

WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 37, Issue 11, November / December 2018

'tis the season!

As the year quietly slips out the back door, it's time to reflect on the old and look forward to what's coming up in the new.

2018 started with many of our fellow fly fishers rebuilding and cleaning up from the mess left by the torrential downpour named Harvey. However, as they say, the show must and, did, go on. January kicked off the Texas FlyFishers Educational Catalog with the Beginners Fly Tying course. February brought us the 26th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival, with guest tyer Rich Strolis and a cast of some of the best tyers from Texas and the surrounding states. In March, we got a two-fer, the all-encompassing Fly Fishing Academy and, the Intermediate Fly Tying classes.

Along with the classes, the Club also hosted a number of outings, beginning with the Guadalupe River Lone Fly, in freshwater, and the Annual Prison Permit Challenge, saltwater, and ending with a trip to Damon 7 Lakes, for bass and bream, and a return to Padre Island National Seashore for jacks, pompano, reds and, whatever else they could find. *Continued*

November Monthly Meeting

The scheduled speakers for the November 27, 2018 meeting are Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella. The title of their presentation is titled "Fishing Adventures-Two Different Perspectives".

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

Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074

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'tis the Season! – Continued:

For the second year, The Bayou Sports Bar and Grill was the scene for the Texas FlyFishers Annual Auction and, the members turned out in good numbers to enjoy cold beverages and hot boiled crawfish, while helping support the Club financial needs for the next year.

While the heat of the summer activities slowed down a bit, on the last Saturday in August, we hosted the Annual Summer Mini Expo. This is when the members of the club show off by holding casting lessons and games, outside and, demonstrating fly tying, rod building, inside in the air conditioning. Also, our traveling anglers enlightened us with programs outlining their travels, ranging from the Rocky Mountains to the Queen's Garden in Cuba, inside.

One of the most important activities the Club offers are our monthly general meetings and, this year we were treated to some interesting and educational programs ranging from tarpon in The Everglades, to redfish along the Texas coast, to trout in the Rocky Mountains, to bass and sunfish in the Texas Hill Country rivers and, an expedition down the Colorado River, all the way to the coast, in a homemade flats skiff. However, one of the most interesting presentations was not about fishing but, fishing related injuries. Presented by one of our long time members who had suffered an injury and, his physical therapist who, not only brought him back to "mid-season" form but also, enlightened the audience on the types and causes of these injuries and, exercises to help some prevent them. The success of these meetings can be verified by the fact that we averaged 74 members per monthly meeting, with the January attendance exceeding 100 members and guests. Our calendar for 2018 will officially come to a close, not with a meeting but, with the Club's Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9. If you haven't received an invitation, please check the Club's website, <https://texasflyfishers.org/> for information.

While we enjoyed an active and productive 2018, work has begun on the 2019 calendar, to make it even better. Starting with the Education Department, Dr. Joe Burton has revamped the course syllabus and, along with the current curriculum with the two tying classes and the Academy beginning in January, a new Saltwater Academy has been put together and will be offered later in 2019. Other events, The 27th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival is on schedule for February, the Auction in May and, the Annual Summer Mini Expo in August. The list of presentations for the first half of 2019 has been put together and, it's going to be a good year for our monthly meetings. And, our outings chairman is working diligently on a full schedule of interesting places to fish, both fresh and saltwater. However, without volunteers to lead or, to help out, these events won't happen. On the last page of the Windknots is a list of the Club Officers and event chairs. If you would like to volunteer for or, lead one of these events, please contact these individuals. Your contribution will certainly be welcomed.





Here's What's Coming Up!

Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday, November 27, 2018: For this month's meeting, the Texas FlyFishers welcome back Dayle Mazzarella. Dayle is certified by the Federation of Fly Fishers International as a Master Certified Casting Instructor and for the past 25 years has been guiding fly fishing trips in Wyoming. He has also fished Alaska, South America, Spain, New Zealand and the Bahamas. In the winter and spring he fishes the Tampa Bay area.

Dayle and his wife, Barbara, will be making a presentation titled: "Fishing Adventures – two different perspectives" which is a collection of stories about their fishing adventures together and how they each looked at the events in sometimes opposite ways. This should really be an entertaining presentation.

If you or, if you know someone who are interested in learning more about fly fishing and, you are just interested in socializing with a group of likeminded fly fishers, come to the November 27th monthly meeting. We would be glad to have you and look forward to seeing you at the meeting. There is no charge for admission and, visitors are as always welcome.

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. **Notice:** Early voting will be taking place at the Bayland Annex.

