

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 38, Issue 8, August 2019

10th Annual Summer Mini Expo Saturday, August 24, 2019

The brainchild of Texas FlyFishers Past President David Lemke, the Annual Summer Mini Expo is held in place of the regular August Monthly Meeting giving the members an opportunity to showcase their talents by demonstrating fly tying, rod building, knot tying / leader building, casting instructions and, in a classroom setting, showing off some of the exotic locations where fly fishing can take you.

The 10th Annual Summer Mini Expo will take place on Saturday, August 24, 2016 at the Terrace Unity Methodist Church, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055. Doors will open at 8:00 am and the Expo will run until 4:00 pm. Inside of the main building, there will be fly tying demonstrations and rod building. Outside, our team of casting instructors will present a series of classes and also, make themselves available to help you with your casting stroke. There is also an area designated for children casting instruction. We will also host the Casting Games, a casting skills contest open to all. Also, during the lunch break, inside the main venue, we will host the Iron Fly Tying Competition. There will be something for everyone. And, best of all? Admission is free! - Continued

September Monthly Meeting

You will want to be in the audience for the September 24, 2019 meeting, when welcome longtime friend of the Texas FlyFishers, Capt. Stacy Lynn for her presentation of "Seven Simple Skills for Improved Fly **Fishing** Success".

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

Also, in this issue...

• Here's What's Coming Up! - September Monthly Meeting, Membership Dues		
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10th Annual Summer Mini Expo – Continued:

Schedule of Events

8:30 am	Expo Doors Open		
8:30 am	Fly Tying, Rod Building and Furled Leaders - Main Floor		
9:00 am	Casting Instruction Begins- Casting Arena - Set up outside		
9:00 am	Basic Techniques to Create an Accurate Cast - Casting Arena		
10:00 am	"Blue Water Fly Fishing in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic" presented by TFF Member and noted author, Phil Shook		
10:00 am	Skills Related To Saltwater Fly Casting - Casting Arena		
11:00 am	Iron Fly Tying Contest – Preliminary Round		
11:30 am	Lunch		
Noon	Iron Fly Tying Contest – Championship Round and Drawing for TFO Axiom II		
12:30 pm	Program TBA		
1:00 pm	Texas FlyFisher's Casting Skills Games – Outside Casting Area		
1:00 pm	Skills Related To Casting in the Wind - Casting Arena		
1:30 pm	Program TBA		
2:00 pm	Skills Related To Spey Casting - Casting Arena		
2:30 pm	"Rainbow Fishing in Patagonia, Argentina" by TFF Outings Chairman John Eldred		
3:00 pm	How to Use the False Cast to Assist In Accuracy, Line Control, Change of Direction and Distance - Casting Arena		

Note: Presentations will run approximately 50 minutes. Schedule, subject matter and presenters are subject to change without notice. The Casting Arena will be located outside, on the east side of the buildings along Wirt Road.

All participants are encouraged to bring their own rod with line and leader for the workshops however, the club will have a limited supply of loaner rods available.

Since its inception, the Summer Mini Expo has continued to grow and another large turnout is expected at this year's event. We look forward to seeing you there and, be sure to bring your family and friends.



Here's What's Coming Up!

Next Monthly Meeting:

July Meeting Attendance: 58

Tuesday, September 24, 2019: For the September monthly meeting, the Texas FlyFishers welcome longtime friend, Capt. Stacy Lynn, for her presentation of "Seven Simple Skills for Improved Fly Fishing Success". You'll want to be on hand for this informative program.

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 26th monthly meeting. There is no charge for admission and, visitors are as always welcome.

Yearly Dues Renewal:

Just a friendly reminder that, if you haven't already done so, the dues for your Texas FlyFishers membership expired back on June 30th. Membership fees are \$24.00 for an Individual Membership, \$32.00 for the Family Membership and, \$16.00 for a Student Membership. If you would like to renew by mail, there is a Membership Application / Renewal form located on the last page of the Windknots. You can also renew on line via PayPal or, bring your renewal to the next meeting. Thank you for your support of your club.

Conservation:

The Club is still looking for a volunteer that would be interested in serving as the Club's Conservation Chair. If you are interest in the position or, you would like to know more, please contact Club President Don Puckett.

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/ 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.



Outreach - Continued:

Reel Recovery Fly Announcement:

Reel Recovery has a continuing need of flies for their upcoming retreats, most notably, the upcoming Reel Recovery Retreat in Navasota, Texas on November 1-3, 2019 and, the Texas FlyFishers can play a huge part in filling that need.

