

# WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 37, Issue 1, January, 2018

## Off and Running

Happy New Year, fellow FlyFishers. I hope everyone has managed to stay warm during this spell of cold weather we experienced over the first week of the New Year. Take it from me, in a few short months, all of this will be a distant memory. The good news, from what I've heard, is that the fish are biting.

As the title reads, the club is "Off and Running". By the time you read this, the first class of the year, Beginners Fly Tying, will already be in session and the first outing of the year, The Annual Guadalupe *Una Mosca*, will be in the books. But, if you happened to miss one or, both of these events, fear not, there is still plenty going on. The 2018 club calendar is full of outings, classes and other fly fishing events, along with The Houston Fishing Show. And of course, we can't forget that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, the Club will host one of its premier events, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival.

Beginning back in 1993, the club held the first festival and, it has been a staple every year since. The Festival's philosophy is simple, invite a group of tyers to a one day event to demonstrate their talents and techniques at the vice and invite the general public. The annual Fly Tying Festival is a favorite with both the tyers as well as the visitors. *Continued*

### January Meeting

The first monthly meeting of 2018 for the Texas FlyFishers will take place on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074.

The scheduled speaker is Capt. Scott Sommerlatte and his program will cover fly fishing the flats and the backcountry.

Fly tying will begin at 6:00 pm and the meeting will kick off around 7:00.

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## ***Up and Running - Continued***

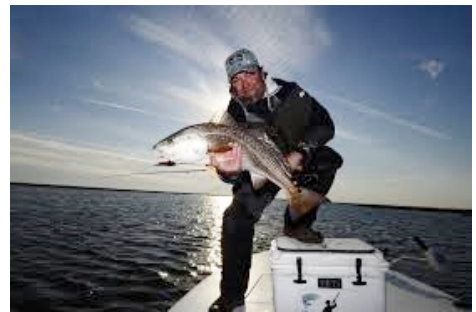
However, from setting up the venue on Friday evening, to manning the registration table, to helping out in the kitchen with lunch, to taking down the venue, the Fly Tying Festival couldn't come together without the help of its member volunteers. I hope we can count on you throwing in an hour or so of your time to help out and make this the best Festival yet. *Tight loops!*

## **Here's What's Coming Up!**

### **Monthly Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2018:** The speaker, Captain Scott Sommerlatte, <http://www.mangrovefly.com>, will be making a saltwater presentation about fly fishing the flats, the backcountry and near off shore waters. In that regard, Capt. Scott is a fly fishing and hunting guide, fly tyer, photographer and writer who for several decades has worked primarily out of the Port O'Connor/Seadrift area of Texas. Additionally, from February to May Scott guides anglers in the Florida Everglades for Tarpon, Snook and Red Fish.

So, if you are interested in learning more about the fly fishing world, if you are interested in watching some fly tying before the meeting or are just interested in socializing with a friendly group of fly fishing men and women come to the January 30, 2018 monthly meeting. We would be glad to have you and look forward to seeing you at the meeting. And, visitors are welcome to join in.



The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074. Set up, social hour and fly tying starts at 6:00 pm and the meeting kicks off about 7:00 pm.

### **Education:**

Texas FlyFishers series of classes for 2018 has kicked off with the Beginners Fly Tying course. Tuesday, March 13, 2018 starts the Fly Fishing Academy, a comprehensive class designed to teach the fly fishing novice about the rods, the reels, the lines, the leaders and tippets, and how to tie the most basic knots and hands on casting instruction. Upon completion of the Academy, the student should be ready to hit the waters fully capable of making a 30 - 40 ft., or more, cast with ease.

Also, on Monday, March 19, 2018 the fly tying classes continue with Intermediate Fly Tying. This course is a continuation of the Beginners course, but goes into tying more complex types of flies. For times and additional information, please check the Club's website.

