It’s a most wonderful time of the year!

Is a phrase mostly associate with Christmas time but, in this case, I’m talking about being outdoors in Texas during the months of October and November. The blast furnace like temperatures are beginning to disappear, the humidity is consistently below 80%, the mornings are wonderful and, the afternoons are tolerable. Friday night lights can be seen everywhere and Saturdays and Sundays typically create a new 4th, 5th and 6th largest cities in places like Kyle Field, NRG, AT&T and Memorial Stadiums. It’s also the time of year when those of us that like to fish, head out to our favorite lake and bay for some of the most enjoyable and productive times to own a fly rod.

The lakes and rivers are have all but recovered from the floods we experienced in the late spring and early summer. The rivers in the Hill Country are all running at or about normal flow rates. While the Llano River near Castell has just about recovered from the late summer deluge, the S. Llano still has a way to go. From all indications, however, estimates are for it to be back in shape by mid-October. Reports from the Guadalupe are that the river has cleared up nicely and there are good numbers of smallmouth and stripers. And, if you, or a friend have a boat, lakes like Buchanan and Texoma offer some quality striper fishing, both in numbers and size. Time for you to break out your 8 & 9 weights.

Also, in this month’s issue…

- What’s Happening – October Meeting, October Saltwater Outing, Reel Recovery, N. Toledo Bend Rendezvous
- Mark Your Calendar – November Meeting - Outings, Christmas Party
- Outing Reports – Clarke Thornton San Marcos River Trip, Green River Beauty
- 25th Annual Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival
- Fly of the Month – Sam’s 1 Bug by Don “Puck” Puckett

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It’s a most wonderful time of the year! Continued

If your tastes lean to the salty side, this time of year is when you want to head to the coast. Large numbers of slot and over slot redfish will me marauding the marshes and bays from Sabine Lake to the Lower Laguna Madre and make for some fantastic sight casting. And, if you are out in the bays, keep your eyes open for the birds because, more than likely, there will be some good speckled trout underneath. Also, you might want to keep a rod rigged with a sinking tip, intermediate or a full sink line handy to get your fly down below the “schoolies”. And, speaking of getting your fly down, this is the prime time of year for flounder. They’ll be staging near passes between the creeks and sloughs, the marsh and the bay and, the bay and the gulf…and, I know I don’t have to remind you that these flat fish produce some of the best eating filets of all of the coastal species.

If you are a fly tyer, preparing for this time of year can test your talents as well as your imagination when it comes to filling your fly boxes. You may ask “what patterns do I need?” Well, that’s entirely up to you. These fish will be fattening up on most any baitfish, leech, shrimp or crab they come across. For freshwater, the patterns in my box don’t change that much, only color and sizes. I like darker earth tones like olive (with a little red flash), browns, black and purple. I also like to step up a hook size and maybe, where the patterns call for it, a size up on lead eyes. For the coast, poppers, attractors, streamers, spoon flies, sliders, shrimp and crab imitations will fit the bill. Colors are a matter of personal preference but, I’ll move away from the bright, fluorescent, flashy flies move to more natural colors, like oranges, tan (light and dark), olive, copper, dark red, purple/blacks…and, I’m sure you will also find some chartreuse mixed in there, as well.

So, take advantage of the fine fishing opportunities and beautiful autumn weather every chance you get because, before you know it, that first blue norther will blow in and, you’ll be reminded about the holes in your waders…you know, the ones you forgot to repair after last winter.

Oh, yeah – one more thing to keep in mind about fall fishing is that in early November, ducks season opens. This means that for many of us fishing along the coast, unless we are taking part in a “Blast and Cast”, we don’t have to be on the water at the crack of dawn, like we did back in the summer months. The primary reason for this is that you don’t want to interfere with the most productive shooting hours, usually from 30 minutes before sunrise (start of legal shooting hours) until about 8:30 – 9:00 am and, if you still insist on being the first boat out there, please remember to keep a safe distance from any duck blind you might encounter…which, more than likely, will be located right in the middle or, very close to where you want to fish. So, while you are fishing in the weeks leading up to duck season, take a note of where the duck blinds are being layered with fresh foliage for future reference. BTW, duck season in the South Zone (South of I-10) opens November 5th. Tight lines, Chris

Coming in November – Outings Calendar for 2017

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What’s Happening This Month:

October Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:30 pm – Our scheduled guest is Filippo Invernizzi, Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Avalon Outdoor, a specialized tourism enterprise founded in 1992 and located in Cuba. Originally from Italy, Filippo has dedicated most of his life to managing and promoting sustainable ecotourism. In Cuba, he was among the first to make the business case for conservation with the marine protected area of Gardens of the Queen at the beginning and the other 5 Marine parks over the following years.

