



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

September 2018
Volume 20, Issue 9



Nils Pearson with Black Drum
caught while wading
on the backside of
North Padre Island
Photo by Brandon Rabke

Club Meeting
Thursday, September 20
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying, Casting, and Social Hour
7:00 Austin Orr –Casting into the wind



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INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message **Shawn Riggs**

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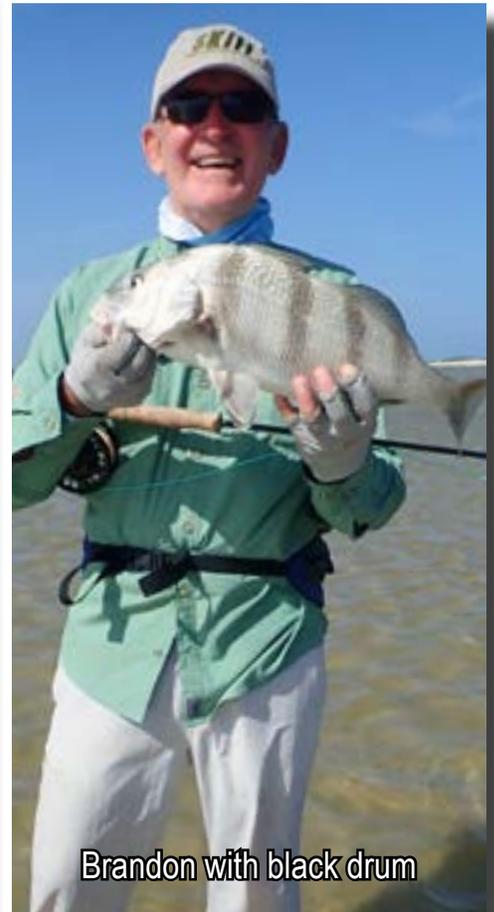
Jeff Hoelter

To contact officers:

Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

A few weekends ago, I went down to the coast with my family to celebrate my wife's birthday. I had the chance one morning to go fishing with my dad and I didn't let the opportunity pass me up. We stayed out until noon on my dad's boat with literally no breeze. The sun beating down on us and we only managed to land a few small speckled trout but I had a heck of a good time anyway. Just being able to spend the daybreak catching up on everything happening in our lives with no possibility of interruptions was great. I am lucky that my father only lives a couple of hours away from me and I see him fairly often –mostly at my kid's birthday parties/ball games/dance recitals and around the holidays. But those times are often hectic and rushed and it feels like we barely speak more than a few words to one another. So being able to have him to myself and fish with him when he is in his element is a truly wonderful experience. I cherish these angling trips and often recall the countless trips I took with him as a young boy and all the memories we created and the life lessons he handed down without me really realizing it. Even as we pulled back into the dock and trailered his boat to head home I was already looking forward to my next Hemingway trip with just me and my old man and the sea where we can catch up on current happenings, maybe even learn a new lesson in life and hopefully catch a few fish in the process.

Well we are finally getting the cleansing rain we so desperately missed during those long, hot summer months and soon the temperature will cool down enough where we can all spend more time outdoors. To me the Fall season means hiking a wooded trail near our home and witnessing the changing foliage, loading up my shotgun and bird dog for some early morning wing shooting or partaking in my favorite angling hobby at a local fishing hole. Take advantage of this time of year and go out and create some lasting memories with those close to you.



Brandon with black drum

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

8/1/2018 - 8/31/2018

Begin Bal. Checking \$12,906.30

Income:

Merchandise	\$127.52
SKIFF	\$140.00
Dues AFF FFI	\$43.71
Total Income	\$311.23

Disbursements:

Austin Orr	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$150.00

Net \$161.23

Unencumbered: \$6,117.81

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$6,949.72

Ending Bal-Checking \$13,067.53

September Presentation by Austin Orr



Austin Orr was given a fiberglass Shakespeare Wonderrod at the age of 9 and never looked back. After arriving in the Corpus Christi area in 2008, he spent a decade exploring and fishing all the flats, beaches, jetties and nearshore rigs that he could walk, paddle or motor to. Austin is a founding member of the Corpus Christi Fly Fishers, TPWD Angler Educator, ACA certified kayak paddling instructor, blogger and freelance writer whose work has been featured in Arkansas Wild, Carp Pro Magazine and others. In 2010 he earned his Fly Casting Instructor certification from Fly Fishers International. In his day job, Austin works with TPWD Fisheries Management, helping assure there are fish and beautiful places to catch them for generations to come. Austin and his wife Amethyst have recently arrived back in Cedar Park, and look forward to settling back into the vibrant fly fishing community in the Austin area.

