

# WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 35, Issue 5, May 2016

## *Have you heard, Its Election Time!*

No, not that one. This election is far more important, at least to the Texas FlyFishers. Every year, the June monthly meeting is election night for the Texas FlyFishers. This is when the membership selects the officers that will steer the club and its activities for the next year.

The positions at stake are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any member in good standing can have their name placed in nominated for one of these positions. Nominations must be submitted to the Election Committee prior to the meeting. The floor is open to all nominations and motions. The actual vote is an open ballot, tallied by a show of hands or by voice acclamation. The only qualification to vote is that your name must be on the current membership roster, which will be presented by the Membership Secretary. *Note: Annual membership dues are due by July 1 2016.* To be elected, all you need is to receive a simple majority of the votes.

The new slate of officers will manage the affairs of Texas FlyFishers for the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. If you have any questions concerning nominations or the election in general, please contact the club president, Marcos Enriquez or one of the other board members.

*And*, after the election, keep in mind that these four officers cannot do it all alone. Committees will need to be filled and volunteer help is always needed. If you want to participate as a committee chairman, committee member, or some type of ad hoc advisor, please step forward and inform any of the officers. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and, in the process, you will learn much about the sport of fly fishing. *Tight loops!*

### *Also, in this month's issue...*

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## *What's Happening This Month:*

**May TFF Monthly Meeting** – For our monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 we will have two speakers. Our first speaker will be Spence McNamara who will be a freshman in high school next year and is passionate about the outdoors. He loves to fly fish, hunt, hike, camp, backpack, sail and scuba



dive. This summer he will be attending the Trout Unlimited Teen Summit at Georgetown Lake in Montana and later in the summer he will also attend his second Texas Brigade program, the inaugural battalion of the Coastal Brigade. Spence is a Life Scout and is currently working on his Eagle Project which is a video tribute about his Mom, who recently passed away from cancer, which will be used by Casting for Recovery in their fund raising efforts. Spence was the first person in the Thunderwolf District to earn the Complete Angler Award and the first in the Sam Houston Area Council to earn the Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Bronze Award. He has a long term goal of summiting the highest points in every state, has hiked to the highest points in Texas (8,750' Guadalupe Peak) and New Mexico (13,159' Wheeler Peak) and will try to climb Colorado's highest peak (14,439' Mt. Elbert) this summer. In his spare time he likes to tie flies, play tennis, fold origami and play table hockey.

Our second speaker will be Jere Anderson. Jere is the Texas Council Conservation Chairman, an Angler Education Area Chief specializing in entomology and fly tying, and is the Bronze Award Evaluator for Texas in the IFFF Skill Award process for the Bronze Level. In that regard, Jere will be explaining the Fly Tyers Group Skill Awards, and answering any questions you may have. He has evaluated 2/3 of the Bronze award holders in Texas and will cover the flies required along with how to make them winners in the skill awards. The Bronze Award is designed to be something that most good intermediate fly tiers can succeed at and achieve. He has been fly tying since he tied his first fly in 4-H camp in 1950.



So come on out to the May 2016 meeting, hear about what goes on in the life of a young fly fisherman, find out about the awards program in the area of fly tying, watch some fine fly tying before the meeting and just socialize with fellow fly fishermen and women. We would be glad to have you at the meeting. Location: Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.



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## ***This Month - Continued:***

### **Outings:**

#### **May Saltwater Outing – Texas FlyFishers 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Redfish Rodeo, May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Rockport, Texas**

Use your best fly fishing skills to catch big redfish, trout, drum, flounder, sheepshead, tarpon, etc. for an excellent chance to win one of the many wonderful awards to be presented at the event. This is an honor tournament so no need to kill anything but photos and measurements are required. Prizes will be awarded for: (One award per contestant only)

1. Longest Redfish
2. Most total inches – Redfish
3. Longest Non-Redfish (Must be Gamefish)
4. Longest Non-Gamefish (yes mullet, hardheads, and skipjack count)
5. Donation of \$500 to Charity of Club's choice for Longest Combined Stringer (5 gamefish)

**Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 - 6:00 PM:** Meet at Swan Point Landing, 1723 Cherry Street, Suite 4, Rockport, Texas 78382, for late registration and for Captains meeting explaining rules and define Charity donation. There will be a presentation by Capt. Billy Trimble. Afterwards, we will head over to the tournament HQ at The Lighthouse Inn, 200 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Rockport, Texas 78382. The restaurant will have dinner available for purchase.

**Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 – 6:35 AM:** Meet up with your friends, grab some coffee on your way to one of the marina ramps in the Rockport/Aransas Pass Area and head on out. Tournament fishing ends at **4:00 PM**.

We will begin the **checking-in catches at 4:30 PM** and you must be at the Tournament HQ at the Lighthouse Inn Banquet Room, **no later than 5:30 PM** to officially enter your catch.

Saturday night at 6:00 PM, we'll be getting the social scene started enjoying some cold beverages (BYOB), serving dinner, presenting awards, and generally having a great time until late into the evening. Kevin Townsend will be our guest speaker.

\$25 Entry Fee per fly fisher  
Please RSVP to MFQuigley@yahoo.com  
<https://texasflyfishers.wordpress.com/>



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## ***This Month - Continued:***

***Notice:*** The May Freshwater Outing, The Clark Thornton Memorial / Annual San Marcos River Float Trip with guide Kevin Hutchison was postponed due to unsafe water flow rates. The outing will be rescheduled and an updated announcement will be sent out to all members. Also, check the website and the Windknots for further updates.

**June Freshwater Outing: The Annual South Llano River Float Trip**, When: June 10-12, 2016, Where: Junction, Texas, Start Time: Friday afternoon TBD, End Time: Sunday at noon, or as close to it as we can get.

***Note on the Trip Leader:*** Puck was originally set to lead this outing but, he is “temporarily” moving to Colorado so, we will need a new outing leader. If you are interested in stepping up and leading this outing, check with Puck or Michael Quigley

**Once you get to Junction, the itinerary goes like this:**

**Day 1:** The first meeting of the trip will be determined and announced. We’ll wade fish this area getting our casting skill honed, and practicing with various flies. Hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill for dinner at wherever we stay.

**Day 2:** Launch from just downstream of the State park with our livery service, and float down to Morgan Shady Park. Bob, from Fun In The Sun (325) 446-7265 (325) 446-7265 will provide our livery service. Currently (2016-01-04) he also has some kayaks for rent. Pizza from the new local pizza place at wherever we are staying

**Day 3:** First crossing bridge where the river crosses US 377. We will fish downstream to the second crossing. This time I will bring a GPS.



***Freshwater Outing Note:*** Don “Puck” Puckett’s job has moved him to, of all places, Colorado and, he will not be able to continue his duties as the Freshwater Outings Chairman. If you are interested in taking over this spot, please contact Club President, Marcos Enriquez.

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## ***This Month - Continued:***

### **Conservation:**

#### **The Willow Water Hole - UPDATE**

The Willow Water Hole (WWH) has moved forward with the development of an urban fishery and Texas Fly Fishers (TFF) has been an integral part of it. Of perhaps greatest importance is that Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) has begun stocking the ponds. In late March TPW stocked the ponds with bluegill and put largemouth bass in on April 25th. There will be a third stocking, catfish, in the fall. This is a major step forward and constitutes the basis of the fishery for the future. Many thanks to Alice Best and Mark Webb of TPW for making this happen.

In addition, a city wide fishing tournament that targets invasive species primarily, grass carp, will be held September 17, 2016. This date coincides with the Harvest Moon Festival currently being held at the Willow Water Hole which includes music, food and other activities. While the event would allow for participants to fish anywhere in the Braes Bayou Watershed the tournament would be headquartered at the WWH and all associated events including the weigh-in and awards presentation will be located there. This is planned as a major conservation event with city wide and regional support from a variety of sources including Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wilderness Houston, Houston Parks Department, Texas Fly Fishers and the WWH.



