

WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 37, Issue 2, February, 2018

Looking For A Few Good Volunteers

As it has been pointed out before, the Texas FlyFishers runs on its volunteers. The Club officers, along with the chairpersons of our many activities, are all volunteers. And now, we are looking for a few more volunteers to step up and fill a couple of prominent positions.

Currently, the Club is without a Conservation Chair and an Auction Chair. Our previous Conservation Chair, Mike Frankoff, had to relinquish his position to attend to personal concerns. While Mike was involved with conservation issues across the board, one of his most impressive accomplishments was getting the Club linked up with the Willow Waterhole and, the Annual *Invasive Fish Round-Up and Carp-A-Thon* event held in September. The conservation chair also works closely with groups like the CCA, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited (Trout in the Classroom) and, Fly Fishing International to keep our members up to speed on current and upcoming conservation projects and issues.

As you have probably noticed, half of our Auction Co-Chairs, Skip Donovan, has been getting around via wheel chair for the last several months. While the latest reports indicate that Skip's condition has responded well to treatment, he and Mary Kay will need to step aside as full time Auction Chairs. - *Continued*

February Meeting

The February monthly meeting of the Texas FlyFishers will take place on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074.

The scheduled speaker is Danny Scarborough and his program will cover fly fishing opportunities in and around Houston.

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

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Looking for a Few - Continued

However, to ensure a smooth transition into the position, they have offered their assistance to the new chair to ensure a successful auction.

If you have questions about either of these positions or, you are interested in filling either the Conservation Chair or, Auction Chair positions, please contact Club President Marcos Enriquez or, Skip Donovan (Auction) at (seven 1 three) 8 Three Three – Double Zero 69.

Here's What's Coming Up!

Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday, February 27, 2018: The speaker for the February monthly meeting of the Texas Fly Fishers, Danny Scarborough <http://www.houstonflyfishing.com> will be making a presentation about fly fishing in and around Houston. Danny's presentation will include urban fly fishing opportunities for carp, gar, tilapia and whatever else shows up; bass, carp, gar, crappie and white bass fly fishing on Lake Houston; fly fishing for bowfin, bass, gar and carp on Lake Conroe; and, fly fishing private lakes for big bass and huge bluegill. Danny is a very knowledgeable fly fisherman and talented fly tyer so his presentation educational and entertaining.



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 and, you are just interested in socializing with a friendly group of fly fishing men and women come to the February 27th, 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:

Spring is an active season for the Texas FlyFishers of Houston educational activities. The Beginners Fly Tying Course is well underway with an outstanding group of class participants this year. They are already more than halfway through the Beginners Class and I must say I am greatly impressed by the skills they have developed thus far. On March 19th, 2018, the Intermediate Fly Tying Class kicks off with registration and, immediately following, the first class. The students from Beginners Fly Tying will have first priority for registration for the Intermediate Class. Classes will take place at the Bethany Christian Church located at 3223 Westheimer between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby. It is just across the street (east side) from Lamar High School.

Looking forward, the FlyFishing Academy will start with registration on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 at the Bethany Christian Church. This class is a great way to prepare the beginning or novice fly angler who is wanting to learn about flyfishing. – *Continued*



Education - Continued:

It is also a useful approach for those who may need a bit of a refresher of some aspects of the course such as rigging, knot tying, or even honing those rusty casting skills.

The Academy includes five Tuesday evenings of classroom instruction from some of the Club's experienced fly fishers. The Academy also has 4 casting sessions on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00 am at Myers Lake Park. These casting sessions are designed to allow a beginner to develop the skills upon completion of the course and with practice to fish either on the Gulf Coast or in our Warm water lakes and streams.

A highlight of the spring for Texas FlyFishers of Houston will be the return of Dayle Mazzarella on Saturday, April 28, 2018. He will present two clinics for the Texas FlyFishers of Houston members. The first will be a three hour "Trout Casting Clinic" which is designed to teach the intermediate caster the following; Roll Casting, Slackline Casts, Aerial Mends, Water Mends, and Curve Casts. Skillful presentation and minimizing drag is often the most important aspect of fishing for fish such as trout. All these casts will enable an angler to catch more fish on rivers and streams.

The second clinic which will be held in the afternoon on the same day is "Effectively and Efficiently Fishing Sinking Lines and Heavy Flies for Cold, Warm, and Saltwater Species". This clinic will include Quick Casting and emphasis on Constant Tension Casts using sinking lines and heavy flies. Dayle will teach anglers to pick up and deliver heavy sink-tip and full sinking lines as well as casting big or air resistant flies. Techniques will be demonstrated to master constant tension casts and methods to bring the lines to the surface. Participants will learn how to use various casting techniques to overcome challenges in a wide variety of fishing environments. A solid double haul is definitely an advantage when using and learning these techniques so if your double haul is rusty you might want to get out a practice a bit before the class. Participants should bring their own equipment. Various sinking lines will be available to try as well.