As I stated at the June meeting, I am asking all the Texas FlyFishers who tie flies to donate 12 flies in support of our Reel Recovery Retreats for men with cancer. If each tyer is generous enough to do so, Reel Recovery would be "set" for years to come! Think of it, these simple flies could be tied in batches of 12 in less than 1¼ hours by experienced tyers and would provide a tremendous benefit.

Here's the list of flies that we typically need:

Squirmy Wormy
 Sam's One Bug
 Yellow Spiders
 Wooly Bugger - Olive
 Clouser Minnow
 Mop Fly
 Yellow Spiders
 Wooly bugger - Black
 Wooly Worm
 Bead Head Nymph

Or, any flies that you have had success with in targeting largemouth bass and panfish in small ponds!

I will accept the donations at the upcoming monthly meetings of the Texas FlyFishers through the September 24, 2019 or, T1O (TieOneOn) meetings through October 1, 2019. They can also be given to Drew Cox, Steve Edwards, or Dave Steffek.

If you have any questions or, would like additional information regarding this project or, about Reel Recovery, please contact me at sptomlinson15(at)geegmail(dot)com

Thank you for your continued support in helping these brave gentlemen and their battle to defeat cancer.

Regards, Steve Tomlinson

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:

June was a really active month. The South Central Region, which we are a part of, conducted a casting competition at San Marcos. Our Conroe representative Jason Farrar came in second. He will



be going to Montana later this month to participate in the National portion of the competition. There are actually two groups competing, those that came in first in their region and those that came in second. The competition is held in conjunction with the Bozeman FFI event there.

The competition includes accuracy as well as distance casting.



Outreach - Continued:

<u>Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing</u> – *Continued:*

We have also been working to get our participants prepared for the Florida Gardens fishing outing. The outing is scheduled for August 4. The major function is to cast these heavy weight rods with sinking line from a boat. As we have it planned they will be using 12 wt. outfits. We have been practicing with them at Carl Barton Park in Conroe. We meet every Friday at 9AM there. This last session was working casting sinking lines into the water.

Gary Davison one of our volunteers is shown here demonstrating to our group how to work the rod and line.



This trip should prove to be exciting. We are now in the process of tying flies for the activity. Since they may run into toothy fish a large number of files will be needed. We will have 4 boats with two participants aboard and one volunteer.



Our next activities will be to send some of our participants to National Outings. The South Central region has slots for folks 2 folks to go to Alaska and 10 to the Freedom Ranch in Montana. These are great trips.

As always we are looking for more disabled veterans to join us and volunteers to help them learn fly fishing. Of course we are also accepting donations both financial and In Kind. The funding provided by TFF this year will be applied to the Flower Gardens trip expenses.

For additional about Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, here are the links to our local activities:

Our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PHWFFConroe/?modal=admin todo tour

Our donation page. Funding from here is directed to our Conroe Program

https://projecthealingwaters.networkforgood.com/projects/63783-conroe-texas

If you are a disabled veteran or know of one that would be interested in the program, please 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. Thanks, Bill Heugel, Conroe Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishers Coordinator





Mark Your Calendars:

Club Activities Calendar for August through December, 2019

August 2019:

Freshwater Outing – For August, there is no definite freshwater outing scheduled, yet but, there has been a discussion of a trip up to Brushy Creek, at Round Rock, Texas, just north of Austin. If you were at the May Monthly Meeting, Brushy Creek was highlighted in Chris Johnson's, of the Living Waters Fly Fishing, presentation to the FlyFishers. If you are interested in leading this 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.

The August Saltwater Outing, Saturday, August 10, 2019, Brown and Root Flats, located between Aransas Pass and Port Aransas, Texas. Kayak & wade the crystal clear waters of Redfish Bay for trout and redfish. Meet up at 6:15 am and, return to your vehicles at 4:00 pm. Your Outing Leader is Scott Fossum and, he can be reached by phone at (two ate one) 7 ate two – uno 160 or, by e-mail at scott(dot)fossum(at)Nouryon.com Additional information on the Club's website.

The 10th 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.

September 2019:

The September Saltwater Outing is the Annual PINS (Padre Island National Seashore) Safari. Friday, September 13 thru Sunday, September 15, 2019. Four wheelin' down the beach, chasing the birds and targeting the blitzing schools of trout, redfish, skipjack, jacks, and possibly, tarpon. The Outing Leader will be Don "Puck" Puckett and his phone is (to ate 1) 865 dash 32 sixteen) and his email is doncpuckett(at)gee male(dot)com. Detailed information can be found on the Club's website.

