I know it’s a bit early BUT...

It’s time to start thinking about the Texas FlyFishers largest and, most important fund raiser, known to our members as “The Auction”. The annual club auction will once again take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bayou Sports Bar and Grill, 6011 Addicks Satsuma Road, Houston 77084.

For those members who have not made it to “The Auction”, there are two parts, the silent auction and, the live auction. The silent auction kicks off when the doors open, around 11:00 am, and runs until the end of the live auction. Items for the silent auction are slightly used items our members no longer need or use. The live auction will begin around 12:30 pm and will continue until all the items have been sold. These items include trips, rods and reels, artwork and other top shelf items. There will also be drawings for a several great prizes. Information related to the auction items will be posted in the future issues of Windknots or, on the Club’s website as they come available.

In past years, Skip and Mary Kay Donovan have been co-chairs of the event but, personal obligations prevent them from doing so this year. If you are interested in stepping up and taking over the Auction Chair, please contact Club President Marcos Enriquez or, one of the other Club Officers and they will pass along the information.

Also, in this issue…

- Here’s What’s Coming Up! – March Monthly Meeting, Education, Casting, Conservation
- Outreach - Reel Recovery, Project Healing Waters
- Mark Your Calendars – 2019 Club Activities Calendar – March thru July
- Fly of The Month – The Common Craw
Here’s What’s Coming Up!

Monthly Meeting:

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019:** For the March monthly meeting, the Texas FlyFishers welcome Pat Vanek of Bosque Valley Fly Fishing. Pat is a central Texas guide and will be talking to the membership about fly fishing opportunities for white bass and hybrids.

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.

Education:

**Good news!** Frank Schlicht has stepped up to take over the position of Education Chair for the next year. Frank had previously held this position before stepping down two years ago. *Thanks you, Frank.*

On Tuesday, March 12, the Annual Tom Lyons Fly Fishing Academy kicked off. If you’re not familiar with the Academy, this program is designed to teach the most basic of fly fishing beginner angler. The class meets two days per week, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm for the classroom sessions at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston, Texas and Saturday mornings for casting instruction at Meyer Park.

The classroom sessions cover the rods, the reels, the lines, the leaders and tippets, and how to tie the most basic knots, in a classroom setting. As the Academy progresses, the course covers Entomology, the life cycle of insects and, their relationship to certain fly patterns that mimic these stages of development. There is also a class on accessories that are also essential to the fly fisher.

Casting instruction is a major part of the Academy. For two hours on Saturday mornings, the students will receive hands-on instruction covering the assembly of the rod/reel to the proper grip and the basics of the cast to, the introduction of more specialized deliveries and, finishing up with the introduction to the double-haul cast. At the end of the 5 casting classes, the student should be fully capable of casting 30 to 40 feet, or more, with ease in almost any situation. And, always, safety while pursuing the sport is stressed throughout the course.

Upon completion of the Academy, the student will be able to fish wherever they choose with confidence that they can catch fish. (The fish just have to cooperate!)

For additional information, visit the Texas FlyFishers website at [https://texasflyfishers.org/education-2/](https://texasflyfishers.org/education-2/).

Plans are in the works to offer additional classes this year and the dates and subject matter will be announced soon.
Here’s What’s Coming Up! – Continued:

Casting Notes:
The club is still looking to fill the Casting Chair spot. If you are interested in filling this position or, teaching one of the club’s casting classes, contact Frank Schlicht, Education Director or, Club President Marcos Enriquez.

But, in the meantime…

If you are interested in learning more about fly casting, the Southside Fly Casters meet the last Sunday of the month to practice casting. The group is led by Ron Mayfield, Certified Fly Casting Instructor and Texas FlyFisher member and, meets at Tom Bass Park in north Pearland from 4-6:00 pm. If you are interested in participating with the group, please contact Ron at southsideflycasting@gmail.com or (281) 797-1890 for details and directions. And, there is no cost for the class.

So whether you are a beginner or need help perfecting your double haul, come on out and have some fun with us.

