

WindKnots

Monthly Publication of the Texas FlyFishers

Volume 41, Issue 2, April, 2022

Spring has Sprung!

Looking for something to do? Try taking a drive through the East Texas Piney woods and catch the dogwoods and redbuds blooming. Or, take a daytrip to the north of Houston, over toward Brenham then, go west to Austin, and back down Highway 71 to Columbus. The rolling hills will give you a good view of the state flower of Texas, the bluebonnet. And, if heading south piques your fancy, go past Victoria and into the brush country, the cactus roses and purple sage will be adding some great color to an other wise drab landscape. If those don't interest you, just look at your car, covered with all that yellow pollen. These are all signs that Spring has sprung and it's time to go fishing.

From April thru June, the club's outing chairs have a wide array of angling opportunities scheduled for our members. Beginning in April, we have the Annual John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular at Damon 7 Lakes and, a trip to Lost Lake / Lost River March for spring redbfish. May takes saltwater anglers to Drum Bay / Salt Lake while the waters of the South Llano River near Junction will see our annual flotilla of kayaks and inflatables. June is a busy month with a trips to Bastrop, to float the Colorado River and South to Rockport / Aransas Pass for a two day trip to the salt. Information for these outings can be found on the Club's website or, you can contact our Outings Chairs, John Eldred, Freshwater or, Taylor Guest, Saltwater. Make your plans early and don't miss out on some great opportunities. *Editor*

April Monthly Meeting

The scheduled speaker for the April 26, 2022 meeting is Jennifer Matsu. Jennifer is a local lady fly angler who co-host's *Salty* – a local saltwater fly fishing podcast.

The meeting time is 7:00pm at our new meeting spot, **Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055.**

For Additional information, visit the club's webs site at texasflyfishers.org

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Monthly Meeting, April 26, 2022

This month's featured speaker is local lady fly angler Jennifer Matsu. Along with hunting redfish in her backyard of West Galveston Bay, Jennifer will also regale us with her adventures in pursuit of bonefish, permit and tarpon and her other projects. You won't want to miss out on this program. So, be sure to make the April Monthly Meeting.

The club's new location for the monthly meetings is at the **Trini Mendenhall-Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas 77055** Set up, social hour and fly tying starts at 6:00 pm and the meeting kicks off about 7:00 pm. **Notice:** Local Covid protocols may be in effect so, come prepared, just in case.

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 April 26th meeting. As always, there is no charge for admission and visitors are always welcome.

From the President's Desk

The State of the Texas Flyfishers, April, 2022

With the mandates essentially gone we are encouraging our group, and others, to get outside and enjoy nature. With our club's concentration on fly-fishing, I tend to lean my outdoor activities that way, but sometimes you have to put down the rod (I know "sacrilege") and pick up a camera. Or, walk around the block meeting new friends. Or, just get off the beaten path, exploring. I find these adventures are always better with friends along.

We have a lot of outings, and events, yet to come this year. Fishing, camping, boating, kayaking, fly tying, rod making, and even a couple, out of country "Trip of a Lifetime" adventures planned. Take a look at the website and see if anything catches your eye. If not, suggest something. This group thrives on fly fishing adventures, and learning new areas. With so much fishable water in Texas, we could spend lifetimes and never fish it all.

Here is a suggestion: If you want to head out, and need a backup, for safety, cost share, etc., post up, or contact one of us (texasflyfishers@gmail.com). Let's see if we can get some new folks on the water, or some old salts on some new-to-them waters.

And, when you get out there, feel free to share your adventures and results with us. Fly fishing vicariously through you is better than not fishing at all.

