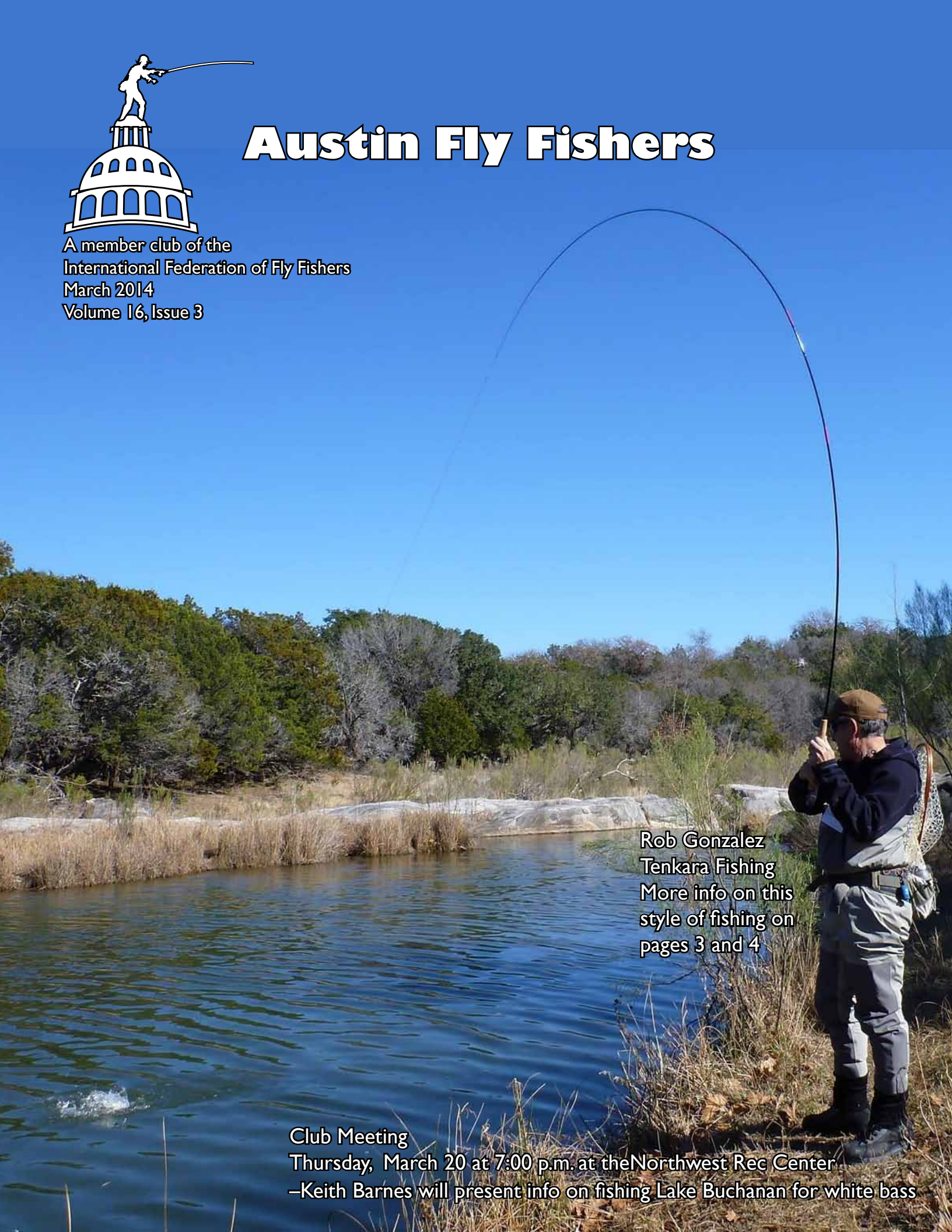


Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
March 2014
Volume 16, Issue 3



