

# WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 38, Issue 10; October, 2019

## You can be the Solution!

For the majority of my professional career, there was a saying that I heard over and over again, “You can be the problem or, you can be the solution”. I don’t feel the need to go into explaining the reasoning behind the saying but, I think it’s safe to say that it’s not limited to just the oil field but, much of our everyday life, as well.

The basic tenets of The Texas FlyFisher’s charter are education and conservation. While both have distinct and different definitions, in the case of this discussion, they are actually quite similar. Today, more angler pressure than ever is being exerted on the fisheries of Texas and I don’t see this trend changing anytime soon. While the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is doing the best it can to relieve some of the pressure on the fish stocks by regulating the bag limits, establishing slot limits and even closing seasons, they still can’t do it alone. The time has come for the angler base to decide if they will contribute to the problem or, work toward a solution.

Enter **FlatsWorthy** and **Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program**, a small group of professional guides and dedicated anglers in South Texas that have chosen to work towards the solution. In this month’s Conservation segment is an interesting conversation between Captain Chuck Naiser, President of FlatsWorthy and, well known Lower Laguna Madres guides, Captains Ernest Cisneros and Wayne Davis, the driving forces behind the Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program that I hope you enjoy. *Tight lines!*

### October Monthly Meeting

You will want to be on hand for the October 29, 2019 meeting, when Texas FlyFishers Vice President John Eldred shares details and pictures from a 2018 expedition to Jurassic Lake, Patagonia Argentina.

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:

September Meeting Attendance: **63**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019:** For the October monthly meeting, Texas FlyFishers Vice President John Eldred will share details and pictures from a 2018 fishing expedition for big rainbows in Jurassic Lake, Patagonia Argentina. The picture presentation will cover the journey to get there, the accommodations and terrain, and of course lots of fish pics. A “once in a lifetime” fishing experience.

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 October 29<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. There is no charge for admission and, visitors are as always welcome.

### Conservation:

#### **Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program**

FlatsWorthy President Chuck Naiser recently sat down for a chat with Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program founders Ernest Cisneros (*EC*) and Wayne Davis (*WD*). Ernest is a guide out of South Padre and Wayne is a guide out of Port Mansfield and the owner of K Wigglers. They run Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program together.

#### **How long have you been fishing and guiding?**

*EC:* I've been guiding about 17 years. I guide mainly out of South Padre. I am a retired school teacher of 28 years, and for most of my educational career I guided part-time until I retired in 2016 and now guide on a full-time basis.

*WD:* I've been guiding since 2005. Before that I was in law enforcement for 22 years. I'm a retired Police Chief. (Castle Hills). I also guided towards the end of my career.

#### **What's the motivation for the movement of Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program?**

*WD:* I would go out and fish with a large group, and they like to keep the fish. On one outing we had 5 anglers on each boat; everyone got full limits of red, trout, flounder. Stringers were full of fish, and everyone was posting pictures everywhere. It got me to thinking “this seems a little excessive.”

*EC:* Yes, and when we first came up with the idea, everyone thought “We're chopping our own hand off”. This was May 2016. The idea just took hold and Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program started March 2017.

*WD:* Ernest thought of the name Empty Stringers because these stringers were just filled to the gills.



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**Conservation** – *Continued:*

**What’s the difference between Empty Stringers and Catch and Release?**

*EC:* What I did in the beginning was I contacted our nature sponsors. I told them I needed swag items. So when someone contacts us and wants to book a trip we ask them “Would you like to participate in Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program?” If you agree before the trip to catch and release at end of trip you get a swag item. Everyone on the trip has to participate. They also get a ticket and put their name and number on it. At the end of the year at the Holder Fishing Show in Houston, one person who did Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program will get a major prize donated by sponsors. These prizes are valued around \$1300-\$1500.



**What percent of people would you say support Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program?**

*EC:* My clients are at about 50% of the trips as Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program trips.

*WD:* My clients are at about 40% Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program trips.

*EC:* Sometimes we have 2 days trips that might do Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program one day and choose to keep their catch one day.

*EC:* Donors are coming to us. Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program participants are donating money for us to purchase branded items.