Don C. Puckett, TFF President



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Education

Trout in the Classroom – Update:

The TFF supported trout tanks are doing well, with the rainbow fry now sporting par marks and feeding ravenously! We have had an odd year this year, with some tanks doing very well and others crashing, leaking or fish mysteriously dying. However overall, we still have a healthy group of several hundred fish and we are a month away from when we will release the fish into the TU section of the Guadalupe. Our release is planned for Saturday May 14th in Sattler, TX. If anyone from the club would like to join us, you are more than welcome. Send me a message for the details! *Matt Blyth*



Note: Let's give a big shout out to Matt for his efforts and dedication to this project. This is the tenth year which the Texas FlyFishers and the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited have sponsored *Trout in the Classroom* projects. Currently, there are 14 tanks in 10 high school classrooms in the greater Houston and Katy School Districts. This year's TIC project is scheduled to come to a close in early May, when the fry will be released into a Trout Unlimited managed section of the Guadalupe River in the Texas Hill Country. Find additional information on the Trout in the Classroom projects, <https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/02/07/2022-tff-trout-in-the-classroom-project/>

Outreach

Reel Recovery:

Reel Recovery Texas Fly-Fishing Retreat for Men with Cancer
Camp Allen in Navasota, TX
May 13-15, 2022



Several spots are open.

REEL RECOVERY is a national non-profit organization that conducts fly-fishing retreats for men living with all forms of cancer. Retreats are offered at no cost to the participants and are led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. Reel Recovery provides all meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment, and no previous fishing experience is required.

To apply for this event, please fill out and submit: Retreat Application Form Medical Release Form For more information, contact Reel Recovery at info@reelrecovery.org or call 800-699-4490.

About This Month's Speaker

Jennifer Matsu is a pediatric occupational therapist and co-owns Children's TheraFun, L.L.C., a multidisciplinary pediatric clinic in Bellaire. She lives on the water in Bayou Vista in West Galveston Bay and enjoys 100+ days fly fishing the saltwater in Texas and during her travels. Jennifer is actively involved in local conservation efforts, co-hosts Salty – a saltwater fly fishing podcast, is the Food Editor for Tail Fly Fishing Magazine, holds the annual Feather Flickers fly fishing tournament, and has created the new Ladies' Permit Pachanga fly fishing tournament in Punta Allen, Mexico. Jennifer has a twelve year old son, serves on the Executive Board of her son's school, and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston.





Lagniappe

Fly Fishing Helped Me Transition to Retirement

By Paul E. Robertson

Some of you have noticed that I have become more immersed into fly fishing since I retired in July 2019. This hobby has included not only fly fishing, but also tying flies and building fly rods.

I bought my first fly rod (as best I can recall) when I was a sophomore in college. For many years I used that old True Temper fiberglass rod (which I still have) and caught a lot of sunfish and largemouth bass over the years. I sort of knew what I was doing, but I had confidence that I could catch sunfish most of the time, on a small popper.

About twelve years ago, I was introduced to the Texas Flyfishers of Houston club (TFF) by my dear friend (more like a “brother”) Tom Daugherty. I shyly attended a few of the monthly meetings and then eventually signed up for the Fly Fishing Academy offered by the club. It was in those classes that I learned that I only thought I knew how to cast a fly rod. That class launched me on a journey to become a better fly fisherman.

I had been fishing off and on for much of my life but mostly with conventional rods and reels. At the end of the class, I purchased two fly rods (a 4wt and an 8wt) and the journey began.

Not too long after that class, I took the Beginners Fly Tying course, again offered by TFF. It was both a challenging and exhilarating experience. At first, I struggled to keep up with the amount of information that we were given each week and the skills we were trying to learn, but I persisted. I went home each week and studied videos on YouTube and practiced to improve. At the conclusion of the course, it was gratifying to tie a fly and then catch a fish on it. I ended up taking the Beginners Fly Tying class twice and the Intermediate Fly Tying course once. Since then I have become an intermediate fly tyer—my flies catch fish, even if they would not win a beauty contest.

In the meantime, I read about and continued to improve my fly casting skills. About six years ago, I discovered a subgroup of TFF called the South Texas Fly Casters, led by Ron Mayfield. I began attending the monthly casting fellowships/clinics. This was a turning point in my learning how to cast better. Since joining that group I have gradually improved, though I still think of myself as only an intermediate fly caster...but good enough to catch fish! Through the years our TFF club has had various casting clinics (thanks to Frank Schlicht, Jim Richards and others) that have been excellent opportunities to improve my skills.