Education:

Dayle Mazzarella, well known master casting instructor, educator, and outstanding flyfishing teacher and guide will be in Houston the last week in November. He will be available for two casting clinics on Saturday, 1 December. The morning clinic will be focused on developing skills as a caster and fishing moving water. The afternoon clinic will be oriented to saltwater casting on the flats with instruction of double haul, increasing line speed and an approach to distance casting as well as the quick cast. These are core skills if you wish to become a better saltwater angler. For details and times on Dayle's classes, see the Special Events section. *Joe Burton, TFF Education Director*

Andy's Casting Notes:

Use of Video to Improve Casting Performance

By Andy Payne, CCI

Use of video was instrumental in my journey to certification as a casting instructor. Now it represents one of the very best teaching tools to aid in diagnosing casting faults and communicating to a student what is causing flaws in that students casting. One picture is truly worth a thousand words.

I first learned of use of video at the IFFF annual Fair in Livingston, MT about 8 years ago, just in time to help me prepare for certification without an MCI mentor within reasonable driving distance. Macauley Lord (former director of fly-fishing schools at LL Bean) presented a workshop covering use of the



Here's What's Coming Up! – *Continued:*

Andy's Casting Notes - *Continued*

software now titled Technique by HUDL. <https://www.hudl.com/> I believe the software can still be downloaded for use on Apple devices for free. Other solutions are available and can be found by searching for coaching tools.

The special features of the software that are essential to the overall effectiveness include:

1. Slow motion
2. Scrolling stop motion; i.e. you can move the video with your finger at a slow enough pace to see elements such as maximum rod bend, stop point in casting stroke, counter flex, rebound, rod straight, initial loop formation, etc.
3. Ability to share videos with other casters.
4. Storage and labeling capability including name of caster, type of cast, notes about performance, etc.
5. Tools for use in marking critical elements in a video for discussion and reference, such as marking rod stop position and casting trajectory of fly leg.
6. Ability to show comparison of two casts in synchronized mode to display performance differences.

Through trial and error, Macauley, with the help of his students, was able to develop keys to use of video that result in usefulness of the process. Some of these are:

- Always seek a dark background for use of the video. This could be the side of a building, a tree line, a hillside, etc. With only blue sky it becomes difficult to see the fly line which is necessary for the video to be effective.
- Frame the video from about waist high on the caster at the bottom and high enough to include entire fly rod and the fly leg of the line as it passes over the casters head. If you cannot see the fly leg of the line you cannot be sure what is happening with the cast. The rod and casting arm only tell part of the story.
- It is best where possible to video from the rod hand side of the caster. This may not be possible where background or wind require viewing from offhand side.
- It is not necessary to see the entire fly line unroll during the cast. If you can see close to one half of the length of fly line that is in the air you can evaluate the quality of the cast.
- When needing to evaluate horizontal tracking it is necessary to video from a point almost in line with the cast, either from front or back. Vertical tracking is highlighted by reference to the degree of straightness of the fly leg of the line from the side.

Use of video is about the only way an individual caster working alone can determine if their casting loops are narrow or wide (not necessarily true for open loops since these are so wide as to be totally obvious



Here's What's Coming Up! – Continued:

Andy's Casting Notes - *Continued*

from almost any angle). The worst vantage point for judging the width of a casting loop is from the position of the person holding the rod.

Some of the most rewarding experiences as an instructor come when you can show a student visually how wide their casting arc is and how that relates to poor loops and ineffective presentation casts. You can see the AHA! Moment in their eyes. In many cases the very next cast is nearly perfect after they have struggled with the wide-open casting loop for an hour.

Some benefit can be gained by simply using the video feature of a smart phone. But many of the very useful tools mentioned above are simply not present and diagnosing a cast including possible multiple faults with a simple video is very difficult.

I use an iPad which provides a large enough screen to make viewing the entire process much easier than the result achieved by a cell phone device.

I hope this information will motivate you to try the coaching software and video process to work on your casting and to help you teach others. *Happy Holidays, Andy Payne*

Conservation:

What: TPWD Fishing Education Classes

When: Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: TBA

The class will cover how to properly log volunteer hours, and train the participants to be a certified angler volunteers. This will open all angling volunteer opportunities, including opportunities to teach kids how to fish. We currently have 16 people who have signed up but, more are welcome to join and, there is no cost for this course. To find out more about this class, visit with Avery Griffith, in person at the monthly meeting or, by e-mail at [averygriffin13\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:averygriffin13(at)gmail(dot)com) *Thanks, Avery Griffith*

Outreach:

Reel Recovery:

We've just completed our 2018 Retreat Season and, what a great one it has been! On the weekend of November 2-4 we completed the semi-annual Fall Texas Southern Region Navasota Retreat. We served 20 retreat participants this year in the two retreats. Reel Recovery conducted 6 retreats statewide serving over 70 courageous men living with cancer.



