

Windknots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 38, Issue 9, September 2019

It's a Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

It's that time of year, when the days get a little shorter, the temperature gets a little cooler, the leaves begin changing and, the fishing gets a little better. While the fall colors in Texas don't quite compare with those of the northeast, if you happen to drive through the Piney Woods or the Hill Country, you'll see some examples of nature's pallet at its finest. Then, there is the fish.

In the lakes and rivers around the state, bass, both largemouth and whites, crappie and stripers will be working over the schools of shad, putting on a little extra fat for the long winter. Down on the coast, redfish and speckled trout will be heading to the back lakes and marshes to fill up on an "all you can eat" shrimp dinner and, the doormat sized flounder will be staging near the passes for their annual migration out into the gulf. And, I'd bet the FlyFishers will be out there fishing for them!

The Texas Fly Fishers have a full slate of outings planned through the remainder of the year, While you might be familiar with some of the locations, there is a renewed interest in returning to spots like Broken Bow, OK, for some great trout action or back down to Padre Island National Seashore to chase jackfish and bull reds.

The club outings offer a great opportunity to fish for a wide variety of species at a minimum of cost, I encourage all of you to take advantage of this members benefit. For additional information, check our website or, visit with Outings Chair, John Eldred at our next monthly meeting. *Tight lines!*

September Monthly Meeting

You will want to be in the audience for the September 24, 2019 meeting, when we 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. Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074

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Here's What's Coming Up!

Next Monthly Meeting:

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.

It's time to Renew!:

September is a busy month for us all. With the hope of cooler, September also brings back school zones, Friday Night Lights, Saturday and Sunday football, the race for the pennant and, most importantly, hunting season and, some great angling opportunities. But, before you hit the field or, the water, you better head over to the local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office or, you neighborhood sporting goods store and renew your 2019-2020 fishing and hunting licenses. Hunting and fishing licenses are available at a variety of stores and, it only takes a minute to renew. For additional information, go to the TPWD website at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

I have been asked to send out another friendly reminder from the Membership Chair that, if you haven't already done so, the dues for your Texas FlyFishers membership expired back on June 30th and, you need to renew them to stay in good standing with the club. 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.

Education:

The Club is happy to announce that Marcos Enriquez will pick up the reins as the Club's Education Director from interim Director Frank Schlicht. Even before he took on the challenges as Club President, Marcos was a regular sight at the classes offered by the Texas FlyFishers, assisting in the tying classes as well as the Fly Fishing Academy. Join me in welcoming Marcos into his new position.

As you may remember, Frank took over the Directorship after the untimely death of Dr. Joe Burton. The club would also would like to thank Frank Schlicht for his many years of dedicated service to the Club.

Conservation:

The Club is happy to announce that Steve Edwards has stepped up and taken the lead as the Club's Conservation Chair. Join me in welcoming Steve into his new position.



Outreach:

Reel Recovery:

Texas Reel Recovery launched an effort at the June TFF meeting to solicit flies for their upcoming retreats, most notably, the upcoming Reel Recovery Retreat in Navasota, Texas on November 1-3, 2019.



The response has been simply outstanding! Not only have the tiers in the Texas Fly Fishers played a huge part, but so has the special interest group “Tie One On” (T10) as well.

25 individuals have pledged donations, and we have already received donations from 20 tiers!

To date, we have 556 flies pledged to us with 475 in hand and ready to support of our Reel Recovery Retreats. We target 144 flies per retreat. At this point, the inventory can supply almost 4 retreats!

A BIG THANKS to Don Puckett, Barry Sandler, Robert Byrne, Scott Fossum, Jerry Brown, Dan Shivers, Alex Blacque, Jim Richards, Paul Robertson, Mike Smalley, Martin Weir, Tom Strawther, Norman Frechette, Dave Weaver, Mike Frankoff, Gray Burns, Buzz Black, Ron Mayfield, Rudy Akerman, Dave Steffek, Steve Tomlinson and countless anonymous donors!

We are still accepting flies, and of course will continue to do so, as unfortunately the need for retreat flies never ends! Here's the flies that we typically need:

- Squirmy wormy
- Sam's one bug
- Wooly buggers olive
- Clouser minnow
- Mop fly
- Yellow spiders
- Wooly buggers black
- Small bluegill poppers
- San Juan worm
- Black spiders
- Wooly worms
- Bead head nymphs

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

Steve Tomlinson will accept the donations at the upcoming monthly meetings of the Texas Fly Fishers through the September 24, 2019 meeting or at T10 (Tie One On) meetings through October 1, 2019. They can also be given to Drew Cox, Steve Edwards, or Dave Steffek.

Fall 2019 Navasota Retreat Update

The retreat is filled with 14 confirmed applicants, with a wait list of more applicants. Many TFF members that are Reel Recovery Volunteers will be serving these men living with cancer at the retreat. Our fly club really helps make the Navasota retreats happen!

