



# AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

November 2019  
Volume 21, Issue 11

Club Meeting  
Thursday, November 21  
[Northwest Recreation Center](#)  
6:00 pm Fly Tying and Social Hour  
7:00 pm Pat Dorsey

Brandon Rabke hooking up a silver  
salmon at Capt. Rus Schwausch's  
[Safari Camp](#) Nakalilok Bay, Alaska



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# President's Message by Shawn Riggs

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It appears that we have been experiencing some early winter weather in Central Texas with cold snaps and showers aplenty. One of my favorite things to do when the weather turns frigid and damp is to stay in and read a good book. I enjoy reading so many different styles of literature from historical biographies like *The Wilderness Warrior* by Douglas Brinkley about Theodore Roosevelt's crusade to save the wild places of early America to the short stories of fiction from author Ian Fleming about the adventures of a British spy we all know as Bond, James Bond.

There are also some really great books out there that have fly fishing as an integral part of the story. From Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton's classic *The Compleat Angler* to John Gierach's witty collection of essays *Trout Bum* to David James Duncan's touching novel *The River Why*.

But one of my personal favorite go-to books that I try to pick up every few years is *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean, which I first read in high school. I was captivated by the story because of the beautiful writing describing the trout streams and scenery of Montana but also due to the strong bond created between two brothers over fly fishing and learning the art of casting under their father's strict but loving tutelage.

I really related to Norman and Paul's relationship having grown up myself with a brother and constant fishing partner and I understand the dynamics of competition and devotion that exists between close siblings.

I am a big fan of Ernest Hemingway, Jim Harrison, and Cormac McCarthy and those authors' style of writing. I honestly believe that Norman Maclean's prose as he describes growing up in Missoula, his real connection to the landscape and how it all ties in with his various relationships, is right up there with the best of them. Here are a couple of my favorite excerpts from

the novel. Maclean describing a cast,

The cast is so soft and slow that it can be followed like an ash settling from a fireplace chimney. One of life's quiet excitements is to stand somewhat apart from yourself and watch yourself softly becoming the author of something beautiful, even if it is only a floating ash.

In this excerpt Norman is witnessing from a distance his younger brother Paul false casting in a river below.

Below him was the multitudinous river, and, where the rock had parted it around him, big-grained vapor rose. The mini-molecules of water left in the wake of his line made momentary loops of gossamer, disappearing so rapidly in the rising big-grained vapor that they had to be retained in memory to be visualized as loops. The spray emanating from him was finer-grained still and enclosed him in a halo of himself. The halo of himself was always there and always disappearing, as if he were candlelight flickering about three inches from himself. The images of himself and his line kept disappearing into the rising vapors of the river, which continually circled to the tops of the cliffs where, after becoming a wreath in the wind, they became rays of the sun.

Envisioning these scenes in your head as you peruse the pages comes easy with the authors descriptive language and rich imagery.

The film came out in the nineties, around the same time that I picked up the book and I have heard of seasoned anglers in Montana complaining of their precious trout waters being overrun with city folk who watched the movie and then headed out west with waders on and flyrods in hand in an attempt to recreate these amazing scenes.

## President's Message cont.

I am sure that it inspired plenty of viewers to try to live out their angling aspirations. I actually enjoyed the film a lot and think that Robert Redford, who directed it, did an outstanding job of staying true to the novel. The cinematography was amazing and it won an Academy Award for this, which it truly deserved. But I am usually in the camp that the book is better than the movie and I believe that this novel is a real American classic and that everyone should read it even if you

don't know a caddis fly from a woolly buggler. Coming in at around 240 pages it is a fairly easy read and I feel that once you get into the story you won't want to put it down.

When the weather turns bad and the thought of going outside seems unpleasant, then pick up this book and vicariously fish through the Maclean men. You can experience an amazing Montana trout stream with these wonderful characters in a story without even leaving the comfort of your favorite armchair.

## Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

10/1/2019 to 10/31/2019

<b>Begin Bal. Checking</b>	<b>\$16,820.08</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Total Income	\$00.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Speaker	\$150.00
SKIFF	<u>\$3,872.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$4,022.00
Net	(\$4,022.00)
Unencumbered:	\$7,244.73
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$1,047.52
SKIFF	\$4,505.83
<b>Ending Bal-Checking</b>	<b>\$12,798.08</b>

## November Presentation by Pat Dorsey

Our November presenter is Pat Dorsey. He will speak to our group about Fly Fishing Western Tailwaters:

Colorado is known for its deep, bottom-release tailwaters that support a rich and diversified aquatic life. Tailwaters are best defined as those rivers that flow from beneath manmade impoundments called dams. Tailwaters provide anglers with a four-season fishery that affords anglers with consistent flows, clear water, large populations of trout, and dependable hatches. Dorsey will address the tactics and techniques to successfully fish these year-round waters. A detailed discussion on dams, benefits of a tailwater, hatches, fly selection, reading the water, and much more, will be covered as Dorsey takes you on a tour of western tailwaters.