Nationwide, Reel Recovery conducted 29 Retreats in 19 States and New Zealand, serving over 350 courageous men. We've now served over 3,300 men! Over 700 dedicated, caring volunteers actively



Here's What's Coming Up! – Continued:

Reel Recovery - Continued:

assisted us, organizing and staffing the retreats, raising funds, recruiting participants, building our Community!

As in years past, our thanks goes out to the Texas FlyFishers for supporting Texas Reel Recovery both financially and through its 30+ member Reel Recovery Volunteers giving retreat participants a life-changing experience. Be Well! Fish On!

For more information on Reel Recovery or, to register for the upcoming or, future retreats, go to the Reel Recovery website at reelrecovery.org or, contact Dave Steffek at (713) 202-0101. Dave will be happy to answer to any questions about the retreats. *Thanks, Dave Steffek*

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact me at txfritz4134@suddenlink.net. *Thanks, Bill Heugel, Conroe Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishers Coordinator*



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 December, 2018 through March 2019

December 2018:

Fly Casting Clinics with Dayle Mazzarella, Saturday, December 1, 2018, Timarron Park, 550 North Green Print Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77375. The clinics are Mastering Basics of Stream Fishing Clinic from 8:00 am to Noon and, Saltwater Fly Casting Mastery, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Early registration is encouraged. For more detailed information, see the following announcement.

Fishing Tackle Unlimited's Annual Inshore Expo, Saturday, December 8, 2018, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Katy Freeway Store, 10303 Katy Freeway (I-10), Houston, Texas, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more detailed information, see the following announcement.

Note: The Texas FlyFishers have been offered a table to tie flies at this event. If you are interested in tying, please contact me at the November Monthly Meeting or, by e-mail at [csumers\(at\)Comcast\(dot\)net](mailto:csumers(at)Comcast(dot)net) I plan on being at the event all day. *Tight lines, Chris Sumers*

Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party, Sunday, December 9th, 2018. Join your fellow club members for the Annual Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9th, 2018 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Elks Lodge located at 10150 W. Airport Rd in Stafford, Texas 77477.



Mark Your Calendar – Continued:

January 2019:

Freshwater Outing, Guadalupe “Una Mosca”, Saturday, January 12, 2019, Guadalupe River, New Braunfels / Sattler, Texas. Details and Leader TBA.

Note about the outings: Some of the dates and locations for the outings are subject to change and, the updates will be made as dates and leaders get locked in. If you’d like to volunteer to lead this or, another outings, please visit with John Eldred at the next monthly meeting or, e-mail him at john.eldred03(at)gmail(dot)com

Saltwater Outing, Garcitas Creek/Lavaca Bay, Saturday, January 19, 2019, Details and Leader TBA.

February 2019:

27th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival, Saturday, February 9th 2019, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston, Texas 77098. This year’s featured guest is deer hair specialist Pat Cohen, rusuperfly.com . For more information, see the following announcement.

Freshwater Outing, Nueces River (George West, Texas), Wednesday, February 13, 2019, Yes, it’s in the middle of the week. This is to avoid the crowds. Details and Leader TBA

GRTU Troutfest Texas 2019, February 22 – 24, 2019, Lazy L&L Campgrounds, 11699 River Rd, New Braunfels, Texas 78132. For additional information or, to purchase tickets, visit the Troutfest website at <http://www.grtu.org/troutfest/>

Saltwater Outing, Annual Prison Permit Invitational, Saturday, February 23, 2019, Sargent, Texas / East Matagorda Bay. Details and Leader TBA. Note: Alan Kulcak will be the featured speaker at the January Monthly Meeting, giving us tips on fishing for elusive sheepshead and, what patterns to use.

March 2019:

44th Annual Houston Fishing Show, March 6-10, 2019, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas. www.houstonfishingshow.com

Freshwater Outing, Annual Harmon Creek White Bass Outing, Saturday, March 8, 2019. Harmon Creek RV Park and Marina, 14 Marina Pt., Huntsville, Texas 77320. Details and Leader TBA. *Note: This outing usually includes an overnight stay at the campground however, space in the cabin is usually first come, first bed.*

Saltwater Outing, Shoalwater Bay, Saturday, March 16, 2019, Port O’Connor / Seadrift, Texas, Details and Leader TBA.