Also, The Texas FlyFishers League City Tying Team will be tying up some Shrimp Patterns at the Cabela's store located at 2421 S Gulf Freeway (I-45 South) in League City, TX 77573, on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. If you are interested in tying, please contact Clay Sheward at [claysheward\(at\)gmail\(dot\).com](mailto:claysheward(at)gmail(dot).com) or, Don "Puck" Puckett at [doncpuckett\(at\) gee male \(dot\) com](mailto:doncpuckett(at)gee male (dot) com)

### **Reel Recovery:**

In 2017 Texas held six Reel Recovery retreats, serving 70 courageous men living with cancer. We held 2 retreats each in Glen Rose, Navasota and Waring, Texas. Reel Recovery also hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat - *Continued*



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### ***Reel Recovery – Continued:***

in partnership with Project Healing Waters to serve Veterans and Active Military men living with cancer. Now, it's time for a new season of bigger and better retreats. *Dave Steffek*

**Reel Recovery** is a national non-profit organization that conducts free fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from all forms of cancer. Combining introductory fly-fishing instruction with directed “courageous conversations”, the organization offers a unique experience for men coping with cancer, a time to share their stories; learn a new skill, form friendships and gain renewed hope as they confront the challenges of their recovery. Retreats are conducted over a two-and-a-half-day period at a comfortable facility with onsite or nearby fishing access.

All meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment are provided at no cost to the participants. Retreats are led by professional facilitators, trained retreat coordinators and fly-fishing instructors. A maximum of 12-14 men are invited to participate, to ensure the quality of the experience and to create a powerful small-group dynamic.

### **2018 SCHEDULED TEXAS RETREATS:**

#### **Spring:**

Navasota, Texas - March 16-18, 2018

Waring, Texas - April 6-8, 2018

Glen Rose, Texas - April 13-15, 2018

#### **Fall:**

Waring, Texas - September 21-23, 2018 - Veterans Only

Glen Rose, Texas - October 12-14, 2018

Navasota, Texas - November 2-4, 2018



*If you would like to be or, know someone who would like to be, a participant, please apply on-line or, contact Reel Recovery at National Toll Free (800) 699-4490, [info@reelrecovery.org](mailto:info@reelrecovery.org) / [www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org) or, in Texas contact Mike Emerson (817) 894-7832 or, e-mail [mgemerson1944@gmail.com](mailto:mgemerson1944@gmail.com)*

### **Andy's Casting Notes:**

#### **Thinking about practicing your fly casting in 2018?**

**Andy Payne, CCI**

Most fly fishermen or fisherwomen occasionally think about practicing their casting. Maybe they want to get rid of a couple of bad habits, or sharpen up their loops, or learn to cast further into a headwind. These thoughts usually follow the course of most New Year's resolutions; great intentions that somehow never get moving.

If you are the kind of fisher person who does only one or two types of fishing and you spend around one day or more per month fly fishing, and you are happy with your casting, feel like you catch as many fish as the next guy and have lots of exciting things to do with your time other than honey do's, then you would be totally wasteful to spend much time practicing casting.

On the other hand, if you are the kind of fisher person who only gets to fish a couple of times per year, generally at destination locations requiring air transportation, lodging, rent car, flies, license, food, blah, blah, blah; then some other issues deserve consideration. Without knocking the rust off your casting stroke, you could waste the first of four expensive days waiting for your guide to untangle your leader (i.e. wind knots),

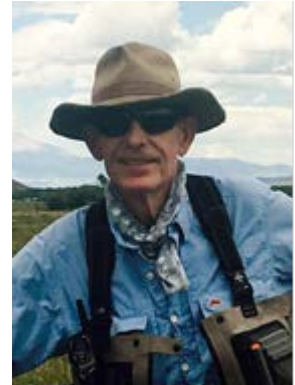
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## *Andy's Casting Notes – Continued:*

repeatedly bungling a cast to a rising fish until you drive it 200' downstream, hooking your ear, hooking your buddie's ear, explaining why you had to rig up twice because you got the reel on backwards the first time, making terrific 40' casts to fish that are 50' feet away, taking six false casts to change direction to a fish that could be reached with one good roll cast, and "you get the picture".

Here are some suggestions that might lead to useful practice without huge time commitments. First, practice sessions should be fairly short. It is hard to maintain motivation without fish present and you can arouse your muscle memory in only a few minutes. An excellent teacher (whose name I cannot recall) once said "practice does not make perfect", "practice makes permanent". So if it is not working, stop doing it.