Registration for each of these clinics is limited. The registration fee for each clinic is fifty dollars. The clinics are planned to be held at Timarron Park, 550 North Green Print Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77375. If you have questions or wish to register, contact Joe Burton by email at burtonjoe25@gmail.com or by phone at (281) 255-3459.

Also, The Texas FlyFishers League City Tying Team will be tying up some Baitfish patterns at the Cabela's store located at 2421 S Gulf Freeway (I-45 South) in League City, TX 77573, on Sunday, February 25, 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:

2018 SCHEDULED TEXAS RETREATS:

Spring:

Navasota, Texas - March 16-18, 2018

Waring, Texas - April 6-8, 2018

Glen Rose, Texas - April 13-15, 2018 - *Continued*



Reel Recovery – Continued:

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 / www.reelrecovery.org or, in Texas contact Mike Emerson (817) 894-7832 or, e-mail mgemerson1944@gmail.com

Andy's Casting Notes:

Will return next month.

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

Club Activities Calendar for February – June, 2018

February:

Freshwater Outing - Nueces River, Wednesday, February 21, 2018. George West, Texas. **Trip Leader:** Don "Puck" Puckett; Phone: (281) 865(dash)3216, e-mail: [doncpuckett\(at\)gmaile\(dot\)com](mailto:doncpuckett(at)gmaile(dot)com)

Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm. 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 43rd Annual Houston Fishing Show - Wednesday, February 28 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas.

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

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 - *Continued*



Mark Your Calendars - Club Activities Calendar - Continued

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.

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.

43rd Annual Houston Fishing Show:

New gear and warming water will lift anglers' spirits for 2018. Collectively, Texas' fisheries rank among the best on the planet. Our water produces quality and quantity across the board, from shallow to deep in saltwater and freshwater. It takes lots of toys to cover such a big playground, and you'll find everything you need at the 43rd annual Fishing Show, February 28 - March 4, 2018 in the George R. Brown-*Continued*

Houston Fishing Show - Continued

Convention Center. And, once again, the Texas FlyFishers will host a booth to keep the public up on “what’s going on in the world of fly fishing”.

Stacy Lynn, with Bayou City Anglers, will host seminars on *Fly Fishing for Redfish* Wednesday, February 28 at 4:15 pm and Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 pm. Saturday, March 3rd at 12:45 pm, Texas FlyFishers members Martin Dietz Martin Dietz, 17 and, Spencer McNamara, 16, will present information about opportunities for youth in competitive fly fishing, outdoors conservation, and youth mentorship programs available to young men and women. Martin is a United States Youth Fly Fishing Team Member and Spencer is a member of the Texas Coastal Brigade.

If you’d like to volunteer to help staff the booth, contact Mike Graham at (ate three two) 292-thirty eight fifty 5 or, mgraham-rrsm (at) comcast (dot) net

Outings Report:

Harmon Creek White Bass, February 15, 2018

Report submitted by FlyFishers members Don Puckett and Michael Quigley

Quigley and I launched at about 09:15 from Harmon Creek Marina and made our way upstream. The water was slightly off color with visibility of about 6 inches to a foot.

The first white bass was hooked within sight of the marina. The flies of the day were the Coyote Clouser Minnow (see Fly of The Month), Purple and Black Bendback, and a Shad colored Clouser Minnow.

I was using a fiberglass 4 weight. “Q” was using his 5 weight. We started out with sinking lines, but changed out to floating lines after an hour or so.

We covered 8.04 miles. The best location seemed to be way above “Brighty Blue”



long after we pulled our kayaks over a quarter mile, or so, of sand bars. There it was almost a fish per cast in this pool. No other boats could get to this pool, so we had it to ourselves, along with a couple of shore bound anglers, who were catching almost as fast as we were.

The total number of fish landed was easily over 100. We also ran into Jim Collins and Bob Orr on the water, along with their partners.

We had several that were over 14 inches although most were decent sized, over 10 inches. Puck caught a couple of smaller Yellow bass as well. *P and Q*

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The 26th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival Report:

The day started off dark and rainy and, it really didn't improve much through the day. But, inside the gym at the Bethany Christian Church, it was bright and the mood was happy, all because the 26th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying was going on.

The number of tyers was a little off from previous years, mostly due to the flu, they still managed to put on a great exhibition of fly tying. There was a good representation of clubs from around Texas, along with several old friends who that had been absent from the Festival for the last couple of years. There were also several new, young tyers. There was also a good contingent of tyers come over from East of the Sabine and one, Jared Miera, came in from Pueblo, Colorado to join us. The Texas Council of Fly Fishers International also made a good showing led by the new Council President, Jerry Hamon.