Through the TFF, I began attending the Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival sponsored by the club. This nudged me deeper into the fly tying world. At one of the festivals, I was introduced to Reel Recovery (by Dave Steffek), a non-profit organization that sponsors fly fishing retreats for men with cancer. I attended one of the retreats as a participant in 2013. Since then I have helped at numerous retreats as a “Fishing Buddy,” and I will be a retreat co-coordinator in May 2022. It has been gratifying to experience how these retreats offer a much deserved and needed respite to men struggling with cancer. At the end of the retreats, my heart is deeply touched when I hear men say, “Thank you. This is the first time in my cancer journey that I have not thought about my cancer for three days.” Or, “This is the first time I’ve had fun since being diagnosed.” Or, “It has been life- giving to have other men to talk with about my journey. I don’t feel so alone anymore.” It has been enriching for me to be involved in this organization. I am now exploring how to get involved in The Mayfly Project, a non-profit organization that mentors foster children through fly fishing. *Continued*



Fly Fishing Helped Me – Continued:

In August 2018, I made a decision that I would retire in the summer of 2019. As I thought about life after working for 59 years (I started working as an electrician’s helper when I was eleven), I knew I wanted to get more involved in fly fishing. For me that included moving to a deeper level of participation in the TFF meetings and attending outings. I became intentional about participation and getting to know more of the members. As one who is a natural introvert and quite shy in new groups, I had to push myself, but the results have been worth it. Another subgroup of TFF that I discovered was Tie1On, a fly tying group what meets monthly. I joined that group, and I also began participating in fly tying socials sponsored by Gordy & Sons Outfitters and Bayou City Angler. During the Covid pandemic, I also participated in numerous on-line fly tying events.

About four years ago, I decided to take the TFF-sponsored Fly Rod Building Class. I do not recall the reason now, but I was not able to take the class that year. One evening at a monthly TFF meeting, I was talking with Joe Nicklo, the leader of the rod building class, and bemoaning the fact that I had not been able to attend the class, though I had purchased the rod parts. He graciously offered to mentor me privately in building my first fly rod. Thus, began another phase of my fly fishing journey.

With Joe’s help, I built an 8’9” 3 wt. rod just in time for a trip to New Mexico with Tom Daugherty. On that trip I was fortunate to use the fly rod I built to catch numerous rainbow trout in the 12”-15” range on the Cimarron River. As my rod making mentor, Joe has said, “It is a spiritual experience to catch a fish on a fly rod that you have made.” And he is right. I would probably add, “and even more so with a fly you tied.” Since making that first rod, I have made several more, including ones for three of my grandchildren (that kept me occupied during the Covid pandemic).

Those gave me special pleasure, for as I was making each grandchild’s rod I lovingly thought about them and dreamt of what I hoped they would become. I put those thoughts in a letter that I gave each of them with their rod. I also have learned (again under Joe’s mentorship) to make and design my own cork handles for the rods.

For 2021-22, I joined the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Lease Access Program, which provides private access to the river at a dozen or so spots. I have been able to make six multi-day trips to the river this year. The time spent with friends, exploring the river, observing nature and its inhabitants has been life-giving. Though I am a novice at trout fishing, I have been fortunate to catch quite a few fish—some with rods I made and most with flies I tied. With each fish I caught we shared a moment as I held them in hand, thanked them for sharing that moment, and gently released them back into the water so they could live on and hopefully bring similar joy to another fisherman on another day. Truly much of the enjoyment of these trips has been the joy of being in beautiful surroundings, breathing in fresh air, and finding connection to the Creator. I have truly experienced fly fishing as John Gierach described it: “Fly-fishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It’s not even clear if catching fish is the actual point.”

In the working career, I was perceived of as a “workaholic.” So much so, that quite a few people wondered if I could or would transition satisfactorily into retirement. I can honestly say that the transition has gone smoothly (to the surprise of many!), in part due to my involvement in the various dimensions of the fly fishing world.

