



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

March 2020
Volume 22, Issue 3



Charles Cresswell with white bass
caught on the Nueces River



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by David Bush

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Social distancing is the instruction of the day and it seems that plenty of folks are having difficulty coping with that reality. However, for us fly fishers, in one respect social distancing is music to our ears. Seriously, how often do the President of the United States and every other authority figure in our lives tell us, in essence, to go fishing for the good of the country and to save lives? I doubt any of us saw that coming, but I'm confident we'll all willingly comply when called to action.

Fly fishing may very well be one of society's most effective stress and anxiety reducing activities available, and there's little doubt the world needs more of that medicine at the moment. Who knew so many people would be at the end of their ropes trying to score a package of toilet paper or a bottle of hand sanitizer? Not to mention the gyrations of the financial markets and potential job insecurity. I can't think of a better time than now to invite folks who need some time away from the current amped-up stresses of life to discover the escape that is fly fishing. Fresh air, a cool stream, and the mental focus required to repeatedly cast a well-tied fly into the strike zone of a willing fish will do wonders to clear one's mind.

I'm currently reading a book entitled *What a Fish Knows: The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins*. It's a very interesting read that covers most if not all aspects of how fish think, feel, and behave from a scientific evidence-based perspective. One fascinating topic involves the behavior of a large school of fish. We've all seen it, a school of fish is swimming along when one of them detects a predator and suddenly changes course. Without thought or hesitation, the entire school reacts in unison as though it was a single organism. I've always found that behavior to be fascinating, and can't help but accept that we are cousins to the fishes when I see the crowd psychology in action at our local stores. What I want to know is who was the first

person to boast about their year's supply of toilet paper on social media?

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic is serious, and we all need to heed the recommendations that continue to flow from the CDC and other agencies. I trust that we will all eventually be back to normal, but in the meantime please exercise best practices to avoid contracting the virus yourself or passing it along to those around you. To that end, we will not hold our regularly scheduled club meeting in March and will continue to monitor conditions with regard to future meetings. We will, however, continue to hold outings such as this Saturday's trip to Reimer's Ranch for white bass fishing for those who would like to attend. I'm sure it goes without saying, but please practice social distancing during these outings for the health and well-being of everyone who chooses to participate.

Aside from the health risks posed by the pandemic, I feel terrible for the small businesses impacted by the effects of social distancing. I fear that many of them will not survive if we don't help them through this difficult time so please do whatever you are comfortable with to continue to give them your business. Whether it's making an online purchase, calling to place an order over the phone, or stopping by your favorite restaurants to get takeout for dinner, please lend a helping hand to these neighbors so they can continue to be there for us down the road.

One final request: long-time AFF club member and friend of many, Steven Turner, was recently diagnosed with leukemia and has undergone a round of chemotherapy. Please keep Steven and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he battles his way through this challenge. If you like, you can send a message to Steven at <https://posthope.org/mmmmmi-rather-be-fishing>. I'm sure he'd enjoy hearing from you. Thanks!

White Bass on the Nueces River



Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

2/1/2020 to 2/29/2020

Begin Bal. Checking \$18,458.02

Income:

Merchandise	\$45.00
Square	\$23.97
Square	<u>\$23.97</u>
Total Income	\$92.94

Disbursements:

Refershments	<u>\$32.14</u>
Total Disbursements	\$32.14

Net \$60.80

Unencumbered: \$10,647.47

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery \$2,365.52

SKIFF \$5,505.83

Ending Bal-Checking **\$18,518.82**

Troutfest by Juan Shepperd

The February Austin Fly Fishing 'unofficial' Outing was an 3-day weekend on the Guadalupe River. Hosted by Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited, Troutfest Texas 2020, took place from 2/21/20 – 2/23/20 at Lazy L&L in Gruene, TX. It is a yearly event. If you've never been, I recommend it. Fantastic weekend!

I fished the Guadalupe River on Friday. There were lots of fisherman and, fortunately, from what I could see, a lot more fish. One angler near me must've caught 6 – 7 fish in an hour. I caught one. I fished with a buddy and we the most we caught was up on things – work, life, family, kids. It was a perfect day. Everyone who fished that day, it seemed, had a good time.