There is a team that has been formed of which TFF is an integral part. We will help organize, promote and implement the tournament. Many of the details are still being worked out but it is being structured to solicit the greatest number of participants possible and will require some participation by TFF members the day of the tournament. It is important to understand that one of the basic purposes of the tournament is to educate the public about invasive species and mobilize support to control their population and inhibit the introduction of new species which crowds out our native fish.



In conjunction with the tournament there will be a casting competition co-sponsored by TFF and Orvis.

We are also consulting on the design and construction of a fishing/casting pier/walkway which will also be suitable for launching canoes, kayaks and float tubes as well as casting classes and fishing.

Please let me know your thoughts. Any input is appreciated.

*Thanks, Mike Frankoff, Conservation Chair, TFF*

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## **Know You Fellow Fly Fisher – Michael Quigley, Saltwater Outing Chairman:**

Growing up on the south and then west sides of Houston, I was always looking forward to finding a place to wet my line, be it Galveston, Clear Lake, Lake Conroe or some new location out of state while on the family vacation. To me, fly fishing was always something exotic and mysterious that only a privileged few could do. I had kicked around the idea of learning the art for years, but never made the time.

Finally, I found myself living in the area where my dad grew up, Northeastern Ohio. Using conventional tackle, I fished the local rivers during the annual steelhead runs but as often as not, saw the fly fishermen



catching multiple fish to my one or two. Determined to learn this dark art, I purchased the video Joan Wulff's Essentials of Fly Casting and a St. Croix 7wt combo. After a few days of studying the video, I headed to the river. I found a quiet spot away from other anglers and practiced casting for 30 minute so that I at least wouldn't endanger my neighbors on the river. After I was satisfied that I could at least make a presentation that the trout wouldn't laugh at, I moved to a hole that I knew held fish. Tying on an olive & black size 6 woolly bugger, I drifted the hole. On my

5th or 6th drift, I saw my strike indicator make a dice. Setting the hook twice as hard as needed due to nerves, I found a nice 24 inch trout on the other end of the line. After easing him into the net after a 5 minute struggle, I knew I was hooked!

In 2010, homesickness got the best of me and I returned to Houston. I now had a passion for fly fishing, but the bayous I grew up with are not known for their trout populations. What's a guy to do? I decided to return to my salty roots, but found that saltwater fly fishing was a whole new ball game. Fortunately, I found a group that called themselves The Texas FlyFishers and found that the members were more than willing to teach this newbie the pursuit of pescados using the long rod. Little did I know that just a few years later, I would find myself chairing the Texas FlyFishers' saltwater outings?

I love fly fishing and I love to see new entrants into the sport become successful. Fortunately, I have the opportunity to do that with the club and have made many great friends through this group of people who also suffer from this crazy affliction known as a love of fly fishing.



Photos courtesy of Michael Quigley©

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## *A Letter from Skip and Mary Kay...*

The Texas FlyFishers Annual Auction has once again been a success. This is all due to the generosity of our sponsors, vendors, guides and club members, who continue to support our efforts with their products, services and time.



We would like to give special thanks to our local sponsors, Orvis on Westheimer, Bayou City Angler and Fishing Tackle Unlimited/Jackson Kayaks for their generosity and support. Our way to say thank you is to give you our support throughout the rest of the year.

A big thank you to Belize River Lodge and Silver King Lodge. Their contribution to our auction played a large role in the events success.

To all of the vendors and guides who continue to support this event and our club, we would like to return your generosity

via our Sponsors and Supporters section which will soon be available on our website. We ask all of our members to check this site before purchasing products and services for their fishing needs.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank all of our members who assisted in the 2016 auction. Corey Rich, our auctioneer extraordinaire, excelled as always. To our members, both old and new, who helped with the set-up, clean-up and pick-ups, your efforts were noted and appreciated.