The Third Annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival, March 23 – 24, 2019, Plano Centre, Plano, Texas. For more information, check the TFFBF website at txflyfishingfestival.org

Note: Outing dates, times and locations are subject to change without notice. If you are signed up for or, interested in participating on an outing, please check the Texas FlyFishers website.

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Mark Your Calendar – Continued:

The 2019 Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party, Sunday, December 9th, 2018.

Join your fellow club members for the Annual Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9th, 2018 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Elks Lodge located at 10150 W. Airport Rd in Stafford, Texas 77477. This event is held in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting.



This party is open to all paid members of our club, with each member being allowed to bring 1 guest. Please use the October and November meetings to get your membership up to date. If you are not able to be at the meetings, you can go to our website and pay your membership with PayPal.

After much discussion, it has been decided to return to serving a full buffet dinner, with members being responsible for bringing desert. Each guest will be provided with complimentary drink and door prize tickets at the door. Please be sure to RSVP so there is enough food for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you at this fun event.

Note: Dates and times for the club activities are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the TFF website for the most current information. www.texasflyfishers.org

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Special Events:

27th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival
Saturday February 9th, 2019, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston, Texas 77098



**27th Annual
Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival
Saturday February 9, 2019**

Featured Guest

**One Hour
Classroom Fly Tying
Presentations
&
The 2nd Annual
"Iron Fly"
Competition**

**One of the largest
gatherings of expert
fly tyers under
one roof at one time**

Beginners Fly Tying

**Doors Open at 8:30 am
Bethany Christian Church
3223 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas
Adults - \$10, Seniors (62 &
Up) - \$8, Family - \$14, Under
18 - \$5, Scouts (In Uniform)
Get in for Free**

**Pat Cohen
Deer Hair Specialist
rusuperfly.com**

www.texasflyfishers.org



www.TexasFlyFishers.org

If you are interested in tying at the Fly Tying Festival, please e-mail Chris Summers at [csumers\(at\)comcast\(dot\)com](mailto:csumers(at)comcast(dot)com)



Special Events – *Continued:*

FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED

Annual Inshore Expo

December 8, 2018

Katy Frwy Location

10303 Katy Fwy

10:00 am—4:00 pm

Casting Demonstrations, Tying Demonstrations, Seminars, Factory Representatives

If skinny water is your fishing destination, this event is for you! Sight –Casting with fly or conventional... Salt or Fresh, we'll have demonstrations and seminars that cover it all!

Seminar Schedule:

11:00—Capt Ernest Cisneros—Developing a Game Plan for Trophy Texas Snook and Trout. We will be giving away swag from Simms and Power-Pole for those who attend the seminar.

12:30—Dr. Jerry Ault and Adam Marton—Dr. Ault, of the Tarpon & Bonefish Research Center, and Adam Marton from the Fieldworkers Club talk Bonefish and Tarpon research. Come learn from two of the authorities on these exciting species.

2:00—JT Van Zandt—Rockport Guide, JT Van Zandt, discusses elements that effect fishing conditions (tides, winds, season, migrations) and creating a plan to maximize success. He will also discuss resource conservation of our bays and coast.

Special Guests:

- ◊ Enrico Puglisi
- ◊ Chance Yarbrough, Texas Wildlife Artist

On Display:

- ◊ Chittum Skiffs –Stephen Ford
- ◊ Sabine Skiffs—Brian Little

Tying Demonstrations:

Enrico Puglisi, EP Flies ◊ Texas Flyfishers

Heath Hippel, Buggs Lures— *2nd Gen Curl-Tail and Hydra Buggs (prototype)*

Brands Represented:

Simms, Sage, Scott, Hardy, G.Loomis, TFO, Shimano, Scientific Angler, Rio, Redington, Airflo, Costa, Abel, Tibor, Nautilus, Sixth Sense, Buggs Lures, EP Flies and many more!

For more event information, Call 713-827-7762 or follow us on Facebook ([fishingtackleunlimitedhouston](#)) and/or Instagram [fishingtackleunlimited](#)

Outings Report:

November Freshwater Outing at Damon 7 Lakes

6 people signed up, but we had 19 fishing the event. Everybody caught fish, but the fishing was slow. “Puck” only caught 27.

Largemouth bass, red-ear sunfish, bluegill, and tilapia all came to hand. Some of the largest fish hit top-water flies but, even more hit sub-surface patterns.