Rob Gonzalez
Tenkara Fishing
More info on this
style of fishing on
pages 3 and 4

Club Meeting
Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwest Rec Center
—Keith Barnes will present info on fishing Lake Buchanan for white bass

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President's Message

by Jim Gray

This month, I want to bring members up to speed on what we are doing on the conservation front. The board of directors has identified three projects that we think will benefit both the community and the club. The first is a clean up project on Brushy Creek. We will co-sponsor this event with the Living Waters Fly Shop, Brushy Creek MUD, San Gabriel Fly Fishers, Dallas Fly Fishers and Ft. Worth Fly Fishers. The IFFF Texas Council is also making a contribution towards the cost of the clean up. We will meet at the Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock on Saturday, March 29 between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. There will be a short briefing and the clean up will begin at 9:30AM and finish at 1PM. After the clean up, we will all meet back at the shop for a crawfish boil.

The second project we have planned is an aquatic vegetation planting on Brushy Creek lake. Texas Parks and Wildlife will supply the 300 plants, and the club will supply the manpower. We don't have a date yet, but as soon as we do, I'll let the membership know. If we get good results, we will try and do several more plantings.

For our third conservation project, we are interested in supporting an urban fishery improvement project on Lake Kyle, south of Austin. This would be primarily financial support for an aeration system and fish feeders. We see great potential for Lake Kyle to become a model for "catch and release" urban fisheries. This could also prove to be a valuable venue for teaching fly fishing basics to those just entering the sport. Currently, the lake is not "catch and release", but there is a proposal to change it's designation. The proposal is currently undergoing a public discussion phase, but TP&W is optimistic it will pass and go into effect in the September time-frame. Kyle will be the first fishery in Texas managed this way, but it could be a blue print for other urban waters that are heavily pressured.

We are still looking for a clean up project in South Austin. Ideally, we would like to put our efforts behind an existing clean up project, but if we can't find one, we will look for partners interested in getting something started. If you have any ideas, or would like to take the lead on getting something going, please

let me know.

Don't forget, we will not be having our regular club meeting in April. We are going to cancel the meeting so that our members can attend the Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Paramount Theater. Tickets are \$25 and are available through the Paramount Theater.



Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

2/1/2014 - 2/28/2014

Beginning Bal. Checking \$12,824.03

Income:

Dues (AFF&FF)	\$370.00
Auction - Flies	\$430.00
Merchandise	\$188.75
Total Income	\$988.75

Disbursements:

FFF	\$70.00
Jim Robinson – Reimb. Award	\$71.07
Jim Gray – Flyer/Bus.Card	\$154.25
Comb Enterprises – Speaker	\$200.00
Dave Hill – Meeting Refresh	\$469.88
Ed Parsons – Spk Meal/Outing	\$109.67
Total Disbursements	\$674.87

Net \$313.88

Ending Balance \$13,137.91

*Casting for Recovery Deposit	\$2335.41
SKIFF Total Donations	\$15,740.85
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$10,971.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$4,769.28

Tenkara Texas-Style

by Rob Gonzalez

Tenkara USA has donated their two new premier rod models (Rhodo and Sato) to the Austin Fly Fishers and has become our newest sponsor. If you are like most fly fishermen, you have probably never heard of tenkara fishing. If you haven't had experience with tenkara fishing, let me share with you what I have learned as I have been exploring this style of fishing.

Tenkara is a simple and effective style of fly fishing that has been practiced for centuries in Japan. This method of fly fishing was used by commercial fishermen and evolved on Japan's mountain streams. They had to create their rods, lines, and flies entirely from materials that were locally available. One can't help but respect these fishermen who had to rely on their skills to earn their livelihood with such simple fishing gear.

Tenkara came to the West about five years ago. Daniel Galhardo, founder of Tenkara USA, brought modern tenkara to us utilizing state of the art materials for the rod, line, and fly. Though the gear may have changed, the basics of tenkara fly fishing have not changed.