Casting in the wind of one of the most infamous challenges fly fishers face when they head to the coast. The double haul is an important weapon in the casting arsenal, but it's not the only option to consider. Austin will discuss how technique and preparation can help your confidence the next time you're fishing in breezy conditions.

Hooking up Black Drum on the Flats

by Nils Pearson

Often, while wading the flats in search of redfish, you will come across schools of tailing black drum. I don't know about you, but over the years I have had great difficulty hooking up this prey. Probably a big part of my problem has been that I have fished for black drum the same way I go after redfish. Get the fly close to the fish, let it sink, and start stripping. I kept thinking that if I could find the right fly, I would have great success with these elusive fish. But, however many different flies I have tried, this technique has never paid off. It is only recently that I had the opportunity to spend time focused on catching these boys that I have finally determined a strategy that works.

On a recent trip to Padre Island National Seashore, Brandon and I hiked between the dunes to a washed-out road that took us to the bay. Once we arrived, the first flat we came to had cloudy water with dark shapes moving about slowly. Upon closer inspection, we had come across black drum in calf-deep water. As we slow-



Brandon hiking to the flats

Black Drum cont.

ly waded toward the dirty water, we could make out dark silhouettes moving toward us as they plowed the bottom. After a number of casts and typical redfish retrieves, I tried something different. I cast my crab fly just in front of the drum. About the time I thought the drum had come to the fly, I slightly twitched the crab. Bang, the black drum took my fly and was hooked up. Every time we came across black drum that day, I repeated this technique and had great success.

What I have come to understand is that unlike redfish, black drum don't seem to look around for a meal. They don't visually key in on movement. These bottom feeders just keep their heads stuck in the mud feeling around for a meal. As you have no doubt seen, this rooting action sends sediment flying in all directions clouding up the water. Because of this poor visibility, these fish don't look -they feel. This bottom dredging action is very helpful to the fly fisher because it allows you to make many casts without spooking the fish. On this trip, I found that to hook up a black drum you need to place your fly on the bottom directly in the drum's path. Once you have your fly properly placed, twitch your fly ever so slightly when you think the drum is on the fly. I think it is the movement of the fly as it rubs across the black drum's whiskers under its chin that stimulates the strike. Once the fly is sucked up, the fight is on.



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



From the left: Dakottah, Makayla, and Makenzie, and little brother Gavin who was decidedly NOT in favor of touching the fish he caught!

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

This morning, I fished the 2018 season's 9th SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) program trip provided free of charge to the Cruz family of Fort Hood. Mrs. Katy Cruz, originally from Illinois, accompanied her four kids on this morning's excursion, including Dakottah (age 14), Makenzie (age 12), Makayla (age 10), and Gavin (age 6).

Staff Sergeant Jose Cruz, originally from Puerto Rico, has been in the U.S. Army for 12 years now. He has been deployed approximately 3 months on an overseas deployment which is forecast to last approximately 9 months. SSG Cruz is a medic and is currently involved in training with NATO partners.

We broke this morning's trip down into two distinct parts. First, we nailed

down some basics up in shallow water by fishing for sunfish with slipfloats and live bait in under 4 feet of water, landing bluegill, green, longear, and redear sunfish. For part two, we headed out into deeper, clearer water in search of white bass.

Fortunately, the fish were in a feeding mood this morning to the point of driving bait to the surface, making them able to be spotted with the optics I have onboard. Once we got near the commotion, I verified the exact location of the fish and bait using sonar and we sealed the deal with the pair of Cannon downriggers rigged up with 3-armed umbrella rigs and Pet Spoons. After making a few runs at the fish with the downriggers and connecting each time, and to

provide some variety for my young clients, we identified an area with a particularly heavy concentration of white bass holding near bottom and used the Minn Kota trolling motor's Spot Lock function to establish a hover over these fish through the i-Pilot Link system which allows the Humminbird sonar (which I use primarily for side imaging) to be used as a remote control for the trolling motor.