A native of Colorado, Pat Dorsey has been guiding for over 25 years. Pat Dorsey spends approximately two hundred days a year on the water, a combination of guiding customers, hosting trips, and personal days on the water.



## Safari Camp Nakalilok Bay, Alaska by Nils Pearson

Until recently, I had considered myself to be very fortunate to have had 3 different experiences fly fishing in Alaska. My first two experiences were with Capt. Rus Schwausch at his Outpost and Safari camps. My third trip came from an invitation from a group of fly fishermen from all over the country to join them on their annual trip on the Kvichak River. Each excursion took me to a different location, along different rivers, and targeting different fish. Due of the travel distance and expense, I wasn't planning to return to Alaska any time soon.

That all changed when I received an email notification from Capt. Rus indicating that 2 spots had opened up at his Safari camp for the last week in August. Because of the late notice, he was offering the slots at a sizable discount. I called my friend Brandon Rabke and found out that he too was interested. I immediately called Rus and asked him to pencil us in for the trip ... pending a call to my wife. He said there had been a lot of interest in the slots and would hold them for 1 hour. My call to my wife went well. Fortunately, she was very understanding and told me to go for it. Losing no time, I called Rus back and confirmed that Brandon and I would like to join him. The next day we sent in our deposits.

After taking different routes to Alaska, Brandon and I met up on Saturday morning at Egli Air Haul in King Salmon with the other folks who were joining the adventure. Among the other guests was the patriarch Eddie Mire and his tribe that included his sons Ryan and Dean, his son-in-law Seth, and his brother's son Patrick -all mostly newcomers to fly fishing. We were also joined by a couple from New Zealand, Debbie and Grant Oakley -veteran fly fishers. Before long, the helicopter and fixed wing airplane were being readied for our 100-mile trip to camp. Because of the limited weight capacity of these aircraft, we were all instructed only to bring along rods, reels, waders and flies. The rest of our belongings would be transported to the camp on a later flight.



Nakalilok Bay

## Alaska cont.

Fortunately, Brandon and I were chosen to be passengers in the helicopter along with the couple from New Zealand. The remaining campers would follow us in a small fixed wing plane. On this clear sunny morning, our flight to the camp took us over the tundra, mountains, glaciers, and the Pacific coast line on our approach to the camp. To say it the scenery was spectacular would be an understatement. I spent the entire ride hanging out the open window taking pictures. I was so taken with the helicopter trip that I remarked to the other passengers that the flight to camp alone had been worth the price of my entire trip. Little did I know that this was only the beginning.

After landing and disembarking, we suited up and headed out to the bay to begin our fishing adventure. There were so many pink salmon crowded into the bay that one would foul hook fish way too often. Pretty soon, I changed out my streamer for a pink techno-wog topwater. Floating on the surface, this fly virtually eliminated foul hooks and only attracted the fresh pinks and silver salmon. From that day forward, I used the same pink techno-wog every day with great results when targeting salmon.

As you can see from the pictures, the camp is located in Nakalilok Bay on the south side of the Alaskan Peninsula on the western edge of Katmai National Park. Our first 4 days were spent on this bay. We hiked through late summer wild flowers onto the flats, streams, and the Pacific coast, catching salmon and dolly varden as we traveled. On the last two days, we flew by helicopter to Chiginagak Bay located northeast of our camp. On the second day, we flew to Yantarni Bay which is southwest of camp. In both locations, we caught the mighty silver salmon.

The Safari Camp is a testament to Rus's engineering and managerial skills. He is essentially the chief engineer and mayor of a tiny settlement located in a prime fishing location about 50 miles from any other living souls. He has devised a water treat-



Mt. Chiginagak in the background



Nils with Silver Salmon



Brandon with Silver Salmon

## Alaska cont.

ment plant, a solar powered charging station, cold storage for perishable foods, a hot shower, and seismic sensors that alert him to the occasional nighttime intrusion of bears into camp where comfortable 2-man tents were located. His staff includes a chef who prepares excellent meals and guides, who daily hike with guests to productive fishing spots and capably handle the frequent contact with bears.