The featured tyer for this year's festival was Rich Strolis, of Simsbury, Connecticut. While Rich specializes in mainly trout flies, his techniques, use of materials and the design of his patterns can be applied to almost any pattern for any application. His two presentations, based on Rich's book "Catching Shadows" were met with rave reviews and compliments and, while on the floor, Rich kept a steady audience around his tying station throughout the rest of the day.

Along with Rich, we had three additional classroom presentations. Longtime friend of the Texas FlyFishers, Bill Heugel introduced his flatwing patterns to the class. Bill has had good results using these flies on stripers and largemouth. Also, on board, Spence McNamara demonstrated his stonefly patterns, not a common but, still effective pattern for Texas streams and lakes. Rounding out the list was Les

Lehman, Jr. and his shrimp patterns for the saltier fly fishers among us. I can't thank the tyers enough for sharing their expertise and talents with the tyers on hand.

A new attraction for the Festival was the introduction of the inaugural Iron Fly Tying Contest. The rules of the Iron Fly are simple. There is a common supply of materials and, each contestant has fifteen minutes to select their materials, design their fly and get ready to tie. Then, the challengers have twelve minutes to tie their pattern...however, once the tying begins, they tyers are presented a "mystery material" which must be incorporated in their entry. Once time expires, the entries are collected and judged for Originality, Neatness and Use of Material and, once the scores are tallied, the two highest totals move on to the championship tie off. The rules for the tie off are the same as the preliminary but, a different mystery material is use. - *Continued*



Our youngest tyer, Angel Marie Avelar



Jared Miera came in from Pueblo, Colorado

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Fly Tying Festival Report - Continued

When it was all over and hair had settled, Alan Kulcak was crowned the Iron Fly Champion.

With the great flies that were tied and, the interest the challenge garnered, it's safe to say there will be a rematch!

I think we can safely say that this year's festival was a fitting tribute to the legacy that Dr. Ed Rizzolo began on April 25th, 1995. And, now the work begins on planning and putting together next year's Festival, to be held on Saturday, February 9th, 2019. If you have any comments or suggestions that you feel might help make the Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival better and bigger please send me an e-mail and share your thoughts. Until next year, keep your wraps smooth and flat. *Tight lines, Chris*





The Second Annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival

On March 10-11, 2018, the Second Annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival (TFFF) will return to the Plano Centre in Plano, a mere 20 miles north of Dallas and easily accessed off Route 75. Last year more than 80 vendors filled the Plano Centre's main exhibition hall, and attendees enjoyed numerous classes and demos in the Centre's multiple state-of-the-art classrooms. "We'll be returning to the Plano Centre as the location for this unique event," says Festival Director Beau Beasley, "because of its easy access to a large population center. The facility allows us a great deal of flexibility. Our event is heavily geared toward bringing new people into the sport, so having plenty of room for hands-on instruction is vital."

Unique to the Texas festival was the introduction of local microbrewery beer to participating fly anglers. With their paid admission, festival attendees 21 years and over received a series of tasting tickets from local brewers Four Corners Brewing Co., Oskar Blues, Texas Ale Project, and Sweetwater Brewery, all of which had personnel on hand to explain what sets micro brewed beer apart, why and how certain ingredients yield different flavors, and how to brew and taste different types of beer.

"We weren't sure what to expect, since nothing like this had ever been attempted before in Texas," says Greg Leftwich, co-owner of Dallas-based Four Corners Brewing Co. "We thought the idea of combining fly fishing and Texas beer was a good one, but even we were surprised at how well the idea went over. At one point people were purchasing our product so fast, we had a hard time getting it cold enough."

An early supporter of the festival and owner of Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co., David Leake was fairly certain that the fusion of fly fishing and micro brewing would find traction among Texans, but even he admits to doubt. "Nothing is a sure thing in business, but sometimes you just have to put yourself out there and try something new to attract new customers and advance your brand. We were pleased with the outcome."

Greg Welander, fly fishing manager for Austin-based Sportsman's Finest, had a similar response: "I really didn't know what to expect since it was the first year of the festival, but I was pleasantly surprised. There was a very good mix of vendors, and the public was most certainly eager to buy. We met a lot of new customers who didn't know about us despite our store being so close to Dallas. We're eager to return and see how the festival grows."

Anglers interested in both local and destination sporting travel also had lots of options. In addition to Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company, additional companies like Emu Outfitters, Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures, and Expedition Outfitters all took part in the inaugural event. Mike Mercer, travel sales specialist for Redding, California's The Fly Shop was similarly pleased with the event's first attempt to reach southwest fly anglers. "Our store is committed to providing good customer service and meeting new clients who want to travel to unique destinations. - *Continued*



Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival – Continued:

This festival drew the very fly anglers we’re looking for; we booked trips as a result. The festival was well organized, and it was obvious a great deal of thought and effort went into meeting the needs of the public, and vendors as well.”

