

ALAMO FLY FISHERS

NEWSLETTER

Issue XVII, No. 6

June 2002

THE PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

By David Uhler
President — Alamo Fly Fishers

The fly line has run out and I'm well into the backing: Just when I was getting used to this job, I'm almost at the end of my term as president of Alamo Fly Fishers.

It's been a great experience. During my two years as a club officer – the first one as vice president, the second as president – I've learned more and enjoyed myself more than I ever thought possible.

It's been an honor to serve you and a privilege to work with our club officers at the helm of AFF.

As immediate past president, I'll sit on the AFF executive committee for another year, available for the dispensing of "sage advice" – such as it is – to the regular club officers. Not that they'll need it.

We've got an excellent slate of officers ready to take the reins at the end of this month and lead our club. Several of them have already given years of faithful service to AFF.

Our current vice president, Clay Gill, has lots of fishing experience, plenty of contacts and an outgoing personality, all good qualifications for his new job as president.

Buddy Robichaux, a veteran flyfisher and AFF officer who never met a stranger, has been the club's education chairman for several years. He's up again for re-election.

Mike Richards has agreed to return as newsletter/online editor. One year ago, Mike had never even heard of Microsoft FrontPage. Today, thanks to his hard work, AFF has both a home on the Web and an electronic newsletter, along with a traditional, printed newsletter.

In our upcoming election, we've also got a few candidates who, although they have familiar

faces, are new to the AFF executive roster.

As vice president, Jay Forrest will take on one of the most difficult assignments in the club, lining up guest speakers for our monthly meetings. Like Clay, however, Jay has fishing contacts and sources that run deep.

Jon King will lead our monthly fishing expeditions as outings chairman. He may even get the club out to one of his favorite "fishing holes," New Mexico's San Juan River.

Todd Fleming will work as treasurer, handling the club's bills and mail in addition to serving as the "front man" at the check-in table at the entrance to our monthly meetings.

As for those AFF executive committee members whose terms are expiring at the end of this month, I can't say enough about them.

Besides being one of the most patient men I have ever met, Bill Slough – who recently faced one of his biggest challenges ever, working with me on my (negligible) casting skills! – has devoted countless hours setting up club outings over the past few years. Many thanks, Bill.

Ed Niehaus has helped keep AFF running for four years as treasurer. He's been a real workhorse. Besides making sure the numbers line up in the club's ledger books, Ed also collects the annual club dues, picks up the club mail at the post office and serves as a one-man "welcome wagon" on meeting nights. I've always thought it would take more than one person to replace Ed.

In fact, maybe we'll get two. In addition to Todd Fleming, Todd's young son, Reece – I think half-kiddingly – volunteered to help run the club's monthly fly raffle, another of Ed's duties. I hope Reece, who already is quite an accomplished fly tier, follows through on this.

One of the benefits of an election and the subsequent changing of the guard is the infusion of new blood and new ideas it will bring our club.

And active participation in AFF by youngsters such as Reece is our future. ■

Bud Priddy One Fly Contest

By Bruce Nelson

The 2002 Bud Priddy One Fly is over. Thanks to all that participated in the event. We had 45 people entered in the event. The largest Bass (18") was caught by Debbie Prather of the Texas Womem Flyfishers. The Largest Perch (9 1/2") was caught by John Marfin of the Alamo Fly Fishers. And the most fish caught (139) were caught by Jerry Loring of the Houston Fly Fishers. The weather was good, the water was crystal clear, the fish were many and the company was GREAT. ■

Great Organization by Bruce Nelson

By Mike Richards

Bruce planned and promoted this year's Bud Priddy One Fly Contest extremely well. Bruce provided the contestants with contest rules, a map of the possible fishing locations, and even a tape measure—fisherman do not estimate well.

The dinner and awards presentations took place with out any difficulties. All the contestant used the proper side of the tape measure this year. There was plenty of time for food and good conversation.

Bruce did some good planning, and the result was an enjoyable contest. ■

tricks, and technique to create the amazing works of art that evolve from his tying vice. Do not miss this one if you like to dabble with the more difficult creations.

Chip has patterns in commercial production now and I predict some lucky recipients at the meeting will acquire a collector item for the future. His flies swim out of the vice.

We welcome Chip and his Dad as new members of the club, and look forward to this chance to learn from them. Their enthusiasm is equally as strong for fishing those amazing creations. ■

AFF Officer Candidates

The AFF nomination committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for AFF club officer positions in 2002-2003:

Clay Gill – president

Jay Forrest – vice president

Jon King – outings

Buddy Robichaux – education

Todd Fleming – treasurer

Mike Richards – newsletter/online

We will vote on the AFF club officer slate during our next meeting on Tuesday, June 18. As usual, our meeting at Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, 6201 Broadway, will begin at 7 p.m. with informal social time. The official meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. ■

Tying Instructions Coming in June

By Clay Gill

Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

The June meeting presentation will be a technical how-to tying demonstration and slide show by new member and commercial fly tyer Chip Evans. Chip is an educator by trade, and has evolved into one of the premier fly tiers in the South Texas area. He was featured at the recent Shallow Water Expo in Houston. We will see Chip construct that Fathead Mullet. It works as good as it looks! You can contact Chip at Chips Custom Flies-830/2174496, (SA-local). Synthetics are working well for Chip.