Tom Rosenbauer gave the keynote address Friday night. His passion for fishing is amazing. I approached him after his keynote and we chatted about some rivers out West and a Vermont lodge we both know before I asked him to sign one of the books he wrote that I own, The Orvis Fly Fishing Guide, 1984 edition. "Wow" he said, "that's an old one." Dana Williams got a picture with him. Tom's enthusiasm and optimism are refreshing.

Saturday and Sunday had fly shops, clubs, lodges and vendors. There was a fishing tank stocked with rainbow trout for kids to see and catch, thanks to Texas Parks and Wildlife and Cabelas. There were free casting lessons and great presentations all weekend. Several Austin Fly Fishers attended. I saw Dana, Carol Olewin, Stacy Lynn, Austin Orr, Jeff Hoelter, Matt Bennett, Jim Gray and Doug Kierklewski. I apologize if I missed anyone. Shout out too for some people who have presented to Austin Fly Fisherman recently, including Chris Jackson at the Action Angler, Alvin Dedeaux from All Water Guides, Matt Bennett from Fly Geek Custom Flies, Chris Johnson from Living Waters Fly Fishing and Pat Dorsey from Blue Quill Angler



Shop. Again, apologies if I missed anyone. Special Thank you to Austin Orr, for not laughing at my attempts to double-haul fly cast, and to Kirk Deeter, from Trout Unlimited, Field & Stream, and Angling Trade. You rock.

Scott Kerrigan is hosting our March 2020 outing to Reimer's Ranch in Dripping Springs. The Pedernales River, at this time of year, produces a great White Bass run.

I will host the April 2020 Colorado River float in Austin. Details in this newsletter.

Not too early to look at May, where we will have an 'unofficial' outing on May 1-3, 2020 where we are invited to join the Alamo Fly Fishers and Texas Women Fly Fishers on the Nueces River for the Bud Priddy Fly Fishing Event at Big Oak River Camp (830-597-5280) in Camp Wood, TX. Our Regular Outing that month will be at Lost Maples State Park to fish the Sabinal River and Frio River.

Hope to see you on the water.

Colorado River Outing –Saturday, April 18 by Juan Shepperd

Float and fly fish from Little Webberville Park to Big Webberville Park. This stretch of water is close to Austin, TX. From Austin, take MLK Road, drive East and it will turn into FM 969. Little Webberville Park (100 Water Street, Webberville, TX 78621) is located on the banks of the Colorado River in the town of Webberville, about 20 miles East of Austin.

There is free parking and a public boat ramp. Big Webberville (Both parks are free, have public boat ramps, are limited day use only (no camping), and both close at twilight. It is an easy 5 mile float between the 2 parks. The Colorado River flows downriver, from Little Webberville Park to Big Webberville Park, and there are no major rapids or dams through this stretch. You may go as fast or slow as you wish. At this time of year, there should be some hungry bass, sunfish and catfish – so take your time and enjoy fishing. Bring plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen, cooler with food and drinks, first aid kit, insect repellent, camera, change of clothes & a lifejacket.

To Get Here: Drive East on FM 969 from Austin, TX

Put In: Little Webberville Park (GPS N30 13.772 w97 31.142) – No Water Available
100 Water Street, Webberville, TX 78621
6 acre Travis County Park - <https://parks.travis-countytx.gov/parks/little-webberville>

Take Out: Big Webberville Park (GPS N30 12.539 W 97 29.695) – phone 512-854-7275
2305 Park Lane, Elgin, TX 78621