With only a fixed length of line attached to the top of telescoping rod (usually the length of the rod), three or four feet of tippet, and a fly – anglers are ready to hit the water. There are no guides on the rod and no reel is needed to hold line. One advantage of this technique is that it requires much less gear than traditional Western fly fishing.

Traditionally, Japanese Tenkara fishermen did not attempt to match the hatch with their flies. Each region typically selected the single most effective fly for their water and that's all they fished. That practice continues to this day for those who choose to follow that traditional one fly tenkara path. The tenkara flies, called kebari, are usually reversed (forward swept) soft hackled flies that provide much life-like movement when pulsed in the water.

Tenkara is not cane pole fishing or dapping, the rod is used to cast. Casting is ac-

complished with the elbow relaxed at your side and your index finger on top of the rod handle (instead of your thumb). The rod is moved in a short 10 to 12 casting motion rather than the more dynamic 10 to 2 Western style cast. These short-stroke casting movements save the angler energy yet still provide pinpoint accurate casts with no mending required for perfect drifts.

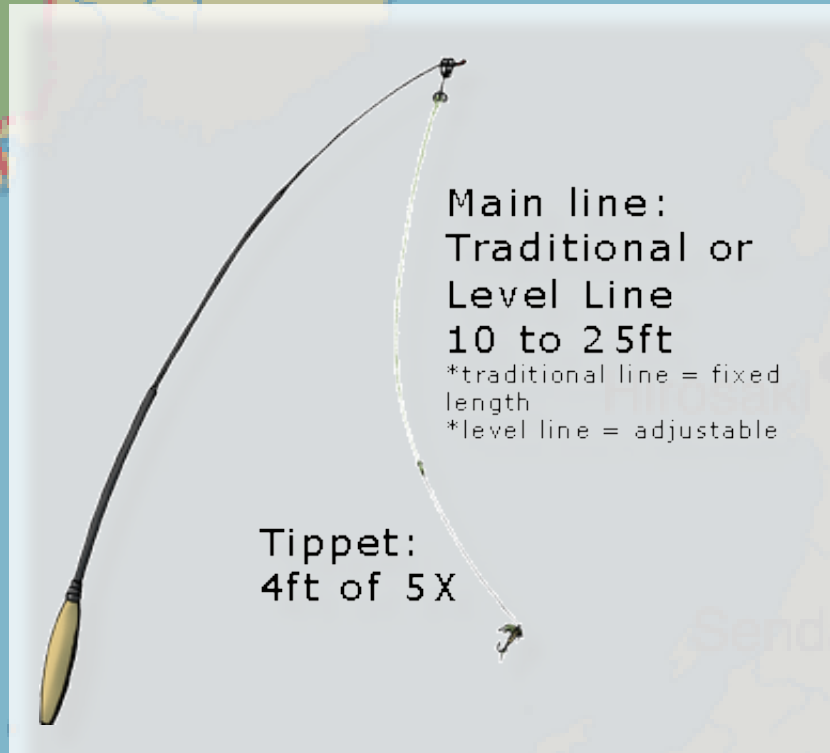
Tenkara fishing requires some adapting to accommodate the conditions commonly found on the waters of Central Texas. That is, we don't have the flowing mountain streams where this fly fishing method was developed. Instead, we'll be trying to adapt it to more still water situations.