Conservation:

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, members of the FlyFishers completed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fishing Education Angler Ed Fly Fishing Instructor certification workshop at Bass Pro Shops in Pearland, Texas. Thanks to the TPWD instructors Keira Quam and Greg Akins.

The club is still looking to fill the Conservation Chair position. If you are interested, please contact Club President Marcos Enriquez.
Here’s What’s Coming Up! – Continued:

Outreach:

Reel Recovery:

Texas Reel Recovery needs your help in finding applicants to fill up their 2019 Retreats. The first retreat in Texas for 2019 is scheduled for March 15, 2019 near Navasota, Texas, just west of Houston. This retreat has been supported by the Texas FlyFishers Club has proudly since inception in 2015.

The retreats are at no cost to the men participating. All they have to do to apply for a retreat is log on to the Reel Recovery national website at reelrecovery.org/programs/application/ to fill an application. If you have had cancer, consider attending a retreat. If you have a male friend, relative or loved one who is living with cancer, please tell them about Reel Recovery.

Anyone needing to talk with someone more about a retreat can call Dave Steffek at 713-202-0101 to answer any questions.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:

This spring we contacted the Conroe Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic about the possibility of having a PHWFF activity at their facility. The response was an overwhelming yes. With that as our initiative we contacted PHWFF headquarters and got things started. We formed the Conroe Fly Fishers, an IFF organization whose sole purpose is to support PHWFF here in Conroe. We contacted Chris Sumers about the possibility of support from Texas Fly Fishers. Again we received positive response and formed a group of volunteers to assist with the disabled veterans. We now have an outstanding volunteers who teach fly casting, rod building, and fly tying and of course fly fishing.

The staff at the VA informed their patients about the program and in early May we had our first meeting with three vets attending. We have continued to grow and at our last meeting we had 9 attendees.

We meet at the VA clinic in Conroe once per month on the second Friday of the month. We meet on the 4th Friday at Carl Barton Park in Conroe for casting activities and some fly tying.

Our most recent adventure is the start of a rod building competition. Our participants select the rod they want to build. After the rod is built it is sent in to headquarters for evaluation. There are three categories for the rod building contest, category one is for beginners, category 2 is for participants who have built 2 or 3 rods and category 3 is for those who have built 4 or more rods. The winner of the national competitions gets to take a great trip to the Smoky Mountains for some fishing in the streams.

I have been involved with this program for about 8 years in Lufkin. My experience is really positive and I have seen the positive effects on the participants. We are always looking for more volunteers and more participants. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact me at txfritz4134@suddenlink.net.

Thanks, Bill Heugel, Conroe Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishers Coordinator
Mark Your Calendars:

Club Activities Calendar for March through May 2019

March 2019:

Tom Lyons Fly Fishing Academy, March 12, 2019, Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd., Houston, Texas. See the Education section for additional details.

Freshwater Outing, Annual Harmon Creek White Bass Outing, Saturday, March 15-17, 2019. Harmon Creek RV Park and Marina, 14 Marina Pt., Huntsville, Texas 77320. Outing Leader: Don “Puck” Puckett, contact: (2ate1) 8six5-thirty-two 16 or, e-mail: doncpuckett(at)gee-male(dot)com

Date Moved - Saltwater Outing, Annual Prison Permit Invitational, Saturday, March 15-17, 2019, Sargent, Texas / East Matagorda Bay. Outing Leader: Mike “Golden” Graham, Phone: 832-dos-nueve-ocho-three-five-five-five or, e-mail: mgraham-rsms (at) comcast (dot) net

Saltwater Outing, Matagorda Beach / East Matagorda Bay, Saturday, March 23, 2019, Kayak fishing for redfish, speckled trout, and sheepshead. If you do not have a kayak, wading in the lakes can be very productive at times. 4X4’s are usually a must for beach driving. Trip Leader: Andrew Jones, Phone: (7I3) 575(dash) 7 three 7 four

The Third Annual Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival, March 23 – 24, 2019, Plano Centre, Plano, Texas. For more information, check the TFFBF website at txflyfishingfestival.org

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 2019. Our speaker for March is Pat Vanek of Bosque Valley Fly Fishing, to talk to us about fly fishing for white bass and hybrids. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas.

