



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

January 2023
Volume 25 Issue I



Gary Heintschel on the
Guadalupe River

**Our AFF Meeting Thursday, January 19
at Northwest Recreation Center**

- 6 pm Premeeting Fellowship
- 7 pm Forrest Greene from No Bad Days Kayaks
will show new kayaks and accessories



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by Kathi Harris

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Happy New Year! We're already filling the AFF calendar with great speakers, events and outings to get everyone geared up and out there fishing.

For our January 19 meeting, the folks from No Bad Days Kayaks are hitting the road and bringing their kayaks to our Northwest Recreation Center meeting place. Come check out the latest offerings, quiz the experts, and find the kayak that's right for you.

In February, we'll hear from fishing guide Cassio Silva at our meeting and the following weekend we'll be at GRTU's Troutfest to reach out to potential new members.

In March, our speaker will be Aaron Reed, the always enlightening author of "Fly Fishing Austin and Central Texas". White bass season will then be upon us and we're hosting a white bass fishing outing at Colorado Bend State Park March 18-25. Members will be able to sign up for any days during that week you'd like to camp at our reserved group site. Things are shaping up well for fishing with Austin Fly Fishers in 2023! Hope to see you soon.

Happy Fishing,
Kathi

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

11/1/2022 to 11/30/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$25,039.60
Income:	
Total Income	\$00.00
Disbursements:	
Chris Johnson	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$150.00
Net	(\$150.00)
Unencumbered:	\$15,757.75
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$00.00
SKIFF	\$9,131.85
Ending Bal-Checking	\$24,889.60

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

12/1/2022 to 12/31/2022

Begin Bal. Checking	\$24,889.60
Income:	
McBrides (SKIFF)	\$1,150.00
Cash (CFR)	\$625.00
Paypal (Misc)	\$3,729.11
Square (Misc)	\$58.24
Square (Misc)	<u>\$399.04</u>
Total Income	\$5,961.39
Disbursements:	
Keith Mars	\$180.00
Rudy's	\$398.26
Maindella (SKIFF)	<u>\$3,731.00</u>
Total Disbursements	(\$4,309.26)
December Net Income	\$1,652.13
Ending Bal-Check book	\$26,541.73
Bank Balance	\$26,541.73
Difference	\$00.00
Unencumbered Balance :	\$18,947.46
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$1,043.42
SKIFF	\$6,550.85

January Speaker

Forrest Greene – No Bad Days Kayak company

Forrest Greene, owner of No Bad Days Kayaks and another staff member who's more knowledgeable about fly fishing will be bringing kayaks and accessories from the shop to the Northwest Rec Center. Please come and check out their latest offerings, quiz the experts, and find the kayak that is right for you.

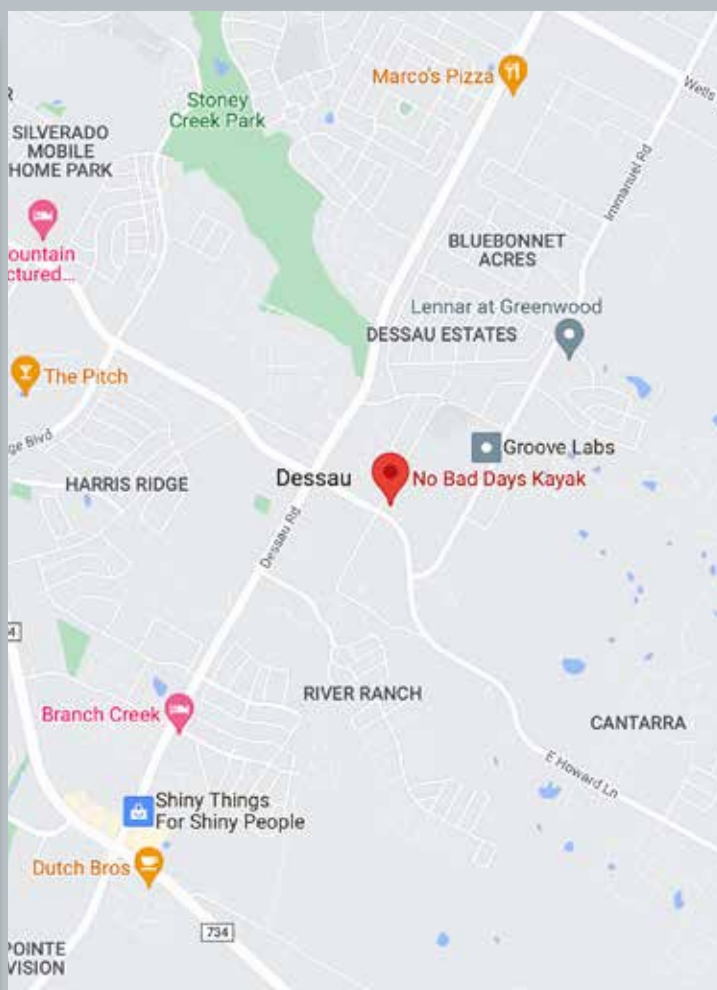
Never a Bad Day to get out on the water.