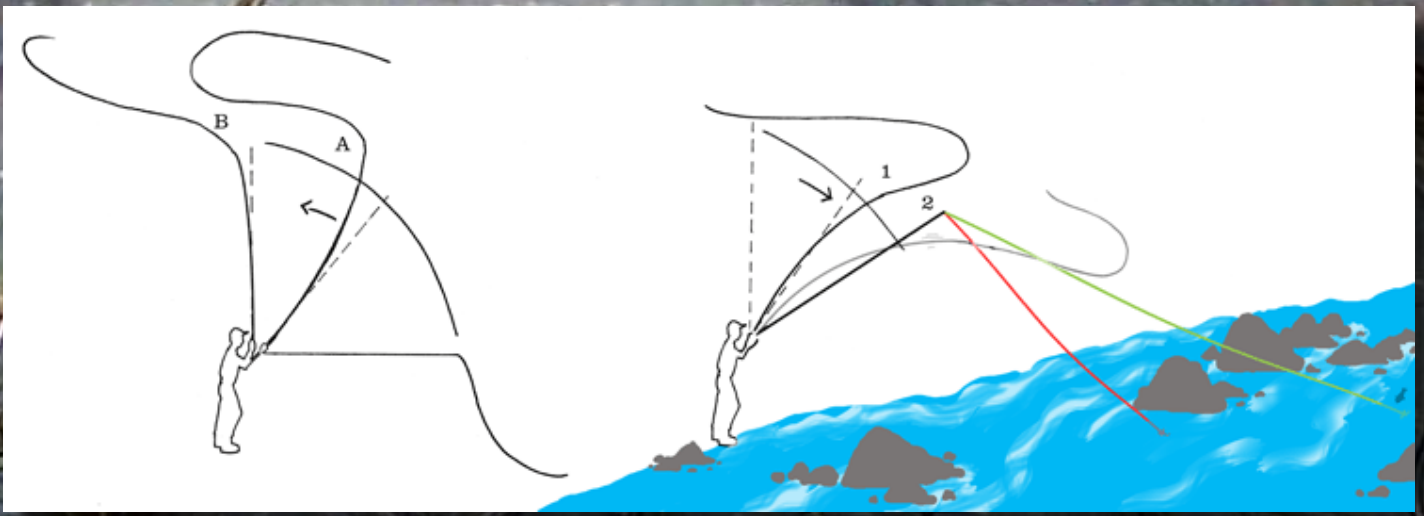
As long as some consideration is given to your fly selection for size and weight, any of your Western flies can still be used. Small poppers and skating dries are very effective on our waters as are various lightly weighted small streamers. This doesn't mean you can't also throw a traditional Japanese kebari here. Kebari offer great movement, are easy to tie, and fun

to experiment with using different materials and colors. It also doesn't mean that you should limit the fish you target. You will be surprised what size fish these rods can handle – especially the Yamame and Amago models.

The Tenkara USA Rhodo and Sato rods that were donated to the club are indeed game changer rods in the quickly emerging tenkara market. Not only are they very strong and light weight (2.1 oz and 2.6 oz), they also have a triple zoom feature that allows each rod to be adjusted to three different lengths while fishing. Segments near the handle easily slide in or out to stop points so that the rods can be customized while fishing. The Rhodo ranges in size from 8'10", 9'9", 10'6" and the Sato from 10'8", 11'10", 12'9". Yet both telescopic rods collapse for easy transport to just 21" and 22-3/4".

I will be coordinating a loaner program for the donated rods and I look forward to helping introduce tenkara to the Austin Fly Fishers. There will be a signup sheet at





each club meeting (or email me at rgnzlz1955@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list). Members of the club will be able to check out a rod and line for a two-week period. After your checkout period, contact me (my info is taped to the rod tube) and we will arrange the exchange if it doesn't fall on the next club meeting. At checkout, I will give each person a short review of guidelines and techniques plus I will also start a tenkara casting demonstration before each club meeting. In addition, I am hoping to schedule an outing dedicated to tenkara fishing sometime in late May.

I hope AFF club members will take advantage of this opportunity to try out this unique fly fishing system. Tenkara doesn't have to be a replacement for Western fly fishing and has its limitations like all tools do, but I hope that those interested will approach this method of fly fishing with an open mind and embrace the simplicity that tenkara can offer.

Visit www.tenkarausa.com for their full product line and excellent forum. All of their rods are lifetime guaranteed. If you break a section, just call them and they will immediately mail a replacement section to you for the cost of postage.

Also feel free to join www.facebook.com/groups/TenkaraTexas/ (my personal FB group) and help bring tenkara to Texas!