As I think about some of the benefits of the fly fishing world in this transition for me, a few thoughts come to my mind:

1. Fly fishing keeps challenging me. Fly casting is a skill that needs a lot of practice and patience. I have had to unlearn some habits and instill some new muscle memory. But learning a new skill is rewarding. And there are always new skills and techniques to learn about fly tying and rod building. It is a special moment to study a section of water, decide on the best place to land a fly, then cast it and have it actually land there. Having a fish take the fly is lagniappe. *Continued*



Fly Fishing Helped Me – Continued:

2. Related to the above, there are always opportunities to learn more in the fly fishing world, whether it is learning about new waters, different seasons, tying materials, knots, or casting techniques. Most recently, I am learning about aquatic trout foods. I am slowly working my way through Dave Whitlock's *Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods* (this will require several readings). Learning something new about the natural world is always satisfying. It was exciting to be on the Guadalupe River recently and to recognize Mayfly and Caddis hatches. I eagerly anticipate learning in classes at the Guadalupe River Troutfest each year, as well as other places.
3. When you fly fish, you spend time in fascinating places. When fly fishing, I am immersed in a beautiful natural environment. I fish from the bank, from a kayak, raft or boat, and wade in streams. For me I have discovered how much I really savor fly fishing while standing in the middle of a beautiful stream—whether I catch fish or not. While standing there I get to smell the fresh air; observe the scenery and wildlife; listen to the flow of water or the birds chirping or a squirrel running up a tree; feel the water on my legs, a breeze on my back, and the warmth of the sun on my face; and I feel connected to Creation as my feet touch the stream bottom while I lightly hold a fish in the water and release it. In other words, when fly fishing, all of my sensory triggers are on heightened alert.
4. Fly fishing is also relaxing for me. It is hard to explain, but there is something soothing and meditative about casting a fly rod. It is almost a mystical experience. The rhythm of casting helps me slow down and let the cares of the world float down river. Fly fishing really does help me to “be”—to stand still and enjoy life as a gift. I let the stillness soak into my being. Breathing in fresh air in the outdoors is a way for me to drop my linear mind and enter my spirit. As you probably know, studies have shown that being in the natural world has a positive effect on the human body. Think about it. Have you noticed how many of the common meditation sounds often involve running water? Just being outdoors is a gratifying, therapeutic experience.
5. I have made some incredible new friends in the fly fishing community. As I mentioned, I had to be intentional to get involved. But the benefits at the interpersonal level have been immeasurable. Oh to be sure, there are some “jerks” in the fly fishing world, just like everywhere else. But I have made new friends that are incredibly kind, generous, and fun to be with as we engage in various aspects of fly fishing, whether that be on the water, sitting around a table tying flies, or planning our next outing. In spite of our differences, we are able to find common ground in our love for the outdoors. With these angling companions, I have had many memorable experiences laughing, crying and sharing as we have spent time in the natural world and marveled at its inhabitants close up. We have made fantastic memories as we have spent time in beautiful places, stood gazing awe-stuck at stunning vistas, warmed ourselves around a campfire, laughed at mishaps, and observed wildlife of all shapes and sizes.
6. Fly tying and fly rod building are opportunities to slow down and tap into some creative juices. I get to work with various types of materials and techniques and experiment. For a long while when fly tying, I was constrained by the urge to meticulously follow a pattern or recipe. As my skill and confidence have improved, it has been fruitful to try my own approach. When building rods I get to design the colors and patterns of the rod wraps. During the Covid pandemic, both fly tying and fly rod building provided hours of relaxation and stimulation.
7. Fly fishing is also a spiritual experience for me. In the great cathedral of the outdoors I feel deeply connected to the Creator of all. I wrote the following poem after a trip I (with Tom Daugherty) on the Pecos River in 2017. [I want to acknowledge that not all fly fisher persons connect to their spirituality in the same way that I do, and I want to respect their unique spiritual experiences.] *Continued*



Fly Fishing Helped Me – Continued:

Pecos River Church

I went to one of my “favorite churches” the other day.

It was not a building made by hands, rather it was a Cathedral made by Elohim (The Creator), the One who spoke creation into being.

Its walls were not wood or steel, but the stone of canyon walls.

Its ceiling was as high as the bright blue sky—beyond that, it touched the heavens.

There were no icons or statues; but trees there were. Light emanated from El-Roi (God of Seeing), the One who is above all and known by many names—The Light of the World.

