

# WindKnots

A monthly publication of the Texas Flyfishers

Volume 23 / Issue 4 April, 2004

## Don't Forget!

Monthly Meeting  
April 27th, 7:30 p.m.  
(Doors open at 7:00)

"Vendors' Night" featuring displays of the new fishing goodies by our favorite local fly shops, Orvis, Cut Rate, and I Fly, the Angler's Edge.

## TEXAS FLYFISHERS INVADE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

First, TFFer and saltwater outings chairman Scott Fossum did it. Then TFFers Mike Willis (special events chairman) and his son Marcus did it – they fished with Texas and Florida guide Ethan Wells out of Everglades City, Florida. Here are their stories.

Scott Fossum reports:

"I fished with Captain Ethan Wells (January's club meeting speaker) on March 6th through 8th. Great weather with calm to light winds and 90% sun. Caught many small snook, a few reds and jumped one 80-pound tarpon whose initial jump was 12 feet off the bow. Lost the tarpon to a broken hook after three jumps. Had over 30 shots at tarpon in three days with 90% of the shots less than 35 feet. I think I invented new ways to screw up on tarpon, though trying to cast a 12-weight 20 feet is quite a challenge. I would definitely recommend Ethan Wells and I will be returning next year."

Mike Willis reports:

"Marcus and I fished with Ethan Wells out of Everglades City, Florida March 15th to 17th. Winds were above normal all three days with clouds on the first day. We caught several snook to about three and a half pounds, a jack crevalle and a barracuda. We jumped four tarpon of approximately 10, 40, 80 and 130 pounds. The 130-pounder was about ten feet from the boat sitting like a submerged log. I flipped the line over, he inhaled the fly, I hit him several times and the fight was on. He jumped repeatedly before cutting the 80-pound shock leader on his gill plate. We also had several jumps from the 40-pounder before he threw the fly.

"We saw numerous tarpon and I estimate we had at least thirty shots over the three day period. Casts were short at no more than 40 feet and often no more than 20 feet. This was not as easy as it sounds as the cast had to be made very close to the mouth end of the tarpon without going too far and without being able to really load the 12-weight rod. For such large fish, they were also much harder to see than I expected. Fishing was very dependent on tidal movement. The tide seemed to move around two to three feet and was much more dramatic than on the Texas coast.

"I highly recommend fishing with Ethan but I am a little worried that I have caught tarpon fever, which I expect to be very expensive to cure."

*More fishing news and photos by Marcus Willis on page 3.*

# President's Corner

by Jerry "Buggywhip" Loring, president, Texas Flyfishers

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Our national affiliate, the Federation of Fly Fishers ("FFF"), was a topic of conversation at one of our executive committee meetings recently. It seems one of our board members had come across an interesting article written by an officer of FFF, Mr. Roger Maler. Mr. Maler discussed affiliate clubs, annual national affiliate club dues, FFF as an organization, the purposes of FFF, and what value FFF gives to its affiliate clubs.

The consensus of our board was to wait and see what, if anything, happens regarding national affiliate club dues. But the discussion did remind me that FFF was created around 1965 to promote fly fishing and create a means for involvement in fisheries conservation issues at local, state, and federal government levels. It was a timely move by the founders. FFF quickly spread across the country, starting in the northeast, on to the high country, and then west and south.

At present, the top line on their website declares: "The mission of the Federation of Fly Fishers is to lead activities that enhance and support the fly fishing experience for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly." This is a short, one-sentence mission statement. I much prefer their preamble, penned in 1965, which reads:

We, in conclave assembled, out of a firm and abiding conviction that fly fishing as a way of angling gives to its followers the finest form of outdoor recreation and natural understanding, do hereby join in common effort in order to maintain and further fly fishing as a sport. And, through it, to promote and conserve angling resources, inspire its angling literature, advance its fellowship and broaden the understanding of all anglers in the spirit of true sport.

