

March 2006

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***From the President
Sheila Anderson***

At our January outing an idea came up for our members to gather in between outings for fly tying sessions and lessons, and it inspired an idea to sell flies at our March outing fund raiser for CFR. For our first fly tying round table we met at my house in Austin. It was a bit cozy with six around the dining room table and three at the desk in the living room. Materials were graciously donated by Kevin Hutchinson for us to tie four different flies. Robert grilled up some fajitas and mixed margaritas for all to enjoy at lunch break. Mary Rohrer came bearing a gift of 12 dozen flies tied and donated by Martin Pursch of Country Flyfisher Shop in Fredericksburg to help with our fund raiser.



Susan Gaetz, Sharon, Mary Rohrer

Joan Swartz had met with Kevin prior to our get together to learn how to tie these four flies: Cypert Minnow, Clouser Minnow, Llano Bug, and a Pan Fish Bug. Joan went over the directions for these four flies and we tied away. I think we amassed a few dozen flies altogether for the afternoon, a very good effort. We had a good mix of more experienced tiers, such as Coco, and more novice tiers willing to learn. Susan Gaetz, Texas coordinator for the Casting for Recovery retreats, came by for a visit and she also tied some flies with us. The CFR organization is very grateful for our sponsorship and our creative ways of raising funds.

As a group, I believe we have come a long way in the past few years with our fly tying efforts. My hope is to continue to have these round table gatherings in various regions of Texas so all women can become more skilled in this area of our sport.

Our next outing is scheduled for the weekend of May 19th. The Bud Priddy Memorial One Fly Contest is one of our favorite outings on the beautiful Nueces River. We will once again stay at Big Oak River Camp, Sarah Valentine is our coordinator. I hope you all can attend.

Thanks and regards,

Sheila

Welcome New Members

Jan Mayhall Dallas, TX
Susie Isbell Keller, TX
Sandy Blair and Family Forney, TX

Fly Fish Texas Outing trip report

March 3 - 5, 2006

by Sheila Anderson



As coordinator of this outing I had two objectives in mind. First, I wanted to learn about Fly Fish Texas, see what it offered, and find a way for TWFF to participate more fully in future Fly Fish Texas programs. Second, I wanted to raise funds for CFR by selling flies that were tied by or donated to TWFF. I believe we were successful on both objectives. I asked each of our members to contribute a paragraph or two about their experience at Fly Fish Texas. From my perspective it seemed a bit like EXPO except it is devoted only to fly fishing. The attendance at this show seemed much smaller than EXPO, one reason may be the Arlington Fly Fish Show scheduled for the same weekend. The TPWD fresh water fishery is a beautiful facility, one I recommend each of you visit in the future. We had a prime location for our table just inside the main door where we sold our flies and recruited three new members. We raised a whopping \$438 selling flies for CFR – well above my expectations. The thoughts of other members follow.

From Annette Blythe:

Fly Fish Texas what an experience! Wish all of you could have been there. Besides the wonderful presentations, fly tying and fishing, I was able to participate in an intermediate fly casting class. The instructors were so knowledgeable, and what patience.

Al Crise is in charge of Education for the Federation of Fly Fishers. I met Al on a TWFF outing a few years ago. As I was ready to complete my casting lesson and give someone else the opportunity, Al asked me to cast as far as I could. HMM. I knew my distance casting needs much improvement. Al proceeded to work with me and much to my amazement I was double hauling. I couldn't believe it and he just chuckled and told me to continue doing it as he observed. I guess that was to reinforce my new skill. I left Fly Fish Texas with such an awesome feeling and know I want to make this outing again next year.

From Donna Endsley:

Ed and I spent a very informative time with the "Fly Fishing from your Kayak" demo.

The emphasis was on

- how to fit your kayak with things like tubes for holding fly rod tips at the bow of your boat,
- set ups for umbrellas to keep a little sun off your back in the those hotter months,
- using a tool like a 5' piece of pipe with a float attached to place in the scupper hole to hold you in place and keep you from drifting,
- safety tips that some of us might not be aware of, i.e., when in a kayak on the coastal waters or on lakes besides a PDF you are required to carry a whistle,
- lighting is required if you plan to be in your kayak and on the water after sundown.
- He also discussed the pros and cons of fly fishing from your kayak and how the casting method changes from a sitting position, etc.
- After the information session, he invited people to sit in the kayak and paddle around in the pond and cast from it to get a few pointers on how that worked.
- This was a very good presentation and we learned several tips that we plan to implement while using our kayaks to fly fish.