Scott and “Puck” had camped out at D7L the night before, enjoying the perfect fall weather and a roaring campfire. Fishing stories and future fishing plans were the topics of the lies told.

2 teenagers caught fish on the fly rod before the wind picked up, and they switched to spinning gear.

It was fun to watch anglers throw a 1 weight fly rod, and actually hook fish on a size 16 black nosed dace trout fly.

It was good to see Mr. Mike Arnold came out with his son, Matt, acting as chauffeur. Get well soon, Mike.



At lunch we gathered at the picnic area and shared stories about which flies were working, and who caught what.

This was the last freshwater outing for 2018 but, the Texas FlyFishers will be back at Damon 7 Lakes next April for the 2019 John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular.

Silver King Lodge – Member Tim Stokley’s Report

When I was the highest bidder for the trip to Silver King Lodge in Costa Rica at the annual TFF auction in 2018 I really had no idea what I was doing. I had only been fly fishing a couple of months and up to that point had only caught bluegill and small bass. The only thing I knew for sure is I had grown up fishing on the Texas gulf coast and had heard stories from my grandfather, uncles and read many stories about the mighty Silver King and I wanted to catch one.

Now time to plan, I really wanted to take my own equipment I had been fishing several times in the past with guides and outfitters and had mixed results when it came to tackle so I wanted to be in charge of my own destiny. Everyone in the club pointed me in Jerry Brown’s direction, he had been to SKL many times and was a wealth of knowledge. I ended up looking at EBay and other sites for rod and reel. I ended up with a 12wt T&T 2 piece that looked barely used and an Orvis Mirage VI

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Outings Report - *Continued*

that looked unused I loaded that up with Leviathan 500 gr. full sinking line and 325 yards of 30 lb. Dacron as recommended. I proceeded to look for fly's tied big enough for the task at hand, all of the Tarpon fly's you see for sale locally are tied for Florida, Bahamas, and Belize sized Tarpon with 1/0 to 3/0 hooks. Jerry was showing me fly's 5" – 8" long with 5/0 Owner and Mustad hooks from his collection. I found a few Bluewater fly's but ultimately about a month before traveling to CR Jerry handed me 25 hooks and some of his flies, I bought a vise and took the plunge (oh my another addiction). I managed to tie about 12 flies in few different patterns before taking off on my adventure. I tried casting the rod on our PINS trip and it was horrible, I do not know if it was the rod the line or both but was like casting a lead wire. But not to worry it would work out.

The night before I had to fly out was chaos I promised to spend time with my girlfriend and we hit Market Street in The Woodlands. I may have, well I did party too much. Friday AM alarm went off way too early. I had packed way too much on Friday, every fly rod I owned, and every reel I owned, regardless if it would catch a Tarpon. I was going fishing and planned to catch something no matter what size it was. Once I woke up I second guessed myself removed half my clothing (not the fishing gear) and finished packing the last few items, you know what I am talking about, those fly's that have never caught anything that may just catch something there, some tippet and anything else fishing related that I may need. Then off to the airport the flight from IAH to San Jose was smooth. I arrived in San Jose about 1:30PM customs was pretty busy. I got to the customs officer and he asked where I was going, oh crap I didn't know I explained I was going tarpon fishing at the Barra Del Colorado area and he just smiled and stamped my passport. I spent the night at a hotel in San Jose, the lodge took care of all transfers to the hotel and back to the airport in the morning as well as the local flight to the Tortugerro airstrip Saturday AM.



Saturday morning October 6, we landed at the Tortugerro airstrip around 7:30 AM and was met by 2 guides from the lodge we quickly loaded up in a boat and started out to SKL for a 45 min ride, additionally there were 2 gentlemen from Japan on the plane with me that were going to the lodge. On the ride to the lodge we saw Tarpon rolling and jumping the water was like glass. We were met at the dock by Mike the lodge manager went straight to the dining area and had breakfast. Mike explained the layout and rules of the road so to speak. After breakfast I grabbed my things and went straight out to the boat and met my guide Cristobal and started getting rigged up. Upon seeing my 12wt T&T I was asked if I really wanted to use that rod I said yes and the guide grabbed a spare fly rod from storage and we took off.

The guide and I had the discussion at the dock, do I want to fly fish only or fish both conventional

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Outings Report - *Continued*

and fly. It was clear, I had spent a lot of money up this point I wanted to boat fish.