The pews were slime-covered rocks embedded in the water of life. Finding a solid place to stand was the order of the day.

Moving from rock to rock, the flowing water was a reminder of the pressures of life, and the slimy rocks a reminder of the need to move ever so cautiously.

I used my staff to help with my stability—Yahweh-Rohi (The Lord Our Shepherd)

The music of the day came from the wind rustling through the trees and the water rushing over the rocks.

As I got settled in, my feet and legs were planted in the water, with my right foot forward—it was as though I was connected with the One who made it all.

Yahweh-Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts) was all around me. We lovingly embraced.

The only waving of hands in this service was the swaying of tree branches and the rhythmic movement of my fly rod as I swung it gracefully in the air, pointing it to El Elyon (Most High).

Interjected in there were a few “prayers”...some, I must confess, were that the fish would take my fly....and I could set the hook quickly enough.

I had a baptism that day. I took a fall, but only to be partially immersed, and then come forth to fish again—Yahweh-Rapha (The Lord Heals).

I laughed; all creation chimed in with me.

And we had communion that day too. Not unleavened bread, but green chili burgers (“dressed” as we say in N’awlins) and chips we ate. Not wine, but cool water we drank.

The congregation of the day was small, but diverse indeed: There was my “brother,” Tom.

There was our “certified fly fishing guide dog,” Niko. And our human fly fishing guide, Marcus.

There were the spirits of many who had worshiped in those waters before.

No preacher was there, just the Spirit of the One who dwells within. And, there were the “rainbows” and “browns”—trout they are.

As I caught and released them, I was able to momentarily admire their beauty. As I held them in my hands, I could feel the life within. We had wrestled together for a few minutes. Then, the fish’s life was in my hands....but they were hands that cared and wanted life for it.

For a brief moment we were together as one. Then I gently caressed the fish, held it ever so gently in the water, allowed it to regain its strength, and then released it...a rebirth so to speak...hoping we would meet again at church on another day.

I was drawn to remember my journey with the great I AM. *Continued*

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Fly Fishing Helped Me – Continued:

The pneuma I breathed that day was cool, fresh, and clean. As I inhaled each breath I sensed the very breath of God enveloping my soul.

As I departed my “favorite church,”

My mind thought, “It was good to be down by the river side.” My body had a new pace.

My spirit rejoiced.

My heart was filled with gratitude. My vision was renewed.

I was ready to go back into the world for another foray.

I am ready to go back another day.

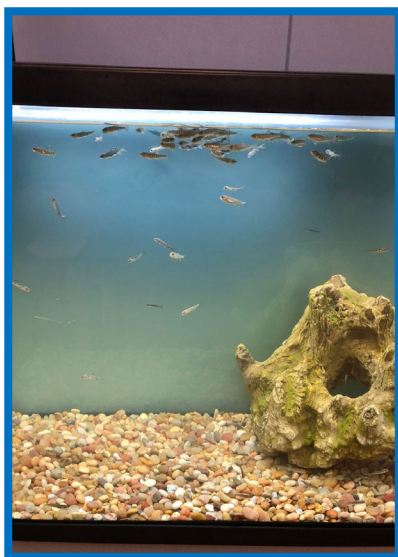
I often joke that transitioning into retirement was a “struggle” for me. When asked about it, I pause a few moments and say something like, “Yes, it took me about fifteen hours,” in other words, until the next morning. Then we laugh. In reality the transition has been smooth, made so in part by the meaning, purpose, and joys that have come to me through the fly fishing world.

Since retirement I have tried to “get out on the water” as least once a week. I have not always met that goal. But on the weeks that I do not, I repent and try to do better the next week. The time and effort preparing for and making an outing helps me stay centered and grounded.

Would I have transitioned well into retirement without fly fishing?

I actually think so; it was the right time for me to “hang up my spurs.” If it had not been fly fishing, I think I would have found other things to do. But I can testify that my immersion in the fly fishing world has assisted in making the transition seamless and fun! *Paul E. Robertson* February 28, 2022

More from Trout in the Classroom:





Calendar:

The following is an overview of activities currently scheduled by the Club for Spring 2022. Dates, times and activities are subject to change. Please refer to the Club's website for updates and more detailed information, <https://texasflyfishers.org>

Club Activities Calendar for April through July 2022

April:

April 2, 2022: (SW) Bolivar Marshes April 2 sees the saltwater anglers headed Stingaree Marina and then to the Bolivar Marshes for redfish and speckled trout.