Special kudos to Mike Graham, Barry Sandler, Joe Burton and Mike Quigley who so graciously responded to all of our requests. Lastly, to Raymond Lindeen and Tracy Quigley, who gave their support by quietly being everywhere something was needed, we give a hearty thank you.

The auction is one of several events our club hosts in the course of the year. Our successes are dependent on our members and the strength of our club. We urge all of our members to get involved at least once during the year.

On behalf of the 2016 auction, we would like to say thank you. You made our efforts a whole lot easier.

*Skip and Mary Kay Donovan*



Photos courtesy of George Southerland©



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## **Reel Recovery:**

The Fall Retreats will return to Glen Rose, TX, October 14-16, 2016 and end the year at Navasota, TX, October 21-23, 2016.

If you are interested in volunteering, making a donation or, signing up for a retreat in 2016, simply go to reelrecovery.org and make your selection or, visit with Dave Steffek at the TFF Monthly Meetings. The men at the retreats benefit directly from your generous support.

## ***Mark Your Calendars:***

**June Saltwater Outing** - Anahuac Flats, Trinity Bay, TX – Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Grab the yaks & boats, we are hitting the marshes and flats around Anahuac. *We need an Outing Leader for this one so, if you would like to step up, contact Saltwater Outing Chairman Michael Quigley - mfquigley at yahoo dot com*

**June TFF Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm Daniel Walker with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department speaking to the membership about the development of the newly acquired Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area. Dan was a biologist for the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area for 6 years, also served as research coordinator and Assistant Area Manager. He's currently Project Leader for Coastal Bend Wetland Ecosystem Project, over 5 WMAs including Guadalupe Delta, Matagorda Island and now, the newly acquired Powderhorn, near Port O'Connor. The Monthly Meeting location is the Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**July Saltwater Outing** – Port O'Connor One Fly, Port O'Connor, TX – Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Outing Leader: Michael Quigley - mfquigley at yahoo dot com

**North Louisiana Fly Fishers present the 4th annual Masters Series "A Day with Bob Clouser"**, Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Cost: \$40 Cost includes admission, lunch, coffee, drinks. Capacity limited to the first 75, pre-registration required. Buy your tickets early! The Masters series an annual program in which NLFF brings the very best fly fishermen in the world to the region. This year's event will consist of an intense day learning from a legend in the sport of fly fishermen. This is a full day of learning. Segments will include power point presentation, outdoor casting clinic, and hands on fly tying. Bob Clouser is a legendary smallmouth guide and saltwater angler. For more info, contact Tom Bullock (318) 393-7729, (318) 393-7729 or, Scott Irwin (318) 469-0854318-469-0854, or check the NLFF Facebook page.

**51st annual International Federation of Fly Fishers National Fly Fishing Fair**, August 2-6, 2016 Park High School Livingston, Montana Show Event Wednesday - Saturday, August 4-6, from 9am to 5pm. Saturday is FREE entry! <http://fedflyfishers.org/Home>

**12th Contraband Fly Fishing Expo**, Saturday, August 20, 2016 8:30am - 4:00pm at the Moss Bluff United Methodist Church, Moss Bluff, LA. ADMISSION IS FREE. Sponsored by the Contraband Fly Casters / Tom Nixon Chapter Fly Tying, Casting Demos, Lure Exhibits, Auctions / Raffles, Food and Refreshments, Equipment Displays and more! Public invited. For more details, go to [www.contrabandflycasters.net](http://www.contrabandflycasters.net) or contact Warren Landry at (337) 853-7755 or, (337) 853-7755.



## Outing Reports:

Texas FlyFishers member Joe Nicklo's report of a recent trip to the Taylor River in Colorado or,

### **NICKLO AND PURCELL'S BIG ADVENTURE.**

On April 26th, John Purcell and I flew into Denver and then drove to Gunnison, Colorado where we were joined by John's son Andrew. Once there, we spent the next five-days making the drive daily from Gunnison to the Taylor River, approximately 28-miles. John, Andrew and I had a glorious time even though we had to endure some inclement weather, snow and wind with temps as low as 22 and high of 32 degrees.