**How successful do you think this has been? In terms of recognition among anglers?**

*WD:* It’s out there. We have a Facebook, which doesn’t have a lot of traction, but 60-80 clients a year are doing the Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program.

*EC:* We have released over 6,300 fish in the 3 years this program has been in existence. This is the Keeper fish, not all fish. We don’t count any undersized fish. Now they see we are for real and here to stay, people call us and want to participate. We are no longer being ridiculed, we are gaining the respect of people around us. It’s an organic, grass-roots movement.

*WD:* Law is reactive. This movement is proactive. Just because you can take 3 reds, doesn’t mean you should.

**How can FlatsWorthy promote you and Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program?**

*WD:* Just recognizing we exist. It’s easy. Any guide anywhere can do their own Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program. It’s up to the guides to offer the program to their clients.

*EC:* Just making it aware to people out there. Letting people know.

**Why should people practice Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program?**

*WD:* Why shouldn’t they?

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## **Conservation** – *Continued:*

### **How can FlatsWorthy fit in to South Texas?**

*WD:* Birds of a feather flock together. We're on the same page and can draw from each other and benefit each other.

*WD:* FlatsWorthy leans toward etiquette, and Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program leans into conservation.

### **What else would you like us to know?**

*EC:* There are other guides before us that have done catch and release, but this is taking it to the next level. Put it on social media and put a name to it.

*WD:* We never take stringer shots. All of our public displays are either single shots, action shots, or release shots. We try to build on that foundation. It goes hand in hand with the conservation mindset.

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The Texas FlyFishers would like to thank Captain Chuck Naiser for allowing us to add this discussion to this month's issue of *Windknots*. We would also like to thank Captains Ernest Cisneros and Wayne Davis for sharing their views and leading the way to conserve quality Texas saltwater fishing for years to come. For more information about FlatsWorthy, please visit their website at [www.flatsworthy.com](http://www.flatsworthy.com) and, Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program can be found on their Facebook page.



Photo reprinted with the permission of Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program, Captain Ernest Cisneros.



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## **Outreach:**

### **Reel Recovery:**

On behalf of the Reel Recovery Team within the Texas FlyFishers, I would like to convey a heartfelt "thank you" to all the individuals that dedicated time, talent and treasure to create the Retreat Flies for upcoming Navasota retreats. The response to the Reel Recovery Retreat Fly Drive led by Steve Tomlinson has been overwhelmingly successful, with over 600 flies now in the inventory for future retreats in Navasota.



The Navasota Fall Retreat will occur from November 1-3, 2019. The retreat is now completely filled with Participants, and a large number of TFF Reel Recovery Volunteers will be serving the Participants attending. These members are serving as Coordinators & Fishing Buddies as well as giving freely of their time in all the preparations required.

Reel Recovery is very grateful to have such generous volunteers from TFF. This club has always stepped up and this year is even more illustrative of the volunteer spirit. Everyone involved is looking forward to this fifth annual Fall Navasota retreat. This should be another great retreat!

We look forward presenting a successful retreat report to TFF at a future meeting.

Thanks once again, *Dave Steffek*

***This is your last chance!*** If you still have flies that you'd like to donate for the upcoming retreats, Reel Recovery will accept donations at the upcoming monthly meeting of the Texas Fly Fishers on October 29, 2019.

Here's the flies that is typically needed:

- **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!***

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

# Windknots

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## **Outreach** - *Continued:*

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



In early August we had 8 of our veterans and 3 volunteers go fishing at the Flower Gardens in the Gulf. The trip was outstanding and they caught red snapper, cobia, barracuda, and drum. The trip was sponsored by the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary. Four boats took our folks out.

The head of the National Marine Sanctuaries also came and attended the event. We hope we can have another of these events next year. The donations we received locally were used to cover part of the cost of this event.

We also found out in August that 2 of our folks will be going to Alaska to fish in September and 2 will be going to Montana in October.

Our next focus will be on fly tying. We have several of our participants that have prepared 4 flies for submission to compete in the National Fly Tying activity. The flies must be identical and are critically compared. There are three categories for the submission, beginner, intermediate and advanced. The winners get to go to a fly tying symposium and also on a fishing trip to Montana next year.

Our next focus will be on rod building. We will start that activity in November by identifying the veterans who will be building the rods and ordering the rods. We hope to do some local fishing this fall.



