



June 2008  
www.twff.net

“Our mission is to create opportunities and encourage, educate, and mentor women’s responsible participation in the recreational sport of fly fishing. We support the policies/goals of the Federation of Fly Fishers, are open to women, men, and children from beginner to experienced through programs sponsored by women from the Texas Women Fly Fishers.”



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## TWFF Business Update

Submitted by Sheila Anderson

### TREASURER’S REPORT:

Presented by Gretchen Neubauer. Before this outing, there was about \$7300.00 in account. Fundraising so far has netted \$1,377.00 for the club and \$1,074.74 for CFR. We are halfway to our goal of sending two women to the CFR retreat in 2009!

### FIRST VP REPORT:

Report given by Rozlynn Orr.

- Silent auction is scheduled for our July outing in Junction.
- There is a new tab on the website, “Friends of TWFF”. Go and see who is sponsoring our club and auctions. We have a lot of great companies and individuals who are supporting us and are helping our club grow. Please tell them ‘thanks’ when you’re in their shops or send a quick ‘thank you’ email to them. Through their generosity, these people allow us to grow, learn and have a lot of fun! Let them know we appreciate them!

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Report presented by Mary Rohrer. Currently, about 50% of our members have paid dues for 2008. Emails will go out to those that have not paid soon. TWFF Individual Membership: \$20 and TWFF Family Membership: \$25 To renew, go to [www.twff.net](http://www.twff.net) and click Start the fun - Join today! Checks can be mailed to:

Texas Women Fly Fishers  
ATTN: Kerri Stephenson, Membership Chairperson  
11322 Pompey Ct., Austin, TX 78739

### NEW BUSINESS:

Cindy Bentfield is our new historian. Mary Rohrer wants to see if there is a way to display our scrapbooks on the web site. The two that were taken to the Gulf Coast Council of the FFF conclave were enjoyed by many people.

- The Message board is on the web site and topics are added for comments. The Message Board is password-protected, and the password will be emailed to current TWFF members in a few weeks. Mary Kain is helping with the Board.
- Frances Hamm has been appointed to the GCC position of VP of Outreach. Congratulations, Frances!
- Jack Janco requested input for speakers’ names for a Fly Fishing Show on August 22nd and 23rd. The show is put on by the Dallas Fly Fishers and the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and will be held in Arlington, TX.





## From the President

By Mary Rohrer

Dear Anglers,

These last months of spring and first months of summer are busy times at our house. My calendar is filled with the Casting for Recovery retreat, TWFF outings and the Gulf Coast FFF Conclave. My husband, Dan, runs around just as much! He is getting our peach orchard in shape for the season, working cattle and doing custom farming here in the Hill Country. I yearn for the dog days of summer! This year, we didn't have much spring weather and went right into summer. My pansies were fine two weeks ago, now they are wind blown and faded, time for summer-time annuals. Looking ahead at my calendar, I actually have some clear weekends, whew! I need the break.

This year, our own TWFF member, Frances Hamm, organized the Women's Outreach Luncheon at the GC FFF Conclave. She did a fabulous job; the luncheon was a great success. She has volunteered to be the 2009 VP for Outreach for our council, thank you Frances. Frances invited Captain Kathy Sparrow as the luncheon speaker, what a perfect choice. She and her husband Scott established the Kingfisher Inn on the Lower Laguna Madre. I really enjoyed getting to know Kathy and her experiences. Her topic at the luncheon was about sharing the life stories that we as women have inside of ourselves. Kathy has published a book titled "On the Mother Lagoon, Fly Fishing and the Spiritual Journey", and it describes her path of knowledge about learning about fly fishing in the challenging saltwater environment and the interactions strengths of this knowledge in her changing life. I'm enjoying reading the book too. Kathy had us answer some questions, a few I've listed below, and share our answers with the group.



The Women's Outreach Luncheon at the GC FFF Conclave.

1. What lured you to the sport of fly fishing?
2. What was your most challenging moment on the water?
3. What have you learned about yourself on the water?
4. Name at least one woman that you'd like to share your fly fishing stories with.

Think about your own personal story, and the many varied chapters that your life has been. What lessons have you learned on the water that can be transferred to your every day concerns? Consider sharing your stories with those who are important to you. Be an active listener, and enjoy their stories, too. We have lots to learn from each other!

Our next outing is July 18 to 20, to fish my favorite Hill Country stream, the South Llano River near Junction. After being in the stained waters of Purtil Creek last weekend, and pulling up dark green sunfish, I'm looking forward to the clear waters of the Llano and casting to those wily Guadalupe Bass! Come enjoy the river and take a break from those long hot summer days.

Happy Fishing,

*Mary Rohrer*



## Upcoming TWFF Events

**JULY 18-21, 2008**  
**Junction, Llano River**  
 Coordinator(s):  
 Cindi Sudds

**SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2008**  
**Muller's Ark Ranch, Bandera**  
 Coordinator(s):  
 Glenna Noret & Kelley Kazura  
 michael.noret@suddenlink.net

**OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2**  
**Aransas Pass- Saltwater**  
 Coordinator: Gretchen Neubauer

**DECEMBER 5 - 7**  
**Texoma - Striper fishing**  
 Coordinator(s): Rozlynn Orr, Frances Estes and Mary K. Janco

## Welcome New Members

**CJ Vaughn, Aransas Pass, TX**

**CFR Participant:**  
**Delma Hathorn, Corpus Christi, TX**

**Kathy Sparrow, Arroyo**

## Trip Report: Purtis Creek on the Fly

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2008

By Rozlynn Orr

TWFF has boldly explored and established a new and exciting venue for our outings, PURTIS CREEK STATE PARK! This was our first trip as a group into new and foreign lands, East Texas, and we were pleasantly surprised. This place may very well be on one of those 'best kept secret lists'. This is a little 355-acre lake within in 1,582-acre state park with only 59 camping sites. Small and sweet! Barbara and Rick Booth may very well still be gazing at their private cove from their campsite! Did anybody see them leave?