The preamble fits closely to my personal belief that fly fishing is indeed a fine form of recreation, and through it, conservation of angling resources can be readily promoted. The joining together to promote fly fishing, and to inspire angling literature, and to advance fellowship, and to broaden the understanding of fly fishing is well and good. Heck, I'm for fishing, meeting nice folks, and learning. To me, the singular most important thought in their preamble is "and through it [fly fishing] to promote and conserve angling resources."

The U. S. military has, in its planning and strategy training, a concept called the "single most important objective." Simply put, if every command knows and keeps the "single most important objective" in focus, then it matters little if individual plans differ or how plans are formulated. The single most important objective remains constant throughout the various stages of the campaign.

So it goes with conservation of angling resources. What do we choose to keep in focus regarding conservation? Water quality, wetland development, commercial fishing, pollution, boat traffic, fishing pressure? All are meaningful issues. So is catch and release, and this is one issue where you and I can generate a direct impact. There are several catch and release purists amongst us in TFF. They should be respected greatly for their conviction. Because I love to cook and eat fresh fish, I belong to the "keep some, release most" crowd. I fish about twice a month and this seems to be a pleasing solution.

Of course, my way is not the only way. Limits are legal, and if a family fishes once every other month, it is understandable they may want to keep more fish. But consider the boat, with four fishers, coming in every weekend with a full ice chest of fish. What do you do each week with eighty white bass, or forty flounder? There should be reasonable limits imposed on ourselves by ourselves.

But how, then, is catch and release to be presented in a way not to offend? To me this is where fly fishers shine. We lead by example. We promote and practice catch and release. And this is where FFF can and does give direction and guidance to its affiliate clubs, which total over three hundred in number, by the way. They have a national outing week scheduled for the last week of August. This coincides with our Redfish Rodeo, a catch & release event. It fits nicely. Please consider participation in a like-minded conservation effort. We do make a difference. This message was sent as an email to the southern leadership of FFF. Why not send an email of your own, giving your views how FFF can work with local groups to promote catch and release?

## *Fishing News (continued from page 1)*



Larry McAfee caught this nice brown trout on a fishing break from a family ski vacation near Provo, Utah. A fly shop in Park City arranged for the trip to the Provo River, a tailwater fishery within an hour's drive of Salt Lake City. Larry said he learned it is an excellent year-round fishery. In three hours nymphing he caught a dozen fish – eight browns and four rainbows. The largest (not the one in the picture) was four pounds.

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***Clear the line!***



***Mike Willis's 40-pound Florida tarpon***



***And the big one that (also) got away, estimated at 130 pounds***

## **Great photos by Marcus Willis**

(Story on page 1)

## 2004 TFF Auction a Big Success!

Auction chairman Rick Rawls, president Jerry Loring, and all the volunteers who helped bring it off deserve a big had for bringing off another highly successful club auction.

Here are some of the highlights: Live auction revenues, \$5,885; silent auction, \$2,004; raffle, \$1,022; meals, \$676. Total revenues were \$9,221. Expenses were \$2,227. Net revenue was \$6,994.

What's more, everybody in attendance had fun, lots of folks got some real bargains, and lots of stuff moved from one person's closet to another's.



# OUTINGS SCHEDULE

Our outings schedule is a continuing work-in-progress. Here are the trips we have tentatively scheduled for the year. More may be added. Some may be dropped. There will probably be some rescheduling. Use the list for general planning purposes.



*Clarke Thornton - fresh*

To volunteer as a trip leader, contact Fresh Water Outings Chairman Clarke Thornton or Salt Water Outings Chairman Scott Fossum. Their telephone numbers and email addresses are on the Executive Committee listing elsewhere in this issue. Fresh water trips are designated [F], salt water [S] in the listings below.

April 10. Lighthouse Lakes kayaking, Aransas Pass, TX [S]. Ralph Adams, leader (h 713-664-0491, w 713-767-8039, c 832-651-8166, ralph\_adams@earthlink.net). Kayak rental available nearby.

April 17. Jerry Loring's secret lake in Bellville, Texas for bass and panfish [F]. Jerry Loring, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7).

**May 8. [Note: The date has been changed]** "Sunfish Spectacular." Seven Lakes, Damon, Texas, 8:00 a.m. Bass and panfish [F].