As a guest, I enjoyed the congenial atmosphere of the camp. Every day I simply let my senses soak in the sights, sounds, and smells of one of the most beautiful places on earth. What a privilege to spend 7 days in an entirely natural environment with few traces of human history or presence. It was like living in a prehistoric landscape where bears, wolves, foxes, salmon, and dolly varden roamed freely. All I can say is that fly fishing destinations just don't get any better than this.



Wolf print



Bear print



Jimmy Flanigan (pilot), guides Stephen Mason, Don Mutert, Travis Pilling, Capt. Rus Schwausch, Frances Garza (chef) and Drew Griffith (lead guide)

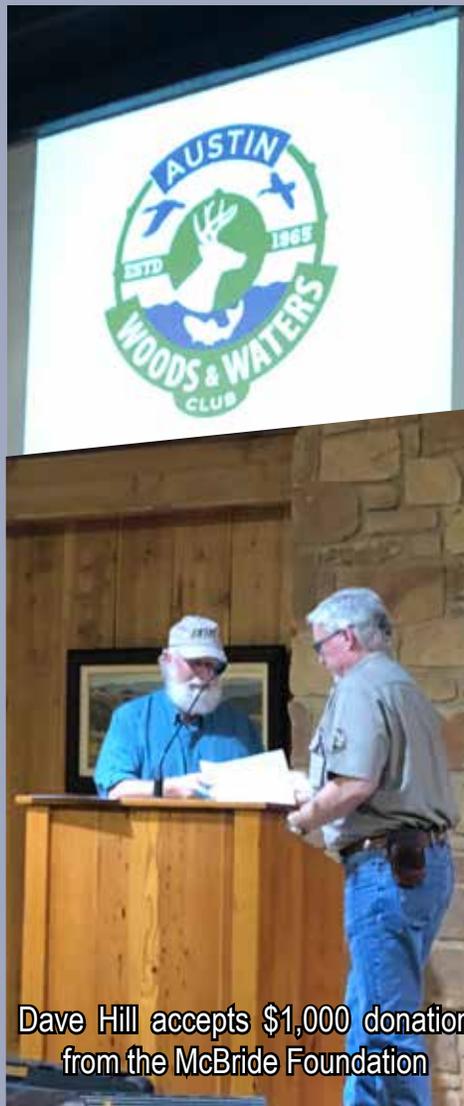
## SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

The sole trip on the books for this past month of October fell through on account of high winds on the afternoon of the after-school arrangements we had made for the Horal family of Harker Heights, so, we didn't have any fishing trips this past month, which has been the norm for Octobers past as weather cools and kids get entrenched in school-related sports and activities.

Knowing the months of October through February can be slow in the guiding business, I keep a "rainy day list" of things that need doing when I can't be on the water.

Fundraising is always on that list. To that end, I'm happy to report that the McBride Foundation once again came through in a big way this year, granting S.K.I.F.F. a generous donation in response to the grant application we (Dave Hill, Shawn Riggs, Manuel Pena and I) completed back in August. Dave Hill and a date were on hand at an awards dinner at the Texas Disposal Systems facility in Creedmor, TX, on October 24th to receive the check on behalf of the S.K.I.F.F. program.

Also on that "rainy day list" is networking with others who assist military families. In that vein, I coordinated a meeting with the manager of the local Operation Phantom Support storefront in Killeen. He agreed to allow me to place a "pull up banner" and brochures in the same area where, twice weekly, he operates a food pantry to assist military families (especially lower enlisted ranked military from the rank of private to specialist). Getting the word out about S.K.I.F.F. without paying for advertising is necessary due to the transient nature of the families we serve.



Dave Hill accepts \$1,000 donation from the McBride Foundation

I also participated in a conference call with Jenna McDonald of the Hope for the Warriors organization, based in California. They desire to expand the services they offer to active duty personnel and veterans in Texas by focusing on family-friendly events to help get families in the outdoors and develop friendships with others with like interests.

Finally, getting gear back in good shape after a busy season of use, and making ready for the next season to come is also on that rainy day list. We replaced our S.K.I.F.F. kids' lifejackets with new Onyx brand equipment purchased through Academy Sports + Outdoors in October.

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Thank you for your support! Whether you've donated, fundraised, provided us with a discount, referred kids, pulled strings to help us out, or sent notes of encouragement, all of these things are very appreciated.

It is wonderful to know before a phone conversation even begins with a military parent, that, before I hang up, my answer to them will be, "Yes, we can absolutely take your child out fishing while your spouse is away."