Plan in advance a series of drills that cover the basics especially including any that are giving you trouble. My primary routine includes 1) series of false casts to 40' w/o hauling in about six planes (vertical to horizontal on rod hand side and same on offhand side), 2) target practice to at least three targets at varying distances and directions changing distance by slipping or stripping in line, 3) starting at 40' with rod hand only extend successive pick up and lay down casts 2' at a time out to at least 55' (60' if you can), 4) starting at about 50' with double haul extend false casts out to 65' with good loop control and straight casts, 5) finish with roll casts on shoulder and off shoulder as far as you can maintain a good loop. I usually spend about 45 minutes on this series. If I am feeling good I will add a long cast attempt as the finale.



Some other drills you can mix in include:

1. Casting just above ground along a straight line (use rope or edge of sidewalk) to achieve very straight and tight loops. Let each cast stop and drop for inspection before starting cast in opposite direction.
2. Make casts simulating adjustments for head wind, on shoulder wind and tailwind.
3. Try to make tailing loops and then correct cast to avoid the tail.
4. Make successive false casts with narrow, wide and very wide loops on command.
5. Work on slack line casts (curves, reaches right and left, aerial mends right and left, wide wave and short wave (wiggle) casts, plus any others that you can find description for.

This approach with your own refinements can get you in shape for an important trip with 2 or 3 sessions of an hour or less.

Go catch a fish!





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## THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DR. ED RIZZOLO FLY TYING FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Make plans to join us for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival. Fly tying for everyone, expert, novice or the beginner. The Fly Tying Festival features many of the finest fly tyers from Texas and surrounding states, simultaneous tying throughout the day. Joining us at this year's Festival will be Rich Strolis of Simsbury, Connecticut. (see *About Rich*, below) Learn how to tie that special cold, warm or saltwater pattern from the expert tyers on hand. There will also be six, 1 Hour Classroom Demonstrations with closed circuit video for viewing tying techniques up close. And, new to this year's event, we will host the first "Iron Fly" Tyers competition.

This year's festival is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th, 2018. Doors are open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby Drive. A BBQ Lunch will be served and tickets can be purchased at the door.

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

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**About** this year's featured guest, Rich Strolis.

Rich started as a guide on the ever popular Farmington and Housatonic Rivers in Connecticut. He later transitioned his work to commercial tying, speaking engagements and teaching many facets of both fly fishing and fly tying across the Northeast and Eastern seaboard. Rich's fly patterns, although based out of the Northeast, have a strong following and relevancy across the globe and have been tied and fished by many as a result of his library of online videos.

Rich is a signature fly designer for the Montana Fly Company, which currently produces over 25 of his patterns. His patterns have appeared in several national magazines and books, including *Flyfisherman*,



*Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Strip Set*, *Fusion Tying*, *Caddisflies* and *50 Best Places*, *Fly Fishing The Northeast* to name a few. His first book was released in January 2016, "*Catching Shadows, Tying Flies For The Toughest Fish And Strategies For Fishing Them*" which details a wide cross section of his patterns and was top 10 seller in its first year on the shelves. Rich is currently a Pro Staff member and advisor for a wide array fly tying and fly fishing companies including Regal Vise, Partridge hooks, Solarez UV resins, Enrico Puglisi materials, Hatch premium fly reels, Thomas & Thomas fly rods and Flycraft. Rich is a very well rounded trout fisherman, but his passion lies in chasing trophy trout and various other apex predators on streamers. He lives in

Simsbury, Connecticut, with his wife, Megan, and two daughters, Tessa and Nora. You can see more of Rich's work at his website, [www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com)

## Texas FlyFishers Presents the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

Featured Guest

Learn from  
the areas  
finest tyers



Six 1 Hour  
Classroom  
Demonstrations

Casting Games and  
Demonstrations  
(weather permitting)

“Iron Fly” Tyer  
Competition

### Rich Strolis

Creative Fly Tyer, Noted Guide and Author!  
[www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com)

Learn to tie at the  
Beginners Fly  
Tying Table

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Bethany Christian Church,  
3223 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas

Drawings for  
Prizes



For additional information check our Club's website at [www.texasflyfishers.org](http://www.texasflyfishers.org)  
The Texas FlyFishers is a 501 (c)(3) Organization and a member of the Texas Council of Fly Fishers International





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## **Mark Your Calendars:**

The following is a list of activities currently scheduled by the Club for the first half of 2018. Please refer to the Club's website for more detailed information, [texasflyfishers.org](http://texasflyfishers.org)

*Mark Your Calendars – Continued*

### **Club Activities Calendar for January – June 2018**

#### **January:**

**Ongoing - Beginners Fly Tying Course** - Monday, January 8, 2018 thru Monday, March 12, 2018.

**League City Fly Tying** - Sunday, January 28, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Cabela's, I-45 South, League City, Texas

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

#### **February:**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival** - Saturday, February 10, 2018, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. The Festival will be held at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas.