Thursday Night Speaker Keith Barnes



Our speaker for Thursday evening is Keith Barnes of Highland Lakes Fly Fishing. Keith will be giving a presentation on fly fishing for white bass, hybrids, and striper around the Texas Hill Country. He will highlight the best areas and show our members how to deal with the low water we've been experiencing for quite some time now.

Keith's Bio:

I live on the Highland Lakes and have been fishing these lakes for over 20 years. Fishing has always been a big part of my life. As a child, I fished every chance that I could. The desire to feel a fish pulling on my line has never dimmed, in fact it grew stronger. While I truly enjoy fishing, I discovered that I also enjoyed taking others fishing. Putting someone on their first fish, teaching a client a new technique, or just showing a friend a new stretch of water are just a few of the reasons that I started guiding. While I have been fly fishing for most of my life, I didn't make the transition to dedicated fly fisherman until about 16 years ago. I put down my conventional tackle and really haven't picked it up again. I have concentrated on learning and developing techniques to target fish on the Upper Highland Lakes of Central Texas with a fly rod. Living on the western shore of Lake Buchanan, I have spent countless hours, on more days than I care to admit, pursuing every species of game fish found in Central Texas.

<http://www.highlandlakesflyfishing.com/>

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

This morning two brave young Americans ventured out with me on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir in the post-frontal 36 degree calm to do some hand-to-fin combat while enjoying some Spring Break downtime. David and Matthew Macy are the sons of Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) Rob Macy and his wife, Monica. CW4 Macy is currently serving in Afghanistan with the 3-227 Aviation unit

This trip was provided free of charge to the Macy family by the Austin Fly Fishers and SKIFF program supporters like you who donate money and raise funds to keep this program effective. SKIFF stands for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. Under the SKIFF program, any military child separated from his or her parent due to that parent's military duty qualifies for a free, 4 hour fishing trip by boat.

Today, we had the toughest weather conditions of the entire Spring Break week in the morning hours. It was calm, clear, and cold, and we had a setback in the water temperature which had almost crossed the 55F mark as Tuesday came to a close and before Wednesday's terrific wind and cold drop things back a bit.

Regardless, the boys hung tough with me and we wound up boating 12 white bass together this morning. Our first 9 fish came in 15-17 feet of water as we cast Cicada bladebaits for white bass feeding on a mid-depth flat. We missed our first 3 hooked fish as we worked out some "rookie issues" of how to fight a fish and what to do once the fish is boat-side, but, once that learning curve was cleared, the boys landed every other fish that we hooked.

After these fish settled down, we expanded our coverage of this flat by downrigging with tandem-rigged Pet Spoons, adding 2 more fish to our count.

Our last fish came on a vertically jigged slab spoon from out of 27 feet of water adjacent to the river channel.



I had a follow on trip this afternoon on Belton, and, when I returned, here is the very nice note I found waiting for me from Monica:

Bob,

Thank you so much, for taking David and Matthew out fishing. I hope they were good for you! They really enjoyed the trip and were super excited to tell their Dad all about it.

They really needed some time "alone" without me or the twins bugging them! :)

Again THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
Monica

I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids. Enclosed is my check payable to Austin Fly Fishers. It costs \$65 to sponsor one child for a fishing trip.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Email _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Mail to:

Austin Fly Fishers, SKIFF Program, P.O. Box 10504 ,Austin, TX 78766

Questions? FlyFisher149@gmail.com mtexas@aol.com

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jack Lehman

Carp Damsel

The first carp I ever caught, on a fly, were by accident while fishing for white bass. It seems the carp follow the bass up the rivers to gorge on eggs. After the white bass have moved back into the lakes you'll often see the carp in the same shallow runs and riffles performing what could best be described as spawning behavior. They're active chasing each other around. I've never had much luck targeting them at this time; they seem to have other things on their minds. But later in the spring, and all through the summer, carp are a consistent, though difficult, target of opportunity in the shallow of lakes and rivers. They are a challenging target because they have keen senses of vision and smell, and will often spook at the slightest provocation.