Festival attendees will enjoy a variety of free lectures taught by local, regional, and nationally known guides, authors, fly tyers, and speakers. Vendors last year hailed from such far-flung locales as Patagonia, Guatemala, Canada, Alaska, and of course trout-specific destinations like Colorado, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Participating vendors included such well-known brands as TFO, Sage, Hardy, Patagonia, Fishpond, NuCanoe, Fatties on the Fly, Diablo Kayaks, Jackson Kayak, Umpqua Feather Merchants, Cortland, and Chota. Nonprofit organizations such as Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited, CCA-Texas, Heroes on the Water, IFFF, and Reel Recovery were also present.

Major sponsors who have already committed to supporting the event in its second year include Dallas-based fly rod manufacturer [Temple Fork Outfitters](#) (TFO), the [Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation](#) (RBFF), and [Tailwaters Fly Fishing](#); other major sponsors as well as a full slate of speakers will be announced as the season progresses. For more information, visit www.txflyfishingfestival.org or call (703) 402-8338.

**2018 Bud Priddy
ANY Fly Contest**
Nueces River ~ Saturday, May 5

**New Prize Category
Longest Other Fish**

\$1,000+ in Trophies & Prizes
~ Longest Bass ~ Longest Perch ~ Most Fish Caught ~ Longest Other~

NEW RULE: Use Any Fly or Flies You Desire

Entry Fee: \$20 (plus a donated fly of your choice) includes BBQ dinner.
FREE t-shirt w/ Online Registration until April 21 at www.alamoflyfishers.org
Onsite Registration Friday, May 5, 8 - 10:00 pm, at Big Oak River Park,
(5 miles south of Camp Wood, TX. www.bigoakrivercamp.com)
Contest fishing hours: Sunrise till 5:00pm
Results due @ Big Oak @ 5:30 pm, Awards & Dinner @ 6:00pm.

Sponsored by the Texas Hill Country River Region, www.hillcountryrivers.com
For More Info: www.alamoflyfishers.org Walter Ross 210-324-1359 Lefty Ray Chapa 210-260-6154

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Fly of the Month:

Coyote Clouser

Originator Bob Clouser

Tied by Don "Puck" Puckett



Here's Puck's variation on the Bob Clouser classic *Deep Minnow* pattern. This simple fly dances in the water, has a large hook eye and, catches a lot of white bass...and, other species, too.

Recipe:

Hook: Mustad 3366A, Size 10

Thread: White Thread

Eyes: Mini Lead Eyes
Bronze Fingernail Polish

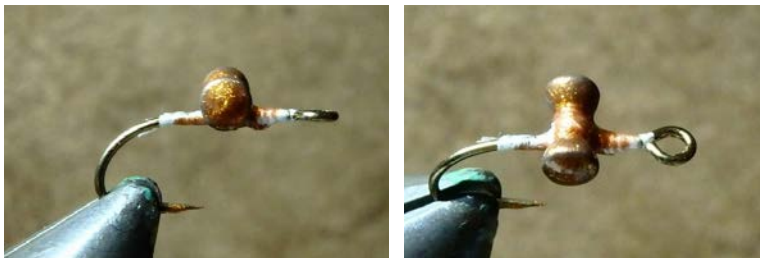
Belly: Artic Fox Tail Fur

Wing: Coyote Tail Fur
Head Cement

Tying Instructions:

Step 1:

Tie in the thread behind eye and wrap to the bend and back up to a point just forward of the hook point. Tie in and anchor eyes. Paint with bronze fingernail polish and let dry.



Windknots

Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 2:

Tie in artic tail fur (about 1½ inch long) on the bottom of the hook and wrap in both locations shown

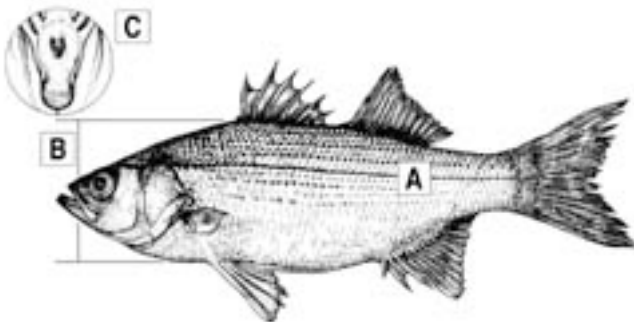


Step 3:

Rotate the hook and tie in the coyote tail fur wing (about 1 - 1½ inch long), as shown. Whip finish. Seal with head cement.



Now, go catch some white bass. *Tight lines!*



White bass

Daily Bag: 25

Minimum Length: 10 inches



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

Open
Conservation Chair

Joe Burton
Education Chair

Andy Payne
Casting / FFI Director

Don Puckett
Outings Chair / FFI Director

Alex Blacque
Registration / 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

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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