We got stopped at the first spot and Chris set out the baited rigs then I had him tie on a big deceiver chartreuse and black that I had tied. He had rigged up a leader of 80lb fluoro 40lb fluoro class and 150 weed eater line (mono) for bite tippet and put my fly at the end of that with a loop knot I didn't recognize, I discovered later it was a slightly modified bowline knot that believe it or not could change out a fly with the ease of a snap even after catching a 160# Tarpon. We fished hard that morning jumped 2 Tarpon on bait that I lost on the first jump. I had a really hard hit on the fly that was either a big barracuda, shark or something with big teeth the fly was cut off in the loop on 150# mono. We headed to lunch it was Tim 0 Tarpon 2.

That afternoon the fishing gods started to smile upon me and I caught my first Tarpon on bait it was about 70 lbs. and what a great feeling it was. The luck on bait continued and I boated 2 additional tarpon 80 and about 130 both on bait. All 3 were a tough fight I was hurting, my hands, arms, legs and back all felt like I had went rounds with Tyson.

Day 2 brought 2 really big Tarpon and some heartache. I caught the two on bait one before lunch and one in the afternoon around 150# - 160# each. The heartache was I lost 3 on fly that day 2 shook the hook out



on the first jump and one broke the 40# class tippet on the jump. I was messing up badly not setting the hook well and not bowing to the king on the jump. I wasn't getting the hang of the strip set. A trout set or the traditional rod and reel hook set was a recipe for failure. I also learned how much mental battle it is to get a big fish like this to the side of the boat. Both of the 150+ fish had the heart of a lion never giving up. My forearms, hands and back all were screaming at me but I held on. There were a few moments I was wondering if I could do this. I eventually got my head wrapped around the battle and pushed through the pain. The fight was as much mental as it was physical. The guide had the #100 pound test leader in hand 4 or 5 times on each fish before getting the fish on the side of the boat to release. The second one was pushing 160# or more and broke the 10/0 circle hook when the guide was wrapping the 150# mono on his hand to release the fish, giving me a nice souvenir. The fish had straightened the hook out some a sign I was fighting the fish too hard.

Day 3 started out rough, we had a hit on bait as soon as the guide set the rod in the holder he handed me the rod and I promptly broke the fish off on the first jump. We moved locations and started another drift and another good strike on bait I got the rod in hand and broke the circle hook off at the barb, the hook wasn't seated and I didn't give the fish his due and bow / give some slack during the jump. This was one of those defining moments in life. Cristobal told me "Tim you fish badly" it hit me pretty hard,



Outings Report - *Continued*

I am not going to say I pouted but probably wasn't far from it. The bite slowed for a short time and then bam fish on. I was fighting it and then another took the bait and then we had a double on

Chris left the second one in the holder tending to it only to keep tension on while I fought the fish at the bow we got it boated and released then I picked up the second rod and started doing battle. We are in about 35-40 foot of water and when the fish get a little tired they come up and gulp some air then go down and anchor themselves under the bow of the boat the fight is gain 3 feet give 3 feet for 30 mins maybe more then maybe you can gain a little advantage and get the head turned your way and gain some ground. By 9am I had jumped 2 and boated 2 I was feeling rough good thing I took both my alieve and ibuprofen that morning. The break was short lived I had another on by 9:15 and then another on the hook before we released the third fish, fishing was hot. We boated the fourth fish and released it by 10:25 I was drenched in sweat, just emptied a water bottle I looked at Chris and said "Lunch" he said it was early we should fish more. Well it was great advice, 5 minutes later what I had come to do happened. A solid hit on the fly, I managed to set the hook, not sure how. That fish took to the air on the first jump about 50 foot from the boat it was big. I said holy s#@t! that's a big fish and Chris just laughed, the fish got into the backing about 100 yards in seconds Chris checked my drag and snugged it down some. The fight on the fly rod is completely different, the leverage on your body is gentler the line and rod makes a different noise and is over all a beautiful experience or at least I thought at that time. This fish must have known it was lunch time. We were unhooked and headed to the lodge by 10:50 the fish was a solid #160 maybe more. Chris said the fish was hooked just right and came in easy because of that. Don't get me wrong it fought but I didn't expect to release it in 25 minutes or so. I was feeling the high that you can only get from catching 5 tarpon before lunch and getting your first on the fly. We had a new group arrive that morning from England, bragging about the fish they caught and sounding boisterous as Britt's sometimes do. They asked me how did you do chap I said 5 it got quiet for a minuet some of them were like how in the hell did you do that mate I said it was work that much was for sure. We fished hard after lunch, chased some birds we caught a couple of jacks one on the fly and had a barracuda almost land in the boat chasing a ribbon fish I was reeling up so we could make another drift, but in the end the afternoon conditions started getting a little rougher and the fishing slowed. I finished the day with 5 tarpon boated and my first tarpon on the fly. I had a few rums to celebrate that night and was falling asleep by 8:30, what a day.