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

Reel Recovery 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 wanting more information about Reel Recovery or, one of the retreats can call Dave Steffek at (713) 202-0101 to answer your questions.



Outreach - Continued:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:



Flower Garden Trip, Conroe Fly Fishers, PHWFF

On the 4th of August 8 participants, 3 volunteers and one participant/volunteer met in Galveston to meet with 4 boat captains and take a fishing trip to the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary.

The Flower Gardens Banks is a coral reef located in the Gulf of Mexico. It is located about 100 miles from Galveston. NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) protects these special marine areas, each of which has its own set of boundaries. Discovered at the turn of the 20th century by fishermen in search of snapper and grouper, the banks' colorful reefs are the northernmost in the continental United States. The closest tropical reefs lie 400 miles away, off the coast of Tampico, just north of Veracruz, Mexico. The sanctuary contains many aquatic species. Almost three hundred species of fish and over twenty species of coral are found in the sanctuary along with a wide variety of crustaceans, sponges, and plants. FGBNMS provides habitat for many protected and/or threatened species including marine mammals, sharks, rays, and sea turtles. Many fish species important to recreational and commercial fisheries inhabit the banks.

The Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary committee decided to arrange for a veterans group to go to the Flower Gardens. They contacted Conroe Fly Fishers and we were selected to make the trip. On a special day veterans are taken to each of the sanctuaries. This was our lucky day.

Commented [C1]:



The captains donated their fees and NOAA donated the fuel for the trip. Conroe Fly Fishers provided the special 12 wt. fly rods with sinking lines. Half of our crew was housed in the Sandpiper RV park in some special rooms they had. The remaining members were housed at a house in Sea Isle at the west end of the island. The housing at the Sandpiper were donated by the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary and the housing at Sea Isle was donated by a private owner.

The Conroe PHWFF folks met up with the captains and crew about 6:30 to prepare for departure. John Armor the director of the office of national Marine Sanctuaries also came on the trip.

The captains were professional fisherman. The recreational season had closed and so the fish caught were either sold by the captains or donated to us. The species caught on the fly included red snapper, cobia, barracuda, grouper, and amber jack.

One red snapper caught weighed about 25 lbs. and was 1.5 lbs. short of the Texas State Fly Fishing record for snapper caught on a fly rod.





Outreach - Continued:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:

Preparation for the trip included the tying of many flies as well as the purchase of the 12 wt. rods. We got the rods from Bayou City Anglers who also made a donation in support of the activity. In addition they provided flies that were generated by folks attending one of their tying sessions.

After the trip a rousing dinner prepared by our participants was held at the Sea Isle house.

It was a great experience and we appreciate the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary folks, NOAA and the captains who donated their time and fees. Conroe Fly Fishers also received financial donations from the local Panorama Lions Club as well as Action Gypsum Supply and Texas Fly Fishers. Donations of material and lighter weight rods were also received from individuals. It took a great deal of support for this to be pulled off and we look forward to the possibility of doing it again next year.

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 Texas FlyFishers this year will be applied to the Flower Gardens trip expenses. *For additional results about the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing trip to the Flower Gardens, see the Reports Section.*

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, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bill Heugel at txfritz4134@suddenlink.net



Mark Your Calendars:

Club Activities Calendar for September through December, 2019

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 donpuckett(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

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.

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. Spencer Canoe, 9515 FM 1979, Martindale, Tx 78655. Outing Leader: TBA but, if you are interesting in leading this outing, contact John Eldred (9zero7) three 01- 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 Summers, 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



Mark Your Calendars – *Continued:*

November & December 2019:

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

January through June, 2020:

The Club's Outings Chairman, John Eldred has put together a list for potential locations for outings in 2020. While some of these outings are already confirmed, John still have several that are pending.

The Freshwater Outing locations under consideration are Lake Raven (Huntsville), Brushy Creek (Round Rock) , Lower Mountain Fork River near Broken Bow OK, Nueces River; (George West), Damon 7 Lakes, the San Marcos River and the South Llano River (Junction).

For those with saltier tastes, John's list includes the Lavaca River (Victoria), East Matagorda Bay (Sargent), Shoalwater Bay (Seadrift), East Matagorda Bay, Bolivar Peninsula (Port Bolivar, Brown and Root Flats (Aransas Pass) and, Chandeleur Islands (Louisiana)

If you are interested in leading an outing or, you have a lead on a secret spot, please contact John at Phone: (9zero7) three 01 – three 595 or, e-mail: john(dot)eldred03(at)geemail(dot)com.





Lagniappe:

From the FFI:

The following is a continuation of last month's Introduction to the The FFI Learning Center, provided by Dutch Baughman, Chair, FFI Education Committee.