**GRTU Troutfest 2018** - Friday, February 16 thru Sunday, February 18, 2018. Lazy L and L, New Braunfels, Texas. For more information, check the Troutfest website at [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org)

**Freshwater Outing** - Nueces River, Wednesday, February 21, 2018. George West, Texas

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm. This month's speaker is urban guide Danny Scarborough. Danny's presentation, "Fly Fishing Around Houston", fly fishing the bayous in and around Houston for carp, gar, tilapia and whatever else shows up. Danny will also cover fly fishing for Bass, carp, gar, crappie and white bass on Lake Houston, bowfin (grinnel), bass, gar and carp on Lake Conroe and, big bass and huge bluegill on a private lake.

The Texas FlyFishers monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**Saltwater Outing** - Prison Permit, Saturday, February 24, 2018. Sargent, Texas. Trip Leader: Mike Graham. <https://texasflyfishers.org/2017/12/17/prison-permit-invitational-2018-2/#more-5223>

**The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Houston Fishing Show** - Wednesday, February 28 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas



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***Mark Your Calendars – Continued***

**March:**

**Freshwater Outing** - Harmon Creek, White Bass, Friday, March 9 thru Sunday, March 11, 2018, Lake Livingston, Riverside Texas.

**The Second Annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival** - Saturday March 10 and Sunday, March-11, 2018, Plano Centre, Plano, Texas. For more information, check the TFFBF website at [txflyfishingfestival.org](http://txflyfishingfestival.org)

**Fly Fishing Academy** - Registration and First Class, Tuesday March 13, 2018 thru Tuesday, April 10, 2018. *Note:* There will be no class on April 3, 2018. Classes will take place at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas.

**Saltwater Outing** - Bolivar Marshes, Thursday March 15 thru Sunday March 18, 2018. Stingree Marina, Crystal Beach, Texas

**Intermediate Fly Tying Course** - Registration and First Class: Monday March 19, 2018 thru Monday June 4, 2018. *Note:* There will be no class on April 2, 2018 or May 28, 2018 Classes will take place at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas.

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Speaker: The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**April:**

**Freshwater Outing** - Annual John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular, Saturday, April 7, 2018, Damon 7 Lakes, Damon, Texas. Check the Club's website for additional information

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

**May:**

**Annual Club Auction** - Saturday, 2018. The Bayou Sports Bar and Grill, Houston, Texas

**Freshwater Outing** - Clarke Thornton Memorial San Marcos River Float trip with Kevin Hutchison, Saturday, May 19, 2018. Shady Grove Campground, Martindale, Texas. 78655

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

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## **Mark Your Calendars – Continued**

### **June:**

**Saltwater Outing** - Fence Lake, Saturday, June 9, 2018, Fulton, Texas, Check the Club's website for additional information.

**Freshwater Outing** - South Llano Float Trip, Friday, June 22 thru Sunday, June 24, 2018, Junction, Texas,

**Monthly Meeting** - Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The monthly meetings are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

*Note: Dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the website for the most current information.*

### **Outings Report:**

The Texas FlyFishers held two monthly outings in January, The Annual Guadalupe Una Mosca and, a trip to the Lower Lavaca River / Garcitas Creek but, I have not received a report. However, a few of our traveling FlyFishers recently hit the waters of the Little Red River in Arkansas and, were kind enough to share their experiences and tales with us. Thanks to Joe Nicklo and John Purcell for submitting the following.