When you find yourself looking for carp, you have to be very careful and move slowly. Any quick movements or sounds and they are gone. I have had some of my best luck by spotting and targeting individual fish. Stay back from the water until you see a fish, and move to place yourself in front of the fish, letting the fish come to you. If you find you have a move toward the fish, move very slowly and carefully. Avoid splashing or creating waves with your movements. This is good practice for targeting redfish when you get to the coast.

There are several active behaviors that have been described for carp. The two with the highest chances of success seem to be mudders and cruisers. Mudders are actively feeding, cruisers are actively moving, but you would use the same approach for either one. Place yourself somewhere in front of them, and cast your fly well away from them, somewhere in their projected path. A fly like the Carp Damsel has very little weight and will slowly sink in the water column, giving the fish time to catch up to it. Once the fish nears your fly, strip it with slow, short strips. Damsel nymphs do not move quickly and you are trying to imitate the original. Strip away from the fish, carp don't expect to be attacked by a nymph, and one charging them will alert them and they spook. Another advantage of such a small, light fly is

that, if the fish doesn't notice your fly or it moves off in an unexpected direction, you can quietly retrieve your fly and hopefully get a second, or third shot at the carp.

Use a loop knot to tie on the fly. This allows the fly to move or sink naturally. Your hope is that the carp sees the fly and decides it's food. I don't think that carp shy away from seeing leaders and tippets, but they spook every time when you line them with one. You need to create a balance between the strength of your leader, staying light enough to allow natural movement of the fly, while being strong enough to actually land the fish. Carp will make strong runs when hooked. You will not be able to horse them in with the right tackle for fishing them, so be prepared for a long fight. Use your fish fighting skills to try and steer them away from any obstructions and don't try to land them until they have given up.

This version of the fly uses mono eyes, which have very little weight. You could tie the same fly with black bead-chain eyes if the carp you are targeting are in clear, deeper water. But that would change the action of the fly, and you would need to actively work the fly to keep it from diving headfirst straight to the bottom. The fly is a great imitation of the natural, and damsel nymphs can be found in both still and moving waters, so don't just put this fly in your carp box, it will take most of the panfish we find in our waters that feed on nymphs. Besides the fly rod, I have put a few of these into my Tenkara box to fish using that new/old technique.

MATERIALS

Hook: TMC 5263 #10, or similar 3X Long #10 hook

Thread: 8/0 or 70 denier Olive

Eyes: Medium Mono Nymph Eyes

Tail: Olive Saddle Hackle

Shellback: Olive Scud-Back

Rib: Body Glass (UTC Brown Round Rib Small Shown)

Body: Fine Olive Dubbing

Legs: Small Speckled Brown Centipede Legs

Step 1: Start your thread just behind the eye and wrap back a short way. Tie in a pair of mono eyes. Be sure to leave enough room in front of the eyes to finish off some materials later and build a small head.

Step 2: Continue your thread wrap back to the bend. Prepare the tail feathers by snipping the stem of a hackle feather near the tip and stroking the fibers down. Tie the prepared feather so that the tail is about half the length of the hook shank. Take a few wraps forward and snip off any excess.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 3: Tie in a pair of legs out the back of the fly. Take a long length of the legging material and tie it in at the middle along one side of the fly, Move the other end to the far side of the fly and tie it in facing back as well. A tight binding will help ensure that the legs splay out a little.



Picture 3

Step 6: Fold the scud-back back over the tail. Tie it down again in front of the abdomen. Tie in 2-3 sets of rubber legs along the shank, be sure to leave room for the hackle collar. Dub a body around the legs, leaving some room behind the eyes.



Picture 6

Step 4: Prepare the scud-back for tie in by taking a long, diagonal slice off the end. This creates a better tie in point while decreasing bulk at the back. Tie the scud back in over the tie in point for the legs. Tie in the ribbing material down along the side of the fly at the tail.