We met Friday evening for our Mullet Mixer at Inn on the Hill in Athens, Texas. Kathy Goodlett, co-host, showed up with foam flies from Bass Pro for our goodie bags. Our guest speaker was Sean Polk, Fishing Manager of Orvis, Dallas. Sean's presentation was 'Bass on the Fly', covering such topics as equipment, flies, tactics and catching and releasing these overgrown sunfish (believe it or not, bass are from the sunfish family). Sean's presentation was a wealth of knowledge for us and his article is included in the newsletter. We typically fish for river bass, which are much smaller than lake bass. Purtis Creek is known as a catch and release lake for double-digit bass or those weighing over 10 pounds. Techniques and tactics for catching these fish are a little different from their lean river cousins. Sean also gave us fish catching, Clouser minnows and discount purchase coupons from Orvis, Dallas. Attendees may call Sean at 214.265.1600 and he will take care of your order and shipment.

We had about 24 attendees at the event including new member Diana Kunde and her husband Jim. We also had a couple of members from the Dallas area attend their first event with us, Peggy Austin and Debbie Price. Another of our newer members, Debbie Williams brought her husband Wesley along to fish. We also want to thank Wesley, Steve Nussenblatt and Greg Neubauer for letting us use their boy muscles and helping us load those kayaks! Betty Burseson thinks her kayak weighs 65-pounds but she may be surprised to hear that kayak poundage is measured by the weight of the plastic resin beads used to make the shell of the kayak. For the actual weight, you have to add in the weight of the hatches, trim, rudders, rope and hardware. Who knows what these things really weigh!!!

Fishing began Saturday morning at 7:30 with many members heading out in kayaks and canoes while some stayed ashore for bank fishing. Mary Rohrer assisted Debbie Price and Peggy Austin with rigging on their new reels. Winds were somewhat brisk on shore and made bank fishing a bit challenging. We broke at 11:30 for lunch at the camp site of myself and Frances Estes and then made our way to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX where we were led on a



Isn't that the truth!



Fish frenzy at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center



Cindy Nussenblatt



Everybody smile and say, "Bigmouth Bass."





Frances, Jack, Mary and Cynthia, Steve and Sean

to share). Unfortunately, we were not there at breeding time so there were no sows on their nests. The fertilization process is very detailed and scientific. We also went on a tram ride to view rearing pens for the fry. Several members took the walking tour of the wetlands exhibit.

Our outing scheduled changed plans this time as we decided to eat an early dinner to allow us to get back to the park for some evening fishing. We ate a BBQ buffet with great ribs but not particularly great for those trying to squeeze back into kayaks. Mary Rohrer led a short 30-minute business meeting and we were off to fish again about 6:00 p.m. The winds had ceased and the lake was beautiful. It was serene and quiet and a family of raccoons played on the bank in front of Diana and Jim Kunde's canoe. Sheila Anderson went back in search of her lunker that had slipped off her line earlier that morning. Many good size bass were caught and Mary Kain and Frances Estes pulled in some plate sized longear sunfish. Greg Neubauer came up with 3 nice bass and several get-aways. We fished until 9:00 p.m. or so and went back to camp headquarters for a raffle. Sean generously gave us a Cliff's Bugger Barn fly box loaded with big bass flies. We raised about \$77.00 from the raffle and the winner was Jan Bates. Jan being an Orvis, Dallas seasonal employee felt like she shouldn't be the winner. We talked her into keeping the fly box. We may have converted trout fishing Jan into a bass fisher as well. We then re-drew for the flies and Frances Estes was the winner of the flies and she shared her winnings with other members. We have good, kind and sharing members within our group and they make it more fun for all of us! Thank you Jan and Frances.



About 9 of us fished Sunday morning with a few more fish being caught. Prime fishing time did seem to be Saturday evening. As all good things must come to an end, it was only appropriate that we passed Mary K. and Jack Janco on our way out of the camp at the dump station 'off loading' from their new gigantic RV!

As for me, I will be back. I hooked a fish on my 6 wt. that doubled my rod over and pulled it alongside my kayak only to spit the hook at the end. (I will reread the section in Sean's presentation on hook setting). I have never felt anything like this on my 6 wt. I will have to return to hunt this fish or it's cousin! Thanks to all who were able to attend and take part in this little slice of heaven fishing hole!



Kathy Goodlett and Karen Mitchell, and



Diana and Jim Kunde soaking it in.

**NEXT OUTING:****South Llano River Outing, Junction, Tx****July 18-20, 2008**

Outing coordinator(s): Cindi Sudds

E-mail: wilcin12@aol.com

Make your plans now and mark your calendar to come out and fish the Llano River in beautiful Junction, TX. Headquarters will again be at the Best Western Dos Rios and Kimble County Park. Dos Rios is located at IH 10 and Hwy 377-just behind the Dairy Queen. The TWFF rate is \$72 for four including a full breakfast. **This rate is only good for reservations made by July 1st though.**

**Friday Mullet Mixer**

The Mullet Mixer will be in the multi-use room Friday 6:30-9pm. Make your reservations ASAP at (325) 446-3929 and don't forget to mention you are with the TWFF group.

**Saturday Activities**

Saturday morning, we will all meet at Kimble County Park for fishing, kayaking, and sight seeing. To get to the park, follow the main road from the hotel through town. Cross the bridge and turn left at the next intersection and another left into the park. Once in the park, follow the road to the left back toward the bridge. We hope to be set up in the pavilion next to the restrooms. The park is open for day use only, first come, first served basis. There are several put in points along the river. There will be a shuttle available Saturday at Kimble Park to take folks to the put in point at South Llano State park. A list of kayak and canoe outfitters follows. They suggest you make a reservation if you need to rent a kayak. Pack a lunch and plenty to drink. There are a few places to pick up food near by.

