

# WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 38, Issue 6, June 2019

## *And, the winner is?*

June is here and, in the world of a fly fisher, there are a few things we know for sure; 1) we can expect more wind but, maybe not as nasty as it was in May, 2) there's going to be a lot more competition for that "secret" spot, it's going to be **hot** and, if you happen to be a member of the Texas FlyFishers, 3) *it's election time*.

As set out in the Club's By Laws, at the June Monthly Meeting, by a show of hands, the Texas FlyFishers will elect the officers for the upcoming year. This year, the election date is set for June 25, 2019 at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas 77074.

The members will vote for the positions of Club President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any member in good standing can have their name placed in nominated for one of these positions. Nominations must be submitted to the Election Committee prior to the meeting. The actual vote will be tallied by a show of hands or by voice acclamation. To be elected, all you need is to receive a simple majority of the votes and the only qualification to vote is that dues are current.

The newly elected slate of officers will manage the affairs of Texas FlyFishers for the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. If you have any questions concerning nominations or the election in general, please contact any of the current club officers.

### **June Monthly Meeting**

The scheduled speaker for the June 25, 2019 meeting is Texas FlyFisher's member Tim Stokley who will tell us about his 2018 trip to the Silver King Lodge in jungles of eastern Costa Rica for tarpon.

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

### ***Also, in this issue...***

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# Windknots

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## Here's What's Coming Up!

### Monthly Meeting:

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019:** For the June monthly meeting, the Texas FlyFishers welcome one of its own, Tim Stokley. At last year's auction, Tim was high bidder on a trip donated by the Silver King Lodge, <https://silverkinglodge.com>. Located at the mouth of the famous Rio Colorado, the Silver King Lodge is literally steps from some of the finest tarpon fishing, anywhere. Tim's trip was featured in the November 2018 issue of *Windknots* but, I'm sure you will want to be on hand to learn more about this unbelievable fishery and lodge.



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

*Note to members:* If you know someone who is interested in learning more about fly fishing and, you are just interested in socializing with a group of likeminded fly fishers, come to the March 26<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. There is no charge for admission and, visitors are as always welcome.

### Education:

Plans are in the works to offer additional classes this year. The dates and subject matter will be announced soon. For additional information, visit the Texas FlyFishers website.

The club is still looking to fill the Casting Chair spot. If you are interested in filling this position or, teaching one of the club's casting classes, contact Frank Schlicht, Education Director or, Club President Marcos Enriquez.

### Conservation:

At an early age, I learned "if there was a mess, you cleaned it up, whether your made it or not". Since then, I have done my best to follow that philosophy. With that being said, I am issuing a challenge to our membership to collect the trash they come across, bag it up and dispose of it properly. But first...At the end of your next trip, take a picture of your "trophy" trash collection and submit it, along with the location and date, for publication in the following month's issue of *Windknots*. Then, at their next meeting, the Board of Directors will select one photo as that month's best example of keeping our outdoors clean. That photograph will then be combined with preceding month's selection and, at the end of the year, one of these photos will be selected as the best example of "Steward of Our Outdoors".

The entries will be judged on content, composition and clarity. All entries must be submitted to the editor, csumers(at)comcast(dot)net, in an editable format, on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be eligible for in current month's contest. The overall winner will be announced in the January issue of *Windknots*. Decisions of the judges are final.

If you are interested in serving as the Conservation Chair, please contact Club President Marcos Enriquez.

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## **Outreach:**

### **Reel Recovery:**

Texas Reel Recovery needs your help in finding applicants to fill up their 2019 Fall Retreats. The fall retreats for 2019 are scheduled for October 15, 2019, at Glen Rose, Texas and, November 1, 2019, near Navasota, Texas.



The retreats are at no cost to the men participating. All they have to do to apply for a retreat is log on to the Reel Recovery national website at [reelrecovery.org/programs/application/](http://reelrecovery.org/programs/application/) to fill an application. If you have had cancer, consider attending a retreat. If you have a male friend, relative or loved one who is living with cancer, please tell them about Reel Recovery.