Once we were hovering, I equipped the kids each with a spinning outfit and showed them how to work tail-spinners vertically through the fish. When the novelty of that tactic wore off, we did one more round of downrigging and then called it a morning before the temps hit the 90's. In all, we landed 80 fish including 54 sunfish and 26 white bass.

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Mike Morphew

Squirrel Nymph

One of my go to nymphs when fishing for trout, but this versatile fly will also attract bluegill and has caught bass in larger sizes. Just what I like in a fly.....easy to tie with few materials and highly successful.

Materials

Hook long shank wet hook from 18 through to 8
Thread olive any make will do
Rib gold oval tinsel
Tail squirrel fibers
Body dubbed squirrel fibers mixed with a little SLF olive
Wing case Pheasant tail
Thorax same as body

Picture 1: Run a base of thread from the eye to the bend



Pictures 4: Take about 10 fibers from a pheasant tail and tie in by the butts



Picture 2: Catch in a small bunch of squirrel fibers and a length of oval gold tinsel



Pictures 5: Dub a fairly thick thorax and pull the pheasant fibers over the top and tie off



Pictures 3: Pinch out some squirrel fibers and mix with some olive SLF and dub a body to 1/3 from the eye and rib with even turns of tinsel



Pictures 6: Whip finish and with a Velcro brush tease out some fibers from the thorax to produce a leggy effect.





Doug Kierklewski with striper caught off Montauk Point, Long Island, NY



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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

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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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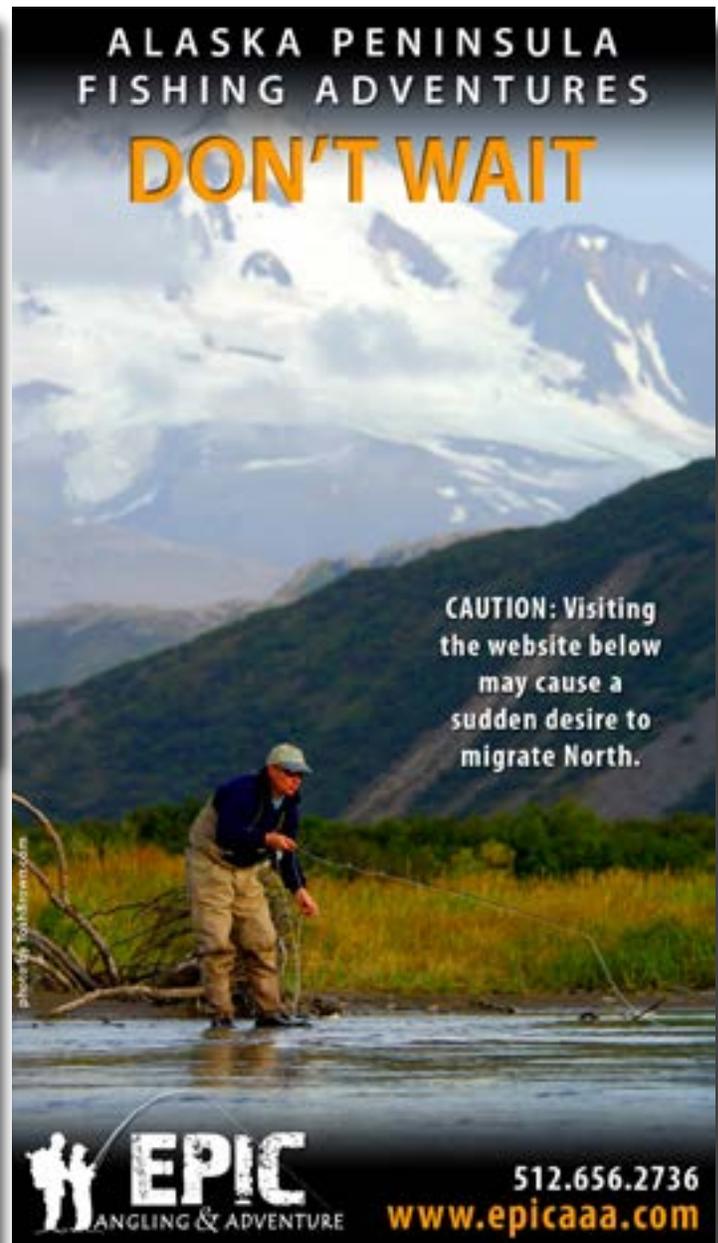
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