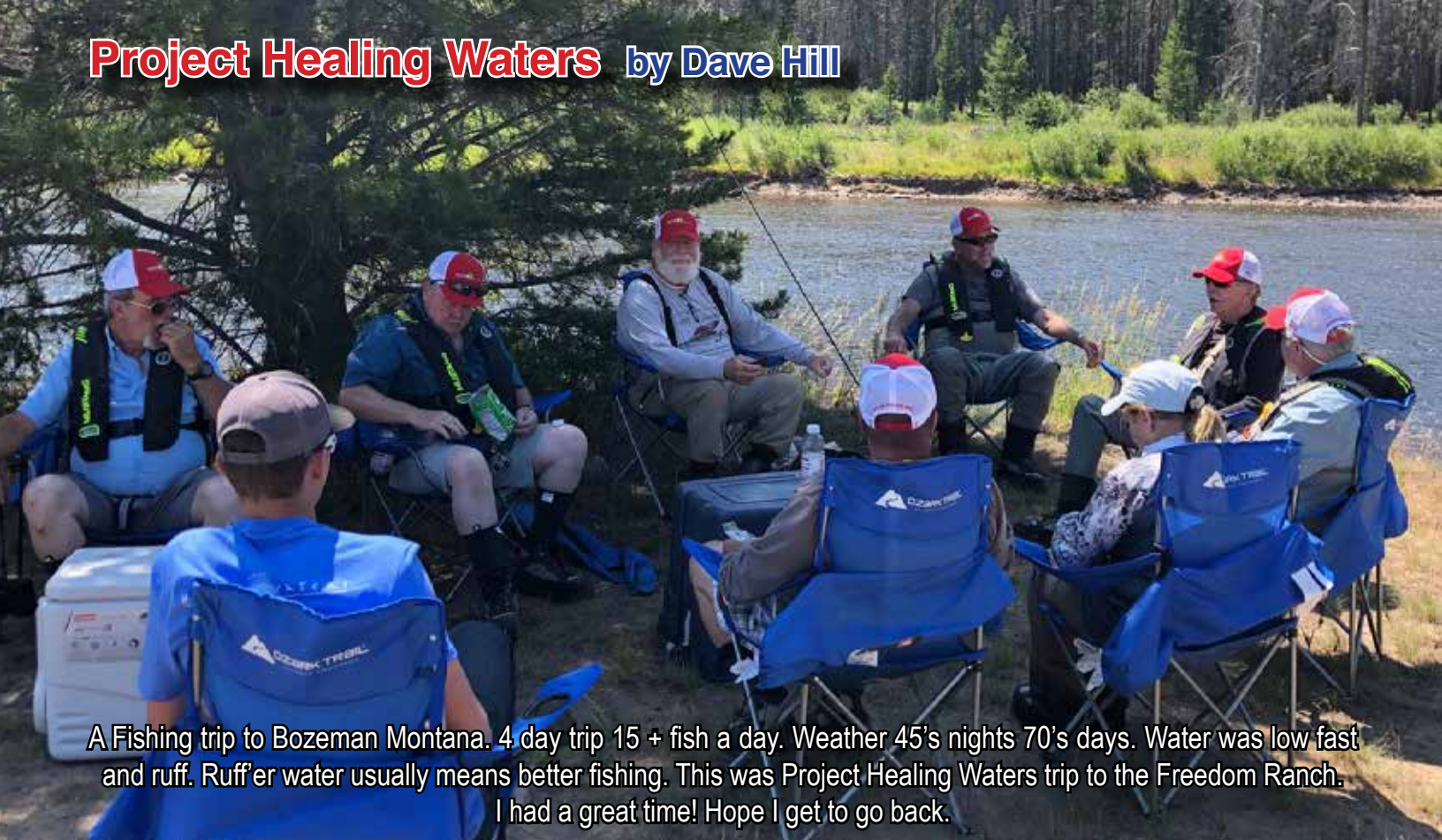
At this months Austin Fly Fishers meeting I will be discussing Fly fishing from a kayak or SUP (stand up paddle board) in both rivers and at the Texas Coast! Will be discussing rigging, what to look for when purchasing/renting, different places to go, as well as different species to target! I worked at Austin Canoe and Kayak for 6 years as a Retail District manager managing the Austin, san Marcos and San Antonio Stores. I still work at the San Marcos location part time when it is not trout season! I am well versed in all things kayaks from trolling motor and outboard options to inflatable paddle boards! I will discuss all of these options as well as new and exciting accessories to rig out kayaks!