**Dinner Saturday Night**

Saturday's dinner is at CAVU Canyon Ranch at around 7pm. Dinner will be fajitas, rice, beans, all the fixins and margaritas provided by TWFF member Debbie Kistler, the Junction Eagle newspaper and CAVU Canyon Ranch!! We are asking for a \$15 donation per person to support Junction's Meals on Wheels. Also, they say the sunset at CAVU Canyon is spectacular so don't forget your camera. Check out their website at [www.cavucanyonranch.com](http://www.cavucanyonranch.com). We will need a head count by July 16th, please e-mail us soon if you are attending along with where you are staying.

Junction offers many other places to stay including campgrounds. Please make your reservations early due to summer vacation time. Cavu Canyon has cabins available that include kitchens and enclosed porches starting at \$75 a night for a small cabin to 2 or 3 bedrooms with lofts. Contact them at (325) 446 - 9135. They also have a stocked pond!

**GUIDELINES and 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, but you may get funny looks; after all, we are the Texas Women Fly Fisher!

**Fly Recommendations**

Wooly Buggers, Jig Head Nymphs, Clouser's, Sponge Bugs, Zonkers, Tarantulas, Miss Prissy, Spider Legs, or use your warm water imagination.

**What to Bring**

- Sunscreen and Bug spray
- Rain jacket
- Polarized sun glasses; camera
- Warm clothes because, even in July, it can get chilly in the evening!
- Nylon shorts
- Water shoes
- Remember your hat too!

**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:  
365 River Road, Junction.  
(325) 446-2363.

South Llano River Canoes (and kayaks): 6 miles south of Junction off Hwy 377. (325) 446-2220.

Sonny's Canoes: 214 Patricia,  
Junction. (325) 446-2112.



## South Llano River Outing *continued*

### Lodging

#### FOR TENT OR RV SITE RESERVATIONS

Morgan Shady Park  
600 South 6th St  
Junction, Texas  
(325) 446-2580  
(325) 446-2071

South Llano State Park  
call TPWD reservations  
512/389-8900

#### AREA MOTELS

**Best Western Dos Rios**  
244 Dos Rios Drive  
Hwy 377 and I-10  
(325) 446-3929

**Day's Inn**  
I-10 exit 457  
(800)3297466

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

**Econo Lodge**  
I-10 exit 456  
(325)446-2567

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

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

**The Legends Inn**  
1908 Main Street  
(325) 446-8644

**CAVU Canyon Ranch**  
(325) 446-9135



### JUNCTION OUTING SCHEDULE

#### Friday July 18 6-9pm

Mullet Mixer at Best Western Dos Rios. Bring a covered dish to share. Auction items will be available for bidding. Maps will be available for Saturdays events.

#### Saturday July 19

All day fishing on the beautiful Llano. Meet at Kimble park. Pack a lunch and drinks. Kayak shuttle will be available to take folks up river to put in at the State Park. Auction ends at 4pm.

Dinner at Cavu Canyon Ranch 7pm. Meeting to follow dinner.

#### Sunday July 20

On your own fishing!

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#### 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:  
365 River Road, Junction  
(325) 446-2363.

South Llano River Canoes (and kayaks): 6 miles south of Junction off Hwy 377. (325) 446-2220.

Sonny's Canoes: 214 Patricia, Junction. (325) 446-2112.

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#### Please RSVP to coordinators if you are planning on attending:

Cindi Sudds at:  
wilcin12@aol.com



## South Llano River

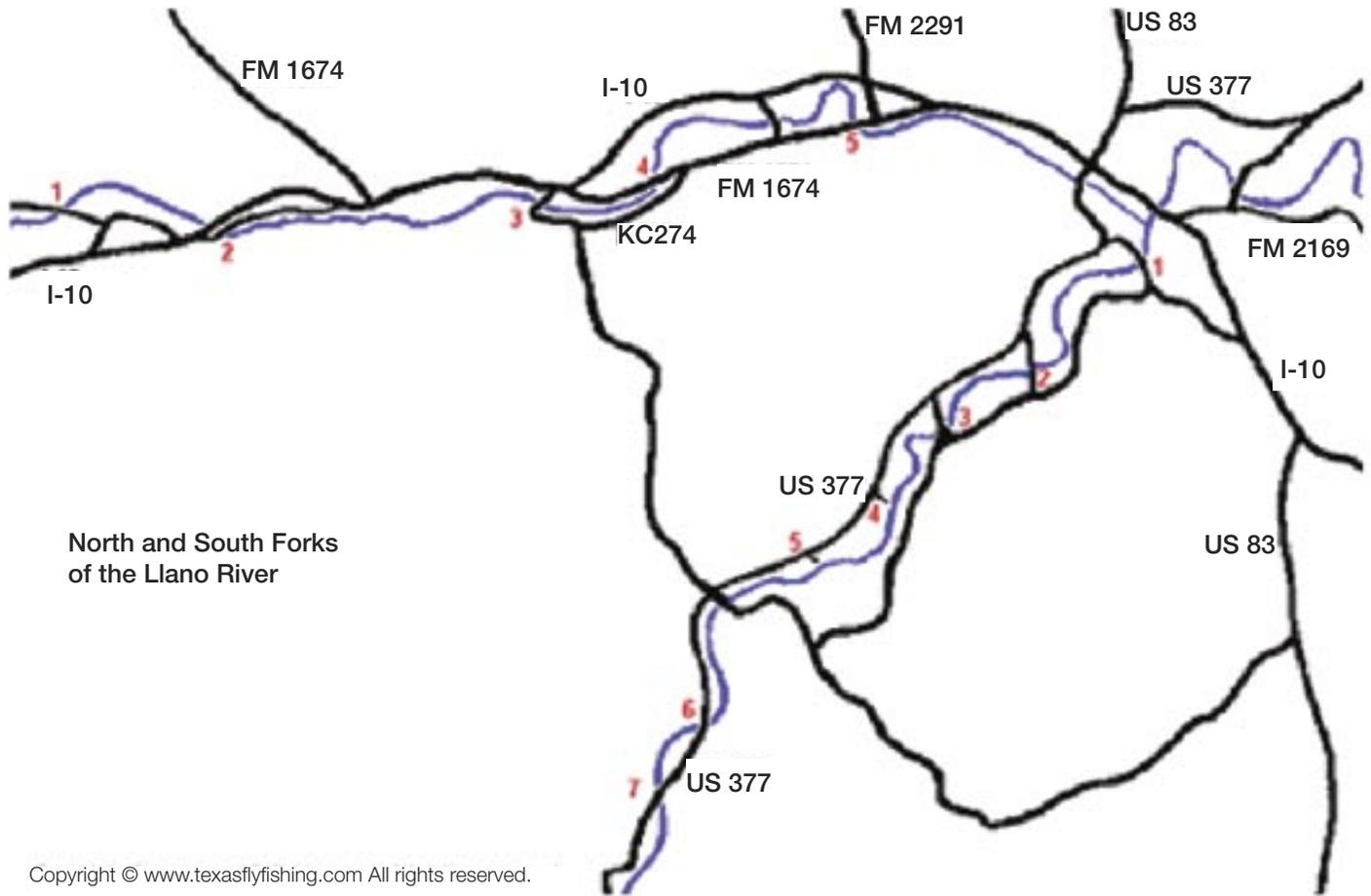
1. This low bridge crosses the river just south of Junction, Tx. Head east on the first street out of town off of U.S. 377 at the Texas Tech University sign. The upstream portion of the river offers most of the best fishing in deep pools. Sunfish are plentiful as well as the occasional small bass. The river runs fast downstream near the bridge but the occasional pool further down offers a few sunfish.
2. Country Road 170 crosses the river here. There is only room for one car to park near the river. This is a good stretch of water near the bridge on the upstream side. Small sunfish and bass are plentiful.
3. This is South Llano State Park. Due to the seasonal protection and hunting of turkey and deer, the river banks are off limits on the downstream side of the river. This varies, so you may want to check with the park rangers. The best fishing occurs on the upstream portion of the river in the grass along the banks. There are quite a few mid size bass and large sunfish on this side of the bridge.
4. This is a private camp just north of Fox Hollow off of U.S. 377. I've never fished here but the area looks great. The camp is owned by Bill Bernard (915)446-3055. Three camp houses, canoes, and some great looking hammocks are available.
5. CR 150 crosses the river here just north of Bailey Creek. There are several good pools on each side of the bridge, but the fish tend to be few and small.
6. U.S. 377 crosses the river here at Ford Canyon. This crossing offers good parking on the shoulder. This open area is often windy. There are large, shallow, pools on both sides of the bridge with good perch and some mid-size bass cruising about. The water becomes narrow and fast downstream.
7. This is the southernmost recommended point on the river as the water is broken downstream. Parking on the shoulder is good. Fishing is good both upstream and down in this highly vegetated area. I've caught bluegill in this area that could swallow a woolly-bugger sideways.

## North Llano River

1. RR 260 gives access to the North Llano River at several low water crossings. Fishing is tough here in the warmer months due to the heavy vegetation. The best time to fish the area is in the late winter or very early spring when the weeds take hold. Although the area is not posted, I recommend staying in the water due to questions of trespassing. There are quite a few small bass and perch to cast at, but the weeds require playing fish quickly.
2. The Llano crosses under both I-10 and Loop 291 here. There is no wading available on this stretch as the river runs fairly deep and wide with heavy vegetation. Large bass are a possibility but the visibility is poor.
3. KC274 crosses the river in this pretty area. There are good quantities of small perch in the pools. This is a nice area for a 3 weight rod since the water runs narrow and shallow.
4. FM1674 crosses high above the Llano here. Access is very poor, but there are some nice looking pools downstream.
5. This is another FM1674 crossing. The river gets better here with wider, more even flow and less vegetation. Access, however, is still poor.



# ACCESS POINTS ON THE LLANO



Come join TWFF on the Llano River in Junction, TX  
**July 18-20, 2008**  
*Where the water is cool, fishing great, and the company the best!!*



2008 TWFF Coordinated Outings		
Month	2008 TWFF Coordinated outings	
July 18 - 21	Junction, Llano River, Best Western	Cindi Sudds
September 12 - 14	Muller's Ark Ranch, Bandera	Glenna Noret & Kelley Kazura
October 31 - November 2	Aransas Pass , Saltwater fishing	Gretchen Neubauer
December 5 - 7	Texoma, Striper fishing	Rozlynn Orr, Mary K Janco

2008 Optional Outings without Coordinator		
Month	2008 Optional outings - no coordinator	Point of Contact
Jun 20 - 22	Port Aransas, Alamo FF	<a href="http://www.alamoflyfishers.org/">http://www.alamoflyfishers.org/</a>
Jul 18 - 20	Port Aransas, Alamo FF	<a href="http://www.alamoflyfishers.org/">http://www.alamoflyfishers.org/</a>
Oct 17-19	Oktoberfish, Junction	<a href="http://www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org">www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org</a>

#### OUTING COMMITTEE:

The outing rack cards have been completed and will be sent to members in the regions in Texas for distribution to our "Friends of TWFF", and other locations to be provided as recruiting tools. The review of the 2009 schedule is underway. Please contact Glenna if you have suggestions.

## Cleaning out your garage? Looking for a place to donate your fishing gear?

Gently used rods, reels, (flyrods or conventional tackle) clippers, nets, hooks, gear bags, adult life jackets, terminal tackle boxes, etc will be distributed and used with KASA's "**Heroes on the Water**" program.