# AFF Outings and Events by David Bush

## Dec 7, 1-5 pm The 3rd Annual Mason County WinterFisch Celebration -

WinterFisch is a fun family rainbow trout fishing opportunity that happens at the James River Crossing (Hwy 2389). The kickoff event, WinterFisch Celebration will happen on December 7th from 1-5 pm at the crossing. WinterFisch is designed to provide a fun and affordable family activity, promote the sport of fishing and the amazing Llano River, and to draw visitors to Mason County, all during the winter months when things are slower. The last two years have proven to be very popular.

Admission is free.

Location: James River Crossing / Highway 2389, 8 miles south of the town of Mason. Mason has plenty of lodging and some camping. At the crossing is Dos Rios RV Park & Campground that has RV spots, camping, and cabins.

Prizes: We have some fish tagged upon release that can be redeemed for a variety of fishing and outdoor oriented prizes valued from \$10-20. Grand Prize will be a Temple Fork Fly Fishing Rod and Reel Combo donated by Chris Johnson/Living Waters Fly Fishing.

## December 19 AFF Holiday Party at Rudy's BBQ on North Lamar

Our Mark your calendar for this year's AFF Holiday Party to be held Thursday, December 19. We'll be returning to Rudy's BBQ at 3914 N. Lamar Blvd. because the Rudy's crew did a fantastic job hosting last year's party while providing a tasty BBQ buffet dinner in their private Crockett Dining Room.

The Holiday Party is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends or meet some new ones if you're a more recent club member. We will also be holding our annual fundraising auctions which will give you the chance to pick up some great fly fishing gear for yourself or Christmas presents with the proceeds going to support Casting for Recovery\*.

Tickets for the party will go on sale around December 1 and will need to be purchased in advance so we have an accurate headcount to order food for dinner. Watch your email inbox for ticket information and be sure to purchase before the deadline. We're anticipating another big party and hope to see y'all there!

\* Casting for Recovery (CfR) provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer, at no cost to the participants. CfR's retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature. The retreats are open to women with breast cancer of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery. For over 20 years, women from all walks of life have benefitted from CfR's inspiring program model.



Participants in 2018 WinterFisch



# 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 Rodriguez** – <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

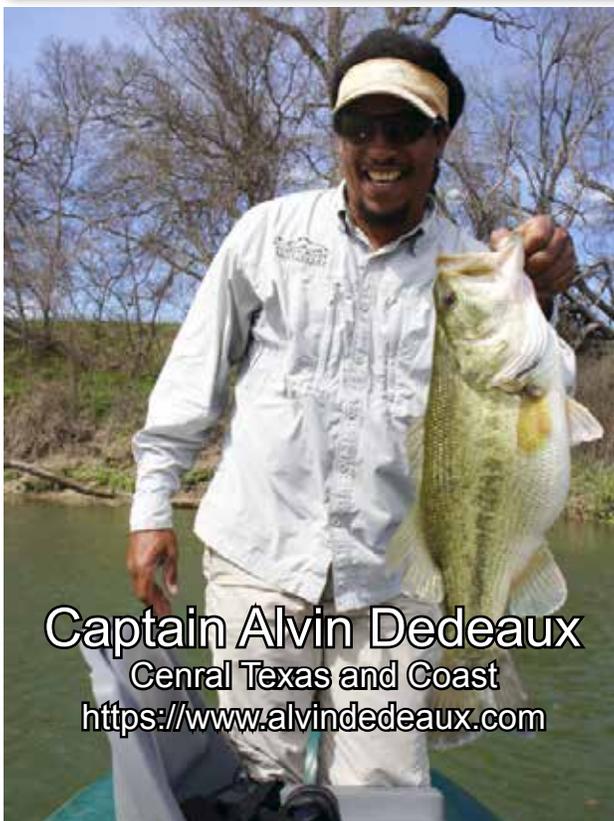
**Nick Streit** – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