SKIFF Donation



WHO, Women Helping Other's, location Sun City, Georgetown made a generous donation to our SKIFF program for \$475. Dave Hill accepts donation from Judi Frinstein.

Project Healing Waters by Dave Hill



A Fishing trip to Bozeman Montana. 4 day trip 15 + fish a day. Weather 45's nights 70's days. Water was low fast and ruff. Ruff'er water usually means better fishing. This was Project Healing Waters trip to the Freedom Ranch. I had a great time! Hope I get to go back.



Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado

by Brandon Rabke and Rosy Pickworth



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

During the month of July 2019 the SKIFF program welcomed another seven youths aboard on four separate excursions. During the summer months I conduct only morning trips where kids are involved due to the excessive heat experienced after 11 a.m.

This month, these seven kids amassed a catch of 194 fish, thus an average of just over 27 fish landed per child. The lion's share of these fish were white bass and sunfish.

Another six SKIFF trips are currently scheduled for the month of August.

Thanks to each one of you for helping to fund this outreach!

JULY 6th, QUINTERO FAMILY (Trip #6) - I welcomed aboard the children of Marcial and Valerie Quintero — 6-year-old Hailey and 5-year-old Rosemary. Marcial has been in the U.S. Army for 5 years and now serves with the 91st Engineer Battalion in the rank of Specialist. He was recently separated from his family for a European rotation which included training in Poland, Bulgaria, and Germany. The girls landed 52 fish. Both earned TPWD "First Fish Awards" for their efforts!

JULY 12th, WEGMANN FAMILY (Trip #7) - Joining me were Alicia Wegmann (18), and her half-brothers Jayden Lemay (11), and Giovanni Lemay (10). Alicia lost her father, Sergeant Robert Wegmann Jr. in 2008. Sergeant Wegmann received a Purple Heart after being wounded overseas when a roadside bomb exploded. Sergeant Wegmann and his battle buddy would both lose their lives as a result of this incident.

Alicia really impressed me with her focus and goals. Having earned an Associate's Degree prior to graduating from high school a few weeks ago, she now has her sights set on an accounting degree from Texas A&M University Central Texas. The kids landed 56 fish.



From left: Rosemary, Valerie, and Hailey Quintero.



From left: Alicia Wegmann, Giovanni Lemay, and Jayden Lemay.

SKIFF cont.

JULY 24th, PANTOJA FAMILY (Trip #8) - I welcomed aboard the sons of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Elias Pantoja, along with their mom, Natalie. SSG Pantoja is separated from his family currently as he serves as a medic in South Korea. He has been in the military for 13 years now.

The boys, Connor, age 9, and Mason, age 12, had been fishing a time or two before and did well on today's trip. Thanks to Mr. Dave Hill of the Austin Fly Fishers, at the conclusion of the trip, each young man went home with a SKIFF logo ball cap, a small tackle box, and a closed-face rod and reel. The boys landed 34 fish.

JULY 29th, SANCHEZ FAMILY (Trip #9) - I welcomed aboard Bryan Sanchez of Harker Heights. Bryan is entering into his senior year at Harker Heights High School where he currently participating in the ROTC program. After high school he plans to pursue either medicine or law enforcement through the military.

Bryan's parents are both veterans; his mom a Reservist and his dad, Javier, was disabled following his second tour to Iraq in his eighth year of service in the U.S. Army. Bryan landed 52 fish



From left: Connor and Mason Pantoja.



Bryan Sanchez with two fists full of Lake Belton white bass.

AFF Outings by David Bush

September 22-28, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is once again coming up in September. South Padre offers a wide variety of fishing options from wading for redfish to fishing wrecks offshore. South Padre has a lot of rental options available at reasonable rates since it's the low season. Camping is also an option. Like the Corpus Christi trip, South Padre is also a very good destination for non-fishing significant others. While this outing is scheduled for an entire week, you're welcome to attend for as long as you like. Those planning to participate should email Nils Pearson at npearson@austin.rr.com. Details for gatherings, group fishing, and guide fishing opportunities will be shared with participants as the outing approaches.

October 18-20, Oktoberfisch, Junction

The annual Oktoberfisch gathering sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers is once again being held on the South Llano River near Junction. This popular event draws fly fishers from across the state. Details are available at <https://www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/about-oktoberfisch>. Stay tuned for details of the club's plans for participation.