Questions? Contact Capt. Randi (TPWD Volunteer) at 210-415-1264 or by email: [rmwayland@earthlink.net](mailto:rmwayland@earthlink.net)

#### Send Equipment by July 1, 2008 to:

Capt. Randi M. Wayland  
103 Hunters Branch  
Shavano Park, TX. 78231-1206

*"Thanks for any help you can give in this wonderful effort." - Capt. Randi*

For more information about KASA (Kayak Anglers Society of America), see their website, <http://www.kayakanglerssa.org/clubs/>

*"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."  
- Henry David Thoreau*



# FUNdraising Reminders



## 2nd Call for Guess the Number of Flies in the Bottle

We are still in the midst of raising money for Casting For Recovery through our participation in various outreach programs and expos for the remainder of 2008. Our Traveling Fly Bottle needs more flies to continue the guessing game. This is a good opportunity to clean out your fly box or tie up some practice flies for donation. We have only a handful of club members that have donated flies to filling this second bottle. Please take the time and make a donation of flies to help support CFR. Donated flies may be hand tied or purchased and of any variety such as freshwater, trout, salt, bass bugs, etc. We need more flies for this fundraiser. Please contact Rozlynn Orr at [mzfishin@yahoo.com](mailto:mzfishin@yahoo.com) to make your donation.

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## The Talent Within Second Request for Donations

As I was looking through our great scrapbooks put together by our club's historians, I was amazed at the talent and artistic beauty in so many of our club photos. I was even more amazed by the consistency of the artistic eye of our photographers. I dreamed of having these pictures of my favorite fishing spots on my walls at home. As I pondered these artistic achievements in their own rights, I wanted to see more expressions of art from our members. Like good fish art! With this idea, I would like to have a special auction dedicated to our membership and entitled 'The Talent Within' to showcase our member's talent. I am inviting our membership to donate fish art for the auction. I would like framed photographs, drawings, watercolors, paintings, needlework and stitchery, fish prose and poetry, calligraphy, culinary arts, whatever your creative vein will give you. Can you teach your talent to someone? Consider donating a lesson for the auction. The theme simply needs to be fish and/or water. Let's not be shy about our donations as beauty is in the eye of the beholder...and what is more beautiful than a stream, a fish and the lush outdoors? Or a jar of canned preserves...make the most of your imaginations!



Someone's talent on display at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Yours can be large or small, words or art, food or fabric - we just want you to share your talent for a good cause.

I am still accepting donations for this special auction that will be held at our outing at the Muller's Ark Ranch on September 12-14, 2008. So come on Ladies, and get your donations in. Everyone can make something that is a little 'fishy' and a little 'artsy'. Share your talent within!

Please contact me for sending items for this auction.  
 Rozlynn Orr  
 TWFF Fundraiser  
[mzfishin@yahoo.com](mailto:mzfishin@yahoo.com)



## FLY CASTING CLINIC

### For all levels and instructors.

The next Clinic will be held near Glen Rose at Hawk Ridge Flycasting School June 28 th with special training for CCI Candidates on the 29th. The fee for the Saturday Classes is \$100.00 Noon bar-B-Q included The fee for the Sunday CCI Clinic is \$50.00 Burgers on the Bar B.

#### Saturday June 28th

The classes start at 7:30 to get ahead of the heat. We will have both class room and casting on the casting venues This is what should be covered.

#### Saturday

- 7:00 AM Coffee and sweets.  
Introductions of Instructors and Students.  
Why and how this Clinic is set up  
What you should get out of this training
- 7:30 Evaluations of the students
- 8:00 Terms of the fly Caster [new changes.]
- 9:00 Casting
- 10:00 Bill's essentials./Bruce Richard's 6 step
- 11:00 Casting
- 12:00 Lunch Chicken BBQ
- 1:00 "Physical problems to overcome""Special instruction for CFR instructors"
- 2:00 Casting
- 3:00 Lines and leaders, rod actions
- 4:00 Loops & control slack line casting / Casting in the wind
- 5:00 Distance & Saltwater Casting

#### Sunday 29th

Training for CCI Candidates. It is a basic CCI workshop that covers all that I can about the FFF CCI program and the Test, that I can with out giving it. As the instructor I can not test. This also has many hints on being an instructor. It starts about 7:30 an ends afternoon Hamburgers on the grill. \$50.00 There is camping on the ranch for tents or self contained RVs, if you are a fly fishing bum. You can come in on Friday. Glen Rose does have several motels and B & Bs

Contact me at [flysoup@itexas.net](mailto:flysoup@itexas.net) to set your spot at the clinic.

Allen Crise FFF Master Casting Instructor.

Allen R. Crise

FFF-Master Casting Instructor

Hawk Ridge Flycasting School

2508 A County Rd, 1011

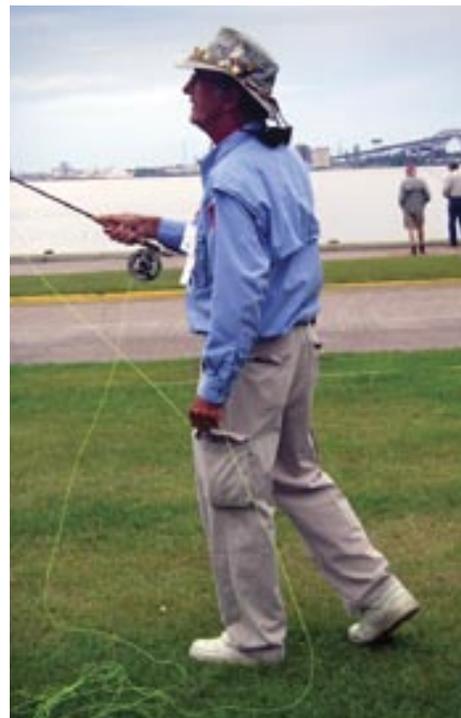
Glen Rose, TX 76043

254-897-2045 h

254-396-1574 c

<http://www.geocities.com/rrdoctor>

[oldflysoup@gmail.com](mailto:oldflysoup@gmail.com)



Al Crise, Master Casting Instructor



## Bass on the Fly

by Sean Polk, Fishing Manager at Orvis, Dallas

Bass on the fly rod presents a rewarding and sometimes challenging adventure that can be found close to home. With a large distribution of bass across North America, there is no need to travel great distance to enjoy catching fish on the fly. Unlike trout fishing, with the endless list of gear and equipment, bass fishing requires just a few key items. All the bass angler needs are a few stout leaders, a proven selection of flies and some water.