April 2019:

Saltwater Outing, Bolivar Marsh, Crystal Beach, April 4–7, 2019, Kayak and/or Boat (or ride with someone in their boat the waters of East Galveston Bay and, the Bolivar Peninsula. The beach house “Play’n Hooky” has been secured for the trip but, a deposit is required in advance to reserve your spot. The Trip Leader is Bill Leary and he can be contacted by Phone/text at: 2ate1 7zero5 10ten or, e-mail Bill at bill_leary(at)hotmail(dot)com

Freshwater Outing, John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular - Damon 7 Lakes, Saturday, April 27, 2019. Join us for the annual chance to capture the John Scarborough Sunfish Spectacular Trophy and a decent feed on Saturday the 27th of April at Damon Seven Lakes. Fishing from the shore, but float tubes and kayaks are quite successful. Trip leaders are Don "Puck" Puckett and Russell Cowart

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, April 30, 2019. This month’s scheduled speaker is Kevin Hutchison and he’ll be giving us the low down on the San Marcos River and, the upcoming Clarke Thornton Memorial Outing. 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 Calendar – Continued:

May 2019:

Saltwater Outing, Chandeleur Islands Mothership Adventure, May 12–15, 2019. This is a 2.5 day trip to the Chandeleur Islands with DMJ Charters out of Pass Christian, MS. Minimum 10/maximum 12 people. To sign up for this trip or, to be put on the wait list, contact John Eldred (907) tree O I tree 5 nine 5 or, by e-mail at john.eldred03 (at) gmale (dot) com

Freshwater Outing, Clarke Thornton Memorial San Marcos River Float trip with Kevin Hutchison, Saturday, May 18, 2019. Details are currently being worked out for this outing but, if you are interested in attending this outing, be sure to make the April Monthly Meeting for more information. Outing Leader: TBA but, if you are interested in leading this outing, contact John Eldred (9zero7) three OI-three 5 nine 5 or, by e-mail at john.eldred03 (at) gmale (dot) com

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 2019. May’s scheduled speaker is Hill Country expert Chris Johnson, of the Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock, Texas. Chris’s program will cover The Guadalupe / Pan Fish & Bass in the Texas Hill Country. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

June 2019:

Saltwater Outing, TBD. Currently, no saltwater outing is scheduled for June but, If you have an idea for an outing or, you would like to lead a saltwater outing, contact John Eldred (907) tree O I tree 5 nine 5 or, by e-mail at john.eldred03 (at) gmale (dot) com.

Freshwater Outing, Annual South Fork of the Llano River Float Trip, June 28 – 29, 2019. Details are currently being worked out for this outing. Outing Leader: Don “Puck” Puckett, contact: (2ate1) 8six5-thirty-two 16 or, e-mail: doncpuckett(at)gee-male(dot)com

Texas FlyFishers Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. Speaker and program: TBA. The monthly meetings for the Texas FlyFishers are held at the Community Center Building located in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas

July 2019:

Saltwater Outing, The Annual Magoo Tournament, Lower Laguna Madre, July 20, 2019. Currently, the details of this event are being completed but, due to the logistics involved with this outing, you might want to start making plans. As more concrete information becomes available, it will be noted in the Windknots and posted on the website. The leader for this outings TBD.

Note: All events, outing dates, times and locations are subject to change without notice.
Outings Report:

Spring is in the air, the weather is getting a little more reliable and, the fish are ready to play. I did not receive any reports but, I have heard some good stories. The club has several great outings scheduled for the next couple of months so, you might want to sign up and be a part of these great angling opportunities.