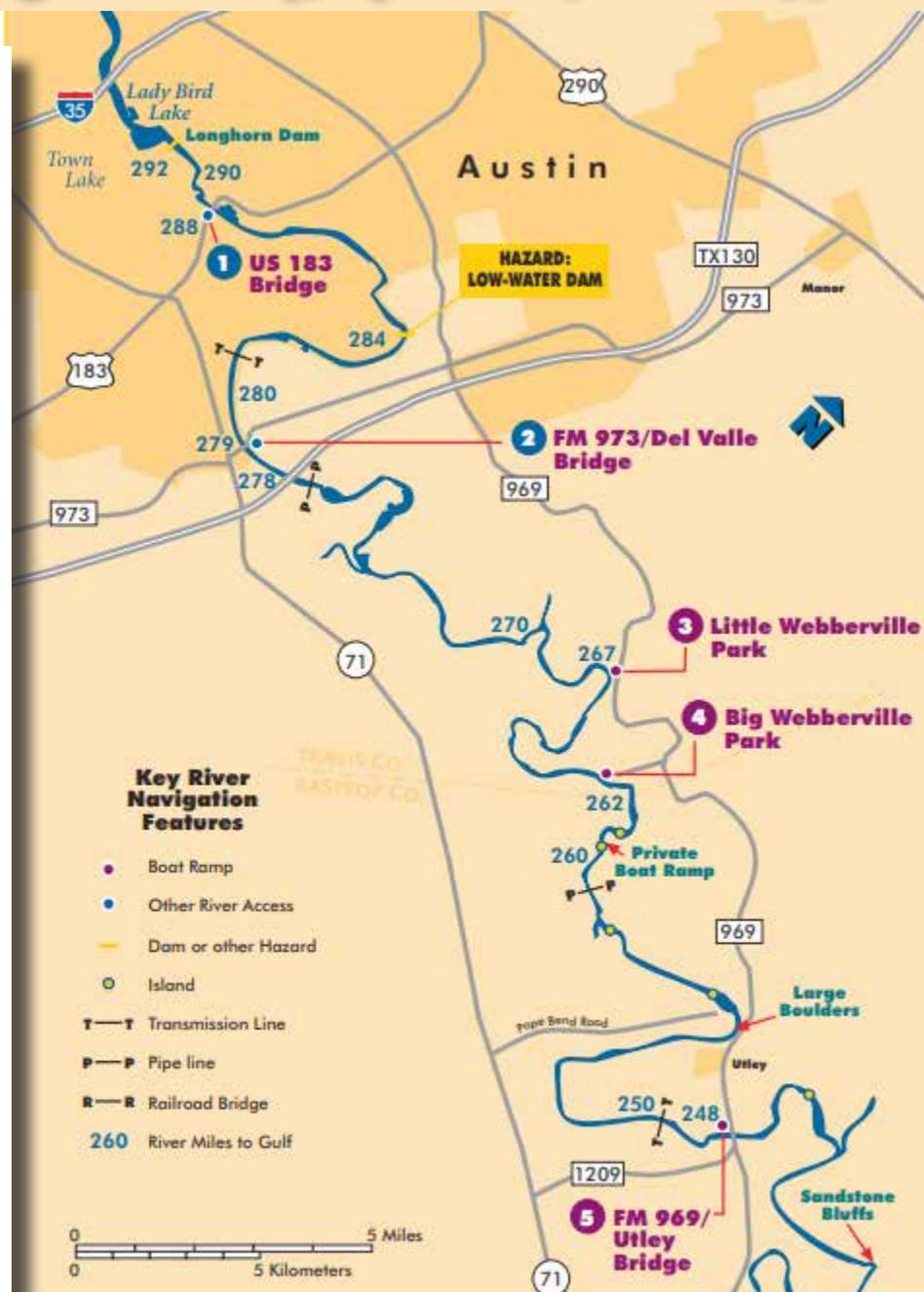
135 Acre Travis County Park with free parking, barbecue pits, and public restrooms <https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/parks/webberville>

Food: Pack a cooler. Lunch on your own on the River.

Safety: Colorado River flows in winter average 300-500 cubic feet per second (cfs). In Spring-Summer-Fall, 800-1500 cfs may be normal. It all depends on rainfall and what LCRA does to the Dams upriver. Find here <https://hydromet.lcra.org/>

Don't have a boat? Cook's Canoes (Neal Cook 512-276-7767) rents canoes & kayaks and runs shuttles. \$50 per day for tandem boat. \$35 per day for solo boat. \$20 shuttle. *Rental includes canoe or kayak boat, PFD (lifejacket), paddles and shuttle. Austin Canoe & Kayak 512-719-4386 <https://www.austinkayak.com/>

This is should be a relaxing float. There are a few islands where you can get out and wade fish, if you want. The land above the Riverbank is private. Please respect private property by not trespassing or littering. You must be a member of the Austin Fly Fisherman to join this outing.