Picture 4

Step 7: Tie in a hackle feather by the tip just behind the eyes and make 304 close wraps with the feather. Tie the hackle off at the eyes and cut off any excess.



Picture 7

Step 5: Dub a slim, tapered abdomen about halfway up the hook shank. Pull the scud-back forward and tie it down in front of the abdomen. Leave the scud back hanging out over the front of the fly. Take the ribbing material and make 4-5 wraps forward over the abdomen and scud-back. Tie it down in front of the abdomen over the tie down point for the scud back, Cut off any excess.



Picture 5

Step 8: Prepare a small, tight dubbing rope and wrap over the collar tie in point and do a figure 8 around the eyes. Finish just in front of the eyes. Pull the scud-back over the body, collar, and eyes and tie it down just in front of the eyes. Build up a small thread head and tie off your thread. Trim the legs to suit your tastes.



Picture 8

Outings Update by Dave Bush

Colorado Bend State Park, March 17-23 (Cancelled)

Unfortunately, conditions on the Colorado River above Lake Buchanan have not improved. A couple of days ago, a Colorado Bend State Park ranger reported about one fish a day was being caught. Therefore, we'll have to cancel our outing to Colorado Bend State Park again this year. Sabine River, March 27-30

The Sabine flow continues to alternate between way too high and close to perfect. The outing is getting close, so we'll continue to monitor the flow and keep our fingers crossed that our timing is good and we get in on the awesome white bass fishing this river offers. And yes, we need a host for this trip.

Lake Austin, April 12

Lake Austin continues to produce lunker largemouth bass and top water action should be picking up in time for this outing. We need a host to help put together the details of this trip.

Colorado River, April 26-27

The Colorado River below Austin offers some of the best river fishing in the region, and this is your chance to get a double dose. We're looking to do an overnight trip that starts on Saturday morning, stops to camp Saturday night, and continues on Sunday. Participants will have the option of fishing either Saturday or Sunday or both days. We need a host to help choose a stretch of river that offers a camping option for Saturday night as well as help to arrange shuttles for participants.

Lake Fork, May 16-18

Are you looking to catch a personal best largemouth bass? Then Lake Fork offers you the best opportunity to do just that. More than any other lake in the state, Fork produces more lunker bass than any other by a wide margin. We've lined up two outstanding fly fishing guides who will help you land that big bass, but you need to reserve your spot now if you haven't already done so. Rob Woodruff and Steve Hollensed are available for only \$225 for a half day for two anglers (\$112.50 each). You can schedule your slot by contacting Rob at 903-967-2665 or emailing him at wgsflyfish@aol.com. If you are available to fish Friday morning, Brandon Rabke is looking to share a trip with another angler if you're interested.



Austin Fly Fishers Calendar 2014

Date	AFF Event	Subject/Destination	Speaker/Event Host	Status
3/17-3/23	Outing	Colorado Bend State Park	TBD	<u>Cancelled</u>
3/20	Meeting	White Bass Fishing on Lake Buchanan	Keith Barnes	Confirmed
3/27-3/30	Outing	Sabine River	TBD	Tentative
4/12	Outing	Lake Austin	TBD	Tentative
4/17	No Meeting at Northwest Rec Ctr	Fly Fishing Film Tour	Paramount Theatre	Confirmed
4/26-4/27	Outing	Colorado River	TBD	Tentative
5/15	Meeting			
5/16-5/18	Outing	Lake Fork	TBD	Tentative
6/7	Outing	Perchmasters/Lady Bird Lake	Nils P, Doug K	Confirmed
6/12-6/14	Special	Texas Council Expo	New Braunfels	Confirmed
6/19	Meeting			
6/27-6/29	Outing	Port Aransas	TBD	
7/12	Outing	San Marcos River	Brandon Rabke	Confirmed
7/17	Meeting			
7/??	Special	Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament		Tentative
7/25-7/27	Outing	Port O'Connor	TBD	Tentative
8/21	Meeting			
9/12-9/14	Outing	Upper Guadalupe River	TBD	Tentative
9/18	Meeting			
9/24-9/28	Outing	Padre Island National Seashore	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
10/10-10/12	Outing	Lower Mountain Fork	TBD	Tentative
10/16	Meeting			
10/17-10/19	Special	Oktoberfisch		Confirmed
10/19-10/26	Outing	South Padre Island	TBD	Tentative
11/20	Meeting			
11/??-11/??	Outing	Louisiana Marsh	TBD	Tentative
12/13	Outing	Lower Guadalupe River	TBD	Tentative
12/18	Meeting	Holiday Party		

