



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

March 2019

Volume 21, Issue 3



Club Meeting  
Friday, March 22

[Patagonia Austin on Congress Ave](#)

6:00 - 8:30pm Patagonia Austin is partnering with Austin Fly Fishers to bring you an evening of words, film, music and art all inspired by fishing and water.

Matt Bennett with smallmouth buffalo caught on the North Bosque River while fishing with fishing guide [Pat Vanek of Bosque Valley Fly Fishers Assoc.](#)



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
**Charter Club**

# President's Message **Shawn Riggs**

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To contact officers:

[Info@AustinFlyFishers.com](mailto:Info@AustinFlyFishers.com)

With the Ides of March come a ton of opportunities in the Austin area to attend several fly fishing related events and happenings in the coming weeks.

**This Wednesday, March 20th**, the Yeti Flagship Store is holding a Businesses for Bristol Bay event. This celebration is focusing on Bristol Bay's world class fisheries and the many businesses that depend on these treasured fishing grounds. The event will have salmon appetizers, films and focus on the conservation of this Alaskan watershed of sprawling streams and rivers which are home to wild salmon populations.

**On Friday, March 22nd**, the Austin Fly Fishers are partnering with Patagonia for an evening of words, film, music and art inspired by fishing and water. There will be beer and snacks available at this event hosted at their downtown location. The event will benefit The Devils River Conservancy, which is an organization committed to preserving and protecting this wild river through education, research and advocacy.

**The following Thursday, March 28th**, the historic Paramount Theatre will once again host the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour. This exhibition of fly fishing cinema will take viewers from South Dakota to French Polynesia to the Australian coast to witness anglers in these pristine settings as they target local species. This festival is always a fun time and a unique opportunity to learn more about anglers across the globe.

**On Saturday, March 30th**, the local Filson store will be holding a fly-tying workshop run by AFF member Matt Bennett of Fly Geek. There will be fishing tips and product giveaways along with complementary beer and food. A percentage of event sales will benefit Project Healing Waters, an organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military personnel and veterans through fly fishing outings and education.

So, if you find yourself with some extra time on your hands and are thirsting for angling knowledge and some cold beverages, then head on out to any one of these events or all of them. You will have an opportunity to enjoy the burgeoning Austin fly fishing scene that has grown from a few dedicated fishermen, who hung out at a small fly shop on Congress Avenue in the 1980s named Austin Angler, to what it is today, which is a vibrant and exciting culture of men and women who live and breathe this great sport we've come to love. See you out there.

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

2/1/2019 to 2/28/2019

**Begin Bal. Checking** \$17,306.04

### Income:

Club Dues	\$40.00
Merchandise	\$5.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>

### Disbursements:

Nick Streit	\$200.00
Postmaster	\$92.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$292.00</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$247.00)</b>


**Unencumbered:** \$8,663.69

### Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$1,047.52
SKIFF	\$7,377.83

**Ending Bal-Checking** \$17,059.04





**AFF Meeting  
Friday, March 22  
at Patagonia on  
Congress Avenue  
from 6-8:30 pm**

The AFF March Membership meeting is being held at the Patagonia store to benefit the Devil's River Conservancy. Each of the presentations listed below will be short, with plenty of time for socialization and shopping at the store. Beer will be provided by Hops and Grain. Attendees can buy a Patagonia Austin-branded pint glass to benefit the Devil's River Conservancy and then get a beer. Please come and join us for this terrific event.

#### **Nathaniel Riverhorse Nakadate**

Riverhorse is an adventurer and environmentalist who has spent years as a journalist using nature and words to make sense of life, love, and his place in it. He is a staff assignment writer for numerous high-brow surfing, guitar, and fly-fishing magazines, and has been published internationally almost two hundred times. He is known for traveling alone to the farthest outer fringes of nature and the earth to immerse himself in terrain, explore solitude, and pen stories of the beauty of life, the amusing characters along the way, and why love is all that matters in this life. Riverhorse will be presenting a short film and a few short pieces of his writing with us.