The FFI Learning Center online educational and instructional materials include the following:

Casting Instruction:

- Fundamentals of a Cast document
- Casting Loops Video
- False Casting document
- Basic Fly Casting Video
- Change of Direction Cast document
- Distance Casting document (coming soon)
- Distance Casting Video
- Pick Up/Lay Down Cast document
- Pick Up/Lay Down Cast Video
- Roll Casting document
- Roll Casting Video
- Casting Skills Challenge document
- Facilitator & Participant Guide
- Score Sheets
- Fly Casting Teacher's Guide

Fly Tying:

- A Comprehensive Introduction to Fly Tying slide presentation
- Fly Tying Resources. A link to 500 fly tying videos in the FFI Fly Tying Library

Conservation:

- Conservation and the Fly Fisher slide presentation
- Personal Conservation slide presentation
- Practices of Catch & Release brochures (Freshwater and Saltwater)



Lagniappe - *Continued:*

From the FFI: Fly Fishing Skills - *Continued:*

- A Comprehensive Introduction to Fly Fishing slide presentation
- A Comprehensive Introduction to Fly Fishing Facilitator Guide (coming soon)
- Understanding Freshwater Fish Behavior slide presentation
- Introduction to Saltwater Fly Fishing in Southwest Florida slide presentation
- Fly Fishing Knots materials
- Fly Fishing Knots and Rigging (coming soon)
- Books, Videos & More
- Glossary

The FFI Education Committee is actively reviewing many additional educational and instructional materials to be included in the Learning Center. In particular, we plan to include much material pertaining to the Women Connect program describing assistance in providing fly fishing educational opportunities for women fly fishers. Also, we would like to include more educational and instructional material relevant to various saltwater fly fishing opportunities.

The FFI Education Committee includes the following members:

- Dutch Baughman, Chair
- Jerry Coviello, Fly Tying Board of Governors
- Molly Semenik, Casting Board of Governors
- Jenn Ripple, Women Connect
- Sherry Steele, Museum
- Dave Boyer, Youth Fly Fishing Education
- Mike Clancy, Youth Fly Fishing Camp
- Carole Katz, Project Healing Waters
- Cheryl O'Neil,
- Dennis O'Brien, BOD

The 2020 FFI Expo will be held in Bozeman, Montana on the Montana State University Campus, July 20 – 25, 2020.

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 menu will appear. Select your area of interest from Casting, Fly Tying, Conservation, and Fly Tying Skills.



Windknots

Member Reports:

Here are the results of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing trip to the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary!



A happy angler with a nice ling (cobia)



Red Snapper on the fly!



Happy anglers with a fine day's catch!



Annual Summer Mini Expo Recap:

The Texas FlyFishers held its 2019 Annual Summer Mini Expo on August 24th and, it was an unequivocal success, enjoyed by all who attended and participated. The Summer Mini Expo is when the Texas FlyFishers Club show off its membership and their talents. This year's Expo was held at the Terrace Unity Methodist Church on Wirt Road, just north of the Katy Freeway.

Inside, there were displays of the member's rod building skills and fly tying talents, along with their travel presentations to exotic locales. To top it off, the Second Annual "Iron Fly" Tying Contest pitted six of the top fly tyers, head to head with only 12 minutes to complete their patterns. The two top scores then repeated the challenge and when the tools were finally laid down, the 2019 "Iron Fly" Champion was Spence McNamara.

Outside, the casting field drew the largest crowds. Thanks go out to Jim Richards and his crew of talented instructors for their great work helping the participants from all age groups and experience levels with their personal instruction and the casting workshops held through the day. Also, Capt. Steve Stubbe, at mudfishadventures.com, brought his unique boat, set up especially for fly fishing the waters of Toledo Bend for trophy largemouth bass.

Also on hand were our outreach partners, *Reel Recovery* and *Project Healing Waters, Fly Fishing*. *Reel Recovery* is a support group to help men in the cancer recovery process by introducing them to the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experiences of cancer with others who share their stories and, most all aspects of fly fishing were covered. *Project Healing Waters, Fly Fishing* is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing.

Plans for next year's event are in the works and, we are expecting next year's Expo to be even bigger and better. Watch the club's website and future issues of *Windknots* for details.



Tight loops and tight lines!



The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee:

Don "Puck" Puckett
President

John Eldred
Vice President / Programs

Michael Quigley
Club Treasurer

Eric Richardson
Club Secretary

Bob Brill
Secretary / Membership

Dave Lemke
Webmaster

Tracy Quigley
Communications

Steve Edwards
Conservation Chair

Marcos Enriquez
Education Chair

Jim Richards
Casting / Programs

John Eldred
Outings Chair

Alex Blacque
Registration / Door Prizes

Chris Sumers / Ron Mayfield
Dr. Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

TBA
Auction Chair

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 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: () _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

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