<https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/02/08/spring-bolivar-marsh-saltwater-day-trip-2022-04-02/>

April 23, 2022: (FW) John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular at Damon 7 Lakes. This is the Texas FlyFishers big family event for the year. Join us for the chance to capture the Annual John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular Trophy and, enjoy a decent feed while doing it.

<https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/02/08/john-scarborough-sunfish-spectacular-2022-04-23-0700-date-locked/>

April 26, 2022: April Monthly Meeting: This month's scheduled speaker is local lady angler Jennifer Matsu. More details to come.

April 30, 2022: (SW) Lost Lake / Lost River Marsh- Details are still being worked out. If you are interested in leading this outing, please contact Saltwater Outings Chair Taylor Guest.

May:

May 7, 2022: (SW) Drum Bay / Swan Lake – Details are still being worked out. If you are interested in leading this outing, please contact Saltwater Outings Chair Taylor Guest

May 7, 2022: World Championship Bass on the Fly, Lake Fork Marina, Alba, Texas
<https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/03/07/world-championship-bass-on-the-fly-may-7-lake-fork-marina/>

May 20 - 23, 2022: (FW) Annual South Llano River Trip, Junction, Texas. Always a popular outing, float and paddle the South Llano River, at Junction, Texas, targeting Guadalupe Bass, Rio Grande Perch, and feisty sunfish.

<https://texasflyfishers.org/2022/03/06/south-llano-river-float-trip-2022/>

May 31, 2022: May Monthly Meeting - May's scheduled speaker is Ron Mayfield and he will be giving details about fly fishing in Chetumal / Ascension Bay, Mexico and, his upcoming trip scheduled for September.

June:

June 10-11, 2022: Fence Lake & Aransas Pass – Friday; Ferry aboard the M/V Skimmer to fish Fence Lake for Trout and Redfish. Saturday; Fish the Lighthouse Lakes / B&R Flats for trout & redfish.

Date TBD: Colorado River at Bastrop – This trip is the club's annual trip with Hill Country Fly Fisher's Kevin Hutchinson. Details are in the works and will be posted on the Club's website as soon as they are confirmed.

June 28, 2022: June Monthly Meeting: June's scheduled speaker is Mike Green he will be presenting Fly Fishing in New Zealand.

July: *Note from the Editor:* At this time, there are no Club outings, fresh and saltwater, scheduled for July. If you have a favorite spot and would like to lead an outing, please contact the club's outing chairs, John Eldred (FW) and Taylor Guest (SW). Also, the Club is looking for a speaker for our July Monthly Meeting. If you know someone, please contact Chris Summers, Jim Richards or any of the clubs officers.

Fly of the Month

Blue Claw Crab Fly By Capt. Mark Giacobba Tied By Chris Sumers



You'll find Capt. Mark Giacobba's Blue Claw is a favorite tailing redfish fly after you fishing. This fly lands softly, it's weedless, and when put in front of a tailing, or cruising redfish, it's just what they are looking to snack on, a fleeing crab.

Brown/Natural is the original color variation, but for dirtier water, it can also be tied with a purple collar / black tail (or vice-versa). My favorite color is olive/yellow. Use a blue marker to color the tip of the tail. It gives the look of a fleeing crab.