Fishing the Jardines de la Reina (Garden of the Queen), Cuba.

You will want to be sure to make this meeting to find out more of this fly fisherman’s paradise just 90 miles south of Key West. Location: Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.
What’s Happening This Month - Continued:

Outings:

Chasing Jackfish down the Padre Island National Seashore

When: November 12, 2016, 6:00 am ‘til dark  
Where: Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, Texas  
Trip Leader: Paul Akscyn, (Seven 13) 3 zero 6-53 one 0; e-mail paul(dot)akscyn(at)yah00.com

This outing will be just like the PINS outing back in September…except a little different. First off, this is a one day trip so, you’ll need to plan on staying in a hotel the night before. The day will be spend cruising the down the beach to find schooling and feeding jack crevalle. If you’re not familiar with Mr. Jack, you better be ready to test your tackle.

Everyone will meet at the PINS Visitor Center parking lot an hour before sunrise. We want to be at Mile Marker 20 by sunrise. A 4WD or a ride with someone who has one is needed. An 8 - 12 wt rod and a reel that has a good supply of backing is highly recommended. Note: this is a good opportunity to try out that two handed rod you have been practicing with. Flies, 3-6 inch whitish flies with Billy S’s set-up using a 1/32 oz. egg or cone sinker tied into the loop knot. Leaders – 30# or larger fluorocarbon.

For more information, contact the outing leader or come to the October Monthly meeting.

Reel Recovery:

We are excited to announce the second annual Houston Area Reel Recovery (RR) Navasota Retreat is scheduled for October 21-23, 2016 at Camp Allen near Navasota. 18-20 Texas FlyFishers (TFF) Club members and RR volunteers will be assisting at this retreat. We are hoping to service 15 retreat participants again this year. As announced at the September TFF meeting, we have 14 retreat applications. The best position to have going into a retreat is a full retreat at 15 participants with 2-3 more applicants in reserve. I am asking those who read this update to consider talking with any man you know recovering from any form of cancer at any stage including full recovery to consider attending the retreat. Should an applicant end up on the reserve list, they will receive first preference for 2017 Spring Retreats in Texas. There will be new Navasota retreat March 31-April 2, 2017. The retreat team of volunteers for this retreat will be made up of College Station Coordinators and volunteers, and also some volunteers from our TFF club.

Anything you can do to help us fill our last few applications for the October retreat, or the new Spring Retreat will be sincerely appreciated. Texas Reel Recovery (TRR) will have served over 50 men recovering from cancer this year.
What’s Happening This Month - Continued:

Additionally, TRR will do the first special retreat partnering with Project Healing Waters in Waring, Texas over the weekend of November 1-3, 2016. This retreat will serve veterans who are also recovering from cancer. The goal of the TRR State Coordinator is to start this new, joint retreat in Texas this year, and continue it in years to come. One of our TFF/RR volunteers will serve as a fishing buddy at this new retreat.

As always, TRR appreciates all the time, talent and treasure donated by our TFF Club. The Houston Area retreat would not happen without this support! Dave Steffek

28th North Toledo Bend Rendezvous

When: November 4 – 6, 2016
Where: North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA

Held the first weekend of November at North Toledo Bend State Park, near Zwolle, LA, this will be the 28th Rendezvous (since 1989) of this gathering of fly tyers representing Federation clubs from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and beyond.

With no planned activities, but plenty of fly tying, food, fly casting instruction and fly fishing, and with only a minimal fee to cover lodging and meals, the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous remains one of the top tying events held each year in the U.S.A.