Austin and the surrounding Central Texas area offers a variety of waterways to explore. As we grow, our goal is to offer an expanding variety of products, rentals, and expertise for all those who share the passion of exploring all Texas has to offer. For our customers outside of Austin, we ship all products nation wide. Our unique approach to shipping kayaks ensures you get your new kayak quickly with no damage.

Who We Are

Our team comes from a variety of backgrounds, but we all share one thing in common - a passion for the outdoors. Our team has fished, kayaked and floated 40 of the 50 states, has been a part of premier fishing kayak teams, and has regularly spent 100+ days a year out doors. Centrally located in Austin Texas, call or stop by and let the experts at No Bad Days Kayak get you in the boat and set up of your dreams!

We started No Bad Days not to be a job, but to be an experience. "Do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life." Store. Our physical store is located in Pflugerville at 1900 East Howard Lane, Suite F1. Most items offered on the website are available in the store.



Guadalupe River Fishing Report

by Kathi Harris

From mid to late December, Gary and I spent 5 days fishing the Guadalupe River for trout. Due to ongoing dam repairs, the river flow has varied from nothing, to extraordinarily low (about 65 cfm), to about 130 cfm, following the periods of complete shutdown. Local fly fishers were nervous about these projected conditions, worried we would have a poor trout fishing season.

I'm happy to report our fears were unfounded. This has turned out to be one of the best trout seasons we've experienced on the Guadalupe. The remoulade icing on the fish cake is that the most productive flies have been streamers. Yea! No split shot-laden, tangle-prone, teeny flies tied in invisible tippet with microscopic knots required! Of course, you can successfully use a nymph rig, if you insist. One guy we fished next to at the Cliff View Condos GRTU site was using a single fly, a small orange egg and doing quite well, thank you very much. Zebra midges also worked for us a few times.

The best streamers we used were root beer Anderson Slayers and black or brown wooly buggers with cone or bead heads. We heard leech patterns were also working well. While weighted flies were finding the most fish in large deepish holes, we did see plenty of surface hits and I caught one or two on a small hopper, a Chubby Chernobyl.

If you don't have a GRTU lease pass you can access three of their stocked sites for \$10-\$15/day per site: Rio River Resort, Action Angler and Lazy L&L Campground. One silver lining to the low flow is that wading is much easier than usual, so you could potentially cover a lot of riverbed from these access points. Despite the low flows I still recommend using a wading staff because those rounded limestone ridges can be very slippery.

The river has been crowded, even mid-week, so just 'grin and share it' or wait for a bad weather day. Fishing from mid-afternoon until dark could also help avoid the crowd a bit. It's absolutely worth fishing the Guadalupe this season so just go when you can!



Conservation Report

by Keith Mars

Setting a Conservation Intention for 2023

In the spirit of the new year, it's time for reflection and setting intentions for 2023. If that rings true for you, perhaps this is the year you double down on your conservation ethic or maybe learn a new conservation skill. Intentions big and small can matter and they don't have to cost a thing. Perhaps this is the year you educate yourself about Keep Fish Wet to improve your fish handling skills. In a similar vein as Dry January, perhaps you take a Dry August on "grip and grin" pictures. Always wanted to get involved in the Guadalupe River chapter of Trout Unlimited or the Austin chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association? Maybe this is the year.

Are you a reader? Or, like me, wish you were more of one? I'll make a pact with you. Let's set an intention to read more books that stir the soul and also make you a more educated fly fisher and conservationist. For me, that's re-reading Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac and finding books on the history of America's public lands.

Are you a traveler? I'll make another deal with you. How about we turn out the Austin Fly Fisher membership at GRTU's Trout-fest! Do you have time and money to travel? How about you check out Backcountry Hunter and Backcountry Angler's 2023 Rendezvous or the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust 2023 Symposium.

Pinch your barbs. Handle fish with care. Pick up trash. It doesn't take time or money. Let's set an intention to be better stewards of our land and water in 2023. Who knows, maybe you'll catch more fish in the process.

Keith Mars
@conservationonthefly

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle



From Talk about beginner's luck!! Michael had never fished before, nor been on a boat before. During his 3.5-hour SKIFF trip, he landed (from left) a 19" hybrid striped bass, a 3.00 pound freshwater drum, a 2.875 pound largemouth bass, a 4.75 pound blue catfish, and a mess of nice white bass, all on the white, 5/8 oz. Bladed Hazy Eye Slab!

Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F.,

During the month of December 2022, SKIFF conducted the final trip of the 2022 season on Sunday, December 18th, treating 8-year-old Michael Gilman to a 3.5-hour fishing trip on Lake Belton.

Michael's dad, Michael Gilman Jr., is a U.S. Army Sergeant who served previously in the U.S. Marine Corps. In all, SGT Gilman has served for 11 years. He is currently deployed to Europe as part of a field artillery unit. The Gilman family is from South Georgia.

Mrs. Jessica Gilman, the homefront parent, towed her other three kids, all younger than Michael, with her to and from our meeting site in order to make this opportunity become a reality for her son. The Gilman's heard of SKIFF through Mrs. Denise Igo's Ft. Hood Area Events Facebook page.

I normally don't fish on Sundays, but, with cold and/or wet weather forecast for the week ahead, I wanted to fish with this young man while the water and the air were still warm. I suspected that if the incoming cold front panned out as forecast, we likely would not see water the temperature any higher than it would be prior to that front's arrival, until well into March.

I had my work cut out for me this particular afternoon with an 8-year-old who had never landed a fish before, nor been on a boat. Fortunately, Michael was very enthusiastic and willing to be coached in order to enjoy success.

We kept it simple by just working a white, 5/8 oz. Bladed Hazy Eye Slab vertically through fish we found both under birds and/or on sonar.

We enjoyed about an hours' worth of strong bird action. This allowed Michael to gain experience through repetition as he hooked (and also missed) fish. This also gave me an opportunity to point out small adjustments he could make in his technique to improve, one at a time. By the time the birds settled down, he was fishing very well and was then able to take on the tougher conditions we experienced as the fish became less aggressive as (obscured) sunset approached.

Michael and I fished side-by-side as we watched Garmin LiveScope and landed a total of 58 fish including 1 legal hybrid, 1 short hybrid, 2 drum, 2 largemouth bass, 1 blue catfish, and 51 white bass.

For those new to SKIFF, SKIFF is an acronym for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. It is a program now in its 13th year, sponsored by the Austin Fly Fishers, and supported by the McBride Foundation, the Sun City Rod and Gun Club, the Sun City chapter of Women Helping Others (WHO) and a number of supportive individuals, all of whom desire that kids separated from a parent by that parent's military duty, be given an opportunity to experience the outdoors through fishing during that time of separation, free of charge. The program also offers a time of respite for the home-front parents who may need a short break from single-parenting.

Thank you for your support!