From Frances Hamm:

The trip to Athens was a lot of fun meeting people from around the state, eating some great fried catfish, showing off all the flies our club made and watching some very happy children as they caught fish out of the freshly stocked pond.

I attended two of the presentations during the Fly Fish Texas. Both centered on fishing the Texas coast for red drum, known as redfish or the fish with the spotted tail. I learned a great deal about fishing "skinny" water, in particular. The Rockport guide, Chuck Scates, told how he had worked his way down literally to VERY shallow (skinny) water where the whole fishes' back sticks out of the water as he feeds. He described throwing the fly just in front of the fish so he would instinctively bite at it.

Chuck also defined circumstances when redfish bite and when they don't. They like moving water so the tide must be coming in or going out for them to bite. When there is no tidal movement and the fish have "lockjaw", he called the fish in this situation "non-feeders". He showed in his slide show how you can throw the fly anywhere on or around the non-feeding fish and he will not bite.

Billy Trimble also presented about fly fishing salt water for redfish. He was accompanied by his wife and fellow guide, Stacy. Both Stacy and Billy have moved to Rockport, TX in the last year to expand their business.

From Sherri Ray:

The Athens Freshwater fishery is bigger and better than the last time. Remember the first time when people were actually fishing in the holding tanks? Currently, there is "river" through the complex that

feeds all the ponds and the wetlands areas. The wetlands area has a 1.2 mile walk so fishers, walkers or wheelchairs can enjoy this wetland replica. The wetlands ponds and river were stocked and happy smiling fishers were all along the way catching fish after fish. As you walk through the river system you pass a bee hive house where there is a working beehive to watch and lots of documentation and audio explanations of the display at the push of a button, there was also a bird house of indigenous birds of Texas with pictures and the sounds each bird makes. This ended at the fly-fishing lake that includes a state of the art duck blind.

The classes this year was wonderful. I attended several of them. One was Fishing for Redfish by Chuck Scates. Mr. Scates was unable to attend last year due to health reasons. He IS back! He gave up guide “secrets” with some of the most beautiful slides to back up his points. As attendees would ask questions he would act out his processes and talk us through them. As he would do this his voice would start to quiver and his breathing patterns would change. It was so easy to imagine being on the coast at that moment! His enthusiasm was contagious and you couldn’t help but get excited and catch some coastal fever! He admitted that after thirty years he still gets excited from the thrill of the hunt. It was affirming to know that someone of his natural ability and experience still feels that level of excitement. It is nice to know that the rush from chasing and catching redfish will continue.

I also attended a class on entomology. The class did hands on sampling of the river and learned the importance of the information and the impact in deciding the way to fish.

Al Crise did an excellent job scheduling and managing casting instructors to achieve maximum impact for students. There were approximately four instructors for every four to six students. One instructor was the main instructor and the other three worked hands on with the students to show them how to achieve the technique being taught and for help and correction as they were learning. It was very organized and effective. Ronnie helped out as an instructor and also taught a class on “What’s in the tackle bag and what to take for beginners”. About twenty new fishers attended it who were enthusiastic and receptive to the information being given them.

The weather was absolutely beautiful, the food was great and the company of fellow TWFF members was the best!



2006 Outing Schedule

May 19, 20 & 21	Bud Priddy Memorial One Fly Contest Big Oak River Camp, Camp Wood, TX
July 21, 22, & 23	South Llano River Outing, Junction, TX
Sept 15, 16, & 17	TWFF Saltwater Trip, Aransas Pass, TX
Nov 3, 4, & 5	Trout Fishing, Broken Bow, OK

May 2006: BUD PRIDDY MEMORIAL ONE FLY CONTEST
Big Oak River Camp – Camp Wood, TX
May 19, 20 & 21, 2006

Coordinators: Sarah Valentine sval@flash.net and Audrey Ambrose kc1jc2@flash.net

Join us for a fun weekend of fly fishing the "one fly" and enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Nueces River. Visit www.bigoakrivercamp.com for further information about the campground or call (830) 597-5280. There are log cabins, full service RV sites and tent sites. The campground also has wonderful river access for those who prefer to wade fish. There is also 2-3 hour float trip from the bridge below Lake Nueces to Big Oak River Camp with wonderful fishing along the way, or you can take an all day float from the bridge to the next crossing provided the river has had recent rain. We had a great day on the long float last year, but remember to disembark at Big Oak River Camp unless you want to spend the whole day on the river.