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 2019. This month's speaker is longtime friend of the FlyFisher's, Capt. Stacy Lynn. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

Tentative Freshwater Outing - Lake Bastrop, Saturday, September 27-29, 2019.- Kayak/Canoe/Boat Trip to Lake Bastrop. This is going to be an overnight trip at the North Shore campground. Outing leaders will be John Eldred & Steve Edwards Fish at Lake Bastrop. The tentative plan is to fish Friday, Saturday and possibly Sunday morning. We'll camp out overnight in campground trailers on Friday and Saturday nights. Monitor the club's website for more details.



<u>Mark Your Calendars</u> – Continued:

October 2019:

Freshwater Outing, Clarke Thornton Memorial San Marcos River Float trip with Kevin Hutchison, Rescheduled - Saturday, October 5, 2019. Details are currently being worked out for this outings but, if you are interested in attending this outing, be sure to make the September Monthly Meeting for more information. Outing Leader: TBA but, if you are interesting in leading this outing, contact John Eldred (9zero7) three O1- three 5 nine 5 or, by e-mail at john.eldred03 (at) gmale (dot) com

Potential Freshwater Outing, Multi-Day October, 2019: Lower Mountain Fork River, Broken Bow, Oklahoma. About: Joe Nicklo and Gary Burns are looking into leading a trip to fish the Lower Mountain Fork River at Broken Bow, Oklahoma. For more information about this trip, contact Joe, or Gary or Outings 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.

Saltwater Outing, Fence Lake, Rockport / Fulton, Texas, October 12, 2019: Kayak the shallow waters of Fence Lake, nestled along St. Joe's Island, on the east side of Aransas Bay. Outing Leader: Chris Sumers, E-mail: csumers(at)Comcast(dot)com *Note: Currently, this outing is full. If you would like to be added to the call list, please e-mail your name to the outing leader.*

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, October 29, 2019. This month's speaker and program is *TBA*. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

November & December 2019:

Potential Freshwater Outing, Damon 7 Lakes, Damon Texas, Saturday, November 2, 2019: If you are interested in attending this outing, be sure to attend the September or October Monthly Meeting for more information. Outing Leader: Russell Cowart. For more information, 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.

Pending Saltwater Outing, Annual Jacks in the Surf, November 9 or 16, 2019: Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, Texas. Spotting jacks in the surf and casting to them. If you'd like to lead this trip or, for more information, contact Outings Chairman John Eldred; Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot)com

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, November 26, 2019. This month's speaker and program is *TBA*. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party, Sunday, December 8, 2019. Join your fellow club members for the Annual Texas FlyFishers Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, 2019 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Elks Lodge located at 10150 W. Airport Rd in Stafford, Texas 77477.

Note: All events, outing dates, times and locations are subject to change without notice. For additional information, visit the Texas FlyFishers website at www.texasflyfishers.org



Lagniappe:

From the FFI:

The Fly Fishers International 2019 Expo was held in Bozeman, Montana on July 22-27, 2019, on the Montana State University Campus. Once again, the Expo was a full week of Casting Instruction, Casting Evaluation/Testing, Fly Tying Demonstrations, 82 workshops, meetings, and much more.



Among the 82 workshops, the FFI Learning Center provided the following educational workshop opportunities:

- FFI Leadership Development Workshop
- Women Connect* Beginning Fly and Intermediate Fly Tying
- Women Connect* Fly Fishing
- Fly Casting Skills Challenge
- Beginning Fly Tying Workshop
- Where Are They & What Are They Doing
- Beginning Knot Tying
- Comprehensive Introduction to Fly Fishing
- Back to Basics Fly Casting
- Fear No Tree Roll Cast
- Fly Fishing Safety & Fly Fishing Etiquette
- Two day Youth Camp

The FFI Learning Center is a primary source of educational and instructional materials, to meet the needs and interests of the fly fishing community in the areas of Fly Fishing Skills, Fly Casting, Fly Tying, and Conservation. The Learning Center provides educational and instructional material in two forms. One is the in-person workshops provided during the FFI Expo. The second form is the online educational and instructional material available on the FFI website. All the Learning Center material is available to download, free of charge.

To access the Learning Center, go to: www.flyfishersinternational.org. Hover your cursor over the Education tab, a drop down menu will appear. Hover your cursor over the Learning Center menu choice, and a drop down menus will appear. Select your area of interest from Casting, Fly Tying, Conservation, and Fly Tying Skills. To be continued next month...