### EQUIPMENT

The gear needed for bass fishing is quite simple. The staple rod for bass fishing falls in the six to eight weight ranges. While most fish will be between one to two pounds, the heavier rods are needed to cast the large flies used for bass. The bigger the water (think large lakes) will usually call for the heavier rods. Large reservoirs, like Lake Fork, will hold fish into the double digit range along with abundant cover and structure. In these instances, the angler will want a rod that can hoist a fish out of brush before they snap a leader. Smaller ponds are well suited for lighter rods, especially since the casting distances are not very long and the fish can be smaller.

Leaders for bass need to be heavy compared to trout fishing. Bass leaders fall into the 0x to 2x range and are usually seven and a half feet long. Specialty bass leaders are available that incorporate a heavy butt section and steep front taper that helps to turn over heavy flies. Bass specific leaders are rated by pounds with twelve and sixteen weight the most common. Monofilament leaders are the most common, especially when fishing top water flies. When the fish are lower in the water column, fluorocarbon leaders will allow the fly to get deeper and provide more abrasion resistance due to the hard coating on the leader. A word of caution on fluorocarbon, due to its density, the leader will drag a surface fly down decreasing its popping action.

Fly lines are usually weight forward floating lines. The floating line will cover most situations, especially in the spring when bass are shallow. Later on in the year, as water temperatures increase, bass will seek deeper water and sinking lines will be needed to present a fly. A fast sinking, density compensated line will get the fly down fast and keep a straight connection between the rod and the fly. When using this set up, a short piece of fluorocarbon tippet can be used for a leader. Most anglers use a section of sixteen to twenty pound in a two foot length.

### FLIES

When most anglers fish for bass, top water poppers are the first fly they have in mind. Poppers come in a variety of sizes and styles. Poppers with a cupped face create the most surface noise and will trigger strikes from fish when they are in an aggressive mood. Use these flies on windy days when there is surface chop or when blind casting to locate fish. Sliders are flies that will dive when stripped and then float back to the surface. These flies are effective on calm days or when the fish are shallow and the angler wants stealthy presentation.

Poppers can be made from a variety of materials. Deer hair and cork are the more traditional style, while foam is fast becoming the most common material used today. All three materials have unique characteristics that help in certain situations. Deer hair has the advantage of landing with a soft "splat" on the water and rides lower in the surface film than other materials. The hair also has a softer feel when the fish takes the fly, resulting in the fish holding the fly longer. Cork flies are an older style of popper and can be shaped in a variety of ways. Cork poppers tend to float higher than deer hair and due to their density and are harder for fish to push out of the way when they strike from below. Foam poppers can be shaped either from cylinders or flat sheets and offer the bass angler an unlimited range of styles and sizes. One of the most popular is the Gurgler, developed by Jack Gartside for striped bass in New England. This fly is easy to cast, has plenty of movement due to its marabou tail and can be tied in a variety of sizes and colors.



Sean Polk offering words of wisdom while at the Purtil Creek outing.





Big, beautiful bass flies.

When the bass are in deeper water, subsurface streamers can be the ticket to a successful day. The standard Clouser tied with lead or bead chain eyes is one of the most universal flies for bass. The jigging motions of the fly combined with the minnow shape have landed many bass. Popular colors are chartreuse, black, olive and white. The standard woolly bugger is also a productive fly, especially when tied with rubber legs. Olive, black and rust colors help to imitate a variety of creatures from crayfish to hellgrammites. Dave Whitlock's Hare Water Pup is another fly that imitates the plastic worm fished by conventional anglers. The double rabbit strip of this fly provides movement that the fish will key in on especially when temperatures are low and the bass are lethargic. Other popular flies are ones that imitate crayfish. Whitlock's Near

'Nuff Craw, Clouser's Craw, and John Gulley's Ultra Craw are consistent patterns when bass are targeting this abundant food source.

When approaching a new lake, a helpful technique for determining fly selection is to consult the fishing reports for conventional anglers. Find out what colors and sizes, as well as what types of lures they are using and match your fly selection. If anglers are using swim baits or crank baits, pick minnow imitations. If grubs or creature baits are the ticket, use large woolly buggers in the appropriate colors. When bass are keying in on plastic worms, Hare Water Pups and Gulley Worms will match these lures.

## TACTICS

The key to catching bass on the fly is to eliminate non-productive water. Bass will hold to certain areas throughout the year. Beginning in the spring, bass will stage in areas adjacent to their spawning beds. Look for ledges and drop offs that will mark a transition from shallow areas to deeper water. These fish will be in an aggressive mood as they prepare for the spawn. The key time for this is when water temps begin to approach 55 degrees and prior to a full moon. Cast to areas of heavy cover such as standing timber, brush piles and grass beds. As the water temps increase, bass will move into their spawning areas and begin to build their nest. While at this stage the bass will actively chase flies but can be difficult to entice into a strike. They are removing your fly from their nest instead of inhaling it. After the spawn, the fish will move off their beds and seek covered areas before the water temps increase and they go deep again. At this time, target channels, humps, rock piles and mouths of creeks. Present your fly slowly, bass are ambush creatures and generally refrain from chasing down their prey. Early mornings and late afternoons are the times when bass will move to shallow areas and can then be caught on top water flies. As water temps increase in the summer, bass will seek deeper, cooler water. They will tend to become lethargic and present a challenge to the fly angler. This time calls for big flies fished on deep sinking lines. Slow presentations are the key. The bass are trying to conserve energy and will tend to eat just a few times a week. As summer turns to fall, water temps decrease and bass will once again return to the shallows. They will now become aggressive in an attempt to fatten up for the winter. At this time, target shallow areas, particularly those that receive a lot of sun during the day. These areas will stay warmer longer and hold bass as the air temps decrease.