For the article 'Bud Priddy Memorial' written by David Sikes for the Corpus Christi News about Dr. Bud Priddy (author of *Fly-fishing the Texas Hill Country* & Sarah's former internist ☺) click on the link:

<http://www.caller2.com/2001/july/08/today/davidsik/4783.html> The Alamo Fly Fishers are located at <http://www.alamoflyfishers.org/>.

Facilities: The campground is south of the Hwy. 55 bridge about 3 miles below Camp Wood, Texas and is directly on the Nueces River. All cabins have bathrooms, a full fridge, stove, microwave, satellite TV, porch swing, BBQ pit and a queen bed and a futon. Big Oak will provide linens for a \$7.00 per night fee, or you can provide your own bed linens and towels. There is room for an extra cot/air mattresses if needed. Cabins 1-11 face the RV sites and the river; cabins 12-16 are behind cabins 1-5. The RV sites have full hookups and are situated beneath beautiful shade trees. There are also sunny RV spots nearer the entrance to the campground. RV sites with full hookups are \$26.00 per night and the RV sites with water and electricity are \$22.00 per night. Big Oak still offers a 10% TACO camper's discount if you are a member.

We've talked to Terri at Big Oak and she is holding the cabins and some RV sites under the TWFF name. Please make your reservations as soon as possible directly with Terri and then send us an e-mail so we can keep an accurate count. Marilyn is offering us the price of 75.60 per night for the cabins. They also now have a new "River House" that sleeps up to fourteen. It will run \$275.00 a night but has two bedrooms/2 bathrooms with a large living/kitchen area and a huge porch.

Check In is available after 3 PM on Friday. Check Out is by 11 AM on Sunday. Terri is excited about having our group back and has been very helpful, so please remember to call ahead if you plan to arrive earlier than 3 PM. Cell phones don't work too well up in the Canyon, so call before you leave Uvalde or before you drop below Interstate 10.

What to Bring: Gear - hat, sunscreen, wading shoes, sandals or booties, rain suit, lightweight waders (if desired - it will be hot), nylon or quick dry clothes, sun gloves, warm clothes (for possible chilly nights), camera and film, binoculars (for great birding and wildlife), swimsuits, water bottles and a lawn chair. Kayaks and canoes are wonderful options for this river. Sarah has also done a lot of fishing from a black inner tube, but a real float tube or a kick boat are fancier options that seem to be okay. A local outfitter, Marilyn Stoner, will deliver and pick up kayaks at Big Oak River Camp. You may contact her at Clear Creek Outfitters/Nueces Kayak Rentals at (830) 597-6400 or (830) 591-4889. Her shop is located at 115 S. Nueces in Camp Wood and she is in the office on Fri & Sat from 10 AM -4 PM. You might ask her about delivery to the river just below the dam so that you could make the float trip down to Big Oak River Camp. Terri says that a visit to Marilyn's "cute" shop is worth it along with a visit to Angel Wings in Barksdale (antiques). There are also kayaks available in Leakey at Josh's Landing (830-232-6292) on US Hwy 83. Josh also stocks a nice selection of flies, fishing gear, clothing and gifts. The drive on Hwy. 337 from Leakey to Camp Wood is also spectacular.

Suggested flies and lines: Bring your 5, 6 or 7 weight rod and tie on some heavy fluorocarbon or monofilament leader and tippet. More adventurous members can try a 3 or 4 weight rod with 5x or 6x tippet. Great fun! The river is home to Guadalupe and largemouth bass, catfish and numerous varieties of bluegill, sunfish and the lovely Rio Grande perch. Prizes are usually awarded for most fish, largest bass, and largest perch. Favorite flies

on the river are the Miss Prissy, Cypert's minnow (the one Coco taught us to tie in white, chartreuse, black/white or white/gold), Jackman's Zit (tied by a Canyon native & Bud Priddy's fishing buddy, Don Jackman), clousers, foam bugs, jig head nymphs, wooly buggers and just about any small popper. Sherri Ray caught over 50 fish year before last using a popper! There were lots of other ladies who caught in the 20-35 fish range and Sarah caught nice catfish on one of the deeper stretches of water. TWFF ladies also seem to have a knack for catching the largest bass, something that drives the Alamo guys crazy. Just remember, only "one fly" all day. To be honest, most of us are pretty happy when that "one fly" breaks off-- so many flies and so little time! This river is a wade fishing dream; just use your regular weight forward floating fly line and enjoy watching your fly work the water. Check out the article mentioned above and you'll see just how clear the water is. You'll be provided a map of the river but remember, this river is subject to changes that may make the map out of date. Things had really changed after the floods year before last, but we still had a great time discovering the "new water" it had to offer. It made kayaking the long stretch possible. Hopefully, the canyon will receive some much needed rains before our outing.