May 22. **[Location changed] Estes Flats** kayaking, Rockport, TX [S]. Ralph Adams, leader (contact info above in April 10 listing). **Launch at Palm Harbor Marina.** Kayak rental available nearby.

June 5-6. Port O'Connor jetties, Port O'Connor, Texas [S]. Scott Fossum, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7). Leave POC docks Saturday afternoon, fish all night, return Sunday morning. Redfish, speckled trout, Spanish mackerel, jacks, etc. No boat required, but boats welcome to ferry participants to jetties. Camp Saturday night on Matagorda Peninsula.

June 12-13. Llano River float trip. Junction, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

July 10-11. Crystal Lake, Manvel, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

July 31. "Port O'Connor One Fly" tournament. Port O'Connor, Texas. Redfish, speckled trout, etc. [S]. Scott Fossum, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7). Rotating crystal trophy up for grabs. Most inches of fish caught on the first fly you tie on wins. Boat or kayak needed. Captains with space and fishermen needing rides should contact Scott.

August 14. "Redfish Rodeo." Rockport, Texas [S].

August 21. San Marcos River float trip with Kevin Hutchinson, San Marcos, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

September 11. Double Lake, Cold Spring, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

September 25-26. "Padre Island Surf Fest." Four-wheel down Padre Island and fish the surf with Capt. Billy Sandifer and outing leaders Tom Lyons and Scott Fossum [S]. Optional camping on beach. See next month's *Wind Knots* for details.

October 10. Damon Live Oaks Lake, Damon, Texas. Bass and panfish [F].

October ?? South Padre Island, Texas [S]. Rick Rawls, leader (contact info on Executive Committee list, p. 7).

November 7. Guadalupe River, Sattler, Texas. Trout [F].

November ?? Shamrock Bay, Port Aransas, TX [S].



*Scott Fossum - salt*

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**May 8th.** Sunfish Spectacular. This date has been changed. (It was May 9th.) Mark or correct your calendar accordingly. Details are in the Outings section on page \_\_\_\_.

**May 25th.** Monthly club meeting featuring Woody Vogt, one of our own. Woody will present "Three Great Tailwaters – the San Juan, the Green, and the Bighorn," covering three of Trout Unlimited's Top 100 trout streams. He will explain the "hows" and "wheres" of fishing these Rocky Mountain tailwaters. His presentation is well timed to prepare us for the upcoming season on some of the finest trout fisheries in the nation. Holiday Inn, I-10 Katy Freeway at Antoine.

### **Orvis Days, Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2**

Orvis, Houston announces Orvis Days, with a host of guides, lodge representatives, and experts, plus tying demonstrations by Texas Flyfishers members.

On Friday, April 30th, Texas Hill Country guide will give presentations on techniques and tying bass and bluegill patterns. Later, the Orvis staff will demonstrate various types of casts for different fishing situations.

On Saturday, salt water guide Chuck Uzzle from Orange, Texas will explain how he catches big reds and specks in far East Texas and Louisiana waters. There will also be representatives from the High Lonesome Lodge, a fishing and wing shooting venue, Boardwalk Lodge in Alaska, Cow Creek Lodge in Pecos, New Mexico.

Sunday's events include presentations by representatives of Broadacres Ranch in Creed, Colorado, and Alaska Sportsman Lodge on the Kvichak River in the Bristol Bay area. Also on Sunday, a presentation by guide Doc Thompson from New Mexico.



### **Third TFF Academy Begins May 17th**

This year's academy class will start Monday night, May 17 at 7:00 PM. We will have five weeks of classroom instruction followed by three weeks of casting instruction. In the autumn we will have a fresh water outing at a local private lake and a salt water outing to the Padre Island seashore. The schedule for the classroom sessions is:

- May 17 General fly fishing background
- May 24 Rod and reels
- June 7 Lines leaders and accessories
- June 14 Freshwater fly fishing
- June 21 Saltwater fly fishing

Sessions are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. They will be held at the Bethany Christian Church on Westheimer just east of Lamar High School (between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway).