### ***The Lil' Red River with Joe, Nicolas, Bob and John***

TFF members, John Purcell, Bob Orr, Nicolas Lester, John Scarcelli and Joe Nicklo, fished the Little Red River in Arkansas from November, 28 until December 2, 2017. Although we all caught some trout; however, none of us managed to catch the large, wily brown trout usually there this time of the year to mate. We rented a very nice house next to the river which was convenient and very comfortable. Although the fishing was not the best, we did celebrate the camaraderie and the male bonding (my wife's definition of our fishing trips) every evening with many different spirits (the liquid kind). It was Purcell's first trip to the Little Red and he thoroughly enjoyed fishing the area in general. Oh well, there is always next year! *Joe Nicklo*



# Windknots

## The Christmas Party

Thanks to John Purcell for putting on a great event! Congratulations to Kevin Hutchison on a well-deserved award and, MC Marcos for...well, MC'ing. See you next year.



*Here's to a great 2018!*

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## Fly of the Month:

### **“750” Deceiver**

Pattern originated by Lefty Kreh

Tied by Chris Summers



## Materials:

- Hook:** Mustad 34007 (or, Similar Saltwater Hook), Size 1 – 2/0
- Thread:** Flat Waxed Nylon, Chartreuse and Black
- Tail:** Saddle Hackle, Chartreuse Grizzly
- Flash:** Flashabou, Clear or Chartreuse
- Wing:** Bucktail, Fluorescent Orange (Belly), Black (Back)
- Gills:** Krystal Flash, Red
- Eyes:** Red with Black Pupil, 7/32”

The *Lefty's Deceiver* is one of the most versatile and popular flies that's ever been designed. The brainchild of Bernard “Lefty” Kreh, *Lefty's Deceiver* has stood the test of time and can be found everyone's fly box. The simplicity of design and, the versatility of the fly lends itself to a variety of colors and configurations. That's how I came up with the “750” Deceiver.

One of my favorite lures for winter speckled trout is the 51MR750 Mirrolure. It has Chartreuse flash sides with black barring, fluorescent orange belly with a black back. And, like most Mirrolures, red eyes. I took this color combination and applied Lefty's tried and true pattern and had some great success. I've tied this pattern in weighted versions and, with a rattle but, the original design Deceiver is my favorite, fished on an intermediate line, a short leader and retrieved with slow short strips.

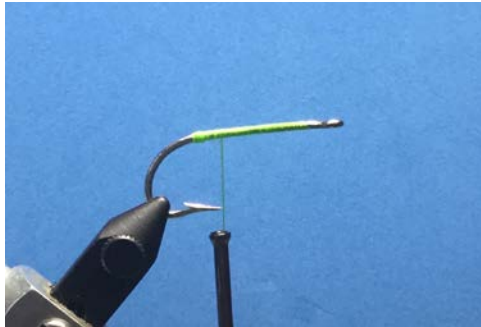
# Windknots

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## Fly of the Month: - Continued

### Step 1:

Clamp hook in the vice. Tie in thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to a point just about the barb of the hook. Wrap a thread bump.



### Step 2:

Pick and match 6 chartreuse / Grizzly hackles. Trim the hackles to a length of appx.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of the hook. Tie the hackles in just above the hook point with curve married inward. Place a drop of head cement.



### Step 3:

Cut a piece clear or chartreuse Flashabou. Tie in a single strand of Flashabou alongside of the hackles, trimming to a length about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the tail. Rotate fly and repeat.



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## Fly of the Month: - Continued

### Step 4:

Wind thread back to the hook eye. Cut a small bunch of bucktail (about double the size of a toothpick) and tie in as a belly.



### Step 5:

Switch thread to black. Cut a small bunch of red K-Flash and tie in as a throat.



### Step 6:

Cut a pencil sized bunch of black bucktail, the same length as the orange and tie in on the back.



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## Fly of the Month: - Continued

### Step 7:

Cut a pencil sized bunch of black bucktail, about 1½ times the length as the first bunch of black. Tie in over the first bunch of black. Finish the head and tie off.



### Step 8:

Glue in a pair of 7/32" red eyes, stick on or 3-D.



### Step 9:

Using your favorite UV Cure type resin, coat head and eyes and cure with the UV light. Wipe head down with an alcohol swab to clean head. Apply a light coating of Sally Hansen Hard as Nails, clear. Fish away.





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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**  
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**Dave Lemke**  
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**Joe Burton**  
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**Andy Payne**  
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**Don Puckett**  
Outings Chair / FFI Director

**Alex Blacque**  
Door Prizes

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

**Mary Kay & Skip Donovan**  
Auction Chairs

**Dave Steffek**  
Reel Recovery

For additional information, check out the Texas FlyFishers 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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