Anyone needing to talk with someone more about a retreat can call Dave Steffek at (713) 202-0101 to answer any questions.

### **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:**

This has been a busy month. We have been building PacBay rods for the national rod building contest. Our rods will be submitted in May for judging by the PacBay folks. There are three levels to the rod building activity. Those that have never built a rod, those who have built two and those with more than two. The first, second and third place winner of each of the categories gets to go on a great trip to Winston Salem to the rod builders exposition. They will also go on a two day Smokey Mountains fishing adventure.

Our next activity will be a fly casting competition. In addition to accuracy and distance there is a requirement to go around a segment representing a rock or bush. The winner of our South Central Region will head to Boise Idaho for the FFI Expo. The final winner will be determined at that event. Of course it will also include a fishing outing.



We are hoping in the next few months to have some outings to Toledo Bend, the Guadalupe and Galveston. These outings are funded by the local donations we receive.

If you are a disabled veteran or know of one or are interested in being a volunteer to support the program, contact me.

We are always looking for more volunteers and more participants. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact me at [txfritz4134@suddenlink.net](mailto:txfritz4134@suddenlink.net). Thanks, Bill Heugel, Conroe Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishers Coordinator



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## **Mark Your Calendars:**

### **Club Activities Calendar for June through August 2019**

#### **June 2019:**

**Freshwater Outing, June 28 – 29, 2019: Annual South Fork of the Llano River Float Trip.** Float the South Llano River, targeting Guadalupe Bass, Rio Grande Perch, and feisty sunfish. Where: Bon Ton Roulet Cabins, 171 KC 150, Junction, Texas, 76849. The plan is to meet up on Friday (June 28) afternoon 3:00 pm and, we'll fish until Sunday (June 29) at noon, or as close to it as we can get. Outing Leader: Don "Puck" Puckett, contact: (2ate1) 8six5-thirty-two 16 or, e-mail: doncpuckett(at)gee-male(dot)com

**Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting,** Tuesday, June 25, 2019. This month's speaker is Tim Stokley and he will give us the rundown on his trip to Silver King Lodge on the Rio Colorado, Costa Rica. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

#### **July 2019:**

**Freshwater Outing, Saturday, July 13, 2019: Lake Raven Kayak/Canoe Day Trip to Lake Raven.** Load out at the boat amp inside Huntsville St. Park, Park Road 40 West, Huntsville, TX. Cost: \$7 park entrance fee. Outing Leader: John Eldred; Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot)com. See the May report on the club's website.

**Saltwater Outing, July 19-20, 2019: Laguna Madre Fly Fishing Association, Annual Magoo Fly Fishing One (1) Day Tournament:** This is a CPR (Catch, Photograph and Release) event. Location: Pendleton Park 1427 Morgan Blvd, Harlingen, TX 78550. Registration: July 19, 2019, Fishing Time: July 20, 2019, 6:00 am – 3:00 pm. Costs: \$65 for Non-Members of LMFFA, \$20 for current LMFFA members. Trip Leaders: John Eldred John Eldred; Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot)com and Don "Puck" Puckett Phone: (2ate1) 8six5-thirty-two 16 or, e-mail: doncpuckett(at)gee-male(dot)com. Additional information on the Club's website..

**Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting,** Tuesday, July 30 2019. This month's speaker is FlyFisher's member Scott Breedlove, regaling us with his recent adventure to Christmas Island, located in the middle of the Pacific. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

#### **August 2019:**

**Freshwater Outing** - Currently, there is no freshwater outing scheduled for this August. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Outing Chairman John Eldred; Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot)com. See the May report on the club's website.



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## **Mark Your Calendars** – *Continued:*

### **August 2019:**

**Saltwater Outing** – Currently, there is no confirmed saltwater outing scheduled for this August. If you have a location and, would like to lead the outing, contact Outing Chairman John Eldred; Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot )com. Check the Club’s website for additional information.

**The Annual Summer Mini Expo** – The August Monthly Meeting is the Annual Summer Mini Expo and, it will take place on Saturday, August 24, 2016 at the Terrace Unity Methodist Church, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055. Check the Club’s website for additional information.