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing / Conroe meets at the VA Clinic in Conroe and at the Carl Barton Park also in Conroe. We are always looking for additional disabled veterans to join us as participants and for volunteers to teach them about fly fishing activities.

We use locally contributed funds for our overnight outings like the trip to the Flower Gardens. The website below can be used for that purpose.

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

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

Our Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/PHWFFConroe/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/PHWFFConroe/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

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](mailto:txfritz4134@suddenlink.net)



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## **Mark Your Calendars:**

### **Club Activities Calendar for October through December, 2019**

#### **October 2019:**

**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:**

**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.

**Saltwater Outing, Annual Jacks in the Surf**, November 8-10, 2019: Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, Texas. Spotting jacks in the surf and casting to them. **Outing Leader:** Andrew Jones, E-mail: andjones1960(at)gmail(dot)com; Phone: (713) five75 7tree7four

**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.

#### **January, 2020:**

**Freshwater Outing - Lake Bastrop**, Friday, January 10, 2020 through Sunday, January 12, 2020 - 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.

**Saltwater Outing, Garcitas Creek/Lavaca Bay, Saturday, January 18, 2020**, Leaders: Don Hanselman: (713) 8I6(dash) O ate ate four, / drh1221drh (at) yahoo (dot) com and, Michael Quigley): (713) 2I3(dash) ate I 5 zero, / mfquigley(at)outlook(dot)com

*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](http://www.texasflyfishers.org)*



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## **Lagniappe:**

If you go back to the beginning, *Windknots* would quite frequently include a book review and, this month, Jim Richards has been kind enough to share with us a review of a book he recently enjoyed. *Thanks, Jim!*

### **Book Review by Jim Richards**

#### ***Body of Water***

Written By Chris Dombrowski

232 pp. (hard cover) Milkweed Editions, \$5.27 hardcover; \$13.60 paperback; \$7.80 kindle; On Amazon; prices as of July 9, 2018

As Chris Dombrowski, poet, writer and experienced fly fishing guide, headed into the Montana winter, facing both personal and financial difficulties, he received a call from a long time customer and friend, Miller, in which Miller offered an expenses paid trip to the Bahamas to fly fish for bonefish. It seems there had been a cancellation in the group Miller had assembled for the trip and as Miller then explained, if Mr. Dombrowski could just get to Miami, Mr. Dombrowski would then be able to join the group and travel with them to the Bahamas.

Mr. Dombrowski had never fished for bone fish and was excited to get on the water when Miller suggested, as they traveled in the shuttle to the lodge, that they make a stop at the home of David Pinder, Sr. a longtime friend of Miller's. David Pinder, Sr., the reader learns, is one of the founders of fly fishing in the Bahamas, having started guiding there in 1958 for five dollars per day. Mr. Dombrowski, however, had no knowledge of David Pinder, Sr.; although, he soon learns of David Pinder, Sr.'s significant role in the development of fly fishing in the Bahamas.

Eventually, Mr. Dombrowski learned that Pinder, Sr. was hired in the 1950's by the man who developed Deep Water Cay to guide customers of the lodge interested in fishing. Eventually, because of his keen eyesight and ability to spot bonefish, Pinder, Sr. became one of the top fly fishing guides in the area. On the dark side, however, Mr. Dombrowski, also learned that, because of the development of cataracts caused by many hours in the sun, Pinder, Sr. had lost much of his vision and was forced into retirement, living in near poverty conditions.

Although the story of David Pinder, Sr. receives a lot of attention in the book, Mr. Dombrowski also does a fine job of using language to express the physical sensations he experienced as he left Montana for the Bahamas and then spent time learning about and fly fishing for bonefish. Additionally, he was able to weave into the story the history of the development of the fly fishing industry including the history, development and difficulties of Deep Water Cay.

Although several of my friends to whom I have passed the book were not particularly excited about the book, out of the dozen plus books about fly fishing I have read, this one is one of my favorites. If you have an interest in fly fishing for bonefish, an interest in the history and development of the fly fishing industry in the Bahamas or just a general interest in saltwater fly fishing my hunch is that you will enjoy it as well.

**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 Summers / 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 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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