Food: Mullet Mixer fare for Friday night at Sarah and Audrey's cabin. Breakfast/lunch for Saturday, and breakfast/lunch for Sunday. Restaurants are also available in Camp Wood. Saturday night's dinner is provided as part of the entry fee for the contest. We will also sell breakfast tacos during registration in the City Park. We're sure the Alamo guys will help us support Casting for Recovery efforts.

Please note that Camp Wood is located in a "dry" county; Uvalde has lots of options for groceries and supplies (Super Wal-Mart, HEB, & Casal's, all located on Hwy.90 or Main Street). Evett's BBQ on the left just before HEB is a great spot to grab BBQ for Friday night. Lots of Mexican food restaurant are everywhere but the two local favorites are located on Hwy. 90 on the western edge of town: Los Alamos on the left and Mr. C's on the right. There are also wonderful antique stores around the town square located at the intersection of Main (Hwy. 90) and Getty (Hwy. 83). The Briscoe art and antique collection contains works by Rembrandt and Gainsborough, Another option for truly fine shopping for clothing and gifts is Julien's, just past the town square on Getty. Who knows, you might bump into someone surprising while you're shopping. Uvalde is the hometown of quite a few "famous" people. <http://www.visituvalde.com/>

Schedule of Events:

Friday 7 p.m. Mullet Mixer at the group facility (if it's completed by then) or at cabin 11. Bring a chair.

Saturday: 7 a.m. Registration in Camp Wood at the City Park (\$10.00 entry fee includes dinner at Casa Falcone at 6 p.m., a map, measuring tape, pencil & zip lock bag). **Confirmation of entry fee amount has not been confirmed by Alamo Fly Fishers yet.**

Sunday: You are on your own for fishing or enjoying the campground.

Directions from San Antonio: (2.5 hours) Take Hwy. 90 to Uvalde. Go north from there on Hwy 55 (this involves a right turn at the town square onto Getty (Hwy. 83), then a left turn at the north edge of town just after the railroad overpass). Take Hwy 55 toward Camp Wood; Big Oak River Camp is just south of the Hwy. 55 bridge, about 3 miles before you get to Camp Wood. **From Austin:** Camp Wood is about 3.5 hours; check out Mapquest for directions. The drive through Vanderpool is noted as one of the most scenic in Texas but there are less adventurous routes available.

Additional Accommodations Available: (Please make your own arrangements for these)

Nueces River Motel 830-234-3648

Woodbine Inn 830-597-2310

Hill Country Motel 830-597-3278

Lost Canyon Retreat 830-234-3250

Ledge Water Camp 830-234-4178

Wes Cooksey Park 830-597-3223 (park is directly on Lake Nueces above the bridge)



SOUTH LLANO RIVER OUTING

Morgan Shady Park, Junction Texas

July 21 – 23, 2006

Coordinators: Glenna Noret michael.noret@cox.net and Kelley Kazura rkkazr@cox.net

TWFF will travel to Junction, Texas to fish the spring-fed South Llano River, home to native Guadalupe Bass and Rio Grande Perch as well as largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, and other species. Outing headquarters will be Morgan Shady Park, located on the banks of the South Llano as the river pools to form Lake Junction.

With its grassy banks and huge pecan trees, the privately owned Morgan Shady Park is an ideal spot for summer camping in the Hill Country. Flowing out of the "Land of 1100 Springs," the South Llano maintains an adequate flow and the lake waters remain cool and refreshing even in the middle of our long, hot summers.

TWFF has reserved *The Party Barn* at Morgan Shady Park, for the headquarters for this outing. It has electricity, picnic table seating, and a misting system to help cool the area. Facilities at the park runs from basic camping to RV sites with full hook-ups. All sites have safe drinking water, electricity and a table and there are bathhouses with toilets and showers. Daily costs from \$18 to \$25 a day depending on the site. The park also has three "bunkrooms" which has been reserved for our outing. The bunkrooms cost \$60 a night and can accommodate 4 to 8 folks - depending how friendly you want to get! All rates are based on 2-person occupancy. Additional people are \$3.00 each. There is also a \$5.00 fee for day use only for those not staying at the park. For those who desire more modern conveniences, Junction has many moderately priced motels within a 10-minute drive of Morgan Shady Park.