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2019. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Marcus Rodriquez – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Central Texas Guide

Capt. Billy Trimble – <http://trimbleflyfishing.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport/Texas Coastal Bend

Chris Johnson – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Living Waters Fly Shop and Central Texas Guide

Pat Dorsey – <http://www.bluequillangler.com/> Fly Fishing Colorado

Capt. Scott Hamilton – <http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/> Fly Fishing Florida's Atlantic Coast

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

Kevin Stubbs – <http://www.expedition-outfitters.net/> Fly Fishing the Devils River

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

Capt. Steve Soulé – <http://www.theshallowist.com/index.asp> Fly Fishing Galveston

Jeff Davis – <http://allwaterguides.com/jeff-davis/> Fly Fishig the lower Colorado River

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

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

Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

Capt. Randy and Truette Cawfield – <http://www.lagunamadre.net/styled-33/index.html>

Lower Laguna Madre

Pat Vanek – BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com Rivers of Central TX

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Capt Randy and Truette Cawfield
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Email: kingfisherinnarroyocity@gmail.com



Captain Eric Glass

South Padre Island, Texas

<http://www.captainericglass.com>



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Capt. Billy Trimble
Shallow Water Flats Fishing
Texas Coastal Bend

<http://trimbleflyfishing.com/>
361-205-1266



Capt. Scott Hamilton
Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

<http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/>
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Nick Streit

New Mexico and Southern Colorado
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Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

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(361) 533-4227



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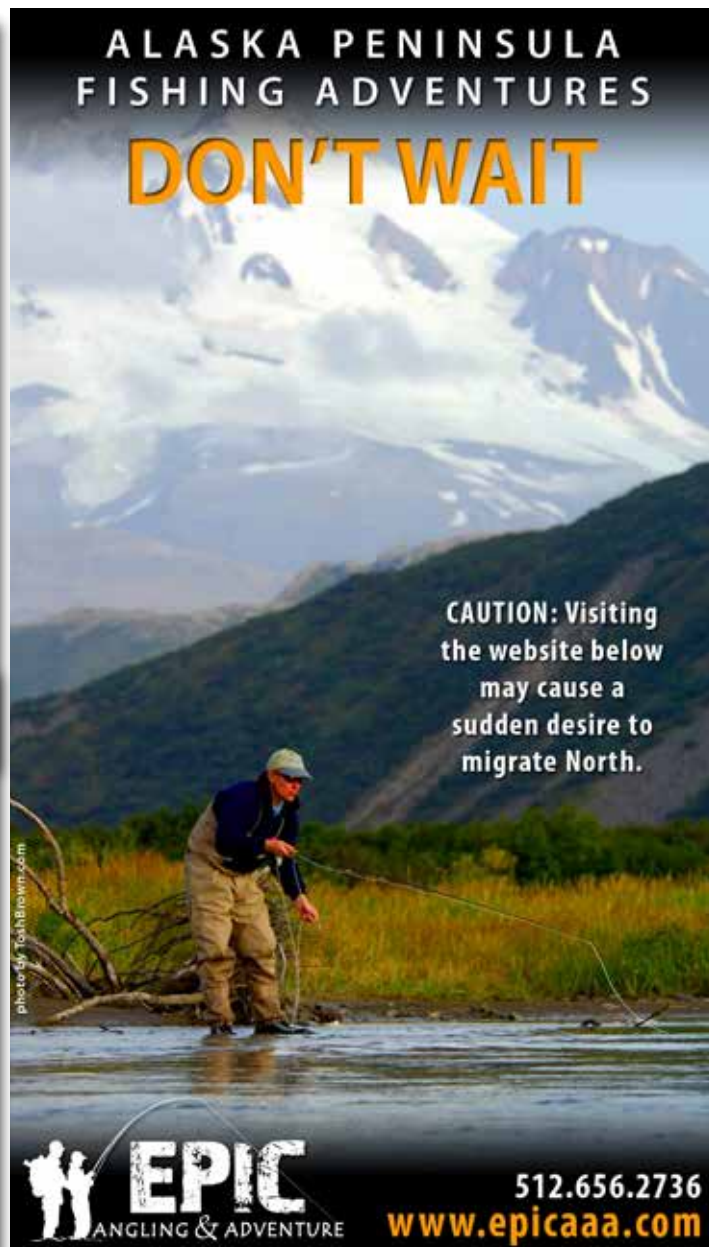
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