*Note: All events, outing dates, times and locations are subject to change without notice. Keep your eye on the Texas FlyFishers website for updates.*

### **Member Outings Report:**

#### **Gunnison, Colorado Trout Fishing**

**April 23, 2019**

**Submitted by Joe Nicklo**

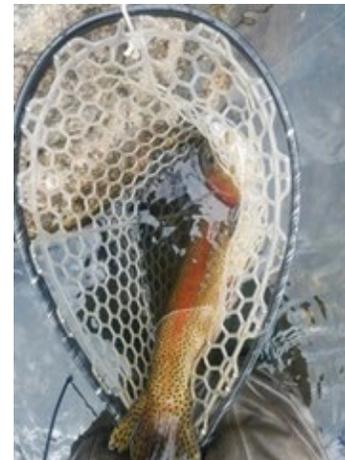
On April 23, 2019, Denis Auger, Bob Orr and I, Joe Nicklo, traveled to Colorado to fish the spring run of rainbow trout on the Taylor River located north of Gunnison Colorado. Unfortunately, it was not the best fishing compared to previous years. Colorado had 160 % snow pack this year presenting problems getting access to some areas on the river. In addition, there was a considerable amount of avalanche debris in the river which hindered fishing some of the prime fishing areas. We all caught fish but not like in we had envisioned. I am not sure the cause, I saw fewer fish this year than I have seen in the past 10-years. Normally, we see several large rainbows caught, only one this year! Thanks to Denis who supplied the photos shown here!

Now, for a bit of humor. When we arrived at the river on Wednesday morning, I unpacked my waders and wading boots. My first reaction was, “ooh no, ooh \$#!t”! I have two like pair of wading boots, one with felt soles, one with just rubber soles. When I packed, obviously, I was not paying attention and *packed a left boot from each pair*. We were twenty-eight miles from town and I did not feel a trip to town would solve my problem. So for the next three-days, I fished wearing two left boots. Laugh all you want, it was a bit uncomfortable but it worked. Needless to say there were times when I thought I was leading with both left feet. *Thanks, Joe!*

If you have a trip report that you’d like to share with our readers, please submit it, along with any photos, to me at csumers(at)comcast(dot)net. *Thanks, Chris Summers, Editor-Windknots*



## Member Outings Report: - Continued



## Casting Notes:

Thank you to the author, Dave Hayward, for allowing the Texas FlyFishers to include this edition of "Dave's Desk" it in the April issue of the *Windknots*. The following was originally published in the March 29, 2019 issue of Swan Point Landing Newsletter.

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Thank you to the author, Dave Hayward, for allowing the Texas FlyFishers to include this edition of "Dave's Desk" it in the April issue of the *Windknots*. The following was originally published in the March 29, 2019 issue of Swan Point Landing Newsletter.

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**Casting Notes** - *Continued:*

***"Blind Casting with a Fly Rod 101"***

*By Dave Hayward*

While every day out on the water is a gift, some are better than others for the saltwater fly fisherman. When Regional coastal legend, retired TPW biologist (and part-time guru) Jim Dailey says "All the marbles were lined up!" you can deduce that sun, wind, and water clarity were perfect for the sight-caster. The fly rod is king on those days when you can first see your fish in thin water and put a fly right on its face. Some folks may only pull out their fly rods on these perfect days, while another group will cope with one or two of those "marbles" missing or degraded. Hardcore fly fisherman will grind out a session on those cloudy, windy days when the saner of us would pick up bait casting or spin tackle. Living in Houston in the old days, I usually hit the central Texas coast on my day off, no matter what the conditions were. I had to adjust to all kind of weather and tidal situations. You dealt with what you were dealt. There are a few strategies for covering water on those cloudy days, from slowly wading through good looking water and casting to "wakes" or "nervous water", to drifting or poling from a boat and hitting promising potholes, prop scars, and drop-offs. Here are a few notes on making those "blind-casting" sessions with your fly rod more productive. There are few things cooler than watching that big white streamer disappear at the bottom of a pothole!!