AFF Outings by Juan Shepperd

Here is the AFF Outings Schedule:

March 21

Pedernales River (wade and float)
Milton Reimers Ranch
Reimers Ranch
Dripping Springs, TX

April 18

Colorado River (float)
Little Webberville Park to Big Webberville Park
<https://www.lcra.org/parks/Documents/2013-05-15-River-Users-Guide.pdf>
Austin, TX

May 1-3

Nueces River (wade and float)
unofficial outing - On Your Own
(I went last year and had a ball!)
Join Alamo Fly Fishers and Texas Women Fly Fishers
for Bud Priddy Fly Fishing at Big Oak River Park,
<https://www.visitvaldecountry.com/events/2017/2019-bud-priddy-any-fly-flyfishing-contest>
Camp Wood, TX

May 23-25

Frio River and Sabinal River (wade and float)
Frio River - Garner State Park
Sabinal River – Lost Maples Natural Area, Campground Reserved
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lost-maples>
Vanderpool, TX

June 19 – 22

Llano River (wade and/or 1 – 2 day float)
South Llano River State Park (sites reserved)
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/south-llano-river>
Junction, TX

June 20 – 21

Texas Coast w/Shawn Riggs

July 18

San Marcos River
**Need an Outing Coordinator
San Marcos, TX

August 22

Brushy Creek

September 19

TBD

October 16-18

Llano River
Oktoberfish (Hosted by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers)
Junction, TX

November TBD

San Marcos River | Potential White River, Arkansas

December TBD

Guadalupe River



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 Fishing the lower Colorado River

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

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

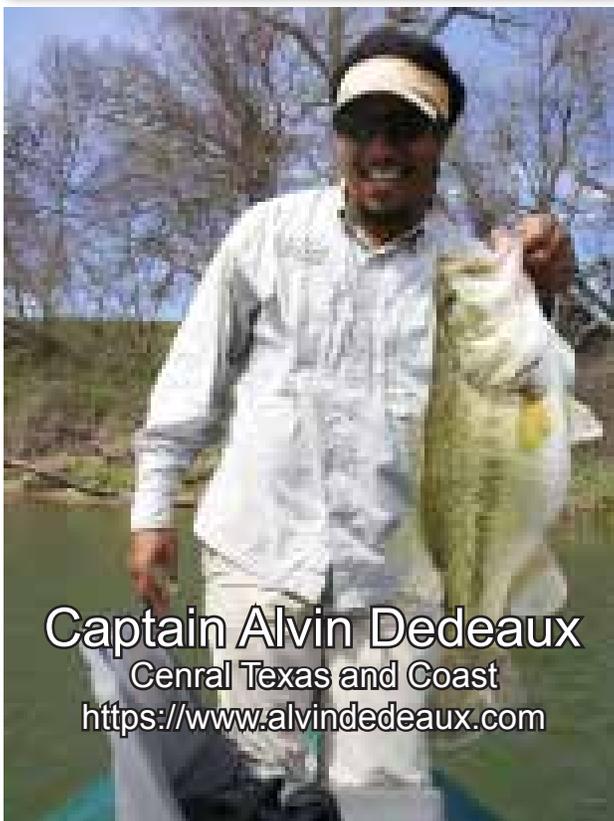
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