#### **Alana Lyons**

Alana is an award-winning commercial artist in Austin, Texas specializing in branding, packaging, and illustration for brands including YETI, Lone Star Beer, and Leupold. Fly fishing for just over 2 years, her preferred setup is a 3WT glass rod with a click-and-pawl reel.

#### **Jonathan Marquardt**

Jonathan has been fishing since his dad first put him in a boat. He lives in Austin with his wife Megan and three children. When not out spreading the word about YETI (day job), he's making art and enjoying the outdoors with his family.

#### **Parking Info:**

There is a parking garage at 300 San Antonio. This garage is for employees of the State of Texas until 5:00pm. After 5:00pm, it is available to the public. However, you may have to pay for that parking.



## North Bosque River by Matt Bennett

I spent the better part of a day out with Pat Vanek of Bosque Valley Fly Fishing looking for some early white bass on the North Bosque River. It took us until early afternoon to really locate them, but we managed to catch a handful in a couple hours. Pat said it was pretty slow by his accounts, but I had a blast. His jet boat allowed us to venture upstream through some rapids, above where most other fishermen are able to go. Unfortunately, due to a cool front, the white bass we found were located down the rapids, so we competed with a dozen or so other boats throughout the day. I never saw anyone else catch a fish though.

Pat's Ghost Minnow was the magic fly, and he was easily able to keep me in prime position to swing it through the deeper run to where the fish were stacked up. Along with the white bass, I caught a chunky Spotted Bass, and two very large Small-mouth Buffalo, which towed the boat around for quite a while before I was able to land them. Quite a fight on 8 lb tippet and a six weight!

Pat has always been a good supporter of the club and really knows his home river. I'd encourage anyone looking for a different style of spring bass trip to book a trip with him on the Bosque or Brazos once it warms up.





## SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

On December 2, 2018, Mrs. Lesa Rowell contacted me about planning a S.K.I.F.F. outing for her 8-year-old son, Jarrett Rowell. On a mild, foggy Saturday morning, February 2nd, AFF member Dave Bush and I welcomed Jarrett aboard for the first S.K.I.F.F. trip of the 2019 season. Jarrett had been patiently waiting for this trip since before Christmas, as foul weather forced two postponements.

There was a silver lining to Jarrett's cloud, however, in that on Sunday, January 27th, Jarrett's dad, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Matthew Rowell, redeployed to the United States from a split tour to Iraq and Kuwait as a field artilleryman.

We fished three distinct locations over the 4-hour span of the trip, amassing a catch of 82 fish.

At what we had determined would be our last stop of the morning, we found scattered white bass in nearly 50 feet of water beneath gulls which looked like they had been feeding well, but which were now letting up, indicating the gamefish were no longer aggressively pursuing the baitfish.

We dropped our slabs to bottom and began to use a snap-jigging tactic. Dave Bush hooked a fish which got other nearby fish excited, igniting a brief flurry. SFC Rowell was the next one to connect with a fish – another white bass.

Just as I unhooked and released that fish, Jarrett set the hook on another fish and we all watched his rod bow deeply, submerging his rod tip beneath the water.

Because we had already landed a number of sizeable drum up to 3.50 pounds which behaved likewise, we all assumed the fish was another large freshwater drum.

Unlike drum, however, this fish began to move out away from the boat. Jarrett just held on with his left hand and reeled



U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Matthew Rowell and his 8-year-old son, Jarrett,

## SKIFF cont.

the light Pflueger spinning reel with his right. There was a good bit of give and take, and the fish pulled line off the reel against the drag a number of times.

Eventually, thanks to some solid coaching by his dad, Jarrett worked the fish to the surface where I stood ready with the net. I slipped the net under the large blue catfish and brought it into the boat.

Using a scale certified by the Bastrop Scale Company which I always keep on board, Bush verified the weight of the fish at 5.25 pounds. Then, using the Check-It Stik which I have permanently mounted to the deck of my boat, Bush also verified the length of the fish at 23.375 inches.

This fish qualified as a new lake record in the Junior Angler category for that species of catfish. The Junior Angler category is open to those anglers under the age of 17 who are not yet required to possess a fishing license.