If you have never attended the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous or haven’t been in a while, you are hereby invited to attend… Hey, we haven’t gathered on the shores of Toledo Bend and throwing this party for 28 years for nothing!!! Rendezvous is your chance to sit down and tie flies with some of the very best tyers in the Deep South! No matter if you are a beginner to tying or a master of this craft, you will learn a lot (or at least have fun tying with your friends &/or teaching others). We always have a great time! This is a wonderful event that is appropriate for your whole family… So bring your “significant other”, as well as your kids/grandkids! If you attend just once, you’ll want to come back each year! See you there!

For more information, contact or Walter McLendon at (9 three 6) six 3 four – 3 two nine 0 or, e-mail waltermcl(at)suddenlink(dot)net.

Mark Your Calendar:

November TFF Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 6:30 – 9:00 pm – Topic TBA. Location: Community Center Building in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

Christmas Party and Annual Holiday Extravaganza:

Come and join us on Saturday evening, December 10th, 2016 for the Texas FlyFishers Annual Christmas and Holiday Extravaganza at the Saint Arnold Brewing Company, 2000 Lyons Avenue, Houston, TX 77020 (713) 686-9494. There will be food and fun for the members and their families. Due to space limitations, we are limited to the first one hundred (100) invitations accepted. For more information or, to volunteer contact John Purcell at fluidos1(at) swbell (dot) net
Upcoming Outings:
The Outing’s Calendar for 2017 is currently under construction. While some of the outings and dates have already been locked in, there are plenty of slots that remain open. If you have an outing idea and especially, if you would like to lead an outing, please make plans to attend the November Monthly meeting and share your thoughts with Club President, Marcos Enriquez

Outing Reports:

Freshwater:

2nd Annual Clark Thornton San Marcos River Trip
September 10, 2016, Martindale, Texas

The 2nd Annual Clark Thornton Memorial San Marcos River Trip, hosted by Kevin Hutchison, was held on Saturday, September 10th. While rain had been in the forecast, the day turned out to be one of the nicest we had seen in several months. Warm (not blistering hot) with a gentle breeze.

Prior to the shuttle, Kevin presented each paddler with a goodie box. Among the many items inside were a koozie, complete with a can of beer, 2 leaders, a box of flies for the river and a commemorative t-shirt.

Once all fishermen and gear were assembled at the put-in, Kevin explained his expectations for the day. With 6 TFF members and cat-a-rafts, front and rear, we hit the water shortly after 9 am.

Most hook-ups seemed to occur right at the bank, which meant a lot of flies in trees and brush. Everyone got to find where their casting skills were lacking, but when hooked, the San Marcos bluegills fight like 10 pounders.

As in the past, Kevin provided an excellent shore buffet of varied meats, salads and desserts. After some leisure time discussing what had and had not worked in the morning, we headed out for an afternoon of fishing.

I believe fish were caught by everyone and the pleasant weather made for a great day on the river. Boats and gear were loaded by 5pm and ready for the trip back to Houston. Thanks, Kevin for another great day on the San Marcos. Mary Kay and Skip Donovan
GREEN RIVER BEAUTY…
Report submitted by Joe Nicklo

Nicholas Lestrer, John Purcell and I just spent two-days floating the Green River in the canyon down river from Flaming Gorge, Utah. Although, I have not fished this area in many years, I was again astonished by the height and stunning beauty of the canyon walls on both sides of the river. Catching fish takes a back seat when one is surrounded by nature's endless beautiful creations. I am saddened when I realize most people will never witness the beauty that exists here! It is said, "one-photo is worth ten-thousand words". Well, view these short videos that are worth much more than ten-thousand words! Thank you for sharing this with us, Joe, Nick and John.
25th Annual
Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival
Saturday February 11, 2017

6
One hour classroom fly tying presentations

Featured Guest

One of the largest gatherings of expert fly tyers under one roof at one time

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Adults - $10, Seniors (62 & Up) - $8, Family - $14, Under 18 - $5, Scouts (In Uniform)
Get in for Free
Fly of the Month:

Sam’s One Bug (S1B) – Modified Tying
Submitted by Don “Puck” Puckett

Note: I can’t take credit for this fly as I found the original at
Sam's One Bug, Created by Craig E. "Sam" Blevins, Written up by Warren Patterson

“I’ve tweaked the tying steps and materials to match my tying style (SCE) but the concept is still quite the original. This version makes a lot of noise if you want it to. I actually rip it across the water making pops and splashes that bass and panfish find extremely annoying. They just want to kill it, not eat the fly.”