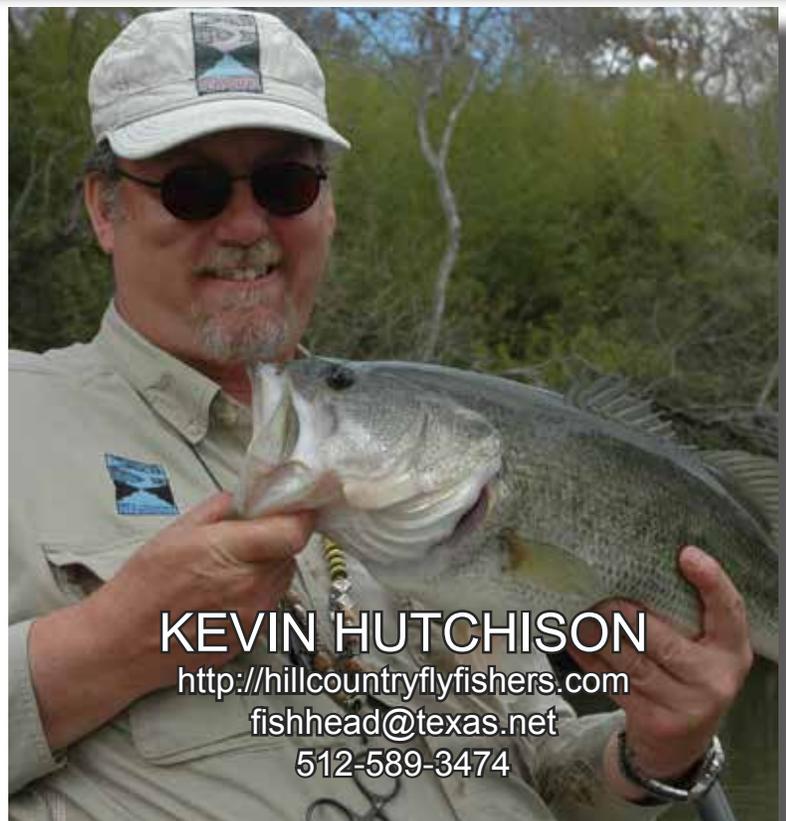
Lower Laguna Madre

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

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



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



KEVIN HUTCHISON
<http://hillcountryflyfishers.com>
fishhead@texas.net
512-589-3474

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Pat Vanek

TPWD Licensed Guide
254.744.6334

bosquevalleyflyfishing@gmail.com



Capt Randy and Truette Cawfield
956-371-3036

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/>
blueh20fly@aol.com



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Nick Streit

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



Capt. Fred Lynch

Fly Fish Corpus Christi

<http://www.flyfishcorpus.com/>
(361) 533-4227



Kevin Stubbs

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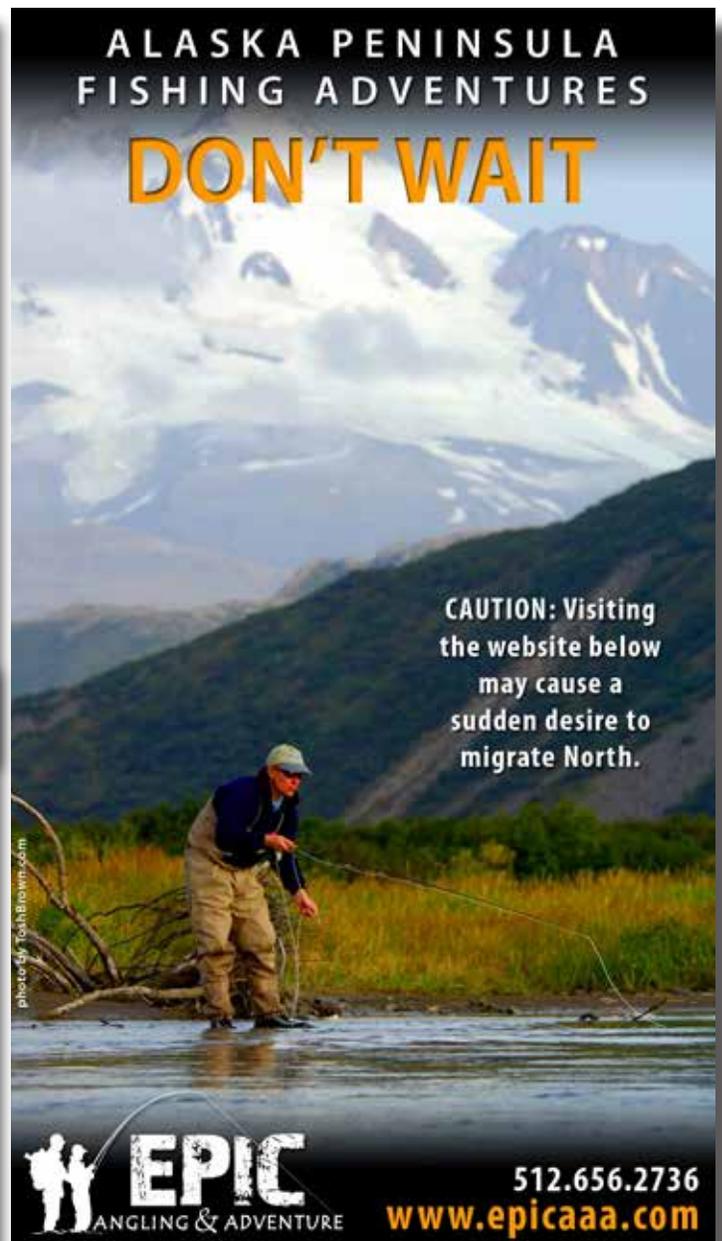
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