Fly of The Month:

For this month's Fly of the Month, I'm taking a little turn from the usual. Dan Blanton's Flashtail Whistler has long been one of my favorite patterns. It's easy to tie, casts nicely and fish hammer it. The Whistler is such a versatile pattern, I've tied as small as $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and as large as 6 inches and, I've seen it tied much larger. Last week, in an e-discussion, Dan was kind enough to send me the following essay outlining the development and history of his legendary pattern. Accompanying Dan's history, is some great artwork and tying information on the Flashtail Whistler by Joe Mahler. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did. *Thank you Dan and Joe from the Texas FlyFishers*.

History of the development of Dan Blanton's Whistler

By Dan Blanton

I recently posted a few images of my Jig Hook Flashtail Whistler on my Face Book page showing it and a few nice striped bass and largemouth bass it had taken. They garnished a good number of likes and a few comments, one of which struck home with me. The gist of the comment was that while the Whistler is still one of the most relevant classics, very popular world-wide for a huge variety of species, both fresh and salt, most fly-anglers today wouldn't know who originated it or of its history. Many other classics fall into the same category. Accordingly, I thought I'd write the history of the Whistler, a fly I'm very proud of, one that holds a prominent place in my selection of productive flies.

I developed the Whistler in 1964. The Whistler was designed to take Striped bass in San Francisco bay. It was not created to imitate any particularly baitfish. Instead I "engineered" the fly to mimic the look and action of a lead head bucktail jig — one of the most productive and versatile fish-caching lures ever devised by man. The local gear guys were kicking our asses with lead head jigs, all white, and red and white versions. Our simplistic bucktail patterns of the era just didn't' work as well. Of course a bucktail jig and the Whistler emulate a huge variety of baitfish species, fresh and salt, mostly the deeper-bodied bait fishes.

The first pattern I came up with might well have been the first "reverse tied" (known today as a Thunder Creek) bucktail and it looked exactly like a red/white lead head bucktail jig. Problem was it didn't have much action, although it caught fish.

I kept experimenting. I ended up using an extra short-shank live bait hook to keep all the weight forward to enhance dipping and diving like a bucktail jig does and to eliminate fouling of the bucktail wing when being cast. I added chain bead eyes to add weight and help the jigging action (another benefit was also more noise and water pushing ability). *The eyes whistled when the fly was cast and that's how the fly got its name*. I included a narrow, red chenille collar to simulate gills and also to add more frontal weight and finally a 3-hackle collar between the chenille and bead eyes. The hackles were a mix of soft and stiff barbs which provided extra action and water pushing ability. [Rabbit does not push water, lying down flat when wet]. The Whistler in the early years (through the mid 70's) was always tied in the "round", often with grizzly feather flanks). Being tied in the round, it always looked "right" no matter how the fly turned or twisted in the water. In other words, there was no topping of a contrasting color.



Fly of The Month – *Continued:*

The first Whistler was all white with a red bucktail lateral stripe – a white "Mickey Finn" Whistler; next came the red/white/grizzly; yellow/red/grizzly; black/grizzly ending up with more than 20 color variations. All had names that addressed their color pattern: Black Whistler Grizzly; White Whistler Grizzly and so on.

In 1971 I started tying them with flashtails using 1/64 inch Mylar strips. I was inspired by a leadhead jig Mark Sosin was using to slay the snook with. He was out-fishing me horridly. I went back to camp, tied a Whistler with a flashtail exactly as I do today, and the next day I pounded the snook and Mark too. Today I use various colors of Flashabou in the original saltwater size. My favorite color is a 50:50 blend of pearl and silver Flashabou although I've been having phenomenal results the last few years with a tail of only pearl Flashabou.

In the early 70's I met Ed Given while fishing on SF Bay. A friend and I were slamming the stripers and Ed rowed over in his little pram, introduced himself and asked to see the fly I was using. It was a Whistler. Later he adapted the most of the Whistler components into a fly he called a "Night Crawler". It was similar to Russ Chatham's Black Phantom fly. I later re-named Ed's fly the Barred 'N Black.

Today I tie the Flashtail Whistler in many color variations and while I still tie them on a short shank J hook, I now tie most of them on the Targus TAR9413 jig hook which is identical to the Fly Shop's FS5444. I use both Spirit River Real Eyes and chain bead for optics. Chain bead is still great but it doesn't look as good; although if I want to push a lot of water I will tie a few using ¼ -inch chain bead. I call these the Big Eyed Whistlers. All of my Whistlers today are tied as flashtails. For non-tiers they are available from Umpqua dealers in both standard J-hook and Jig-hook versions.