The Taylor River is a tail-water and, at this time of year, the water flow is rather low. Therefore, most of the fishing is what I call "sight fishing" to many of these brutes. These fish didn't get big by being dumb! They are educated and very leader shy as a result it was necessary to rig with 5 and 6X tippet. Using very small flies and 5 and 6X leader requires chasing these fish when they decided to run. Yes, we did experience several break-off before we got control. One particular 24-inch rainbow took me

down stream almost the length of a football field before I got it to the net. John's big 26-inch buck rainbow was caught on a white streamer. Needless to say it gave John quite tussle and the biggest grin from ear-to-ear I have ever seen.

We caught many trout, both rainbows and browns, between 12 to 26 inches with the majority caught on the HMG Fly Systems Mysis Shrimp and other HMG flies. Even while the wind blew and the snow flew, I was able to catch several very nice bows on a dry fly, size 20 HMG BWO.

A very successful trip! *Joe Nicklo*



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## **Fly of the Month:**

### **Olive Fox Tail**

This month's pattern submitted by Rob Kress



#### **Materials:**

**Thread:** Olive UTC 70

**Hook:** Daiichi 1560 size 10 nymph

**Eyes:** Medium bead chain eyes

**Tail:** Olive rabbit zonker

**Body:** Olive hare's ear dubbing and grizzly olive Whiting bugger hackle

#### **Step 1:**



Start your thread on the hook and tie in the bead chain eyes leaving approximately one eye length gap in front of the hook. Dress the hook with thread and position your thread near the hook point.

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## **Fly of the Month:** *Continued*

### **Step 2:**



Remove a section of fur from the hide of the zonker strip and tie in so the tail is approximately 1 hook shank in length.

### **Step 3:**



Tie in an appropriately sized hackle feather and return the thread to just in front of the hook point.

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## **Fly of the Month: Continued**

### **Step 4:**



Dub a length of the olive hare's ear onto the thread and dub the body to just behind the eyes, leaving the thread positioned behind the eyes.

### **Step 5:**



Palmer the feather forward taking care to not trap any of the fibers in the process. Tie off just behind the eyes and cut off the remaining feather stem.

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## **Fly of the Month: *Continued***

### **Step 6:**



Dub a small amount of olive hare's ear on the thread to form a small collar behind the eyes as well as to cover the thread base used to tie in the eyes. End with the thread just in front of the eyes (top view).

### **Step 7:**



Complete a 4-5 turn whip finish and add a small amount of head cement if desired.

## *Until Next Month, Tight Loops!*



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## The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee

**Marcos Enriquez**  
President

**John Purcell**  
Vice President / Programs

**Bob Brill**  
Secretary / Membership

**Raymond Lindeen**  
Treasurer

**Jim Richards**  
Secretary / Programs

**Dave Lemke**  
Webmaster

**Mike Graham**  
Communications

**Mike Frankhoff**  
Conservation Chair

**Frank Schlicht**  
Education Chair

**Mike Quigley**  
Saltwater Outings Chair

*To Be Announced*  
Freshwater Outings Chair

**Alex Blacque**  
Door Prizes

**Chris Sumers**  
Dr. Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

**Skip Donovan**  
Auction Chair

**Mary Kay Donovan**  
Auction Chair

For more information, go to the club's website at [www.texasflyfishers.org](http://www.texasflyfishers.org)

### Texas Flyfishers Membership Application

Please check one:     New Application                       Renewal

To join Texas Flyfishers or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below, or bring it with you to one of our monthly meetings. All memberships expire June 30th of each year, and renewals are due July 1st. Please pro-rate your payment for the number of months between now and the end of June, inclusive, if you are joining for the first time. Our monthly meetings are at the Harris County District 3 Bayland Park Community Center, located at 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074, on the last Tuesday of every month (except December), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Dues are for (check one):     Individual at \$24 a year     Family at \$32 a year     Student at \$16 a year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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