His slide show will depict specific steps,

Calendar of Events

June 22 and 23 --Port Aransas

July 20 --San Marcos River

August 2—4 --Land Cut at
Jim Dodd's Place

September 28 --Red Fish Rodeo
Roundup in
Port O'connor

October 25—27 --San Juan River or
Upper Guadalupe

November --No Outing

December 8 --AFF Christmas
Party



Just One More Cast

MISTER STINGRAY

FRIEND OR FOE?

By Clay Gill
Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

We had just put out the drogue anchor and set up a drift across the crystal clear flats of the Laguna to observe some of the potholes down in the grass. It was like a movie unfolding, watching the bottom go by, as if in a glass bottom boat. Suddenly a large Ray glided diagonally across our path, and we just watched in amazement as the parade went by. The Ray had small trout above and just behind him, waiting for the next shrimp to jump out of the Stingray's path. We were so enthralled, nobody remembered to pop out a fly. It was really close and a first hand example of how a Stingray can be beneficial to the fisherman. I had seen it before, but you can't help but stare in amazement, at the piggyback feeding machine the arrangement creates.

Before you go out to hug a Stingray as your new best friend, there is a downside to his personality. Normally docile and friendly, once stepped upon, the ray has a defensive tool that can become an ordeal you will never forget. Extremely painful punctures are inflicted when Stingrays defend themselves. It is an automatic survival reaction for the Ray.

The Stingray has a dorsoventrally compressed body shape, with gills on the bottom of his body, allowing water to be vented to the gills from spiracles behind the eyes that pump oxygenated water for the Ray. This allows certain bottom dwellers of the 400 plus species of Rays to remain motionless for hunting and camouflage in the sand on the bottom. This is good for the Ray, and bad for the fisherman. When you compress his body with your foot, his immediate reaction is strike with a spear-like spike on the base of his tail, which is made of tooth like material called denticles. It is pointed, and serrated on the edges, to keep the spike in you, once broken off inside your foot or leg. This denticle can be replaced once used much like the Sharks teeth unfold and replace after breaking off. The shark is a close cousin of the Stingray.

Other Rays pose less threat as pelagics. They

constantly roam the seas and include the Manta, Eagle, and Mobula Rays. They only come near shallow water on occasion, to cruise a reef. You see them on snorkel or dive trips at reefs close to deeper water. Florida would give you a great chance to see these larger species, especially in the Florida Keys near the Gulf Stream, just offshore on the Atlantic side.

But here in Texas, we have an abundance of these bottom dwelling Stingrays, in the bays and open ocean near shore. I was hit in the foot and it is no picnic. It would probably be the absolute worst experience of your life, regarding pain. Living on the coast, I knew my day was coming and finally did, in the surf off Padre Island in the sixties. Talk about ending a fishing trip! Back then, pain remedies in the field were less known. You toughed it out with eventual help from a doctor.

My son tells me the typical emergency room treatment, besides the usual tetanus shot, and antibiotics, is a steaming hot bucket of water. This diminishes the effect of the toxin that emerges from the dual venom glands on the Ray's tail, and can relieve the pain in about ten minutes. He has seen a victim come to the emergency room with an ankle locked up by a barb imbedded deeply in the joint. The recommendation is never pull out the barb as I did. Nerve and tendon damage can result, and an orthopedic specialist may become necessary. If you are alone, and get hit, the hot water may allow you to return after a short recovery, or save your life if you have a reaction to the venom. There are recorded fatalities from this injury. Another source of hot water is the outflow of the outboard motor in neutral. This external stream indicates the water pump is working, and can produce water warm enough from engine heat to be effective. My son says the hotter the better, but do not create first degree burns adding insult to the original problem. It really does work. Hopefully this gentle creature will never strike you, but if so get medical help fast. The pain becomes increasingly worse to a point you may not be able to function. It really gets bad!

The Stingray can be an asset to your outings, if you utilize some common sense and precautions. While traveling, old Mr. Stingray can have some interesting hitchhikers tagging along to cast at. Redfish will follow them also, and they forget all about the world above in the process.

Always remember to slide your feet, and buy some high top neoprene Predator Stingray boots if you wade frequently. The Kevlar inserts can prevent injury, save your trip, and possibly a life.

Tight lines to all, and have fun this summer. As always, remember to leave the places we visit better than we find them. ■

June and August Outings

By Bill Slough
Outing Chairman—Alamo Fly Fishers

June Outing

Our June outing will be a two day trip to the Aransas Pass/Port Aransas area. It will be held Saturday and Sunday the 22nd and 23rd. On Saturday, we will fish the flats in the Marker Six/Brown & Root area, and on Sunday we will travel to the North Jetty, out of Port Aransas.