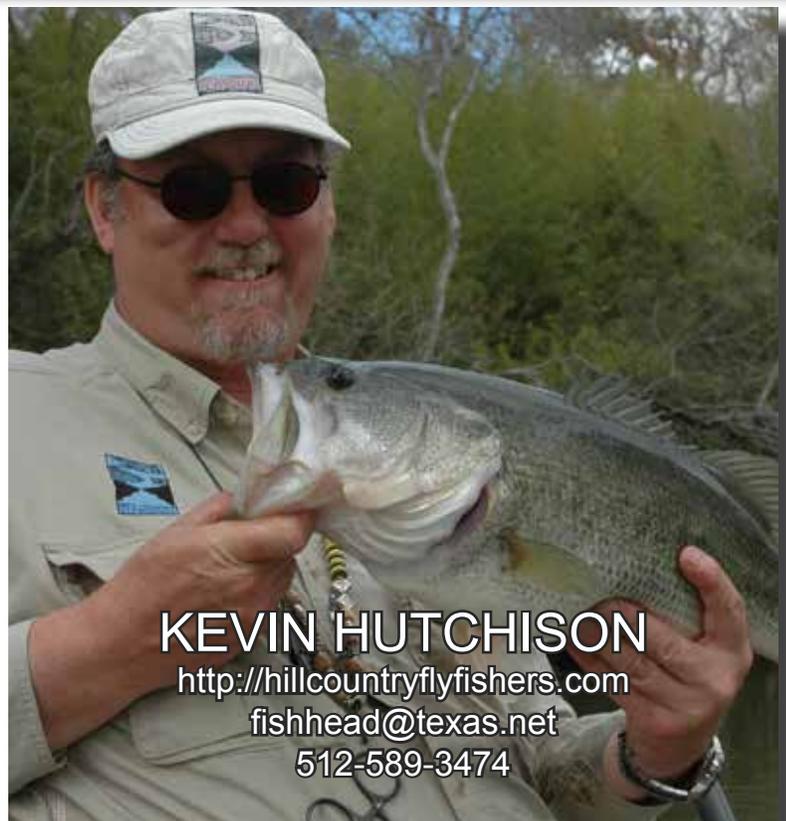
Lower Laguna Madre

**Pat Vanek** – [BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com](mailto:BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com) Rivers of Central TX

**Capt. Alvin Dedeaux** – <https://www.alvindedeaux.com> Central Texas and Texas Coast



**Captain Alvin Dedeaux**  
Central Texas and Coast  
<https://www.alvindedeaux.com>



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**Captain Eric Glass**

South Padre Island, Texas  
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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

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### Kevin Stubbs

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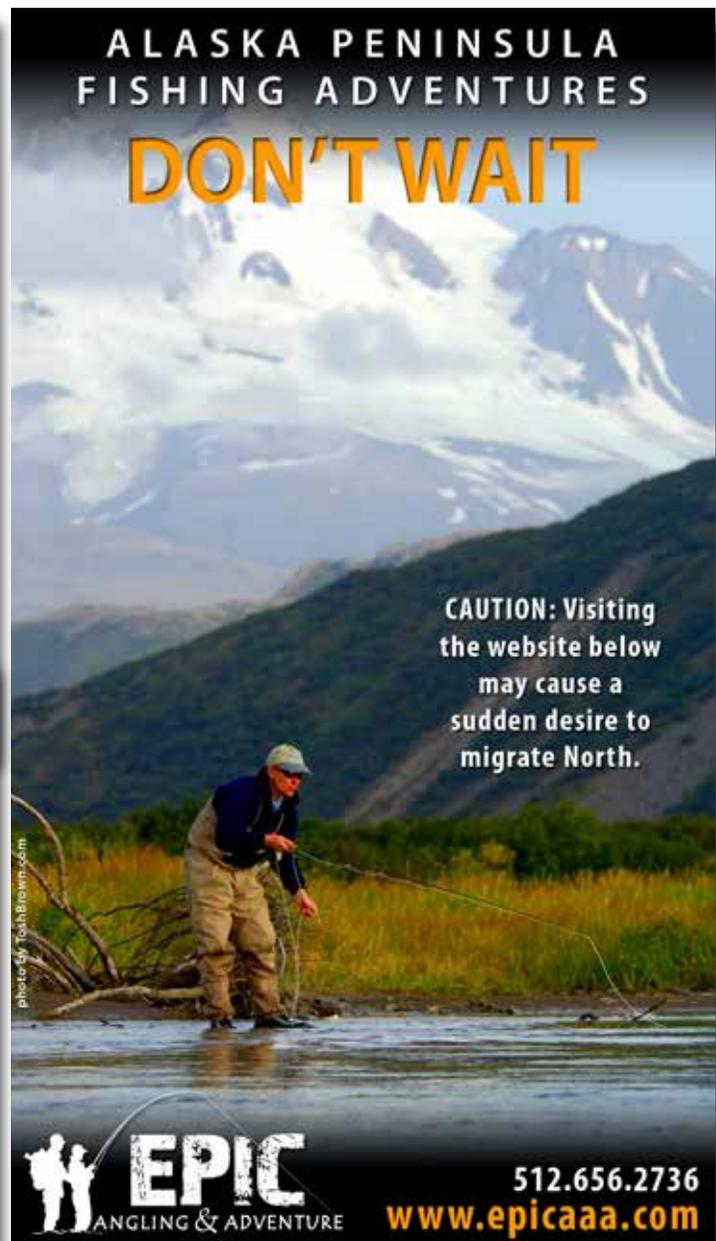
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