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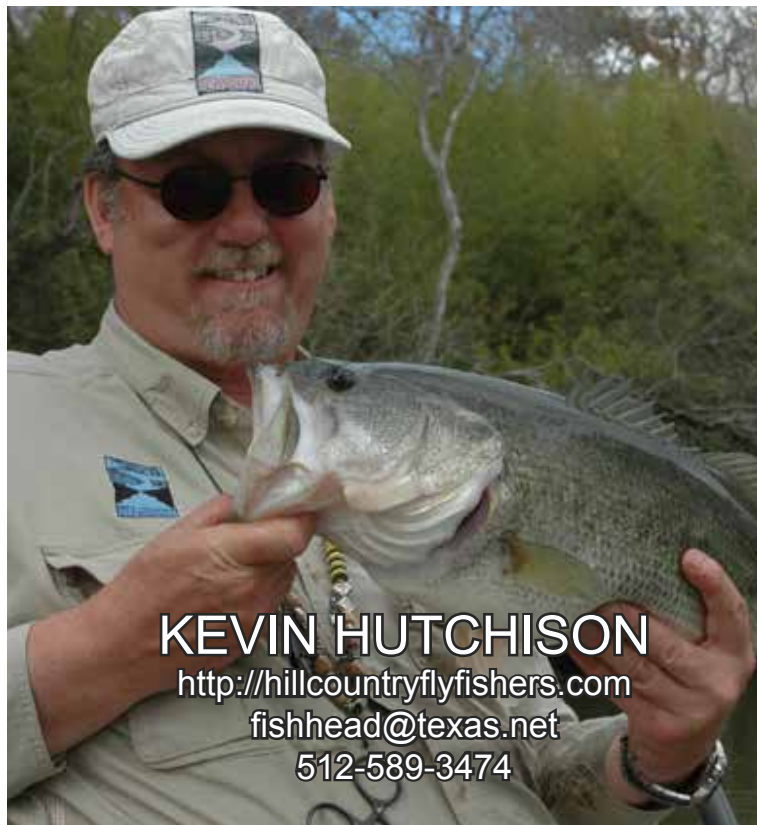
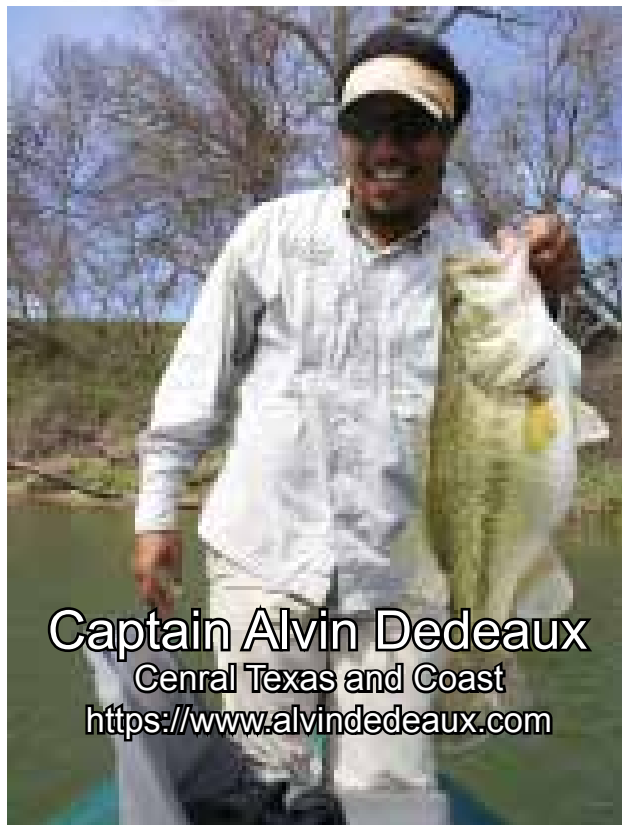
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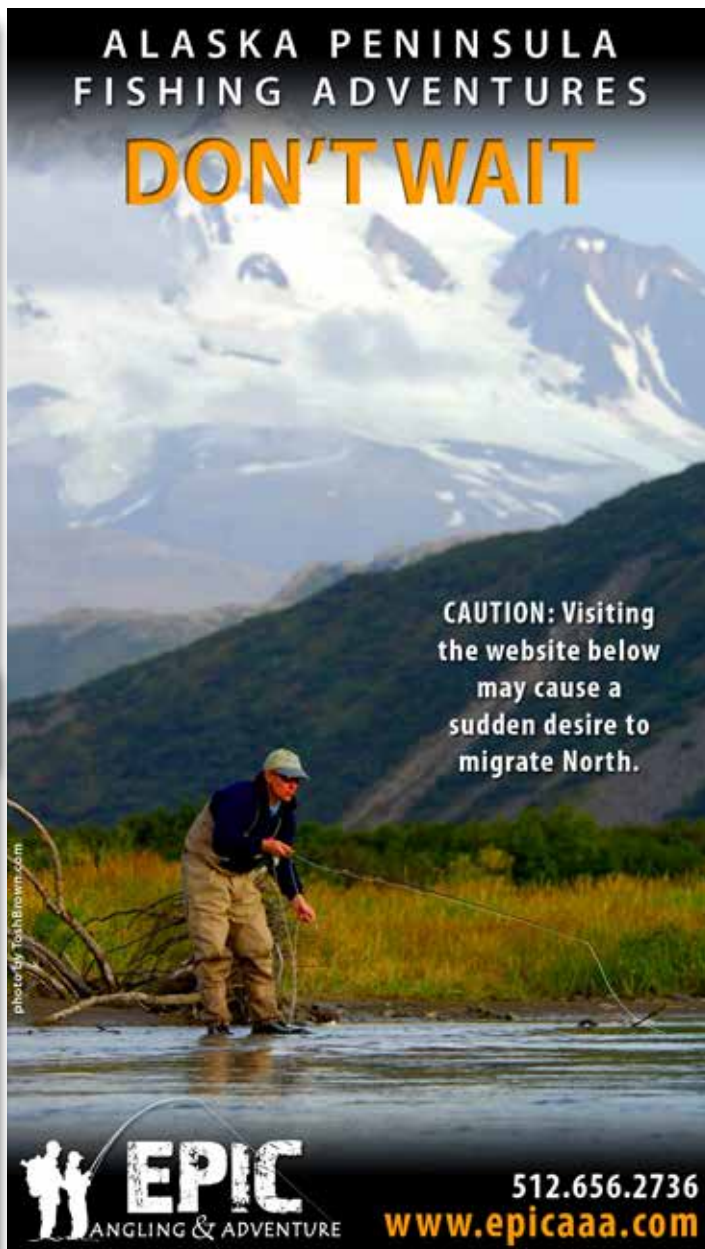
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