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at the HEB Grocery Store in Aransas Pass, 101 E. Goodnight. From there we go out highway 361, which runs alongside the Aransas Channel. There are several miles of wade fishing access on the right side of the roadway. You can also launch a kayak or canoe. On the left side of the roadway you will need some kind of watercraft to cross the channel. If you do, you will have access to the Parks & Wildlife Kayaking trails, and miles of channels and flats.

If you would like to rent a kayak, you can get one at South Bay Marina, located about halfway between Aransas Pass and the ferry launch. Their number is (361) 758-2632.

We will meet for dinner Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Big Fisherman Restaurant, 510 Highway 188 in Aransas Pass. (361) 729-1734.

On Sunday, we will take the Jetty Boat to the north jetty from Woody's Sports Center, 136 W. Cotter in Port Aransas (361) 749-5252. The first boat leaves for the jetty at 6:30 a.m., and the cost is \$9.95. After that, the boat takes people out at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00. It brings people back on the return trip roughly fifteen minutes after it leaves the dock to bring new people out. 7:15, 8:15, etc...

The last ride back to the dock is at 6:15 p.m. After that you're camping.

If you haven't fished the jetties before, some of the things you might want to bring include: water, food, sun block, polarized sunglasses, first aid kit, a good hat, and toilet paper. There are no facilities of any kind. As far as shoes, many of our members have taken to wearing golf shoes because of the slippery rocks. The only downside is you can ruin your flyline if you step on it. ■

August Outing

We have graciously been invited to enjoy a three day weekend at Jim Dodd's cabin at the Land Cut. The trip will take place August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. If you've never gone before, you need to make this trip. It is one of our most popular outings, giving you a chance to see the most remote area on the Texas Coast; you can only get there by boat. The fishing is usually spectacular. There is excellent fishing for speckled trout off the dock, and there are miles of shallow flats for wading.

This trip has limited space, and we sign up on a first-come-first-serve basis. Only club members are eligible due to these limitations. Because this outing falls before the August meeting, we will sign up at the July meeting. Information on where to go and what to bring will be provided at that meeting. But put it on your calendar now so you don't miss the trip of a lifetime.

If you have any questions, call Bill Slough (210) 826-6697. ■

Great Photo Tips Displayed

By Clay Gill
Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

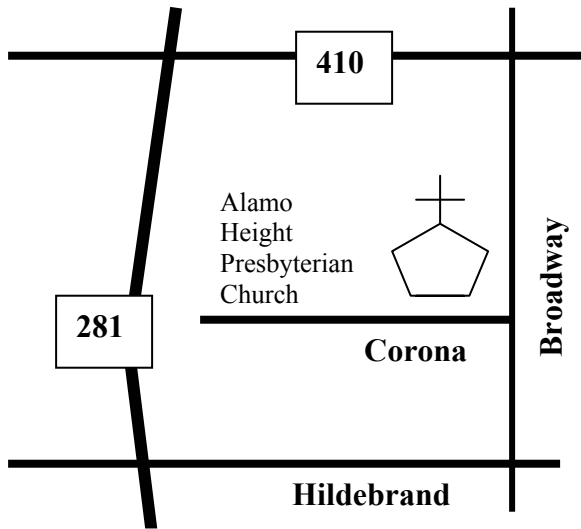
The May meeting presentation brought our own Lefty Ray Chapa with a super slide show on the methods and techniques to produce a better outdoor photo. A large crowd learned much from Lefty's extensive experience in photography. The slides depicted comparisons.

The presentation covered many topics like contrast, lighting, flash photography, filling the frame, foreground and background objects, and many more subjects were well explained and instructed. Surprising advice was to always use flash. Color and detail become more vivid, even in the daytime.

Our thanks for a great presentation and some high tech material presented in a way the beginner and pro alike would benefit from. I know my photos will improve after that class. If you missed this one, you would do well by making up this class. Maybe we can get Lefty to do this one again some day, with some new twists. He showed us how to look like a pro with a simple point and shoot camera.

Thanks from all of us Lefty! Surely there will be much less film wasted by us in the future. ■

Where to Find Us



**Alamo Heights
Presbyterian Church
6102 Broadway**

AFF web site--<http://www.aiamoflyfishers.org>

Regular Activities

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. at Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, 6201 Broadway.

Fly tying sessions are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m., with the exception of meeting night. Bring your vise and tying gear or just come and share in the discussion.

Alamo Fly Fishers club officers

David Uhler	President	250-3448
Clay Gill	Vice-Pres.	491-0555
Ed Niehaus	Treasurer	829-4011
Bill Slough	Outings	826-6697
Buddy Robichaux	Education	492-7125
Mike Richards	Newsletter	641-7268

Local Fly Shops

Tackle Box Outfitters

6330 N. New Braunfels
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-821-5807
Fax 210-821-5807
tackleboxoutfitters.com

One Shot Outdoors

18720 Stone Oak Parkway Suit 105
San Antonio, TX 78258
210-402-5344
Fax 210-402-5365
oneshotoutdoors.com

Gruene Outfitters

1629 Hunter Road
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-625-4440

Northwest Tackle Center

6850 Bandera Road
San Antonio, TX 78238
210-681-0009
Fax 210-681-0067

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