For years I resisted using synthetic materials for tying my Whistlers, opting only for bucktail and saddle hackles for the main components. Today I use a lot of synthetic hair for the wing. My favorite material is called Flash 'N Slinky, produced by H2o. This is basically a wig material with some added flash and is slightly kinky instead of straight. It looks good, moves well and doesn't rat nest as badly as some other types of synthetic hair. The fish just stomp it!

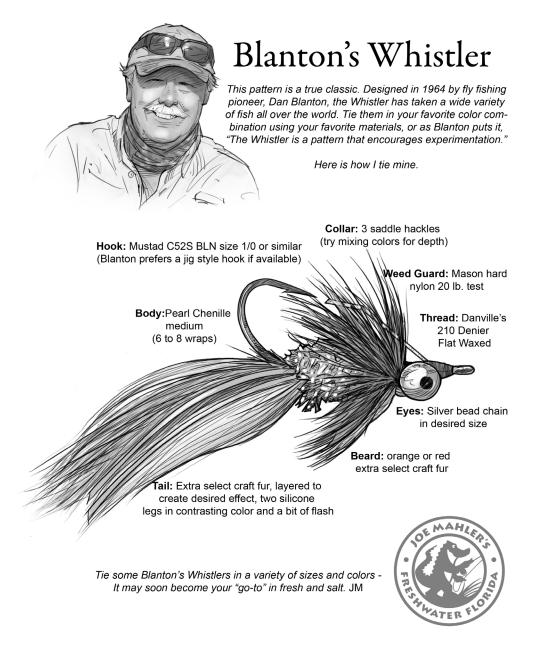
While the Whistler was originally designed to take our West Coast stripers, it is multi-species-productive in scope. It is the top jungle river tarpon fly in Central America and it is also the number one Peacock bass fly in Brazil, for example. Northern pike love the fly. More than 400 species of fish, worldwide have been taken on Whistlers, including several world records. It remains one of the most versatile styles ever created.

In 1964 there was nothing around like it – not nearly as sophisticated doing what it was designed to do. In his book, Streamers and Bucktails – the Big Fish Flies, Author Joseph D. Bates, Jr. said the Whistler might well be the greatest fly design ever created. Well, I don't know about this but it sure turned out to be a damned good fly.

Note: The "History of the development of Dan Blanton's Whistler" is being reprinted in *Windknots*, the monthly newsletter of the Texas FlyFishers Club, with the permission of the author, Dan Blanton.



Fly of The Month – *Continued:*



Note: The graphic of "Blanton's Whistler" is being reprinted in *Windknots*, the monthly newsletter of the Texas FlyFishers Club, with the permission of the author, Joe Mahler.



Items looking for a new home:

For Sale by Joe Nicklo – Joe still has the kayak seat for sale for \$20. Joe's e-male is jnicklo(at)comcast(dot)net

Member Reports:

This month's report comes to us from Victoria TFF member Don Hanselman. While it's not exactly a report that will meet with the approval of the sport's purists but, it is a great catch. *Congratulations, Don!*

Don Hanselman's Bucket List Fish

This was one of my dreams to catch a Bull Red on a fly rod. I have caught hundreds of Bull Reds over the years on conventional tackle but never on a fly rod. I knew an 8, or even a 10 wt. was going to be enough to land one of these forty pound plus bull reds but, I bought a 9' 13/14 weight ADG Titanium Fly rod from Jubie Hahn from Colorado (Jubie is the owner of ADG and, she is on Facebook) and topped it off with a 12wt Galvan Torque with 300 yds. of backing that I picked up at Gordy & Son Outfitters. That, along with a 7' tippet, I looped with 3' 40 lbs. test mono to hold the fly.

I rigged the line with a 2oz. ball weight and an 8/0 circle hook and a gulp shrimp, because I didn't have any flies that were weighted enough to get down in the fast moving currents found at our Port O'Connor Jetties. A depth finder is a must to find these schools and then, drop your fly on top of them and hold on. The circle hook is a hook the set itself when a fish bite the lure. I have tied some 8/0 circle hook flies for the big reds. The next one will be on a fly...for sure. Here are some I tied.





Tight loops and tight lines!



The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee:

Don "Puck" PuckettJohn EldredMichael QuigleyPresidentVice President / ProgramsClub TreasurerEric RichardsonBob BrillDave Lemke

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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:	☐ Rene	ewal		
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				
Name:				
Address:				
City:	State:	Zip:		
Home Phone: ()	_ Work / Cell Phone: ()		
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