**"YOU'VE GOT TO THROW MORE LINE..."**

To successfully blind-cast our water, you really need to be an intermediate level fly caster to have any fun doing it. If you are not already picking up 20' to 30' of floating line off the water and shooting another 30' or more, you may want to pick up the spinning or level-wind rod when the wind kicks up. While there is no doubt you can be successful on the coast with a wristy, freshwater trout game when targets are happy and close, you'll need to get your upper arm involved and lock out that wrist to get beyond 60' efficiently.

It's a simple fact that the more water you cover, the more likely you are going to get a fly in front of an unseen fish. Just one or two false casts should get you out to 60' or more quickly. Practice shooting more line, even on your back cast to minimize false casts. Remember, if you are blind casting from a drifting boat, half of your downwind cast and retrieve could be gobbled up by the boat drifting in on your fly. You will not even move the fly if you don't strip your fly in faster than the boat's drift speed. In the same vein, make your next cast 10' to the left or right of the last one, so your entire retrieve is covering un-fished water. The right-handed fly caster should cast from the front of the boat, throwing downwind off the left (port) side of the boat. If you sense there is no fish in the last 20' to 30' of your retrieve back to the boat, pick up that line and shoot for distance. Picking up the fly at the boat gunwale just means more false casts before the fly is back in productive water. Consider dropping a 36"- 42" drift sock off the opposite (starboard) side of the boat to slow down your drift speed on a windy day. Place the windsock closer to the stern if there is just one fly fisher onboard and move it to mid-ship so two fly fisherman can cast downwind without getting in the others way. The better caster (with presumably better line/ loop / fly control) should always be in the back half of a drifting boat. I mash down the barbs on all my blind casting flies for better hooksets AND the ease of removing wayward flies from clothes or skin. EVERYONE in the boat needs to be wearing sunglasses for eye protection during these blind casting missions. (I carry a few extra pair on board). – *Continued*



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## **Casting Notes** - *Continued:*

The hot weather, monofilament-cored fly line you used this summer will need to be stretched the first thing in the morning and maybe a couple of times throughout a winter day to remove the line coil from your reel. Some anglers will go to freshwater trout / striper lines with the softer Dacron core to minimize these distance-robbing line coils in the winter months.

After all the work you do to get your distance casting game down, fly line maintenance, the black art of keeping your line free from feet, boat snags, and wind will be your next challenge. There are numerous line containers, stripping baskets, and home-cobbled leaf baskets to keep unruly line in check under control between casts. First off, DO NOT pull any more line off your reel than you expect to cast! Extra line lying underfoot is just a snag waiting to happen. The higher you are IN the boat (on the front casting platform versus boat deck) the more line will get blown around between casts. When it is really blowing, hop down into the boat's cockpit and let the line lay on the clean floor. I will also wet the front deck or cockpit floor with water to help the running line stick. Water will also cool the deck on those hot summer days where brutal sun can turn even a mono-cored fly line mushy and sticky.

Even when you are out there, covering as much water as you can, pick out a target to throw to. Hit the backside of that far away pothole, or drag a fly down along a grass / sand edge. Don't just be satisfied with getting a cast out there as far as you can. You'll be developing accuracy skills that will pay off when fish get spooky on those calm, sunny days or when a fish gets upwind from you. If you are on the bow of your boat, drifting and casting STRAIGHT downwind, the fly may come very close to the back of your head. Angle your casts just left of directly downwind to keep yourself safe and remember to throw that next cast at a different angle to cover new water. I religiously check my rod sections for slippage during these long casting sessions, making sure they don't gradually migrate apart, then break on a long cast or a good redfish. Wax up your rod ferrules to keep the sections tight. West coast steelheaders will tape their long river rods together with electrician's tape to minimize rod sections separating while covering big water.