Reservations

For bunkhouse reservations, contact Glenna Noret at michael.noret@cox.net or Kelley Kazura at rkkazr@cox.net. For tent or RV site reservations, contact Morgan Shady Park at 325-446-2580 or 325-446-2071. For motel reservations, please see the list below and make your reservations directly. Once your reservations are made, please contact either Kelley or Glenna and let them know you are attending the outing.

Dinner Reservations: To be Announced Later. Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

Directions to Morgan Shady Park.

Morgan Shady Park is located at 600 South 6th St., Junction, Texas 76849. Exit IH-10 at the 456 marker. Turn on to Hwy 377 / 83 to come to Junction. This becomes Main Street in Junction. Follow Main Street to the Kimble County Courthouse. Turn right on Sixth Street, the street just before the Courthouse. (There is no marker to tell you that this is Sixth Street until you go one block.) Stay on Sixth Street until you enter the park on the banks of the South Llano River.

Area Motels

Comfort Inn Located at I-10, exit 456 (325) 446-3572
800-228-5150

Day's Inn Located at I-10, exit 457 (325) 446-3730
800-329-7466

The Hills Motel, 1520 Main Street (325) 446-2567

Econo Lodge at Exit 465 on I-10 (325) 446-2475

La Vista Motel, 2040 Main Street (325) 446-2191

Lazy T Motel, 2043 Main Street (325) 446-2565

Slumber Inn, 2343 Main Street (325) 446-4588

Sun Valley Motel, 1611 Main Street (325) 446-2505 or 866-446-2505

The Legends Inn, 1908 Main Street (325) 446-8644
877-445-8444

Local Canoe & Kayak Rentals.

If you plan to rent a canoe or kayak from a local outfitter, please make your reservations early.
Peacemaker River Expeditions, 325-446-2363, 365 River Road Junction
South Llano River Canoes (& kayaks), 325-446-2220, 6 miles south of Junction off Hwy 377
Sonny's Canoes, 325-446-2112, 214 Patricia, Junction. Canoe rentals

OUTING SCHEDULE

Friday, July 11

Meet for Mullet Mixer at Morgan Shady Park

Saturday, July 12

Gather at Morgan Shady Park at 8 am and be ready to shuttle to our put in at South Llano River State Park. We will merge into as few vehicles as possible after loading our vessels on the shuttle trailer. Our group will paddle during the day back to Morgan Shady Park. It is about a 5 mile easy float with good fly fishing. Morgan Shady Park is suitable for both bank and wade fishing. If you prefer to or float fish the lake at Morgan Shady Park. Wade and bank fishing is also available at the river crossing near Texas Tech. Directions: Take Main Street north (left) to Hwy 377 and head toward the state park. About ¼ mile, you will see a sign on the right for Texas Tech University. Turn left at the sign; it is a few blocks to the low water crossing. A small parking area is available.

Saturday Night Dinner – To be announced later. Brief business meeting after dinner.

Sunday, July 13

You are free to fish or leave for home according to your schedule.

GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

Bring your fly rod, reel, flies and extra equipment for those who may forget or need help. If you want to bring a spinning rod, that's fine too. Suggested Flies: Woolly Buggers, Jig Head Nymphs, Clousers, Sponge Bugs, Zonkers, Tarantulas, Miss Prissy, Spider Legs or use your warmwater imagination. Bring sunscreen, camera, rain jacket, polarized sun glasses, warm clothes because even in July it can get chilly in the evening. You will not need waders in July but if you prefer wearing waders, wear breathable rather than neoprene. Nylon shorts and tennis shoes work just fine. Remember your hat too!

If you are paddling on the river trip you will need dry bags. Dry bags work and plastic bags do not. Try Austin Outdoor Gear & Guidance, REI, Academy and Bass Pro for dry bags. Everything gets wet inside a canoe or kayak on a river trip so please place your food and possessions in dry bags.

Bring food for the day and more water than you think you will need. If you fill a water bottle ¾ full, freeze (leave the cap off when you freeze it to allow for expansion) then put the cap back on just before you pack it, you will have ice water all day.

Please leave pets and loud music at home.

Bring food for your breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, check out several of the local restaurant on Main Street. If you plan to stay longer on Sunday bring food accordingly.

Rent canoes and kayaks in advance! Call now to reserve a boat! If you wait till the last minute there is good a chance they will all be rented. Call NOW to make your camping and lodging reservations now! Motels and campgrounds book up fast in the summer.

Helpful Links

Morgan Shady Park <http://www.msp856@verison.com>

South Llano River State Park <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/slano/slano.htm>

City of Junction <http://www.junctiontexas.net/>

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