Day 4, As the Navy Seals say "The only easy day was yesterday". I finally felt like I was getting the hang of things. We had some good hook ups on bait that morning. Big fish all of them 140-160 and headed to lunch with 4 Tarpon boated. When we arrived at the dock, Eve the bartender met me at the dock with a fruit drink. I was getting fond of being met at the dock with a fresh fruit smoothie both at lunch and evening I had her pour dark rum in the drink for the afternoon drink. The Britt's were worried about me I had only caught 4 they were asking if I was off my game. The afternoon was a grind again. The seas were 2-3 with the occasional bigger set, opposed being flat in the mornings. Chris hooked a tarpon on the fly

Windknots

Outings Report - *Continued*

and handed it off to me for the fight. It was a longer fight than the previous day, the fish made several longer runs and we had to chase it down once to keep the backing on the reel.

We got it in about an hour later. The fly that caught the Tarpon was one I had tied. I was stoked such a cool feeling to catch a big fish on a fly you had tied yourself. That was it for Tarpon I had a small Barracuda hit my fly and we hooked up and a few seconds later it was dang near in the boat with us. We got it under control and released it.

Day 5 Final day. Yesterday was defiantly easier I just had no idea at that point. The fishing gods smiled down upon me and got the currents just right for an epic and memorable day of fishing. I had been Jigging the fly for less than 5 minutes and had a blistering hit I hold on to the fly line using my new hook set method. Hold onto the fly line until my glove, finger guard, fly line and finger melt together then release! "Ahh success" fish on and I managed to keep it on through the first jump and the second through the fifth as well. This fish was big and not happy about being hooked up it finally settled down to the bottom in the 35 foot water and I began my battle of trying to get an angle on the fish and or get a few turns on the reel to pull it up a few feet only to lose ground when it figured out what you were up to. The rod was vibrating the line was singing I was putting a lot of pressure on the rod and it was bent over double. We got the fish to the leader 5 times then "SNAP" the T&T exploded it was in 3 pieces. I had half the sink tip on the reel so Chris hand lined the big fish up and broke it off at the 40# tippet alongside the boat good thing that T&T was an Ebay rod. I grabbed the house fly rod and the next tarpon hit my fly 5 minutes later. This fish hit my fly so hard I am surprised the tippet didn't snap, we were hooked up and this baby was running and jumping. In mere seconds the fly line was out of the eyes, 30 seconds later we are halfway in the backing with no slowdown in sight. This fish was mad and clearly didn't like being hooked up, it was headed out to sea. Chris checked the drag then started the boat and started chasing the beast down. I got some backing back on then it took off again. It was during this run it felt as though the line broke I got my hand on the reel handle started winding, it felt strange I got some tension on it and the fish was still on but the reel felt strange. I had no drag, I was trying to keep the fish under control. The reel was battering my hand, it was clear there was a major malfunction. Chris was looking at the reel as I tried to keep tension on the fish but the spool was wobbling and parts like c-clips and washers were falling out, the center shaft had broken. I told Chris to get my bag and get the Mirage reel out of it and strip the fly line off to the backing and take it off. He got the reel and put the boat in gear we chased the fish down and I got all the backing back on the Reddington reel. At this point I wrapped the fly line