**"YOU'VE GOT TO CAST A LARGER PIECE OF MEAT!"**

Few things tick me off more than poling someone around, early in the morning, in 2-3' of prime grass / pothole water, and they're throwing a fly the size of a peanut!! When the "lights" are off (or low) you've got to establish your fly's presence! The tactical benefits of flies and their presentation, when sight casting, go away when the clouds roll in. A bigger, wider, bulkier fly (4" to 6" long Seaducers, wool and deer head mullet) will be better seen or "felt" as it is stripped through good water. Small glass rattle chambers can also be tied into these bigger flies. This bigger ordinance will need an 8 or 9 weight outfit and I usually want my fly swimming through the bottom half of the water column. A 9' long, 15 to 20 pound test leader will let weighted flies get down during a drift. Some folks will fish slow sinking or sink-tip fly lines (with short leaders, under 4') out of the boat and throw safer, un-weighted flies. Fly-rodgers may overload (i.e. put a 9 weight line on an 8 weight rod) their blind casting rig to load the rod with one less, life-threatening false cast AND to throw a larger fly. When poling a pair of anglers, it is NEVER a bad idea to have the other angler in the boat cover water from the stern with conventional tackle. The plugger may move a fish that the fly fisher can pick off a quick cast later. If I commit to a full day of drifting, I go to all fluorocarbon leaders on my floating lines and 3-4' of straight 15 lb. fluoro on my sinking lines to help flies get down and stay down during the retrieve. – *Continued*



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### **Casting Notes - Continued:**

Essentially, you don't want to drive 3 hours down here to fish and miss your fish by 2 feet!!

#### **MOVE TO DEEPER WATER....**

If you get a sense that you have reds and trout in shallow, wade-able water, blind casting top water flies, poppers and big streamers can be productive on a cloudy day. Getting out of the boat minimizes most line management issues and increases the chance of sticking a fish with a shorter cast. When wading early or on a cloudy day, move to water just above the knees as you walk, staying alert for waking or tailing fish closer to shore, DON'T push a wake, but keep moving. Choose flies that float or settle slowly through the water column. When searching for fish early with floating and slow sinking bugs, keep your retrieves erratic, as if crippled, Go to smaller (6, 4, and 2) and "quieter" bugs in 12" to 18" of water. The noisy bloops and chugs of top water bass bugs will send skinny water fish heading for the exits. Save the aggressive top water retrieves for your boat drifts in 2' to 4' of water. Go to bigger, brighter, and louder flies in knee to waist deep water as you'll need more water column to make these flies work without spooking fish. You usually don't see guys fishing Mirrolures in calf deep water.....

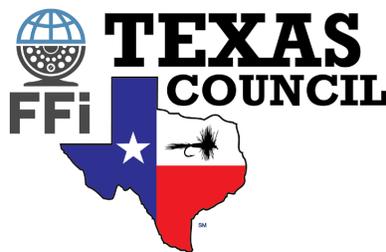
#### **WHY BLINDCAST YOUR A\*\* OFF FOR A FISH??**

Well, you should eventually get better handling your fly tackle in adverse conditions. Casting 90 feet downwind on a crappy day means you can probably throw 40' to an upwind fish. Skills developed here in Texas, will serve you well on that trip to Florida, Belize, and the Caribbean. While I love fly fishing's relative "certainty" when hunting and feeding a sighted fish, I still have some ol' bass bugger in me that likes to throw flies to habitat and ambush points and watch the line come tight! Covering water thoroughly is part of a salmon and steelheader's job description, a series of hopeful parallel casts. Blind casting with a fly rod is not for everyone, and that may be part of its appeal too.....

Dave

## *Tight loops and tight lines!*

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**The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee:**

**Marcos Enriquez**  
President

**Don "Puck" Puckett**  
Vice President / Programs

**Bob Brill**  
Secretary / Membership

**Raymond Lindeen**  
Treasurer

**Jim Richards**  
Club Secretary / Programs

**Dave Lemke**  
Webmaster

**Open**  
Communications

**Open**  
Conservation Chair

**Frank Schlicht**  
Education Chair

**Open**  
Casting / FFI Director

**John Eldred**  
Outings Chair

**Alex Blacque**  
Registration / Door Prizes

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

**Open**  
Auction Chairs

**Dave Steffek**  
Reel Recovery

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 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and, renewals are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. 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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work / Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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