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Expedition-Outfitters.net

Phone: 210-602-9284
email: kevinstu@msn.com

Laguna Larga lodge is located in the province of Chubut, Argentina in the middle of Los Alerces National Park.

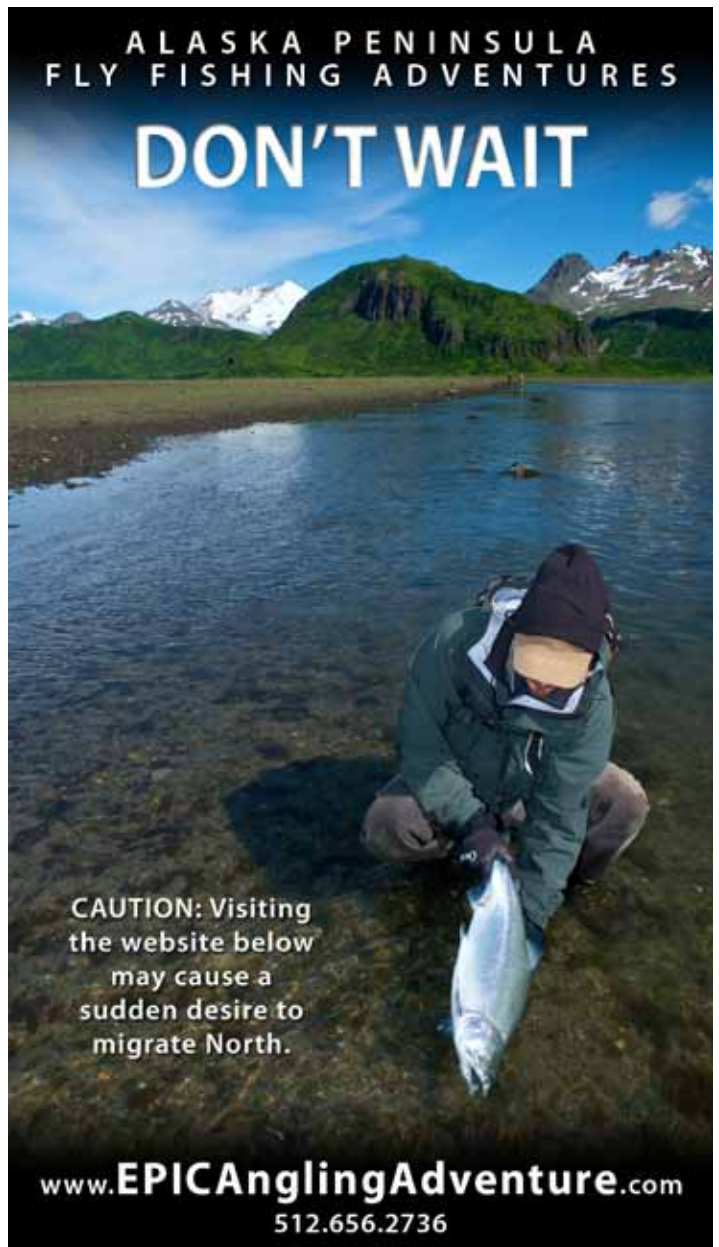
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