Outings Report - *Continued*

around my glove several times and Chris cut the fly line from the backing we were committed now. It was at this point I notice Chris had misunderstood me he lashed the 2 fly lines together with some kind of knot, I sure hope that second line fit on my reel. We got the reel mounted and the fly line about 5 turns on the reel and we were back in business fighting poon. We leadered this fish 4 or 5 times and finally got it released it was 9 AM and I had just boated 2 big tarpon in the 160 – 170 class with major equipment failures on both. We fished on, I got one more on the fly pretty quickly and then a second was on a bait rod. We had a double, Chris looked at me and said Tim you have other one waiting. We got those 2 in then another one on the fly then another one hit the bait made a couple of jumps and was clearly hooked I was fighting #5 and #6 was waiting on the hook. I hear Chris yell “fish on” then on the second bait rod a tarpon maybe 100 pounds rockets out of the air and cleared 12 or more feet below his tail it was the highest jump I had seen up to this point, Chris remarked how high it was, maybe the highest he had seen and he has seen thousands lucky for me the fish got off on that jump. We pulled in at the dock at 11:15 having boated 6 tarpon that morning. As I set the broken rod and broken reel on the bench at the dock and Mike the manager ask me how I did I told him six and he just smiled and laughed. The Brit’s were speechless the Japanese had a new fishing god to worship and this may sound even funnier, I didn’t hurt at all I couldn’t believe it. We went back out after lunch and caught 2 more tarpon one on bait and one with a fly tied on the spinning rod with an egg sinker about 3 foot above it. We caught a big triple tail maybe 25 pounds as well to finish the day out. Back at the dock around 3:45, I gave Chris his well-earned tip and prepared to play mind games with the Brit’s, if you haven’t noticed I may have a slight issue with the guys that refer to us as the colonies. I had more good rum that last night and said my good byes to the staff they were all very wonderful I should have went home 10 pounds lighter after fighting all these tarpon but the well trained kitchen staff made sure I gained weight instead.

I went home the next morning to lick my wounds and replace equipment destroyed by the big fish. I was literally bruised from my chest to my feet and you could not have wiped the smile off my face with a sledge hammer. This trip was hands down the best fishing trip of my life. I finished the 5 days of fishing with 23 boated tarpon and another 10 or so jumped or broke off. I had caught a handful 70 – 100 pounds another handful 110 to 140 pounds with the remaining 13 being 150 to 170 pound fish. I had caught 3000+ pounds of fish in 5 days, incredible. I came home having fulfilled a childhood dream of catching tarpon. I also came home with a condition, an obsession that many men have had both famous and common alike for which there is only one cure. I will be going back to the Rio Colorado to fish the barra and the playa for the Sabalo and anywhere else that may hold a big silver slab of fish. They say misery loves company so I will be looking compadres to join me and fish for the big Sabalo, drink some rum and tell tall tales of the battles with the King. *Tight lines, Tim Stokley*

Have you been fishing lately? How’d it go? Please share your results and experiences with the club, E-mail your report and photos to me at [csumers\(at\)Comcast\(dot\)com](mailto:csumers(at)Comcast(dot)com).

Windknots

Fly of the Month:

Editor's Note: This month, Windknots pays tribute to a longtime friend and mentor of the Texas FlyFishers as well as the Texas coastal waters and fisheries. Fly of the Month will return next month.

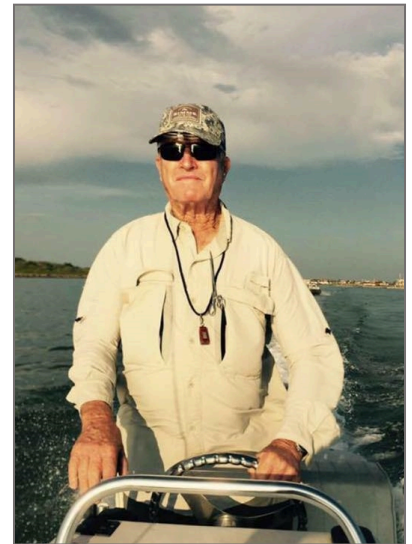
In Memoriam

James Andrew "Jim" Dailey

May 17, 1938 – November 15, 2018

Longtime friend and supporter of the Texas FlyFishers, Jim Dailey was laid to rest on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years, Melanie, his children, James and Angela along their spouses and children, many friends and fellow fishermen up and down the Texas Coast. For 29 years, Jim worked as a marine biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Palacios, monitoring the Matagorda Bay ecosystem. After retiring, Jim and Melanie remained in Palacios, remaining active in community and school activities.

Along with his duties with the TPWD, Jim also helped pioneer saltwater fly fishing along the middle Texas Coast. Jim was also a frequent visitor to Texas FlyFishers events and, many times, spoke to the membership at our monthly meeting. Known to many as "The Legend", Jim was eager to pass along his knowledge and experiences of the Texas Coastal waters and its fishery to the novice as well as the experienced angler. And, if you were fortunate enough to spend a day on the water with Jim, you were in for an experience...as well as stories and memories that will last you a lifetime. *Godspeed, Jim.*





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For additional information, check out the Texas FlyFishers website at <https://texasflyfishers.org/> or, the Texas FlyFishers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasFlyfishers/> .

Texas FlyFishers Membership Application

Please Check One: **New Application** **Renewal**

To join the 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 by 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 held 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 pm.

Dues are for (check one): Individual at \$24.00/year; Family at \$32.00/year; Student at \$16.00/year

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