Our casting classes will be held on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Meyer Park lakes. These sessions, taught by Troy Miller, last two hours.

The only charge for the Academy is a \$25 fee which will be donated to the church as a thank-you for the use of their facilities.

Members can sign up for the Academy at the April meeting or by calling Tom Lyons at 281-379-7944 or e-mailing him at [tflyons@aol.com](mailto:tflyons@aol.com).



### **Kayak 4 Redfish**

Lefty Ray Chapa will be holding his 3rd annual "Kayak 4 Redfish" seminar in Aransas Pass on June 26th. He will cover how to chase redfish on the shallow water flats with a kayak. This all-day seminar will take place on the edge of the water. The cost is \$150 and seating is limited. A free G. Loomis fly rod will be given away to one of the lucky attendees. For more info contact him at 210-543-1865 or [www.leftyray.com](http://www.leftyray.com).

## WIND KNOTS CLASSIFIED

Space permitting, we'll run "Wanted" and "For Sale" ads for members of Texas Flyfishers. On a case-by-case basis, we may also run ads from non-members if the goods or services sought or offered would be of interest to our members. Send your ad by email to [corey.rich@aya.yale.edu](mailto:corey.rich@aya.yale.edu) or regular mail to Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007. You may include a photograph of items to be sold if you like.



### FOR SALE

1996 10 foot Mowdy with Yamaha 30. This boat is a fish-catching machine. If you are a kayaker, then take a look at this. It will take you and a friend to the same places and lots more. Trailer has new tires and bearings. Garage-kept. Asking \$6,000. Call Norbert Burch W 281-589-4941 H 281-265-5156 Cell 832-606-4018.

### FOR SALE

Tunnel hull flats skiff. J-Craft, 17½ foot semi-custom hull made in Rockport, TX, with 2002 Yamaha 90 h.p., stainless prop; 2003 aluminum McClain trailer; 192 and 94 quart cooler seats with cushions; fly rod rack; Lowrance X51 digital depth finder; anchor and lines. Always garaged. \$12,995. Corey Rich, days 713-861-1928, evenings 713-621-6071.



Fly rod – St. Croix Legend Ultra 4-piece 6-wt. with fighting butt. Like new, used only four times. Includes rod tube with internal partitions. Reduced to \$200! Corey Rich.

Neoprene waders – Hodgman's men's size large, lightly used. \$45. Corey Rich.

# TEXAS FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## ABOUT WIND KNOTS

*Wind Knots* is your monthly newsletter, and it needs your help – otherwise we'll run out of things to print. Email your articles, photos, artwork, graphics, fishing news, tall tales, lies, and letters to the editor to [corey.rich@aya.yale.edu](mailto:corey.rich@aya.yale.edu) or fax to (713) 864-7488 not later than the 10th of the month for that month's issue. **Be sure to put the words *Wind Knots* in the subject line of your email.** If you don't, I might think it's spam or worse and delete it before opening.

If you have digital photos, please send them in .JPG format. If you have paper photos, mail them to Corey Rich, 1900 N. Memorial Way, Houston, TX 77007. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

The preferred form for text – stories, letters, and so forth – is in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word. Please turn off "smart quotes" or "curly quotes." Please try to keep your offerings in the 800 to 1,000 word range, or less. If you send photos along with an article, proposed captions are appreciated.

Wind Knots is posted on the club's Web site as soon as it becomes available. Check [www.texasflyfishers.org](http://www.texasflyfishers.org) regularly for the latest newsletter and other news of interest.





**Texas Flyfishers**  
**P.O. Box 571134**  
**Houston, TX 77257-1134**

## **Texas Flyfishers Membership Application**

Please check one:     New Application                       Renewal

To join Texas Flyfishers or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below, or bring it with you to one of our monthly meetings. All memberships expire June 30th of each year, and renewals are due July 1st. Please pro-rate your payment for the number of months between now and the end of June, inclusive, if you are joining for the first time. Our monthly meetings are at the Holiday Inn on the Katy Freeway between Antoine and Silber on the last Tuesday of every month (except December), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEXAS FLYFISHERS**  
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