Greg Neubauer with bass at Purtis Creek  
- so that's how it's done!

## CATCHING AND LANDING

The hardest part of bass fishing for most trout anglers is learning to hook a fish. Bass have a hard mouth and you will need to strip set the fly in order to set the hook. To do this, keep the rod pointed directly at the fly and strip the line back towards you with a forceful tug. Once the fish is hooked, raise the rod tip and keep the rod at a 45-degree angle. Keep pressure on the fish, you will need to keep the fish from retreating to cover and risking a break off. Bass will not make long runs like other species; they will fight more like a bulldog, with headshakes and attempts to turn. Strong reels with drags are not necessary, as it will be rare that drag is ever needed for bass.



# 2008 2nd Annual FFF Gulf Coast Expo

by Gretchen Neubauer



Sunset over Lake Charles.

When Mary Rohrer invited me to attend the 2nd Annual FFF Gulf Coast Expo in Lake Charles with her and two other Texas Women Fly Fishers' (TWFF) members Frances Hamm and Lavene Jones, I wasn't sure what to expect. TWFF had a booth at the expo last year where they successfully raised funds for the club and Casting for Recovery (CFR). When it was decided to have a booth this year we discussed a booth that was more self sustaining so each of us could attend selected clinics and workshops without worrying about wo'manning the booth.

The expo offered an abundance of activities from fly tying workshops to casting clinics. My husband is the fly tier in the family so I decided to concentrate on improving my cast. I pretty much have the basic cast down with the 5wt I normally use. However, I have trouble achieving distance with the larger (7-10wt) rods and bigger flies used for saltwater fishing, especially in the wind that you always find at the coast. My husband and I purchased kayaks about 3 years ago and have spent a many fruitless weekends fishing the bays at Aransas Pass, Port Aransas, and Galveston. Because casting while seated in a kayak is very different from casting while standing in a river I was also hoping to pickup some techniques to become more successful.

Jay Clark's "Intermediate Casting" clinic was great. I honestly didn't hear anything new but he definitely reinforced many of the concepts I've heard before; line speed, small loops, and "the stop". As I feared he also encouraged the use of the dreaded double-haul. I have been avoiding it to this point because of my lack of coordination. I decided that I have to put aside my fears and realized the only way I am going to increase my line speed which will improve my distance is to perfect the double-haul.

Dave Lemke's "Coping with the Wind" helped me to understand why I constantly hit myself in the back of the head when fishing at the coast. With the constant wind and the size of flies used for bay fishing, I'm surprised I haven't knocked myself out yet. The concept of changing my casting angle depending on the direction of the wind is something I had heard about but not actually practiced. Dave showed us several drills which helped me to better understand the effect the wind has on my fly and fly line. I'm looking forward to using what I learned the next time I'm fishing the bay and hopefully return home with fewer head contusions.

My last casting clinic was Mark Marmon's "Specialty Casts for Saltwater". Mark is an old Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited (GRTU) friend. I was happy for another opportunity to have him scrutinize my cast and offer tips and techniques for improvement.



Kristen Wray and Helen Effinger, the "2008 GCFFF Women of the Year" with Mary Rohrer.



Kathy and Scott Sparrow



Good food, good company, good conversation at the banquet.



Now this is a happy crawfish crew.

Left to right:  
Stacy Trimble, Kathy Sparrow,  
Scott Sparrow, Lavene Jones,  
Frances Hamm and Mary Rohrer



The quality I like most about all the Certified Casting Instructors (CCI) I've had the pleasure to work with is that they all speak the same language. I was able to go from the expertise of Jay to Dave to Mark without the need to learn a new casting vocabulary. It was a real pleasure to work with each of them.

Friday night's crawfish boil was a lot of fun! Even though I'm not a fan of crawfish, I enjoyed watching others gorge themselves and get covered in crawfish juice. I DID eat 2 token crawfish in hopes of avoiding the wrath of crawfish lovers everywhere. Afterwards, I went to dinner with good friends Mary Rohrer and Stacy Trimble at Steamboat Bill's. They have delicious Banana's Foster pie. Saturday lunch was spent at the Women's Outreach Luncheon at Pujos Street Café with guest speaker Kathy Sparrow. Capt Kathy is an award-winning magazine writer, author, and workshop leader. She writes and speaks on the topics of women's issues, fly fishing, and spirituality. The luncheon was attended by a combination of women some who fly fish and others who do not. Kathy is a wonderfully inspiring speaker. We all enjoyed hearing many of her fly fishing experiences and having the opportunity to share some of our own. Due to a myriad of very generous donations we raised nearly \$400 at the luncheon's silent auction.

The expo concluded with a very lively auction following the banquet. Auctioneer Jonny Chamness kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout the evening. There were many exceptional items donated for the auction from fly rods and reels to waders and wading boots to fly fishing art to guided fishing trips. I bid on and won a guided trip on the Bighole River in Montana. I can wait. I may even invite my husband. The last auction item was a beautifully crafted wooden platter made for TWFF by Gary Armitage and laser engraved by One Foot Engrave and signed by numerous renowned fly tiers and fishers. The platter fetched \$500 for CFR. This money will go towards sponsoring a woman at Texas' next CFR retreat.

All-in-all I had a great weekend. I was able to reconnect with old friends and meet loads of new ones. I hope to share some exaggerated fishing stories with all of them in the very near future.

May the wind always be at your back and your fly line always be tight with the catch of your life,

Gretchen Neubauer



Me eating my "token" mud bugs.



The beautiful handcrafted, engraved and signed wooden platter brought in \$500 for CFR at the silent auction.



## Names for the Newsletter - **SEND YOURS**

TWFF is having a contest to name this newsletter. Just a few of the names submitted by members so far are shown below.