Puck

Recipe:

Hook: Mustad 33903-BR size 6
Thread: Size “A” rod wrapping thread, color to match body
Glue: CA, E6000, or similar. In this example I am using “booger glue”
Tail: Marabou to match body, and silicone bass skirt legs, in this example barred yellow
Body: 3/8” closed cell foam post. In this example, yellow
Legs: Silicone bass skirt leg. Here I used “root beer”
Eyes: Black marker
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 1

Wrap a good base of thread covering the entire hook shank. This will be what the foam must be glued to. Without this base, the foam will spin on the shaft, and render the fly useless.

![Fly image](image1.png)

Step 2

Clean and measure a marabou feather. You want this feather to be fairly full, with no hard fibers.

![Fly image](image2.png)
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 3
Tie on the marabou to extend a hook shank’s length past the bend. Trim and get ready to add the silicone. There really is no need for the silicone in the tail, but a lot of folks seem to like it. It will make the tail of the fly sit lower in the water, creating a louder “pop” when you use a slow retrieve.

![Image of a fly being held by a hand]

Step 4
Here you see that I’ve trimmed the silicone tail to the length of the marabou.

![Image of a fly with silicone tail trimmed to length of marabou]
Fly of the Month: Continued

Step 5

With the 3/8” foam I like to make a 30-45° cut ride up the middle, creating 2 foam bodies. This angle will allow a gap between the hook and the body, which I think allows more hook-ups than just laying it onto the top of the hook shank.

Step 6

Here is the big difference between the original and my version. I don’t slice a groove into my foam. I poke a hole through the foam, centering on the face and coming out close to the bottom of the body towards the rear of the hook. If you totally mess up this step, you can set the body aside and use a slice from the bottom to attach it to another hook shank.
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 6

Put some of your glue onto the hook shank. I use quite a bit because it acts a lubricant when you slide the foam body into place. You want the body to sit just at the eye of the hook. In this picture it looks completely off, but you’ll see that the next steps bring it back into line.

Step 7

Soft wrap the body about 3/8-1/2” behind the head 3 or 4 times. This is where you will start applying pressure, forming the popping head. Once satisfied that the head is forming, start applying pressure causing the thread to bind the body down.
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 8
Now that the head is formed, whip finish the body, glue it and cut the thread. Here you can see the bodkin poked through the body just behind the popping head. This is the hole that you will use for the legs.

Step 9
The tool used here is a leg tool, or a “knit picker” from the local fabric shop. Shove it through the same hole you just made behind the head.
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 10
Place 3 silicone legs into the leg tool, and pull them half-way through. A drop of glue here is not a bad idea, because the bluegill love to pull the legs out.

Step 11
Cut the legs, trying to keep them even. Keeping them even has no affect on the fish, but if they are too far off the fly will spin in the air, twisting your tippet beyond repair.
Fly of the Month: - Continued

Step 12

Use a marker and make some eyes on each side. Let dry completely and go fishing.

Until Next Month. Tight Loops!
The Texas FlyFishers Officers and Executive Committee

Marcos Enriquez  John Purcell  Bob Brill
President  Vice President / Programs  Secretary / Membership

Raymond Lindeen  Jim Richards  Dave Lemke
Treasurer  Secretary / Programs  Webmaster

Mike Graham  Mike Frankhoff  Frank Schlicht
Communications  Conservation Chair  Education Chair

To Be Announced  To Be Announced  Alex Blacque
Saltwater Outings Chair  Freshwater Outings Chair  Door Prizes

Chris Sumers  Skip Donovan  Mary Kay Donovan
Dr. Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival  Auction Chair  Auction Chair

For more information, go to the club’s website at www.texasflyfishers.org

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Texas Flyfishers Membership Application

Please check one:  ☐ New Application  ☐ Renewal

To join 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 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 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 p.m.

Dues are for (check one):  ☐ Individual at $24 a year  ☐ Family at $32 a year  ☐ Student at $16 a year

Name: __________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________

Home phone: __________________ Work phone: ____________________________

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