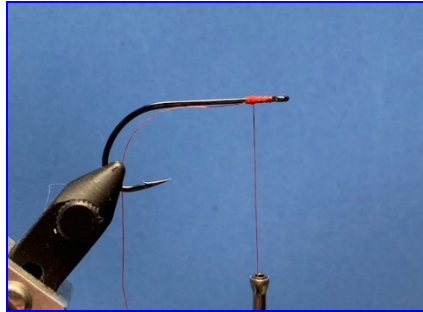
Materials:

- Hook: Gamakatsu B-10S, Size 2
- Thread: 140 Denier Fluorescent Orange
- Eyes: Black Bead Chain, Small or Medium
- Hot Spot: Orange Estaz
- Tail / Claw: Extra Select Craft Fur, Orangutan Brown, Black or Olive
- Flash: Krystal Flash, Rootbeer, Purple or Olive/Peacock
- Collar/Body: Grizzly Saddle Hackle, Natural (White / Black barred), Purple or Olive/Black
- Weed Guard: Stiff Mono or Fluorocarbon, 16# or 20#
- Claw: PrismaColor Marker, Color: Ultramarine or, Sharpie, Color: Blue

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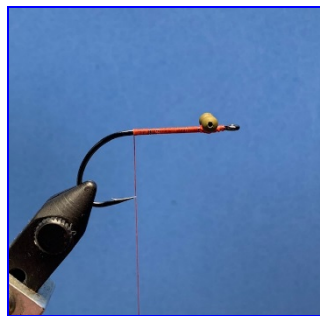
Fly of the Month – Continued:

Step 1:



With hook in the vise, tie in thread behind the hook eye. Wrap back about ¼ of an inch. Tie in a bump.

Step 2:



Tie in bead chain eyes on top of the hook. *Note:* Leave enough room between the eyes and the hook eye to tie in the week guard. Advance thread to the hook point.

Step 3:



Tie in Estaz (Hot Spot) and palmer forward 3 or 4 turns. Tie off the Estaz and cut the excess. Advance thread halfway to the eyes.

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Fly of the Month – Continued:

Step 4:



Cut a bunch of Craft Fur, about three quarters the size of a #2 Pencil. Clean out the under fluff then, even up the tips. Measure the craft fur and trim to 2 times the hook shank length.

Rotate the hook to point side up. Tie in the craft fur, wrapping first to the eyes then, back to the Estaz.

Note: Butting the craft fur against the Estaz will help support the craft fur. Advance the thread to the eyes.

Step 5:



Take two strands of K-Flash and fold them in half behind the thread. Wrapping rearward, tie in the strands, two on each side of the fly, back to the craft fur. Trim flash to the same length as the tail.

Advance the thread forward about four wraps. Invert the fly, point down.

Step 6:



Select two grizzly hackles and, strip the fluff off the thick bottom part of the stem. Tie in one of the hackles on the top of the hook shank and secure it to the craft fur. Trim off the excess stem.

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Fly of the Month – Continued:

Step 7:



Palmer the hackle forward to the thread. *Note:* Sweep the hackle rearward to not wrap over the fibers. Tie off the hackle and trim off the excess. Advance the thread to the eyes.

Step 8:



Tie in the second hackle, as in Steps 8 & 9, and palmer to the eyes. Tie off the hackle and trim excess.

Step 9:



Advance the thread ahead of the eyes. Rotate the hook to point upward. Smash one end of the weed guard material and bend 90°. Secure the weed guard in front of the eyes with wraps in front and behind. Whip finish two times, each behind and in front of the weed guard.

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Fly of the Month – Continued:

Step 10:



Push the weed guard rearward, toward the hook point and trim. Remove the hook from the vise and trim the hackle on the back of the hook flat. This will help the fly fish point up.

Step 11:



Using the blue Sharpie, color the end three eighths of an inch of the craft fur and flash on both sides. This will give the appearance of a fleeing crab's claw.

Step 12:



Seal head with head cement or UV material.



General Information

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 August 31st of each year and, renewals are due by September 1st.

The Texas FlyFishers monthly meetings are also available to members who are unable to attend in person via Zoom app. Log On information will be posted on the club website and members will receive an e-mailed notice with log on information each month. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) beginning at 6:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

Annual Dues (check one): Individual at \$30.00/year; Family at \$50.00/year; Student at \$15.00/year

Make check payable to Texas FlyFishers.

Dues can also be paid via PayPal link on the Club's website, <https://texasflyfishers.org/paypal-link-test/>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ - _____ Work / Cell Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____ Are You a FFI Member: _____

TEXAS FLYFISHERS
P.O. BOX 571134
Houston, TX 77257-1134