That very same day we completed the required application and sent it, with several required photographs, to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin,

to the attention of the Angler Recognition Program. On February 21st, Ron Smith of TPWD verified the record was legitimate and issued the certificate.

Jarrett received the certificate on Feb. 23rd, to which a gold Seal of the State of Texas was affixed, documenting his catch. His achievement will also appear in electronic format on the TPWD website until such a time as a larger fish is landed by a junior angler.

As the trip concluded, we presented Jarrett with his own tacklebox with an assortment of gear inside, a closed-faced rod and reel, and a red, logoed S.K.I.F.F. ballcap, all provided via the efforts of Dave Hill and Manuel Pena of AFF.

We now have two more SKIFF trips pending for the Williams family of Harker Heights and the Cobian family of Killeen. Weather has forced postponement for both families once already. I will begin running after-school trips following the Daylight Saving Time change on 10 March, thus giving families with kids other than a Saturday option for their SKIFF trip.



## Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2018. 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



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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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**Capt. Fred Lynch**  
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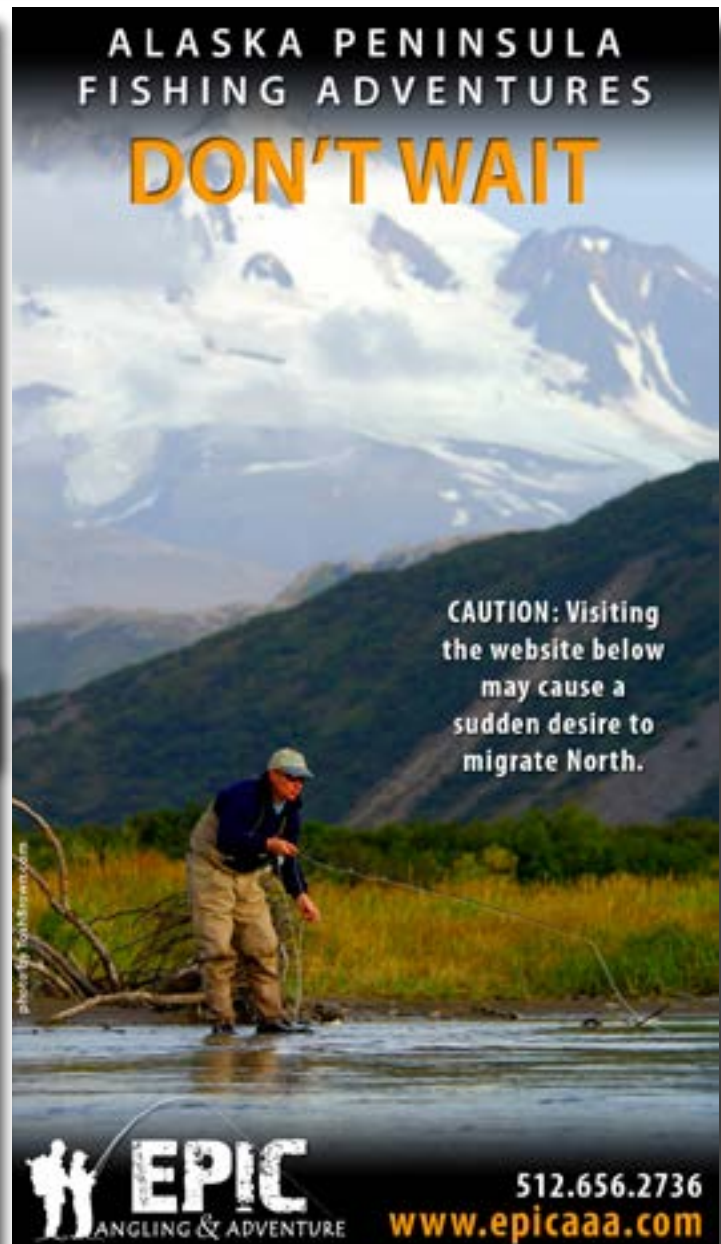
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