We have some good ones already but we know there may be an even more perfect one out there somewhere just waiting to see itself in the masthead of our lovely newsletter.

So get those suggestions in now. We can go through the options at Junction in July. Then we will “unveil” the new name at the Bandera outing in September.

Email your name ideas to [newsletter@twff.net](mailto:newsletter@twff.net). Your email and your name will be confidential.

Some of the great names we have so far are:

Reel Adventure

Fish'n Females

The Current

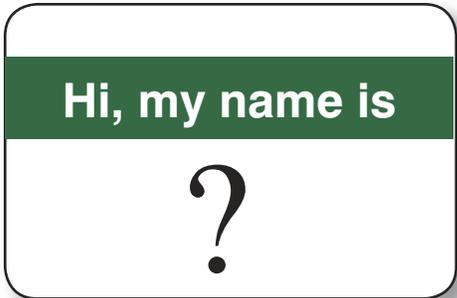
The Woolly Bugger

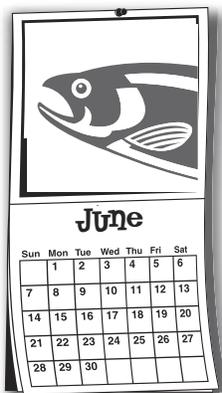
On the Fly

Reel News

The Hatch

Throw your great name into the mix too! And be part of TWFF history.





## Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

### Texoma on the Fly

This event is hosted jointly by Red River Fly Fishers in Sherman and Texas Parks and Wildlife at Eisenhower State Park at Lake Texoma. There is free fishing in the Park that day and the morning is filled with lots of fly tiers and the afternoon session is full of seminars for fishing and trying the area waters. It is a great little get together.

Saturday, June 21, 2008.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Free of charge and includes free access to fishing Lake Texoma in Eisenhower State Park.
  - Fee lunch.
  - Free casting lessons from CCI's and casting coaches.
- Emphasis is on Striper and warm water fishing in Texas. TWFF members Mary K and John Janco will be at the event.

When: June 21, 2008

Where: Lake Texoma, TX

### First Anniversary Celebration Saturday, June 21st

*Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co. has been open one year!*



Start the summer right by joining Tailwaters at the shop for their one year anniversary celebration. There will be lots of kid-friendly, dog-friendly, and of course, flyfisher-friendly festivities.

When: June 21, 2008

Where: Dallas, TX

Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co.  
2416 McKinney Ave, Dallas, TX 75201  
(214) 219-2500  
tailwaters@tailwatersflyfishing.com

### Grand Opening of Living Waters Fly Fishing



The Grand Opening of Living Waters Fly Fishing will be this Saturday, June 21st! The shop will open up at 9 a.m. that morning and close at 7 p.m. that evening. Normal business hours will be from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. , Mon.– Sat. and the shop will be closed on Sunday. Located at 2111 Sam Bass Rd., Suite B-2000A in the Boardwalk shopping center in Round Rock. Local TFO rep, Banning Collins, will be at the shop for the Grand Opening. Also, Keith Barnes of Highland Lakes Fly Fishing will be present. If you need directions then please call Chris Johnson at (512) 507-7733. Visit [www.livingwatersflyfishing.com](http://www.livingwatersflyfishing.com)

When: June 21, 2008

Where: Round Rock, TX



### Certified Casting Instruction Clinic

When: June 28, 2008

Where: Lake Texoma, TX

Al Crise, FFF master casting instructor is holding his casting class on Saturday, June 28. His focus will be on teaching casting to those with physical limitations such as participants of Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery. Contact Al at [oldflysoup@gmail.com](mailto:oldflysoup@gmail.com).

### Everything Kayak! Expo and Texas Kayaking School

When: Oct 25, 2008

Where: Aransas Pass, TX

These cool items will float your boat, so add them to your calendar. 10/25 *ONLY* is the Everything Kayak! Expo with a swap meet, demos, classes, guides, speakers, vendors, casting field, manufacturers...like they say, everything kayak! The Rockport Fly Tying Club and Rockport Fly Fishers will be there too. Find out more at [www.everythingkayakexpo.com](http://www.everythingkayakexpo.com)  
There's also the Reel Paddling Film Festival in Aransas Pass Sept 24 - 27 to promote the Expo in October.

When: Oct 31-Nov 2, 2008

Where: Aransas Pass, TX

October 31- Nov 2, the Texas Kayak Fishing School is taught by Capt. Dean Thomas of Slow Ride Guide Services, <http://www.slowrideguide.com/>  
They have donated a kayak fishing trip to us. Yippeeeeeee! Read more about one of the world's pioneers of kayak fishing right here in Texas and what his company has to offer.



## Contact Your TWFF Officers



### Calling all writers, photographers, and artists!

We are looking for stories, articles, photographs, and illustrations. If you'd like to submit something for the newsletter, please send it at least three (3) weeks prior to the upcoming publishing date.

E-mail:  
[newsletter@twff.net](mailto:newsletter@twff.net)

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## TWFF Publishing Dates

### Following are the 2008 TWFF Newsletter publication dates

August 7, 2008	(Deadline for submission is July 18, 2008)
September 25, 2008	(Deadline for submission is September 5, 2008)
November 6, 2008	(Deadline for submission is October 17, 2008)

## TWFF Advertising Rates

	<b>One Issue</b>	<b>Annual (6 issues)</b>	
Swap/sell items--(members):	Free		
Text Ads (nonmembers):	\$5/inch		All ads must be pre-paid. Ads with graphics should be submitted electronically as high-resolution JPG files. Please send your ad requests to Leslie Davis at newsletter@twff.net
Business Cards (members):	\$5.00	\$25	
Business Cards (others):	\$7.50	\$40	
1/4 Page Display:	\$20	\$100	
1/3 Page Display:	\$30	\$150	
1/2 Page Display:	\$35	\$200	
Full Page Display:	\$50		

Thank-you!

### We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.twff.net](http://www.twff.net)