If you have a trip report that you’d like to share with our readers, please submit it, along with any photos, to me at csumers(at)comcast(dot)net. Thanks, Chris Sumers, Editor-Windknots

Lagniappe:

With Spring upon us, many of our members will be preparing to hit the waters. As a Club, we have an opportunity to make an impact on the environment, in a good way. Whether it’s one piece, one bag or, a dumpster full, when you run across some litter, collect it and dispose of it properly. Provided by the Texas Council of FFI, the Club has a good supply of reusable trash bags and I call upon each of you to pick one up at the next meeting and, do your best to fill it up, every trip out. Then, properly dispose of the contents and refill it again. To borrow the phrase “Don’t mess with Texas”. Editor
Fly of the Month:

Common Craw Carp Fly
Developed by James Spicer
Tied by Chris Sumers

The Common Craw is one buggy little carp fly developed by James Spicer. The Common Craw was designed for picky carp on the South Platte River in Denver. The Common Craw is a fairly heavy fly, this is why it works so well in the river. The Common Craw sinks quickly and stays on the bottom, right where the Carp want it! The Common Craw is made of supple materials, which allows it to move and breathe in the water. The Common Craw also works on trout! I initially developed the fly for carp, but Trout have a hard time resisting it as well! Give it a try!

Materials:

- **Hook:** Gamakatsu SL45, #4
- **Thread:** Olive Veevus 6/0
- **Weight:** .020 Lead Wire (optional)
- **Eyes:** Dumbbell Lead Eyes, Red Medium Painted
- **Tail:** Extra Select Marabou, 1 Plume Olive, 1 Plume Black
- **Body:** Crawfish Orange, Natural, Black, or Red Zonker Pine Squirrel
- **Thorax & Head:** Peacock Herl, 6-12 Strands
- **Glue:** ZapAGap Brush On
Fly of the Month - Continued:

Step 1:

Tie in thread and lay down a base wrap. Tie in Dumbbell eyes about 1 hook eye back using cross wraps. Wrap thread about half way back to the hooks bend, just in front the hook point.

Step 2:

Tie in olive marabou tail, tips extending about 1-1½ times the hook shank length past the bend of the hook. Secure the marabou with cross wraps back to the eye. Cut off excess marabou.

Step 3:

Take the black marabou and tie in, repeating Step 2, on top of the olive tail.
Fly of the Month - *Continued*:

**Step 4:**

Pick 12-20 peacock herl fibers and trim the ends. Tie in the peacock, just behind the eye on top of the black marabou, pointing opposite from the hook eye.

**Step 5:**

Tie in crawfish orange pine squirrel zonker so the hairs point rearward when wrapped. Palmer the zonker strip forward, using tight wraps and stroking the hairs rearward, up to the back of the dumbbell eyes. Secure in place with the thread. Trim excess fur. Take several more thread wraps and secure with a half hitch.

**Step 6:**

Part the squirrel fur, along the center back line of the zonker wraps, extending the hair outward, perpendicular to the hook.
Fly of the Month - Continued:

Step 7:

Take half of the peacock herl strands and extend them forward, over the middle of the dumbbell eyes. Secure the peacock with thread wraps behind the eyes. Advance the thread over the eyes and take a couple of wraps in front of the eyes.

Step 8:

Take the peacock and make a single wrap around the hook, behind the eyes and then, cross wraps around and over the eyes. Take a single wrap in front of the eyes and, secure with a couple of thread wraps. Cut off excess peacock.

Step 9:

Take the remaining peacock strands and lay it across the eyes. Secure the peacock with thread wraps, in front of the eyes. Wrap a head, covering the peacock fibers with thread, and secure with a couple of half hitches. Seal with head cement or, UV material. Note: To make a more durable fly, coat the peacock herl with a thin layer of ZapAGap.
Fly of the Month - Continued:

Tight loops and tight lines!

http://texascouncilifff.com
The Texas FlyFishers Executive Committee:

Marcos Enriquez  Don “Puck” Puckett  Bob Brill  
President  Vice President / Programs  Secretary / Membership  
Raymond Lindeen  Jim Richards  Dave Lemke  
Treasurer  Club Secretary / Programs  Webmaster  
Frank Schlicht  Communications  Conservation Chair  
Alex Blacque  Casting / FFI Director  Outings Chair  
Registration / Door Prizes  
Chris Sumers  Open  Dave Steffek  
Dr. Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival  Auction Chairs  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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